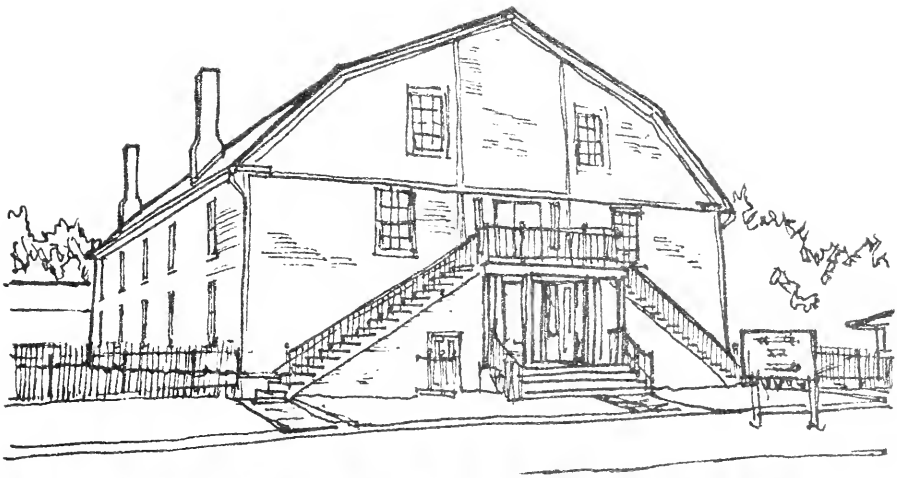

HISTORIC BISHOP HILL

PRESERVATION AND PLANNING

H I S T O R I C B I S H O P H I L L

PRESERVATION AND PLANNING

Class Report

UP 320: Planning for
Historic Preservation

Department of Urban and Regional Planning
College of Fine and Applied Arts
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Summer Session 1976

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN
AND REGIONAL PLANNING

1003 West Nevada
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Ill. Hist. Surv.

May 1977

The Honorable David Kenney, Director
Illinois Department of Conservation
605 State Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Kenney:

I am pleased to submit this study of "Historic Bishop Hill: Preservation and Planning," prepared by students in my 1976 Summer Session course on Planning for Historic Preservation.

This work reflects the continuing pattern of cooperation between the University of Illinois and State agencies in an effort to bring reality to the classroom. I trust that the student product will be useful to the Illinois Department of Conservation in its relations with the Bishop Hill community, and suggest that copies be made available not only to local leaders, but to State officials as well, in order to give wide consideration to the recommendations and suggestions made.

We are grateful to your Department for financial assistance towards the expenses of the field study and publication. I want especially to acknowledge the splendid cooperation of members of your staff including Ronald E. Nelson, District Historian; Edward J. Hepner, Bishop Hill Historic Site Manager; and William G. Farrar, Coordinator of Preservation Services. Without their guidance and that of numerous Bishop Hill residents, this work could not have been done.

Respectfully,

Lachlan F. Blair

Lachlan F. Blair
Professor

LFB/bh

FOREWORD

During the eight-week Summer Session of 1976, fifteen students in UP320 "Planning for Historic Preservation" undertook as part of their course work a special planning study of Historic Bishop Hill, results of which are given in this report.

The purpose of this special study is two-fold. First, it has provided an opportunity for the students to apply, in a realistic setting, the principles and theory of historic preservation and urban planning dealt with in the classroom. In addition, it is intended to contribute to the furtherance of historic preservation efforts in the Bishop Hill community of today where, although very respectable progress has been made, much remains yet to be done.

The Community

The decision to study Bishop Hill resulted from concerns expressed by local officials in discussion with State agencies about the future directions of the community. Bishop Hill today is the scene of conflict between the desires to present an authentic interpretation of a very significant heritage, to remain a pleasant residential village in a rural setting, and to enjoy the benefits of increasing tourist traffic resulting from the fine quality of

what is there. The pressures of that traffic and of economic growth are currently being felt.

The choice of such a small place for study seemed fortuitous. The Summer Session schedule is intensive and would not permit large scale or long-term investigation. Even so, Bishop Hill is a complex place and provides many lessons, as later sections of this report will demonstrate.

The Class

The Urbana-Champaign campus in the summer attracts a mixture of strongly motivated students, including many who come for the Summer Session only from other career pursuits, in addition to those involved in continuing work at the University. The UP320 class group was made up mostly of graduate students representing the disciplines of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Historical Geography, Urban Planning, Community Psychology, and Anthropology (see Part V, Appendix A, for a list of the participants).

In addition to the organized study of Historic Preservation and Planning and their interrelationship, the orientation to Bishop Hill included slides, films, guest speakers, and library research during the first few weeks of the Summer Session. In mid-July, a three-day field study was conducted in Henry County. Students talked with local leaders and officials, conducted surveys of land and buildings, and carried out research in local archives and records. Their findings, observations, and recommendations are presented in this report.

The Report

Three major time phases are dealt with in the chronology of Bishop Hill. Part I summarizes past development, setting the foundation for understanding Bishop Hill today, and its potentials in the future. Part II takes stock of the present situation and analyzes problems and opportunities of the community in the late 1970's. Part III explores what might occur in the future. The final chapter summarizes recommendations made by various members of the student group.

The work which follows is almost entirely that of the students themselves, completed during the two weeks remaining in the Summer Session following their field study. Editing has been done primarily to reduce duplication and to improve clarity. Some portions of the report are truly team efforts, but most sections are the work of individual students. Where the author can be identified, the chapter or section listing in the table of contents is followed by the initials of the student responsible.

HISTORIC BISHOP HILL: PRESERVATION AND PLANNING

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

A NOTE ABOUT THE MAPS

One of the students took a graphic and mapped approach to the Bishop Hill study and developed five maps for this report covering the periods of past, present and future. The first two maps fall under the "Bishop Hill: Past" category. These maps, both drawn at the original scale of 1" equal to 100 feet (reduced in the report to 1" = 200'), show the Colony as it was in 1847, one year after the Colony was founded and before the first permanent structure, the Colony Church, was built in 1848 (page 11); and also as it was in 1860 after all twenty buildings of the Colony period had been built and dissolution of the Colony was only one year away (page 17).

"Bishop Hill: Present" is also represented by two maps. One shows the developed area surrounding the public park or square (page 39). Every building and street on this map has been accurately field measured in Bishop Hill and these measurements were used when the map was prepared. Another map, prepared at the original scale of approximately 1" equal to 200 feet (reduced in the report to about 1" = 400'), shows the entire town of Bishop Hill including all the gridded but often undeveloped streets. This map also indicates the historic district of Bishop Hill (page 59).

The fifth map representing "Bishop Hill: Future" combines positive features of the existing town with suggested reconstructions of original Colony buildings (page 75). Other major changes include the closing of Bjorklund Street and a portion of Johnson Street and the ultimate removal of a few residences and several utilitarian and commercial structures which are incompatible within the established historic district and not of the same character or period as many of the surrounding structures which date back to the original Colony period.

For the Bishop Hill maps dated 1860, 1976 and future, the following key for the numerical notations on the maps should be used:

1. Dairy Building
2. Colony Church
3. Blacksmith's Shop
4. Carriage and wagon shop
5. Steeple Building
6. Colony store and post office
7. Colony residence
8. Colony residence
9. Bjorklund Hotel
10. Colony School
11. Colony Hospital
12. Eric Jansson's home
13. Meat storage building
14. Colony bakery and brewery
15. Big Brick
16. First Mill (Water)
17. Second Mill (Steam)

I.

Bishop Hill in the Past

I. BISHOP HILL IN THE PAST

Bishop Hill is a living, historic village; it is one of the more unique communities of northwestern Illinois. Because it is such a special place, the planning process must take into account that Bishop Hill's sense of community is based on its heritage as a religious, Swedish-dominated colony settlement from 1846 to 1861. However, Bishop Hill has a heritage which is not connected to the Jansonist movement of the middle nineteenth century, too. In order to gain a better perspective of how and why Bishop Hill developed as a place it is necessary to review briefly the historical geography of the community: to study the processes of change and the results of that change as expressed in physical features, both natural and cultural, on the landscape. One can consider such an approach as the analysis of landscape through time.

Although Bishop Hill's historical geography is complex, it is inappropriate in a planning document to present a detailed account of such landscape analysis. Therefore, only a summary of the historical geography of Bishop Hill will be given in this report; this is done to show the historical context of this historic place while emphasizing that the report is concerned with planning for the future of Bishop Hill. The following framework will be used:

The pre-Jansonist period, before settlement of the colony.
The Jansonist period, development and maturity of the colony.
The post-Jansonist period, 1862-1946, decline of the colony.
The post-Jansonist period, 1946-1976, restoration efforts.

This overview of the historical geography of Bishop Hill in Part I of the report will form a foundation for applying historic preservation planning as an approach for developing the resources of the community of Bishop Hill. A detailed chronology of events in the history of Bishop Hill will be found in Part V, Appendix B.

A. BEFORE THE COLONY (PRIOR TO 1846)

1. Historical Geography

There is evidence in Henry County of Hopewell Indians from 300 B.C., and it is believed that these aborigines were replaced by Mississippian Indians after 1000 A.D. (Polson, pp. 8-11).* The Mississippian Indians in this area eventually emerged as the Sac and Fox tribes, and by the middle of the seventeenth century the Iroquois were raiding these tribes.

The first Europeans to deal with the Sac and Fox tribes were the French fur traders. Following the French defeat in 1763, the area came under the influence of British fur traders who in turn were replaced by American fur traders after 1781. Northwestern Illinois became part of the Northwest Territory in 1787, and in 1804 the first treaty was made with the Sac and Fox tribes by the Americans for obtaining title to those aboriginal lands. In the Treaty of 1816 the land of Henry County was ceded to American interests, and the first land patent was issued in Weller Township -- the Bishop Hill area -- in 1818 (Polson, p. 18). Further cessions were made by the Sac and Fox Indians in the Treaty of 1829. However, it was not until the Black Hawk War (1831-1832) that northern Illinois was cleared of Indian threats to white settlement. With the development

* All references are listed in the Bibliography Part V, Appendix C.

of the Erie Canal-Great Lakes system of transportation the northwestern Illinois area became a destination of the New England-Middle Atlantic states migrations of the 1830's and 1840's.

Henry County had five colonies developed there by Yankees between 1835 and 1836 (Nelson, p. 15). Such development was stimulated by the Congregational-Presbyterian "Great Revival" and by land speculation fever (Nelson, p. 59), but would have been impractical had not the steel plow of John Deere been made available for prairie cultivation. The Panic of 1837 eliminated two of the five colonies of Yankees, and it appears that the settlement of Henry County was slowed until the arrival of the Jansonists in 1846. With the arrival of Eric Janson and the first major party of his followers the Jansonist period of Bishop Hill begins.

2. Sweden in the 1840's: What Drove the Swedes to Bishop Hill?

The climate of Sweden in the 1840's was best described by the editor of the "Norrland Post", who commented on the wave of emigration to the United States: "In the U.S. to which the emigrants are attracted, each individual practices the religion of his choice without interference or compulsion by the State. We have a compulsory State Church and an intolerance exists which places the person under spiritual slavery." (Janson, 1930).

The first settlers in Bishop Hill were attempting to escape the shackles of such "spiritual slavery". They were led by Eric Janson, who hoped to form a viable "socialistic, theocratic community". Janson did not begin as a separatist, however, but often preached "against the rationalism and dead orthodoxy . . . prevalent in the Swedish Church". His goal was a return to primitive Christianity, for which he had written his own catechism; without fear, he publicly rebuked the sins of many prominent individuals (Mikkelsen, 1892).

"Jansonists" grew in number from a mere handful to nearly 4,000. Such a large group constituted a threat to the established Church; thus Janson was denounced from the pulpit, his followers prohibited from partaking in the Lord's Supper. This served only to infuriate --

and on July 11, 1844, the Jansonists burnt all the devotional literature of the Lutheran Church, claiming it had "usurped the place of the Bible" (Mikkelsen, 1892).

Janson was arrested but released in September; the flames of anger were not yet doused, however. A second book burning took place on October 28, 1844, and shortly thereafter Janson was smuggled out of the country to Norway. He was considered the second Christ, about to embark on a journey to a "New Jerusalem" -- America: "As the splendor of the second temple at Jerusalem far exceeded that of the first, erected by the son of David, so also the glory of the work which is to be accomplished by Eric Janson, standing in Christ's stead, shall far exceed that of the work accomplished by Jesus and his Apostles" (Mikkelsen, 1892).

An exodus began in 1846 -- the fervor kindled by religious oppression and sustained by the dogmatism of Eric Janson drove 1100 of the Jansonists to the United States. As Stuart David Engstrand has noted, "Bishop Hill will not only stand as a monument to the memory of the first Swedish pioneers in Illinois, but will also serve as a quiet, aging reprimand against intolerance and persecution" (Swank, 1965).

3. The Bishop Hill Landscape

The landscape the Swedish colonists faced was a portion of Henry County first surveyed in 1815: a high, rolling prairie roamed over by Indians, covering rich black clay-loam that would offer unbelievable yields when the right kind of plow became available to break through the tangled long roots of the prairie grasses. On the drier ridges, the soil was timber type, less loess, one that supported red oaks, elms, and sugar maples. It was a savannah-like scene of occasional groves of trees and rolling away from them the changing aspect of the tall grass prairie of big bluestem, fontatei, teosinte, couch grass, gama and buffalo grasses, and the brighter colors of the numerous seasonal forbs such as wild roses and daisies and black-eyed susans. The winds were strong, from the South and Southwest, and were especially formidable in May and June; the rain was a plentiful 33 inches annually.

Below the fantastic agricultural resource that had been built up by successive glacial periods, especially around Galva and Kewanee, lay heavy coal deposits.

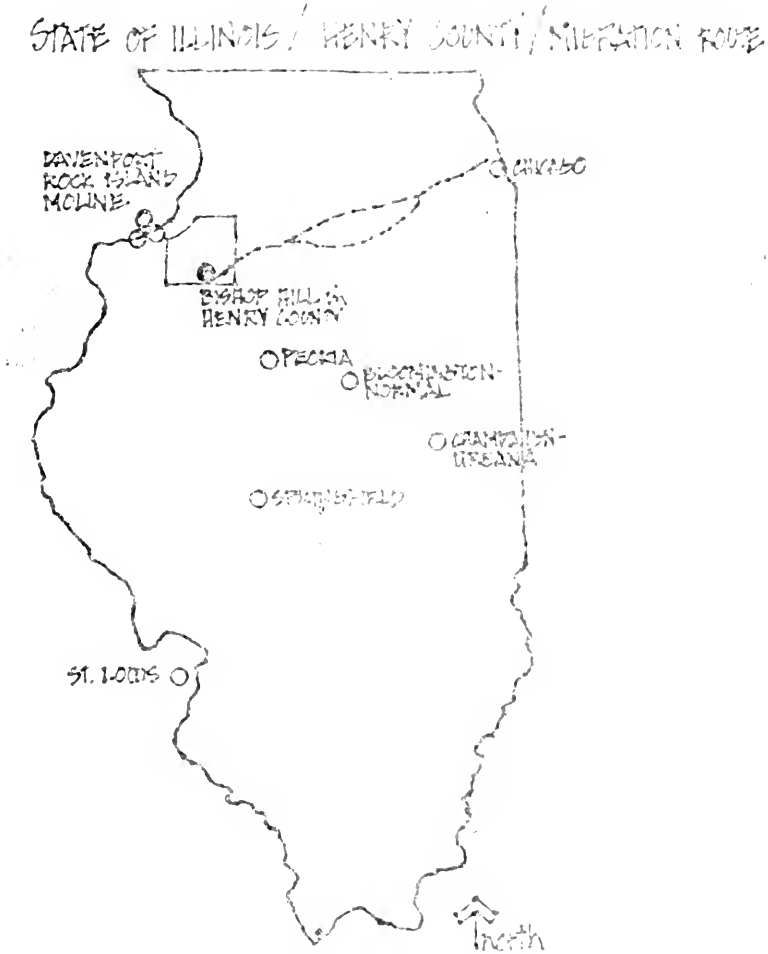
Like most settlers in the region, the Swedes chose a site on high ground, wooded and with access to a stream. In Jnly 1846, Olaf Olson purchased Red Oak Grove, 3 miles west of Bishop Hill, an 80 acre farm, and in August added another 160 acres also in Weller Township that came with log cabin, outhouses and cultivated fields. By September 26 the future townsite, a quarter section, was purchased from the U.S. Government for $2 an acre. It was accounted a "beautiful spot"; a hillock, a part of a moraine left by the last glacier, cut from east to west by the Edwards River. It was the high point of the area, sparsely covered by a small grove of oaks known as Hooppole Grove, and bisected by a ravine that led to the South Edwards Creek north of the townsite. This stream was small, sluggish, shallow (10 feet on the average), up to 80 feet wide in a few spots, draining the creeks of surrounding hills including the ravine. In addition to the coal deposits beneath the prairie sod were drift clays that would make good brick; and in the ravine, a strong spring and chalkstone that the settlers would be taught to make into cement by a nearby settler, Philip Mauk.

4. Economic Life

The rich prairie landscape must have been an extraordinary sight to the Jansonists as they arrived in Illinois. The scale and the fertility were undoubtedly impressive. The Jansonists came largely from the Helsingland agricultural region of Sweden. The region contained a fine harbor city named Gefle, from which iron, timber, flax, and linen were exported (Mikkelsen, 1892, p. 15). In addition to the Helsingland group came miners, factory workers, and the poor from other regions in Sweden.

Unable financially to finance their own passage to America, a collective was formed principally by Eric Janson, leader of the Jansonists. In this collective all property and money were shared. A

"communism" based on religious grounds, [illegible] be considered, and with this they came to America (Mikkelsen, 1892, p. 29). With their economic collective and common knowledge in business and agriculture they transformed Bishop Hill in a few short years into a major commercial center in northwestern Illinois. In the first few years of the colony, 1100 Jansonists settled in Henry County, Illinois (Polson, p. 54).



B. THE EARLY YEARS (1846-1849)

1. Living Conditions

The history of the Jansonist movement in America begins with the arrival of Olof Olson in New York during the summer of 1845. Sent by Eric Janson to find a suitable location for his New Jerusalem, Olson met a Methodist minister, Olof G. Hedstrom, who impressed Olson with his preaching, and "recommended the newcomer to his brother in Victoria", Illinois (Stoneberg, p. 28). Olson traveled to Victoria, and after making a tour of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, wrote to Janson urging him to build his settlement in Illinois (Mikkelsen, 1946, p. 104).

In July, 1846, Janson, his family, and a few of his followers arrived at Victoria. Janson decided upon Henry County as the site of his new community, and within three months he purchased an 80-acre farm in Red Oak Grove and 480 acres of land nearby, which included the chosen location for "Bishop's Hill". The name, a direct translation of that of Janson's birthplace, Biskopskulla, later became simply "Bishop Hill" (Hedstrom, pp. 16-17).

Preparations began immediately for the coming of the colonists. By October two log houses and four large tents had been erected. As the days grew colder, the tents had to be abandoned, and as more immigrants arrived, several log cabins were hastily thrown up and a large sod house built to serve as a common kitchen and dining hall. In addition, twelve "dug-outs" were created;

> these shelters, 18 feet in width and 30 feet in depth, were simply large holes dug in the banks of the ravine, the front of which was formed of logs with a door and two small windows while the roof was made of rails, sod and earth . . . These caves usually accommodated twenty-five to thirty people . . . (Hedstrom, p. 20)

Four hundred people spent the first winter under extremely harsh conditions. The dug-outs were cold and damp. Food was scarce; the nearest flour mill was 28 miles away, and the nearest towns were 50 to 75 miles distant. People survived chiefly on wild game and porridge

made from Indian corn. To conserve food, Janson announced frequent fasts; adults fasted two or three days each week, and children and the aged and sick "complied according to their physical limitations." (Hedstrom, p. 10). Malaria, dysentery, and other illnesses attacked, and by spring nearly half of the original population had died or deserted.

Since the Jansonists had left Sweden for religious reasons, it is not surprising that religion should play a major role in the lives of the colonists. A "tent-church" which could accommodate a thousand people was constructed in the fall of 1846; its framework was built of logs in the form of a cross and covered with canvas. The entrance and pulpit were at the north end of the building and a gallery and fireplace at the south (Erdahl, p. 539). Services were held "twice a day on week days and three times on Sundays . . . ." (Mikkelsen, 1946, p. 107).

Although hardships continued, during the next three years the activities of the community were carefully organized and regulated and the quality of life improved -- largely because of Eric Janson, the religious and temporal ruler of his community, whose "power over the souls of the members induced them to tolerate hardships and obey his commands." (Isaksson, p. 122).

Economic necessity brought some changes in the religious life of the community. During the summer months when field work was urgent, services were held outdoors and usually only at noon. Gradually, the weekday morning service was discontinued, the evening service became less frequent, and Sunday services were reduced. In 1847, because of the lack of adequate housing, the Prophet introduced the doctrine of celibacy. Families were allowed to remain together, but conjugal relations were forbidden and new marriages were prohibited. In 1848, after economic conditions improved, Janson eliminated the doctrine and even acted as marriage broker and performed mass marriages.

Agriculture was the major economic activity. Crops raised included corn, broom corn, wheat, oats, and flax. Since Bishop Hill was a communal society, farming was done by large groups of workers and sometimes in unusual ways. For example, Stoneberg describes a corn planting:

> Two men, walking in a straight line opposite each other, carried each a stake to which was fastened a rope stretched out and having a ribbon tied to it every four feet. Behind each ribbon walked a woman, who, with the help of a hoe, planted the corn she carried in an apron. (Stoneberg, p. 40).

The colonists also raised horses, oxen, sheep, hogs, and cattle. Husbandry was carried on mostly for the support of the community, but eventually the dairy began to produce butter and cheese for export.

Bishop Hill contained many skilled artisans. In 1847 the colonists began the production of adobe, erected a grist mill and a saw mill, and produced linen and carpet matting. In 1848 the making of kiln-dried bricks began. By 1850, according to Isaksson, the colony included

> fourteen carpenters, six smiths, six shoemakers, four wheelwrights, three tailors, a carriage builder, a miller, a harness maker, . . . a physician and a goldsmith . . . (Isaksson, p. 114).

Because the Jansonists wished to become Americans as quickly as possible, education was important. Instruction in English was offered for adults during the first winter, and an English school for children was begun in a dug-out in January, 1847, for 35 children. In 1848 the school was moved to the anteroom of the Colony Church. The school year was 6 months long and education ended at the age of 14 because the young people were needed to work and because the Jansonists feared the effects of further education (Hedstrom, p. 59).

There was little time for domestic life; even dining was a communal activity. The colonists marched to meals, ate at separate tables according to age and sex, and were not expected to socialize. Accounts of their diet differ, but certainly soup, cereals, and bread were especially important, and as time went on vegetables, meat or fish, butter, and small beer became more frequently available.

