

January 15, 2004

Local Contact: Jan Fedewa (517) 372-7770

Smithsonian Contact: Kathleen McGovern (202) 633-3122

SMITHSONIAN BARN EXHIBITION TOURS MICHIGAN

The Preservation Novi, in cooperation with the Michigan Humanities Council, will host the local showing of the Smithsonian's traveling exhibition *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*. Exploring barns in all segments of American life, from their agricultural forms to their use in advertising, *Barn Again! Celebrating and American Icon* will open on Jan. 23, 2004 and will continue through March 7, 2004 and will give the Preservation Novi an opportunity to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage.

The Preservation Novi and the surrounding community have been expressly chosen by the Michigan Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institution to host *Barn Again!* as part of the Museum on Main Street project – a national/state partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. The exhibition will tour six communities in Michigan through Nov. 14, 2004. The tour itinerary is attached.

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the National Building Museum and in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Barn Again!* looks at the origin and fate of the barn in its various roles as warehouse, factory and legend. *Barn Again!* is a registered trademark owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Meredith Corporation.

Barn Again! gives exhibition visitors new ways to consider a familiar icon. The exhibition surveys the agricultural changes that led to architectural adaptations on the farm, following major movements in American history such as 19th-century European immigration and westward migration. Industrial farming in the 21st-century has rendered many traditional barns obsolete because they cannot accommodate the enormous machinery and harvests of today's large-scale farms. The loss of these architectural structures is changing forever our rural landscape and depriving us of important historical

monuments. Even as barns disappear from the countryside, their iconic role in American culture remains constant.

Barn Again! is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and The Hearst Foundation. Additional funding for Barn Again has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund, and the Smithsonian Educational Outreach Fund, along with assistance from the National Building Museum and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Barn Again! is a registered trademark owned by the Meredith Corporation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work, and play, including museums, libraries, science centers, historical societies, community centers, botanical gardens, schools, and shopping malls. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu.

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Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon

2004 Tour Schedule – Michigan

- January 23 - March 7, 2004
Preservation Novi
Novi MI
- March 12 - March 13, 2004
Michigan State University, East Lansing
Coleman MI
- March 15 - April 24, 2004
Montcalm Community College
Sidney MI
- May 2 - June 12, 2004
Alger County Historical Society
Munising MI
- June 16 - June 19, 2004
Kinross Heritage Festival
Kinross MI
- June 28 - August 9, 2004
Port Oneida District Schoolhouse
Maple City MI
- August 15 - September 25, 2004
Northeast Michigan Arts Council
Standish MI
- October 3 - November 14, 2004
Stair Public Library
Morenci MI