

Sharp Cabin

(Cottonwood Cottage)

Located at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens

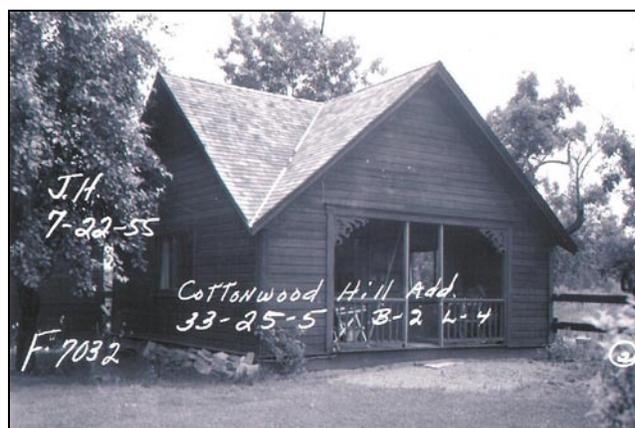


In 1883, James Sharp applied for an 80 acre homestead on the hill overlooking Midlakes (NE 8th St & 124th Ave NE). The date of sale is listed as December 21, 1885. He began developing a farm of fruit trees, grapes, berries, and vegetables. By 1888, he had built a log house and in 1889, he received final certification for the homestead. County records describe the building as “rustic” and indicate that the house was used as a residence and for farming.

The original assessor’s records list the first floor walls as being constructed with “open logs” (what is now called log cabin construction). The second floor was constructed with flat planks. Each story had one room and there was no plumbing in the building. It is possible that the second-floor cabin was built after James Sharp sold the property, as the interior finishing was the type used around 1900.

A unique feature of the cabin is the carved scrollwork at the corners of the porch with two eight-pointed stars cut into the scrollwork. The roof is double-gabled and the four large dormers join in the center of the room. At the peak is a boss of three wooden, right-angled stars. The cabin was built by a true craftsman.

Many families lived in the house including the Davajians, an Armenian-American family who used the property as an active farm with fruit trees being the dominant crop, and then the Harveys, who added plumbing and a hot water tank to the cabin.



By 1989, a developer had bought the property and was ready to clear the land. Scott Parker, a tenant in the cottage, felt the building was worth saving and began a campaign to save it from the bulldozer. The City of Bellevue agreed and the cabin was moved to its present site at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Mr. Parker was quoted as saying, “it makes me feel I contributed something to the community and to society in my lifetime.”

For more information, contact the Eastside Heritage Center at 425-450-1049 or visit www.eastsideheritagecenter.org