2. The Landscape

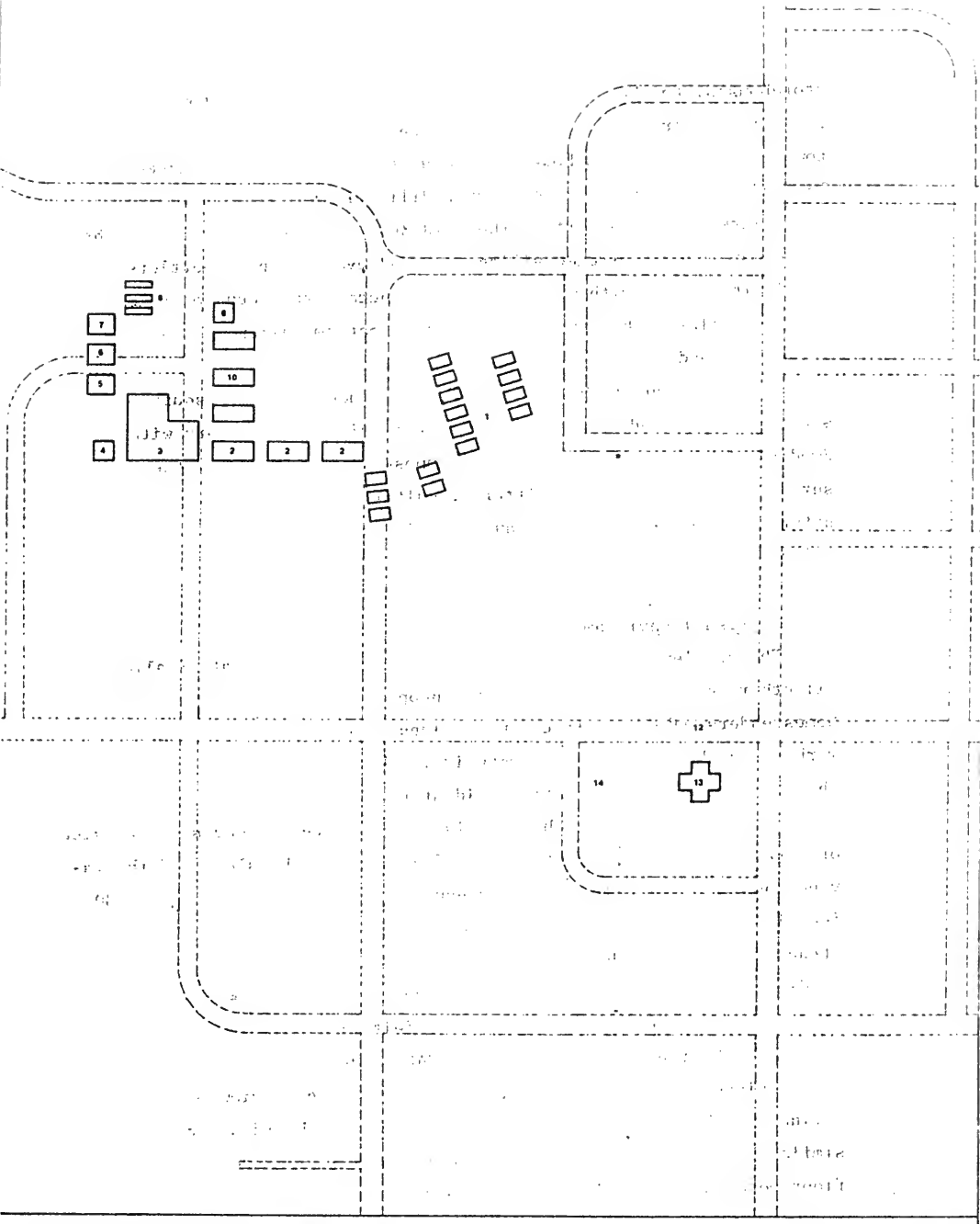
Within two years the landscape of Bishop Hill showed great change. A portion of the ravine that bisected the townsite was filled in; part of it became the town park, the other the site for the "Big Brick" and the Bakery. After the Colony Church's foundation was laid in 1848

construction began on the Big Brick which would provide individual rooms for each family; the dug-outs fitted into the ravine to shelter the settlers that first winter would be abandoned. The town was beginning to emerge. In July 1847 Anders Larsson in a letter to a friend described the early intentions of the Colony to erect an imposing town square:

> town to be built as a square with 18 houses on each side, and gardens and parks and a large church inside the square. If possible all the dwellings will be exactly the same. All the houses are to build of a kind of unfired brick, rendered and whitewashed. (Isakson, p. 77).

He noted that several miles of the Mortinative sod wall had been erected around arable land and that colonists were planting trees "all around". The prairie around them was going into cultivation on a large scale: 50 men and women were noted cultivating furrows 2 miles long. Large fields of flax, corn, broom corn, and other crops were planted. A 500-tree fruit orchard was set out west of town; "avenues of trees", among them spruce, elm, and black walnut were planted. All trees planted in the orchard and in the park and on the streets were recorded in their Book for Bishop Hill Orchard. He noted the area as rich in berries, fruit and "useful herbs".

After the dissolution of the Colony in 1861, the communal landscape passed into individual holdings, and the scale of farming reduced. Mikkelsen, writing about Bishop Hill in 1891, commented on the town after the colony period. The plan described by Larsson had not been followed, but undoubtedly evolved to meet the changing needs of the settlers. Although Mikkelsen felt the original village was built "without regard to any definite plan, either of convenience or beauty", the town did have a working order. He acknowledged the cleanliness of the wooden sidewalks and the "hard" streets. The buildings, although not sharing the visual unity earlier envisioned, were of monumental size and unique for villages of that period. They, and workshops of various kinds, were built around the park which was planted in orchard style with young trees. A picket fence enclosed the park and maples and evergreens lined it. Most of town were



BISHOP HILL
1847

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July 1976 gla

storehouses, to the west the orchards; farther north of town were the animal quarters sited so as to keep their odors away from the town. No fences or outhouses broke up the symmetry of the scene. The sod wall started west of Bishop Hill, circled south and then east, marking only a part of the holdings. It gave a feeling of the moated or earth-encircled villages of medieval Europe. Settlers recall it planted with watermelons. It became the focus of tales told to children that the world outside that embankment was a heathen's land.

The question of the decision to build around a town square seems to be in doubt. It is felt that it did not originate with Swedish theory; rather that it was imposed or suggested by the surveyors who came from a different cultural background and by the nature of their plan layout gave the village the form it would follow.

3. The Visual Environment

The settlement of Bishop Hill is different from that of almost all other towns in the nation. The people who settled it were not homesteaders making their claims of land, but a group of people who worked together to set up a community. This accounts for the unique character of Bishop Hill still evident today.

In the fall of 1846 the colonists constructed dug-outs on the side of a ravine. They were actually half dug out of the slopes of the ravine and half log cabin. Each dug-out was 18 feet wide and about 30 feet long. Accompanying these were some cabins up on a hill. These structures were crowded but there are some accounts that found the conditions satisfactory. Erik Aline, one of the colonists writes, "I lived two winters in a dug-out, and felt fine."

When the tent-church burned in 1848, a second church was built on the highest point in the vicinity. It had a good view of the ravine and the Edwards River. It is a white clapboard structure very similar to the Shaker style of architecture. The basement and first floor were used for colonists to live while the second floor contained

the church.

Also at this time some other structures were up: the home of Eric Janson, the two flour mills, and the brick kiln. Still with need for more living units, the colonists began in 1849 working on what was to later be known as "Big Brick". Built in two parts, it was a most impressive structure. It measured 200 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 70 feet tall. When completed, Big Brick was the largest structure west of Chicago.

About 1850 the Colony Hotel or Bjorklund Hotel was built. Used as a hotel by travelers between Peoria and Rock Island, it had a two tier tower. This was probably intended as a sign to welcome travelers.

With the business going well at the hotel, Bishop Hill decided to build another one. This one would contain a clock tower and be built in the Greek Revival style. After its completion in 1854 the hotel business dropped off due to the railroad eliminating the need for overnight stops. The Steeple Building, as it is called, was never used as a hotel but it did serve as a school for a while and as a residence for many families.

Around this time many other buildings were erected. In 1853 the Colony Store and Post Office, and the Meat Storage Building were placed on the map. In 1855 along with the Hospital, the Dairy Building went up. 1856 saw the rise of two colony residences on the south side of the square. They were similar in appearance, both with split stairways as had been done earlier in the Colony Church and in Big Brick.

The colony was, for the most part, building its structures around the central park. They all shared the view and access to this wooded open space. This is unlike many American towns of the era. Others placed the courthouse or city hall in the center of town. Bishop Hill found a park more important than a town hall.

The appearance of Bishop Hill must have impressed those who visited it. For with nothing but prairies for miles it must have appeared like an oasis. Possibly the Swedes were trying to attract others to live there with their towering brick structures and open spaces.

4. Political Structure

Illinois became a state in 1818. Seven years later in 1825, the boundary lines of Henry County were fixed. At the time of Bishop Hill's founding in 1846, there were two forms of local government: the county form, preferred by settlers from southern states; and the township form, which was preferred by those from New England. The town site of Bishop Hill was chosen in the southeast quarter of section 14 of township fourteen, which became Weller Township in 1857 after the local government issue was resolved.

For reasons of economic necessity as well as religious idealism, Bishop Hill was organized communistically. Many of Janson's followers came from the poorer classes of laborers and factory hands, and would not have been able to afford passage to America unless the wealth of all was placed in a common economic pool. This collection of wealth facilitated purchases of land and goods required to begin a new settlement in a foreign land.

Janson's reasons for adopting this communistic pattern were also based on scriptural grounds. Members of the early biblical church also shared all their earthly goods. That even the wealthiest members of Janson's group gave up all their belongings for the common good, shows the strength of Janson's leadership as well as that of the religious ideal. There are several examples which show the extent of his power. He personally chose those who would supervise work crews and manage activities necessary for the growth of the colony. He represented the community in various markets in St. Louis and Chicago. All property transactions were conducted either by him or by a person appointed by him. He had the right to accept new members into the community, or expel anyone he felt unfit. Janson's power within the community remained virtually absolute until he was murdered in 1850 (Mikkelsen, 1892, pp. 27, 38).

5. Economic Life

Their first winter in Bishop Hill proved treacherous. With their funds expended on passage to the new land and the purchase of their land,

little was left for food. The colonists faced their first winter with only their skills to keep them alive, but spring came and 350 acres were put into cultivation. However, one-half did not see the first planting; they perished and deserted that first winter.

Although off to a difficult start, they soon made rapid progress. By the end of the first year a small grist mill was in operation. New agricultural methods were taken up whenever possible: the use of a scythe in 1847, a cradle in 1848 and a reaper in 1849 to harvest wheat. They once purchased a threshing machine from a neighbor and used it as a model to make their own, new improved, larger version. The colonists were exceptionally capable of adapting to the new land.

During this period, the society began to grow flax to be used in the production of linen and carpeting. They were thoroughly familiar with all phases of linen production in Sweden and moved rapidly in its production in the United States, producing 12,473 yards of linen and carpet matting in 1847 for a ready market (Mikkelsen, 1892, p. 35).

While much of their progress was due to the abundant resources, their skill in organizing people greatly aided them. Their work was specialized into standard activities such as weaving and milking, yet when planting and harvesting were to take place the entire community would come to a near standstill and focus their attention on the communal task.

C. HEIGHT OF THE COLONY (1850-1857)

1. Living Conditions

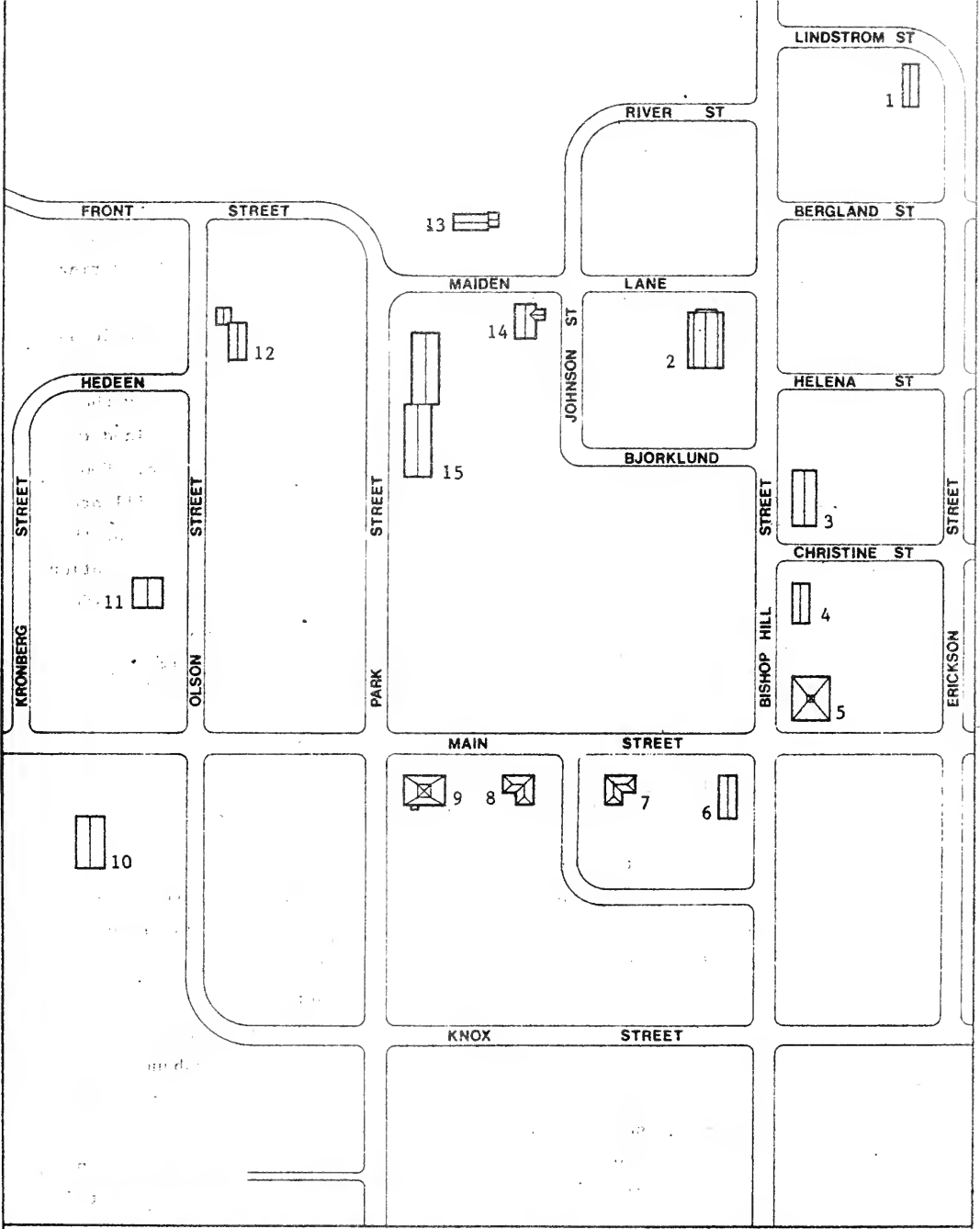
After the murder of Eric Janson in May, 1850, a number of changes occurred. There was some immediate social disorganization and a scrambling for power, until in 1853 the colony was incorporated.

As Hedstrom explains, Bishop Hill "suffered spiritually . . . after Janson's death," for "its religious zeal . . . waned." In an attempt to renew interest in religion, Jonas Olson modified some of Janson's fanatic doctrines so that Jansonism in the 1850's became much like Methodism. Although Olson was seen as the leader of the religious life of the colony, the church was loosely organized, there was no regularly ordained clergy, and anyone with some speaking ability might preach. In 1854 the doctrine of celibacy was once again proclaimed, but such dissension resulted that in 1856 it was discarded (Hedstrom, pp. 46,60).

The agricultural and industrial life of Bishop Hill was even more rigidly organized under the charter than it had been earlier. Every worker was assigned to a department, each department was divided into work gangs under the supervision of a foreman, and the foremen were directed by supervisors under the direction of the trustees (Wilson, p. 35).

In the 1850's the number of acres under cultivation increased greatly. By 1856 the colonists were farming 3,250 acres of the 8500 that they owned, and the use of farm machinery (reapers, threshing machines, separators, corn planters) began gradually to replace hand work.

There was a similar increase in the production of manufactured items. Between 1851 and 1853 a steam-mill, distillery, a carpenter and wagon shop, a bakery, and a brewery were built; 1857 the colonists built a new blacksmith's shop equipped with a forge that would permit seven smiths to work at once. The colony grew wealthy and the trustees began to invest their profits outside the community.



BISHOP HILL 1860

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July 1976 gto

The Jansonists continued to place great value on education. Apparently the school was moved from the Colony Church to rooms located in the Steeple Building sometime after 1854. Hedstrom and Mikkelsen claim that all instruction was in English, but Erdahl insists that a Swedish school as well as an English school was in operation during at least part of the 1850's (Erdahl, p. 560).

The domestic lives of the colonists became more comfortable as their prosperity increased. The dug-outs were eliminated, new brick houses were erected, and attempts were made to beautify the village. When the Big Brick was finished in 1851, it contained two large dining rooms, and adults were separated from children. Food became more abundant, but luxuries such as pastries were still prohibited. Families continued to occupy one-room apartments, but they were dry and comfortable. Mikkelsen argues that "with the exception of the modifications imposed by the unitary cuisine, the home life of the Jansonists differed in nowise materially from that of their neighbors under the indivivualistic system" (Mikkelsen, 1892, p. 129), but Wilson observes that

> in the Colony, the family had no right to land, and the basic unit of production was the work crew. Thus, while the family was not destroyed under the communal system, its economic function was limited (Wilson, p. 38).

2. Political Structure

After Janson's murder, his wife (Mrs. Pollock) and the guardian of his son (Andrew Berglund) assumed temporary leadership of the colony with Berglund the more prominent of the two. This was not an unreasonable succession in view of the fact that Janson had spoken of a hereditary from of leadership, and his wife had supervised the work of the women, and had acted as secretary to her husband, thus knew something of the colony business. However, by February 1851, Jonas Olson assumed control of the colony. Olson was a religious leader of the Devotionalists in Sweden before the coming of Janson, and at Bishop Hill he was one of the those to whom Janson delegated responsibility.

In January, 1853, the town applied for a charter and was incorporated into a village. This was done to make its business and property dealings more efficient and manageable. Under this form of government, a village board consisting of seven trustees who were appointed for life was created. The trustees were supposed to be representative of the community; however, this concept was perfunctory from the beginning, as the trustees were not chosen by the people, and signatures for the petition for incorporation were collected even before the petition was drawn up.

The trustees were given authority to conduct all business and industrial pursuits of the community. They judged all applicants for membership to the community, and could expel any person they thought unsuitable for the community. They could also fix the amount of compensation, if any, that a person would receive. They had the right to intervene in any community affair, and were not obliged to wait for the community's consent before undertaking any action. Like Janson before, the trustees totally controlled Bishop Hill, and Jonas Olson remained the dominant force in the board.

This relationship between colony people and colony board endured until 1857 when economic crisis spotlighted the poor management skills of the trustees. In 1858 and 1859, resolutions were passed at the annual town meeting which were aimed at making the trustees more accountable to the colony. A resolution requiring monthly meetings was passed, but was rarely honored by the trustees. Actions like this, and certain other unpopular decisions of the trustees, combined with the economic problems of the colony, led to its dissolution and a division of all colony properties among its people in 1862.

Under the laws of the state Bishop Hill was incorporated as a village in February, 1870. The village form of government consisting of a village president, clerk, six trustees and a police magistrate was adopted by ordinance in February, 1894, and remains nearly the same to the present time.

3. Economic Life

Much of the efficiency of the community's early organization had been due to the leadership of Eric Janson. With his death in 1850, the Jansonists were without a single strong leader. His advisors and trusted men continued to direct the community's temporal affairs. This switch in authority was to prove later to be the main cause for the collapse of the group.

Bishop Hill prospered with Jonas Olson as the key man in the charge of internal (agricultural) affairs within the community and Olof Johnson handling the external (business) affairs. With agriculture as their principal pursuit, a total of 1400 acres of land was brought under cultivation producing wheat, flax, and corn. The brick steam flour mill was in operation, along with a brewery (ten barrels a day in production), orchards and broom corn (becoming a staple industry). The corporation's seven trustees were responsible for management of manufacturing, milling, all types of mechanical businesses, agriculture and merchandising activities (Mikkelsen, 1892, p. 49).

Prosperity did not continue, however. The Crimean War had ended, bringing prices down from their inflated position. Speculation and bank failures were commonplace, leaving nearly all lines of industry at a complete or partial standstill in 1857. The demand for Bishop Hill farm goods decreased. Colony trustees had incurred many debts as a result of poor investments: their falsified financial reports contributed to a decline in communal spirit and trust. Janson's "socialistic, theocratic community" was short-lived; Bishop Hill Colony dissolved in 1861, only eight years after its incorporation.

4. Land Holdings

In 1850 the pattern of land ownership had been established. At that time, the property of the colony had been held in the names of various individuals. But when any of these colony members died, their estates must be administered upon, sold by order of the court and purchased for the benefit of the colony. As the wealth of the colony

increased, the system became more complex.

When the colony became a legal corporation in 1853, the number of trustees was fixed at seven. The first trustees were Jonas Olson, Jonas Ericson, Jacob Jacobson, Jonas Kronberg, Swan Swanson, Olof Johnson, and Peter Janson.

On May 6, 1854, by-laws were adopted. According to these rules, "any person sustaining a good moral character might become a member by transferring the absolute ownership of his property to the board of trustees and suscribing to the by-laws." The by-laws also provided that "the property and industry and the proceeds therefore belonging to the colony should constitute a common fund." The regulations and the by-laws gave the trustees power and control over all the property at Bishop Hill. Without informing the members, the trustees could buy, transfer property, and sign contracts on behalf of the colony. However, this system changed because of new regulations which restricted the powers of the trustees. The trustees were no longer allowed to transact any business without consulting the colony at general meeting.

When the colony gave up communism in 1861, it divided its assets equally with the individualization of property. Each man and woman over 35 received a share of the timber, personal property, and communal lands (12,000+ acres in 1861). Typically, an individual acquired 22 acres of land, a two acre timber lot, one town lot, equal interest in livestock, and assorted farm implements and household items. Colonists under 35 received 12-15 acres of land, with special trusts established for wives and children. The Colony also dispersed as a religious organization, and Jansonism disappeared as a religious sect in Sweden. Bishop Hill Colony became known as Bishop Hill.

D. DEMISE OF THE COLONY (AFTER 1862)

1. Causes of Failure

The disintegration of the colony began in 1857, and there were numerous causes. The Crimean Depression, financial mismanagement by the trustees, the "breaking up of religious ties", the reintroduction of celibacy, and the "importation of new ideas" all played a part. The colonists, however, continued to worship God, to plant and harvest their fields, to produce a variety of manufactured products, to erect new buildings, to educate their children, and to live the essentially simple life that they had always lived. They showed a continuous optimism for the future of the Bishop Hill "heaven on earth", but their young people

> as they grew up and learned something of the world around them, demanded greater freedom in amusement, more varied development, more liberty of thought and action, and more to do with the management of the colony's affairs. . . . Large numbers of them left the colony for the outside world, and their going drained the colony of its most vigorous life. (Charles Nordhoff, The Communistic Societies of the United States, p. 347, as quoted in Erdahl, pp. 564-65)

The colonists came to the new world hoping to build a better life and they did, based first on religious freedom and next on economic equality. With the loss of their spiritual leader the cohesion of the community was unattended. Individuals with different approaches directed the financial interests of the colony with their own inevitable many visions. It is an old story of people who followed and trusted their religious leader and his associates. With the loss of the leader they continued to follow the associates. And over time corruption and vested interest changed the colony from a commune to a parcelling out of community properties to individuals. Squabbling, rumors, and property assessments centered around Olof Johnson, which finally led to a series of legal maneuvers that took twelve years to settle. This dispute, known as the Colony Trial, ended in compromise in 1879.

While the lack of responsible leadership was the main cause of the demise of the community where were other reasons. The community had not allowed the railroad to pass through Bishop Hill and as a result could not gain its economic benefits. The railroad was located in Galva which prospered at Bishop Hill's expense, losing 500 colonists to Galva the first year (Polson, p. 59).

Also, though banned, newspapers and magazines did find their way into town, and this knowledge of the outside world helped stimulate the departure of the young people.

Religious indifference had replaced their initial religious enthusiasm. No one dogma took root in the colony, although they tried several brands, but not all followed one. Religion could no longer give cohesion to the community.

2. Historical Geography

Understandably, more work has been done by historic preservationists in Bishop Hill related to the Jansonist period, but there can not be neglect of the historical geography of the post-Jansonist period of 1862 to 1946 if there is to be a better perspective on the historical context of Bishop Hill.

