
WASHINGTON STATE'S
**ROUND
BARN**



Preserving a Vanishing Rural Heritage

WASHINGTON STATE'S
**ROUND
BARN**

Tom Bartuska and Helen Bartuska
Pam Overholtzer, Editor

 **BASALT
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The Washington State University Pullman campus is located on the homelands of the Niimípuu (Nez Perce) Tribe and the Palus people. We acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial and recognize their continuing connection to the land, to the water, and to their ancestors. WSU Press is committed to publishing works that foster a deeper understanding of the Pacific Northwest and the contributions of its Native peoples.

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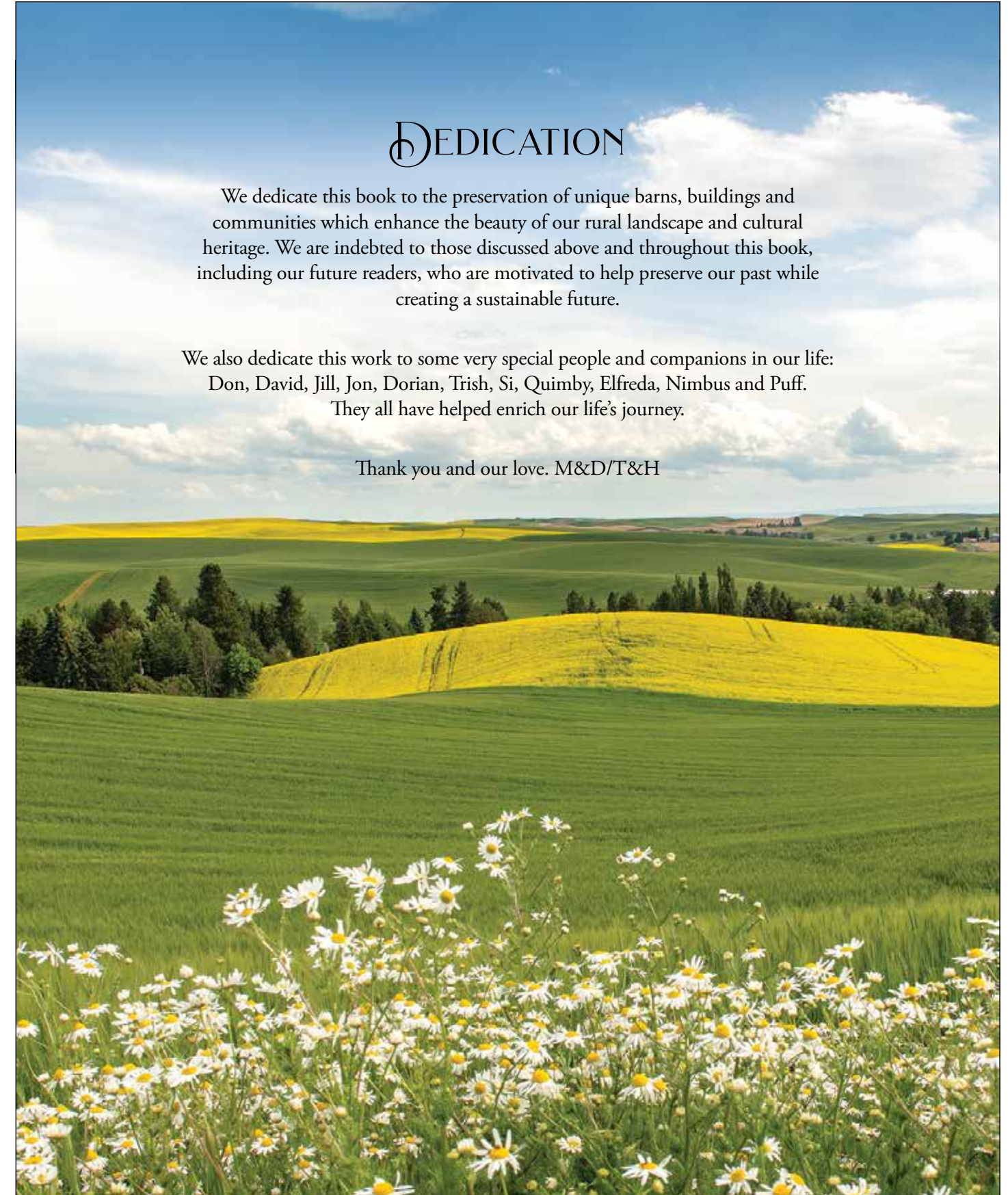
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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the preservation of unique barns, buildings and communities which enhance the beauty of our rural landscape and cultural heritage. We are indebted to those discussed above and throughout this book, including our future readers, who are motivated to help preserve our past while creating a sustainable future.

We also dedicate this work to some very special people and companions in our life: Don, David, Jill, Jon, Dorian, Trish, Si, Quimby, Elfreda, Nimbus and Puff. They all have helped enrich our life's journey.

Thank you and our love. M&D/T&H



Robert Hubner, WSU Photo Services



Robert Hubner, WSU Photo Services

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, we want to thank all the barn owners and their families for sharing their stories, allowing us to visit and photograph their barns. Many of these wonderful experiences are embedded in the story of the barns discussed in this book. We appreciate being able to document the twenty-one unique round barns in the State of Washington as well as a selected few out of many throughout this country. We also humbly thank the people who have had the will and wisdom to restore or reanimate the beauty of the barns, buildings and rural communities.

