Rickenbaugh House, Indiana  

October 11 - 16, 2015

Project Partner: Hoosier National Forest

History: The Rickenbaugh House was built in 1874 by Jacob and Elizabeth Rickenbaugh. Jacob operated a successful tanning business in the area and selected the land based on its abundance of fine old white oak and chesnut trees. The bark in these trees contains a substance known as tannin, used in the process of tanning animal hides. Three Belgium stone makers were hired at $3 a day to construct the house out of sandstone blocks cut from rock outcrops near the house. The house, constructed in just a year, was built in Late Greek Revival style using only local materials. In addition to being a dwelling for the Rickenbaugh family, the house served as a Post Office. The position of postmaster was held by various women in the Rickenbaugh family. After the death of Jacob and Elizabeth Rickenbaugh, the house stayed in the family for four generations before being sold to the Forest Service in 1968. It is now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Scope of Work: Volunteers learned to:

- Install drywall to exposed studs
• Mud and tape seams; mud over screws; sand
• Install interior, closet, and attic doors (doors and hardware provided by FS);
• Install closet peg racks (provided by FS)
• Fabricate and install replica base moulding and window and door trim, as necessary
• Cut and cap utilities below floor
• Repair floor where utilities were located
• Prime and paint interior.

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