VIEW SOUTH UP OLD ENTRY ROAD
OLD ENTRANCE ROAD FROM SOUTH
RECONSTRUCTION OF LOWER RESIDENCE
PIONEER GARDEN
PIONEER GARDEN
1940-1995

Since the Civil Conservation Corps. moved out of the park in 1940, many additions have been made to the park. Most of the additions made were recreational amenities such as a swimming pool, larger campground, and saddlebarn. Other changes include the addition of the Virgil I. Grissom Memorial Visitors Center, Guided tours of the some of the caves, a Nature Center, and the building of a 'Meeting House' within the Village in 1976.
NEW ENTRANCE
SHEEK'S HOUSE
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST ENTRANCE
WOODSHOP
APOTHECARY AND POST OFFICE
UPPER RESIDENCE
PIONEER GARDEN
STONE ARCHWAY BY LOWER RESIDENCE
SPRING HOUSE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE
TREATMENT OPTIONS

RESTORATION

To restore the Pioneer Village, extensive research would be needed from a team of researchers such as Archeologists, Paleo-Botanists, Historic Architects, etc, to decide on a specific time period to restore the Pioneer Village to. Currently, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources use 1832 as the time period in which they have 'restored' the Village. However, the Pioneer Village, as it currently exists, is not a true restoration. For it to be a true restoration much more detail accuracy would be needed, especially with the uses of the landscape.

I do not recommend that restoration be the implemented treatment plan for Pioneer Village. Restorations are typically very expensive and even though they have been researched to the limit, they are still not the original thing. Another drawback is that only one layer of time can be portrayed in a restoration. The Pioneer Village will become 'frozen in that time' without the opportunity to evolve further.
PRESERVATION

If preservation were utilized as the treatment method for the Pioneer Village, then the Village would be preserved as it currently exists. I do not recommend this method of treatment for the Spring Mill Pioneer Village either. The preservation method works best if for a site that is extreme danger of being destroyed. The Pioneer Village is not in danger of being destroyed, however several landscape additions, such as a vegetable garden and an orchard, have been proposed. Also, the preservation treatment does not allow for new additions to be added in the future.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation is, in a sense, a combination of Restoration and Preservation. Rehabilitation allow for additions to be made for future needs, but also preserves historic integrity. Rehabilitation, like restoration, would require a team of specialists to research the history of the village including site study. After the extensive details have been found from
the research, a master plan would need to be developed. I would recommend this treatment method for the Pioneer Village because, unlike the previous two, rehabilitation allow for the complete story of the evolution of the Pioneer Village to be made.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Utilizing the Rehabilitation treatment methodology for the Spring Mill State Park Pioneer Village along with my research, I made recommendations in conceptual form. The recommendations that I made are conceptual because, although I have done a lot of research and site visits, I have barely begun to scratch the surface of what must be done for a true detailed master plan.
The area next to the Sheek's House is currently a grassy area. I recommend that this area be excavated to find any original foundations that may have existed in that area. From the 1931 plan, vats were shown to be in that area. In the 1928 map, a school house was shown to be there. Excavation by an Archaeologist would show what, if anything, was there. If something is found, the choice can then be made whether to reconstruct the item or to just leave the foundation exposed with interpretation.

The Sheek's House and the Granny White House, although not original to the Pioneer Village, have been in their current position for over 60 years. Since they were moved into the Pioneer Village in the 30's, they have become an important aspect. They help the show what the lifestyle may have been like during the early 1800's. They also add another layer to the entire history of the Village. However, these two buildings should be treated as additions to the Village and it should be emphasized to the visitors that they are not original to the site.
The large open area between the Grist Mill and the Granny White House should be excavated to find any original foundations of buildings. The 1941 Sandborn map shows the Saw Mill differently than the current maps do. Excavating the area around the current saw mill would verify the current location or locate the old foundation. The 1931 plan shows a Smithy and a School in this area, the 1928 map shows feeding troughs, a blacksmith shop, and a tan house in the area. Excavation could verify whether any of those built features existed. Also, excavation could reveal land uses that occurred in that open area over time. The choice will then have to be made whether to reconstruct the buildings or to just leave the foundations exposed and interpret them accordingly.

The Munson House is not the original building of the Munsons, but it is on the original location. Therefore, it helps add to the spatial organization of the original Village.
The idea should be considered whether to reintroduce domestic animals to the site. It has been found that peacocks, pigs, and oxen once lived on the site. Reintroduction of domestic animals would add to the lifestyle and land use patterns that once existed on the site. Animals could be kept on the site year round, seasonally, or just for special reenacting events.

