Change Over Time: Spring Mill State Park
Historic Landscape Evaluation

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May 1, 1995
"Spring Mill State Park is a rare, if not a singular opportunity, to bring back the past and visualize again the activities of pioneer days. . . What we needed was the fine feeling, perfect imagination, if not a poetic conception of the ultimate goal."

-Richard Lieber
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would first like to thank my advisor and mentor, Anne Henderson, for opening my eyes to the world of Historic Landscape Preservation. You have been an inspiration to me and have helped me to see what my future direction as a Landscape Architect could be.

I would also like to thank my family. My Great-Grandfather and my Grandparents for giving me a sense of my roots which has inevitably given me the pleasure of learning history. And to my parents, Carl and Mary Jo, for supporting me, sharing in my excitement, comforting my disappointments, and most of all just being there to listen while also paying the phone bills.

And last, I would like to thank three incredible friends: Scott Siefker, Tricia 'Thresh' Smallwood, and especially, my fiance, Jerry Shields. Thank you all for your endless support and laughter. I can't imagine life without you.
ABSTRACT

Spring Mill State Park and its Pioneer Village, are prime examples of the stereotypical viewpoint that the buildings are the central focus for a historic site. For nearly seventy years, they have witnessed immense restoration of their built structures, but the landscape has been repeatedly overlooked. This prolonged neglect of the vegetation and natural amenities within and around the park must be eliminated. From studying the natural features, settlement patterns, the prior restoration efforts of Spring Mill State Park and the Pioneer Village, as well as their context, I can show you the benefits of preserving the historic environment as a whole and not simply the buildings alone. Through this evaluation process, a conceptual plan has been developed to preserve the landscape of the Pioneer Village, Spring Mill State Park, and the Park's Context in such a way as to accurately portray the many layers of history and to provide management strategies for the future.
Chapter 1: Project Justification
INTRODUCTION

"Much emphasis and care has gone into the restoration or reproduction of historic buildings. Many have been restored to a precise date or period. Others have been preserved to express transition through the years, each room representing a different period. Large sums of money have been expended to sheath the buildings authentically or to mix appropriate paints for both interior and exterior decor. Other detailed projects are performed to make the structure conform to the period or periods reflected.

This same type of in-depth restoration does not often go into the landscape setting for buildings. Modern landscape schemes and inappropriate plant material so often surround historic structures. Fences are sometimes of modern style while walkways are twentieth-century concrete. In other words, grounds do not usually show the same degree of care and thoroughness in restoration that the buildings do, and the two do not work in unison to present a total picture." (Favretti 7)

PROBLEM

The landscape has only since the mid-1920's been evaluated as an element within the preservation of historic sites. (Turner, 142) This occurred primarily because the landscape and its character were not previously recognized as important components toward
the portrayal of history. This denial of the integrity and enrichment that the landscape elements provided to the history of our lives is a loss to our society. It wasn't until 1926, with the preservation of Williamsburg, Virginia that a new era for the preservation movement was marked by focusing on the historic environment as a whole and not simply on the buildings. Prior to that moment, the architecture of a historic site was seen as the dominant feature and the surrounding landscape was taken for granted. This was, in part, due to the fact that "building preservation is a straightforward process of protecting and restoring the Architectural Fabric" (Turner, 142).

Spring Mill State Park and its Pioneer Village are prime examples of the stereotypical viewpoint that the buildings are the central focus for a historic site. The Park has been in existence since 1927 and has witnessed immense popularity, but the public only knows the bits and pieces of the history of the site. This trend is most noticeable in the Pioneer Village. For nearly seventy years, the Village has witnessed immense restoration of its built structures, but the landscape has been repeatedly overlooked. The natural features
of the Park and its context which brought settlers to the area are not interpreted to the public as more than 'objects in the landscape'. There is no unification being made between the story of the Cultural Features and the Natural Features of the site. From studying the natural features, settlement patterns, the prior restoration efforts of Spring Mill State Park and the Pioneer Village, as well as their context, the benefits of preserving the historic environment as a whole will become clearer. I, the Landscape Architecture student, will evaluate Spring Mill State Park and its 'Change Over Time' in order to show the need for a new master plan to be developed.

