

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. ~~See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A).~~ Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McConn, Daniel, Barn

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 2095 Highway 61 N/A  not for publication

city or town Fort Madison  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Lee code 111 zip code 52627

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  state  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Chlinkin DSHB 4-20-00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 5/26/00  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

McConn Barn  
Name of Property

Lee County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility/barn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility/barn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Pennsylvania banked/basement barn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone  
walls WOOD/Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

McConn Barn  
Name of Property

Lee County, Iowa  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

c.1857

#### Significant Dates

c.1857

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

McCann Barn  
Name of Property

Lee County, Iowa  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1]5 [6]4[5]7[5]0 [4]5[0]1[4]3[0]      2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing  
3 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]      4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
[ ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 18, 2000

street & number 217 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 319-895-8330

city or town Mt. Vernon state Iowa zip code 52314

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lynn and Heather Faeth

street & number 2095 Highway 61 telephone 319-372-2624

city or town Fort Madison state Iowa zip code 52627

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

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**McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa**

**Narrative Description**

The Daniel McConn Barn is located along the west side of U.S. Highway 61 in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 25, T68N-R4W, Washington Township, Lee County, Iowa. It is approximately two miles northeast of the city of Fort Madison, Iowa. This large banked/basement barn is a prominent landmark along the highway and is highly visible from the road. It is banked into a south-facing slope, with the basement level exposed on the south side and the ramp on the north side. This type of orientation was typical of banked barns, with the south exposure of the basement level allowing for more protection for livestock in the winter months. The barn is oriented with the gable end towards the highway. An early-twentieth century house and a modern outbuilding are located to the north and northwest of the barn, respectively, but are not included in the present nomination because the house has been too greatly altered from its historic state and because the outbuilding is of modern construction. A silo along the northwest corner of the barn is included in the nomination boundary but is considered non-contributing because it was an early twentieth century addition to this older barn.

The McConn Barn has a low-pitched, extended gable roof with the longer slope of the gable on the south side extending out over an enclosed forebay. The roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles over layers of wood shingles and has three pyramidal hip-roofed ventilation cupolas along the roof ridge. The cupolas are square in shape and clad with vertical board-and-batten siding and have copper finials with lightning rods on the peak of their asphalt-shingled roofs.

The barn is sided overall with vertical board-and-batten siding fastened primarily with wire nails indicating later repairs and re-siding after 1890 (Nelson 1968). There are a series of round-arched louvered windows across both gable ends and the south side. Specifically, there are three rows of one, two, and five windows from top to bottom across each gable end, with the south side showing a large central round-arched window/door flanked by pairs of round-arched louvers. The central window/door is further centered above a rectangular 4/4 double-hung window which is flanked by single fixed-pane windows. Two rectangular window openings with no glass or louvers are at either end along the south wall on the lower level. The north side has a central limestone and earthen ramp flanked by round-arched louvered windows on the upper levels and fixed-pane rectangular windows on the lower levels. The uppermost windows in the east and west gable peaks have blown out, with a glass window subsequently placed in the east end and a sheet of tin covering the window in the west end.

The ramp extends out from the north wall of the barn approximately 40 feet rising gradually up to the upper level of the barn. From the barn wall out to 16 feet, the ramp consists of a timber bridge supported by the barn foundation and a limestone wall. This type of configuration allowed for entry access through the ramp to the upper loft level and under the bridge into the main ground-level of the barn. This portion is also covered over with a shed-roofed structure that has vertical board siding and open-out doors. Underneath the timber bridge is a drive-through aisle that has sliding doors on both sides. The construction of a concrete silo off the west side of the ramp in the early twentieth century cut off the drive-through on that side, although the door on the east side is still used as the main entry into the barn. From the end of the timber bridge, the ramp is constructed of limestone walls with earthen fill. The limestone walls were later reinforced with concrete stucco.

The foundation of the barn is of rubble construction using locally-obtained, rough-cut stone laid in regular courses. Most of the mortar is the original soft-lime material, with some later repointing on the east and west sides. Because of a drainage problem on the west side, this part of the foundation wall is bowing out and in need of repair. The interior of the basement level shows the north and east walls were further braced with battered limestone walls. The foundation is continuous along the north, west and east sides but is open on the south side, with that wall covered with sliding and open-out doors and supported by timber posts on limestone slab piers.

