



LOCUST GROVE MASTER PLAN

APRIL 2014

SPECIAL THANKS...



MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

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HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE, INC.

Historic Locust Grove is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization chartered by the Commonwealth of Kentucky that manages and operates Locust Grove under a Memorandum of Understanding with Louisville Metro Government through its Parks Department.

Mission: The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 55-acres of William Croghan's estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1792 house, outbuildings, collection and grounds as examples of early nineteenth-century frontier America, and to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of the site, emphasizing the experiences of George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.

Vision: Our goal is to manage the most significant historic house museum in the region, attracting a national, regional and local audience through the employment of professional standards and exceptional stewardship. We will interpret the site as a place to experience the post-Revolution settlement of Kentucky and the contributions made to the establishment of the United States by George Rogers Clark and his extended family, enslaved servants and contemporaries. Visitors will come away with a contextual understanding of the importance of the individuals connected to William Croghan's Locust Grove, becoming advocates for the museum and Historic Locust Grove, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Master Plan is intended as a tool for use by members of the Historic Locust Grove board as they set policy and goals for the future. The plan is also intended to serve as a resource for Metro Louisville, the property's owner, and for the general public to understand more clearly the vision for Locust Grove. Implementation of the Master Plan will be guided by four overarching areas of focus:

Historic Resource Preservation

Historical and archaeological preservation remain at the core of Historic Locust Grove's mission to maintain and interpret Locust Grove. Aesthetic, interpretive and maintenance considerations will be evaluated within the context of this policy on the basis of nationally recognized treatment standards.

Education

Along with preservation, interpretation and education about the world of the Croghans and Clark remain central to the

mission of HLG. New opportunities outlined in the Master Plan will enable the staff and board to develop deeper, broader, and more effective methods to reach a variety of audiences to increase their knowledge and understanding of the people, ideas, and ways of life in late 18th and early 19th-century Kentucky.

Effective Visitor Services

The Master Plan recognizes Historic Locust Grove's intention to contain physical growth within the boundaries of the site, while anticipating audience expansion. To attract larger audiences and secure the future business of the museum, Historic Locust Grove will place more emphasis on visitor services, interpretive innovation and effective development initiatives--with the goal of being "better" rather than "bigger."

Site Preservation

The Locust Grove Master Plan will secure the entire 55-acre parcel as a permanent, historic site through the adoption of a deed restriction recognizing that status, through the official closure of "ghost roads" designated as public thoroughfares in



FIGURE 1 - VIEW LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS THE MAIN HOUSE

the century-old Fort Stanwix residential development plan, and through outreach to adjacent neighbors that encourages them to seek conservation easements for their own properties.

Description of Locust Grove

Locust Grove is a museum and historic site in Louisville's east end that preserves and interprets the original 1790s farm of William Croghan, one of the earliest settlers of Jefferson County, who provided a final home for his brother-in-law, Louisville's founder and Revolutionary War hero, General George Rogers Clark. The property is located six miles northeast and up the Ohio River from downtown Louisville. With 55 acres and 13 buildings, plus gardens, stone walls, a spring, fields, and woods, the site is an oasis in a suburban setting.

More than 25,000 visitors per year come from around the world and all around the region to tour the site and participate in its programs, including more than 5,000 school children annually from Kentucky and Indiana. The mission includes preservation and interpretive use of the historic resources to tell the stories of the people who lived and worked here--the Croghan and Clark families and their dependents, including African-American slaves. HLG's staff and volunteers work to illuminate the culture of the time and the place, and center Louisville's story in the national narrative of growth and change in the early Republic.

HLG is committed to research, authenticity, and an imaginative interpretation of life in early Kentucky. The site works with trained costumed interpreters as well as with docents in modern dress to illuminate the stories of the



FIGURE 2 - VISITORS ENJOYING A PICNIC NEAR THE HISTORIC HOUSE

past. The interpretation includes the lives of the enslaved, of the children, visitors, and neighbors, as well as of the great men who lived here. Through all of its programs--lectures, workshops, concerts, festivals, tours--HLG strives to engage and involve its audiences in discovering and questioning the past.

Preservation efforts focus not just on historic structures such as the main house, but on preserving and interpreting the historic landscape of farm, fields, gardens, fences, and outbuildings. Future plans include increased use of technology to expand outreach and diversify programs, and development of the visual and performing arts in interpretation.

History of the Site

Locust Grove was still a farm in private hands when, in 1961, Jefferson County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky jointly purchased the property at auction and restored it for public use. The site was managed by a Locust Grove Board of Regents as part of Historic Homes Foundation, and Locust Grove became a museum open to the public for tours. In 2001, Historic Locust Grove, Inc. was formed by the Locust Grove Board of Regents as a new nonprofit to take over the management of the site, and in 2005, with the merger of city and county governments, Louisville Metro Parks became the public partner in the operation and preservation of Locust Grove.

Throughout this fifty-year period, the site was progressively improved with archaeological study, documentary research, restored and reconstructed buildings, the planting of period gardens, and the expansion of the museum collection, interpretation, and audience. The board of Directors, now including 25 regular members, an Emeritus group, and an Advisory Board, takes an active role in governance, working through many committees. The staff has increased to 4 full-time and 10 part-time professionals, with more than 130 active volunteers assisting with public programs, site improvements, fundraising events, the gardens, and all aspects of operations.

To make its budget, Historic Locust Grove relies on earned income from admissions, the museum store, rentals, and programs, plus donations, grant income from foundations, and corporate underwriting. The responsibility to preserve the historic structures has required numerous capital campaigns as well as direct grants from Louisville Metro Government (which also covers some routine maintenance costs for the buildings and grounds along with professional consultation and expertise). Locust Grove is a National Historic Landmark; in March 2012 it was re-accredited by the American Association

of Museums, one of only five museums in the Commonwealth, and one of only 5% of museums nationally, to have achieved this distinction.

In 2008, Locust Grove opened a new exhibit gallery in the visitors center with artifacts, images, and texts to tell the background stories of the site. This \$800,000 expansion was funded by local individuals and foundations. In 2010, HLG unveiled a complete interior re-restoration and re-interpretation of the historic 1790s main house, bringing a much more accurate and colorful picture of life in early Kentucky. The site's 2010 Interpretation Plan encompassed the exhibit gallery and the renewed historic house. New interpretive possibilities on the grounds and outbuildings are suggested in this Master Plan.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The process of creating the Master Plan began several years ago, when the staff and board of HLG began gathering ideas for what the historic site of the next century could and should be, through a series of community conversations with local thought leaders in the arts, philanthropy, and culture. Their insights and questions were then brought for discussion to our “stakeholders,” including neighbors, board members, and funders, in a series of pre-planning sessions. The conclusions of the meetings emphasized the need for visitors to have meaningful **active** experiences, the need to tell a **diversity** of stories in a **variety** of ways, and the importance of encouraging access and participation, but always in a way that is **respectful** of the setting and fragility of the site's resources.

These concepts were incorporated in the 2012 Strategic Plan for Locust Grove created by the staff and board to guide budgeting and planning for the next years. The Strategic Plan's goals rely on the development of a Master Plan for a full and unified expression of the mission of the organization by identifying physical site improvements and new uses for existing features.

In addition, in order to gather information about the status of the site's major preservation responsibilities, HLG applied for and was awarded a ReCAP grant for a Conservation Assessment of the historic buildings on the site. In 2012 a conservation assessor and a preservation assessor surveyed the main house, the stone kitchen-smokehouse structure, the wood shop, and other buildings. Their recommendations were included in a ReCAP Report in early 2013. These findings added to a structural engineering study of the house completed in 2011, have led to plans to reinforce the 1790s building and to replace the HVAC system controls. In all planning for the preservation of the



FIGURE 3 - THE NORTH FACE OF THE HISTORIC HOUSE WAS PROBABLY ORIGINALLY THE “BACK DOOR”

historic structures, HLG has consulted closely with Louisville Metro Parks architects as well as with professional preservation architects and engineers.

Other preparation for the Master Plan included a physical survey of the site's boundaries and features. This process, Phase 1 of the Plan, was completed in 2012. Phase 2, a comprehensive archaeological survey of the entire property, was completed in 2013. This final Master Plan incorporates the findings of the earlier phases.

Financial support for the planning process came from the Gheens Foundation, the J.G. Brown Foundation, and Neighborhood Development Funds from the Louisville Metro Council, sponsored by Councilman Kelly Downard.

A Master Plan Committee was formed to guide the consultants during the planning process. Chaired by HLG Board Vice President Kate Dalton Boyer, the committee also included past Board President Gwynne Potts, current President Susan Reigler, Executive Director Carol Ely, HLG Advisory Board member Robert Cusick, and representing Metro Parks, John Hamilton, Assistant to the Director of Metro Parks, and Martha Berner, Landscape Architect. Locust Grove “stakeholders,” including members, neighbors, and donors, were kept informed during the planning process.

Recommendations from this Master Plan report will be shared with neighbors and the community, and reviewed and prioritized by the HLG board, which will develop a timeline, budget, and capital fundraising plan while working closely with Louisville Metro officials.

THE NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF LOCUST GROVE

Locust Grove is a Metro Louisville Local Landmark that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) on March 11, 1971, and designated a **National Historic Landmark (NHL)** on June 23, 1986. The NR is the federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Properties listed in the NR must possess historic significance and integrity as defined by one or more of four criteria. The additional NHL designation is conferred for **exceptional national significance**, an honor shared by fewer than 2,500 historic places across the country. Knowing what is significant about Locust Grove is fundamental to any approach for managing its resources.

Significance of Its Historic Resources

The two-and-a-half story brick house—the “most significant architectural feature” on the site—was the residence of George Rogers Clark (1752-1818), who lived here with his sister, Lucy, and her husband, Major William Croghan, from 1809 until his death in 1818. Clark was the hero of the Western theater of the American Revolution, famous for his conquest of the trans-Ohio frontier at Vincennes, Indiana, and Kaskaskia and Cahokia, Illinois. Croghan, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who served under George Washington at Trenton and Valley Forge and was present at the British surrender at Yorktown, worked with Clark as a surveyor of public bounty lands for the Virginia State Line. The Croghan country seat outside of Louisville became a social and political center on the western frontier, hosting visits by John James Audubon, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Aaron Burr, and Presidents James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, and Zachary Taylor.

Architectural and Site Integrity

Originally designed and constructed after 1790 under the direction of William Croghan, the main house at Locust Grove is a double pile brick structure in Flemish bond, two-and-a-half stories high, with a full basement of rough-coursed rubble limestone walls. The house is five bays wide with a gable roof and sits on a level yard at a high point of the property’s rolling terrain, separated from fields on the south and west sides by a stone ha-ha wall (itself an important original feature of the site). The house underwent modifications during the Victorian era including lengthening of windows, additions of front and rear

porches, and a one-story masonry addition at the north end of the east side. The house was restored to its original configuration in the early 1960s under the direction of Walter Macomber, formerly the resident architect at Colonial Williamsburg, and its appearance today remains much as it was when restored.