**SUB-PROBLEMS**

In developing the problem statement, three sub-problems were recognized within the larger problem. The sub-problems were the Pioneer Village, Spring Mill State Park, and the Surrounding context to the park.

The first sub-problem, the Pioneer Village was the main concentration of this
comprehensive project. However, due to the Pioneer Village's significant context, additional character and history were added to the site that needed to be considered.

The context of the Village within the park provided the unique setting for the Village that needed to be considered during inventory and analysis of the Village, because if it weren't for the park, the Village would not look as it does today.

When evaluating the entire park, it became difficult to draw the study boundaries at the property line due to viewsheds, topography, vegetation, and watersheds. Therefore, the third sub-problem was the perimeter context of Spring Mill State Park. The perimeter of the park consists of agriculture, woodlands, and residences. The views and activities along the park infringed upon the feeling and quality that was experienced while inside this natural setting.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Adaptive Use:** Adaptive use retains and reinforces the historic cultural landscape while
accommodating contemporary uses, needs and conditions. The treatment should reinforce historic integrity and retain extant historic fabric while integrating relevant factors.

**Cultural Landscape:** A Cultural Landscape is a geographic area influenced by human activity that includes cultural and natural resources and the people, wildlife or domestic animals therein.

**Conservation:** Conservation is a passive process of preservation. It protects a historic landscape from loss or the infringement of incongruent uses.

**Garden:** An enclosed space for the intensive growing of flowers, fruits, herbs, and vegetables.

**Grounds:** Refers to the lawn adorned with trees and shrubs surrounding a building.

**Historic Designed Landscape:** A Historic Designed Landscape is a landscape where designer, form, layout and other design elements are the primary reasons for significance.

**Historic Landscape:** A Historic Landscape is a geographic area that has functioned as a setting for or been the object of an event or interaction that is significant in human history.

**Historic Site:** A Historic Site is where an event or activity in the past imbues the particular piece of ground with significance that warrants preservation of the historic appearance.
**Historic Vernacular Landscape**: A Historic Vernacular Landscape is a place possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of natural and built components that are united by human use and past events.

**Interpretation**: Interpretation can be defined as basic retention of the original landscape form with the integration to accommodate new uses, needs and contemporary conditions. It involves research of the original design intent and use. The design should reinforce historic integrity while integrating a contemporary site program.

**Interpretive Value**: The meaning a landscape possesses and can be conveyed to visitors for educational, recreational or scientific purposes.

**Landscape**: The collection of gardens, yards, and grounds into one broad scene.

**Preservation**: Preservation is the act or process of applying measures to sustain the terrain and vegetative cover, and the integrity and materials of the landscape. Preservation may include stabilization of extant forms, elements or features from earlier periods and the removal of threatening elements, such as plant overgrowth by volunteers or exotic species.

**Reconstruction**: Reconstruction applies to the reproduction of a complete landscape setting which may not be on an original site. It starts from the ground up. Evidence of former conditions is gathered from documents, photographs, sites and other resources. Authenticity depends on the research base and funding available.

**Rehabilitation**: Rehabilitation returns a historic landscape to useful conditions, generally bringing it to a state of good repair and possibly including some adaptation. The degree of authenticity os secondary.
**Restoration:** Restoration connotes return of a site its original appearance during a selected period. Strict authenticity of overall form and detail requires extensive research and funding.

**Scenic Value:** The worth place on a landscape by a viewer's or evaluator's perception of it. (Based on the subjective rather than the objective).

**Significance:** A significant landscape has historic value: associated with a person, community of culture; as a work of a recognized master; as an important artistic statement; as an example of fine craftsmanship, unique materials, particular style, type, time or time sequence; as a regional expression; or as an important landmark.