The dissolution of the Bishop Hill Colony proceeded during the Civil War through the individualization of property, but it should be noted that people only received parts of buildings. This may have been one factor which encouraged ex-colonists to out-migrate from Bishop Hill.

On February 2, 1870, Bishop Hill was granted town status. Thus, Bishop Hill was well on the way to complete secularization of the community by this time. With the advent of increased mechanization of agriculture in the late nineteenth century and in the early twentieth century, it seems logical to assume that there was increased out-migration from Bishop Hill. As transportation systems improved, patronage of commercial functions in larger urbanized centers became possible, and the decline of Bishop Hill retail and service areas reflected the impact of rising automobile ownership in the area. Even though there was individualization of property continuing through and

beyond World War I, the Old Colony structures were not receiving sufficient upkeep. In 1928 the "Big Brick" burned down due to carelessness (Widen, p. 226), and by 1946 the village government recognized that it did not have the resources to rent in the Old Colony Church. Thus the "lost" period of the historical geography of Bishop Hill of the post-Jansonist eras ended with the assumption by the State of Illinois of maintenance for the Old Colony Church in 1946. This act set a precedent for the post-Jansonist period of 1946 to the present which has been oriented to historic preservation activities which will be discussed in a following section.

3. Severing of Ties with Sweden

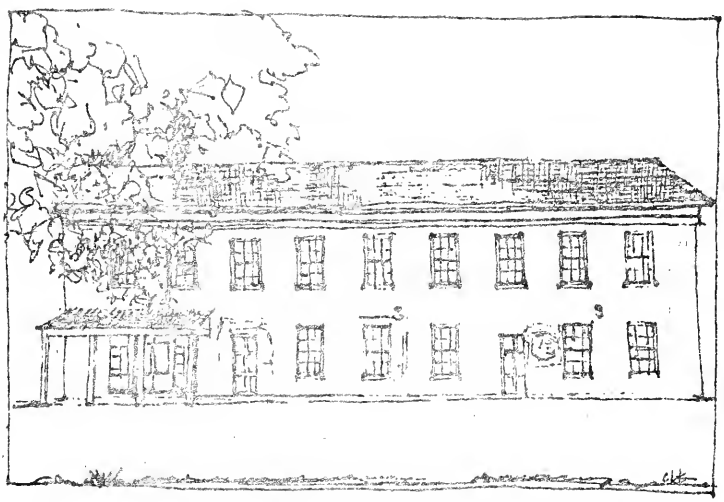
The original Bishop Hill colonists followed their fanatical leader to America to escape religious persecution in Sweden. History maintains that Sweden was, at that time, under the rule of enlightened monarchs who endeavored to lighten the lot of the peasant. Before the Jansonist migration, Bernadotte did indeed redistribute the tax burden and introduce compulsory education. His son, Oscar, gave women equal property rights. Yet the custom of primogeniture remained the law, so that the number of landlords remained static. The situation was intolerable for younger sons of any ambition. The limited number of occupations may have been a factor in persuading people to throw in their lots with Janson. It certainly contributed to the large number of Swedish emigrants attracted to other parts of America.

The Jansonists, persecuted by religious establishmentarians, as well as by harsh conditions of life, felt no loyalty to their mother country. Their religion and their leader encouraged them to sever their links with Sweden. They wished to lead a pure, ascetic life. Only such basic habits as language, cooking, and the design of hand-made implements remained unchanged. The colonists also wanted to become part of their new homeland. Cautious at first, they limited colony contact with the surrounding neighborhood. The colony tried to be self-supporting. For those things it could not produce, it grew money crops and produced commercial goods for trade. English was taught to all the children of the colony.

Travel lines were encouraged to pass through.

Segregated though it was, the Bishop Hill Colony was more American than Swedish, the typical melange of old world and new. Their austere communistic way of life bore no resemblance to Swedish culture of the times. Their architecture, the only unusual survival in Bishop Hill, was dictated by their new life style, the available building materials, and their German bricklayer August Bandholtz.

With the death of Janson and the later dissolution of the Colony, the religious ascetism also faded. The ban on worldly entertainments was relaxed. The trickle of new Swedish immigrants reinforced some of the gayer Swedish traditions, as well as the spoken tongue.



E. RECENT ACTIVITIES (SINCE 1946)

1. Preservation Efforts

Organized preservation efforts in Bishop Hill began in 1946, when the State of Illinois acquired the Colony Church building. The structure was previously owned by the Village of Bishop Hill; however, the church needed a new roof, and the village could not afford the cost of repair. In the same year, the Old Settlers Association of Henry County purchased the Colony School building.

Restoration on the church was not begun until 1950. Over a two year period the foundation, exterior, roof, and stairway were restored.

Very little in the way of preservation was done from 1951 until 1962, when the Bishop Hill Heritage Association was formed. It is ironic that an organization dedicated to the preservation was founded in the rubble of destruction. The demolition of the Bakery and Brewery building was the catalyst for the formation of the Heritage Association. In 1963 the "Heritage" (as it is commonly referred to be the members of its board of directors) purchased the Colony Steeple building.

As momentum to preserve the colony structures increased, private citizens became interested in the history of Bishop Hill. In 1965, one resident, Ms. Edla Warner, researched family histories of village residents.

In 1966, the three story brick structure northeast of the public square was purchased by the Heritage Association. During the "colony period" the building had served as the blacksmith shop.

Immediately prior to the purchase of the building by the Heritage, it had housed the fire department for the Bishop Hill Fire Protection District. The Heritage moved the large overhead front door which fronted on Bishop Street. They rebricked the front of the building, and restored the rear wall to its original condition. One year later, in 1967, the Heritage bought the Colony Store. The building had suffered significant damage on the south and west exterior walls. The owner/occupant could not afford the cost of repair, thus precipitating the sale. During the

course of the year, a Swedish historian came to Bishop Hill to review documents from the colony period. The dialect of Swedish spoken by the Jansonists has little in common with modern Swedish. It was felt that an expert might be able to link the colony and its inhabitants with the land they left.

The Bjorklund Hotel was built by the people of Bishop Hill as a money-making proposition. It offered overnight accommodations to stagecoach travelers between Peoria and Rock Island. The structure was acquired by the State of Illinois in 1968. Restoration did not begin until 1973.

Mara Eiche, an archivist from Sweden, came to Bishop Hill in 1972. His task was to review and transcribe documents, and assist in establishing the archives, Judging by the present condition of the archives, Mr. Eiche's time was well spent.

Also during 1972, James M. Hobbs did a study on Bishop Hill entitled Historic Sites and Planned Tourist Development: The Case of Bishop Hill, Illinois. Hobbs, a student at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, undertook the project to "determine how Bishop Hill might be improved as a historic site for expanded use by tourists". His findings paralleled many aspects of a master plan for Bishop Hill, done by Scruggs and Hammond, a planning firm in East Peoria, Illinois. The Scruggs and Hammond plan done for Henry County in 1968, suggested the development of Bishop Hill as a major Swedish cultural center in the United States. The plan called for the development of a satellite commercial area, two-thirds of a mile south of the historic district. This area could provide the visitor with accommodations and activities not necessarily related to Bishop Hill. Camping and water-oriented recreation were two possible uses suggested by the plan. As of this writing, the Scruggs and Hammond proposals have not been acted upon by the Village Board.

Restoration of the Bjorklund Hotel was begun in 1973. The exterior was completed in 1976.

Evidence of the outbuildings associated with the Colony Church was discovered in 1974. Students from nearby Knox College, in Galesburg, Illinois, determined the location of the cob house and the coal house

from old photographs. An archaelogical dig in the area did locate the outbuildings. Archaelogical work by Knox students has determined the location of the Colony Grain Scale (at the southeast edge of the public square) as well as the site of a basement well on the north side of the Bjorklund Hotel.

2. Organizations

Since State involvement began at Bishop Hill in 1946, efforts toward historic preservation have been made by individual citizens, private and municipal groups, as well as social and paternal organizations. The array of organizations, their purposes and roles, and their responsibilities toward historic preservation are not clear at first glance. Bishop Hill today, with a population of less than 200, only a fraction of its size during the high pioneer days, would seem to be an orderly, rural community with its sights set on continuing life in a physical atmosphere of Jansonist communism. But, is this a true picture? What are the goals and interests of the various organizations; and how have they managed to work so well together?

The major organizations are, in categorical order with their date of establishment or first active date at Bishop Hill:

a. PRIMARY GROUPS

1946	The Illinois Department of Conservation
1962	The Bishop Hill Heritage Association and its auxiliary, The Friends of Bishop Hill
	The Village of Bishop Hill Board of Trustees

b. SECONDARY GROUPS

1875	The Old Settlers Association of Henry County
circa 1890	The Henry County Historical Society
	Bishop Hill Volunteer Firemen
	private individuals of Bishop Hill

c. TERTIARY GROUPS

1967 Vasa Lodge #683
The American-Scandinavian Foundation
The Swedish Pioneer Historical Society
The Royal Neighbors of America

A general sketch of each organization will clarify their separate functions; but, something should be said about the commonalities of all the groups and the community make-up. First, the expressed intent of each organization is well understood at the community level and active roles are efficient in the sense that little overlap exists among the efforts of two or more groups. Second, memberships often have similar roll-calls, as one person may belong to several organizations -- the officer levels are exceptional. This is probably not unusual for any community, though greatly evident at Bishop Hill because of its relatively small size. Third, the State of Illinois, the federal government, and these community groups combine efforts at the local level quite nicely; but, the community level provides leadership, sets priorities, stimulates action, and makes most decisions regarding historic preservation at Bishop Hill. Thus, the community is the driving force toward preservation, as it should be.

Individually, the organizations of Bishop Hill can be separated into three distinct categories: a) Those primary groups expressly concerned with preservation efforts, and with decision making capacity; b) the secondary groups with input but lesser impact, and with non-expanding future roles in preservation; and c) the tertiary groups that can exist at Bishop Hill because of its rich history, and should not be relied upon for major efforts toward historic preservation.

a. <u>The Primary Groups</u>

We have already seen the role of the State Department of Conservation and Ronald Nelson, as its regional historian; It is a primary organization at Bishop Hill. The Village Board of Trustees, also a primary force, fulfills the need for a concerned local government. The third primary force, and the most important for local preservation is the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.

The Bishop Hill Heritage Association was formed in 1962 for the purpose of preserving and restoring the village of Bishop Hill as a "living community" in which village residents would continue their lives amid the remnants of the Bishop Hill Colony Period.

The history of the Heritage Association has been one of sensitive acceptance of responsibility. By 1962 the Colony Brewery and Bakery building had been recently razed. And when it was clear that the deteriorating Blacksmith Shop and the Steeple Building could easily meet with a similar fate, the small but influential Heritage Association was formed. It began in the living room of Merrill Nystrom where fifteen community members pooled their funds to buy the Blacksmith Shop and Steeple Building.

In 1969 the Colony Store and Post Office Building was acquired by the Heritage Association. And in 1974, the Krusbo House was added to their list of responsibilities. It should be stressed however that the Heritage Association is not a wealthy organization in need of more philanthropic endeavors. Rather, they rely on donations, income from sponsored events, and the sales profit of the newly-opened Colony Gift Store. In this sense, expansion of the Heritage Association will come only out of need as they are not willing nor financially able to take over those sites already being preserved.

The complete role of the Heritage Association as a primary group in Bishop Hill can be appreciated when the financial efforts to date are analyzed. Though it is a sketchy record, the story is one of efficient use of public and private funds toward historic preservation. The Association now has five structures:

Steeple Building	acquired 1963	in constant use
Blacksmith Shop	acquired 1966	in constant use
Colony Store and Post Office	acquired 1969	in use since 1975
Krusbo House	acquired 1974	in disrepair
barn to be placed near Krusbo House	acquired 1975	in disrepair

The Heritage Associaton, with a total expenditure of $54,490, including a federal grant of $14,730, has completed the Colony Store and Post Office as of its opening 25 May 1975. They have also maintained the Steeple Building which now houses the Heritage Association archives and the Henry County Historical Society Museum. The latter shares visitor revenue with the Heritage Association. And they have maintained the Blacksmith Shop which offers space for the crafts programs presented under the direction of Mary Jane Atkinson and the Bishop Hill Community Club, which is sponsored by the Heritage Association.

The Bishop Hill Village Board of Trustees, as a primary group, have interests other than those of purely historic preservation. Yet it can be said that this is their main concern, to maintain the historic sense of place of Bishop Hill and its livability as a community. This may be an expressed or assumed goal; nonetheless it exists.

b. The Secondary Groups

While the primary groups of Bishop Hill may be most important regarding the present and future preservation efforts of the village, a secondary group should be noted for its role as well. The Old Settlers Association, it can be said, took up the sword for preservation shortly after the state in Bishop Hill. In 1952, they bought the Colony School and continue to maintain it as a meeting place. Until that time the Colony School was in use as the community school, but by 1951 a new school had been built at Bishop Hill for grades one through four.

The early history of the Old Settlers Association was also a preservation effort, but of a different sort. Known then as the Old Settlers Association of Henry County, their first meeting was held in Hanna Grove, on 13 August, 1875. 3000 attended this reunion in celebration of their pioneer days and early struggles on the prairies of Illinois. On 11 August 1876 the reunion was held at Geneseo Park, and on 10 August 1877 the third meeting formed at Cambridge. This tradition continued many years until the Old Settlers Association of Henry County took the name of the Henry County Historical Society at Bishop Hill.

The Old Settlers Association revived itself in 1896; as a reunion and to retain interest in the settlement era of the nineteenth century. Since that time the Old Settlers have functioned as a social organization sponsoring dinners and special events that recently included the "open kettle stew in the park" during the special Old Settlers Day in the Fall, and the Jul Marknad (Christmas Market) sponsored with VASA and the Heritage Association. With a membership of less than 100, the Old Settlers intend to function socially, and are financially unable to preserve more than the Colony School.

Other secondary groups on the scene at Bishop Hill are less important regarding historic preservation, but still play a role in the functioning of the community and the image of Bishop Hill as it is presented to the visitor. The Bishop Hill Volunteer Firemen, for example, sponsor yearly the Fourth of July celebration. The Henry County Historical Society, located in the Steeple Building, presents an ongoing display of local and regional significance. The funds from visitor donations to the museum are shared with the Heritage Association, going back to the preservation efforts.

The last secondary group to be considered here are those private individuals who are property owners of Bishop Hill sites. These people face the responsibility and cost of maintenance alone. Edla Warner and Ed Hepner, among others, are doing a good job of preservation and restoration, but, the investment is costly and the returns, other than self-satisfaction, are slow to come.

c. The Tertiary Groups

The tertiary groups at Bishop Hill and their roles evolve around the preservation activity of the primary groups. Most active of the tertiary groups is the Vasa Lodge #683 which was chartered in 1967. The officers of this lodge and about 70% of the 100-plus members are from the Bishop Hill community Their active role at Bishop Hill includes support for various events: but, the professed role of Vasa is to promote the cultural heritage of Sweden and its links to the United States, and to trace the ancestry of its own members. In 1974 the Vasa organization located its national archives at Bishop Hill. Presently the archives are in an infant state and incomplete for serious research work; and Vasa continues to function only socially at Bishop Hill.

Other tertiary groups that have been involved at Bishop Hill in the past are the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and the Royal Neighbors of America. These groups need only be mentioned in the context of historic preservation efforts. They do not have the resources to apply to Bishop Hill and by nature and intent are paternal organizations.

3. Other Activities

Since 1970 Bishop Hill has received national recognition in historic preservation. In that year the historic district surrounding and including the Old Colony Church and the park were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Local concern for retaining the other Bishop Hill Colony buildings resulted in the enactment of historic district zoning by the village government in 1972. From 1972 to the present there has been increased tourism in Bishop Hill and increased in-migration of modern craftsmen and craftswomen.

Bishop Hill's historical geography from before 1976 has resulted in the Bishop Hill of the present being a delicate, historical ecosystem. What this community will be in the future depends upon how the resources of Bishop Hill of the present are developed.

II.

Bishop Hill Today

II. BISHOP HILL TODAY

This part of the class report takes stock of what the students found when they spent three days at Bishop Hill looking, talking, reading, listening, measuring, and trying to understand the many facets of a small but complex place. The materials are presented as a collection of impressions from varied points of view, followed by an overall summary in the form of a "balance sheet".

A. SEEING BISHOP HILL

1. Visual Character

The distinct character of Bishop Hill cannot really be captured on film - it must be experienced. For the way the park is situated in relation to the buildings is important.

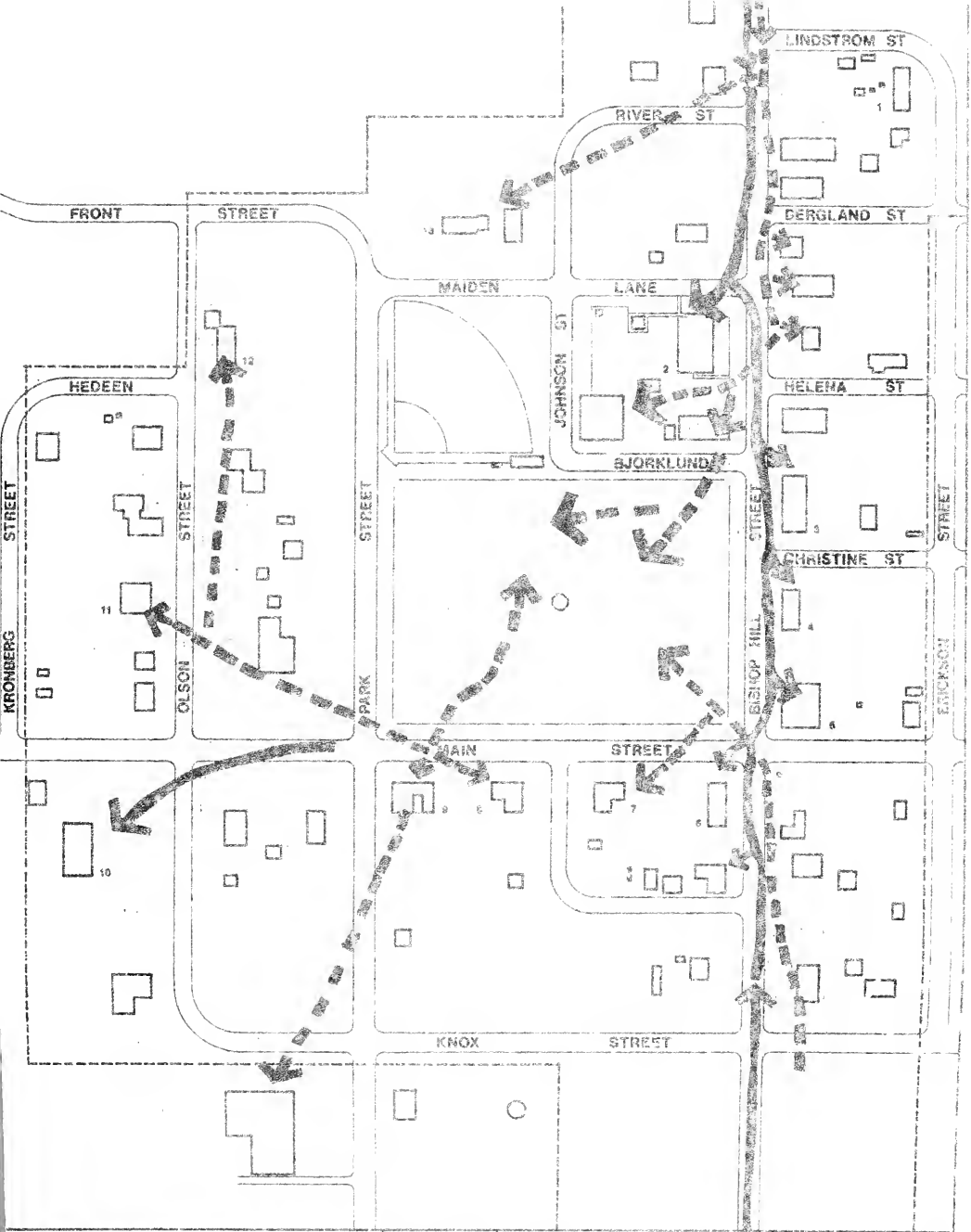
To start with, a town must be looked at from the entrance into it because that is what is going to be seen first. Entering from the south, rolling farmland is passed for miles. This has a very nice effect on the viewer. Almost out of nowhere tall shade trees appear, they capture the eye. One almost feels drawn into the village by the cool air the trees create and their tunnel-like presence. Once in the village, stately homes can be seen amongst the trees. A little farther along on the left is the solid brick wall of the Colony Store with hollyhocks growing next to it. The Steeple Building on the opposite corner is blocked from view (at least in summer) by a maple tree. Parking is straight ahead in front of original colony buildings.

Coming from the east, again farmland is dominant. After driving down a hill and crossing a small bridge the landscape begins to appear more populated. A few houses are seen and the trees get denser. On the right is a cemetery with an avenue of trees leading into it. The rest of the cemetery is open to the street. Continuing straight a small, white, square concrete block building is on the left. Because of its stark nature the building jumps out at the viewer and insults his eyes. On the right the backside of the Steeple Building appears; also the fence that surrounds the park is visible. It gives the impression of orderliness.

Driving south, once again the rolling farmscape appears on both sides. It lets the imagination see without too much difficulty the view the colonists might have seen. From a distance the clock on the Steeple Building is visible if looking carefully among the trees. The village is noticeably set on a hill. It seems to be a hill of trees until getting closer. After crossing a bridge on the Edwards River, the corner of the Colony Church shows through the foliage, inviting travelers up the hill. Once upon the hill there is a string of barren-looking structures that contradict the first impressions of welcoming. Two commercial signs jump out of their setting as they are passed. Sitting next to the Colony Church is a nondescript tavern. Once past these eyesores, the park and some of the colony buildings are visible.

Coming from the west brings one into the residential part of the colony structures. It is very similar to the other three entrances, although not as dramatic as the north or south.

After driving into town, a majority of cars are parked on the east side of the park. This seems them in the way, reducing the charm of the village. A string of metal and glass amongst brick and foliage does not blend too well. Surrounding the park are four asphalt streets that are cracked, broken, and patched. This, along with some concrete sidewalks, detracts from the buildings by the fact that they are easily identifiable as being from a differ[illegible] period.



BISHOP HILL

VISUAL IMPRESSIONS

SYMBOLS

BAD VIEW

GOOD VIEW

N

0 50' 100' 200' 400'

Historic District Boundary

July 1978 gto

Walking into the center of the park is almost like being outside the town. It gives one a feeling of enclosed spaciousness. Tall trees give the viewer a defined vertical space. There is planty of room above but it is limited, giving it human scale - one that a person can describe or compare it to.

The grade of the land is sloping due to the ravine that once ran through the western end. This creates a "wall" for the eastern side, where most street traffic occurs. The white fence that totally encloses the park can be seen partially through the foliage. It blocks out for the most part any cars that may be parked along its perimeter.

The north side of the square is divided into two parts. The first is a row of commercial buildings. On the corner is a tavern; it does not face the park but its major dimension does. The wall is without any breaks in its surface except for a door and a few high windows; it appears as bleak as exposed concrete. It is very noticeable because of its bareness and lack of compatibility with the colony structures. Down from the tavern are a couple turn-of-the-century buildings. When walking down the street (Bjorklund), the change from the wooded park on one side to the bare shops on the other is very noticeable.

The east side of the square consists of three colony buildings. The Steeple Building on the corner and the two similar brick buildings; the Carriage and Wagon Shop and the Blacksmith Shop. These three along with the telephone poles, form a corridor straight down the street. Across from these is a row of large shade trees, different in texture from the other side of the street.

On the south side are four colony buildings in a row. This creates a nice continuity along the street. Mixed between these buildings are trees that tie together the south side of the street with the north (containing the park). Also the street following the contour of the park, slopes down as it goes west. This change of level helps to separate this street from the main part of town.