A comprehensive interior restoration, completed in 2010 and based on physical and documentary research, included replastering, repainting, and the installation of floor cloths, carpet, and wallpaper. The result was a completely new interpretation of the inside of the main house.

As defined by the NHL Criteria for Evaluation, the residence possesses **exceptional value or quality** in illustrating or interpreting the **heritage of the United States in history**, architecture and culture, and maintains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association which convey its national significance for its association with events related to the broad national patterns and themes of U.S. history through the country’s early westward expansion (“Criterion 1”). The property also possesses national importance under NHL “Criterion 2” (U. S. Department of the Interior 1997, 50-51) through its association with nationally significant people, especially George Rogers Clark and William Croghan. As a fine example of the Georgian architectural style, the property also possesses local significance under NR “Criterion C” for those distinctive physical features (U.S. Department of the Interior 1997, 17-20).

Reconstructed historic buildings and structures that have been moved from their original locations are usually not eligible for NHL designation, unless the reconstructed building or group of buildings of extraordinary national significance is “accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration Master Plan, and when no other buildings or structures with the same association have survived.” (U.S. Department of the Interior 1997, 2) Under this rubric, the reconstructed dependencies (at least the kitchen/quarters/smokehouse, dairy, and well that were designed by Macomber as part of the 1960s restoration project and described in the NHL nomination) may be considered to be part of the NHL in addition to the main house.

Besides those dependencies included in the NHL designation, there are other structures on the property. These consist of reconstructions based on historical and physical evidence, like the spring house and ice house built on original foundations, or buildings that have been relocated from other properties, like the log house, now part of the visitor center, the cemetery wall



FIGURE 4 - THE "MAIN HOUSE AND YARD" RETAINS THE HIGHEST HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND WILL BE PRESERVED (THE PRESERVATION ZONE). THE "GARDENS AND FIELDS" ALLOWS MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR INTERPRETIVE USES WITH CONSIDERATION FOR VIEWSHEDS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND INCLUDES THE "VISITORS CENTER ZONE" AND "WOODS ZONE" WHERE NEW SUPPORT FACILITIES COULD BE BUILT.

(rebuilt with salvaged materials from the original wall), and the wood shop and garden shed (set onto historic foundations). There is also modern structure built with new materials in a historic style (the barn). These structures are unlikely to be considered to possess "extraordinary national significance," although the reconstructed spring house, ice house, and cemetery are "accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner" as part of the restoration of Locust Grove. These should be retained and interpreted. On the other hand, significant latitude may be exercised in determining whether the relocated structures (the log house, and the wood shop and garden shed above their foundations) and new buildings (the barn and visitor center) are retained, relocated, and/or how they are to be used and rehabilitated.

Although the current property has undergone many changes through the demolition and reconstruction of outbuildings, alterations to and maturation of the landscape, relocation of structures, and the construction of a visitor center, there appear to be significant subsurface artifacts that might provide further insight into the original use of the site. The property

can, therefore, also be considered under NR "Criterion D" to possess local significance for its archaeological resources as being "likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory." (U. S. Department of the Interior 1997, 21-24)

RECOMMENDED TREATMENT FOR LOCUST GROVE

Overview

The recommendations made by any Master Plan for Locust Grove must take into consideration the National Historic Landmark status of the main house. There needs to be a clear philosophy underlying the standards Historic Locust Grove adopts to preserve, maintain, and at times change various areas of the site. Because certain parts of the Locust Grove site have greater historical significance and integrity than others, different areas call for different types of treatment. The main house and immediate grounds **require the greatest consideration and care (“Preservation Zone”)**. Outlying areas can be more flexibly used, while **always maintaining a sensitive approach** that supports and **does not detract** from the significance of the house.

Since William Croghan’s time Locust Grove has seen many physical changes, and yet archaeological study of the present site reveals many clues to the Croghans’ domestic arrangements. The relationship of the main house and yard to the larger farm can still be discerned—even if only as an “idea” of the original context of the preserved house—and this is crucial to understanding and caring for the NHL area which is the property’s centerpiece.

Locust Grove’s 1960s restoration reflected a philosophy of historic preservation as it was understood and heavily influenced by the work being done at the time at Colonial Williamsburg, which included the removal of non-colonial structures and the reconstruction of missing buildings on original foundations. That approach has created what some consider to be an idealized portrait of the first capital of Virginia at its peak of importance, and this idealization has greatly influenced the present look of Locust Grove.



FIGURE 5 - A RAMPED APPROACH ON THE EAST END OF THE PORCH WOULD PROVIDE GREATER ACCESSIBILITY FOR VISITORS

While the house has been extensively studied and restored to the way the Croghans would have known it, and has much historical integrity, the **Gardens and Fields Zone** that surrounds the house has been irreversibly diminished by the suburban development nearby. Any scheme to restore the original setting of these areas is impractical. Consequently, it makes good sense that the Gardens and Fields Zone now accommodates the visitors' center, museum and offices that would be anachronistic if built closer to the area around the main house.

Main House and Yard

The National Historic Landmark designation of Locust Grove establishes the national historic significance of the house and its immediately surrounding site. These structures and landscapes retain the highest degree of integrity within the present property. This area is particularly sensitive to change and/or disturbance. The main house and yard may, therefore, be considered to form a “zone of primary significance,” or **Preservation Zone**, which includes the house as restored in 1962-1964 and 2010, landscape features (especially the ha-ha wall), and those outbuildings reconstructed in 1965 on original foundations adjacent to the house. The approximate boundaries of this area are Blankenbaker Lane on the south, the ha-ha wall on southwest and west, and the currently-existing gravel drive on the north and east. Within this area, Historic Locust Grove has already established an informal protocol for preservation and restoration grounded in research.

Garden, Fields, and Woods

The portion of the property outside of the main house and yard—a remnant of the original 700-acre farm—presents a pastoral scene of rolling fields, a formal garden, and a woods. After the property passed from Croghan ownership and was subdivided for suburban residential estates in the early 20th century, farming on the remaining property gradually ceased. The once open farm fields and pastures on the 55-acre site evolved into today's park-like mowed fields and an area of regrown forest. Over time, farm buildings have been built, relocated here or demolished, and a new garden patterned after similar local examples was planted in 1970 and expanded in 1973. A log house moved here from another property in 1962 to serve as a caretaker's residence now comprises a portion of the modern visitor center, which was built onto the log structure in stages (1980 and 1992).

Within this **Garden and Fields Zone** lies the **Visitor Center Zone** (encompassing the visitor center, open fields to the north

of it, and paved parking areas), where the property has been most intensely altered over the last fifty years. For that reason, and because this zone is shielded from view from the main house, this zone is the most appropriate location for any future construction of new support facilities.

The wooded area at the northeast corner of the property comprises a second area for possible development. Once an open field with a manmade retention pond, it was only partially planted in the 1960s and is now covered with volunteer tree growth of poor quality. The woods are undeveloped and contain no archaeological remains. Automobile access to the woods from Woodside Road dead-ends at the property line. The **Woods Zone**, like the **Visitor Center Zone**, could be more extensively developed for new facilities if views from the main house are properly screened.

Archaeological Resources

The 2013 archaeological survey done at Locust Grove redefined the boundaries for a site that is eligible for National Register status. The area includes the main house and yard, plus reconstructed features such as the spring house rebuilt on original foundations and the cemetery wall which was moved within the site in the early 20th century. Further digging in identified areas of interest is likely to produce results that would add to the knowledge of the house and grounds. Great care should be taken where subsurface features have been located before disturbing the ground.

Different Areas Need Different Policies

Given the differences in historical significance and integrity in different zones around the Locust Grove site, the Master Plan recommends adopting distinct but complementary approaches to treating these different areas. Because of the visual and historical interdependence of the areas, the ways of treating each area will necessarily overlap. In particular, any change made within the Gardens and Fields or Woods Zones must carefully weigh the effect on the views from the main house and within the main house yard, as well any potential impact on archaeological sites that have not yet been fully investigated.

TREATMENT APPROACH SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Zone

main house and yard

- Preservation in line with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and best practices
- Rehabilitation to provide access for visitors with disabilities, but as invisibly as possible
- No reconstruction of buildings or features without strong historical evidence of their physical appearance and actual presence in Clark's and Croghan's day

Garden and Fields Zone

north and east of the Preservation Zone

- An appropriate area to create a feature (such as a new garden) that is based on our knowledge of the era and area, and is historically correct in that sense, but is not necessarily known to be historic to Locust Grove
- Any new feature or building should be located giving careful consideration to the views to and from the main house

Visitors Center Zone

- Best area for new construction of support facilities that are clearly modern. Any new building should "fit in" with the look of the main house but not try to appear historic.

Woods Zone

- Another area where new support or interpretative buildings would be appropriate. They should also "fit in" without trying to look historic.

Over fifty years after completing the restoration of Locust Grove, preservation practice has evolved with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and creation of the National Register of Historic Places. The Act launched a codification of preservation standards now known as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Secretary's Standards address four

specific types of treatments: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Of the four treatments, **Preservation** emphasizes maintenance and the retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric, features, and materials. **Rehabilitation** offers an approach to altering or adding to a property to meet continuing needs or provide compatible new uses while retaining its historic character. **Restoration** allows an accurate depiction of the property's appearance at a particular time in its history. **Reconstruction** establishes a framework for re-creating vanished historic elements, using new materials, for interpretative purposes.

Preservation is recommended as the **appropriate treatment approach** within the main house and yard, in order to **protect the historic character** of the National Historic Landmark structures. Historic features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships of the main house will be retained and repaired when needed. Where the documentary or physical evidence cannot be found, existing conditions will be stabilized and preserved until new evidence can support additional work.

Rehabilitation to **accommodate modern mechanical/electrical systems** is permissible, but must be designed to avoid jeopardizing building materials and historic character while improving code compliance, safety, and accessibility, plus environmental and curatorial goals. Preservation also allows for restoration of building features of the period of significance for which there is sufficient documentary and physical evidence but in general reconstruction is inappropriate unless enough documentation exists.

The diminished integrity of the wider cultural landscape of the Garden and Fields Zone suggests a different treatment approach. Preservation is overly restrictive and does not allow enhancements for interpretation and/or other use of the property. Limited documentary sources now available give very little detail to support restoration or reconstruction of the property's original features from the period of Croghan and Clark. As in the main house yard, restoration and/or reconstruction of buildings, structures, or other features within this zone should not be undertaken without strong documentary and physical evidence.

