



Log Cabins in America: The Finnish Experience



(Alice Koskella, 1980)

Log cabins are as American as Fourth of July fireworks, baseball, and the bald eagle. Think of a pioneer and chances are you think of a log cabin: could Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett have lived in any other kind of house? Can you imagine the 1840 election--"Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too!"--without remembering the log-cabin-and-cider campaign? Would we be so impressed with Abe Lincoln if he had learned his letters under a crystal chandelier in a brick, Georgian-style house? Is it conceivable that Laura Ingalls Wilder's little house on the prairie was anything but a snug log structure? Assuredly, log cabins are enmeshed in American history, folklore, and myth.



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Where this lesson fits into the curriculum

Time Period: 1700s-1900s

Topics: This lesson could be used in teaching units on the development of the early colonies, trans-Appalachian settlement, or late 19th- and early 20th-century immigration.

Relevant United States History Standards for Grades 5-12

This lesson relates to the following National Standards for History from the UCLA National Center for History in the Schools:

US History Era 4:

- **Standard 3A:** The student understands the changing character of American political life in "the age of the common man."

US History Era 6:

- **Standard 2A:** The student understands the sources and experiences of the new immigrants.
- **Standard 2C:** The student understands how new cultural movements at different social levels affected American life.

US History Era 7:

- **Standard 1B:** The student understands Progressivism at the national level.
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Relevant Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

This lesson relates to the following Curriculum Standards for Social Studies from the National Council for the Social Studies:

Theme I: Culture

- **Standard C:** The student explains and gives examples of how language, literature, the arts, architecture, other artifacts, traditions, beliefs, values, and behaviors contribute to the development and transmission of culture.

Theme III: People, Places, and Environment



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- Standard H: examine, interpret, and analyze physical and cultural patterns and their interactions, such as land use, settlement patterns, cultural transmission of customs and ideas, and ecosystem changes.

Theme VIII: Science, Technology, and Society

- Standard A: The student examines and describes the influence of culture on scientific and technological choices and advancement, such as in transportation, medicine, and warfare.

Relevant Common Core Standards

This lesson relates to the following Common Core English and Language Arts Standards for History and Social Studies for middle school and high school students:

Key Ideas and Details

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

Craft and Structure

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.10



About This Lesson

This lesson is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration files "[Long Valley Finnish Structures](http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/64000166.pdf)," [http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/64000166.pdf] visitor's guides to several western parks, and other sources. It was published in 2001. This lesson was written by Fay Metcalf, an education consultant. It was edited by Teaching with Historic Places staff. This lesson is one in a series that brings the important stories of historic places into classrooms across the country.

Objectives

1. To explain the distinctive features of log structures built by Finnish homesteaders in Idaho.
2. To explain how Finns and Swedes influenced the techniques used for building log structures.
3. To describe how the log cabin became so widely used among colonists and later pioneers.
4. To investigate the student's own locality to find out what kind of folk housing was prevalent in their own community.

Materials for students

The materials listed below can either be used directly on the computer or can be printed out, photocopied, and distributed to students.

