Facility Plan: Intro

Park Development Division
M-NCPPC, Department of Parks, Montgomery County

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Interpretive Program & Exhibit Design

Public Meeting
04 February 2013
Meeting Purpose

Present and Obtain Public Input on Schematic Design Plans:

Site, Buildings and Interpretive Program components to be developed for final Facility Plan product

To rehabilitate the existing historic Riley/Bolten House and Log Kitchen, which are located on the former plantation property (now Josiah Henson Park) where the internationally famous slave Josiah Henson lived before escaping to freedom in Canada.

The project work includes interpretive program exhibits dedicated to Reverend Henson, whose life story inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin
Josiah Henson Park:
2012 Aerial View

White Flint Sector Plan:
Existing and Proposed Community Facilities and Historic Sites
Josiah Henson Park & Wall Park

Vicinity Map:

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
The Park Vision

Create a public museum that …

• celebrates the challenging and inspiring life of Reverend Josiah Henson, the man who inspired the fictional character “Uncle Tom,”

• educates visitors about the enslavement of African Americans in Maryland, and promotes a greater appreciation of history in Montgomery County

• promotes a greater appreciation of history in Montgomery County

Proposed interpretive themes for museum exhibits.
Facility Plan Goals

- Create a Museum-Quality Visitor Experience

- Accurately portray Henson’s life, the Maryland slave experience, and the impact of Stowe’s novel

Riley / Bolten House:
- Retain features that remain from 1800-1850
- Retain the 1930’s appearance and configuration

Log Kitchen:
- Return to mid-19th century appearance and configuration

Site:
- Seamlessly blend visitor experience of exhibits, house, and grounds
- Interpret layers of history to enhance the visitor experience
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Architecture & Engineering
Program of Requirements

Site:

• Bus drop off (two buses stacked)
• On-site Parking (5 spaces – 2 ADA, 1 staff, 1 visitor)
• ADA compliant building and grounds circulation
• Way-finding signage (on-site and off-site)
• Outdoor interpretive exhibits

New Visitor Center:

• Multipurpose Theatre (Visitor Orientation Video)
• Small Retail Area with Staff / Sales Desk and Storage
• Public Restrooms
• Mechanical Space
• Exhibit Storage

Riley/Bolten House: Rehabilitate (*National Register*)

• First Floor Museum - Primary Interpretive Program Exhibits
• Second Floor - Staff Offices and Research Library
• Log Kitchen - Primary Interpretive Program Exhibit
Existing Site Conditions – 1.43 acres total

Former Rozier Property

Riley/Bolten House (National Register of Historic Places Site M:30-6)

Riley Property

North
Program of Requirements

Site:

- Bus drop off (two buses stacked)
- On-site Parking (5 spaces – 2 ADA, 1 staff, 1 visitor)
- ADA compliant building and grounds circulation
- Way-finding signage (on-site and off-site)
- Outdoor interpretive exhibits
Proposed Site Plan

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Constraints – setbacks & buffers

North

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Constraints – steep slopes

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Constraints – archeology areas

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Constraints – tree & root zones

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Design – gathering areas

Exhibit Portal

New Visitor Center

Riley / Bolten House

North

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Site Design – vehicular drop-off & parking

Exhibit Portal

New Visitor Center

Riley / Bolten House

North

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LSC Design, Inc. & Experience Design
Site Design – pedestrian pathways

Exhibit Portal

New Visitor Center

Riley / Bolten House

North

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Proposed Site Plan

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Visitor Center - Design

Exhibit Portal

New Visitor Center

Riley / Bolten House
Program of Requirements

New Visitor Center:

- Multipurpose Theatre (Visitor Orientation Video)
- Small Retail Area with Staff / Sales Desk and Storage
- Public Restrooms
- Mechanical Space
- Exhibit Storage
Visitor Center - organization & adjacencies

Option 1

Option 2

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Visitor Center – Concept Building Massing
Visitor Center – Concept Building Massing
Proposed Visitor Center to Riley/Bolten rear yard
8-10 foot grade change
Site Section Diagram

