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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
November 19, 1940

Superintendent Hugh Miller
Southwestern National Monuments
Coolidge, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 8, 1940 regarding preparation of projects to be submitted for inclusion in the Master Plan for the next three years. I have checked the Master Plan for 1939 and 1940 and would like to suggest the following for inclusion in the Master Plan to be prepared.

1. Fire protection trail to Stone Lions directly across South Mesa and Alamo Canyon.
2. Fire Protection Trail from Otowi Ruins to Northeastern extremity of Monument, Otowi Section.
3. Museum Work Room.
4. Museum Storage Room.
5. Patrol Cabin near Painted Cave.
6. Fire Patrol cabin and Lookout between Alamo and Capulin Canyons.
7. Ethnobotanical Garden at Headquarters.
8. Research Program.
 - a. Complete excavation of Tyuonyi
 - b. Remove Hewitt's dump around Tyuonyi
 - c. Excavation of a small portion of Yapashí
 - d. Excavate small portion of Tsankawi
 - e. Excavate some representative small ruins on South Mesa and Otowi Section
 - f. Excavate small section of cave dwellings in Frijoles Canyon
9. Archeological Survey - Complete survey and mapping project of all archeological sites on monument.
10. Hard surface all visitor trails in Frijoles Canyon
11. Sewage spray system.

12. Fuel Oil storage and distribution system - residences and Administration Buildings.
13. Pave Entrance road from Checking Station to Present end of pavement
14. Garbage and ash containers for Residences
15. Horse barn and corral for government Horses

The above is simply a list; I will explain and try to justify these items in the following pages.

1. TRAIL TO STONE LIONS

See my letter of November 8, 1940. Reconnaissance planned for near future.

2. FIRE PROTECTION TRAIL ON OTOMI SECTION

Not on Master Plan, but justified and included in current CCC program.

3. MUSEUM WORK ROOM.

Recent discussion of this project seems to preclude the possibility of construction this item at the present time. However, it is felt that it should be included in the Master Plan and constructed at the earliest possible possible opportunity.

4. Museum Storage and Study Room

No comprehensive research program should be undertaken until facilities have been provided to adequately house and study such remains as may be taken from sites excavated. Obviously not all materials collected from the sites on the Monument can be displayed in the museum nor can they be efficiently studied or preserved unless systematically arranged. I should like to see adequate storage facilities included in the Master Plan and believe that they must ultimately be provided. See justification under Research.

5. PATROL CABIN NEAR PAINTED CAVE.

The present Master Plan lists a shelter cabin near the Rio Grande River in that section of the Monument, but the description is rather vague as to just what is contemplated. What I have in mind is a one room cabin, durably enough constructed that it might be occupied for a few days or a week even in winter and of such structure that it might be locked and stores of supplies

and bedding left there for emergency occupation.

It is 16 miles by trail to the most remote part of the monument in that area. Efficient administration and protection of the values in that section necessitate a ranger visiting it at least occasionally and to do a decent job of even inspecting it, it is necessary to stay over night in that area. If one rides or walks to that section, he must now start very early and stay out late to make the complete circuit. This leaves time only to pass along the trail. If a cabin were provided, one might go to the station one day, have time to really inspect the territory and come back the next day or so. If any work is to be done, as necessary patrol during the 15 day hunting season, it would be necessary for a ranger to have a place to stay in the vicinity. Such a cabin could be stocked with supplies by pack horses and a man having to stay in the cabin on patrol duty would have to carry with him only a small supply of perishable food. The cabin should be located far enough up Capulin Canyon to assure a water supply as the lower end of the Canyon is dry.

The Indians chopped very comfortable homes out of the soft tuff cliffs. In order to overcome the necessity of packing in large supplies of building material, it might be feasible to pack in a few tools and work a suitable cavity out of the cliff. Anyway, it would be very desirable to have a patrol cabin in this section with a small corral and perhaps shelter for a an animal. I suggest such a project be included in the Master Plan.

The proposed cabin should be in addition to the proposed Fire Patrol Cabin suggested for construction in the high country between Alamo and Capulin Canyons. The Fire Cabin is not situated in the right place for use in administrative work and would not be tenable in winter.

6. FIRE PATROL CABIN AND LOCKOUT BETWEEN ALAMO AND CAPULIN

Altho this project has been proposed and discussed for some time, I find no mention of it in the Master Plan. Previous discussion is believed to preclude the necessity for detailed justification here.

7. ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN AT HEADQUARTERS

I am not sure that such a proposal has a place in the Master Plan or not, but is contemplated for creation in connection with our interpretative program at Headquarters. The site has already been included in the plans for the museum lobby, but it would be desirable if

landscape boys of the Branch of Plans and Design would collaborate with us so that harmony of landscape features would be preserved in planning this exhibit.

