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Wind flattens Westhampton barn project

By CATHERINE BAUM
Staff Writer

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Saturday, February 21, 2009

WESTHAMPTON - An 18th century barn being rebuilt behind Outlook Farm collapsed during high winds Thursday night.

"Thank God nobody got hurt," Ken Taylor, of David D. Parker Structural Restoration Company, said as he secured the site Friday afternoon. A pile composed of hard and soft wood, ladders and various tools remains where the barn was being restored.

"It's not a case of negligence; I think it's just a case of high winds," Taylor said. "The wind blew it over before it was finished."

The rebuilt structure had taken shape and rafters were being installed as of earlier this week.

Outlook Farm owner Brad Morse hired the Brattleboro, Vt., restoration company in the fall to dismantle and move the historic red barn from Kennedy Road in Northampton to his land on Route 66 in Westhampton. The project was a 9,000-square-foot expansion to his farm.

The barn was set to be restored to its original structure with a wagon-wheel window above a row of transom windows and a bat hole, but with an added loft space in the center. Morse was unavailable Friday for comment.

1



KEVIN GUTTING

Pieces of a barn being erected behind Outlook Farm in Westhampton lie in a heap Friday afternoon, after winds apparently knocked the structure down Thursday. The barn once stood on Kennedy Road in Northampton.



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