

HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

SIBLEY/KING/HARRISBURG DISTRICT

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

November 30, 1999

Acknowledgements

*Augusta-Richmond County Commission
The Honorable Bob Young, Mayor/Chairman.*

This Master Plan was prepared for the Augusta Canal Authority, who supervised the work and provided policy direction, in consultation with the Augusta-Richmond County Recreation and Parks Department And Historic Augusta.

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Appreciation is expressed to the citizens and officials who assisted the Authority in data collection, review of proposals, and attendance at public meetings. Their suggestions and opinions were important in shaping the Master Plan.

Robinson Fisher Associates, Inc., Athens, Georgia, prepared the Heritage Development Master Plan.

Preface

The preparation of this master plan was conducted under the direction of the Augusta Canal Authority in response to its mission, which is defined in its legislative mandate. The master plan identifies actions to preserve and interpret the Augusta Canal and related resources within the Sibley/King/Harrisburg district. It is recognized that the scope of many of the proposals of the master plan reaches beyond the boundaries of the canal proper. This larger vision is offered in the interests of making the most of the canal and its potential for the Harrisburg area and Augusta-Richmond County. Further, it is acknowledged that significant time may be required to implement the vision of the master plan.

The Master Plan for the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is intended to be used as a long term guide to the preservation and development for this section of the Augusta Canal in order to maximize its benefits to the community and the nation. The Augusta Canal Authority has no powers of zoning or land use restriction, and therefore cannot adopt any legislation of this nature to implement the master plan. The master plan will be available to government departments that have jurisdiction over land use and public works to suggest direction for their actions in accordance with their legal authority.

Neither the owners of land within the area covered by the master plan nor any other third parties should take actions in regard to their land or interests in reliance upon the master plan. Not only is the master plan subject to change, but development in accordance with the master plan is subject to various factors. These include the availability of funds, the ability to acquire additional tracts of land or easements, the preparation of detailed plans and specifications, and the ability to acquire necessary permits and approvals.

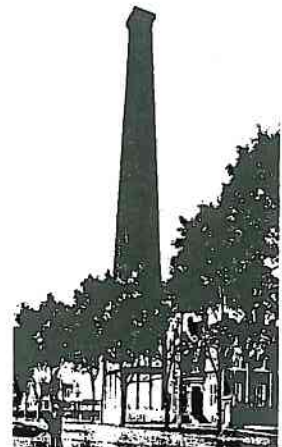


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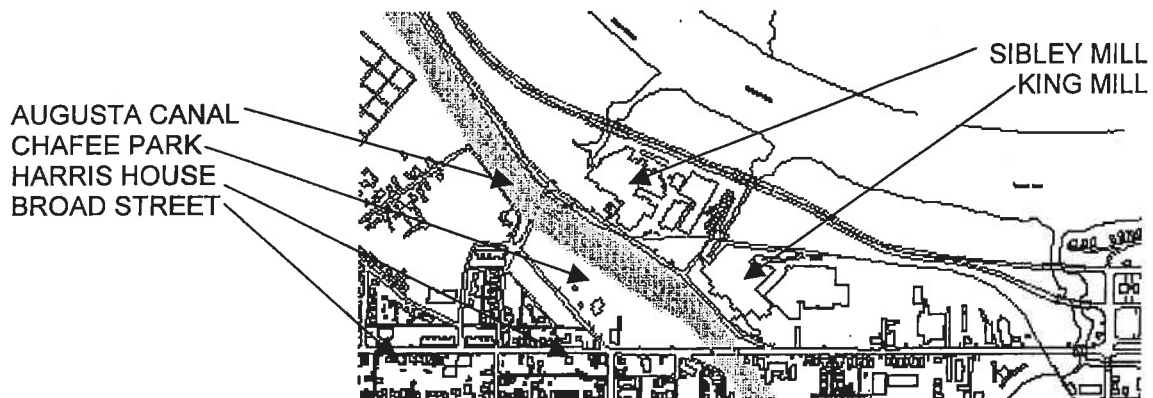
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1 INTRODUCTION

A Introduction to the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District

The Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is a central piece of the **Augusta Canal National Heritage Area**. The District surrounds Chafee Park and encompasses both sides of the canal. It includes the Sibley and King textile mills, the Confederate Powder Works, the Harrisburg mill village, Broad Street, the former Martha Lester School, and the Ezekiel Harris House. It is an important area because of its long history, its association with the Augusta Canal, and its historic streets, houses, churches, stores, and mills. The Canal still produces part of the power for two textile mills. It is also historically a place for recreation. In 1993 the **Augusta Canal Master Plan** identified the importance of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District:



B Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of the Master Plan is to recommend heritage development and capital improvements for the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District that are consistent with the overall mission of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area. The Master Plan paints the "big picture" by setting the overall philosophy, goals, and vision of the visitor experience that is ultimately the purpose of heritage development.

The GOAL is to create a destination heritage site and canal interpretive center that will promote tourism, provide a

rewarding experience for a variety of audiences, and yield quality-of-life benefits to the surrounding neighborhood.

The achievement of this goal will produce social and economic benefits, including tourism, new business and job opportunities, increased property values, neighborhood amenities and community pride. Implementation of the Master Plan can accomplish the following objectives:

- Engage visitors in a discovery process of learning about the history of this area that is accessible to a wide range of audiences, including school children, tourists, and people with special needs.
- Showcase the Augusta Canal prominently in the urban design of Augusta, so that it is no longer a hidden treasure, but one that attracts attention and use.
- Create a variety of positive experiences that gives visitors choices and encourages return visits.
- Create a tourism attraction that can be “bundled” with other venues in Augusta to attract tourists and encourage longer stays in the Augusta area.
- Tell visitors a compelling set of historical stories such as:
 - How the canal works
 - Construction of the canal and the workers who did it
 - Working in the mills
 - Growing up in the mill village
 - Making gunpowder for the Confederacy
 - The wheeling and dealing of Ezekiel Harris
 - Revolutionary war skirmishes in Augusta
- Link the visitor experience of the Canal with the Ezekiel Harris House.
- Develop interactive exhibits and interpretive programs that can be marketed to appeal to large numbers of schools and community groups.
- Create new opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking, picnicking, fishing, and children's play.
- Create open space and facilities for special events and festivals.
- Identify opportunities for new business locations along Broad Street.
- Beautify the streetscape of Broad Street.

- Establish working partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club, recreational outfitters, and other local groups.
- Planned improvements can be built in stages.
- Plans can adapt to changes in visitor needs, the mills, and the neighborhood, etc.

C Concept of Heritage Development

More than 20 million people use some of their leisure time each year to visit museums in the United States, and the trend is rising. This reflects an increasing interest in our national heritage, an increasing use of leisure time to pursue this interest, and, a desire for “edutainment” opportunities for children.

Heritage development is defined as an integrated program of capital improvements and interpretive activities that is based on history and site resources, and attracts significant numbers of visitors, who have interests in history, nature, and culture. It has three essential components: PLACE + AUDIENCE+ CONTENT

Place represents the physical environment.

Content represents the interpretive messages that are communicated.

Audience represents the people who experience the place and absorb the content.

Heritage Development represents the process whereby the place is shaped to produce experiences for the audience in a way that expresses the content.

D Existing Resources That Can Drive the Master Plan

There are many existing resources that can help achieve the goal of the Master Plan and leverage recommendations into reality. Some are physical resources, others are institutional, while others are trends, desires and needs.

- *The partnering of the Augusta Canal Authority with the National Park Service, the Recreation and Parks Department, Historic Augusta, the Augusta Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Augusta-Richmond County Museum, Fort Discovery, Richmond County Historical Society, and others.*
- *National Heritage Area status and its tourism potential*
- *The more than 300,000 visitors annually attracted to heritage sites in Augusta and the 175,000 people that come to riverfront attractions*
- *The growing trend in heritage tourism and "soft adventure"*
- *The growing interest in rivers, canals, and greenways*
- *The proven interest in Civil War history*
- *The growing interest in past ways of life*
- *The trend of schools in teaching venues outside the classroom for history, science, and technology*
- *The Canal*
- *The Petersburg Tour Boat that is being built to offer canal rides to visitors.*
- *The archeological evidence of historic mill sites along the canal.*
- *The Sibley and King mill buildings*
- *Good regional road and bikeway access*
- *Convenient public transportation*
- *View from Riverwatch Parkway*
- *Broad Street as an access route and historical corridor with a direct view of the Canal and mills*
- *Ezekiel Harris House*
- *Harrisburg mill village historical "fabric", including houses, churches, and stores.*
- *The public open space in Chafee Park*
- *Residential neighborhoods*
- *The linear public open space and parks along the Augusta Canal that can be accessed through Chafee Park*
- *Boys and Girls Club potential to be park ambassadors and, in doing so, to gain entrepreneurial and civic experiences*
- *Existing private recreational outfitters offering bicycles, canoes, etc.*
- *Public ownership of key parcels*

2 DISCOVERY

Underlying the Master Plan is an analysis of existing conditions in the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District.

A Urban Context

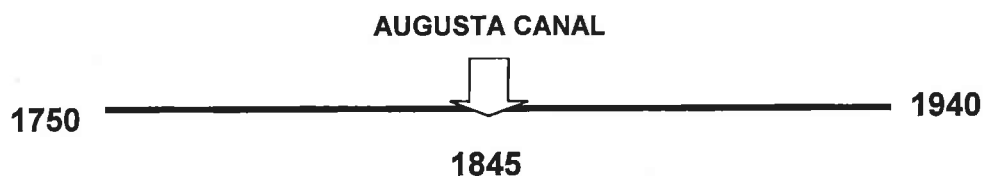


The district lies within the urban core of Augusta. It is adjacent to the central business district and is connected to it by Broad Street. It is well positioned to be a destination heritage tourism site. It is conveniently accessible to both the region and the city's historic core by private car, public transportation, Petersburg Tour Boats, and bicycle. There are city sidewalks throughout, as well as foot trails along the canal for walkers and joggers. The district includes several neighborhoods with detached houses, a scattering of small businesses, several churches, a boys and girls club, and two major mill workplaces. The district's neighborhoods are relatively stable but exist in a fairly typical urban transitional stage characterized by aging housing stock, deteriorating infrastructure, demographic changes, and social problems. While fewer and fewer residents work locally in the mills, there is still a strong identification with Harrisburg's mill origins. This is fostered in part by second and third generation families who still reside in the area and by the area's many churches, which draw people back on a regular basis. Commercial activity along Broad Street is generally marginal, with a large amount of underutilized

frontage. Chafee Park, which was established in 1905, has also contributed to Harrisburg's sense of community. At various times throughout the years it has offered facilities for playing ball, swimming, and indoor activities. Over the past decade, however, park use has dropped off, as residents travel to better recreational sites outside of the area. The renovation of Olmstead Park, which is adjacent to Harrisburg, is proving successful and may be instructive for Chafee Park's renovation. Recreational usage along the Augusta Canal is steadily on the increase with canoeing, biking, and jogging. The number of visitors exploring the Canal's history is increasing as well.

B Historical Context

The Sibley/King/Harrisburg District has a long and significant history. It is a "living book" that has chapters on colonial life and the Revolutionary War, early farming and trading in Augusta, the Civil War, canal-building, early industry and mill life. The buildings, streets, and open spaces here have witnessed historic events and supported bygone ways of life. Were people to understand the past by looking at this living history book, the goal of heritage development would be achieved. They would understand history as a fabric made up of people, politics, economics, technology, religion, education, land use, natural, and man-made environments. They would understand the connection between yesterday and today, between local and national, and between people and place.

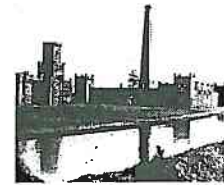


Most historical sites in the district belong to a period from 1750 to 1940, with the Augusta Canal being the district's most obvious historical reference point. It was started in 1845. There is a group of sites that date before the digging of the Augusta Canal and another group that came during or after. The Ezekiel Harris House is the most visible of the sites that came before the canal, while the Confederate

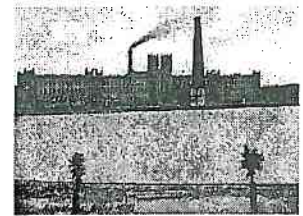
Powder Works and the mills are the most visible of those that came during the canal period, which extends from 1845-1940.

C The Canal Now and Then

The Canal today in the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is different in size and height from how it was in the past. Prior to 1875 it was a



Before 1875



1906

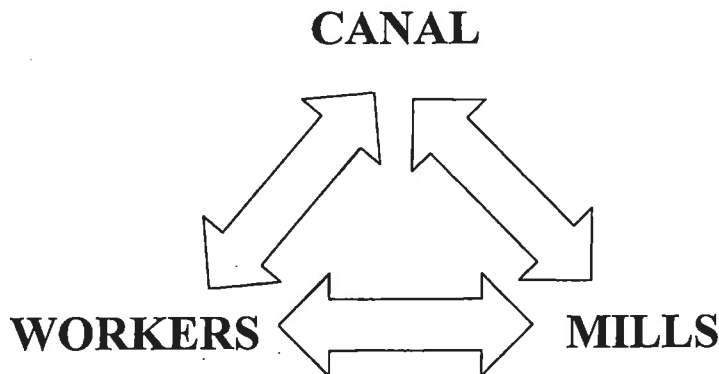
narrow channel at an elevation approximately that of the base of the Confederate Powder Works chimney. In 1875, building a levee along the Savannah River side of the Canal raised the canal elevation. The higher water elevation inundated the lowlands on the Chafee Park side, creating a wide lagoon. This lagoon persisted at least up to the 1930's, gradually diminishing in width and reaching its present dimensions by the 1950's. Historical documents show that after the Canal was enlarged in 1875, there was a third mill site beside the King and Sibley Mills. It is located only a few hundred yards upstream from the Sibley Mill. The last mill to stand here was the Isaetta Mill. Its water intakes are still present in the canal levee. At the turn of the 20th century there were two footbridges that linked the mills and the mill village, as well as the Broad Street Bridge. One crossed at the end of Curry Street, while the other crossed at Pearl Avenue. The latter was replaced in the 1970's by the existing car bridge.

