MACKINAC ISLAND AND OLD MILL
CREEK NATURAL DISPLAYS AND
INTERPRETIVE TRAILS
PHASE III

NOV 1986

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MACKINAC ISLAND AND OLD MILL CREEK
NATURE DISPLAYS AND INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

PHASE III
FEDERAL ID #38-NA
GRANT LRP 8C-2

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROGRAMS
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

SUBMITTED BY
MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION CENTER

NOVEMBER 24, 1986

| | |
|---|---|
| TOTAL PROJECT | $33,897.58 |
| COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PROVIDED BY THE COASTAL LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1972 ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION) | 14,432.44 |
| MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION | 19,465.14 |

DAVID A. ARMOUR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Mich. Dept of Natural Resources

SB482.M52M32 1986 phase 3

November 24, 1986

# MACKINAC ISLAND AND OLD MILL CREEK NATURE DISPLAYS AND INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

Phase III Grant LRP 8C-2
Federal ID #38-NA

Final Report
by
David A. Armour, Deputy Director
Project Supervisor

Mackinac Island State Park, a National Historic Landmark, comprises 1,700 acres. The park contains many unique natural and geological features. A network of roads and trails provides access to the 750,000 annual visitors.

Old Mill Creek is a 625 acre park near Mackinaw City, Michigan and includes a late eighteenth-century sawmilling community. Several miles of nature trails have been constructed and are used by 75,000 visitors a year.

In Phase II in 1985 a Coastal Management grant provided funds to design a nature trail, boardwalk and overlook, as well as designing a number of nature displays for Mackinac Island.

In Phase III twenty-seven outdoor displays were drawn, silk screened and embedded in fiberglass. Metal stands were fabricated and the displays were erected along the nature trail on Mackinac Island. Large colored photographs were made and installed at the British Landing restroom at Mackinac Island. It is intended in the future to convert the lobby of that restroom into a center for a park naturalist. Large colored photographs and two large displays were also made and installed in the lobby of the Visitor Center at Old Mill Creek.

Two nature trails totaling a mile in length were constructed. They are now named the British Landing Nature Trail and the Croghan Water Trail and direct people from British Landing to Croghan Water and around the wetland. The trail has been marked with wood chips to enhance its initial visibility. These trails are marked in blue on the enclosed map. A number of new scenic areas have been opened up to the visitor including the interesting limestone rock formation "Friendship Altar,", a scenic overlook from the north end of Mackinac Island and new viewing areas around Croghan's Water wetland. In order to have the trail ascend a steep escarpment a wooden stairway composed of three flights of steps was made. Considerable clearing was also done in this area so that Friendship Altar would be visible and also so that it would be possible to see from the top of the escarpment out over the Straits. To further enhance the view a tower was erected at the edge of the bluff. The clearning was done very selectively to remove the minimum amount of trees while still providing interesting views. Though a boardwalk was planned to be built at Croghan's Water and permits were obtained, lack of funds and time made it impossible to construct it under this grant.

A major activity of this grant was to map all the trails on Mackinac Island. There are a number of existing maps; they contain many non-existant trails, which lead to a lot of visitor confusion. Under this grant all of the trails were verified by local residents familiar with the trails and, also, by a staff member who field checked the trails. There was a great deal of local enthusiasm for this project.

After field checking the trails a new map was drawn and checked. Finally the map was printed and 10,000 copies are available for distribution. It is anticipated that the map will also be incorporated into a future edition of the Guidebook for Mackinac Island Visitors.

Now that the map is completed it will be possible to plan a meaningful trail and road marking program for Mackinac Island.

