

# Aurelius Barn

## Eaton Rapids, Michigan

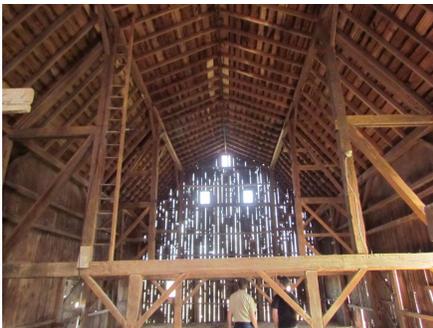
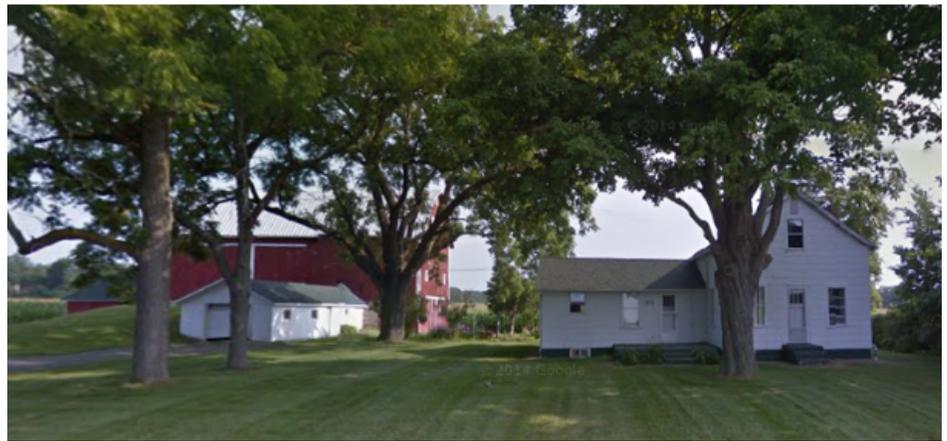


### *The Past:*

The Aurelius barn was built in the summer of 1900 as a replacement barn. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1900, lightning struck the original mid 1800's barn and burned the barn with all of its contents to the ground. One horse was killed in the fire. Fortunately, the old barn was insured and new construction took place immediately. Sometime between 1920-1926, owner and farmer Peter Rorabeck sold off his farm to Frank Cosgray. Frank took the farm to a new level as an award-winning dairy farm in the county. He was known for having the best milk-fat producing Jersey cows. Ingham County was a booming farm community in the early 1900's with a total of 3,508 farms in an area of 553 square miles.

### *Barn Facts:*

- Gambrel Style barn
- Split field-stone foundation
- Steel ribbed roofing
- Barn addition on the east side in 1930
- Dismantled in 2016 due to structure failure.



### *Farm Production:*

A barn is an essential tool to a farmer. Here are a few harvest and livestock statistics for the Aurelius farm in 1870:

- 225 bushels of winter wheat
- 100 bushels of Indian corn
- 50 bushels of oats
- 53 sheep
- 11 pigs
- 9 cows
- 2 horses.

1933: Awarded for having the best milk-fat producing jersey cows in the region.

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