For these reasons, rehabilitation is recommended for the Garden and Fields. Any new structures or systems should be designed to support interpretation of the site's history and other program objectives while minimizing their visual impacts and allowing reversal of the work without harming the historic fabric of the main house. New structures should not falsely appear to be

historic but should be deferential to the surrounding cultural and natural resources. Additional land cultivation or the redesign or expansion of interpretive gardens is appropriate within this zone. Sensitive plantings and sites with archaeological potential should be treated carefully. Archaeological resources should be preserved unless a compelling research question or need justifies disturbance or excavation, or when an unavoidable change is necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN SUMMARY

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (on which Metro Louisville Landmarks Design Guidelines governing exterior changes are based) provides a recognized baseline appropriate to a National Historic Landmark for preserving the distinctive character of the main house and yard, and for rehabilitating gardens and fields to allow reasonable changes for meeting new needs. These standards are the basis for the Master Plan recommendations which follow and should be adopted as the policy of Historic Locust Grove.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The physical site improvements recommended for Locust Grove are a critical component of how visitors will experience it. The recommendations described here provide a basis for future decisions regarding visitor arrival, parking, and walking paths, plus grounds management, outdoor events, and the use of the woods.

ARRIVAL

A visitor's impressions and views as he or she first enters the Locust Grove site are important. Yet the existing way of arriving does not adequately set the stage for what is to come.

The drive to the Locust Grove entrance down Blankenbaker Lane from the south offers a beautiful first view of the main house, but once visitors enter the property, their next glimpse of the house and ha-ha wall is over the tops of cars. A reworked entrance drive will offer unobstructed views. Doing this means:

- **shifting the parking lot** west of the entry drive as cars come in
- providing a large **drop-off area** for visitors and buses with direct views of the main house, ha-ha wall and grounds near the visitor center
- constructing a **seat wall and benches** at the drop-off to give people a place to sit while waiting to be picked up
- creating a **broad path** with a handicap-accessible slope that will take visitors from the drop-off area to the front of the visitor center. There they can purchase tickets and start their journey into Locust Grove.



FIGURE 6 - THE EXISTING PARKING LAYOUT LIMITS THE VISITOR'S VIEWS OF THE PROPERTY

This new approach should include appropriate **wayfinding and interpretive signs**. A large site map placed at the drop-off can show the original and current boundaries of Locust Grove and the connection from Locust Grove to the Ohio River.

PARKING

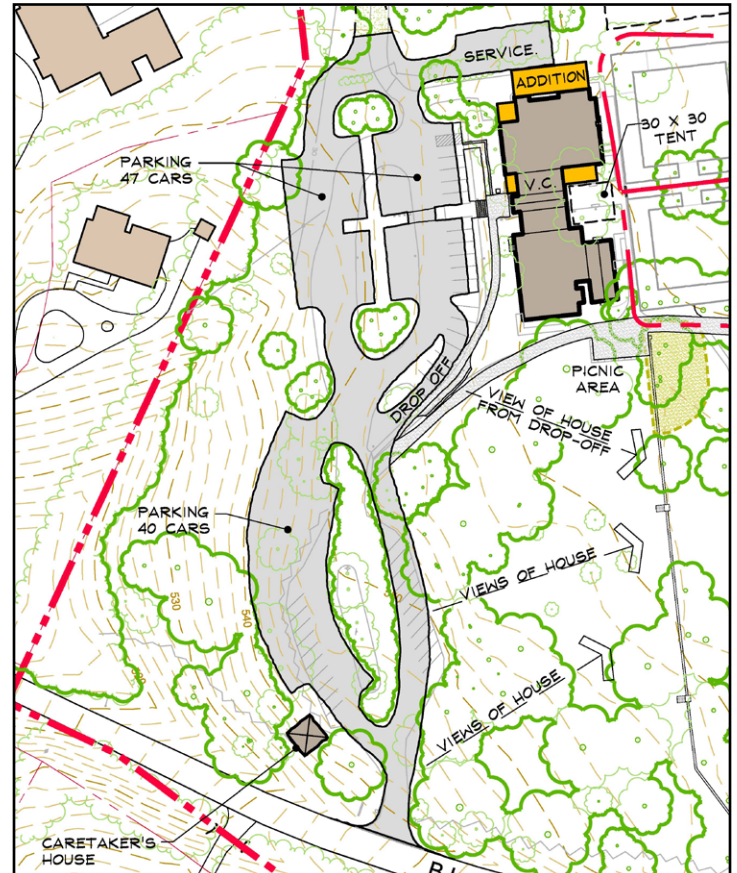


FIGURE 7 - THE PROPOSED PARKING LAYOUT WILL CREATE MORE SCENIC VIEWS AND MORE EFFICIENT PARKING

Parking at Locust Grove will be vastly improved and doubled, with space on hard surface for about 87 cars. This can be accomplished by **building a new lot for 40 cars** off to the west side of the entry drive. This lot will be separated from the entry drive by an island with dense plantings, and will also be set at a lower elevation, to give the impression of further separation.

The current parking lot near the visitor center will be pushed away from the building by about five feet to make room for the **new entry path** from the drop-off to the visitor center. This lot will more than double in size, from 20 to 47 cars, by better organizing existing pavement and by adding some. **The service area behind the visitor center will be enlarged** to provide space for employee parking as well as trash, storage, and

grounds management equipment.

Where appropriate, the new parking lots will use “green” technology, such as pervious pavement, to reduce stormwater runoff. Improving the overflow lot in the back field is discussed below under Outdoor Event Space.

REHABILITATE THE VISITOR CENTER

The visitors center began with a 1979-80 addition to the log house (itself relocated to the site from another property in 1962), and was later expanded with a large addition in the early 1990s and in 2008. It comes as no surprise that its use of space is inefficient.



FIGURE 8 - THE VISITOR CENTER IS AN IMPORTANT ARRIVAL POINT. A MORE OPEN CENTRAL LAYOUT WOULD CREATE A CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE AND LINK THE FRONT DOOR TO THE SITE BEYOND

The current lobby is a “hyphen” linking the exhibit space to a multi-purpose assembly hall. Visitors enter from the parking lot and are confronted by an open book and museum store, ticketing, and crisscrossing circulation paths. Small mechanical rooms and storage closets (one of which has been converted to a very small office) occupy valuable floor space. Public restrooms near the assembly hall are not readily visible to arriving guests, who may have to wait for directions from staff members busy helping other visitors in the narrow and visually crowded central aisle. Circulation is cramped and there is no adequate or convenient gathering space where docents may greet tour groups.

Staff offices are scattered throughout the complex, and there is limited storage space with inadequate climate control for the preservation of collections. The large assembly hall must perform multiple functions for events and groups of all sizes, with no small classroom or break-out rooms except for the

library, and a windowless staff meeting room that was originally intended to house storage.

Reclaiming the visitor center as the gateway to Locust Grove is a principal objective of the Master Plan, and can be accomplished by reallocating the use of space, rehabilitating some areas, and by adding a few modest additions that will not greatly increase the size of the building.

REDESIGN THE LOBBY

Visitors can be made more comfortable and this space better used if it is redesigned to provide an open gathering space to serve as a starting point for tours and a welcoming space for events. Expanded restrooms, clearly marked, should be closer to the entrance. The museum store should be enclosed so that it can be better monitored when open and securely closed when the visitor center is used for events.

Reallocate Space within the Existing Visitor Center

Reallocating space within the existing visitor center footprint along with some modest additions can provide:

- Expanded **restrooms**
- More **conference and classroom space**
- Improved **collection storage** space with climate control
- Professional **kitchen** for on-site catered events and programs
- Consolidated **offices** to enhance staff efficiency and collaboration
- Concealed **service access**, trash removal, garden/landscape storage

The total combined footprint of visitor center additions would be about **2,000 square feet**, for a net gain of about 3,000 square feet of space including the second floor areas. The additions would generally be located out of view from the main house. After relocating some offices, existing museum space could be expanded.

PHYSICAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS

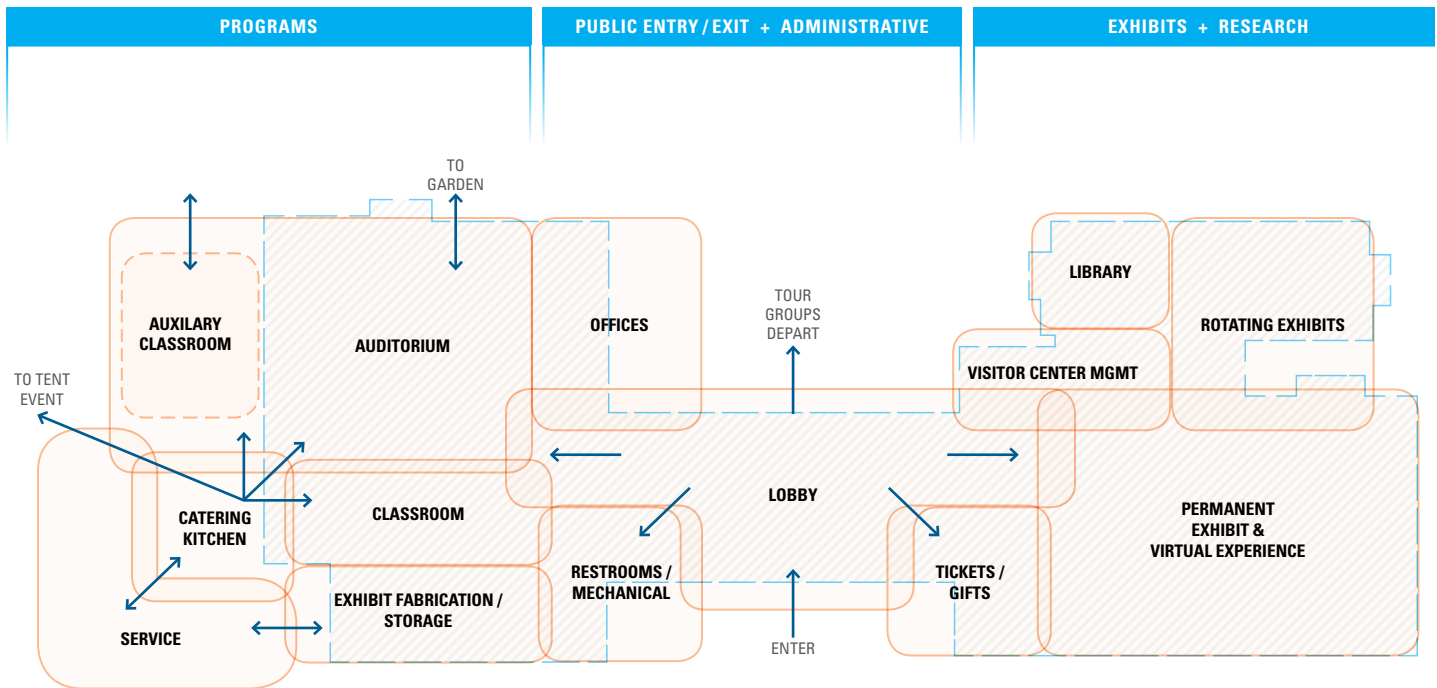


FIGURE 9 - CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OF VISITOR CENTER

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR GARDENS AND GROUNDS



FIGURE 10 - THE EXISTING FOUR-SQUARE GARDEN AREA IS A CRITICAL SPACE THAT SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED TO HIGHLIGHT HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE GARDENING METHODS

The Master Plan recommends using part of the gardens to **demonstrate historic gardening methods and techniques**, allowing the large **trees in the garden to be removed over time** as they deteriorate, and providing **openings in the quad garden** shrub “walls” to create a more **porous boundary** between the upper garden quads, the center allee, and the two lower garden quads. Visitors also need more information (from docents, handouts, or website articles) about what is growing in the gardens.

