Rhodes Cabin, Great Basin National Park, NV

August 20 - September 1, 2017

PROJECT PARTNER: Great Basin National Park

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION:
Eastern Nevada’s Great Basin National Park is one of our country’s newest national parks. Aside from its valuable structures, the park boasts exquisite natural features, including the Lehman Caves. During World War I, tungsten mines in this area supported the development of high strength steel, a key element in the United States war effort. Located by this fascinating park’s Visitor Center is the historic Rhodes Cabin. In June, HistoriCorps led volunteers in lending a hand in this log cabin’s rehabilitation.

The Rhodes Cabin, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1928 to house visitors to what was then the Lehman Caves National Monument. The cabin is the only surviving structure of its era in the park. It was named for its builder, Mr. Clarence Rhodes, who at that time served as a chauffeur to Nevada’s governor. For his salary, the governor granted Mr. Rhodes custodianship of Lehman Caves and allowed him to keep any tour guide fees he collected.
WHAT: HistoriCorps volunteers worked with field staff to learn new skills in order to restore the Rhodes Cabin through:

- Removing the cabin’s plywood and concrete roof components
- Installing rough-sawn lumber decking and watertight materials before recreating an earthen roof
- Clearing out accumulated soil near cabin’s base, then cleaning protective drainage structures

WHERE: Great Basin National Park, NV (map)

Rhodes Cabin in 1940

- Masonry, primarily removing and reinstalling deteriorated daubing
- Tree removal