The interior construction shows heavy timber framing using hand-hewn posts and beams with sawn bracing. The beams measure eight inches square and include white oak and black walnut timbers. The joinery is pegged mortise-and-tenon. Some of the center posts are debarked poles. The bent configuration shows a simple bent with a single horizontal beam, although this is a spliced rather than a continuous single big beam (Glassie 1974). There were some added supports through the years including a steel cable that runs the transverse length of the barn and is hooked into the center posts; boards bolted to the cross-beams for

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**McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa**

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added support; and some metal bracing added as well. There has been some slippage in the overall framing of this barn through the years because of the settling and bowing out of foundation walls. This is most pronounced along the west wall; however, battered brace walls in the basement suggest that the north and east walls have also had movement problems through the years.

The floor joists under the upper loft floors are rough-hewn with some of the bark remaining. The wood planks in the flooring measure 10 to 16 inches wide and are fastened with square nails.

The basement level shows hewn posts on limestone slab piers, with the floor joists notched into the limestone foundation. The cross-beams are also spliced in the basement level, with settling having resulted in several cracked beams. The posts measure 10-inches square, with the cross beams measuring 10 by 12 inches. The floor of the basement is dirt. The entire south wall consists of timber framing with posts on limestone piers, with the west, east and north walls supported by the limestone basement wall.

The floorplan of the basement level shows a U-shaped feeding aisle around a series of milking stalls and stanchions in the center. Feed bunks line the feeding aisles. A door/chute to the silo was built into the northwest wall. The basement is entered from above via a staircase in the northeast corner that has a unique weighted-pulley system that raises and lowers the door. The upper level has a drive-in ramp where loose hay was thrown to either side, with a grain bin in the northeast corner.

Historically, this barn served "a multitude of uses" (Waters 1981).

At one time it housed everything from work horses, milk cows, hogs and cattle to oats, corn and hay. Numerous openings along the floor of the second and third stories enabled the farmer to drop feed and hay to the livestock below. The huge loft, in days gone by was filled with hay pitched by hand. 'They used to say it holds 100 tons of loose hay,' ....

The special stalls for the work horses and milking stalls no longer in use are dusty and covered with cobwebs. For about 25 years, [Louis] Wilmesmeier said, they milked 20 head of cows in there (Waters 1981).

Changes through the years have been minimal but have included the residing of the lower portion of the barn in 1914 using prisoners hired out to do carpentry work thus accounting for the presence of wire nails in the siding; the reinforcement of the limestone foundation also completed by prisoner labor in the 1910s; and the cutting of several windows in the barn also completed in the early twentieth century (Waters 1981).

The silo is a free-standing structure of concrete stave construction held together with metal cables and resting on a concrete pad foundation. The staves are impressed with "J.D. Daly/Burlington, Iowa." This structure no longer has a roof. It is connected to the basement level of the barn through a chute cut into the stone foundation. This type of silo was popular after 1906 (Noble and Cleek 1995:161). Because this silo was built after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing to the property.

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McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa

## Statement of Significance

The Daniel McConn Barn is locally significant under Criterion C for the architectural significance of this well-preserved banked/basement, double-decker, Pennsylvania-type barn. This is a most unusual barn for its size and design and is a local landmark in the region. The barn retains a high degree of integrity and is still used for agricultural purposes. The period of significance and the significant date for this barn is the suspected construction date c. 1857.

Daniel McConn was “one of the honored pioneers of Fort Madison, [and] one of its most prominent citizens” (Chapman Brothers 1887:506). He was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1813 and immigrated to the United States in 1825 when, at the age of 12, he set sail from Ireland in the company of his uncle. Landing first in New York, the two proceeded to Norfolk and Bremen, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland, where he lived for twelve years. His brother had a large flouring mill in Baltimore where Daniel likely learned this trade. He then proceeded to New Orleans where he worked on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and New Orleans until 1836. In May of 1837, McConn settled in Fort Madison, Iowa, where he opened a store, “building up a business which continued thereafter for the space of twenty years” (ibid.).

