



The Moffett House

Berlin & Coos County Historical Society

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Grenier and City Council,
Berlin City Hall
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mayor Grenier and Esteemed City Councilors,

In 2002, The Berlin & Coos County Historical Society (BCCHS) acquired the Maynesboro Stud Arabian Horse Barn and the Thompson Barn, better known as the Brown Company Barns, on East Milan Road, from BIDPA. The goal of this acquisition was the restoration/preservation of the two structures, and BCCHS is nearing the completion of this project. So far, BCCHS has invested \$198,000 on the Brown Company Barns, along with over 4000 hours of volunteer labor. In 2014 BCCHS lifted the 125+ year old Thompson Barn and leveled it by replacing over 110 feet of 8" x 8" rotted sills and wooded support posts in the rear section, among other things.

Whenever it rains, water runs off the roadway toward the front and along the north side of the Thompson barn which is the most southerly of the two barns. Water and poor drainage were the likely culprits of damage to the barn in prior years. The BCCHS has done what it can to mitigate this problem and hopes to stop any continued damage from improper drainage resulting from excess water from the roadway and associated area.

The Brown Company Barns are the last (large) structures in the community paying homage to the bygone logging days and the former glory of Berlin's Arabian Horse history. The six barn sales held every summer season at these barns attract several hundred visitors from throughout the North Country and beyond. These visitors contribute to the local economy. Also, historical objects are exhibited in the two barns showing the history of Berlin, particularly logging and the Brown Company.

The Historical Society requests assistance from the City of Berlin to solve the storm drainage problem which continues to plague the area around the barn. As excess water continues to run alongside the barn, it undermines the site work which was done to preserve the barns. It is the Society's hope that if a catch basin were to be installed with proper drainage piping to veer the water away from the barn site, it would solve the problem and extend the life of this historic building for at least another 100 years. Thank you for giving this matter your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Nadeau
Vice President, Berlin & Coos County Historical Society