

Appendix H – Letter of Resolution from OPRHP Field Services Bureau, 2009

To: Salim Adler, Park Planner, Planning Bureau

From: Julian W, Adams, Field Services Bureau

Date: 9/25/09

Subject: Master Planning Project
Allegany State Park
Cattaraugus County

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau for the Master Plan being developed for Allegany State Park. At this point, I am familiar with both the park and the planning effort underway, and am prepared to offer the opinion of this office under the provisions of Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

The Master Plan will have No Adverse Impacts on historic resources either listed on determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places if the following information, conditions, and processes noted below are incorporated into the final Plan document.

The following buildings, structures, and sites are considered contributing to the historic significance of Allegany State Park. All work other than normal maintenance and repair for these resources should be submitted to and reviewed by the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau. Information about existing conditions, projects, or planned projects for Park buildings at the time of inspection (August 11 and 12, 2009) are addressed in the comments for the specific resources.

1. Administration Building: This is a key historic building within park. Given its significance and age, a Historic Structure report should be undertaken for the building; this would be an excellent guide for future projects. One ongoing concern is with the existing metal casement windows. These character defining elements should be carefully treated through appropriate repair weatherization. All work should be undertaken in keeping with the procedures in Preservation Brief 13, The Repair and Thermal upgrading of Historic Steel Windows.
2. Bath house in Red House area: This is a contributing historic structure, in need of simple routine maintenance and repair. I would recommend that the piers along the exterior are monitored for mortar deterioration. There is a great amount of moss growing on these features, seemingly from constant wetting by roof runoff. Such growth can hold moisture

against masonry materials and produce natural acidic compounds, which can lead to accelerated deterioration.

It would be good to explore directing roof runoff away from these features, and to scrape or scrub the existing biological growth from the stone and mortar, using only natural fiber bristles or brushes, and/or wooden scrapers. (Appropriate materials and techniques can be found in “U.S. General Services Administration Historic Preservation Technical Procedures, 04200-02, Removing Biological Growth From Exterior Masonry And Stucco.”). It may be appropriate to apply an appropriate biological growth inhibitor after cleaning.

3. Shelter in Red House area: This shelter, a contributing historic structure, has some deterioration issues stemming from roof and flashing deterioration. The problems are worst at the valley to the left of the entry and the large wooden lintel over the entry, where there is active wood rot. Flashing and ridge caps along all areas of the roof needs to be either repaired or replaced along with appropriate in-kind repair/replacement of wooden elements.
4. Log Cabin, Maintenance Area: This cabin is a contributing structure. The log repairs that are ongoing at the exterior appear to be appropriate planned and undertaken. The log ends should be examined as well for repair or consolidation needs. All future work at this log structure and any other log structures within the Park should be undertaken in accordance with the procedures outlined in Preservation Brief 26, The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings.
5. Stone Tower: This feature is a contributing element. Due to its remoteness there are some maintenance issues (graffiti, wooden element vandalism, deterioration). There is also some deterioration beginning with the steel and concrete materials forming the deck, which if left unchecked will cause material and structural issues over the long term. Graffiti should be dealt with using the techniques in Preservation Brief 39, Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry. There are techniques outlined in this publication to use barrier coatings on masonry that would enable the periodic cleaning of graffiti. Also, it may be appropriate to use closed cell wood substitutes (Fypon, Azek, etc.) for the railings along the upper deck to provide a longer lived and more vandal proof railing material.
6. Fire Towers: The fire towers within the park are historic contributing elements. They should receive periodic inspections and maintenance as needed.
7. Sawmill: The Sawmill building itself is not particularly old, but the sawmill equipment it contains is valuable not only as an historic engineering resource but also as a potential Park and educational resource. The building should be secured against curiosity and artifact seekers and also against animal infestation. The existing equipment should be documented photographically, and interviews of workers familiar with the equipment processes should be undertaken.
8. Quaker Store Museum: This historic building is in good condition and has an active use. Normal maintenance and repair should be undertaken.
9. Fancher Cabin: The Fancher Cabin, a contributing element, seems in good condition. However, historic photos show a more rustic porch railing and detail than that which exists

currently. This railing should be replicated as part of ongoing maintenance and repair to better reflect the special history and character of the Fancher Cabin. Any other treatment, interior or exterior, should either restore or retain historic materials, design, and character.

