

Rhodes Road Barn

Urbana, Ohio

Mad River Township

Built circa 1880. Dismantled in 2018.

The Past: There have been several owners to the land parcel before it the barn was built. However, the history of this barn picks up in 1856. Noah Rhodes and his wife traveled 500 miles from Virginia to Ohio. With their belongings they traveled 22 days by covered wagon. Noah purchased 75 acres from his brother Joseph, and another tract adjoining. The two brothers farmed in partnership for 14 years, dividing the profits. During this time, Noah purchased 60 more acres more of land and his oldest son Jacob moved onto the new parcel. This parcel is the site of the barn.



In an 1880's agricultural census, the barn parcel was considered one of the richest farms in the area; valued at \$120,000. The farm produced: 12 tons of hay, 325 lbs. of butter, 375 dozen eggs, 1500 bushels of corn, 410 bushels of oats, 825 bushels of wheat and 25 bushels of potatoes. Livestock included, 7 horses, 4 dairy cows, 10 other cattle, 83 swine, and 75 barnyard fowl. Two hundred apples trees produced 30 bushels of apples. The forested part of the farm produced 45 cords of cut wood. During 1922, the theft of 50 chickens made the local news. In 1900, Wilbur Rhodes (Jacob's son) is listed as a renter on the property. Noah lived from 1813-1896. Jacob lived from 1851-1927. Wilbur lived 1878-1939. In 1995, Alpha Rhodes held a "widows sale" which ended the Rhodes family ownership of the property.

The barn itself was a raised flatland barn. This was ideal for raising cattle. The basement consisted of wooden short walls. The barn timber frame was set on top of the basement. To simplify the unloading of wagons, an earthen ramp was created up the backside of the barn to the wagon doors. This ramp was called the "barnhill". The barn frame was built using hand hewn beams, and the siding was made from poplar trees growing on the property.



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