



Interpretive Objectives for Trustees' Garden, GA

Defining the Theme and Purpose

Covering the period March/April 2014

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Artifact Log and History Update

Artifacts in the brick Kehoe Foundry building are currently being logged and wrapped for storage. Among the items are varied tools used in the iron founding process including soldering irons, files, a mattock head and mold clamps. Item ages range from about 1880 into the WWII era. A burner found buried in the metal building dates from the latter time frame. Phillips-head screws used in the device give evidence that the building probably had a dirt floor until about the 1950's. More will be photographed, tagged and bagged in the next few days.

While in the process of recording the artifacts I was able to talk to Gary Thorne who is the Masonry Superintendent for CHS. He agrees that the bricks in the well of the Gas Works wall are at least early nineteenth century. That would put the date of the wall and arch in the War of 1812 era or earlier. This will be an interesting find for promoting the site later. Further study will be available by gaining access to the closed section of the space.



Figure 1. Artifacts found in the dirt-fill floor of the Kehoe Foundry metal building include, top to bottom at left, a broken mattock blade and two clamps for holding the components of mold. At right are a large and small soldering iron and an unidentified music-note-shaped piece of iron.

Defining Our Goal
Section 1

This first section is a study to help educate stakeholders in the vision, direction and goals of the Trustees Garden project. The second paper will study the possibilities for the interpretive history for visitors. At least twenty-five locations could be highlighted and implemented in telling the Garden's history through docents, guides and literature. As mentioned below, sign cost and budgeting can run from a few hundred dollars for brochures to tens of thousands of dollars for interpretive depending upon the extent desired. A conservative combination of the two would be ideal.



Figure 2. Kehoe's Phoenix Iron Works advertisement 1879 just prior to its name change.

In searching to define the interpretive theme of the Trustees' Garden Project here is a questionnaire using aspects of a National Park Service guideline for interpretive planning.¹ The guideline highlights the need for recognizing the product that is presented to the public and asks, "What is the product of the product?" Our product is the history and uses of the facilities. We need to ask what the ultimate goal is for those who utilize the facilities and what does the visitor take home with them? We find that goal with the simple concept that people do not buy drills simply to have drills. They buy drills to make holes. The hole is the product of the product. What is the end product of our product?

Visitors need to see a personal benefit for stepping off of a trolley to experience the history of Trustees' Garden or book the facilities for an event or production. They need to feel and know what the Garden offers and why they would want to come back. What benefits can we offer to

¹ Interpretive Planning for the next millennium – The "product of the product" – "outcome based planning" and the "experience economy" by John A Vererka.

make them want their wedding or convention in the Kehoe Foundry or use the buildings as a movie backdrop or sound stage?

In simple form our product is Trustees' Garden with its history, its buildings and the amenities that are available for visitors to utilize. However, to define the theme and purpose we should assess the facilities and where the program will go in the future. As stated before, what is the goal?

- Will the main purpose be for conventions and meetings?
- Will it be an educational facility as it is in the planned use by Canyon Ranch Institute?
- Will it be promoted as a movie set and production facility and how that aspect will effect other operations?
- Will it be a location where the general population, tourist and locals alike, would want to visit and simply "hang out"?
- Should it be part of or all of the above?

How do we define and pattern interpretive objectives.

- What will they learn?
- What will they do while there?
- What feeling do we want them to take home and remember?

What are our product based objectives? What are we selling? That product must be geared toward particular types of visitors that by defining our interpretive objectives for the visitor.

- Are we selling historic buildings?
- Can we sell "virtual" history -- reenactments, interpreters, docents, videos?
- Do we include experiences for family groups? What can the children do and take home, physically or in memory?

A major consideration is in how make the experience cost effective.

- What are cost parameters?
- How do we fund programs?
- Do we charge admission to the facilities and what will customers get in return?
- If it is open to the public what are the potential days and hours of operation?
- How are staff and volunteers compensated and rewarded? Could it be and the prestige of participation as in Masters Tournament in Augusta or simply a stipend or discount.
- Should a non-profit be created to sustain the programs and provide income to the facility in the vein of Canyon Ranch Institute? An educational institute would use the facility, be able to accept donations and support and perpetuate the operation. Perhaps there should be a Morris/Trustees' Garden Educational Institute to insure the future use of the facility.

We need to provide a total visitor experience and opportunities for varieties of experiences?

- What will visitors see, feel, taste, smell and hear that will give positive memories?
- How do we provide escapist experiences and downtime for visitors?
- Should we provide training for volunteers and staff to add to a pleasant experience?
- Should we have re-enactors forge brass and iron?
- Should we have actors or battle re-enactors march, fire cannons or camp on the property?

The National Park Service emphasizes positive memories by providing physical-memory reinforcement – souvenirs. Should we provide items for this form of reinforcement and where would they be sold?

- Samples?
- Art and photographs?
- Gifts, books and other souvenirs?

What can we provide to volunteers to make them want to return and how do we make it a prestigious experience?

- Certificates of participation, pins, medals, commemorative coins?
- College credit for particular courses?
- Discounts to special events?

