



The Star Barn Complex Restoration Fund

Contribute to The Star Barn Complex Restoration Fund

What is The Star Barn Complex?

The 1872 Star Barn complex, a National Register of Historic Places landmark, is located in Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County, Middletown, Pennsylvania. It is situated on 3.6 acres. The complex also includes a pig barn, corn crib, chicken coop, pond, and stone fence. The existing milk house and grain silo were constructed in the 1920's. In 1872, Colonial John Motter commissioned Daniel Reichert, a mortician and master carpenter, to design and build The Star Barn and its ancillary buildings in the Gothic Revival style. Mr. Motter sold horses to the U.S. cavalry during the Civil War and was a successful banker, businessman, and gentleman farmer.

The Star Barn is a large frame bank barn constructed on a limestone foundation. This three-story structure is approximately 67'-6" wide by 105'-6" long. It is estimated to be 65 feet in height (to the cupola). The barn has tall pointed-arch ventilators along all four elevations. There are also prominent star-shaped ventilators centered within each gable end and cross-gable. The ground floor interior of The Star Barn was altered in the early twentieth century to accommodate dairy cattle and contains several concrete troughs running almost the entire width of the barn. There is also a vaulted stone cellar to the north over which the earth bank leading to the threshing floor was constructed. There are two upper floors divided into five separate stalls of beaded pine boards. The upper portion of the barn is constructed of heavy timber framing. In addition to post and beam construction, a few artifacts are still in place from The Star Barn's early design and use. The first use of the barn was to keep horses. There is one remaining spindle horse stall divider from that period.

On December 21, 2007, Agrarian Country assumed ownership of The Star Barn complex. Because of its location near Interstate-283, limited acreage, and encroaching development, The Star Barn and its ancillary buildings will be carefully disassembled, moved to its new site in Lebanon County, and restored to serve as Agrarian Country's *Agricultural Education and Exhibition Center*.

How will the funds be used?

- Pays for the dismantling of The Star Barn complex and preparation for moving it to Lebanon County
- Pays for the raising of The Star Barn at the 1872-style barn-raising festival
- Pays for the restoration of The Star Barn complex to its original design and condition
- Pays for interior renovations to make the barn usable to the general public as an *Agricultural Education and Exposition Center* for seasonal festivals, agricultural-related shows, auctions, dinners, concerts, theater productions, and other community events
- Pays for landscaping, trees, scrubs, land beautification, signage, and security
- Pays for an endowment for long-term maintenance and operations

The Star Barn Restoration Fund Campaign: Main Complex

- **Total Square Footage:** 30,000
- **Contribution Blocks:** 30,000 blocks at one square foot each
- **Minimum Contribution:** \$100 (one-time or over-time pledges). Contributors may contribute as many contribution blocks as desired.
- **Total Campaign Fund: \$3,000,000**

