

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve January 2025 Report

Kirby's Mill:

- December, we reported the carpentry team is pausing until the warmer weather returns and the Historic Home Team is working on installing repaired windows, original stair from lower level to main level, and refinishing balcony doors.
- Shortly after the December meeting the park director changed the locks and emailed: "I do agree that the Mill should be painted to protect it and I planned on getting quotes for this. I think mothballing the mill would be my recommendation to the mill at this time... it would be my recommendation to not have the swing bridge on the mill. We have many needs in the park: a new roof at the lodge event center, trail repairs, wayfarer signage, new building signage, repairs to the maintenance garage, new golf carts, a utility vehicle, etc. The swing bridge is not a priority in my opinion. I think most of the assorted exterior carpentry should be removed. Again, I think mothballing the mill is currently the best option at this time. To me although the mill is the iconic structure at the park. I don't see it as a viable education space per the past consultant reports."

Garfield Hall:

- December, we submitted an article to the park staff for the RHP Footnotes newsletter acknowledging and thanking Hinckley Roofing for donating the roof at Garfield Hall. We were disappointed the park staff didn't include the note of gratitude. Nevertheless, the Friends acknowledged and thanked Hinckley Roofing for their generosity.
- At the Park Director's request, we are not submitting change in occupancy / permit drawings to Summit County Building Department for Garfield Hall.
- Due to extreme weather conditions, the Historic Home team has not worked at Garfield Hall for the past 6 weeks. As we've been closed out of other spaces, we have been using the days with tolerable weather to take our tools home.
- In February we hope to complete the timber repairs adjacent to the chimney. Once the weather is consistently 40°F, we will finish staining the interior and exterior and install the brick paver patio. Once the weather is consistently 65°F, we will refinish the floor.

Amity House:

- December, at the park director's request, we have drafted a Letter of Substantial Completion. In the field of architecture and construction, this is a commonly used letter/form to acknowledge completion of a project.
- November, at the park director's request, we followed up with the chimney damper installation. The final chimney cap and damper installation requires a new cement wash up to the clay liners. This work cannot take place until the temperature is a consistent 40°F. Rustic Slate Roofing has the project on their schedule once the weather breaks.

Utilities/HHSTF:

- Doug Wisneiski finished mapping the water lines from the Mable Smith well house to Oviatt, which follows an all-season line from Mable Smith to Garfield, Kirby and Oviatt with a season line split near Hilltop that could provide potable water to the Summer Barn and High Lea shelter. Doug, in collaboration with OHI and OHC, reached out to the park director with the information.
- January, the park director responded, "This is great, but we do not need, nor do we want water to all of these places or structures. Obviously, getting water to the Oviatt House would be a big plus especially for their indoor restroom. I would have to have a conversation with Tricia about this and who will pay for those costs. All the other structures, water is not a priority currently for the park. We need to bring in revenues to the park and this will happen on the other side of the park with bringing Coach and North House online in the next 3 to 5 years."



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- The National Park Service and Department of Interiors developed a briefing memo for maintaining historic structures when not in use (Documentation, Stabilization, and Mothballing). The first step to preservation is maintaining the structures we already have. Over the past few years the Historic Home Stabilization Team has had access to the buildings for occasional investigations to look for signs of water damage, animal infestation, or structural concerns. We would like to continue to assist by providing this annual report.

Programs/Fund Development:

- We have submitted a listing of Friends program offerings for 2025. These include Mill docent training, hikes, membership meetings (open to the public), Kirby Day, and Winter Wonders 2025.
- January, the park director responded, "All future programming will be through the RHP Administration. Future programming will be developed for the benefit of public. I don't think at this time, Friends programs will be happening in the future...The Mill Docent program has not yet been approved. Volunteers will not have access to the Mill at this time until we have discussions with the Board as to what they intend to do with the mill."

Invasive Species Removal/ Native Species Restoration:

- October, Anita Ganter met with Lynn Richardson to discuss some of the invasive species controls. Lynn explained the lack of access to wash hands after handling the herbicide has limited work. Anita said she would work with John for access. At this time we do not have access to warm water for handwashing.