His business rapidly increased, and in due time he erected a large warehouse and purchased grain, pork, and other country produce, shipping them to St. Louis and New York. He was thus continually engaged until 1878, and then retired from active business, having secured a competency. *He is the owner of a fine farm one mile from the town, which is carried on by a tenant* (Chapman Brothers 1887:506, 509) [emphasis added].

It is this “fine farm” that is the subject of this nomination. It is interesting to note that this 1887 biography of McConn made no mention of the large flouring mill he built in Fort Madison. In actuality, the mill was built by a partnership of McConn and Devore Parmer, who in “1851 or 1852...erected a fine flouring mill on the site of the old fort” (Western Historical 1879:608). The mill operated until “about 1871,” although another account reported that the mill shut down in 1868 (Hansman 1993; Western Historical 1879:608). The mill operated under the name of “American Mills” and was located at the corner of Front and Broadway in Fort Madison (Linda Hayes, personal communication 1999).

Dr. John F. Hansman, a professional historian and archeologist who lives in Fort Madison and has conducted oral historical and archival research concerning the McConn Barn, has noted that this barn was built on property that McConn acquired in the 1850s encompassing some 300 acres of farmland just north of Fort Madison. Much of McConn’s land was planted in wheat, which was “ground into flour at his mill and sold profitably by the barrel” (Hansman 1993). Hansman further indicated that McConn “built this large barn in 1857 near the center of his farming property” (ibid.).

According to a letter written many years later to the *Evening Democrat* [c.1910] by a former Fort Madison resident, some timbers used in the barn’s construction had been taken from Fort Madison’s first hotel, the Madison House, built in 1836 and demolished by Daniel McConn around 1856 (Hansman 1993).

The property was still under McConn’s ownership at the time of the 1874 atlas of Lee County (Andreas 1874), with a house shown on the west side of the road in the SW1/4 of Section 25, Washington Township, near the barn location. McConn also owned property in the NW1/4 of Section 26, the SW1/4 of Section 24, and the NW1/4 of Section 25 in this township (ibid.). The mill shut down in the late 1860s or early 1870s “and in 1877 [McConn] sold the great barn with part of his cropland to William Ewing” (Hansman 1993).

In 1881 the farm was purchased by Dr. James H. Bacon, who owned 12,000 acres of farmland primarily in Green Bay Township. During Dr. Bacon’s tenure of ownership the property was known as “Bayview,” with the farm containing 1,200 acres (Western Historical 1879:725). There is still a place inside the barn where the words “Bayview Farm” are still legible in faded paint (Heather Faeth, personal communication 1999).

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Lee County, Iowa

Bacon's son, James H. Bacon, Jr., lived on the farm with his wife, Lizzie (Case) Bacon, and their two children, James M. and Alpha (Western Historical 1879:725). Therefore, while Dr. Bacon purchased and reportedly improved the farm at a cost of \$25,000 (the improvements being unknown but perhaps consisting of the extant house), it appears that it was his son and the son's family that actually lived on and worked this farm (ibid.). The property was lost to the bank by the 1890s, with Henry Wilmesmeier purchasing the property in 1896. His family retained possession until 1988 (Waters 1981). The property is currently owned by Lynn and Heather Faeth.

What makes the history of this barn even more complicated are several recent accounts that state that this barn was "handcrafted in 1857 in Pennsylvania" and "shipped [in pieces] by freight across country, floated down the Mississippi River and moved a few miles up the river bluff by mules and wagons" to its present location (Fiderlein 1999; see also Augspurger 1998). Unfortunately, no references to this event have been encountered in a review of the available Fort Madison newspapers dating from the late 1850s, nor in the later account that appeared in the c. 1910 *Evening Democrat* that indicated that McConn built this barn using timbers from the old hotel in Fort Madison (Hansman 1993). That McConn built this barn locally using a Pennsylvania barn plan for its design appears the more plausible conclusion. John Hansman (1999) has speculated that the story about the barn being moved from Pennsylvania arose when an older resident of the farmstead was told by someone that the barn was a "Pennsylvania Barn" meaning a Pennsylvania-type barn but was instead taken literally. From there it spread, with the story growing into quite a tale as it passed from one person to another. One can imagine how this occurred when someone said it was moved from Pennsylvania and someone responded with a query as to how that might have happened. Speculation grew into fact as the story was passed around. However, there appears to be little credibility to this tale particularly since this tale appears in only recent references about the barn. Hansman (1999) also noted that Daniel McConn

