

**MISSOURI  
STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE SYSTEM  
EXPANSION PLAN**

PREPARED BY

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION,  
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

*in cooperation with*  
**MISSOURI STATE PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

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SEPTEMBER 1992

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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**DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION,  
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
WILLIAM PALMER, DIRECTOR**

## FOREWORD

During 1992, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the state park and historic site system. This has been a year of celebration and reflection on 75 years of accomplishments.

It is only fitting in this anniversary year that we not only reflect on the past but also look ahead to the future.

Nearly five years ago, the department initiated an extensive project within the state park system. What began as a humble listing of criteria has evolved into a well organized process and plan for future state parks and historic sites. The Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan is the result of hours of research, numerous public meetings, and conversations and testimonies with elected officials. This was done in an effort to gain consensus on the future of the system.

Although the document names specific sites for inclusion into the system, its strength is in the identification of a process and specific criteria for identifying gaps in the system. The items on the list may change, but the criteria should remain essentially the same for years to come.

Since this plan was initiated, we have had the opportunity to remove several gaps from the list. In fiscal years '91, '92 and '93 the department received appropriations for acquisitions of Taum Sauk Mountain, the Nathan Boone Home, and property along Big Sugar Creek in McDonald County. These sites are now being included in the system as state parks and historic sites.

Likewise, several additions were made to the list following the public meetings held in November and December 1991. In order for the list of gaps to remain up-to-date, we must continue to study and learn about the resources of our state and also to listen to the needs and wants of the public.

We are fortunate as Missourians to have such outstanding natural and cultural resources available for our outdoor recreation pursuits. It is important that we have a plan to guide us in properly preserving these resources for future Missourians.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Ron Kucera  
Acting Director

# MISSOURI STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE SYSTEM EXPANSION PLAN

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Missouri Revised Statutes define a state park as "any land, site or object primarily of recreational value or of cultural value because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archaeological, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics or natural features." This definition and the mission have been the guide for the development of the state park and historic site system for the past 75 years. It is not merely a random collection of parks and historic sites, but a group of interrelated sites functioning together. This is what makes the state park system different from other lands owned by public agencies and other park and recreation providers.

The identification of gaps in the system is not an easy task. First, in order to qualify for consideration, a site must be of statewide significance, contain the state's most outstanding natural or cultural resources, and be of high quality.

### Recreation Gaps

Unlike many recreation providers who focus on creating recreational opportunities through development, the state park system has traditionally focused on the character of the land. The recreation activities that take place and all facility development should be inspired by the natural features of the landscape.

Identifying voids based on geographic distribution of parks is of limited value because if the land resource does not exist to satisfy a particular need, the need cannot be met. The criteria for selecting a state park site for recreation use must be based on the land and the potential for providing amenities that will allow the visitor to enjoy that land.

### Natural History Gaps

Areas of natural heritage significance can generally be defined and classified by the use of natural themes or categories of natural phenomena, and land form regions. Several criteria are used for determining themes and what constitutes a significant state park landscape.

For the land to be of statewide significance, it should be of high integrity and be of sufficient size. The landscape design and selection process should afford protection to maintain a healthy functioning ecosystem and watershed quality.

### Regional Representation

A new state park should provide as much representation of characteristic themes in a natural division or section where no state park presently exists.

### Natural Theme Representation

Significant natural history themes depicting Missouri's landscapes are still lacking in several of the state's distinctive natural divisions or sections. These should be represented in the system.

### Cultural/Historic Resource Gaps

In determining the significance of individual historic properties, the following factors must be evaluated:

- significance of the proposed historic property
- themes in Missouri history that the property represents
- chronological associations of the property
- geographical location of the property

All four of these factors are interrelated. In any one individual decision, all the factors should be considered, but one of the factors may be of overriding importance.

Significance: To be considered, a property must have significance in one or more of the following:

- a) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- b) association with the lives of persons significant in Missouri's past;
- c) as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as a representation of the work of a master, as the possessor of high artistic values, or as a representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- d) as a site that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Themes: The academic study of history is currently divided into several fields including economic history, political history, social history, military history, and intellectual or cultural history. Within these categories fall various themes of historical inquiry.

Chronology: In many ways, this is a more objective and quantifiable factor than significance or theme, but a degree of subjectivity remains. An underlying assumption must be made that no one period of time is inherently more significant than any other period of time. The goal for the state park system should be to provide opportunities for meaningful interpretation of all periods in Missouri's history.

Geography: Geographers have proposed various schemes for dividing Missouri into cultural and geographical regions. Further study is required in this area, however. For the present, the department proposes to use the county as the primary geographic unit in the state. One benefit of this is convenience in that National Register of Historic Places listings and the department's own statewide inventory of historic properties are arranged by county.

### The Process

Those areas in which the statewide significant resource is threatened with irretrievable loss should be considered for priority acquisition. The availability of funding and having a willing seller also will play a role in the process. Likewise, the legislature must approve all funding for new park acquisitions. When the procedures outlined above have been followed, the decision making begins. Decisions made will represent the informed opinion of staff members, and others at that point in time.



## **INTRODUCTION**

In the early part of this century, the federal government acknowledged the need to protect areas of significant scenic quality while also providing public recreation areas. In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service.

Almost simultaneously, states were also acknowledging the cries of citizens to preserve recreation lands at the state level. Following the example set at the federal level, the Missouri General Assembly passed a law establishing a state park fund in 1917. It was not until 1924 that the first state park was acquired. With the acquisition of Big Spring State Park in that year, the Missouri state park system was created.

The system continued to grow in those early years in both size and number. Missourians enjoyed these recreation areas and continued to support the system. Support also was growing for preservation of the state's outstanding natural and cultural resources. It was during these early years that the mission of the system was founded. This mission continues to guide the system today.

The fundamental mission of Missouri's state park system is threefold:

- to preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri's natural landscapes,
- to preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri's cultural landmarks, and
- to provide healthy and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities for all Missourians and visitors to Missouri.

The system has continued to grow and expand based on this mission.