Interpretive panels and/or brochures need to be specific to reduce cost while answering:

- Why would the visitor want to know these facts or legend?
- How do we want the visitor to use the information?
- What are the benefits to the property, to the project and to the visitor?

Visitor comfort must be addressed for a positive experience.

- Will there be restrooms available?
- Where will they get food and drinks?
- Will we provide a space for shelter from the sun and rain?

Lastly, what negative impressions can we contain and how? The Masters Tournament's clean-up crew was highly impressive. Before the crowd moved from the twelfth hole to the thirteenth, the litter was being picked and carried away. Things to address will be:

- What will be our clean-up and litter control plan?
- How do we insure positive attitudes and appearances of staff and volunteers?
- What are concerns for security workers, fences and parking-lot safety?
- Who will coordinate these?
- Who will coordinate the entire project?

Finally, what are other concerns not mentioned here? Asking and answering these questions will provide a guideline for the ultimate success of Trustees' Garden.

Interpretive Sites Section 2

Trustees' Garden is one of the most, if not the most, historic spot in Savannah when considering uses of the land and the structures that once stood here. Multiple interpretive spots can be utilized to explain the history. As mentioned in Section 1, this can be fulfilled through the use of brochures and/or interpretive signs. A combination of both should be considered. Below are some of the locations that can be highlighted.

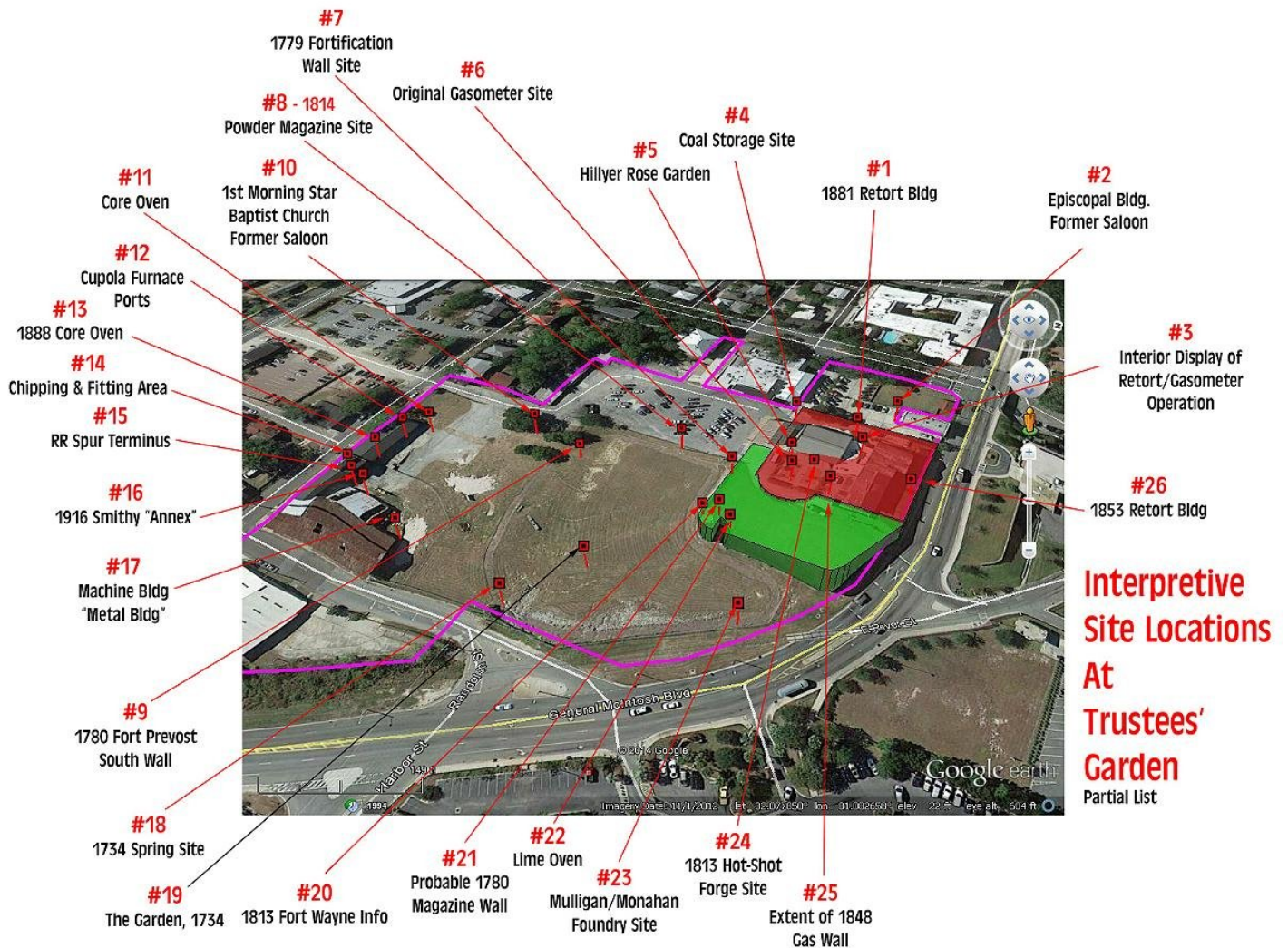


Figure 3. Locations of Trustees' Garden history for possible interpretive signs and markers. Other locations may be emphasized by use of interior displays of artifacts and photographs. The red section on the image indicates the pre-1853 gas works terrace, the green is post 1853.

