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Six decades ago, Ted Kobata and his family were forced to move from their Sacramento home to a 20-by-20-foot barracks in the Poston, Ariz., Japanese internment camp.

Four decades later, Kobata could still pluck that room from his memory, so when he was offered a chance to contribute to the education efforts surrounding the internment, he built a replica of that barracks in perfect detail, from the overused hot plate to the ostensibly cooling double-layered roof to the stars in the window symbolizing a son fighting a war every Japanese American was already losing.

Through the years, he rebuilt it many times for many showings, and after a quarter-century on the road, Kobata, 83, has donated his barracks to the California Museum for History, Women & the Arts, giving it a permanent home at last.

"I feel honored," he said. "I'm proud to be a part of (the museum)."

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