

# The Acadian Cabin



The Acadian cabin was constructed around 1940 by a park employee and then renovated around 1990. It was loosely modeled after his grandfather's Acadian cabin, possibly built in the early to middle 1800's: one large room with a fireplace; deep porches at front and back to keep the hot sun off the walls. Later the back porch might be closed in to provide more space and another one added, as demonstrated here.

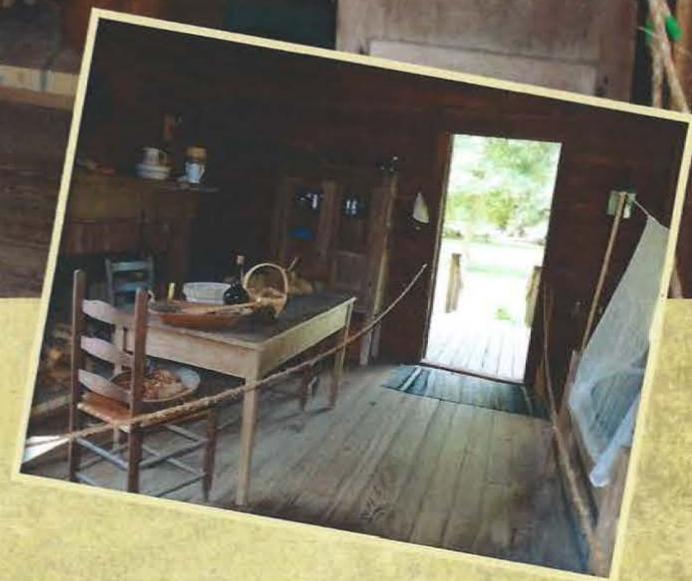
The high peaked roof allows space for hot air to rise, while the windows in the attic allow the hot air to escape, providing a cooler space for the children to sleep. The attic space is often referred to as the "garconniere", the place where boys sleep. If daughters did not share the attic space, they may have had storable mattresses that were packed away during the day.

# Front of the Cabin



The porch must also be considered a room, as it was where much work of the home was conducted. It was a place that provided more light and air and shade. It was also a place where family and friends gathered in the evenings to swap stories, play games and music. During the long Louisiana summers, family members often slept under mosquito netting on the porch.