**State Park:** A scenic area reserved for public recreation.

**View, Viewshed:** An unobstructed line-of-sight from one location to a landscape or portion of it. A viewshed is a sequence of views from a given vantage point.

**Yard:** Area encircling house or historically use to divide parcel into specific spaces such as barnyard or dooryard.

**ASSUMPTIONS**

It was my assumption that the managers of Spring Mill State Park (which included the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as well as the employees of Spring Mill State Park) wanted to improve the existing conditions of Spring Mill State Park and would
provide funding if this proposal were to be implemented. I also assumed that if this project were actually to happen that a team consisting of Archaeologists, Historic Botanists, Landscape Architects, Historic Architects and many others specialists would collaborate on the Historic Landscape Evaluation. The Historic Landscape Evaluation that I completed is as thorough as possible without the aid of a full-time team, but with the aid of part-time consultants in the special fields.

PERSONAL AND PROJECT GOALS

In order to achieve my ultimate goal of completing a historic landscape evaluation and conceptual master plans for Spring Mill State Park, its Pioneer Village, and the context of the park, three main goals were outlined. The first goal was of personal nature and that was to educate myself on the principles of Historic Landscape Preservation. Through the
review of literature, interviews, and a class in Historic Landscape Preservation, I gained a
greater understanding of the diversity of Landscape Architecture and also learned more
about the role that I wanted to pursue in the profession.

The second goal that I wanted to achieve was to increase the knowledge and
understanding of the general public to the land-uses and the lifestyles of the pioneer settlers
of Spring Mill State Park and its Pioneer Village. To meet this goal, I studied the
chronological history of the site documenting the people and resources that were important
within each generation.

The third and final goal was to increase the awareness of the need to portray historic
land-uses more accurately. This particular goal was focused towards the managers of Spring
Mill State Park demonstrating to them the benefits to be gained from portraying historic
land-uses more accurately. I believed that strong evidence needed to be developed to show
that there was a connection between the Village Buildings and the Vegetation. By
establishing this connection, the potential arose for increased educational benefits due to a
more diverse scope of subject matter and, in the long run, promoted a wider range of school
field trips.

PERSONAL INTEREST

Spring Mill State Park is meaningful to me for several reasons. First, it is located less
that one mile from my parents house, so you could say it was in my 'backyard.' It became a
part of me through school field trips, musicals at the Inn, family reunions, fishing trips,
paddle boats, and watching the changing of seasons, year after year. Spring Mill also
reminded me of my Great-Grandfather, Harry B. Smith. He lived in the area around Spring
Mill long before it became a State Park, and, often he told stories of the people who had
lived there. He also talked about how he used to go hunting in that area and how it became
a State Park in the twenties. Having had the opportunity to know him and his stories until
1991, when he died at the age of 102, added a tremendous appreciation in my heart
towards our heritage and a strong desire to see it portrayed as accurately as possible. This
desire, combined with my personal connections to Spring Mill State Park compelled to me
use my skills and knowledge to teach others the appreciation for history that I gained
through my Great-Grandfather.
Old time talk

Harry B. Smith, 96, Mitchell, right, chats with Mitchell resident Frank Marshall near the mill at Spring Mill. Marshall and Smith were both dressed for the old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration. — Tribune Photo
Chapter 2 - Program and Site Information
PROGRAM

I. Inventory Site's Natural History
   A. Southern Indiana
      i. Geology
      ii. Topography
   B. Spring Mill State Park
      i. Presettlement study by DNR - 1811 survey records
      ii. Slope
      iii. Soils
      iv. Vegetation
      v. Water Features
      vi. Caves
      vii. National Natural Landmarks
      viii. State Nature Preserves

