Master Plan

Arkansas Post National Memorial

Arkansas County, Arkansas

Alton Anthony Barnes, Jr.
Christopher Paul Folsom

A Terminal Problem Presented

For the Degree of Bachelor of

Landscape Architecture

Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
June 1965

1965

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Introduction

This terminal problem, presented for the Degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, represents five years of work toward that goal.

Although it is impossible to include all of the information we have gained in these five years, this problem represents our training in design, construction, planning and professional practice.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1682, the great French explorer, La Salle, departed with fifty-four men to traverse the entire length of the Mississippi River and claim for France all the territory through which it passed. Their expedition was successful and four years later he set out to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. La Salle was attempting to gain a stronghold for France in the valuable fur trading territory of the Mississippi Delta. La Salle's attempt met with disaster.

Back in Illinois, La Salle's faithful lieutenant,

Henri de Tonti, had organized a expedition to go down the

river to look for his missing leader. He setout in the

spring of 1686. On his way, he stopped in the Arkansas

country close by the junction of the White and Arkansas

Rivers with the Mississippi and near the place where an

old Indian trail crossed the lower Arkansas, going southwest.

Here he established a post, and left six Frenchmen with

instructions to wait for his return. Failing to discover

any trail of La Salle, Tonti returned to Arkansas Post in

the fall of 1686. He took four of the Frenchmen back to

Illinois with him leaving only two volunteers, Conture and

De Launay.

HISTORICAL SKRTCH

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Arkansas Post was protected in parts by a high sandy bluff. It continued to grow and soon became the chief center of the fur trade through the territory. The post was described in 1770, long after the Spanish occupation (1763-1800), as "comprising a square, long walled, stockaded fort, about one hundred and eighty feet across each face, with several half-ruinous buildings inside the stockade and a garrison of some thirty soldiers; while outside the fort area was too often flooded for farming to prosper—did not till the soil, but lived by hunting in the adjoining woods and prairies."

In 1803, as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, Arkansas

Post became an settlement under the flag of the United

States. The post continued to flourish with the fur trade

business as can be seen from a description of it by Thomas

Nuttall who visited the post (then called town) in 1819.

"The post, lying about twenty miles up the river from the

Mississippi, was found to be a settlement of some thirty

or forty log houses, scattered for almost three miles

around a sandy bluff. A straggling road of sorts led directly

¹ John Gould Fletcher, Arkansas, page 34.

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Tohn Gould Fletcher, Arkansas, page 34.

north across the Grand Prairie at the back of the settlement. Here were again merchants whom were supplied here mostly from New Orleans. The settlement itself consisted of one-storied log houses built after the French fashion, with unglazed windows, open hallways running through the center from front to back, and wide verandahs going all around. Its only communication with the outside world was by canoe or keelboat." Also from Nuttall's description, we learn that there were several scattered settlements of whites on the north bank while there were only five Indian villages on the south bank.

In 1818, a petition to congress was circulated asking congress to make a territory out of Arkansas. This petition was a product of the agitation to divide Missouri and create out of the southern half of it a new territory. This petition made its appearance in congress on January 30, 1819 and was promptly acted upon. On March 2nd, President Monroe signed the acting making Arkansas a territory. The act took effect on July 4, 1819 and Arkansas Post was to be the capital of the territory. President Monroe appointed General James Miller of New Hampshire as the first governor of the state.

² Ibid, page 44.

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Miller did not arrive at Arkansas Post until December so it was left to the Secretary of the Territory, Robert Crittenden, to call the first legislature. This body met in July for seven days and was made up of three judges of the Superior Court and Crittenden himself. They established two circuit courts, and voted that the laws of Missouri should be applicable to the new territory.

The new territory began to take on "signs" of civilization and one of these "signs" was in the form of the printed word. William E. Woodruff brought his small hand press and types to Arkansas Post in the fall of 1819 and gave the world, on November 20, 1819, the first issue of the Arkansas Gazette.

Miller arrived at the post the day after Christmas.

He had come by way of a keelboat which the government had provided him. It was fitted up with a large and well-furnished deck cabin, which Miller chose to use as his office and living quarters for the first months of his stay.

Miller held the post of governor for six years.

Early in 1820 there was growing interest in moving the capital from Arkansas Post to Little Rock. Finally on October 25, 1820 the legislature decided to move the capital to Little Rock.

mouth courts, and voted that the laws of Missouri total word. William E. Woodruff brought his small hand s and types to Arkansas Post in the fall of 1819 and gave mished deck cabin, which Miller chose to use as his to and living quarters for the first months of his stay. only in 1820 there was growing interest in moving coltal from Arkansas Post to Little Rock. Finally

After 1820, very little history has been recorded about the post until the Civil War. Because of its commanding position on the bluffs overlooking the Arkansas River, the confederate engineers thought that it would make a good place for a fort to stop Union soldiers advancing toward Little Rock. Here they constructed Fort Hindman. General Churchill commanded about five-thousand men, only 3000 of whom were "effective", and thirteen guns.

On January 4, 1863, General John A. McClerland, (a civilian soldier, who was selected by Lincoln to command the Mississippi river expedition) assumed command of Union forces on the Mississippi. The following day he issued detailed orders for the attack on Arkansas Post. His reasons for the attack were: "To free the navigation of White and Arkansas river, to co-operate with Curtis column operating in Arkansas and create a diversion against a confederate expedition into Missouri, thus repaying Curtis for his co-operation in the Mississippi river expedition; to restore the morals of the troops, which had been greatly lowered by the failure at Vicksburg; and to remove a constant menace upon the mear of any force moving on Vicksburg." Admiral Porter led the Union advance with his gunboats. He

H.B. Owens Resource Center
School of Environmental Design
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David Y. Thomas, Arkansas in War and Reconstruction 1861-1874, page 177.

turned into the White River and then into the Arkansas through a cut-off on the morning of January 9th. His approach was reported to Churchill by pickets.

Churchill decided to give the attackers a warm reception and ordered his command of three-thousand effectives to take position in some entrenchments about a mile and a quarter below the fort. Colonels Deshler and Dunnington held the fort with two brigades while Colonel Garland held the third in reserve. Three companies of cavalry were sent forward to observe the enemy.

During the night the Union forces landed and prepared for a combined land and water attack. The next morning the gunboats moved up the river and opened fire. Churchill was unable to return the fire because he had counted on fire-power from the fort but defective powder rendered the guns at the fort useless. Churchill then withdrew.

The Union forces continued to advance and Admiral Porter began an attack on the fort which lasted two hours. Thus ended the first day of the battle.

The next day the attack started at noon. The ironclades opened fire on the fort and silenced all but one gun in three hours. This enabled the boats to pass up the river and open across fire.

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On land, the Union troops delivered eight fast and furious charges and the post fell.

Confederate losses were 60 killed, 75 wounded, and 4,791 prisoners. The Federal loss was 1,061 killed, wounded, and missing.

After the battle of Arkansas Post, it faded into the background until 1920 when interest in the historical site culminated in the passage of a bill by the Arkansas legislature making it a state part. Interest in the post continued to grow and in the 1930's a National Historic Site Survey report had recommended the area for inclusion in the National Park System. On March 28, 1940 the Advisory Board voted the site eligible for national status.

Interest again arose in the 1950's and in 1956 the Senate appropriated \$32,000 to investigate the potential of the post as a National Historic Site. The following year \$15,000 was appropriated to finish the study.

After the study was completed the site failed to meet the requirement of being associated with a great event and it was rejected.

However, the Arkansas Congressional Delegation showed continued interest in the post. This led to a National Park Service suggestion that congress establish the post as

pland, the Union troops delivered eight last and dearges and the post fell.

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Lower, the Arkansas Congressional Delegation showed interest in the post. This led to a National interest in the post.

a National Memorial to commenorate events in the exploration and settlement of the Mississippi Valley. Congressman, Norrell, introduced a bill on March 26, 1959 to established Arkansas Post National Memorial. On July 6, 1960, by act of congress the bill passed. The Secretary of the Interior designated the boundaries of the park on December 24, 1960.

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Curas, Arkansas, 17 miles from the past, of the service

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Statement of the Problem

The Arkansas Post National Memorial is located upstream some 35 miles from where the Arkansas River flows into the Mississippi in the heart of the delta country of southeastern Arkansas. It is situated on the southern edge of Arkansas County, Arkansas, about 8 miles south of the town of Gillett. The location is 34° 01' 30" N. latitude, 91° 21' 00" W. longitude.

The closest major highway is U. S. 65. This is the main north-south route from Little Rock to New Orleans.

Near Dumas, Arkansas, 17 miles from the park, it intersects state highway 54 which leads north to state highway 1.

Highway 1 continues north to the intersection with state highway 169 which gives direct access to the park. Visitors taking this approach to the park must also cross the Arkansas River by way of a state-operated free ferry (capacity 6 cars).

From the north U. S. 79 is the nearest major route. At Stuttgart, 48 miles from the park, the traveller may turn south following state routes 11, 30, 1 and 169. There are no interstate highways being developed that would effect travel to Arkansas Post.

The Post commenorates primarily, the spread of New France into the lower Mississippi Valley, the acquisition

ne Arkansas Post National Demonial is located upsons 35 miles from where the arkansas River flows
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The Post commoncates primarily, the spread of New The Post commoncates primarily, the acquisition

of the area by Spain and its subsequent reversion to French control, and the Louisiana Purchase and the beginnings of American settlement west of the Mississippi River. Secondarily, it commenorates the Civil War action which opened the Arkansas River to Union gunboats.

Properly presented, the physical resources of Arkansas
Post National Memorial will leave the visitor with a
heightened understanding of the clash of empires in the
lower Mississippi Valley, of the processes by which our
national boundaries swept beyond the Mississippi River,
and of the lonely privation which was the lot of those who
held the outposts of westward expansion.

The Arkansas Post National Memorial shall require the following development:

Roads and Trails

- Relocate State Highway #1 to provide a single,
 more manageable park entrance.
- 2. Provide recreational facilities, including picnic ground, at a site separated from the Memorial's important historic sites.
- 3. Visitor Center parking.
- 4. Utility court.
- 5. Interpretive trails (3)

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really resembed, the physical resources of Arkansas diam't tential will leave the visitor with a send univertanding of the clash of empires in the ississipi valley, of the processes by which our call coundaries awapt beyond the Mississippi River, it the lonely privation which was the lot of those who the outposts of westward expansion.

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ground, at a site separated from the Memorial's

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Visitor Center parking.

Utility court.

Interpretive trails (3)

6. Picnic road and parking.

Buildings and Utilities

- 1. Provide a Visitor Center to serve as the initial contact point of the park visit.
- 2. Two 3-bedroom residences.
- 3. One 2-bedroom residences.
- 4. Maintenance unit.
- 5. Utilities for above mentioned.

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Analysis of the Problem

The analysis of the problem is grouped into three classifications: the land, the visitor, and the staff.

Each of the three classifications is broken down still further into: analysis of existing conditions and management prospectus. A large part of the material included herein was taken from the narrative of the General Package Master Plan prepared by the National Park Service in 1964.

The Land -- Analysis of Existing Conditions

The park boundaries as established on December 24, 1960 are as follows:

Beginning at the point which is the Southeast corner of Spanish Grant number 2339; thence due South 920 feet more or less to a point which is the Southwest corner of Spanish Grant number 2297; thence due East 1060 feet more or less to the West bank of the trace of the Arkansas River prior to the 1944 Stillwell cut-off; thence in a Southerly direction along the meander of the West bank of the trace of the Arkansas River 3825 feet more or less to the North bank of the present Arkansas River;

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the point which is two woutheast the point which is thence due the more or less to a point which is come of spanish Grant number 2297; the total form of spanish Grant number 2297; the feet more or less to the West feet more or less to the West was of the Arkansas River prior to the Mediuall sub-off; thence in a Southerly sub-off; thence in a Southerly the meander of the West bank of the mander the meander of the West bank of the mander as substance or less the Mediuals River; present Arkansas River;

thence in a Westerly direction 2225 feet more or less along the present North bank of the Arkansas River to the point in the middle of Post Bayou where it flows into the Arkansas River; thence along the center of Post Bayou in a Northwesterly and Northerly direction 8575 feet more or less to a point which is the Northwest corner of Spanish Grant number 2307; thence due East 4206.8 feet more or less to a point which is the Northeeast corner of Spanish Grant 2307; thence South 1776.7 feet more or less to the point of beginning, said tract containing 740 acres, more or less, and being located in Arkansas County, Arkansas.

Land Status

The authorized Memorial boundary originally included approximately 740 acres, the nuclous of which was the 62-acre Arkansas Post State Park. Following the boundary designation in 1960, the State of Arkansas proceeded to acquire all the lands necessary to round out the park. It has completed acquistion of the desired Park lands.

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memorial boundary originally included memorial boundary originally included registers. The nuclous of which was seen arkaness Post State Park. Following boundary designation in 1950, the State of and to acquire all the lands are round out the park. It has completed that the park lands.

The boundaries of the park will change upon completion of the Arkansas River dam project. The boundary then will follow along 162 foot level which is above normal flood pool.

Terrain

The Park is a typical section of the flat river delta country of Eastern Arkansas. Bordering the lower Arkansas River, the Park's highest elevation is under 180' above the sea level. As a result, it has been subject to frequent flooding and stream shifting. For the Post, this has meant a history of migration from one site to another; for the historian, it has brought much trouble in learning the facts of this history.

