

## A Rare Square Brick Barn

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Behind some of Glendale's oldest homes, carriage houses and barns remain from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Most intriguing is the 45-foot-square brick barn, set far behind the imposing Greek Revival house at 110 Sharon Avenue. Ron Shepherd, the octogenarian owner, recently opened the barn to a group of GHP members, who were intrigued by its mysteries.

In Ohio, brick barns are rare—especially square ones. This one was probably built around 1852, when Samuel Fosdick built the house on what was then a 400-acre farm. The brick walls are three wythes thick with a header course every eighth row. More than likely the bricks were made on the property as the house is the second oldest in town.

The Fosdick barn once housed up to 8 horses, based on the number of chutes along the south wall for sending hay down to stalls below. Odd regularly spaced vertical patches of brick infill in the same wall were probably vents to provide air for the animals.

Now one story with a pyramidal roof, the barn likely was two stories with a gabled roof. The second floor would have served as a hay loft with a hoist to lift hay. The present roof doesn't have enough head room for a person to comfortably shove hay through the chutes and lacks a way to get hay into the loft. The roof-framing is heavy timber that's bolted, not pegged, and sawn with a circular saw. The joists below have vertical sawmarks typical of an earlier pit saw.

With the changeover from horses to automobiles, which started in the 1910s, the hayloft was evidently removed, the vents were filled in, and garage doors with steel lintels were installed. Even so, the brick barn contributes to our appreciation of the past.



GHP members at the Fosdick Barn



Hay chute on the south wall