had a reputation for being frugal in business dealings. That propensity would also seem to mitigate against his encountering the substantial added expense of bringing this barn overland, when this would not have been necessary.

The significance of the McConn barn lies in its architecture and high degree of integrity. The design of the barn has its roots in the banked/basement barns typical of the Pennsylvania Dutch countryside and appears to conform best to a type defined as "Type D. Vertical-Extension ("Double Decker") Barn" by Robert Ensminger (1995:102-103). This type of barn was found in Chester and Lancaster counties, Pennsylvania, with scattered locations elsewhere in Pennsylvania and the Midwest as well as in Warren County, New Jersey (ibid.:102). In these areas, this type of barn dates from 1800-1880 and appears to have an association with the Quaker settlements in Chester County, Pennsylvania, where "Quaker farmers are credited with the barn enlargement that resulted in the double-decker barn" (ibid.).

Although Quaker farmers have been credited with the early development of the double-decker barn in Chester County, the form is common in farm structures in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. [Ensminger has] seen this morphology in sixteenth-century house-barns in the Black Forest, in eighteenth-century structures in Emmental, Switzerland, and the Tyrol in Austria, and in large separate barns in central Switzerland. [He knows] of no examples in the British Isles, including the English Lake District. There are many American variations of the double-decker form, and they do not fall conveniently into a set classification scheme (Ensminger 1995:103).

The double-decker barn is so-called because its design incorporates a third level to an otherwise typical two-level banked/basement barn. The third level is created by the construction of a two-level loft above the basement stable. Access to the upper level of the loft is through an extended ramp or bridge. The advantages of this type of design "are manifold: extra capacity for hay storage in a deeper loft area; easier gravity filling by unloading hay downward from the threshing bridge; large, protected granary below the threshing bridge; and increased capacity of forebay straw shed" (Ensminger 1995:103). A representative illustration of a double-decker interior bent configuration is attached to this nomination. This configuration is similar, but not identical, to that of the McConn Barn. However, the influence of the design appears obvious in the design of the McConn Barn.



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What makes this similarity even more intriguing is the association of the double-decker design in Pennsylvania with Quaker settlements. The Quakers, or the Society of Friends, were a religious group who also settled in notable numbers in eastern Iowa. They came to Iowa primarily for economic reasons but also because of their anti-slavery beliefs (Jones 1914:51). The first Quaker settlement in Iowa was in Salem, located in Henry County just north of Lee County, although these Quakers migrated from North and South Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, starting in 1835 with groups from the Carolinas (WPA 1986:343). However, it has been noted that "Keokuk and Fort Madison were the natural gateways to Iowa for those Quakers who came from the East and the South by the river route (i.e., down the Ohio and up the Mississippi), while Burlington was more accessible to those who crossed the prairies of Illinois by the overland route from Indiana" (Jones 1914:49). Hence, there was an influx of Quaker settlers directly through Fort Madison in the 1830s-1860s, who at first were funneled toward the settlement around Salem but subsequently spread northwest and north from there. That some could have come into contact with Daniel McConn, he being a major mill operator and store owner in the frontier community of Fort Madison, is not entirely far-fetched.

