



**ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**Sandwiching in History Tour
Jacob Wolf House
13775 Highway 5 South, Norfolk, Baxter County**

October 6, 2023

By Marlon Mowdy



*The Jacob Wolf House in Norfolk, seen from the west, facing the river.
Photo by Ashley Sides, 2023*

Welcome

ASHLEY SIDES:

Welcome, everybody. This is the Sandwiching in History tour of the Jacob Wolf House. Who's here at a Sandwiching in History tour for the first time? This is kind of a funny name, right? Sandwiching in History. What does that mean? Well, this is a way to sandwich a little bit of history into your day. It's at noon on a Friday; it's just a great time to come and see some historic site of Arkansas. We've been doing this for 26 years at the Arkansas Historic

Preservation Program. And this is the first time that we've had a chance to come up to the Jacob Wolf House. So, we're very pleased to be here, very excited.

The site manager, Marlon Mowdy, is going to lead this tour because he's the expert on the site. But I wanted to welcome you all, because normally I'm the one leading these tours. And while I have your attention right now, I just want to let you know that our upcoming tour next month is going to be November 3rd down in Drew County at the Taylor House and the Hollywood Plantation. And that's going to be a lot of fun too.

But we're here today to see the Jacob Wolf House, which is one of the oldest buildings that we have in Arkansas and a very significant site. So, without further ado, I'd like to turn it over to Marlon.

MARLON MOWDY:

Thank you, Ashley. It's wonderful to see so many people here at noon on Friday and being a part of this special tour. I'm the site manager, site historian, and we're developing this property today as the State of Arkansas's newest historic site. We being the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in the Division of Arkansas Heritage. I've got some really special and unique history to share with you today.

Introduction to the Jacob Wolf House

So, to set this up, the destination in which you have arrived, almost 200 years ago was a thriving upstart frontier community on the White River known as Liberty, Arkansas. Today, it's the little town of Norfolk. And our namesake, Jacob Wolf, was instrumental in moving that community forward. He was quite a visionary. Jacob wore a lot of different hats. But the destination—because you're at the confluence of the White and Norfolk River, you're up on this flat escarpment, you have a good, compelling look above the river—it was a place for trade and commerce and territorial politics.

Now, a lot of people ask me: a courthouse? I thought this was the Jacob Wolf House? It served two purposes. From 1829 to 1835, it was what was then IZARD County's first territorial courthouse. Baxter County was born out of IZARD County in the early 1880s. It served as a courthouse till 1835, then the seat of justice moved downriver to a little community called Athens, Arkansas. The ownership reverted back to Jacob Wolf; he built it. And from 1835 until 1863, that's when this was the Wolf family home.

So, I'm going to speak to you about the use of the home and about the history here. It's only a two-acre property; that's all that's left of that original community due to modern development. But the culture and the history that has been documented here speaks volumes about how

special this place is and how it's a part of our unique cultural and historical inventory with the agency. Now, before we start the tour, I want to point out a couple of things to you architecturally.

You have two limestone chimneys. But what's different on the upper half of the south side chimney, the south side chimney being this chimney? Brick! That's right. When Jacob Wolf built this to be used as a territorial courthouse, he wanted the visitors to understand: Hey, this isn't Uncle Joe's cabin up the river, this is a government building. It's a special place. To highlight that architecturally on the outside of the building, he built the original chimney and fireplaces out a brick.

Due to a weather event around the end of the Civil War / early 1870s, those chimneys and fireplaces were destroyed. These are second-edition chimneys and fireplaces. They were able to salvage some of that original brick and outfit the upper half of the south side chimney, we believe, to complement some of Jacob's early work. That's why the bricks are there. So, they date back to the time period when he originally built this structure.

This structure... a lot of people ask me—and it's a good question—was this moved here? Has it really been here this long? And the answer is, no, it wasn't moved here. That structure has been in place where it's sitting today since 1829. It's 194 years old.