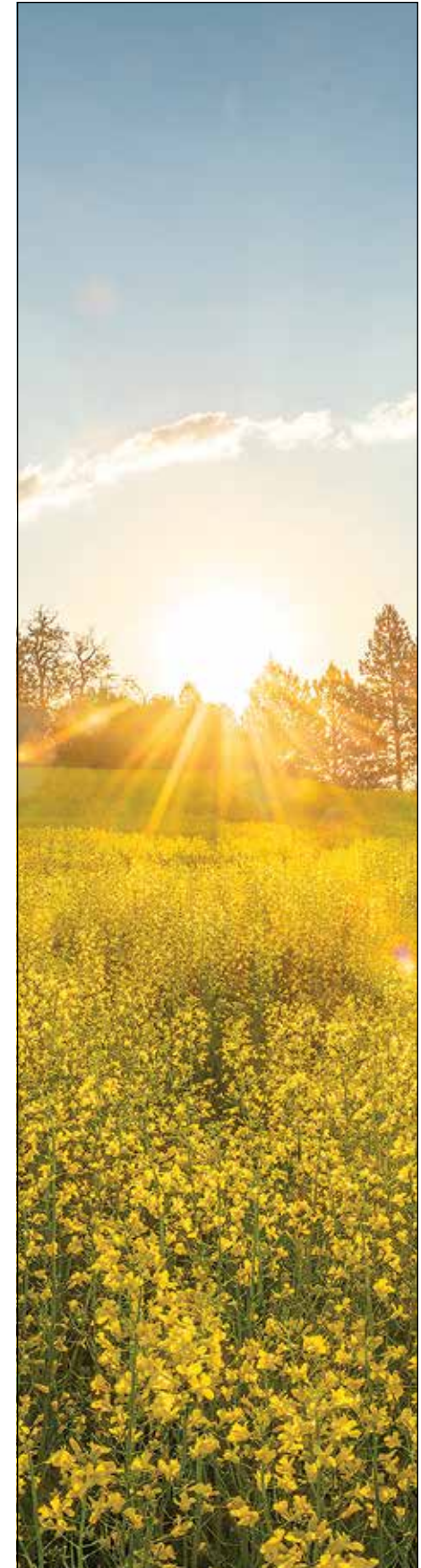
Secondly, we are also grateful for our editor, Pamela Overholtzer. Her professionalism in editing, word processing, design and formatting our manuscript was simply amazing and an important part of this work. Equally important, her extensive knowledge and experience in architecture and historic preservation fostered an effective collaboration. We could not have completed this project without her.

After residing and being educators for 40 years in Pullman, Washington, and Tom teaching at Washington State University, it is indeed an honor to have WSU Press further improve, design, and publish this book. We are grateful for the historical information and technical help from Michael Houser and Greg Griffith of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and Gayle O'Hara and others in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC) office at Washington State University for photographs and

manuscripts. Also, equally important to our research was the wonderful help we received from various history museums of the communities where the barns were located. We appreciate the help of Jim Waddell and Steve Nys, Washington State University architecture graduates, for their involvement in restoring barns and suggestions to investigate others. Jim's effective leadership as the director of Pullman's Main Street Program was instrumental in reanimating its historic downtown. We want to acknowledge Rob Wagoner and Curtis Hughes for their assistance in photography and design throughout this project.

Besides the names noted above, we are very appreciative of past architecture students, family, and friends who have helped us discover and document many of the round barns as well as encouraging us along this journey.

Lastly, we also acknowledge with deep appreciation our planet Earth. We are very concerned about the disastrous effects of global warming and the massive impact it is having on the earth's cycles. Natural cycles are fundamental for growing food and for the trees that supplied the lumber for the barns and buildings. Embedded in this book is a plea to preserve our past while facing the challenges of our future. A century ago, the demand for these vital materials and energy resources was more sustainable; we hope they will be again in the future. To ensure the publishing of our book is carbon neutral, we will have The Arbor Day Foundation plant one tree for every book sold.



Robert Hubner, WSU Photo Services



Palouse landscape from Kamiak Butte.

CHAPTER I

Round Barns in the United States

Oh, dear barns, some rectangular, some round.

Their enhancement of our rural landscape is oh so profound.

Barns built over many generations will leave their mark. Their history continues to captivate the heart.

They have provided livelihood for families and farms,

While standing for centuries with beauty, strength and charm.

Their stories abound and await to be told. Intriguing, hidden mysteries; old, yet so bold.

Many have been lost from wind, snow and rain, while others are maintained and do still remain.

Farm markets form communities and the societal needs they serve. All important parts of the rural cultural heritage we must preserve.



Figure I.1: United States postcard stamps featuring barns, 2021–2022.

Why round barns and forms? Why are they so special? Why write about them?

All barns are important contributors to our agrarian history as well as icons of the beauty in the rural landscapes. Round barns, however, are especially intriguing; not only do they stand out wherever they are found, but they also hold a special place in our culture that exemplifies many related advancements in agricultural development. As they disappear and become “rural ruins,” a great deal of our heritage, as well as much beauty in the country’s landscape, is being lost.

We have personally been interested in round barns for over sixty years. We define “round” as a generalized term

that includes polygon-shaped barns. During our long interest and curiosity about round barns, we have discovered an abundance of fascinating information about them, some interesting facts and many more stories. As we investigate and learn more about them, we are continually reminded of a profound sentiment from the naturalist, John Muir: *if you try to pick out anything by itself, you will find it connected to everything else in the Universe*. By picking out round barns while venturing down those various avenues of information (and related country lanes), we have discovered many personal, ecological, and cultural interconnections that we hope to convey in this work.

Round barns are special; they are disappearing and being lost due to changes in economics, technology as well as disrepair and climatic elements. We hope this work will ripple outward and inspire others to join in the effort to learn about and save these structures tucked away in the rural landscapes.

