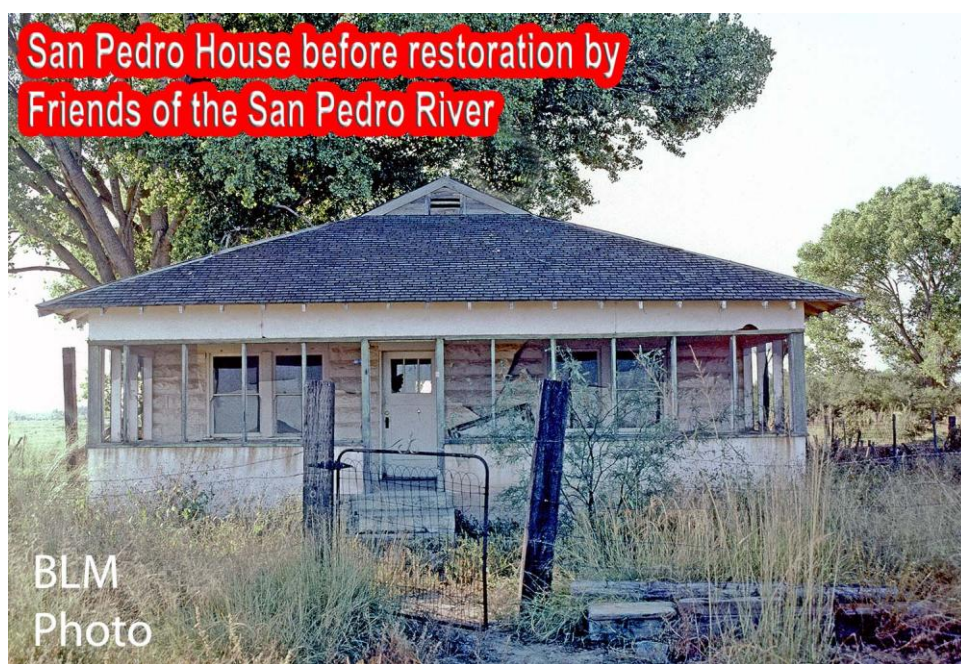


Special Issue of Friends of the San Pedro River Roundup. November 2011.

Photos of Note. FSPR's Restoration of the San Pedro House

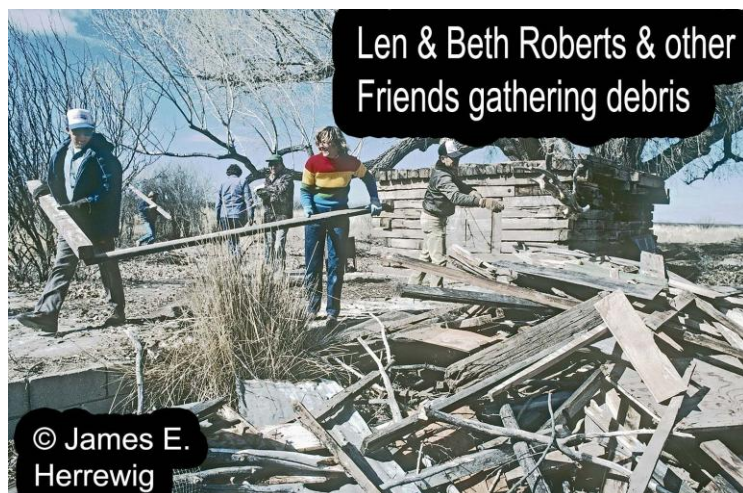
By Gerald R. Noonan Ph D

One of the first projects of the Friends of the San Pedro River was to restore the San Pedro House (Noonan, 2008) in 1988. A January 1988 visit to the house by Erick Campbell, first BLM manager