Much of the Memorial area has been cleared - as a result of human occupation or State Park development - a condition much unlike the wilderness of the 17th and 18th Centuries. However, generally good maintenance in the State Park has provided a central unit with a very pleasant park-like character highlighted by an artificial lake. In

condicion of the park will change upon conim of the Arkansas Biver das project. The
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spite of its artificial origin, the lake does offer an attractive feature which should help in planning a visitor pattern of use.

Climate

The climatological data below was drawn from the records of the Dumas, Arkansas weather station.

The Winters are relatively short but cold periods of brief duration do occur. The average daily maximum temperature in <u>January</u> is 56°, the average minimum is 34°. The average date of the first fall freeze is November 3, and the average date for the last spring freeze is March 23. Summers in the area are warm, humid and rather long. The average minimum temperature in <u>July</u> is 72°, the average maximum temperature is 94°.

Mean Temperatures Highest Mean Temperatures Lowest Mean Temperatures	Jan. 45.3 52.4 29.6	Feb. 47.8 55.1 34.1	Mar. 54.6 65.3 43.4	Apr. 63.8 68.6 56.7	May 71.9 76.0 64.5	Jun. 80.1 85.9 75.5
Mean Temperatures Highest Mean Temperatures Lowest Mean Temperatures	Jul. 83.0 87.1 79.2	Aug. 82.4 87.3 75.4	Sep. 75.9 83.0 70.0	Oct. 65.2 71.7 56.3	Nov. 53.0 62.6 47.5	Dec. 46.3 54.3 38.6

Rainfall averages 52.02 inches annually, It is heaviest in the five-month period from December to April. In December, 1931, rainfall reached a

same are relatively short but cold periods un comparature in January is 56°, the average

The average date of the first

as are warn, humid and rather long. The

75.5	76.0	Apr. 63.8 68.6 56.7	65.3	47.8	45.3	ratures in Temperatures a Comperatures
46.3	Nov.	Oct:	Sep	. DUA	Fort	

all averages 52.02 inches annually. It is

lose in the five-month period from December to U. In Documer, 1931, rainfall reached a maximum of 20.67 inches. The driest season is during August, September, and October.

Mean Precipitation	Jan. 5.47	Feb. 4.75	Mar. 5.66	Apr. 5.00	May 4.55	Jun. 3.26
Mean Precipitation	Jul. 4.79	Aug. 3.08	Sep. 3.08	Oct. 2.68	Nov. 4.44	Dec. 5.26

Average Annual Snowfall: 3.8 inches Maximum Annual Snowfall: 18.0 inches in 1929 Maximum Monthly Snowfall: 13.0 inches in January, 1948

Ralative humidity is comparatively high.

Special Protection

The Corps of Engineers has drawn a Bank Protection Plan for Arkansas Post to preserve Memorial archeological remains and permit proper development of facilities. The plan will provide protection from wave action to an elevation of 165.0', three feet above the normal flood pool level. Flooding above this normal will continue to occur but floods should be reduced as a result of upstream reservoir controls. The 170.0' flood level is predicted to occur but once every 10 years. The maximum flood peak is 174.0'.

An additional protection problem is hunting and other unauthorized trespass on Park lands by local residents.

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remand as a result of upstream reservoir controls. 170.00 slood level is predicted to occur but once

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Utilities

Electricity

The Park is served by REA which in turn, is supplied by Arkansas Power and Light Company from a metering point near De Luce, about 6 miles south of De Witt, Arkansas.

The present service is single phase (probably 200 V.), coming off a three-phase line within 100 yards of the existing Park headquarters. There is a transformer near the headquarters building (Quandt House).

There is a 1000-gallon underground butane tank within 50 feet of the existing Park headquarters building. This storage tank serves:

Trailer (present Park Supt's living quarters).....l cook stovel heater Pumphouse.....l hot water heater Headquarters Building..... stoves

Garbage and Trash

Collection and disposition are handled by the Park. Open dumping and occasional burning in a remote location park is served by REA Word, in turn, is supplied

me present service is single phase (probably 100 v.), during off a three-phase line within 100 vals of the existing Park headquarters. There is transformer near the headquarters building (Quandt

re is a 1000-gallon underground butane tank within tee of the existing Park headquarters building.

Italiar (present Park Supt's ... 1 cook stove living quarters) ... 1 heater ... 1 hot water heater ... 1 hot water heater sadmarters Building ... 3 stoves

Allection and disposition are handled by the Park.

Page dumping and occasional burning in a remote location

is the current method of disposition.

Water

A shallow well (less than 90' deep) is pumped into a 50-gallon pressure tank in a pump house near the existing Headquarters Building. The water from this tank goes through a purifier from whence it branches into two services; one goes directly to faucets for visitor use (drinking), the other goes through a softener for use in the trailer (present State Park Superintendent's living quarters).

Sewers

The State Park Superintendent's trailer is served by a 300-gallon septic tank, terminating in a single tile line of approximately 75 feet. Visitors' toilet needs are served by pit privies.

Telephone

The existing State Park Headquarters building is served by nine-party line service from the Gillett, Arkansas exchange of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

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The Park Superintendent's trailer is served and park Superintendent's trailer in a single superintendent tank, terminating in a single will approximately 75 feet. Visitors' like one of approximately 75 feet. Visitors' like one of approximately 75 feet. Visitors'

as misting State Park Headquarters building is state Park Headquarters building is very by nine-party line service from the Gillett,

Management Prospectus

Land Status

Terrain

In line with the potential flood threat to park lands both before and after construction of the nearby dam, major development should be limited to that small percentage of high land not exposed to this threat.

Vegetation

The native woodland should be restored or retained as much as possible in keeping with the theme of preserving the character of the land as it was in the French exploration period.

Climate

Mechanical cooling will be required for visitor use facilities and staff offices.

Special Protection Considerations

To alleviate local unauthorized trespass problems, a community public relations program should be

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In the potential flood threat to park a solore and after construction of the a solor development should be limited all percentage of high land not exposed

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lare local unauthorized trespass problems

promoted. Fencing and boundary posting should be established.

Corps of Engineers work on bank stabilization will be needed prior to dam construction to preserve area values, protect against erosion of shoreline, and allow developmental progress.

Research

Archeological and historical research on Memorial features will be needed to aid interpretation, to give direction to the development of physical facilities such as the Visitor Center, employee housing and recreational facilities, and to discover and identify all historic remains within the Park boundaries. Archeological investigation should also be continued in the search for evidence of sites of the early French settlements. Additional historical research may also offer significant information on this subject.

Utilities

Water

The present water supply comes from a shallow ground

concing and boundary posting should be

denter to dam construction to proserve protect against erosion of shoreline,

Estimated and instance on Memorial Estimated will be needed to mid interpretation, to dealers and to the development of physical and the search statistics can be visitor Center, employee and to discuss and to should the dealers. Archeological investigation should be acceptable of the search for evidence of the carly French settlements. Additional discuss also offer significant in-

water horizon and is of very poor quality. The system now being used to improve it is either inadequately operated or of unsuitable design. A water resource investigation should be made to discover aquifers which may be more potable and need less treatment.

Garbage and Trash

Incineration and sanitary land fill operation will replace the present open dumping.

Fire Protection

The new water supply systems will provide for this, in addition, first-aid fire equipment will be maintained.

The relocation and temporary utilization of the Quandt House may require initial construction of the permanent utilities systems to serve the eventual Visitor Center.

comes from a shallow ground

The Visitor

Analysis of Existing Conditions

Visitor Characteristics

Numbers

76,000 70,000 64,000 58,000 52,000 46,000 40,000 1967 1961 1964 1966 1963 1965 1968 1969 1970 1971 1973

resource and is of very moor quality. The most being used to improve it is either in motely operated or of unsuitable design. A resource investigation should be made to over againers which may be more potable and

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distraction and sanitary land fill operation will class the greatnt open dumping.

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addition, first-aid fire equipment will be

relocation and temporary utilization of the not some may require initial construction of the source may require initial construction of

Center

The Visitor

nivers of Existing Conditions

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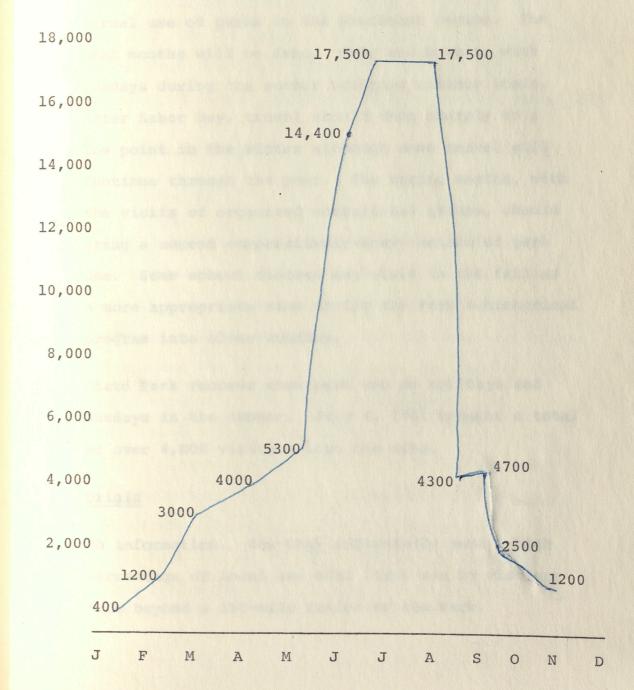
The existence of recreational facilities and encouragement of this activity has had a positive effect on travel to this State Park. With no competing attractions or facilities for recreation anywhere in the vicinity, it should surprise no one that it is a popular local public playground.

On the negative side, the area is many miles from any large population center. No major highways pass close to the Park. The nearest important route, U. S. 65, is 17 miles away, and a ferry crossing adds to the time needed to reach the Park. Under these circumstances, it would be difficult to predict greater use than at other small and isolated historical parks, i.e. Moores Creek, Russell Cave, Horseshoe Bend, and Booker T. Washington. None of these areas surpasses 25,000 in annual travel.

However, the promotion of the Park's recreational aspects has offset some of the disadvantages of isolation and brought an unusually heavy use by the population of nearby counties.

Any prediction of future travel is certainly conjectural and will depend somewhat on the future

course of the Memorial program. If a substantial recreational activity is allowed and encouraged, then 70,000 or more annual visitation may not be too optimistic.



of the senorial program. If a nubstantial

17,500 17,500

14,400

1700

1200

a o s v t m

Based on 76,000 as projected future annual travel figure.

There is no reason to believe that the future pattern of visitation will vary much from the normal use of parks in the Southeast Region. The peak months will be June, July and August, with Sundays during the summer bringing maximum loads. After Labor Day, travel should drop sharply to a low point in the winter although some travel will continue through the year. The spring months, with the visits of organized educational groups, should bring a second comparatively heavy season of park use. Some school classes may visit in the fall as a more appropriate time to fit the Park's historical program into class studies.

State Park records show peak use on holidays and Sundays in the summer. July 4, 1961 brought a total of over 4,000 visitors into the area.

Origin

No information. The Park undoubtedly gets a high percentage of local use with light use by visitors from beyond a 150-mile radius of the Park.

no reason to believe that the future of visitation will very much from the

of parks in the Southeast Berion. The

during the summer bringing maximum loads.

in the winter although some travel will

wough the year. The spring montes, should

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lass studies.

uk records show peak use on holidays and in the summer. July 4, 1961 brought a total

Information. The Park undoubtedly gets a high manage of local use with light use by visitors would a 150-mile radius of the park.

Types and Duration of Visits

The family group is probably the State Park's number one user. Although we have no records to verify this, organized educational group visits are undoubtedly few in number. The recreational attractions in the Park draw some summer and weekend activity on the part of other organizations from nearby communities.

Activities and Facilities

The State Park

The Park offers a dual program of recreation and interpretation, with the former use holding what seems to be a preferred position in the State operation. It is certainly true that the recreational aspects are the prime drawing card for many of the Park's visitors. The State recognizes in the educational program the story of the 17th and 18th Century trading posts. But it is the lesser theme of 19th Century American occupation which commands most of the attention in the interpretation of the site. With the few visible remains and numerous museum relics nearly all associated with this later

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period, this emphasis should not be unexpected.

However, the fact remains, that the truly significant story of the Arkansas Post is essentially untouched in the present program.

Day Use

The visitor entering Arkansas Post State Park first steps at the Park Museum housed in the 19th Century log Quandt House. A historical marker near the entrance explains something of the Civil War story associated with the area. The museum itself serves as a sort of informal visitor contact station manned by the Park Superintendent. It is also a storage and display area for a cumbersome and terribly disorganized catchall collection of historic objects. The display rooms, and the porch as well, are cluttered with simply marked objects relating to every imaginable phase of local and state history. Little is tied to the Park story. A special locked vault provides space for displaying documents, a few valuable, but most of them valueless to anyone except the individual who donated or loaned them to the Park.

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the park.

From the museum, the visitor may drive a scenic loop road around the Park lake. He passes first a reconstructed gallows brought to the Park for exhibit from the county seat at De Witt, Arkansas. Several poorly maintained roadside markers add information on the general history of Arkansas Post, while the lake, the numerous picnic tables, and the large open areas used for recreation draw the most attention. On a pleasant summer weekend, literally hundreds and even thousands of people may throng into the area to partake of a picnic outing on the lakeside and some athletic endeavor. The important historic sites lie buried beneath the ground identified inadequately or not at all so that the visitor comes away with little of the feel of the history of the place.