Quaker settlements in the vicinity included New Garden, which was midway between Salem and Fort Madison, Pleasant Plain, Richland, and Chestnut Hill, all in the Henry-Lee county vicinity. This enclave even built "White's Iowa Manual Labor Institute" on a tract of land in the northwest corner of Lee County, with the institute falling on hard times during the Panic of 1857 and subsequently was run by the State as a reform school. A second Quaker stronghold formed in Jefferson County, with settlements made in Keokuk County, Mahaska County, Warren County, Jasper County, and the town of Muscatine in the 1840s. In the 1850s-1860s, Quaker settlements expanded into Marshall, Story, Hardin, Cedar, Washington, Johnson, Linn, and Jones counties, with a northern settlement even made in Winneshiek County. The community of Springdale in Cedar County became a Quaker center during this second wave much as Salem had become during the earliest influx of settlers. During this period, Quakers migrated to Iowa from Maine, Vermont, New York, Indiana, Ohio, Canada, and Pennsylvania. There was even a contingent of Norwegian Quakers who settled initially at Sugar Creek in Lee County in 1840 but later migrated into Henry and Marshall counties (Jones 1914).

It is postulated that when Daniel McConn was looking for a design for a very large barn to accommodate the needs of his proposed farming operation, that he sought out help from carpenters familiar with the large barns of Pennsylvania and may have turned to those in the region with the most knowledge of such barns, such as the Quakers, Amish, Mennonites, or even the United Brethren, who were among the early migrants to Iowa from the Pennsylvania Dutch countryside. All of these groups were a presence by the late 1850s in eastern Iowa and would have some knowledge of banked/basement barns. According to Ensminger (1995:175), "the most significant cluster of Pennsylvania barns west of the Mississippi River is in southeastern Iowa," particularly in Washington and Johnson counties near the town of Kalona, which was settled by Amish settlers from Pennsylvania and Ohio in the late 1840s (ibid.). That McConn could have come into direct contact with Quaker settlers is entirely plausible given that Fort Madison was an early point-of-entry for those of this group who took the river route from the East. Also intriguing is the suspected construction date for this barn in or around 1857. While this was an economically depressed time in the Nation, McConn appeared to be on sound financial ground because in 1858 it was noted in the local newspaper that he was planning to build a fine new residence in town (*Fort Madison Plain Dealer* 1858). However, it was probably a hard time for new migrants to the region, and the prospect of being paid to build a large new barn might have been too attractive to pass up even for a group such as the Quakers who probably would rather have kept to their own business.

Therefore, it is concluded that the McConn Barn was built in Lee County using a Pennsylvania barn type that is similar in configuration to the double-decker barn type originating in Pennsylvania and associated with the Quaker farmers of that region. Furthermore, because there were a number of groups, with ties to those areas of Pennsylvania where banked/basement and double-decker barns were a familiar feature of the rural landscape, and who settled in eastern and southeastern Iowa in the 1830s-1860s, it is perhaps more plausible that Daniel McConn hired someone from one of these groups experienced in the design and construction of the double-decker banked/basement barn type to build his large barn in Washington Township rather than going to the extreme end of dismantling a barn in Pennsylvania and transporting it all the way to the Iowa frontier.

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**McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa**

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Unfortunately, there have been no extensive rural surveys completed to date in Lee County, Iowa, to help place this structure within a better regional context. However, it can be stated that the survival and integrity of this particular example is notable in the area and in Iowa as a whole and is worthy of National Register designation.

The current owners are in the process of restoring this barn and continue to use the building to shelter their horses and llamas, while using the upper floors for storage. This nomination is being set forth to recognize the significance of this large banked/basement barn and to assist in its continued preservation.

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**McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa**

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**McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated boundary for the Daniel McConn map is shown as the dashed line on the attached map entitled "Plan Map of McConn Barn Showing Nominated Boundaries."

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary is that portion of this farmstead that encompasses the McConn Barn and its surrounding landscape and fencelines. This is the portion of the extant farmstead that maintains historic integrity.