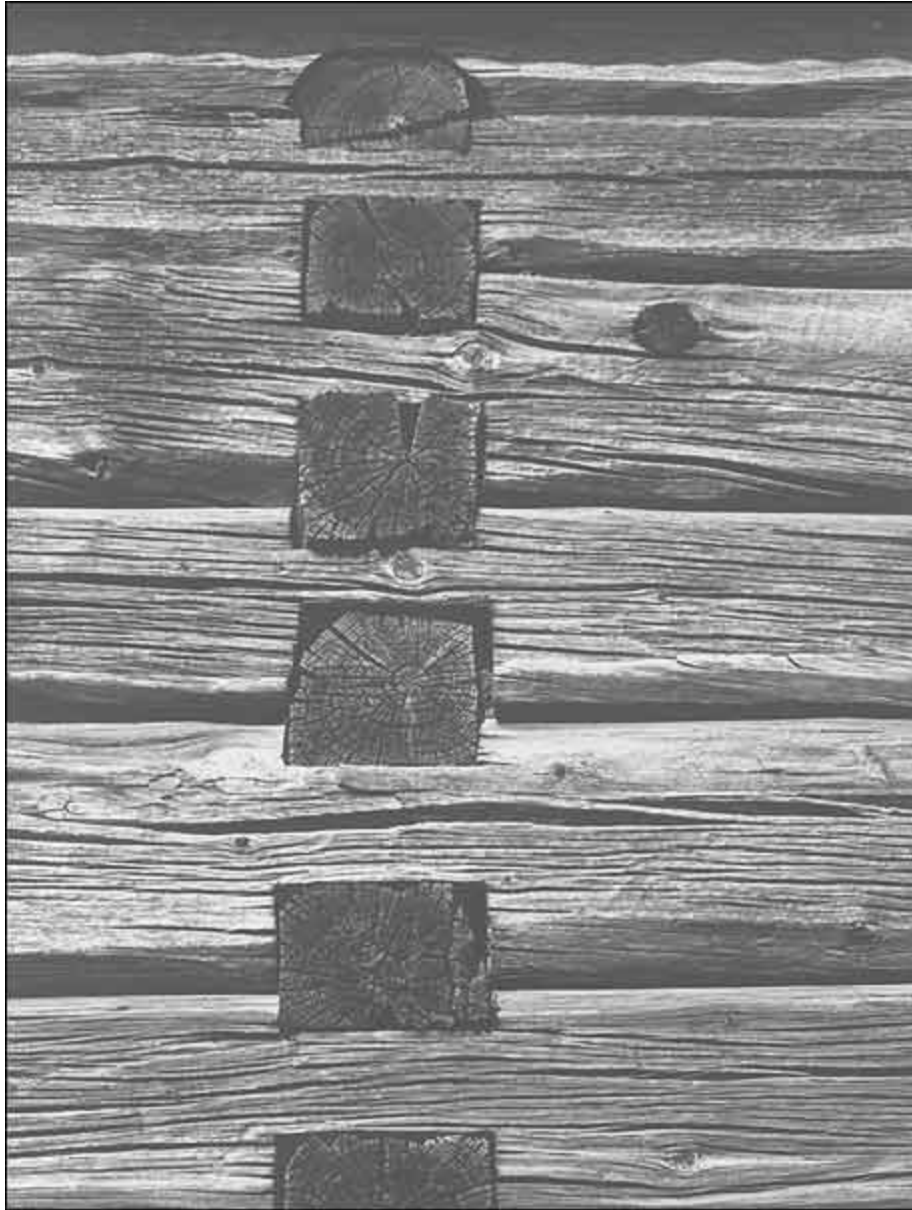
1. One map showing the location of Finnish speakers;
2. Three readings which examine the origins of log structures and their adoption by the American public as a symbol of self-reliance and virtue;
3. One drawing and two photos of notching systems and cabin details;
4. Four photos different log structures built by the Finnish in Long Valley, Idaho.

Visiting the site

The Finnish log structures discussed in this lesson are located off Highway 55 (some on unimproved, some on unnamed, roads) in the vicinity of Donnelly, Idaho. They are privately owned and not open to the public. However, the nearby Southern Idaho Timber Association buildings are also good examples of Finnish log construction. The buildings are located at the corner of Lake and State streets in the town of McCall and on Highway 55 in Smith's Ferry.



Getting Started



(Alice Koskella, 1980)

**What might this be?
What do you think it was used for?**

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Photo Analysis Worksheet

Step 1:

Examine the photograph for 10 seconds. How would you describe the photograph?

Step 2:

Divide the photograph into quadrants and study each section individually. What details--such as people, objects, activities--do you notice?

Step 3:

What other information--such as time period, location, season, reason photo was taken--can you gather from the photo?

Step 4:

How would you revise your first description of the photo using the information noted in Steps 2 and 3?

Step 5:

What questions do you have about the photograph? How might you find answers to these questions?



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Setting the Stage

The log cabin has long been a symbol of American self-sufficiency. The cabin could be quickly built, and it provided a reasonably secure haven in a strange and often hostile environment. Neither arrows nor bullets could penetrate its thick wood walls which--if well-built and carefully chinked--would keep out rain, snow, and cold. Although the cabins could catch fire, this did not happen very often. As people continued to move westward in search of more and better land, they would abandon their cabins knowing they could easily build new ones as long as timber was available. Even in the early 20th century as far western lands opened up to settlement, new immigrants continued to construct log cabins as their first American homes.

