



"Pioneer Architecture

Simple, Authentic Perfect"

After years of building restoring and living in many styles of "log homes" we found ourselves contemplating what we have come to with the modern log home and pondering the American dream of sitting back and enjoying the crackling fire on a cold winter night surrounded by massive logs in a quaint, cozy setting. We want to imagine the old times as we gaze at the true craftsmanship and hard labor that surrounds us, and trying to somehow feel the connection with our ancestors so long ago, however, it seems to be getting harder and harder to make that connection due to over fabrication.

With so many things in America being driven by mass production and automation, most of today's log homes leave very little left to stir my blood. Other than the fact that they are solid wood there is little sign of the organic beauty remaining. I feel that in many cases high quality natural wood siding would have been a better choice for an authentic look. What happened to the real log cabin?

Here at Primitive Log and Timberworks, we strive for authenticity at all costs. We are going back to our roots and mass production is not a priority for us. We have spent many years restoring and relocating reclaimed historic log buildings and farm structures from the heart of pioneer America in search of some of the earliest forms of log and timber architecture. We have photographed, sketched and documented some of the most pristine examples in the country for the sake of reference, both in restoring the old and replicating with new logs to recreate the best possible representation of pioneer period log and timber buildings. We are very proud of our heritage here at Primitive and through quality craftsmanship and continuous research we pay tribute to those who struggled to carve out a home on the American frontier.



Two of our pre- civil war reclaimed log structures.

OUR 19th CENTURY REPLICA LINE:

Here at Primitive Log and Timberworks, we strive for authenticity and work very hard to recreate the original pioneer style log house. We specialize in flat hewn Appalachian style log building with varying chink joints and full length logs in most cases. All of our logs are hand selected from a large inventory for size, character and compatibility for the structure in which they are to be used. Our house logs are brought down to 6 inches in thickness and receive a rustic hewn finish on the two flat sides, and the two bark edges are draw knifed clean. Natural contour of the log can be seen at the top and bottom edges of every log. As we lay each coarse we try to preserve the natural contour variations, selecting the best possible log for each coarse and adjusting as necessary just as they would have 150 years ago. With natural contour logs, the inconsistent variations in the chink joints and the log is the real beauty that so many of the log kits today do away with. We savor the knots, waves and any other natural variations in our logs. These logs are trees and we want them to look that way! Our chink spaces vary from almost tight up to four to five inches with much of that depending on the logs themselves, most chink spaces are two to four inches. The installation of backing and chinking is the same system we use for our reclaimed structures. We do not use spline boards or pre-fit backing allowing us to use logs in their most natural form.



Corner Notching

Our corner notches are half dovetail with approximately two inch overhangs. Notches are precisely fit together and provide a very strong interlocking wall system. The half dovetail was the notch of choice for the old timers for obvious reasons but only the most skilled craftsman could cut and fit them properly. The design draws the corners together when the weight of the upper logs is applied, forming an inseparable connection. This notch also drains water off of the joint at a downward angle preventing rot and decay. I have disassembled many dovetailed cabins that have stood for 150 years plus and have not one fastener in the corners and still remain in perfect form to this day. This system has proven the test of time and we are going to continue the tradition.

Sills and Plates

When it comes to sill logs and top plates, we are somewhat flexible because of the varying options for floor and roof systems. Most folks these days are building sub-floor systems and the log walls merely sit on top of that requiring a flat cut starter log on the bottom coarse. Traditional methods suspend the entire floor from very large sill beams set on a foundation of stones. The roof system traditionally would have been pole rafters and planks covered with hand split shake shingles. We still offer these traditional methods for the purist, however it is by special request only. We will generally provide rough sawn materials for rafters and planks to enclose the roof, but there are so many different systems for finishing a roof that it is best to discuss that on a per case basis. We will provide a large top plate log coarse heavy enough to support most roof systems in a basic package. Please contact us, we would be glad to discuss the system that would best suit your application.

Window and Door Openings

On all of our replica cabins, we prefer to cut window and door openings after the log walls are erected on their permanent foundation. It makes the re-erection process much faster and involves less pieces. Most of our structures are built with full length logs and the openings are cut afterwards which is the way it was done long ago. The beauty of the continuous log and grain patterns within a single course is very important in the authentic look, instead of filling in random length pieces between doors and windows. This creates a very natural flow and aesthetically pleasing appearance within the wall. After re-erection the openings will be laid out, vertical load blocking will be installed prior to cutting, openings will be sawn out and a large rough sawn buck fastened in place. At this point you are ready for final window and door jambs to be installed.