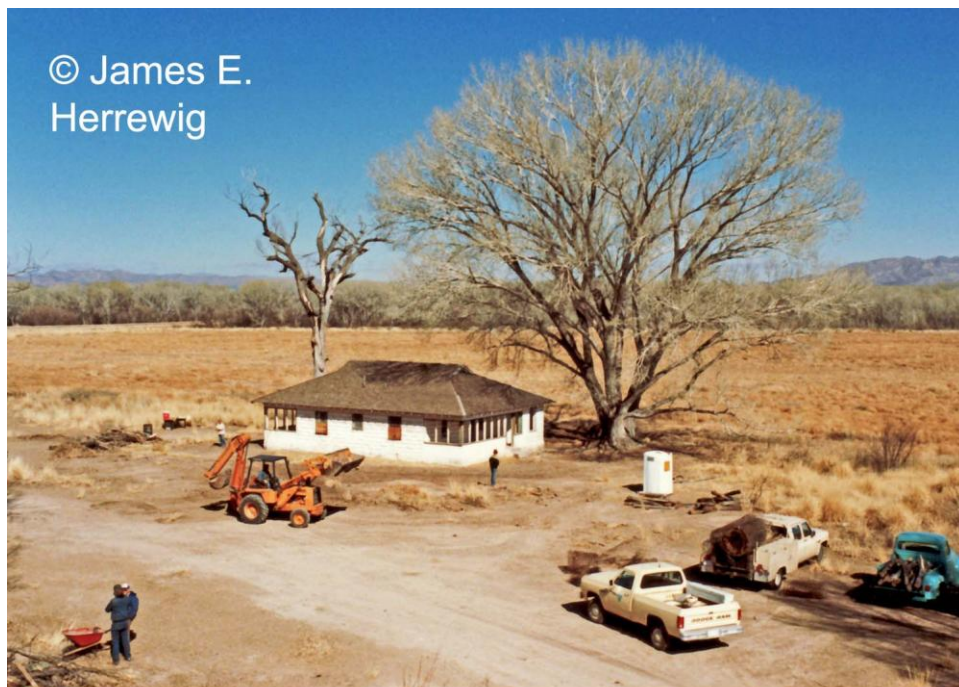


for SPRNCA, and volunteers from FSPR showed that the house was a wreck. People had not resided in the house for approximately 10 years, and it was surrounded by overgrown vegetation. The house badly needed painting inside and outside, had broken windows, holes in the front door, cracked plaster in several places, and a front porch full of junk. For several

years, vagrants had used it as temporary shelter and had lit campfires on the kitchen floor. This article uses photographs to show some of the work involved in the restoration.



One of the first tasks for the FSPR volunteers was to clear away all of the weeds, brush, and trash around the house. FSPR volunteers spent a total of 227 hours cleaning up the grounds around the house, clearing 1.5 acres of yard area, pruning or removing trees and bushes and removing adjacent structures such as a shed and stalls.



More trash removal at San Pedro House
(Dead tree is situated near where outdoor toilets are today.)





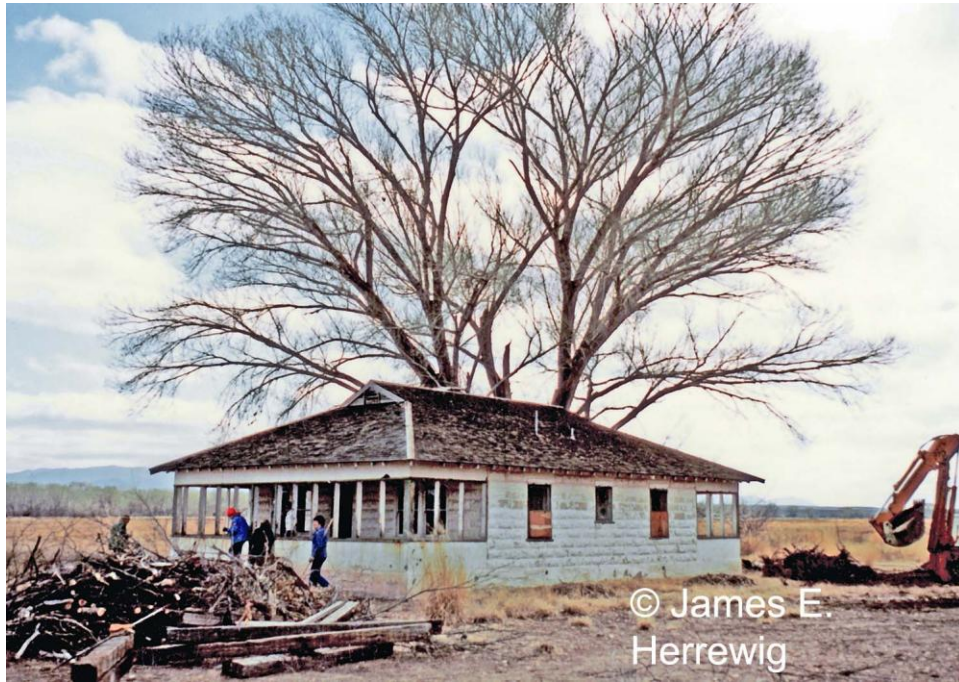
© James E. Herrewig Friends' Working Party

Volunteers cut up fallen tree limbs and put them and other trash in a pile in front of the house.