It's the oldest public structure in Arkansas; it's on the National Register of Historic Places. And then in 2012, the National Park Service was really interested in the structure. They did a one-year long resource study on it, comparing it to other cultural sites and historical sites across our country. In 2013, that report came out, and they documented that the Jacob Wolf House is the last remaining two-story dogtrot public structure in the United States, meaning the others were documented as inns or homes or taverns or stagecoach stops. So, this is really a special structure, and it's right here in Baxter County, Arkansas. It's one of our special treasures identifying the territorial time period.

The other architectural feature I want to point out to you is—look to the top of the roof. No, that wasn't bad carpentry; those extended shingles were there for a purpose, the same on the 1832 John Wolf cabin. There were no roof caps on these structures 200 years ago. The extended shingles—their vernacular nickname is turkey feathers—were always put on the windward side of the building, the west side here. So, rain and sleet and snow would be propelled up over the roof, helping to keep it dry. Pretty ingenious.

The Dogtrot and Other Architectural Notes

This is the breezeway. Every day at least six- to eight-mile-an-hour winds come off of the river; it's a little bit cooler in here, shady. Now, I called it a breezeway... guess what its nickname is? Anybody that's familiar with this type of architectural structure: What's that nickname of that breezeway? Anybody know?

It's a dogtrot. What in the world are you talking about now? Well, I'll use this summer in July as an example. It's a 120-degree heat index out here. Two hundred years ago, it's shady, it's got eight-, ten-mile-an-hour winds coming off the river. Your old hound dogs will lie up in the breezeway, and that's how it got its nickname, the dogtrot. Some people call it a possum trot because at night, possums and raccoons could run through here as well.

Now that you're in the middle of the Wolf House, start looking at the architecture, start looking at its construction... even the cobwebs.

Eighty percent of this structure retains its original integrity. We continue to restore it as needed. Last year, we put a new roof on it, new shutters, and did some other repairs. Ninety percent of these hand-cut, hand-hewn massive yellow pine timbers are original. All the ceiling joists in the building are original. The floor upstairs in the courtroom is the original floor from 1829, minus a couple of repair spots. Hey, if I was 194 years old, I might have to have a couple of repair spots too, okay?

Look at this ceiling joist. You see that joint where those two joists join together? That's called a scarf joint. You got a keyhole in each hand supported by a rod that goes up through the middle like a dowel rod. There were no original scarf joints in the building when it was constructed, but when it went through a major restoration and some of these timbers and joists had to be replaced, it was a good time to interpret that joint in a way that was in common use back then, so that's called a scarf joint.

You're experiencing, most importantly, where history happened. This building wasn't moved here; it wasn't reconstructed. This is the last remaining structure from the frontier community of Liberty, territorial Arkansas. It has a compelling presence even today up above the White River. Road systems like Highway 5 out here were underdeveloped at best during that time period. So, the primary means of transportation into areas like the Central Highlands of the Ozarks was your waterways: keelboats, flatboats, and paddlewheel steamships came through here and ported and docked below the hill.

Jacob Wolf

Jacob Wolf was a territorial legislator. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1826; he represented this part of Arkansas. He was a very astute businessman as well. He got approval from the territorial government to build the county's first courthouse. He owned a mercantile store below the hill here. He owned two ferry crossings. And that road over there on the west bank of the river—that's one of the original ferry crossing roads. He owned two keelboats.

He owned 400 acres of land in the river valley that he harvested each year. He was a master log builder and a master blacksmith. He was the postmaster here. And last but not least, he was a Southern Baptist preacher. So, Jacob *was* Liberty, Arkansas.

Okay, let's go into the county clerk's office and see what old John P. Houston is up to today.

County Clerk's Office

This was the county clerk's office. A man by the name of John P. Houston was the county clerk here the entirety that this was a courthouse. Now, John's name doesn't jump off the pages of history at you. But you might be familiar with his younger brother, American statesman Sam Houston.

What kind of business did you conduct here with John? Well, selling and acquisition of land, deeds, titles, abstracts, marriage license, voter registration. You came here to vote as well. And family folklore tells us with Jacob being the politician he was—the astute businessman that he was—when it was time to vote and come to the territorial courthouse, he even kept a keg of whiskey out in the breezeway. Politics haven't changed much, have they?

