

THE OLD BARN



Shelby Pure Milk Barn Whitney Ave.

Nomination for Shelby Locally Designated Historic Landmark

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For Melinda Bigelow and Cynthia Robinson

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SUMMARY

The barn on Whitney Avenue, Lot #1664, is of cultural historical significance to the City of Shelby. For 40 years, the barn housed horses and wagons used to deliver milk, cottage cheese and cream from the Shelby Pure Milk Company on Main Street to families throughout the town. The horses were so well trained that they followed the deliverymen as they delivered products door to door. According to stories, one man swore that a horse could read traffic lights and would stop until the light turned green. Deliveryman Jay Moore would cut through an alley while delivering milk on foot and the horse would follow the street to meet him on the other side of the alley. When the horses were retired in 1956, the barn was used to house the delivery trucks for 11 years until the business was sold in 1967. The barn is still used by the descendants of the Robinson family and is the largest barn within the city limits.

Rice Construction Co. also used the building to store road construction equipment from 1914 to 1926.

Further research is needed to determine when the barn was built, but it was likely part of a farm because of the construction – gambrel roof, sliding doors, hay loft, and pulley system to lift hay to storage.

MEMORIES

From a post on Facebook group Shelby, Ohio: Then & Now.....

John Ewalt posted February 13, 2021 - Back in the day, many years ago, milk was delivered by horse and buggy in Shelby, by the Shelby pure milk company. (Photo on cover was included with the post.)

Cindy Ross Robertson

John Ewalt in the winter if you didn't get the milk in before it froze you had a milksicle coming out of the bottle because it just had a paper cap on the top. Horse delivery ended around 1957.

Cindy Ross Robertson

I use to run out and meet Bob Wetz when he delivered to us on West Park Drive. Loved his horse. That was in 1956-1957 when I was in Kindergarten and we were the last or one of the last existing routes.

Jerry Cox

Remember this well and how the horse would walk the route as the milkman delivered.

Judy Messner

I grew up on Clark Ave and would go to the barn to visit the horses.

Bill Roush

I remember them and how smart the horses were because the guy would get out and carry milk to 3 or 4 houses and the horse would go up to and stop at the last house that he had milk for and wait for him to get back to the wagon.

Robert Resolved Ross

I remember those days. Those horses were almost automated where they started and stopped on their own.

Josie Baldrige Tackett

I remember that too, I was little and we lived on Broadway. The milk man would bring the milk up to the porch in a little wire basket.

Sherri Fagan

My husband Jerry delivered for Shelby Pure Milk in the rural areas in the late 50s. One day would be Ganges and Shiloh and another day would be the Settlement. He has Bob Wetz's shirt in his Shelby collection

Stephen Wilkinson

We had the little cooler box on the front porch under the mailbox so the milkman could leave our milk if we were not home. I walked by the barn every day while in elementary school and many days to play on the school grounds.

Linda Wetz LaGoy

My Dad, Bob Wetz, delivered milk with his horse - Old Dan - to the entire west side of town. Jay Moore, pictured on the right, had the east side of Shelby. Old Dan knew each stop and would move the wagon while Dad carried milk into the homes. Many of the women were preparing breakfast and Dad would put the dairy products directly in the fridge.

On occasion Dad would pick me up at the end of the route and I would be allowed to ride Old Dan bareback into the horse barn. We also have a picture of the day Shelby Pure Milk retired the horse-drawn milk wagons and started using trucks.

Melinda Robinson Bigelow's Dad owned the dairy. I also remember getting to visit the back of the dairy where the ice cream was made. Such great memories! ❤️❤️

Ann Stoffer

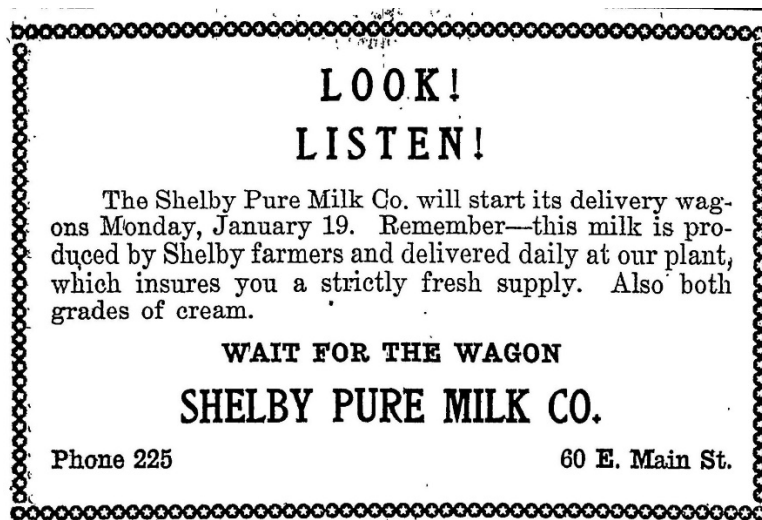
When we heard the horse coming we would run to the backyard and get apples off our apple tree to feed the horse. Loved it!

