



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“BARN PRESERVATION GATHERING” - APRIL 22
WILLIAMS BARN - GROTON, MA

On Saturday, April 22, from 10 am to 2 pm, the Williams Barn Committee of the Town of Groton and the Preservation Mass Barn Task Force will co-host “Old Barns: A Gathering on Preserving and Adapting Barns for the 21st Century” at the Williams Barn, 160 Chicopee Row in Groton.

The “*Barn Talk*” Gathering will feature two illustrated talks on barn preservation and a small barn expo of craftspeople who work locally on aspects of barn and building restoration and reuse, including roofing, sill work, carpentry and timber framing.

Arron Sturgis, owner of Preservation Timber Framing, Inc. will speak on the way we approach barns, how to analyze the overall condition of a barn and how to make specific repairs for long term preservation. He will illustrate his talk with examples from the more than 40 buildings he has restored, including 19 on the National Register, and also with using features of the Williams Barn itself as illustration.

Robert Adam, the head of Preservation Carpentry at the North Bennett Street School and an award-winning preservationist and teacher will talk about roofing. He will talk about the importance of good repairs, the types of roofing common to each era from wood shingles through metal and composition roofs. He will show how to do inexpensive emergency repairs and analyze some of the new roofing materials, plus recommend wood types and grades for replacing structural members in historic barn roofs. A resident of Shirley, Robert will illustrate his talk with several local examples.

Preservation Mass Barn Task Force
45 School Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108
617-723-3383, www.preservationmass.org

After the talks there will be an informal Barn Exchange at which local craftspeople with experience in barn-related repair and adaptation will present their services and show examples and photos of their work. A list of craftspeople who will attend will be on the Town of Groton website.

Lunch will be available for purchase and there will be handouts and information from related Barn organizations. Co-sponsored by the Williams Barn Committee, the program is funded through the Town of Groton Lecture Funds and will be free and open to the public. The Williams Barn at 160 Chicopee Row, Groton, (1.5 miles north of Main Street via Hollis Street) was built in 1840 and is representative of the hand-hewn timber barns of the mid-19th century. Restored over the last several years by an all-volunteer group, the Williams Barn is the site of a summer Farmers Market, an autumn Barn Tour, as well as other events that celebrate Groton's agricultural heritage. The Barn and its newly completed silo recreation will be the focal point of tours and discussion. For more information, check the town website, www.townofgroton.org.

The Preservation Mass Barn Task Force, also co-sponsoring the event, is a committee of Preservation Mass, a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage. The all-volunteer membership group sponsors an annual Preserve Mass Barns conference, a periodic newsletter, seminars and talks all aimed at bringing expertise to Massachusetts barn owners to help save these important resources. For more information and to become a member, visit www.preservationmass.org.

Both organizations are concerned with the changes in the New England landscape caused by the loss of barns through neglect or destruction. This gathering is to distribute practical information and ideas for area barn owners to preserve and adapt their barns for today's needs, and to provide a means for people in need of barn services to meet providers in an informal setting.

Although the program is free, the Committees would like to prepare adequate handouts, so if you will be attending, please e-mail WilliamsBarn@charter.net or call 978-448-1192.

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