

#19: Pioneer Village at the Truman Visitor Center (Kaysinger Bluff Public Use Area)

John M. Hooper House – the 1 ½ story Hooper House was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, based on its unique roof construction and interior and exterior decorative trim and molding. The Hooper House was constructed by John M. Hooper. John Hooper (1850-1929) and his wife Molly (1854-1951) reared nine children in this home which has been moved to its present location.

During construction of the Harry S Truman Dam and Reservoir Project, the Corps of Engineers conducted surveys in the project to inventory cultural resources and to identify means to preserve as many as possible. In May of 1982, the Hooper House was relocated to Pioneer Village at the Harry S Truman Overlook.

The 1857 Powell-Crabtree Cabin is thought to have originally been constructed as a trapper's cabin in early Benton County, Missouri. The cabin is documented to have existed in 1857 and contains original hand hewn logs from the time period. Starting as a one room cabin early on, the families that came to call the cabin home made minor additions for growing families. Sycamore logs were added to give more headroom and to create a loft upstairs; you can see these from the exterior of the cabin. Eventually a summer kitchen was added to the back to help keep the interior cool during Missouri's hot and humid summers.

The Concord school was originally built with logs to serve the educational needs of the counties' early pioneer children. The building burnt twice and the school house we have now is the third structure known as the Concord School from Quincy, MO, rebuilt in 1898. Kaysinger Bluff Pioneer Heritage Association moved the school to its grounds at the Harry S. Truman Visitors Center in 2006. The school still sits on its original log beams and displays artifacts of pioneer era education. Early school houses only had natural light available so window size and placement was of utmost importance. Students were taught to write with their right hand and many school houses only had windows on the left so as not to cast a shadow by the right hand when writing. This practice fell away over the years with windows being on both sides to facilitate right and left handed students.

Setting near the Butterfield Trail/Mail Route brought many visitors to the front door. Reportedly the famed Jesse James spent a night at the cabin leaving a gold coin for the hospitality and quietly slipped away into the early Missouri sunrise. Hear the story at the annual Pioneer Heritage Days the third weekend in October from the ancestor of this amazing piece of local history, the 1857 Powell - Crabtree Cabin.