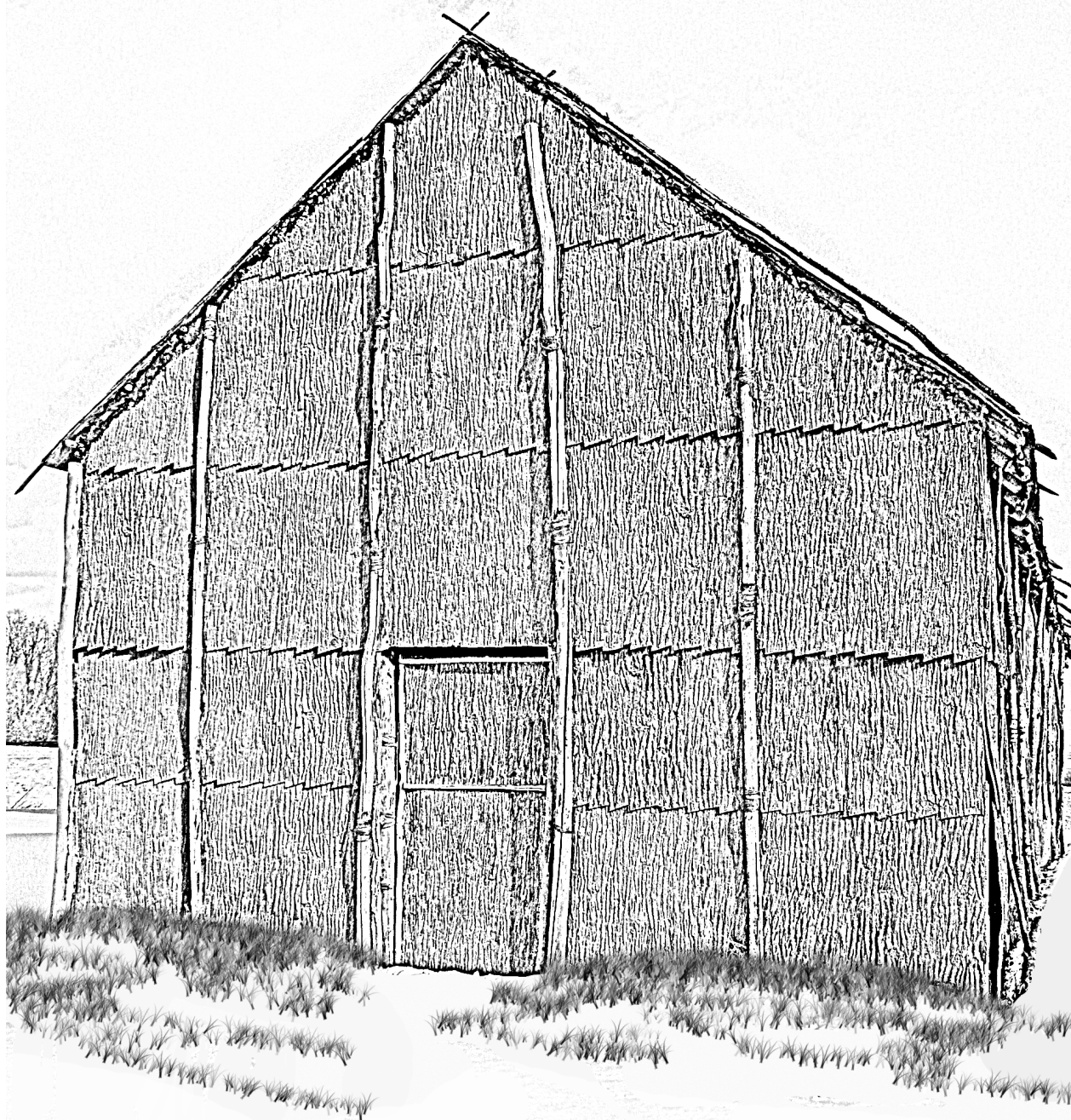


Color the Bark Longhouse

Use your favorite crayons, markers, or colored pencils to color Ganondagan's Bark Longhouse. If you wish to color the longhouse as it appears at the Ganondagan State Historic Site, please see the Ganondagan website, www.ganondagan.org, for full-color photos.



Ganondagan's Bark Longhouse

A single Haudenosaunee longhouse was home to several families, all belonging to the same clan. Each longhouse measured approximately 20 feet wide and from 40 to 200 feet long, depending upon the number of families living within it. The interior of the longhouse was divided into sections. Two-tiered bunks lined each wall. The first tier was used as sleeping quarters for one family. The upper tiers were used as storage for that family. Each pair of families shared a central fire. Construction of a new longhouse began in the spring. First, a frame was built. Four large posts were sunk into the ground to serve as sturdy corner posts. Then young elm trees were cut for the frame of the longhouse. Once the frame was completed, strips of elm bark were cut to serve as siding. These bark strips were lashed to the frame using rope made of bark fiber. The only openings in the longhouse were the two doors, one on each end, and the smoke holes in the roof above each of the fires. The dedication of the long-awaited Bark Longhouse at Ganondagan State Historic Site took place on July 25, 1998. The Bark Longhouse represents the return of a traditional Seneca dwelling to a site razed in 1687 by the French Marquis de Denonville. The Longhouse is now furnished as closely as possible to an original 1670 longhouse, complete with replicas of European and colonial trade goods and items created and crafted by the Seneca. Also in the longhouse are crops, herbs, and medicines grown, harvested, and preserved by the Seneca who lived atop the hill at Ganondagan. The Bark Longhouse will provide opportunities to educate visitors about Haudenosaunee life and culture, both in the 17th century and the present.