## **PURPOSE**

This document will identify gaps that currently exist in the Missouri state park system and will attempt to identify lands for future acquisition to fill these gaps. These purchase units will be representative examples of Missouri's finest landscapes, recreation areas, and historic landmarks. This plan will not identify inholdings or acquisitions proposed adjacent to existing state parks unless they are of significant acreage or contain a significant feature.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

In finalizing this document, the department went to the general public to gather their comments and ideas. More than 1,500 invitations were mailed to groups, organizations and individuals, inviting them to attend a public meeting. News releases were distributed statewide. Several hundred people attended seven public meetings held throughout the state. An accompanying slide show titled "Expanding for the Future" was used at the public meetings. All comments were recorded and the department prepared a responsiveness summary to address all of the questions and comments received (Appendix A).

The majority of those in attendance at the public meetings agree with the mission of the system. In general, the public favors expansion of the current system. Many participants feel the department should invest only in those recreation activities that are consistent with preservation of high quality environmental experiences.

## PHILOSOPHY

All recreation areas are a combination of user and resource. What makes each kind of park system different is the emphasis put on each of these factors.

National parks were created initially for preserving natural and historic wonders of nationwide significance. National parks are primarily resource-oriented with recreation use occurring as a result of the resource.

State parks differ from national parks in the significance of the feature being preserved. State parks attempt to balance the goals of providing a place to recreate with those of preservation and management of significant natural or cultural resources.<sup>1</sup>

Local parks (city, county), on the other hand, are primarily user oriented with the user being the key criterion. Recreation is the primary goal as opposed to preservation of the resource. Local parks serve a large number of visitors close to home, generally for a brief period of time, on a daily basis.

Private parks and recreation areas also see the user as the key criterion but for the purpose of making a profit. Private parks such as theme parks, campgrounds, ski resorts, etc., serve a large number of visitors with a focus of interest usually on a small amount of land. Many private parks are seasonal in nature, which is appealing to the owner or manager. The types of activities offered have an effect on profitability.

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<sup>1</sup>Missouri's first state park, Big Spring, was later recognized as being of national significance. Big Spring, Alley Spring, and Round Spring State Parks were transferred to the National Park Service and now make up a portion of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

## THE MISSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM

Missouri's state parks provide a place for people to recreate, while offering solitude, fresh air, and a place to exercise and enjoy themselves. In Donald M. Knudson's book Outdoor Recreation, he states that a person who lives 70 years will spend the equivalent of 27 years in leisure. This fact places great importance on the value of recreation, as it is an integral part of a person's life.

The Missouri state park system also functions to preserve areas that best exemplify the natural heritage of the state. These natural heritage features include relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or wilderness character often containing distinct, recognizable landscape or land form features and associated biological and geological elements. Landscape stewardship objectives concentrate on maintaining or restoring the distinct natural communities of plants and animals that occurred prior to European settlement. These communities are preserved to enhance the park visitor enjoyment and knowledge of the state's varied natural open spaces, provide for recreational activities compatible with the protection of natural resources, and further advance their scientific study.

The system also provides the finest examples of Missouri's cultural heritage. These historic sites include mills, covered bridges, homes, and more. Though they vary greatly, their purpose is similar: to provide visitors with information about the people who helped to shape our country and our state.

Parks require many things in order to function properly. Physical resources, such as land and water, set the stage for what will occur. Many facets of the physical resources determine the types of activities that will occur and the types of facilities that will be developed. Soil types, vegetation, drainage, and size of the area are all important considerations. In most instances, activities encouraged in a state park are inspired by the natural character or features of the

park. Uses must be appropriate to the setting. These uses also must be controlled to limit the impact on the environment. These factors play a major role in the carrying capacity. Carrying capacity is the ability of the physical resource to withstand use yet remain productive without major damage. Damage affects not only the physical resource, but also the recreation experience.

"To define a sound policy on the preservation of open spaces is not a simple task. It is a very complex one. It involves sound policies and planning, skill in public relations and exposition of our aims, as well as alertness to existing trends. A very real danger of continued overcrowding and too intensive use of areas is the inevitable destruction of the very values that make the land desirable for recreational use. There is the constant problem of balancing the preservation of natural conditions with the provision of facilities for public use in keeping with the highest values of park lands. Obviously parks are intended for human enjoyment, but there is always the danger of development, which will promote overuse of passing the point of diminishing returns, so that the satisfactions sought by many are lost to all because of excess in development and use. The fact that a park is popular is no good reason for developing it beyond its carrying capacity. Many a great landscape carries in its beauty the seeds of its own destruction."

-Newton Drury, Former Director  
National Park Service

Parks are generally operated by governments because they are seen as a service to be offered to the public just as fire and police protection are. While in recent years there has been a call for parks to generate more revenue due to budget reductions, most public parks do not make a profit. A park's profitability is not good criteria with which to

evaluate its worth to a park system. Although revenue generation should not be the goal of a park system, it is an indirect benefit of some facilities that can contribute to an improved budget for parks and recreation services. If making money were a park system's objective, then private business should be providing this service because it can certainly do a better job of making a profit than a governmental agency.

## **PURPOSE OF MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

A clear definition of purpose is vital for success; it provides the foundation, the direction, and the milestone for all management efforts. The Missouri state park system serves people in one or all of three ways:

- 1) by preserving, protecting, and interpreting natural features of unique or exceptional scenic or scientific value for this generation and generations to come;
- 2) by preserving, protecting and interpreting historical and cultural landmarks of importance;
- 3) by providing opportunities for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

Since areas within the Missouri state park system are not suitable for serving all people equally well in the above ways, state parks, for management purposes, are stratified into one of the following categories: natural landscapes; historical, cultural, or archaeological sites; and recreational areas. These three strata are necessary because the physical developments, resource use, and resource management should vary according to each area's dominant values and purpose(s). This helps avoid confusion by park visitors because of people's misconceptions that all areas should provide the same recreational facilities regardless of whether an area is natural, historical, or recreational.

Further, the statement of purpose guides the agency through its planning, development, and operations effort to define specific objectives and goals for park management. Some of these management goals include:

- ensuring that all services, whether supplied by concessions or park staff, adhere to standards that provide a quality park experience<sup>2</sup>
- encourage visitor use and enjoyment
- maintain visitor safety and protection
- provide maintenance of necessary public facilities, properly located, to help visitors better enjoy parks
- encourage use of parks for scientific research
- accurately measure present and potential capacity of each park to accommodate rising visitor use
- make back country wilderness areas accessible to visitors and encourage their enjoyment areas on their own terms
- enable visitors to appreciate and understand the historical/natural significance of state parks and historic sites through a variety of interpretive activities

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<sup>2</sup>The purpose of concessions is not to raise revenue for the concessionaire or the park system, but only to provide needed services to the public. Missouri State Planning Board, Summary Park Plan (Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri State Planning Board, 1938).



