

Early Donations Sought for Historic Harshaw Chapel Project

End-of-year contributions to the Harshaw Chapel restoration project are now invited by the restoration team.

Donations are tax deductible and should be mailed to Harshaw Project, 1st United Methodist Church, PO Box 86, Murphy NC 28906.

A full public fund-raising campaign is planned to start in early January. Work on the Murphy landmark is scheduled to begin early March.

It will consist of replacing the rotten timbers in the roof and steeple with new trusses and a new roof. The work will restore the Chapel to its original appearance as closely as possible.

“Your participation preserves an iconic building not just for our church but for community involvement,” says Barbara Hughes of the restoration team. “It makes it possible to resurrect the Chapel for future use.”

Joshua Harshaw was a wealthy plantation owner at Brasstown who came here to farm the rich bottomland vacated by the Cherokee in the Trail of Tears removal in 1838.

In 1869, shortly after the end of the Civil War, he gave the Methodist Church a fine new building and the surrounding six acres for a town cemetery. The local Methodists built a larger church downtown in 1922, still in use today, and the old chapel was largely abandoned.

Today the roof is leaking, the belfry is leaning and the beams and rafters that support the roof cannot be repaired, only removed and replaced.

Harshaw gave the land for the Chapel,he said, out of love for Christ and for the sake of His heritage on earth.

Your gifts help restore the Chapel and keep the original vision alive.

PHOTO Caption:

Harshaw Chapel---Local landmark for 150 years, graves of Joshua Harshaw, wife and young son enclosed in foreground.(Avett Photo)