A natural division in this museum presentation would use the audiovisual program to give the visitor a broad view of the centuries-long struggle for empire in America, while the exhibits feature the establishment and operation of a trade post on the Arkansas. Beginning in the 16th Century with the earliest French and English challenges to Spanish authority in

consistent may arive a seemic contained approve first provided dailows arought to the park for a provided dailows arought to the park for the county seet at me witt, Arkansas. I comply asintained roudside markers add intending on the general history of Arkansas Post, law, the numerous picmic tables, and the part of the most of the most of the most of the most of the seeming weekend, literally an apparant surner weekend, literally and over thousands of people may throng the most to partake of a picnic outing on the most of the seeming and some athletic endeavor. The importance of the buried beneath the ground the majorately or not at all so that the store away with little of the feel of the

Mivision in this museum presentation would notice and to give the visitor a few of the contumies—long struggle for empire the ontwise the exhibits feature the establishman of a trade post on the Arkansas.

In the 16th Century with the earliest to spanish authority in

the New World, the AV story could explore the international rivalries which often exploded into open conflict in the American wilderness. Through much of this period, the Mississippi Valley occupied the center of the stage with the three European nations and finally the United States grappling for this rich prize.

Using the Mississippi Valley rivalry as a transition, the museum exhibits might then begin with La Salle's original claim and the 1686 de Tonti establishment. From this start, each phase of the story of the Arkansas Post should be examined, frontier life on the Post, Indian relationships, the operation of a trade post, the role of Post in the power struggle - operations - and so on.

The Tour

Interpretation in the field is restricted by the limited park resources. However, evidence of the latest French and Spanish trade posts and the important years of American occupation, in particular the Territorial Capital, will provide the site for

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designation valley rivalry as a transition, and entitle might them begin with La Salle's at state and the 1666 de Tonti establishment.

In state, each phase of the story of the state should be examined, frontier life on the state and the relationships, the operation of a state, the role of Post in the power struggle -

the the field is restricted by the particular resources. However, evidence of the remources and trade posts and the strate posts and the strate of American cocupation, in particular recycles the site for

telling the later phases of the Arkansas Post story. This will be the aim of the tour - to illustrate the final, waning stages of European occupation and the initial American endeavors in the settlement of Arkansas Post.

The usual park tour will be self-guided. During the heavy summer travel season, guided tours might be considered if demand and/or staffing permits. Educational groups will receive special personal services during their visits.

Management Prospectus

Visitor Characteristics

Number

Recreation use has resulted in heavy travel to the State Park in the vacation season. Future estimates of travel are conjectural depending largely on the support of the nearby counties. If recreation continues as a major activity, this Park popularity should continue. If not, the trend of use may drop dramatically.

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resident use has resulted in heavy travel to the state of the vacation season. Future estimates and the conjectural depending largely on the cot the nearby counties. If recreation constant a selectivity, this park popularity at a selectivity, this park popularity and a selectivity, the trend of use may drop

Origin

The State Park experience indicates a heavy local use opposed to light out-of-state use. Whether or not recreation remains as an important feature, this tendency should be typical in the future. However, the present slight out-of-state figure should increase as interpretive and other improvements are completed and with the broader publicity afforded a National area. The very isolated location of the Memorial will always work adversely in drawing heavy out-of-state use.

Types and Seasonal Variations

The family will be the big participant in park activities, especially in the summer and on weekends when visitation is at its peak. As the interpretive program takes shape, educational groups from the surrounding day-use region should begin to take more notice of the value of a school class trip to Arkansas Post. Other group recreational visits should continue.

Proposed Activities and Facilities

Park Theme

Interpretation will highlight the story of French,

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depositional visits should continue

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watter will highlight the story of French,

Spanish, English and finally American efforts in the exploration and settlement of the Mississippi Valley from 1686 to 1821. The place occupied by Arkansas Post in this struggle will be emphasized throughout. The Civil War aspects of the Park story will be a secondary theme.

Recreation could play a more significant role than usual in this historical area with the program offering a family-style outdoor recreational opportunity.

Entrance to the Park

The visitor approaches Arkansas Post National

Memorial from the north via De Witt and Gillett on

State Highways 1 and 169, or from the south via

Dumas on State Highways 54, 1, and 169. The State

should be requested to erect directional signs

marking the route to the Park at the key road in
tersections. After a short drive, the visitor

reaches the Visitor Center parking area.

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Visitor Center

Here at the Center, the visitor will be welcomed by a uniformed receptionist who will help with information on public services and facilities. The visitor will also find here useful free leaflets and sales publications, and may take advantage of museum lectures and more informal personal interpretive services offered by the staff.

Through audiovisual programs and other interpretive devices, the visitor will learn of the two centuries of competition for colonial empire in the Mississippi Valley.

Among the subjects covered will be: the physical characteristics of the lower Arkansas River Valley, emphasizing the effects of floods and shifting river channels; background of 17th Century Colonial America exploration and settlement emphasizing European competition for empire; French expansion into the Mississippi Valley and her rivalry with Spain; the establishment of Tonty's Arkansas Post; French and Indian relations in the frontier trading post;

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French, Spanish, and English 18th Century rivalry and the later Arkansas Posts, including the use of the Post as a base for trade extension into the southwest and as an intermediate station on the Mississippi; Spanish-American rivalry on the Mississippi culminating in the Louisiana Purchase; Arkansas Post as Territorial Capital; and the decline of Arkansas Post in the 19th Century.

Leaving the Center, the visitor beings his tour of the Memorial gounds. After a short drive, he reaches a parking pulloff serving an interpretive walking tour of the old town site. He follows a walkway which leads over portions of the site of the Territorial Capital of Arkansas, one of the major historical features of the Memorial. Interpretive markers and stabilized ruins help the visitor understand the appearance and importance of this early town. Among the exhibits may be the Quandt House, an example of an architectural style typical of the early 19th century. Markers will also interpret Civil War remains seen along this trail.

When he finishes the town walk, the visitor returns to his car to take the drive to the southern point

Mades the town walk, the visitor returns

ordy 19th contury. Markers will also interpret

explains something of the visible effects of the river on the land. At the south end of the lake, a parking area gives access to a second interpretive trail. Here the visitor may walk to the southernmost edge of the Park overlooking the Arkansas River. Interpretive devices on the trail tell of the archeological sites nearby which mark the locations of late 18th Century frontier posts. Here also memorial trail-side exhibits might well sum up the theme of exploration and settlement at a spot overlooking the river that played such a large role in the history of Arkansas Post.

Other Activities

The visitor who wishes to include recreation as a primary experience may take advantage of the recreational facilities in the northwest section of the Park. A loop of the main entrance drive leads to this area where one will find a picnic ground, a cleared recreation ground large enough to accommodate group activities, and footpaths into the Park's woodlands and along the shoreline of the Arkansas River.

A roadside marker alone the way contains of the visible effects of the author of the lake, a contain and the land. At the south end of the lake, a contain the southernmost of the visitor may walk to the southernmost of the visitor may walk to the southernmost of the contains the trail tell of the contains and attention which mark the locations of the contain frontier posts. Here also dentury frontier posts. Here also contain and settlement at a spot over the contain and settlement at a spot over the contain played such a large role in the contains and settlement at a spot over the contains the played such a large role in

description as a second of the recommon may take advantage of the recommon may take advantage of the recommon that the northwest section of the second of the main entrance drive leads to the main entrance drive leads to make the main entrance drive leads to accommodate one will find a picnic ground, a picnic ground a picnic ground, a picnic ground large enough to accommodate the second of the park's wood-

The single entrance to the Memorial will make it possible to close the area each night. In the off-season, the gate and Visitor Center hours of operation would closely correspond, whereas in the heavier travel season, every effort should be made to extend the park visiting hours to allow maximum daylight use compatible with available staffing.

Overnight Use

Visitors wishing to stay in the Park overnight have two courses of action. Camping is allowed although facilities are hardly more than primitive in character. Those who prefer may rent one of the three tiny one-room cabins which provide nothing more than a roof and four walls for added comfort. Camping under such circumstances undoubtedly does not prove to be a popular park pastime.

1 of Housing and Community Pagilities

neal housing in the vicinity of the Park is non-

single entrance to the Memorial will make it itsets to close the area each night. In the case, the area each night. In the case, the gate and Visitor Center hours of the would closely correspond, whereas in the decrease, avery effort should be made and the park visiting hours to allow maximum are compatible with available staffing.

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The Staff

Analysis of Existing Condtions

Organization

Arkansas Post State Park presently functions as a unit of the State Park System. A Park Superintendent is in charge of on-site management with technical assistance afforded by the Office of the Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission in the State Capital of Little Rock.

Staff Activities

The Superintendent, with nothing other than parttime assistance from other personnel, conducts day-today park operations. This includes all the principal
activities which normally would be fulfilled by a
larger park organization - maintenance and protection
of the grounds and equipment, routine public services
including visitor orientation, and maintenance and
operation of the Park museum.

Staff Housing and Community Facilities

Rental housing in the vicinity of the Park is nonexistent. A few basic community facilities can be Man Staff

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using in the vicinity of the Park is non-

found at Gillett, 8 miles distant. However, one must drive on to De Witt or even Pine Bluff to find a well-rounded provision of community services.

Management Prospectus

Organization

Arkansas Post National Memorial should function within the framework of this Master Plan and under stated delegations of authority as a Group A area, as defined in the paragraph on specialized assistance, in the National Park Service Administrative Manual, Organization Volume, Part 7. In carrying out the responsibilities within the limits of authority as defined, the Park staff should be organized, and it should function as described below:

Office of Superintendent

Directs and is responsible for all functions of the area, including preservation, development, interpretation and use of Arkansas Post National Memorial.

Staff

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t Medonal Memorial steeds standard under this states stan and under stone of authority as a Group A area, the paragraph on specialized assistance,

one park Service Administrative Manuar, a volume, Part 7. In carrying out the

k staff should be organized, and it

of Superintendent
is responsible for all funcarea, including preservation,

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Office of the Superintendent

Function

Directs all operations in the Park to accomplish the Park Mission in the best way possible.

Task

Plans, directs, supervises, coordinates, and evaluates all activities performed by the Park staff as follows:

Training
Personel Management
Fiscal Management
Property Management
Operation and Maintenance of Facilities
Protection of Resources
Public Services
Minor Construction Work

To the degree defined in, and in accordance with procedures described in the Administrative Manual, the Superintendent participates in long-range management and development planning, in the preparation of Master Plans, and in the programming and supervision of construction projects.

The Visitor Services staff conducts the interpretive program. It provides personal interpretive services

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Management

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Construction Work

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development planning, in the pre-

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Savelage staff conducts the interpretive

including talks and guided tours, and plans, develops, and maintains self-guiding facilities. It is also responsible for guiding visitor use activities in a manner that will safeguard both public welfare and park resources and facilities.

The Area Services staff operates and maintains utility buildings, grounds and equipment in a manner contributing to the efficient operation of the Park, the protection of Park resources and facilities, and the welfare of the visitor.

The Regional Office staff provides facilitating services and such professional assistance on technical matters as requested by the Superintendent or deemed necessary by the Regional Director.

Planning assistance is received from the Regional
Office and the special skills and abilities in the
Eastern Office, Design and Construction relating to
architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering
are used to the fullest extent.

The Washington Office staff provides specialized assistance on exhibit planning and audiovisual programs.

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Staff Activities

Under the organizational framework recommended above, park operations centered in the Visitor Center will be directed by the Superintendent. Following is a list of proposed visitor service, land management, and facilitating service functions to be performed by the Park staff.

Visitor Services

The uniformed Visitor Services Staff, consisting of the Historian, Park Guide, and Seasonal Park Guides provides the personal services for the visitor to the Memorial, assisted as the need arises by other uniformed members of the staff. It may be desirable in the future, after major interpretive development is completed, to convert the Historian position to Supervisory Park Guide.

Personal information, orientation and interpretation services are available daily throughout the year at the Visitor Center. The hours of operation of the Visitor Center would be adjusted to the season of the year and visitor demand insofar as staffing permits.

The Visitor Services staff also performs the following duties:

Information, Interpretation

Train and supervise uniformed personnel in the procedures and skills needed to properly carry out the functions of the Visitor Services staff. Emphasis in this training will be on presentation in public contact.

Plan, supervise, coordinate and perform research in the fields of Colonial history related to the Arkansas Post story including preparation of technical and popular publications and articles. Professional assistance from the Regional Office will be provided in carrying out the park research program as the Regional Director deems necessary or as requested by the Park Superintendent.

Develope and maintain the park library, historical and archeological collections, and photograph and slide files.

Plan and operate the interpretive program which includes: operation of a Visitor Center, interpretation of historical and archeological sites, presentation of conducted tours, talks, and special on-site or off-site

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downs the interpretive program which includes:

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Lal and archaelogical sites, presentation of

interpretive programs, and development of audiovisual programs and field interpretive devices.

Cooperate with and otherwise promote good relations with local and state educational, historical, and conservation organizations.

Handle sales through a non-profit cooperating association of related publications, post cards and other useful educational materials.

Picnicking and Other Recreational Uses

Develop and operate a carefully-zones program of recreation use on the Memorial grounds with picnicking a basic activity.

