

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

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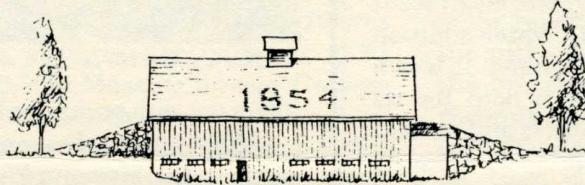
Summer 1993

The 1854 Cow Barn: A Closer Look

THE COW BARN

BUILT IN 1854, IT IS THE LARGEST REMAINING WOOD SHAKER COW BARN.

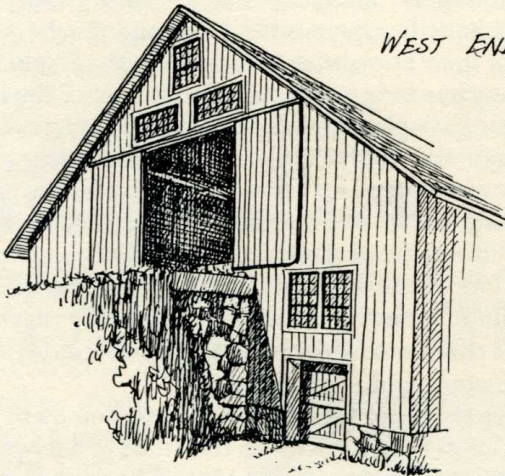
IT WAS BUILT ACROSS A NATURAL RAVINE SO THAT WAGONS COULD HAVE ACCESS ON SEVERAL LEVELS.



SOUTH SIDE

SIZE = 145' x 57'

WEST END



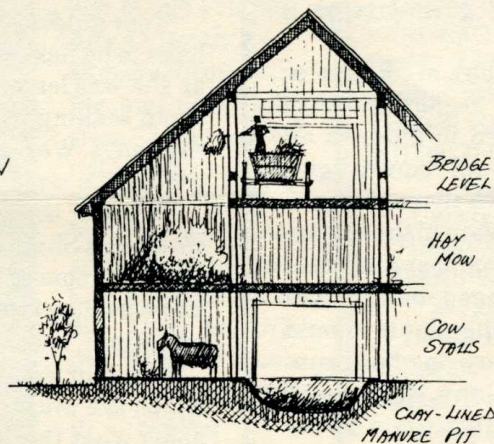
THE RAMP GIVES ACCESS TO THE BRIDGE LEVEL, FROM WHICH HAY CAN BE THROWN DOWN TO THE HAY MOW LEVEL. THE DOOR ON THE LOWER RIGHT LEADS TO THE HAY MOW. A SLATE ROOF WAS USED FOR GREATEST LONGEVITY. AFTER ALMOST 140 YEARS IT'S STILL IN GOOD CONDITION.

CROSS-SECTION

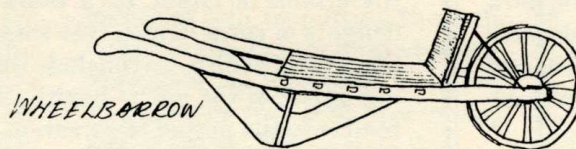
THE DESIGN ELIMINATES THE NEED TO RAISE HAY INTO LOFT - IT GOES DOWN FROM WAGON TO MOW LEVEL, THEN DOWN TO THE COWS. WAGONS ALSO COULD BE BROUGHT INTO LOWEST LEVEL TO REMOVE MANURE FROM THE CLAY LINED PIT FOR USE AS FERTILIZER ON THE VARIOUS CROPS. A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THIS BARN WAS HEATED

RUNNING WATER AT THE STABLE LEVEL. WARMED

STALLS AND WARM WATER FOR THE COWS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION IN THE WINTER.



WOODEN SHOVEL FOR GRAIN



WHEELBARRON

John Taylor, of Wilmot Flat, New Hampshire, is an architect and author of *Commonsense Architecture*, a study of creative, practical approaches to building design in cultures worldwide. He is currently working on a book that examines building design and construction in various self-sufficient communities, among them the Shakers. The study of the Enfield 1854 Cow Barn shown here comes from this work in progress.