The quad gardens directly behind the visitor center are very compartmentalized and do not currently provide enough space for a large tent due to the presence of several large trees in the center of the garden. There is also not a good connection between the two upper garden quads which are closest to the visitor center, the center allee, and the two lower garden quads.

Walkways at Locust Grove will be improved dramatically by providing an organized path system that is **entirely accessible to the disabled**. The path will start at the back door of the visitor center and will offer a route either through the gardens or around them, then up toward the main house and encircling it.

An informal but still accessible path will lead the visitor through the meadows to the south cabin remnants, the central cabin area, the north cabin remnants, the spring house, the log barn, and the entrances to the woodland trail system.



FIGURE 11 - VIEW OF THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN THE MAIN HOUSE AND THE WOODS. LAWN AREAS ARE CURRENTLY MOWED SHORT, WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT HOW THE SITE WOULD HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED HISTORICALLY

Grounds Maintenance

Locust Grove currently has large fields that are kept in grass and mown like a park lawn. This does not help visitors appreciate how the site was maintained in the early 1800's. To rectify this situation, the Master Plan recommends **creating two meadow areas** located on the slopes on either side of the big valley. These meadows will lower maintenance costs as well as interpret the historic appearance of the fields at Locust Grove. See the Maintenance Plan in the appendix for more information about the establishment and upkeep of the meadow areas.

The grounds at Locust Grove incorporate both soft materials such as grass, mulch, shrubs, and trees as well as hard materials such as asphalt, brick, concrete, gravel, and stone. These materials all have a place in the landscape and each requires a certain amount of maintenance to be kept in top condition.

Some of these materials, such as **asphalt and concrete**, are more modern in appearance, and while they are certainly appropriate for parking and for the walkways on the parking side of the visitor center, they **should be kept away from the preservation areas of the site**. Paths in the historic area should be built of limestone aggregate, brick, or stone as would have been done in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Current technology can make them handicap-accessible. Edgings for these paths should be made of brick or stone and not modern metal or plastic edging, as can be seen along the brick walk in front of the main house.

Maintenance responsibilities for the work to be done at Locust Grove are currently split between the Locust Grove staff and Metro Parks. Responsibility for additional maintenance items to be added via this plan will need to be worked out between those two entities.

Specific recommendations for landscape management can be found in the appendix under Maintenance Plan.

There are currently two **orchard areas** at Locust Grove, one on the slope on the east side of the main house and a smaller one in the treed area on the west side. Both orchard areas, which contain fragile heirloom varieties of fruit trees, are in fairly poor condition with stunted and damaged trees and no interpretation. Use of the orchard areas for events combined with the depredations of deer have left these potentially important features undefended. **Recommendation: replace the stunted and damaged trees with heirloom stock of the time period, protect them from animal and mower damage, and provide some signage for interpretation.** Do not park cars in the orchard for events. New parking areas provided in this plan will relieve some of the problems.



FIGURE 12 - VIEW OF THE WEST ORCHARD



FIGURE 13 - LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS THE MAIN HOUSE ACROSS THE QUAD GARDENS

Outdoor Event Space

Outdoor event spaces at Locust Grove should be centered on the formal gardens and field north of the visitor center; avoid using the west and south yard of the historic house and the orchards.

Recommendation: a large **seasonal tent** can be placed at the north end of the formal gardens on a semi-permanent pad set on top of the ground surface. The tent would be installed in the spring and removed in the fall to be cleaned and stored off-site. A smaller temporary tent, with a maximum size of 30 feet by 30 feet, could be used when needed in the quads adjacent to



FIGURE 14 - CURRENTLY, LARGE EVENTS ARE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH TENT RENTALS AND PARKING ON LAWN AREAS, WHICH IS NOT SENSITIVE TO THE SITE CONDITIONS

the visitor center and removed after each use. These tents would be used for rental events as well as Locust Grove programs and events. Smaller vendor or event tents can be placed in the quads, alley, and adjacent areas.

Centering events in this location provides good access for catering and parking. Parking for big events will continue in the large field behind the visitor center. It is important to note that there are two archaeologically significant areas in this field that should be investigated before using those areas for parking. Avoiding the archaeological areas leaves room for 274 cars, but once those areas are investigated, the field will be able to accommodate up to 321 cars.

This area has been used for event parking in the past but often turns into a mud pit in wet weather. **Recommendation:** The **ground can be reinforced**, and yet still look like a field, by using a **turf reinforcement mat system** (such as Tenax Turf Reinforcement), which is laid down on top of the soil and provides an extremely stable surface suitable for cars and lightweight trucks. This durable net protects land from wheel rutting and ensures a good grasp for grass roots.

The parking layout and stall lines will be defined by turf markers laid down in the grass every four to five feet. Avoiding archaeological concentrations is strongly recommended.

Relocate the Caretaker's Residence

The caretaker at Locust Grove originally lived in the log house that is now attached to the visitor center, and had clear views of the largely open terrain beyond the main house. Today the caretaker lives in an upstairs apartment in one of the visitor center additions, with no view of the property and indeed no windows, only skylights. Access to the site is unrestricted and nominally supervised, and there are occasional problems.

Although no location on the property is ideal for monitoring the entire site, **building a new caretaker's house near the Blankenbaker entrance** would clearly announce the presence of a resident staff member, and give the caretaker good views of the main house and yard. The house should be no bigger than about 1,000 square feet. A "small house" design will cost less, require less maintenance, and have less visual impact on the historic areas. As with all new construction on the property, the house should fit in without looking falsely historic.

The existing apartment in the visitor center can be put to other site uses, including office space and storage.

New Public Restrooms

The existing public toilet facilities attached to the smoke house are inadequate, outdated, and inaccessible. These **toilet facilities should be updated**, and/or **new facilities** should be built **near the main house**. Any new program area located far from the visitor center should also provide facilities. A composting toilet system designed for relatively low use could be located inconspicuously in a garden area near the smoke house but outside the primary historical zone. It could also be placed at the wood margins next to the proposed path to provide a sustainable, odorless, and ADA-accessible option.

Restroom facilities in the visitors center should be expanded.

NATURAL AREAS

Locust Grove is not only an outstanding historic site but also contains a wealth of natural features including a natural spring, acres of open fields, and approximately twenty-five acres of woodlands. These features could be even more appealing to visitors, and offer new ways to interpret the site.

The Spring



FIGURE 15 - LOOKING NORTHEAST TOWARDS THE SPRINGHOUSE

The spring is an interesting natural feature of historical importance, because its existence was likely one of the main reasons the Croghans settled in this precise location. A stone spring house has been reconstructed upon at least a portion of the original foundation. The spring also tells a story about the

geology and hydrology of the site and is typical of the thousands of other similar springs to be found in the Kentucky. Recent work to clear away invasive plants and replant around the building has improved the area; going forward Historic Locust Grove should **continue to maintain and interpret the spring house as well as the actual spring** and the landscape around it.

Recommendations from the state geologist include maintaining an exclusion zone for plantings such as trees around the spring house and the spring itself, and creating a stream crossing several yards away from the building so that visitors can see it from all sides but won't worsen the erosion of the nearby bank.

The Fields



FIGURE 16 - THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE WOODS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO A MORE HISTORICALLY ACCURATE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT

The fields at Locust Grove are mown areas in the big valley and currently do not look like they would have historically. These areas require a lot of effort to keep them looking like a park lawn and do not add any interpretive value to the history of how Locust Grove was used and maintained.

Recommendation: establish two meadow areas on the slopes on either side of the spring to interpret the historic condition. These meadows would be set far enough back on the site and maintained in a way that should not upset the neighbors. A consistent and well-maintained border will emphasize visually that the meadow is intentional and not the result of neglect. Another meadow could be placed on the west side of the parking lot. Further discussion of the meadows can be found in the Maintenance Plan in the Appendix.

The Woods



FIGURE 17 - WITH PROPER MAINTENANCE, THE WOODED AREA WOULD CREATE A "WILDERNESS" EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS

The wooded area on the north and east side of the site, currently in poor condition, requires interpretive and policy decisions from the HLG board and Louisville Metro Parks. At the present time, this area is a modern second-growth forest used for walking and recreation and as a bird sanctuary, with minimal maintenance.

Recommendation: Recreate the wooded acreage as the wood lot as used in the Croghan era for timber, firewood, gathering wild foods, hunting and trapping; with interpretive possibilities for the Audubon period. This will require **significant improvements to the woods**, including removing invasive plants in the understory, replanting with natives, and tending the woods to promote a healthy native tree canopy. This project will require co-operation, persistence, and funding. Initially a **test area** of approximately one acre will be restored, with the goal of expanding it year by year as resources permit. A more detailed timeline for restoration will be established after the results of the initial test project are determined.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES FOR GARDENS AND FIELDS

William Croghan's Locust Grove featured a complex overlay of uses. As a gentleman's country seat, it included formal and symmetrical elements declaring the status and taste of its owner. As a working farm, it included utilitarian buildings, fences, and other features for practical use to keep its inhabitants fed and sheltered. Those elements were placed where need and topography demanded. Any proposed reconstruction of this landscape in the historic areas near the house and on the wider grounds requires research, and consideration for how to represent missing features sensitively without compromising the appearance and integrity of the site's presentation.

The future development of a Cultural Landscape Plan will focus the research and highlight opportunities and policy decisions for the use of the remaining 55 acres of Croghan's estate. These considerations should drive the planning in the interim:

- Determining the best location of a **formal garden**. This location may not reflect the original location of such a garden, if any, but will be sited for greatest visual impact and successful planting with adequate sun and drainage given today's conditions. Suggested areas include the existing south-eastern garden quad, and the lawn directly north of the house beyond the service road.
- Determining the best locations for **farm demonstration plots**. These include vegetable demonstration beds, herb gardens, and future flax or other field plantings. Building a small **greenhouse** structure, or large cold frame, would greatly assist in the propagation of period-appropriate heirloom crops.
- Siting and continued maintenance of the planted beds, both practical and ornamental, must take into consideration the protection and exploration of **potential archaeological resources** in those areas.
- All planting decisions made should be considered **reversible**, if future research provides more information about the actual layout of the Locust Grove grounds.

The gardening/farming program at Locust Grove is essential to the attractiveness of the site both visually and programmatically. The **gardens can become a destination in themselves** for audiences interested in **botany, horticulture, agriculture, and organic techniques**. The techniques of late 18th and early

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19th century gardening and farming, and the dissemination of Kentucky heirloom varieties, can make Locust Grove a center for research and teaching in the region. This program will greatly enhance and strengthen all the food and farming programs suggested by this report.