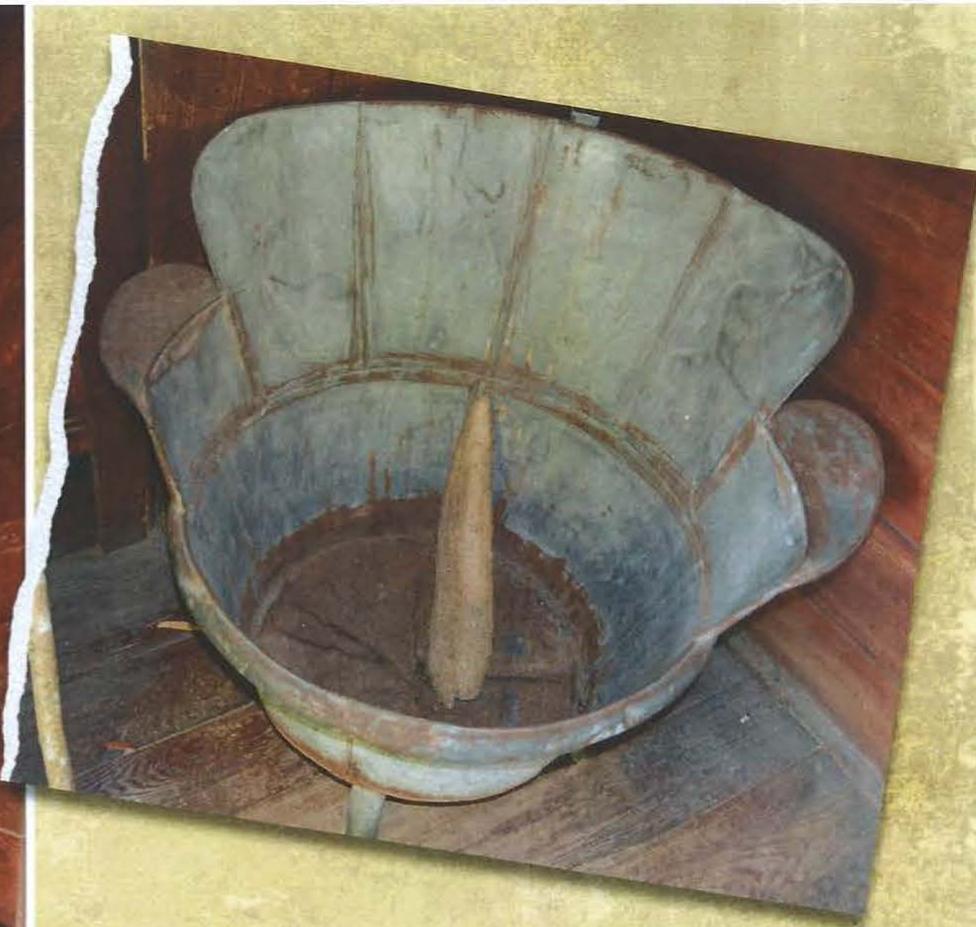
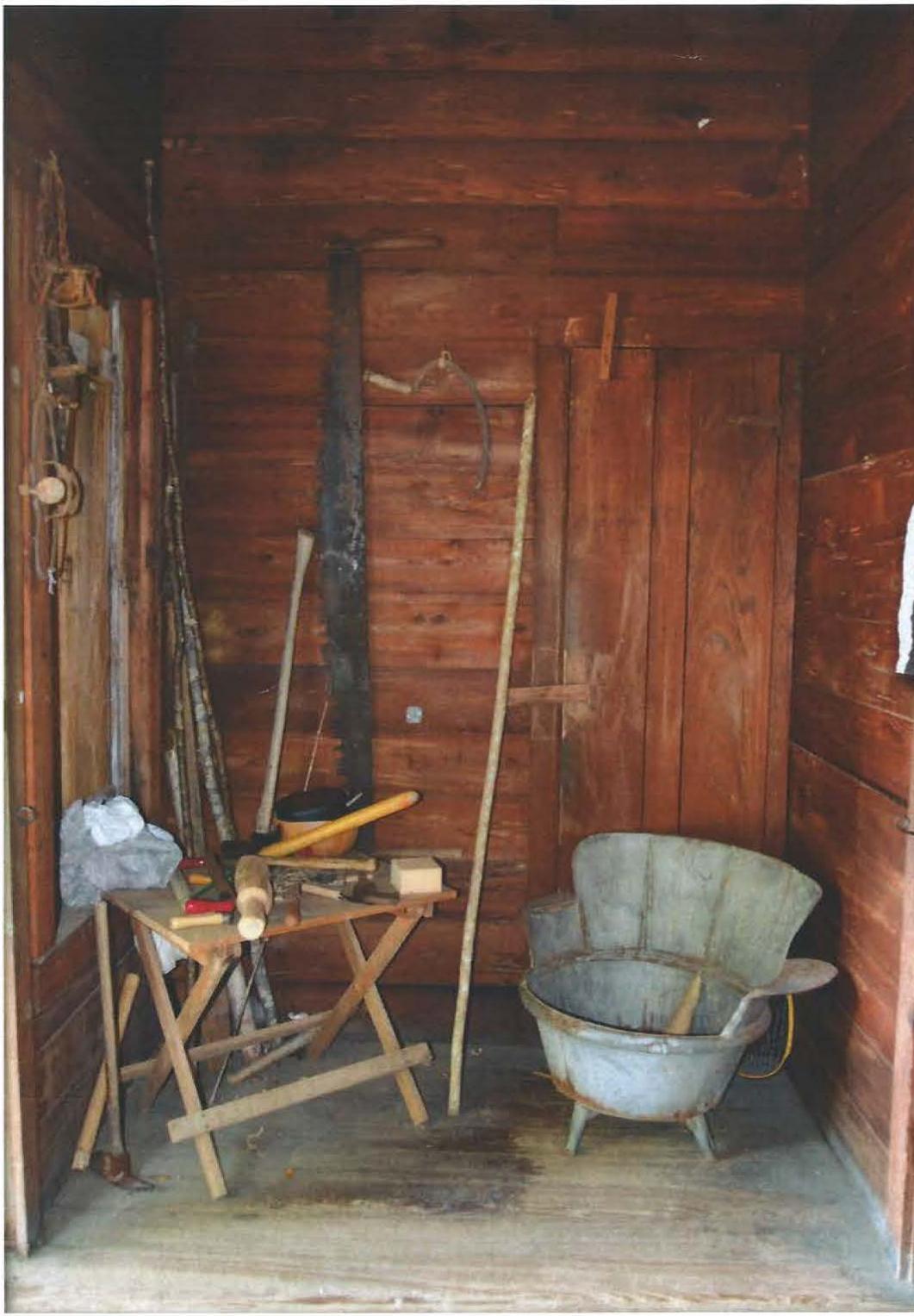