Financial Summary

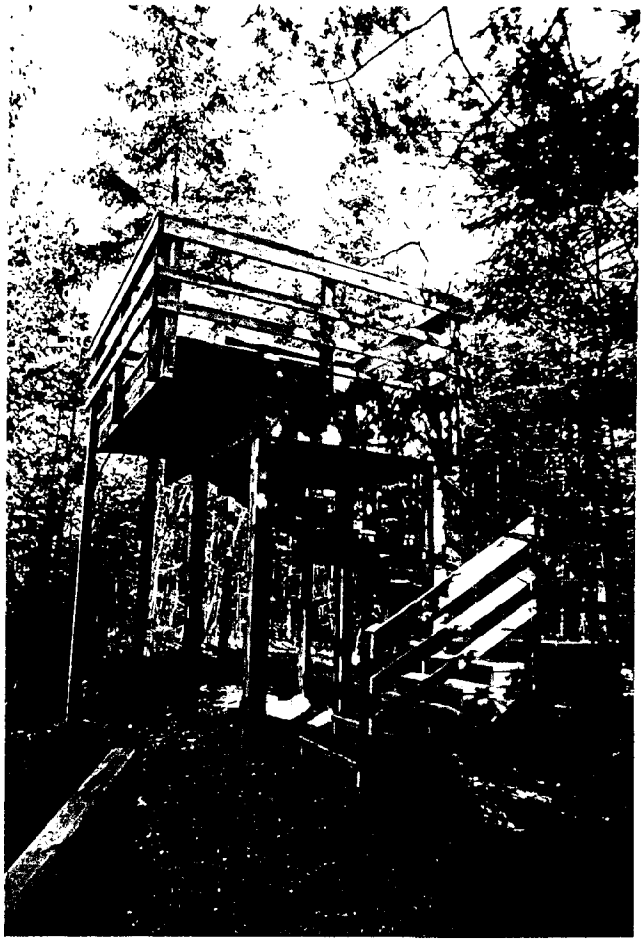
| | |
|---|---|
| Salaries | $25,135.87 |
| Supplies and Materials | 8,761.71 |
| | $33,897.58 |

1. BEGINNING OF BRITISH LANDING NATURE TRAIL AT THE BRITISH LANDING RESTROOMS.

2. EXHIBITS IN FRONT OF BRITISH LANDING NATURE CENTER.

3. EXHIBIT ALONG NATURE TRAIL.

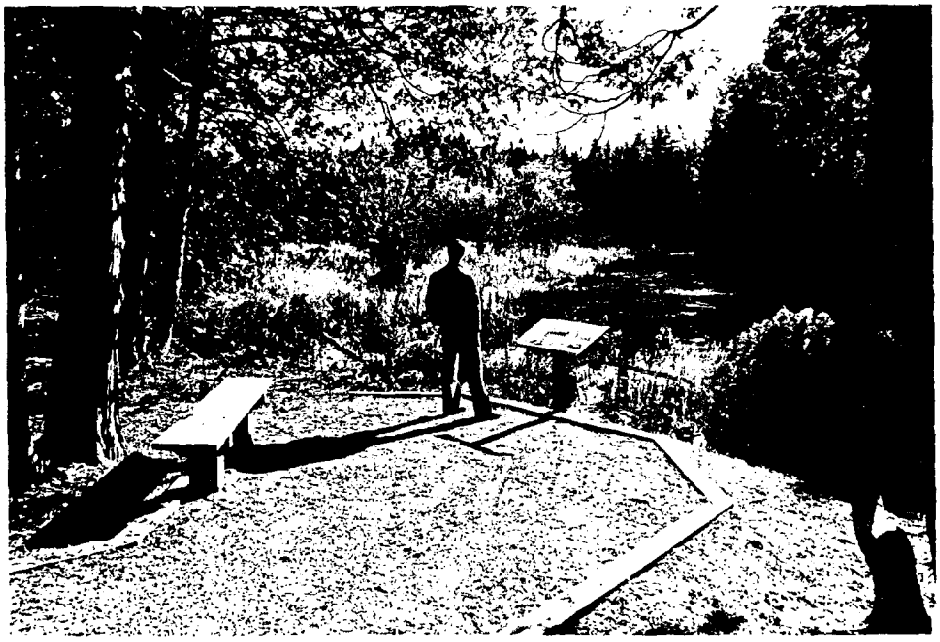
4. STAIRWAY UP ESCARPMENT NEAR FRIENDSHIP ALTAR.



