

The Kuhl Farm, centered at 19732 Pleasant Lake Road, has been in the family since 1873. The fourth generation owner and operator, Charles (Ron) Kuhl, was a major developer of the Manchester area barn quilt project. Ron passed away in July 2020, and this brochure update is dedicated to his memory and fondness for barn quilts.



Over the years, Ron acquired two neighboring farms, west along Pleasant Lake Road, for a total of 500 acres. Originally, the land was used for dairy farming, along with crop farming to make it self-sustaining. In 2000, the cattle were sold, and the farm was converted to crop farming and raising a herd of 600/700 sheep. Janet Kuhl and Donna (Kuhl) Newgord, sisters of Ron, created the barn quilts which are displayed at all three farm sites. The quilt designs symbolize the farm's functions. Ron worked hard over the years to beautify his farm, and make it welcoming to his neighbors and visitors.

Ron also purchased and restored the adjacent historic Rowes Corner one-room schoolhouse.

Detailed information on each of the Kuhl barn quilts, their design interpretation, and date of creation is available through the Manchester Area Historical Society.



Continue the tour east on Pleasant Lake Road to M-52, then turn right (south). Travel about 1½ miles to next stop.

### **BQ** 12 10710 M-52

This barn quilt is on the west side of M-52, as you approach the village limits of Manchester going south. It is situated on a barn facing east towards the road. The road is relatively high speed, so please use caution when pulling over to look at the quilt.



Continue south on M-52 to the downtown 4-way stop at Main Street, turn right (west), continue west on Main Street through downtown, Manchester's original Village Green, and past our historic homes and churches. Continue traveling as Main St. becomes Austin Road, about 3.5 miles west to the intersection of Austin Road and Lamb Road.

### **B** 13 15999 W. Austin Road

This unusual barn is located on the south side of the road west of Lamb Road. This barn complex contains an L-shaped barn that wraps around a gambrel roof barn. The two rounded roof barns feature a bell-cast eave.



Turn around and return to downtown Manchester (going east). Go part way through downtown to Adrian Street, where the red Manchester Mill building sits on the southeast corner (Adrian Street). Turn right (south), and follow Adrian southeast out of town until the paved road changes to a dirt road and becomes Logan Road. Follow Logan Road southeast until you reach 20429 Logan Road.

### **BQ** 14 20429 Logan Road

Here we have a barn quilt inspired by Manchester's own Flying Dutchmen. This pattern, painted in Manchester's team colors, is called the Flying Dutchman Block or Dutchman's Puzzle. There are at least five generations of Flying Dutch in this family, who created and installed their quilt in 2012. Their farm has been in the family for three generations so far.



Continue southeast on Logan Road to M-52, then turn left (north) and return to Austin Road. Turn right (east) on Austin Road and travel east approximately 5 miles to Schellenberger Road.

### **B** 15 10383 E. Austin Road

This unique barn is located in Bridgewater Township, on the south side of the road, between Schneider and Schellenberger Roads. This historic dairy barn features a shed addition on the west elevation which is connected to the silo. A lovely historic house faced with stone adds to this picturesque farm scene. This unique barn is currently being repurposed into an events center.



From this location, go south 1½ miles on Schellenberger Road to Burmeister. Turn right (west) on Burmeister and travel ¼ miles to Lima Center Road. Turn left (south) on Lima Center Road and travel ½ mile south on Lima Center Road, to our next stop between Burmeister and Braun Roads.

### **B** 16 10705 Lima Center Road

This large gambrel roofed dairy barn in Bridgewater Township has an unusual shape. It was constructed in the early 1900s by William Schlicht to not only furnish huge storage facilities for hay and grain, but to provide efficient feeding methods for large numbers of livestock while operating with the efficiency of an automobile factory. It was inherited by Ted Parker in 1936 and has remained in the family since then, still being referred to as the "Parker Barn". Local tradition has it that the rounded portions of the barn allowed for horse teams to be turned around indoors.

From this location, go south to the southwest corner of Lima Center and Braun Roads. Turn onto Braun Road, and look south (left) toward the barns.



### **BQ** 17 11533 Braun Road

The Every Farm has been in the family for five generations (168 years), and raised a variety of crops, sheep, Berkshire hogs and chickens, and produced honey in a now-restored "Honey House". The property also contains a number of Native American artifacts, presumably from the Potawatomi tribes who inhabited the area by the nearby River Raisin.



Continue west along Braun Road about 1 mile to Clinton Road, and turn south (left). Continue about 2½ miles south on Clinton Road.

### **B** 18 13595 Clinton Road

Wegner Farms houses an unusual barn complex which combines high style with functional use. Look for the sign that reads "Home of Maplewood Clydesdale Horses" on the larger barn, and the decorated Gothic dormers on the smaller gambrel-roof barn.



### YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE MANCHESTER TOUR DE BARN QUILTS AND UNUSUAL BARNIS!

You can return to the starting point at Manchester Village Offices by going back north on Clinton Road approximately 5 miles to Austin Road, then turn left (west) and go about 2 miles to the Village Offices.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Manchester Tour de Barn Quilts and Unusual Barns has been organized and facilitated by the Manchester Downtown Development Authority and the Manchester Area Historical Society. Funding for this informational brochure was provided by Destination Ann Arbor through the Community Tourism Action Plan (CTAP) Program.