In addition, to represent Locust Grove as a farm, the current outbuildings need the support structures that would have surrounded them, such as fences and animal pens. In order to suggest the presence of the livestock that were essential to the early farm, representation of these features would allow for visiting livestock such as sheep and chickens to be part of programs on the site (This plan does not suggest housing animals on the site permanently).

Most of the outbuildings on the site were built for food preservation, and programs using these existing features will be enhanced by **expanding the current Interpretation Plan** for Locust Grove to include those structures, with additional food-based programs and demonstrations. Most structures will require more work, such as a floor and shelving for the dairy, and a plan to remove the stored firewood from the smokehouse.

Other **missing structures and interpretation opportunities** require further research and interpretative planning, which are grounded in the proposed historic structures report, the cultural landscape report, and more archaeological study. These include:

- **Slave dwellings** – At its height, Locust Grove was home to more than 40 enslaved workers. Where did they live? At present, slave life is physically represented on the property through a recreation of the dwelling of a slave family including the seamstress and shoemaker, preservation of a building foundation in the field documented through archaeology to have been a slave cabin, a re-created slave garden such as might have surrounded slave cabins, and representations in the gallery and inside the main house. How else can Locust Grove recreate or suggest the physical world of the slaves who lived here?
- **Distilling structure** – Distilling was probably done originally in a building located near the Croghan mill on land that is no longer part of Locust Grove. Corn was grown on the site and would have been processed into whisky in a farm-sized distillery. How and where can distilling be shown?
- **Milling** – The Croghan mill was the site of processing local grain into flour, for the inhabitants of Locust Grove and for their neighbors. The mill was located on the branch of Beargrass Creek south and east of the site's current boundaries. How and where can milling be shown?
- One of the household's essential small-scale manufacturing tasks, **shoemaking**, is currently suggested in a static display



FIGURE 18 - THE LANDSCAPE PROVIDES SEVERAL INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE UTILIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH FUTURE PROGRAMMING

PHYSICAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS

in the slave dwelling room beside the kitchen. How and where does Locust Grove demonstrate other **farm-scale manufacturing jobs** such as carpentry and blacksmithing?

- Other known missing structures include the **stables and carriage house** (probably under the current visitors center), **blacksmith shop** (probably in the area under or next to the 1810 cabin attached to the visitors center), and the **apple house** for cider-making (probably near or under the northern parking lot). How should we mark these locations and recreate these activities?
- **A beehive** – Bees pollinated the crops and produced honey for consumption. Locust Grove has a modern beehive at the edge of the woods; reproduction of a period beehive would be more visually appropriate.
- **A greenhouse** - They were not common in early America, but a gentleman with botanical curiosity and a fair amount of money might be inclined to construct one. John Croghan had a one-to-two-acre garden of exotics and vegetables, and it would not be a stretch to imagine him setting up a little greenhouse for experimentation. We have no specific evidence of this here or a location, so any such structure would have to be considered speculative and have to be removable if more information emerged.
- **A wash house** – Washing was typically done outdoors and near the kitchen, with an indoor structure for inclement weather and for ironing. Could the building next to the kitchen, which contains a fireplace and probably was the wash house, be used to demonstrate this? The “dooryard” area around the kitchen would encompass many spillover activities related to the work of the household, particularly the work of the slaves.
- **A chicken coop** – This must have been somewhere on the site near the kitchen, in an area easily protected from predators. Interpretation of this feature could be virtual or real but removable, with temporary pens for visiting chickens.
- **Fencing** played an important part of a well-maintained farm or plantation. Many farm animals like hogs and cattle were free-roaming, so fencing was needed to keep them away from young orchards, field crops, and vegetable gardens. The easiest and quickest means of fencing was the heavy paling style and the “zig-zag” or “worm” split rail fence, which can be seen at Locust Grove today along Blankenbaker Lane on the south side of the property. Such

a fence required no post holes to be dug, no sills to be made, and didn’t even need smoothly milled wood. This style persisted well into Locust Grove’s era, but by the middle of the 18th century, picket fences were widely used.

Early picket fences (a descendant of paling fences) sometimes had a railing at the top, and the posts could be decorative, especially in the Federal era. Fences were often painted with tar, sometimes colored with ocher, or whitewashed. Such a fence could be used around the dooryard and would serve to keep smaller animals like chickens and dogs in (or out of) the work areas, screen the “messy” side of the house, and even provide a place to hang laundry. Further out, fences could be rougher, like a straight-line post and rail fence (similar to a horse fence today) to keep sheep, cows or horses closer to home, and to protect gardens and orchards. Locust Grove has a current practical need for some fencing to protect the orchard trees from hungry deer.



FIGURE 19 - THE WOOD SHOP PROVIDES INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Woodshed** – A woodshed protected cut firewood as it dried. Locust Grove would have consumed enormous quantities of wood for heating and cooking, laundry, smoking food, and more. Locust Grove needs such a structure today to store wood for programs such as re-enactor camping, hearth cooking demonstrations and more.

The Cultural Landscape Report and further development of the physical and interpretive landscape of the site should reference the *Guidelines to the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, part of the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.



SYMBOL LEGEND

- Existing Building - Locust Grove
- Existing Building - Neighboring
- Existing Road/Drive
- Existing Walkway
- Existing Treeline
- Existing Trees to Remain
- Existing Contour Line
- Existing Stream
- Locust Grove Boundary
- Neighboring Property Lines
- Existing Split Rail Fence
- Existing Trail System
- Existing Overhead Electric Line
- Building Remnant
- Exposed Macadam Roadway
- Native American Interpretive Location, & Archaeological Areas to Avoid from Com Island Archaeology 5/18/13 study: An Intensive Archaeological Survey of Locust Grove National Historic Landmark, Jefferson County, Kentucky

CONCEPT LEGEND

- Proposed Building Addition
- Proposed Tent Location
- Proposed Pedestrian Circulation
- Proposed Vehicular Circulation
- Proposed Event Parking Area
- Proposed Meadow

LOCUST GROVE MASTER PLAN

Site Development Concept

December 2013



INTERPRETIVE OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Studies show that museum-goers greatly value the authenticity of a real place where history happened, and real artifacts that give them a tangible connection to the past. Consequently, a historic house museum such as Locust Grove places a high value on the articles and artifacts that actually belonged here, or were once owned and handled by people associated here. These artifacts are important touchstones to history.

While Locust Grove’s link to its authentic past is one of its greatest assets, the Master Plan recommends that Locust Grove not limit its interpretive programming by restricting itself only to the known history of the Croghans and Clarks and their actual artifacts, but to expand its vision, first through creation of a Cultural Landscape Report, outlined in the following section, and then through an Interpretive Vision and Plan. These activities will help **Locust Grove look ahead to its future** by reclaiming its former eminence as the **cultural, political, social, political and artistic heart of this region**.

An Interpretive Plan should concretely define Locust Grove—its organization, house, grounds, and programming—in a holistic fashion, creating an umbrella of mission and storytelling that encompasses the entire Locust Grove experience.

Locust Grove was many things in its day:

- A gentleman’s country seat – a symbol of the arrival of William Croghan into the social elite of Kentucky
- A place built and maintained by enslaved African Americans who were essential to the economic well-being of the Croghan family
- A focus for national and patriotic pride as the final home of George Rogers Clark
- A meeting place for ideas, politics, arts, and culture on the frontier
- A waystation of civility and safety for people from many walks of life
- An early 19th-century American frontier “mixed” farm with livestock, crops, and small-scale manufactures
- A key point in the westward expansion of America

A RE-IMAGINED LOCUST GROVE

Size matters. While Locust Grove’s future audience growth must be limited, because the property simply won’t accommodate larger throngs of people coming to events, its daily programming and small special events need to attract larger audiences than at present. A more robust visitorship will help develop a new and more diverse donor base, increase dollars for daily operations through tour and event fees, and become more organizationally competitive because of the larger numbers served. To accomplish this growth, Locust Grove should place more emphasis on visitor services, interpretive innovation, and effective development initiatives—always with the goal of being “better” rather than “bigger.”

Locust Grove cannot be all things to all people, but one way to sharpen its focus and expand the flexibility of programming without draining the staff is to **organize each year’s programs thematically**.

Many of Locust Grove’s visitors will see it first online. **Improvements to the website** should include resources for visitors, students, and researchers. The website will require constant development by staff in order to remain a good asset. At the entrance to the site and throughout the grounds, new landscaping, banners, attractive directional and informational signs, and a redesigned and improved entrance road and parking can create a sense of excitement and anticipation upon arrival.

A **revamped visitors center**, largely on the existing building’s footprint but with small additions and interior redesign, should feature an open lobby plan and a separate area for the museum store, to make it more welcoming and easier for staff to manage. Attractive informational signs can point the way to buy tickets and make donations, or find the restroom facilities or auditorium. Additional classroom and exhibit space will offer room for additional programs—and an additional draw for visitors.

Improvements to the library and to Locust Grove’s research facilities, including partnerships with universities and individual scholars, can add to our knowledge about Locust Grove, its people and period, and bring new regional and national attention to the site. Future archaeological investigation here also has great potential for research and programming.



MOST VISITORS COMING TO LOCUST GROVE ENTER THE VISITOR CENTER BEFORE THEY GO TO SEE ANYTHING ELSE, AND FOR MANY THIS BUILDING WILL BE THE PLACE WHERE THEY SPEND THE MOST TIME. A NEW EMPHASIS ON THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE CAN GUARANTEE THAT THE IMPRESSION MADE BY THE VISITOR CENTER IS A GOOD ONE AND REINFORCES THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION AND VISION.

THE NEARBY GARDENS AND THE MAIN HOUSE ARE GENERALLY WHAT PEOPLE VISIT NEXT, AND MUCH OF LOCUST GROVE'S INTERPRETATIVE WORK IS DONE IN THESE PLACES. THE FIELDS AND WOODS, THOUGH CURRENTLY LESS USED BY VISITORS, HOLD THEIR OWN POSSIBILITIES FOR LURING VISITORS TO THE FARTHER CORNERS OF THE SITE.



**LOCUST GROVE VISITOR CENTER
MASTER PLAN — INTERPRETIVE OVERLAY**



FIGURE 7 - THE MAP IN FIGURE 7 SHOWS HOW VISITORS TYPICALLY ENTER LOCUST GROVE AND THEN FAN OUT INTO THE SITE.

BROADENING THE LOCUST GROVE STORY

When Locust Grove was bought for preservation and restoration in 1961, George Rogers Clark's residency here was the key to getting National Landmark designation and support from important donors. However, times change and so do public expectations. Today, visitors want more for their entertainment dollars than ever before.