D Chafee Park Now and Then

Chafee Park was officially established in 1905 and named after a then recently deceased President of Sibley Manufacturing Company, John W. Chafee. Before and since that time it has always been open space within Harrisburg. Except for the gymnasium built in the 1950's, there have never been any buildings or streets in this area. Prior to the Canal's enlargement, it was most likely used for grazing and farmland. Thereafter until 1905, half of it was underwater. After 1905, it was the playground and ballfield of the mill village. Its low areas, including an outdoor swimming pool that was removed in 1978, have been filled, and today it is level and stands several feet above the water level of the Canal.

E Primary Heritage for Interpretation

The history surrounding the Augusta Canal represents the district's dominant heritage for interpretation. This is not to say that other historical periods and sites lack significance, but only that it is the strongest suit (so to speak) in a hand of many historical cards. It is also important because it ties the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District to the entire *Augusta Canal National Heritage Area*.



As shown in the above diagram, canal history in the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is made up of three interrelated elements that represent the primary interpretive themes. Each is explained by the other and each contains important sub themes.

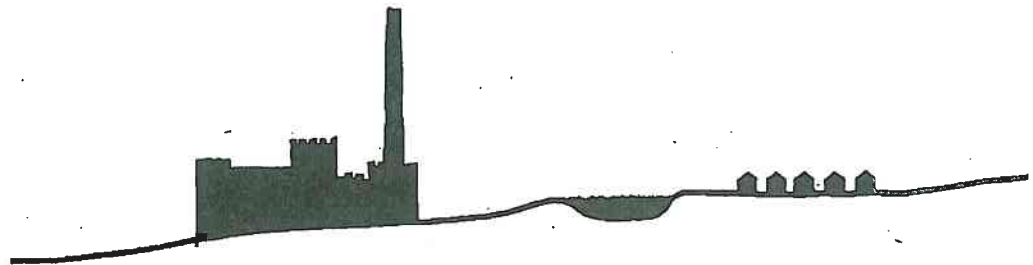
F Site Resources and Thematic Content

The primary site resources related to the dominant heritage theme are:

the MILLS

the CANAL

the MILL VILLAGE



With the mills on one side of the Canal and the workers' houses on the other side, we can begin to see a wealth of stories (histories) that can be told through site historic resources. For example, we can see the mills representing *industrial power*, the Canal representing *waterpower*, and the workers representing *human power*. In the region beyond the site we can see the forces of "profit" and "capital" representing *financial power*. In another example we can see the mills representing the engineering technology of machines, the Canal representing hydraulic engineering, and the worker's lives representing the social engineering (paternalism) of the mill owners. On the subject of time, we can see the "time is money" concept of the mill owners, the "living by the bell" lives of workers, and the "time off" represented by the canal's recreation opportunities.

G Secondary Heritage for Interpretation

After the dominant heritage for interpretation, there are three tiers of secondary themes, some of which relate to the canal period and others preceding it. These themes, which are listed below, fit within the National Park Service's comprehensive interpretive structure.

1st tier

Canal Concept and Construction
Mill Workers
Mill Village
Textiles
Powderworks

2nd tier

Mill Families
Workers who Built the Canal
Mill Architecture
Mill Village Houses
Recreation Activities
Mission Churches

3rd tier

Revolutionary War
Early Augusta
Native American and Colonial Crossroads

H Natural Context

The history of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is interwoven with the area's natural setting, which lies between the hills of the Piedmont and the flat ground of the Coastal Plain. The relatively level topography of Harrisburg is perched more than fifty feet above the Savannah River. This vertical drop to the river allows the water of the Canal to fall through mills' turbines to produce water power. The level land along Chafee Park presented an opportunity for the canal builders to enlarge the Canal at the time the Sibley and King Mills were built to enhance waterpower. Before the Canal was built, trade routes converged in this area where the Savannah River could be crossed, where boats could be floated downstream to market, and where level land could be used for grazing animals and growing crops.

I Visual Context

The Sibley/King/Harrisburg District today presents the fairly common picture of an underutilized and neglected urban area. While little is consummately ugly, the prevailing impression is "blah". The Canal itself is easily overlooked. However, within this generally lackluster visual environment, there are several distinguished and remarkably attractive landmarks. These include King Mill, Sibley Mill, and the Ezekiel Harris

House. To the careful eye, there are many historical structures that could be restored for the betterment of the district, and others already in good shape, whose historical significance are not generally appreciated. These include some mill houses, storefronts, and churches. Chafee Park looks neglected and uninteresting. Its gymnasium is ugly and obtrusive to the view of the mills from Broad Street. In the absence of an attractive park landscape to attract the eye, the electrical power pylons along the canal are glaringly obvious. The commercial development opposite the Harris House is similarly obtrusive. Broad Street has a very poor streetscape, with its power lines, broken sidewalks, cluttered commercial properties and signs. The slather of concrete along the frontage of the Ezekiel Harris House greatly distracts from this well maintained historic property. Historically, there was an almost continuous frontage of buildings framing this street. Now, with many buildings torn down, Broad Street lacks both the spatial definition that makes good urban design and the streetscape amenities that are friendly to pedestrians.

J Estimated Visitors

How many visitors would come to a Sibley/King/Harrisburg destination heritage site? The answer has a lot to do with what is offered, how the site is promoted, and the demographics of the visitors that the site would attract. The visitor report for 1998 for Augusta-Richmond County provides initial evidence. A sample of annual visitation figures are:

• Augusta River Walk	225,000
• Historic Tourism (all sites)	143,000
• Ezekiel Harris House	3,000
• Fort Discovery	162,000
• Special Events – River Walk & Amphitheater	176,000
• Special Events – Boathouse Area	28,000
• Special Events – Lake Olmstead	2,300
• Special Savannah River events	52,000
• Canal Canoe Rental	900

The following estimates of potential annual visitors for the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is based on different levels of site heritage development:

100-200,000 VISITORS FOR A FULL DESTINATION HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT

25-50,000 VISITORS FOR A MEDIUM LEVEL OF HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT

5-15,000 VISITORS FOR A LOW LEVEL OF HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT

A full destination site refers to one that people would drive several hours to visit and would stay for at least a half day. It would have full interpretive programming and visitor services. Medium level refers to a development that would attract visitors primarily from within the Augusta metropolitan area and tourists visiting other primary destination sites. It would have a smaller interpretive center building with more limited interpretive programming, exhibitry and visitor services. A low level of heritage development refers to a passive recreational setting with marked historic sites, no building, limited on-site staff, and minimal visitor services.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

A Introduction to the Master Plan

The Master Plan puts forth a vision of transforming a dowdy but historically significant urban district into:

- ***A heritage destination that will attract many visitors***
- ***A park environment where people will enjoy their leisure time***
- ***An attractive intown setting for homes, businesses, and civic institutions***

The improvements recommended by the Master Plan are influenced by:

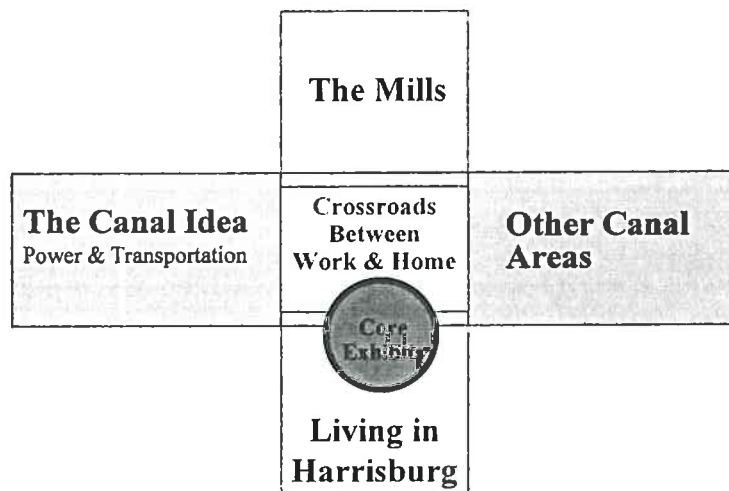
- ***The area's heritage***
- ***The needs and perceptions of many kinds of visitors***
- ***The needs of recreational users and local residents***
- ***Site opportunities***
- ***Partnership opportunities for government, civic institutions, and business***

The Master Plan:

- *Defines the interpretive concept of the district*
- *Overlays the interpretive concept onto the site*
- *Defines the experience of the visitor*
- *Identifies physical improvements*
- *Estimates cost*
- *Outlines implementation*

B Interpretive Concept

The interpretive concept for the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is based on the its dominant heritage, which is **CANAL + MILLS + WORKERS**. The diagram below illustrates the key relationships between six interpretive zones.

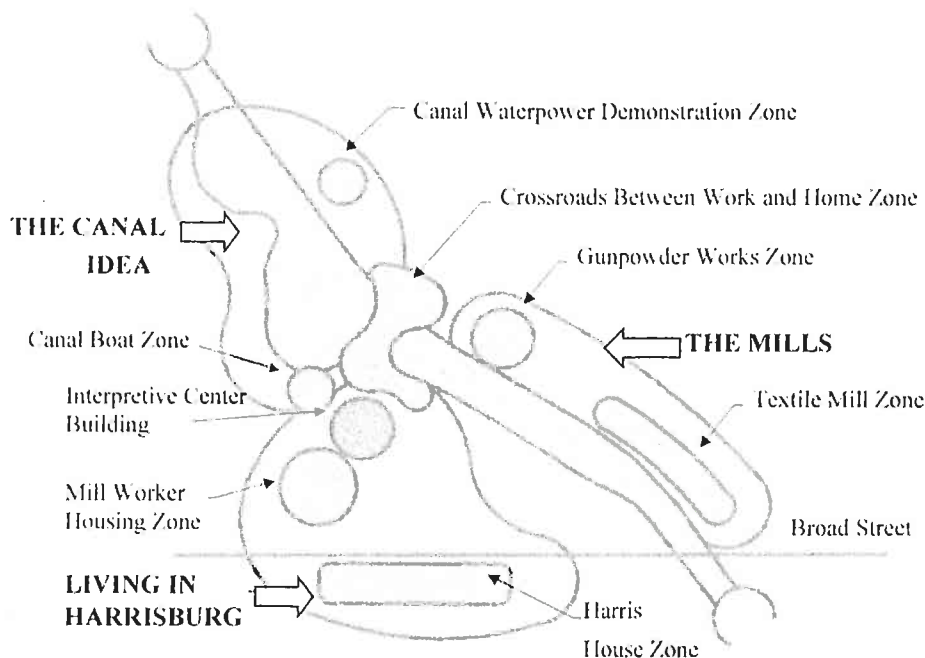


1. *The Canal Idea* focuses on the genius of the Canal itself – its conception, its engineering, and its performance in providing power and transportation.
2. *Other Canal Areas* focuses on features of the Augusta Canal that lie beyond the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District.
3. *The Mills* focuses on the industry that came as a product of the waterpower and transportation developed by the Canal.
4. *Living in Harrisburg* focuses on all the aspects of ordinary life experienced by those who came before the Canal, those who built and enlarged the Canal, and those who worked in the mills.

5. **Crossroads Between Work & Home** focuses on the “marriage” that existed between mills and workers, home and work.
6. **Core Exhibits** gives an overview of all of the interpretive zones and the entire Augusta Canal.

C Site Interpretive Diagram

The site diagram comes from overlaying the interpretive concept onto the site. Interpretive zones are laid on the site in a way that includes the site resources that are relevant to each. The site diagram also identifies interpretive areas within each zone. While zones end up different sizes, their relationships hold constant. *The Canal Zones*, for example, remains a linear entity that separates *The Mills* and *Living in Harrisburg*, while *The Crossroads between Work & Home* links them.



D Visitor Experience Walk-Through

Using the site diagram as a key map, the walk-through outlines the experiences that will be both pleasurable and educational for the visitor. The Master Plan recommends a series of interactive zones for an inter-generational audience that can be accessed by visitors with different needs and learning styles. The plan accommodates both individuals who prefer singular experiences and groups who require space in which to interact with each other and with exhibit elements.

Before Visiting the Site

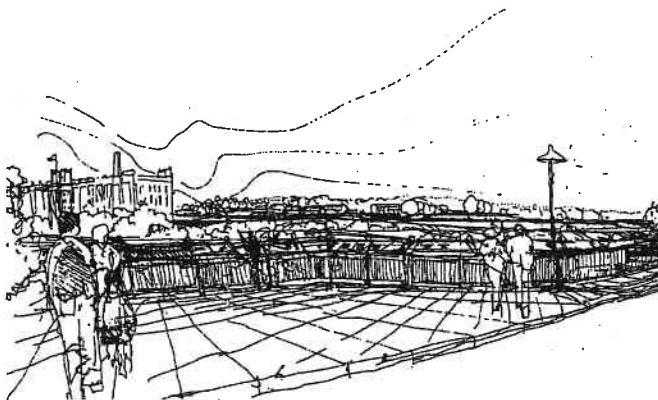
A variety of media, such as brochures, maps, websites, and videotapes, will be used to orient and inform individuals, tour groups, and school groups prior to their visit. This will be done in concert with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, schools, and other cultural and heritage providers in Augusta. Materials will be picked up, mailed, or downloaded. They will be geared to specific audiences, such as workbooks for school groups, materials for special needs, or visitation manuals for tour guides. Step-on guides will meet buses on route or at a previous destination to give preliminary background to specific groups.

The Visitors' Approach to the District

There are several approaches that begin visitors' experiences of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg area. These create transitional experiences that build anticipation from travel on Riverwatch Parkway to Broad Street to a sense of arrival in an historic district.

Riverwatch Parkway Arrival Sequence

Eastbound travelers on Riverwatch Parkway will see the great chimney of the Confederate Powder Works and the brick crenellations of the mills amongst the treetops. A scenic pull-off will give motorists the opportunity to have a longer look and an overview. They will see the canal, Harrisburg and the Ezekiel Harris House, the waterpower interpretive site, the interpretive center building and the canal tour boat. They will also see people biking and canoeing along the Canal and gathering in Chafee Park. A wayside exhibit will explain the view and give directions for how to get there. A walkway will lead visitors to the top of the huge sluice gates that let the rushing torrent from Sibley Mill pass through the levee. Both the overview and the rushing torrent establish the interpretive baseline of waterpower and industry.



Broad Street Arrival Sequence

The arrival along Broad Street actually consists of 5 different streetscape conditions that progressively draw visitors into the heart of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District and the main entrance to the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.

