

City of Lincoln, Illinois
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 07:00pm
City Council Committee of Whole Meeting

PRESENTATION ON THE MILL ON 66

By Geoff Ladd
Secretary & Past President
Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County

Project Administrator
Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

Professor
Heartland Community College
Lincoln Campus



Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County

CONCEPTUAL PLAN PRESENTATION

THE MILL ON 66

2016



The Mission of the Route 66 Heritage
Foundation of Logan County is to
Promote and Preserve
Route 66 Sites in Logan County.

Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County
738 S. Washington St., Lincoln, IL 62656
217-671-3790 | www.savethemill.org

A 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-deductible organization that owns The Mill.

History of The Mill on 66

The Mill is considered a prime example of early American roadside architecture and is one of the few buildings in the area still standing from that era. It is widely believed to be the most salient Route 66 asset in the community.

Paul Coddington of Lincoln formally opened his restaurant at the corner of Washington St. and Stringer Ave. (Route 66) on July 25, 1929, under the name of the Blue Mill. As a special treat that night, his manager's children dressed in Dutch costumes with wooden shoes and passed out roses to all of the patrons. The eatery was constructed by local contractors in the shape of a small Dutch windmill with sails on the front. The building had blue trim and the continuously turning sails were decorated with lights.

In 1945, Blossom Huffman purchased The Mill, unbeknownst to her husband, Albert. He, nevertheless, ended up helping to run the establishment. The Huffmans obtained, at no cost, an old Army barracks from Fort Ellis in Ipava, IL. Fort Ellis served as a detention camp for World War II prisoners of war. The Huffmans moved one barracks building to Lincoln and attached it to the back of the original restaurant and painted the entire building barn red. They operated the business as a restaurant, bar and dance hall.

One of the restaurant's claims to fame was its fried schnitzel, originally made of veal and later of pork. The Mill also offered a museum of strange objects. A mechanical leg appeared to have just kicked its way through a hole in the ceiling.



Mill Restoration Progress Report



Top Row – Mill in it's Heyday (1980s-1990s)
Bottom Row – Abandoned/Restored (2005-2015)

Mill Restoration Progress Report



Restoration Work Begins in 2006-2007
Demolition/Abatement Expenses - \$22,000
Additional Work from All Volunteer Labor

Mill Restoration Progress Report



**Windmill Restoration & Painting
All Volunteer Labor Statewide Participants**

Mill Restoration Progress Report



Special Thanks to Larry Van Bibber
& Danner Trust for their generous donations.



Replacement of 44 Windows - \$17,000
Replacement of Roof - \$20,000

Mill Restoration Progress Report



Special Thanks to a grant from
National Park Service Rt. 66
Corridor Preservation Program.



Replacement of Foundation &
Restoration of Wood Floor - \$15,000

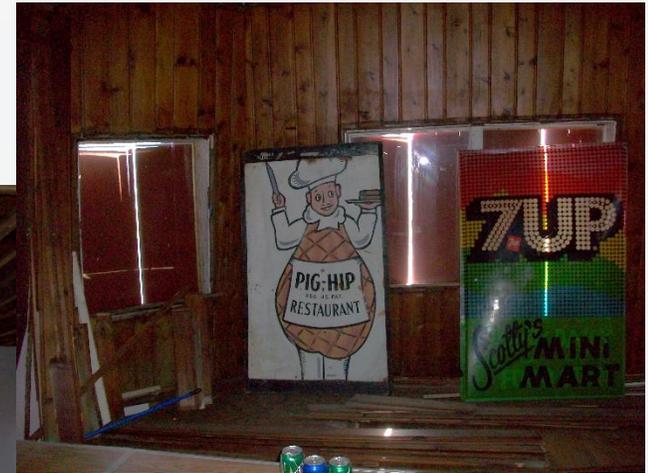
Mill Restoration Progress Report 2015



Floor Replacement Behind Bar: Special Thanks to Salt Creek ABATE Motorcycle Club.

