

# GREAT BARN

## WELCOME, OVERVIEW & INFORMATION SHEET



**WELCOME:** The Board of Directors of the Great Barn at Berlin Farms is delighted to welcome your inquiry. The following information is provided to describe the history of this agricultural landmark, to help you with the planning of your celebration & to determine the eligibility of your event.

**MISSION:** Berlin Farms is an historic quintessential New England farmstead, built over 5 generations by one family. She will be 300 years old in just 9 years! Berlin Farms specializes in the care & breeding of endangered barnyard animals. These heritage breeds, some indigenous & some brought to North America by the Early Settlers, are now struggling due to the commercialization of farming & overall reduction in the number of farming households. Berlin Farms is working to conserve historic breeds & genetic diversity in livestock, helping to bring breeds off the endangered list to the recovering list through grass-roots efforts.

**VISION:** To provide you & your guests with a spectacular celebration full of fond memories that last a lifetime. To reconnect guests to their agricultural roots.

**History:** Most New England farms are antiques dating to the 1700s & 1800s. Today these traditional farmsteads are irreplaceable for their character, architecture & history. Berlin Farms typifies architecturally a traditional, multi-generationally built connected farmstead.

In 1731 the founding family settled the farm. They navigated the French & Indian War which directly impacted local residents.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> generation fought in the Battle of Lexington & built their next home & bank barn when George Washington became President. It seemed that farming agreed with them as the father was recorded as the oldest man in town at 99!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation experienced the War of 1812 & the incorporation of the Town of Berlin. They farmed, made shoes, coopered & built an attached larger home. Five members of the family volunteered for the Civil War in 1861.

The 4<sup>th</sup> generation prospered with access to the new Boston railroad which facilitated shipping of produce & dairy products to market. The family constructed the Great Barn & attached Milk Barn.

The 5<sup>th</sup> generation sold the farm in 1924 to a Boston brahmin who generously founded a school for disabled children, donated a building to Harvard & was the single largest donor of 4,000 antiques to the Peabody Essex Museum. Through his leadership the farm became a 3-time world record holder in butterfat production. He is credited with putting the grounds in conversation for perpetuity.

The members of the farm over generations have led by service, sacrifice, generosity & humble hard work with a love of farm & family intertwined. We hope that you will reconnect with your roots here, gain an appreciation for agricultural architecture & support the preservation of farmland, barn structures & heritage breeds.

## GREAT BARN SPACES

Your guests will know that they have arrived when they step into the **OLD BACK HOUSE** entrance. One may notice the scent of seasoned wood & long-since dark hearth fires. The intimate room is walled with rough pine boards, a dramatic reversable mural & a hand-painted antique fireplace mantle. The sideboard & foyer tables can be used to display name cards & favors, collect gifts or serve refreshments to your guests. The entrance features a coat closet uniquely decorated with historic photographs of the farm.

The quaint & refined decor of the **PEONY ROOMS** brings the outdoors inside with gilt wheat lighting, breakfast room drapes in pink peonies, chinoiserie wall coverings of birds & 18th century oil paintings of pastures, wildlife & equestrian sporting scenes. The continental & American furnishings rest atop pumpkin pine floors. The refined elegance of the Peony rooms will envelop your guests in quaint comfort as they enjoy libations & hors d'oeuvres.

The **BRIDE'S QUARTERS** are simply elegant. Comprised of the bridal suite & wainscoted bathroom with shower & amenities, you will feel at home in this sumptuous hideaway. There is a full-length mirror, antique crystal lamps, empire sconces, French, British & Italian furnishings & white on red toile drapes. The suite overlooks the serene green highbush blueberry patch aflutter with birds.

The **EAST-MEETS-WEST BARN** is available to the Groom, his Best Man & Clergy for meditation & reflection. A former milk barn & cider press, it overlooks the open pastures with near floor to ceiling windows. The space has a timeless southwest country decor displaying Native American & Asian antiques with a masculine energy. The Emperor & Empress' ruyi scepter graces the room granting good fortune & wishes!

The grass **COURTYARD** is framed by a stone wall & three white barns just off a pond & stream with resident swans Athena & Apollo. Your guests can enjoy a cocktail reception outdoors, look out from the deck onto the farm fields & see a big sky view of clouds or stars.

