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## Timber-frame barn stands the test of time

By Samantha Sommer

Staff Writer

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

The timber-frame barn going up at the Hertzler House on Saturday has already survived about 160 years and should last at least another 100 to 200 years.

Some timber-frame structures have endured for 1,500 years, said Joel McCarty, executive director of the Timber Framers Guild.

"It's not a temporary technology," McCarty said.

The state razed the then century-old Hertzler House barn in 1951 when it owned the property, leaving the stone foundation.

The Clark County Park District began looking to fix it up in the '90s and it finally will be restored during a community barn raising from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday.

The timbers came from a similar era barn near the Dayton Mall donated by the Chamberlin family.

As a testament to the staying power of timber framing, about 90 percent of the hickory was salvageable, said Jim Campbell, open space manager for National Trail Parks and Recreation District.

The public is invited to participate or watch and should bring lawn chairs.

The barn will be raised by hand with pulleys, weather permitting.

"When we build these things with a collective, a big crowd of local people, the ownership of the project moves firmly into the community," McCarty said.

A work shop started earlier this month to teach the craft and prepare the barn for raising. Participants came from across the country — New Hampshire, California, Oklahoma, New Mexico and other places.

Gene Moore came down from Marysville, Ohio, to learn more about timber framing so he can restore his 19th century barn.

He likes the sturdiness of the all-wood construction.

"It will last a lot longer," he said.

A big part of the project is making sure all the measurements are exact, Campbell said.

"All that's done precisely so that when we put this jigsaw puzzle together it will fit and you will have very few problems," he said.

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