

Tirrell Farmstead Specialties
1959 W. Kalamo Highway



Tirrell Farmstead Specialties is a “repurposed” building which is currently being restored and used as a retail farm store. The building was originally a schoolhouse constructed in 1875 in an “American vernacular Victorian style”. It is red brick, single floor, gabled with a wooden roof-top belfry laid on a stone and mortar foundation with crawl space. B. Kellogg bid \$1000 to construct the building and completed the work within months. Maurer School was District #5 of Carmel Township and replaced a smaller wooden school (called Tirrill School) located ½ mile west of this site. In 1960, District #5 consolidated with Charlotte Public Schools and the schoolhouse was purchased for \$100 by a neighborhood group named the I-Go-You-Go Club. The club met for monthly potlucks and socializing for 14 years before ownership of the building was transferred to Carmel Township via quit-claim deed. The school functioned as the Carmel Township Hall until 2013 when Tirrell Centennial Farm LLC purchased the property.

Restoration of the building began immediately with a metal roof and enclosure of the rotting belfry. The family was delighted to find the original school bell still safely tucked in its tower. The paneling and dropped ceilings were removed and the lovely original brick interior reveals itself above newly stuccoed walls which conceal the damage done by the paneling. The ceiling is original with some repair done from an unlucky woodstove fire which left a gaping hole that was never repaired when the ceiling was lowered. The wood floor is original. The well was replaced, new plumbing, septic and heating/cooling units were installed.

The Tirrell family has sentimental ties to this schoolhouse as John F. Tirrill was Director of the School Board for many years and instrumental in the construction of the well-made building. At least 3 generations attended school here and pictures in the hallway reveal the faces of many local families who owe their education and many happy hours to this solid, yet gracious one-room schoolhouse.



