

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

A MASTER HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLAN AND PLANT LIST
FOR THE HUNTER LOG CABIN
PRESERVATION LABORATORY AND HISTORIC SITE

HONORS THESIS FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION

BY

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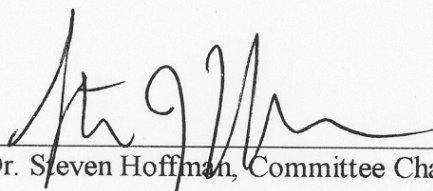
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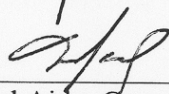
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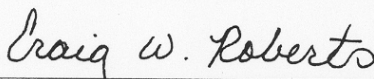
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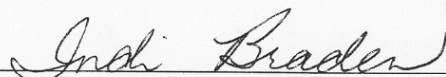
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Brief Description of Historic Master Landscape Conceptual Plan

This Historic Landscape Plan was developed to represent a mid-Nineteenth century Missouri farmstead. The buildings and other structures are historically arranged to the best of this researcher's information, through consultation with a variety of sources, including plans made previously for the site and other research, and the findings of a student group in the spring 2008 Problems in Historic Site Administration class, under the direction of Dr. Joel Rhodes. These students are researching and preparing a Historic Structures Report for the site and provided their findings for this project. Those findings were then compared to the site layout of the original conceptual plan drawn in the early 1980s and other sources. The new landscape plan is drawn to a scale of one inch equaling 65 feet. A plant list of historic crop plants, ornamentals, and native plants to Missouri are included in the research.

Site Analysis

The site of the Hunter Log Cabin Historic Site is currently in a state of disrepair. The gently to steeply sloping land is mowed only periodically, usually once a year. Some native plants such as broomsedge (*Andropogon virignicus* L.) can be found in the overgrown areas of the site. However, a very large infestation of johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) needs immediate attention and could be eradicated with regular mowing and/or chemical treatment. In addition to the unfinished cabin, a tin shed is located on the property, west of the cabin, and holds a wagon and some building supplies. A pile of brick and stone is located southeast of the cabin. Directly behind the cabin (north, northeast) is an

incomplete cedar tree windbreak/screen that runs from the road, past the cabin.

A creek cuts across the property to the south of the cabin and may be rehabilitated by the Conservation Department. The area found to the south of the creek could be rehabilitated as an area growing native Missouri plants. The property is bounded by barbed-wire fencing on all sides.

List of Structures Included in Master Landscape Plan

- Double Pen, Dog-Trot
- Log Cabin (1)
- Detached Kitchen (2)
- Smokehouse (3)
- Privy (Outhouse) (4)
- Chicken House (5)
- Barn (6)
- Corn Cribs (7)
- Hog Shed (8)
- Slave Cabins (9)
- Springhouse (10)
- Visitor Center (11)
- Parking Lot (12)
- Vegetable Garden (13)
- Doorway Garden (14)
- Crop Fields (15)
- Walking Trails
- Split Rail Fence
- Paling Fence
- Post & Rail Fence

*Numbers correspond with numbers on the landscape plan.

Brief Review of Missouri Farms and Crops

Early farmers in 1800s Missouri grew almost entirely corn and raised livestock, but by 1880 diversified by growing barley, wheat, oats, buckwheat, hemp, corn, and cotton--in the "bootheel". For many years farmers and their families were subsistence (self-sufficient), growing enough foodstuffs to feed themselves and their animals but not to sell. However, the growth in the urban population of 59 percent between 1860 and 1870 and 42 percent between 1870 and 1880 created a large demand for grains and other food crops.¹

In Missouri, farmers selling to the St. Louis market dealt with "the burden of marketing small grains fell faster than the burden of marketing livestock or feeds."² Marketing wheat and oats in St. Louis fell at annual rates of 2 and 2.6 percent between 1867 and 1880, while corn and livestock fell at a rate of only 1 percent per year.³ Steady demand combined with a decrease in marketing costs shifted relative prices "at the farm gate" in favor of small grains.⁴ This brought about a shift in farm-level crop mixes between 1860 and 1880, but the extent of change was dependent on agronomic endowments.⁵

Evidence from a cluster of six Missouri townships taken from manuscript censuses show that Missouri farmers grew more small grains

¹ M. E. Gregson. "Rural Response to Increased Demand: Crop Choice in the Midwest, 1860-1880." *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 53, No. 2. (Jun., 1993), 333.

² Ibid, 334.

³ Ibid, 334.

⁴ Ibid, 334.

