

# *Smith Barn*

## *Kent City, Michigan*

***The Past:*** Theodore Smith, a Canadian carpenter, built his house and barn circa 1894. The barn was built in a traditional barn raising fashion. Kent City local lore tells of a man that was killed by a falling beam during the Smith's barn raising. The Smith's moved to town in 1907 to open a bakery, and left the farm to their daughter and son-in-law. In August of 1939, a tornado knocked the barn partially off its foundation. The barn sat crooked for many years until a foundation repair took place in 1963. After the repairs, a transient, Ernie Cobb, lived in the barn basement with his sulky racehorses. Harness racing was a popular sport at the time. In 1962, the farmland was sold and turned into two trailer parks. The barn was dismantled in 2015 because of a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) requirement that had to be met in order to sell the property.



Left: Theodore and Anna Smith (photo courtesy Kent City Historical Society)

Below: The Smith's Kent City bakery. (Grand Rapids Press July 23, 1912)



### ***Barn Facts:***

- Gambrel Roof
- Board and Batten
- Field stone foundation
- Repaired in 1963
- Dismantled 2015



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