

Jamison Log Cabin

Historical Marker

Just outside the front steps of the Dayton Old School Museum is a Texas Historical Commission marker declaring the school a historic landmark. The marker states the following:

"This authentic log cabin circa mid 1800s was constructed with hand hewn pine logs that were joined with half round saddle notching. The subfloor is made of hackberry and white oak with a pine finished floor; the roof is cedar, hand split shakes. The original clay and moss chinking between the logs is now a mixture of Portland cement, lime, and wash sand with sawdust as a binder.

The cabin was acquired by W.T. Jamison in the early 1920s when he purchased the land on which it sat, located on the southeast edge of French Prairie approximately one mile southeast of the French Cemetery.

The cabin was the home of sharecroppers, with the Murphy family being the last to live there. In 1926, Jet and Josia Murphy moved into the cabin with their children and several other relatives. Lean-to structures were attached for added room. The Murphys grew crops of vegetables and looked after a large herd of hogs owned by Mr. Jamison. The Murphys' son, Forthin, was the last baby born in the cabin (1931). A younger brother of Jett, Johnny Murphy and his family, also sharecroppers, lived there from 1934 to 1940.

In 1962, the J.R. Jamison family moved the cabin to their backyard in Sherwood subdivision, which required disassembling it, numbering the logs, and building it back to its original design. The cabin served several purposes for them over the years: a storage area, boy scout hut, and a place for their son to work on computers, to name a few.

In 2016, Mary Beth Jamison and her children Pete and Ann donated the cabin to the Dayton Historical Society. Again, the cabin was disassembled, the logs numbered, and reassembled to its original design. This time, many of the logs had to be replaced due to our southeast Texas humidity. Under the direction of Dell Brown of Livingston, Texas, many volunteers came together to reconstruct the cabin. Replacement logs were donated by Mr. Brown, Mary Mikulec, and Robert Openshaw. David and Aline Parker, Adelene Stevens, and the Dayton Historical Society provided funds for the cabin restoration.