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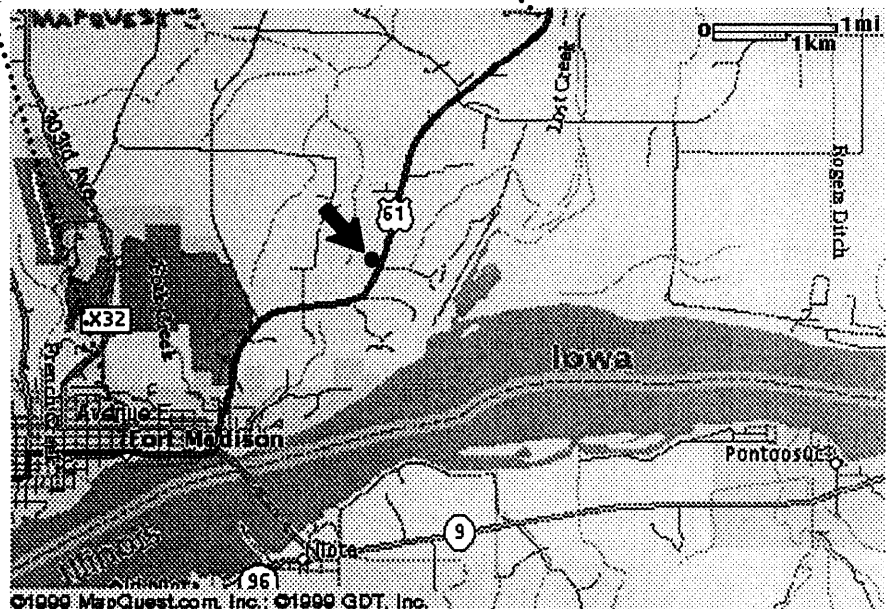
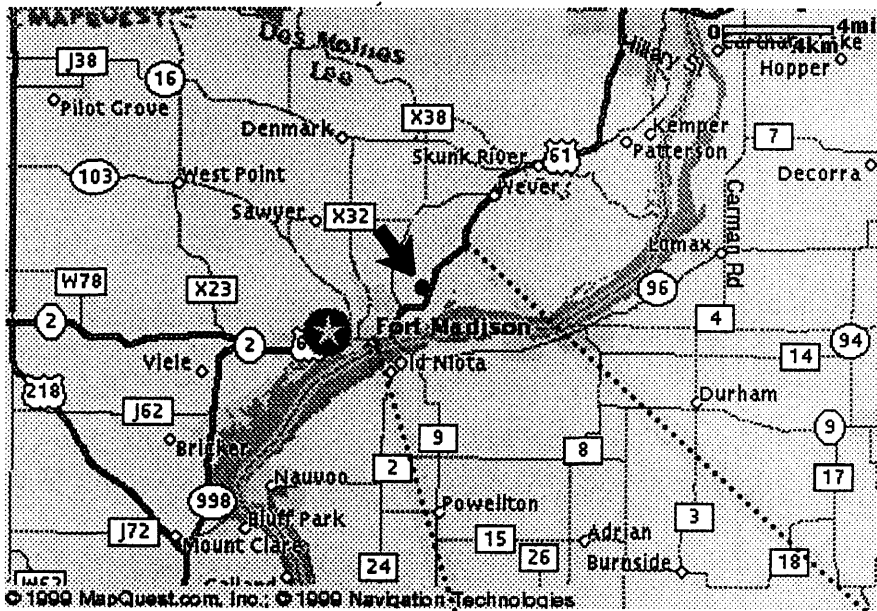
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McCann Barn  
Lee County, Iowa

General Location Map of McCann Barn (denoted by arrow)