Site #1, Built in 1881 the building now serving as the main hall of the Charles H. Morris Center was the location of gas retorts for the making of manufactured gas. Retorts were ovens fueled by coke to cook coal and extract gas that was used in street lighting and appliances of the mid to late nineteenth century. Temperatures could reach 130 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit inside the room making dangerous conditions for workers.

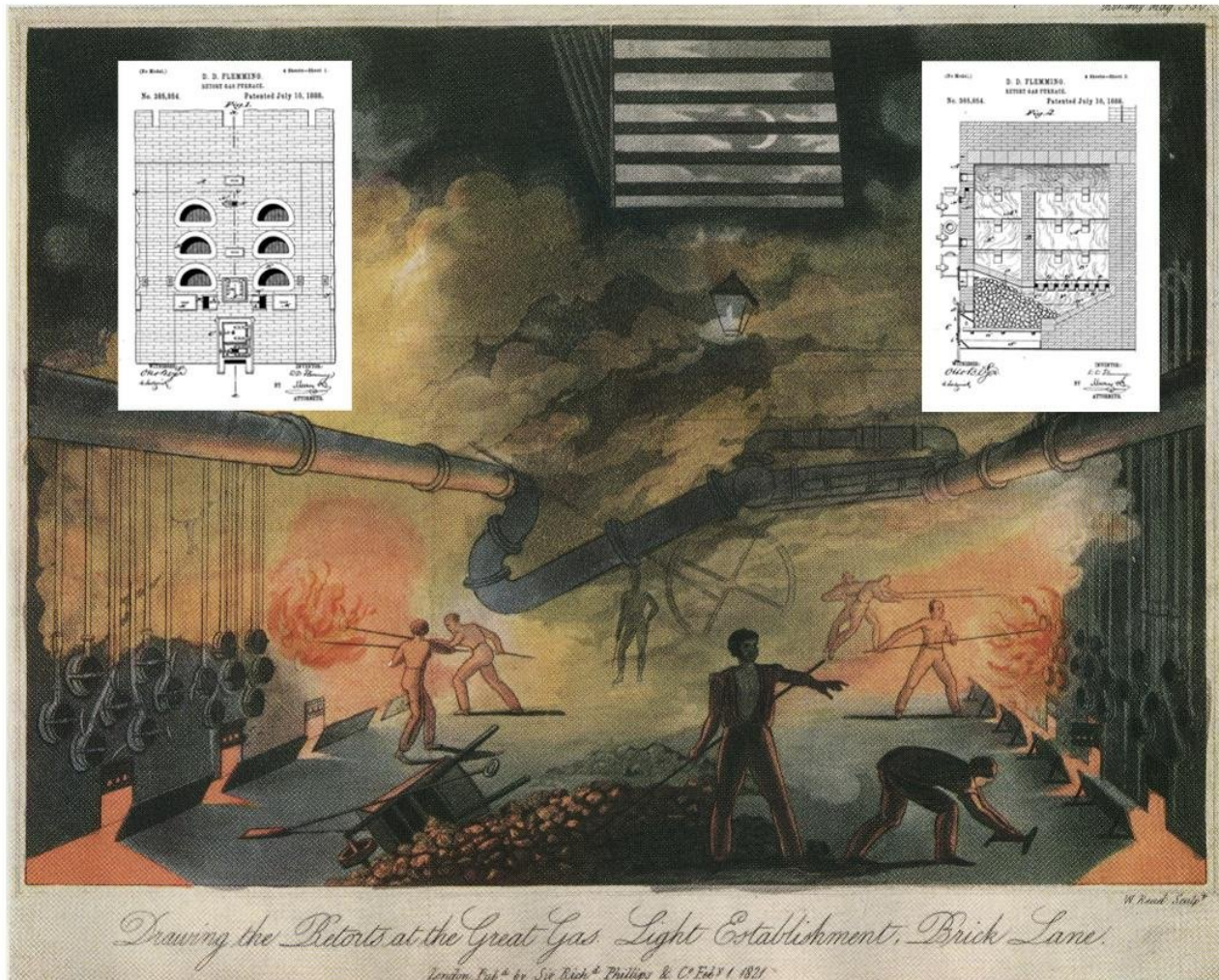


Figure 4. Site #1, Interior view of a London, England gas manufacturing plant. The Morris Center retorts were concentrated in the center of the building as opposed to on the sides as shown in the painting above.

Site #2, Currently the office for Christ Church Episcopal the building has had many uses over the years including a store in 1888 and a saloon in 1884. For many years a tall metal-clad fence ran next to the building's east façade to separate it from the gas works grounds. This location is also a central point where the discussion of the six fortifications that stood here can be highlighted.

Site #3, The interior spaces of the Charles H. Morris Center can be locations for interpretive information on the gas manufacture process. Many can be displayed.

