



Barn Number 32

Historic Name: Joseph E. Ewing Barn
Address of Barn: 15244 Bradshaw Road, Mount Vernon
Built Date: c. 1900
Built By: [Unknown]
Barn Style: English Gambrel
Features: Hay Hood
History: Documentation notes that Joseph E. Ewing and Mary A. Ewing sold land to Drainage District #15 in 1906. The barn is built on the highest part of a 10 acre parcel. The barn has been used to milk cows (some of the doors have DeLavel Manufacturing signs denoting milking machines in use) and to shelter horses. The family would 'hay' each year around the 4th of July and put the hay in the loft of the barn. If the hay was a little damp, they would salt each layer with rock salt to avoid spontaneous combustion that might burn the barn down. The chicken coop was built after the barn – around 1930 or 40. The father of the current owner turned the building in to a "Bee" barn, using it for storing his beekeeping tools and honey extraction supplies. They also held annual honey extraction work parties where friends and family would come and help with separating the honey from the comb on a weekend in the fall.



Barn Number 33

Historic Name: Martin Best Barn
Address of Barn: 14535 Best Road, Mount Vernon
Built Date: 1913
Built By: Martin and Rowena Best, Bert Heggen
Barn Style: Broken Gable
History: The lumber used was from the farm and the surrounding area. The barn was originally built to store hay for their dairy herd and horses. There is a pole in the barn bearing a painted face with the word "dance" underneath. Bert said that they celebrated completing the huge structure and had a great time dancing on the wood floor. Bert's daughter, Virginia, married Kenneth Jones when he returned from front line action in World War II. They rented the Martin Best Farm and started in the dairy business in 1946. As their dairy became more successful, they purchased the adjoining property in the late 1940's. This was the beginning of Ridgeonia Farms. The property had only one structure – the large barn. Soon the poles of the barn were blocked and set in concrete and most of the wooden floor was removed and concrete alleyways were poured. Large loafing areas with pipe stalls were added. The shake roof was also replaced. A modern three-stanchion milking parlor was added on the west side near the road in the late 1950s. In the early 1960s two calf barns and a large pole building was constructed to house heifers and store hay. The Ridgeonia herd was recognized as a leading herd of registered Holsteins, which led to cows being sold throughout the U.S., Canada, and Asia. In the 1970's Kenny and Virginia sold their herd. The majority of the property was rented to crop farmers. In the 1980's the barn was used to house beef cattle and registered quarter horses. The land was rented to Washington Bulb and is rotated with tulips, daffodils or other crops. The calf barn located on the south side of the large barn sports a huge American flag. The barn currently houses part of a herd of quality registered miniature donkeys.



Barn Number 34

Historic Name: Bergquist Barn
Address of Barn: 13747 Bradshaw Road, Mount Vernon
Built Date: c 1938
Built By: Arthur L. Bergquist
Barn Style: Gambrel
Features: Milking Shed
History: The Barn replaced a small shed that was originally on the property. The barn housed his small dairy herd. The roof was replaced in 1985. The 4th generation of the family currently lives on the property and uses the barn for storage.