

INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES

November 14, 2012

Memo: INDIANA STATE MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITES ISMHS: CAPITAL TRANSMITTAL LETTER

To: Adam Horst, SBA

From: Thomas King, ISMHS

The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites Corp. (ISMHS) is comprised of the Indiana State Museum complex, 43 historic structures, 11 earthen mounds and 55 modern facilities. The historic structures are interpreted to a particular focused historic era. The purpose of the modern units is to protect, store and exhibit natural and cultural artifacts and to provide a public facility to perform public programs and events to interpret Indiana natural and cultural history. The ISMHS's challenges for this next biennium is keeping abreast of all physical needs for these structures, especially the Indiana State Museum which has reached its 10th year of operation.

The IFA owns the State Museum complex while all other structures, both historic and modern, are owned by the State. One major improvement to the building was carried out during this period: the steam system for the administrative building was redesigned to eliminate the use of local humidifiers and allow for direct dispersal of steam at the air handling units. This provides better control and prevents relative humidity swings that are damaging to artifacts.

This submittal does not include any leased/rental structures. The Administrative Code is used as a guide in the decision of whether or not to acquire an additional historic structure. Any new facility construction or acquisition would be vetted against the approved master plan for that particular historic site. The ISMHS's long-term master and strategic plans are the guides for any expansion/acquisition/decision of the structure for the future. A periodic review is conducted for historic structures to assure that what is presently owned and operated for the ISMHS is relevant to the long term master plan. The ISMHS has in the last five year removed three sites from its roster: The Commandant's Home, Pigeon Roost, and Ernie Pyle State Historic Sites. These three sites were transferred to local communities.

Current master plans are available for the Indiana State Museum, Corydon Capitol SHS, Vincennes Territorial Capitol State Historic Site and J.F.D. Lanier State Historic Site. The eight remaining historic sites all are in the process of preparing their master plans. All eight have completed their required structure review documents, the required interpretative plan and furnishing plans. The funds for one of the four remaining needed master plans, including landscape and grounds plans, are listed in the biennium budget request. The other four are anticipated to be completed in a future biennium.

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Angel Mounds Historic Site, located in Evansville, interprets the Mississippian Native American culture that thrived there between A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1450. It was a major center for trade and during that period was Indiana's largest settlement, containing over 1,000 inhabitants. The property includes 10 earthen structures, 2 historic structures, and 7 modern ones. It covers over 600 acres. Angel Mounds SHS themes are pre-contact Indiana history and the archeology techniques used to study it. The site hosts archeology field schools for universities. The large property, which includes several trails, is used for a variety of recreational purposes as well. The Interpretive Center at Angel Mounds has also developed into the major southern location for showing ISMHS exhibits outside the State Museum itself. Upgrades to the Interpretive Center and its permanent exhibit (which is over 10 years old) will enable Angel Mounds to attract even more attendance and revenues. A site Master Plan will provide guidance for development of the recently acquired Mann archeology property as well as the Angel Mounds property.

Corydon Capitol State Historic Site preserves and interprets Indiana's steps toward statehood while Corydon was Indiana's first state capitol city. In 1812, the Indiana Territory capital was moved from Vincennes to Corydon, and statehood was achieved in 1816. The Capitol was later moved to the new town of Indianapolis in 1825. The Corydon site consists of two modern and eight historic structures, including the First State Capitol building and the Constitution Elm, where our first state constitution was written. The site is home to a number of programs and events educating Hoosiers about their state's organization, and is visited by thousands of school students each year. The site is preparing for the spotlight of the State's Bicentennial in 2016. Work is to be completed for the grounds and parking at the First State Office Building, which has just finished an important renovation. A generator is needed for artifact protection at the Hendricks House. Protection of the First State Capitol building and increased site visitation require improved ground and storm drainage, pedestrian safety improvements, and improved parking. A local public/private effort is underway for renovation of the Constitution Elm monument.

Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site, in New Albany, is a 25-room, French, Second Empire style mansion. This huge house, built in 1867, contains three floors, and over 20,000 square feet. With carved rosewood, marble, and hand-painted décor, it is the State Historic Sites' premier decorative arts and architecture site. Site themes include the lifestyle and fashion not only of the rich owners, but also of the servants who made up the household. Events and programs include decorative arts, historic preservation, and 19th century life. A successful private/public partnership with the Friends of Culbertson Mansion has resulted in several rooms being returned to their Victorian splendor. Planning has been completed for replacement of the entire slate mansard roof and renovation of the original fence, retaining wall and stairs of the grounds. A waterproofing effort is also a priority for the west side foundation walls to prevent future damage. These steps will protect the unique structure for the future.

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J. F. D. Lanier State Historic Site, located in Madison, was the home of an important Hoosier banker and investor. He was a central figure in the development of banking and railroads, both essential to our state's economic growth in the 1800's. The site contains the mansion and four modern structures on eight acres. The Lanier Mansion has been in the middle of a continual restoration project for the last several biennia. With its completed Master Plan, work began on the exterior of the east wing of the home in 2011-2013 and the design for the un-inhabitable large room in the Visitors' Center was completed in March 2012. The rehabilitation of the large room in the Visitors' Center will provide space for exhibits from the State Museum. It will also allow for an increase in the facility rental opportunities at the site. The anticipated repair and re-direction of the surface water will allow repair of the home foundation to be done. Interior storms will drastically reduce heating/cooling costs of this large 1844 structure. This work will improve both the efficiency and the flexibility of the site, which is considered the "crown jewel" of Historic Madison.

Levi Coffin State Historic Site, in Fountain City, preserves the story of a Hoosier family, Levi and Catharine Coffin, who were among the most influential "conductors" on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. Thousands of slaves were aided in their journey to freedom through their specially constructed, two story brick home (1839). Site interpretation centers on the slavery question in Indiana and why some Hoosiers risked breaking federal law to help freedom seekers, as well as the practical aspects of moving them in secrecy during the pre Civil War period. This site also has one modern building. The house has a unique indoor well and water infiltration issues need to be studied and remedied. The barn/office building needs roof replacement. A public/private effort is underway to renovate a building from the same period across the street as a Visitor Center. The success of this effort should raise this site to national importance, highlighting the Coffins' contribution to freedom.

Limberlost State Historic Site, located in Geneva, consists of two historic structures (1895) and one modern one on three acres. It was the first home of naturalist, author, photographer Gene Stratton-Porter, who wrote ten books here. Its interpretation focuses on natural history and environmentalism, using a variety of public and education programs. Limberlost SHS is completing its new public/private funded Visitor's Center. The 14 room "cabin" has recently been repainted and its log exterior sealed. The roofs of the home and the log barn are in need of replacement and remain the next minor projects at this site. While the development of a master plan for this site is not projected for the 2013-15 cycle, it will be addressed in the upcoming years.

Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site, in Rome City, consists of four historic and four modern structures on 125 acres. The environmentalist and author Gene Stratton-Porter developed the property as her home in 1913. Interpretation themes include her fame as a writer and environmental advocate and the beauty of the home and its grounds and gardens on Lake Sylvan. The site needs restoration of the iconic owl pedestals at the site entrance. Interior storm windows at the cabin will save on utility expenses. A site Master Plan will provide guidance for future priorities in preservation and restoration

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effort for both the structures and the grounds at the site. The evolution of the woods that cover so much of the site is an ongoing concern. A public/private effort is now underway to restore the cabin kitchen.

New Harmony State Historic Site includes four historic structures and one modern structure on a total of eight acres. The town was the site of two prominent social and communal movements—the Harmonists (1814-1824) and the Owen Community. The public interpretation at New Harmony is accomplished via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ISMHS and the University of Southern Indiana. Much of the work renovating Community House 2 has been completed. This five year project has updated it both as interpretive/exhibit space and for community use. This effort needs to be finished. The Fauntleroy House, which is so important to women’s history in Indiana, is in the midst of an important restoration. Standby generators at these properties will make them more acceptable as long-term exhibit spaces. A site Master Plan will provide a systematic approach to future preservation, restoration and development of SHS assets in New Harmony.

