

## Cornell Big Red Barn



### PROJECT

The Big Red Barn  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York

### CLIENT

Cornell University - Facilities Services

### DATES

2008                      Structural Assessment

### DESCRIPTION

The Big Red Barn, located on Cornell University's campus in Ithaca, New York, is a former carriage house which was constructed in 1874. Currently, it functions as the graduate student union. While its construction is similar to a barn in general proportions and form, its structural members were far lighter framed and it lacked proper bracing a characteristic of traditional barns. Since its early construction, the Barn has undergone numerous renovations and additions.

### CHALLENGE

The concerns facing the University, relative to the Barn, were whether the building had been appropriately modified and reinforced over the intervening hundred years; whether the building might be more appropriately used in some other capacity than as a student gathering spot; and whether the structure had any historic significance other than being associated with the adjacent mansion.

### SERVICES

Existing Conditions and Feasibility Study

Provided a report detailing the analysis of the existing condition of the Barn's structure.

Found it to be habitable in a safe and secure manner in the short term, but expressed that permanent and more invasive reinforcement is necessary beyond that.

Researched and incorporated in the report a chronology of renovations which took place over the past 100 years and a review of the success of each intervention.

Evaluated potential adaptive reuse options for the Barn and addressed the necessary required remediation that would bring it up to code and safety standards.

### POINTS OF INTERESTED

The Big Red Barn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.