During our search, we have compared many resources and noted that no one, single inventory includes all the known round barns we have discovered to date in the state of Washington (Figure I.2). We have done our best to make this summary factual, but much comes from second-hand comments and stories. As time has passed, verification has become difficult: unfortunately, some

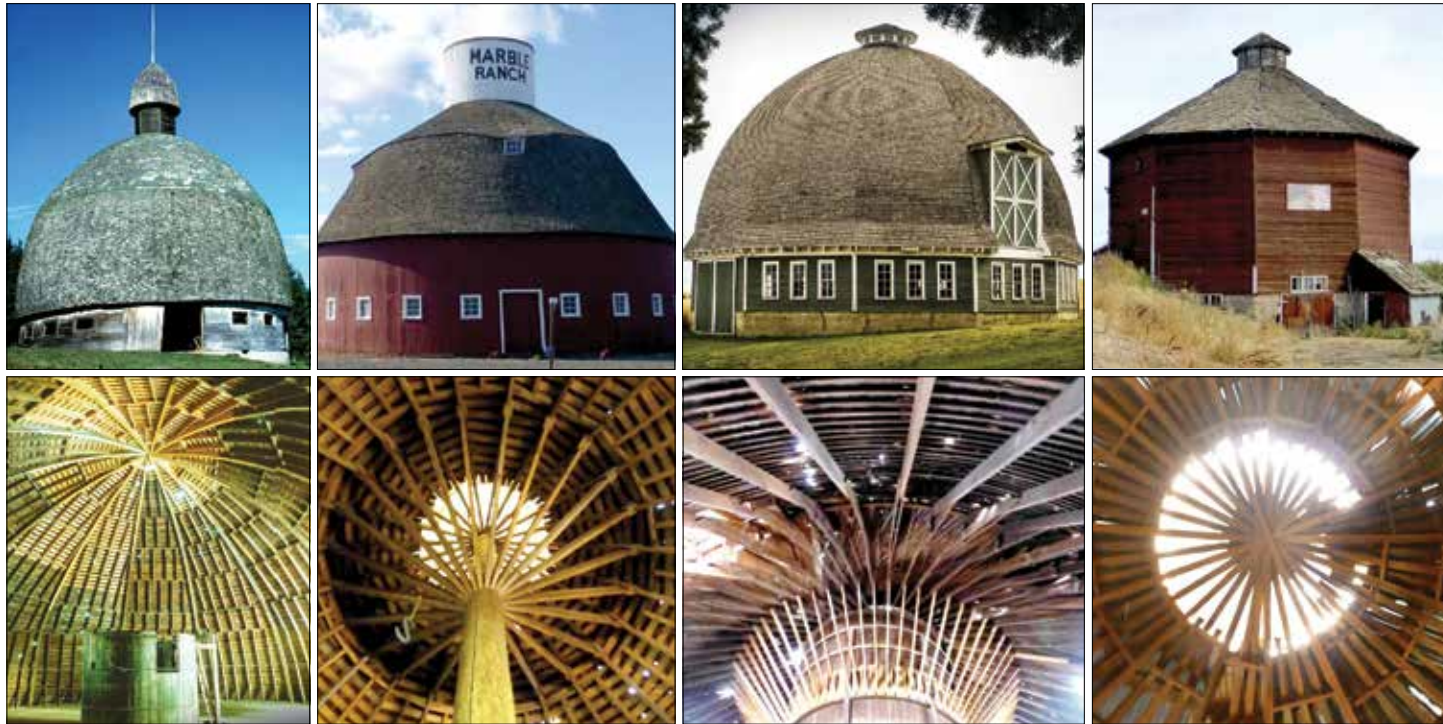


Figure I.2: Photo collage of some of the round barns found throughout the state of Washington. Out of the twenty-one barns we found, fourteen still stand.

of the people we contacted have passed away. We have endeavored to convey the essence of their information as accurately as possible.

We write this summary to encourage others to update, clarify and add to the story. Furthermore, we hope this work will help establish an appreciation of the barns in the state of Washington and, hopefully, more dialogue will follow to enrich the importance of these structures, clarify their history, and encourage repairs to preserve those that remain. They patiently await renewal and appropriate use or reuse. They are icons to the creativity and the beauty of Washington state's rural landscape.

Round Forms

An important and special aspect of this essay deals with an appreciation of the character of circular shapes and spherical forms. They are organic, a delight to the eye and mind, and each is a one-of-a-kind creation. They occur throughout nature as well as in our culture and the

built environment from buildings and buttons, domes and drums, symbols and spider webs, teepees and totem poles, wheels, wedding rings and windmills... they are even found in the growth rings of trees (Figure I.3). In addition, the definition of a sphere is equally challenging, related and profound:

Sphere: (from the Latin) circuit or range of action, knowledge or influence; natural, normal or proper place; the area over which something acts, exerts influence, has its being or significance.

As above, circles and spheres are synonymous with *cycles*: a fundamental part of life's supportive ecological systems that are so important to appreciate and understand, especially as we face the challenges of human-caused global warming. Like the carbon to oxygen cycle provided by plants and trees, many of these cycles are invisible but fundamental to life on Earth. The essential nutrient cycle is equally critical. As we know, yet sometimes forget, *all*

food comes from these critical ecological cycles and the Earth's natural systems (and not from the grocery store). Barns are a vital part of this ecological cycle: they facilitate the efficient birth, production, growth, health and maintenance of the animals and plants that are so vital for human sustenance and health, and they reside at the core of the human food production system. As in all complete cycles, even human and plant wastes need to be composted and returned to enrich the soil and grow another nutrient/ food cycle—all facilitated by barns. A round barn, because of this cyclical connection, fulfills these functions even more seamlessly.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said,

The eye is the first circle; the horizon...is the second; and throughout nature this primary picture is repeated without end. It is the highest emblem in the cipher of the world. Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn.



Figure I.3: Photo collage of natural and human-created round patterns and forms.

Round barns are the human expression of that intimate connection between spheres and natural cycles expressed by an infinite number of circles found everywhere in nature. The question now, and the challenge before us, is: how does one unravel the special subject of round barns before they disappear and become rural ruins?

