Nick Ries rescued an old 30 by 16-ft. building and "classed it up" by mounting it on attractive rock sidewalls.

Unusual "Remodels" Made Buildings Useful

When Nick Ries learned that a neighbor 10 miles away was going to tear down an old 30 by 16-ft. wooden building, he decided to recycle it and "class it up" at the same time by mounting it on attractive rock sidewalls.

The Hastings, Minn., farmer brought the building home on a specially-rigged hay wagon. The bottom 2 ft. of the building was rotten so he sawed it off. Then he dug footings for rock walls, added a smooth, level layer of cement on top, and bolted the building's walls to the cement. He also added a cement floor, a new roof, and replaced the wood siding with metal.

"The rock walls make it look pretty, but it's actually a very useful and low-cost shed," says Ries. "I use it as storage for lawn mowers and other tools and as a general purpose garden shed."

To transport the building, he bolted an X-shaped wooden rack to the wagon, adding "mini rafters" that supported the shed's rafters and walls.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nick Ries, 17205 230th St. E., Hastings, Minn. 55033 (ph 651 226-8314).

Cheap Way To Increase Building Clearance

Nick Ries uses a 50 by 100-ft. shop to do maintenance work on tractors and other equipment. He wanted to bring his payloaders and semi tractors into the building, too, but he needed about 4 ft. more clearance on top. Instead of spending the money for a new building, he simply lowered the floor on part of the shed.

He ripped out a 15-ft. wide section of the concrete floor the length of the building, and then used a skid loader to dig out the dirt to a 4-ft. depth. He also made new 2-ft. sq. cement footings for the building's original support posts.

"As we worked we dug out about 8 ft. of dirt at a time, then poured the cement footings one post at a time. We also replaced the building's original sliding door with a new, larger overhead door."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nick Ries, 17205 230th St. E., Hastings, Minn. 55033 (ph 651 226-8314).

Ries needed more clearance to bring big rigs into his 50 by 100-ft. shop. Instead of putting up a new building, he simply lowered the floor.

46 By 96-Ft. Semi Trailer Shop

Jeff King used four 40-ft. semi trailers to put up a 46 by 96-ft. farm shop. He set two trailers in line along each wall with about 16 ft. between the ends of each pair. The pairs were set 30 ft. apart to create a 30 by 96-ft. clear-span area between the trailers.

"I figured if the trailers could carry 40,000 lbs. or more down the road they could support a roof," says King.

Two trailers were set to open toward each other while the other two were set to open to the ends of the building. A unique combination of steel and wood trusses was used for the roof.

Wanting to use the building to work on his antique car collection, King needed about 13 ft. of clearance for a heavy auto lift. To get that, he fabricated 16-in. tall wooden box trusses. These were laid on top of the trailers before setting the 52-ft. gabled trusses in place.

"About the time I finished, I heard about a local lumber yard that had changed a building design and had 29-ft., 6-in. steel roof panels for the taking," says King. "They even loaded them on the trailer for me. It turned out that there were exactly enough panels to cover the roof."

His innovative storage building was nearly finished when King saw a neighbor's building with 16 ft. of headroom. Since his building was on a slight rise with a dirt floor, King decided to raise the roof by lowering the floor. A few hours of scraping by a neighbor with a large tractor and blade lowered the bay by about 3-ft.

To stabilize the trailer walls, King dug dirt out from behind the rear set of wheels and under the fifth wheel pin in front. Both spots are the most solid and reinforced parts of the trailer floor. He set down concrete footings and then placed two sections of old telephone poles under each end of the trailer and cross-tied them with sheets of plywood nailed to the posts.

Once each trailer was supported with the posts, King removed the remaining dirt and trailer axle and suspension assemblies, creating additional storage space under the now suspended trailers.

With the help of a masonry contractor, King added concrete block walls on footings under the outside trailer edges. These, he feels, give added support and security to his walls.

"I built the end walls out of wood with a lot of windows that had been left over from various construction jobs in the area," says King. "I used them on the wall spaces between the pairs of trailers as well. At one end, I have a 14 by 14-ft. roll-up door for access."

Jeff King used four 40-ft. semi trailers to put up this 46 by 96-ft. farm shop.

A combination of steel and wood trusses was used for the roof.

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King is happy with his building and the more than 4,400 sq. ft. of storage. This winter it stood up well to record snowfalls of more than 20 in. in one storm.

Unfortunately for King, county officials are not as pleased. Unable to provide them with load carrying capacity for the trailers as structural elements, he may have to reinforce them again.

"I have been told an engineer has to approve it," he says. "So far, the one I've contacted says he can only approve it if I put steel supports under the entire thing."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff King, 9 Trails End, Harwood, Md. 20776 (ph 410 202-1734).

Portable Shelter Built With Feeding Floor

This portable shelter and feeding floor mounts on skids so it's easy to move from place to place with no need to clean out manure.

Lerch's Barnlot Ltd., Hillsboro, Ohio, says the trend of smaller farms, and producing your own meat, has sparked growing demand for the portable livestock buildings.

The 8 by 16-ft. combination shelter and feeding floor is popular with people who want to feed out a hog or two, and Lerch says some customers use them for calves as well. The shelter comes with a slotted floor, which eliminates the need for bedding. Also, manure removal isn't a problem because the unit can be skidded to a new location any time you want.

The portable shelters are available in various heights for horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. Shelters can also be ordered with no floor at all.

Portable shelter comes with a slotted floor that eliminates the need for bedding.

An 8 by 16-ft. hog shed with pen sells for $995. An 8 by 24-ft. hog shed with pen and feed floor sells for $2,495.

Horse stall buildings, run-in shelters, portable board and batten buildings, hog sheds, and a variety of chicken coops and sheds are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lerch's Barnlot Ltd., 7851 S. R. 73, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133 (ph 937 393-1016; www.lerchsbarnlotltd.com).

Low-Cost Portable Horse Shelter

Robert Giese didn't want to spend the money for a commercial horse shelter, so he built his own out of wood.

"It mounts on skids and can be moved with a 30 hp tractor. Best of all, I spent less than $200 to build it. Commercial models of comparable size sell for $2,000 or more," says Giese.

The horse shelter measures 16 ft. wide by 10 ft. deep and has a slanted metal roof screwed onto ¾-in. thick plywood. The building is 10 ft. high on front and 6 ½ ft. high on back. There is no floor. The frame is made from 2 by 6's and 2 by 4's, with 6-in. wide, 1-in. thick pine boards used for the siding. Each skid has a bolt at one end, which allows the building to be towed with log chains.

"It's built strong and should last for years. Also, it's narrow enough to fit through my 12-ft. wide gates," says Giese. "It provides a great place to get out of the sun during the summer and serves as a windbreak during the winter. Best of all I don't have to clean out any manure. All I do is hook the chains onto the skids and pull the building somewhere else. I rounded one end of the skids so they don't dig into the dirt as I pull it."

Horse shelter mounts on skids and can be moved with a 30 hp tractor. "I spent less than $200 to build it," says Robert Giese.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert P. Giese, P.O. Box 4277, Bedford, Wyo. 83112 (ph 307 883-4027).