Brooks Cabin

USDA Forest Service Hoosier National Forest 3/2011

The Brooks cabin serves as a welcome center for visitors entering the Charles C. Deam Wilderness. Not long ago, this cabin stood on a bend of the Little Blue River in Crawford County.

Tax records and evidence left by artifacts indicate the cabin was built by John S. Brooks in the 1890's. The building is characteristic of log homes built in the eastern United States between 1850 and 1920.

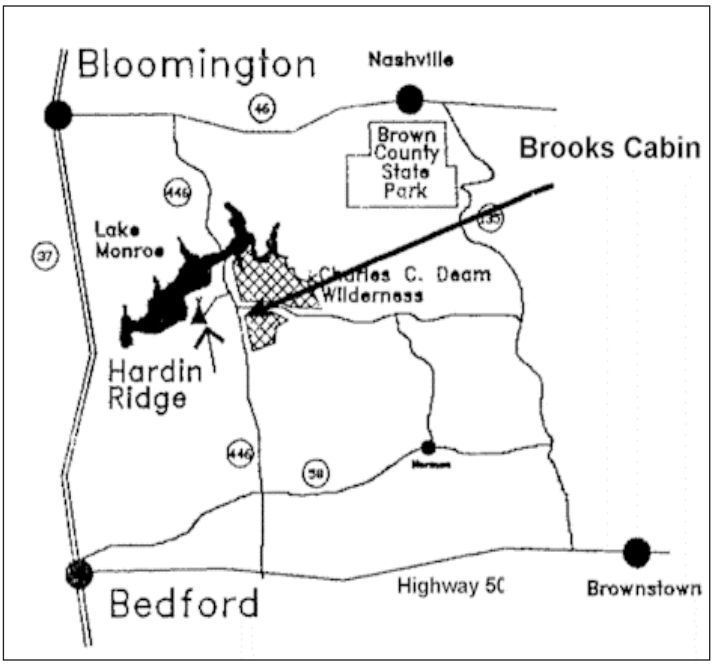
The Forest Service acquired the cabin in a land purchase in 1992. Until then, the structure was slowly deteriorating as a result of neglect and vandalism. The decision was made by the Forest Service to move the cabin to a location where it could be more accessible and useful. The entrance to the Charles C. Deam Wilderness was chosen as a perfect place to reconstruct the cabin.

Spearheaded by a large group of volunteers, the Brooks Cabin was dismantled, and each log and chimney stone numbered so that it could carefully be rebuilt. The numerous pieces were then moved 60 miles north and the cabin was rebuilt on the western edge of the Wilderness. Only a few of the logs had to be replaced, new shingles put on the roof and a new floor laid.

The cabin provides a facility for visitors to stop and get information. It also provides an authentic backdrop of the type of pioneer home that once dotted the landscape in the area of the Wilderness 100 years ago.

Stop by and visit the cabin before you enter the Wilderness. Learn why a federally designated Wilderness area is a special place with special rules. Furthermore, learn about the importance of camping without leaving a trace and other principles you should practice while visiting the Wilderness.

Hours are variable, call for a current schedule.



For More Information:

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