- a. *Turning from 15th Street onto West Broad Street, motorists and bicyclists will see clear vehicular wayfinding elements to tell them they are headed to the Augusta Canal interpretive center. The first stretch of Broad Street is characterized by industrial land use, but its streetscapes will be beautified. Bicyclists will use a Class 3 road-share bike route. Walkers from downtown and the bus station will be encouraged to walk on the sidewalk on the south side of the street.*
- b. *Moving west along Broad Street from the bus station, visitors will come upon a row of historic mill houses followed by other historic buildings. At this point, signage and streetscaping will welcome visitors into the Sibley/King/Harrisburg Historic District.*
- c. *Along the frontage of the King Mill and the Martha Lester School landscaping will impart a park feeling, just as visitors go up and over the canal bridge. Walkers will go over a new footbridge next to the Broad Street Bridge. They will look up the Augusta Canal along its widest stretch and see the majestic 19th century mills beyond.*



- d. *Opposite the mills, visitors will see the lawns and trees of Chafee Park stretching along Broad Street with its tree-lined sidewalk leading to the main entrance of the interpretive center at Pearl*

Avenue. On the other side of Broad Street, visitors will see an historic frontage of buildings facing the park with places to eat, shop, and rent canoes and bicycles. Passing motorists will be able to see the mills and any festivals that are underway in Chafee Park.

- e. From Pearl Avenue to Grace Street visitors will experience the core of Harrisburg. They will see the Ezekiel Harris House, with its fencing and pastoral landscape, commanding the view over Broad Street and Chafee Park. On the other side of Broad Street they'll pass a row of historic worker cottages, row houses, and a mission church. Inappropriately modified historic facades will be restored.*

Gateway to Chafee Park and the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center

This element will be visible to the traveler coming along Broad Street from either direction. It will be large and noticeable from a distance, sending the distinctive message that this site is the location of the Augusta Canal Center. Visitors will sense that this is the heart of historic Harrisburg overlooked by the Ezekiel Harris House. It will look the part with attractive sidewalks, street trees, and lampposts. Opposite Pearl Avenue, visitors will see a variety of historic or traditional storefront businesses. Neighborhood residents will follow broad walks leading into the park at the end of Crawford Avenue.



Pearl Avenue

As visitors pass through the gateway and arrive at the car park, they will be looking straight up historic Pearl Avenue, with traditional fencing on the left and the sweeping open space of Chafee Park on

the right. Visitors will sense that Pearl Avenue is a "people street" leading toward a gathering place. Along the street the actual names of the families who lived at these addresses will be introduced. The information will include family members, ages, and the jobs they held at the mill. These names will personalize visitors' experiences. Across the park, visitors will see the mills and the Canal through a riparian band of trees. Beyond the driveway that leads to the car park, Pearl Avenue is blocked to cars. The historic street is for pedestrians only. Past this point visitors will have the choice of following Pearl Avenue to the canal tour boat or entering the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center Building.

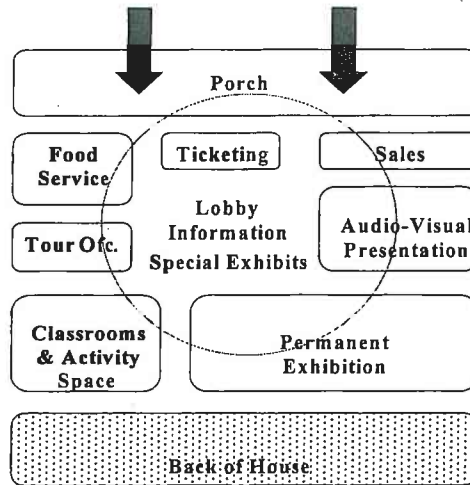


Interpretive Center Building

Visitors will find a row of traditional brick buildings with front porches that evokes the feeling of the row of boarding houses that once stood here. It is not a reproduction of those buildings, but rather a replication of their scale and the definition they gave to Pearl Avenue and Chafee Park.

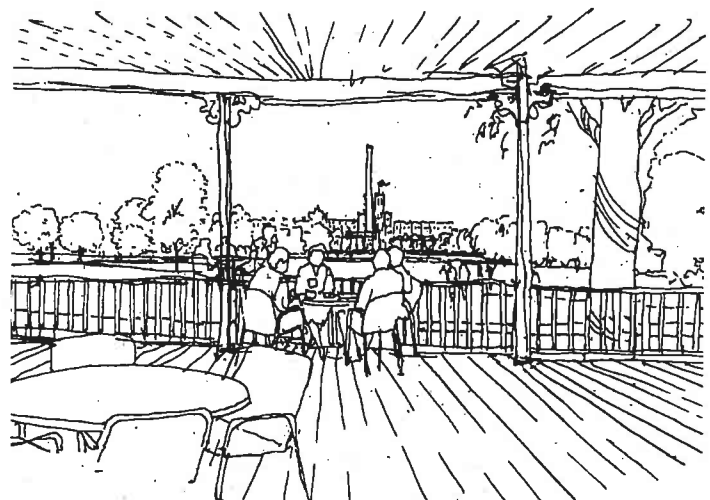
The center is the core interpretive and wayfinding component for the visitor. It is the point of beginning of all interpretive visits, functioning like the hub of a wheel, from which visitors go out from and return to in their discovery of the canal's historical and recreational resources. Visitors who arrive at the site from its edges will be directed toward the center. It provides visitors with the overview of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area and the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District and directs visitors to the different experiences that are available. It tells the story of the Augusta Canal on several levels, accommodating visitors coming alone or in groups, visitors with varying time

constraints, and visitors of different educational backgrounds. It also offers central information about exhibit destinations, tours, special events/programs, recreational opportunities, and one-stop ticketing. Visitors will soon understand that the building is just one part on an interpretive complex that encompasses a walk-able district along the canal.



The Porch.

As visitors step onto the porch of the interpretive center building, they will gain the perspective of mill families, who looked out upon this view of the Canal and the mills beyond. The porch will orient visitors to the site, to the exhibits inside, and to special services, such as tours, food service, bicycle rentals, and boat trips on the Canal. Visitors will be invited to sit and socialize and have a bite to eat. There will in fact be several interconnected porches, each with its own personality, that cater to different visitor experiences--food service, making recreational arrangements, socializing, and exhibition.



Lobby and Information Area

The lobby is an interior gathering place, where visitors may get information, buy tickets, gather for tours, and look at special artifacts that are scattered around. Visitors will also find restrooms and other visitor services here.

The Ticketing Area

Ticketing for all venues and activities will be centralized in the interpretive center building. A series of tiered tickets will accommodate different audiences, different lengths of stay, and different combinations of tours. One hour to whole day tours will be offered, as well as self-guided tours with the rental of an audio wand. Longer tours might include a picnic box. Visitors can sign up for special programs and events, such as learning to weave. Visitors will be able to make arrangements for canoe trips, bicycle and roller blade rentals, fishing poles and bait, etc. The center will coordinate with local outfitters.

Audio-visual Presentation

Before or after entering the exhibit area visitors will have the choice of viewing a 6-10 minute audio/visual presentation. It will present the core interpretive themes of the Augusta Canal and offer a compelling invitation to visit the many outdoor areas that make up the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area. This presentation may be in an object theater, which has actual historical objects woven into a show of sound, light, and images.

Permanent Exhibition

This is the interpretive gathering point, where it all comes together educationally. It serves as the element that enables visitors to scatter across the site intelligently. In this area visitors will learn about the entire Augusta Canal story and the specific core message of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg area. Visitors will carry this thematic template with them on their visit to outdoor areas.

Special Exhibition

In this area visitors will find seasonal exhibitions themed around events or programs which help to create repeat visits and prompt first time visits.

Sales Area

Visitors may buy both historically themed items and licensed merchandise, such as Augusta Canal model boats or tee shirts. Crafts, books, maps, gifts, and seasonal items will be available. The sales area is connected to the lobby.

Food Service

A light order restaurant will offer historically themed foods and refreshments. Tables on the porch will give visitors the chance to both overlook and be a part of the canal scene. Picnic box lunches will be an optional part of tour packaging. Alternatively, a small vending machine area adjacent to the lobby and porch will offer visitors drinks and snacks with limited seating.

Outdoor Interpretive Zones

In a twenty or so acre area around the interpretive center building on both sides of the Canal there are six interpretive zones that are linked together by pathways. Each zone contains important site resources and focuses on core messages presented in the interpretive center building, where visitors learn about the outdoor interpretive zones and the possibilities for touring them. Given time and inclination, visitors may visit one or all of the zones. The overall interpretive program, which includes the building and the outdoor zones, facilitates a "gather-scatter" process of educational discovery. This is a process whereby visitors gather for a core message, then scatter through the exhibitions in a process of self-directed discovery, then gather again at some instance (like a surprise event) to share a group discovery.



Crossroads between Work and Home

As visitors leave the interpretive center building, they will step into mill village life to be confronted with a busy hub of activity. There will be the footbridge over the Canal, canal boats, carts and wagons, and the sights and sounds of men, women, and children coming and going. Throughout the day visitors will hear the mill bells that called workers to their shifts. Exhibits will encourage visitors to imagine life from birth to death in a paternalistic society overseen by mill owners who owned the houses, set the clock, sold coal to heat homes, and provided doctors, mission churches, and childcare. First person interpreters, representing actual people, will describe elements of life in Harrisburg. This will personalize the experience for visitors. There will be tradesmen hawking goods, selling groceries, and offering services.

Two historically located footbridges across the Canal are a key part of this interpretive zone, because they represent the many ties that bound home and work together. Visitors crossing the new, replicated historic footbridge will be aware of making and spending a dollar at the turn of the century—turning labor into money into goods. With low wages, long hours and hard working conditions, visitors will consider the negative as well as positive side of the paternalistic system. In this light visitors will appreciate the labor movement, populism, strikes, owner retaliation, and ward politics. They will also see early instances of childcare, healthcare, and women in the work place. Visitors will discover the ties between work and play through exhibitions of factory sports teams and the pastimes of fishing and gardening that were the friendly sports of workers in the mill setting. Programmed events, such as a barbeque in Chafee Park, will represent the friendships, annual picnics, and religion fostered in the mill and mission churches.

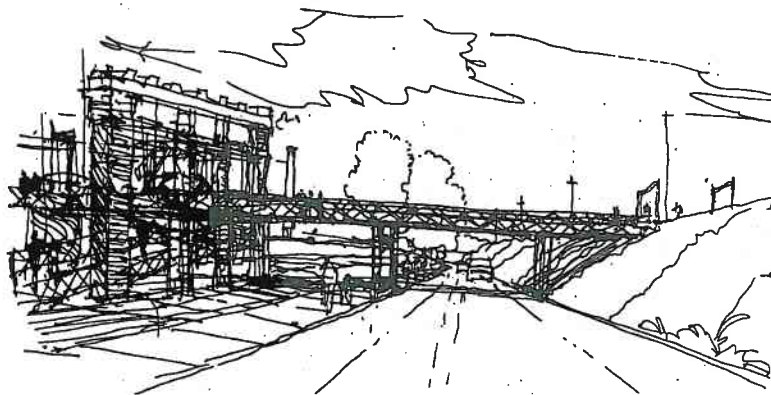


Canal Boat

A replication of the Petersburg boat will offer visitors the chance to take an engaging and interesting ride on the Canal and learn about one of the basic ideas behind the building of the Canal – transportation. The boat will carry visitors up the Canal to the headgates and down the Canal to the Enterprise Mill. On board visitors will hear an audio program that evokes the sounds of the past and narrates stories, such as building the canal and making gunpowder along the Canal. Evening boat tours will be synchronized with dramatic lighting of passing landmarks and features. From the firsthand experience of being on the water and seeing a train pass by, visitors will learn about transportation on the Canal -- from the earliest days of rafts and skiffs, to the specially designed Petersburg Boat, to steam-powered vessels, and to the eventual laying of track for the railroad.

Canal Waterpower Demonstration Zone

When they arrive at this area, visitors will find an interactive exhibition that portrays the basic idea behind the Canal, which was to produce waterpower to drive industrial production. When visitors leave, they will know the key facts and concepts necessary to understand how the Canal works: (1) that the Canal is man-made; (2) that it is related to the Savannah River and the Fall Line; (3) that the water in the Canal is moving; and (4) that the Canal is all about water levels and the effect of gravity.

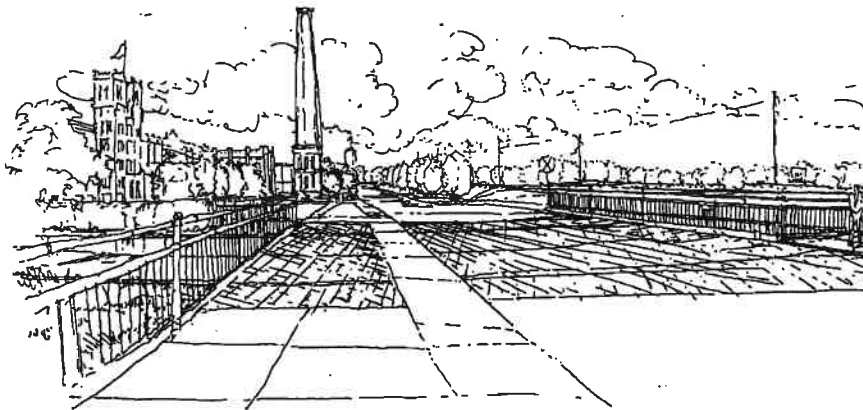


Visitors will see water flowing from the Canal through historic headgates and into a headrace that passes over Goodrich Street. After crossing the street with the race waters beneath their feet, visitors and water will pass through a brick, mill-like façade. There, the water drops into a scale model turbine that will operate an interactive

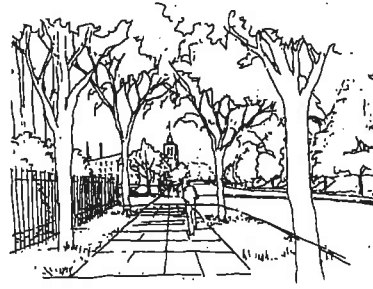
model of the mechanical systems used in the mills, such as lathes and looms. By pulling levers, visitors on the upper platform can run water through the turbine and the tailrace below. By engaging gears, visitors can make different belts and mechanical actions operate. Through direct experience, visitors will appreciate the genius of the canal's engineering and the waterpower it generates. In a very practical demonstration they will also see the water producing direct electrical current for recharging the batteries of the canal tour boats. Outside the exhibit, visitors may walk along a trail that follows the tailrace water's descent to the Savannah River.