This tour is an entirely self-guided experience, and the safety of you and your property is your own responsibility. Please use the information provided to proceed on the tour with caution, as the sites visited cannot be held responsible for injury, loss of property, or any other mishaps that occur during your tour, nor can the Manchester Downtown Development Authority nor the Manchester Area Historical Society be held responsible.

**ALSO NOTE:** Many of the sites on this tour are private property and are not open to the public, so are intended to be enjoyed from the public right-of-way only. Please be respectful and do not trespass.

This brochure can be viewed on-line and downloaded at [www.manchestermi.org](http://www.manchestermi.org).

Further information about historic and unusual barns in Washtenaw County may be obtained from: <https://gisappsecure.ewashtenaw.org/public/HP/HeritageTours/HistoricBarns/>

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Brochure graphics and design by Sue Maher, MoxieGrafix LLC

# THE Manchester Tour de Barn Quilts and Unusual Barns

Take the Manchester Tour de Barn Quilts and Unusual Barns using this handy guide.



Manchester, Michigan 48158



This brochure offers a self-guided tour along both paved roads and dirt rural roads in the Manchester area, open to either driving or bicycling as you prefer. The route begins and ends in the lower parking lot of the Village of Manchester offices (912 City Road/M-52). The tour takes you along bucolic byways to view **barn quilts** - large, colorful quilt blocks on the sides of barns and sheds, and also a sample of **historic, unusual barns** in the area. The barn quilt sites are designated with **'BQ'** in this guide, and the unusual barns are designated with **'B'**. **Enjoy!**

## **Begin at: Village of Manchester Offices** 912 City Road (M-52)

The Ford-Manchester Mill was constructed on the site of the old Premium Grist Mill east of town. Henry Ford purchased the site, which is on the River Raisin, in the 1930s and employed 150 people making ammeters, dashboards, and instrument clusters until the mid-fifties. Now it houses Manchester's library and village offices. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are available here when the building is open.

## **1 211 Morgan Street** (Must be viewed from Duncan St.)

A barn quilt nestled in the Village of Manchester. From the Village offices, take Hibbard Road north one block to Duncan and turn left. Midway between Hibbard and Morgan Streets, look left to the south side of Duncan for this quilt on the side of a shed.



The sunflower is the homeowner's favorite flower. Not to be deterred from having a barn quilt by having a shed, not a barn, she painted this cheerful quilt herself in 2019.

## **2 Village of Manchester**

Continue on Duncan St. to Division St. and turn right (north). Go one block to Main St., then turn left (west) to downtown Manchester. Dine in one of our restaurants, and enjoy shopping in our unique stores.

*Note: Bike racks are available in various locations*

■ Dine in one of these charming spots:

<b>Frank's Place</b> 104 E Main St.	<b>Manchester Diner</b> 112 Adrian St.
<b>Hungry Wolf</b> 20400 E. Austin Rd.	<b>Over the Edge Sports Bar/ Ollie's Pizzeria</b> 230 E. Main St.
<b>Linda's Diner</b> 9610 M-52 (north of downtown)	<b>The Village Tap</b> 235 E. Main St.

■ Stroll Main and Adrian Streets, and visit our unique retail shops.

- River Raisin Antiques and Mercantile**, 138 E. Main
- Worth Repeating**, 110 E. Main
- Sassy Peacock**, 114 Adrian
- All Thingz Green**, 122 E. Main
- The Shoppes of Alber Mill**, 201 E. Main
- The Flower Garden**, 154 E. Main
- Steelegrafix**, 231 E. Main
- River Raisin Distillery**, 480 W. Main
- Acorn Farmers Market and Café**, 327 W. Main

■ Stroll our new downtown Riverfront Park along the River Raisin, see the water flow over the dam, and walk our nearby Shared-Use Trail.

## **3 19229 Sharon Valley Road** Proceed north from downtown Manchester along M-52 (Ann Arbor St.) for ¾ mile to Sharon Valley Road, and turn west (left) onto Sharon Valley Road. After the road curves north, located on the west side of road, the barn quilt faces south.



A new house but elderly barns surround this barn quilt. This barn quilt was a collaborative creative effort with a young art student, who was given the colors to use but was allowed to create the pattern. The barn quilt was painted and installed in 2007.

The original farmhouse on the family's land had a cornerstone with the year 1875 on it, and it is assumed the barn is of that vintage as well. The original farm covered about 100 acres and was known as the 'Cash' Farm, where cattle were raised. In 1970 the farm was sold and parceled out into 5 and 10 acre sections. The family bought the farmhouse, barns and their land in 1971, and raised sheep, horses and chickens as pets.

*Continue north, then curve west on Sharon Valley Road, past Meyers Road, for about 1½ miles to the crossing of the River Raisin.*

## **4 17750 Sharon Valley Road**

A gorgeous woodland setting at the edge of the River Raisin. Located just over the bridge on the west side of the river, north side of the road.

