

Shields house gets transported to new location near Dacre

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The Cobden area has lost yet another of its heritage buildings. But Cobden's loss is proving to be Dacre's gain.

The 113-year-old Shields house, built in 1873 at what later became known as Shield's Crossing, has been dismantled log by log and moved to a new location near Dacre. Shields Crossing is located about three miles northwest of Cobden on Highway 17 in Westmeath Township.

Cut from the towering timbers that were growing there, the home was constructed in the autumn of 1873 by Hugh Shields, an early settler in the area. Mr. Shields, his wife Martha (nee Donaldson) and their eight children moved into the log home and spent the first winter with just the four walls, the roof and a dirt floor underfoot.

Hugh and Martha's granddaughter, 80-year-old Hazel Smith of Pembroke, says the house became a focal point of the community. Within the four walls there were many births, weddings, deaths and funerals. She herself was born there and can remember many happy family occasions taking place in the house.

Hugh and Martha Shields had two more children after moving into the log house. Hugh Moore Shields (Mrs. Smith's father) was born in 1874 and David Alexander Shields followed two years later, bringing the total number of children to ten.

Mrs. Smith says that in



This photograph shows what the Shields house looked like while it was being dismantled. Both photos were provided to the Sun by Mrs. Hazel Smith of Pembroke, a granddaughter of Hugh and Martha Shields who built the house.