Obviously, any organization must strike a balance so that it doesn't sacrifice its mission in its drive to attract visitors. The formal interpretive planning process can help insure that the mission remains vital and in balance with the need to increase visitorship. Further, broadening the base of the Locust Grove "story" to tell more about the many and diverse people who lived or visited here, and to open the door to new activities, can directly serve the mission.

NEW PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Locust Grove already offers a variety of different tours and programming. But this Master Plan recommends **expanding and rethinking how to offer tours and the types of tours to offer**. Some of the possibilities include: a new film that summarizes the importance of Locust Grove, a virtual tour of the house's upper floors for visitors who can't use the stairs, members'-only events, farm-to-fork dinners tying the farm that Locust Grove once was to the current interest in local foods, public archaeological programs, and a Master Garden Plan that makes Locust Grove's grounds a destination for local and regional garden enthusiasts.

Throughout the grounds an **interpretive and wayfinding signage system** can help visitors understand both what they see and also what no longer exists at Locust Grove. Signs should be unobtrusive and can include QR codes OR other smartphone applications.

Recommendations:

- Current HLG policy does not allow signs to be posted on buildings or grounds in the historic areas of the site. This policy should be reconsidered in the light of lost interpretive opportunities.
- Although the woods are not populated with plants and trees of the Croghan era, this part of the property still offers tremendous interpretive



FIGURE 20 - AN APPROPRIATE USE OF SIGNAGE WILL HELP VISITORS BECOME BETTER ORIENTED WITH THE SITE

opportunities, from forest adventures to programs about the Native Americans who occupied this site before the white settlers came. While restoring the whole woods would be very expensive, a one-acre area could be cleared of invasives and restored to the native understory as a piece of exemplar woods.



FIGURE 21 - EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE THAT COULD BE USED IN THE GARDEN AND FIELD ZONE AS WELL AS THE WOODS ZONE

INTERPRETIVE ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMS

A public archaeology program at Locust Grove could accomplish a number of objectives: add to the data we have about the history of this site, enhance Locust Grove’s programming, educate the public, and train students interested in a professional career. Using trained and well-supervised students can also be a cost-effective alternative for investigating small areas that are slated to be disturbed.

Supervision in the field is critical, and the ratio of experienced professional field staff to students should be enough to guarantee the work is performed according to professional standards. “Public” aspects of the program will involve education and interpretation rather than excavation. Children and other non-trained visitors will participate in simulations only.

Any public archaeology project should also have a timeline, and set aside funding to analyze the artifacts and prepare a report of the findings. Finally, the plan should include provisions for the long-term curation of everything that is recovered.

LOCUST GROVE IN 2024

Arrival

Local residents and out-of-towners are excited to visit because of the advertising that has emphasized how close Locust Grove is to Louisville and southern Indiana, and how fundamental the site is the history of this area: Locust Grove, Where Louisville Begins.

As visitors drive onto the campus, new landscaping and



FIGURE 22 - EXISTING ENTRANCE INTO VISITOR CENTER

banners help heighten the sense of drama. We’re headed for something exciting! Directional signage clearly guides buses to the drop-off area and cars to improved parking. The visitor center entrance is clearly marked.

Now and then, through the trees, visitors glimpse a sliver of the main house—enough to heighten their anticipation. In front of the entrance to the visitor center, they find a large illustrated site map that gives them a birds’-eye-view of Locust Grove today...and yesterday. Thumbnail stories provide a little background on the Croghan and Clark families, and something about Locust Grove’s early community— the children, slaves, and neighbors for whom this property was their daily world.

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For off-hours, smartphone technology will enable visitors to get information. For those wanting to take the self-guided phone tour, the map provides both directions and illustrations of the well-marked trail system people can use to create their own adventure.

Welcome

As visitors enter the visitor center, they find an open and expansive lobby with lights, color, and movement. Beautiful directional signage points the way to buy tickets, visit the restrooms, find the auditorium, etc. From the general thrum of activity, it's clear that there are a lot of visitors today.

First Street Elementary, one of Locust Grove's many educational partners, is here with its fourth-grade students acting as Docents for a Day but not everyone is here for a tour. Some have come for a cooking workshop or a book discussion, while others came to view a temporary exhibit of Kentucky decorative arts. The visitor center is an exciting place to be. Staff and volunteers take seriously their role as Locust Grove ambassadors, so that while the focus of the organization is on visitors' comfort, the overall effect is that here is a place alive with history.

The front desk offers several tour options, and here visitors can find out everything they need to know—how long tours are, what they cover, how much walking is required.

The well-organized and well-stocked museum store now provides a larger share of the organization's earned income,

while always helping to communicate the organization's mission.

Ideas

Thanks to advertising and word of mouth, Locust Grove has a new image in Louisville—as the cultural, political, artistic, and social center of the region for over 200 years. That new way of looking at Locust Grove has broadened everyone's understanding of the importance of this place as a spark for big ideas.

Because Locust Grove has formed a partnership with a major university, visiting scholars join local historians in using the site's materials for their work. Special presentations from scholars help develop Locust Grove's reputation as a cultural hub. This new emphasis has led to an expanded library at Locust Grove.

The new series of Director's Choice Lectures spotlights Locust Grove staff's own research. An area Boy Scout troop records these presentations to make them available on the website.

Outside, archaeologists are leading both public projects and conducting private research in areas of the grounds that hold potential interest.

Staff offer special "Director's" or "Behind the Scenes" tours that let ordinary people feel like insiders of the museum, providing glimpses of items that are not currently on display, or giving special access to the house and grounds.



FIGURE 23 - THE EXISTING ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE IS OBSTRUCTED BY PARKING, MISSING A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY



FIGURE 24 - HISTORIC CRAFTS AND SKILLS COME ALIVE WHEN PERFORMED BY COSTUMED INTERPRETERS, AND THEY BECOME EVEN MORE ENGAGING WHEN VISITORS CAN PARTICIPATE

Tours and Programs

The house is now accessible on the first floor, so disabled visitors are now able to visit it inside.

The traditional, docent-led tour of the house is still quite popular, as are the special tours manned by trained costumed interpreters talking about and demonstrating life and work in the Croghan era.

New programming has begun to tap into a large audience of gardening enthusiasts, “slow-food” and “farm-to-fork” lovers from the sustainable gardening/ farming movement. These programs have grown into some of the most dynamic programming at Locust Grove, and an important source of new audiences, many of whom come to enjoy the elegant formal garden and heirloom vegetables and plants.

Programs have been developed for specific habitats at Locust Grove, such as the woods and meadows, and also for particular gardening interests, such as herbs for healing and cooking, formal gardening, and container gardening. The Locust Grove gardener now has a monthly feature on the website for “historically speaking” gardening tips, while once each quarter, a “farm-to-fork” cooking workshop/ event is led by an area celebrity chef.

Some of the events are “members only,” and even though they’re offered at a premium price, they continue to attract attendees. For the newly created “spirits” program, Locust Grove teamed up with the Kentucky Distillers’ Association, the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and local distilleries to capitalize on the growing number of Bourbon Trail travelers.

Throughout the grounds at Locust Grove interpretive signs



FIGURE 25 - BLENDING HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES WITH INTERPRETATION HELPS ENGAGE VISITORS OF DIFFERENT AGES.



FIGURE 26 - WHEN CHILDREN SEE THEIR PEERS AMONG RE-ENACTORS, THEY BECOME MORE ENGAGED IN A STORY; WHEN THEY CAN GET INVOLVED THEMSELVES, TAKING ON EVEN MORE ROLES OF HISTORICAL PEOPLE WHO ONCE LIVED AT LOCUST GROVE.

help visitors understand the role of structures that exist today, as well as those that no longer exist. This signage is tasteful and unobtrusive, and much of it includes QR codes and other smartphone applications.

The expanded visitor center and enhanced outbuildings provide space for new programs that include workshops and classes, and farm-related activities as practiced in the Croghan era. What makes this site so special is the breadth of programming it can accommodate, from 19th century re-enactments to contemporary art shows, from classes on preserving foods to debates on the meaning of the American Revolution today.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING INTERPRETATION AT LOCUST GROVE

Short-Term

1. Following development of a Cultural Landscape Report, create an Interpretive Plan that serves as an umbrella uniting all chapters and points of view about Locust Grove into one, strong and cohesive story.
2. Create a national advisory board composed of experts in the fields of history, museum and guest services, tourism, and development.
3. Form a research partnership with an institution or scholar working in areas that relate to life at Locust Grove or some of the people who lived here.
4. Seek advice on developing Locust Grove by forming a relationship with nationally recognized experts in the field.
5. Develop programming around scholars, experts, artists, and archaeologists to help the public get excited about the scholarship going on at Locust Grove.
6. Develop a trial of special, limited audience, higher-fee offerings, then assess the offerings through visitor interviews and questionnaires to learn how to further develop the program.
7. Add farming, gardening, and food articles to the website/ newsletter.
8. Add more gardening or sustainable farming offerings to the lecture or workshop schedule.
9. Add more cooking events to the program schedule.
10. Ask readers of the newsletter to tell you what they would like to see from Locust Grove on the subject of gardening, farming, or food.
11. Have the gardener write a “Historically Speaking” column for the website and ask readers to respond to it.
12. Explore the possibilities of the woods and other areas of the grounds for “questing” programs.

Medium-Long Term

1. Work with a university to create a summer institute for teachers for credit.
2. Add new exhibit elements in the visitors center, for example, How Much Do You Know About Early American History?
3. Develop new lecture series, Director's Choice, that would enable Locust Grove staff to spotlight their own research. These could be digitally recorded by volunteers, then made available on the website a day or two after the public presentation.
4. Periodically offer special "Director's" or "Behind the Scenes" tours that let ordinary people feel like insiders. "The Curator's Eye" could provide a glimpse of items that are not currently on display and become a major event if visitors and patrons feel that it is special and limited.
5. Create first floor handicap accessibility in the house.
6. Create a virtual tour of the main house.
7. Design a Master Garden Plan for formal and farm-related gardens.
8. Engage the audience of gardening enthusiasts, "slow-food" and "farm-to fork" lovers from the sustainable gardening/ farming movement. Programs could include herbs for healing and cooking, formal gardening, and container gardening. Once each quarter, a "farm-to-fork" cooking workshop/event could be led by an area celebrity chef. A "Frontier Cook-Off" could be judged by a blue-ribbon panel of celebrity eaters.
9. Offer "members only" events at a premium price. These could include contemporary riffs on post-colonial cooking and early settler's diets.
10. Develop a Locust Grove Cookbook.
11. A new "spirits" program could team up with the Kentucky Distillers' Association, the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and local distilleries to capitalize on the Bourbon Trail travelers.
12. Create a program of special gourmet dinners once a quarter—make the audience small and the price large.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LOCUST GROVE MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Two previous analyses—the Exterior Envelope Structural Condition Assessment completed in August 2011, and the Locust Grove ReCAP Assessment completed in February 2013—give detailed repair, maintenance, and operational recommendations for the Locust Grove site.