- assure a balanced relationship between preservation of park resources and visitor needs through conceptual and master planning
  
- establish explicit resource stewardship plans to manage and preserve for their highest purpose identified natural areas, rare and endangered species, wild areas, geologic sites, special landscapes, historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, and cultural objects.

## **NOTABLE GAPS IN THE MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM**

### **RECREATION GAPS**

According to the state statute that created and guides the Missouri state park system, a state park is "any land, site or object primarily of recreational value or of cultural value because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archaeological, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics or natural features." This statement is key to understanding the role of the state park system in Missouri. Unlike many other recreation providers who focus on creating recreational opportunities through development, the state park system has been directed to focus on the character of the land. The recreation activities that take place and all facility development should be inspired by the natural features of the landscape. The statute dictates that the uniqueness of the land be the basic consideration for selecting a state park site.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is useful in determining the number of facilities needed because it uses a standard approach based on population. The SCORP does not, however, identify resource gaps. Identifying voids based on geographic distribution of parks is also of limited value because if the land resource does not exist to satisfy a particular need, the need cannot be met.

Conversely, if a significant resource does occur near an existing state park, it should not be rejected because of this association. It is also apparent from the visitation at existing state and national parks in Missouri that people are willing to drive long distances to utilize an area with significant natural qualities.

The criteria for selecting a state park site for recreation use must be based on the land and the potential for providing amenities that will allow the visitor to enjoy that land. State parks should have statewide appeal and not be established or developed to solve local recreation problems. While there is no standard size for a state park, it should be large enough to be self-sustaining. There should be sufficient acreage to protect the physical qualities of the site while also providing space for outdoor recreation and visitor needs. The size of a site will also depend on surrounding land use. If there are adjacent public lands that are compatible to state park use, acreage needed may be smaller than if lands are privately owned. In general, state parks should be large acreages of land with outstanding scenic or natural qualities, which allow extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Considering these criteria, there is no true scientific approach to identifying recreation gaps in the state park system. Therefore, described below are perceived recreation voids in the state park system based on a combination of geographic distribution, public use of and interest in traditional state park activities, and an awareness of existing significant land not presently in the system. Many of the areas identified to fill the recreation void also may be identified to fill a natural landscape void in the state park system, thus providing a multiplicity of uses.

Additional state parks or major additions to existing state parks should be made to the system as follows:

Two of the state's most significant natural features are the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the big rivers that historically played a major role in the exploration and settlement of this nation. Although tamed by dikes, levees and dams, these two rivers nonetheless still exhibit significant scenic and natural characteristics due to the sheer size of the rivers and the associated flood plain and the height of adjoining bluffs. In order for citizens of this state to experience and more fully appreciate these two natural assets, acquisition of significant tracts of riverscape land are recommended in the following areas:

- a) Mississippi River, between the towns of Clarksville and Hannibal

Steep hillsides rising above the river valley provide some of the most outstanding vistas of the "father of waters" as well as associated islands and flood plains.

- b) Missouri River, between the towns of Portland and Hermann

Sheer limestone bluffs, forested islands, and timbered hillsides combine to make this portion of the Missouri River valley not only unique, but truly scenic. This area provides one of the few remaining locations where one can visualize what Lewis and Clark may have seen.

c) Bryant Creek/North Fork River Area

This area of the state is notable because of its rugged Ozark character, scenic features, and high quality stream resources. It would be appealing to campers, hikers, canoeists, fishermen, picnickers, and other traditional state park users. Parks that focus on stream resources are the most popular in the state park system and provide recreation opportunities of statewide interest.

d) Gasconade River

Large areas of rugged and sparsely developed land that meet the criteria for consideration as a state park still exist along the upper and middle reaches of the Gasconade. High bluffs and cliff faces line the meandering banks of the river, providing a scenic float opportunity, while wooded hills and valleys suit a variety of other traditional state park activities. The proximity of Interstate 44 to much of the Gasconade would provide a park within several hours distance of two major population centers--St. Louis and Springfield.

e) Osage River

The Osage River area is known for its high bluffs and scenery. Geologic formations abound including caves, springs, and a natural bridge. The area is common to hardwood forests covering rolling hills and deep hollows. The river is becoming an increasingly important recreation resource for river-oriented activities including boating, canoeing, fishing, and swimming. Portions of the locks used to navigate barges are still in place, providing an opportunity to interpret a major aspect in the development

of our state river travel. The Missouri Constitution mandates that the Capitol city be located within 40 miles of the mouth of the Osage to ensure accessibility by the majority (in 1821) of the state's population. A large acreage along the Osage would allow a state park that could provide for such recreation activities as camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and boating.

f) Ozark Wilderness Park

Today there is no place to see or experience the original Ozarks as it existed prior to the influence of European man approximately 200 years ago. The goal is to acquire an expansive park where the original landscape would be restored and a functioning ecosystem could sustain native animal populations. Public use of the area would focus on wilderness activities, i.e., extended backpacking trips, horse packing trips, outward bound type programs, hike-in fishing and environmental education programs.

g) Long Distance Trails

As the popularity of rail-to-trail conversions grows throughout the state and nation, the Department of Natural Resources can expect to receive more and more requests for assistance in securing and development of abandoned rights-of-way for trail purposes. Because the resources of the department are limited, it is important that the department establish some criteria for acceptance of new routes into the state park system. The department must take the approach of providing trails where other entities or agencies can not do so. City and county park departments and special interest groups must take the responsibility for local projects and the department must focus on the projects that

are beyond the scope of local authorities and truly of statewide significance. To be considered for acceptance into the state park system the following criteria must be met:

**There Should Be A Statewide Demand For Trails -**

This demand should be demonstrated through the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or other statewide studies.

**The Abandonment Should Be Of Statewide Significance -**

It should possess notable scenic qualities that are influenced by natural and cultural features, the landscape, and surrounding development.

**It Should Be Of Significant Length**

The abandonment must be of significant length, generally 50 miles. Abandonments may be less than 50 miles if they connect with other existing or proposed state trails, national trails, or state and federal recreation properties, or if they possess outstanding natural or cultural features.

**The Abandonment Should Be in Good Physical Condition**

Bridges should be in place, ballast should be present, and no major environmental hazards should exist.