The History and Development of Round Barns

Most of the available literature states that the first renowned round barn was built by one of our nation's founders: it was designed by George Washington in 1792 and completed in 1794 (Figures I.4 and I.5). It is a 52-foot-diameter, sixteen-sided, two-story restored barn located at Washington's Dogue Run Farm in Fairfax County, Virginia,

designed specifically for efficient grain thrashing.¹

Some interesting connections can be made here. First, the state of Washington is, of course, named after our country's first president, George Washington, the designer and owner of the nation's first round barn. Also, the town name of Colfax (in Washington) is a name quite similar to Fairfax (in Virginia). Colfax is the county seat of Whitman County, Washington, where the largest concentration of round barns in the state was built.

Another noteworthy round barn, made of stone, was built in 1826 at what is now the Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Massachusetts (Figures I-6 and I-7).² Most available literature on round barns states that the Hancock barn is the first influential round barn in the country. Shaker

communities emphasized simplicity and functional efficiency and probably appreciated not only the material savings of constructing round barns, but also the effective way of feeding the dairy cows from a central position. Both issues are discussed further in the next section. The Hancock barn is almost twice as large as the George Washington barn (95 feet in diameter) and was also built against a hill with a ramp to allow efficient access for hay carts to the second level loft for feed storage. The original barn burned down in 1864, probably due to a lack of proper ventilation (resulting in internal combustion). The barn was reconstructed with the upper clerestory ring and a vented cupola centrally located at the highest point on the roof. One story about the building of round barns is a Shaker legend that



Figures I.4 and I.5: The George Washington Barn at Dogue Run Farm in Fairfax County, Virginia, exterior (left) and interior.

evil spirits hide in corners; a building without corners would then eliminate such negative influences. (We wonder if that same reasoning applies to the rotundas in state and federal capitol buildings?) There surely must exist many earlier round barns, but they have not survived on the land or in the literature. The era when many round and polygon barns were built occurred between 1870 and 1920, although in Washington state most were constructed between 1890 and 1920,

the beginning of the era of scientific agricultural research and publication. The reasons for constructing some of the earlier examples (1870–1880) are not clear, but, in some barns, there is reference to the George Washington and/or Hancock barns.

There is also an interesting relationship to the inherent qualities of Native American teepees, hogans, and yurts. They are, of course, round and, like circular barns, they enclose the greatest amount of interior space with the

least amount of exterior material and construction. Also, round forms are more structurally stable than rectangular construction and create effective ventilation through the apex, which is critical to agricultural buildings.

The University of Illinois was one of the prominent land-grant universities, which did extensive scientific research and publishing on the effectiveness and efficiency of round barns. Land-grant universities, as institutions of higher education, are designated by each state's



Figures I.6 and I.7: The exterior (left) and interior of the Round Stone Barn at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

government to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890.

The mission of these institutions as set forth in the 1862 Act is to focus on the teaching of practical agriculture, science, military science, and engineering...as a response to the industrial revolution and changing social class. This mission was in contrast to the historic practice of higher education to focus on an abstract liberal arts curriculum.

The nation's oldest and original corn research plot still stands in the south center of that campus today. The plot, established in 1876, is named after George Morrow, a professor and dean of agriculture at the university (Figure I.8). Agricultural production has increased many times over the years in part due to the important research that has been conducted here.

The University of Illinois built three round barns of varying diameters

specifically to conduct scientific research to increase the efficiency of dairy farming (Figure I.9). The objectives were to improve sanitation and circulation, increase efficiency at minimal cost to the farmer, and improve dairy herds and the volume of production.

The first round barn was a 60-foot diameter barn built in 1908 (Figure I.9, barn on the right); the second was another 60-foot barn built in 1910 (Figure I.9, middle); and the third was a 70-foot diameter barn built in 1912 (Figure I.9, left; also pictured in Figure I-10). The three University of Illinois barns are on the National Register of Historic Places and still stand today, gracing the rural landscape on the edge of campus.

The publishing of various agricultural bulletins helped disseminate their promising findings about the efficiency of round barns to the farming communities. A major summary report

titled *Economy of the Round Dairy Barn* published in February 1910 had a major influence on the increased development of round barns throughout the nation. The UI research publication stated:

The sole objective being to produce the largest amount of milk per acre at the least possible cost. To meet the requirements of a barn for this purpose, it became imperative to build one that was convenient for feeding and caring for cows, economical of construction and containing a large storage capacity in both the silo and mow.³

The bulletin discussed in detail the functional efficiency, structural stability, unique radial framing (Figures I.11 and I.12), effective ventilation, construction, and cost effectiveness of these experimental round barns. The circular plan allowed efficient feeding of the animals via a central location from a silo and/or the second level hayloft or