A hill on the west side of the park almost isolates the homes that sit on it, serving to confine visitors to the park area. Greenery

along here also blends in with that of the park.

2. Landscape Character

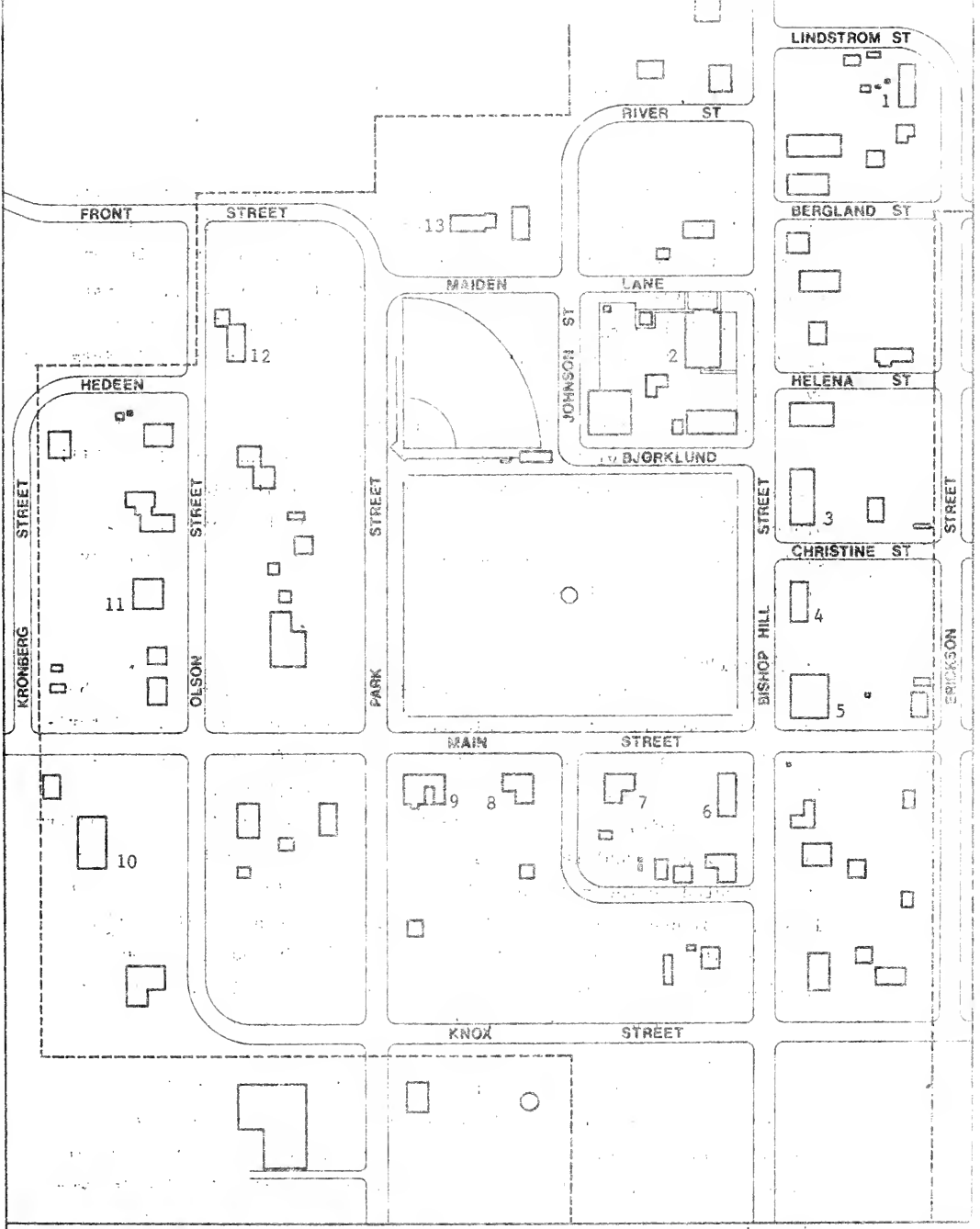
The contemporary landscape shows both change and continuity with the colony period. The remaining colony structures in restoration; the park and street trees are mature although the elms have succumbed and are replaced by young ash and silver maple. The square is now filled in with an odd lot of modest one-story frame commercial structures that reflect the reduced circumstances and population of Bishop Hill. The yards of the dwellings about town remain unfenced and present the visitor with impressions of great swatches of green periodically accented by the vertical element of a house. Farmsteads are close by and ring the town enclosing it with a sense of tranquility, serenity, and isolation much as the sod wall barrier of the colony period was to do. Farther out are large prosperous farms of corn and soy beans that have replaced the communal landscape. This sense of momentary stillness is due in part to the less than 200 people who compose the present population.

It is not an especially prosperous town if one looks at the dwellings which in most instances are modest, old, and some in need of repair. Trailers are also dotted about, and their landscaping and paths indicate they are intended to be permanent dwellings. The exterior landscaping about the houses is meager or lacking altogether, much as depicted in the painting by Krans who chronicled the colony period. Most have small vegetable plots; flowers seem less common; the dominant flower seems to be the perennial hollyhock that edges the narrow spots around the colony buildings.

The park is once more enclosed by a restored picket fence; the gazebo recently rebuilt; young trees replace the dead. Most of the trees in the park are oaks and some sugar maples; predominant is the silver maple and some sycamores, trees of wet areas and presumably moved up from the ravine when it was filled in. The brick walks that replaced the board sidewalks in the late nineteenth century in many areas have been freed from the grass that had grown over them; around the Colony Church the board sidewalks have been replaced. Houses on

the west side of the park are well kept and are sited far up on the west bank of the one extant ravine; a small grove of trees and shrubs planted almost 20 years ago now form a dense thicket between two dwellings. The remains of the ravine, north of the baseball field that takes the place of the former Big Brick and Bakery, is densely overgrown with thick, almost impenetrable, underbrush and its significance is lost. Vistas of the area are available from the Steeple Building and will become available from the Bjorklund Hotel when its restoration is complete.

The commercial area on the east side of the square, the first view of tourists, is less attractive and a visual discrepancy with the more monumental colony structures. The kind of order envisioned and partially imposed earlier is absent; beside the Colony Church is an ugly box-like building that is a tavern; immediately a part of the Church yard is a private dwelling that faces constant intrusion from tourists who assume it a part of the tour. The town lacks a visual focal point, an area or structure that identifies the town and attracts people. One sees instead a few shops that lack visual relationship to each other or to the colony structures and which are not especially appealing. Around some are debris and old outbuildings stand about in various aspects of decay. The usual haphazard development over the years of businesses often inappropriate to an area, along with less carefully thought-out conveniences of the 20th century, namely the distracting overhead power lines, and high street lighting and the telephone booth plunked down in the midst of the colony structures all add to the visual confusion. Structures no longer used and in decay have not been removed. This kind of jumble adds to the problem the residents complain of; the intrusion of tourists on private property. The tourists add further problems because of limited parking and not well defined routes for them. All these problems will increase as tourism grows.



BISHOP HILL 1976

N

0 50' 100' 200' 400

Historic District Boundary

July 1976 plc

B. UNDERSTANDING BISHOP HILL AND ITS PEOPLE

1. Heritage

Today we still find Swedish spoken by the elders of Bishop Hill. Classes in the Swedish language are held for those who wish to learn. Renewed interest in the background of the Colony has led the citizens to revive or invent community, through activities such as the Christmas market, Maj brossan and the Autumn Days Festival. There is a temptation to import more such customs from Sweden than the Colonists ever did.

Citizens of Bishop Hill still keep up with their relations in Sweden. There are visits back and forth, but no change in Bishop Hill because of them. Swedish members of the Vasa organization visit Bishop Hill members with a similar lack of cultural exchange. The citizens of Bishop Hill seem content with their present American way of life in their own homes.

2. Atmosphere

The social fabric of Bishop Hill is tightly woven; 60-70% of the population descends from the Colony. Most others are Swedish. Historical ties are so strong that one 50-year resident (born in Victoria, Illinois) commented, "I sort of weaned in on everything."

The community was described in 1859 as an "enterprising and thrifty class" (Swank, 1965);the impression has not changed much. Craftsmen are dedicated to their trades, shopkeepers to their businesses. Most look upon Bishop Hill as a living museum, a personable, quiet town. There remains a communal spirit -- "you can go off and leave your door open" -- and perhaps the only fear is that of commercialization. "I don't want to look down the street and see a McDonalds," said one store manager.

Despite a firm entrenchment in Swedish history, there is a pervasive "American-before-Swede" philosophy amongst Bishop Hill residents. Consequently, remnants from the old country are few, although several Colony crafts have survived -- and a visitor can still indulge in Swedish pancakes.

In October of each year, Bishop Hill celebrates Jordbrukdagarna (Agriculture Days). Festivities include demonstrations of a wide variety of crafts, from flax spinning to rope making; agrarian activities, such as corn planting, 1846 style; and 19th century games for children. For two days visitors (as well as residents) are given a small taste of Colony life. This "tourist education" is important to the town, according to the president of the Heritage Association who said, "We want to teach them something." Bishop Hill, as a living museum, has many lessons to offer.

3. Social Structure

One who is trying to understand Bishop Hill's social structure must first look at the elements at the center core. Bishop Hill, by all accounts, should not exist on the Illinois prairie landscape; it should have gone the way of the horse and carriage. Somehow, it has maintained its 1800's town meeting atmosphere and simplicity. But, at the same time, Bishop Hill has as many complex elements as any large urbanized area. Large state funding coming in, the maintenance of urban services, the policing and welfare of 60,000 tourists coming in yearly, and the upkeep of large building structures has all been achieved in a town with a population under 200.

The core elements that hold Bishop Hill together are the leaders of the Heritage Association, the Old Settlers Association, the Village Board, and Ron Nelson, resident historian for the State of Illinois. This core group turned the decay and decline of Bishop Hill around in the last few years. This group tends to be very conservative in their views of rebuilding Bishop Hill. They are trying to keep the continuity and the fine woven fabric of the community intact. They are trying to maintain a living community with a small town flavor which will also be a living educational experience. They do not want it to become a sterile environment, a no-man's land with no people and just buildings. In trying to establish goals to maintain this environment they have established a historic district within Bishop Hill which is controlled by strict

zoning laws. In their efforts to control the total environment around Bishop Hill they are losing some elements to save others. In controlling they also limit the free and lucid quality of the life they wish to preserve.

If Bishop Hill is to maintain its autonomy it must control its growth. In growth you have reduplication, in reduplication you have waste and waste is the destroyer of the human environment. Bishop Hill should never allow itself to be bogged down by heavy bureaucratic machinery. In a bureaucratic system outside elements replace the very personal fabric of the small town community. With each new influx, the original weave is altered and ruined. I am not saying Bishop Hill cannot have outside elements or outside input; but Bishop Hill must be selective about what they choose. In change something old is always lost; therefore the community must see the further implication of these elements and how they will affect the continuity. One of the main elements in continuity of Bishop Hill is that people talk to each other. They communicate and have a continous dissemination of information throughout the community. These lines of communication must continue to function if Bishop Hill is to function. In the dissemination of information, people are educated on issues that affect their everyday lives. This is why the community is so well educated on the history and legislation that affects their town.

Bishop Hill at present is at a crossroads as far as its future is concerned. Decisions made at this point will set the foundation for the next ten years. Private sectors outside Bishop Hill are finding what is happening a very interesting phenomenon. Business ventures wanting to locate in Bishop Hill are in the near future for this community. Bishop Hill has taken the first step in zoning the historic district. This is a physical element of conforming building patterns. But the anthropological question is how to tie a self-interest group with a vested interest group without causing stress and strain in the community fabric. If a group invests funds in the Bishop Hill community they will expect returns on their investment

and sometimes economic decisions do not take into account the human element or the populace at large.

At present the core elements all carry out specialized functions which have very little overlap. They have input and communication between each other and no consolidation of power in any sector of this group. The core model functions on a fundamental pluralist principle that there is no single element which is sovereign. Because of the multiple center of power it tames power with the consent of all, settling conflicts peacefully. Within this core, individuals have a strong identification and affiliation with the solidarity within the groups at the core. The solidarities overlap and cut across each other in a complex way which creates multiple memberships, linking individuals on different subjects of the core elements.

There is open access to the community leadership and every individual can get a hearing. The dissatisfied individual is encouraged to translate his dissatisfaction into political demands. If he is able to find coalition with partners, they are able to form a political reform by consensus to remedy the unsatisfactory condition. There is a sufficiently large number of individuals so that no one individual can dominate. Coalitions are fluid and impermanent, being formed more or less for each issue or, at least, for each class of issue. Issues partition individuals in different ways so that many individuals who are not in a present coalition are potential coalition partners on subsequent issues. Because one coalition is set against another, power itself will be tamed and the issue will not be pushed through, but can be held up until a constituency can be mobilized on the issue and its merits. When a political system fits this pattern, it neither dominates nor is it rigid. No group will become dominant.

What I have stated above is the political system that Bishop Hill has practiced unknowingly. I am not trying to give it a name but I am trying to identify the elements and the situations in which it does and does not work. I am trying to understand the access route of political challenge and how to keep the access routes open to individuals in the community. They can never let self-interest override

the interest of the community. Bishop Hill must always be viewed as a total entity and never as sections of an entity. Continuity is what makes Bishop Hill worth preserving, and what makes Bishop Hill unique in 1976. Continuity in the Bishop Hill community is also applied in a time sense, in that nothing can happen out of sequence. Motels cannot be built indiscriminantly, houses cannot be built indiscriminantly, people cannot be moved indiscriminantly. Each element in the community must be seen in sequences, and the informal network of interaction must be taken into account whenever any change is prescribed. An example of this would be moving the baseball field out of the reach of the community where it will not best suit the needs of the community. You have to study the relationship of this activity in the time and space sequence of its use by the community.

Bishop Hill is a very small political microcosm in the Illinois prairie that does not truly exist anywhere else. It is a living viable community. Bishop Hill maintains its frontier attitudes and the cliche of "neighbor helps neighbor". In reality, neighbor does help neighbor in this community. I think that no drastic plan should be made to depart from the implicit goals of the core element of the community.

One who is trying to understand Bishop Hill social structure must first look at personalities of the center core. The main driving force behind Bishop Hill appears to be Ron Nelson, a life long resident of the community and trained preservationist. Through Mr. Nelson's efforts as a historian and the state historic regional supervisor, he has been able to obtain large funding fron the state. He has also been able to turn Bishop Hill's decline around. The town is truly grateful for his efforts, but like most trendsetters, some feel he is trying to control too much of the growth of the community and his concepts of esthetic value and accurate record of Bishop Hill are beginning to cause factions to form within the Arts & Crafts group and the business community (I will state at this point that there is no great movement to "get" Ron Nelson. What I am stating is that these views have not surfaced and may never surface. But they

are themes that are running through certain sectors of the community). Ron Nelson has the unique position of being able to control in-group fighting, therefore the Arts and Business groups have followed his lead. He was also raised in Bishop Hill, which makes him part of the cultural fabric and not an outsider. He is state-employed and does not derive income directly from Bishop Hill. He only has social life-style interest in it, which he feels has no price tag. With this position Nelson is a central key. Everyone in the core has direct input into programs affecting Bishop Hill. This is the stable influence that has kept Bishop Hill on a true course. The pluralist model must be kept intact.

Some negative points concerning Ron Nelson are that he is the center and can delegate power to others in the core. At this time, he can not be replaced by anyone who will have the same balanced effect throughout the community. If the community did not have a stable vested Interest Group at the core, the power would shift to the Self Interest Groups. They would have a unified goal-oriented group. They could put new goals into effect that would change Bishop Hill. The inner core group must be aware that a group with common interests will work on those common interests together (Arts & Crafts and Private Business Owners.) The Core group must maintain control on zoning and on private funding. State Funding Programs have controls built into them, but they too, uncontrolled, can destroy Bishop Hill by over or under funding and bureaucratic red tape. The private sector must be controlled through zoning, controlled funding, and the strings that come along with such things.

Zoning of the central area as a historic district has set another stress point among the business sector. The community is trying to understand tourism, but truly they have no idea of what can or will happen to their community. They want to control who comes and what they will do. The word "control" puts strings automatically on growth and what the business owners can do with their property.

C. INTERPRETING BISHOP HILL

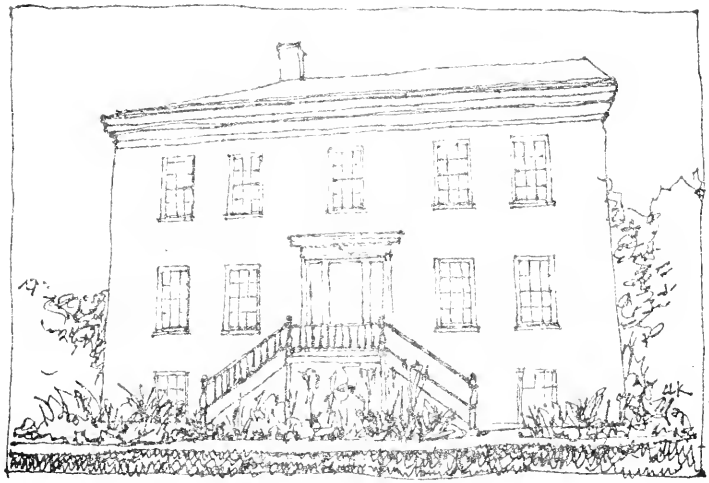
The word "interpretation" in the context of a discussion of historic sites may bring to mind a guide in historic costume, an illustrated booklet, or one of those semi-dependable electronic earphone systems. But interpretation means much more; as Alderson and Low explain in their fine new book Interpretation of Historic Sites, interpretation

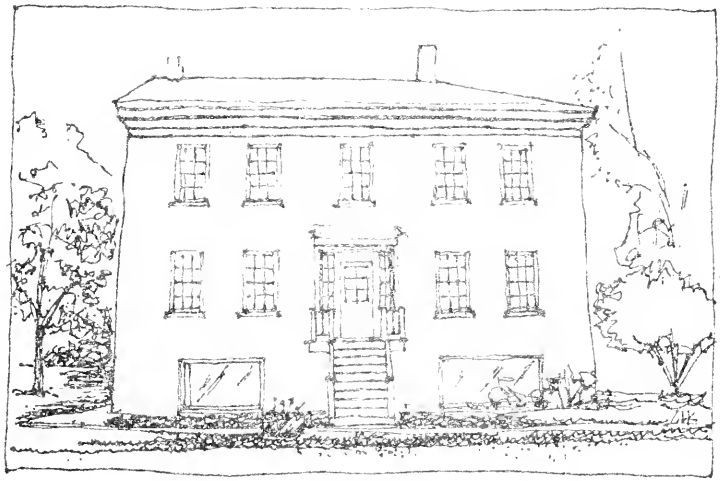
> is an attempt to create understanding . . . . It includes not only the spoken, written, and audiovisual communication he the visitor receives from the interpretation staff, but also a variety of sensory and intellectual perceptions he gets because of the quality of the restoration, the authenticity of its furnishings, and the effectiveness of its exhibits. (Alderson and Low, p. 3)

This definition serves nicely as a basis for an examination of the efforts at interpretation now being made at Bishop Hill.

1. Visual Aspects of Interpretation

Collectively, the exteriors of the twelve original colony buildings still standing at Bishop Hill provide one of the most important means of understanding the setting in which the Jansonists lived their lives. They are visible evidence of the size, scale, design and atmosphere of the colony, and reminders of the colonists' orderliness, simplicity, and sensitivity. The exteriors of the Colony Church, owned by the State of Illinois, and the Steeple Building and Colony Store, owned by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, have been carefully restored (although the original roof of the Steeple Building was flat, not a hip roof as it is now). The Bjorklund Hotel is being restored by the state. The Blacksmith Shop, owned by the B.H.H.A., and the Colony Hospital, recently purchased by the same organization, have yet to be restored, but these buildings seem to have retained a great deal of their original appearance. Other colony buildings are in private hands and some have been treated more kindly than others. The Colony Apartment House, for example, now owned by Edla Warner, has, with the exception of its shutters, been





carefully returned to its original appearance. The Administration Building next door, on the other hand, has been brutalized by the introduction of picture windows on the ground level of the building, windows that are not compatible with the house or with surrounding structures; they are a jarring exception to the overall high level of exterior restoration.

The State of Illinois has also attempted to restore the central park to its original appearance. A new picket fence and the reconstruction of the bandshell are helpful in imagining the park as it once was used, but the park lacks the enclosed quality that it must have had in colony days; there are several original buildings on the east and south sides, but there are no colony buildings on the north or west.

Several interiors and exhibits are also helpful in interpretation. The most impressive of these is the sanctuary of the Colony Church, which has been completed except for the pews in the balcony. The visitor can see the church as it actually appeared in 1848. The ten rooms on the first story of the church have also been restored, and two of these have been furnished, one as an 1850 interior and the other as an 1860 interior. All of the items in these rooms were made in Bishop Hill or were brought there by the colonists. Both rooms help the viewer to understand how a family might successfully live in a single room for several years, and the contrast between them shows the economic improvement which took place in those ten years. Both rooms need the addition of small personal items.

Two other kinds of exhibits are to be found in the Colony Church. One consists of the Olof Krans paintings owned by the State of Illinois. The important canvasses which depict the daily life on Bishop Hill are, without reason, hung in the central hallway; they are improperly lighted and difficult to see. Nothing has been done to protect the paintings, now worth close to $1,000,000, from extremes of temperature and moisture, and some works are clearly beginning to deteriorate. Other rooms on the main floor of the church contain a variety of exhibits more or less arranged by theme; for example, one room contains

the tools used in colony crafts while another explains the emigration from Sweden to America. Not enough written or oral interpretation is provided to allow the visitor to understand everything he sees.

The Steeple Building contains the exhibits of the Henry County Historical Society. These appear to be little more than a collection of old things, and even those that are effectively organized are confusing because it is generally impossible to tell which items are from Bishop Hill and which are from some location in Henry County. In many cases the dating of items in a single exhibit is inconsistent.

Eventually the state will restore the interior of the Bjorklund Hotel to its 1861 appearance. A highly accurate restoration should be possible, because the 1875 record of the executor's sale of the hotel, other records, and at least a dozen pieces of original hotel furniture are available. The Bjorklund Hotel should provide the visitor with a clear indication of the manner in which colony visitors were entertained.

Some interior restoration has been done to both the Blacksmith Shop and the Colony Store. Both of these buildings have been put to adaptive use, however, and the visitor is somewhat distracted from an examination of their interiors. Eventually the B.H.H.A. would like to do more restoration of the Blacksmith Shop.

2. Written Aspects of Interpretation

Only one brief brochure concerning the colony is provided free of charge to all visitors to Bishop Hill -- the 1976 edition of a pamphlet entitled Bishop Hill Historic Site, prepared by the Department of Conservation. It contains a short resume of the history of the colony, brief descriptions and explanations of the Colony Church, the Krans collection, the Bjorklund Hotel, the Village Square, and a note about the restorations. It also contains a small highway map locating Bishop Hill geographically in relation to nearby communities, and a large map which shows the sites of the original colony structures. The brochure leaves many questions unanswered because of its brevity and because it mentions only those properties owned by the state, and the brochure's purpose is not entirely clear. Is it intended primarily

to attract visitors to the site or to interpret it for them after they have arrived?

A number of more detailed brochures can be purchased at the Colony Store. A Guidebook to Bishop Hill Colony Buildings, by Betty Guyer, provides a minimum of information about all existing colony buildings; Bishop Hill: Showcase of Swedish History, by George Swank, has a variety of information but it is poorly organized; an issue of Historic Preservation includes two brief but interesting articles on Bishop Hill. Two fairly expensive books are also available: Olov Isaksson's Bishop Hill, Ill.: A Utopia on the Prairie and George Swank's recent study of Olof Krans and his works.

Other interpretive pamphlets have been provided to tourists in the past, and copies are now in the archives; at least one, a one-page description of a walking tour of Bishop Hill intended for visitors to the annual Jordbrukdagarna, would be helpful to all who come to see the colony.

