

JEREMIAH BEAN FARMSTEAD, PRIVY
Southwest side of U.S. Route 50
1.8 miles south of Guysville
Athens County ~~Guysville view~~
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2411-E

HABS
OHIO
S-GUYS.V,
2E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Midwest Support Office
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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JEREMIAH BEAN FARMSTEAD, PRIVY

Location: Southwest side of U.S. Route 50, 1.8 miles south of Guysville, Athens County, Ohio

USGS Stewart Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.419950.4347055

Present Owner: Ohio Department of Transportation
Columbus, OH

Last Occupant: C. P. Zinn
Guysville, Ohio

Last Use: Vacant

Significance: The Jeremiah Bean Farmstead Privy is a rare surviving example of Allegheny plateau farm architecture. It is constructed following traditional local construction methods using locally available red oak and poplar to create a use-specific structure. The building has no foundation, a shed roof and a double-seat privy pit.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1900.
2. Architect: None.
3. Original owner: Jeremiah or Whitfield Bean.
4. Builder: a member of the Bean Family.
5. Original Plans: None.
6. Alterations and additions: The roof is a later addition, set upon the side walls. The privy bench and steel drums below the privy seats are later additions, added after the privy was moved farther west of the residence in the 1960s.

- B. Historical Context: From the time Jeremiah Bean occupied the site, the Bean Farmstead has had a privy. The use of wire nails throughout the construction suggests this is not the original privy, but the consistent use of oak materials makes the date of the building the early decades of the twentieth century. Janet Bean Ford recognized the privy as the building that once was closer to the south back porch of the residence. It likely was moved after indoor plumbing was installed in the 1960s.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The privy is one of a complex of farmstead outbuildings constructed in a simple, shed-roofed style. Distinctive for its use as a residence-related building, it has vertical oak sheathing closely spaced to give privacy. Framing is circular-sawn red oak used in actual, unplanned dimensions that show circular saw marks. Because privies are so universal and of similar simple construction character, determining age is often difficult. The use of wire nails places the construction of this privy after 1890.
2. Condition of fabric: Structurally sound, deteriorating and abandoned.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: A one-story square plan, this building is 4'-2" x 4'-0". The building is one structural bay wide and one structural bay deep. The building is 6'-2" at the rear, 7'-0" high at the front.
2. Foundation: None.
3. Walls: The exterior is covered in 1" x 12" boards, mostly circular-sawn red oak.
4. Structural system: The oak frame is 2" x 4" members for corner posts, building sill, side wall plates and mid-wall nailers for exterior siding. The building has no studs.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorway and door: The doorway is 6'-0" x 2'-0" with 2" x 4" frame. The door is oak boards and two pine battens with an oak diagonal brace. The door frame is untrimmed.
 - b. Windows and shutters: None.
6. Roof: The shed roof is a later addition, set on top of the privy walls. It is made of random width oak boards, 1" x 6"-10" with three battens. The weatherproofing is corrugated galvanized steel sheeting with a 6" overhang on all sides. Asphalt rolled roofing is visible below the steel.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The square building is one bay wide, one bay long.
2. Flooring: Dirt.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling are unfinished framing.
4. Openings: The doorway is untrimmed.
5. Decorative features and trim: None.
6. Hardware: The door has two triangular, stamped galvanized steel hinges 6" x 1-1/2". The door has wire hook and stable closure. All nailing is wire-cut nails.
8. Mechanical equipment: None.

9. Original furnishings: The two privy holes are cut into a 23" poplar board raised on a 12" base. The privy bench seat is framed on 2" x 4" studs. The seats are modern plastic toilet seats. Beneath the privy seats are two steel drums sunk into the ground and set in concrete.

A 1" x 11" storage shelf is on the east wall, 5'-0" above the floor, supported on the 2" x 4" siding nailers.

- D. Site: The building faces northwest, is on the flat area east of the slope of the hill, just southwest of the tractor shed.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: None.
- B. Historic views: None.
- C. Interviews: Janet Bean Ford, granddaughter of Whitfield Bean.
- D. Bibliography:

Gordon, Stephen C.

1992 How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory. Columbus, OH: Ohio Historical Society.

Nelson, Lee H.

1968 "Nail Chronology." History News, Vol. 23, No. 11.
Nashville: American Association for State and Local History.

Noble, Allen G.

1992 Barns and Farm Structures. Vol. 2 of Wood, Brick & Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape. Amherst, MA: The University of Massachusetts Press.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The architectural and historical documentation of the Jeremiah Bean Farmstead has been undertaken to fulfill a memorandum of agreement signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Ohio SHPO and the Ohio Department of Transportation as part of requirements under regulation 36 CFR 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Recording has taken place prior to removal of structures in the right-of-way of U.S. Route 50.

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This documentation has been prepared by: Rebecca M. Rogers,
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William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA. October, 1997- May, 1998.

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