



“The Sparrow” - The Windmill at Meadowbrook Village

Windmill Facts:

The name “Sparrow” refers to Psalm 84:3 (“Even the sparrow has found a home . . .”).

Our windmill was built by Verbij Windmill Design and Construction in Hoogemade, Netherlands. Lucas Verbij is a fourth-generation windmill builder and one of the leading windmill builders and restorers in the world. Verbij has constructed and renovated windmills all over Holland. He has also worked on windmills in Pella, IA, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and Japan.

The wooden parts of the windmill were fabricated in Holland and shipped to Escondido. Most of the wood used in the windmill is an African hardwood called Belinga wood. Two Dutch craftsmen from Verbij Windmill supervised the assembly.

Our windmill is a wind-powered grain mill. The blades are attached to a 22,000 lb iron shaft which turns large wooden gears. The gears turn an 8,000 lb grinding stone which is used for grinding grains or spices.

The height of the observation deck is 20 feet. The height to the top of the blades is 86 feet. The body of the windmill weighs about 24 tons. The head weighs about 15 tons.

The head of the windmill rests on huge bearings that allow it to swivel to face the wind. It has a braking system to slow the blades in the case of heavy winds.

All of the machinery is contained in the head and body of the windmill. The brick-covered base has two floors. The ground-level floor has a self-serve coffee machine, chess set, checkers, and seating for a small group.

For more information about Meadowbrook, or for photos of the windmill project, please visit us at www.meadowbrookvillage.org.