This list is not meant to be a complete listing of all proposed acquisitions. It will change as often as the recreation needs of society change. It also may change as we learn more about Missouri's people and landscapes. There are some areas in public or private ownership that may meet state park criteria but, because they already serve the public, acquisition would not be sought. However, if these areas were threatened, acquisition should be considered.

## **NATURAL HISTORY GAPS**

Since Missouri's state park system requires tax monies for acquisition, development, and operation, those areas selected for inclusion in a park system should be the "best" representatives and the most suitable for the intended purpose. The park's resources should be properly preserved and interpreted. In this context, a second, equally important mission of the Missouri state park system is:

"To preserve and interpret the finest examples  
of Missouri's natural landscapes."

Natural heritage features include distinctive characteristic landscapes, outstanding scenic areas, geological points of interest, and unusual sites for natural communities.

Missouri's state park system currently consists of superlative examples of major landscape types including the state's best tallgrass prairie landscape at Prairie State Park, last virgin remnant of Bootheel bottom land forest at Big Oak Tree State Park, massive granite boulders at Elephant Rocks State Park, the underground landscape of Onondaga Cave State Park, St. Francois Mountain scenery at Sam A. Baker State Park, and the pine forests and sandstone canyons at Hawn State Park. Millions of park visitors are drawn annually to the natural and scenic attractions of these parks.

### **Discussion of Themes**

A complete, integrated state park system should include the best remaining examples of the state's landscapes that contain qualities and characteristics that can be readily distinguished by the park visitor through interpretation, and their experience with the natural setting.



Areas of natural heritage significance can generally be defined and classified by the use of natural themes or categories of natural phenomena, and land form regions. This approach is a scientific one; however, equally important is the need to assess the public interest in scenically attractive areas. For example, free-flowing streams are extremely popular for a variety of recreational uses. People are magnetically attracted to portions of streams that retain natural scenic qualities. The Ozarks contain river systems that dissect the Salem Plateau, a region sharing essentially distinct vegetation and geology, regardless of watersheds. However, each major watershed contains water resources and associated natural/scenic features that attract thousands of people for a variety of river-related recreation. Examples should be acquired in every major river system. A completed state park system will contain examples of landscapes that portray the state's themes and regions. This system is modeled after that used by the National Park Service's Natural History Theme Study.

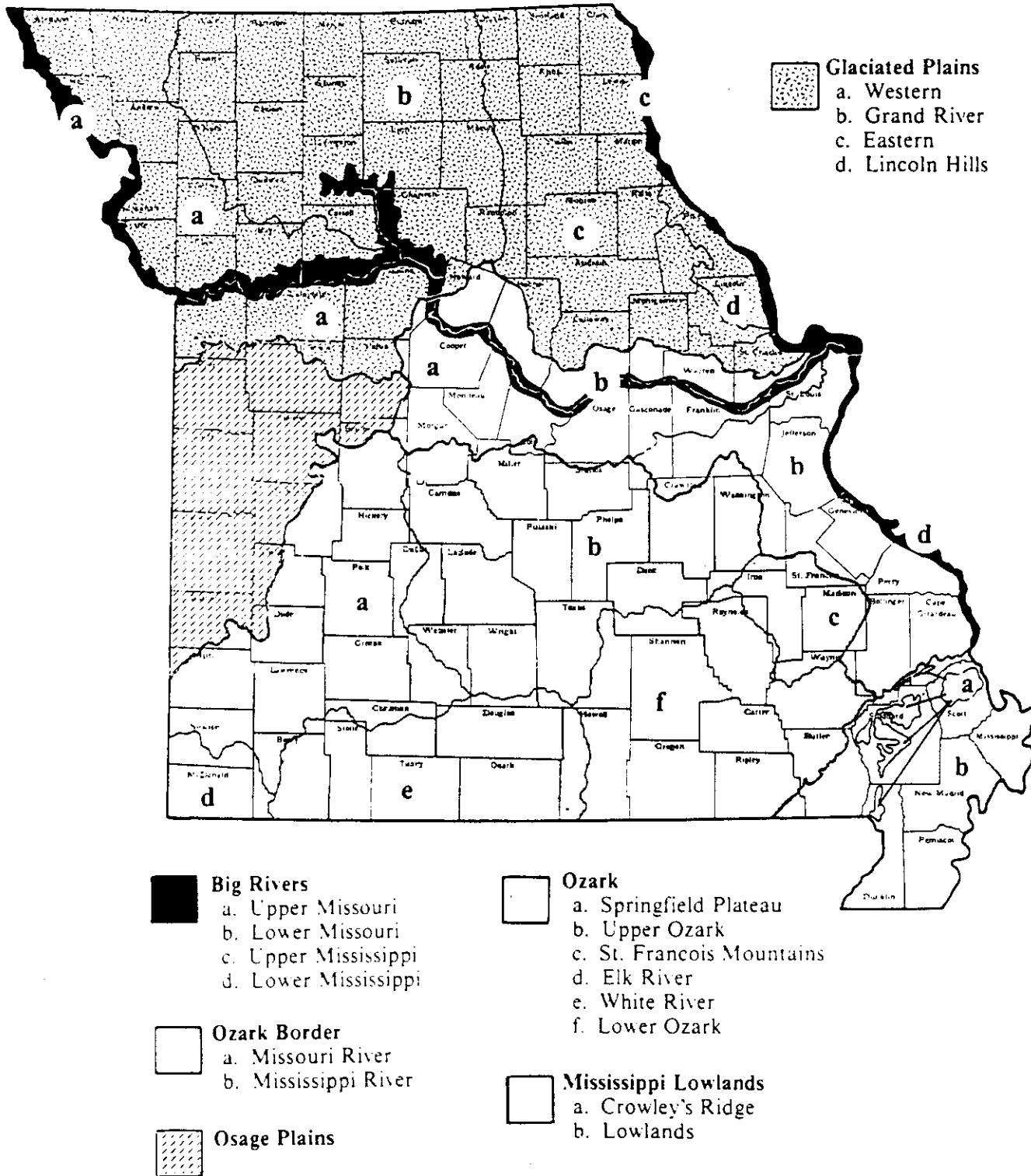
#### Missouri's Natural Regions: The Natural Divisions of Missouri

Missouri's landscape features tend to be regionally oriented, thereby providing an opportunity to divide the state into natural regions. These natural regions are based on The Natural Divisions of Missouri (Thom and Wilson, 1980), which divides the state into six distinct natural divisions and 19 sections (Figure 1). Each natural division and section is distinguished on the basis of differences in geology, soils, topography, past climatic events, and differences in flora and fauna.