Visitor Center

Old Georgetown Road

exhibit portal
drop-off

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Riley House - Design

Exhibit Portal

New Visitor Center

Riley/Bolten House

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Program of Requirements

Riley/Bolten House:

Rehabilitate
(National Register of Historic Places Site M:30-6)

First Floor: Museum - Primary Interpretive Program Exhibits

Second Floor: Staff Offices and Research Library

Log Kitchen: Primary Interpretive Program Exhibit
Riley House – pre 1930’s context

Isaac Riley Farm

Front Row: Mrs. Matilda Riley, Mrs. Francis Riley Mace,
Back Row: Rosalie Mace and Dora Mace Holman, ca. 1890

_The Only Original Uncie Tom._
Josiah Henson, colored, who is said to be the original of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncie Tom, called on the President to-day and had quite a talk with him.

*Critic Record* 27 February 1878
Lorenzo Winslow / Bolten Era

Top:
The Riley / Bolten House, ca. 1939

Bottom:
Interior of the Log Kitchen, with Levina Bolten, ca. 1939
Riley / Bolten House – restore exterior to 1930’s context
Riley / Bolten House – backyard approach

Visitor... and Henson’s approach to the house

Visitor Entrance to Log Kitchen on Left

Visitor Entrance at Screen Porch on Right
Main Entry – reconstructed porch

HSR Recommendations:
Option 15.b: Completely rebuild this space to provide one more room for the house
Main Entry – reconstructed porch

Option 1
Full-Height Glass Infill

Option 2
High Clerestory Glass

Option 3
Solid Infill

Options for enclosure:
Proposed House Exhibits Circulation

rear yard

front yard
Existing Log Kitchen - exterior

Rear Elevation of Log Kitchen showing historic door location
Current Log Kitchen - archeology findings

excavation where archaeologists have discovered three distinct historic floors: one beneath the other.

1930’s floor removed

Archaeological investigation is ongoing
Current Log Kitchen - interior

temporary excavation viewing area for visitors
Proposed Log Kitchen - sections

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Proposed interpretive themes for museum exhibits.
Primary Visitor Experience Areas

I. Wayfinding Exhibits

II. Visitor Center/Introductory Theater

III. Outdoor Exhibits

IV. Indoor Exhibits

Facility Plan: Josiah Henson Park / Public Meeting - Monday February 4, 2013
Visitor Experience Circulation

Conceptual Diagram of Exhibit Locations

Farming on the plantation, bit interpretation

Josiah Henson's timeline... along path with seating

Main House exhibits: Life of Josiah Henson

Log Kitchen: Slave Life

Kitchen Garden

History of the house exhibit interpretive

Introductory Theater/Visitor Center

Major Content: Henson's Life
Visitor Center: Media Experience

Major Content: Henson’s Life
Outdoors: Interpretive Opportunities

Major Content:
Transition and immersion in the story of Henson
Major Content:
Henson’s Life
Introduction: Henson’s Life

Major Content:
- Overview of Henson’s Life in a Timeline
- Media with motion and graphics
How do we know about Henson?

Major Content:
- How do we know about Henson?
Henson’s Life as a Spiritual Man

Major Content:
- Overview of Henson’s spiritual life
- Interactive
Riley / Bolten House: Working as an Enslaved Person in the Kitchen

Major Content:
- Plantation Layout
- Archaeological evidence

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Rev. Henson’s Escape

Major Content:
-Escaping to Canada
-Projected words, images and quotes
Life as an Enslaved Person Working in the Log Kitchen

Major Content:
-Life Working in the Kitchen
-Archaeological Evidence
Next Steps:

February to May 2013
Final Facility Plan Design Development

June 2013 – Planning Board Hearing
approval of Facility Plan Design and Budget
transmit to Council requesting Stand-Alone CIP Project
recommendation for funding Final Design and Construction phases in FY 15-20 CIP
Questions & Answers:

Park Development Division
M-NCPPC, Department of Parks, Montgomery County

Public Meeting
04 February 2013
Comments in writing until February 11, 2013:

www.ParkProjects.org
under Public Input, click on Josiah Henson Park

Additional information contact:

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