

January 15, 2004

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SMITHSONIAN BARN EXHIBITION TOURS MINNESOTA

The Waseca County Historical Society, in cooperation with the Minnesota Humanities Commission, 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 an American Icon* will open on Jan. 17, 2004 and will continue through March 7, 2004 and will give the Waseca County Historical Society an opportunity to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage.

The Waseca County Historical Society and the surrounding community have been expressly chosen by the Minnesota 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 Minnesota through Oct. 31, 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 – Minnesota

- January 17 – March 7, 2004
Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Avenue N.E.
Waseca MN
- March 13 - April 26, 2004
Olmsted County Historical Society
Rochester MN
- May 1 - June 27, 2004
Stevens County Historical Society
Morris MN
- July 3 - August 15, 2004
Right County Historical Society
Buffalo MN
- August 23 - September 6, 2004
Minnesota State Fair
St. Paul MN
- September 18 - Oct 31, 2004
Goodhue County Historical Society
Red Wing MN