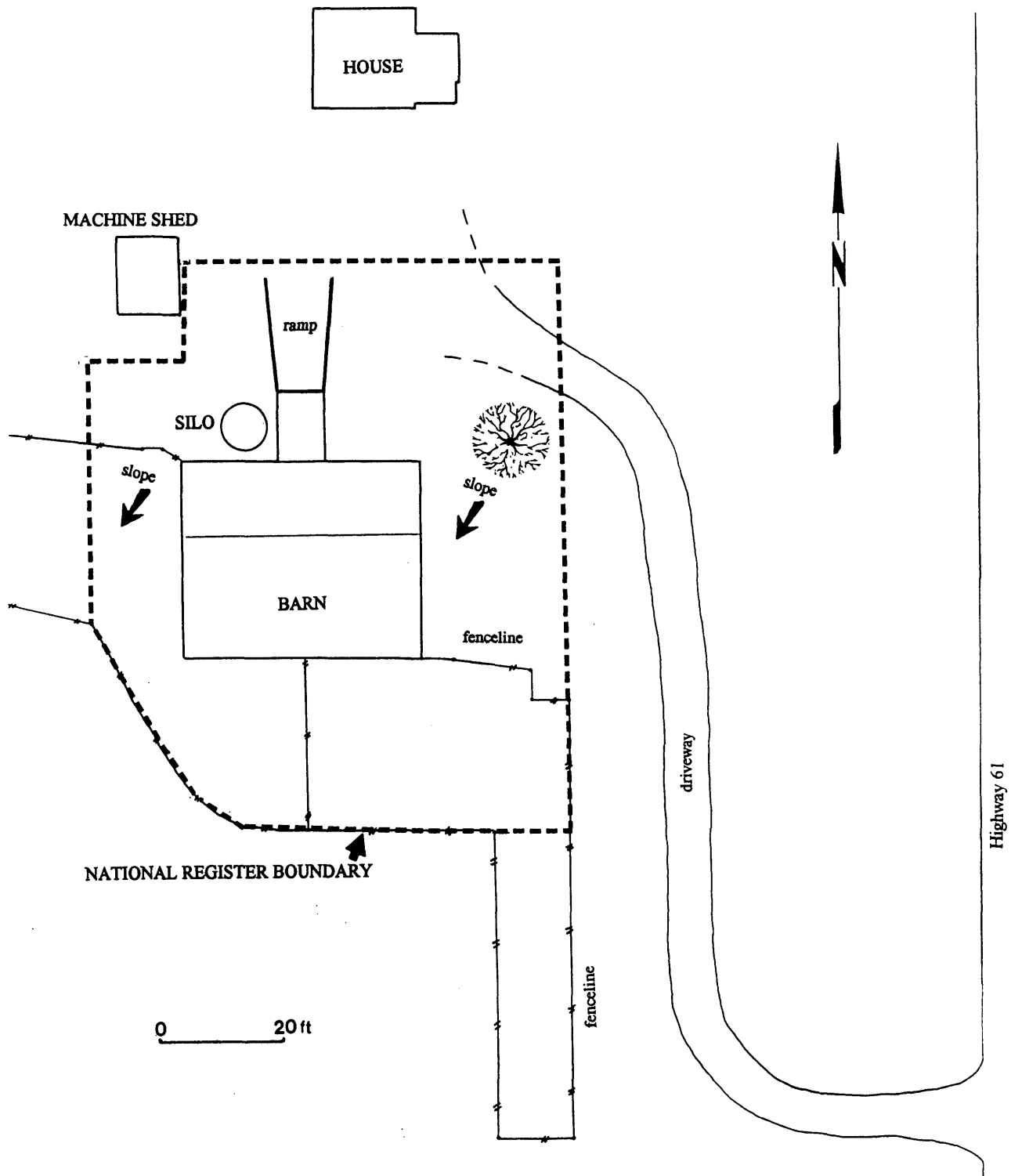
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McCconn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa

Plan Map of McCconn Barn Showing Nominated Boundaries





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McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa

Bent Configuration of a Double-Decker Barn in Pennsylvania  
(Source: Ensminger 1995:103)

