

## **2301 S Galvin Ave**

**Architectural Style: Front Gabled Barn**

**Wood County Hospital/Asylum (Norwood) Horse Barn**

This barn was built in 1930 to replace a wood barn that burned at the Wood County Asylum Farm medical complex. The barn is the only structure in that complex that remains today. The exterior walls are fireproof with brick faced reinforced concrete. For added strength, the insides of the exterior walls have brick & reinforced concrete pilasters. The 10 inch thick 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is steel beam reinforced concrete. Windows & doors are steel covered. The gambrel roof is of galvanized sheet metal & has 3 cupulas which allowed air circulation into the building's 2<sup>nd</sup> story. The southern roof end has a "widow's peak," the pointed overhang which once housed a pully system for lifting hay into the second story "hay mow". The barn is 40 x 98 feet. The ground floor has 18 horse stalls & 4 box stalls.

Excerpted from:

## **The Wood County Hospital Part III: The Wood County Asylum Opens**

by Kris Leonhardt

“In 1933, a greenhouse was built to help provide gardening services out of season.

Three years later, one of the barns burned to the ground. To prevent a reoccurrence, the new barn was constructed totally of bricks and is still standing, whose dad Conrad served as manager in later years today.

“The original barn that is (still) there was an old horse barn, but nothing was in the barn (when my dad later managed the place,)” Ron [Ron Flink] said.”

(from the Wisconsin Rapids City Times Buyer’s Guide, June 22, 2018, <https://wrcitytimes.com/2018/06/22/the-wood-county-hospital-part-iii-the-wood-county-asylum-opens/> )

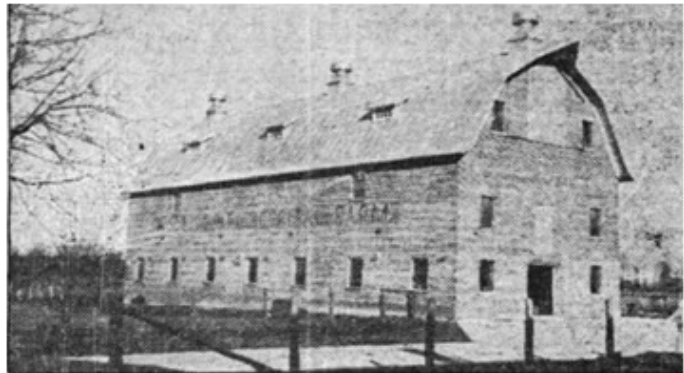
### **New Barn At County Asylum Is Unique Structure**

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**HOSPITAL PATIENTS HELPED WITH WORK**  
**Structure of Steel, Iron and Brick Has Floor Space of**

**7,840 Feet**

“There’s not another barn in the world like it” said L. E. Gilson in an interview recently concerning the most recent addition to the farm buildings of the Wood County Hospital farm, which is a solid concrete, brick faced, steel reinforced, absolutely fireproof horse barn. The building cost approximately \$12,000.



*This photo of the horse barn was taken in 1930 shortly after completion and was included in the News-Herald with the article, “New Barn At County Asylum Is Unique Structure.”  
Photo taken by News-Herald staff*

The entire floor space in the barn, ground floor and mow, is 7,840 square feet. The barn is 40 by 98 feet and has 18 horse stalls and four box stalls. The height of the barn is 44 feet.

### **Floors of Concrete**

The second floor is of concrete, 10 inches thick, reinforced with steel beams. All doors and window frames are steel covered. Adjoining the walls of the building on the interior, brick and concrete pilasters are spaced 14 feet apart around the entire structure. Through the center of

these pilasters run 7/8 inch rods for strengthening them.

The hip roof of the barn is 19 feet high from the highest point on the main section of the mow. It is of galvanized sheet iron.

With all of its other points of superiority there is yet one which points it out as the most individual barn in the world.



*Wood County Asylum Horse Barn*

*From the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, Wood County Asylum, Marshfield, Wood Co., Wisconsin, Ref. #55853*

### **Iron Work Done by Inmates**

Under the specifications of Mr. Gilson all of the work in erecting the stalls of the barn, which are of iron piping was done by the inmates of the insane asylum. This piping was purchased in straight pieces and bent and curved in place by the inmate workmen. The salt cups were shaped and welded in place by them. The water system of furnishing the horses with drinking water and the drinking cups were fashioned and welded together by their work. Every particle of this work was done by these men with no assistance from outside.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 06 Dec 1930, Page 5)*



*This is the last remaining building of the Wood County Asylum Hospital and Farm complex, also known as Norwood. It is now a part of the Norwood Industrial Park. Photo taken by Vickie Schnitzler, October 2, 2019*



*Back side of Norwood horse barn.*

*Photo taken by Vickie Schnitzler, October 2, 2019*

*Also check the listings at the Wisconsin Historical Society for this property:*

**Wood County Asylum-**

- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55852>
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55854>
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55850>
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55851>
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55855>
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55853>