

Preserving and Sharing Utah's Past for the Present and Future

June 19, 2006

Media Contact: Claudia Nakano 801/538-8805
Utah Department of Community and Culture

Unique Workshops Will Preserve Old Barns

A pair of innovative workshops this summer will echo old-fashioned barn-raisings—but with a contemporary twist. The workshops are designed to help two barn owners in Cache Valley and at the same time teach participants uncommon building preservation skills. State History director Phil Notarianni says, “Barns are the largest, most visible reminders of our agrarian heritage. As more and more of them are lost to growth and neglect, it’s vital that we save the ones that remain. We’re pleased to be a part of that effort.”

The Bear River Heritage Area is sponsoring the workshops with the assistance of State History architect Don Hartley. For the last several years, a partnership between BRAG, State History, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation has helped restore several barns. “These workshops are for anyone who is interested,” says BRAG director Cindy Hall Bilskie. “You don’t have to be a barn owner to attend. Many of the skills can be applied to any historic building.”

During the June 24 workshop, participants will build and hang new doors on a barn in Paradise. In addition, hands-on experience will provide methods in building skylight covers and how to rebuild, re-glaze, and replace window sashes. On July 15, the workshop focuses on a barn in Richmond, with training in applying a traditional mortar mix for stone masonry. Participants will also learn how to stabilize roof framing and install a new metal roof. Cost for each workshop is \$5, which includes lunch and printed materials.

For more information on the workshops, contact Cindy Hall Bilskie at (435) 752-7242.

###