Barn of the Year - 2025

The **Michigan Barn Preservation Network** was founded in 1996 with its mission to promote the “*Appreciation, Rehabilitation and Preservation of Michigan’s Barns, Farms and Rural Communities”.*

During its first year, the **Barn of the Year Award** was created to recognize exceptional examples of Michigan’s barns that have been preserved through regular maintenance or restoration. The first recipient of the Barn of the Year Award was the iconic **Octagon Barn** located near Gagetown in Michigan’s Thumb area. Since that first acknowledgement of the special nature of Michigan’s barns in 1997, the Barn of the Year has become a coveted prize to be sought after. In the 28 years since its inception, a total of 110 barns have been recognized for either their unique character, their historic stories, or the heroic efforts toward saving them for future generations to respect and enjoy.

Today begins the search for worthy applicants for the 2025 Award. The Barn of the Year for 2025 will be selected and the Award bestowed on March 15, 2025 at MBPN’s Annual Conference to be held in St. Johns, Michigan. Applications will be accepted November 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025. Applications and instructions for nominating a barn are found on the Network’s website found at mibarn.net.



Octagon Barn – 1997 Barn of the Year

Note: This very unique style of barn which was built in 1924 was saved through the efforts of the Friends of the Octagon Barn through restoration efforts it began in 2017. Today, it is known throughout the state, draws huge crowds for its Fall Family Festival, and stands as a monument to community commitment to barn preservation. The barn’s Centennial was celebrated in 2024, and was featured on MBPN’s ’24 Calendar.

Keith Anderson, Chair

Awards Committee

Michigan Barn Preservation Network