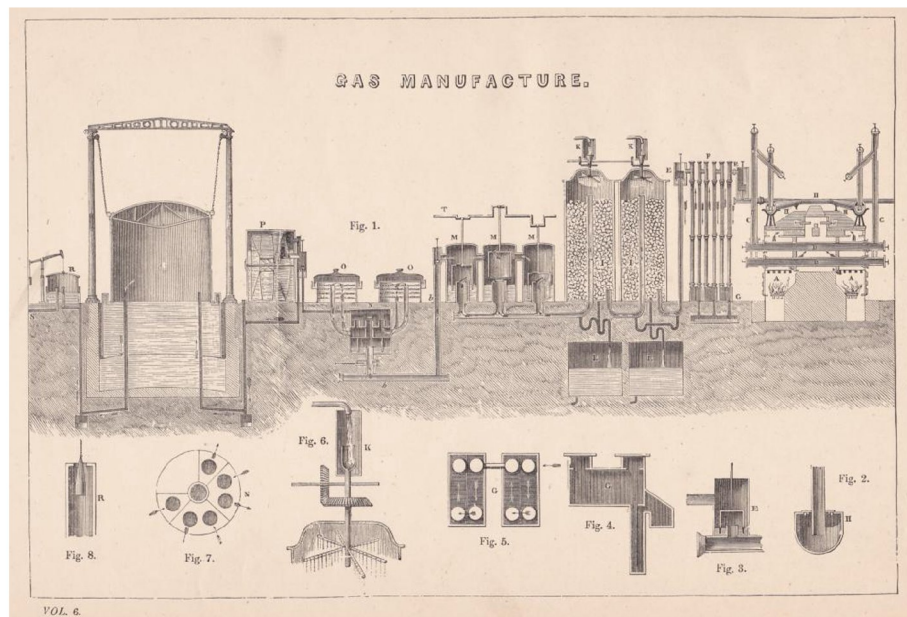
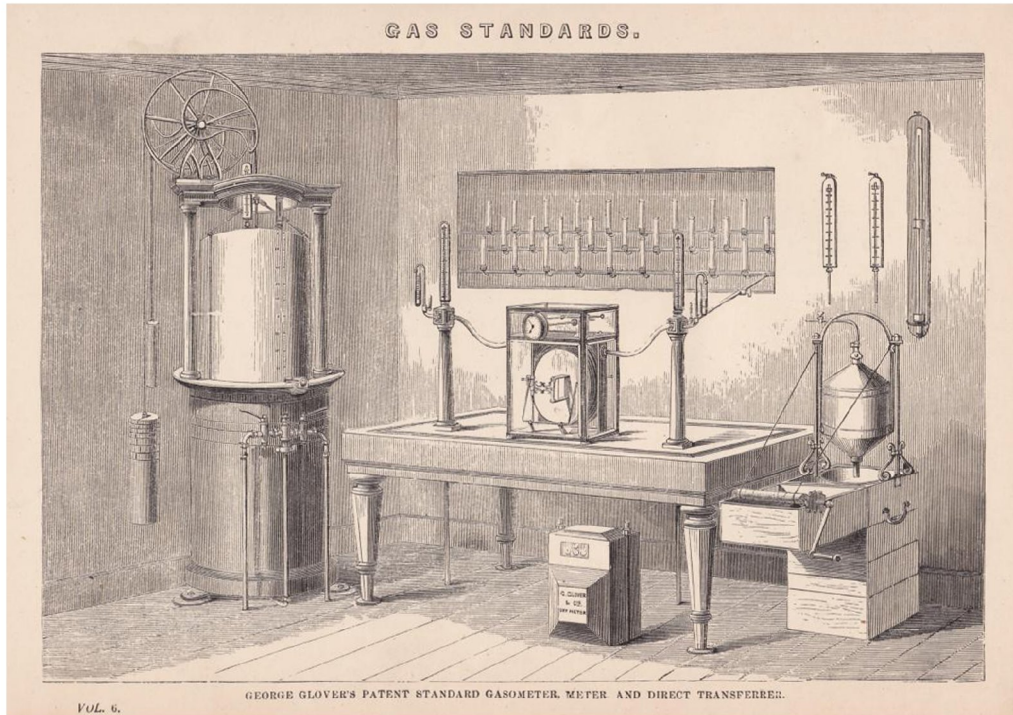


Figure 5. Site #3 information, above, the metering system for manufactured gas included a small Gasometer cylinder, shown on the left of the image, with other apparatus for measurement collection. The lower image shows a schematic of a manufactured gas plant in the late nineteenth century.

Site #4. This was the location of the coal house for the 1881 retort building. Coal was the source for manufacturing gas during the mid to late nineteenth century as well as a fuel supply for boilers and ovens on the site. Coal was stored in covered buildings like the one that stood here to prevent moisture from rain and weather which could cause the it to spontaneously combust.

Site #5. Here was the rose garden created by Mary Hillyer during the first restoration of Trustees Garden in the mid-twentieth century. Hillyer was a visionary and two decades ahead of the preservation movement of the 1960's that saved many of Savannah's historic houses and buildings. Upon her death and cremation her ashes were mixed with her husband, Hansell's and scattered throughout this location.

