

# Squires Barn

Rockford, Michigan



## Barn Facts:

- Bank barn built in the 1880's
- Gabel roof
- Rough Sawn Pine frame
- Built from Eastern White Pine and mixed hardwoods.
- 40'x60' in size with 17' eaves
- Stone foundation
- Dirt floor basement
- Primarily used for poultry farming in the 20th century
- Squires family farmed this site until 1940.

## Squires Family: History

Two brothers, Robert S. and Amasa Squires migrated from Vermont to Michigan in 1847. Amasa's son, Nathan Squires, originally purchased the land on which the barn once stood. The last generation of Squires to farm the land did so until 1940. Around 1950, Aaron Porter, purchased the land and began selling poultry and eggs from the farm. Aaron Porter is a living descendant of the Porter Family who were pioneers in the lumber and grist mill industry of the mid 1800's.

**Wood History:** This particular region of Michigan, from which the barn's wood originated, was known for its Eastern White Pine. Eastern White Pine was known for growing long, straight trunks; thus, the trees were once prized for use as ships masts. An interesting fact to note is that King George III of England reserved the biggest and best trees for use in his navy. This picking of prize trees led to the Pine Tree Riot of 1772, and played a role in the events leading up to the American Revolution.



**Farming History:** According to the Agricultural Census Bureau, the Squires farm produced / owned the following:

Crops			
Year	Corn	Oat	Wheat
1850	n/a	n/a	80 bushels
1860	150 bushels	56 bushels	366 bushels
1880	300 bushels	200 bushels	425 bushels

Livestock				
Year	Cow	Horse	Oxen	Pig
1850	2	n/a	4	6
1860	8	2	n/a	3
1880	4	3	n/a	2

