

Schoenborn Barn

Conklin, Michigan



The Past:

The Schoenborn Barn was part of a Centennial farm. A farm qualifies as a Centennial farm if it has been continuously owned and operated by the same family for 100 plus years. The

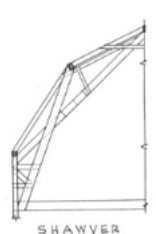
Schoenborn's originally came from the Bavarian region of Germany in 1853. The first generation began with Michael Schoenborn. He built the barn circa 1865. Michael was known as one of the poorest farmers in the township, with only a value of \$360 in real estate and personal value. After 1870 he was one of the wealthiest with a combined real estate and personal value of \$14,300.

The second generation of ownership went to Michael's son, Lewis. Sometime between 1904-1909, Lewis added on a new addition and modernized the barn. Lewis died in 1919. His wife continued to operate the farm until 1930. At this point in time, Peter, the son of Lewis, took the operation over from his mother. Peter farmed the land until 1965.

The fourth and final generation to operate the farm consisted of Michael's three great grandsons. Schoenborn Orchards, as it was known, was an active working hog and cattle farm as well as having produced crops of apples, cherries, prunes, barley and oats. The three brothers operated the farm from 1965-2008. The barn and its addition were dismantled in 2016 due to non-use and structural issues.

Barn Facts:

- Original barn built c.1865
- Early name of farm was Red Ridge Farm
- English Style barn with doors along the length of the barn.
- New addition built c.1904 with Shawver trusses.
- Ramped entryway
- New addition was painted red with white diamonds on Dutch doors.
- Pig silhouettes were painted by the fourth generation owners.



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