The archives are located in the Steeple Building; they include many useful books, pamphlets, colony records, and photographs. The supervisor, Miss Edla Warner, is most helpful, and during the past year Carolyn and Hiram Wilson have organized the material so that any item may be found with relative ease. A professional archivist is needed, however, and the collection is being damaged because it is housed in a structure without temperature or humidity controls.

3. Oral Aspects of Interpretation

At present only a minimum effort is made to provide oral interpretation of Bishop Hill. A guide is provided for groups of tourists who call or write ahead, but the individual visitor is fortunate if he finds someone on hand at any building other than the Colony Church; nothing is done to orient him to the village, and he usually does not have enough information to ask intelligent questions. The four or five people who presently serve as guides also have other duties to perform, and there has been no attempt to organize a guide program or to offer extensive training to the guides. Donald Nelson admits

that at present his staff is "failing badly" to interpret even the Colony Church to the casual visitor.

4. Other Interpretative Activities

Two other interpretative activities should be mentioned briefly. A fairly extensive demonstration of colony crafts occurs on Sunday afternoons from the last week in May until the first week in October. Pottery-making, silversmithing, spinning and weaving of flax and wool, quilting, broom making, blacksmithing, candlemaking, and chair caning are included. Some craftsmen explain their arts well, but others merely demonstrate. Although all crafts represented were practiced in the colony, some craftsmen produce modern items -- particularly jewelry and pottery -- to increase sales. This com-- promise is probably necessary, but it may be confusing to the visitor.

During the first weekend in October the Illinois Department of Conservation sponsors a fall festival known as Jordbrukdagarna. This festival, which attracts thousands of tourists, includes the demonstration of nearly all colony crafts, a number of agrarian activities carried on as they were in colony days, and period games and contests. Since I have never attended a Jordbrukdagarna, it is difficult to evaluate its effectiveness, but such an activity certainly could be a significant interpretive activity.

D. DEVELOPING BISHOP HILL

1. The Economy

Bishop Hill today is a warm friendly village of less than 200 people tucked between the corn and soybeans in Henry County, Illinois. The village is at the beginning of another change. Tourists come to Bishop Hill, increasing from 19,000 visitors in 1970 to 48,000 in 1975 as shown on the register in the Colony Church.

The village government presently receives its largest income from sales tax which comes from the twelve or so businesses that operate in Bishop Hill. There are two restaurants, one pottery shop, one blacksmith shop, two gift shops, two antique stores, a hardware store, a bar, a gas station, and a post office, plus the crafts demonstration program and the crafts people affiliated with it.

It is a small, intimate community, whose people are extraordinarily well informed about the Bishop Hill Colony history. The past and the present are linked, in that 40 to 60 per cent of the residents have ancestors among the original colony settlers. There are many with long memories and involvements in Bishop Hill, and there are a few newcomers who have just begun their lives in Bishop Hill. The present economic life is small; the residents must travel to Galva or Kewanee for nearly all goods and services. The business of Bishop Hill is primarily tourist oriented, and the people believe tourist trade to be their future. (This opinion comes from a verbal poll of the merchants within Bishop Hill.)

2. Tourism

Tourists arrive at Bishop Hill in their private cars or by bus. Yet, their cars and busses remain on the road and mar the purpose of their coming. The parking strip along the main street is not sufficient and makes an ugly division between the colony buildings on the east and the public square on the west.

Once arriving at Bishop Hill, tourists are greeted in relative confusion about what they should do. The present layout does not indicate a "place to start". If the tourists could park their cars,

walk to a first "main attraction". receive the necessary information on the history and what remains and then start off on their own, they would get the educational value that they expected to find.

An important consideration in discussing tourism in Bishop Hill is the optimum and maximum level of tourists per year. If an excess of 100,000 visitors arrived in one year, individual attention could not occur and overcrowding would result. (Hobbs, p. 21) Control of a maximum level is difficult to obtain, yet too much success would be a disadvantage to the Bishop Hill community.

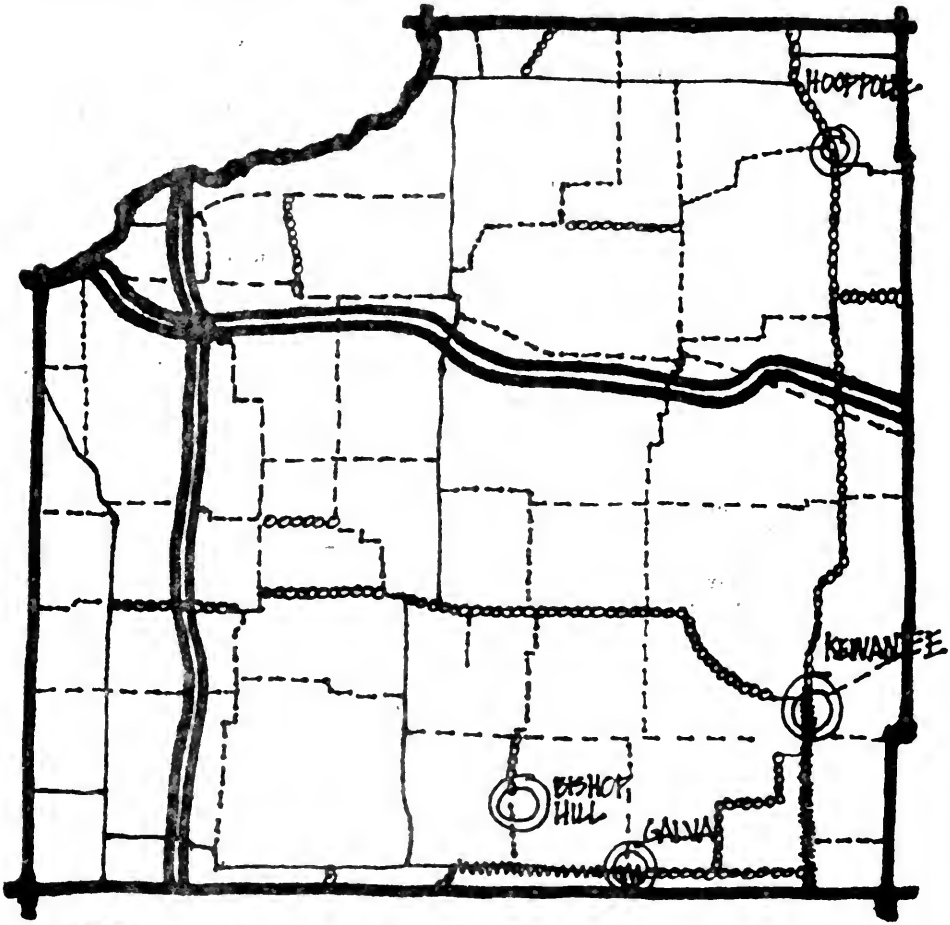
Throughout the year, a steady peak occurs during the summer months due to the increase in activities and festivities. Visitors do come in the winter, and an effort to increase tourism during the slower periods may not be necessary to keep the economy stable. Yet, an increase would occur if future plans include overnight accommodations.

The following count of tourists per month comes from the 1975 guest register of the Colony Church, and shows only those who signed the register:

	Total per month	Total for the year
January	377	
February	318	695
March	711	1,406
April	1,475	2,881
May	4,138	7,019
June	5,046	12,065
July	6,677	18,742
August	4,860	23,602
September	3,635	27,237
October	17,572	44,809
November	2,268	47,077
December	843	47,920

Bishop Hill is gaining in tourism with each year, a natural and advantageous occurrence. A jump in the 1970's occurred with an increase in publicity (from newspaper articles and other media) as well as a general shift in society's interest.

HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS / MAJOR HIGHWAYS



INTERSTATE

STATE (MAJOR HYWY.)(100'-120')

COUNTY (COLLECTOR ROAD) (66')

STATE (AREA SERVICE HYWY) (80')

DEFICIENT RIGHT OF WAY (-60')

north

The following shows the growth in tourism over a thirteen year period (measured in December of each year).

	Total for year
1963	5,484
1964	6,982
1965	8,369
1966	11,063
1967	8,215
1968	16,159
1969	19,289
1970	19,019
1971	31,460
1972	34,595
1973	38,102
1974	40,441
1975	47,920

The source of tourists is mainly within Illinois. A wider range would occur if future highway construction placed Bishop Hill on route to other areas. The following chart is from James Michael Hobbs' 1972 report, giving the percentages of the residences of tourists.

Location		Percentage
From Illinois		80
More than 35 miles	64	
Less than 35 miles	36	
States other than Illinois		16
Midwestern states	53	
Foreign countries		4

E. GOVERNING BISHOP HILL

1. Political Structure

The rather simple structure of Bishop Hill becomes more complex when examining the various governmental units which influence it. Each level of government provides, or is delegated to provide, certain services for the town. Each level in some way regulates the activities which can be carried out in and around Bishop HIll, and each level of government is uniquely responsive to the wishes and control of the people of Bishop Hill. In this section, the form and type of service each governmental level provides will be discussed briefly.

a. State of Illinois

The state is the source of all powers possessed by local, township, and county governments in Illinois. It performs certain functions such as the construction of roads, the setting aside of park lands, regulation through a legal system, or delegates such functions to county and township levels of government.

b. Henry County

The county operates in two ways. First, it is an agent of the state government; it could be thought of as an extension of the state beyond the capitol. Second, it is autonomous in its own right; it provides certain services for citizens of the county without state supervision or intervention.

Considered as an agent of the state, the following county officials are needed:

ELECTED	APPOINTED
1. Associate Circuit Judge	1. Superintendent of Highways
2. State's Attorney	2. Superintendent of Public Aid
3. Superintendent of Schools	3. Superintendent of County Home
4. Clerk of the Circuit Court	4. County Mine Inspector
5. Treasurer	5. Assistant State's Attorney
6. Coroner	6. Supervisor of Assessment
7. Sheriff	7. Magistrates
8. Clerk	
9. Auditor	
10. Recorder of Deeds	

The following are primarily county functions of the state:

- Review of assessments and collection of taxes.
- Conduct of elections.
- Recording of legal documents.
- Law enforcement and administration of justice.
- Construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges.
- Welfare activities.
- Supervision of the educational system
- Recording and furnishing copies of vital statistics.
- Zoning and liquor control.

Considered as an autonomous governing body, the county consists of a board of supervisors. In Henry County, the Board of Supervisors is made up of 31 people from the 24 townships in the county. Bishop Hill has one person on the board. The county board of supervisors manages the county's funds and conducts county business. It has the power to levy and collect taxes for county purposes. Among the many powers of the county, some of the following might have an influence on preservation efforts at Bishop Hill. The county can authorize the improvement of any county road or state road within the county. The county board can operate a sanitary land fill, or can contract with municipal corporations for garbage disposal. The county board can control building construction except for farm lands and land within village limits. The county can buy land, arrange for its improvement for industrial use, and donate it to the Illinois Industrial Development Authority. The board may form an office of coordinator of Federal and State aid for assistance in developing local programs. The main source of revenue for the county is real and personal property tax. In Henry County, farm lands accounted for over half of real property taxes in 1975, while town lots accounted for about one-third and personal property about one-sixth the total property tax.

c. Weller Township

The township is basically a further administrative subdivision of the state and county levels, and works along with them in performing services at a local level. The township has corporate power to acquire real and personal property, make contracts, and raise funds by tax levy. Township duties include: welfare assistance, building and

maintaining rural roads, assessment of property, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases. The supervisor of Weller Township serves on the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

d. Village of Bishop Hill

The village has the same corporate powers as the township; however, its power only extends to the corporate limits of the village. The village is responsible for all public services within the corporate limits, including maintenance of sidewalks, provision for water, sewers, garbage disposal, zoning ordinances, and any other service which the members of the village deem important.

e. Special Districts

In addition to state, county, township, and village units of government Bishop Hill is part of other units organized for special purposes. It is part of the Bishop Hill Fire Protection District. Weller Township is in School District 224, which is included within Junior College District 503.

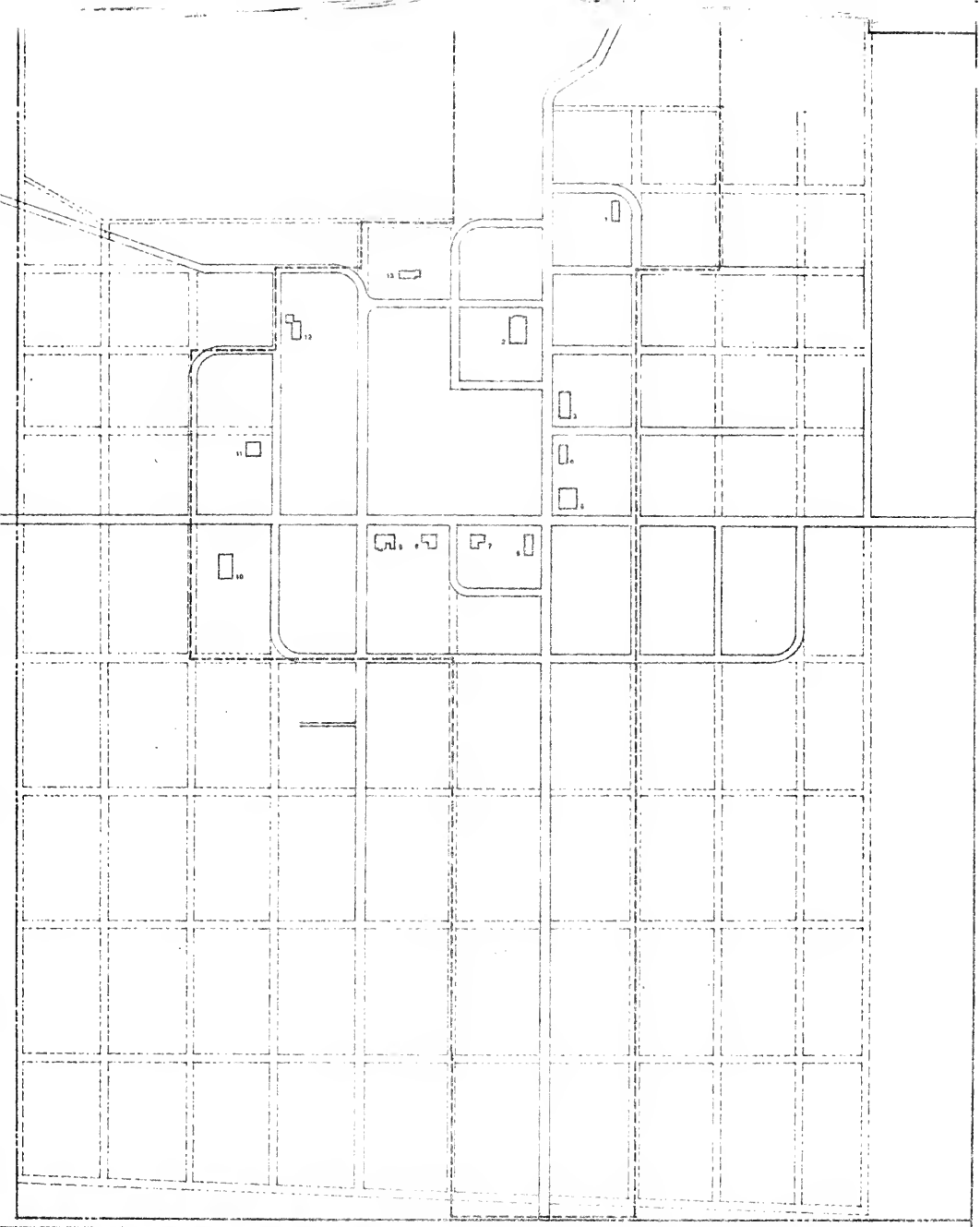
f. Congressional Districts

Bishop Hill is also in state and federal representational districts. It is in state House of Representatives District 39, and State Senatorial District 36. Bishop Hill is included in the 19th district of Illinois for the U.S. House of Representatives.

2. Zoning and Control

Of special significance to planning for historic preservation is the subject for governmental regulation through zoning. The basic objective of a zoning ordinance is to prevent conflict between varying uses and methods of use of neighboring properties.

The zoning ordinance for the Village of Bishop Hill is a document conceived by individuals whose apparent understanding of the need for ongoing regulation of growth and development of the historic district has produced a thorough law. By the same token, a recurring theme of maintained vigilance that is woven throughout the ordinance offers reassurance that the integrity of the district will be secure in the future. Indeed, assuming enforcement of the ordinance will remain as



BISHOP HILL

HISTORIC DISTRICT

N

0 100' 200' 400' 800'

Historic District Boundary

July 1976 gto

enough as it has been, the district will be enhanced.

The mere presence of law in a society does not insure lawful compliance by individuals or groups within that society. Law is effective only when it is enforced. In the case of Bishop Hill, reasonable means of enforcement of the ordinance is vested in the zoning enforcing officer (whose duties are defined in article X section 101 of the zoning ordinance). No present threat of capricious or negligent enforcement of zoning provisions exists. This is due to both the small size of the village, and the high regard for preservation exhibited by village officials. However, if growth and development are to occur, enforcement of the zoning restrictions will become increasingly more important.

The ordinance is adequate in its present form. It does not appear to have any weak links. However, the zoning ordinance, unlike other laws, requires constant attention. The key to future expansion of the historic district, as well as adjacent residential and commercial districts ought to be a one-by-one, case-by-case review of each applicant seeking an amendment to the ordinance. The Zoning Review Board and the Zoning Enforcing Officer have a unique opportunity, due to the relatively small size of the village, to control development in a case-by-case manner.

As plans for the development of the historic district in particular, and the area in general proceed, it is gratifying to see the manner in which the issue of non-conforming uses and structures is being dealt with. It is unreasonable to uproot business people and residents in the name of preservation. Those who have earned their livings and/or made their homes within the district should not be caused to relocate. The zoning ordinance treats this issue with the same sensitivity and respect that greets each visitor who comes to Bishop Hsll.

F. A BALANCE SHEET

If one stays in Bishop Hill longer than the typical tourist's brief visit, one obtains an appreciation that the sense of continuity that is present in the village in terms of buildings is also there in terms of residents' feelings towards Bishop Hill. Because there is that attitude present among the residents of Bishop Hill, there is a high level of concern about the future of the community. Bishop Hill is at a turning point in its present stage of existence: the delicate balance between tourism as a community asset and tourism as a community liability is undergoing change in this living, historic village. However, before it is possible to determine if such change will have positive and/or negative consequences, it is necessary to examine the existing situations of Bishop Hill in regard to community assets and to community liabilities. Every community needs to have a balance sheet of strengths and weaknesses when planning for the future, but Bishop Hill particularly needs to assess its current situation as it is a fragile, historic district ecosystem.

Bishop Hill's assets can be classified into three categories: people, buildings, and location. Bishop Hill is particularly strong in regard to people attributes. Family organizations are close-knit and cooperative. There is a better than average pool of craftspeople skilled in the old traditions of the community. Voluntary organizations are staffed by hard-working members. The physical fabric of Bishop Hill is a more obvious asset for the community, and in this category the surviving structures of the Bishop Hill Colony must be considered in terms of restoration activities by the owners. The State of Illinois Department of Conservation has restored the Old Colony Church, and it is restoring the Bjorklund Hotel. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association has already renovated the Steeple Building, the Blacksmith Shop, and the Old Colony Store, and it has recently purchased the Colony Hospital for restoration work. The Old Settlers' Association maintains the Colony School structure. Individual citizens have kept the following surviving Bishop Hill Colony buildings

on the landscape through adaptive use:

Dairy Building (residence)
Carriage and Wagon Shop (re idence, antique shop, and post office)
Meat Storage Building (residence)
Second Dormitory (residence)
Administration Building (residence)
Eric Janson House (residence)

Bishop Hill's final assets can be grouped under the heading of location. The community is in a predominantly rural setting which contributes to the locally satisfying small town feeling. Yet, the community is not isolated in its setting. Bishop Hill has relatively easy access to and from the major interstate highways of northwestern Illinois. It is within short driving range of population concentrations in the Upper Middle West; tourists are attracted to visit Bishop Hill in part because of its close proximity.

Bishop Hill's liabilities can be categorized into the same three-part classification of people, buildings, and location. In terms of liabilities when it comes to people features of Bishop Hill there are two issues to consider. First, there are differing perceptions of community goals. Second, the division of organizational responsibilities in the community is haphazardly made. It should be noted that Bishop Hill is not unique in terms of the above liabilities, and such a situation, especially differences of opinions on community goals, can not be avoided at any scale of community size. In terms of buildings Bishop Hill has thirteen out of nineteen of the original colony structures surviving there, but the historic fabric is missing six buildings, one of which is the once prominent "Big Brick". In addition to having nearly thirty per cent of the Bishop Hill Colony structures removed, there are intrusions in the historic district by incompatible buildings. An increasingly important building liability is the absence of restored and/or new buildings in which more complete service facilities could be provided for residents and for tourists. Location liabilities of Bishop Hill reflect the negative side of the location assets of the community. Because Bishop HIll is so close to major urban centers, it has lost many commercial functions and has

been unable to develop some municipal services. Even though interstate highway interchanges are reasonably close, state and county roads do not provide direct connections to those access points.

From the above discussion it becomes apparent that a small community such as Bishop Hill is as complex as a large one but at a lesser scale. Bishop Hill is a living, historic place, so it presents more than the usual challenges to community policy makers as the complexity of the community is compounded by having fragile, historic resources. Obviously, continuity is important to the people of Bishop Hill, but the means to obtain continuity has not been clearly chosen by the community. It would seem that the key to continuity in Bishop HIll centers on strengthening the economic base, but there are advantages and disadvantages to any form of economic activity that would be introduced into the community. It becomes essential that goals be determined and chosen by the citizens of Bishop HIll if the community is to remain a living, historic place.

III.

Bishop Hill in the Future

III. BISHOP HILL IN THE FUTURE

A. GOALS FOR BISHOP HILL

Having examined the total resource base of the Bishop Hill of the present, it is possible to begin to consider how those features should be developed for the Bishop Hill of the future. However, it is inappropriate to attempt to put together a plan of action without knowing the goals of the community, its people, and its organized groups. By assessing goals, it will be possible to formulate more successful alternatives when charting the direction of the future of Bishop Hill.

1. What Does the Community Want?

The community goals of Bishop Hill which have been expressed during the course of research for this study center around continuity of the existing social structure and around increased economic viability. However, such goals have never been specifically stated in community policy making. The closest statement of these goals has been made by a semi-public group, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association: in essence restoration and reconstruction, education, and commercial vitality are its existing goals. Although such generalizations are a good base from which to work, it is critical that goals be more sharply defined so that the planning process can be more specifically tailored to the making of the community of Bishop Hill's hopes into reality.

One approach to the formulation of community goals for Bishop Hill might be to look at the hopes of the community in terms of the development of its physical, social, and economic components. Every community needs to examine goals under each of these components if there is a desire for "community maintenance", the effort for satisfactory environments in which to live. A sample of possible specific goals under each of those categories of community maintenance is given below:

a. The Physical Component of Community Maintenance

1. A high standard of building upkeep should be applied to all structures in Bishop Hill whether considered "historic" buildings or "not historic" buildings.

2. Original Bishop Hill Colony buildings which have been destroyed should be rebuilt.

3. Structures which are incompatible with the historic character of the historic district should be removed.

b. The Social Component of Community Maintenance

1. Increased participation by all citizens in all community organizations should be encouraged.

2. Local studies in history and in crafts should be encouraged in the public schools through children's classroom activities and through adult classes.

3. Increased participation by all citizens in community festivals should be encouraged.

c. The Economic Component of Community Maintenance

1. There should be a recognition that the historic place ecosystem of Bishop Hill consists of purist interpretation, adaptive use, and general tourism, and that these elements must be balanced appropriately.

2. The living, historic village of Bishop Hill should be strengthened by adaptive uses which promote residential structures and community use.

