

Anstead Barn

Hastings, Pennsylvania.



The Past: The Anstead barn was built between 1851-1860. The size of the barn was 45'x 80' or 3600 square feet.

Anthony Anstead, a Bavarian immigrant, had cleared 20 of his 75

acres for farming. With the lumber from the cleared land he built his barn. His worth increased greatly from 1850-1860. His wealth included \$200 of real estate, one horse and four cows. With his wife, Cathy Yeager Anstead, and son Phillip (born 1841), Anthony farmed the land for sustenance purposes. Anthony's name can be found on the 1858 list of donors for the building of the St. Boniface Catholic Church. The Anstead's owned the farm until 1884.

It is noted in a 1927 Ag Census, that Charles Becker owned the property. The census described Becker as farming 98 acres with 2 acres of corn, 8 acres of silage fodder, 6 acres of wheat, 15 acres of oats, 8 acres of rye, 4 acres, of buckwheat, 20 acres of hay and 1.5 acres of Irish potatoes. The rest of the acreage was for 40 apple trees, 300 peach trees (most farmers only had 8), and 8 pear trees. Becker's livestock consisted of two workhorses, 9 milk cows, 1 heifer, 3 other cattle, 3 sows, 25 other swine, 117 barn yard fowl and 3 beehives. The farm had running water, a heating system, 2 gas engines, 2 silos, and was electrified by a local power station. The Becker's, however, did not have milking machines, autos, motorized trucks or tractors.



Settlers were attracted to the area because of the abundance of pine lumber. Other lumber species included, cherry, poplar, chestnut, ash, hickory, sugar maple and cucumber pine. Later large coal reserves were discovered and the area boomed. The town of Hastings grew out of the economic security of coal. In 1894 it had a population of 1200. Today the population is approximately 1500.

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