

Steele County Historical Society Carriage House



The Carriage House was built in the late 1800s as a horse barn for the Standard Oil Company at its depot at 310-312 Mineral Springs Road. The horses were used to pull the wagons delivering heating oil to residences within about a 12-mile radius. After horses were no longer used, it served as an oil barrel storage site and small office.

Specific features denoting its usage include large bins on the second floor for grain storage, grain chutes to the feed boxes on the ground floor, flush windowsills, window guards to prevent horses from breaking the windows, and tongue-in-groove siding. Many of the windowpanes appear to be the original glass. Originally the barn was painted red, but in later years it has been white.

The building was moved in two pieces, the roof being separated from the lower portion, in December of 2002, with much of the restoration occurring in 2003 and 2004. It was placed adjacent to the Dunnell House in approximate relationship as the Dunnell carriage house visible in early photographs of the home.

The carriage house contains several early carriages, a pony cart and cutter, plus the harness, saddles and horse tack associated with the horse and buggy days.

The descriptions of the buildings comes from a book entitled "A Guide to The Village of Yesteryear" - written by Jerry Ganfield (available in the Gift Shop at the History Center)