The furnishings of the cabin are rustic and simple. Families would gather for meals inside during cold or inclement weather, but preferred to eat on the porch in hot weather. Because of this, chairs and tables were usually lightweight and portable.



As with eating, families tended to use their porches for sleeping in hot summer months. Parents would often have a bed with a "mosquitaire" - a mosquito net. Children generally slept on moss or cotton mattresses which were rolled up and stored during the day. Boys often had a private bedroom in the attic, known as the garçonnière.

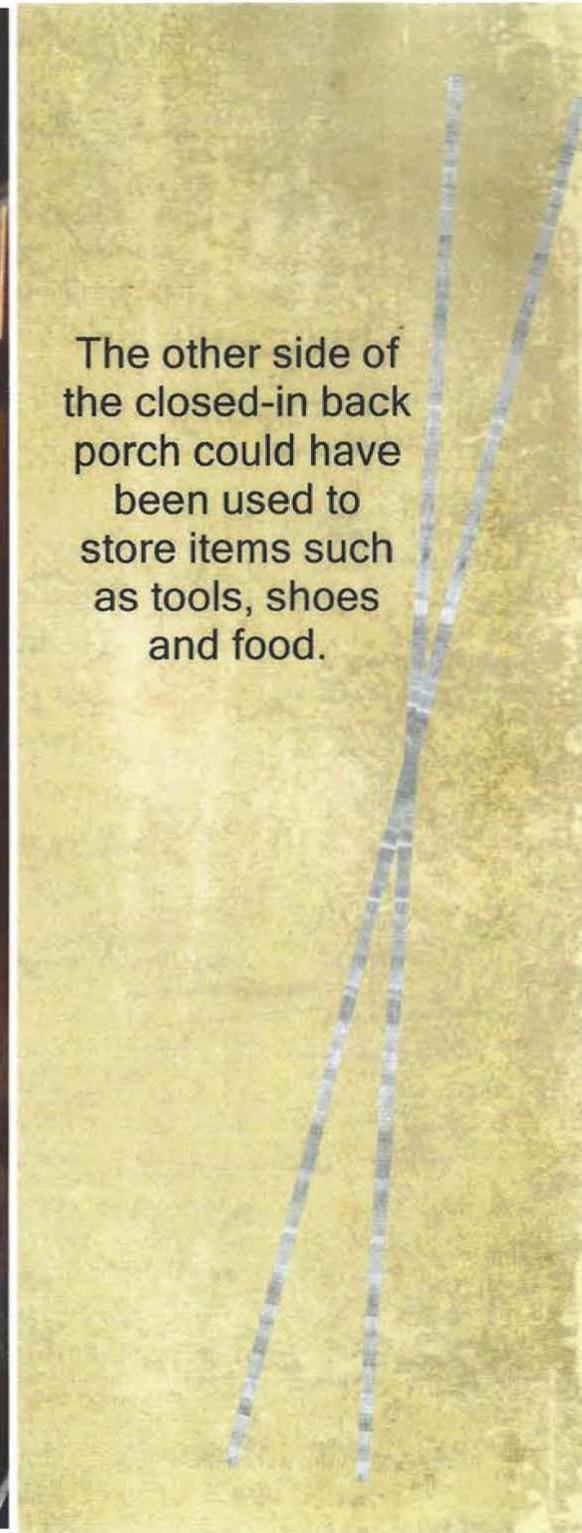




One side of the closed-in back porch that was used for the storage of various tools and the bath tub.