⁵ Ibid, 334.

as prices changed, with a dramatic 627 percent increase between the years 1860-1880.⁶ In 1860, nearly all farm income came from livestock and feed-grain production, but, by 1880, small grains generated one-fifth of gross farm income.⁷

Labor constraints also affected crop choice in 1860. Cultivation of young corn plant and the harvest of small grains was the peak of labor demands and effectively capped small grain production.⁸ Harvesting was labor-intensive and had to be performed in a short span of time. Between 1860 and 1880, larger households were necessary for adequate labor in corn cultivation.⁹ The research shows that larger amounts of household labor were generally associated with farms that did not concentrate on small grains, but on corn, hogs, and cattle.¹⁰

Conclusion

The researcher had difficulty in locating sources on farming design and practices from the 1850s. It became even more difficult to find sources on Missouri farms from this period. This report continues with a historic crop, vegetable, ornamental, and native plant lists. Further research in the future is recommended because information for a 1850s farmstead is hard to find.

⁶ Ibid, 335.

⁷ Ibid, 336.

⁸ Ibid, 341.

⁹ Ibid, 341.

¹⁰ Ibid, 341.

Historic Crop Plant List

It would be my recommendation to plant predominately corn and wheat at the Hunter site.¹¹ I have listed three corn varieties that could have been available to Missouri farmers in the 1850s and 1860s. Corn would have been used to feed the hogs, cattle, and the family. It would not have been a cash crop until later in the century. I have also listed other crops that could have been grown in southeast Missouri.¹²



Zea spp.¹³

Bloody Butcher Corn, Dent

This variety was introduced about 1845, originally from Virginia.. Stalks grow 10 to 12' tall producing 2 ears per stalk. Kernels are blood red with darker red stripes, and occasional white or blue kernels. Use for flour, cereal, or roasting ears.



Zea spp.

Ohio Blue Clarge Corn, Dent

Developed west of the Appalachian Mountains in the Ohio and West Virginia area between 1830 and 1850. This corn can grow 7' tall, averaging one ear per stalk. A distinctive feature of this variety is its solid-blue, medium-sized ears. While this variety was developed as a meal and feed corn, it has a higher sugar content than most dent corns and may be used as a table corn when harvested in the milk stage. When used for corn meal it has a sweet flavor. It mills easily and makes speckled blue and white flour. Farmers that use this corn as chicken feed, claim that the chickens will eat more, lay more eggs, and put on more meat.

Zea spp.

Reid's Yellow Dent CORN

This variety dates back to the 1840's, when it originated as a cross between 'Gordon Hopkins', a late, light red variety, and an early yellow flint variety. 'Reid's Yellow Dent' is described as one of the most productive, hardy corns ever developed. It was a prizewinner at the 1893 World's Fair and progenitor of a number of yellow dent lines. This variety is revered in the Mid-Atlantic region for its adaptability and dependability in southern heat and soils.

- ***Secale cereale* (Cereal Rye)**
- ***Triticum aestivum* (Wheat)**
- ***Cannabis sativa* (Hemp)**

¹¹ Please refer to "Brief Review of Missouri Farms and Crops" in this thesis for a description of why only corn and wheat would have been grown.

¹² These selections were determined through research of heritage and heirloom seed internet sites, as well as census records of the Hunter Family found by Sarah Stephens and recorded in her Distinction Thesis.

¹³ All plants and other information taken from <http://www.southernexposure.com>.

Historic Vegetable Plant List

After much research, it would be my recommendation to grow a number of vegetables at the Hunter site. Farm families would have eaten only what they had grown, so they would need a variety of vegetables to supplement or in many cases be the only form of nourishment. This researcher has concluded that a kitchen garden would be grown next to the cabin and within the fence. This was part of the original concept and is replicated at a number of historic farm sites across the Midwest. Farms would have probably had a larger garden with potatoes and other vegetables needed to survive the winter months, in addition to the kitchen garden. The plants listed below, as well as herbs, could have been grown on a Missouri farm in the 1800s.¹⁴

- ***Lycopersican spp.* (Tomatoes)**
- ***Phaseolus vulgaris* (Snap Pole Beans)**
- ***Phaselus lunatus* (Lima Beans)**
- ***Beta Vulgaris* [Chioggia (Dolce Di Chioggia) Beet]**
- ***Brassica oleracea capitata* (Early Flat Dutch Cabbage)**
- ***Brassica oleracea capitata* (Early Jersey Wakefield Cabbage)**
- ***Daucus carota sativa* (Danvers Half Long Carrot)**
- ***Zea Mays saccharata* (Stowell's Evergreen Corn, sweet)**
- ***Cucumis melo* (Missouri Gold Muskmelon):** Missouri family heirloom variety from 1840.
- ***Capsicum annum* (Bull Nose (Large Sweet Spanish) Pepper, bell)**
Originally introduced in 1759 from India, this variety was often stuffed with cabbage and pickled in the 1800s.
- ***Solanum tuberosum* (Rose Finn Apple Fingerling Potato):** This heirloom variety has a rose color with moderately dry yellow flesh.
- ***Abelmoshus esculentus* (Cow Horn Okra):** This pre-1865 heirloom is a heavy yielder of 8" to 14" pods. These plants may reach 7 to 8 feet tall.