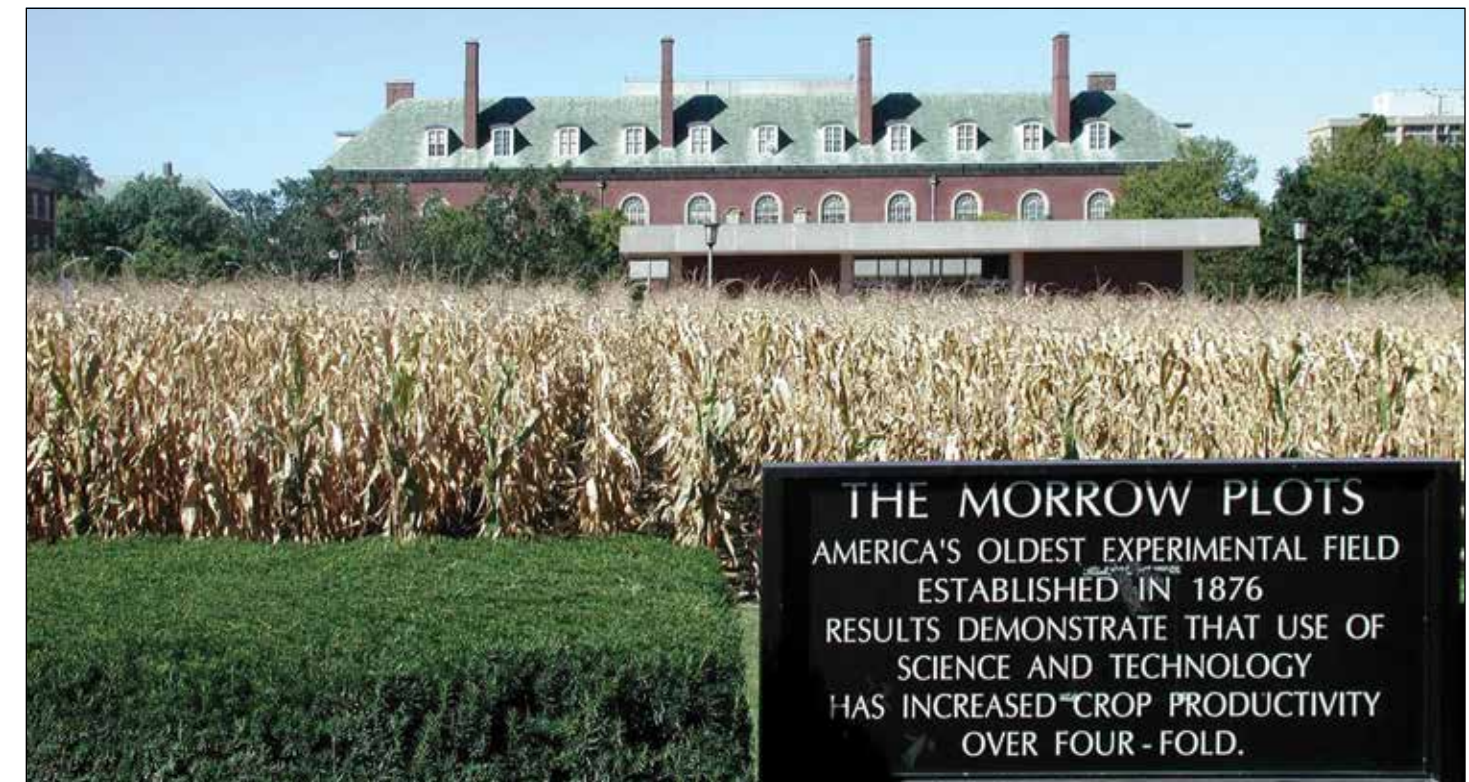


Figure I.8: The Morrow Plots, the oldest experimental field in the United States, have been growing corn for nearly 150 years.



Figure I.9: Aerial image of the three University of Illinois round experimental barns. (Google Maps)



Figure I.10: One of the three University of Illinois round experimental barns, 70 feet in diameter (shown on the left side of the aerial photo in Figure I.9). The dairy cows are cared for on the lower level and the hay and silage are brought in on the upper level.



Figures I.11 and I.12: Model (left) and aerial perspective of the intricate, radial wood framing of the Jim Kaney Round Barn, Aledine, Illinois, built in 1905. The Kaney Barn design is unique, as the inner circular segment—usually a silo supporting a dome roof—is actually concave and funnels rainwater for the animals. This model was on display at the Architecture and Design Museum in Palm Springs, California in spring 2023, and was featured as one of ten models in an international exhibition on the importance of wood framing in the development of the United States. Images courtesy of American Framing.

“mow” (Figures I.13 and I.14). Like the Hancock barn, they had a ramp to the second level for easy unloading of horse-drawn carts. The circular shape also allowed the carts to circle around without having to back up (similar to the way a cul-de-sac or traffic circle functions). Detailed plans, framing diagrams and construction photographs were enticingly presented to the reader. A close correlation exists between the dates of these agricultural publications and the sizes and layouts of many round and polygon barns subsequently built throughout the country, including those in the state of Washington.

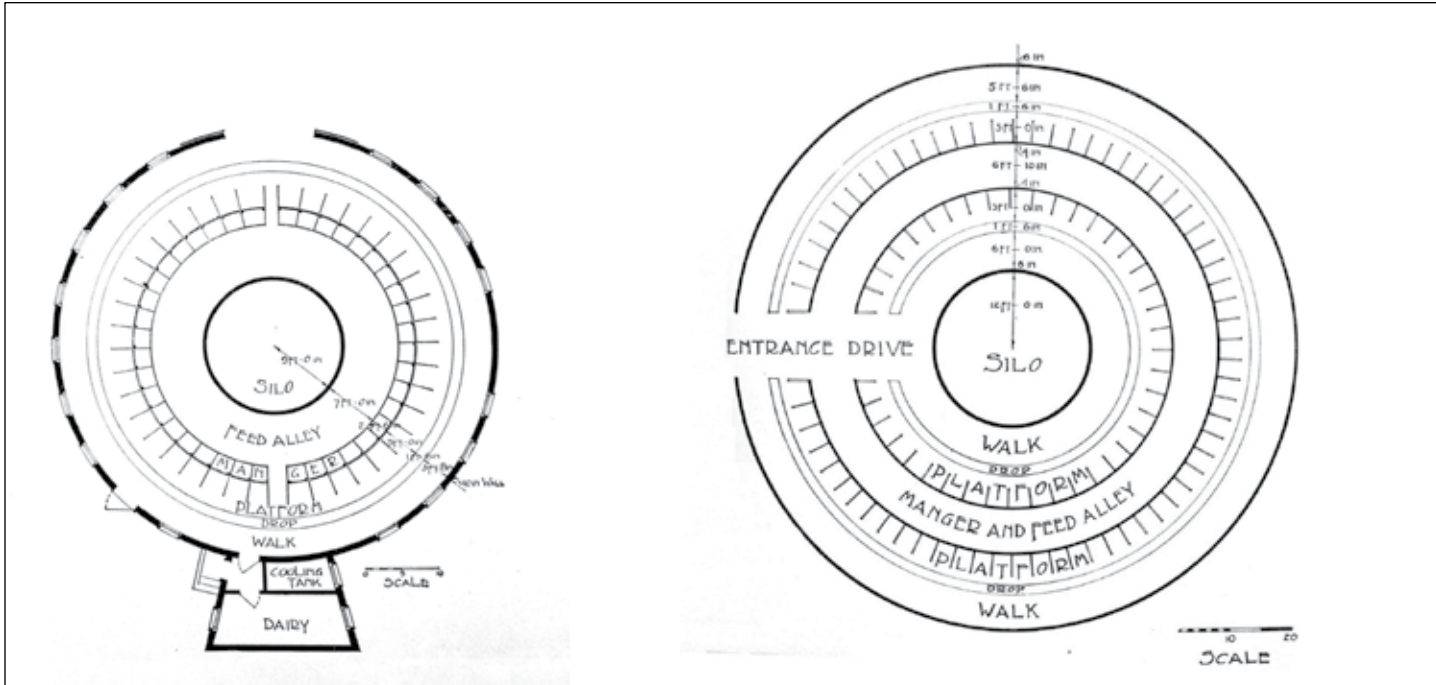
An interesting aspect of the UI research was a careful comparative analysis of the cost of materials of the round barn versus the cost of materials for an equally sized rectangular one. The report included a detailed list of materials for each. (See Figure I.15, top: Table 2A—A Comparison of the Cost on Material in Round and Rectangular Barns.) At the time, building materials were the major expense of a barn’s construction; in most cases, labor was not as significant because most barns were built by extended families and shared labor from