Under the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, those citizens who were the head of a family or at least 21 years of age were offered 160 acres of surveyed land after five years of continuous residence and payment of a registration fee ranging from \$26 to \$34. Alternatively, land could be acquired at \$1.25 an acre after six months' residence. By means of this act, Finnish immigrants settled in Idaho between 1900 and 1930.



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Locating the Site

Map 1: Finnish speaking population, 1920



The majority of Finnish immigrants to America from 1860 to 1900 settled in the northern portions of the U.S. where they worked as miners, loggers, or dockhands. Smaller settlements grew up in other states such as New York, Maine, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho.



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Questions for Map 1

- 1)** Locate Finland on a world map and then locate the states noted in Map 1 that have larger concentrations of the Finnish population. Note the latitudes of the locations. Why do you think Finnish immigrants to America did not choose to settle in the South?

- 2)** Examine Map 1. Note the location of most Finnish speakers in 1920. Compare the numbers of Finns in Idaho with those in other parts of the nation. In which states are most of the Finnish Americans located?

- 3)** Considering that the largest population of Finns settled in the eastern half of the United States, why did some Finns migrate to Idaho and other western states? (If needed, refer to *Setting the Stage*.)

- 4)** The cities listed on Map 1 have the ten largest Finnish population concentrations except where the population of the city is less than 1,000. The population in the leading cities of settlement ranged from 1,000-10,000, except in New York City which ranged from 10,001-50,000. Why do you think New York City has the highest concentration of Finnish immigrants? What role did New York City play for America's immigrants?

- 5)** The Finns of Idaho settled on homestead farmlands and in small towns. Examine a map of Idaho and locate Coeur d'Alene and Cabinet, and also the towns of Lake Fork, Cascade, McCall, and Donnelly. Note the elevation and the proximity of national forest lands on your map. What ways of life might the Finns have continued if they lived in a place like Idaho?



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Determining the Facts

Reading 1: The Log Cabin Tradition

The origin of the log structure is uncertain. It is probable that it began in northern Europe sometime in the Bronze Age (c. 3,500 B.C.). By the time Europeans began to settle in America, there was a long tradition of using logs for houses, barns, and other outbuildings in the Scandinavian countries, Germany, and Northern Russia. These regions had vast stands of softwood timber that could easily be worked with simple hand tools. According to historian C. A. Weslager, the Finns, as well as the Swedes, had a "close attunement" with the forests, and both groups had well-developed forest industries. Weslager goes on to say:

The Finns were accomplished in building several forms of log housing, having different methods of corner timbering, and they utilized both round and hewn logs. Their log building had undergone an evolutionary process from the crude "pirtii"...a small gabled-roof cabin of round logs with an opening in the roof to vent smoke, to more sophisticated squared logs with interlocking double-notch joints, the timber extending beyond the corners. Log saunas or bathhouses of this type are still found in rural Finland.

When the Finns and the Swedes began to arrive in New Sweden (along both banks of the Delaware River into modern Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland), they brought their knowledge of such wood construction with them. So did later immigrants from Germany. The Scots, Irish, and Scots-Irish had no tradition of building with logs, but they quickly adopted the technique. The log cabin suited early settlers and later pioneers. It would have been nearly impossible to carry building materials across the ocean in the small sailing ships of the time. It would have been equally difficult to transport building materials on horseback or even in the wagons or river barges pioneers used to cross mountains and valleys in their search for their own land. So, wherever there were forested areas, the log cabin became the preferred type of initial dwelling. Log cabins did not even need nails or spikes to hold them together. Until the 19th century nails were made by hand by blacksmiths, which meant they were quite expensive, and like lumber, they were also heavy.

Log cabins were relatively easy to build. Weslager reports that a record was set by three men who cut down trees, trimmed them, dragged the logs to the building site, notched the logs, and built a one-room cabin with chimney and fireplace in two days. For most people it took a bit longer, but it was possible for a man working alone to build a cabin in one to two weeks. However, a man alone faced some problems. Because it is physically difficult to lift a heavy log above one's head, most men could build cabins only six to eight logs high. With help, it was possible to build several logs higher--even two-story log houses were possible. First, skids of two logs were placed against the wall at an angle to serve as an inclined plane. Then forked sticks or ropes were used to position the logs.

