

**Davis County Historical Society**  
(To Preserve the Past in the Present for the Future)  
Phone: 641/664-1855 - 205 S. Dodge Street – Bloomfield, IA 52537

**January 20, 2022**

**Many years ago, Quentin Johnson, Lillian Haufe and so many other Davis County residents realized the need to preserve the history of our town and community. In 1962, they organized the Davis Co. Historical Society. With the help of the Exchange Bank, they were able to purchase the home of the Dr. William Findley Family.**

**Throughout the years, the one room school, the Mormon cabin, the Livery barn and the Savannah Christian Church have been added to the complex.**

**It is our job, as caretakers of the complex, to do our best to keep up on the repairs and improvements of the complex.**

**We have seen considerable deterioration of the Mormon cabin. After an inspection of the facility by a practiced 1800's Mormon cabin restorer, we were informed of the problems and cost to restore the cabin. Because of the extreme expense to repair the cabin to Mormon cabin standards, we are looking at doing it in stages.**

**This restoration is our top priority at this time. Many Mormons as well as other visitors stop at the complex just to visit the cabin. We are asking for funding to start this restoration process.**

**We would like to thank you for your consideration in granting us funding to begin these repairs.**

**Sincerely,**

**Cherri Casteel, Treasurer  
Davis County Historical Society  
205 S. Dodge Street  
Bloomfield, Iowa 52537**

## Hotel/Motel Tax Funding Request

Organization Name: Davis County Historical SocietyAddress: 205 S. Dodge St. Bloomfield, IA 52537Contact Person: Cherri Casteel Phone: 641/664-1508Purpose of Organization: We are dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching and interpreting historical information to help future generations understand their heritage.Amount Requested This Year: \$6,000Please describe what these funds will be used for if awarded: We are asking for funding to start the restoration of the Mormon Cabin to restore it to Mormon Cabin standards. The interior loft ceiling is coming down and the floor is getting soft due to the rotting of the subfloor structure. The windows and doors have deteriorated and need replaced. There are a few logs that have to be replaced and replace chinking to fill the gaps.

Attach a copy of your organization's current budget and a proposed budget for next year, including revenue and expense estimates.

Does your organization utilize a professional fund raiser: Yes or No (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list source and amount of funds available for this project. Do not include Hotel/Motel funds.

D.C. Board of Supervisors Historic Preservation - \$2,500.00, Memberships \$1,000, Donations \$1,000 andFunding from Mormon Trail Organization \$2,000Person Completing this Form: Cherri CasteelAddress: 23200 - 195<sup>th</sup> Street Bloomfield, IA 52537Signature: Cherri Casteel Date: 1/19/2022

Include any additional information or supporting documentation for your request that you feel would be helpful.

Submit Completed Report to: City of Bloomfield  
111 West Franklin Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537This Box For Office Use Only  
Date Request Received in Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Considered by Council \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Awarded \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Notified \_\_\_\_\_



# Davis Co. Historical Society Complex

## Harbour Log Cabin

After the murder of Mormon Joseph Smith in Carthage, IL, the Mormons began planning their great migration from Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah seeking religious and political freedom.

In 1848, (two years after Iowa became a state) one Mormon family was traveling from Nauvoo, IL to Salt Lake City, UT.

This family ran into a blizzard in southern Iowa. They made it to a farm near Belknap in northwest Davis County. The family asked the farmer if they could spend the night on his property. The winter was a really harsh one and the family asked if they could stay through the winter. The Mormons were short of food and out of money.

The farmer said they could stay until spring, if they would build a log cabin. They went about a mile and a half north of the farm into unclaimed government forest and cut the pick of white oak. At Joel Harbour's request, they hewed logs, notched them in place and shingled the roof with hand-cut oak shingles. The cabin is about 16 feet square. They also built a large fireplace to use for heat as well as cooking. The cabin has two doors and two windows as escape routes from the Indians. A hive of bees also called part of the cabin home.

As other Mormon's made their trip to Utah, they also passed near Belknap and spent time in this cabin between the years of 1849 and 1895.

As years passed, some improvements were made at the cabin - the loft was finished and later electricity was made available.

The landowner moved his family into the cabin in 1903.

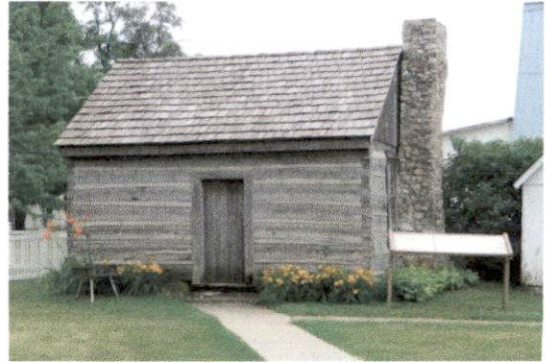
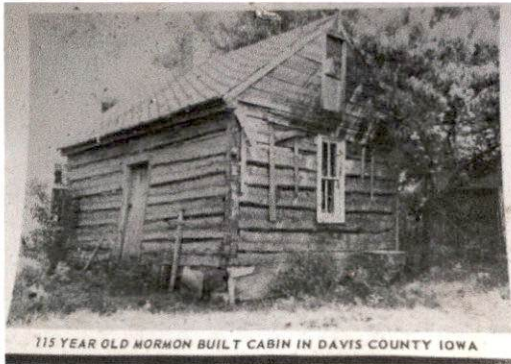
Soon after, the cabin was no longer used for living purposes, except as a summer kitchen, when another home was constructed nearby. It was also used as a wash house and utility storage.

The cabin was donated by the family of Tom and Beryl Harbour of Belknap, Iowa. It was moved to the Davis Co. Historical Society Complex on August 16, 1971. Numerous repairs were made on the cabin at that time.

With age, the cabin floor has started to sag, the loft roof is falling in and several exterior logs are needing to be replaced.

In order to be able to keep the cabin open to the visitors, we are attempting to raise funds to reinforce the structure and replace the deteriorating logs.

1848 - 2022



### Interior of Log Cabin today

