


Timber HAVEN

PENNSYLVANIA'S POCONOS
PROVIDE A BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL
BACKDROP FOR A COZY CABIN.



BY MIKE HASKEW  PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALLEN MOWERY

They bought the property, originally a one-acre lot (now a three-acre compound) surrounded by mature evergreens and hardwoods in Pennsylvania's Poconos, and waited.

Jack Hubbard and Bob Rhodes knew what they wanted 25 years ago, and when the timing was right they plunged into the process of constructing the log home they had envisioned. Located in a private community just minutes north of the town of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, the cozy home was completed in August 2015, after a 16-month construction period.



AVAILABLE STONE AND UNDERSTATED SHRUBBERY ADORN THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOME, AS LANDSCAPING COMPLEMENTS THE OVERALL APPEAL RATHER THAN GRABBING THE LIMELIGHT. OPPOSITE: A TASTEFUL THROW RUG AND OVERSTUFFED DECK FURNISHINGS INVITE GUESTS TO LINGER ON THE DECK AND TAKE IN THE QUIET SERENITY OF THE POCONOS.



ABOVE: THE STYLIZED KITCHEN ISLAND AND COMPLEMENTARY STOOLS WERE HANDMADE BY AMISH CRAFTSMEN AND ADD AN UNDERSTATED LUSTER TO THE SPACE.

LEFT: THE DEEP DOUBLE SINK AND BROAD KITCHEN WINDOW ARE COMPLEMENTED BY SOLID MAPLE CABINETS FINISHED IN AN OFF-WHITE OR CREAM COLOR WITH STRIKING BLACK HARDWARE.

OPPOSITE: JACK NOTES THAT BOB SERVED AS THE INTERIOR DECORATOR WITH A "MAGIC TOUCH." JACK'S LONE CONTRIBUTION WAS THE MAGNIFICENT ANTLER CHANDELIER.

"With the kids grown, out of college, and on their own, it was time for Bob and me to build our dream log home," reflects Jack. "Although the property is located in a private community on top of Pohopoco Mountain, it is close to all of the great outdoor amenities the Poconos have to offer, such as skiing, hiking and biking trails, whitewater rafting, ATV trails, being one with nature, and great shopping in small towns throughout the Poconos."

When the project began, the goal was clear: build a log home with cottage style. With 616 square feet on the first floor, 408 on the second, and a 600-square-foot walkout basement, the intent was to utilize every inch of livable space. Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes of Middleburg, Pennsylvania, consulted and provided the energy-efficient engineered log package.

The floorplan is open and inviting. On the first floor an appealing living room space adjoins the kitchen/dining area with a large center island and

easy access to the guest bedroom and bath. The second floor loft includes the master bedroom, sitting area, and walk-in closet. The basement was finished a few years after the home was built with a family room, second kitchen, half bath and laundry room. A garage and timber-frame pavilion were also added after building their home.

Jack works as a civil engineer while Bob is the maintenance manager for an apartment community. Both have experience in construction, and their skills served them well. The two designed the floorplan using a home architectural CAD program and then got to work on the real thing.

"Bob and I, with some occasional help from my daughter, Nicole, built the entire house ourselves from the foundation up," relates Jack. "We worked mostly on weekends and took a few weeks' vacation from time to time over the 16 months, all while holding full-time jobs. The only items we contracted out were the prefab concrete basement walls by Superior Walls, septic, well, excavation work, and final grading."

Bob and Jack consider one of their best moves was to enlist the assistance of Lynda Tompkins at Timberhaven. The owners weighed their options in the search for a project partner and selected Timberhaven somewhat by happenstance.

"As we would do almost every weekend, we took either day or weekend trips to visit log home companies," explains Jack. "After doing some research online one evening, I yelled to Bob, 'I think I found it.' So that next day we got in our car and traveled to central Pennsylvania in search of Timberhaven."

When they arrived at the company headquarters, the prospective buyers checked it out, but the place appeared closed. "After walking around for a while, we were about ready to leave," Jack continued, "and Lynda just happened to be coming out of the office. She spent her entire afternoon looking at our plans, asked us a lot of questions about what we wanted in our log home, showed us what they could offer, and the rest is history."

For Lynda, the consultative approach is standard. Jack and Bob made the afternoon a pleasure. "They wanted something small and efficient," she remembers. "We chatted about Timberhaven, took their design, and made sure everything was right. Their experience as self-builders was helpful and made the process easier. They were great to work with."

For the exterior, the builder/owners chose one of the largest engineered white pine logs, 8X12, that Timberhaven offers. A beam and purlin roof along with board and batten construction

"My favorite room is ... the cozy living room. I enjoy relaxing on the sofa with our dogs and viewing the high vaulted beam and purlin roof system up to the second floor loft."

