



A barn in rural Heyworth was originally built as the Sparta United Methodist Church in 1867. The building was purchased in 1915 by the Martens family, moved to their farm by mule and re-purposed. Today it continues to be used as a barn as the second use has outlasted the first.

For a barn sitting on a farmstead in rural Heyworth, an unusual layout and extra windows offer subtle hints that the building began its life as a church.

Built as the Sparta United Methodist Church in 1867, the structure originally sat about one quarter mile north of its present spot.

The Martens family purchased the building for \$200 in 1915 and had it moved by mule team to its current location in 1916.

Two generations of the Martens family each raised four children on the farm. The farmstead was sold to the Rustemeyer family in 2014 and the barn is now used for their show pigs.

The four diamond barn quilt was added to reflect the heritage of both families.

Some of the historical details about the barn were state inaccurately in the "Barn Quilt Trail Weaves Through McLean County" article in the previous issue of Partners. We regret the error.

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