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Historic house moves *Family creates a view*



Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © April 2, 2016 @ 8:07 a.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Once located adjacent to the First United Methodist Church's cemetery in Chiefland, a two-story house was moved on Thursday morning (March 31).

Unlike Dorothy's house in the Wizard of Oz, the Izaak P. Hardee House of 1850 was not picked up by a tornado and relocated while dropping onto a wicked witch, although some folks might have liked this to have occurred. Instead, this was a down-to-earth move by a private property owner who cares about the community to which he and his



significant other are relocating.

Michael Schuetrum stands next to one of four cornerstones of the property on which the house sits.

Michael L. Schuetrum bought the house that was built in 1850. Kimberly Cliff, Schuetrum's significant other, is leading the couple's efforts on directing the restoration. She is his "project manager," although she is very quick to not let anyone think he is not putting in time on the project as well.

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Cliff said her 14-year-old daughter Brooke is going to enjoy the fun of the project, too, especially this summer. The teenage girl's mother said the girl is excited about participating in the prospect of repainting, window replacement and the like for the 166-year-old structure.

Currently, Brooke is continues attending school in Orange County, her mom said, but the family plans to be relocated completely to Levy County by the start of the next school year.

The family is not moving into the historic Hardee house to live. Schuetrum has no intention modifying this structure into a functional living facility or to create a public museum for people to take tours through it, he said.



From a distance, the house is seen sitting just before its move on Thursday (March 31). By this point it is next to State Road 320 West (Manatee Springs Road).



Ronnie Hunt, Marvin Hunt, Lloyd Roberts, Charles Roberts and Joe Miley of Hunt's House Moving work on the Izaak P. Hardee House.

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Marvin Hunt operates a front-end loader during part of the preparation just before the ride down road for the house.



From a distance, Michael L. Schuetrum and Kimberly Cliff are seen in front of the house they are restoring to an extent for people to view.

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The entire extent of his plan is to put the house in a place where passersby can look at it with relative ease. This is on private property that is not owned by some historical group, etc., he added. And the Levy County Historical Society is not going to own it, he said.

As for the actual history in action and being made on Thursday, the movers of the Izaak P. Hardee House, were Hunt's House Moving of Cross City. Ronnie Hunt, Marvin Hunt, Lloyd Roberts, Charles Roberts and Joe Miley were the working crew in action then.



Michael Schuetrum and Kim Cliff are seen close-up in front of the house.

“If you have Hunt's House Moving move your house,” Schuetrum said, “you don't want to go to sleep in it the night before, because they move it so quietly you'd wake up in your new location.”

The historic house owner is finishing up some engineering and bureaucratic requirements on the structure. He is very pleased, though, with the cooperative spirit of the city of Chiefland staff.

Schuetrum is putting columns of Florida field stone as the markers of four corners of this property. From these cornerstones, he will be adding a fence. The whole plan is simply to restore the building for people to see as they pass by.

The move of the structure went in stages. Part of the final phase was crossing a field that Chris Hardee will be planting with a crop soon. Schuetrum said he is very appreciative of that farmer allowing him to cross that property with the house before it was planted.

The house measures 36-feet by 37-feet and it is two stories tall. There was a section of powerline that had to be dropped for a bit to allow the move to occur, and there was no interruption of service for electric users.

Anyone who wants more information or to visit can send Schuetrum an email at mlschuetrum@bellsouth.net.

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Schuetrum said he just did not want to see the house disappear from neglect. It is one of the oldest houses in Levy County. This is for the community to see – from a distance. It is not a museum or a part of any historical society.

As for the businessman relocating to Chiefland, he is continuing to work on his project to finish moving his machine shop and other commercial interests entirely to the Chiefland area. *HardisonInk.com* anticipates being the place to see when those ventures are fully in action.



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