II. Inventory Site's Cultural History
   A. Southern Indiana
      i. Location
   B. Lawrence County
      i. 1879 Plat of County
      ii. 1900ish plat
      iii. 1965 Plat
      iv. 1976 Plat
      v. 1990 Plat
   C. Spring Mill State Park
      i. Road Layout
      ii. Trails Layout
      iii. Built Structures
iv. Archeology  
D. Pioneer Village  
   i. History of Ownership  
   ii. History of built structures and reconstruction  
   iii. 1928 Plan of Site  
   iv. 1931 Sandborn Map  
   iv. 1931 Plan  
   v. 1941 Sandborn Map  
   vi. 1965 Plan  
   vii. 1976 Aerial  
   viii. 1993 Aerial  
   ix. Present day Plan  

III. Analyze Natural and Cultural History  
   A. Chronological Timeline of Evolution of Village  
   B. Document Prior Reconstruction Efforts  

IV. Conceptualize Treatment alternatives to Village  
   A. Reconstruction  
   B. Preservation  
   C. Rehabilitation  

V. Choose 'Best' Solution and Suggest Future Study for Village.  
VI. Analyze State Park  
VII. Develop a Conceptual Master Plan  
VIII. Analyze Context of State Park  
IX. Develop a Conceptual Master Plan
CLIENT/USERS

My research proposal was focused toward two groups of users: The first was the visitors to Spring Mill State Park Pioneer Village and the second were the managers of Spring Mill State Park and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The visitors to Spring Mill were a diverse group of people. They ranged from the very young to the very old and came from all parts of this country as well as other nations. This group, the visitors, was the largest focus of the writer's design development because they were the most numerous and the ones who had the potential to learn the most about Spring Mill's Pioneer Village.

The latter group, the managerial staff of the Spring Mill State Park and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, were less numerous and were potentially more familiar with Spring Mill than the first group. I believed that this group was just as challenging to work for because I was trying to build a case to influence their direction toward future
design strategies in the parks' system.

My client, for the most part, was myself. I served as a representative for both of these aforementioned user groups.

LIMITATIONS

The strictest limitation that I had in this was project is resources. To fully learn about the historic landscape of Spring Mill State Park and its Pioneer Village, I not only needed to find documentation either written or visual that conveyed how the land was used throughout each layer of its history, but I also needed to locate specialists in the fields of archaeology, historic architecture, botany, etc. who could help me evaluate the information that I had located. Some of these sources were not found, therefore I interpreted the history in accordance to the information that I was able to find.
PERSONAL DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

History, most specifically the era surrounding the Civil War, has always sparked a strong attraction to me. That period of time seems to portray the 'ideal' lifestyle. I do not know whether it's through the romantic connotations of a 'Southern Belle' being wooed by a 'Northern Soldier' or if it is the grand display of the plantation homes, but that time is very meaningful to me. In fact, at times I think that perhaps their strong moral beliefs and traditions in their simpler lifestyle would be beneficial in today's world. Perhaps because of my affinity to that period of history, as well as my Great Grandfather's stories, led me to Spring Mill State Park's Pioneer Village. And, have instilled my desire to see it restored as accurately as possible in order to recapture that 'romantic' time period and the 'simpler' life has given me strong convictions toward the preservation of all things that are important to our heritage.
SITE LOCATION

Spring Mill State Park is located along Indiana Highway 60 three miles east of Mitchell in Lawrence County in the south-central portion of Indiana. The park is nearly equidistant from Indianapolis, Louisville, Vincennes, and Lawrenceburg (See Figure 1) (Guernsey, 11).

MILEAGE CHART (figure 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MILEAGE BETWEEN</th>
<th>SPRING MILL STATE PARK</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANDERSON</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOOMINGTON</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBUS</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANSVILLE</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORT WAYNE</td>
<td>205</td>
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<td>GREENCASTLE</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIANAPOLIS</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>JASPER</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEFFERSONVILLE</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOKOMO</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAFAYETTE</td>
<td>135</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAWRENCEBURG</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARION</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNCIE</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLYMOUTH</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEYMOUR</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH BEND</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERRE HAUTE</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALPARAISO</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINCENNES</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>66</td>
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</table>
LAURENCE COUNTY

Lawrence County is located in south-central Indiana and is bordered by Monroe County on the north, Jackson County on the east, Orange County on the south and Martin County on the west. Before its formation, Lawrence County was included over the years with Knox County, Harrison County, Washington County, and Orange County.