neighbors. Today, labor tends to be a major cost factor in construction that is usually at least equal to, if not more expensive than, the materials needed to build a structure. Accommodating for inflation, a \$10 material purchased in 1910 would cost \$293.02 in 2023.⁴ (See Figure I.15, bottom: Table 2B.) As stated in the report based on those 1910 costs, the total savings in materials for a 60-foot-diameter round barn versus an equivalent sized rectangular barn (plank framing) was \$426.50, for a cost savings of 36 percent. The larger 90-foot-diameter barn versus the comparable-sized rectangular (plank framing) barn was \$781.62 less, or a 34 percent savings. In 2023 dollars, the approximate cost savings would be \$11,682 and \$21,411, respectively, for the two sizes of barns—a significant amount of money for any farmer, especially during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Besides original construction techniques that could be challenging, the primary disadvantage in the round barns was expansion. The two sizes—60 feet and the proposed 90 feet developed in the UI research—were considered optimum sizes for a profitable and

efficient family dairy farm with 1900-era technology. As technology advanced, a farming family could manage larger numbers of cows, and the fixed capacity of the circular form limited expansion. Consequently, many round barns had rectangular additions added to them. The 70- and 80-foot diameter barns then became more popular, because they allowed for the efficiency of the 60-foot barn but had an expanded ring for more cows and increased storage in the loft.

Paralleling the land-grant university’s research were architects and engineers such as Benton Steele and William Loudon who specialized in barn construction (Figures I.16–18). Steele, residing in Indiana and later relocating to Kansas, was considered “the Frank Lloyd Wright of round barns.” He stated in various advertisements “Round Barns are the cheapest and best from every standpoint” and “My Specialty is Rural Architecture. The Round Barn is my hobby.” He designed and built many barns throughout the Midwest, including the three University of Illinois barns. William Loudon established the Loudon Manufacturing Company, an engineering,



Figures I.13 and I.14: Plans for the 60-foot barn (left) and a proposed 90-foot barn. Note the efficiency of the 60-foot barn for feeding from the central silo and milking by the daylight from the perimeter windows.

	Round barn, 60 feet in diameter	Rectangular barn, 36 x 78½ ft.	
		Plank frame	Mortise frame
Lumber in barn,	\$799.76	\$1023.27	\$1233.41
Material in foundation,	86.89	105.90	105.90
Material in silo,	159.01	295.26	295.26
Total cost of material in barn,	\$1045.66	\$1424.43	\$1634.57
Actual money saved,		\$378.77	\$588.91
Proportional cost,	100%	136%	156%

	Round barn, 90 feet in diameter	Rectangular barn, 36 x 176¼ ft.	
		Plank frame	Mortise frame
Lumber in barn,	\$1628.48	\$2007.67	\$2497.56
Material in foundation,	130.35	196.80	196.80
Material in silo,	265.00	513.52	513.52
Total cost of material in barn,	\$2023.83	\$2717.99	\$3207.88
Actual money saved,		\$694.16	\$1184.05
Proportional cost,	100%	134%	158%

Figure I.15: Tables 2A and 2B from a 1910 University of Illinois report comparing the material costs of round and rectangular barns.

Building Plans
FOR MY FARMER FRIENDS.

The World is demanding specialists. My "Specialty" is "Rural Architecture." "The Round Barn" is my hobby.

Write me freely, for information on any subject pertaining to my profession. I superintend important works. Send for free estimates and sketches, explaining your needs, to

BENTON STEELE,
Architect and Engineer,
PENDLETON, INDIANA

Figure I.16: Benton Steele's advertisement for round barn plans.

LOUDEN BARN PLANS

The Louden Machinery Company
Fairfield, Iowa

Figures I.17 and I.18: Louden's barn plans publication, left, and an interior page featuring a round barn.

manufacturing, and design company. In 1906, Louden began its architecture department, developed various publications and stock plans of various barns, and designed more than 25,000 from 1906 to 1939. The company's publications included round barns (Figures I.17 and I.18). The Radford Company also published barn plans in 1909.⁵

Along with the Louden Company, the popular Sears, Roebuck catalog sold kits for round barns (Figure I.19). The kits included pre-cut lumber, roof shingles, hardware, windows, and even enough paint for two coats of the structure. Kit number 2071, offered in 1918, was for a 60-foot diameter, 48-foot-tall round barn with cypress siding. The kit cost \$1,627.⁶ Cypress was one of the most durable woods available at that time and is rather expensive now. In reference to the cost today, \$1,627 would be \$27,973.22—still an amazing bargain.