Carol Gates-Allen

I lived on Marvin Ave and loved so much when I heard the horses coming down the street with the milk wagon! What wonderful memories! ❤️

Garry Bly

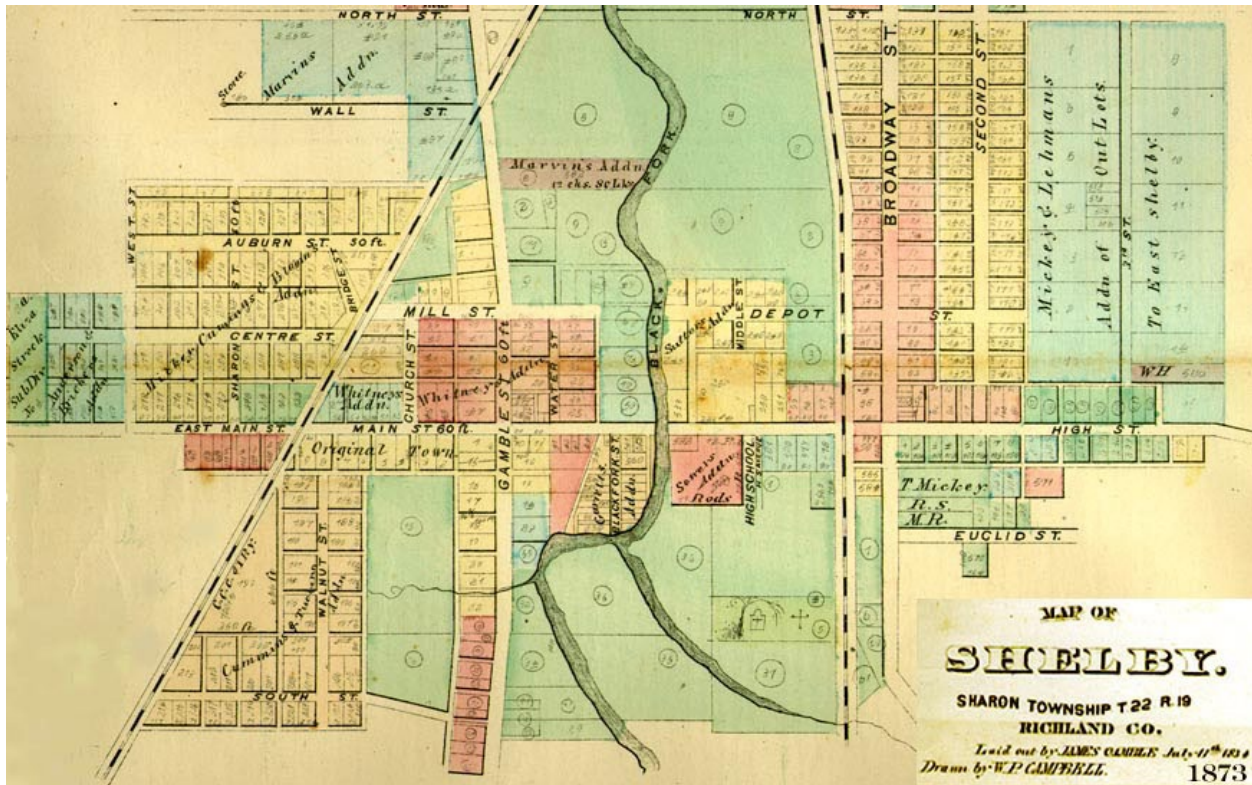
I remember delivering milk TO the dairy. Dad had a milk route and we went to farms and picked up milk (in those big milk cans) and take them to Shelby. Parked in the alley next to the dairy by those swinging doors and take the cans off the truck and slide them thru those doors.



