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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have spent the night at the Overmountain Shelter on several occasions, and as a member of the TEHCC I have been involved with its maintenance.

The barn has been a unique and useful addition to the Appalachian Trail, but it is no longer maintainable or desirable. Built as a cattle shed then converted to a trail shelter it was neither designed nor constructed for human occupancy. Time, weather, shifting soil, rot and decay have made it unsafe to the point that the only proper repair would be a complete removal and rebuild. Its large size serves as a magnet for large groups (and coupled with its closeness to a public road) makes it a party site detracting from a positive hiking/camping experience.

A tent camping area with both undeveloped tent sites and wood tent platforms coupled with an open shelter structure with tables for stove cooking would be the best alternative to the current converted barn.