Safety and Law Enforcement

Perform services designed to effect proper and safe use of the Park and otherwise safeguard the welfare of the visitor. Special attention to safety factors may be needed in connection with visitor use of the lake shore, picnic grounds, and other recreational uses in the Memorial.

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Facilities Proposed:

Office (Visitor Center)
Storage (Visitor Center)
collections, etc.

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Land Management

The Maintenanceman and Caretaker, with a seasonal laborer to assist, under the supervision of the Superintendent, carry the responsibility for maintenance and operation of the Park's physical plant. The Visitor Center is the base for protection of park resources and facilities.

The staff has the following specific Land Management duties:

Maintenance

Operate utility systems, building equipment, and other facilities of the physical plant.

Maintain roads, walkways, buildings, gounds, equipment and utility systems (except those serviced by public utility companies).

Supervise maintenance contracts on roads, walkways, buildings, grounds, equipment and utilities.

perform or supervise maintenance of archeological and historic structures.

Major maintenance projects are performed by contract.

Protection

The Superintendent trains personnel in protection and related skills and procedures.

Plan and apply measures for the prevention and control of damage to park resources (in particular archeological values), and physical improvements.

Special after-hours protection efforts may be needed.

Facilities Proposed

General Repair (Workshop) - 1
General Storage - 1
Equipment Storage - 1

Staff Facilitating Services

Administration

Although he is responsible for the total area operation, the Superintendent delegates responsibility freely and gives each employee much latitude for practical application of ideas if they are within the framework

of good park practice. By this means, by encouraging the use of various training media, and by frequent discussions on park operations, the Superintendent strives for development of the individual employees and to produce an efficient, smoothly-working park program.

The Administrative Aid, under the supervision of the Superintendent, performs the following services:

Keeps fiscal and other records necessary for operation of the Memorial; effects acquistion and disposal of equipment and property, and maintains accountability records for such items; maintains mails and files; consolidates and prepares budget estimates; conducts personnel duties of recruitment, counselling classification, separation, and maintenance of personnel records; keeps time and attendance records; and effects procurement, storage and issuance of supplies. The Southeast Region Finance Office performs accounting functions for the area, and other specialized facilitating services as requested by the Superintendent.

Public Relations

The Superintendent provides membership, or liaison with local, State and Federal boards, commissions and other cooperating agencies, and otherwise promotes good public relations with park neighbors.

Facilities Proposed

Offices (Visitor Center) - 2

Staff Housing and Community Facilities

No satisfactory housing is available in the vicinity of the Park. Thus, staff housing should be provided for those employees subject to transfer. The residences should be located in a manner that would further protection of the Park without encroaching on the rather limited area of visitor activities.

Concessions and Other Agencies

A non-profit cooperating association, handled by the Park staff, will provide sales publications for the Park visitor. No concession is needed.

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n (Visitor denter) - 2

description of the Park without encrosching or

"It comparating association, handled by the in the sales publications for the tor. We concession is needed.

Presention and Justification of the Solution

The solution to this problem is the fulfillment of the problem statement by use of a thorough analysis of the problem. It is presented here in the same form of as the analysis.

Development

Visitor Center

The choice of sites for the Visitor Center are limited. The location selected is shown on the "Master Plan" and the "Site Plan-Visitor Center-Residential Area" in accordance with the considerations listed below:

- 1. The location tries to avoid historic or archeological areas as determined by historical information maps. However, archeological investigation will be necessary to positively avoid intrusion.
- 2. The site is strategically located to provide an initial contact point for visitors entering the Memorial.

3. The site is on terrain higher than the maximum flood peak of 174.0'.

Recreation Area

This area is detached from other activities within the Memorial. The parking area will be constructed as shown on the "Master Plan" and the "Site Plan-Recreation Area". The picnic sites will be field located by a National Park Service landscape architect. This site was selected so that the picnic and recreation area would not intrude into any areas of historical value. It provides an open field for recreation and a shaded picnic area. Comfort facilities will be available at the Visitor Center.

Circulation

Access from surrounding towns and routes has been discussed previously in the Statement of the Problem. A large part of the existing paved access to the Memorial will be flooded by the Army Corps of Engineers dam project now under construction. The remainder of this road will be obliterated within the Memorial boundary. The State of Arkansas will be

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project now under construction. The project now under construction within

orial houndary. The State of Arkensas will be

encouraged to construct another access road outside the Memorial (for the most part) and connect with the existing county road as shown on the Master Plan. This location was chosen after careful study of park protection problems and the problem involved in moving the bridges located to the west of the park. The section of the road inside the park will be fenced and planted with native plant material to hide the fence. The main park entrance road will be constructed off this road as shown on the "Master Plan" and "Road Detail Plans".

The design of the Memorial entrance road should suggest the area's theme and character and provide a setting appropriate to the wilderness aspect of the story.

Short drives will be constructed to the Maintenance-Residence area, and the Visitor Center.

All park roads will be paved.

The Tour

The interpretive tour is graphically illustrated on the "Master Plan" and on the "Road Detail Plan" and

compared to construct another accoust content of the mark part) and canneau and connect an except country road as shown on the term. This location was shown sites careful of park protection problems and the problem west dwell nowing the bridge located to the west to mark. The section of the road inside the park is the fence and planted with native plant material to the fence. The main park entrance road will destrobed off this road as shown on the "Master at all located off this road as shown on the "Master and Joseph Plans".

on of the nemorial entrance real should suggest to the maildenness aspect of the story.

roads will be paved.

protive tour is graphidally illustrated on and

will consist of two parts. They are: (1) A self-guided walking tour from the Visitor Center to the Old Town Site with interpretive devices located at the important stops along the way and, (2) an auto tour down to the southern end of the lake. Interpretive devices will interpret the role of the river at various locations. A parking area and trail will be located at the southern end of thedrive. This trial will take visitors to the archeological sites of the early trade posts.

Utilities

Long-range building and utilities programs will demand extensive revision of existing utility systems.

Electricity

The REA is prepared to furnish single or 3-phase service with anydesired connections, in any reasonable load capacities.

Gas

Design of heating and air-conditioning systems will have to recognize the fact that the common local fuel is natural gas in built-up areas and bottled gas

In mailst of two parts. They are (1) as the middle walking tour from the The Tiester Cantar Cantar Old Town Site with intermedia the assistant stops along the asylons the important stops along the and, and of the manto tour down to the southern and of the cantar at various locations. A parking area wall will be located at the southern end of catter This trial will take visitors to the candogical sites of the early trade posts.

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(butane-propane) in outlying areas. (Natural gas is piped as far as Gillett, some 8 miles north of the Park.) Electricity is also used as a fuel, but is usually restricted to residence because of expense. Oil is seldom used as a fuel.

Water, Sewers

New systems will be provided for the Residence-Maintenance and Visitor Center development.

Telephone

Private line service will be provided at the Residence-Maintenance and Visitor Center developments. Public pay station service will be provided for the Visitor Center if the need is demonstrated.

Staff use has been considered in view of the development that will be necessary for the effective administration, interpretation, protection, and maintenance operations of the Memorial.

Staff Facilities

Office space for permanent staff with facilities for storage of supplies, equipment, and museum objects

no monand) in outlying areas. (satural residual as few as Gillert, some a miles north of satural) Electricity is also used as a fuel, but satisfy restricted to residuace largement of expense.

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couse for permanent staff with facilities

will be provided in the Visitor Center. Rest rooms and space for storage of janitorial equipment will also be provided.

Maintenance Facilities

These facilities will be attached to the Visitor Center. The utility building will provide space for general repair, general storage, and three stalls for equipment storage.

Permanent Staff Housing

In accordance with the management prospectus, three single family residences will be constructed to house the Service personnel subject to rotation.

the provided in the Virian dealth. The rooms

intenence Pacilities

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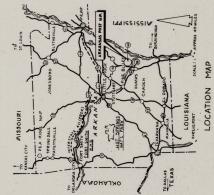
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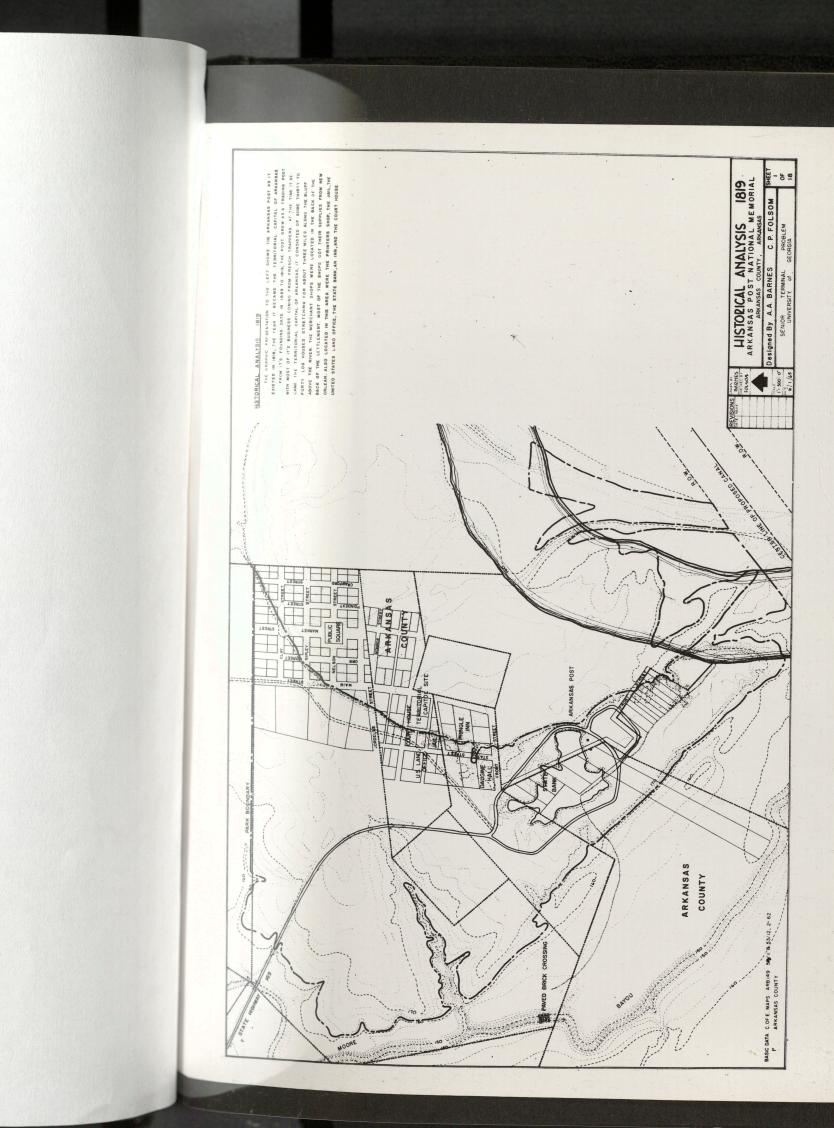
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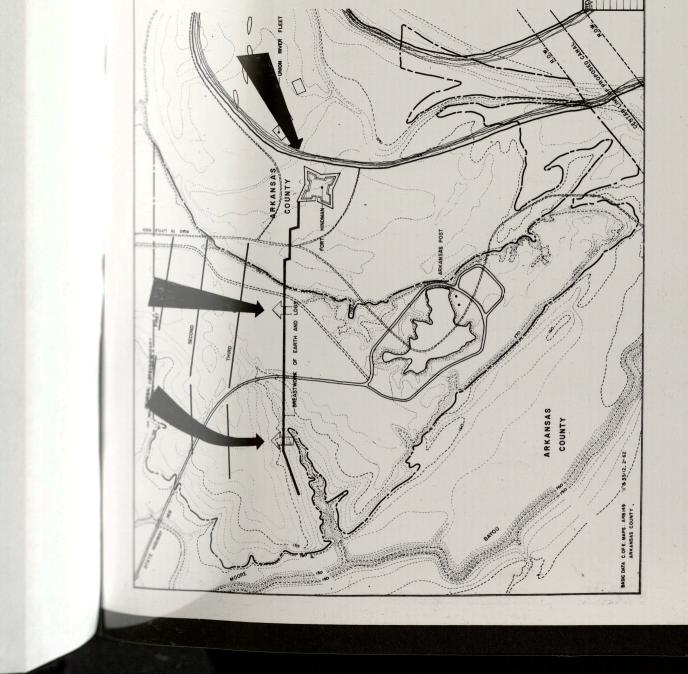
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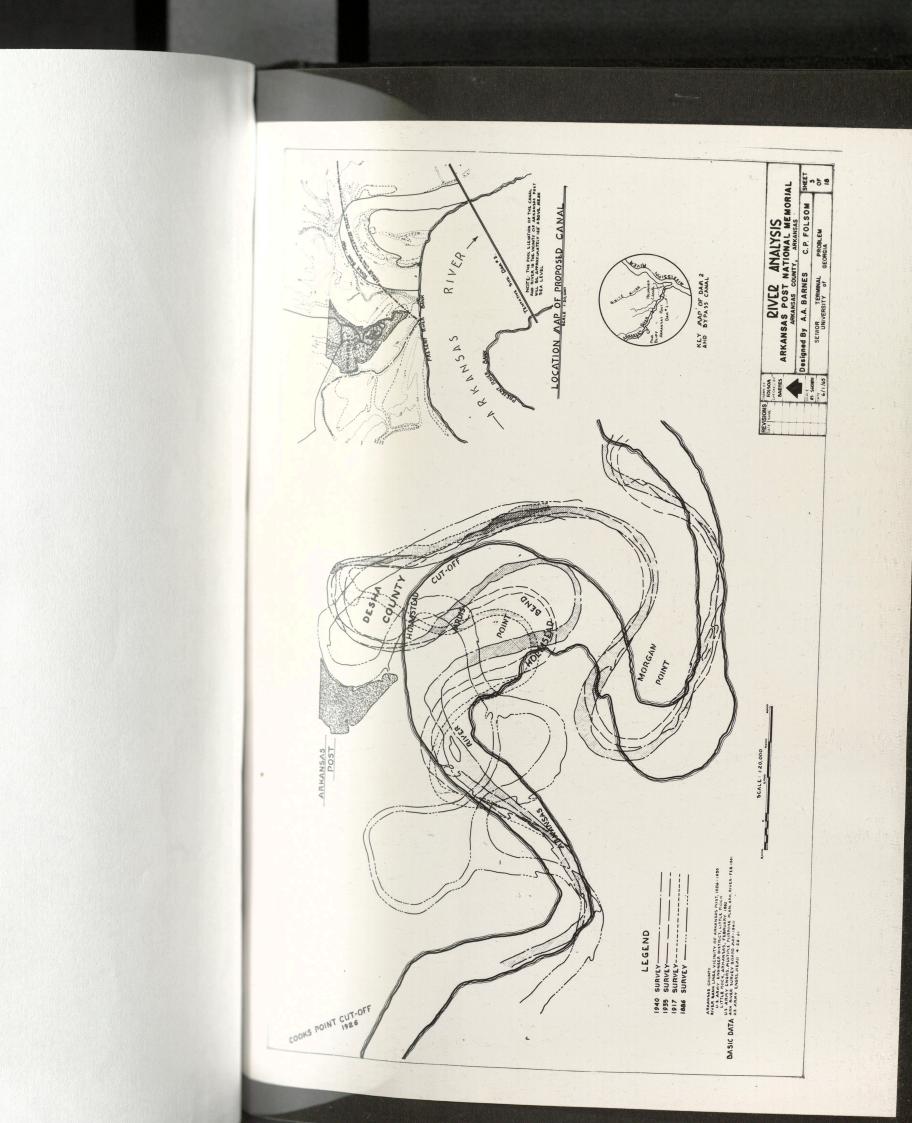
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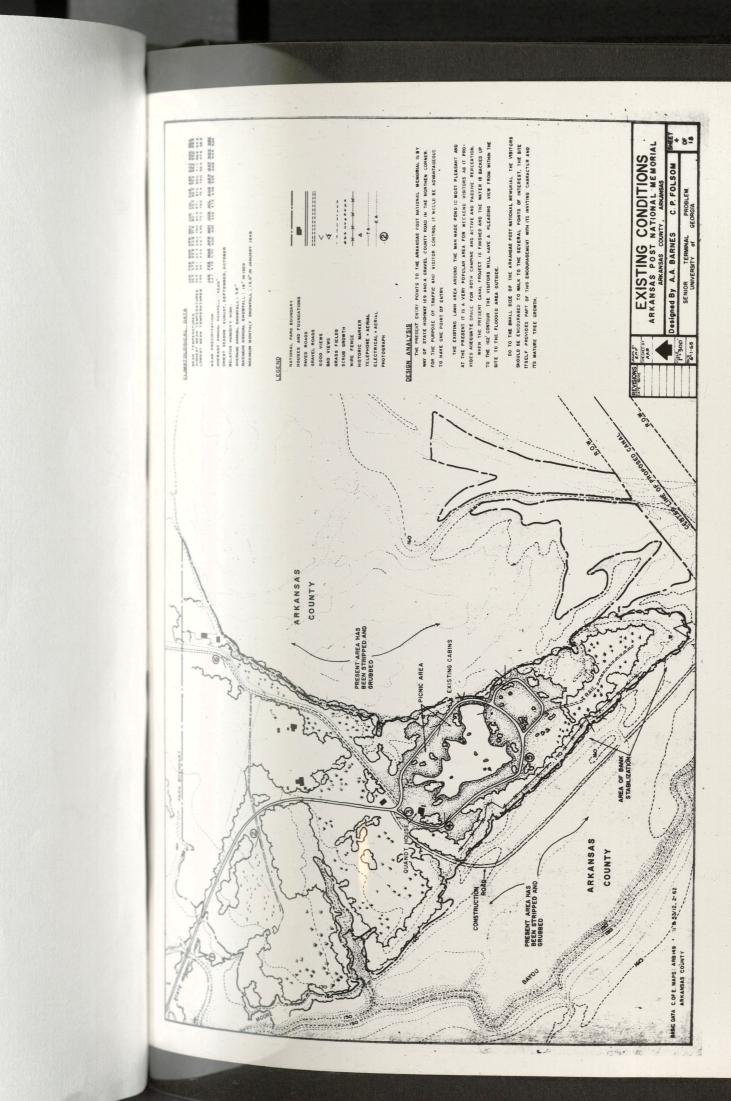