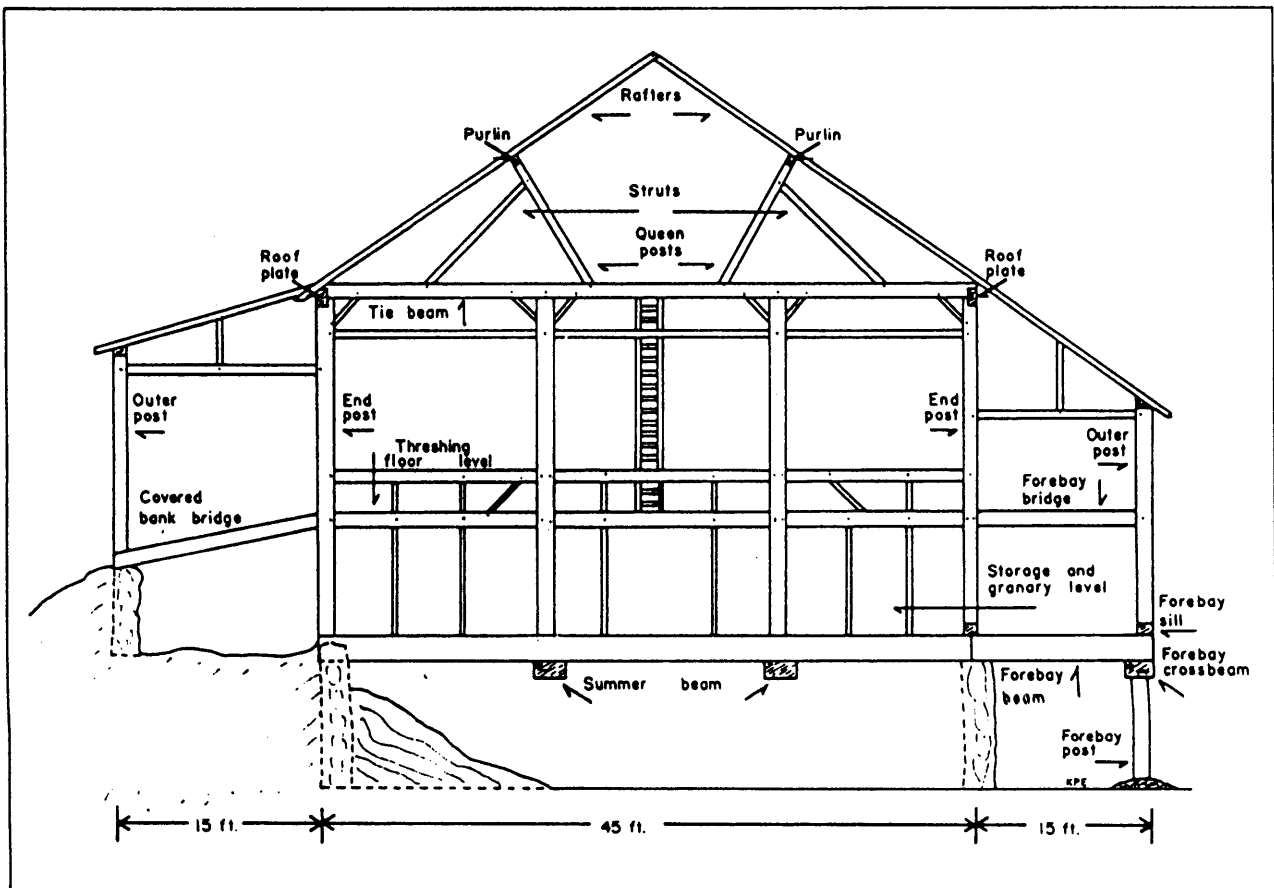


Diagram 2.7. Representative double-decker bent configuration, the Clemmer barn near Clayton, Berks County, Pennsylvania, dated 1857.



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**McConn Barn  
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**Photographs**

Name of Photographer: Leah D. Rogers

Date of Photographs: July 16, 1999

Location of Negatives: 2095 Highway 61, Ft. Madison, IA 52627

- #1 Exterior of Barn, south and west sides, view to the NE
- #2 Exterior of Barn, south and east side, view to the NW
- #3 Exterior of Barn, east and north sides, view to the SW
- #4 Exterior of Barn, west side and showing concrete stave silo of NW corner, view to the ESE
- #5 Exterior of Barn, detail of foundation construction on west side, view to the East
- #6 Interior of Barn, detail of center post and bent configuration in west end of barn and showing metal bracing and pole supports added later, view to the West.
- #7 Interior of Barn, detail of upper bent configuration and purlin system, view to the SW from the upper loft level
- #8 Interior of Barn, detail of bent configuration, view to the SSE from the west end looking towards the center aisle and loft level
- #9 Interior of Barn, detail of door to basement level, view to the ENE
- #10 Interior of Barn, detail of feed bunks in basement level, view to the NNW
- #11 Interior of Barn, detail of stalls in basement level, view to the NE
- #12 Interior of Barn, detail of spliced cross-beam in basement level, view to the WSW

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McConn Barn  
Lee County, Iowa

Map Showing Direction of Photographs