More 'actors' should be used to teach the public about the change of the Village over time. These actors should reenact events and activities that the pioneers would have done. The visitors could also be encouraged to participate as they are in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Meeting House is not original to the Pioneer Village. It was built in 1976. Careful consideration should be given to impact it has on the spatial organization of the site. Also, some research claims that there was never a church or school on the site. If this is true then the Meeting House should not be there either.
The area around the Implement House should be excavated to find any original building foundations that may have been there. The 1928 map shows that an Ox Barn and a Dairy House once resided in this area. The 1931 sandborn shows a log barn located here. The 1931 Plan shows an Ox Barn, Implement House, Post House, Gazebo, and a Butter & Cheese House. The 1941sandborn shows, as the 1931 sandborn map did, a log barn in this area. Excavation could show the exact buildings that were once here and the activities that occurred around them such as pathways or animal pens. The choice will then have to be made whether to reconstruct the buildings or to just leave the foundations exposed and interpret them accordingly.

The building material should be studied by a Historic Architect because many of the Old Photographs show wood siding on the buildings instead of exposed logs. If siding was the original material on the facade of the buildings then they should be interpreted as such. Or the option exists to use this as an educational tool showing visitors some building swith
siding or parital siding, and to show other buildings with only exposed logs.

The Pioneer Garden should be studied by an Archeological and Paleo-Botanist Team to find the exact layout of the gardens and to identify historic plant material. The material for the paths within the garden should also be studied because old photographs show stone pathways.

The meadow area to the west of the Pioneer Garden should be researched to see what activities, if any, once occurred here. This is the area currently being proposed for a vegetable garden and an orchard by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. By researching this area, the team could prove whether or not the garden and orchard would be accurate for this area or whether it would be conflicting with the historic integrity.

All asphalt pathways should be removed. They detract from the experience of
walking through the Village and they are not accurate to the history of the site. The material for the pathways and the layout of former pathways should be discovered by an Archaeologist.

The Old Road that once ran through the Village should be emphasized as the organizational factor for the original layout of the town. This roadway should be implemented as an entrance into the Village so that visitors can experience the site similar to how the original settlers would have. The road could also be implemented into Spring Mill State Park's Trail System.

To fully interpret the history of the Village to the visitors one must begin with the natural features of the site. Examples of these natural features are the seclusion in the valley because of the steep hills, the convenience of water and the use of the streams for power at the mill. Also, the use of trees for buildings and the limestone quarried to build
the mill. Then the village could be interpreted either chronologically or by zones of activity such as the working/industry zone, the residential zone, the recreational zone with the tavern, and the transportation zone.
Chapter 5 - The State Park
EXISTING FEATURES

The Pioneer Village is only one part of the story of the entire park. Spring Mill State Park which was formed in 1927 has many unique features and a very intriguing history. For the visitors, the park has many activities. There is the Virgil I. Grissom Memorial right by the gatehouse in which visitors can see the astronauts capsule and momentos of this Mitchell native.

Within the Virgin Timber area are Bronson and Twin Caves in which the visitors can take guided tours. There are also campgrounds, horse trails rides, a saddle barn, camp store, swimming pool, tennis courts, nature center, fishing, and paddle-boating. The visitors can reach all of these sites by either car or by the many trail systems that traverse the park. Although the trails are popular, the interpretation along these trails is limited. Much more could be done to interpret the landscape to the visitors.
EXISTING ROADS/BUILT STRUCTURES MAP
ENTRANCE TO PARK (GATEHOUSE AND GRISsom MEMORIAL)
VIEW OF SWIMMING POOL AND TENNIS COURTS
CONCEPTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PARK
RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that a master plan be developed for Spring Mill State Park since it has not had one since 1965. I have developed a conceptual master plan based on my own observations and the recommendations from the 1991 ecological evaluation that was done by Hugh Huffman and Michelle Martin. In my conceptual master plan, I broke the park into 10 vegetation and use zones that each have different needs and require different attention.

OLD FIELD AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL

The old field and early successional zone includes the campgrounds, campstore, saddle barn, and the swimming pool area. This area is highly disturbed and altered forest communities. The campground area is also infringing upon the National Natural Landmark, Virgin Timber, and the State
Nature Preserve area. Therefore, the campground should be pushed further to
the northern edge of the park in order to protect the integrity of the virgin
timber.

FLOODPLAIN AND MID-LATE SUCCESSIONAL FOREST

There is a small portion of floodplain forest that exists near the stream below the
dam that should be protected. Within this zone is a 35 acre area on the eastern side of the
lake between the Inn and the Campground that should be set aside as a natural area and
prohibited form human exosure. It has extremely high quality flora.

LAKE

To keep the integrity of the lake, it should be dredged. Every since it was built by
the Civil Conservation Corps in the late 1930's, the lake has constantly been filling in with
silt. Every summer the lake becomes covered with algae. In order to alleviate this, an
aeration system may need to be considered to keep the water from becoming more stagnate.

