

CHAPTER 5: TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY, MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND SITE PROGRAM

This chapter explains the selection of rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment philosophy for the Chik-Wauk property, based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic preservation. It also includes a summary of management issues and site programming needs identified by the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, Gunflint Trail Historical Society, United States Forest Service, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. The selected management philosophy, management issues and site programming needs provide a basis for the Landscape Master Plan presented in Chapter 6.

TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

Selection of a treatment philosophy for a historic site provides a fundamental structure upon which future management decisions may be made. The United States Secretary of the Interior indicates four types of treatment approaches that may be appropriate for historic landscapes. Each is defined herein, and their applicability to the Chik-Wauk property is discussed.

Preservation is the act of sustaining the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. This approach is most appropriate for properties that have a high level of integrity and often requires acceptance of representations from multiple time periods at the site. This approach is not the best choice for Chik-Wauk because the removal of numerous historic buildings and features has diminished integrity and alterations are necessary in order to address the current use of the property.

Restoration is the process of depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period in time. Elements that relate to earlier or later periods are removed in order to clearly represent one time period. A high level of documentation is necessary to ensure that the site accurately represents the historic period. This approach is not appropriate for Chik-Wauk because numerous historic buildings and features have been removed from the landscape and adaptive use of the property necessitates the presence of non-historic elements.

Reconstruction is the act of using new construction to depict a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object as it appeared at a specific period of time in its historic location. This approach is used only in cases where the highest level of significance applies and detailed documentation exists regarding the historic conditions of the property. Chik-Wauk does not meet either of these requirements therefore this approach is not appropriate for the site.

Rehabilitation allows repairs, alterations, and additions necessary to enable a compatible use for a property, as long as the portions or features which convey the historical, cultural or architectural values are preserved. Rehabilitation is the recommended treatment approach for the Chik-Wauk landscape. This will allow for accommodating compatible use through additions and alterations while preserving the features which convey the historical values of the property. Under this approach, new elements that are compatible with the historic conditions may be added to address current needs without creating a false sense of history.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES / SITE PROGRAM

Since the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center opened on 4 July 2010 it has been extremely popular. The museum averages 430 visitors per week or 51 visitors per day during its open season. The museum is open from Memorial Day through mid-October. The museum building accommodates 50 people. The facility's largest annual event is an ice cream social that is attended by approximately 200 people. During this event, parking is accommodated along the road to supplement the regular parking areas.

In the initial years of managing the museum, the Gunflint Trail Historical Society has identified the need to add facilities to preserve resources, accommodate visitor needs, expand interpretive programs and support the operations of the museum.

Issues related to the current and planned future use of the property are described in this section.

- Issue:** A clear understanding of the contributing historic landscape features and potential archeological resources is needed to help guide preservation and avoid impacting the resources when making alterations to the site.

Response: This has been provided by Part 1 of this CLR. The CLR identifies locations of potential archeological resources, which may be investigated by USFS in the future.
- Issue:** The "arrival area" no longer reflects its historic role as an activity hub for the resort. This area accommodated vehicle parking, but also included docks, boats, buildings, fences, gas tanks, and a variety of activities. Today, the lack of buildings, docks and boats diminishes the ability of visitors to understand that this space was a busy hub for the resort.

Response: Recommendations for approaches to rehabilitate this area to provide a more appropriate beginning to visitor's experience at the site are needed.
- Issue:** A clear understanding of the quantity of parking necessary to support the museum, and recommendations for how to appropriately accommodate parking without impacting historic resources, is needed.

Response: The parking present is adequate for activities held at the property.
- Issue:** The museum has acquired three small historic boats to display and interpret on site. They are likely to acquire additional boats and would like to be able to display between four and six boats at a time.

Response: A shelter is needed to protect the boats from the elements and display them as part of the interpretive program. The year-round shelter should accommodate four to six 14-19 foot boats and canoes. (512 sf) (approximately 32' long by 16' wide, one story, two-layer boat display)
- Issue:** Possibilities for providing barrier-free experiences need to be considered.