8. RESEARCH PROGRAM

At Bandelier National Monument we have spent several hundred thousands of dollars to make it easy for visitors to come to us; we have built a fine approach road, a delightful lodge in which they can obtain food and rest, trails for them to get about on. We have hired men to protect the area against fires and commercialism in order to preserve the monument according to our contract with the people.

It has been recognized, however, that our monuments should not be simply great storehouses for curiosities, but should be centers of information for visitors who want to know more of the natural history and archeology of the region. To this end an interpretative program has been set up including museum, guided tours of the ruins and campfire lectures. The National Park Service seems definitely committed to interpretation.

Reports of last year of the number of visitors taking advantage of the interpretative program points out the overwhelming demand for such services to the public.

Bandelier National Monument is now prepared to handle large numbers of people whom we hope will come to us next year. We have the physical development which is probably more adequate than that found at any other archeological monument of the Southwest. We have the tools for interpreting the monument to thousands of visitors.

Research, however is the basis of any interpretative program that may be offered. Our actual knowledge of our archeological treasures is, when you get right down to it, largely surmise and guess work. Our interpretative staff are daily placed in the rather embarrassing position of not knowing our area. It is true that a great deal of work has been done on Southwestern Archeology, and we can "guess" that our area holds a similar story, but we haven't done enough observing or research to know the score as to how our story ties up with the rest of the Southwest.

The finest of interpretative devices and organization are bound to be rather futile unless we know the story. If the Service is to set itself up as a reliable educational

institution, we must have the facts. The outline of work to be carried on is believed to be the minimum which will give us those facts that we need.

Actual work had likely better be done by the Smithsonian, Carnegie, or the Laboratory of Anthropology, but I have a strong conviction that the program should be included in the Master Plan and a real effort made to initiate it in the near future.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

We keep all kinds of books and counts on the number of picks and shovels we have in our warehouse and it would be a rather poor business man who didn't know how many trucks he had and how much stock he had on hand or how many men he had working for him, but we have no idea how many ruins we have in stock, nor of the size and kind.

10. HARD SURFACE VISITOR TRAILS

I believe this project has been talked and planned, but so far as I am able to discern has not been planed on the Master Plan.

11. SEWAGE SPRAY DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Representatives of the Technical Service are now making detailed plans for this project, but believe it should be placed in Master Plan.

12. FUEL OIL STORAGE

Apparently we are leaning more and more to oil as a fuel both in the residences and in the administration buildings. The present dependence is on storage in drums, but we have neither the drums nor the space to store them in large enough quantities to be efficient and economical. Only a few drums can be stored in the present oil house and I believe it is against fire regulations to store large quantities of oil above ground anyway. As we will use oil in the residences and probably in the proposed heating system for the administration building, it would be only good business to have underground storage so that we could purchase in quantities of at least a thousand gallons at a time. It would be desirable if a system similar to that in use in the hotel development be worked out as a storage and distribution system for the residences and another one worked out for the administration area. If we sometime get a Diesel power plant, a tank close to the power house

would be desirable.

13. Pave Entrance Road from Checking Station to present End of Pavement

In the interests of cutting down maintenance cost and harmonizing this stretch of road with the rest, it would seem very desirable to hard surface and improve the unimproved .7 miles of road referred to above. I recommend this project for the Master Plan.

14. Garbage and Ash Containers for Residences and Hotel

No provision for trash storage until it can be hauled away has been made at the residences. At present unsightly trash barrels are in use at the residences. Entirely inadequate small cans are in use at the hotel. It is recommended that consideration be given to proper containers in these places - perhaps similar to those in the campgrounds.

15. Horse Barn and Corral for Government Animals

Efficient administration of Bandelier will depend in the future upon having horses available for use of monument personnel. Present plans call for use of horses for use in fire suppression work after the camp leaves. Prevention of stock trespass, protection of wild life, patrol of fences, patrol of the monument during hunting season all depend upon horse travellars no roads reach into the monument other than in Frijoles Canyon.

At present, facilities for caring for horses are pledged to use by the operator exclusively. Recent interview with the operator reveals that she would not favor our using the present horse barn in the winter and certainly would want it for her own concession in the summer months.

I suggest that a modest barn and corral for the accommodation of at least three horses be incorporated in the Master Plan.

I did not set out to write a new Master Plan when I sat down to the typewriter this morning, but from the looks of thing: I've made a good start. However, I feel that each of the suggested projects is a logical one in the future development of the monument and I hope that they will be accepted as suggestions, which I feel will add to the administration of Bandelier.

Respectfully,

Chester A. Thomas
Custodian