The first settlers arrived in what is now Lawrence County in 1810 residing in the area now known as the town of Leesville. In 1818, Palestine was plotted as the county seat, but in 1825, the town of Bedford was platted just north of Palestine. Bedford became the county seat at that time and remains so today. Much of Lawrence County's identity is closely tied to its world renown Limestone industry.

The following plat maps of Lawrence County show the growth of Lawrence County since 1879. The growth of the town of Spring Mill can also be traced in these maps along with the development of Spring Mill State Park in 1927.
1975 PLAT OF LAWRENCE COUNTY
Chapter 3 - Natural Features
TOPOGRAPHY

The area now known as Spring Mill State Park was never glaciated. The area, instead, has had millions of years of weathering and erosion which has creating a rugged topography of hills and valleys. Over 70% of the park's topography has a slope of 11% or greater. Whereas, only 10% of the land in the park is of 0-5% slope. This rugged, sloping topography provides tremendous diversity and scenic quality.
SOILS

"The soils at Spring Mill State Park are timber soils formed on limestone which has an intermittent cover of windblown silt" (Indiana, 9) The soils are the product of centuries of weathering rather than deposits from glaciers. The majority of the soils within the park are well-drained silty loam soils which, barring the slope, are ideal for agriculture and vegetation.
SOILS MAP OF THE PARK
CAVES AND WATER SYSTEMS

Spring Mill State Park has a very unique feature, its cave systems. The park is located on the Mitchell Karst Plain, a region characterized by its rolling upland karst surface. Karst areas are made up of a number of sinkholes and other solution features that have resulted from the dissolving of limestone bedrock, so that much of the surface drainage goes underground into cavern passages. (See Figure 2) There are 17 cave entrances that have been found within the park along with several sinkholes. Those cave entrances lead to two major cave systems within Spring Mill State Park. (Huffman, 5). Spring Mill State Park has the "largest most complex and interesting subterranean drainage system in the world including underground streams and caverns and sink holes." (Guernsey, 13) At Spring Mill, as in perhaps no other similar area, it is possible to study the entire range of cavern-forming processes and results. The age of these caverns is estimated to be approximately 750,000 - 2,000,000 years old (Guernsey, 20).
Many of 17 caves within the park feed streams that run through the park, as you can see on the map below. These streams once merged together to empty into the East Fork of White River. These streams now feed into a man-made lake located within the park. This lake was formed in the late 1930's by the Civil Conservation Corps (C.C.C). The C.C.C. dammed the streams to form a lake. The excess water from the lake still flows back into a stream to the north of the park and then up to the East Fork of the White River.

Figure 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E</th>
<th>Earth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Mitchell Limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>Salem Limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Open Sinkhole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Earth-Filled Sink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Collapsed Roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>Underground Stream</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAVES AND WATER SYSTEMS IN THE PARK

- Cave entrance
- Sinkhole
- Stream
- Man-made Lake
VEGETATION

Due to the varying slope and soil conditions, a variety of vegetation exists within Spring Mill State Park. The presettlement vegetation was documented by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in their Ecological Evaluation of Spring Mill State Park in 1991. Their results indicated that the significant "tree species located in the area were, in order of importance: white oak, white ash, dogwood, poplar, sugar maple, hickory, black oak, beech, and gum. In general, the area is over 70% wooded and described as land rolling, oak and hickory (Huffman, 2)."

Many of the original tree species noted in the 1991 study can still be seen in the 80 acre Virgin Timber area of Donaldson Woods. However, much of the park has younger-age forest with higher successional species such as sassafras, black locust, red cedar and black cherry. Much of Spring Mill State Park's forest, according to the study, are of 'low to medium natural quality', but with additional passage of time some of the areas will approach the 'climax' conditions of the original presettlement vegetation. The biological
communities that exist within the park are Mesic/Dry-Mesic Forest, Mesic Forest, Dry-Mesic Forest, Mid-Late Successional, Early Successional, Floodplain Forest, and Glade.

