Barn Quilt History

Many believe that barn painting/quilting originated in Pennsylvania with immigrants from the central regions of Europe. Paint was very expensive in those days and painting a decorative and distinctive quilt pattern on their barns was a wonderful way of allowing for decoration. It also became an excellent way for travelers to find particular families or cross roads as townspeople would just tell them which pattern to look for.

Today barn quilts have become popular again. Quilt trails have been developed in many states. After a number of barn quilts have been displayed in an area, a map is developed that guides the viewers to the location. The map will have an address, a picture of the square and a name or description of its meaning. Go to the Shawano Chamber of Commerce website to read about the barn quilts in Shawano County.

Photos courtesy of Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce.