

North Star Underground Railroad Historical Association
Annual Meeting on August 17, 2013
Report of the Barn Committee at the old home of Stephen Keese Smith

Projects in progress from the fall 2012 to the present:

1. Foundation wall on the east side of the barn has been repaired. Repair on the West wall has not yet been started. Pointing on both walls will be finished when the west wall repair is completed.
2. A dead man brace was installed to support the east wall and turn buckles have been attached to north bent.
3. Installed a 2 inch drain pipe around the perimeter of the hiding room in the barn with the drain pipe connecting to an installed sump pump in the center of the barn. An external hose attached to the sump pump has been effective in draining the standing water from the room.
4. We buried a 20 amp electric line from the main barn and attached it to the sump pump. We installed a ground fault breaker and built a box around it to conceal it.
5. While digging out the room floor to install the drains, we found the original stone floor in the hiding room's entrance. The stone and soil were removed in order to install the drains and pump.
6. We found an original hinge for the door that opened into the room. We will create a duplicate when the door of the room is installed.

Future projects:

1. The floor of the room is soft so the floor will be dug out and replaced with sand.
2. We will replace the ceiling in the room.

3. Further stabilization of the barn is recommended.
4. Replace the external hose drain from the sump pump with a buried 2 inch pipe.
5. We will shift the soil that has been removed from the barn to search for artifacts.
6. Install stalls in the barn to replicate the original building.

Lincoln Sunderland has generously donated a large stone to use to replace steps leading into the room. He has also donated the stalls.

Frank Perusse reports that he has not noted any increase in his electric bill since the installation of the sump pump.

The original stone floor unearthed in the entrance to the hiding room predates the drawing made by Addie Shields. A lower entrance makes more sense suggesting the stair drawing is not correct.

To date the materials for these projects has cost \$1, 116 leaving a balance of \$1,740.95.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bill Umbreit

David Richardson