

The Livingston Cabin

The Livingston Cabin, currently located at Lincoln Park in Fairmont, is a historic structure significant to Martin County. The 18'x20' structure was erected in the 1864-66 time period on North Silver Lake. It was built and originally occupied by Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Livingston who came to this area as pioneers shortly after the end of the Civil War. Mrs. Livingston, also well known as a columnist for *The Sentinel* under the pen name 'Eve,' named the site "Tall Oaks" as a tribute to the large Oak trees on that site. Consequently, she named the cabin the "Tall Oaks" cabin as well. Regretfully, a tornado wiped out the Oak trees and, as such, the cabin was the last remaining reminder of those cherished trees. The Livingston Log House, aka "Livingston Cabin," was believed to be Martin County's longest continually inhabited log house up to the time of its initial preservation.

In 1953, the "Tall Oaks" cabin was donated to the Fairmont Parks Board by A. E Austin, who had purchased it from the Livingston family. The Fairmont Park Board's Superintendent at that time was quoted in the December 26, 1953, edition of *The Sentinel* as saying, "Maybe I'm getting ancient but I believe this cabin as a part of Fairmont's pioneer history should be preserved."

Consequently, the cabin was moved from North Silver Lake to its current location in Lincoln Park in order to be historically preserved under the direction of the Fairmont Parks Board. After being moved to Lincoln Park, the cabin had the newer outer siding removed as well as the inner plaster work so as to return the structure as close as possible to its original condition. Upon completion, it would be back to its original form of log construction.

In 2001, the family of Nola Livingston Brown donated \$4,500 from her estate to the Martin County Historical Society designated to provide repair and maintenance of the cabin on an ongoing basis as needed. It was obvious this year that the cabin was in dire need of stain, a new roof, and other minor repairs. As of the current year, the majority of those designated funds have remained untouched. However, approximately 60% of the funds available will be utilized to pay for this project. Once those designated funds are depleted, costs related to maintenance and repair will become the responsibility of the City of Fairmont.

The Livingston Cabin serves as a vivid reminder to everyone as to how our local society has evolved from the early pioneer days in Martin County.

For more information on this topic, or to become a member, contact the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont.





Livingston Cabin at Lincoln Park