Most log cabins had a single room, or "pen," some 12 to 16 feet square. There was one door, and usually no windows. If windows were cut into the walls, animal skins or boards were fixed to slide across the openings. Some builders used paper greased with animal fat, which made it both translucent and waterproof. Most log cabin builders placed the fireplace at one end of the cabin and built the chimney of wattle. Stone or clay was used for the hearth and the interior of the fireplace. As these were not very safe constructions, later builders used brick or stone if they



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could be obtained. Fireplaces provided warmth, light, and fuel for cooking. Back bars and cranes made of forged iron were used to hold cooking pots. Not until the 1840s were cast-iron ranges available that would burn wood or coal, so cooking over a fireplace did not seem a hardship.

Inside walls were often chinked with clay or cloth. Most floors were simply beaten earth, although some cabins had floors of puncheons--logs split lengthwise and laid close together with the flat sides up. A family often built a sleeping loft if the roof were high enough. The loft could be reached by pegs pounded into the walls or by a ladder built from tree limbs. The loft also was used to store foodstuffs.

Log cabins were never meant to be permanent, but many log houses were. The difference between the two was primarily one of size and attention to detail. Most pioneers preferred "flat" walls to rounded log walls, and so most used hewn logs for building. These not only made the houses look (from a distance) more "real," but also withstood the elements much better, since the bark and the decay-prone outside wood were removed from the logs. When milled lumber became available either from a local sawmill or by railroad transport, most people chose it for their homes.

It seemed that as the frontier disappeared, so would the log cabin. However, at about the same time the Finnish homesteaders were, of necessity, building their first homes of logs, Easterners were rediscovering the log structure. William A. Durant, land developer and president of the Adirondack Railroad, pushed the idea of Great Camps in the Adirondacks. These camps were enclaves where the very wealthy could escape the summer heat of the cities and retreat to the "simple life" of log-cabin living in the country. Such "cabins" were hardly simple. Designed by architects, they were huge structures with many rooms and fireplaces and porches. But their log exteriors recalled the "good old days". National Park structures also fueled the revival of log cabin living. Many park lodges were made of logs so they would fit their surroundings. The Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park is a prime example. Built in 1904, the inn has an eight-story lobby some 185 feet high. There are 140 guest rooms and three sets of balconies.

Another factor that kept the tradition of log building alive was the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) worked with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service to build thousands of log structures throughout the national forests and parks. Had it not been for these the log cabin might have disappeared, but because people saw the log structures and liked what they saw, many began to build modern log cabins and log houses. These homes seemed to represent all that a family could want: a sturdy shelter from the elements and a simple, self-sufficient lifestyle. The log cabin remains a popular building style.

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Questions for Reading 1

- 1) Why is the origin of the log cabin unclear?
- 2) In what ways were the Finns especially good at building log cabins?
- 3) How did the Finns and the Swedes influence other European immigrants in America? Why was their influence important?
- 4) How did early log cabin dwellers get air and light into their homes?
- 5) What is the process of building a log cabin?
- 6) What influences made the log cabin popular in the 20th century?



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Determining the Facts

Reading 2: Long Valley Finnish Structures

The following excerpts were taken from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, "Long Valley Finnish Structures." The nomination is a thematic group meaning that several related properties are being nominated as historic places.

Description

The buildings nominated in this thematic group were constructed by members of the Finnish settlement in the area of Long Valley, Idaho, between 1900 and 1930. They include log homestead cabins, houses, and saunas; log and frame barns; and the frame Elo school and Elo schoolteacher's cottage. The log structures in particular share several similarities in style, materials, and technique. Finnish building craft resulted in tightly fitting logs using corner notches of the double, full-dovetail, or locking dovetail styles. Most of the buildings being nominated here are of hewn logs, although a few are constructed of round logs.

The buildings date back to 1902. They are the last physical remnants of the Finnish homesteads that dotted the valley as more and more immigrants settled here. The index to United States patents for Valley County lists 94 homestead patents issued to Finns between the years 1904 and 1925; few of these homesteads are intact and only a small number of their buildings still stand. Those that do, however, are both historically and architecturally significant and some of them deserve listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Finns built extraordinarily sturdy structures by using a tool they called a *vara*, or scribe, to measure how much wood should be grooved out of the bottom of a log so that it would fit snugly on the curved upper side of the one beneath it. Chinking was rarely necessary in a Finnish-built log cabin, although sometimes moss or rags were placed between logs for insulation. This method dates back at least to the 13th century and is so effective that it was still used on nearly all the Finnish homestead buildings in Long Valley. Most of the buildings were made of hewn logs, perhaps because, as Donovan Clemson writes in his book *Living with Logs*, "hewed logs looked a little more professional, removed the building a little from the rawness associated with the standing bush...the house, hopefully, might even be mistaken from a distance for a frame building with dressed sides."¹