Site #6. This spot was the center of c1850 Gasometer with 27.5 ft radius. Later the tank was used as a water reservoir to supply water basins below other Gasometer storage cylinders. Water was used as a seal to hold gas in the telescoping metal containers that could reach several stories in height.



Figure 6. Trustees Garden Gasometer cylinders and frames were visible in the background of this Library of Congress photo from 1939. The building later became the Pirates House Restaurant. The upper right inset shows the telescoping process of Gasometer tanks.

Site #7. Across this field in 1779 stood a long earthen fortification wall built for defense by the British occupiers of Savannah during the American Revolution. The wall ran along the line of vision from this spot to the eastern side of the Kehoe Foundry building and contained a ditch to the left with a parapet on the right. A platform step was on the upper slope to allow soldiers to fire across the berm.

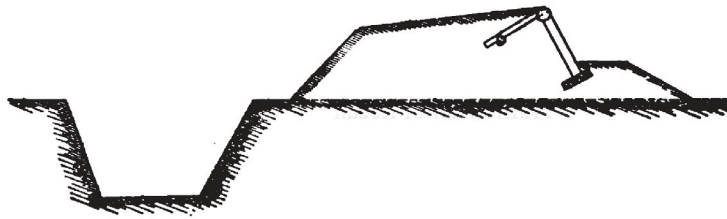


Figure 7. Site #7 The cross section of a field fortification showing the ditch or moat at left and the parapet section at right. The trench and mound ran from the gas works wall across the crest of the bluff to an area ending at the Kehoe Foundry's eastern section.

Site #8. This is the location of the 1813 Fort Wayne Powder Magazine. The rectangular building sat away from the barracks and main buildings to the north. (Image available.)

Site #9. This site marks the southwest boundary of the 1780, British-built Fort Prevost. The year before, 450 yards to the southeast of this site, American and French forces were firing at British and Loyalist American forces in this location during the Siege of Savannah. The battle is commonly considered the second bloodiest battle in the American Revolution after the successful repel of rebel troops in their attempt to take the city from the British.

Site #10. In 1916 this was the location of the 1st Morning Star Baptist Church. The church probably used an existing structure that had served as a store and saloon from 1884 until around 1900. The concrete front step and approach are still visible along the Reynolds Street fence line.

Site #11. This is the location of Kehoe's 1888 core oven for the formation of sand core molds. Sand cores were packed around a carved form and baked to stiffen to withstand hot, liquid metal. The inner form was removed and the mold sections were clamped together and braced, then taken to the floor of the foundry. The cupola furnace melted the iron or brass which was then poured into crucibles and carried to the mold where it was poured into the void in the sand to make the finished metal product.

Site #12. Cupola forges were located on this spot outside of the foundry building's northern wall. The smaller "ghost" of an opening on the left was for the spout of the forge to protrude through the wall to fill portable crucibles. The upper opening may have been an access for charging the forge while the lower right arch reveals a bricked-in doorway. Another cupola forge was added around 1898 and sat to the left of this bay. Below is an image of the cupola forge at Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, VA. Kehoe's forge would have been similar in size and style.

