



Barn Number 27

Historic Name: Marsh Miller Barn
Address of Barn: 17223 Beaver Marsh Road,
Mount Vernon

Built Date: c. 1900
Built By: Marsh Miller
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. The current owners use the barn for agricultural equipment storage.



Barn Number 28

Historic Name: Henning Granquist Dairy
Address of Barn: 16964 Jungquist Road,
Mount Vernon

Built Date: c. 1915
Built By: Henning Granquist
Barn Style: Broken Gable
Features: Hay Hood, Silo, Milking Shed

History: Henning Granquist migrated to the U.S. in 1905 through Ellis Island. He traveled overland to Mount Vernon, making his living doing odd jobs and working as a horse trainer and wrangler. He purchased property in 1909 from the local school district. Little is known about the existing barn and outbuildings. Henning and his wife, Mora, raised two children on the farm. The farm is currently owned by Henning's granddaughter. She recalls her grandfather giving her a cow before it was even born. She would sleep with the cow, feed it, walk it and even ride on her as she became fully grown. Henning said that he had never seen a Holstein cow that would let any human do that. The cow, Snowflake, was the largest producer of milk and when she gave birth, always had female twins. A good thing for the milking business!