

# Matherton Barn

Matherton, Michigan



**The Past:** Built around 1885, the Matherton Barn had a loft, a main floor and a basement built into an embankment which allowed wagons to be pulled onto the barn's main floor for offloading hay. Many years ago, the basement foundation walls collapsed causing the barn to crash straight down onto itself; yet the barn remained standing upright for many more years. Many doors and other items were found buried in the collapsed basement. The barn was a dairy barn and housed a granary that had a double door entrance.



View of embankment on which barn was built.

## Barn Facts:

- Barn measured 28ft. x 36ft.
- Farmer incorporated both hand hewn and rough sawn beams.
- Largest beam dimension 8"x8".
- Built from a mix of hardwoods and soft woods.
- Indoor staircase led to collapsed lower level.
- Bank barn with a gable roof.

**The Present and Future:** The Matherton Barn had to come down due to instability as well as a need to clear the land for a new home. During the dismantle, a Victorian bed was found buried under a pile of hay in the loft. The reclaimed barn wood and discovered doors will be used in future projects; thus, allowing the Matherton Barn legacy to live on.



Door beneath the collapsed main floor.



Double doors leading to the granary.



Interior of barn before the dismantle.



Victorian bed found buried beneath hay.

