

Institutions and Organizations

Some barns are not part of family farms, although they remain useful for other functions.

*Madison County
815 South Second Avenue
Winterset*



2013

The Gold Rush of 1849 led Charles D. “Doc” Bevington to head to California briefly in search of gold. However, the lure of living in Iowa brought him back and he returned to Winterset in 1853. In 1856 he built this limestone barn and eventually owned over 4,000 acres.

The barn was believed to have been built at two different times as there are two unconnected lofts. In the 1880s it housed draft horses and in the first seven months of 1889 he shipped 35 carloads by train, each holding 20 horses, to markets in the east, selling them for about \$125 per head.

When Doc’s third wife died in 1857 he sold their Victorian home, also built in 1856, to Judge John Pitzer, a prominent Madison County figure. Doc bought it back in 1859 and it remained in the family until 1934 when his daughter, Lida May Smalley, sold it to John and June Kaser, who then owned it for over 40 years.

After June’s husband died, she gifted both the house and barn to the Madison County Historical Society. Both are part of a complex of 14 buildings on the south edge of Winterset and some are on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Anamosa Prison Farm barns
1 mile west of Anamosa on E28*

2015

Limestone quarried in the Anamosa area was used to build this complex of barns in Jones County, part of the Iowa prison system. The gable barn left of center was built in 1912 and the one at far right in 1916. Note the decorative bracing on the corner of the barn and the arched doorways in the photos at right.

For many years the inmates produced much of their own food. They tended extensive vegetable gardens and raised crops of corn and hay fed to cattle.

A dairy barn was also in use at one time. Some cattle are still raised, and some structures are used for machinery storage.



Arched doorways



Limestone braces on corner

1979 photos