#### Missouri's Natural History Themes

Missouri's natural history themes include categories of recognizable natural landscapes, processes, or phenomena of the state. Major themes vary throughout their range. The distinctions become significant from one natural division or section to another. For example, the forest at

**Figure 1: The Natural Divisions of Missouri and Their Sections**



Roaring River State Park in the White River Hills Section is significantly different from the forest at Sam A. Baker State Park in the St. Francois Mountain Section. The Missouri state park system should include representation of as many major themes as possible in each major region, or natural division and section in the state. Natural history theme categories that were used to determine the principal theme for each state park or where appropriate, historic site, are listed as follows. Appendix "B" lists principal themes as exemplified in the state park system.

### Major Natural Theme Categories of Missouri

#### Land Forms:

caves  
work of glaciers  
(glacial till)  
wind-deposited hills  
sandstone formations  
limestone formations  
dolomite formations  
igneous formations  
chert hills  
sand hills  
entrenched meanders  
active meanders  
karst features  
mountains  
lowlands  
riverscapes  
plains  
plateaus  
escarpments  
dissected hills

#### Terrestrial Ecosystems:

upland unglaciated deciduous forest  
upland glaciated deciduous forest  
flatwoods  
bottom land deciduous forest  
coniferous forest  
(mixed oak-pine)  
savanna  
upland unglaciated prairie  
upland glaciated prairie  
bottom land prairie  
loess hill prairie  
glade  
cliff  
swamp  
marsh  
fens

Aquatic Ecosystems:

spring and spring branch  
lake  
marsh  
large rivers - all watersheds  
small rivers - select  
watersheds  
stream - as part of land form  
theme gap  
subterranean stream  
natural pond

Geologic Features:

shut-ins  
elephant rocks  
sinkhole  
natural bridge  
stream piracy  
shelter cave  
karst window  
waterfall  
cliff  
metamorphic rock  
earthquake features  
pinnacles

**Popular or Noted Landscape Areas in Missouri**

Glacial Plains	White River Hills
Loess Hills	St. Francois Mountains
Missouri River Hills	Crowley's Ridge
Salt River Hills	The Lowlands
Lincoln Hills	Missouri River
Burlington Escarpment	Mississippi River
Osage Plains	* Elk River Hills
Osage River Hills	The LaMotte Basin
Gasconade River Hills	The Grand Prairie
Pike Run Hills	Osage Prairie
The Ozarks	Glaciated Prairie
Northern Ozarks	The Flatwoods
Southern Ozarks	Taum Sauk Mountain
Salem Plateau	(highest point in state)
Springfield Plateau	

\*Funding was appropriated in Fiscal Year '93 for acquisition of land in this area.

Criteria For Determining Themes  
and What Constitutes A Significant State Park Landscape

Criteria #1. Statewide Significance

For the park landscape to be of statewide significance in both evaluating existing representation and for acquiring new state parks filling gaps, the land should possess the following qualities:

- a) Principal features and distinctive characteristics of that natural region representing geological and natural processes, and restorable natural vegetation of high integrity,
- b) Sufficient acreage to satisfy the landscape mission in relationship to the cultural and recreational mission; park visitors are afforded facilities for safe enjoyable recreation and interpretation, including the opportunity to see quality scenery and representative examples of the regions' natural history.
- c) The landscape design and selection process should afford protection to restore and/or maintain a healthy functioning ecosystem and watershed quality; acreage figures are given for park gaps where appropriate.

## Criteria #2. Regional Representation

A new state park should provide as much representation of characteristic themes in a natural division or section where no state park presently exists. Current gaps include:

- a) Crowley's Ridge - 3,000 acres of forest where a small stream tributary cuts through dissected ridges and joins the Mississippi Lowlands. This is a region of scientifically distinct flora and fauna.
- b) Lower Missouri River Section--Portland Area - 2,000 acres embracing abrupt scenic transition between Missouri River bluffs and flood plain. Themes would include nearly extirpated bottom land forest, sloughs, and high cliffs.
- c) Upper Mississippi River Section near Clarksville - 2,000 acres to include riverscape of scenic bluffs and forest.
- d) Upper Mississippi River Section near St. Charles - 5,000 acres of wetland landscape associated with the confluence of Cuivre and Mississippi rivers.

## Criteria #3. Natural Theme Representation

Significant natural history themes depicting Missouri's landscapes are still lacking in several of the state's distinctive natural divisions or sections. Current gaps include:

- a) Northern Missouri Prairie--Glaciated Plains - Several possible sites may still exist worthy of consideration and will need active restoration.

- b) Greer Spring--Lower Ozark Section - Missouri's most pristine cold water spring and associated valley spring run, which is the main source of water entering the Eleven Point Scenic River.
- c) Northern Missouri Forest--Glaciated Plains - A region of dwindling forest resources, northern Missouri state parks presently protect fragmented areas of forest. Ideally, a large area should be designated of at least 3,000 acres and located in the upper Grand River or a river tributary to the Missouri River close to the Kansas City area.
- d) Loess Hills--Western Section of the Glaciated Plains - A distinctive region of loess mounds representing the culmination of the glacial period. It is scientifically recognized for its concentration of rare and endangered Great Plains Flora. A 1,000-acre tract would be suitable.
- e) White River Glades--White River Section in southwest Missouri - A unique landscape region distinguished for its glades and associated biota. Valued scientifically at a national scale, this scenic area attracts millions of tourists annually to area lakes and recreational developments. It is possible to lease area of 2,000 acres from U. S. Forest Service in glade region near Hercules Glade Wilderness, thereby assuring scenic quality of surrounding forest-glade areas.
- f) Gasconade River--north central Ozarks - Missouri's longest intact river at over 200 miles in length, the Gasconade contains incredible scenery, cliffs, caves, springs, and forests. A 3,000-acre tract located on a stream or river tributary would be ideal.

- g) Bryant Creek--south central Ozarks - This beautiful stream dissects limestone-dolomite cedar clad hills, and flows southward into Lake Taneycomo. Area features include cliffs, spring seeps, rock barrens, narrow valleys, shrub forests, and associated stream recreation. Area of at least 3,000 acres would be suitable.
  