3. Tourism in Bishop Hill should promote the overall sense of historic place of the community by having facilities which are in compatible locations in compatible structures and which are providing compatible functions.

It should be stressed that the specific goals listed above are only samples and cover a limited spectrum of possible goals within the categories of physical, social, and economic components of community maintenance when using the concept of community maintenance as a general framework for goals formulation.

Whenever any goals are formulated for a community, it is essential that there is a high level of consensus. Everyone in Bishop Hill should have input to the overall community goals. In that way a more accurate assessment of the hopes of the total community can be made, and this increases the possibilities of being able to generate satisfactory alternatives that would attempt to reach those goals. It may be desirable and/or necessary for a community attitude survey to be constructed, given, and analyzed in order to discover what are the specific community goals of Bishop Hill. In order to get a better grasp on the suspected nature of existing community goals in Bishop Hill and on possible specific community goals for the village in the future, it is necessary to discuss goals of individuals and goals of organizations in terms of current and future goals: it is the objective of the next two parts of this report to examine these aspects of goals formulation in Bishop Hill.

2. What Do the People Want?

Bishop Hill residents are bound by a common heritage, but no linkage exists when they are asked to consider the future. Ideas and goals are diverse, although a standard response is given when the question "How do you envision Bishop Hill in ten years?" is posed. Most individuals imagine (and fear) a tourist mecca. One woman said, "People shouldn't come here and have to listen to a merry-go-round."

The people of Bishop HIll remain interested, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, in realizing the goals adopted by the Heritage Association in 1970. The organization's stated purpose is to:

a. Retain Bishop Hill as a living community. . .
b. Encourage all efforts to restore and maintain historic properties and cultural heritage.

c. Develop and maintain a research library of material related to the area and make this available for study.
d. Maintain and encourage an active interchange of ideas with organizations of common interests and goals.

Each of ten residents interviewed in our three-day study also supported a fifth goal, recently "de-emphasized" by the Heritage Association.

e. Develop within our young people a sense of pride in their community for its past, present, and future.

Preservation may well be the essence of Bishop Hill's survival. Nine out of ten individuals asked felt that the town is dependent upon historical ties for its future existence. This poses a less than ideal situation: "Many small towns lack trained community service personnel, planning and administrative coordination, lucrative economic bases and access to capital, consumer marketing systems, local organizations to influence decsion-making and adequate public facilities, housing, health care and schools" (Galbreath, p. 19). Some of these problems need to be reckoned with in Bishop Hill.

The town needs to set limits in regard to future commercialization, tourism, and preservation. Two residents mentioned their dissatisfaction with the location of the restroom facilities and the reconstruction of the gazebo. In the case of the latter, accuracy took precedence over practicality; the bandstand is too small for most modern uses. Some compromise seems desirable.

Bishop Hill is lacking certain conveniences, such as a grocery store, laundromat, and bank. The economic feasibility of opening these businesses needs to be explored, and the question of location must be resolved as well. In addition, residents would like to see another restaurant opened which serves food in smorgasbord style. Yet according to one native, the influx of businesses will ultimately "depend on how desperate they (the townspeople) are for money."

The need for additional revenue cannot be denied. Last year Bishop Hill did not have enough money to fix its roads. Wider range publicity and the development of camping facilities are both means of increasing tourist dollars, but can the unique communal spirit and serenity of Bishop Hill survive such a money-making scheme? Before establishing priorities, this must be answered.

3. What Do the Organizations Want?

After looking closely at the separate roles of Bishop Hill organizations, it is not surprising that they function well and that the dynamics of the total community run smooth. This is due in part to the concern and overlapping membership of citizens who can conscientiously monitor the efforts of one or more groups and still keep in touch with the community at large. The small scale of Bishop Hill provides an atmosphere of harmony. Also, the people have become most appreciative of their heritage and the inherent advantages of a Bishop Hill to remain as it is - a stable, living community.

It can also be pointed out that only four groups actually control historic sites at the present time. The State Department of Conservation, the Heritage Association, and the Old Settlers account for all but three significant sites; these three are privately owned and taken care of. It becomes obvious that only the Heritage Association functions with power at the local level. The interests of the state cannot override the community interest, thus the Heritage Association is left with only the Village Board of Trustees as a potential foe. The present situation regarding the Heritage Association and trustees would indicate total sympathy between the two groups. The past actions of the Heritage Association toward preservation and its adopted goals run parallel to and complement the Village Board in light of its recently adopted zoning ordinances. One can only say "good luck" to their future happiness.

The basis for informal government at Bishop Hill is purely one of physical size and nearly compatible interests. The only fear is that informality could be lost if the future expansion of Bishop Hill, as a significant historic place, is not planned. While looking forward to expansion in the areas of visitor awareness, an economic base for preservation, and greater regional involvement, the Heritage Association and the Village Board should also look for a means toward efficient organization of their respective roles.

This may begin with the board adopting a set of goals compatible with but not overlapping the goals of the Heritage Association. It must be remembered that one is a private organization, the other is governmental, their roles and goals should reflect reality.

As for the secondary and tertiary groups on the scene at Bishop Hill, their roles can only improve. But the future roles will continue to be supportive only. There is not room, financial capacity, enough sites nor any need for another Heritage Association at Bishop Hill. So don't expect one. The efforts of the supportive groups should be to enhance and handle the programs sponsored by the larger groups. Vasa and the Volunteer Firemen, like the Old Settlers, do a good job because they are community members, not because they are organization members.

Care should be taken not to forget any of the supportive organizations, but their specific goals (e.g., the Vasa archives) should not be incorporated into the goals of the community aiming toward preservation. When Vasa grows it will enhance the Bishop Hill image with attractive educational possibilities. Its growth should be encouraged by Bishop Hill also as a means for attaining greater national prominence.

In general, the status quo of the Bishop Hill organizations should be maintained as well as their interfacing roles with state programs and federal funding. It has been proven that Bishop Hill works when a community effort is made and this should not change,

B. THE FORM OF THE FUTURE

1. The Visual Environment

Because of the rare collection of buildings in Bishop Hill, certain guidelines should be set up to insure that the visual character will change for the better.

The best use for a building is one that is needed, not created. The original colony buildings should be put to an adaptive use. When a building can be used effectively is when its owners or users get the most joy out of it.

The square and neighboring areas should be returned in appearance as they were during the peak of the colony's prosperity. This includes reconstruction of things torn down. During the colony days they did not have the same conveniences we find neceasary today. Measures should be taken to have these blend into the streetscape. Any modern equipment can be blended by covering, burying, relocating or redesigning. Also, innovations should be restricted unless they, too, blend with the environment.

Traffic and parking cars have also affected the visibility of historic buildings and moreover have brought discomfort among tourists taking pictures and walking. The traffic is too fast passing through town and is dangerous for the children and the aged. It would improve the setting if cars would be parked at another location and the traffic eliminated from the Bishop Hill Historic District by the construction of a bypass.

It is evident that some buildings within the historic district should be removed because they take away historic importance and reduce the validity of the setting. These are only those buildings built long after the colony period such as the tavern which should be placed outside the historic district.

2. Landscape Restoration

The landscape is an aspect of preservation often overlooked. A spokesman for the National Park Service recently observed that "the value of gardens and other landscape features has not been adequately recognized nor protection provided commensurate with that given to other forms of the cultural heritage." Consideration of the way a people build on the land, the way they tend it, the location of structures, their gardens or lack thereof, offers evidence about their attitudes, values and their relation to nature. Are there strong efforts to assert mastery over nature by imposing a rigid order on it or do they live in flow with it? Similar kinds of questions can be put to the development of Bishop Hill. The decision to fill in the ravine, the orchard-like planting of the park, the sparseness of the landscaping about the dwellings in contrast to the careful cultivation and the scale of the communal fields, all provide insight into facets of the colonists' relationship to the land. Even more significant was the immediate erection of a sod wall fence to enclose their society, rather common among Utopian communities but also reminiscent of the treatment of medieval European cities. Like most immigrants they must have brought with them, or had sent over seeds and cuttings of cherished and familiar plants of home. What did they borrow from nearby communities and from the Shakers beyond fruit growing? Did they, like some Utopian communities, feel that flowers were frivolous and not to be bothered with? It has been difficult in our short study to locate information on these activities; to find out something about vegetable and flower gardens, herms for food and for medicinal purposes. The Book for Bishop Hill Orchard which listed trees planted and possibly their location, needs to be consulted. Then there must be diaries, letters or early newspaper accounts to refer to. There are technical resources such as infrared photography, archeological digs, pollen analysis, root molds that can help locate and identify plant materials.

Restoration of the landscape immediately presents problems of what time to restore to, the availability of older species of plant

materials, and how to handle the original plant materials that survive but are no longer at the scale of the time that is selected for restoration of buildings. Landscape is a temporal link between past and present demonstrating both continuity and change. The view of the park is now quite different from that of 1861 when the trees were less than 20 years old. Does one want to defy time for educational purposes (which has certain consequences for existing plant materials) or does one accept the continuity these plants bring and use them to reflect the changing tastes and use of the landscape? What is needed is a commitment to landscape restoration. In the interim one should resist hurried restoration until money and scholarship is available to do an accurate restoration with the same care that is given to the Colony structures.

3. Townscape Character

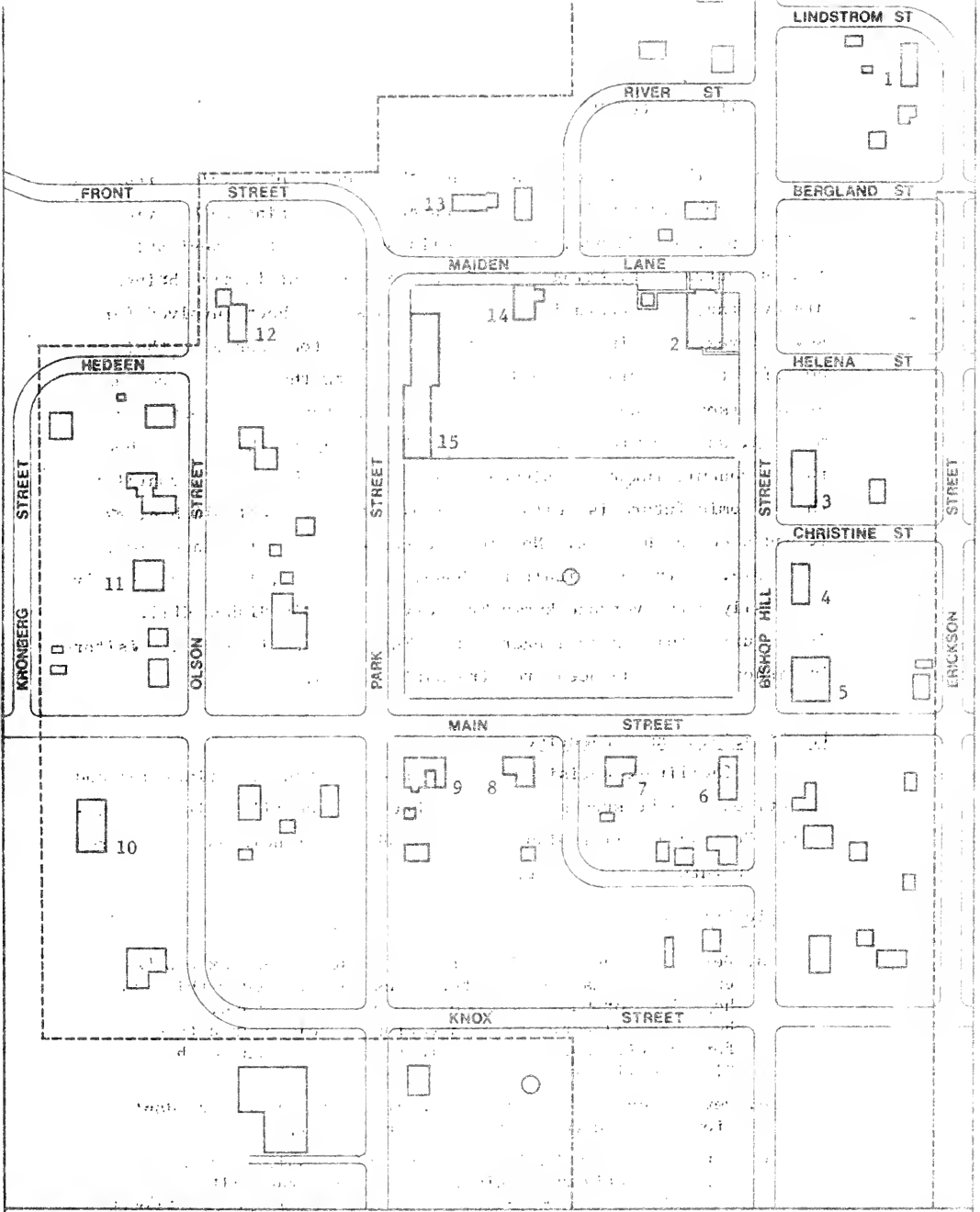
Coincident with the landscape must come a consideration of subsidiary features of the townscape that are necessary to handle the tourists and yet which must be handled in such a manner to complement and enhance the historic area rather than detract from it. Earlier, comments were made about the need for a focal point to the town, for the removal or refurbishing of existing structures. For instance, as ownership changes or businesses retire, inappropriate buildings and uses can be relocated or removed. Assuming that at some time the gasoline station and fire house will be moved, the area north and east of the Colony Church will become vacant. If left in its original state it can be left to go through natural succession, or kept roughly mowed to maintain a grassy sweep down to the stream, thus presenting a dramatic entry into the town from the north.

Attention needs to be given to street furniture: the benches, outbuildings, lighting, water fountains, the utilities and support systems that help make the town attractive and enable tourism to continue. Decisions on what to provide, where to locate it, its design, the quality of decorative landscaping, etc. are problems that require coordination by some organization or association in

Bishop Hill in order to avoid duplication of efforts, to save money and more importantly maintain a visual unity lacking now. It is vital to look at the square as a whole, to look hard at the ramifications of each alternative both to the townspeople and to the tourists. It will be necessary to involve the community, to encourage interchange of design ideas, maintain open communication. Encourage volunteer assistance; many of the pieces of street furniture - lamp posts, benches -- could be manufactured in the community. Several recommendations on landscape restoration and design ideas for the Bishop Hill townscape are offered in another section.

Bishop Hill now enjoys a delicate balance of livability and tourism. Its special sense of community, repose, tranquility are fragile qualities when confronting increased tourism. Kevin Lynch, an architect and planner, capsulized the problem facing Bishop Hill:

> In now concentrating our historical anxieties on a few sacred places, where new construction is taboo, we encounter multiple dilemmas: everyday activities progressively decamp, leaving behind a graveyard of artifacts; tourist volume swells, making it impossible to maintain the site "the way it was"; what is saved is so self-contained in time as to be only peculiar or quaint. A sense of the stream of time is more valuable and more poignant and engaging than a formal knowledge of remote periods. New things must be created, and others are allowed to be forgotten. (Lynch, 1972, p. 237)



BISHOP HILL FUTURE

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C. THE FUTURE ECONOMY

With the growth of tourism and the process of physical restoration of the colony well underway, change is beginning to be evident in Bishop Hill. Change, from a declining village to a desirable tourist attraction, brings with it advantages, but it also brings disadvantages and confusion. The residents have been involved for several years now in the restoration of their town based on their own efforts and pride in their community. Now the site, which has great personal meaning to those involved, is taking on another meaning, an economic one; people are beginning to think more about their economic future in Bishop Hill. And herein lies the conflict. The economic future is neither so predictable nor controllable, as it had been in the past. Nor are the consequences of change always desirable. With an agricultural base, in the past, life moved slowly and easily with everyone known by everyone else in Bishop Hill. With tourism this is no longer true. There are residents and visitors in Bishop Hill whose needs require satisfaction.

1. Principles and Objectives

To facilitate decision-making a list of economic principles and objectives will be suggested. Some will be in conflict with one another. From such a list Bishop Hill can choose principles and priorities for future development.

Economic Principles

a. Before the new benefits from increased sales tax can be enjoyed new usable structures must be created within Bishop Hill for businesses to locate in and expand. A rebuilding and continued renovation of colony structures for adaptive use is the basic foundation upon which Bishop Hill's future lies.

b. Development should take place slowly to allow for adaptation and adjustment of present residents.

c. With only a few businesses performing basic goods-and-services activity within the community, the addition of other forms of commerce than tourism should be considered.

This would keep Bishop Hill in the realm of a "living community", rather than a "museum community".

Economic Objectives

a. Individual

*To gain additional funds and resource people for the continuation of the restoration activity.

b. Resident

*To maintain the freedom and safety of children's movements from home, to shops and to the park.

*To restore buildings that are deteriorating, thus elimination unsightliness.

c. Merchant

*To make a comfortable living from tourism.

*To have few businesses in direct competition with one another.

*To move slowly and cautiously with relocation of business in the historic district, with merchants participating in initial decisions and placements in new locations.

*To keep "junk" merchants out of Bishop Hill. All are interested in retaining a "high quality" of merchandise.

*To maintain the direct access they presently enjoy with locations near the park and connections to transportation.

2. Tourism in the Future

In order to increase tourism in the Bishop Hill economy, certain objectives must be met for the convenience of the tourist, particularly in the areas of accommodations, parking, and information.

a. Accommodations

The typical tourist now comes to Bishop Hill on a one day excursion with educational knowledge being sought, rather than an entertaining vacation. Yet the isolation of Bishop Hill makes it difficult for many persons to reach. A solution would be to provide overnight accommodations at a more convenient distance than are now available. The hotels and motels at the neighboring town of Galva do not benefit Bishop Hill and few visitors seek these accommodations. Three camping parks do exist (Valley View, Johnson Sauk Trail and Frances City Park) but all are either too far away or should not be offered as a stop over to Bishop Hill tourists due to poor facilities and lack of space.

b. Parking

The present parking facilities need to be relocated so that Bishop Hill's surroundings are not marred by the appearance of autos and buses. A natural relocation would be to have parking facilities outside the historic district and out of view, yet within walking distance to the central park.

c. Tourist Information

An increase of publicity on Bishop Hill would increase the number of tourists per year.

Publicity should be an organized process, coordinating each successive effort with an underlying theme of the significance of Bishop Hill. Brochures, releases and feature articles should be controlled and carefully recorded so as not to cause an image of a commercial trap. An intern with an interest in public relations could coordinate the publicity with Bishop Hill's calendar. The result of the one project could be followed each year.

Roadside information signs should be kept unobtrusive and seek out the torrist with appreciation for the Bishop Hill heritage and lifestyle.

3. A Key Question

It is unclear what the term "living community" means to Bishop Hill. Everyone is in agreement that the community should not be a "frozen museum village". But, the question remains whether the community should be a living community serving only tourists or should it offer more to the community members? The Hobbs report states that an increase in sales tax revenue, which comes from tourism, would enable the village to better maintain roads which in turn would increase tourism. Yet increased tourism creates wear on the roads, which leads to greater expenditures. Is it really financially worth the cost in the long run? Who is really benefitting? When these questions are answered, some knowledge of the real consequences of tourism to the future development of Bishop Hill can be determined.

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION

Before discussing specific guidelines that might be useful in improving the interpretation of the Bishop Hill Historic Site, it may be helpful to set forth some basic principles that should be observed in any interpretative effort.

a. There are, certainly, a number of valid reasons why significant historic sites should be preserved and restored. Undoubtedly one of these reasons is to educate the public. And learning about the history of our country is not merely an academic exercise. Carefully restored historic sites provide a point of reference, not only to tell us about the past, but to help place the present and future in perspective. We sorely need a sense of continuity, and a historic environment allows the actual experience of continuity to be felt.

b. If we are to educate the public, then we must have some understanding of the public's general knowledge and of its objectives in visiting the site. Our interpretative efforts must be related to what this public already knows or does not know. We must not overestimate their knowledge or disparage their lack of information. As Alderson and Low point out,

> the visitor to the historic site of today is both more sophisticated and less well informed than his earlier counterpart . . . . Today's tourists seem to know less about the nation's history, but also to feel a greater need to learn about it (Alderson and Low, pp. 5, 22).

c. As pointed out in Part II of this report, interpretation embraces a wider range of experiences than we are likely to realize; it includes not only the spoken and written messages provided by the site staff, but also a "variety of sensory and intellectual perceptions" that the visitor receives because of the quality of the site (Alderson and Low, p. 3).

d. Finally, while it is true that most of our daily experiences are unstructured and that most human beings would rebel against efforts to rigidly regulate their lives, we must also realize that most of us crave a degree of organization and learn most effectively from carefully structured educational experiences. Certainly this is as true of the visitor to a historic site as it is of the student in the

> classroom; furthermore, the presentation of a structured program of interpretation does not prevent the visitor who wishes to ignore such a program from doing so. Perhaps a visitors' center at which a brief orientation to the historic site is presented is the easiest and most effective way to accomplish this objective.

With these general principles in mind, let us briefly discuss some suggestions which might guide future interpretative efforts at Bishop Hill.

1. Visual Aspects of Interpretation

The exterior appearance of the Bishop Hill Historic Site is a significant factor in the visitor's understanding of the setting in which the Jansonists lived. Consequently, every effort should be made to restore the historic district to its original appearance in order to improve its integrity. Significant efforts have already been made in that direction by the State of Illinois and by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, notably in the Colony Church, the Village Square, the Steeple Building, and the Colony Store. Additional efforts should be made by both of these organizations to restore other original colony buildings which have not yet received much attention, to reconstruct the more important of the colony buildings that have been destroyed, to remove or to disguise modern intrusions, to initiate a program in historic landscaping, and to encourage private owners of colony buildings within the district to become involved in the preservation efforts of the community.

Interiors and exhibits help the visitor to understand the nature of the daily life of the Bishop Hill colonists. Interiors must be restored with integrity and must therefore be limited to items that were made or used in the colony (when necessary, reconstructions may be substituted), and the range of interiors should be great enough to suggest the various aspects of communal life as well as the differences that existed in the domestic life of the colonists at different moments in history. Again, it should be noted that some limited efforts have already been made to do this. Exhibits should be limited to authentic Bishop Hill artifacts and should be carefully arranged around a single theme and adequately

explained through the use of writtem or oral means. Exhibits that are not specifically related to Bishop Hill or which are confusing to the visitor because they are poorly arranged or interpreted should be revised or eliminated.

2. Oral Aspects of Interpretation

There is increasing evidence that our society is becoming an oral-aural one. Alderson and Low expand upon this idea:

> Increasing public acceptance of recorded sounds as a tool of learning is attested by the number of students carrying tape recorders to classrooms and seminars and by the reliance of a disproportionate part of the population on the spoken word, rather than the written word, as a source of knowledge. We may deplore the generation of listeners -- and non-readers -- but the interpreter will do well to utilize the media to which his audience is accustomed (Alderson and Low, pp. 75 - 76).

The oral interpretation of a historic site is, then, as important as the visual, perhaps even more important, and at present, oral presentation of the site is the weakest aspect of the interpretative program at Bishop Hill. Since the human interpretation of a historic site is "probably the most effective" (Alderson and Low, p. 63) single means of presenting it, every effort should be made to establish a guide program, at least during the summer months when the majority of tourists visit Bishop Hill. Guides should be chosen on the basis of education, experience, personality, stamina, and professional attitude. Perhaps some guides might be recruited from nearby colleges, and some citizens of Bishop Hill and Galva might be willing to take part on a voluntary basis. Once the guides have been chosen, a training program should be inaugurated, and there should be a continuing evaluation of individual guides and of the guide program generally.

Some consideration might also be given to the use of audio and audiovisual devices to supplement the guide program or to use at times when the use of guides seems impractical. A brief movie or narrated slide show might be a useful device to orient the visitor when he arrives at the visitors' center, and recording devices of some type

might be used to interpret other important sites within the district. The important principle to remember, however, is that the visitors are likely to gain more information about Bishop Hill through oral means than through any other.