Historic building maintenance has preservation as its goal. Appropriate and timely maintenance practices are the most effective and least destructive strategies for preservation. It is better to prevent problems from occurring than to repair damage after a failure. Hence **the principal recommendation for preserving Locust Grove is to avoid deferred maintenance.** The cost of regular maintenance is generally lower and can be spread over a longer time period than a full-scale restoration project. Regular inspections and repair can avoid costly projects in the future.



FIGURE 27 - PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE WILL HELP LIMIT MORE COSTLY REPAIRS IN THE FUTURE

Necessary structural repairs, including stabilization of attic gable walls, re-pointing of all deteriorated mortar and open joints in masonry, and re-roofing of the main house are being undertaken in 2014. When they are complete, Historic Locust Grove should **monitor the re-pointed masonry** to evaluate the effectiveness of the stabilization and to determine if additional measures are required. The board may also consider installing appropriate narrow-frame interior storm windows with laminated glazing to help control the climate inside the main house.

DEVELOP MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP

The files at Historic Locust Grove are full of important information that will be needed for any future maintenance and preservation projects—but this information is not always easy to find and use. Hence this Master Plan recommends preparing a **Historic Structure Report (HSR) and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)** to gather all known information about the property into **two consolidated, easy-to-access references.** These compendia will give baseline documentation, streamline future projects, and provide a valuable management tool for the stewardship of the house, outbuildings, and grounds. As new information is discovered and as changes and repairs are made, the HSR and CLR should be updated accordingly.

A regular maintenance inspection schedule should be developed as part of the HSR. Inspection notes should be recorded in a database. Photos taken at regular intervals can reveal subtle changes to a site.

As an adjunct to the HSR and CLR, **a permanent record of all repairs and maintenance work should be kept and updated.** Each structure should have its own maintenance binder or filing system that includes locations, quantities, materials used, person making repairs, and costs. Photos should be taken at each inspection and repair project and labeled clearly for future reference. This will help with future maintenance planning efforts and in understanding why past maintenance has failed. Patterns of repeated repairs can be used to identify underlying causes of damage. Repair and maintenance records will ensure compatibility of repair materials and methods and limit damage to valuable resources. Providing an up-to-date and easily accessible file system will simplify research, and make it easier to consult past records before undertaking repair work.

PREPARE A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT



FIGURE 28 - THE SOUTH YARD OF THE MAIN HOUSE PROVIDES CLUES OF A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The historic landscape of Locust Grove is bigger than the current 55 acres that make up the site. It encompasses the cultural and natural resources of the whole original 700-acre tract that was owned by the Croghans. The property has evolved over time to its current park-like setting within a suburban residential development, and it bears only some resemblance to the historic appearance of this site. The avenue(s) of approach to the main house; the location of service roads and some subsidiary sites like the mill on Muddy Creek; the dispersion of 400 acres of arable fields, orchards, and gardens among forested lands and flood plains within the original property boundary; and the location of the river landing and its links with the farm are only imperfectly documented and understood.

The development of a **Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)**, beginning with the plant inventory and other information contained in this Master Plan, can yield new answers to the questions of why Major Croghan selected this location for his country seat, how it was farmed, and how it was linked to commerce on the Ohio River. The planning process always begins with research, with inventorying and documenting existing and lost features to evaluate the property's context and significance. Organizing Historic Locust Grove's files to prepare this report is a first valuable step in the process.

RESEARCH THE SOUTH APPROACH TO THE MAIN HOUSE

Years of care and devotion have been bestowed on the restoration of the main house, and new research sparked considerable changes to the interior of the house in 2010. Interpretation of the surrounding yard, however, has remained mostly unchanged since the 1960s restoration. Yet the "front" (south) yard offers tantalizing clues--in the construction and location of the ha-ha wall, early aerial photography, and pre-1962 land surveys--to suggest that there may have been an avenue of large trees centered on the front door of the house and, perhaps, a serpentine walk or carriageway leading from the gate to Blankenbaker Lane. The layout is perhaps reminiscent of the "pleasure grounds" at George Washington's Mount Vernon. This plan recommends **reanalyzing the south approach** to the House through more archaeological investigation, archival research, and topographic analysis, to identify and put together the pieces of the puzzle.

MAKE LOCUST GROVE MORE ACCESSIBLE

Although designated historic structures can be exempt from Americans with Disabilities Act-mandated accessibility codes, Locust Grove should **offer universal accessibility** where it can--through a combination of respectful alterations to non-original features of historic buildings, and through virtual access. Accessible walkways are proposed elsewhere in this Master Plan.

Within the Preservation Zone, the porch which extends the length of north side of the main house itself a product of physical research and informed conjecture as reconstructed during the 1960s--offers a potential location for concealing a mechanical wheelchair lift within the porch floor structure. A graded ramp to the porch from the east side is an alternative.



FIGURE 29 - POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR DISCREET ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

In the main house there is no way to conceal a lift to the second floor that would not harm its historic fabric. Here the solution, as it done now at Locust Grove, is to offer a film (or other virtual experience) of the upper floors that can be viewed in the Museum.

MAKE BETTER USE OF OUTBUILDINGS

The interpretation and use of Locust Grove's outbuildings has, over time, been intermittent and inconsistent. The structures are mostly reconstructions, though a few have been relocated from other sites and set onto historic foundations. They remain largely unexplored by visitors, who are left to wonder about their authenticity and function due to the lack of any interpretive information in the absence of docent-led tours. Programming occurs in them only intermittently, as staff or volunteers are available. Given the provenance of these buildings, Historic Locust Grove has significant latitude in determining whether to retain them and how to use them.

In general, the **existing dependencies and outbuildings should be fully used** before Historic Locust Grove adds any new structures on the site. These buildings could hold more regular demonstrations or static interpretive displays of farm operations (such as bourbon distilling). Or they could be adapted to provide "wayside" services that enhance visitor comfort (such as toilet facilities). Any new building must be carefully considered, so that it doesn't detract from views toward or from the main house.



FIGURE 30 - THE WOOD SHOP IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN OUTBUILDING CONSTRUCTED ON EXISTING FOUNDATION WITH OFF SITE MATERIALS

A NOTE ON LARGE TREES

The existence of large trees near the house and other historic structures is a preservation concern. A gentleman's country seat of the period was unlikely to have shade or ornamental plantings right next to the house itself, which was usually sited on a flat area for an unencumbered view, demonstrating a triumph of man over nature, culture over wilderness. Openness around the house offers good air flow and forestalls tree damage during storms. Recommendation: Maintain the existing trees within falling distance of the 1790s house with great care. Remove any compromised trees before they become a hazard, and avoid new plantings in the danger zone.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Note:

In order to maintain the security of these resources, references and maps to specific locations have been redacted from public disclosure in this electronic version. Otherwise, this version is identical to the final Master Plan.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological work is one of the **primary means for establishing authenticity at Locust Grove**—for physical reconstructions and the stories that are told. Archaeology has the power to connect people with history and transform our ideas of what happened in the past.

Archaeological resources are much more than artifacts. Landscape features such as old roadways and fence lines are also considered archaeological resources, as are building debris and ruins. In conjunction with previously excavated materials and archival records, new archaeological work creates opportunities for scholarly research, resource advocacy, economic development, education, and entertainment.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Corn Island Archaeology LLC, supported in the field by Brockington and Associates, Inc., conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the 55-acre property in 2012. Undertaken with private grant funds through the Gheens Foundation, the report completed an environmental review of the landscape, a literature and historical review, archaeological field testing of the entire property, artifact analysis, assessment of the resources, and preparation of a detailed technical report of findings. In addition to the field survey completed during 2012, excavations by the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Archaeological Survey between 2007 and 2011 were reported by Jay Stottman.

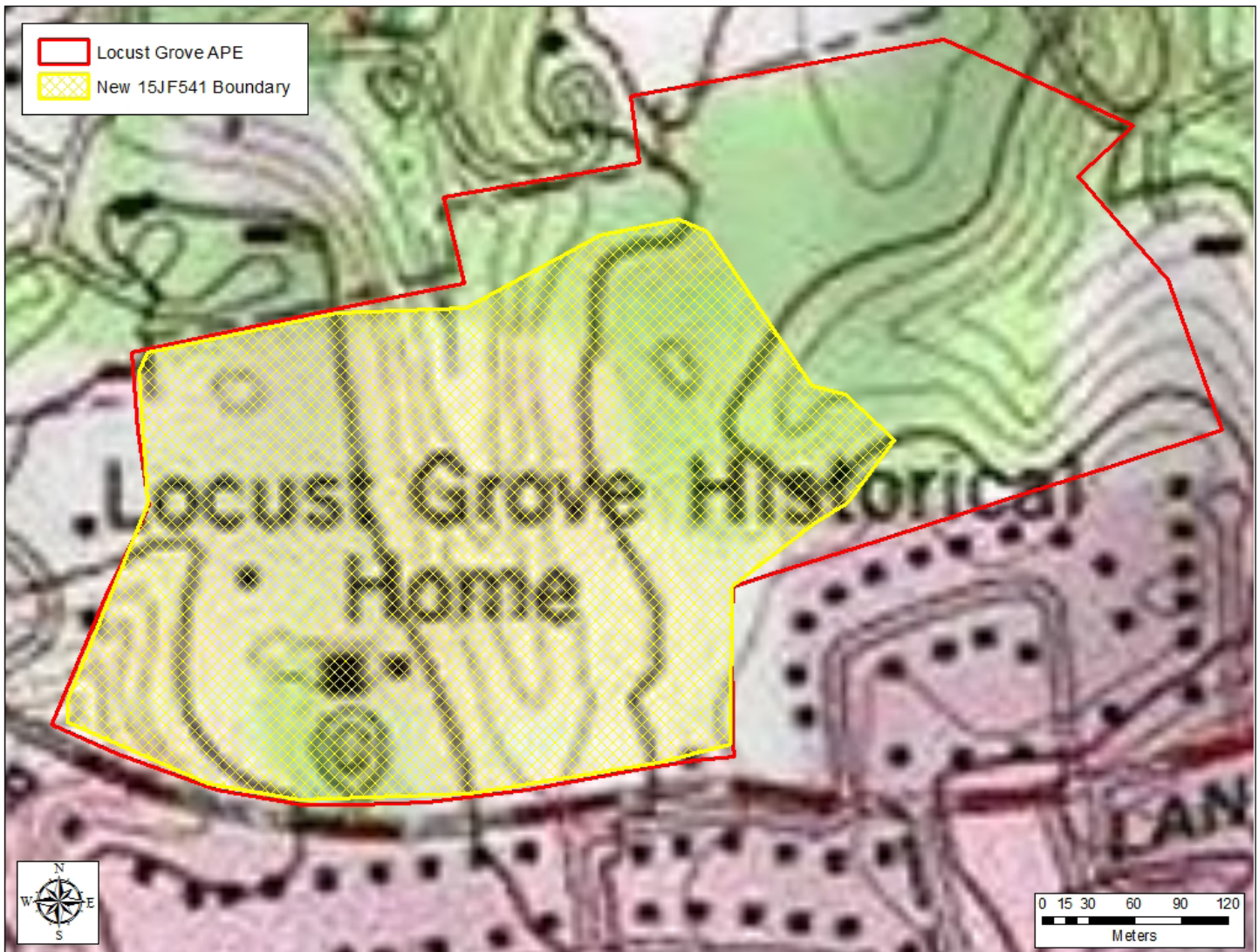


FIGURE 31 - NEWLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES OF SITE 15JF541 IN YELLOW, ENCOMPASSING ALL ARCHAEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

This archaeological survey, plus previous investigations conducted by the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Archaeological Society, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Louisville Archaeological Society, and Centre College, provide a better understanding of past land use. The history at Locust Grove is long. It spans both the prehistoric and historic periods and reflects some of the most profound changes in human behavior, economic systems, and organization.