10. St John's in the Woods: This building is a contributing element, and as such should be retained. While never an elaborate or very "finished" structure, its condition currently shows evidence of structural failures along one side (wall pulling away from floor structure), and overall the building needs structural repair, as well as general repair and possible replacement of deteriorated materials.
11. Naturalist Cabin: This cabin, a contributing element, is acknowledged to be the oldest in the Park. Overall it seems to be in good repair. However, the interpretative sign should be relocated from the existing location on the porch to a location next to the porch steps. Normal maintenance and repair should be the approach here for all other matters.
12. Little Ireland: This area is a contributing element, but is primarily archeological in nature. Interpretation and protection of the resources should be the long term approach. A treatment plan should be developed working with OPRHP archeologists and interpretative staff.
13. Shelter, Quaker Area: This Shelter, a contributing element, appears to be in good condition overall, but will need normal maintenance and repair respecting historic materials.
14. Residence 823 and Residence 824: These two residences are contributing elements, and appear to be in good condition overall. Normal maintenance and repair should be undertaken.
15. Regional Maintenance Area: The following buildings and structures at the Regional Maintenance Area are considered contributing; Warehouses 1, 2, and 3, Electric Shop, Paint Shop, Garage, Road Crew Barn: While there are some non-historic additions and new construction, the approach at this area should be one of maintenance and repair using appropriate materials and methods. Any new construction should be designed and sited to reflect the area's historic character, and should be developed in consultation with the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau. If in the future if this area ceases to be used as a maintenance facility, an appropriate adaptive reuse may be developed, with the Historic Field Services Bureau reviewing and commenting on the plans.
16. Individual Rental Cabins: While the majority of the rental cabins are older than 50 years in age, most have serious problems in regard to material and structural conditions, location, size, and amenities. The current direction of Park management is replacement of the most seriously compromised cabins to address ongoing viability, usage, and rental capacity of the cabin areas. The main issue for the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau is not then in the preservation of the existing cabins per se, but their replacement with once removed. New cabins recently constructed under current replacement projects are excellent replacements of the existing cabins, and retain the overall historic character of the park and the cabin areas through appropriate material and design. New cabin "types" and designs being constructed under the ongoing replacement project should be submitted to the Field Services Bureau for official documentation and comment. If any cabin replacement projects are proposed not utilizing the types or plans noted in the Master Plan, or any entirely new cabin areas are

proposed for construction, that information should be submitted to the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau for review and comment.

17. Farm House, Maintenance Area: This building appears to be late 19th or early 20th century in construction, but due to a lack of material and design integrity, does not contribute to the historic character of the Park. No review or comment is required for any proposed treatments to this structure.
18. Outdoor Museum ruins: The former Outdoor Museum site directly behind the administration building is considered a contributing feature to the Park. Treatment options for the site are 1) retention as is, with regular clearing of brush or other vegetation; 2) stabilization of the remaining elements of the historic structures, including preventing any further deterioration of the stone, concrete, and metal elements, and; 3) reconstruction of the original structures based on historic documentation.
19. Dams: The dams at Science Lake, Quaker Lake, and Red House Lake are contributing features to the Park. They should be maintained and/or repaired using in-kind materials and techniques.
20. Group Camps: Group Camps 5, 10, and 12 are contributing elements to the Park. However, the conditions of their individual features and materials range from very poor to fair. The recommended approach at the group camps would be as follows:
 - a. Photographically document the group camps, keying photos to a map of each camp. These photos and maps should be retained at the administrative offices for future reference.
 - b. An assessment should be made of the camps, working with the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau to locate which one is in best repair and also is representative of the group camps as a whole.
 - c. The selected representative camp will be treated to the greatest extent as a rehabilitation and repair project, retaining historic materials to the greatest extent.
 - d. The remaining group camps can be repaired or replaced as necessary, in consultation with Field Services.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Allegany Master Plan. If any one has any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at 518-237-8643, ext. 3271.