- h) Crevice Cave--Mississippi River Section - Missouri's longest cave at 28.20 miles, it is also ranked eighth longest in the nation (NSS News, January 1985). It could be developed as an outstanding interpretive tour cave situated just three miles from Interstate 55.

#### Prioritizing Acquisitions

Those areas in which the statewide significant resource is threatened with irretrievable loss should be considered for priority acquisition. For example, there is only one area that contains 1,000 acres of high integrity northern Missouri glaciated prairie and is the last remaining example of tallgrass prairie that once covered over 6 million acres of northern Missouri.

Based on threats to significant state park resources not yet represented in the state park system, the following priority areas are listed:

- 1) Northern Missouri Prairie
- 2) Crowley's Ridge
- 3) Northern Missouri Forest



## **CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCE GAPS**

Chapter Nine of the proposed Missouri State Park Plan of 1977 stated that the goal of Missouri's system of state historic sites was to "preserve and interpret the heritage of Missouri" by accurately depicting "the broad sweep of our state's history, from its earliest days to the present." Implied in this statement was the idea that, not only must each site exemplify some significant aspect of the state's history, but that an integrated system of interrelated and complementary sites must somehow provide an accurate and panoramic representation of Missouri's heritage. The aim of planners at that time was to acquire and develop a representative group of sites, creating a system that would be "balanced" in terms of geography, chronology, and historical themes.

During the past decade, seven new sites have been acquired. These new sites have improved the balance of the system by providing opportunities to interpret events and periods, especially in the 20th century, that were not represented by sites owned before 1977. However, the ideal of a totally representative and balanced system of historic sites has not yet been achieved. The goal put forward in 1977 remains a valid goal for today, and for the future.

### **Decision-making Criteria:**

Achievement of this objective will involve numerous and complex decisions over a period of many years. These decisions will depend upon informed and intelligent assessments of the value and significance of individual historic properties proposed for acquisition in addition to an underlying comprehension of the strengths, weaknesses, and basic

texture of the entire system of historic sites. In all such decisions, the following factors must be evaluated:

1. significance of the proposed historic property
2. themes in Missouri history that the property represents
3. chronological associations of the property
4. geographical location of the property

All four of these factors are interrelated. In any one individual decision, all the factors should be considered, but one of the factors may be of overriding importance. This is particularly true of significance, and in the case of a property of overwhelming statewide importance, the factors of theme, chronology, and geography may be of lesser consequence.

Likewise, in addition to occasionally standing alone, some aspects of significance seem to operate in the role of modifiers, pairing with each of the other three concepts in turn, and it is the evaluation of these three paired factors for each proposed site that will lead to final decisions about acquisition.

Conversely, although significance approaches the status of a sine qua non, it may nevertheless become highly desirable to acquire a property of lesser significance but which is within a thematic context, chronological period, or geographical area that is not presently represented in the system.

## Evaluation Methodology:

The following plan is proposed for evaluating acquisitions on the basis of significance, theme, chronology, and geography:

### 1. Significance

Based upon the established criteria for the listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places, it is proposed that:

To be considered for acquisition as a state historic site, a property must have significance in the history, archaeology, or culture of the state or nation in one or more of the following areas:

- a) in association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- b) in association with the lives of persons significant in the past; or
- c) as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; as a representation of the work of a master; as the possessor of high artistic values; or as a representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) as a site that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Sites meeting one or more of the criteria for significance would only be considered for acquisition if they also retained a satisfactory degree of integrity. In other words, no historic property should be approved for acquisition unless it retains sufficient original material and/or characteristics to convey a demonstrable sense of history. This requirement might conceivably be waived in the case of a site of extremely great significance in Missouri's heritage. Conversely, a site possessing enormous integrity or outstanding physical survival of historic building fabric might be selected for inclusion even though more general thematic, chronological, or geographical values would not otherwise suggest state ownership.

In general, moved structures, commemorative properties, and sites with significance dating from less than 50 years ago would not be considered for acquisition, unless documentation can be produced to indicate transcendent statewide importance.

## 2. Themes

The academic study of history is currently divided into several fields. These include such areas as economic history, political history, social history, military history and intellectual or cultural history.

Within these categories fall various themes of historical inquiry. Economic history would include the study of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, wealth, poverty, business, and labor. Political history would embrace the study of parties, interest groups, leaders, reform movements, and conflicts. Social history encompasses the themes of ethnicity, urban society, rural society, communities, families, gender relationships, population, and settlement patterns. Intellectual history includes the areas of science, philosophy, literature, art, religion, folklore, and popular culture.

By defining these general themes in terms of specific times and places, the program can come up with specific themes for interpretation within a system of historic sites. For example, beginning with the broad general theme of agriculture, staff can generate the specific topic of "Cotton Production in the Missouri Bootheel" or "Hemp and Tobacco Production in Little Dixie Before the Civil War." The broad themes of history have little meaning outside the context of time and place.

To illustrate this evaluation process a step further, once the thematic structure is in place, each theme can be matched with data from the inventory (National Register/State Data Base) or other sources suggesting what properties may be available to represent a particular theme. Appendix "C" provides an example of this stage of the process with potential properties matched with two hypothetical themes. The next logical step in the process would be to evaluate these potential sites in regard to the other three factors: significance, chronology, and geography.

Obviously, the development of a thematic framework for this decision-making model remains as the next major task to be accomplished. Many attempts to do this have been made before but none have been totally satisfactory. Appendix "D" is an example of a thematic framework originally developed to guide preparation of the history exhibits in the Missouri State Museum. It covers the entire scope of Missouri history, but not quite from the standpoint of property ownership. It will, however, serve as the point of departure for development of a new thematic matrix for site acquisition.

### 3. Chronology

In many ways this is a more objective and quantifiable factor than significance or theme, but a degree of subjectivity remains. An underlying assumption must be made, in this case, that no one period of time is inherently more significant than any other period of time.

Catastrophic events such as the Civil War tend to confer a disproportionate aura of importance upon certain years and eras. However, recent historical scholarship has tended toward the position that peaceful epochs, quiet trends, and social and familial relationships are equally worthy of study and interpretation, and may reveal significant truths about our past, our present, and our cultural heritage. The goal of our system, therefore, should be to provide opportunities for meaningful interpretation of all periods in Missouri's history.

