



Maria Piacenti

11296 W 1000S Road
Bonfield, IL 60913

Quilt Block: Dresden Star – Designer: Edyta Sitar, Laundry Basket Quilts

Original Owners and/or Builders: John Heimberger and wife purchased the farm from Caleb F. Lodge (recorded) on May 2, 1868 (the E ½ NE ¼ & W ½ NE ¼, Section 9, Township 30, R10). On May 19, 1870, John Heimberger (as recorded) purchased more land from Fayette S. Hatch (the W ½ SE ¼ of Section 9).

Age of Barn: Built in 1894

Original Use or Purpose of Structure: Early use is unknown – probably horses and livestock

Current Use: Horses

Materials and Architecture: Peg and beam construction, shaker roof and it originally had a cupola.



History of Barn and/or Farm: Sometime between 1910 and 1925, a tornado destroyed the Catholic Church which was west of the Heimberger farm on the corner of 12000W (Herscher Road) and 1000S Road. It was told by Patricia Clodi that the Heimberger family housed the current priests and traveling priests that came through the area. The Parish rebuilt and the Heimberger farm became known as the “Catholic Church House”.

On February 17, 1940, the farm ownership was transferred to Frank Heimberger. Around 1945, after the war, George Denault and his wife Fern moved onto the farm as tenants. George added the concrete on the south side and put asphalt shingles over the shake shingles. George said he had ten head of horses, forty-five cows (eighteen he milked), one hundred thirty hogs and three hundred chickens. George and Fern lived there until he retired in 1989.



On August 1, 1991, Dan and Maria Fitzpatrick and their three children, Ashleigh, Erin and Jacob, moved to the farm as tenants. The Dan Fitzpatrick family is from the Cabery area and had raised horses, sheep and some cattle. Dan started training and

showing Hackney ponies for his father, Chuck Fitzpatrick. Dan converted the north ½ of the barn from cattle stanches to horse stalls. The lumber that he used was gates that he purchased for \$5 each when the Joliet stockyards were closed. The barn had a new steel roof put on in 1997 after damage from a hail storm.

After the steel roof was put on, it was discovered through a photo at the County Assessor’s office that the roof had originally a cupola.

The barn has had a few new coats of paint, battered boards have been replaced and the windows are now vinyl.