Spring Mill State Park also has the distinction of having a 193 acre National Natural Landmark within its boundaries. The National Natural Landmark area includes an 81 acre tract of Virgin Timber, Donaldson Woods. 67 of the 81 acre Virgin Timber area is also under State Nature Preserve protection. Another small tract of land included in the National Natural Landmark, the Donaldson Cave area, is also under State Nature Preserve Protection.
VEGETATION MAP OF THE PARK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relatively stable or undisturbed communities</td>
<td>Old growth, ungrazed forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late successional or lightly disturbed communities</td>
<td>Old growth, selectively cut or with light grazing years ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-successional or moderately disturbed communities</td>
<td>Young to mature second growth, have potential to recover over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early successional or severely disturbed communities</td>
<td>Recent clearcuts or areas where composition has been severely altered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INDIANA STATE NATURE PRESERVE AREAS
NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1991 SURVEY

The Ecological Evaluation from 1991 made several recommendations regarding the National Natural Landmark area, State Nature Preserve Areas, and the Virgin Timber. The first recommendation was to expand the boundaries of the existing State Nature Preserve boundaries to include all of the area that the National Natural Landmark does. By doing this the remaining Virgin Timber area that is not under State Preserve protection will become more protected.

Their recommendations also call for additional nature preserve areas to be designated within the park due to their unique character. One area, the Large Karst Forest Block area, is thought to be the largest karst area in the world that does not have any roads on it.
RECOMMENDATIONS MAP FROM 1991
Chapter 4 - Pioneer Village
Spring Mill's Pioneer Village is located at the heart of the 1,384 acre State Park. The Pioneer Village is nestled in a valley at the mouth of Hamer Cave which feeds the spring that runs through the village.

The Pioneer Village is one of main attractions within the park. The area provides the experience of a 'recreated' village using the remnants of a town that was once in the valley. Many activities occur in this 'recreated town': cornmeal is ground at the three story limestone gristmill, rugs are woven at the Sheek's House, shoes are made at the Leathershop, and flowers and herbs are grown in the garden. But, how accurate is this 'recreated village?'

Some aspects of the village are very accurate, such as the limestone gristmill, however there is much more to the story of the town that was once here than is being told.
LOCATION OF PIONEER VILLAGE WITHIN SPRING MILL STATE PARK
VILLAGE OWNERSHIP TIMELINE

- Samuel Jackson: 1814-1817
- Thomas and Culhbert Bullitt: 1817-1823
- Joseph and William Montgomery: 1823-1831
- Hugh and Thomas Hamer: 1831-1849
- Hugh Hamer: 1849-1872
- Robert Bruce Hamer (Hugh's son): 1872-1881
- Jonathan Turley: 1881-1896
- Salem Limestone: 1896-1902
- Lehigh Portland Cement Company: 1902-1927
- State of Indian DNR: 1927-present

