



## Rebuilding the Sikes Adobe Farmhouse

The story of the second restoration and

reconstruction of the Sikes Adobe farmhouse became a reality on August 24, 2009, when ground was broken for rebuilding after the Witch Creek fire.

The first steps involved removal of the existing concrete footings which had supported the east and west porches, and the wraparound porch on the south end of the building. Attention was also given almost immediately to the remains of the adobe walls, which had withstood the winter of 2007-2008, due to stabilization measures installed by the River Park and the corrugated material which directed rainfall away from the tops and sides of the adobe.

The making of adobe for the purposes of filling and patching cracks took place at the work site, with local material and some imported material.



The west wall had fared the worst as a result of the fire and subsequent rainy seasons, and it will therefore receive the greatest number of new bricks.

October saw more activity in the preparation of the foundations for the new porches and for the Sitting Room. Areas from which existing concrete had been removed required some filling before the new wooden forms could be constructed and ready to receive the new concrete.



Forms were built on both the east and west sides of the adobe, in areas which correspond to the porches on those sides, in the area of the Sitting Room, and around the south side, where the bedrooms and hallway will be reconstructed.



Once the new concrete was in, framing of the south end of the building began and progressed very rapidly!



At the same time as the south end began to take shape, work on the adobe walls and their surfaces continued. Headers for the doorways and windows were put into place, with additional adobe and partial bricks as needed to replace failing sections.



With the south portion of the building framed, work on the Sitting Room began, in the shape of framing for its roof and walls.

