

English Barns

The first settlers (1760-1800) built English Style barns known as 30 by 40's, the approximate dimensions of the building. The barns featured three bays and a central door on the long side of the building. The simplest style is shown in the example below, probably built between 1784 and 1827 and was once attached to the house.





As necessity demanded, the configuration of the early English Style barns was modified. Modifications included additions at the gable ends, building into a bank and much later windows were added as glass became less expensive. This barn has a shed added to the gable end and windows that were probably added in the 19th Century.



In this example there are two English style barns and later out buildings that formed a small sheltered courtyard. Typically there was flooring only in the center bay of the English barns because it was used for threshing grain. Some barns had a rear door that was opened to allow the chaff to be blown out by the wind.



This English barn is built into a bank. The rear of the barn is open to allow livestock to enter the lower level to feed. There is a trap door in the upper floor, to allow hay and grain to be lowered for the animals below, saving labor.

Hay Barns

By the mid 19th Century as farmers expanded their herds, it became necessary to store large quantities of hay to feed the livestock in the winter months. Hay barns were built in a number of styles. Ramp Barns, drive through barns both post and beam and balloon construction were used. Larger herds meant cattle disease became a problem. Farmers soon learned that sunlight and good ventilation were necessary to minimize the spread of tuberculosis. Windows, gable end doors and cupolas were added to increase ventilation.



Example of a combined ramp barn and bank barn of post and beam construction dating from the mid 19th Century, about 1840. The attached buildings were added later.



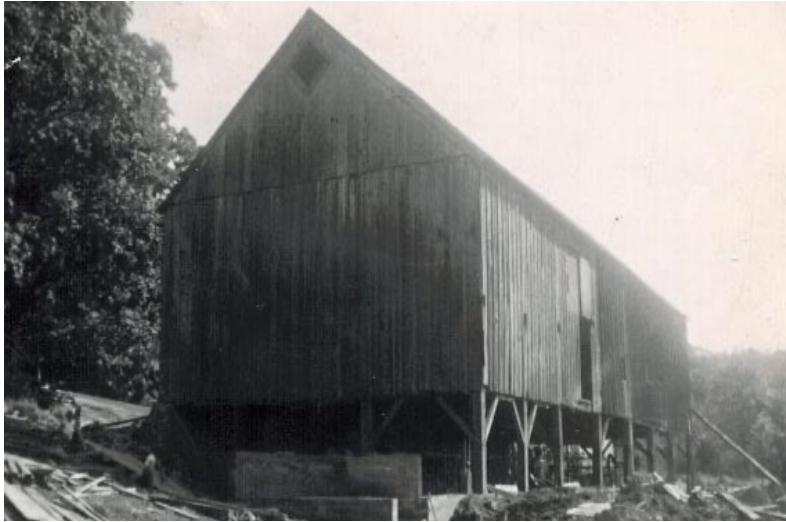
The gambrel style roof on this hay barn allowed for more internal storage space for hay and grain. Note the windows and the front and rear doors. The doors on opposite ends allowed the farmer to drive a hay wagon into the barn, unload and drive out the other end.



This late 19th Century barn is an excellent example of a ramp and drive through barn. These barns were a labor saving devices. A farmer could drive his hay wagon into the barn and unload to the lower level, gravity doing a large part of the work. Note the added windows to allow light to enter the lower level.



Austin Farm Barns. The three largest structures were built at the Austin's original site in Plainfield, on Beauty Hill Road. When the Austins moved to Cornish, they brought those buildings with them (circa 1841) and re-erected them where they now stand. Older photographs show a dairy parlor that was demolished at some point, perhaps after the out break of brucellosis around 1937.



Example of a Bank Barn: the original part was probably built around 1798 with additions made until the 1950's. Clock wise from the upper left: the barn being reconfigured (1954) to provide space for a milk house and stalls under the barn and last as it stands today.



The Langwood Farm barn, a double style barn was renovated and is used as an event space. The barn was most likely constructed in the late 18th Century by the Read family and past through the family. The land across the road was eventually was purchased by Albion Lang of Toledo, Ohio one of the few genuinely wealthy residents of Cornish, the Reads retained the barn.



The 1912 Elmhurst barn, know as the Cornish Recreation Area (CREA) Barn was restored by Cornish volunteers and repurposed as an event venue and field house for the recreation area. The CREA barn is a fine example of a gambrel roof barn. Until 1971 when the company was dissolved, this barn was the home of the Whitcomb Lobster Trap Factory.



This house was once a carriage house and horse barn on the Churchill estate. It was repurposed as a house in the early 20th century but still shows evidence of it's former use.



The black and white photograph (top) shows this cow barn during renovation. The original barn probably built in the late 19th Century was converted to a horse barn in 1903 as it is today (lower photo).



Photo Courtesy of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Gift of Robert and Beverly Widger



Photo Courtesy Robert and Beverly Widger



Photo Courtesy of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Gift of Robert and Beverly Widger
c. 1884
Jerome and James Wilder
19 Aug 84 "Secumulus" Cornish

Barn Raising on Blow-Me –Down Farm July 28, 1884. This four story barn is and example of post and beam construction. Also (lower) shown is the dinner given by Charles Beaman family for all those who helped raise the barn including Jerome and James Wilder.