The Historical Society of Federal Way invites you to yesterday, where a step back in time puts you at the restored home of John Barker, one of the area’s first settlers, and inside an 1889 real estate office built by David T. Denny, an early pioneer and developer of Seattle. Both log cabins have been restored to preserve local and regional history and to inform future generations of a past that continues to define the American experience.

Located at the entrance of the West Hylebos Wetlands park in Federal Way, WA, where trails wind through four types of wetlands in the 120-acre preserve. A perfect day’s outing, with interpretive narratives of the ever-evolving world of the Pacific Northwest - home to our forbearers and ourselves.

Cabins located at:
West Hylebos Wetlands Park,
411 South 348th Street, Federal Way, WA

Historical Society of Federal Way:
2645 S 312th St. Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 945-7842
www.federalwayhistory.org
Once called the “Ivied Cottage” because it was draped with ivy, the Barker Cabin is the oldest original structure in Federal Way and is indicative of the early architecture – hand-hewn logs notched and assembled and chinked with moss.

John Barker and his family filed for a homestead claim in 1883. He built a 16-foot x 16-foot cabin where he, his wife and three children lived for seven years while felling trees and planting a farm. Barker received title to the land in 1890.

In 1993, the Barker Cabin was moved to its present site and restored. The Barker Cabin contains artifacts from the period that help to understand how daily living took place.

David T. Denny came from Illinois by covered wagon in 1851. David was arguably the first permanent non-native settler in what was to become Seattle.

By 1870, David T. Denny controlled much real estate in North Seattle and in 1889 built the David T. Denny Cabin as a real estate office at the foot of Queen Anne Hill.

The David T. Denny Cabin was constructed from timber logged off Queen Anne Hill in Seattle and was built a few months before the Great Seattle Fire of 1889. The Cabin was built to serve as the sales office for David T. Denny and Sons Real Estate Brokers company. His land holdings ran from Lake Union to Elliott Bay at the base of Queen Anne Hill.

After the land business went bankrupt the building had many uses. It was occupied as a kindergarten class, a men’s church group, and a personal residence. From the late 1920’s until it closed in the 1950’s it housed Green’s Tavern.

In 1966 the cabin was relocated from the base of Queen Anne Hill in Seattle to the Federal Shopping Way to become a part of the pioneer-themed Heritage Village. It was moved again to its present location in 1992. The cabin has been restored and was opened to the public in May 2012.