

## Finding Someone to Fix Your Barn

By Tom Irrer



*Gierok Barn in Rochester Hills during rehabilitation project*

There are people all across Michigan who do repair work on old barns. Some do historically accurate timber frame work. Some do structural reinforcement by using cables. Some specialize in installing steel roofing and siding. Many will repair anything from foundation to cupola.

### **MBPN Contractor List**

Our website at [mibarn.net](http://mibarn.net) maintains a list of our barn contractor members. (Disclaimer: Inclusion in the list is not an endorsement.) [Check out these contractors](#) and determine the level of historically correct work that you desire.

### **Small Town Lumberyards**

Another place to look for barn repair people is to visit a lumberyard in a small town. Ask who does barn repair work in your area and buys materials at their lumberyard. Usually you can pick up three or four good leads there.

Take the time to contact these builders and have them refer you to some of the jobs that they have done. Visit the owners of some of these projects.

### **Barn Owners**

Most barn owners are very friendly people and are very proud to show you their newly restored barn. They will easily tell you about their experiences with their builder. They would probably like to see you fix up your barn too as they obviously enjoy seeing well-kept farm buildings.

After you have observed the quality of the work that has been done, you will get a feel for the barn repair people you would like to hire. Estimating the cost of your job is always a challenge, but often the barn owner you visit will share a rough idea to help you get started.

## **Traveling Barn Painters**

There are a few barn painting contractors that come to Michigan from the South during the summer months and paint quite a few barns. They tend to do the work at a lower cost. There may be a few more drips and over-sprays, but some barn owners are willing to accept this to receive the lower cost. These painters as well as those builders who work locally are composed mostly of good, honest, and fair people.

## **Due Diligence**

With all of these service providers, it is very, very important to make sure that you are dealing with a reputable person.

- Get references.
- Visit some of their work.
- Ask about insurance and licensing.

This all takes time, but proper planning and selection of a competent contractor willing to work with your ideas and finances is the most important thing that you can do for your barn project.

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