- Bob Rhodes



ABOVE: BEAUTIFUL ROOF BEAMS ARE VISIBLE FROM THE SECOND-FLOOR LOFT SITTING AREA AND MASTER BEDROOM, ADDING DEPTH AND A MEMORABLE ARCHITECTURAL ACCENT TO THE HOME.

LEFT: DRYWALL IS ABSENT IN THE HOME, AND THE REWARD IS APPARENT IN THE WARMTH OF THE FUNCTIONAL FULL BATH.

OPPOSITE: BOB AND JACK SAVOR THE TIME THEY HAVE TO RELAX ON THEIR PORCH WITH THEIR DOGS REGGIE (SHOWN) AND BOOKER, ENJOYING A QUIET EVENING OR AN EARLY MORNING SUNRISE.

helped conjure up both cottage and log home living. The interior walls are tongue and groove pine. Other highlights include solid chestnut flooring on the main level, solid maple kitchen and bathroom cabinets, and granite countertops throughout.

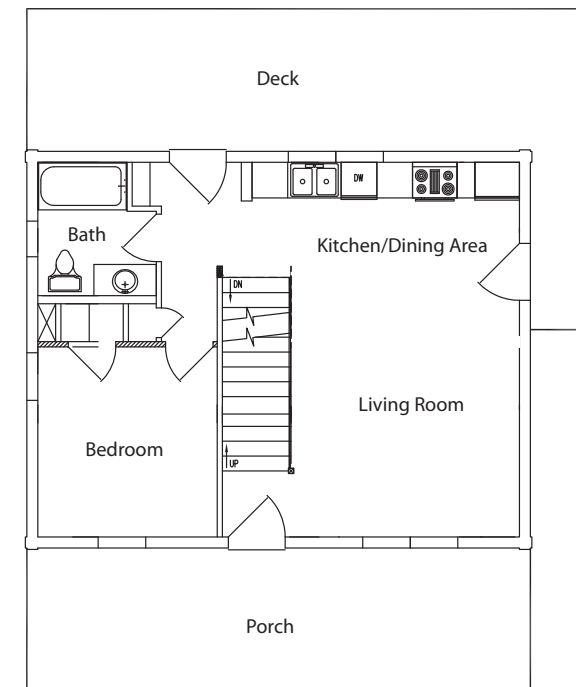
Furnishings include pieces collected and purchased over the years, some passed down through family members. Among the most unique are antique railroad items and photos and antique surveying equipment once belonging to Jack's grandfather and father. The Amish handmade kitchen island and stools are favorites. All accents, from door hardware to gutters, storm doors, and windows, are in eye-catching black.

Bob and Jack have accomplished their goal of living in quiet comfort with the assurance that their planning, time, and resources have been well invested. 🌲



Log Home Producer: Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes, Middleburg, Pennsylvania
 Two-story home 🌲 Square Footage: 1,024 plus 600 basement
 Bedrooms: 2 🌲 Baths: 1

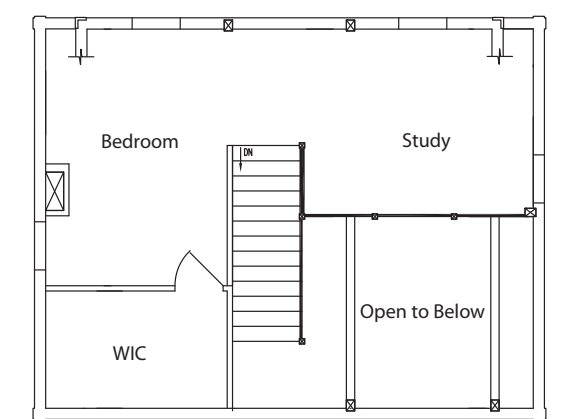
MAIN LEVEL



THE SECOND-FLOOR LOFT IS IDEAL FOR RELAXING WHILE TAKING IN THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF THE SECLUDED THREE-ACRE LOT.

THE GENEROUS PORCH AREAS HIGHLIGHT THE EXTERIOR OF THE MAIN LEVEL, WHILE A KITCHEN/DINING COMBINATION OPEN TO THE LIVING ROOM TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF AVAILABLE SPACE.

UPPER LEVEL



"My favorite spot is ...

the second-floor sitting area off the master bedroom. It's a very cozy space with a built-in window seat overlooking the wooded lot. Next to the sitting area is the walk-in closet with a custom-built sliding barn door. We constructed the barn door using old pallets from the construction site, leaving the paint and weathered patina and just applying a clear coat of poly."

- Jack Hubbard