Response: Barrier free access will be provided at all new facilities and barrier free trail routes will be identified.

6. **Issue:** There is a need for barrier-free parking and toilet facilities at the property, as well as a barrier-free route between the facilities.

Response: A barrier-free vault toilet will be provided near the barrier-free parking space located to the south of the museum.

7. **Issue:** Although the existing single vault toilet is sufficient currently, it is likely that increasing facilities and programs at the property will result in a greater demand for restrooms. Also, it is likely that the local building code will require a minimum number of restroom facilities based on the size of the assembly area.

Response: Given the remote location and expectations of visitors it is acceptable to provide a lower than average amount of restroom facilities for the property. However, the addition of new facilities warrants the presence of at least two vault toilets on the property. The development of the building designs for the property (not included in the CLR) should be undertaken with knowledge of the local building code.

8. **Issue:** Space for a museum office is needed.

Response: Add a facility that will accommodate one to two people with desks, file cabinets, basic office equipment and storage for office supplies. (205 sf to accommodate 2 people at 90 sf per person, plus 25 sf lockable storage space)

9. **Issue:** The museum has a collection of artifacts that are currently stored in a portable storage container (8x20') and private residences. This amounts to about 600 square feet of storage. It is anticipated that the collection will continue to grow as more items are donated. There is a need for a climate controlled storage facility on site for a portion of the collection. Some items in the collection can be kept in cold storage (including boat motors and other equipment).

Response: Add a climate controlled facility that will accommodate existing materials and projected additions to the collection. (960 sf)

10. **Issue:** Space for gift shop storage is needed.

Response: Include 100 sf of storage space for the gift shop. (100 sf)

11. **Issue:** Indoor space for a nature center is needed to accommodate about 50 people in theater style seating with the option of rearranging to use tables and chairs for smaller groups.

Response: Provide minimum 10 sf per person for the theater-style facility. Exhibits will not require additional floor spaces, as they will be graphic wall displays but some exhibits will project from the walls. Also allow for storage space for tables and chairs. (864 sf)

12. **Issue:** A break room for museum staff/volunteers is needed. (100 sf to accommodate 4-6 people, refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot)

Response: Provide room for six people and minimal appliances, 100 sf)

13. **Issue:** Opportunity to interpret the type of scale, style, setting, and proximity of resort cabins to the other site features.

Response: Add trails to known sites related to cabin resort resources and a self-guided walking tour brochure for visitors to reference to learn about the historic conditions of the property.

14. **Issue:** The museum has identified additional interpretive opportunities that can occur on the grounds at Chik-Wauk to enhance the educational programs related to the history and ecology of the area. Visitors express interest in this type of information and are particularly interested in learning more about historic resort life at Gunflint Trail resorts, such as Chik-Wauk Resort, and about the natural history of the region through naturalist programs.

Response: Add facilities and programs focused on the history of the Gunflint Trail, Chik-Wauk Resort, and the natural resources in the region.

15. **Issue:** The lack of cabins makes it hard for visitors to visualize the character of the resort during its operational period. The cabins were an essential part of the resort, and the locations of the American Plan cabins provided privacy and spectacular views of the surrounding landscape.

Response: Consider building a small cabin at the site of one of the historic cabins and provide exhibits and interpretive materials at the structure.

16. **Issue:** The museum needs a maintenance facility to store equipment and tools used to maintain the property.

Response: Provide a maintenance facility in a location that is not visible and does not impact the historic core of the property.

CHIK-WAUK BUILDING SPACE NEEDS

PROGRAM ROLE	ESTIMATED SPACE REQUIRED (SF)	POSSIBLE BUILDING DIMENSIONS
Boat Exhibit (4 boats)	512 sf	32' x 16'
Maintenance facility	480 sf	20' x 24'
Vault Toilet Building (handicap)	64 sf	8' x 8'
Museum Office	205 sf	varies
Artifact Storage	480 sf	Varies
Gift Shop Storage	100 sf	Varies
Nature Center	864 sf	Varies
Break Room	100 sf	Varies
Cabin Exhibit		Varies