Daily Globe, Shelby, Ohio, January 17, 1920

PROPERTY HISTORY

The property was originally part of 160 acres assigned by Michael Newman to Ely (Eli) Wilson as a land patent from the U. S. Government in 1825. Eli Wilson is one of three men who founded the area that became Shelby in 1818. Eighty acres was sold to Robert and Thomas Mickey and Henry Leyman in 1845. A search of deeds in the Richland County Recorder's office failed to produce deeds between 1845 and 1890, but an 1873 map shows that the Mickeys and Leyman still owned the land.



A search of tax records failed to determine when a barn might have been built on the acreage, but the Roberts family and Albert B. Clark had enough land to farm (59+ acres) and might have built a barn for livestock. Improvements such as houses, barns and outbuildings can sometimes be reflected in the price of the sales, but in the case of these lots, it appears buyers didn't want to disclose the price and simply recorded \$1 on the deed. Maps of Sharon Township don't seem to indicate outbuildings either.

When Herbert W. Smith owned the land in 1904, he subdivided it into lots for a neighborhood named Shelby Heights. The barn was located on Lot #1664. Deeds for the property don't indicate outbuildings.

Following are the deeds that have been located in the Richland County Recorder's office:

Date	Buyer (Grantee)	Seller (Grantor)	Property Description
29 Dec 2004	Cynthia Robinson Melinda Bigelow	Estate of Howard L. Robinson	Lots 1664 and 36 feet off of Lot 1663
16 March 2004	Howard L. Robinson	Estate of Josephine M. Robinson	½ interest in Lots 1664 and 36 feet off of Lot 1663
28 March 1957	Howard L. Robinson	Josephine M. Robinson	½ interest in Lots 1664 and 36 feet off of Lot 1663, \$1 and love and affection
12 Jan 1956	Howard L. Robinson	(H.L.) Homer L. Robinson and Gay Robinson (husband and wife)	½ interest in Lot 1664 and 36 feet off of Lot 1663, \$1

20 Nov 1926	H.L. Robinson and J.H. Sharp, partners DBA Shelby Pure Milk Company	Joseph H. Seibert, Receiver for Frank L. Rice, Chet L. Rice, Sophia A. Rice, Leah M. Rice, Arthur J. Rice, Marie Rice, Frank L. Rice and Sons, The Rice Construction Company and Rice & Rice, defendants, Farmers Savings and Loan, plaintiffs	Lots 1664 and 36 feet off of Lot 1663, \$2,180
23 Nov 1914	F.L. Rice, A.J. Rice, Chet L. Rice	Willis B. Horner, Alma Horner	Lot 1664 , \$100
1 Nov 1907	Willis B. Horner	Andrew Deis, Annie Deis	Lot 1664 – 1689 , \$130
18 Aug 1904	Andrew Deis	Herbert W. Smith, Florence A. Smith	Lot 1664 , 1689 - \$1
10 Aug 1904	Herbert W. Smith, Florence A. Smith		NE ¼ Section 8, Township 22, Range 19, 10 ½ acres , subdivided into lots for Shelby Heights
5 Aug 1904	Herbert W. Smith	Sarah J. Roush, William H. Roush	NE ¼ Section 8, Township 22, Range 19, 10 ½ acres , \$1
16 May 1903	Sarah J. Roush	Albert B. Clark, Grace T. Clark	NE ¼ Section 8, Township 22, Range 19, 10 ½ acres - \$5,200 (also includes NW ¼ S 9, T 22, R 19, 39 1/2 acres)
12 March 1890	Albert B. Clark	Obediah Roberts, Trustee for Nancy Ann Roberts	NE ¼ Section 8, Township 22, Range 19, and NW ¼ S 9, T 22, R 19, 59 37/100 acres - \$4,304.32
1890 - 1845	To be researched – Lehman and Mickey outlots are listed on an 1873 map.		
24 March 1845	Robert Mickey, Thomas Mickey, Henry Leyman	Eli Wilson, Mabel Wilson	NE ¼ Section 8 Township 22 Range 19, 80 acres - \$3200
27 June 1825	Ely (Eli) Wilson, assignee of Michael Newman	United States	NE ¼ Section 8, Township 22, Range 19, 160 acres - \$329.29

A 1926 advertisement for property for sale west of the barn mentions the barn, providing the earliest verifiable date for the barn, but it was likely built decades earlier.