3. Written Aspects of Interpretation

Although less important perhaps than oral presentations, written documents are still a significant part of a total interpretative program. Undoubtedly there should be a variety of documents available. The most basic of these, to be presented to the visitor without charge, should include a brief historical orientation to Bishop Hill, an equally brief explanation of the important buildings included in the historic district, and a map of the district that locates each of the sites and suggests a walking tour which would help the visitor see the village in an orderly fashion. Other documents should include a more comprehensive history of the Bishop Hill Colony, an illustrated catalog of the buildings, interiors, and exhibits to be found at the site, and a variety of book-length studies on different aspects of the colony. All these latter publications should be available for purchase, and copies should be located at the Colony Store and at the visitors' center.

4. Other Activities

There are no doubt numerous other activities that might improve the interpretative efforts at Bishop Hill. Since agricultural and industrial pursuits were an important part of the life of the Colony, a demonstration of these activities would increase the visitor's understanding of Bishop Hill. A craft shop is already in operation and includes demonstrations of a number of colony crafts. Efforts should be made to attract additional craftsmen who could demonstrate colony crafts that are not presently represented. To improve the integrity of the craft program, craftsmen should be encouraged to spend more time in fabricating reproductions of original colony items in the manner in which they were originally made; in addition, a training program should be provided for the artisans so that they might

learn to discuss effectively their activities as well as demonstrate them. Small plots of land might be set aside for the cultivation of broomcorn, Indian corn, wheat, oats, and flax, and efforts could be made to demonstrate the manner in which these crops were planted and harvested by the Jansonists.

Finally, the present program in interpretation at Bishop Hill includes two special events that occur each year: the Old Settlers' Day and the Jordbrukdagarna. Since these have not been observed in our brief study, they cannot be evaluated here. As noted in Part II of this report, the Jordbrukdagarna at least provides an opportunity to present some special interpretative exhibits and demonstrations that are not normally available to the public, and, as such, is a positive addition to the interpretation program. So long as the number of tourists that attends these events can be adequately accommodated at Bishop Hill, the events should be encouraged, and perhaps similar special events should be added at other times during the year. Perhaps, too, these events might serve as a means of investigating artisans and activities that could eventually be made a permanent part of the historic site's program in interpretation.

In summary, every effort should be made to improve the integrity of the program of interpretation at Bishop Hill, to increase its range, and to provide considerably more interpretative information so that the visitor's experience at Bishop Hill will be made both more educational and more interesting.

E. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Planning for the future should be based both on the past and the present. The physical planning of land use is best determined by an adequate knowledge of the current use of land. The 1970 Henry County Comprehensive Plan by the planning firm of Scruggs and Hammond, of East Peoria, Illinois, indicates that seventy-five percent of the land use pattern of Henry County is in large farms. Small villages such as Bishop Hill chiefly serve as shopping centers and meeting places for the farmers throughout this agricultural land.

1. Development and Control

Future planning will demand that village officials be mindful of the existing county zoning ordinance, as well as the county's desire and ability to enforce its zoning regulations. In a sense, the ability to zone (i.e., to regulate) constitutes a significant political power capability. Bishop Hill is a small fish in a big pond; and as such it is not inconceivable that the village could become a pawn in someone else's game. Why not build a lake in the area? There is plenty of space, and only two hundred people! It is attitudes like this that give birth to plans like the one formulated by Scruggs and Hammond.

Should development such as this occur, it is likely to be outside the Corporate Limit of the village, and therefore outside the area regulated by the Zoning Ordinance for the Village of Bishop Hill. It will be essential for village officials to establish and maintain a good working rapport with the County Board of Supervisors.

Due to the immense historical significance of Bishop Hill, and the limited means available for future preservation efforts, the State of Illinois should be encouraged to acquire more property both within and outside the historic district. The acquisition of nearby land would insure a buffer between the historic district and potential development. Furthermore, some of the structures in the historic district wll not lend themselves readily to revenue-generating functions. These sites, where there is little or no potential to create a self-supporting adaptive use, should be maintained by the state. This will allow

private money to be invested in preservation efforts in the hope of raising revenue to be put back into local preservation work.

Future government planning should include funding the construction of a by-pass around Bishop Hill to the east of the cemetery. This would ease traffic flow through the district, and ultimately allow the historic district to be closed to motor vehicles. At the same time the by-pass would provide an incentive for existing businesses to relocate outside of the historic district, relieving the problem of non-conforming use.

2. Public Land Needs

Several proposals involving significant land areas will need to be given attention in the near future, and provision made for allocation or acquisition of space for these. Following are some factors for consideration in regard to three such major land uses:

a. Primitive Camping

A camping area for tents only would attract the tourist with conservation appreciation. An area for recreational vehicles should be avoided, as this form of camping is often abusive to the environment.

The area should be studied thoroughly with professional investigation in order to choose a location at the proper distance from Bishop Hill and to lay out the total space and its facilities. The area should be limited to 100 sites, with all facilities blended with and unobtrusive to the landscape.

Programs within the camping area should include hiking trails, utilizing the Oxpojke Trail as well as along the Edwards River. Possibly canoeing could be offered on the Edwards River if a water conservation lake is created, increasing the flow of water.

Another profitable activity would be horseback riding. If the stable behind the Bjorklund Hotel is rebuilt, an excellent adaptive use would be to house a riding stable where horses and traditional riding carriages could be rented.

Bringing in camping would enhance the historic preservation efforts within Bishop Hill, both being interests within conservation. It also opens up Bishop Hill to new sources of funding from the State Department of Conservation.

b. Recreation

A separate recreation area should be created by the municipal government for the Bishop Hill community, relocating the baseball diamond, allowing the Big Brick to be reconstructed.

The area should be carefully landscaped to buffer the historic district and to blend with the adjacent residential area. The location should be within walking distance of the downtown area.

Picnicing should be allowed in this area and not within the public square. The facilities should be modest. The proposed recreation area could serve to separate the historic district and a new parking complex.

c. Parking

New parking facilities should be provided to accommodate tourists' vehicles. An area for 150-200 cars should be located within walking distance of the district, and the natural connecting pathway should provide a starting point, explaining to the tourist what there is and what should be seen.

A separate parking facility for busses should be built farther away, allowing the tourist to be dropped off and picked up from the starting point at the beginning and end of the day's excursion.

IV.

Recommendations

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of what they had observed and learned in and about Bishop Hill, the fifteen students in the class submitted more than 200 specific recommendations and suggestions for consideration by those responsible for future development. Most of these are presented in this part of the report as written by the individual students. They have been arranged in groups and edited only to reduce duplication and correct inaccuracy.

The materials which follow begin with a series of general recommendations and proposals, including guidelines or principles for some aspects of future improvement of Bishop Hill. These are then followed by groups of recommendations for particular kinds of actions. Within each group, recommendations are given for early attention, and for longer range consideration. The early ones include many which can be done at little cost.

A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

for early attention:

1. To eliminate the conflict between tourists visiting the historic sites and those looking for commercial facilities, information on both should be readily available. A brief description of both commercial activities and historic sites should be prepared. It is this blend of the attractive historic site and the available amenities that will provide a comfortable experience to the visitor of Bishop Hill as well

as the residents. (CLK)

2. A survey of the visitors to Bishop Hill should be made to determine their objectives in visiting the site, the knowledge which they bring to the site, their reactions to their visit, and the kind of understanding that they gain from the visit. The survey should be done by random sample so that the results will be statistically reliable. Ideally visitors should be interviewed just after their arrival at Bishop Hill, just before they depart, and several months after their visit. Alderson and Low offer a number of helpful suggestions for anyone who wishes to conduct such a survey. (PHD)

3. A new study of existing and potential tourist source areas should be made so to better direct future publicity efforts in regard to tourism promotion. (DCM)

4. The monuments of the landscape and the cemetery are aging quickly and should be recorded. This could be done by photography and microfilming, or in some cases by etching/tracing from the stones. (DTG)

5. A feasibility study of new parking facilities, by-pass routes, and new access routes for Bishop Hill from I-74 and I-80 as well as from state and local roads should be conducted so to start planning to alleviate the traffic problems of Bishop Hill. (DCM)

6. Scholarly studies of Bishop Hill should be encouraged so as to increase the integrity of interpretation and to provide materials for local history study. Such studies should be for all aspects of Bishop Hill and might include topics such as Swedish-American migrations, religious life, family life, economic life, and architecture. A list of suggested study topics should be circulated to appropriate departments at junior colleges, colleges, and universities in Illinois. (DCM)

7. A travelling Olaf Krans collection that could visit various museums would (a) advertise Bishop Hill to a select group of interested people, (b) bring in some possible revenue, (c) temporarily relieve storage problems of the paintings, and (d) encourage interest to have them properly treated for preservation. (DTG)

for longer-range consideration:

8. Regulations should limit the size, quantity, nature and character of signs in Bishop Hill. Signs are necessary to convey a visual message, although too many signs which are also too big and too gaudy just cause confusion and visual pollution. (GLO)

9. In order to improve the quality of and to insure the continuity of the pleasing community environment of Bishop Hill, the following changes in municipal services should be considered:

   a. development of water treatment/sewage disposal facilities
   b. expansion of police protection services
   c. expansion of fire protection services
   d. extension of electric street light system. (DCM)

10. A new location should be selected for the town dump, keeping in mind such items as prevailing wind, visibility and accessibility. A system of maintenance and sanitation must be developed to meet EPA standards. (GLO)

11. Commercial activity within the historic district is very limited because no new building can take place within the district and no incentive exists to relocate elsewhere. A future commercial activity area must be located with access routes and utilities provided. (CLK)

12. Regulations should limit the number of "outbuildings" per lot. A proliferation of shacks, shanties, barns, sheds, shops and garages currently exists throughout Bishop Hill. One garage or "outbuilding" should be allowed per residence with a period of time provided to comply with the new ordinance. (GLO)

13. Commercial development of activities such as motels and restaurants, which would affect the number of tourists to Bishop Hill, in areas outside the municipality should be closely monitored so that their appearance does not detract from the surrounding countryside. The farm land surrounding Bishop Hill adds much to the charm and character of Bishop Hill itself. Farming as the activity surrounding Bishop Hill should very definitely be retained. If farm land around Bishop Hill becomes eligible for sale for any reason, it should definitely be kept in the same use. The farm buildings themselves have a distinctive character which should also be preserved. (LL)

14. Regulations should be adopted to remove trailer homes from the town except for one area to be specifically designated a mobile home park. This area must be out of sight of the historic district due to the incompatible nature of these homes and must have necessary utility connections to service them. A period of time should be provided to allow owners of mobile homes to comply with the new ordinance. (GLO)

15. The interval between houses outside the Historic District should be kept as close as possible to present spacing. Low density of housing is a distinctive feature of Bishop Hill. Higher density would tend to make Bishop Hill look like any other Illinois town outside the Historic District. If it is important for Bishop Hill to be a living town as well as a

Historic area, it seems important to retain the distinctive character of the town as well as the Historic District. There will be growing pressure to change this distinctive character as the restoration and rehabilitation of the Historic District increases. (LL)

16. The adjacent communities of Kewanee and Galva can accommodate the present housing shortage in Bishop Hill, but generally in communities such as Bishop Hill the attraction for small shop owners and crafts persons to open business is the ability to live within the community. Presently, there is a shortage of commercial and residential sites. Also lacking are older buildings with low rent. The rebuilding of the "big brick" for multiple uses would meet this need. (CLK)

17. Future peripheral development should couple with the historical character of Bishop Hill. New development should consist of land-use that promotes activities functionally related to Bishop Hill, with the new complementing the old, reinforcing Bishop Hill and adding to its unique and special history. With this in mind, a partial list of appropriate uses might include crafts (cottage industries), small shops, entertainment, transient housing (inns and study facilities) and conference or meeting centers. (CLK)

for strengthening the economy:

18. Since Bishop Hill's unique historical presence is their primary attraction, the restoration process should be the main focus of the community. Perhaps a shift in focus from tourism as the basis for generating restoration revenue to grantsmanship should be considered. Presently, donations collected at the craft demonstrations and the profits from the Colony Store contribute to the restoration of Bishop Hill. These certainly are important beginnings, but it is unlikely that they will become great financial boons. Aggressive and intense efforts should be made to secure grants from sources wherever possible, possibly seeking assistance from the many federal sources, private foundations and industry. (CLK)

19. According to one estimate private funding accounts for nearly two-thirds of all preservation work. Most financial innovations to increase preservation funding are being accomplished in the private sector, so this area should be closely watched. There are three major sources or techniques through which private sources may be tapped:

    a. Donations, grants, or endowments from foundations, individuals, or profit making enterprises: These are very desirable sources, but also very difficult to obtain. Lump sum gifts can be used for immediate work; endowments

could be used for long-term, periodic maintenance among other things.

b. Loans from commercial lending institutions: Much innovation has occurred in this area. Very low interest loans can be made to municipalities because of the tax break given the institution on loan interest. Money from other sources can be deposited with the lending institution to secure loans to individuals normally considered as high risks.

c. Revolving funds: In this method property would be purchased with already existing monies from the Fund, then restored or rehabilitated, and finally resold with that money going back into the fund. Since the selling price would be larger than the purchase price such a fund should be increasing and allow for more work to be done as it grew. Revolving funds have been administered by municipalities and non-profit organizations. (LL)

20. The Heritage Association should actively solicit the cooperation of a nearby financial institution to secure loans for preservation work. If you can demonstrate the ability to repay the loan through money making projects, it seems that a lender would back the project. (MB)

21. A revolving fund should be established to assist in the restoration of original colony structures now in private hands. Such a fund could impose fairly rigid restoration guidelines and would allow the continued private ownership of some colony buildings. Two benefits would result from this proposal: (a) the historic district would remain a part of the living community of Bishop Hill, and (b) neither the state nor the B.H.H.A. would be burdened by the upkeep of additional structures. (PHD)

22. Lists of potential sources of funds for historic preservation change constantly, and new, innovative techniques for obtaining funds develop so rapidly it is difficult to remain informed about current ones. Often, the type of project does much to determine the type of funds most suitable. For example, funds from public sources often require much time and paperwork to obtain, and therefore are not suitable for projects which require rapid action. On the other hand, private sources are often reluctant to invest in a project which does not provide some kind of return. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (a federal publication) and the Downtown Improvement Manual (published by the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs) are useful indexes to public funding and assistance programs. (LL)

23. The area of light manufacturing or fabrication of premanufactured goods needs further exploration. The village has the resources to establish a light manufacturing facility (i.e.,

as the Amana colony has done). While the investment would be substantial, the promise of new jobs and new money in town should not be taken lightly. (MB)

B. TRAFFIC AND PARKING

for early attention:

1. To eliminate the conflict between the pedestrian and the automobile, a rerouting plan for traffic should begin immediately to satisfy the safety requirement for children and the community. (CLK)

2. Maintain the current technique of closing off parts of the square during peak tourist activities; the shunting of traffic around the Bishop Hill Street could tie in with the placement of tourist parking. (PA)

3. The Department of Transportation and the town of Bishop Hill should put traffic signs at both entrances of the town limiting traffic to a speed of 15 mph and to buses and passenger vehicles. (JCC)

4. Definitely, all heavy machinery and modern farm equipment such as combines, tractors, etc. should be outlawed from the district, especially around the Square. These invasions of mammoth machines are unsightly, noisy, inappropriate and dangerous. (GLO)

for longer-range consideration:

5. Parking facilities for visitors to the historic district should be provided outside the district but within walking distance of the historic sites. (PHD)

6. Since visitors tend to stay several hours, close at hand parking is not vital. Provision of several small parking lots that would hold up to 50 cars each with appropriate buffering from the residential area and adequate landscaping could free up the parking area on Bishop Hill Street to the townspeople and nearby residents. This would also reduce the steady movement of autos through the town and reduce conflict with townspeople needing to use the roads. It would also reduce possible complications with pedestrians as fewer cars would be parked on the streets surrounding the square. At one of these parking areas there could be provided a facility that offers restrooms, telephone and direction information. Possible locations of the two lots are on the East and West sides of the town, both of which have space that could accommodate a reasonable amount of parking. (PA)

7. The historic district should be closed to public automobiles and re-routing of traffic through the east side of the village should occur. (PHD)

8. Bishop Hill Street, the main thoroughfare, runs through the historic district. This street should be closed to all motor vehicle traffic. A special event detour currently exists; this should instead become the primary traffic route. Vehicles could be re-routed to Erickson Street, one block east of Bishop Hill Street. A parking area might also be created in the designated area, with horse drawn carts to bring tourists into the historic district on week-ends during the summer, and for special events. (RW)

9. Recommend closing off Maiden Lane to buffer the area around the Colony Church. This along with removal of non-Colony structures around it will help to make the Colony Church the focal point of the historic area. (PA)

10. If the Big Brick is rebuilt as has been suggested, it will give definition and more of a sense of place to the Town Square. In order to further this definition and to unify several existing and reconstructed Colony buildings even more, Bjorklund Street and Johnson Street just south of Maiden Lane should be closed and converted back to grass. Similarly, assuming the eventual construction of a bypass to the east of Bishop Hill, Bishop Hill Street from Knox to Bergland, and Main Street from Park to Erickson, could be closed to major vehicular traffic. The streets would still exist for deliveries of goods and emergency vehicles but that is all. Tourists would park outside the Historic District and walk or be driven in ox carts, wagons or carriages to the Square. (GLO)

11. Movement of visitors should be studied and then reinforced or modified by use of signs, landscaping, location of street furnishings. Understanding movement of tourists should help to alleviate possible conflicts with town residents. Analyze impact of new facilities and their placement or what will happen if they are not provided. Consider pedestrian-vehicle conflict and other potentially dangerous areas. (PA)

C. BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

for early attention:

1. In order to permit all citizens equal access to touring of Bishop Hill State Historic Site, appropriate facilities in terms of street furniture, curb ramps, and additional locations of washroom facilities should be developed which pay

particular attention to the neglected tourist: the handicapped and/or elderly. (DCM)

2. Colony buildings are currently prohibitive of handicapped visitors. Inconspicuous ramps should be added so that individuals confined to wheelchairs might enter these buildings (this is an existing state law). Concern for accurate restoration should not preclude consideration of the needs of the handicapped. (RW)

3. In addition, more benches should be interspersed throughout the historic district for elderly visitors. Main Street has no rest areas near the Bjorklund Hotel; the only bench is in front of the Colony Store. A drinking fountain should also be added near the Colony Church and/or Steeple Building. (RW)

4. To more effectively promote the continuity of the social fabric of Bishop Hill, the Colony School should be used more often by the Old Settlers' Association, and efforts should be made to expand the scope of the activities of the Old Settlers' Association for festivals other than the Old Settlers' Reunion. (DCM)

5. In order to more effectively use and to view the collection of the Henry County Historical Society, the materials of this organization in the Steeple Building should be removed to an appropriate structure in Cambridge or Kewanee. (DCM) The space then available in the Steeple Building should be used for the reconstruction of colony interiors and for new colony exhibits. (PHD)

6. Bishop Hill currently lacks tourist accommodations; visitors arriving late in the day are forced to stay in neighboring Kewanee or Galva. The Steeple Building might be altered to serve as living quarters (as it once did). (RW)

7. The Bjorklund Hotel is now being restored as a historic house museum, circa 1861, by the Department of Conservation. Special rooms should be prepared for visiting state guests or dignitaries or others working on special projects in Bishop Hill. The ballroom should be used as such again and also as an auditorium for lectures, discussions and perhaps for dining if kitchen facilities can be provided. (GLO)

8. A fire proof, temperature controlled, storage/display room is needed to house the Krans paintings. (MB)

for longer-range consideration:

9. In order to more efficiently acquire existing Bishop Hill Colony buildings not already in organizational ownership, there should be a priority list developed by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association; a sample priority list might be as follows: a. Meat Storage Building, b. Dairy Building, c. Carriage and Wagon Shop, d. Eric Janson House. (DCM).

follows: (a) Meat Storage Building, (b) Dairy Building, (c) Carriage and Wagon Shop, (d) Eric Janson House. (DCM).

10. In conjunction with the acquisition of buildings there should be a continuation of the policy of granting life-long tenancy to the current residents, and there should be the development of a policy of residential, commercial, or other appropriate adaptive re-use of structures to maintain the community as a living, historic place. (DCM)

11. In order to increase the integrity of the historic district, incompatible buildings within the historic district should be removed; the Bishop Hill Heritage Association should assume responsibility for making suitable arrangements for monetary compensation and satisfactory relocation sites regarding these structures. (DCM)

12. As it becomes possible to do so, post-colony structures along Bishop Hill Street between Christine and Bergland Streets and along Bjorklund Street should be removed to other parts of town, or if appropriate, simply torn down. Since Bishop Hill is a living community as well as a historic site, great care will have to be taken to avoid the alienation of the community in this project, and certainly the project must be carried on over a period of years. At least some commercial enterprises might be relocated in the Big Brick after it has been reconstructed. (PHD)

13. The Big Brick should be rebuilt on its original site with its exterior reconstructed as authentically and as accurately as possible and the interior designed for a contemporary adaptive use. The following steps should be followed to accomplish this:

    a. A new site should be selected for the baseball diamond, perhaps near the school.

    b. The baseball diamond should be purchased by the Heritage Association and archeological digs should commence to look for foundations and other artifacts relating to the Big Brick.

    c. A developer interested in building tourist accommodations in Bishop Hill but also willing to comply with Historic Zoning and rebuild the Big Brick within its historical context should be contacted and encouraged to purchase the property.

    d. After the Big Brick is rebuilt, tourist accommodations such as lodging, restaurants, a lounge and specialty shops--such as a bakery, craft shops, antique shops, etc., could be located there.

    e. This facility will allow existing commercial establishments such as Art 'n' Stuff, Vallkomen Inn and The Colony Inn to be housed there and the buildings currently used

for these activities to be removed due to their noncompatibility with Bishop Hill's historic structures. (GLO)

14. The Colony Bakery and Brewery should be reconstructed. The exterior of the building should duplicate that of the original colony structure. The interior of the building should be designed to house the Olaf Krans collection and the B.H.H.A. archives. This reconstruction would provide both of these collections with the protection that they sorely need through the provision of rigid temperature and humidity controls and security from possible destruction by the public. (PHD)

15. The Olaf Krans paintings should be removed from the Colony Church by the Department of Conservation and after cataloging, maintenance and restoration, installed in a humidity and temperature controlled space in the Bakery and Brewery building. Perhaps a few paintings could be sold (providing a periodic display rights agreement is signed) to raise funds for this endeavor. The majority of paintings should be protected in storage with frequent rotation with those on display. (GLO)

16. The archives now currently housed in the Steeple building should also be moved to the new location by the Heritage Association. These also should be stored under humidity and temperature control, protected by fire and made secure from theft. All documents should be photocopied during transfer and a microfilmed copy of all records housed elsewhere. The Archives should be cataloged and cross referenced for easy retrieval. (GLO)

17. Ultimately, all other original Bishop Hill Colony structures should be reconstructed using the interiors for contemporary adaptive uses. The following is a list of structures to be rebuilt and the suggested use for each structure.

    a. First Mill (Water) - to be reconstructed and made functional as it was when it was originally built as an example of industry and energy resources from Bishop Hill's past.

    b. Second Mill (Steam) - to be reconstructed and used to house the blacksmith shop and other colony crafts such as broommaking. Also the farm implement dealer and hardware store could be relocated to this building. This would allow for removal of noncompatible buildings from the Historic District which now house these activities.

    c. Stables and Privy - these "outbuildings" behind the Bjorklund Hotel should also be reconstructed. The stables could function as a storage facility for the Bjorklund Hotel and again as stables assuming carriages and wagons are used in the future to haul tourists around the Square. The privy could also be reconstructed on the

exterior and might house o: of those convenient and sanitary toilet facilities that Bishop Hill so desperately needs. (GLO)

18. The Big Brick should be reconstructed. The exterior of the building should duplicate that of the original. The interior should include overnight accommodations for visitors to Bishop Hill, a restaurant and cocktail lounge, and a small conference center. (PHD)