CHRONOLOGICAL TIME LINE

- Ten counties listed in Indiana Territory: 1812
- Samuel Jackson and wife, Hanna moved to Valley: 1814
- Jackson opened quarry: 1815
- Jackson gained land rights: 1816
- Jackson built small Grist Mill below Hamer Cave: 1816
- Indiana gained Statehood: 1816
- Roads were being developed in Indiana: 1817
- Bullitts purchased property from Jackson: 1817
- Limestone Mill Construction Began: 1817
- Mill Office Built: 1818
Upper Residence Built 1818
Lower Residence Built 1818
Montgomery's Purchased Mill and 22 Buildings 1823
Distillery Built 1823
Water powered Saw Mill Built 1823-24
Hat Shop Built 1820-1830
Zenith of Village 1820-40
Tavern Built 1824
Post Office Operated 1828
Village became known as 'Arcole' formerly Bulletts Mill 1828
Apothecary Built 1830
Nursery Built 1830
Valley changed name from Arcole to Spring Mill 1831
Mill office incorporated into Upper Residence 1832
Spring Mill population Reached 100 1850
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad came through County 1859
George Donaldson purchased 101 acres 1865
Last Resident moved out of Village 1896
Discovery of Blind Fish in Donaldson cave by
   Dr. Eigenmann of Indiana University 1896
Donaldson land reverted to State 1898
Former Donaldson land given to Indiana University 1903
I.U. gave Donaldson tract to State Dept of Conservation 1927
Lehigh donated 310 acres which included village remnants 1927
Limestone Mill Restoration 1927-1930
State Park formed to be called
   Donaldson & Hamer Mill State Park 1928
Became Spring Mill State Park 1929
Distillery and Spinning House Restored 1929
Spring Mill State Park Officially Opened 1930
Granny White House donated from Leesville 1930
Village Tavern opened and began serving Drinks 1930
Museum began in upper 2 Floors of Mill 1930
Munson home reconstructed using Todd Home 1930
Blacksmith shop assembled where barns were known to be 1930-31
Dam built at mouth of Hamer's Cave 1931
Limestone Grist Mill began turning again 1931
Sash Saw Mill began running again 1932
Work on Sheek's House began 1932
Distillery Restored 1932
Tavern Restored 1932
Civilian Conservation Corp moved into village 1933
Stone wall with arches built around garden in Village 1933
Upper Residence restored 1933
55,000 young pines and 2,000 walnut seedlings planted 1933
Summer Kitchen restored 1933-34
C.C.C. began clearing lake bed and building stone bridge 1934
Carriage House built where barns were once located 1934
Comfort Station Built 1934
Refreshment Stand Built 1934
Lower Residence Reconstructed 1935
New 25,000 gallon underground reservoir built 1935
Rerouted park entrance and exit 1935
Hotel began 1936
Hotel opened 1939
Souvenir Stand Built near Village 1940
New Highway 60 opened along south of park
new entrance log gatehouse 1940
CCC moved out of park 1940
Donaldson Woods and Cave declared National Natural Landmarks 1972
National Landmark acreage increased to 193 1973
Meeting House built 1976
Virgil I. Grissom Memorial/park Office built 1970's
Working Blacksmith shop began in Village 1983

A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

PRESETTLEMENT - 1814

The earliest inhabitants to the area now known as Spring Mill State Park, were believed to be the Delaware Indians, although tribal identity is not positive. The area was also to have been occupied by the Piankeshaw and the Shawnee. In the North-East section of the park, near where the current Pioneer Village Exists, evidence of a small village was discovered as well as the remnants of flint scattered throughout the surrounding area and animal bones in the caves (Guernsey, 24).
1814-1850

In 1814, Samuel Jackson and his wife, Hannah picked the valley where Spring Mill Pioneer Village is presently located to built a mill and a tiny house. They squatted the land until 1816 when they were granted ownership of the property, but within five months they sold the included: land, houses, out-hoproperty to the Bullitt brothers of Louisville. The Bullitts purchased Jackson's mill and 480 acres whichuses, edifices, woods, trees, fences, gardens, and orchards. Culthbert and Thomas Bullitt were wealthy merchants that moved to Louisville in 1804. Thomas' wife was Diana More Gwathmey, the favorite niece of George Rogers Clark (a legendary figure in Indiana history). The Bullitt brothers set out to further develop the mill production that Samuel Jackson had previously established. They replaced Jackson's mill with a new mill that stood three stories high with three feet thick walls of pure limestone. They retrieved the limestone from a small quarry that Jackson had opened on a rocky hillside near the valley. The mill was built purely through the use of hand labor and could be thought of as the first building to be built using the now famous
Indiana limestone. The Bullitt brothers also built a large two story house for themselves, but they never lived there. Within seven years after the Bullitt brothers purchased the mill, they sold the mill, other buildings, and 1440 acres to two other brothers, William and Joseph Montgomery. The Montgomery's lived in Philadelphia, but continued the profitable mill production for nine years. During their ownership they added a tavern, distillery, a saw mill, post office, general store, and an apothecary. The Montgomery's sold their business and land to the most well known owners of Hugh and Thomas Hamer on June 11, 1932.

