

Holly Hill Log Barn

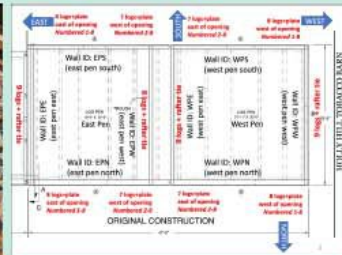
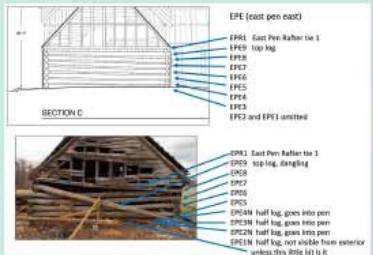
The hand-riven siding in the east gable end is an important historic feature. This siding was protected by the adjacent frame barn until that barn was destroyed by a storm in 2012. Similar hand-riven siding may also have been in place in the west gable, where it would have been exposed to the weather.



What's hand-riven siding? Strips of wood were riven by a person sitting on a shaving horse and using a draw knife. The practice is of long standing; the illustration at right is a detail from Georgius Agricola's 1556 book *De re Metallica*, based on the author's study of mining in then-Bohemia, now the Czech Republic.



How many logs were there? In 2018, ACLT volunteers used the Historic American Building Survey drawing as a starting point and concluded that 8 logs had originally made up each pen's side and "inner" walls, while 9 logs had comprised the east and west gable ends. Some now-buried logs could be seen, and we believe that two or three courses had been buried over time. If they were above grade, the short side openings would have been at least a foot taller. The volunteers also developed log identification codes, e.g., EPE7 for the "seventh log up" on the east wall of the east pen. Metal tags were attached to the logs in case the pens had to be disassembled (they did not). In addition, a borate-based wood treatment was applied to protect the logs from termites and other insects.



Before the project November 2017



Mid-project: February 2021



Preservation Project

The riven siding was preserved during **phase 2** by reattaching some loose ends and—most important—by the new protective extension to the east end. Following historic preservation best practices, the replacement metal roof panels have a new “look” that will not be mistaken for the older corrugated metal.



Left and center: west gable extension, December 2020; Doug Kesselring, Jeff Thompson, and Patrick Doering. Right: filling in for missing logs, January 2021; Jeff Thompson and Alan Brand.

Custom fitting came into play in the construction of the gable-end extensions and to fill a gap where deteriorated logs could not be retained.

Phase 3: To wrap up the project, logs were protected by siding, a fresh version of the vertical siding removed at project start. In this case, however, Thompson prepared added wall framing so the new siding would stand off from the logs to minimize moisture damage. This framing also linked to the interior structure, thereby adding support to the logs. In July 2021, volunteers nailed up new siding.



Volunteers Scott Hite, Mark Lee, Garrett Lee, Penny Moran, Carl Fleischhauer, and Steve Cloak, July 2021.