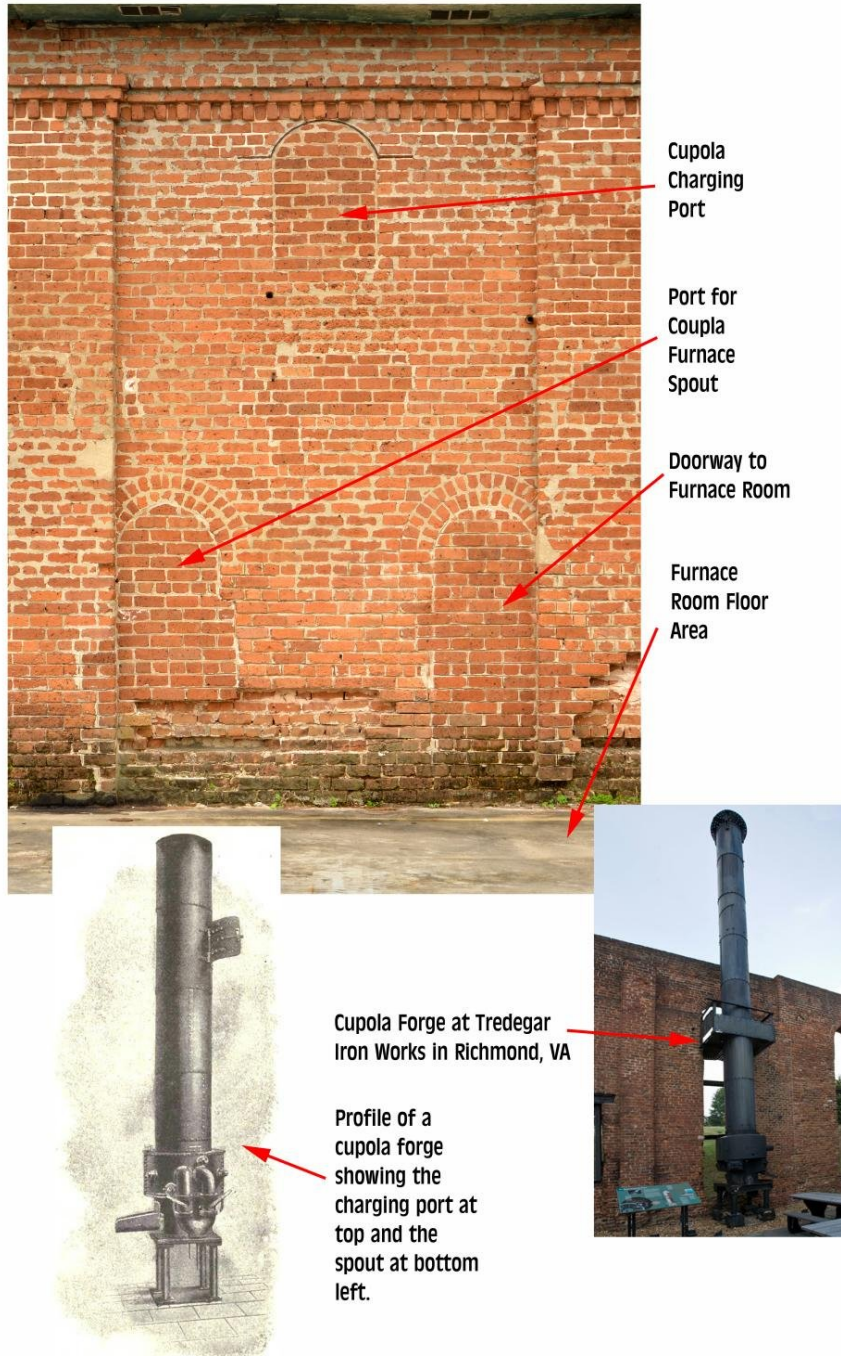


Fig. 62.—Foundry Cupola with Drop Bottom.

Figure 8. Site #12, Cupola furnace “ghosts” in the Kehoe Foundry Building.

Site #13. Pre-1884 foundry building. (More on foundry to come) One-hundred yards to the west-southwest, on corner of Broughton and Arnold Streets once stood the tenement house that was the home of young William Kehoe's in 1852. It was there that his family resided when they arrived from Ireland. William was ten years old. His older brother, Patrick, would later work for William here in this foundry across the street. William died in 1929 in his daughter's home that is located 165 yards to the west of this point. He was 87 years old.

Site #14. This section of the Works was built between 1884 and 1889 and was used as the chipping and finishing shop. Later it was used for pattern storage. (Info on kitchen area)

Site #15. At this spot was the terminus of the Railroad Spur that connected Kehoe's Works with the Central of Georgia Railroad. In the late nineteenth century much of the foundry's income came from off-site railroad repair operations around the South. Later, when the market changed, Kehoe switched to steamship repair in a facility just north of this location on the river.

Site #16. This c1900 annex building was originally used as the foundry smithy where blacksmith workers hand wrought fittings for orders. Many features of the surrounding buildings were hand and hammer finished.

Site# 17. This building is the c1900 machine shop for the foundry. Upright columns in the building are marked as being made by Carnegie Steel. This makes the building one of the last steel structures where Carnegie Steel was used. In 1901 Carnegie sold his company to J.P. Morgan when it became part of United States Steel. The sale made Carnegie the richest man in the world at the time. The building was renovated in 2014 for use for celebrations, meetings and conventions.



Figure 9, Site #18 Water seepages spots along Randolph Street at the foot of Trustees' Garden's slope are remnants of the "fine springs" mentioned by Francis Moore in 1735.

Site #18. Location of springs for Trustees' Garden in 1734. Writer Francis Moore visited the Georgia Colony in 1735. He wrote of the Trustees' Garden and described the soil type and plants growing on the acreage in his narrative, *A Voyage to Georgia*. Moore's description of spring area at the base of the hill matches the current area of seepage along Randolph Street below the area of storm runoff on the slope. Moore describes the area, "The Remainder of the Garden is the Side and some plain low Ground at the Foot of the Hill, where several fine Springs break out...."

Site #19. Trustees' Garden was approximately ten acres on the north-eastern slope of Yamacraw Bluff. It was planned in 1731 along with the city of Savannah. After constructing many streets and buildings in 1733, founder James Edward Oglethorpe had the Garden area surveyed and planted in 1734. (More info here on plants) One-half of the Garden was at the top of the slope and the other half along the slope and bottom of this area.