With this goal in mind, the straightforward approach to decision-making involves knowledge of the time periods represented by sites now in our system and the future acquisition of sites associated with those time periods that are currently under-represented. The following list identifies historic sites now included in the system and the period of interpretation associated with each site:

<u>Name of Site</u>	<u>Period of Interpretation</u>
Illinois Indian Village	1600-1682
Boone's Lick	1805-1833
Felix Valle	1820-1850
First State Capitol	1821-1826
Mark Twain Birthplace	1825-1847, 1835-1900
Arrow Rock	1820-1900
Jefferson Landing	1830-1860
Nathan Boone Home	1837-1856
Gov. Dunklin's Grave	1790-1844
Sappington Cemetery	1840-1870
Hunter-Dawson Home	1855-1880
Battle of Lexington	1853-1865
Watkins Woolen Mill	1850-1880
Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home	1860-1882
Fort Davidson	1860-1870
Battle of Carthage	1861
Locust Creek Covered Bridge	1868-1914
Union Covered Bridge	1870-1880
Bollinger Mill	1870-1880
Sandy Creek Covered Bridge	1870-1880
Jewell Cemetery	1870-1890
Harry S Truman Birthplace	1880-1890
Dillard Mill	1904-1930
Towosahgy	Mississippian
Thomas Hart Benton Home	1939-1975
Scott Joplin Home	1900-1910

Missouri Mines	1904-1972
Deutschheim	1830-1880
Osage Village	1600-1725
Confederate Memorial	1850-1867, 1889-1954
Battle of Athens	1840-1870

Graphic representation of the years covered by these sites and their periods of interpretation (Figure 2) indicates a high degree of concentration in the mid-19th century period between 1830 and 1880, with a special emphasis on the Civil War years. The late 19th and early 20th century period of progressivism and social change is scarcely represented in the system. Other important periods that are under-represented include the early settlement period (from the late 18th century to the time of statehood) and the 20th century, which includes such hugely significant events as the Great Depression and the First World War. (This statement assumes that the system will not routinely include sites less than 50 years old). In planning for expansion of the system, special consideration should be given to sites that offer possibilities for interpreting these periods and events.

#### 4. Geography

Geographers have proposed various schemes for dividing Missouri into cultural and geographical regions. Further study is required before the department can feel comfortable in adopting any of these schemes in toto. For the present, the department proposes to use the county as the primary geographic unit in the state. One benefit of this is convenience in that National Register listings and the department's own statewide inventory of historic properties are arranged by county. On the attached map (Figure 3), the counties that are shaded are those in which state historic sites are presently located.

It is clear from the map (Figure 3) that northwestern and south central Missouri are presently unrepresented in our state system. Our position in this matter is that the distribution of state-owned historic sites should be relatively uniform since no particular region has a monopoly on history. In planning for the growth of the system, a reasonable attempt should be made to acquire historic properties in those areas that are currently barren of historic sites.

