

The Cowell Ranch Hay Barn Project

Raising a Barn, Building Community

CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



Living History

At the center of the Cowell Lime Works enterprise in the late 1800s was the Cowell Ranch, home now to the UC Santa Cruz campus. Today the original Hay Barn site lies at the heart of the historic district. The barn's timber frame structure used pegged mortise and tenon joinery, a beautiful, durable style of construction that was widespread in the 19th Century. Particular details of this barn's construction suggest that an East Coast carpenter or shipwright built the barn.



In addition to its construction, the original barn was distinctive for its size and its asymmetrical interior. Most barns have a wide main aisle flanked by bays on either side, while this one has just one row of bays and a very large, open main "aisle." This feature will be retained, with the aisle serving as a "great hall" when the barn is rebuilt and adapted for reuse.

In 2015, as UC Santa Cruz celebrates its 50th anniversary, the campus will also celebrate the restoration of the 150-year-old Cowell Ranch Hay Barn near the entrance of campus.

The barn has been one of the key buildings in the Cowell Lime Works Historic District, and will be the future headquarters for the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) and Life Lab, providing an attractive and accessible new "front door" to the adjacent 30-acre CASFS Farm.

In announcing the gift from the Helen and Will Webster Foundation that is funding the first phase of the restoration effort, CASFS Executive Director Daniel Press noted that "Front doors are important to people. This restored portion of UC Santa Cruz's entrance, with its focus on CASFS and other environmental programs, will signal to students and visitors both the campus's respect for its past and its commitment to a sustainable future."

REBUILDING THE HAY BARN

THE FIRST PHASE of this project has included the careful dismantling of the remaining barn structure. Reconstruction begins in Fall 2014: after excavation, soil stabilization, and the pouring of a concrete foundation and floor, the original frame will be recreated, beginning with 10" x 10" redwood sill plates, and a combination of new and salvaged Douglas fir framing members.

We anticipate that the new frame will be ready to put into place in Spring 2015, and look forward to celebrating this milestone with the community.

The restored Hay Barn will be LEED certified (Gold is the targeted level) and reconstructed according to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic properties. Construction will be done in two phases. When



the first (current) phase is completed, the barn will contain a 1,500-square-foot multipurpose space for exhibitions, assemblies, barn dances, and more, along with a 300-square-foot conference room, restrooms, and utility rooms. The approximately 42' x 110' space will be largely open in the interior, in keeping with the barn's historic nature. The grand opening is scheduled for October 2015.

MORE THAN A BARN

With this project, the campus is doing much more than simply rebuilding a barn. As Daniel Press said, "It's an opportunity to honor a historic construction method and provide an attractive, well-situated welcome to the campus, the farm, and the historic district."

The restored Hay Barn will create a focal point for CASFS education and outreach activities, and a home for other South Campus environmental groups.

The barn will be a teaching space for many audiences, a welcoming farm entrance with interpretive exhibits, and a place for campus and community gatherings.

Life Lab will greet thousands of preschool through high school students and educators there for its myriad programs on the Farm. Members of the CASFS Community Supported Agriculture project will come to pick up their organic produce shares grown on the farm by apprentices. Students will have access to the grasslands and forests where they can learn ecology, a historic district where they can do archaeology, an organic farm where they can learn to grow food sustainably and teach others how to do so as well—opportunities they can't get on other campuses.



Help Us Raise the Barn!

Renovation of the Hay Barn was kick-started by a generous gift from the Helen and Will Webster Foundation. In addition, the campus has committed funds to the project. Community involvement is needed to complete phase two of the project.

PHASE TWO: Interior Finishing and Landscape Features

By Fall 2015, the Hay Barn will be a fully constructed shell. Much of this will remain open space. To complete the interior, additional funds are needed for:

- A small conference room
- A storage room

- A large conference room kitchenette
- Finish work for the offices

Landscaping around the barn will use reclaimed wood, limestone, and native plants. Farm plantings will extend from the farm to the barn, linking the two. Additional funds are needed to pay for plantings and to install:

- An outdoor gathering area and amphitheater
- A picnic area
- A graded path to the farm
- Landscaping
- Bike racks

For more information or to support the Hay Barn restoration project, please contact—



Anne Hayes
Associate Director of Development
Social Sciences
adhayes@ucsc.edu
831-502-7274



Restoring the Hay Barn advances protection of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District and relates to other significant revitalization efforts on campus, such as renovation of the Quarry Amphitheater.



As the new headquarters for the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, the Hay Barn will expand our capacity to:

- **Teach** organic farming and gardening skills and food system concepts
- **Share** the research being done to improve farming techniques
- **Improve** meal programs at local schools
- **Increase** university purchasing of healthy local foods
- **Support** Life Lab's garden-based science, nutrition, and environmental education programs
- **Create** new education programs for students and community members