

Stone Cottage Gardens

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Gladwin, MI. 48624-8738
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February 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

We hired Terry Stitt to repair our post and beam, banked, 40'X 60', dairy, gambrel roof barn after interviewing several other contractors.

The original procedure was to "jack-up" wood portion of structure, remove collapsing original stone walls. We were then to prepare the lower area by replacing floor and walls, lowering the upper wooden structure: straightening, squaring, and repairing rotten boards etc.

Upon closer inspection Terry decided it would be safer to take down the existing barn, lay it out in the field, clean out the area and reconstruct and restore the building using as many original pieces as possible.

This was a little unsettling at first, as we were afraid of losing our original barn!

With reassurances, we proceeded with Terry's plan. Terry explained how he would proceed. He took apart the upper wooden structure very carefully, placing the like pieces together; i.e., rafters, each wall timbers together and lastly the floor beams.

At this point we decided together to rebuild and restore the barn using new wood where needed. I decided to change and improve the configuration of the lower support beams. Terry spread out the long horizontal ceiling joists to more equalize the load bearing capacity for the upper floor. The original lower level had the two central ceiling joists running very close together to support the dairy stanchions.

Terry inspected the upper wood pieces and replaced as needed. He put the barn beams back together using wooden pegs in the joints as had been previously done. He squared the building, added a rafter, and extra purlins for strength and support of the roof. The exterior was covered with new wood planks, (the old siding could not be salvaged) and finished off with a new metal roof.

In conclusion, Terry was very thorough; he did what he said he would do. We are pleased with the quality of his workmanship.

If you have any questions or would like to view the finished barn please call us or write us at the phone number and address below.

Thank you,

David and Mary Moore