From 1880 to 1920, Washington state experienced exponential population growth, expansion, and prosperity in agriculture. The completion of the transcontinental railroads linking the Pacific Northwest with the rest

of the United States was the single most important factor contributing to this growth.⁷ Many who migrated to Washington came from the more settled eastern and central regions of the United States and arrived with "modern" ideas in farming and plans to purchase farmland (and, potentially, an interest in building a round barn).

A Land-Grant University, Prototype Round Barns, Event Centers, and a Museum

We—the authors of this volume—met when we were in high school. We both lived west of Chicago in Berwyn, Illinois, and we later attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, one of the nation's first land-grant institutions. We remember the rural beauty of UI's round prototype barns on the campus. Helen's major was home economics, child and family studies, while Tom studied architecture and learned about the special qualities of round forms used around the world throughout history: indigenous teepees, kivas, and hogans, along with the great domes of cathedrals, mosques, government buildings,

and important gathering places. The round Foellinger Auditorium located at the center of the University of Illinois served a significant role on campus: it was the meeting place for important events that included world-renowned speakers, concerts, and educational and cultural activities (Figure I.20). Also located on campus was a massive round arena, the Assembly Hall (later renovated and renamed the State Farm Center), commonly referred to as "the flying saucer," which served as the venue for many large campus cultural and sporting events (Figure I.21). The dome, completed in 1963, is 400 feet in diameter and has a seating capacity of over 15,000.

The state of Washington had a similar but larger round event center—the Kingdome. The huge concrete building, completed in 1976, had a 660-foot-diameter with seating capacity for 40,000 to 66,000. It was imploded in 2000 to make room for a new Seahawks and Sounders stadium, currently known as Lumen Field.⁸ The Kingdome drew its name from King County, which was named in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Seattle itself was named for a



Figure I.19: An ad for a 60-foot-diameter round barn construction kit available from the Sears, Roebuck catalog in 1919.

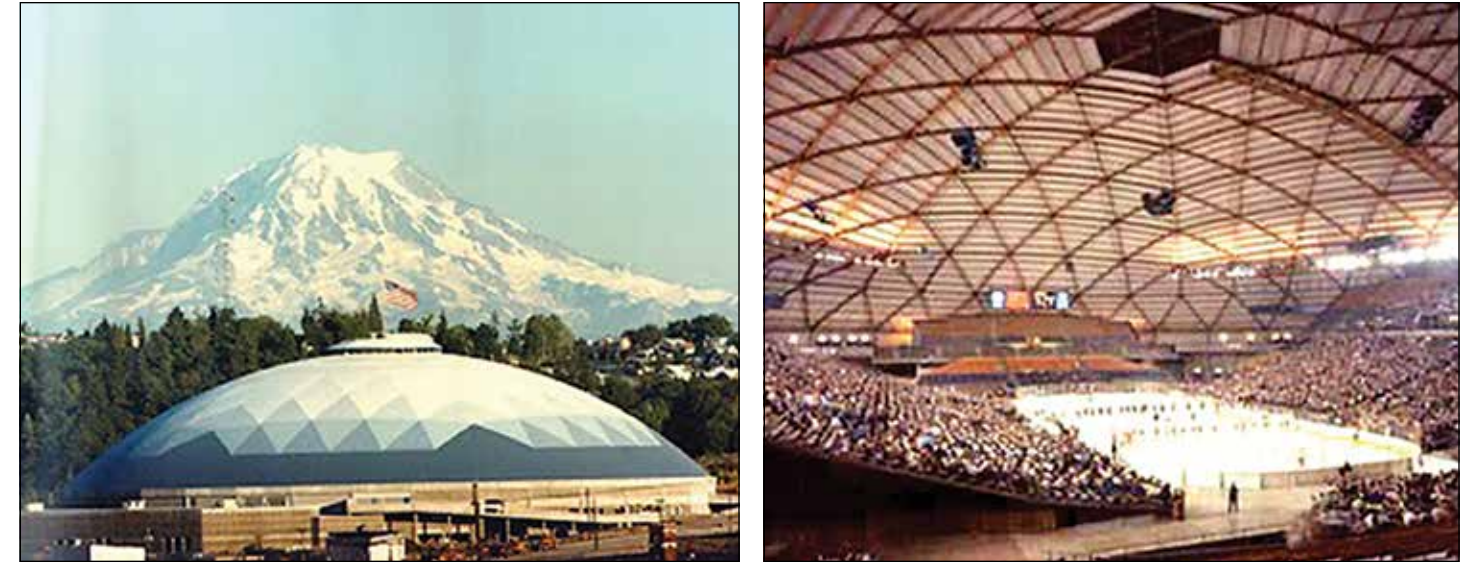
compassionate Native American leader, Chief Si'ahl, who helped people settle in the region while caring deeply about the earth and all who dwelled upon it. It is important to note that Seattle was

wise to locate the Kingdome and their newer sport stadiums adjacent to the downtown and close to public transportation, reinforcing an active center and minimizing auto-driven sprawl.

The state has a similarly large round event center: the Tacoma Dome (Figures I.22 and I.23).⁹ This structure is 530 feet in diameter, 152 feet in height, and has a seating capacity of 21,000. It



Figures I.20 and I.21: On the left, the University of Illinois' Foellinger Auditorium rotunda, and the "flying saucer" arena (now named the State Farm Center), in Champaign, Illinois.