How do we know, though, for sure, even with all the history that's documented here, that this was a special place in this government building, which was used as the county clerk's office? Well, outside of having that history documented, the story continues in the architecture. At the bottom of each one of these ceiling joists is an engraved line. You see that line going down both sides? On the outside edge of each one of these floor planks, there's a small bead that runs down through there. That's called dressing. And it's a subtle hint that Jacob Wolf put into the architecture to describe for the visitor: This isn't Uncle Joe's cabin up the river; this is a special government office. This was a style of architecture for government buildings and especially important offices in government buildings 200 years ago. You combine the history with those subtle hints in the architecture, and that's how we know this is where the county clerk's office was.

Okay, now we're going to cross the dogtrot, and just follow me over into the jury room.

Jury Room

Every courthouse, especially a territorial courthouse, had a room designated for jury duty, and this was that room. Not only has it been identified as such in historical records, but again, look at the hints in the architecture [*gesturing to the ceiling joist dressing*]: It's a special government room in the building.

You didn't have court in session every day like the courts in our communities do now. You were in a backwoods area in the Central Highlands of the Ozarks. From 1829 up through 1835, court was held here. You had traveling judges and lawyers. Court was held in session here, for example, in the spring and the summer and the early fall.

The judge upstairs obviously would make his decisions over the cases. But if a case was determined based upon the evidence to go to trial, he would pick his jury, and they would deliberate that case in this room.

Now, at this point in the tour, I usually get in trouble. Ladies, just remember, I'm the messenger, all right? Women, during this time period, traditionally, were not allowed in courthouses. Why is that? Anybody got any idea? We're talking late 1820s, 1830s here. Any idea?

ATTENDEE:

Women's places were considered to be in the home.

MOWDY:

That's correct, Revis.

ATTENDEE:

They couldn't vote.

MOWDY:

That's another reason, albeit that was coming about 100 years later.

So as an example, your husband passed away and you needed to settle your state. You find yourself upstairs in front of the judge in probate court. It would behoove you to have a trusted male family member to help make your testimony more credible. That's just the way it was. Thank goodness times have changed.

Also, obviously, you didn't have twelve men and women on a jury. Consider where we're at right now. It's 1831, 1832. If the judge could find five to seven honest, credible, and sober men to be on the jury, they would conduct their business right here. That's just the way things were.

Wolf Family Home and Kitchen

Now, this also was the Wolfs' house. By 1835, we're one year away from what? You Arkansas historians...? Statehood! You had political rivalries back then, just like you do today, and Jacob Wolf was in constant competition with his political rivalries, the Jeffreys; they both held public office. Well, guess what? The Jeffreys won out this time, and they got the seat of justice moved downriver to Athens, Arkansas, and put up a little shanty of a building to be a courthouse... when you have this! Anyway, from 1835 until Jacob died on January 1st, 1863, this was the Wolf family home.

Now, what have we not seen in these two rooms so far that we take for granted every day in our household? Well, there's no electricity, there's no running water, there's no restroom... No *kitchen*! When we get back outside, you can see—you may have noticed it standing out front earlier—you see a gristmill stone on the ground behind the house. In front of that gristmill stone, there's a depression in the ground.

Twenty-three years ago, when this place went through a three-year-long restoration and professional archeologists were able to investigate under and around the house and do some survey work out on the property, that depression is where they located the outdoor kitchen and root cellar.

This door in this room is the only door in the house that goes to the east side of the property, facing the kitchen. You would have brought your meals from the outdoor kitchen in here and fed your family, friends, and guests, for example.

Pre-Civil War, the west side of the property facing the river, that was the front of the property where all the activity was. Post-Civil War, with roads better developed, the east side became the front of the property. And archeologically, the record proves that as well. The kitchen was originally out back.

