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Historical society

Two-story structure played key role in founding Methodist Church locally

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The goal is to reconstruct a piece of history at the Hagood Mill site.

The Pickens County Historical Society is working to save a two-story log house that has long stood

to preserve 18th century log cabin

in the Dacusville community and that officials say was at the heart of the Methodist church's foundation in the Upstate.

"This is living history," said Wayne Kelley, vice president of the historical society. "This is where our forbearers were – who built this area of South Carolina, built the homes that came to be and the great families that have been here since, and here is where one of their major denominations began."

He said the Burdine Lodge, which sat on Old Vinland School Road in the Dacusville area, is the oldest structure in the eastern part of Pickens County.

The log house has now been deconstructed and is in county storage, waiting to be reconstructed at the Hagood Mill site.

Kelley said the house had roof damage and had some deterioration well underway.

"We tagged every piece of it, photographed every element, had an engineer drawing done of it," he said. "We want to restore the veranda to it, rebuild the chimney and the hearth and all that sort of thing, and make it as close to what it was in the early 1800s as possible."

Easley resident Nell Davis Patton said she donated the Burdine Lodge, which has been in her family for years, to the Pickens County Historical Society.

She said she would like to see the log house, where many of her family members lived, reconstructed and preserved at Hagood Mill.

"It's got a lot of Methodist history to it," Patton said. "Antioch Methodist Church, which is in Pickens County, grew out of it."

Kelley said the log house served many roles in the community: trading post, home, school, church and meeting house.

He said it was Francis Asbury's base to set up the Methodist church in the Upstate.

"It's fully documented in the writings of Bishop Francis Asbury who stayed there numerous occasions as he founded the Methodist Church in the United States," Kelley said. "For the Methodists, this has great historical significance."

Kelley said they aren't sure just how old the log house is.

"So far, the earliest note I've seen of his (Asbury's) coming over the mountain to stay there was in 1799, but we know in fact the house was there long before that," he said.

Kelley said they will need about $85,000 for the reconstruction project and said he thinks it could be raised through community donations and other efforts.