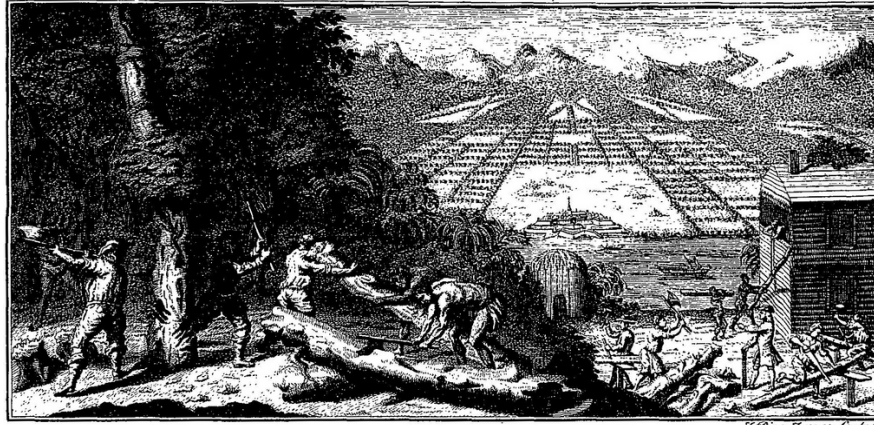


Figure 10. Site #19 Trustee's Garden shown in a fanciful depiction by artist and co-planner of the city, John Pine. The artist never visited the area before drawing this proposed design. The foreground area resembles the street layout of the city while the far saltire-shaped plots may be Oglethorpe's design for the Garden. No surviving plan for the area is known to exist.

Site #20. Fort Wayne Traces. Possible scars from the construction of the 1813 earthen Fort Wayne may be visible in the terracing along the hillside. Though several feet of soil was removed and replaced in before 2010, the soil may have been recovered to the original slope. If not a coincidental set of terraces exactly matches a straight section of Fort Wayne that would have created similar terracing. In map overlay depictions the sickle-shaped fortification shows the wall starting in this location as it swept around the bluff to the north and west.

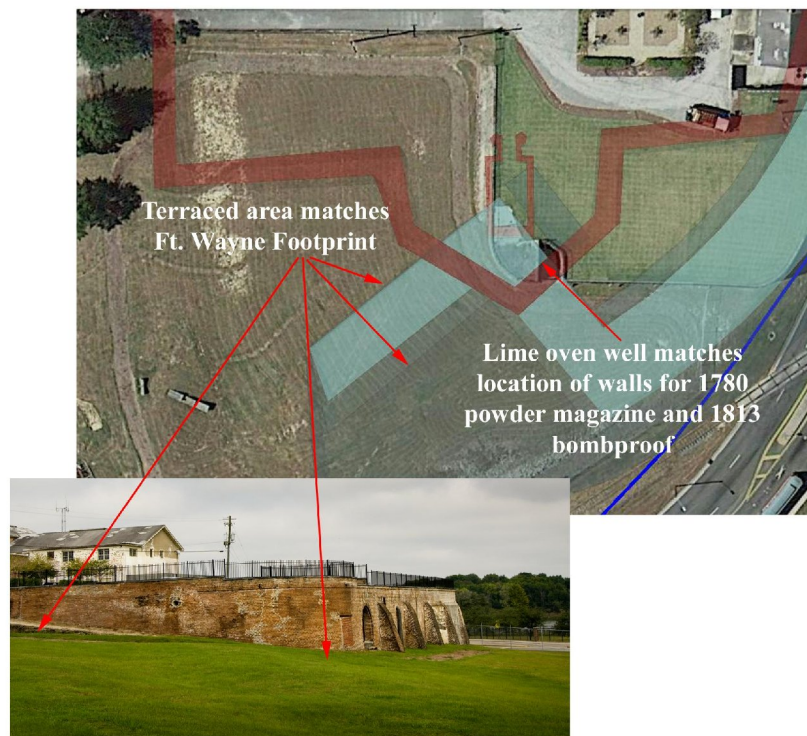


Figure 11. Site #20 & #22 View of fortification overlay, above, and lateral view of terraces. The lime oven well is shown above.

Site #21. Possible walls from 1780 Fort Prevost powder magazine. Bricks in the eastern structure of the Gas Works lime furnace well are at least early nineteenth century. That would put the date of the wall and arch in the War of 1812 era or earlier. (This will be an interesting find for promoting the site later.) The arched portion of the angled wall could be an entrance to the bunker area that is now open to the sky. Further study will be available by gaining access to the closed section of the space.

Site #22. Oyster shells were heated in an oven here to extract lime in the mid to late-nineteenth century. Lime was used to filter metallic gasses and odor from processed coal gas.

Site #23. The Vulcan Iron Works at the time of this 1871 image below was owned by James Monahan and two brothers named Mulligan. In 1877 Monahan sold his shares to the Mulligans and moved up the hill a few hundred yards to start his own foundry. William Kehoe followed him to the new location and became foreman of the Phoenix Iron Works. Before Monahan died in 1878 he had willed the foundry to his wife and to Kehoe. Two years after Monahan's death Kehoe purchased Ellen Monahan's share of the Phoenix for \$4000 and created Kehoe Iron Works.