Gunpowder Works Zone

The vista of the mill architecture from Chafee Park will draw visitors across the Canal. What they will find is a rich historical resource site that is a window on the war effort of the Confederate States during the Civil War. The exhibitions here tell the story of producing and distributing gunpowder and relating this historic site to the overall war effort. The story will be told in a way that highlights the role of the Canal for transportation, water for steam power, the inflow of raw materials, the outflow of finished product, and the end use. Visitors will see wagons, raw materials, canisters of powder, and the guns and cannons of the Confederacy.

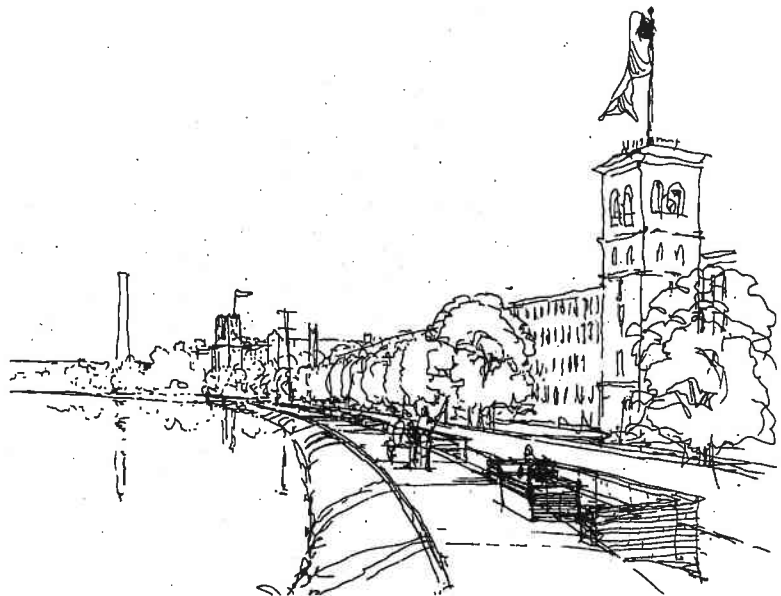


Following the mill tour loop, visitors will walk beneath the shaded canopy of trees that are planted where historical pictures tell us they used to be. Wide walks with interpretive way-finding elements will guide and inform visitors as they move from the Sibley to the King Mills.



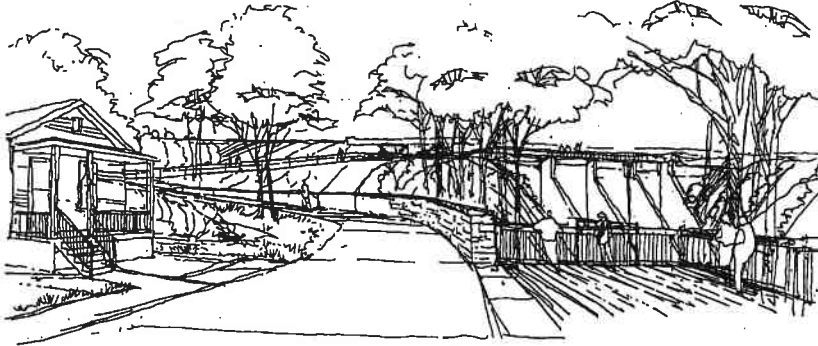
Textile Mill Zone

Walking along the canal levee in front of the King Mill, visitors will approach a line of interpretive stations which tell the story of the textile production then and now. Visitors will become engaged in the process of taking raw cotton and the latent waterpower of the Canal and making cloth. They will become aware of the big economic picture by which these mills and the Canal came to be—i.e. how the invention of the corporation and industrial model of production are the hidden hand behind this industrial scene. Through exhibits and first person presenters, visitors will meet the weavers, spinners, and other workers in the mill who made the mill's tangible products. They will also meet the mill owners and managers who hired workers and organized the production line. Visitors will also see some of the actual products that came out of the mills and find out where they were sold and who bought them.



Visitors may follow the tailrace water of the King Mill down Race Street, where they will find an interpretive wayside that dramatically overlooks the passage of the water through the levy. The trail, which continues under the Riverwatch Parkway, invites the visitor to walk or bike to the banks of the Savannah River. This reinforces the

fundamental idea that the Canal and the river and the topography in between are part of the genius of how the Canal works. This trail is a point of entry into the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District for cyclists and hikers coming along the Bartram Trail adjacent to the Savannah River.



Mill Worker Housing Zone

This is a living history area where visitors will gain a firsthand appreciation of the life of a typical mill worker family. Along Eve Street behind the Interpretative Center building there will be two or three typical mill houses, moved from elsewhere onto sites where mill houses used to stand. They will be restored with their associated outbuildings, porches, backyard gardens and animal pens. Through a representation of actual mill families of the end of the 19th century, the visitor will gain insight into who these families were and where they came from. They will see the family's daily life as well as the stages of life from birth to death. Programming will highlight folkways and ethnic tradition as it acknowledges the seasons and special occasions in the life of families. Visitors will find Eve Street without cars to have the character of a typical mill street in the early 20th century.



Harris House

The Harris House will be integrated into the interpretive planning and visitor experience of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District. Visitors arriving to see the Harris House will come to the Interpretive Center Building first, where they will purchase their tickets and get their tour times. Visitors will approach a pastoral landscape frontage along Broad Street, evoking early Harrisburg. The Harris House, which is an element from a period earlier than the Canal, will help bridge the themes of early Augusta to the mill era. Visitors will find similarities and contrasts of living in the late eighteenth century in this area with that of the late nineteenth century. The Harris House and grounds will be a living history museum that highlights the self-sufficiency typical of homesteads in this period. Exhibits about Ezekiel Harris, as an entrepreneur and trader, emphasize that this location was an important crossroads. From the front porches visitors will gain an informative perspective on regional geography and the layers of time evident in this historical landscape that extends back to the Revolutionary War and the earlier Native American period. Long after Ezekiel Harris was gone, the Sibley/King/Harrisburg area continued to be a crossroads of materials, goods, and people. The Augusta Canal fits squarely into this picture.

Outdoor Interpretive Tours

There are many possible guided and self-directed tours that weave together the core themes of the interpretive center, the resources of the outdoor interpretive zones, and the pathways that link them. Tour loops originate at the interpretive center building, but for visitors who have entered the site at another location, tour loops draw them back to the building. Put another way, tour loops both scatter visitors from and gather visitors to the center. Tours will be of varying duration from 15 minutes to a half and whole day. There will be tours for individuals, groups, and special populations. Maps and audio wands will help the self-guided, while guides will lead tours. Pathways have site signage and wayside elements for direction and information. First person characters, such as mill workers about to regulate the intakes of the mill, will encounter visitors along the way and provide surprise enrichment. Sample tours may include the following:

- *Early History Before the Canal*
- *Living in Harrisburg*
- *Going to Work in the Mill*
- *Designing and Building the Canal*

- *Women Working*
- *Supporting the Confederacy's War Effort*
- *Water, Energy, and Physics*

Throughout the year there will be "historical" events that are regularly programmed, such as an annual canal canoe cruise, or a mill picnic day. There will also be non-historical special events, such as art fairs, to draw people to Chafee Park and the Canal.

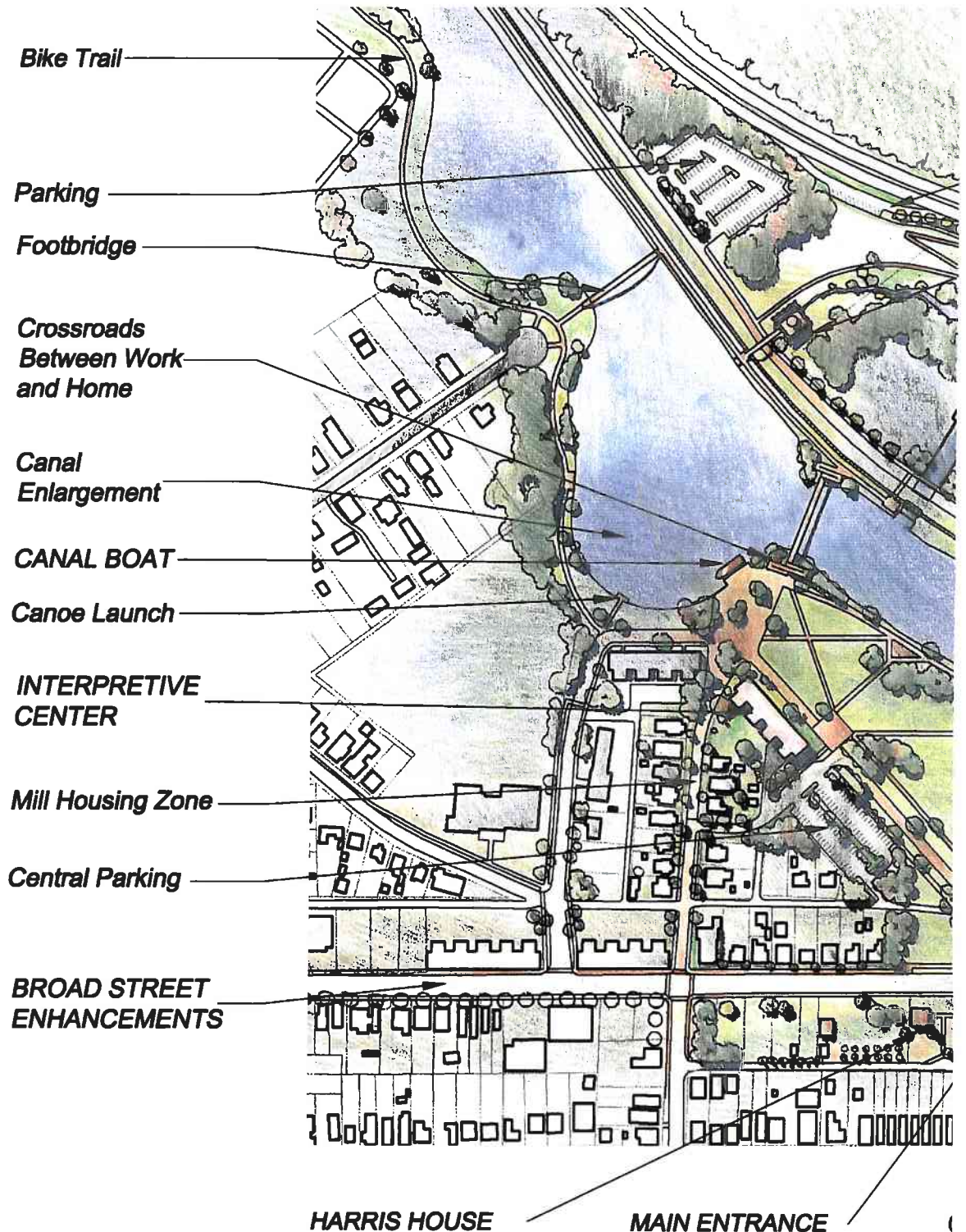
At the end of an hour or the end of a day, visitors will depart knowing things they didn't know when they arrived. They will have been entertained with interactive experiences that give a sense of discovery. They will have enjoyed the park atmosphere and will leave knowing that there is much more to do and discover. They will be motivated to expand their interest and knowledge by visiting other parts of the canal and other historic attractions in Augusta. They will plan to return.

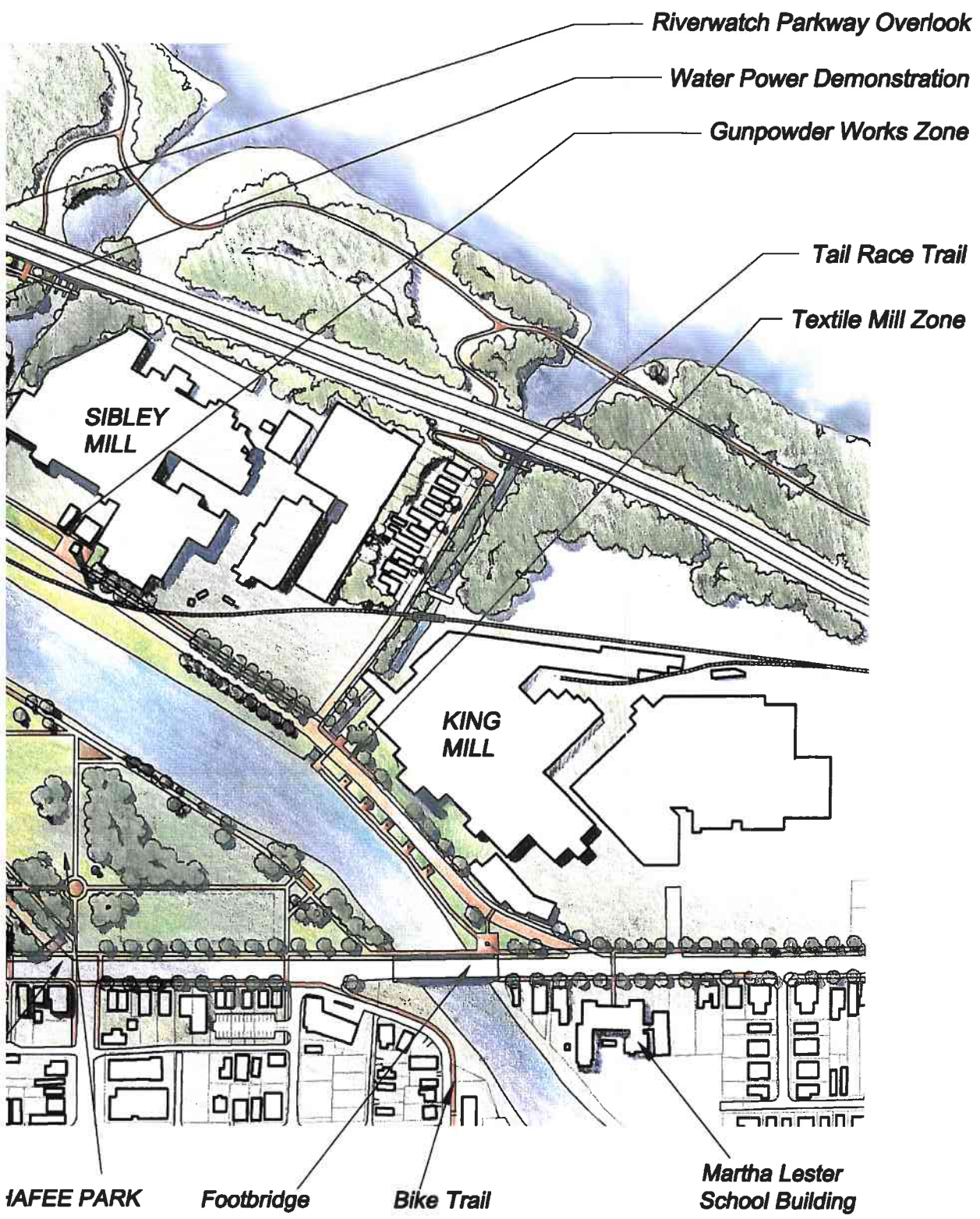
E Master Plan

The Master Plan puts the interpretive concept and the visitor experience into a physical environment of natural and man-made elements. It specifies the location of the interpretive zones and provides a comprehensive layout of the major elements that will make up this important heritage area. It shows overlooks, pathways, parking and buildings, streetscape, park facilities, and bridges.