This nomination includes six homestead cabins; seven log houses of two or more rooms; four log saunas; log barn and frame barn of double crib style; log granary, goat barn, chicken house, and blacksmith's shop; frame school building and a frame teacher's cottage--25 structures representing several farm activities and typical homesteads from a one-room cabin to a hewn-log house consisting of two or more rooms and one or two stories. Very few written records of the Finnish community in Long Valley still exist, but these buildings suggest how the Finns lived and worked in the homestead era of Valley County.

Significance

The surviving log homestead cabins, saunas, and barns of the Finns in Long Valley are examples of the Finns' extraordinary skill in constructing sturdy and weather-resistant log

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buildings. A number of these buildings are in remarkably good condition, considering that their exposure to the region's harsh winters spans, in some cases, more than 70 years. These buildings are reminders of a community's past, the homestead era in Idaho, and a national heritage that reaches back to 1638, when the first Finns came to this country and the first log cabins were constructed in America. Many of the features of the 17th-century cabins in the New Sweden area can be seen in Finnish-built homestead structures in Long Valley.

Long Valley is fast becoming a popular resort area; the farmland is being sold and subdivided, and homestead buildings--regarded as old shacks--are often destroyed or allowed to deteriorate. National Register listing will provide a record of these structures for future generations and will undoubtedly spark interest in preserving some of the buildings in the thematic group. The structures have a significance both historical and architectural. The Finnish community had become almost completely assimilated into the larger mainstream culture of Long Valley by 1980, and a record of their settlement should not be lost.

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Questions for Reading 2

- 1) When did the Finns move into Long Valley?

- 2) What kinds of structures did they build on their homestead land?

- 3) How many homestead patents did the U.S. government issue to the Finns in the period 1904-25?

- 4) What construction techniques made Finnish cabins or houses nearly airtight?

- 5) Why were hewn logs preferred to round logs?

- 6) It is said of Finnish farms that they are usually smaller but have more buildings than the farms of other ethnic groups. How does the reading show this to be true?

- 7) Why is it important that Finnish homestead buildings be listed in the National Register of Historic Places? Is a goat barn really that significant? Defend your answer.



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Determining the Facts

Reading 3: Log Cabin Politics

For a time, being born in a log cabin was almost essential for presidential candidates. It all began with the campaign of 1839, which pitted the incumbent Democrat, Martin Van Buren, against the Whig candidate, retired General William Henry Harrison. It was one of those campaigns in which the incumbent could do no right. The Panic of 1837 had caused widespread unemployment; banks had closed their doors or had refused to pay out gold and silver. Van Buren believed it was unconstitutional for the government to intervene.

The Whig party won and General Harrison was elected. Harrison also had appeal as a folksy midwesterner who had 30 years before led a troop of 1,000 soldiers against an uprising of Indians near the Tippecanoe River in Indiana Territory. His running mate was John Tyler, former governor of Virginia.

There were many who opposed Harrison, finding him too old at 67 and less than a great thinker. Newspaperman John de Ziska ridiculed Harrison in an article in a Baltimore newspaper, writing, "Give him a barrel of hard cider, and settle a pension on him and...he will sit the remainder of his days in his log cabin by the side of the fire and study moral philosophy!"

Harrison had lived in a log cabin--of sorts. When he was first married he bought a farm along the Ohio River that had a four-room frame house built around a log cabin. Harrison and his wife lived in the house a short time before he began his long career as army officer, congressman, senator, governor of Indiana, and minister to Colombia. Upon retirement, Harrison returned to the farm and enlarged the house by adding 12 rooms and completely refurbishing the original structure with clapboard to match the additional two wings. As for drinking hard cider, Harrison, like most Ohioans, probably did enjoy cider made from apples in his own orchard.

Intended as a slur, Ziska's article simply enhanced Harrison's reputation. Astute Whigs reshaped the unkind words into a winning campaign song and slogan.

They say he lived in a log cabin
And lived on hard cider, too.
Well, what if he did, I'm certain
He's the hero of Tippecanoe.