FIGURE 2

Number of sites providing interpretation in specific decades

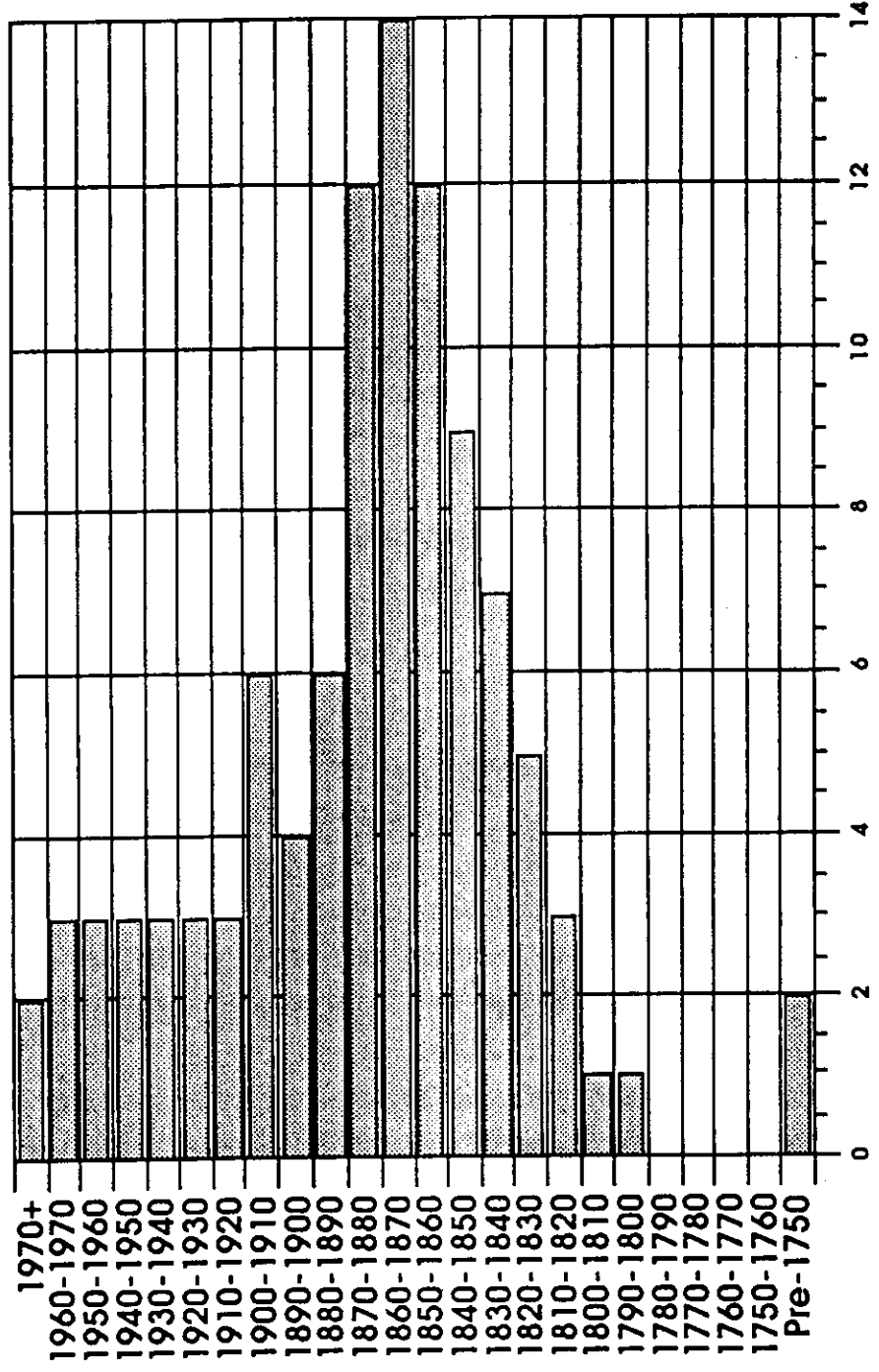
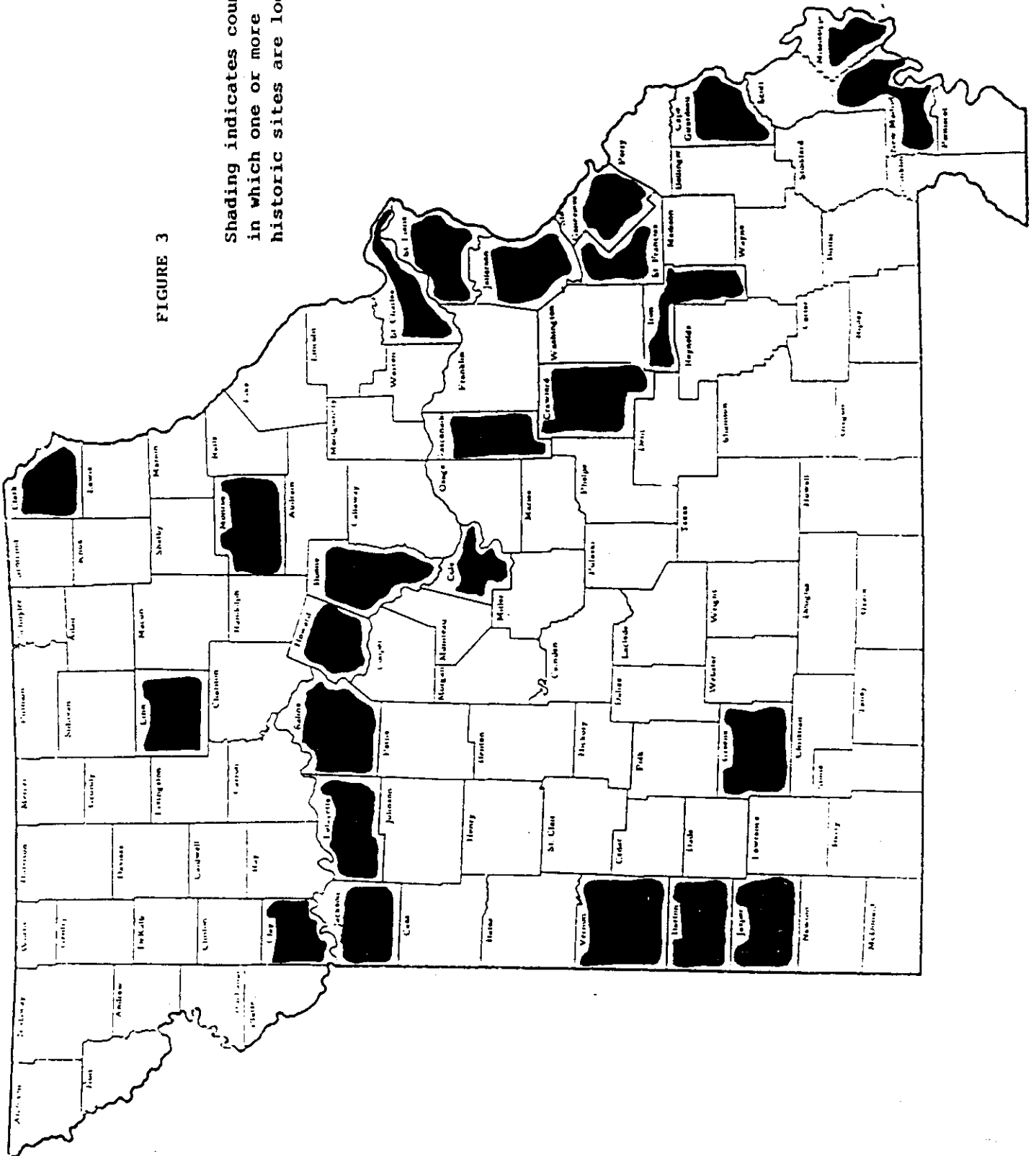




FIGURE 3

Shading indicates county in which one or more historic sites are located.



## Evaluative Exercise

As an experiment in the use of this process at its current state of development, staff compiled a sample list of properties that would be eligible for acquisition, utilizing the four evaluative criteria. The universe of sites evaluated was confined to only those suggested by the staff for this exercise, and without reference to the much larger inventory data base.

The results of this brief test are included in Appendix "E," along with some remarks as to how the properties on the list relate to the evaluative criteria.

## Unresolved Issues

1. Subjectivity will remain as an issue in this process. It is essentially non-scientific and the decisions made will always represent the informed opinion of staff members, the academic community and others. The development of themes, chronological period concepts, and the evaluations of individual properties will always generate a certain amount of conflicting opinion.
2. It seems obvious that the number of themes will expand considerably beyond the number of properties it will be possible for the system to own. Either a simplifying condensation of thematic context must be developed, or an intellectual rationale constructed to broaden the interpretive message and number of themes portrayed at each site.
3. It is apparent that many of the most outstanding sites that illustrate various themes are already in the ownership of other government agencies. The Jesse James Home and the Wilson's Creek Battlefield are good examples. Questions to be resolved include: should the department pursue ownership; interpret the same theme

elsewhere; or abandon the theme from the standpoint of our system? Similarly, property already owned by the system may illustrate a theme (for example, Civilian Conservation Corps architecture) to the extent that no further acquisition would be necessary, but the management designation is not as a historic site.

4. There will be a lack of consensus in the history field in general about what properties should be acquired. Unfortunately there is no "higher court" to resolve these issues, and already existing groups such as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are not ideally constituted to do so. Development of some outside and broadly based oversight group, professionally grounded in history, may eventually be necessary.
5. It does not seem to be possible to design a process that would automatically exclude properties from the system on a totally objective basis. That is, this decision-making mechanism will not provide a quick and easy defense of the system against the aggressive advocacy of a particular site by an organized pressure group. It will show that some sites are not very worthy candidates, although on somewhat subjective basis.

Unfortunately, being a process of historical conceptualization, it will not lend too much support to an argument that will, in the final analysis, tend to revolve around economics. That is, the process will certify many more potential sites as being acceptable for historical reasons than the system will be able to acquire for financial reasons.

