

# Olsen Barn

## Howard City, Michigan



**The Past:** Earliest recorded land history begins in 1854 in which the original land parcel was granted to the widow of Private Hulse, a War of 1812 veteran. In 1890, Herman and Teoline Olsen, Norwegian immigrants, purchased and built the barn on that parcel between 1890-1894. Most of the barn was built using pine and hemlock. From the time it was built till 1973, the barn's primary use was a family dairy. Records show the Olsen family owned 3 horses and 8 cows. They were one of the fortunate families to have a telephone. The Olsen's had eight children. Two sons served in WWI and one served in WWII. A single son, Harold Olsen, owned the farm from 1956-1973. He sold it the year before he died. From that time forward, the barn and farmland went through a series of different owners. The Olsen Barn was dismantled in 2016 due to the danger of collapsing.

### Barn Facts:

- Built c. 1890-1894
- Timber Frame construction remodeled to a Gambrel style roof in order to fit a hay trolley.
- Made with pine and hemlock timbers
- Dismantled 2016



**Information of Interest:** At the time the barn was built, Howard City had a population of 1,137 people. Lumber was a major industry. Howard City businesses included: several sawmills, 6 shingle mills, 2 planing mills, 2 manufactories of sash and blinds and a machine shop. Virgin forests covered the entire county. Species of trees included: red pine, white pine, oak, aspen, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, hemlock and elm. Howard City and its surrounding land produced agricultural staples of wheat, potatoes, and hay.

American Barn & Wood  
3460 La Cruz Way #D  
Paso Robles, CA  
805-610-7838