RECREATION AREA

The recreation area is adjacent to the Pioneer Village and the Lake. It is an active area that is typically used for picnicking and family reunions. The vegetation quality in this area is low, so a vegetation maintenance plan needs to be developed to prevent further degradation. Within this area, there are several C.C.C. projects such as shelter buildings and roads that should be interpreted for their historic importance.

MESCIC UPLAND AND MID-LATE SUCCESSIONAL FOREST

The majority of the park is Mid-Late Successional Forest which will reach climax in a few years. The impacts of human habitation such as old fence rows can be seen by trained eyes and should be interpreted to the public. Additionally the large karst area on the south side of the park should be preserved due to its size and quality as a karst forest.
HIGH QUALITY MESIC FOREST

Surrounding the Pioneer Village and most of the center of the state park is an area of high quality mesic forest. A 25 acre tract in the eastern part of this zone is recommended to be added to the Donaldson Cave State Nature Preserve area to protect the biological communities that exist within that preserve. Around the Donaldson Cave area, also exist the remnants of the catch basins used by Dr. Eigenmann during his blind cave fish study before the turn of the century. These remnants should be interpreted to the public for the historical importance to the park.

The trails within this zone are experiencing erosion. Methods should be implemented to control any further erosion from happening. Also within this area was the Shawnee Cabin in which George Donaldson once lived. The foundations of his cabin can still be seen and his planting of vinca have covered the forest. Although the vinca is pretty, it is an aggressive plant that kills other vegetation. It should be removed immediately.
THE PIONEER VILLAGE

As stated earlier, a master plan should be developed for this area according to the rehabilitation treatment method. And the entire story of the village should be interpreted to the public.

VIRGIN TIMBER

This 81 acre zone of Virgin Timber is thought to be the oldest in the entire state. To keep the quality intact, the edges of the Virgin Timber need to be protected. To do this the borders of the Virgin Timber should be expanded. To expand within the park will be relatively easy, but to extend to the outside of the park will require the purchase of land rights of the adjacent properties. The purchase of land rights keeps any further development from occurring on the site.
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Just as it is important to develop a master plan for the Pioneer Village and the State Park itself, it is also important to develop a plan for the perimeter of the park. The context of Spring Mill State Park is primarily woodlands and agriculture. However, to the south along State Highway 60, tremendous development is occurring. This development is sprawling away from the nearby town of Mitchell and it beginning to impact the edges and viewsheds from the park as you can see in the photos.
VIEW OUT OF PARK TO RAILROAD
VIEW OUT OF PARK FROM VIRGIN TIMBER AREA
VIEW FROM CAMP STORE AND SADDLEBARN TO THE EAST
RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to protect the context of the State Park from becoming more developed, the land rights to the adjacent properties should be purchased. By purchasing the land rights, the owners of the adjacent property cannot develop anything on the property.

The areas that need immediate attention are view to the trash collectors from the saddle barn, as seen in the previous photographs and the views out of the Virgin Timber area. Another area that needs attention is the view to the railroad from the road above the Pioneer Village on the north-west corner of the park. This area should be interpreted for its historic importance, because had the railroad not bypassed the valley where the Village lay, then Spring Mill State Park would not exist today.
RECOMMENDATIONS AERIAL
Chapter 7 - Conclusions
CONCLUSIONS

Despite the advances that have been made in the restoration of historic landscapes since the 1920's, it appears that Spring Mill State Park has not kept up to date. The buildings within the village have been restored, but not the landscape. The infringement on the edges of the Virgin Timber denote a lack of management. This denial of the integrity and enrichment that the landscape elements provided to the history of our lives is a loss to our society. By accurately portraying the many layers of history that exist at Spring Mill State Park and it's many features one can see the importance of preserving significant landscapes for the future to understand the past. For, in the words of Indiana Historian Elam Y. Guernsey:

"We possess a most intriguing history- intensively involved in the life-story of the nation itself. The importance of weaving our wealth of tradition and folklore into a definite fabric of literacy record is a thing, which, as yet, has escaped our really serious consideration. A certain age must be arrived at, it would seem, before a state may recognize the several elements which are necessary to create its desirable background of distinct individuality."
Spring Mill State Park's 'age' has arrived. It is time to take a detailed look at the history and expanse of time that this park has witnessed and try to protect it for future generations. The first step is to do more detailed research for each of the zones of the park utilizing a team of experts. The next step will be to develop a master plan for each of the zones of the park and for the park as a whole. Once this is done and the master plan are implemented, then management plans need to be developed to sustain the historical integrity to its height.
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