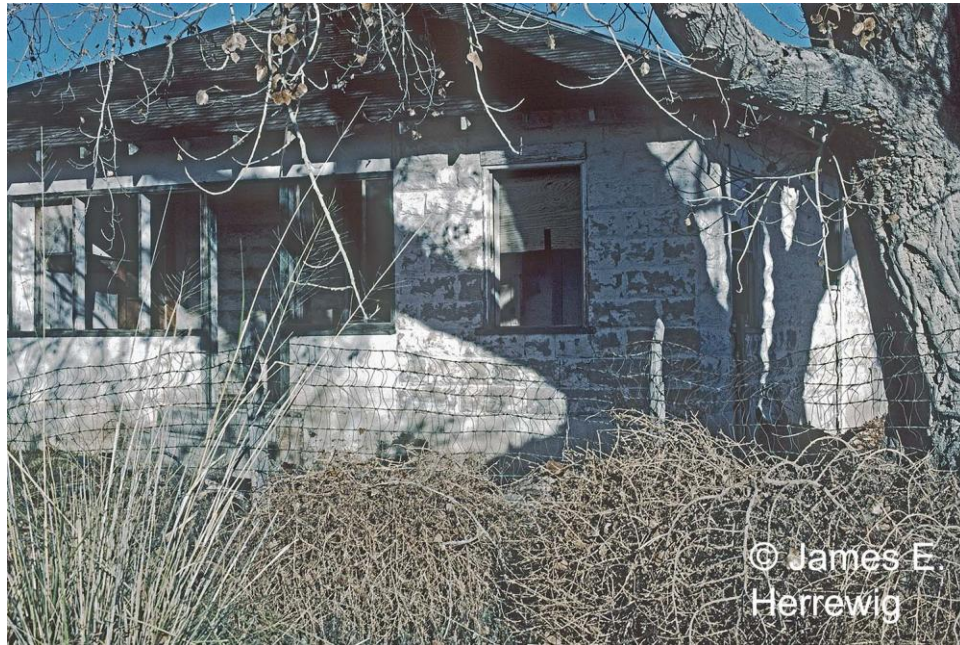


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Water lines and other underground facilities had to be renovated while the trash pile grew.



While the volunteers worked on clearing the grounds around the San Pedro House, they must have noticed how dilapidated the house was.



Once the volunteers had cleaned up the grounds, they began work on the house. The blocks that make up its outer walls needed extensive patching.





Once the outside walls were patched, volunteers began scraping off old paint. Other workers treated the roof with 30 gallons of water sealer.



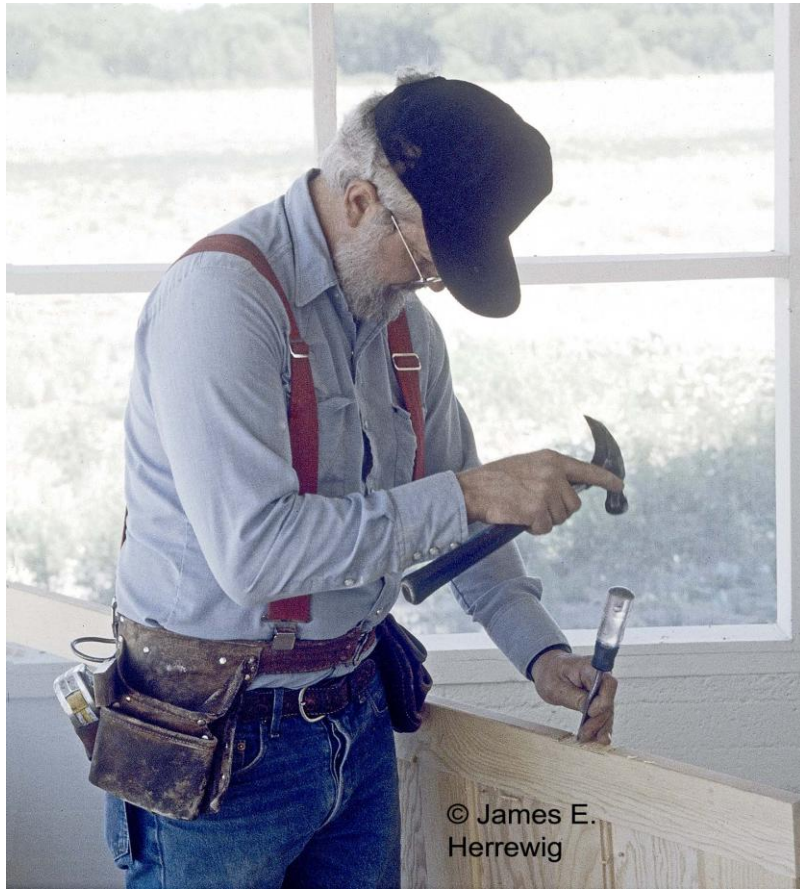


After volunteers had patched and cleaned the outer walls, they began painting them.



