

Moving History

INNSBROOK, MO (August 2, 2018) – History truly refines itself at Innsbrook. The Innsbrook Historical Society (IHS) restored the Homestead Log Cabin in the spring of 2010. When developers purchased a 400-acre tract of land in 1997, little was known about the Log Cabin. Since that time, a group of Innsbrook citizens formed IHS and began unraveling a few of the mysteries previously associated with the land, cabin and other structures.

Initial efforts for the cabin were to remove the deteriorating parts, including the front rooms on the porch. Windows and door jams were replaced with the period originals or reproductions. The roof also was replaced with shake shingles.

Mary Ann Barton, historian for the Innsbrook Historical Society, encourages property owners and visitors to view the latest development on the projects. She emphasized the location allows for reflection and understanding of history to the exact location more than 80 years prior.

“The Log Cabin is always open and the pavilion is there for hikers and those passing by to stop and have lunch or rest,” says Barton.

Now an additional historical area is being developed as the Upper Charrette Schoolhouse is being moved and restored at the Log Cabin site. In 1881 the Upper Charrette Schoolhouse was in use as a school, providing education for area children for nearly 30 years before being rebuilt in 1909. The doors permanently closed in 1941. The structure will now be

restored to continue its educational mission for generations.

IHS members have dedicated many hours to rebuilding the Schoolhouse. They restructured the walls in June of this year and are now working on the rafters. Each week, the committee works with the goal of preservation and education, bringing the community together to celebrate the Innsbrook area and its extensive history.



(Above) The site as construction began in early June.

“The Upper Charrette Schoolhouse also will be available for people to view and enjoy the depth of history in one location,” shares Barton.

Wayne Edwards, IHS grounds board chairman, is a cornerstone of knowledge on the prior restorations.

“We anticipate completing the Schoolhouse this year. A lot of the old building was not salvageable but we are able to retrieve the walls and basic size of the structure. Structurally, it was in very good shape. The walls were made of old oak and were

extremely heavy. We cut the walls into eight or 10 foot sections with each section weighing nearly 300 pounds. Eight members were needed to lift the wall sections onto the trailer and eight to 10 crew members help each week with restructuring the building.”

“Everyone working on the project had office jobs during our careers. This is a great chance for us to do work and at the end of the day be able to see what we’ve accomplished,” says Edwards.

The project will continue after the restoration is complete as the club researches and compiles oral, written and visual histories of the Schoolhouse. There is something for young and old alike. This also will extend to the Schoolhouse when that portion of the project is complete.

“There is a steady stream of visitors when we do reconstruction. When owners have guests, some of their favorite spots to visit are the Log Cabin and now the Schoolhouse,” adds Edwards. There are many artifacts in the cabin and future plans include adding shadow boxes to the Schoolhouse with arrowheads, butterflies and other insects, additional historic documents, photos and much more.

Throughout the year, visitors are able to listen and enjoy the IHS Porch Music Series that features various period impersonations and musical talent. From reenacting the Battle of Melleau Woods to inspirational blends of blues and rock, IHS provides a variety of selections to appeal to visitors. On September 15 at 2 p.m., Melissa Neels will perform at the Log Cabin. She’s one of the few female lead guitarists in St. Louis

and her style resembles that of Bonnie Raitt. More information on the IHS Porch Music series is available at www.innsbrook-resort.com.

The photo below has been taken during the last week in June and shows one wall in the process of being restructured.



(Above) With the help of a dedicated work crew, rafters have now been added to the Schoolhouse. Photo by Gary Barton.