¹⁴ Plants and other information taken from <http://www.southernexposure.com>.

- ***Cucurbita spp. (Small Sugar Pumpkin Squash)***: This pre-1860 variety, has a dry, sweet flesh that is high in solids and suitable for cooking.
- ***Cucurbita spp. (Tan Cheese Pumpkin Squash)***: This pre-1824 heirloom is one of the oldest varieties cultivated. Cheese pumpkins are more hardy and productive field pumpkins.
- ***Cucurbita pepo (Yellow Crookneck Squash, summer)***: Introduced about 1700.
- ***Brassica rapa [Amber Globe (Yellow Globe) turnip]***: Introduced prior to 1840.
- ***Raphanus sativus (Black Spanish Round Radish, fall)***: Introduced prior to 1824.

Historic Ornamental Plant List

This list of ornamental plants provided below was taken from plant lists of other living history farms, as well as knowledge of this researcher. It does include plants that are considered native to Missouri but are listed here because they could be grown in cultivation as part of the “doorway garden”. Doorway gardens were planted near the house and used as a hobby garden for the women of the farm.¹⁵ After chores and other farm activities were completed, the women would work in the doorway garden as a way to relax.¹⁶



Phlox spp.

Common Name: Phlox

These perennial flowers are often used as background plants in narrow borders or in groups between taller and shorter plants in a wide border. Growing next to fences or walls with poor air circulation, can result in disease problems.



Narcissus pseudonarcissus

Common Name: Common Narcissus

Wild daffodil is a perennial flowering plant of the family Amaryllidaceae. This plant grows from a bulb and has pale yellow flowers with a darker central trumpet. The long, narrow leaves are slightly grayish in color and rise from the base of the stem.

¹⁵ Westville: Georgia’s Working 1850 Town. “Crops and Gardens.” Accessed 8 February 2008 at <http://www.westville.org/cropsandgardens.htm>.

¹⁶ Portion of plant list taken from <http://www.lhf.org/cgi-bin/gygsite.pl?7~2>. Images taken from <http://www.google.com/images>.



Dianthus barbatus

Common Name: Sweet William

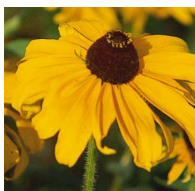
This perennial variety usually serves as an annual. Native to Europe, this plant has escaped cultivation and is adapted to all regions of the United States. The petite flowers have fringed petals of red, pink, purple or violet. An ideal spring flower, often blooming 60 to 90 days after planting under ideal environmental conditions. Sweet Williams prefer moist, well-drained soil and partial shade to survive the hot summers in Missouri.



Cosmos sulphureus

Common Name: Cosmos

Cosmos belongs to the family of plants known as Compositae. Although there are 20 known species of cosmos, two annual species, *Cosmos sulphureus* and *Cosmos bipinnatus*, are most familiar. *Cosmos sulphureus* (Yellow Cosmos) is the species native to the Americas and require full sun



Rudbeckia herta

Common Name: Black-Eyed Susan

A stiff, upright annual or short-lived perennial native to the eastern United States, but has become prevalent throughout North America. The Black-Eyed Susan is probably the most common of all American wildflowers. The brown, domed center is surrounded by bright yellow ray florets. This plant thrives in moist soil, full sun, and survive neglect.



Monarda didyma

Common Name: Bee Balm

This plant produces shaggy semi-double blooms in shades of pink, salmon, red, scarlet and crimson. Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the flower. Leaves are mint scented and can be used to make Oswego tea. The plants grow to 3-feet tall, are mildew resistant, and thrive in full sun or part shade. Bee Balm is a good cut-flower.



Delphinium ajacis

Common Name: Perennial Larkspur

Larkspur is a winter annual, native to southern Europe. It has naturalized throughout the United States and is distinguished by a backward projecting spur, formed by the upper petal of the flower. Tightly compact blossoms are arranged on spikes in shades of pink, white, and deep blue. This plant prefers full sun to partial shade in very well drained soils. CAUTION: The seeds and leaves of the Rocket Larkspur are poisonous if consumed.



Campanulastrum americanum

Common Name: American Bellflower (Bluebells)

Native Americans used the plant for coughs and tuberculosis. Bluebells prefer light shade to partial sun, moist conditions, and a rich loamy soil. During a drought, this plant often drops its lower leaves. Depending on moisture conditions and the fertility of the soil, the size of this plant can be highly variable.

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