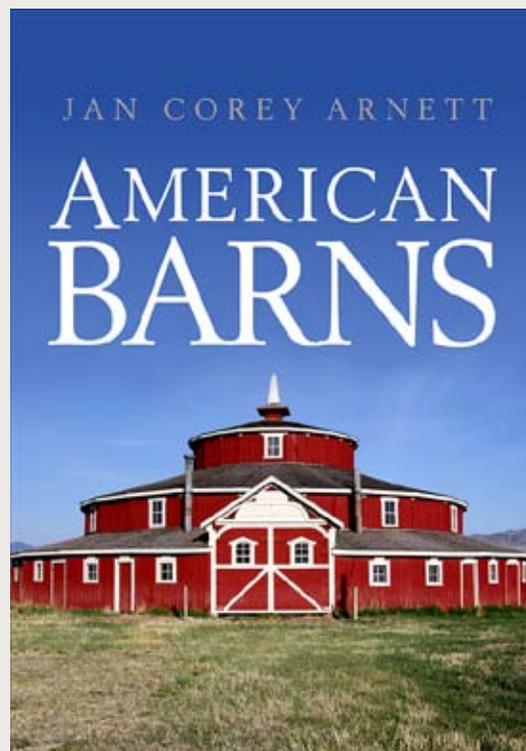


# AMERICAN BARNS

Jan Corey Arnett

The heart of every working farm and ranch, the barn is an icon of rural America. This book chronicles – and celebrates – all the main types of barn, and looks at how and why these treasures of early American architecture developed as they did. It explains how the wealth of immigrant construction methods and range of environments and climates resulted in a fascinating variety of barn styles in the United States, from the earliest rare Dutch examples to simpler English types to others in more surprising shapes (round or even polygonal) crafted by the Shakers in the 1800s. Arranged by state, it highlights the most notable, famous and historic barns that the reader can visit, and highlights the efforts of conservation groups to preserve America's barns and find innovative ways to repurpose these glorious old structures as homes and studios – and as living monuments of rural heritage.



## AMERICAN BARNS

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Illustrated with photographs and illustrations

### Excerpt from American Barns:

Opinions differ as to the age and location of the oldest standing barn in the United States. Few barns remain from the first half of the 1700s. Barn historian Greg Huber cites the dendro-dated Bull Barn in Orange County, New York, as dating to 1726 while one of the oldest, according to Jon Radojkovic in *Barn Building*, is the Jones Log Barn in Pennsylvania, built c. 1730. Barn enthusiasts have compiled a list of Dutch-American, English-American, cantilevered forebay barns and swing-beam barns believed to be pre-1780s. In many cases age can be approximated based on evidence of the type of tools used to prepare and fit timbers. Midwestern and southern barns may date as far

back as the 1830s. Barns in the far west date from the late nineteenth century. Many barns represent multiple time periods as they have been added onto over several decades. As farm communities grew, so did the scale and sophistication of their barns. One can still find areas where the ethnicity of the community can be seen in its barns. It is a delight for barn lovers to also make note of how builders often left their mark as a structural enhancement or artistic feature.

Chapters: A Barn By any Other Name; The Heart of Every Farm; Fit, Form, and Function; Barns in Decline; When Everything Old is New Again; Places to Visit; Glossary; Further Reading, Index

### About the Author:

**Jan Corey Arnett** is an award-winning writer and photographer. Her passion for saving heritage barns has earned her the nickname, "The Barn Lady" and she lectures widely on the subject. Her blog is <http://barnlady1.com> and her website is [www.jancoreyarnett.com](http://www.jancoreyarnett.com).

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