

History of the Barn Quilt Trail

The idea of displaying painted quilt squares on barns to create a “trail” across Ohio’s Appalachian region was originally conceived by Donna Sue Groves of Adams County, Ohio. She wanted to honor her mother, noted quilter Nina Maxine Green Groves, as well as celebrate her Appalachian heritage. The first trail, located in Adams County, became a reality in 2001. Since that time, barn quilt trails have spread to 33 Ohio counties and 44 other states across the nation. They attract quilters, barn enthusiasts, agrarians, artists, historians and other tourists. Barn quilt projects incorporate art, community and local culture with an effort to promote tourism at all levels.



Twisted Star,
Cope’s Equipment, Route 307, Austinburg

Be a part of history!

Be a part of the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail

Project Co-Founders:

Chris Angerman & Kathy McCarty

Project Partners:

Ashtabula Arts Center (fiscal agent)
Ashtabula County 4-H
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners
Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ashtabula County Farm Bureau
Ashtabula County Quilting Community
Connect 534
Karen Rose, artist
Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake
Ohio State University Extension, Ashtabula County
Artistic Woodworks, Jeffrey S. Scribbsen, technical adviser

To learn more, contact Carl Feather, Ashtabula County Lodging Tax Administrator, at (440) 576-3768, or visit our website at barnquiltsashtabulacounty.com

Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail



Log Cabin Variation,
Blakeslee Log Cabin barn, Plymouth Township
Ashtabula County Historical Society property

**Creating a new
tourism attraction
built upon
rural traditions**



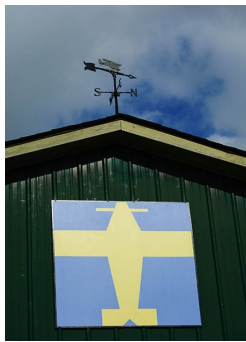
www.barnquiltsashtabulacounty.com



What is a Barn Quilt?

“A quilt barn is a barn with a large quilt square painted or hung on the side so that the pattern can be viewed as people drive past. The designs for these colorful, geometric paintings are taken from the patterns traditionally used by quilters.”

*Ohio Arts Council
Quilt Barn Impact Study (2008)*



Barn quilts are typically 4X4 or 8X8 foot painted panels (plywood framed with 2X4s) and often commemorate or honor a person, family, location, or historical event. They adhere to a common set of standards for materials, construction and painting.

Why a Barn Quilt Trail?

- Document the region’s rural architectural treasures;
- Encourage the preservation of historical farm structures;
- Connect residents and tourists to the region’s history via trails, maps and tours;
- Promote local businesses along the trail;

- Record the history and stories of the county’s farm families;
- Boost community pride;
- Display the county’s rich quilting culture;
- Enhance existing tourist attractions, such as covered bridges, wineries, farm markets, historical/home tours, fairs and festivals.

Barns/Buildings

Barn owners and business establishments interested in sponsoring their building for the project need to meet the following criteria:

1. The barn or business must have adequate space to display a barn quilt;
2. The display surface should be in good condition and visible from a main road (e.g., access is not down a lane to view the building).
3. Owners must complete a “Barn Quilt Application Form” and agree to allow the barn quilt to be displayed for a period of ten years.

For a complete discussion of requirements and standards, please visit our website.

“Quilt barn trails bring tourism and tourist dollars into the region, engage people in their communities, and promote local culture and history.”

*Ohio Arts Council
Quilt Barn Impact Study (2008)*

Sponsors



Ohio Star, Farm Bureau quilt at Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, Jefferson.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are invited to sponsor the Barn Quilt Trail for \$200.

Sponsors will be recognized on all promotional ma-

terials and at any dedication events (contributions less than \$200 will be recognized on the trail’s website).

All donations are tax deductible (make checks payable to the Ashtabula Arts Center, the nonprofit acting as the project’s fiscal agent.)

Timeline

May-September 2014

- Barn Quilt locations identified
- Painting events organized
- Barn Quilts raised

Fall 2014

- Promotion of Barn Quilt Trail begins; any quilt hanging as of Oct. 10, 2014, will be included on printed map in the 2015 ACCVB Visitor’s Guide!