



The old barn as it looked four years ago before Pomberg and associates began work.



The barn as it looks today. The crumbling old foundation was replaced with new concrete and the barn was sided and roofed with steel siding.

RESTORATION TOOK FOUR YEARS

Old Barn Converted Into Beautiful Country Home

"I got the idea after seeing a couple of old barns turned into clubhouses and restaurants," says Iowa farmer John Pomberg of West Point, who, along with friends Chris Merierrotto and Joe Holtkamp, turned a dilapidated gable-roofed barn into a beautiful modern home.

The barn was located on a farm across the road from Pomberg's father, Stanley.

After clearing the accumulation of junk out of the old barn, one of the first orders of business was straightening out its sagging limestone foundation. Large, hand-hewn 14-in. sq. pine beams run the length of the 45-ft. wide barn, and these were straightened little by little with jacks.

Once the beams were straightened, a new concrete foundation was poured. The inside of the barn, in which all original beams, rafters and sheathing were retained, was then thoroughly cleaned with a pressure washer.

Missing sideboards were replaced, 6-in. bat insulation was installed in the walls, foil bubble insulation was installed in the attic, and steel siding was used on the sides and roof of the barn. Imitation stone fascia was added to the foundation and the barn's original four lightning rods were returned to the 36-ft. tall roof peak.

The house has three levels. The 45 by 60-

ft. main floor holds a great room, master bedroom, bath and kitchen. The 15 by 40-ft. second floor has an imitation limestone fireplace and entertainment center. The 12 by 16-ft. third level loft looks down over the whole interior.

One of the more unique features of the house are three chandeliers that drop down on pulleys attached to the barn's original hay mow door rope.

"We worked on it for almost four years in our spare time in the winter and summer when there wasn't farming to do," says Pomberg who moved into his new house from his parents' home last spring.

Since then, he's been busy furnishing the place.

"I used the old pine wood we salvaged from the barn to build a bar and cabinet, bench, double dresser, bed and a 14-ft. long table that goes in the great room," he says.

Pomberg isn't telling what he has invested in the house, but he says he saved a lot of money by doing it himself with friends.

Straightening the foundation alone could cost as much as \$50,000 if all the work was hired, he estimates.

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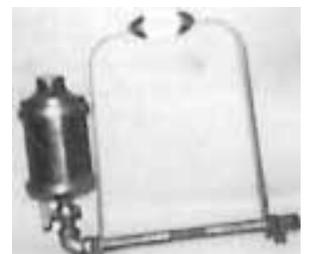
All original beams, rafters and sheathing were retained inside.



The kitchen features cabinetry made out of wood salvaged from the old barn.



This bit was once featured in a Sears catalog.



This medicating bit holds 1/2 pint of medicine.

"NINE OUT OF 10 HORSEMEN DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE"

Antique Drenching Bits For Medicating Horses

"Nine out of ten horsemen probably don't know what they are. The only reason I know is that my Dad and Granddad farmed with horses and often used them," says J.H. Werking about the unusual "drenching bits" he found at a farm auction.

Recently shown in the "Draft Horse Journal", Werking's bits were used to give horses liquid medicine. A funnel on one side feeds the medicine into the hollow mouthpiece

which had holes in it.

The bits date back to the early 1900's. Werking found one listed in the 1909 Sears catalog.

"I've been offered \$200 apiece for them, but they're not for sale at any price," says Werking.

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