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**EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BARNS (Published May 2005
in Inside Columbia magazine) - 4/1/2005**

April 1, 2005

About 160 words

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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BARNS

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Now anyone accused of being born in a barn can claim pride in the achievement, assuming that person gives *Barns of Missouri: Storehouses of History* a good read.

The recent coffee-table book by Howard Wight Marshall, professor emeritus of art history and archaeology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, might make a good gift for those interested in Missouri architecture, history or rural life.

Published in 2003 by the Donning Co., in Virginia Beach, Va., the book's beautiful photos, many from the archives of *Rural Missouri* magazine, and informative text present facts about rural architecture that can be appreciated by both the casual observer seated in a car and the confirmed agrarian perched in the cab of a combine.

In the old barns that dot the Missouri landscape, many people see dying relics, livestock shelters, fire hazards and nostalgia magnets for better times. Marshall sees them as living history.

Reading the book brings a greater appreciation of our rural past. The varying architectural styles reflect the different backgrounds from which our state's settlers came and the technological needs of the farmers.