



Project Information

Barn Quilts of Washington County, Iowa, is a community-oriented project that has been underway since 2007. The project is designed to celebrate the agricultural heritage of Washington County by highlighting local farm buildings with beautiful, quilt-related folk art. These barn quilt paintings enhance the sense of community pride felt by all Washington County residents, and at the same time serve to attract visitors from other areas of the state and country.

The original Barn Quilt project began in Adams County, Ohio in 2001 as a way to attract tourists into a very underdeveloped region of the state. The project quickly caught on and quilt blocks were soon adorning barns all over southern Ohio. The project has spread from Ohio into Tennessee, North Dakota, and now Iowa. Washington County joins with Grundy, Fayette, Greene, Pocahontas, and Sac

counties in developing this project in Iowa. Barn Quilts of Washington County, Iowa, serves as a way to entice visitors into the rich farmland of our county, to take advantage of the beautiful scenery, wonderful restaurants, specialty shops, and other amenities the county has to offer. Plans are in the works to create a "National Clothesline of Quilts" stretching across the nation, of which Washington County will be a part. What a wonderful way to exhibit to the rest of the country Washington County's role in our nation's agricultural production, and encourage visitors to come experience what we have to offer.



Barn Quilts of Washington County, Iowa, started hanging their quilts in the summer of 2007. The Project's Advisory Committee continues selecting quilt block designs, contacting barn owners interested in placing a block on their building, seeking funding sources and educating the residents of Washington County about the project.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Barn Quilts of Washington County, Iowa, is to celebrate and promote the culture, heritage and progressive nature of Washington County by placing quilt blocks on barns and other suitable buildings throughout the county.

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Objectives:

1. **Agricultural Architecture and Preservation:**

This project will bring attention to the unique architecture and history of barns and other significant buildings in our county. By drawing attention to these assets we hope to encourage the preservation of these structures for future generations.

2. Cultural Identity: Because Washington County, Iowa, is home to an Amish community noted for its quilting tradition, we want to promote quilting as a form of art. By placing quilt blocks on buildings we hope to showcase the symbolism and heritage of the patterns that provided warmth and comfort for generations as well as a social outlet for Midwestern women.

3. Agri-tourism: This project provides us with opportunities to showcase the various aspects of agricultural production and businesses. We hope to encourage opportunities for education and hands-on experiences relating to agriculture and our growing alternative energy industry.

4. Economic Development: We want to encourage promotions, marketing and grant writing for local businesses and farmers who want to link their new or existing small businesses to the Barn Quilts of Washington County, Iowa.

5. Community Service: The project provides the opportunity for service groups, families, volunteers, and other residents to participate in planning, implementing and maintaining this county wide community oriented project.

6. Community Sustainability: We will create four separate tour routes which will travel through each community in the county. Emphasis will be placed on attracting traffic off the interstate and other major roads, into the county. The Barn Quilt project will provide a climate favorable for local entrepreneurs to develop and initiate value added products to service the influx of new tourism in the county. Proceeds from the project will be used to maintain the quilt blocks and sustain this project.

Barn Quilts of Washington County Iowa

