Hornbek Homestead, Colorado

September 25 - 30, 2016

Project Partner: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

History:

The Hornbek House, built in 1878, is one of the most outstanding examples of log domestic architecture in the Rocky Mountain Region. The building is a 1 1/2 story structure with massive squared log walls. The house is significant under for the sophistication of its log construction and for its integrity still retained through its survival of over one hundred years. Its period of significance is 1878-1910.

The site is significant because of its association to the Homestead Act: Adaline Hornbek was one of the early settlers in the West Pike’s Peak area having arrived in the mid-1870’s with her four
children. As head of her household, she filed the first-homestead application under the Homestead Act of 1862 in the Florissant area. Defying traditional gender roles of the age, Adaline Hornbek had by 1885 established a substantial ranch in an area of subsistence farming. The log house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an example of an early homestead. It is an excellent example of homestead-era log construction, with unusual Greek Revival window trim on one wing. The property includes a number of outbuildings which were relocated to the site. The property was sold to the National Park Service in 1973 and is included in Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

Scope of Work:

This project eliminated rodent and bat intrusion into the historic, two-story, 1,944 square foot Hornbek House by sealing gaps and holes in the log structure. Prior to repairs, all rooms will be thoroughly cleaned of rodent and bat feces. Gaps between logs forming the homestead’s walls were sealed with caulk and covered with historically appropriate material. All 13 windows were resealed. 110 linear feet of gaps under ridge shingles were also sealed, and the gap between siding and eaves was sealed around the entire structure (205 linear feet).

Gaps in foundation stones that allow rodents to enter through the floorboards were sealed around the entire 167-foot perimeter of the building, and foundation vents were rescreened and sealed. A one-way bat door was installed in the upper story at the beginning of the work to allow bats to exit while work was underway.

Project Location:

GPS Coordinates: 38.926903, -105.281542

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Florissant CO 80816