19. The Steeple Building should be completely restored on the exterior and converted to a pleasant twelve to twenty unit hotel, its original use, on the interior. Proceeds from this operation will help other restoration projects of the Heritage Association. (GLO) It might incorporate the following facilities: (a) coffee shop serving "farmers' breakfasts," (b) Swedish-American luncheon and supper restaurant, and (c) tavern-lounge. (DCM)

20. As a historic district, Bishop Hill attracts young people from several states. With an established youth hostel, however, it might attract an even wider range of individuals, including young Swedish travelers. A hostel could also provide transient housing for scout troops and/or summer interns; possible locations include the Colony Hospital, dairy building, or meat storage warehouse. (RW)

21. Other areas in existing Colony buildings should be programmed for specific needs and requirements of Bishop Hill. Some of these areas are the Dairy Building, the basement of the Colony Church, the second floor of the Colony Store, the Colony Hospital, the second floor of the Blacksmith's Shop, and the second floor of the Carriage and Wagon Shop. (GLO)

22. The house behind the Colony Church should be moved after present occupation ends, Valkommen Inn should be rebuilt in a manner more in keeping with colony style buildings. Tavern should be removed or rebuilt in colony style. House next to church is not from the colony period and detracts from prominence of the church. The tavern and Valkommen, while also not from colony are not as likely to be moved since they make profit, part of which is given back to the village as sales tax, so they should be reconstructed in a style more compatible with the colony period while not looking "Touristy." This fits the concept of Bishop Hill being a viable present-day community as well as a Historic Area. (LL)

23. The softball diamond which is located on the site of the "Big Brick" ought to be relocated. Perhaps a site one third of a mile east of the square would offer a possible site for a new field. The old village hall should be removed; however, other structures such as the Colony Inn Tavern, the Art-n-Stuff store, and private residences in the historic district should be left intact at this time. They should be relocated at such time as relocation becomes feasible. (MB)

24. Recreational facilities in and around Bishop Hill are minimal. Each of 10 residents interviewed recognized the need for increased attention in this area. A small lake with primitive camping sounded appealing to these residents; unfortunately, the word "camping" had become synonymous with a vision of a large camper-trailer park. Ideally, such vehicles would be barred from the Bishop Hill facilities. A bicycle trail and/or hiking trail might also be developed; the existing Oxpojke trail is under-used and in bad repair. (RW)

25. Consensus as to the location of recreational facilities could not be reached. Five out of 10 residents interviewed felt that recreational areas should be well outside the historic district (i.e. 2-5 miles). Two were unsure; 3 felt that facilities as close as 6 blocks from the district might be suitable. Each was opposed to altering farm land. A detailed survey should be drawn up by the state and distributed to each of Bishop Hill's residents so that prospective locations might be identified. Four or five sites would then be mapped; residents would choose the "ideal" location by referendum. (RW)

26. Propose that Red Oak Grove and Buck Grove, now in private ownership be purchased for purposes of conserving and preserving the unique character of these groves both ecologically and historically. Because of the nature of ownership, these groves have not succumbed to random lumbering and destruction. These groves should be saved by whatever mechanism available: purchase by a Forest Preserve District, donated for tax benefits, purchase by the Heritage Association. The Red Oak Grove could possibly serve as a primitive camp ground; it is far enough away from the town not to disrupt the daily life of the inhabitants. (PA)

D. LANDSCAPE AND STREET FURNITURE

for early attention:

1. In order to enhance the visual aspect of the Colony Church, remove the old, damaged silver maple that is on the north side of Bishop Hill Street. The tree, now grown too tall and broad, blocks too much the glimpses and view of the Church as one ascends the hill coming from Kewanee and I-80. (PA)

2. Signs on approach roads to Bishop Hill currently read: Bishop Hill Memorial State Park. This information is misleading; Bishop Hill is a historic district, and has only a small park in the center of town. Unknowing tourists might assume that facilities for certain activities (e.g. barbecuing) exist. Subsequently, the signs should read: Bishop

Hill State Historic District. (RW)

3. In addition, signs should be posted within a one to two mile radius of Bishop Hill directing tourists to the Colony Church. These should be made of materials compatible with the restoration project; aluminum signs, for example, were not evident in nineteenth century communities. (RW)

4. Trash receptacles need to be made available to encourage reduction of idle littering; of a design appropriate to the community and to the weather. (PA) The trash barrels in the park could be covered with the same wood that was used for the sidewalks around the Colony Church. A more immediate approach would be to paint them brown. This does not contrast as much with the grass as green does. (WSA)

5. The telephone booth in Bishop Hill is probably one of the most noticeable visual mistakes. It sits on one of the most important corners in town shared by the Colony Store, the Steeple Building, and the park. A public telephone is necessary so relocation of this seems wise. A possible spot to move it to is the alcove of the Steeple Building. There it would retain the same location in town, be sheltered from the weather and be partially out of sight. (WSA)

6. Survey and evaluate existing signs, their use, their placement, appropriateness to the character of the historic district. Given the size of the community, most places are known; pedestrians move slowly enough that smaller signs would be more satisfactory. Encourage signs that are less obtrusive, that are in character with the historic site and that share a similarity of scale and form. (PA)

7. Recommend removal as soon as possible of the old "Town Hall" and of the deserted lean-to adjacent to the tavern. As possible, removal of the prefab structure that shelters the school buses that is to the side of the Colony school house. Inappropriate use buildings to be removed as possible. (PA)

8. There needs to be some pressure exerted on the public utility companies to bury their cables in the historic district. They could do it if they wanted to--therefore I might suggest letters to the editors of area papers, or some other open forum. The power and phone companies never like to look bad in the public eye--a campaign of public complaint might give them the gentle push they need. (MB)

9. It is important that scale and design of street furnishings be pursued in a manner to work toward visual unity; that whatever is selected be in character with the image of the historic district and that it contribute to that character; that they be considered components of an overall system. Location of street furniture should be placed to take advantage of views, not to block them; rhythm and proportion should be considered in placement of benches, lighting, trash receptacles. In listing and selecting equipment, know functions,

include considerations of cost, durability, appropriateness to climate and of character. Eliminate and consolidate unnecessary items, and reposition where necessary. Location of seating and other accommodation can be used to guide and facilitate pedestrian movement and congregation. (PA)

for longer-range consideration:

10. At the major accesses to Bishop Hill, in conjunction with a turnoff sign and information board, plant a grouping of native species that repeat the species used in the Park. This will serve to further identify Bishop Hill to the auto driver, and create a transition link between the surrounding farms and the town itself. (PA)

11. All village owned property within the historic district should be restored with the type of boardwalk now found outside the Colony Church. (MB)

12. Power lines are a nuisance to observers who enjoy looking at a building or landscape without any obstructions. Usually the poles they rest on are very uncomplementary to their surroundings. The power lines in Bishop Hill can be buried along with the telephone cables. As for the street lights that are supported on the poles, seeing that only every other pole had a light on it, the poles without lights could be removed. Possibly new lights could be purchased that are similar to lights used in Bishop Hill at an earlier date, although they may not be from the colony days. (WSA)

13. It is recommended that the Town of Bishop Hill and Department of Transportation put lighting within the town and at entrances. Lights should be of the style of the colony period. (JCC)

14. In addition to beginning a program to document and restore plantings in the historic district and around colony structures, recommend the encouragement of homeowners on and close to the square to plant similar materials to maintain sense of continuity with the Colony buildings. Present minimum landscaping around many of the houses is visually very pleasing in its simplicity, especially since it appears to be characteristic of the Colony period attitudes. Consider the use of particular plants associated with the Colony to identify places, to direct and to guide traffic. The current presence of hollyhocks might be explored as a possible symbol if appropriate. (PA)

15. It might be possible to provide a facility in the southern portion of the historic district that combines a rest shelter, especially important during raining periods and cooler weather, water fountain, restroom, telephone booth and perhaps an information board. This facility would be designed

to blend in with the historic character of the historic area yet would not have to be placed on the square itself but could be accommodated on a side street. (PA)

16. Design and install some kind of directional sign to guide people to a central location. This needs to be placed at both the north and south entrances to Bishop Hill. At this point there could be a landscaped turnoff where a posted map of the town would be available to further direct tourists. (PA)

17. When incompatible buildings are eventually removed, the area across from and north of the Colony Church will be vacant. Need to consider what kind of landscape to restore; let it go through natural succession? keep it a roughly cut grass, perhaps grazed by sheep? This area could be considered a transition point between the town and the farmland belt about the town. (PA)

18. Small plots of land should be set aside for the cultivation of crops raised by the colony. Whenever possible, demonstrations of planting and harvesting should be presented to the public. (PHD)

19. Undertake further efforts to locate information on the landscape of the 1860 period both in Bishop Hill and surrounding towns; how they are similar and different. What were their form, the location of their various gardens. How did the colonists feel about the exterior of their dwellings, their use of the park. (PA)

20. The Colony Orchard site should be obtained eventually and replanted so that a more complete spectrum of interpretation of Bishop Hill Colony experience can be presented. (DCM)

21. Recourse to the Book for Bishop Hill Orchard as a source of information on the kinds and locations of trees and other plants used in the Colony. Any tree replacement in the park or along the streets should be in keeping with that record. (PA)

22. It is vital to maintain the farmland greenbelt now existing around the town. Its closeness to the historic district, and its historic importance are vital to the uniqueness of Bishop Hill and is immeasurable in its contribution to one's sense of tranquility and momentary withdrawal from a busier society. Since the sod fence mound is only a remnant, the farmland acts as a similar kind of buffer--a modern version of the medieval European moated or walled city. (PA)

23. The ravine that remains unfilled and adjacent to the Meat Storage Building should be considered as a further link to the Bishop Hill past and it may need to be severely cut back and plants removed. Its link with the Edwards Creek should be expanded. The banks of the Edwards Creek should be

incorporated more fully into the historical interpretation of the town; it would provide a contrast to viewing man-made structures. (PA)

24. The remnant earth mound fence south of town should be restored to its former visual features; that is, if it indeed had been planted in a certain manner, it should be done so again. Its significance should be incorporated more adequately into the interpretation of the colony. (PA)

25. All of the recommendations for improving the street furnishings encourage the cooperation of all segments of the townspeople. Once a design is agreed upon, many of these items could become projects of the colony crafts. It might be possible to draw upon volunteer contributions of time and/or money. It is important to involve all the people, even those reluctant to see any changes. By having some identifiable areas for tourists, the more private parts of the community may be less open to unwelcome intrusions. It might be possible to solicit donations from various suppliers or sell at cost in return for acknowledging them as contributors to the Bishop Hill colony restoration. (PA)

E. INTERPRETATION

for early attention:

1. Interpretation efforts in Bishop Hill are fragmented. A visitor receives a state-produced pamphlet; this is a rather impersonal ("museum-like") welcome. A tourist information center should be developed within the Colony Church. Essential features include:

   a. visual representations (e.g., maps) of the early Colony; these should be wall-sized. Information should be printed in English, Swedish, and Braille.

   b. a short oral interpretation of Bishop Hill history.

   c. a costumed custodian or student intern to answer questions and give directions.

   In addition, there should be a small plaque on one side of each of the Colony buildings with information concerning history and function. Tourists often roam aimlessly from building to building, and frequently do not refer to their pamphlets; such signs could fill information gaps. (RW)

2. A Visitors Center should be established at Bishop Hill. Initially, at least, the Center should be at the Colony Church and probably need be no more than a table placed near the entrance of the first floor of that structure. The Visitors

Center should be staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day by a trained guide who would welcome the visitor to Bishop Hill, provide him with a brief oral orientation to the historic district, hand him a copy of the state brochure, and answer questions. If a guide program is inaugurated, the individual in charge of the Visitors Center would assemble groups for the tour. Finally, tastefully designed markers should direct visitors to the Center. (PHD)

3. A logo should be developed that can be affixed to colony buildings, and to street furnishings where appropriate. Use of some feature to separate colony from private structures is especially important to those inhabiting colony structures that are private residences. Clearly presented, it could reinforce the written material as a means to guide tourist jaunts. This logo could be incorporated in some system of directional signs to guide tourists. It is proposed that the Colony seal, the lamb with the flag in its mouth, be used as the logo. It would be historically and symbolically significant. (PA)

4. The current historic site brochure should be revised to include information about all of the important sites within the historic district and to include a map with a suggested walking tour of the historic district. Perhaps this revision might be made by a student in one of the advanced American history courses at Knox College as a term project. (PHD)

5. It is recommended that, as an interim measure, the local commercial firms be encouraged to renovate their facades to bring them closer to the character of the colony buildings. This can be done by use of compatible paint colors, replacing or repositioning signs, sharing similar design elements such as awnings, or landscape elements that would tie them in visually with the colony structures. (PA)

for longer-range consideration:

6. If honest interpretation of the Bishop Hill Colony is one goal of the Heritage Association, then craftsmen should demonstrate colony crafts exclusively. Modern pottery and jewelry seem misplaced; these should be available for sale, however. In display, colony products should be emphasized. (RW)

7. The Colony should revive such old crafts as could find market in the growing tourist trade. Some of the new industries should look for outside markets. The making of some items should be updated and mechanized. Suggestions: Fabrics, linen and wool; hand spun and died woolen yarn; iron and silver smithing; carpentry; brooms; leather goods. (SHM)

8. There is a danger of the community's becoming stagnated in the past. One way to avoid this undesirable effect would be

to allow the crafts to develop with the times. Inspiration could come from the Swedish Arts and Crafts Movement, especially in the design of metal work and fabrics. The need for another restaurant featuring Swedish or Swedish-American cooking is generally felt, especially on festival days when there are many visitors. (SHM)

9. In order to encourage tourism in Bishop Hill in the off-seasons, thereby possibly reducing summer tourism overloads, a festival in the line of Agricultural Days should be developed for the late spring and for the mid-winter. (DCM)

10. Taking into account the need for expanded tourist interpretive materials, the State Department of Conservation should develop the following educational materials for Bishop Hill:

    a. three-dimensional model of Bishop Hill in 1847
    b. three-dimensional model of Bishop Hill in 1861
    c. three-dimensional model of Bishop Hill in 1976
    d. three-dimensional model of proposed historic preservation efforts at Bishop Hill
    e. bulletin board coverage of restoration techniques
    f. bulletin board coverage of the non-Jansonist periods in Bishop Hill. (DCM)

11. An illustrated catalogue of the buildings, interiors, and exhibits to be found at Bishop Hill should be produced. Such a catalogue should be offered for sale at the Colony Store and at the Visitors Center. The income from the catalogue should be used to defray printing expenses. Perhaps the staff of the Illinois State Museum might be of assistance in preparing this brochure, or perhaps it might be taken on as a term project for a student in museology at one of the state universities. (PHD)

12. Recommend that private owners be encouraged to maintain integrity of structure. Some parts of the structures have been modernized; it is suggested these features be removed and the facade be restored to its former form. One example is the private residence adjacent to the Colony store whose basement windows have been modernized where the upper stories have retained the original character. (PA)

13. Tourism in Illinois is not based upon the grand and spectacular vacation notion that carries people to mountains, lakes, or recreational areas. It is more likely to be the weekend traveler or the passer-through on route to another destination that visits northwestern Illinois. With this image in mind, tourism in northwestern Illinois might be better promoted by an agricultural context which could also draw people from the more urban centers in and around Illinois. It is recommended that the agricultural interests in the state be approached to build a model farm near Bishop Hill, which would make a display of the past, present and future economic

base of Illinois and its importance in the world because of its agricultural contributions. (CLK)

F. PERSONNEL

for early attention:

1. In order to increase the scale of operations in historic preservation at Bishop Hill, there should be minimal pay, experience-oriented internships sponsored in the following areas:

   a. archeology (besides existing volunteer/contract work)
   b. archival staffing and maintenance
   c. museology: to include tour guides, restoration of buildings, and development of exhibits. (DCM)

2. The program of interpretation at Bishop Hill Historic Site should be expanded and a guide program should be inaugurated at least during the summer months. Such a program should include:

   a. The addition of one full-time person to the staff of the historic site who would be charged with the responsibility of supervising all interpretation efforts at Bishop Hill.
   b. The securing of the services of 6-8 guides during the summer months. These guides might be college students recruited from nearby colleges or citizens from Bishop Hill and surrounding communities.
   c. The inauguration of a training program for guides.
   d. The initiation of an ongoing evaluation program for all interpretive efforts in the historic district. (PHD)

3. An art historian and restorer should be hired on a temporary basis to appraise and organize the Olaf Krans collection and to restore those works that are in need of restoration. Perhaps this service might be provided by the Illinois State Museum. (PHD)

for longer-range consideration:

4. In order for more efficient operations, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association should have a full-time director whose responsibilities should include but not be only the following:

   a. overseeing the contracting and development of a continuing historic preservation program for Bishop Hill
   b. generating an expanded revolving fund
   c. directing the canvassing of financial resources from

inside and outside of Bishop Hill

d. coordinating internships

e. coordinating joint efforts with the State of Illinois Department of Conservation, the Old Settlers' Association, and other organizations. (DCM)

5. A part-time archivist should be hired to catalogue and supervise the B.H.H.A. archives and to assist scholars who wish to do research in the archives. Investigation should be made into the possibility of a dual appointment with Knox College or with Augustana College. The Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin, Wayne State University, and Case-Western Reserve University are midwestern schools that offer some training in archival administration; any of these institutions might be helpful in securing someone for this position. The Society of American Archivists publishes an Education Directory which should also be consulted. (PHD)

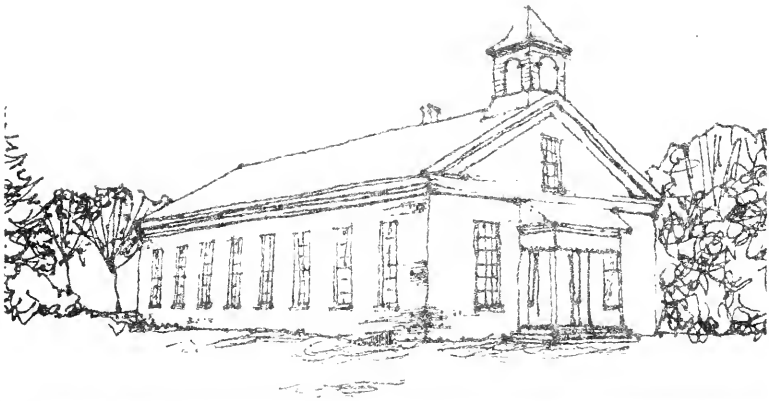
6. Efforts should be made to attract additional craftsmen to Bishop Hill so that the craft program can be expanded. In particular, the following craft demonstrations should be added when craftsmen become available: basket making, wagon making, wood turning, cabinet making, natural dying, and rope making. In addition, craftsmen should be encouraged to replicate original colony items for sale to the public. The advice and assistance of a newly created statewide foundation for the sale of crafts and publications at state sites should be sought. (PHD)

7. Money should be appropriated so that the following staff positions might be created:

   a. curator of Bishop Hill--the community is in need of a full-time director, one who is sensitive to the residents' desire to retain Bishop Hill as a "living museum." The duties of the curator would include grant writing, supervision of restoration projects, and public relations.

   b. resident artist--an individual is needed to coordinate the crafts program year-round. Decisions regarding demonstrations, types of products to be displayed and sold, and traveling crafts shows would be made by the resident artist. (RW)

V.



APPENDIX

V. A. PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY

Patricia Allen, M.A. (American Studies), University of Michigan; M.L.A., University of Illinois, 1976.

William Scott Anderson, Junior in Architecture.

Myles David Berman, Graduate Student in Urban and Regional Planning.

Linda Bronsdon, Senior in Historic Preservation (Individual Plan of Study).

John C. Christopher, Graduate Student in Landscape Architecture.

Philip H. Decker, Ph.D. (Theatre Arts), Northwestern University, 1966.

Doris A. Derby, Doctoral Candidate in Anthropology.

Edward W. Fultz, Senior in Anthropology.

Dennis T. Garde, B.S. in Arch., Graduate Student in Architectural History.

Cherie Kluesing, Graduate Student in Landscape Architecture.

Leonard Lingo, B.A. (Anthropology) 1969; B.S. in Arch., 1976; Graduate Student in Architecture.

Sarah H. McDougal, B.A. (European Studies); Graduate Student in Landscape Architecture.

Douglas C. Munski, B.S. (Education) 1974; M.A. (Geography) 1975; Doctoral Candidate in Historical Geography.

Gary L. Olsen, A.I.A., Architect.

Roxane Willens, B.A. Stephens College, 1976, Graduate Student in Community Psychology.

V. B. CHRONOLOGY OF BISHOP HILL EVENTS

1. Before the Colony (Pre-Jansonist Period)

1808	Eric Janson Born.
1832	Janson's miraculous cure from rheumatism.
1833	Janson Marries.
1836	Janson's religious awakening.
	James Withrow settles in Weller Township.
1842	Beginning of Jansonism, in Helsingland.
1844	Persecution of Janson.
1845	Olof Olsson reconnoiters in America.

2. The Colony Years (Jansonist Period)

1846	July: Janson arrives. Land purchased.
1847	Manufacturing of adobe. Mill operating.
1848	Manufacturing kiln-dried brick.
1848-55	August Bandholtz supervised building. Most buildings completed.
1849	Asiatic Cholera plague.
1850	Janson murdered May 13.
	Johnson, Stoneberg recruit in Sweden.
	Jonas Olsson expedition to California gold fields.
	Brick steam flour mill completed.
1853	Bishop Hill incorporated, under 7-man Board of Trustees.
1854	Railroad replaces stage line, reducing hotel patronage.
1856	Crimean War ends; prices deflate.
1857	Norberg attempt to annul colony via state legislature suit.
	Linen and carpet matting cease to be manufactured.
1859	Economic depression, debt incurred.
1860	February 2, Property divided between 2 groups.
	(Total debt $673,000)
1861	Johnson party individualizes property.
	Company D raised to fight for Union.

3. Decline of the Colony (Post-Jansonist Period)

1865	Olof Johnson assesses individuals $10.00 per acre to pay colony debt.
1868	Another $11.00 assessment is levied.
	Lawsuit against trustees.
	Complete individualization of colony property.
	Methodist Church built.
1870	Town incorporated.
1875	Old Settlers Association first meeting at Hanna Grove.
1878	Norberg suit settled, much colony land sold to pay debt.
1894	Ordinances adopted in accordance with general state laws.
1896	Old Settlers Association revived.
1932	Bishop Hill Road is paved over the old grass street.

4. Recent Activities (Post-World War II)

1946	State of Illinois acquires the Colony Church building.
	Old Settlers Association acquires the Colony School.
1950	Restoration of Colony Church begun.
1962	Founding of Bishop Hill Heritage Association.
	Colony Bakery and Brewery building demolished.
1963	Heritage Association purchases the "Steeple Building."
1965	Research by Edla Warner traces the origins of present village residents to original colonists.
1966	Colony Blacksmith Shop purchased by the Heritage Association.
1967	Colony Store acquired by the Heritage Association.
	Vasa Lodge #683 formed at Bishop Hill.
	Swedish historian came to Bishop Hill to review documents written during the "colony period."

1968	Bjorklund Hotel acquired by the State of Illinois.
	Museum of National Antiquities, Stockholm, exhibition.
1970	Bishop Hill nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
1972	Swedish archivist Mara Eiche, came to transcribe documents from Swedish to English and to help establish village archives.
	Illinois Department of Conservation commits $230,000 to preservation work in Bishop Hill.
1973	Restoration of Bjorklund Hotel begun by the Illinois Department of Conservation.
	U. S. Department of the Interior awards $14,728 to Heritage Association.
1974	Out-buildings of the Colony Church discovered by students of Knox College in an archeological dig.
	Heritage Association obtains the Krusbo House.
	Vasa National Archives moved to Bishop Hill.
1975	Knox College archeological work locates sites of bandstand, grain scale, other structures.
	25 May: Opening of Restored Colony Store.

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