The volunteers found that the front and back porches needed to be reframed for screening and that all glass windows needed to be removed, and the window frames refurbished and reglazed.





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Once the new window frames were in place, the volunteers painted them along with



David Dross (one of the FSPR founding members) painting SPH

walls in the porches. BLM staff pitched in with some of the restoration efforts. Painting was a messy job.



The inside of the San Pedro House needed much work. For example, the kitchen (located in room that now has T-shirts and other clothes) needed refurbishing.



This photo of the front door and the windows behind the current sales counter shows some of the restoration work needed inside. Animals had chewed a hole in the door, and the door needed replacement. The plaster on the walls was cracked and dirty. The floor needed refinishing.



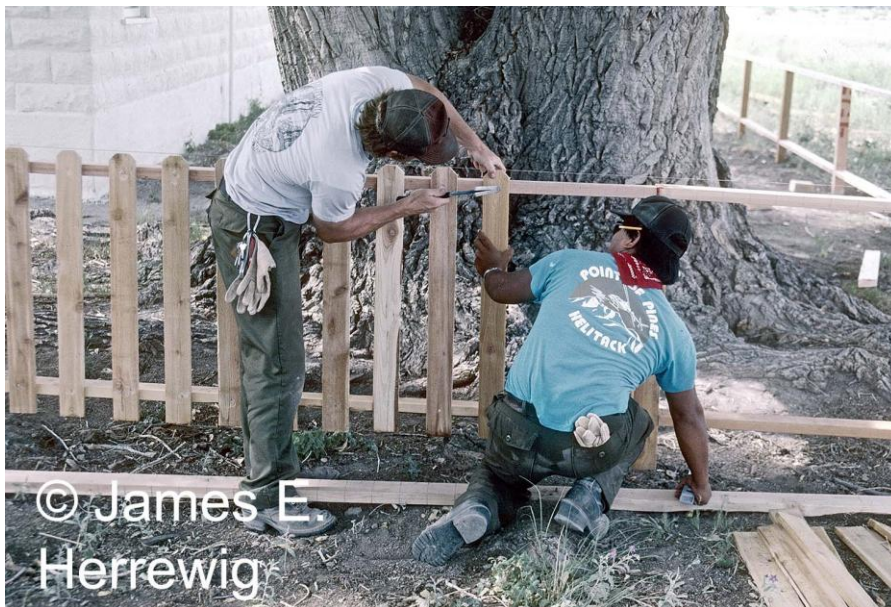
In the photo below, the floor in the background has been cleaned in preparation for refinishing.



The inside walls were sanded and painted.



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On the outside of the house, workers constructed a wood picket fence.

Even kids pitched in with the renovation.



During the initial 1988 renovation, FSPR volunteers cleaned the kitchen but did not remove it. The original thought was that the back portions of the house would be a museum to show how people lived during the ranching period. The need for additional revenue to better assist BLM led to the back portions eventually being converted into store areas.

FSPR volunteers spent more than a thousand hours renovating the San Pedro House in 1988. This project was just one of the many ways in which the Friends of the San Pedro River have assisted BLM. It was to be followed by many thousand more hours of donated services and many thousands of donated dollars.

The San Pedro House looked much better after the 1988 renovation by the Friends of the San Pedro River.



Literature Cited

Noonan, G. R. 2008. History of the Friends of the San Pedro River. Friends of the San Pedro River, Sierra Vista. 77 p. (PDF at <http://sciencequest.webplus.net/noonan%20san%20pedro%20river%20papers.html>).

Acknowledgements

I thank James E. Herrewig for the use of his historical photos. Bill and Jane Childress, former BLM SPRNCA manager and BLM archaeologist respectively, kindly made available the BLM photos.

This is a high resolution version for printing. Both low & high resolution copies are available at <http://sciencequest.webplus.net/noonan%20san%20pedro%20river%20papers.html>.