Chinking and Daubing

I have one more point of interest in this room. Everybody see this open wall? This speaks to the construction methods. In between the logs, you have your daubing, or your mortar. A lot of people call that chinking. It's not chinking, it's daubing. Mortar.

These wooden slats here between the timbers, that's your chinking. This is the original chinking from 1829. It's made out of white oak slats, about five inches long, four inches wide, half inch thick. You wrap your daubing—your mortar—on both sides of the wall over and under the

chinking, and it comes out flush with the top timber and it comes out flush with the bottom timber, leaving the daubing a little bit beveled: flat-face timber, beveled daubing, flat-face timber, beveled daubing and so on, on the outside of the building; it allows for a ripple effect. With rain and sleet and snow, your water is not pooling up in one place, rotting your wood.

Now, what kind of a binding agent did they use in this daubing to hold it together? Look right here—and you can see it throughout the building. They mixed horsehair with it.

A lot of people ask me, what's that daubing—that mortar—made out of? It's made out of one of the historical formulas: two parts lime, nine parts sand, and one part Portland cement.

Wait a minute. Portland cement? Portland cement didn't exist 200 years ago, did it? I want to bring to your attention that in 1824 England, through trial and error and different methods and technologies, they developed a fine powder that they got out of Portland stone when they crushed it, and they realized they could use it for these timber structures as well as brick structures. And that process, when it came to America, quickly replaced the time-honored tradition, depending on where you live, of fired clay. Two parts lime, nine parts sand, one part Portland cement.

All right. It's getting a little stuffy. Let's get out here in the breezeway and cool off.

Now, we got everybody. Hey, I'm really excited that so many people showed up. Fans of Ashley Sides and Sandwiching in History! A lot of people follow him on his tours all over the state. And Susan brought some of her students up here as well. And then Baxter County Historical Society is represented here. This is a great day to have a program like this.

All right, we're going to go up into the courtroom. I've been watching you. I've been keeping an eye on you. I've got two, three people that I've already chosen who are going to be in front of the judge! We're going to take the stairwell up into the courtroom, okay? The stairs are not original, so you're safe.

Courtroom

Okay everybody, you're in the original courtroom that existed here almost 200 years ago. You had traveling judges and lawyers like I told you earlier. The judge would have presided over cases, sitting here. [*Gesturing to locations around the room*] Plaintiff, defendant's attorneys, court recorder, witnesses, jury on the periphery of the courtroom, perhaps the sheriff and a couple of his deputies, and then if you were pleading or defending your case, you sit right here in front of the judge.

We have a very successful program that we do up here with, oh, say sixth- to ninth-grade students. Unbeknownst to them, literally until we get them up here, they're being involved in a mock trial. Down below, when we started, everybody had a number. I would just start choosing numbers. They'd fill the positions: the jury, the sheriff, folks who were on trial, everybody. And one of our favorite trials that we hold here is: are you guilty or not, of horse stealing? That was a very serious offense back then. Think about somebody stealing your car. We have a lot of fun with it. We've done about 30 of those trials in here. And not one time have you been found innocent because the jury is your friends. You find out who your friends are by the end of the day. They always find their buddies guilty. Today we certify cases by classifications of misdemeanors or felonies. Similar type cases we're heard here as well.

Also, what was happening here was happening 100 miles to the east of us at Davidsonville, for example. So we had a pretty good idea of what went on here during this time period.

Look at the floors. The floors are the original floors from 1829. You can look down and still see the hand-cut square-head nails in the floor, okay?

There were sawmills here. We don't know yet whether Jacob Wolf, albeit a master carpenter, had a sawmill. Archeologically, we haven't found it, but we are going to do other excavations here in the future. We work with our sister agency, the Arkansas Archeological Survey in helping manage the cultural side of the property. But we do know there's a historical record of a sawmill down here on Moccasin Creek in 1824.

Look to the ceiling. These are the original rafters from 1829. You have a large, vaulted ceiling. Look to the very center. You have what's called lap joints on those rafters. They literally lap over each other and right in the center of the rafters are large wooden pegs on every one of them. Those were called treenails.

