

Watson Run Barn

Meadville, Pennsylvania
Vernon Township

Timeline of the Past:

1792-1803- Four hundred acres warranted to Joseph Cameron. At this time the first structures on 25 of the acres were built.

1790-1830- Rose head nails were in common use. The use of the rose head nails helped determine that the barn was built between 1792- 1830.

1805- A legal deposition stated that Peter Brown is living on the property. To be declared a legal settler on a property “a settler must have smoke on his premises every day for five years.

1817-1818- A grist and sawmill were built on this site.

1829 – Peter Brown dies leaving the grain mill and home to son Gideon; the sawmill was left to son, Daniel.

1830-1850 Date used for construction of Greek Revival farm house on barn parcel (see illustration)

1875 – Barn is modified into a bank barn. Additions gave support to the volume of grain and animals that it housed. 1880 agricultural census reports show high production especially in dairy: 400 lbs. of butter; 300 dozen eggs

1897- Stephen Watson, a stonemason, and family now resided on property along with Hugh Nodine, a professional cheese maker.

1915- Stephen Watson dies leaving farm to his wife Mary, and eventually daughter Violetta.

1925- Violetta and husband sell the farm to William Brown.

1950's- 2013 Richard and Ellen Ackert were the owners.

2017-In an interview with the Ackert’s 2 great nephew, New Jersey, musician, “Reese Van Riper, said the barn was deemed unsafe for use. This was a crushing blow to the family not only because of memories, but because of the beautiful natural acoustics the barn produced. A new barn will be rebuilt and the property will be dedicated to sustainable living and rehabilitation for veterans and young homeless artists.



Barn Facts:

- Early threshing barn
- 46' x 36'
- 2017 barn dismantled for safety



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