Receiver's Sale Of Real Estate

Make An Offer On The Following Property

Magnificent Home, large lot, three-apartment garage, at 120 East Main

Level lot at corner of Whitney and Clark avenue, immediately east of Doc Close's property. - Enough room on this lot for three houses.

Second lot west of barn known as Rice Construction Barn, on Whitney avenue. This lot has a large shed on it now renting for \$15 per month. It looks like a 15% investment proposition.

Mail or Phone Your Bids to

JOSEPH H. SEIBERT

Care Farmers Savings and Trust Co.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

BARN CONSTRUCTION



Barn has a gambrel roof, and the loft door has been filled in with a window. The roof overhang would have been outfitted with a pulley system to lift bales of hay to the loft.



The siding was made of 22-foot-long continuous sections. The metal roof looks to be original.



Construction inside the barn indicates roughly sawn lumber and rough-cut beams, suggesting it was possibly built in the mid- to late-1800s.

TIMELINE FOR SHELBY PURE MILK COMPANY

October 1919 – H. L. (Homer) Robinson of Bellville, Ohio purchases the Shelby Pure Milk Company on East Main Street which had been operated by R. A. Ringer and Foster Reynolds for three months. Robinson has been in the milk business for five years, two of which he was half-owner of Dairy Products company of Bucyrus Ohio. Milk is delivered by horse-drawn wagons.¹

July 1920 – John Sharp, brother-in-law to Homer Robinson is now half owner in the company. They purchase Shelby Milk and Cream Delivery including all milk delivery routes and dairy products from C. R. Fishbaugh. The company becomes the only dairy company in the city. The company's red delivery horse-drawn wagons make morning and evening deliveries to all parts of town.²

November 1926 – Homer Robinson and John Sharp purchase property on Whitney Avenue, including a large barn, to house their horses, wagons, and equipment.

May 1935 – Progress report in local newspaper said the company has pasteurized all of its dairy products from the start of the company. The dairy covers 2,500 square feet, with two 200-gallon pasteurizers, bottle washing machine, bottling filler and capper machine. The company is one of the first in the state to establish a bottle deposit for the return of bottles. Throughout the depression the company retained and added employees. The dairy has a capacity 325 gallons of milk and cream daily, 20 gallons of cottage cheese, and 20 gallons of buttermilk.³

May 1936 – The Shelby Pure Milk Company moves from its former location just east of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks to a new building west of the tracks on Main Street. They add butter and ice cream departments.⁴

February 1946 – John Sharp sells his portion of the company to his nephew, Homer's son, Howard. Sharp began in the company November 1, 1919, working there 26 years.⁵

January 1950 – Shelby Pure Milk begins using square glass bottles with hood caps marked 4%, enriched 5% and homogenized milk. The bottles save as much as one-third of storage space as round bottles.⁶

April 1956 – Old Dobbin makes his last deliveries April 30 ending an era of milk deliveries to Shelby Homes. The draft horse was one of eight or nine horses that delivered milk products since 1919. The change to trucks was made because of issues with traffic and with lack of blacksmiths to serve the horses. Howard takes over as owner-manager after Homer retires.⁷

¹ "H. L. Robinson of Bellville Purchased the Shelby Pure Milk Company From Ringer and Reynolds." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio) October 2, 1919, p. 6, col. 4.

² "Milk Business of Shelby Milk and Cream Delivery Purchased by the Shelby Pure Milk Company." *Daily Globe* (Shelby Ohio), July 13, 1920, p. 1, col. 4.

³ "Shelby Pure Milk Company." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), May 1, 1935, p. 30, col. 4.

⁴ "Shelby Pure Milk Company Moves From Old Location to Newly Completed Modern Building." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), May 27, 1936, p. 1, col. 8.

⁵ "John Sharp Sells His Partnership in Pure Milk Company." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), p. 1, col. 7.

⁶ "To Introduce Hood Caps and Square Milk Bottles Here." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), December 29, 1949, p. 1, col. 2.

⁷ "Old Dobbin Bowing Out On Shelby Milk Routes." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), May 1, 1956, p. 1, col. 4.

May 1967 – Shelby Pure Milk Company is sold to Smith Dairy Products in Orrville, Ohio. The Smith company had already been supplying milk to Shelby Pure Milk for more than a year, getting its supply from a cooperative which included Shelby farmers.⁸

⁸ Orrville Firm Buys Shelby Pure Milk." *Daily Globe* (Shelby, Ohio), June 1, 1967, p. 1, col. 2.