

From "The Auction Guide"
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Spring Mill Furniture Barn

chosen as
"Barn of the Year"

Top of its class. This historic barn recently caught the attention of Friends of Ohio Barns, which recently recognized it as the 2006 Barn of the Year. Rod Stober calls the building that houses his business "kind of neat". Friends of Ohio Barns President Tim Mason goes beyond "neat". He calls "incredible" the dairy barn that Mansfield industrialist George W. Henne had built in 1916, reportedly at a cost of \$40,000. "We set the standards pretty high on this one," he said,

Twenty three barns were nominated for the honor, with the local structure winning in the adaptive use category. Barn survival is what Mason's group is all about. Mason heads the non-profit organization that works with the National Trust for Historic Places, the National Barn Alliance, and BarnAgain, another national group, and is allied with the Ohio State University.

The St. Louisville man said the Mansfield barn was honored because, while it is surrounded by suburbia, it wasn't torn down; "making way for strip malls or whatever" He praises owners who find new uses for barns that aren't big enough for today's modern farm equipment.

The Spring Mill Furniture Barn, Mason said, is a "prime example of what we can do...It holds on to the rural integrity (to) tie the roots between past and present."