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EXHIBIT PLAN
FOR TEMPORARY MUSEUM

HOPEWELL VILLAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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INTRODUCTION

This exhibit plan for the temporary museum at Hopewell Village National Historic Site contains specifications for 12 exhibits, which are designed to perform the following functions in the park interpretive program:

1. To introduce the visitor to Hopewell Village and give him the necessary orientation to make his tour of the area more meaningful.

2. To make the park story dynamic, by describing the panorama of Hopewell's history, thus complementing the essentially static Village as it appears today.

3. To place Hopewell Village in historical perspective, as an example of one vital phase in the evolution of the modern American iron and steel industry.

In addition, the final exhibit is designed to identify the area as a part of the National Park System, a fact which some of our visitors still find difficult to grasp.

A permanent museum and administration building, outside the historic Village area, is envisaged in the Master Plan, but its construction is not expected in the foreseeable future. It is felt that the proposed temporary museum will provide an adequate substitute in the meantime, and the exhibits specified in the present exhibit plan should serve as a nucleus for the permanent museum. These exhibits are considered as planned experiments to try out devices

and subject matter as a guide to what will be done in the later museum. The story to be told will be the same, but it may be found desirable to present more detail on some features when more space is available.

All exhibits are to be wall panels, instead of cases, each panel lighted from above by a shielded tube light. This recommendation is made partly because of the limited space in the exhibit rooms and partly because the objects to be exhibited do not require the protection provided by museum cases. Several of the panels are to be placed above specimens mounted on low floor pedestals; most of these objects are entirely too large to be mounted in cases. One exhibit (No. X) calls for the construction of a small table on which several objects are mounted, immediately in front of and below the panel. It is believed that the wall panels will be not only attractive and completely satisfactory, but less expensive to construct than a series of museum cases.

The museum building presents some problems which will have to be taken into consideration. This building is the Furnace Office and Store, a historic building centrally located in the Village which has been used as a temporary museum for more than ten years. The exhibit rooms are located on the main floor, the upstairs rooms not being included in this exhibit plan. The building is unheated and likely to remain so, but this is not regarded as a major deterrent because of the nature of the objects to be exhibited. The ceiling is low and uneven, ranging around seven feet from the floor, and the walls,

except for the partition between the two rooms, are of stone overlaid with plaster. This will be a major problem in mounting the panels, since there is also no moulding from which they can be suspended. The ceiling height was another factor in the decision to use panels instead of cases, for standard cases would be too high for the room. Because of these problems, it is felt that a representative of the Museum Branch should visit Hopewell Village while the exhibits are under construction, so that any necessary modifications may be made before it is too late.

The general color scheme used for the exhibits should emphasize black and iron oxide red, the colors used in our aluminum interpretive markers to symbolize the process of ironmaking. The walls and ceiling of the museum building are at present painted white, so it is recommended that the panel backgrounds be a light color such as pale green. More specific color recommendations are included in the specifications for each exhibit.

The specifications call for the following materials, which are here summarized for convenience:

- Wall Panels---12
- Illustrations---25
- Maps---4
- Pictorial Graph---1
- Facsimile photographs---7
- Cut-out Labels---12
- Lettered Labels---68
- Illustrated Labels---1

Specimens---37

The specimens required for the exhibits are as follows:

1. Iron Ladle Handle---in Park collection.
2. Forge Hammer---in Park collection.
3. Wrought Iron Ore Pick---in Park collection.
4. Fragment of Pig Iron---in Park collection.
5. Steel Bayonet---to be acquired.
6. Cast Iron Cannon Fragment---in Park collection.
7. School Reader---in Park collection.
8. Iron Ore fragment---in Park collection.
9. Limestone fragment---in Park collection.
10. Charcoal fragment---in Park collection.
11. Iron fragment---in Park collection.
12. Slag fragment---in Park collection.
13. Sow of Pig Iron---in Park collection.
14. Two Collier's Sandals---in Park collection.
15. Two Collier's Rakes---in Park collection.
16. Charcoal Scraper---in Park collection.
17. Franklin Fireplace---in Park collection.
18. Plate of Six-plate Stove---in Park collection.
19. Ten-plate Stove---in Park collection.
20. Two Cast Iron Teakettles---in Park collection.
21. Cast Iron Pot---in Park collection.
22. Humidifying Urn---in Park collection.

23. Waffle Iron---in Park collection.
24. Cherry Stoner---in Park collection.
25. Cast Iron Griddle---in Park collection.
26. Soot Jack---in Park collection.
27. Small Cast Iron Pot---in Park collection.
28. Mortar and Pestle---in Park collection.
29. Tailor's Iron---in Park collection.
30. Cast Iron Sash Weight---in Park collection.
31. Cast Iron Hitching Weight---in Park collection.
32. Fragment of Charcoal---in Park collection.
33. Fragment of Anthracite Coal---in Park collection.
34. Fragment of Coke---to be acquired.

Thus, all specimens needed are at present in the Park collection, with the exception of a steel bayonet and a fragment of coke. The latter can undoubtedly be acquired with little difficulty, but the steel bayonet may pose a problem. It is hoped that some other National Park Service area may have one which can be transferred; if not, some other colonial steel object may be substituted.