



Octagon barn, Gaines

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## Vanished Orleans: Octagon barn

By C.W. Lattin  
Orleans County Historian

The Octagon Fad, as it has become known, was popular during the late 1840s, 1850s and early 1860s.

This style was advanced by Orson Fowler for home architecture as well as barns. The premise being, more interior space with less outside exposure.

An eight-sided house was built by Henry Clement in the town of Carlton around 1860 and a six-sided house was built by Godfrey Tarbox in the town of Yates during the 1840s. Those were the only two houses of this fad erected in Orleans County.

Consequently, the only eight-sided barn erected during the Octagon Fad in Orleans County is the one pictured. It

was built in the late 1840s by Lucius Sanford and was located on the east side of the Gaines-Waterport Road north of Route 104 in the town of Gaines.

This magnificent structure was destroyed by a fire of undetermined origin in 1936. It was replaced by a more conventional farm barn at the time.