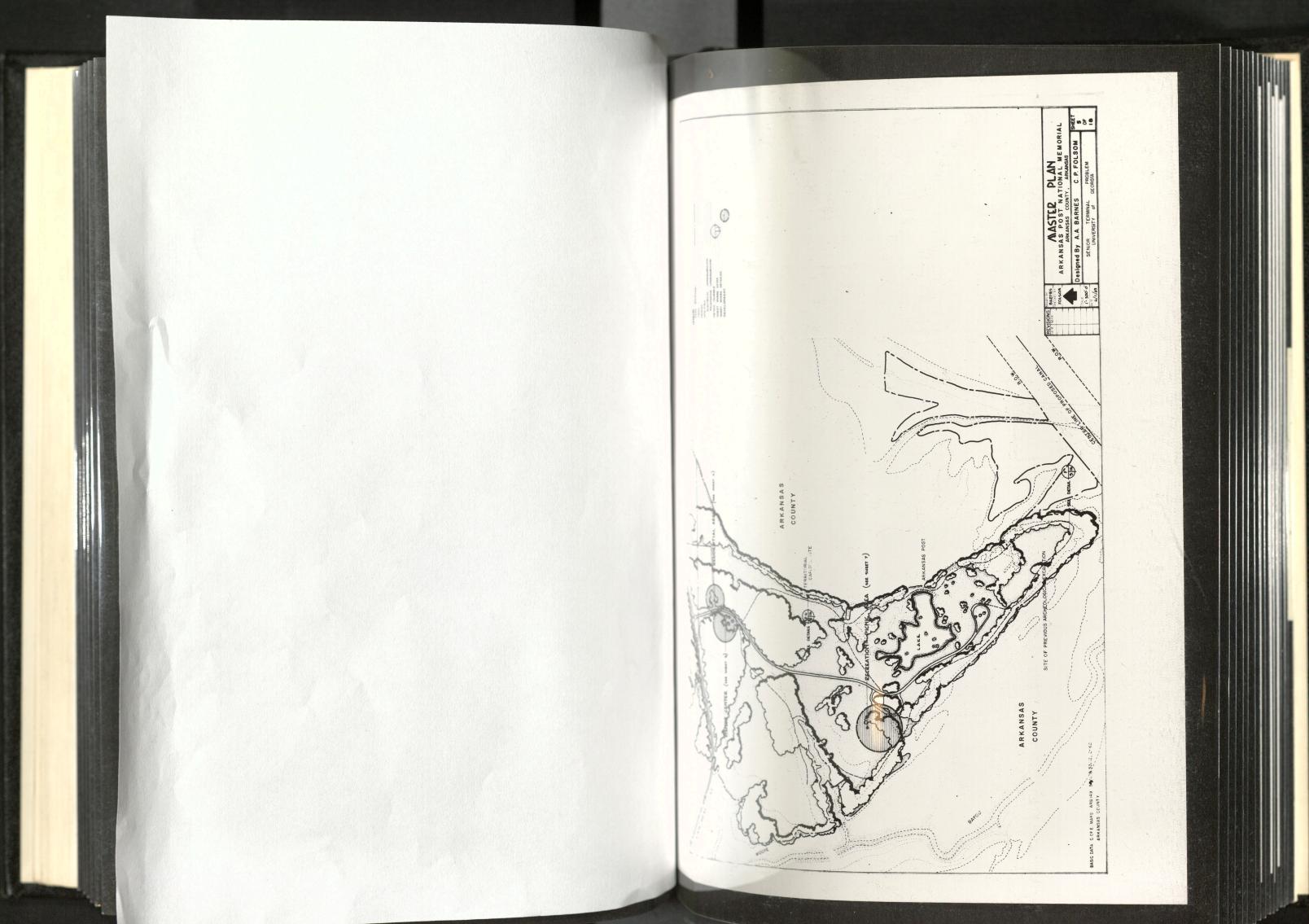


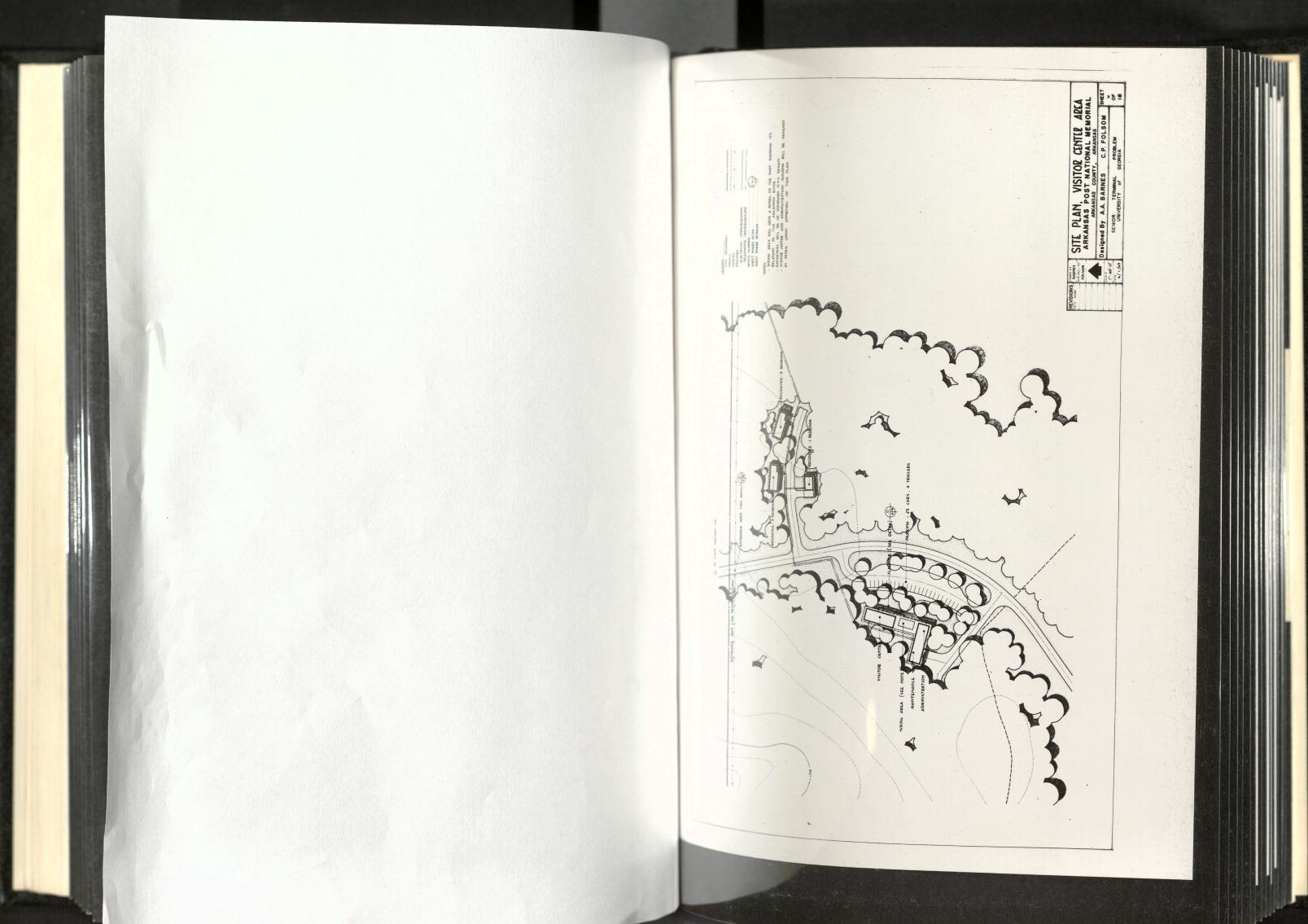




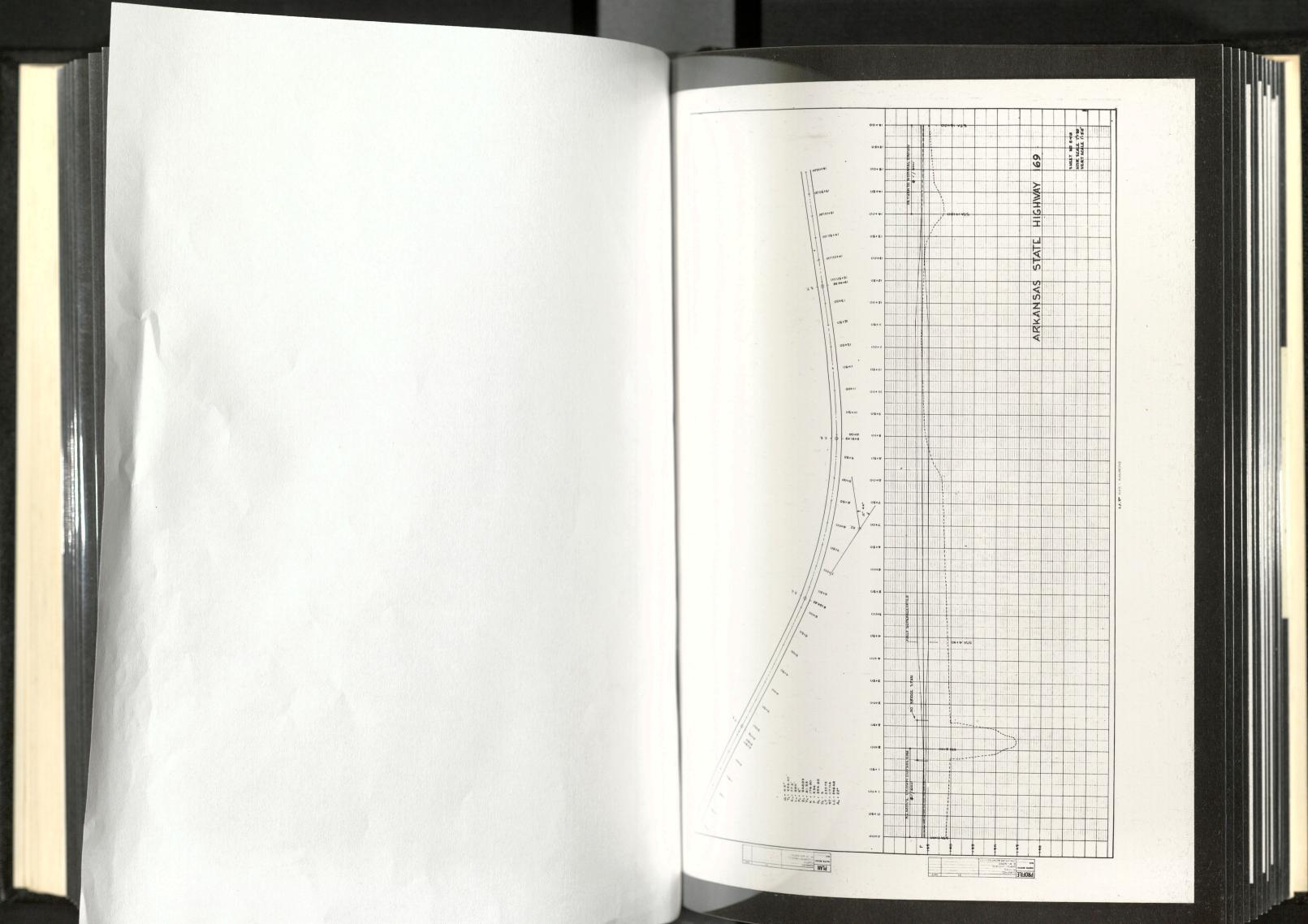


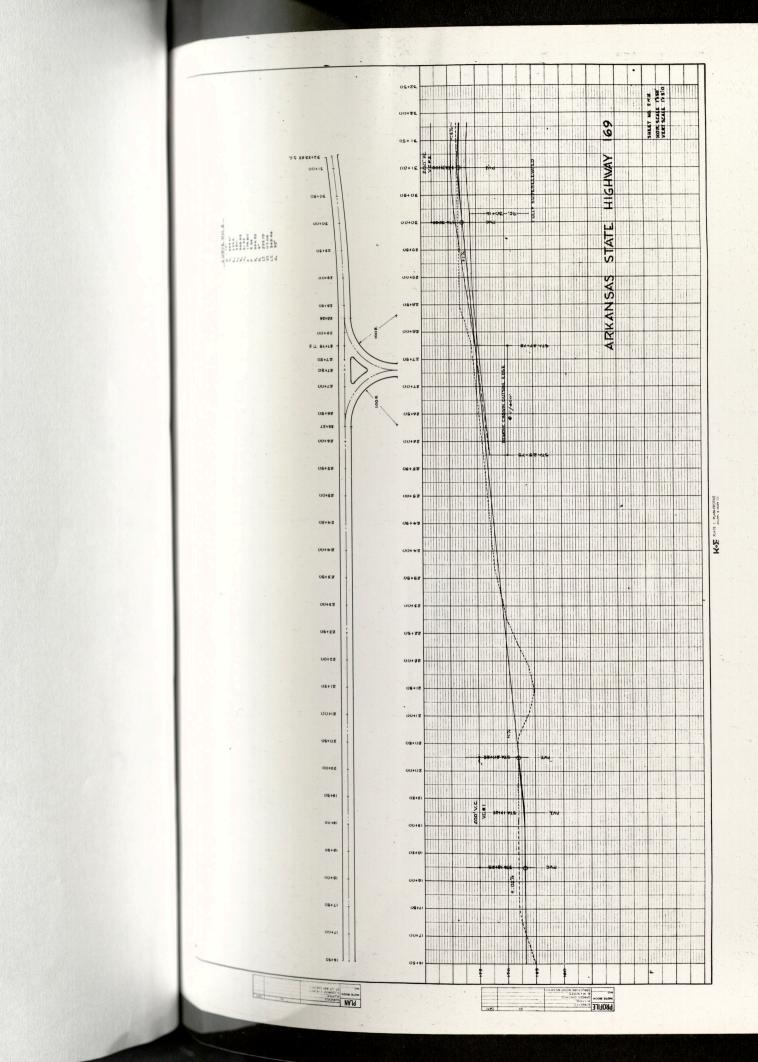


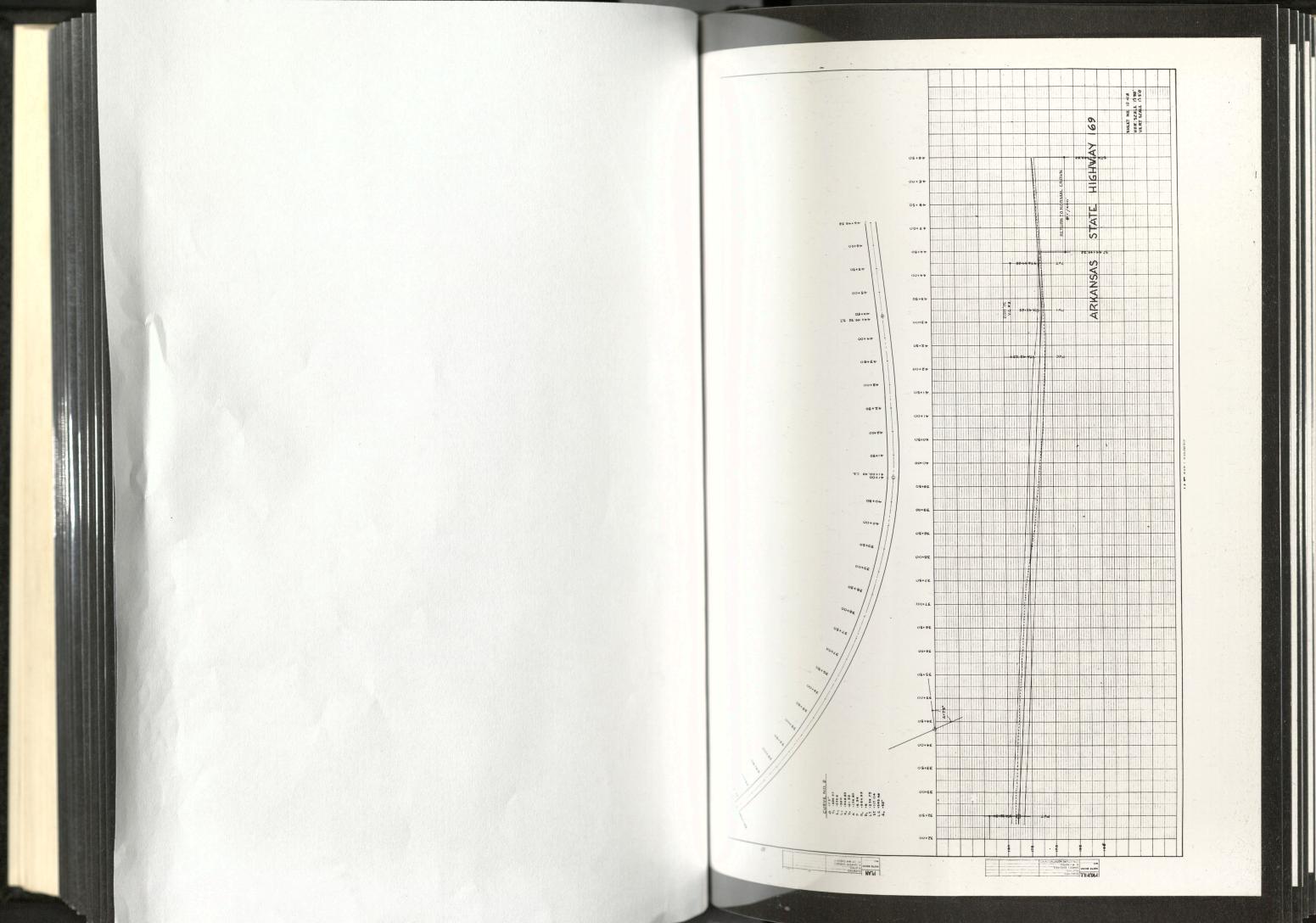


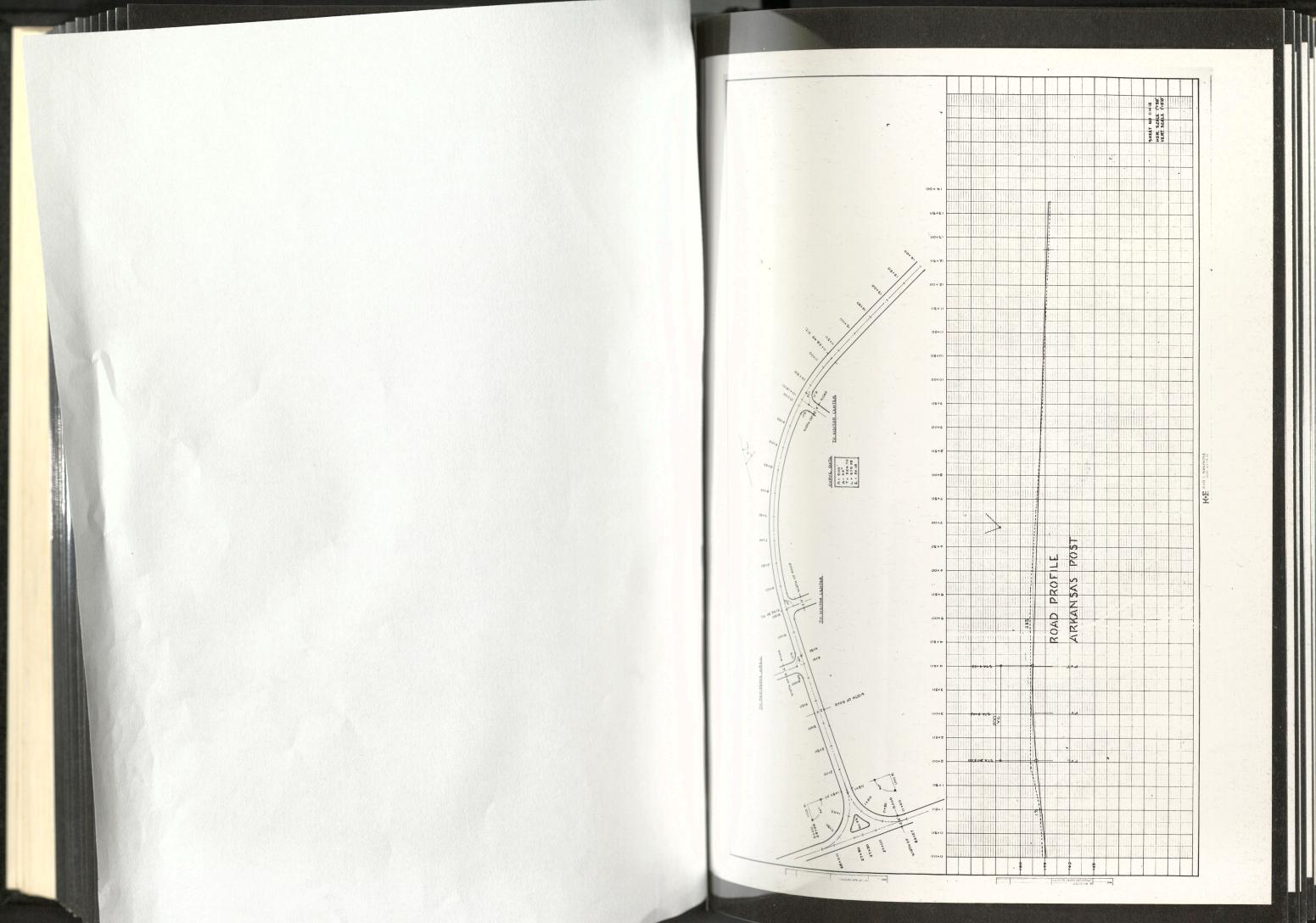


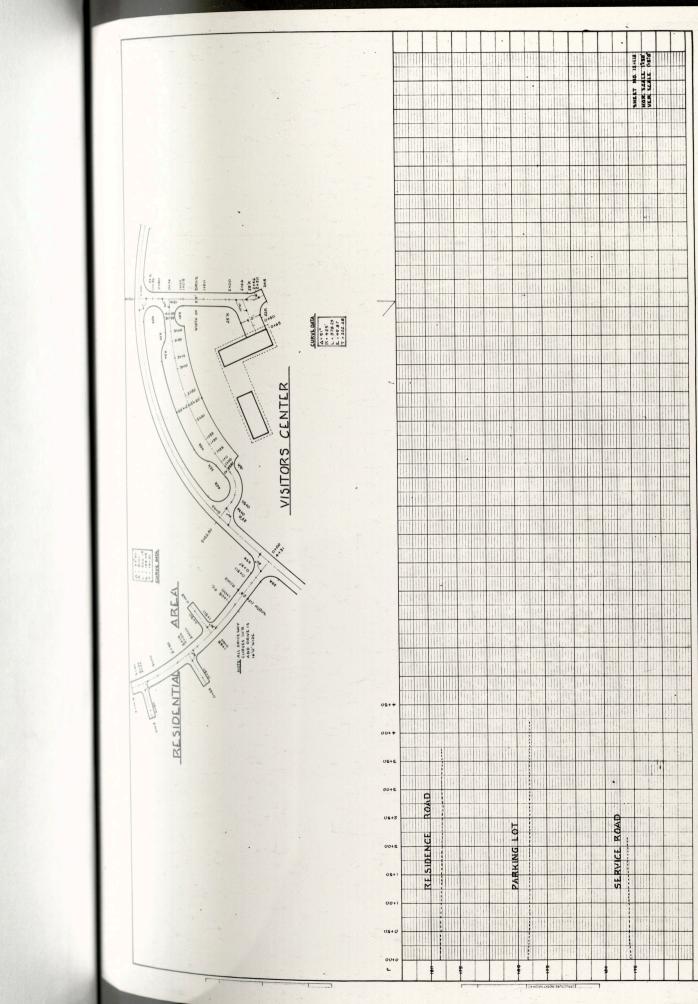


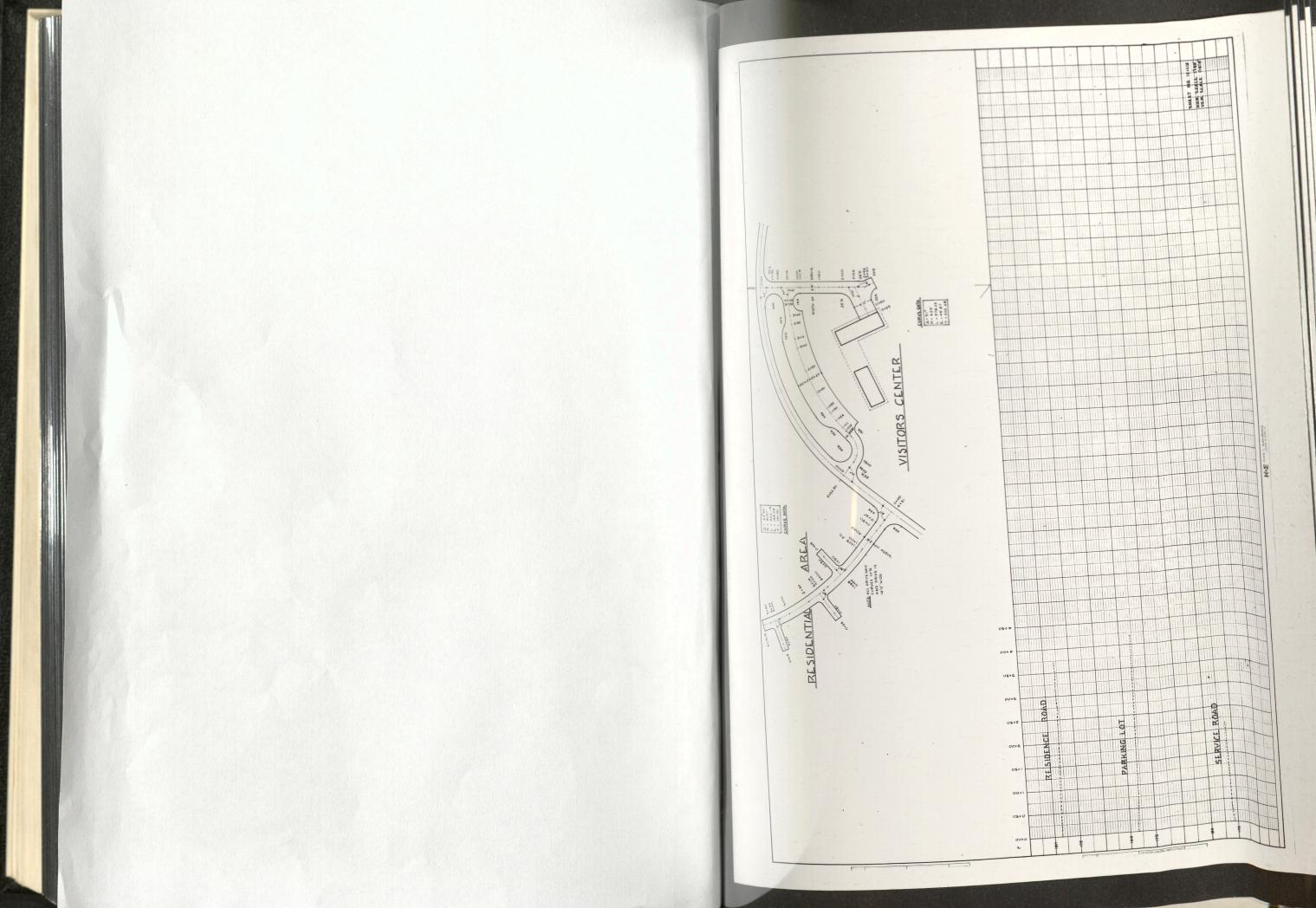




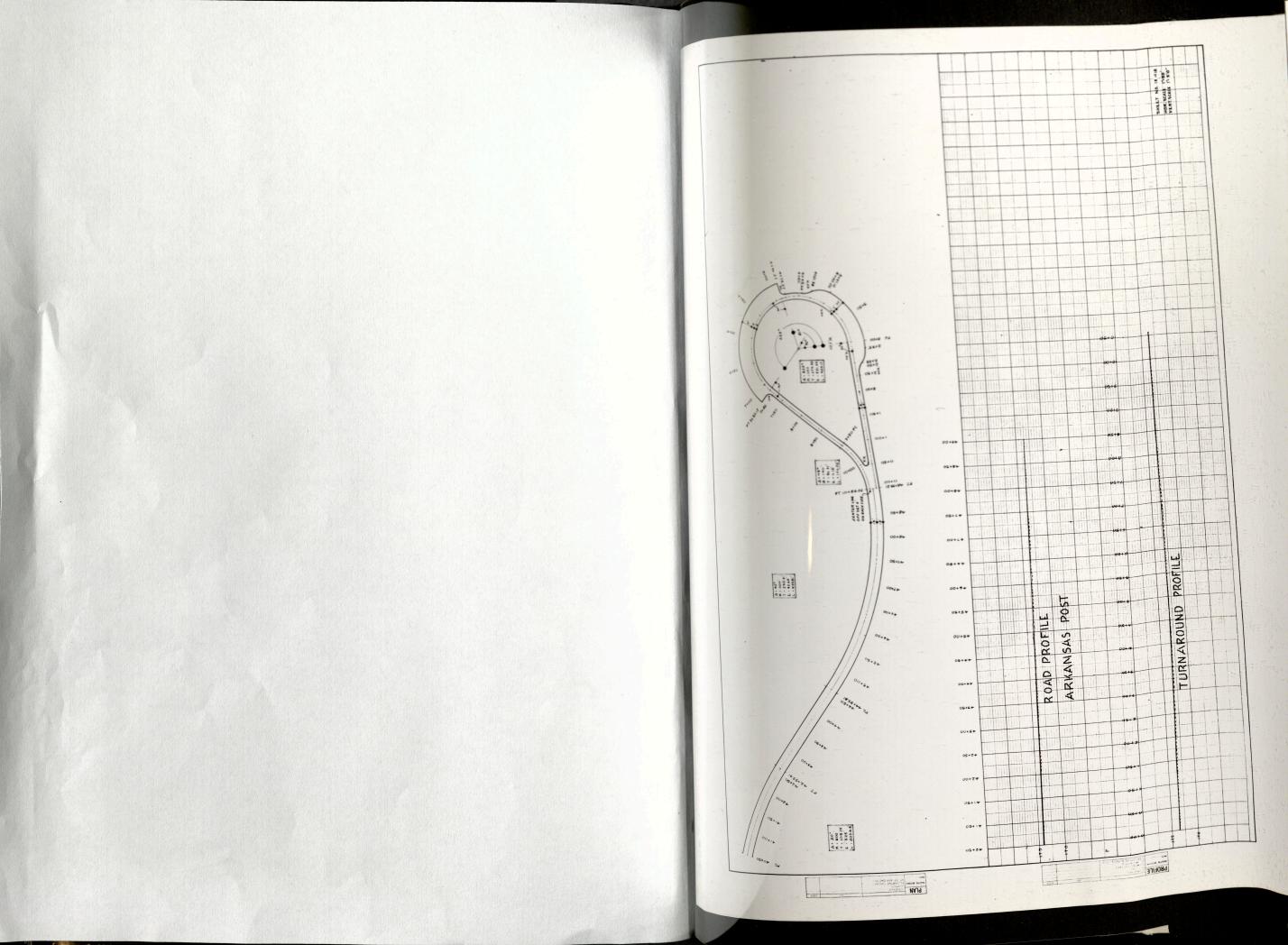


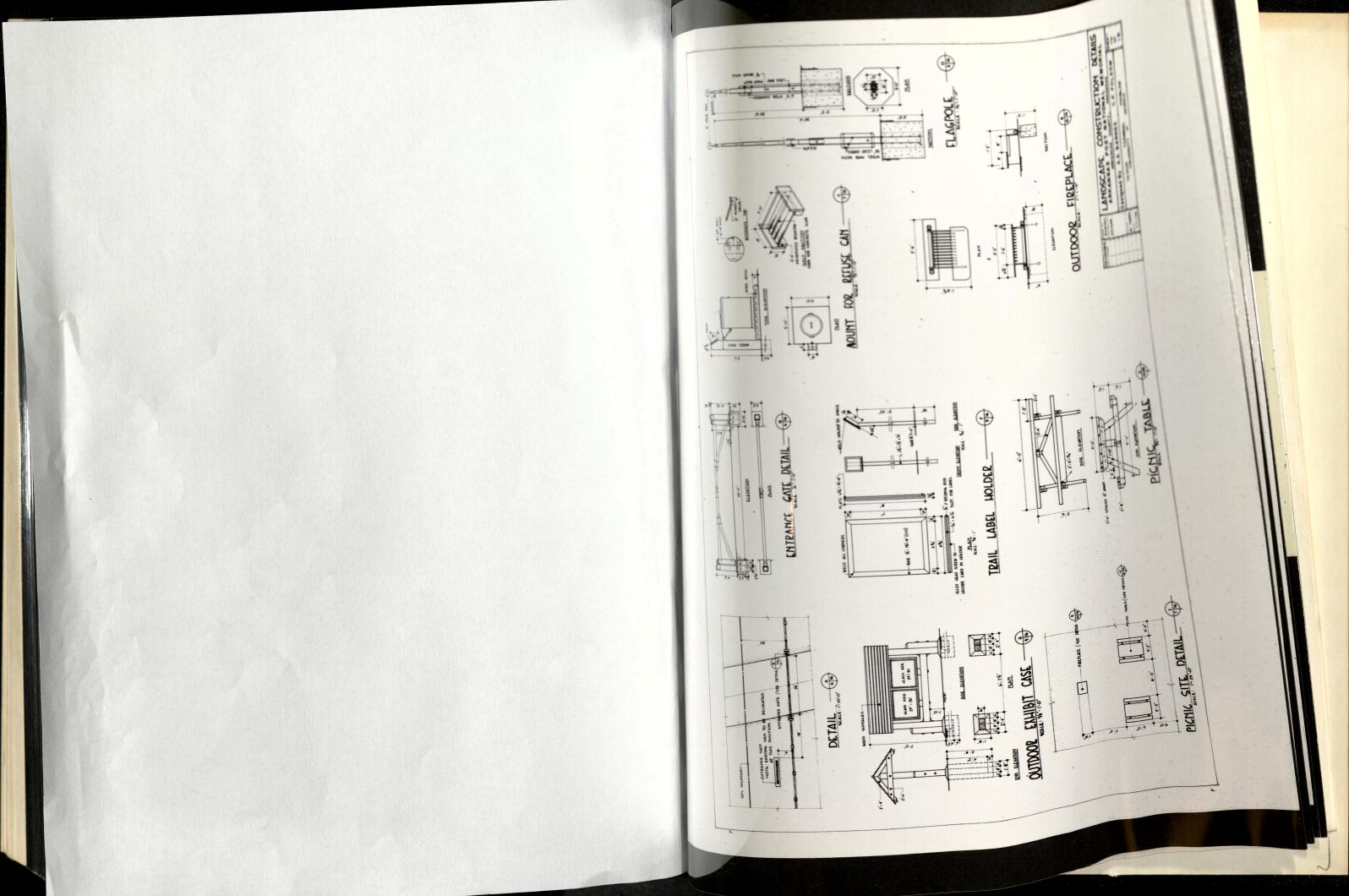


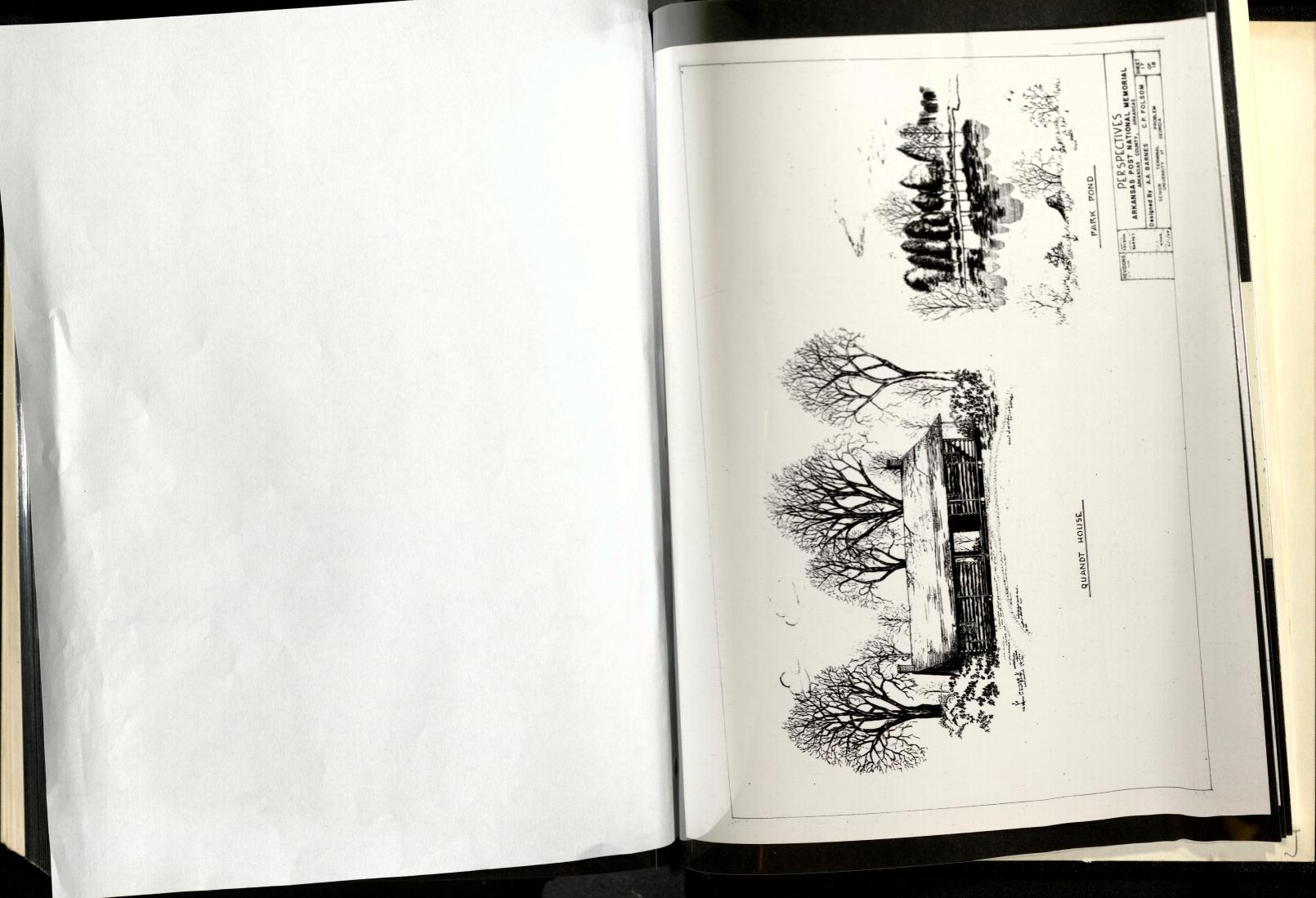


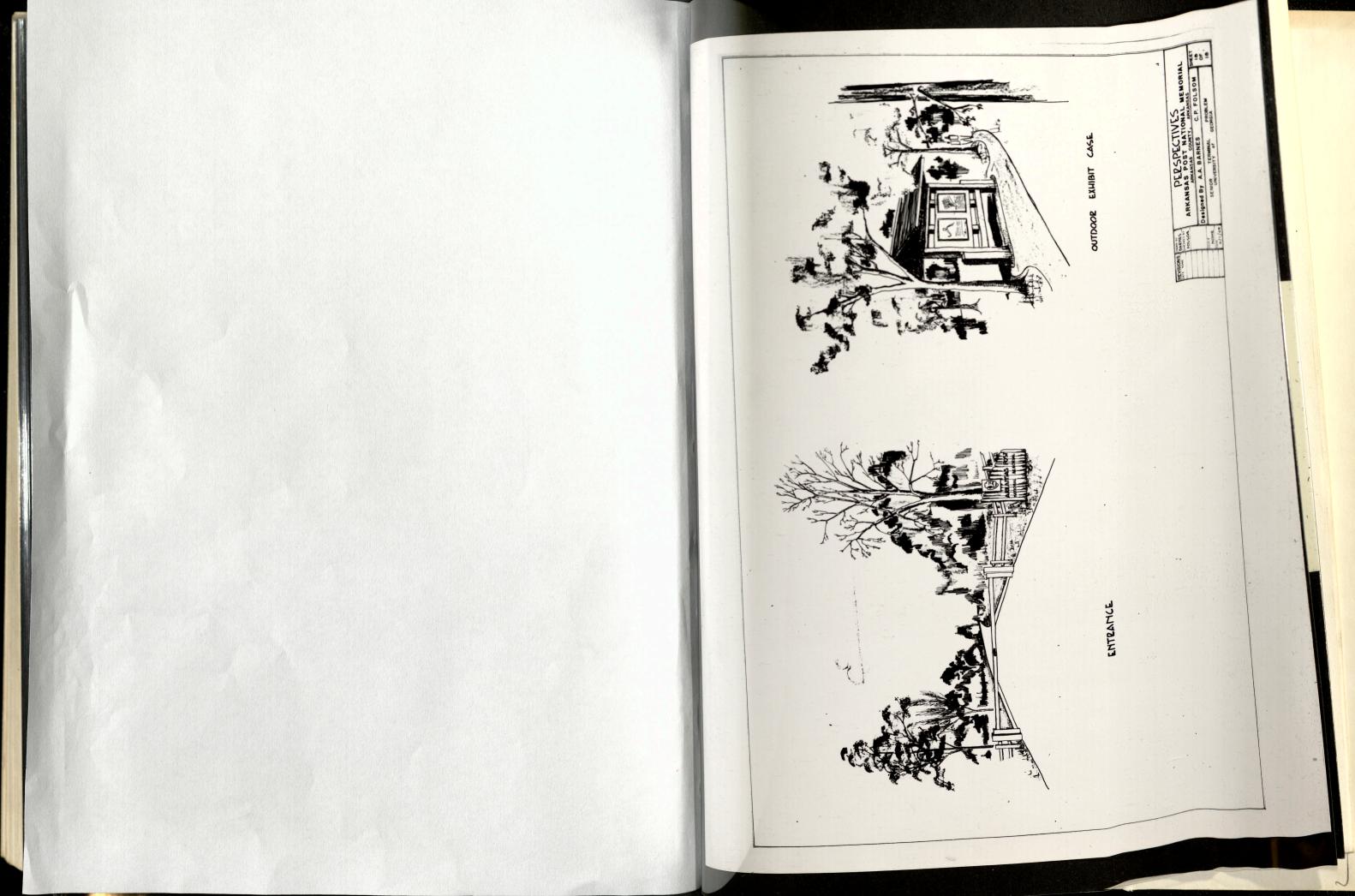


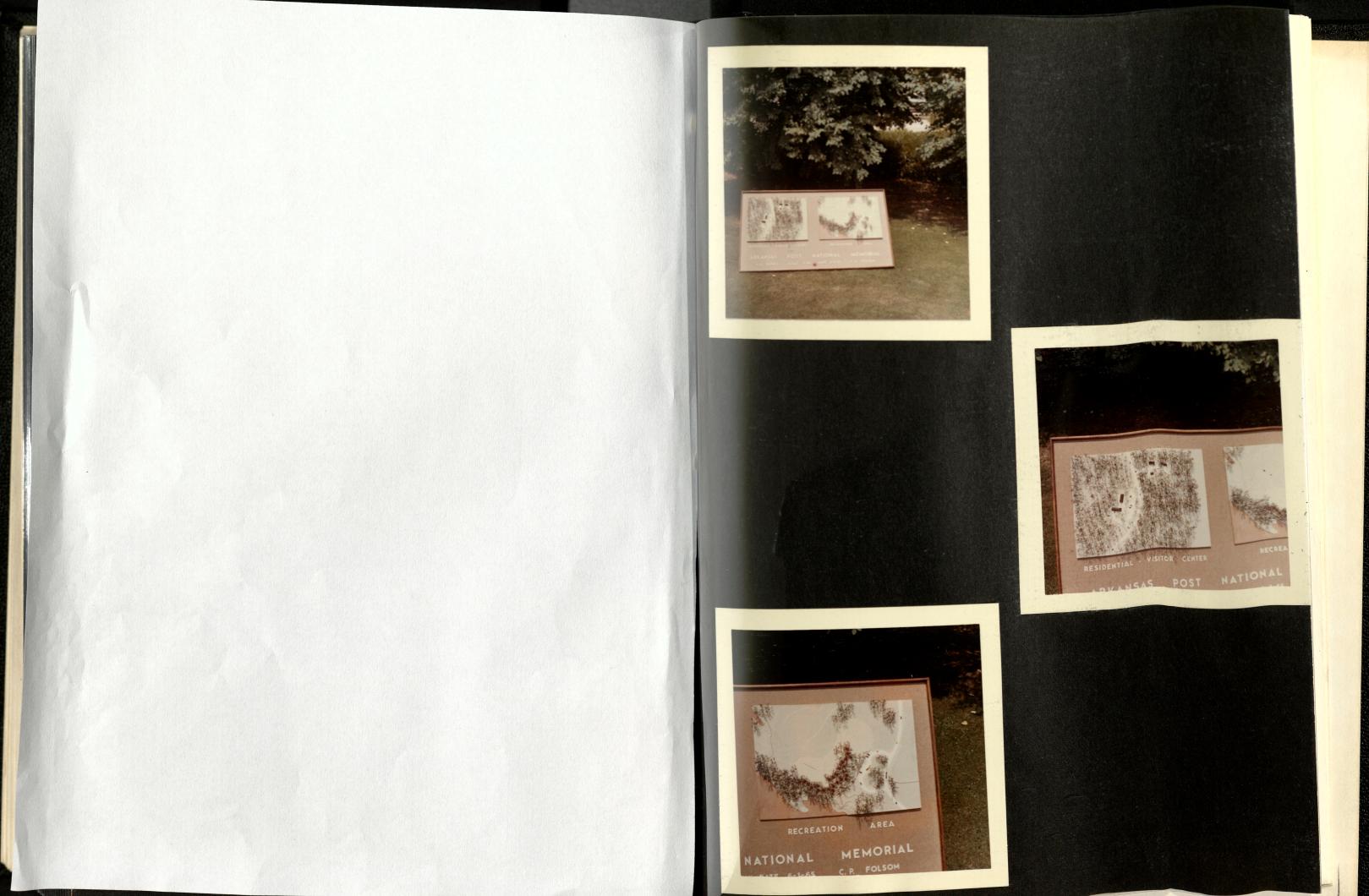












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Construction Schedule