5. OVERLOOK PLATFORM

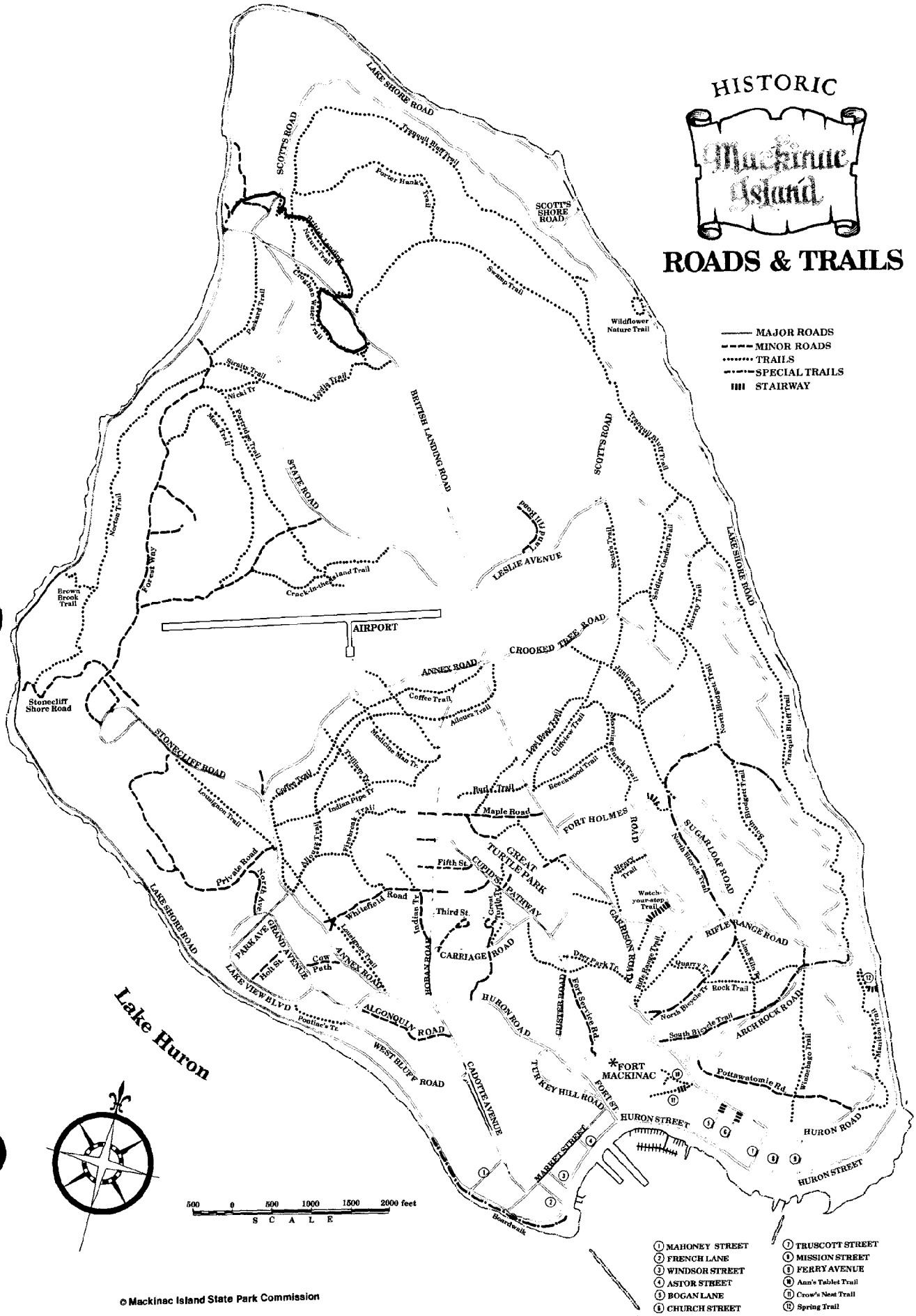
6. VIEW FROM OVERLOOK.

7. EXHIBITS NEAR CROGHAN WATER.



8. VIEWING AREA AND DISPLAY AT CROGHAN WATER.

# HISTORIC Mackinac Island ROADS & TRAILS

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