



Working Wonders in Wood  
**Real Wood.  
Real Stories.**

**MissionBell**  
reclaimed

## The Story: Ferry Morse Seed Barn



Built in 1910, the landmark Ferry-Morse Seed Barn was a part of the largest seed distribution company in the world, the Ferry-Morse Seed Company. In the mid-19th century, rich California miners had begun building new homes with large extravagant gardens; it was this that initially spurred the growth of the nursery trade in California. Being a savvy businessman, Mr. Ferry later helped develop the seed industry into what we know today. For instance, it was Mr. Ferry's innovative idea to use small envelopes to hold seeds. It was also his idea to put illustrations of each plant on the outside of the seed envelopes and put them on racks for display. Additionally, he's said to have been the key influence and marketer that led to gardening becoming one of the most popular hobbies in the USA.

Part of the company's success was the seed production facility in San Juan Bautista, California. The barn, and surrounding property, housed a research, quality control, and production department, and barracks housing for many of their 100 full-time and seasonal employees. The Seed Barn was three stories tall, with the production line starting on the third story, moving down through the center of the floor to the second story, and ending on the first floor. Seeds were sifted out of flowers and fruit as they moved through seed mills and a complex series of screens from one floor to the next.

Unfortunately, San Francisco no longer provides a market where seed merchants can thrive. As a result, in 1989 the Ferry-Morse Seed Company closed its San Juan Bautista production facility. Mission Bell is pleased to have acquired the barn's rustic wood for new and exciting projects.



FSC® Recycled 100%  
Material #: SB-DF Seed Barn Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziesii*)  
SB-RW Seed Barn Redwood (*Sequoia Sempervirens*)