

East Campus project swings into completion

By Trish Spencer
Staff Reporter

The view from the swing won't be quite the same, but the recreation of the porch on a 1898 East Campus frame house will offer some perspective on East Campus history, the project manager said.

Kevin Herr, assistant landscape architect at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he did his best to recreate the porch as it was on the frame house that housed one of the first superintendents of the State Farm, which was the name for East Campus.

Construction of the memorial porch will be completed in the next few days, Herr said.

He said the porch, which is located straight south of the Agricultural Communications Building, is a replica of the one found on S.W. "Dad" Perin's house.

The house, which served as a home for male students taking classes on

City Campus, was torn down in 1923, Herr said. No buildings from the era are left, he said.

The only authentic remains are the lilacs, Norway spruces and cedar trees that surround the white porch, Herr said.

Rosebushes, of varieties that might have been brought to Nebraska before the university was founded, are a new addition.

The 12-by-27-foot porch has glider-type swings for students and faculty members eating lunch, or Dairy Store customers, Herr said.

In addition to providing a place to spend leisure time, the porch will serve to beautify East Campus, while adding a historical feature, Herr said.

The project, which cost \$8,400, was financed by the William G. Whitmore memorial fund. Whitmore served on the NU Board of Regents from 1902 to 1916 and was interested in campus beautification.



Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

This photo, taken on July 4, 1898, shows the frame-house porch that served as a model for a porch being reconstructed on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus. Laura Helen Courtney Perin, wife of former State Farm Superintendent S. W. "Dad" Perin, sits on the right of the porch, decorated with flags and bunting for Independence Day. A hired girl, Katie Buffan (left) is reading. Between them, Perin's daughters Edna (left) and Hazel show off their dolls Grace and Daisie. Both the superintendents' home and the porch were torn down in 1923.

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