MASTER PLAN

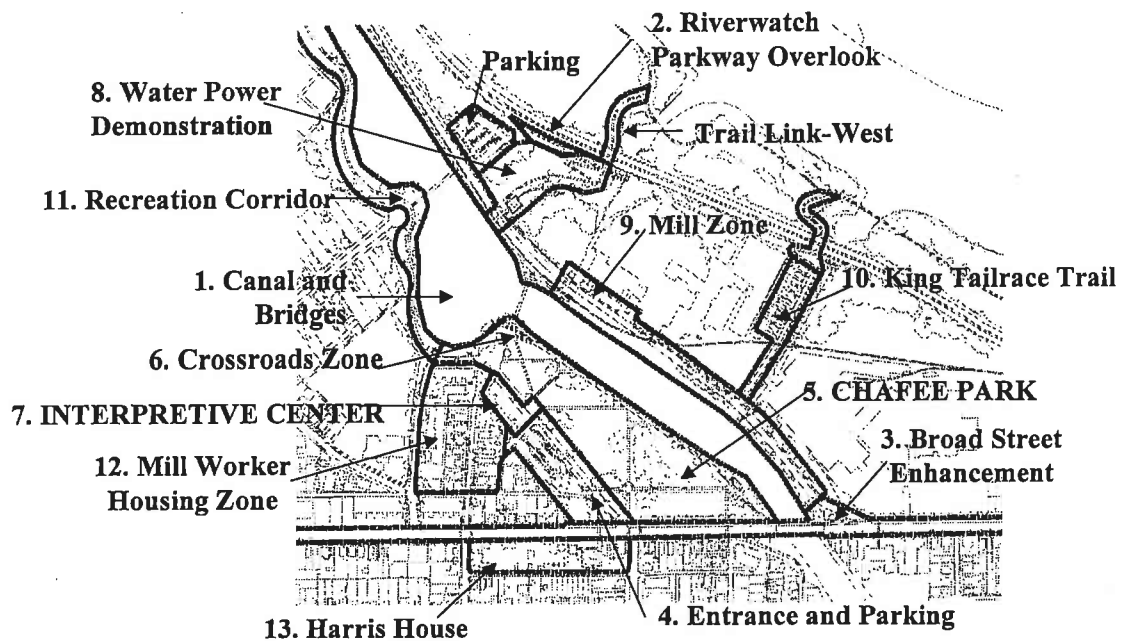
SIBLEY / KING / HARRISBURG DISTRICT





F Development Zones

The Master Plan is broken up into 13 development zones. Each contains a set of capital improvements that is necessary to accomplish its role in the total heritage development of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District. Each is described below:



1. Canal and Bridges

The Canal is widened above the Pearl Avenue Bridge to recreate the lagoon that existed during the heyday of the canal's industrial period. It will serve as the turning basin and homeport of the Petersburg Tour Boat. There are three new footbridges:

Pearl Avenue Footbridge

The existing bridge (built in the 1970's) is replaced by a new footbridge that resembles the one that existed from the 1880's to the 1960's. This is a key interpretive element in the *Crossroads between Work & Home* interpretive zone. It eliminates vehicular

traffic, which would be both incongruous with historic interpretation and unsafe for visitors.

Curry Street Footbridge

A new footbridge crosses the Canal at the end of Curry Street. It is in the historic location of a former footbridge that connected worker and workplace. This bridge creates an important walking loop around the widened canal area and leads to the Waterpower Demonstration Zone.

Broad Street Footbridge

A new footbridge next to the Broad Street Bridge will give pedestrians (including groups of school children) a safe canal crossing from Chafee Park to the Textile Mill Interpretive Zone.

2. Riverwatch Parkway Overlook

A scenic pull-off and overlook is added to the eastbound lanes for cars traveling to downtown Augusta. It will orient motorists to the Sibley/King/Harrisburg Heritage District. A footpath to the top of the levee sluice gate gives a good view of the Sibley Mill tailrace and passes underneath Riverwatch Parkway to a view of the Savannah River.

3. Broad Street Enhancement

It is recommended that the existing Broad Street public right-of-way from 15th Street to Grace Street be improved into an attractive urban corridor through the Sibley/King/Harrisburg Historic District. This can be achieved with a four part enhancement program.

- a) **Clutter Removal.** Remove unnecessary clutter (front yard parking, junk, excessive signage, etc.) from the public right-of-way and adjacent front yards.
- b) **Design Guidelines.** Create an incentive program and design guidelines for the renovation or development of frontage property. An example area is the frontage opposite Chafee Park between Crawford Avenue and the Broad Street Bridge. Harrisburg needs to come under design review by the Augusta Historic Preservation Commission.

- c) **Historic Façade Easements.** Establish agreements with historic property owners for historic preservation.
- d) **Streetscaping.** Improve sidewalks and crosswalks, bike lanes, pedestrian lampposts, trees and landscaping, and way-finding signage.

4. Entrance and Parking

Pearl Avenue at Broad Street is the designated main entrance to the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Interpretive Center, where there is an architectural and landscape gateway. The Master Plan recommends the following elements and/or actions.

- a) Acquisition of commercial properties on each side of Pearl Avenue and removal of their buildings
- b) Architectural gateway and entrance signage
- c) New sidewalks and crosswalks
- d) Park landscape along the Broad Street frontage of Chafee Park, the main entrance, and the area directly opposite the Harris House
- e) Park landscape along Pearl Avenue
- f) Historical-style treatment of Pearl Avenue with paving, fencing, lighting, and planting
- g) No cars past a certain point on Pearl Avenue where the Interpretive Center is located
- h) 120 car paved parking area along Pearl Avenue
- i) 200 car grassed overflow or special events parking area along Broad Street between Pearl and the Broad Street Bridge

5. Chafee Park

Chafee Park is enlarged with the acquisition of adjacent properties along Broad Street. It is developed into an open, passive recreation park with lawn and trees with scenic vistas of the Confederate Powder Works and the Sibley and King Mills. Walks crisscross the park, follow the Canal, and lead in from the neighborhood. There are sitting areas near the water and a children's playground that has an historical theme. Interpretive signs and exhibits provide information and lead visitors to important destinations.

6. Crossroads between Work & Home Interpretive Zone

This area is situated at the intersection of Eve Street, Pearl Avenue, and the Canal. There is a large paved area that is historically themed to resemble the informality and rural rusticity of an ad hoc gathering space at the intersection of a crossroads. There is a boat dock for the canal tour boats. Exhibits and interpretive devices are located throughout. Seating, lighting, and other infrastructure support large groups of people and special events.

7. Interpretive Center Building

The Interpretive Center Building is sited along Pearl Avenue and overlooks Chafee Park, the Canal, and the mills. Its architecture reestablishes the historic building façade line along the street. Its scale and massing are sympathetic to the historic scale of the mill village and its boarding houses. There are two sizes of building that may be considered. Each assumes the basic functional roles identified for the center.

Alternative ONE: 10,000 SF Building

- *Public Space - 7000 SF*
- *Exhibit space (access to loading dock) - 2000 SF*
- *Audio-visual lecture hall (50-60 persons) flat floor multi-purpose - 1000 SF*
- *Lobby/gathering space for 50-60 persons-1000 SF*
- *2 Classroom/Activity Spaces - 1500 SF*
- *Gift shop - 400 SF*
- *Food Service/Vending area - 500 SF*
- *Restrooms - 600 SF*
- *Back of House - 3000 SF*
 - Offices (2)*
 - Docent/Tour guide room*
 - Conference room (20 person)*
 - Archive/library*
 - Store room (access to loading dock)*
 - Gift shop storage*
 - Break room*
- *Outdoor Covered Area - 2000-3000 SF (not included in total building area)*

Alternative TWO: 20,000 SF Building

- *Public Space - 14000 SF*
- *Exhibit space (access to loading dock) - 3000 SF*
- *Changing exhibit space - 1500 SF*
- *Audio-visual lecture hall (50-60 persons) adjacent to exhibit space - 1500 SF*
- *Lobby/gathering space for 100-120 persons - 2000 SF*
- *Classroom/Activity Spaces - 3000 SF*
- *Gift shop - 1000 SF*
- *Food Service with Kitchen—Themed Food Area - 1500 SF*
- *Restrooms - 1000 SF*
- *Back of House - 6000 SF*
 - Offices (2)*
 - Docent/Tour guide room*
 - Conference room (20 person) Archive/library*
 - Store room (access to loading dock)*
 - Gift shop storage*
 - Break room*
- *Outdoor Covered Area – 2000 - 3000 SF (not included in total building area)*

8. Waterpower Demonstration Zone and Isaetta Tail Race Trail

This interpretive area consists of the following built elements:

- Refurbished headgates of the Isaetta Mill
- Pedestrian bridge and raceway spanning over Goodrich Street
- Interactive model of water turbine and mill mechanical devices that is architecturally framed to evoke a 19th century mill
- Power generation equipment to convert waterpower to electricity for charging canal tour boats
- Tailrace reconstruction with walkway
- Interpretive signs and devices
- Parking for 75 cars

9. Mill Zone

Site improvements extend along a corridor between the mills and the Canal along Goodrich Street. They include the following:

- Historic streetscape for Goodrich Street with walks, trees, and decorative iron fencing, and plazas at the Broad Street bridge and the Pearl Avenue Footbridge
- Landscape enhancement to the frontage of the Sibley and King Mills
- Enhancements to Goodrich Street Bridge over the Sibley Mill headrace
- Confederate Gunpowder Works interpretive area
- Textile Mill interpretive area along the canal in front of the King Mill
- Replace mill bell

10. King Tail Race Trail

This pedestrian walkway follows Race Street, which is enhanced for historical character. At the end of the street, there is an overlook with interpretive devices. This is where the race waters pass through the levee. An existing row of mill houses on the opposite side of the street is preserved by a façade conservation easement. The walk continues up the face of the levee, passes under the Riverwatch Parkway and continues to the banks of the Savannah River, where it meets the river bicycle trail.

11. Recreation Corridor

The plan recommends recreational and landscape improvements to the edge of the Canal from Eve Street to the cemetery. They include a canoe launch that accommodates commercial outfitters near the end of Grace Street, a multi-purpose walkway, picnic areas, and fishing places.

12. Mill Worker Housing Interpretive Zone

It is recommended that three or four houses that are typical of worker housing be salvaged from somewhere in Augusta, moved onto the vacant land along Eve Street, and restored. Exterior yards typical of the period surround each house, including animal pens and outbuildings. There are interpretive devices and living history exhibitions. The historic streetscape of Eve Street from Broad Street to the Canal is authentically restored, including the removal of cars. Rear alleys serve for car access to adjacent private houses. Walkways with way-finding signage lead from the interpretive center building to the Harris House.

13. Harris House

While the master planning of the Harris House is beyond the scope of this study, it is recommended that the Ezekiel Harris House property be knitted into the overall heritage development of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District. The following actions are suggested:

- Acquisition of property to Eve Street and elimination of non-historical buildings
- Relocate general parking from beside the Harris House to the area along Pearl Avenue, which will be shared by all visitors to the District
- Improved rear alley drop-off for handicap access
- Development of an appropriate historic landscape that extends along Broad Street to Eve Street
- Walkways and way-finding elements from the interpretive center building and central parking area to the Harris House, including safe pedestrian crosswalks across Broad Street.
- Interpretive devices and exhibitions

G Implementation

The Master Plan represents a long range vision. Its realization requires the following steps:

1. Public Information and Acceptance

- *General public*
- *Local neighborhood*
- *Historic Preservation community*
- *Business community*

2. Official Adoption of the Plan

3. Partnerships among many interested public and private entities

- *Augusta Canal Authority*
- *Recreation and Parks Department (ARC)*
- *Public Works Department (ARC)*
- *Planning Department (ARC)*
- *Georgia Department of Transportation*

- *Historic Augusta, Inc.*
- *Augusta Richmond County Museum*
- *Fort Discovery*
- *Utility companies*
- *Augusta Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau*
- *Chamber of Commerce*
- *Augusta-Richmond County Schools*
- *Boys and Girls Club of Augusta*
- *Local churches*
- *Avondale Mills*
- *King Manufacturing Co., Division of Spartan Mills*
- *Harrisburg/West End Neighborhood Association*
- *Local businesses*

4. Property Acquisition: 18.24 Acres Total

- *7.5 Acres for widening the Canal*
- *1.5 Acres for the Riverwatch Parkway overlook*
- *0.8 Acres for the entrance and parking*
- *1.8 Acres for Chafee Park frontage on Broad Street*
- *4.0 Acres for the Waterpower demonstration*
- *0.5 Acres for the Mill Worker housing interpretation*
- *0.8 Acres for expansion of the Harris House property*

5. Funding: Total Projected Cost \$12 to \$15 million plus land acquisition

- *Property Acquisition - to be determined*
- *Site Development - \$5.5 million*
- *Interpretive Center Building-Alternative One - \$3.3 million*
- *Interpretive Center Building-Alternative Two - \$6.8 million*
- *Interpretive Components - \$3.0 million*

6. Detailed Design and Specifications

- *Interpretive Planning and Design*
- *Site Design and Civil Engineering*
- *Building Design*
- *Operations Design*

7. Phased Development

The acquisitions and improvements recommended by the Master Plan can feasibly be phased over time. The details of what comes

first, second, and so forth is of course contingent on funding and public policy, but must also be determined by logical development sequencing. Phasing should seek to deliver a quality visitor and user experience for each step along the way to full development.

