

The 1880s Log Cabin

The log cabin was located on part of the John R. Jones League that was granted by the Mexican Government in 1831. The cabin was built between 1881-1886 on the John R. Jones League south of Round Top on Willow Springs Road. The cabin was a gift to the Round Top Area Historical Society by Reese and Darla Schmidt in 2003.



It is unknown what this log cabin was used for. It may have been one-half of a dog-trot. First generation dog-trots were used to tie two log cabins together with a common roof. One of the dog-trot cabins may have been used for the family to live in while the other could be used as sleeping quarters or even a kitchen.

Terms for a log cabin:

Sill Log – first course of logs found under the door.

Course of logs – term used to describe each row of logs going around the cabin.

Dove Tail – slant cut of a log at the corner of the cabin. (drains water away).

Chink – mud, straw, gravel placed in between logs (keeps air and rain out).

Chinking – the act of putting chink between logs.

Set Log – course of logs that goes above the door.

Top Log – top course of logs that finishes the walls of a cabin.

Hand Hewn - the chopping of a round log until it is flat on two or four sides.

Broad Axe - axe used to hand hewn a log. (looks like axe with larger blade)

Felling Axe – axe used to hand hewn a log. (looks like a pick axe)

Furring Strip – notch cut into log to place horizontal board in.

Check or Checking – a crack in the face of a log.

Notching – the cutting of a dove tail cut or crown cut at the end of a log.