

Barn Manual
Ivy Creek Foundation
(June 7, 2019)

Opening the Barn

Talking Points

Duties and Responsibilities

Closing the Barn

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Opening the Barn

Open the doors

- Unlock the small door using the combination code (get code from staff person)
 - Push brass part of lock up against the ring to make it pop open
- Step through and pull the nail out of the strap holding the sliding door closed
- Open strap and replace nail
- Repeat on other front door
- Slide doors all the way open
- Place boards in tracks of doors to allow handicapped access (claw hammer in granary for assistance if needed)
- Turn on the lights (center light switch right by front door)
 - Left light switch four feet in and on left
 - Right light switch on north side of granary
 - Beehive spotlights on third post
- Unlock the back doors and slide open
- Repeat with placement of boards in tracks

Prep the barn for display (some items are stored inside the granary)

- Make sure all lights are turned on
- Half a pitcher of water for sand table (pitcher in granary)
 - Split up animal track boards evenly at each end of table
 - Pour water evenly on sand table.
 - Rake sand (with board) to spread moisture around.
- Donation Box on corner of front table
- Other items on table:
 - Carr Family History
 - Ivy Creek Maps
 - Newsletters
 - Bumper Sticker
 - Sign-in sheet
- Beehive:
 - Turn on spotlight
 - Remove covers (place aside)
 - Position magnifying glasses

Wait to greet people by the front door

- Use talking points
- Barn flyers
- Barn brochures
- Keep count of numbers of people (!)

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Talking Points

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a non-profit that created and maintains the trails as well as puts on educational programs like this one today. We have public programs for children as well as adults. If you like the work we do please make a donation so we can continue our work. Without the foundation there would be no barn here today.

Please sign in. Add contact information if you would like more information about upcoming events.

This barn is the centerpiece of the Carr-Greer family heritage. What is now Ivy Creek Natural Area began as River View Farm. Today ICNA contains 219 acres. The farm grew from a parcel of land that Hugh Carr bought in 1870, five years after he was emancipated. He continued adding to the first land purchase throughout his life.

He and his wife, Texie Mae Hawkins, had six daughters and one son. Texie Mae died in 1899 when her children were young. Hugh Carr, helped by their eldest daughter, Mary Louise, raised the children.

Although Hugh Carr could not read or write he made sure all of his children went to school. Their eldest, Mary Louise, and four of her sisters graduated from college. In one generation the family went from unschooled slave to college graduates.

Mary Louise Carr married Conly Greer in 1913 and they moved in with her father who was nearly 70 and unwell. Hugh Carr died five years later.

In 1918, Conly Greer was hired as the first African-American extension agent in the county. Black farmers were not able to get help from the white extension agents before Greer was hired. Conly Greer graduated with a degree in agriculture from Virginia State College (now Virginia State University in Petersburg), where he first met Mary Carr.

Conly Greer built this barn in the late 1930's to replace Hugh Carr's original barn in the same location. The new barn used wood milled with a portable sawmill from trees on the property and an adjacent property willed to one of Mary's sisters.

The design of the barn was built with plans from Greer's college, Virginia State. It incorporated the most progressive ideas of the time. The concrete floor is original and made it easier to keep the barn clean. Cows were milked here according to strict sanitary conditions. Greer sold separated cream that was sold to the Monticello Dairy in Charlottesville. The trench by the milking stanchions was used to collect waste.

The barn did not house pigs during Conly Greer's time. Pigs were kept below the barn area.

After Conly Greer's death his widow rented the barn to a farmer who raised speciality pigs. He installed the rails or benches in the pigsty to prevent accidental suffocation or injury of piglets by the sow. The small "door" was used to shovel waste out of the pig area and was not part of the original barn design.

The barn did not originally have stairs. Access to the hayloft was by the boards nailed to the walls and through the hay holes. Hay holes allowed for hay to be pitched down from above.

The doublewide doors without a center post allowed the farmer to drive a wagon through the length of the barn.

A system of pulleys, rails and overhead carriage in the hayloft allowed for gathering and storage of hay through the entire upper level.

The granary was lined with galvanized metal to keep out rodents. It was divided into two sections, one for small grain, such as sorghum and barley, and the other part for corn.

Greer would have used implements like those in the barn to farm his fields. He did own a tractor before his death, but during most of his farming years, the work would have been done here with teams of horses, who were housed in stalls in the barn.

The chicken house was across from the family cemetery.

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Duties and Responsibilities

DUTIES MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Count number of visitors during your shift
2. Engage and relate to the public (young and old) on:
 - a. Definition of Ivy Creek Foundation (its generic role and needs: trails, programs and funding)
 - b. History of the Barn related to the Foundation
 - c. Specific history of the Barn in a cultural context
 - d. Farming structures inside and outside the barn
 - e. Natural displays in the barn
 - f. Upcoming events of the Ivy Creek Foundation
3. Maintain displays (cleanliness, sweeping, litter)
4. Hand out newsletters, flyers to individuals
5. Invite non-members to join and support the work of the Foundation.
6. Maintain security of barn
 - a. One docent must always be on duty
 - b. If mechanical cow is in operation a second docent is necessary
 - c. No one allowed upstairs until county requirements met.
 - d. When that condition is met, a docent for going up and downstairs is required.
 - e. Three docents needed if upstairs open and mechanical cow is in operation.
 - f. Lock up barn after shift
7. Get as many visitors as possible to sign up on sign up sheet.
8. Email photo of visitor sheet to Bruce (including total overall and children subtotal). Put signup sheet at the back of clipboard.

COMMITMENT REQUIRED:

1. A minimum commitment of two times on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm is required.
2. Barn programs from third Saturday of April to the third Sunday of November.
3. Work with whatever group or individual shows up on a particular Saturday or Sunday.
4. Volunteers may not leave early or show up late.
5. If necessary volunteers must find their own replacement. A list of current volunteers, availabilities, emails, and phone numbers is given to all volunteers. Leaving a message or sending an email is not the same as finding a replacement.

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Closing the Barn

First, close and latch the back doors.

- Then replace both beehive covers on the hive.
- Tidy up the tracking table area.
- Divide up the tracks at both ends of the table.
- Smooth out the sand.
- Turn out the lights.

Second, put away or finish the following items

- Put away the empty pitcher for sand table in the granary
- Write total number of visitors at top of sign up sheet

Finally, make sure no one is inside

- Remove boards from barn door guides
- Close and latch the front doors.
- Check to see all lights are out.
- Lock up the step through door.
- Shove the lock closed and spin the lock numbers