8. Operations

Successful heritage destinations represent sustainable development. They require money, personnel, supplies, and equipment to deliver creative interpretive programming, maintain buildings and grounds, and provide public safety. The operational picture is tied to development phasing. It is ultimately tied to a standard of performance that must grow out of the institutional mission of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area. Capital improvement decisions should be made in the light of operational consequences.

4 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Title
- 2 Goal
- 3 The Natural Context
- 4 Urban Context
- 5 Historical Context
- 6 1860's
- 7 1906
- 8 1875
- 9 Chafee Park Bridge
- 10 Primary Heritage
- 11 Secondary Heritage
- 12 Site Resources & Themes
- 13 Interpretive Concept
- 14 Site Diagram
- 15 Visitor Walk-Through
- 16 Riverwatch Parkway Arrival
- 17 Broad St. Arrival 2
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- 19 Broad St. Footbridge
- 20 Main Entrance & Parking
- 21 Interpretive Center
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- 26 Mill Tour Loop
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- 30 Ezekiel Harris House
- 31 Interpretive Loops
- 32 Development Zones

SIBLEY/KING/HARRISBURG DISTRICT

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

MASTER PLAN

1999

The Augusta Canal Authority

1

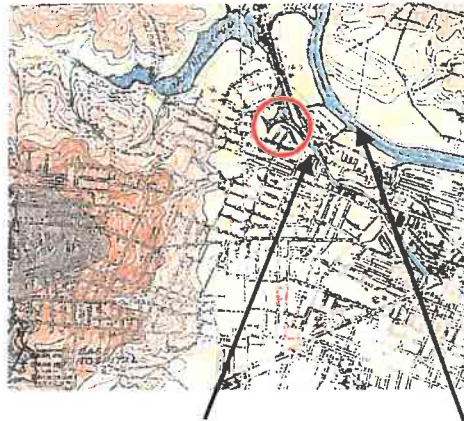
GOAL

Create a destination heritage site and interpretive center for the Augusta Canal that promotes tourism, provides a rewarding experience for a variety of audiences, and yields quality-of-life benefits to the surrounding community.

2

THE NATURAL CONTEXT

The physiographic setting of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg district is basic to how the Augusta Canal works.

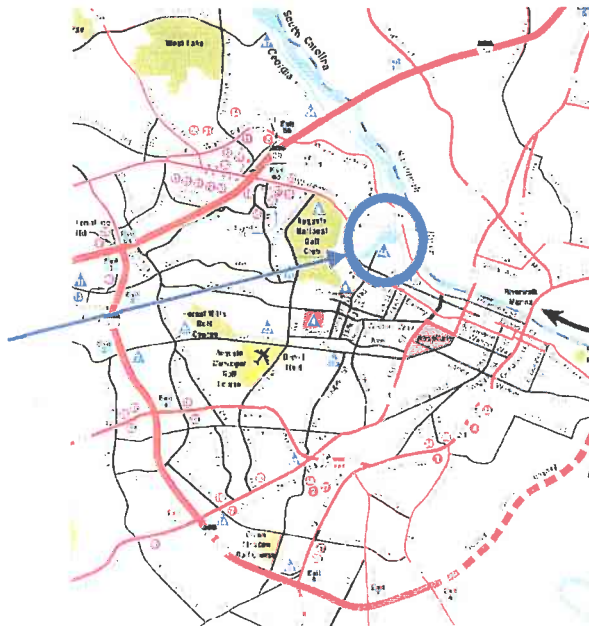


Augusta Canal Savannah River

3

URBAN CONTEXT

The Sibley/King/Harrisburg District is well positioned for Heritage tourism.



4

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Buildings, streets, and open spaces have witnessed historic events and supported bygone ways of life. Were people to understand the past by looking at this living history book, the goal of heritage development would be achieved.

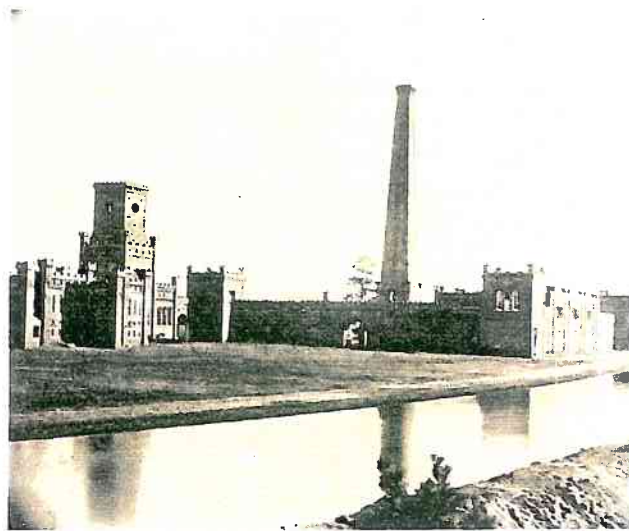
**SITE
HISTORICAL
RECORD**

Colonial life and the Revolutionary War
Early farming and trading in Augusta
The Civil War
Canal-building
Early industry
Mill life

5

1860's

At the time when the Confederate Powderworks was producing gunpowder for the Confederacy, the Augusta Canal was narrower and shallower than it is today.



6

1906

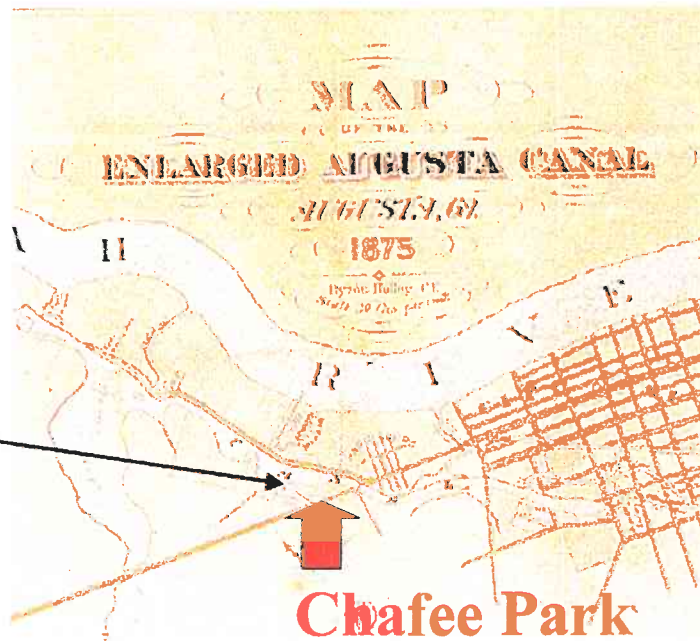
With Chafee Park in the foreground, a much wider canal than exists today powered the Sibley and King Mills.



7

1875

When the elevation of the canal was raised to produce power for large industrial mills, the canal spread out on the Chafee Park side to lagoon proportions.



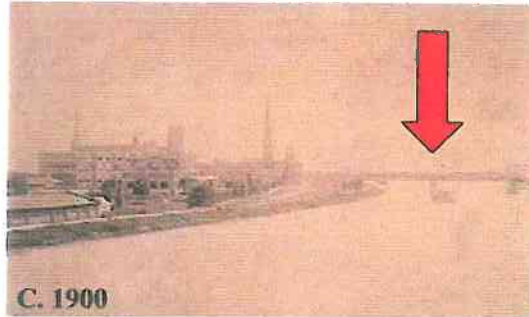
8

CHAFEE PARK BRIDGE

The existing bridge was
built 1965

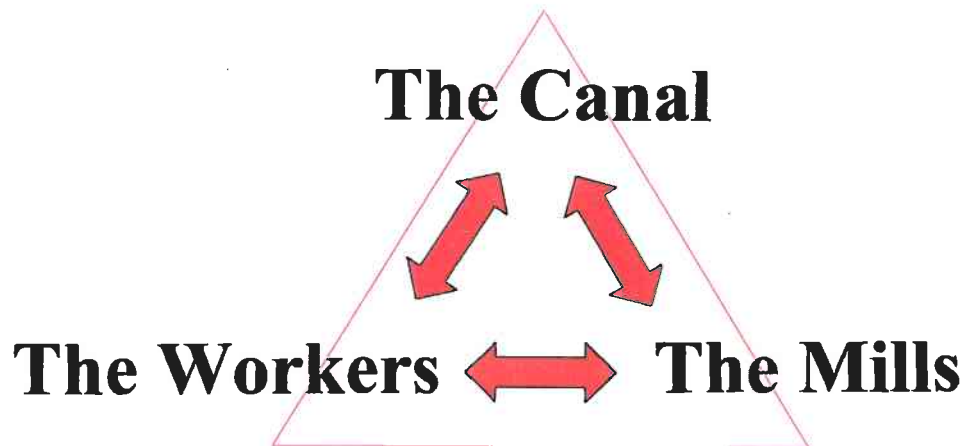


For about 75 years a footbridge
linked the mills with Chafee
Park.