People liked "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too!" and they connected log-cabin life with virtue. Most westerners of the time had been born in a log cabin or were still living in one. Even people in the eastern cities had ancestors who lived in log cabins. These people believed that the log cabin stood for something. It represented self-sufficient, hard-working pioneer families who could overcome adversity and improve their lot and that of their children. So deeply did the log cabin as symbol of virtue become embedded in the national folklore that, for the next half century, it was believed that youth spent in a log cabin produced clear-headed, independent thinkers who were beholden to no one. "Honest Abe" Lincoln is a prime example.

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Questions for Reading 3

- 1) What is the origin of the log cabin as a symbol?

- 2) Does General Harrison deserve to be associated with the self-sufficient, hard-working pioneer families that lived in log cabins? Why or why not?

- 3) How do various commonplace items, such as log cabins, come to represent larger ideas?

- 4) What other objects (or people or animals) besides log cabins have been used for political symbols? (Consider national symbols or symbols adopted by specific candidates, campaigns, or causes.) What qualities, character traits, or ideas are these symbols intended to represent? Do these symbols help or hinder understanding of the issues involved? Research the origin of a symbol besides the log cabin.

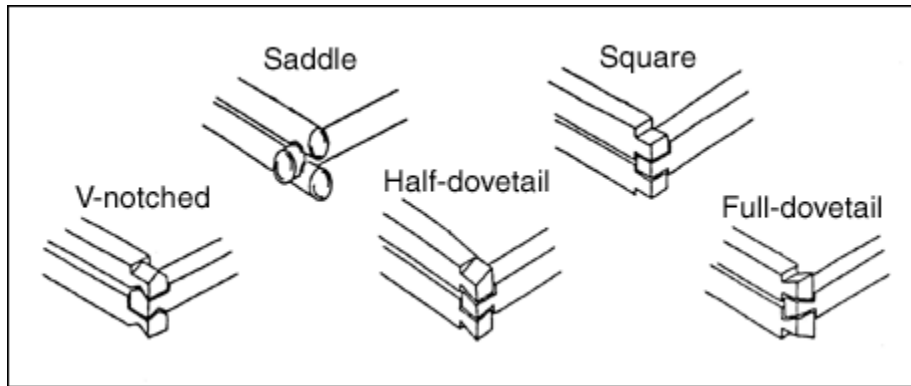
- 5) Are all symbols positive?



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Visual Evidence

Drawing 1: Log corner notching systems.





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Visual Evidence

Photo 1: Detail of northeast corner, Jacob and Herman Mahala Homestead, Long Valley, Idaho