This barn quilt was chosen from patterns from computer software and a quilt book. The pattern started out as patriotic stars and stripes with a red-white-blue color palette, then the stars were changed and yellow paint was added.

This quilt was painted and installed by the lady of the house in 2007 after she was inspired seeing other quilts in the area. She decided to decorate her family's pole barn with a quilt square in homage to the agrarian tradition of Sharon Township, although the family does not farm the land.

*Continue west on Sharon Valley Road, until reaching the 4-way stop at Sharon Valley and Sharon Hollow Roads. Continue west on Sharon Valley a short distance to the first farmhouse on the left (south side).*

## **5 16823 Sharon Valley Road** A traditional farm setting located on the south side of the road west of Sharon Hollow Road, the quilt faces west.



'Ohio Star' is the name of the pattern of this barn quilt, which was created by the owners' daughter and her family in 2010. The family have owned their farm since 1974. They plant and harvest corn, hay, wheat and soybeans, and raise pigs and steers. Their barn was built in the mid-1800's and remains in use today.

*Return east to Sharon Hollow Road, turn north (left), and proceed ½ mile to Sharon Mills County Park.*



## **6 Sharon Mills County Park** The Sharon Mills County Park is located at 5701 Sharon Hollow Road, on the east side of the road between Sharon Valley and Bethel Church Roads.

The mill was originally constructed in 1835 and was purchased by Henry Ford in the 1930's. Public restrooms and water fountains are located in the rear of the building, and are open from 8 am to dusk. There are also walking trails and interpretive signage throughout the park. The Mill building itself is open for special events and by appointment.

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks\\_recreation/sharonmills/sharon.html](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/sharonmills/sharon.html)

*Continue driving north on Sharon Hollow Road about ½ mile to the intersection with Bethel Church Road. The next quilt is best viewed at this intersection from Sharon Hollow Road.*

## **7 17000 Bethel Church Road**

A traditional quilt pattern located at the northeast corner of Sharon Hollow and Bethel Church Roads.

This family built their home and have lived there for 45 years, but their barn is only two years old. They decided to decorate it with this Lone Star barn quilt, which they created and installed in 2019. It was easily enough designed and painted; the hardest part of the project was installing it with two men and two ladders creating a pulley.

*Continue north on Sharon Hollow Road ¼ mile, then make a hard left turn onto the continuation of Sharon Hollow towards the Washtenaw County Parks preserve entrance, then continue north on Sharon Hollow to Easudes Road. Turn left (west) on Easudes and go ¼ mile west.*



## **8 16520 Easudes Road**

This lovely farm with scenic vistas is located at 16520 Easudes Road, west of Sharon Hollow Road. The quilt is located on the barn on the south side of the road. This barn quilt pattern, 'Stars and Squares', was chosen after the family looked at dozens of patterns. Their quilt was painted by local artist Mary Beth Day and installed in 2011.

This barn was built before 1900. The family moved to their land in 1966, and as far as they know the barn was always used as they have used it, for animals and crops such as hay and corn.

*To go to the next stop, an "unusual barn", proceed about 1 mile west on Easudes to Jacob Road, then go north (right) about 2 miles.*

## **9 3427 Jacob Road, south of Washburne** On Jacob Road, 3/10 of a mile south of Washburne Road, you will find a gorgeous and historic stone "unusual barn" on the east side of the road. This barn was built in 1853, and was used by the Squire Michael Porter family who settled on their farm in 1834. The material is plastered limestone, and the arched entryways allowed sufficient room for large cattle and wagons to enter the barn. This barn has been documented by Washtenaw County's Historic District Commission.

*From this unusual barn, continue north on Jacob Road, and turn right (east) on Washburne. Drive two miles east on Washburne to Sylvan Road (stop sign). Then turn right (south) on Sylvan, and drive two miles south to Pleasant Lake Road (stop sign). This route will take you*



*through prosperous and well-developed historic farms, and bring you out at the Sharon Township Hall on Pleasant Lake Road. Turn left (east) and proceed ¾ mile to Smythe Road. Turn left (north) and proceed about ¼ mile to 8701 Smythe on the east (right) side.*

## **10 8701 Smythe Road**

Welcome to the Feldkamp farm!

This barn quilt is the work of Nancy Feldkamp who has lived here for 70 years, and is well known for her watercolor paintings in the Manchester area. Reno and Nancy have grown a variety of crops and raised many animals here over the years, and also grew and sold Christmas trees locally.

*Return south on Smythe Road to Pleasant Lake Road, turn left (east), and proceed ½ mile east to a large complex of barns and associated barn quilts.*



## **11 Fair View Farm**

**19732 Pleasant Lake Road**  
(south side of the road)  
**19426 Pleasant Lake Road**  
(north side of the road)  
**18691 Pleasant Lake Road**  
(south side of the road)



A trio of farms called 'Fair View Farm' features several barn quilts at these three locations on Pleasant Lake Road between Meyers Road and M-52. This site has excellent views in all directions of rolling, fertile farmlands and the Sharon Hills to the north. (continued)