9

PRIMARY HERITAGE



10

SECONDARY HERITAGE

1

Canal Concept and Construction

Mill Workers

Mill Village

Textiles

3

Revolutionary War

Early Augusta

Crossroads

2

Mill Families

Workers for Canal

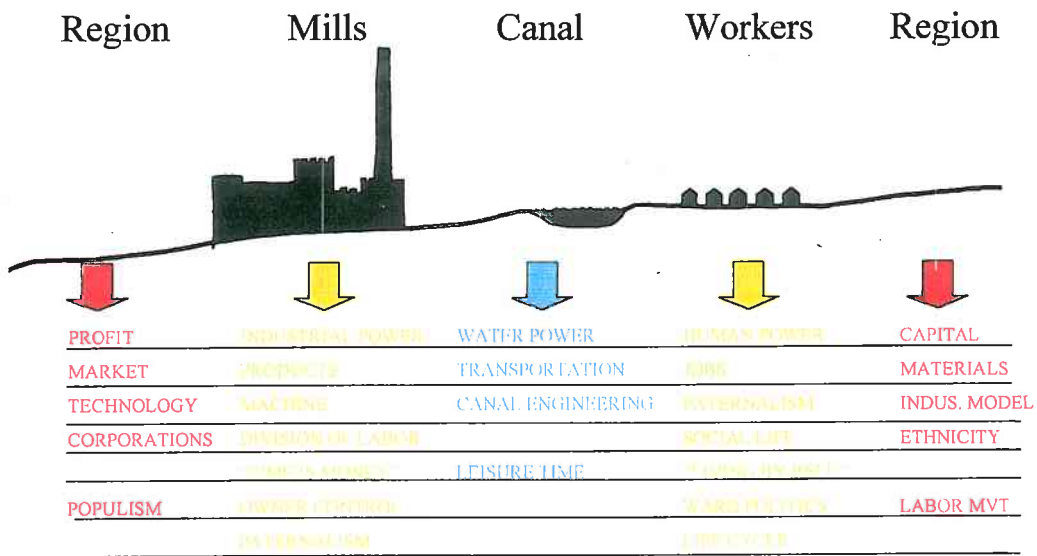
Mill Architecture

Mill Village Houses

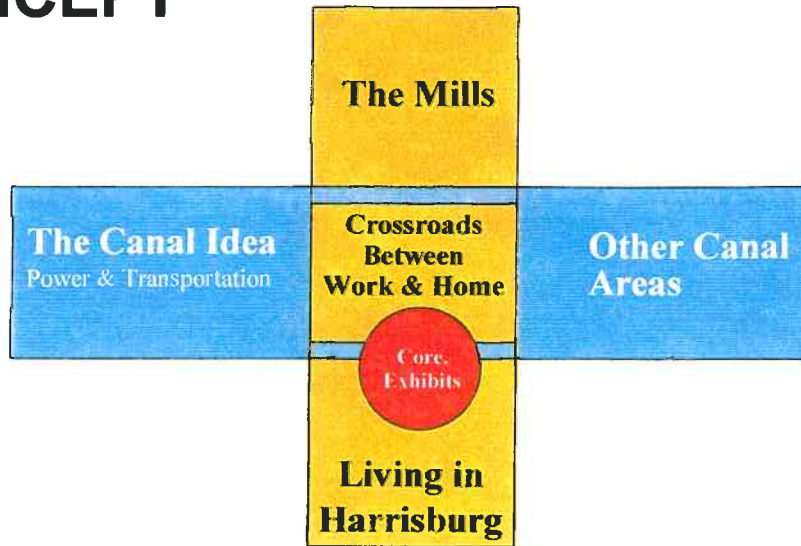
Recreation Activities

Mission Churches

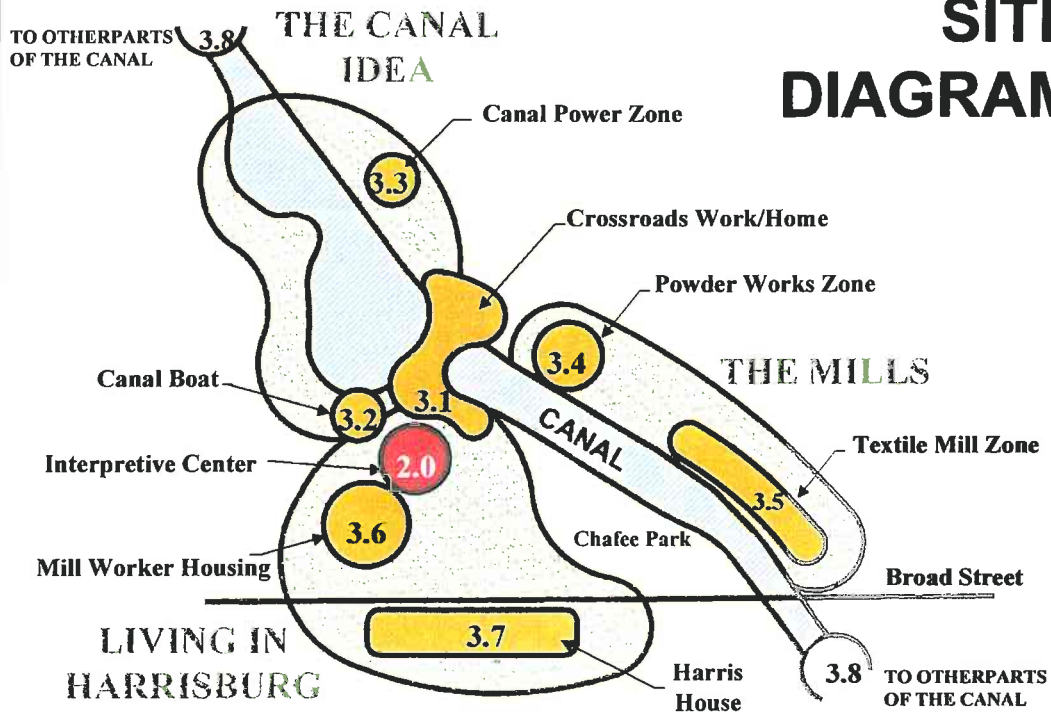
SITE RESOURCES & THEMES



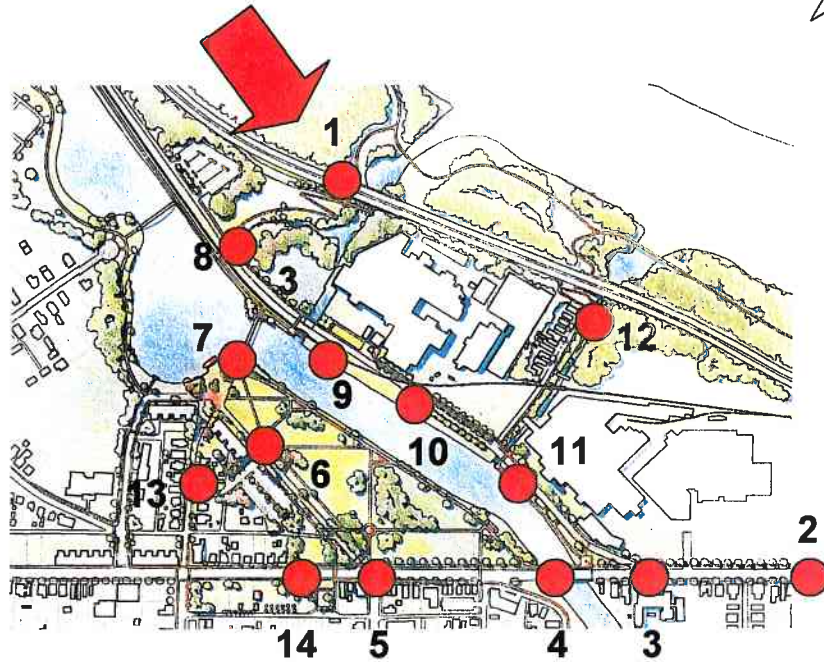
INTERPRETIVE CONCEPT



SITE DIAGRAM

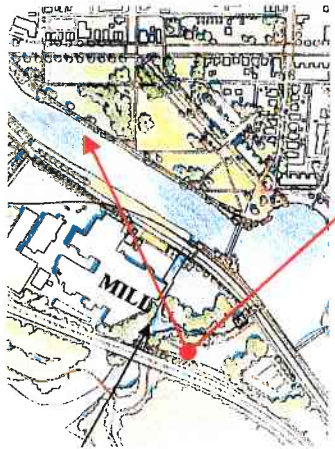


VISITOR WALK-THROUGH

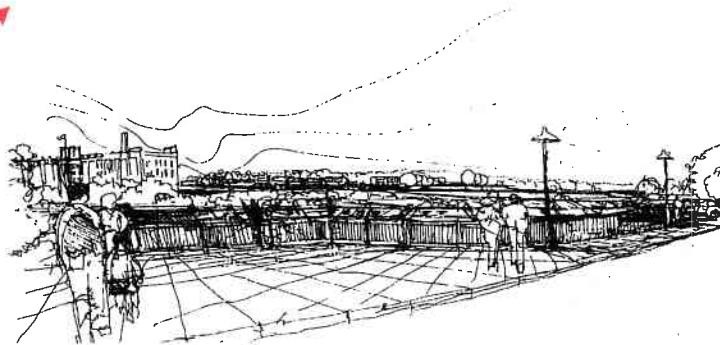


15

1. Riverwatch Parkway Arrival



Pathway to top of
sluice gates and
underpass to
Savannah River
vista and trail



A scenic pull-off gives motorists the opportunity for an
overview of the mills, the powderworks, and the canal.

16

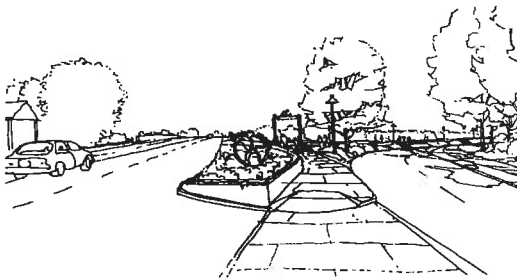
2. Broad Street Arrival

Improve Broad Street into an attractive corridor through a four point enhancement program:

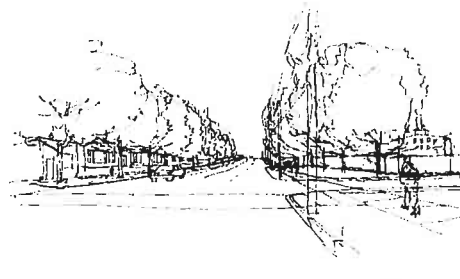
- CLUTTER REMOVAL
- DESIGN GUIDELINES
- HISTORIC FACADE EASEMENTS
- STREETSCAPING



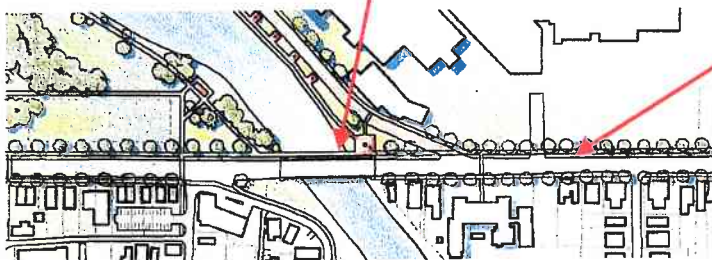
3. Broad Street Arrival



Street leading to new footbridge over canal.

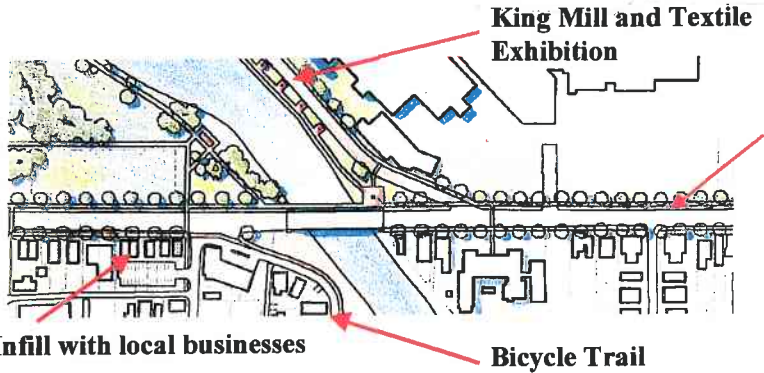
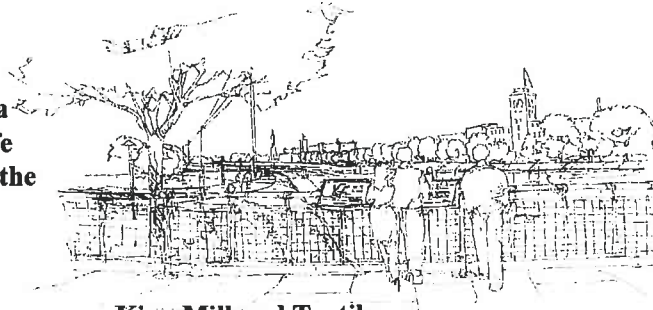


Street trees in setbacks along King Mill and Martha Lester School



4. Broad Street Footbridge

The bridge will afford visitors a dramatic view and provide safe walking access to both sides of the canal.

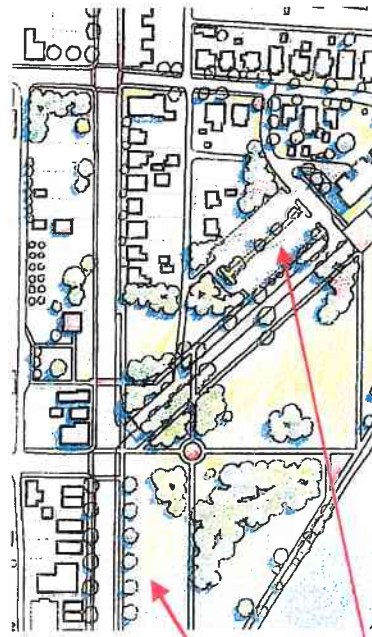


5. Main Entrance & Parking



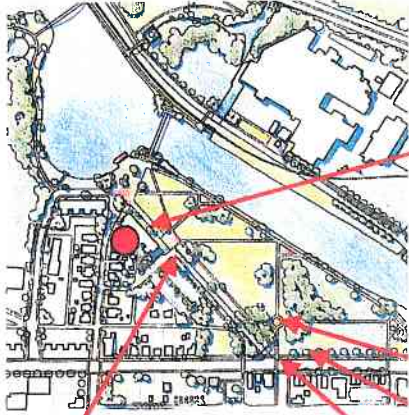
A gateway will express the clear message that the visitor has arrived at the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center in the heart of the Sibley/King/Harrisburg District.

Informal plantings of native trees set the stage for the historic setting of the mill village and frame the vista from the Harris house.



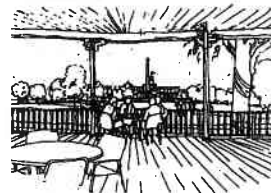
Main Parking
Overflow Parking 20

6. Interpretive Center and Chafee Park



The Interpretive Center Building will be built along historic Pearl Street. There will be open lawns with shade trees for festivals and passive recreation. Along the canal there will be sitting areas with interpretive exhibits.

Children's Playground
Overflow Parking

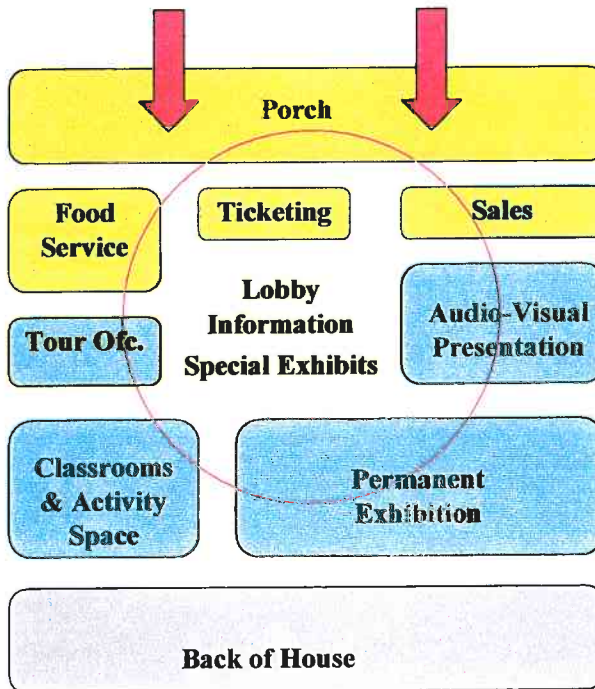


No cars on Pearl Avenue past this point

Main Entrance

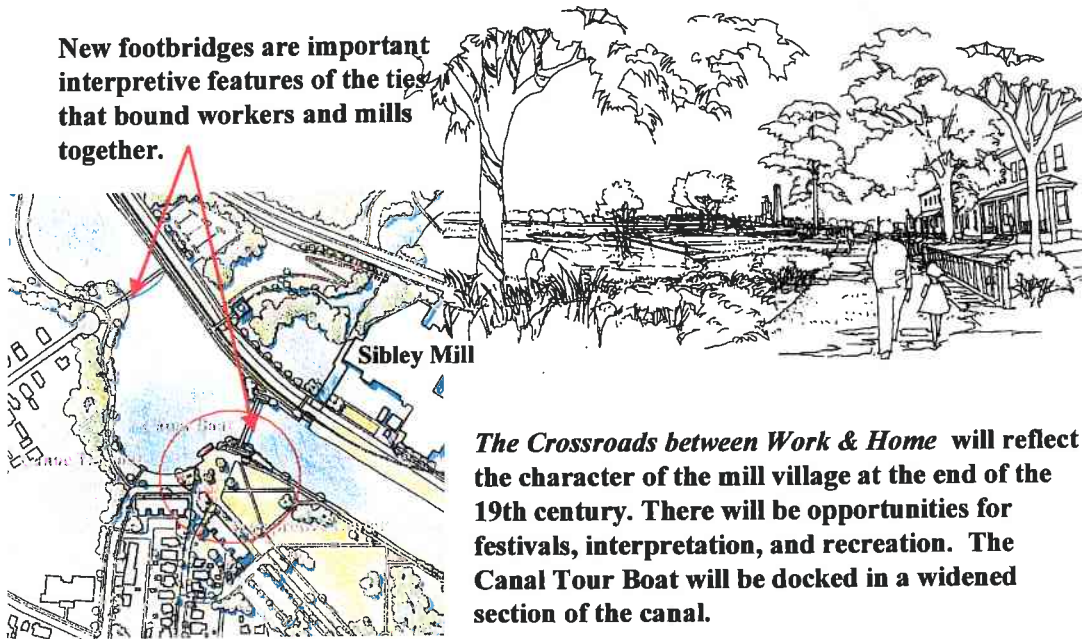
Porches will look out over the park, the canal, and the mills.

