



MAPLEWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maplewood Farm Receives Barn of the Year Honor

This month, Bill & Raydelle Bruentrup and George & Bonnie Rossbach, members of Maplewood Area Historical Society, attended the annual HarvestFest dinner held by Friends of Minnesota Barns, whose mission is to educate the public and raise awareness to the importance of historic barns and farmsteads in Minnesota, and to help advocate for barn preservation. At the dinner, the Maplewood Historical Society was awarded Barn of the Year for its preservation of the Bruentrup farm barn for community use. The Barn of the Year award recognizes barn owners who have made exemplary efforts to preserve their barns and help to provide preservation examples and ideas to other barn owners.

This year, the FOMB had created a new category of "Community Barn", which fits the Bruentrup farm, located in an urban area. The Maplewood Area Historical Society pleased to have been a part of the restoration and preservation of the farm in order for Bruentrup farm to receive this honor. The other categories included: a barn preserved for farm use, and a barn preserved and now having other uses.

Ten years ago, the Bruentrup family faced the difficult decision of having to move the farm and all of its buildings, from its original location on the corner of White Bear and Lydia Avenues. The farm, including the big red barn, brick farmhouse, machine shed, granary, tin shed, and windmill all had to be re-located, then placed in as close a pattern as they were in their original home.

At the time it seemed impossible for this preservation to occur. But after a large grass-roots effort by Maplewood Area Historical Society, the funding to move the buildings came together. With the almost 5,000 hours of volunteer labor, combined with community efforts and participation from building trades and local businesses, the task of preserving and moving the Bruentrup farm became possible. The farm and all its buildings were moved to about 1/2 mile away, to the site of a former dairy farm. The Maplewood Area Historical Society now holds events year-round at the farm, including dances, family activities and socials. Spaces on the farm are also available to rent for weddings and other special occasions. We invite you to join us at an upcoming event and experience the progress we are so blessed to have seen happen at the farm.

The Bruentrup farm is now 120 years old, having been established in 1891, giving the Historical Society many years of stories to tell. For more information about the Maplewood Area Historical Society and Bruentrup Heritage Farm, visit www.maplewoodhistoricalsociety.org. Friends of Minnesota Barns website is at: www.friendsofminnesotabarns.org

About the Maplewood Area Historical Society & Bruentrup Heritage Farm:

The farm was established by the Bruentrup family in Maplewood, MN in 1891, and four generations of the family have lived at the farm. This farm boasts the last complete set of dairy farm buildings remaining in Ramsey County.

In 1999, the Maplewood Area Historical Society preserved the farm as a historical farm museum, where they display and have demonstrations of farm machinery & methods, agricultural history and education, and also the historic farmhouse, which has displays encompassing its 120 years of existence. The Bruentrup family has donated many artifacts which are on display, along with other donated items from the community.

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