Dimensions and Plans

We are capable of creating any log or timber structure you desire, from small outbuildings and barns to full sized log houses. Our log shells most often are one or one and a half stories in height following the style of original examples we have documented. Most original pioneer structures were humble in size and simple in design and we are continuing this tradition and begin with basic square or rectangular floor plans and expand on those as necessary. We use rough planed 4 X 8" joists for second floor supports that are notched completely through the log walls and extend slightly to the outside. This is an authentic touch that enhances the old timely look. Stairs are usually built on site, however, we can assist in providing materials or by pre-building a set for you. Most original structures were fitted with enclosed corner stair cases which require on-site design and construction.

Floors and Finishing Lumber

Floor choices can vary anywhere from rustic rough sawn planks to kiln dried tongue and groove wide plank flooring. We can supply any floor you desire, however, it is usually not included in our log shell prices. Our supply varies but we can usually offer pine, red and white oak, hickory or walnut as choices. We also offer S4S or rough sawn in the same species for finishing work. Prices will vary due to market fluctuation, so check with us for an updated quote.

Optional Timber Framed Porches

Most of our cabins will have a mortise and tenon porch support frame fastened together with oak pegs. These timbers are rough planed and add a very authentic touch with the wood pegs being exposed when finished. Posts and plates are 6" X 6" and diagonal braces are 3" X 5" which is very stout and aesthetically pleasing. We can alter the beam sizes upon request.



On A Final Note

We are very proud to offer our 19th century replica cabins built in the original primitive fashion. We are not builders of glamorous log homes drenched with overkill and wasted space. Most of our structures are very simple and can be afforded by most anyone who has ever thought of living the pioneer cabin dream. When properly finished our log homes can be as close to authentically correct as you will find. They are the perfect choice for those who love history, antiques and the Early American lifestyle. The beauty of our structures is that a full sized family can enjoy life comfortably by adding additional log or timber structures to the original plan. Dog-trot log houses, which are basically created by adding another log structure with a space or breezeway between the two creating three times the floor space, were very common in the 19th century and works very well to accommodate family living. There are floor plans that work for almost anyone. Or, start with one building and add on later, expanding as can be afforded, a very common practice in early times. Keep in mind that these log structures also make wonderful old time workshops, outbuildings, studios and retail shops, etc., there are an unlimited number of uses for our primitive structures in re-creating that old fashioned atmosphere. Let our log structures bring you back to a place in time that so many of us dream about.



Contact Us Today: BC@PrimitiveLogAndTimberworks.com

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www.PrimitiveLogAndTimberworks.com

Testimonial:



Bruce & Jack Hanna

Bruce's work and professionalism is tremendous. He restored and transported two beautiful hand hewn log cabins (dating back to the 1800's) from the Ozarks to Montana for one of our guest cabins. This style is very unique in Montana and our visiting friends and family say this particular cabin is definitely their favorite.

-Jungle Jack Hanna: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, TV celebrity

Available Structures:

This structure is shown on page #2.

We currently have a matched pair of 15' x20' one and a half story replica log buildings available. Ideal for a dogtrot or double pen log house with a central breezeway or enclosed great room etc. They can also be purchased seperately. The main floor has a full height ceiling and the second level has a 4ft. 9in. sidewall which makes the upstairs 100 % usable, it is not just a loft. The walls are made of massive pine logs with flat hewn faces inside and out, width varying from 11-12" up to just under 20". A very nice rustic appearance. Full original contour log lines are visible on the top and bottom edge creating variations in chink joints which adds to the authentic look. Corner notches are precisely fit half dovetails with a 2in. overhang. 4" x8" rough planed floor joists are notched through the log walls to extend slightly on the outside, another authentic touch. Window and door openings will be cut after the final erection process is done. This allows for a very fast and efficient reassembly of the log walls, usually less than a day with good help and equipment.

Single unit package includes:

#1- Log walls will be photographed ,numbered , dismantled and banded into bunks for transporting.

#2- Rough sawn 2" x 8" rafters for cabin 2' OC.

#3-Rough sawn 2" x 6" rafters for porch roof 2' OC.

#4-Rough sawn 1" planks to cover entire cabin and porch roof.

#5-Mortise and tenon porch roof support frame with 6" x6" rough planed posts and top plate with oak pegs at joinery connections.

#6-Second level floor joist 4" X 8" rough planed 2' OC.

#7-All materials will be loaded on a flatbed truck in our yard prior to transport. Unloading is the buyers responsibility.

Note: Re-erection of the logs is NOT included however, we will assist in any way we can. It is a fairly simple process. Also, trucking is NOT included in our prices. We can assist with locating and scheduling a freight carrier if needed. We advise surfing around our website to get some different ideas on what can be done with our structures to fit your needs, we have timber framed and log additions available to expand our basic floor plans. **We are currently sold out of reclaimed original buildings at this time, but if you are serious about purchasing a particular size building, we can place you on a list to contact as soon as we have something new in stock that would work for you.**