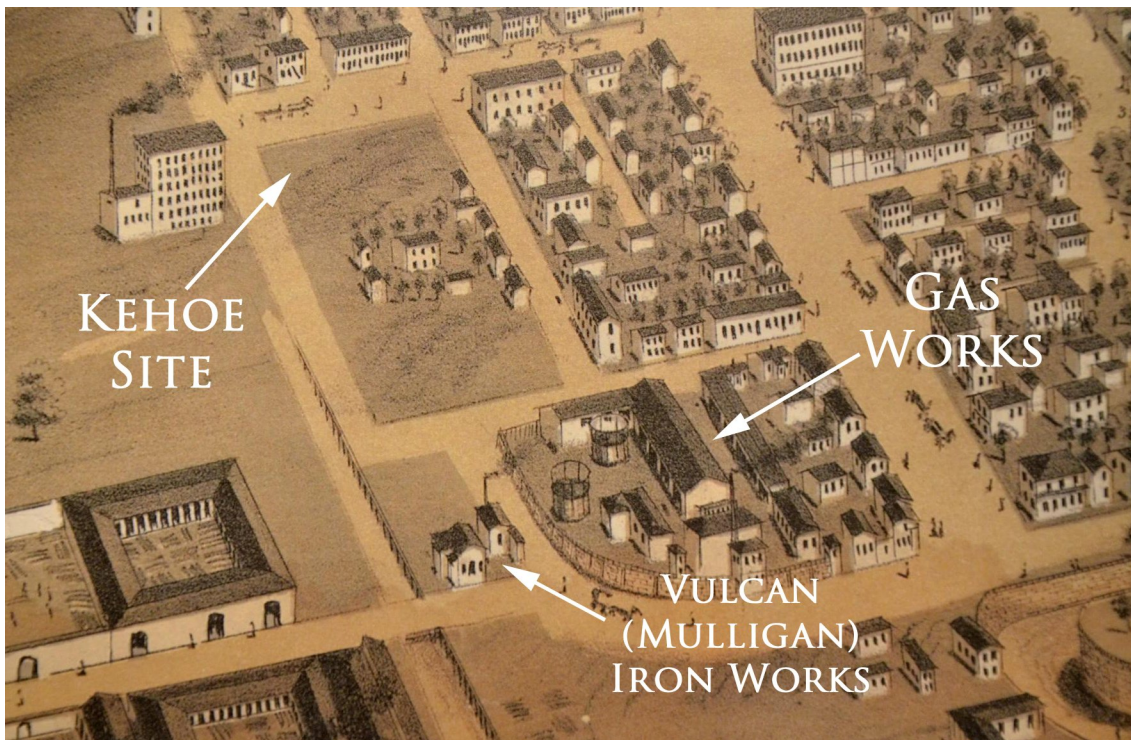


Figure 12, Site #23, Mulligan and Monahan's foundry was located at the southwest intersection of Bay and Randolph Streets.

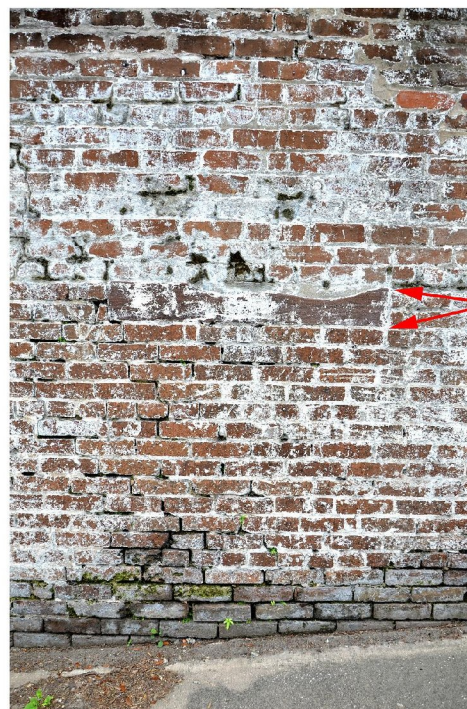
Site #24. Fort Wayne's hot shot oven. This is the location of the 1813 Fort Wayne hot shot oven. Cannon balls would be heated to cherry red then fired at ships to catch their hulls on fire. It would have been similar to the one shown below at Fort Marion National Monument, AL.



Figure 4, Site #24 This hot shot oven in Alabama would have been similar to the Fort Wayne structure.

Site #25. This location was the extent of the pre-1853 gas works wall. The original terrace contained only one Gasometer tank and forced Reynolds Street to divert only slightly along the eastern scarf.

Site #26. The original retort building for Savannah Gas Works was located on this site. If one views the northern wall along this section remnants of the doors and window can be found by the presence of their sandstone sills.



A Sandstone door sill is part of the old retort building on the Bay Street section of the northern gas works wall.

Figure 5. Site #26 shows remnants of the old retort building from the pre-1853 gas works structure. In the image the shoe-worn sill of a door that lead from the lower floor to the street is now part of the brick-work pattern.

Conclusion

A direction has already been established for Trustees' Garden, but writing the plan for stakeholders to study and follow will concentrate and accelerate the process. Answering questions about where to go in creating and developing the uses and products of interpretive sites and examination of how to get there will create a flow for work and goals. This will help present the products to the public and fulfill the expectations of those who purchase and retain those products. This process will allow for flexibility on how to achieve the final goal and how to deviate from it should it prove to need change.

Much more detail and many more images can be added to enhance the visitor's tour around Trustees' Garden. We need to decide through which mediums. The above featured sites are a percentage that can be highlighted in a souvenir National Park styled brochure for study. These will serve as aids to students and visitors as they experience the history through media productions and articles published in print and on the web. Interpretive signs on the property will emphasize important features for a short, less detailed approach while augmenting the brochure.

- JB 4/27/14