



Barn Number 9

Historic Name: Van Thurman Barn
 Address of Barn: 19405 Nelson Road,
 Mount Vernon
 Built Date: c. 1920
 Built By: Van and Dora Thurman
 Barn Style: Gable
 Features: Hay Hood, Milking Shed
 History: Van Thurman was a driver for Darigold and his wife – Dora – was a teacher at Conway School. The Thurmans used the barn to milk their 8 cows, store hay in the loft and store grain in the silo that was attached to the barn. The silo has since fallen down. The barn has a ground entrance with a low ceiling and dirt floor and about ¼ of it opens up to the loft. There is a ramp on the northwest corner that gave the cows access to the 8 milking stalls in the loft area of the barn. The loft is a huge expanse with pulleys, attached ladders and two big doors on the south side for loading in hay. The hay would fill the loft to the rafters. The construction is pillar and post with long cedar poles, old growth cedar siding, and old fir floors in the loft. The barn is currently used for storage of farm equipment and wine barrels for the vineyard on the property.



Barn Number 10

Historic Name: [Unknown]
 Address of Barn: 17023 Dike Road,
 Mount Vernon
 Built Date: c. 1905
 Built By: [Unknown]
 Barn Style: Dutch Gambrel
 Features: Cupola (2), Weather Vane,
 Milking Shed
 History: The barn was supported by 90 surrounding acres for cattle, hay and seed. The huge timbers and cedar siding likely came from clearing those 90 acres. The barn was used for milking in to the 1950's. Several milking stanchions still hang in the barn and some beams are worn smooth from cows rubbing their necks against the wood. Whitewash can be seen on some of the beams. The cavernous loft stored hay for surrounding farms, and the rope and pulleys still hang from the ceiling. The pulley attachment on the sliding door shows patent dates of 1901 and 1903. There is a faded hand-lettered metal sign which reads "Dance Saturday Night". Barn owls now live in the loft and can be seen leaving at sunset for nightly hunts. Seed bag tags were found in the barn. Seeds were probably stored in the barn before being loaded on barges which came up the Skagit River and into the sloughs to pick up produce. The seeds were going to Lilly's of Seattle (now Lilly-Miller). A metal roof was added when leaking began to damage the timbers in the loft. The barn is currently used for alpacas and hay & grain storage.



Barn Number 11

Historic Name: Otto Larson Barn
 Address of Barn: 18598 Skagit City Road,
 Mount Vernon
 Built Date: 1910
 Built By: Tillie and Otto Larson
 Barn Style: Salt Box
 Features: Cupola, Milking Shed
 History: Swedish Immigrants Tillie and Otto Larson built their farm on Fir Island in 1910. Tillie was the farmer and a midwife. Otto ran the ferry across the Skagit River and made hand turned small tables while he waited for customers. They had a dairy and raised chickens and sold eggs. The Larsons planted an orchard and two of the original apple trees are still on the property, as well as remnants of Tillie's asparagus patch. It is still producing after 100 years! This barn was the recipient of a Heritage Barn matching grant and the funds have been used to re-roof the barn, repair the south end and remove areas of dry rot on the west side's board and batting. The current owners use the barn as an art studio.



Barn Number 12

Historic Name: Edler Barn
 Address of Barn: 18402 Dry Slough Road,
 Mount Vernon
 Built Date: c. 1900
 Built By: Edler family
 Barn Style: Broken Gable
 Features: Hay Hood, Silo
 History: It was originally used as a dairy barn. The barn is well situated on the land as it is slightly higher than the adjacent field and the cooling breezes blow through it in the summer, yet the worst of the winter storms are blocked. At some point the horizontal braces overhead were cut off to make room for a pulley, and cement was poured on the two sides and half of the main floor area of the barn. The vertical support beams were hand-aded. The barn was in danger of collapse and has been shored up. Plans are in place to secure the barn. The current owner uses the barn to shelter horses.