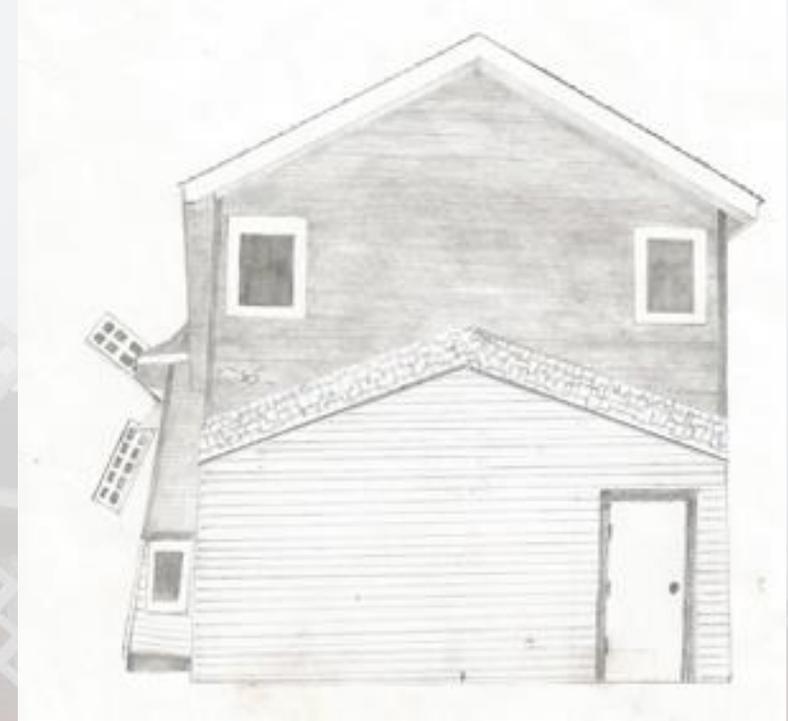
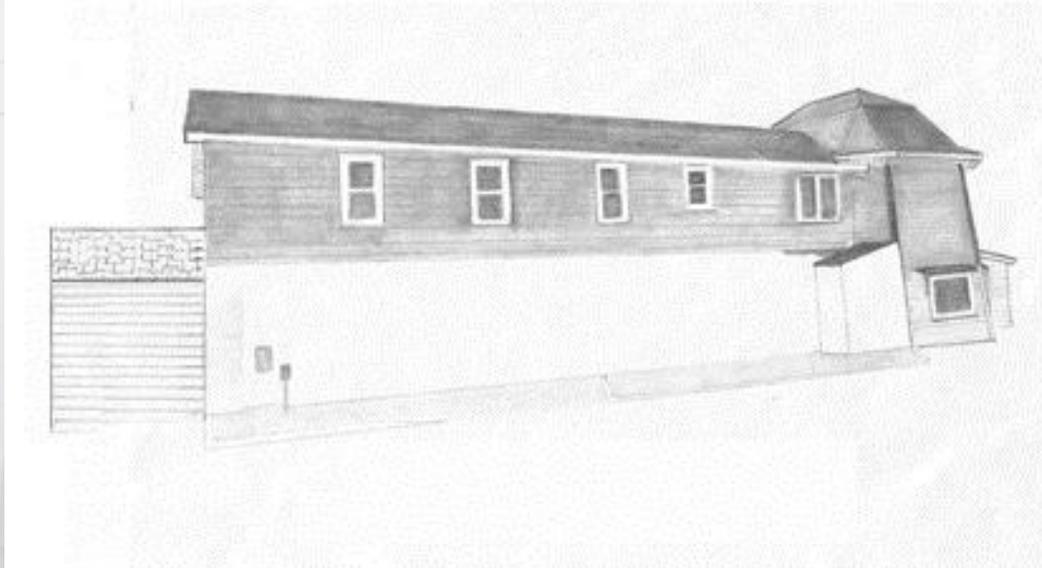


Cost of Materials - \$1500
Special Thanks to RP Lumber
& Alexander Lumber.



Downstairs Insulation, Drywall
& Knotty Pine Panel Restoration:
Special Thanks To Leroy Ranthum,
Richard Bergin, Ray Saul, Bob Wilmert.
Wiring: Special Thanks to
Fitzpatrick Electric.

