

# Old barn, cabin likely to escape bulldozers

By Ben Graham

Two historic buildings in the town of Jackson are likely to escape demolition.

An old barn on East King Street, believed to be built in the first half of the 20th century, soon could be moved to a property on Fish Creek Road.

Landowner Mark Berry considered tearing down the structure or reusing the materials, but after being approached by the Teton County Historic Preservation Board he decided to find someone to take the barn.

Rick Hunt, the owner of Fish Creek Excavation, plans to take the building to a client who owns property on the west bank.

The Historic Preservation Board was able to track down a bit of the barn's history, finding that it likely was built between 1937 and 1942.

"The historical prominence of the barn was brought to the owner's attention through the Historic Preservation Board," board President John Eastman said. "Once he realized the cultural and historical legacy that the barn represented, I think at that point he attempted to relocate the barn within his own redesign of his house or find someone to take it."

In addition to the barn, an 80-year-old Jackson cabin once slated to be bulldozed will be saved.

After getting the Jackson Town Council to delay issuing a demolition permit, the preservation board was able to find three parties that want to relocate the structure, which has been dubbed the JR Jones Cabin.

The board has asked those interested to send information about how

soon they could relocate the structure and where they'd move it to.

Property owner Anna Hayworth wants to redevelop the land, which sits along the bank of Flat Creek. But she also has been supportive of finding someone to save the cabin, Eastman said.

The cabin used to belong to Jackson Hole homesteader JR Jones. It was built as a wedding present for his daughter, Fidelia Jones, and her husband.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

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The tiny log building sits at the foot of Saddle Butte on what is a mostly empty parcel enclosed by a fence.

"We're just trying to preserve the legacy and cultural history of the valley, when we can, through buildings and structures," Eastman said of the board's recent efforts.

When a structure can't be saved, the board attempts to document the building before it is torn down. The board took photos of the 50-year-old Woods Hotel before it was leveled earlier this year.

Landowner Jim Darwiche is building a new hotel in its place.