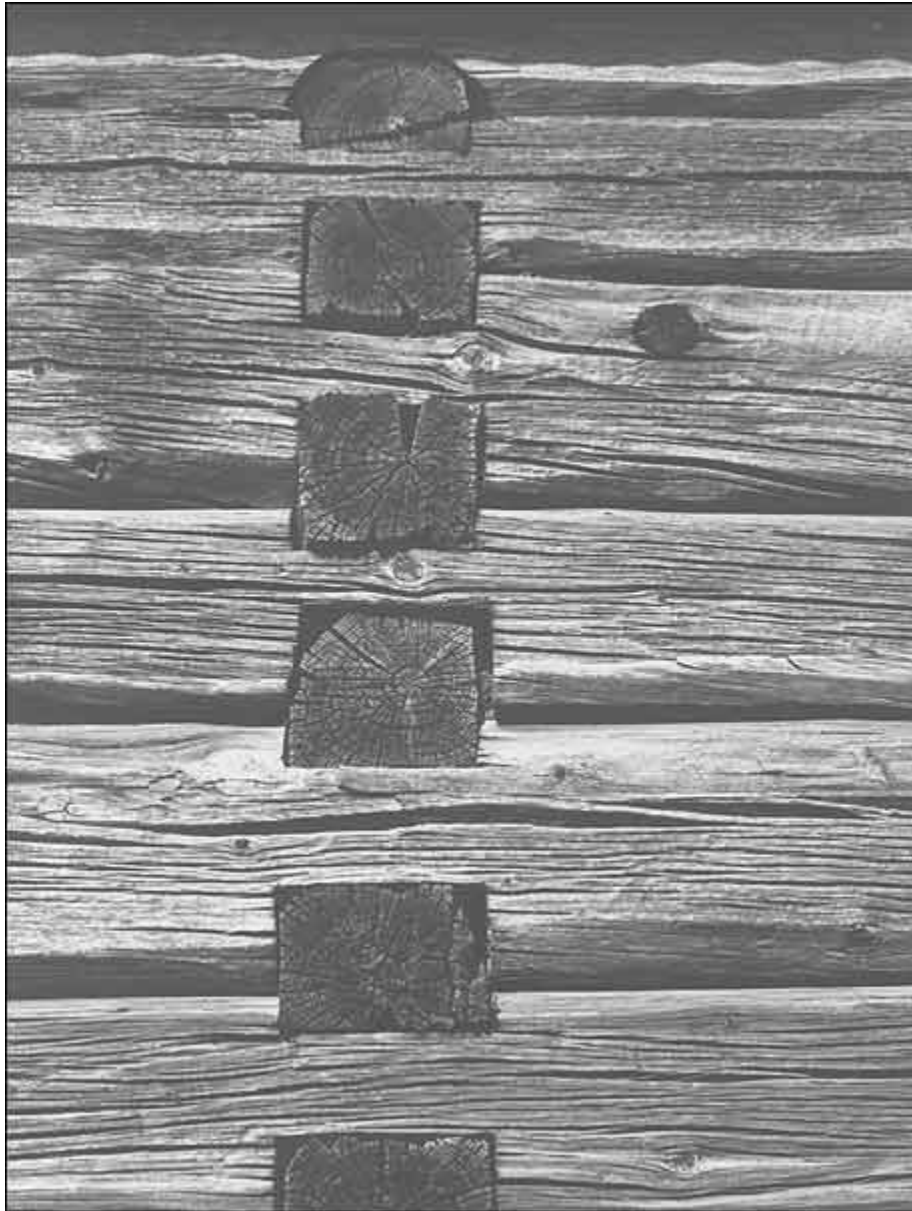
(Alice Koskella, 1980)



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Visual Evidence

Photo 1a: Exterior wall detail, Gust Laituri Homestead, Long Valley, Idaho



(Alice Koskella, 1980)



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Questions for Drawing 1, Photo 1, & Photo 1a

- 1) Examine Drawing 1 and Photo 1. What type of notching is displayed in the photo?

- 2) Why was the system of notching so important?

- 3) Photo 1a shows a hewn-log partition that has been notched into the exterior wall and then cut flush with the outside timbers. Considering that the notching is not a corner system, what purpose do you think this serves inside the log cabin? Do you think this helps the cabin structurally? Why or why not?

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Visual Evidence

Photo 2: Teacher's cottage for Elo School, Long Valley, Idaho



(photographer and date unknown)



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Visual Evidence

Photo 3: Goat Barn, John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, Long Valley, Idaho



(Alice Koskella, 1980)

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Visual Evidence

Photo 4: Log barn, Nickolai Wargelin Homestead, Long Valley, Idaho.



(Alice Koskella, 1980)



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Visual Evidence

Photo 5: Sauna, John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, Long Valley, Idaho.



(Alice Koskella, 1979)



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Questions for Photos 2-5

- 1) Compare Photos 2-5. What are some similarities between the structures? How are they different?

- 2) Are the structures constructed of round logs or hewn logs? Why were hewn logs preferred?

- 3) Is it obvious for what purpose each building was constructed? Why or why not?

- 4) What type of notching is used on each structure?

- 5) Examine Photo 5. What purpose did the sauna serve? Where did the tradition come from? Why might a sauna be part of the Finnish culture? (If needed, refer to Reading 1.)

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Putting It All Together

The following activities explore why log cabins have a special place in American culture.

Activity 1: Folk Housing

The homes of ordinary people of the pre-railroad era are called folk housing. They were built of available materials, such as wood, earth, and stone, and differ markedly by region of the country and cultural traditions of the first groups of settlers. Have students research the most common type of folk housing found in their region. Find out if there are examples of these houses that the class might visit. If the houses are log buildings, have the students examine them closely to see if they find any Finnish influences. If the folk housing is of another type, ask students to compare the structures to log cabins. What are the similarities and the differences? How much space do the buildings have compared with a typical one-pen log cabin? How might those houses have been enlarged? (Your [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can usually direct you to appropriate sites.)