Mill Restoration Progress Report 2016



Application in progress for National Park Service grant to replace sewer lines and construct handicap restroom/entrance at the back of the building. Total project cost - \$22,000.

Volunteers will finish wiring, walls, trim and install ceiling tile. Cost of materials - \$3000.

Total restoration expenses to date: \$78,000. Funds raised in 2015: \$6000. Cash on hand: \$3000.

Annual operating expenses: Insurance - \$1800, Utilities - \$900, Tax Filings - \$200.

Planning to open as a museum from April - October, using local volunteers, beginning in 2017.

Mill Restoration Progress Report

Recent Updates



Crossroads Sign Donated by ALMH



Key Historical Relics of The Mill Recovered for the Museum

Historic Mill Sign Lights Up!



Financial Plan

- Over \$78,000 in funds and in-kind labor have been raised to replace the roof, replace & repair all 44 windows, restore the original floor, replace the windmill sails and finish the interior of the building.
- **Ongoing:** Raising \$2900 per year to cover the operating expenses of insurance, utilities and non-profit tax filings.
- **Short-term:** Finishing the downstairs interior renovations, including installation of ceiling, finishing the walls, replacing the doors and setting up the displays. Estimated cost \$4000.
- Additional expected annual donations, memberships and gift shop donations for the next three years is \$10,000.
- **Long-term:** continued fund raising to the Route 66 community through various means, including online. These funds will be eventually used to install a HVAC system. Estimated cost \$20,000.
- Over 15,000 visitors have visited the new “Cruisin’ with Lincoln on Route 66” Visitor Center and Museum in their first year. The Litchfield Route 66 Museum & Visitor Center receives 7500-8500 visitors annually. These visitors are spending up to \$135 average per day. Together, we can get the Mill open as a Museum and Gift Shop and bring new tourism/economic development to the City of Lincoln!

Board of Directors

The Mill is a private non-profit foundation with an all-volunteer board.

OFFICERS

Bob Wilmert - President (retired banker and Chamber president)

Andrea Dykman - Treasurer (co-owner of downtown business Lincoln Printers)

Geoff Ladd - Secretary (Route 66 tourism professional, former tourism director)

DIRECTORS

John Sutton - U of I Extension office, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, local volunteer

Nancy Saul - retired U of I Extension office, retired local journalist and former tourism director

Dave & Vickie Dunham – Railsplitter Antique Auto Club representatives

Juanita Buttell

Barb Wilmert

Courtney Crowell

Rebecca Strait

Past Directors include the late Ernie Edwards and the late Mike Fak.

Special thanks to our 2015 volunteer laborers: Salt Creek ABATE, Leroy Ranthum, Richard Bergin, Bob Wilmert and Ray Saul. Special thanks to Andrea Dykman for Flea Market events.

Thanks To Our Contributors!

Danner Trust Fund

Larry Van Bibber

National Park Service Route 66 Corridor

City of Lincoln

Logan County Board

Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau

The Woods Foundation

Railsplitter Antique Auto Club

Salt Creek ABATE Motorcycle Club

D & D Sewer of Lincoln/Logan County

Area Disposal Service

Lincoln Printers & Sign Design

Eaton Corporation

Casey's General Stores

RP Lumber

Fitzpatrick Electric

Alexander Lumber Company

Werth Insurance & Real Estate

Walmart of Lincoln

Family Custom Cleaners, Tanning & U-Haul

Harris-Hodnet Insurance Services

Route 66 Association of Illinois



Thanks To Our Contributors!

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
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Lincoln Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram
Ace Hardware
Lincoln Rotary Club
John Weiss/Preservation Committee
Railsplitter Antique Auto Club
Landmarks Illinois
Contractors Ready Mix
Regions Bank of Lincoln
Eagles Lodge of Lincoln
Lincoln Elks
Lincoln Emblem Club
Sorrento's Pizza
Blue Dog Inn
Lincoln College
Spirits of Bloomington
Route 66 Garage Sale
The Logo & T-Shirt Donor
Ernie & Francis Edwards
All our individual donors & volunteers
Special Thanks to the Media for their coverage!