Hugh and Thomas Hamer were the first owners to live in the valley now known as Spring Mill. After the Hamer Brothers bought the property they experienced a surge of growth and Spring Mill was on its way to becoming a city. Hugh Hamer even served as County Commissioner, and held terms in both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives. Perhaps his political voice helped generate the town of Spring Mill into the first town in Indiana known to have diversified industry which included a weaver, a hat makers, and a saw mill. "It was even taking on a certain homespun beauty with wide, well-
kept lawns spread between buildings" (Brooks, 8). Stone fences were built throughout the village adding a touch of artistry that was used to keep out the hogs that were allowed to wander the area. The two main residences, one being the two story house built by the Bullit brothers, faced each other over a lawn area. The lawn was developed into a formal garden where peacocks strutted.

1850-1927

In the 1850's, anticipation was rising in the town of Spring Mill. The railroad was rumored to be heading in their direction and if it went through their town it would only increase their already renowned grain business. The railroad would allow them to export their mill products of grain and whiskey even more quickly than the flat boats that currently carried their merchandise to towns as far a way as New Orleans. However, in 1859, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad bypassed the village to its north due to the rugged terrain surrounding the valley. A small town to the west of Spring Mill known as Mitchell's
Crossing, now known as Mitchell, was the lucky recipient of the railroad. This bypass of the railroad sentenced Spring Mill to a slow demise. Upon his death in 1872, Jonathan Turley purchased the village and operated the mill until the mid-1880's. Although Turley established a commercial lime burning business and installed 'modern milling machinery' at the mill, production dwindled steadily from 1859 until 1894 when the last resident moved out of the village (Brooks, 10).
REMNANTS OF SLUICE
REMNANTS OF LOWER RESIDENCE
VIEW LOOKING SOUTH ALONG ROAD THROUGH VILLAGE
1927-1940

In the 1920's, Indiana began establishing a chain of State Parks. Every county in the state was vying to get a State Park in their county, and Lawrence County was no exception. But, Lawrence County had several entities the other counties did not. One of those entities is a rich geology which is due to the limestone parent material and the intricate cave system. The caves were explored, around the turn of the century, by an Indiana University professor, Dr. Carl Eigenmann. He found blind fish in the caves of what is now Spring Mill State Park. His research brought attention to the area along with the adjacent virgin timberland donated to the state from an eccentric Scottish millionaire, Donaldson (Guernsey, 13). These two areas, along with some land donated by the Lehigh Portland Cement Company which included the former town of Spring Mill were established into the State Park.

In 1932, as a part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 'New Deal' plan, the Civil Conservation Corps. came into Spring Mill State Park to build roads, an Inn, shelter buildings, and make restoration efforts in the Pioneer Village. At one point there were more
than 150 men living and working in the park. The C.C.C.'s greatest effort within the Pioneer Village was the reconstruction of the Lower Residence (Lawrence, 94).
1928 MAP OF VILLAGE

WIND CAVE
DAIRY HOUSE
STONE SPRING HOUSE
WASH HOUSE
LOWER RESIDENCE
CARRIAGE HOUSE
VILLAGE PUMP
DYE HOUSE
NURSERY
SPINNING/WEAVING HOUSE
HUGH HAMER HOME
LOG MILL OFFICE
HAT FACTORY
COBBLER SHOP
DAM
ARTIFICIAL LAKE
HAMER CAVE

ROAD TO BOAT YARD
SCHOOL HOUSE
TAN HOUSE
Tavern
WATER
MUNSON HOUSE (LOG)
BLACKSMITH SHOP
DISTILLERY (LOG)
WAREHOUSE (LOG)
FEEDING TROUGHS
LIME KILNS
MILL CREEK