

The Barn Door

A Publication of the Friends of Minnesota Barns
Volume 9 Issue 1 May 2013



Best Non-Agricultural Adaptive Re-use: Steven Schussler Eden Prairie, Hennepin County

Steven purchased the barn in December of 2010 with the intention of making it another Schussler Creative Laboratory and using it to store his antique cars and jukeboxes. The former owners of the property, Elmer and Elma Sandberg, had bought what was then the Goodrich property in 1940 and named it Elmcrest Farm. Shortly after, Elmer decided to replace the original Goodrich barn from the late 1800's. For a total replacement cost of \$11,500, the new barn was built in 1942 from materials made by Rilco

(Rock Island Lumber Company), a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser located in Albert Lea, Minnesota -- a company which had a number of pre-manufactured barn patterns available from a catalog. This method of barn construction became popular in the late 1930s. The roof has a Gothic arch shape formed from laminated timber rafters. The glued laminated timber rafters had been developed in Europe and introduced to the United States in 1934. The United States Department of Agriculture issued a technical bulletin in 1939 on the use of these rafters, and Rilco was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota that same year. Rilco's marketing literature at the time promoted the rafters as being "factory-fabricated and engineered", and the rafters were shipped predrilled and ready for assembly with all hardware included. Masonry work, such as the foundation brick and the clay tile used in the silo, was provided by the Johnston Brothers Clay Works in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