6a. Interpretive Center Building



7. Crossroads Zone

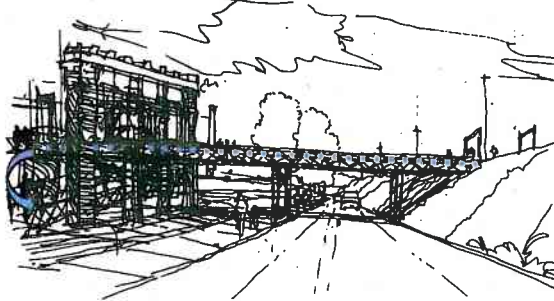
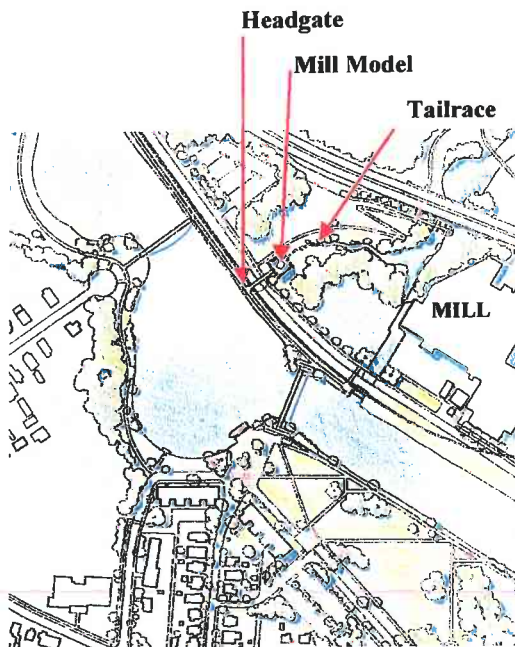
New footbridges are important interpretive features of the ties that bound workers and mills together.



The Crossroads between Work & Home will reflect the character of the mill village at the end of the 19th century. There will be opportunities for festivals, interpretation, and recreation. The Canal Tour Boat will be docked in a widened section of the canal.

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8. Waterpower Demonstration

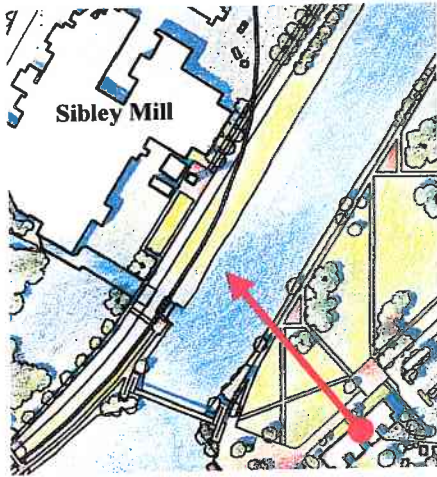


A bridge over Goodrich Street carries people and canal water from existing historic headgates to a water-powered, interactive model.

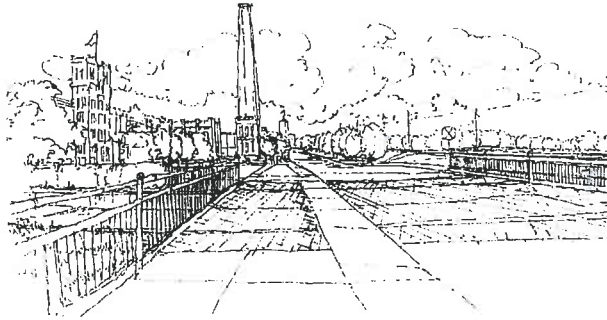
The water from the headrace powers a vertical turbine that runs model machinery then discharges into the tailrace, which returns the water to the Savannah River.

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9. Gunpowder Works



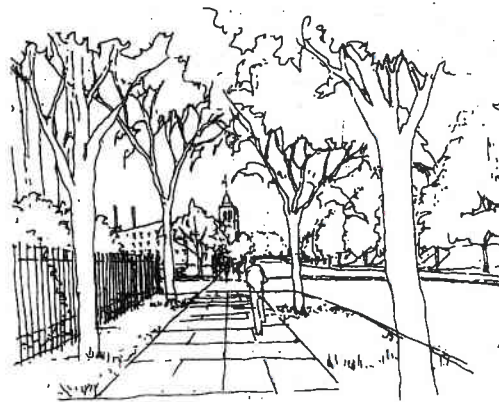
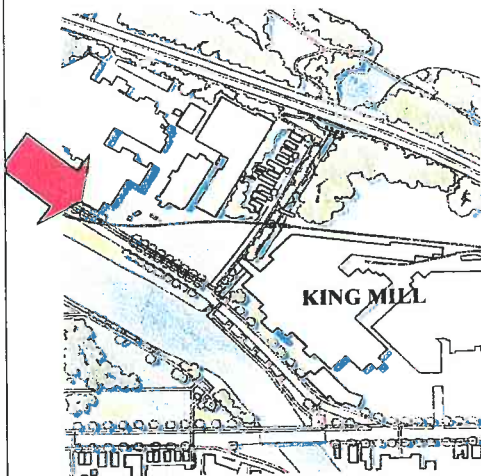
The vista of the mill architecture from the Interpretive Center Building and Chafee Park will draw visitors across the canal



The Goodrich Street bridge will showcase the headrace and the waterpower it delivers. The great chimney will anchor site exhibits about the production of gunpowder and its distribution and importance to the Confederate war effort.

25

10. Mill Tour Loop



A canopy of trees along Goodrich Street will return the mill setting to the way it was in the early part of this century, when mill owners planted trees.

Wide walks with interpretive wayfinding elements will be part of many outdoor interpretive tour loops.

26

11. Textile Mill Zone

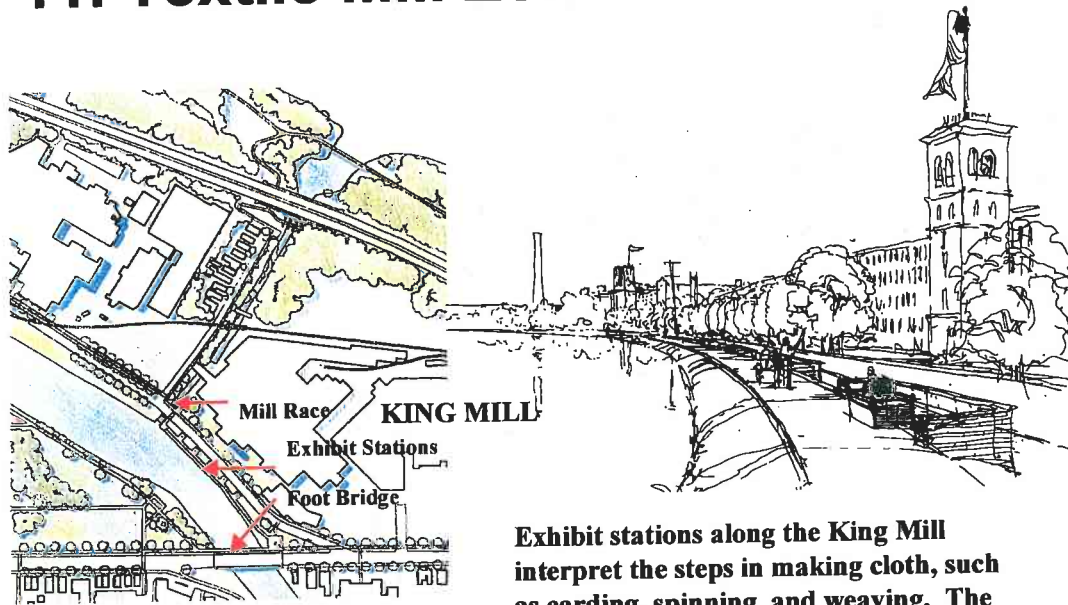
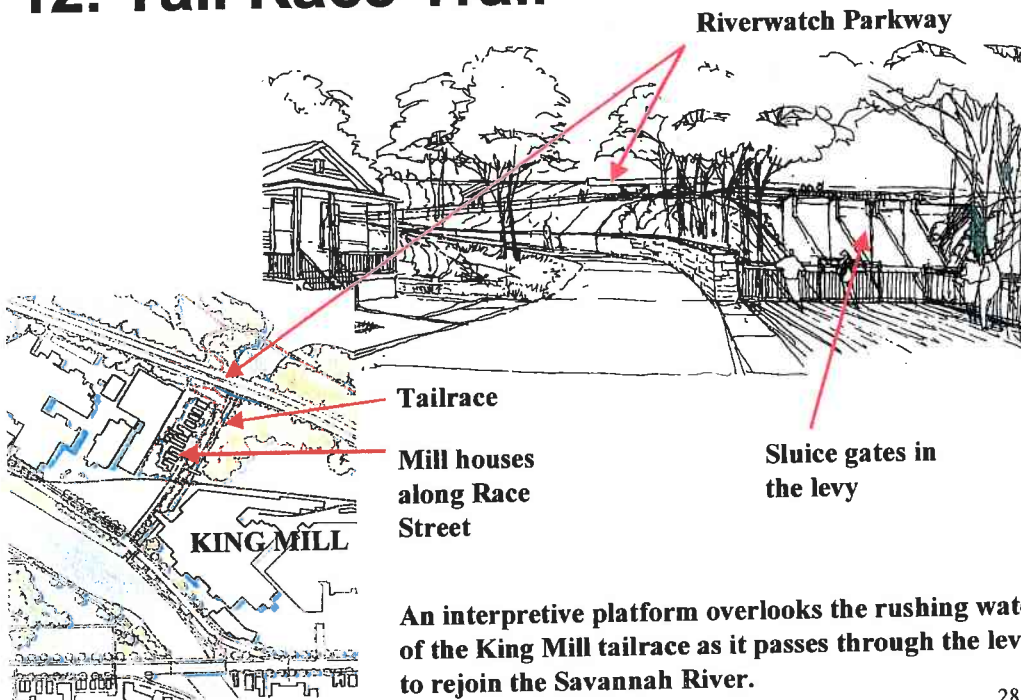


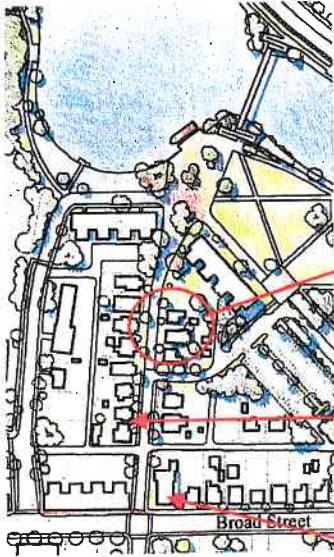
Exhibit stations along the King Mill interpret the steps in making cloth, such as carding, spinning, and weaving. The sound of the mill bell will be periodically heard.

12. Tail Race Trail



An interpretive platform overlooks the rushing water of the King Mill tailrace as it passes through the levy to rejoin the Savannah River.

13. Mill Worker Housing Zone



Three typical mill houses will be moved from elsewhere and restored behind the Interpretive Center Building, with outbuildings, gardens, and animal pens.

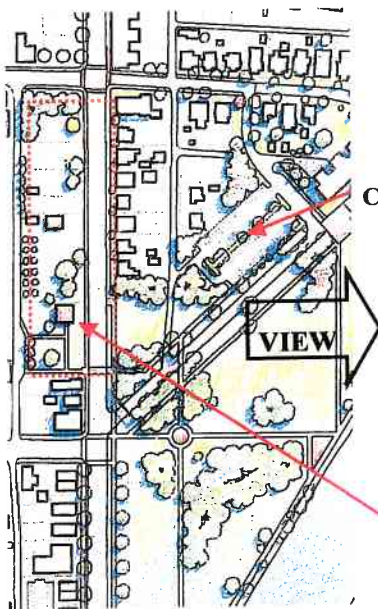
Using front yard and façade easements and streetscaping along Eve Street, the character of a typical mill street in the early 20th century will be created.

Historic mill village church

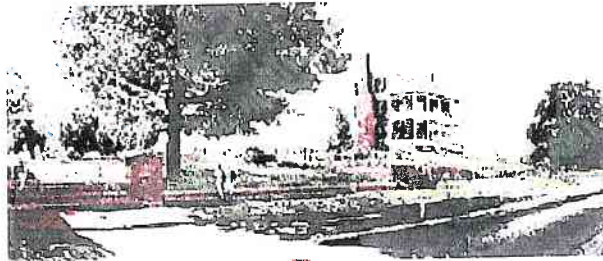
14. Ezekiel Harris House



A softer landscape frontage will beautify Broad Street and provide a suitable setting for this historic site

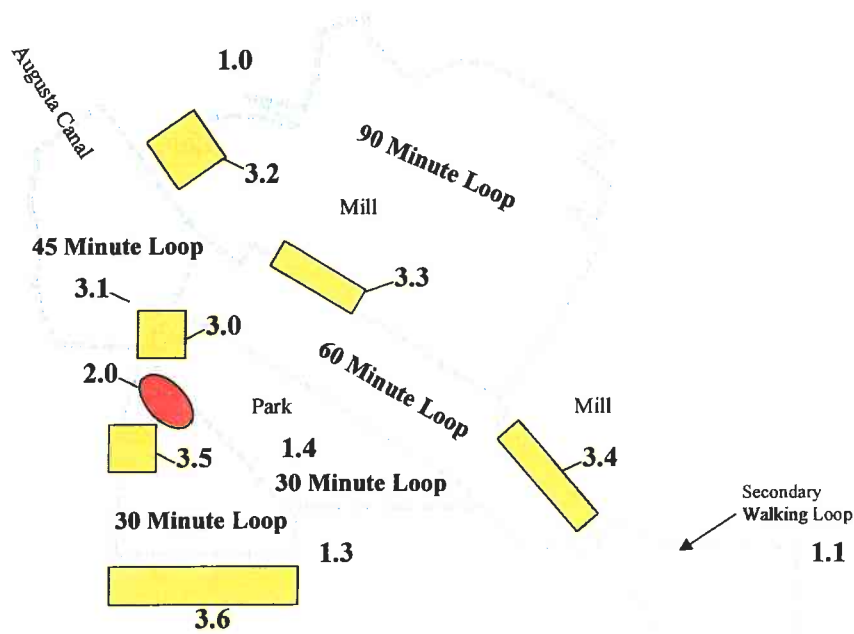


Central parking



The Ezekiel Harris House is an indoor/outdoor living history area . From its porches visitors have a vista of the canal and the regional landscape.

INTERPRETIVE LOOPS



DEVELOPMENT ZONES