The **SUNSET FIELDS** are where dreams come true! Surrounded by paddocks, this bucolic setting can host both ceremony & tented reception. This area, used for galloping horses, has all the best views of the farmstead, woods, pastures, hills & of course, the sunset!

The **GREAT BARN** is the jewel of the farmstead. She is an historic American barn meticulously preserved with center drive train, upper mows, hay trolley, ladder, hand-hewn beams & queen posts. The expanse of copper-colored patina wood is lit aglow by two monumental 24-light crystal Parisian chandeliers. The **GREAT BARN** has a rustic “Wow Factor” reimagined with a chic aesthetic. Look carefully for the architectural “marriage marks” struck into the lofty beams tying family together with love & strength.

The **GAME ROOM** is all about fun & relaxation. Dance, dance, dance or bring up the lights & play cards, pool, foosball or air hockey.

For a supplemental fee the 1790 **KITCHEN** is available to caterer’s during the event & is licensed by the Board of Health for commercial use. Caterers are required to use elements of the farm’s agricultural products in their menu. The farm produces blueberries, honey, eggs & heritage orchard fruit.

## GREAT BARN EXPERIENCES & SUGGESTED ITINERARY

**THE SOIREE:** Your three-hour party will be festive & memorable. Choose an outdoor soirée on the grass Courtyard or indoors in the Great Barn. This experience is recommended for corporate functions, award events, fundraisers, Yankee swaps, club mixers, bridal/baby showers & celebrations. Customize the theme & experience to your liking. Offer your guests passed & stationary hors d'oeuvres that fit your budget & taste preferences. Starting at \$5,000.

**HALF-DAY EXPERIENCE:** Five hours of dinner & dancing await you & your guests in this stunning setting. Recommended for wedding receptions, galas, milestone birthdays & anniversaries, this is a tiered multi-space experience with meticulous & caring service. Welcome your guests in the intimate Old Back House. Serve cocktails in the Peony Rooms or on the grass Courtyard. Host your dinner party in the magnificent Great Barn. Starting at \$7,000.

**FULL DAY EXPERIENCE:** Your exclusive dream wedding begins & ends here in authentic, comfortable luxury. “Wow” your guests with the splendor of the Great Barn and enjoy the most amazing and romantic wedding day. Let’s face it. Weddings halls and barns have become cookie-cutter. Wedding day timelines have become insanely compressed. You’ve planned for months. With love & happiness, you’ve graciously brought friends & family together (some from far away). This experience level allows you to savor the moments & spend valuable time with your guests in this 8-hour offering. The day begins with the Bride’s arrival & get-ready. It continues through “first-look” & wedding party pictures. The couple & family will then have time to refresh or reflect before the guests’ arrival. Choose the outdoor Sunset Fields or the Great Barn for your intimate ceremony. Enjoy a no-rush cocktail party & sumptuous dinner. Then wind-up or down in the Game Room with dancing, play or relax by the firepit. Family & guests will enjoy your wedding day fully in this exquisite setting. Starting at \$11,800.

## GREAT BARN PRICING

*There is no food/beverage minimum for events. Our staff is happy to assist you with recommending a caterer of your choice that suits your budget & tastes.*

	Soiree or Party	Half-Day Experience	Full Day Experience
Fee*	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$11,800
Time	3 hours	5 hours	8 hours
Up to 80 Guests			
Private Event			
Event Manager			
Two Day-of Attendants			
Team Planning Meeting			
Free Parking			
No Food nor Drink Minimum			
2-3 Hour Set-up & Close			
Old Back House			
Outdoor Grass Courtyard	choice of 1		
Great Barn w/ Bar Area	or the other		
Peony Rooms			
Dining Tables & Chairs			
Couple's Historic Tour			
Game Room			
2- hour Rehearsal			
Wedding Arch			
Ceremony Chairs			
Sunset Fields			
Bride's Quarters			
East-Meets-West Barn			
Over-time Fee Per Hour	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

**Note Bene:**

\*A 20% gratuity/administrative/tax fee will be applied to the total cost.

\*\*Parties over 80 guests are welcome to inquire. Larger parties may be held in an outdoor tent.

The maximum capacity of staff, vendors & guests indoors is 99 persons.

The cells in the table above that are high-lighted in green denote inclusion in the experience.

For events scheduled the day preceding or the day of a holiday charges will vary from above.

2023 prices are subject to change at the discretion of Management.