

# Barns of Indiana

## Wayne County, Indiana

The barn wood you purchased came from Wayne County, Indiana. The barn would have been built in the 1800's and was dismantled by an Amish crew. Reasons for dismantling a barn can be in part from a state of disrepair, being too expensive to maintain, or too outdated for modern farm machinery.



**A History of Wayne County Barns:** The first settlements in Wayne County were near the city of Richmond. Friends (Quakers) from North Carolina were the primary settlers. Before the adoption of the US Constitution, the Friends emigrated to Indiana looking for a more congenial society; a society that did not partake in the slave trade.

When settling the land, trees of uniform size were selected and cut to desired lengths. Larger trees were left standing and "deadened" by girdling. This process involved chopping all they away around the tree, through the bark and into the wood. By cutting into the bark this caused the tree to die. Beech trees were ready in three years time, whereas, oak, poplar and walnut would remain standing for many years. Many barns in Indiana were made from beech.

Since the 1800's, Wayne County has always been ranked as a leading agricultural county in the United States. The oldest barn in Wayne County was built in 1810. Nineteenth century barn construction consisted of axe-hewn beams and wood pegs. The framework was assembled on the ground and then hoisted into place using man and horsepower.

In 1870, there were 1,989 farms of all sizes. Three years later there were 2,572 working farms. An 1837 census for the town of Richmond revealed the following: 16 dry goods stores, 3 apothecaries, 4 hatters, 5 tailors, 5 shoe shops, 1 merchant mill, 1 oil mill, 1 woolen factory, 2 foundries. Sheep and wheat were agricultural products for Wayne County in the 1800's.

**The Future of Wayne County Barns:** Ed Pollock, director of Wayne County Resource Inventory Council has been inventorying existing barns. He currently has 580 in the inventory. To ensure the longevity of Indiana Barns, the state has created a property tax deduction for eligible heritage barns. These barns must have been built before 1950, retain sufficient integrity of design, materials and construction. The barn also is not to be used for agricultural or business purposes to be eligible for the deduction.



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

### Indiana Barn Types