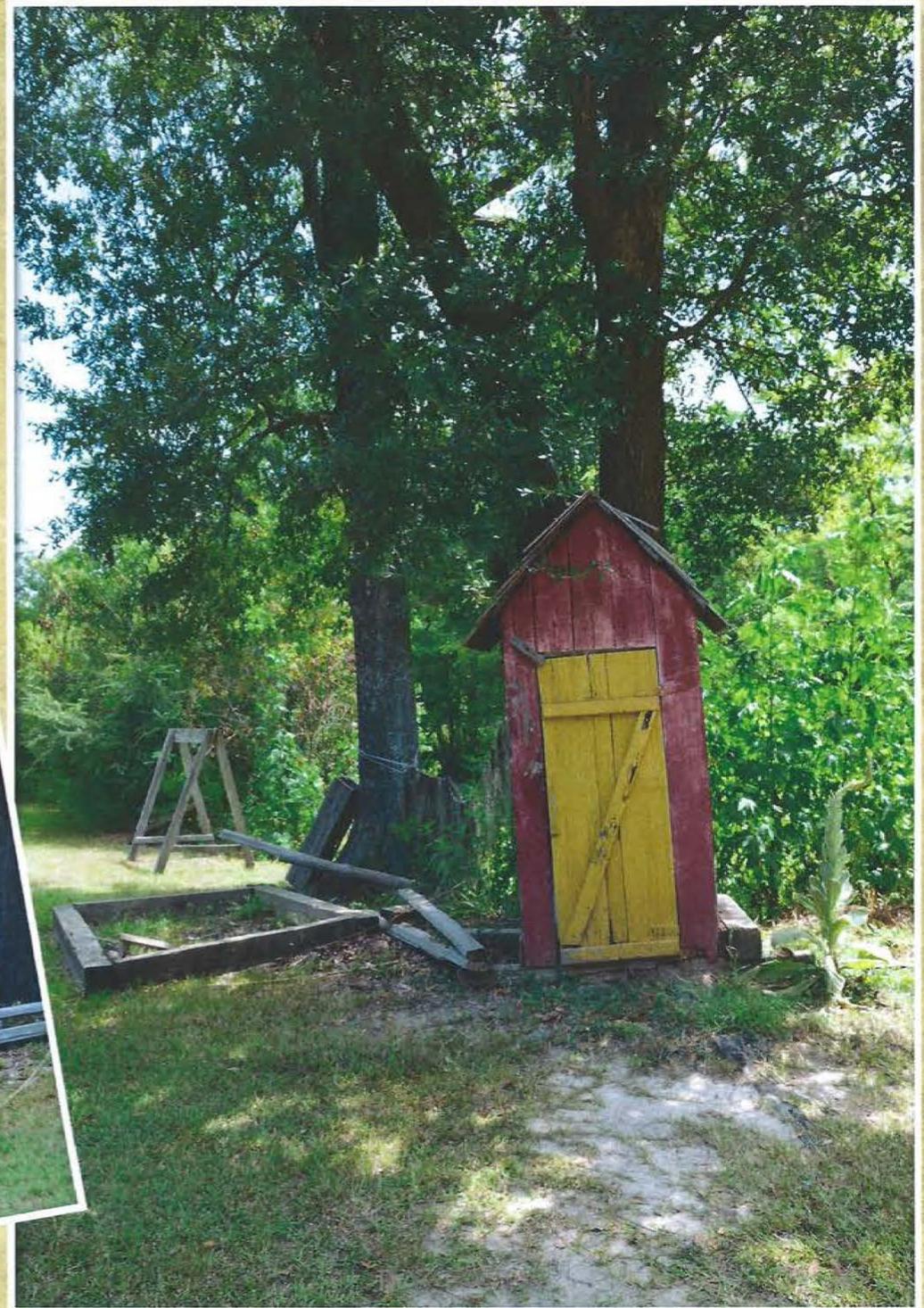
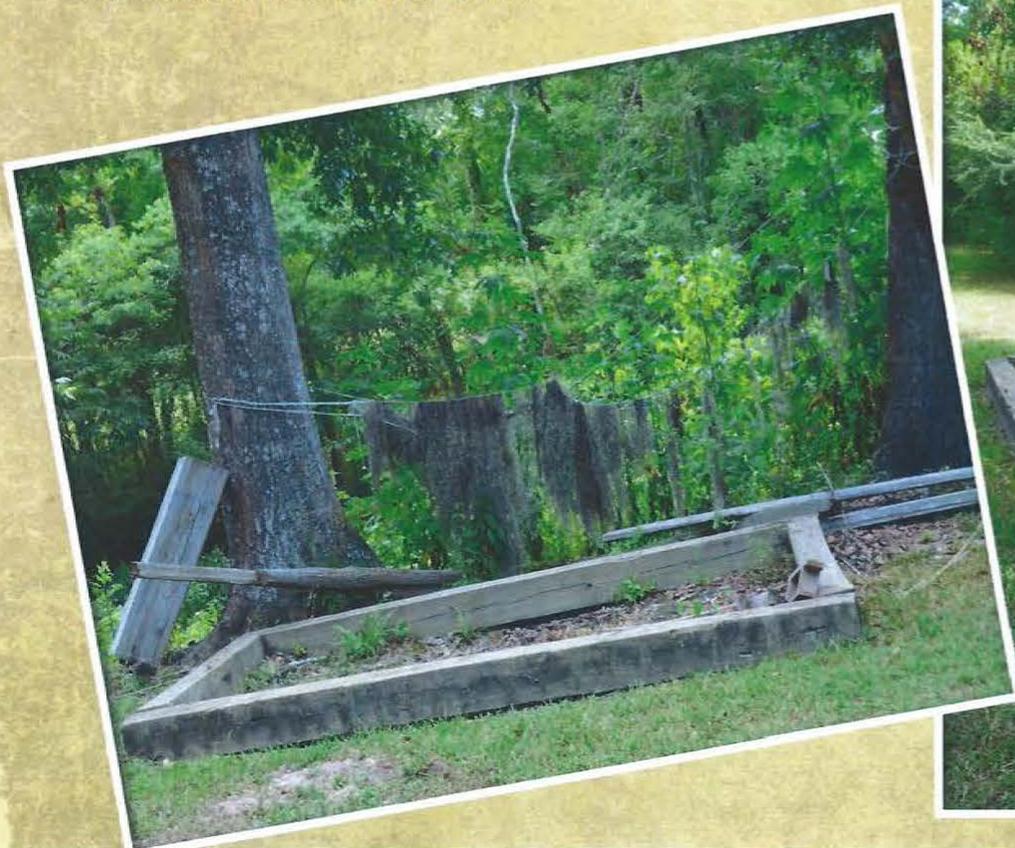


The other side of the closed-in back porch could have been used to store items such as tools, shoes and food.



Near the canal(trainasse) is the smokehouse where meat was smoked over low punky fires to preserve it for an extended period of time. Salting was also extremely prevalent in preserving meat for later use. (picture right)

Near the smokehouse is a pit for rendering bousillage, a mixture of Spanish moss, clay from the area and lime made from pulverized oyster shells. The mixture was used for making bricks, chimneys, kilns, ovens, and as an infill material for walls.





The kitchen is outside the home to reduce the risk of a disastrous house fire as well as to keep the house from being heated by open hearth cooking. Near the cooking area is the kitchen garden which provided the herbs and simple succulent vegetables such as onions, peppers, garlic, carrots, shallots and parsley.