

# Alaska Road Barn

## Caledonia, Michigan

### *The Past:*

In 1864, a schoolteacher by the name of Elijah Van Every Pratt got married and purchased 80 acres of land to begin his life as a farmer. Circa 1870, he built the barn; he also increased the acreage to 120 acres. The barn was primarily used for hay storage and to house sheep. Elijah and his wife had two children who later on became schoolteachers. In 1910, Henry August Timm purchased the farm. The barn took on a new life as a dairy barn with 27 cows. In 1915, Henry Timm patented an automobile jack. Henry also built a Queen Anne style farmhouse on the property, which still stands today. The barn was dismantled in 2015 in order to build another house on the property.



**Farm Facts:** The Pratt farm on Alaska Road was a productive one. An 1880 Agricultural census says that Elijah Pratt had 85 acres tilled fields and 35 acres as woodland. He had \$4500 value of farm, \$200 of machinery, 3 horses, 2 milk cows, 48 sheep, 4 swine, 27 barnyard poultry. The farm produced, 18 tons of hay, 200lbs. of butter, 300 dozen eggs. 150 bushels Indian corn, 600 bushels of winter wheat, 150 bushels Irish potatoes, 25 bushels of apples, 20 bushels, of peaches, and 40 cords of wood.



### *Barn Facts:*

- Built c. 1870
- 36' x 46' in size
- Beams sizes were 8" x 8"
- Hand hewn and rough sawn beams
- Gable roof
- Granary in corner of barn
- Stood 145 years
- Dismantled 2015