Now you come down to look at the top log; your rafters are well seated and secure, about a foot deep behind the top log. So you don't need joists or any other type of support. This was a wonderful design for a vaulted ceiling: practical purpose, good runoff, and the roof is hinged right there. Those joints aren't going anywhere and they're supported in place behind the top logs. The wide boards over the rafters, that's called fletching, and the shakes—your shingles, if you will—are attached to the fletching, the fletching's attached to the rafters.

Now, 200 years ago, it most likely would have been white oak shakes. Today, due to insurance purposes, we use fire retardant cedar shakes, 5/8-inch thick so they'll last a long time.

These stabilization bars were put in here 23 years ago when the major restoration went on. If you look over here—not to alarm you folks—the west side wall's leaning out a little bit. It's not going anywhere. These bars help keep tension on the wall. But what does that mean? Why is

the west side wall leaning out a little bit? Architecturally speaking, we know at some point there was at least a partial roof failure that pushed that wall out. During the restoration, we were able to better secure it. It looks iffy, but it's good.

All right. The last stop in the courthouse is that next room right there. We know of two documented uses of it.

Judge's Chambers / Wolf Bedroom

When this was the courthouse, this room had the judge's chambers, private meetings, consultations. When this became the Wolf family home, Jacob and his wife—this was their master bedroom. And may not look like a master bedroom to us today. It's very spacious. Had a wonderful view of the river, of the coming and goings on the road out here. You had your own fireplace.

So originally you had four fireplaces in this structure: two downstairs, two upstairs. Why are these upstairs ones boarded in? Why aren't these restored, like the two downstairs? When this went through a major three-year long restoration 23 years ago, engineers, architects, architectural historians, they all evaluated and assessed the condition of it. It was in a bad state of repairs. They were afraid they would cause further damage to the chimney structure if they got in there and tried to restore it. So, they boarded it up, but you can obviously tell this is where one of the fireplaces were, okay?

ATTENDEE:

Do you mind speaking to everyone that may not understand why you didn't put a fake fireplace up here or something?

MOWDY:

So downstairs, if you look at the two fireplaces that have been restored, okay, it wasn't a big leap forward in doing that. They were still fairly structurally sound. These up here—and like I said, I've got the photos from our historic structures report—you had missing pieces of the fireplace. It was crumbling. It was falling down, falling apart.

The framework that supports the fireplace is the chimney. And downstairs you're on the bottom level. Upstairs, here, you're 12, 15 feet up. You have to use that framework to support the fireplace structurally. And all of it up here was in a bad state of repairs.

So, there was a lot of assessing and evaluating and discussions that went into whether you can reasonably pursue restoring this versus the ones we did downstairs, which were not in as bad shape. So, the decision was made by the architects, by the engineers, by the architectural

historians, not to pursue this. They felt like they would cause further damage because it was in such a bad state of repairs to begin with. So, they chose not to restore these two up here, but close them in.

Now, a lot of times on this part of the tour, somebody will say, “Wait a minute! Master bedroom? You don't have much privacy with that partition there open above the wall level.” We have to remember, this was built, designed, and constructed to be a courthouse. And that partition is only as strong as the wall that it's tying into. It serves no good purpose to follow the contour of the ceiling.

Now, what was that large space out there used for once this became a family home? It's no longer a courtroom. Any ideas? Kids' bedroom?

Jacob had 16 children. With three different wives, okay. Ten of his own and six that were believed to have been adopted. There was another structure here on the grounds for them. This dogtrot was the second structure. North of this structure, about over where the split-rail fence is, was their first two-story home. So, a lot of the family stayed over there. It wasn't a dogtrot.

So back to that room that used to be the courtroom on the other side of that partition, what about it? One lady's first-person account in 1848—we have it in our archives—witnessed 18 different bed rolls out there. We found out that Jacob Wolf periodically rented that room out as an inn. Now, obviously not the Holiday Inn Express. But you were out of the elements, you got a meal, you put your bed roll down. Okay, how much do you think that cost almost 200 years ago?

ATTENDEE:

A quarter.