The "Master Plan" shows the park at the completed stage of development. Construction of the park facilities will be completed in two stages, fulfilling the current needs and long-range needs of the park.

The current needs include improvements planned within the Congressional limitation for park development.

These needs are as follows:

Roads and Trails

Entrance Road, Visitor Center parking area residence road and utility court (Port.)

Interpretive Trail to 18th Century trade post

Buildings and Utilities

Temporary Visitor Center (Quandt House) including exhibits, furnishings, etc.

Employee Residence (3 bedroom) and Administrative Office.

Utilities for Visitor Center, Maintenance Unit and Residences.

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Grounds Improvement and landscaping

Maintenance Unit (Port.)

Archeological Research (port.)

Total

Long-range needs are as follows:

Roads and Trails

Visitor Center Parking (Completion)

Tour Road parking area at trail to trade Post site

Picnic Area Road and parking area

Interpretive Trail from Vistior Center over Territorial Capital site

Interpretive Trail from Picnic Area

Obliterate roads and non-historic structures

Buildings and Utilities

Permanent Visitor Center

Employee Residences (one 3 bedroom, one 2 bedroom)

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saintenance Unit (Completion)

Miscellaneous

Production of audiovisual presentation

Archeological investigation of historic sites (Completion)

Historical research pertaining to existing features

Field interpretive devices along tour road and on interpretive trail to early trade post sites.

Museum exhibits

Stabilize and mark (including interpretive devices) important ruins on the Territorial Capital site

Picnic Area

Entrance Feature

Fencing on north boundary

Aiscellaneous

Production of audiovisual presentation

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