Figures I.22 and I.23: On the left, the Tacoma Dome with Mt. Rainer in the background, and, right, the dome's interior during a sporting event. Photographs courtesy of Western Wood Structures, Inc.

is the largest wood geodesic dome by volume in the world.¹⁰ Built in 1983, it was designed by Tacoma architects McGranahan and Messenger, who were the winners of an international competition. The wood used to build the massive roof came from trees blown down in the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Another round event center, the Superior Dome in Marquette, Michigan, is 6 feet larger in diameter

but is only 143 feet high with a seating capacity of 16,000.¹¹

Detroit, Michigan, is home to another contemporary building with a beautiful round atrium: the Wright Museum for African American History (Figures I.24 and I.25). It was built in 1997 and has one of the largest collections of African-American cultural artifacts in the world.¹² The museum was designed by architects Sims-Varner.

Their inspiration featured a round form based upon traditional African buildings.¹³ The central circular atrium, or rotunda, is 100 feet in diameter and 55 feet high to the top of its glass dome. The size is similar to that of large round barns and it emulates, in contemporary ways, the inherent spatial and structural qualities of the handcrafted, wooden round barns that are discussed in the next two chapters.¹⁴



Figures I.24 and I.25: The exterior (left) and interior of the Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan. Photographs courtesy of the Wright Museum of African American History.

A Brief Personal Story and the History of Pullman, Washington

We moved to Pullman, Washington in 1963, when Tom accepted a teaching position in architecture at Washington State University, also a land-grant institution with prominent agriculture, science and engineering colleges. The town of Pullman had some intriguing parallels with Illinois. Pullman was originally called Three Forks, a charming name, selected after the early settlers built in a valley at the confluence of three streams. By 1884, the town leaders devised a plan to rename the growing community in the hopes of attracting more development. The story goes that they turned to wealthy industrialist George Pullman. He was the inventor of the Pullman railroad car, developer of the new planned community of Pullman, Illinois, and builder of an extensive manufacturing facility also located there. If they renamed their town after him, they hoped it would engender his enthusiastic support and possibly a major regional transportation center or manufacturing facility. It is commonly believed that George Pullman showed his appreciation for his namesake town by sending \$50 worth of banners and artifacts for the renaming celebration. Whether the story is true or not, his gift was considerably less than the town fathers had envisioned.

By 1891, Pullman had attracted the attention of the state, which was looking to locate its land-grant institution on a 160-acre site northwest of the town. The college, first named Washington Agricultural College and School of Science, opened to 59 students in 1892. In 1905, it was renamed State College of Washington, or Washington State College, and in 1959 it became Washington State University (WSU).

WSU is located in the beautiful Palouse region of eastern Washington. The Palouse, possibly named after either the Palus Indigenous Tribe or a French word for “grass lands,” is a stunning landscape of rolling, treeless hills dotted with small agricultural communities, farms, and the largest number of round barns in the state. The fertile soil developed into productive wheat and legumes farmland, adding to the picturesque landscape as the rolling wheat fields changed with the seasons from snow white, to spring green, to harvest gold in the summer and fall. The Palouse region is illustrated and discussed on pages 32–56. In addition, the annual National Lentil Festival is held in Pullman—it is discussed in more detail on page 182.

For us, Pullman and the Palouse were an ideal environment to live, work, and play while continuing

our love affair with round patterns, circular barns, rural landscapes, and communities. As a Montessori teacher, Helen used circles for discussions, sharing, and singing as an enjoyable and constructive time in her teaching. When a child had a birthday, the class had a special celebration in which the children would sit in a circle around a lighted candle (symbolizing the sun), and the birthday child would carry a ball (a replica of the earth) and walk around the “sun” singing a special song.

On Tom’s part, he found teaching was most effective in discussion circles. He continually emphasized that we are all part of, and interdependent with, ecological cycles and encouraged his students to design with “nature”—both human and environmental nature. At times, he was able to interweave his interest in round barns into his teaching of architecture and planning. When discussing vernacular (or regional) architecture, he often asked if the students knew of any round barns, and in some cases he engaged their interest enough to carry out research projects on these special structures. They added to our collective knowledge while helping to create our comprehensive inventory of round barns throughout the state. Pullman and WSU are further explored in Chapter IV.

The following list includes some excellent publications on historic round barns in other states:

Hanou, J. *Round Indiana: Round Barns in the Hoosier State*. Purdue University Press, 1993.

Jackson, J. *Stories from the Round Barn*. TriQuarterly Press, 2000.

Jackson, J. *The Round Barn: A Biography of the American Farm* (four volumes). University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Kanfer, L and A. *Barns of Illinois*. University of Illinois Press, 2009.

Soike, L. *Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa*. Iowa Department of General Services, 1983.

Triumpho, R. *Round Barns of New York*. Syracuse University Press, 2004.

Twiggs, J. *Keeping the Barn*. Montana PBS, 2020.

Wizowaty, S. *The Round Barn*. University Press of New England, 2002.

NOTES

1. George Washington Barn. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Round_barn and <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/16-sided-barn/>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hancock_Shaker_Village and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university
3. Fraser, W. *Economy of the Round Dairy Barn*. Agricultural Bulletin No 143, February 1910, University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station (Champaign, Illinois, February 1910).
4. CBI Inflation Calculator online. www.calculator.net-financial
5. *Radford Book of Barn Plans*. Radford Company. 1909
6. Nizalowski, E. “The Sears Barn in Newark Valley, NY.” The Barn Journal website www.thebarnjournal.org/stories/story012/
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Farm_Center
8. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdome>
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tacoma_Dome
10. <http://westernwoodstructures.blogspot.com/2012/08/the-tacoma-dome.html>
11. National Register of Historic Places. OMB No 10240018, Section E (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, DC) p. 11.
12. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_H._Wright_Museum_of_African_American_History
13. <https://www.thewright.org/visit>
14. <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/MI-01-WN66>



Vineyards on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with cornfields in the distance.