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Activity 2: Role Play

Have the students pretend that they are early settlers in the community in which they reside. They are to make their living by farming. Have them draw a sketch of their first home and of the outbuildings they will need for the farm work. Although they may base the sketch on what they know of log-built structures, encourage them to take into account their own ethnic heritage and the predominant pre-railroad building type of the area. The point is to acknowledge not only the important role the Finns played in establishing the log cabin as a practical and popular form of housing, but also the vital role that folk housing of all ethnic groups played in establishing American values and continuing ways of life.



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Activity 3: Modern Log Housing

Some students might enjoy rereading Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* to examine the techniques used by the Ingalls family to build their log house and then to compare that construction with what is used locally today. A good source for finding log home builders in most states is the *Annual Buyer's Guide, Log Home Living*, found in most public libraries or on newsstands. In that publication, students will learn that companies in 49 of the 50 states, including Hawaii, can provide kits for owner-built log houses or can build a log house on site. The log cabin retains its appeal.



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References and Endnotes

Reading 1

Reading 1 is compiled from C. A. Weslager, *The Log Cabin in America: From Pioneer Days to the Present* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969); Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984); visitor's guides to several western national parks; and other sources on the history of the western frontier.

Reading 2

¹Donovan Clemson, *Living with Logs* (Saanichton, B.C.: Hancock House, 1974), 32-33.

Reading 2 is compiled from National Register Nomination Form "Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)" (Valley County, Idaho), by Alice Koskella, Architectural Historian, Idaho State Historical Society, 1982.



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Additional Resources

By looking at *Log Cabins in America: The Finnish Experience*, students consider how simple, functional cabins, like those built by the Finns in Idaho, became symbols in American politics and folklore. Those interested in learning more will find that the Internet offers a variety of interesting materials.

The Institute of Migration

[Institute of Migration](#) was founded in 1974 to promote the collection, storage, and documentation of research material relating to international and internal migration. Included on the site is a detailed article documenting everyday life on Finnish American homesteads and [statistics](#) regarding the Finnish population in the United States.

Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER)

The HABS/HAER collections document achievements in architecture, engineering, and design in the United States through a comprehensive range of building types and engineering technologies. [Search the collection](#) for documentation on numerous "log cabins" throughout the United States. Drawings and photographs, as well as historical data are provided.

Library of Congress

For a wealth of primary resources on log cabins, search the LOC [Digital Collections](#). Included in the many resources are homesteader life histories written for the Works Progress Administration, sheet music about log cabins, numerous photographs, homesteader legislation, and much more.

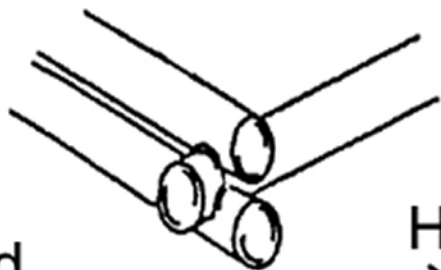
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

The Archives has placed on its web site a number of items about Western Expansion, including copies of the original Homestead Act and original maps of western areas that were being settled. To find them, visit the [NARA Search Engine](#) and enter "Homestead Act."

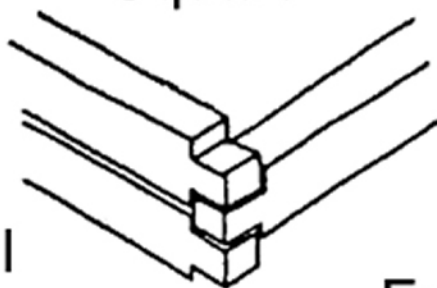




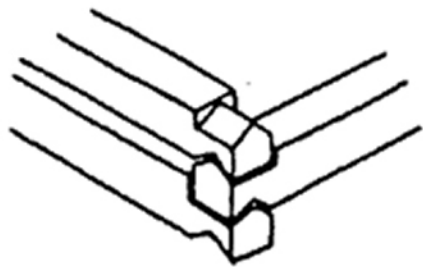
Saddle



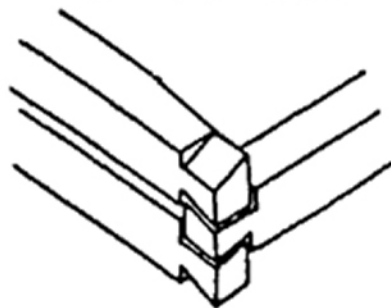
Square



V-notched



Half-dovetail



Full-dovetail