T. C. Steele State Historic Site, in Brown County, was the home and studio of Indiana’s most famous impressionist painter. Steele developed his property beginning in 1907, and today the site has six historic and four modern structures on 21 acres. Interpretation at the site uses Steele’s career to highlight the Hoosier Group and to inspire artists of all ages in various forms of art and crafts. The SHS completed historic structures stabilizations over the last several years and the site is now in need of rehabilitation of the historic gardens. Several of the historic structure roofs are in need of replacement. The development of the site Master Plan is also now a priority as well as the design of a visitor’s center to be able to accommodate traveling exhibitions and in-door programming. The challenge will be to find an appropriate location for a mound septic system to provide restroom facilities for the visitors to this site.

Vincennes State Historic Sites consist of six historic and five modern structures. There is also one earthen structure. The buildings are spread among four sites around the town totaling 45 acres. The sites preserve and interpret the history of Indiana’s colonial (1732-1779) and territorial (1779-1813) eras. This site provides programming to thousands of students each year as well as a range of public events. Facility use has increased and so has the potential for improved revenue. The site has completed its Master Plan and is preparing to address the lack of parking and movement of visitors on the properties.

Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, a 14 mile canal and lock system with a working grist mill in Franklin County, has in the past been a continual line of projects. The site includes 10 historic structures associated with the canal, seven modern structures, and 290 acres. Interpretation focuses on the importance of the canal system to Indiana’s economic growth and the science behind it. ISMHS has finally controlled the major erosion and silt infiltration and has repaired the mill water wheel. The lock #25 project will provide an experiential exposure for the visitor to a working water lock. The challenges

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for the future will be to address the restoration of the Duck Creek Aqueduct, the only wooden aqueduct in the United States. The aqueduct allows the canal to flow over Duck Creek.

The prioritized list of projects is as follows indicating the Fiscal Year needed:

	FY 2014	FY 2015
1. ADA Accessibility for the Indiana State Museum	\$271,500	\$75,000
2. Water: Includes projects needed to prevent damage to structures or foundations	\$307,000	\$380,000
a. Levi Coffin Phase 2 Building Envelope and water infiltration system	\$100,000	
b. Lanier Foundation Phase 1 design and drawings	\$150,000	
c. Corydon Grounds: Design storm sewers and capitol square drainage	\$57,000	
d. Corydon Grounds: Construction of drainage and storm sewers		\$280,000
e. Culbertson Mansion, Opera House & Community House 2: Design and construction		\$100,000
3. Exterior Construction	\$107,000	\$290,000
a. T.C. Steele gardens: Garden rehabilitation	\$50,000	
T.C. Steele Grounds & Trails: Design of interpretive center including restrooms & mound septic		\$240,000
c. Corydon First State Office Building: Design of parking plaza	\$50,000	
d. Vincennes Grounds: Design of Sugar Loaf drive and parking	\$7,000	
Corydon Miscellaneous: Pedestrian safety & design of bus parking		\$40,000
e. Vincennes, Ft. Knox II: Design of parking, walkway and approach signage		\$10,000
f.		
4. Interior Construction	\$391,000	\$410,000
a. Lanier Visitors Center: Conference area	\$300,000	\$300,000
b. Corydon Constitution Elm Monument Preservation	\$31,000	
c. Lanier Interior Storm Windows	\$60,000	
d. Gene Stratton Porter Interior Storms		\$50,000
e. Gene Stratton Porter Kitchen Rehabilitation		\$60,000
5. Miscellaneous Projects	\$25,000	\$160,000

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a. Angel Mounds Misc.: Mann archaeology investigations	\$25,000	
b. New Harmony: Standby generators		\$160,000
6. T.C. Steele Master Plan		\$100,000
7. Replace Movable Casework for the Indiana State Museum	\$30,000	
	\$1,131,500	\$1,415,000

Setting priorities for these projects are based first on concerns for health and safety of both people and the structure, followed by health and safety for people, then by risk to structures, artifacts and community engagement. Also factoring in to the prioritization are projects already in progress (Phases 2, 3, etc.) and current condition. The ability of the ISMHS to carry out its mission is also an influence.