A couple of years ago, Hilton Poy's family decided to tear down the old house where his grandfather had grown up near the Mississippi River in Mississippi. The house had been a landmark for the family for generations, but it was time to move on and make way for new beginnings.

Hilton and Thelma Poy stand outside of the replica of a primitive farmhouse that he built to house his wife's collection of primitive antiques. The house was made of lumber salvaged from the old home of Hilton Poy's mother, SOPHIE.

VINTAGE COOKING IMPLEMENTS line the walls of the kitchen in a primitive farmhouse behind the home of Greenwell Springs couple Hilton and Thelma Poy.

The Little Hilton

Replica farmhouse houses couple's collection of primitive antiques

By JANET HENRY

A couple of years ago, Hilton Poy's family decided to tear down the old house where his grandfather had grown up near the Mississippi River in Mississippi. The house had been a landmark for the family for generations, but it was time to move on and make way for new beginnings.

Hilton and Thelma Poy stand outside of the replica of a primitive farmhouse that he built to house his wife's collection of primitive antiques. The house was made of lumber salvaged from the old home of Hilton Poy's mother, SOPHIE.

"We have a few friends, and they like the way they live," Poy said. "We have kids and grandkids who we entertain, and we enjoy the outdoors." Poy's wife, Thelma Poy, has a taste for primitive antiques and was instrumental in the design of the house.

"I saw the old house and knew it would be a great place to live," Thelma Poy said. "I love primitive antiques and the way they look. It's a great place to live and to enjoy the outdoors." Thelma Poy's collection includes a variety of primitive antiques, including old cast-iron kettles and wooden spoons.

"It's a very special place to live," Poy said. "We enjoy the outdoors and the peace and quiet. It's a great place to live and to enjoy each other's company." Poy and Thelma Poy have been married for over 30 years and have two grown children.

The house is a replica of a primitive farmhouse that the couple built in 1972. The house has a peaked roof, a front porch, and a garden with flowers and vegetables. The couple has decorated the interior with primitive antiques, including old cast-iron kettles and wooden spoons.

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all my pieces of soap,” she said.

Outside, a rooster and six hens lend another measure of authenticity to the farmhouse setting. “The rooster wakes us up in the morning,” Thelma Pray said.

The Prays have eight grandchildren, and some of them occasionally spend the night at the little farmhouse. “They know not to touch my things,” said Thelma Pray, smiling.

Along with the grandchildren, many friends and relatives have visited The Little Hilton. Last Christmas, members of Zoar Baptist Church used it for a party. “We dressed up old-fashioned. We had at least 150 people here,” Thelma Pray said.

The success of The Little Hilton has inspired the Prays to think of new projects.

“Hilton wants a replica of his daddy’s barn,” Thelma Pray said. “I want a one-room schoolhouse and a little chapel. Do you know anyone who has some old lumber?”

Illustrates the methods of long-ago seamstresses. Among the items is a plain Sunday dress that had been carefully repaired many times. “The little lady, I wish she could talk, because she really took care of it,” Thelma Pray said. “She really patched it up. A friend gave it to me.”

In the back room of the farmhouse, the Prays have used period fixtures, furniture and cooking implements to re-create a turn-of-the-century kitchen.

“This old sink we found in someone’s pasture,” Thelma Pray said. “We do have running water, and electricity.”

What the little house doesn’t have, though, is an indoor bathroom. Instead, there’s an outhouse nearby. “It’s a one-holer, and we have a Sears and Roebuck catalog in there,” she added, referring to the period custom of using catalog pages for tissue paper. “We don’t use the outhouse, though.”

Old feed sacks are draped beneath the kitchen sink as a homespun set of curtains. Antique kitchen gadgets fill countertops and hang from the walls. “This was Hilton’s mother’s butter churn,” Pray said. “A friend of mine gave me this candle maker. She knew I had the room for it.”

Pray also has a soap saver — a little wire basket with a slender handle in which housewives once saved scraps of soap. By whisking the soap saver in a tub of water, homemakers could create some suds from little remnants of the soap bar.

Pray is charmed by the thriftiness of an era in which even soap scraps were saved. “Even today, I still save