



The small log cabin, or bachelor cabin is typical of the first shelters settlers built in Minnesota territory and dates from the late 1800s. It was known to be already on a farm about nine miles northeast of Owatonna in Merton Township when the property title was transferred in 1875. Beginning in 1932, the cabin was occupied for many years by William Lueck, a rural mail carrier and bachelor. A relative of the 1875 landowner, Fred Wilson of Northfield, Minnesota, donated it to the Society in 1962.

The building is made of hand cut logs, the type used as the first home of settlers coming into an area. It was meant to be a temporary home—simple shelter—until a proper home could be built. The corners are saddle-notched with much chinking to fill the gaps between the round logs. The original chinking came from a nearby creek bed in the form of “blue” mud, a clay more impervious to water. Its contents feature the early and sparse comforts of a hunter’s cabin.

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*The descriptions of the buildings comes from a book entitled "A Guide to The Village of Yesteryear" - written by Jerry Ganfield (available in the Gift Shop at the History Center)*