

Waltz Barn

Cambridge City, IN

The Waltz Family barn was built c.1850. It was two stories tall with three separate bays and a stone foundation. Overall size was 38 x 44. The original property belonged to a family by the name of Hoover. Hoover sold the barn parcel to William Waltz between 1860-1870. An 1880 census lists William Waltz as the local undertaker. Waltz was a widower until he married his second wife, Martha Wissler. She was one of 14 children. The Waltz family farm produced wheat and tobacco. The Cambridge City Tribune declared that William Waltz has the finest field of tobacco in this vicinity". In 1893, a newsworthy article in the Tribune announced, "Willam Waltz was making preparations to give all his buildings a coat of paint. If Mr. Waltz's example was followed by others, a decided improvement in appearance would be visible." After William Waltz died in 1902, Martha owned the farm until 1911. After her death, a farm sale of the property was held. Two horses, six cows, 800 bushels of corn, and timothy hay in the hay mow were all sold off.

George Shafer bought the farm in 1911. The farm expanded and was a very substantial farm in the area. Upon George's death in 1928, everything was put up for sale: Six horses, 23 goats, 3 pregnant pigs, six tons of hay, 1000 bushels of corn. The farm itself consisted of 80 usable acres, 3 houses, barn, 2 corn cribs, a garage, and tool house. Until 2004, seven more families owned the farmstead. The last owner rented the property to a fencing contractor. The barn was dismantled in 2022.



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