MOWDY:

Who said that? A quarter. It cost a quarter. Now, a quarter was a lot of money back then, almost 200 years ago.

Does anybody have any questions or comments?

ATTENDEE:

There's no glass windows...

MOWDY:

There's no windows!

ATTENDEE:

But downstairs there was glass...

MOWDY:

Downstairs were government offices.

And upstairs you just have shutters. We have some photos from the early 1900s, 1905-1910, when Jacob Wolf's youngest, one of his younger grandsons lived here and he was putting a new roof on it, and he's standing out there in the front yard with this big crosscut saw: same shutters. From history to the architecture, this speaks to that as well. It's not uncommon with these vernacular structures: you have these shutters up here and windows for the government offices downstairs when it was a courthouse, and they left the windows in place, obviously.

Good question. Anything else?

ATTENDEE:

How did they heat? Just with the fireplaces?

MOWDY:

Your heat was with four fireplaces, and heat rises, okay? And these walls are 6 to 8 inches thick, with the mortar. So, in the summer when we're doing programs, it's about 3 to 4 degrees cooler in these rooms. In the winter—albeit a little drafty; it's not like our homes today—you had four fireplaces. And you didn't know what you didn't know.

Two hundred years ago, they were on the cutting edge of technology. Sometimes we look at other cultures and think, you know, "Well, they were really primitive." Well, they didn't know they were primitive. We're looking at it through the biases of our own glasses. Two hundred years ago, they were on the cutting edge of technology. Well, just think about what Grandpa had 80 years ago, that seems really primitive! They did the best they could with what they had. And they did a fine job here with the Wolf House.

Okay. Good questions. All right, let's go back down the breezeway. I'm going to speak to the archeology and what Highway 5 was.

Archeology

Come on around, folks, we got room. We got good time. Everything's working out well. Almost as if we planned it! Where you folks visiting from today?

ATTENDEE:

Cabot

MOWDY:

Okay. A lot of people from Cabot, Conway, Little Rock. Got some local folks here. That's good. We appreciate your support.

ATTENDEE:

From Japan too.

MOWDY:

Really! All right, is everybody down? Can you hear me?

All right. The archeological record. We work with our sister agency, the Arkansas Archeological Survey, in managing the cultural side of the property. During this major three-year long restoration 23 years ago, it provided an opportunity for professional archeologists. These floors had to be removed and new floors put in. They were able to get under the house for the very first time, and one of the first things the archeologists recognized, the ground underneath this house had never been disturbed. There wasn't another house ever built here. There was never a garden put here.

Within the first 10 to 15 centimeters, they were discovering large caches of prehistoric Native American points and tools that dated back 7500 years, the Archaic time period. You're on a flat escarpment, you're up above the flood plain, a perfect location for seasonal hunting and fishing. Now, where is that collection at today? It's being housed in Arkansas Archeological Survey's collection management facility, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. We don't have room right now for an exhibit gallery or an exhibit environment, so it's in a safe keep area.

What else did they find here? Underneath the north pen: bowls, bottles, jars, plates, cups from England dating to the frontier time period. They found pieces of porcelain dolls. Why is that important? It speaks to the affluency of the family, when most little girls were making their dolls out of corn husk, or rag dolls with stuffed straw. They found 100 clay marbles—kids were kids! They found buttons and buckles. Under the south pen where ol' John P. Houston worked—he was a character; he always had plentiful amount of firearms and knives lying around—they found part of a Bowie knife.

Benge Route of the Trail of Tears

Okay. Highway 5 that you drove in on, in the 1830s was the Jackson to Fort Smith Military Road that went all the way across northern Arkansas over to what is Fayetteville today, and down to Fort Smith. In December of 1838 and January of 1839, that became the Benge Route of the

Cherokee Trail of Tears. Four major routes for removal, and all of them came through Arkansas. You had a southern round, a water route. You had a route that went from basically what is Memphis today to Little Rock and beyond, a road, military road. You had the northern route right here, and then you had a route that went in and came in just in the corner, northwest corner of the state near Fayetteville.