The Native American prehistoric component of the Locust Grove site predominantly dates from the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods (3000 to 200 B.C.), although the Middle Woodland period (200 B.C. to A.D. 500) also is represented here. However, the prehistoric evidence at Locust Grove has been significantly compromised, most notably by continuous agricultural use and selective artifact collecting. The former deflates the soil profile and leads to mixing of the prehistoric and historic evidence, while the latter removes objects that could provide additional information.

MANAGING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The 2012 survey uncovered previously **unknown archaeological resources** buried in eleven concentration areas. These areas should be protected until they can be further investigated and evaluated.

This plan also recommends that Historic Locust Grove **nominate archaeological site 15JF541 to the National Register of Historic Places** (NR), thereby expanding the boundaries and adding a new property type. The addition of another property type would likely result in the creation of an NR to the current NR listing district. In addition, the National Historic Landmark (NHL) boundary could be enlarged to include artifact concentrations and surrounding portions of the landscape that date to the period of significance, i.e. the Croghan/Clark years.

Policies for the management of the archaeological resources should adhere to the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. International protocols should also be consulted. Sustainable development is one of the primary goals of the management recommendations. This requires continually evaluating anything that could affect a resource, such as heavy traffic that can damage deposits. Metal detecting should be prohibited with relevant legislation and Louisville Metro Parks policies

referenced. Denouncement by HLG of any future proposed legislation to permit metal detecting on public lands would carry much weight. Management of Locust Grove's archaeological resources should also entail the practice of keeping some concentrations untouched and in reserve, which can be explored later as new technologies and methods are developed.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The 2012 archaeological survey expanded the boundaries of site 15JF541, which had previously centered on the main house, and gave six recommendations for further archaeological work at Locust Grove. Because future archaeological testing and survey may locate additional structural remains and features, such as privies, these recommendations are now part of this Master Plan.

- 1. Priority Areas.** All buried resources that are being/could be disturbed should be addressed first. [REDACTED] Protection of these resources with signs, fencing, or a sacrificial layer such as sediment may be enough until the area can be excavated.
- 2. Geophysical Survey.** As an alternative to excavation, geophysical or remote sensing technology can determine noninvasively if there are structural remains in these areas. [REDACTED] This method also might be used to find evidence of an alley or other past roadway on the southern side of the main house, as well as other roadways and fence lines.
- 3. Ground-truthing.** Excavation of at least one 1-meter-square test unit in each location would buttress the findings of the geophysical survey.
- 4. More Shovel Tests.** In some parts of the property there were large gaps between shovel tests. The ground in between should be shovel-tested on a finer grid to ensure that smaller features such as privies have not been missed. Roadways and fence lines may also be located in this way.
- 5. Informal Finds.** Items discovered during routine maintenance and gardening should be recorded, with good information as to exactly where the items were found.
- 6. Student Access.** Locust Grove should at times accommodate students who wish to investigate research questions, if their plans do not negatively affect higher-priority research.



FIGURE 31 -

High Priority Concentration Areas

Until an Archaeology Plan is completed, the following should be Locust Grove's priorities for archaeology.

1. [Redacted]
2. [Redacted]
3. [Redacted]
4. [Redacted]

Archival Documentation, Collections, and Data Management

The 2012 survey summarized all **previous archaeology** conducted at Locust Grove and located original materials from these investigations. These **materials (largely original slides and photographs)** are temporarily stored at Corn Island Archaeology but **will be transferred to Historic Locust Grove for its future use**. This survey also included photographs and a videotaped interview with previous investigators. As noted above, such material should be organized and incorporated into Historic Locust Grove files prior to or during completion of the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR).

All inventories of collections should be compiled in a single place as hard copy and made available online. That would aid scholarly research and education, and facilitate digital archiving. This inventory should include items curated on-site, permanent repositories such as the one at the University of Louisville Archaeological Laboratory, and temporary repositories.

An excellent standard of comparison for web access is the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (www.daacs.org). Other options might include using Past Perfect Online software, or on open-source software such as that championed by The Getty Institute.

Interpretive Signs

Interpretive signs could be placed in various archaeological locations, including:

1. **Cemetery.** Names, ages, and stories of death and re-interment.
2. Exposed **macadam roadway.** Information about historic roadways, differences in private, state, and federal responsibilities historically, and construction methods.
3. **Cabin locations** with information about slave domestic life.
4. Prehistoric era. **Native American life** at Locust Grove.

Further Research and Scholarly Investigation

At Locust Grove, topics for future research abound. One worthwhile project would be to complete a **report of all the prehistoric artifacts recovered** to date, with interpretation of those objects.

For the historical period, any future archaeology at Locust Grove should conform to the research goals outlined in the Kentucky State Plan for archaeology (McBride and McBride 2008). These goals can be organized into three categories. Chronological studies are those that address how time periods of occupations and evolution of landscapes can be interpreted, while classification systems and distribution patterning studies refine the mechanisms to achieve interpretations. Thematic goals provide the context. Of the nine thematic goals, a few appear to have little application to Locust Grove. But the remaining topics are very pertinent to Historic Locust Grove's existing and likely future collections: Household Archaeology, Farmstead Archaeology, Foodways, Settlement Patterns, Ethnicity, and Consumerism.

Data could be extracted from the pollen record, and researchers could consider the feasibility of extracting phytolith and starch grain data from porous ceramics, which would improve our understanding of the agriculture, horticulture, and natural plants on the site. Such information would help the CLR to complete the historic plant index and reconstruct past landscapes.

The artifacts found at Locust Grove could be studied in total to give insight on the movements of ethnic groups and their cultures, be they Native American, Irish American or African American. All of this information could then be used in various ways for educational outreach via the website or programming.

DEVELOP AN ARCHAEOLOGY PLAN

Historic Locust Grove and its board would benefit from the writing of a formal Archaeology Plan. This project should not be difficult, and the Archaeology Plan should incorporate many of the recommendations made here. Completion of the Archaeology Plan will complement the CLR, and CLR recommendations—particularly those that result in ground disturbance—should be addressed in the Archaeology Plan. The Archaeology Plan will bring clarity to Historic Locust Grove's policies and standards for managing its archaeological resources, both collected and still in the ground, and for setting priorities. That plan should:

1. Be consistent with the mission statement for the property.
2. Relate current management policies and procedures with explicit archaeological objectives.
3. Identify the potential effects of ongoing programming, public use, and grounds maintenance upon archaeological resources.
4. Clearly articulate archaeological and historic research goals and objectives.
5. Provide guidelines for the conduct of archaeological investigations and public archaeology programming.
6. Prioritize potential archaeological research investigations.
7. Incorporate provisions for the preservation and management of recovered archaeological materials and documentation.

IMPLEMENTATION



FIGURE 32 - REENACTMENTS AT LOCUST GROVE ARE POPULAR ACTIVITIES.

INTRODUCTION

Implementing the recommendations of this Master Plan is a long-term proposition tied directly to needs and resources. The table below summarizes the recommendations that have emerged from the Master Planning process.

To assist Historic Locust Grove in managing implementation, the list has been divided into two time frames—items for immediate consideration and action, and longer-term items requiring more information and/or funding than is currently available.

Work with government partners to secure the entire 55-acre parcel as a permanent, historic site through the adoption of a deed restriction including the official closure of “ghost roads” designated as public thoroughfares in the century-old Fort Stanwyx residential development plan, and through outreach to adjacent neighbors that encourages them to seek conservation easements for their own properties.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Prepare a Cultural Landscape Report.
2. Create an interpretive plan inclusive of the entire 55 acres and all programming with the Master Plan goals in mind.
3. Improve the orientation experience for visitors with improvements to the “welcome” area and choices of experience such as self-guided tours; unify the space through wayfinding and design; use experience-based interpretation models.
4. Encourage deeper engagement with the site through prominent display and information during programs about membership and donations; provide opportunity for repeat visitors through varied tour experiences in the buildings and grounds.

5. Educate visitors and staff about plants and trees through an ID system and promotion of related topics through publications, web pages, and other outreach.
6. Make the link from plants and farming to food through workshops and programs.
7. Respond to the needs of the public by revising the schedule to emphasize programming during popular times, while reducing hours mid-winter so staff can focus on outreach and development.
8. Listen to the public: evaluate, survey, and listen to users ranging from teachers to partners to tour companies.
9. Develop a national profile through the creation of a national/regional advisory board.
10. Create and implement a grounds maintenance plan and a woods restoration and management plan in cooperation with Louisville Metro Parks.
11. Gather and organize existing information and files about the property into one, easily accessible reference system.
12. Implement ReCAP-recommended building repairs and maintenance (This will include both short and long-term actions), including regularly scheduled maintenance inspections and documentation).
13. Prepare an Archaeology Plan: evaluate and protect those areas identified as having archaeological interest; consider nominating additional parts of the site to the appropriate national registers for protection. Make further archaeological investigation a priority.
14. Use archaeological resources for education and interpretation.

RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDING MORE INFORMATION OR FUNDING

1. Prepare a Historic Structures Report.
2. Develop discreet interpretive and wayfinding outdoor signage.
3. Develop active experiences on the grounds, including a “spirits” program, smartphone tours, mapping activities, theme tours, food programs, etc.
4. Add a staff programming/outreach specialist to develop and deliver programs.
5. Create public programs around archaeological resources.
6. Improve accessibility, actual and virtual, for disabled visitors.
7. Construct or rehab a center on the grounds for farm/food related activities and programs.
8. Redesign arrival and parking areas.
9. Redesign garden areas and circulation paths around historic structures; reclaim cultural landscape of house and yard area.
10. Design and place a reinforced tent foundation for rentals and programs.
11. Improve outdoor event parking areas.
12. Designate, plant and maintain meadow areas.
13. Relocate events from south and west yards to lessen the stress on the house and surrounding grounds.
14. Rehab or add restrooms.
15. Relocate the caretaker’s residence.
16. Rehab the visitors center for improved gathering/orientation space, office, store, social space, collections, and exhibition.



LOCUST GROVE MASTER PLAN

FEBRUARY 2014