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**FEATURED** 

## Home sweet home: Carus schoolhouse arrives

John Baker Aug 21, 2023



Rolling on down the road, the Historic Carus Schoolhouse makes it way towards Evans Farms, which will be its new home. Courtesy Photo: Stefanie Agar

An historic building has come full circle.

After much effort, the historic Carus Schoolhouse at last traversed fields and other obstacles to arrive at its final resting place on Evans Farms on Aug. 16.

The three-day journey began Aug. 14 by moving the building across Carus Road and into an adjacent field. On Aug. 15, the move continued north before stopping at Mueller Road. A day later, the historic old schoolhouse crossed Mueller Road to its ultimate destination at Evans Farms.

Originally slated to roll down Highway 213, those plans had to be scrapped a few weeks ago when worries about danger to utilities were raised. With that, community organizers pivoted and the plan to take the schoolhouse to its intended destination through local fields was envisioned. To do it, the schoolhouse would have to be moved across two country roads and land owned by five different property owners on its ¾ mile trip to Evans Farms.

On Aug. 16, that trip was completed.

Now, the next phase will gain steam – fundraising to turn the old "White Building" into a historic facility.

Raising money for the \$150,000 move and the \$500,000 renovation is still a huge concern for The Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse. But community support is strong, and the "Friends" say they are optimistic it can be pulled off.

For more information, or to donate, contact The Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse: Chris Ritter <u>carushistoricschoolhouse@gmail.com</u>, 503-329-5405 or <u>carushistoricschoolhouse.org</u>.

## **A little History**

In 1926 Clarence Evans and Carl Schmeiser built the Carus schoolhouse milled from old growth trees on Evans' farm. Over the years, dozens of Evans and Schmeiser descendants, as well as hundreds of children from the community, either attended the school or taught at the two-room Carus schoolhouse.

In December of last year, Canby School District requested permission to demolish the building if a buyer who would move the building could not be found.

Improvements to the parking lot required space that was now occupied by the "White Building."

The date for demolition was set for July 1, 2023. The Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse was formed to not only save the schoolhouse but find a new home for it.

## John Baker

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