This was the Benge Route. Captain John Benge under U.S. government treaty in September of 1838 left Fort Payne, Alabama, with approximately 1100 men, women and children. They didn't go across straight across like other routes did. They wanted to stay away from the swamps in the Mississippi. So, they went up through Tennessee and southern Illinois into the boot hill of Missouri, came back down into northern Arkansas to Batesville, and then followed the White River corridor, this road, which was developed by then, over into Indian territory. Reportedly, Jacob Wolf repaired some of their carriages and wagons.

When I arrived here, and we were researching and drilling down on the culture and history here, I started working with the National Park Service National Trails Office in Santa Fe, off and on for about three years, from 2019 to 2022, and further documenting that history here, and we're very proud that last August, the National Park Service certified the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site as a formal Cherokee Trail of Tears Interpretive Site. We have our signage up out there on the highway. So, this is a program area as well.

Some of you were around earlier when I was talking about future development. Later this month, we're going to start Phase Three development. We're going to continue the 1840 replica fence around the rest of the property. Next to the Wolf House over here is the cistern; we're going to restore it. And then on the other side of the boardwalk—the overlook—we're building a small, covered picnic pavilion. And then at the end of this month, we're installing our brand new wayside interpretive panels to replace these old ones. And one of those panels is on the Cherokee Trail of Tears. So, our new interpretive panels will identify and highlight for you a lot of the culture and history I've been sharing with you on the tour.

John Wolf Cabin

After this you can walk down to the 1832 John Wolf cabin. It's 400 square feet. And we have brand new exhibits in there that we're really proud of that we planned over the last two years. You can reasonably fit maybe ten people in there. It tells the story of John Wolf.

I felt it was really important that people understood the role of women on the frontier. So, we have an exhibit in there we did on a day in the life of a woman on the frontier, and then I felt it was important that they understood what a day in the life of children on the frontier was.

You can go through that on your own, absorb the exhibits and learn. We have audio in there, sounds of the cabin. So, if you want to do that, you're more than welcome to go down to the John Wolf cabin. That was Jacob's brother's cabin. It's not original to the site. We just finished restoring it, but that's a really neat exhibit that we placed in there.

Now, John Wolf and his wife in that tiny 400-square-foot cabin raised ten children. You might be asking by this point, sixteen children of Jacob, ten children with John. Why did you have such a large families back then? Anybody have any ideas?

ATTENDEE:

Labor.

MOWDY:

Labor! That's right. That's right. So, from the time you were this small, till you were 16 or 17, you were building up a skill set of how to live on off the land and work around the farm or the homestead. So basically, you just used the cabin to eat and sleep. John and his wife slept downstairs, there's a tiny loft upstairs. And then with no school systems here like Little Rock, the mother was your educator and religious teacher.

John made his living being a traveling Southern Baptist preacher. And for a whole year's worth of work, he made \$98.80. That's worth about \$3300 dollars today. So you're more than welcome to enjoy the exhibit environment down there as well. If you want to go back to the visitor center, take a break. You can do that as well.

Conclusion

So, this concludes our tour here at the Wolf House.

We have wonderful examples around the state that speak to the unique vernacular architecture, the unique history that brings this place to life. You have Davidsonville, similar time period, 1815 to 1830; you have historic Washington down by Hope, a lot of history there including the territorial time period; you have the newest property, the Jacob Wolf House historic site.

But I really appreciate you coming out. I appreciate Ashley involving us on the Sandwiching in History tour this year. Like I said, we're a brand-new upstart property that we're still developing. It's a welcome addition to our agency's cultural and historical inventory. This is a property worth preserving and protecting and promoting, and that's what we're doing.

And we appreciate you guys coming out today. Thank you.

ASHLEY:

Thank you for doing this.

MOWDY:

You're welcome. You're welcome. I hope you enjoyed yourself and had a little bit of fun.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is the agency of Arkansas Heritage responsible for the identification, evaluation, registration and preservation of the state's cultural resources. Arkansas Heritage is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.



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