



Barn Number 21

Historic Name: Michael J. Sullivan Barn
 Address of Barn: 16214 La Conner-Whitney Road, La Conner
 Built Date: 1885
 Built By: Michael Sullivan
 Barn Style: Dutch
 Features: Cupola
 History: Michael Sullivan's parents emigrated from Ireland. Both parents died soon after arriving in this country, leaving him an orphan. He was only 12 years old when he traveled via boat to San Francisco and then on to a mill at Utsalady on Camano Island – and finally on to the Skagit Flats. Michael Sullivan was the first to develop the La Conner Flats from valueless marshland sometimes covered in tidal water into rich and fertile fields. The farm was originally 300 acres – and Sullivan built the original house, a Victorian mansion, and the barn. They used to feed horses and cows in the barn, but the stanchions are now gone. The floor is in original shape – all wood planks. The original grain chaffer, used to process grain, is still in its original condition and is in a corner of the barn. The barn is owned by a descendent of the original builder.



Barn Number 23

Historic Name: Willard D. Larson Barn
 Address of Barn: 15555 Summers Drive, Mount Vernon
 Built Date: 1931
 Built By: Willard Larson & Lloyd Summers
 Barn Style: Dutch Gambrel
 Features: Hay Hood, Attached open machine shed
 History: The barn was used for milking cows. The west end housed work horses. The concrete floor was covered with 2 x 12 planks for the horse's comfort. The milk cows were sold off in 1950. Since then the barn has periodically been used for raising feeder calves. Currently it is used for storage downstairs and hay & straw in the loft.



Barn Number 22

Historic Name: [Unknown]
 Address of Barn: 14311 Calhoun Road, Mount Vernon
 Built Date: c. 1890
 Built By: [Unknown]
 Barn Style: Gable
 Features: Milking Shed
 History: Records show that the property was sold to J.A. Wallace in the 1870's by the United States. Wallace took the original homestead and added the more Victorian house that now stands on the property. The current owner has found newspapers in the original house dated 1873. The barn has been stabilized over the past 2 years and is currently unused.



Barn Number 24

Historic Name: Marsh Miller Barn
 Address of Barn: 17223 Beaver Marsh Road, Mount Vernon
 Built Date: c. 1900
 Built By: [Unknown]
 Barn Style: Western
 Features: Hay Hood, Milk House
 History: A native of Denmark, Marsh Miller arrived in Skagit County in 1885, at which time he purchased a 110 acre farm. Only five acres had been cleared. The early settlers of the Skagit Valley had to clear acres of trees from the rich bottom land, as well as create vast drainage systems, in order to begin farming. By 1906, Mr. Miller had cleared 75 acres. The original center section of the barn is built in a post and beam style, with posts hewn from trees. The barn was made much larger with the addition of walls and shed roofs on three sides. In 1928 the barn was converted to a milking barn. The barn was purchased by the Hedlund family in 1945. They built the house that stands near the barn just prior to their move to the property. Those who remember the barn in its prime recall it as 'picture perfect'. In 1987 the farm was sold to Nick Van der Vis to increase his neighboring dairy farm. Nick and Elisabeth Van der Vis came from the Netherlands in 1955. In 1962 they purchased the farm adjacent to the Hedlunds. Through hard work, Nik prospered as a dairy farmer. Retiring from dairying in 1987, he continued to keep beef cattle while leasing the remaining acreage. Mr. Van der Vis passed away in 2013. The farm remains a part of the family trust.