

12/10/18

Boyne Heritage Center
Boyne City, Michigan

STORYLINE 9

Sources:

“Settlers to Sidewalks” by Robert Morgridge
“Masters of Empire” by Michael McDonnell
“Boyne History” outline
“Settlement of Michigan” 1915 article by George Fuller
“Rites of Conquest” by Charles Cleland

Element Codes:

“p” = rigid graphic, panel, graphic within wood frame structure
“b” = banner, suspended vertical banner
“r” = reader rail graphics
“c” = collection displays

Core Concept

The Big Idea

“The history of the Boyne City region is a record of peoples’ stewardship of the landscape.”

Concept Summary

The extraordinary gifts of the land and waters attracted people over thousands of years to the Boyne region. These gifts included the soils, the spring waters, the wildlife, and the trees. After settlement in the early 1800s, the explosive harvest of these gifts - lumbering, fishing and hunting, industry – built the region but left the land and waters degraded and abandoned. In revival, the Boyne community has embraced a sustainable economy that enjoys, protects and shares its gifts with the future.

Section 0 TITL E, entry

Narrative

Entering through doors from the lobby, “air lock” effect of climate/sound, dimensional graphic and textures, welcoming invitation to explore, summary statement of Big Idea, guiding movement to the left.

Op1 / Exhibit title

Boyne Before Us

Summary statement

The history of the Boyne region is traced through precious gifts from the land and water.

The gifts were formed in grinding glaciers and growing forests, nurtured by native tribal hands, and consumed by booming industry and fading fortunes. The gifts are renewed and shared today in the promise at the water’s edge.

Op3 / Donor recognition

On exit, next to doors, “Thanks” panel for credits and donor recognition.

Section 1 FOUNDATION, “GIFTS”

Narrative

Turning to the left from entry area, under the “primordial” timber ceiling, this series of natural history displays guides movement ahead down the corridor and introduces the landscape and resources of the region that have supported human life and have been the subject of human stewardship and history.

1p1 / Section title, “Gifts”

Summary statement – resources and history, stewardship,

Visuals - stone texture, landscapes

1b1 / Non-Living Nature

Igneous rocks – granites, etc.

Marine deposits – Petoskey stones

Glacial terrain - lakes and rivers, sand and gravel, artesian springs, clay deposits

Landscapes

1c1 / Non-Living Nature Collection Display

Igneous rocks, Petoskey stones, sand and gravel, TBD

1p2 / Living Nature

Visuals - art / illustration of fish, trees, birds, etc.

1b2 / Living Nature

Fish - Sturgeon, trout

Birds – geese, raptors

Animals – beaver, fox, wolves, bear, wolverine

Plants - white pine, hardwoods, native fruits

History – fur trade, lumber boom

1c2 / Living Nature Collection Display

White pine slice, TBD

1p3 / First Peoples

Visuals – textures of birchbark, sage, tobacco, migration map

1b3 / First Peoples

Prehistoric native-American lifeways, cosmology, stewardship of nature, council trees

Anishinaabe culture, Odawa tribal peoples

Place names, foods and medicines

Resources sites, seasonal cycles

Transportation – canoes, trails

Visuals – directional trees, council trees

1c3 / First Peoples Collection Display

Prehistoric artifacts TBD

1p4 / Europeans and Americans

Visuals – map of region, trails

1b4 / Europeans and Americans

Fur trade, voyageurs, Michilimackinac, French, English, Americans, treaties, Lewis Cass surveys

Fur trade fades in 1820s

Native American peoples marginalized by American gov't treaties, most tribal peoples exiled by 1840.

1c4 / Europeans and Americans Collection Display

Maybe artifacts TBD Maybe interactive video showing regional map and changing governance

Section 2 SETTLEMENT, 1850s-1880s

Narrative

Entering the “Miller Cabin,” discovering the reasons and the ways people came to settle the area in the 1800s. Introductions to the first settlers and their first exploitation of resources, with displays of the Miller collection items.

2p1 / Section title, Settlement, “Why They Came”

Summary statement

Resources – fish, spring waters, lumber, game, clay

Watercraft travel, sail and steam

1825 opening of Erie Canal, flow of people by water across the Great Lakes and to the west

1839, first federal government township surveys

1863 and 1874, homestead act, opens tribal lands, invites settlement and ownership of land

1869, opening of canal in Charlevoix (drops Lake Charlevoix water level 4 feet)

Visuals – illustrations of watercraft, early township surveys, Charlevoix channel

2c1 / Miller Collection Display

Watch and ring

1869, anecdote, James Miller falls through ice

2b1, 2b2 / “Newcomers”

1839, Peter Greensky starts church north of lake within enduring Odawa community

Families settle in 1856, families include the Hortons in present-day Horton Bay, Millers in present-day Boyne City, May in present-day Advance

1856, Millers settle in former cabin of Strang disciple Reuben Nichols, guided by Mrs. Miller’s dream

Millers named Boyne River after river in Ireland

1867, John Miller platted Spring Harbor, later named North Boyne

1869, becomes first postmaster

1870s, Miller operates sailboat *Union Jack* between Boyne and Charlevoix

Visuals: first Miller cabin, Mr. and Mrs. Miller

2c2 / Miller Collection Display

Photos, smoking pipe, large pewter jar

2b3, 2b4 / “Building, Growing”

First steamboat, post office, school, store, home

1865, William Porter builds first grist mill at Porter Creek, and Advance becomes first town in the region

1870s, first mills in Bay Springs (North Boyne)

1871, Boyne region supply lumber to Chicago, after fire

1876, George Beardsley, plat of village of Boyne, first mill and printing press, hotel, water system

1878, population about 20

1880, Morgan starts first manufacturing business, brick-making

1882, population about 400 people

1882, William White moves from East Jordan to Boyne City, operates a small sawmill

1885, Boyne City becomes chartered village

1885, Greenwich Mean Time established, with time zones

2c3 / Miller Collection Display

Small pewter jar, candle holders, lamps, etc.

Section 3 WATERFRONT, 1880s-1910

Narrative

Entering corridor of "Lumber Yard," walking on boardwalk, learning about the explosion of industry and resource exploitation on the Lake Charlevoix waterfront in Boyne City and its impact on the community and region. Lumber mills were at the core, and other industries were related to lumber. Collection displays pertaining to this industry and history.

3p1, Section title, "On the Waterfront"

Vital Charlevoix channel – opened in 1869

Unique Boyne City industrial history, intense private occupation of waterfront, hub of regional consumption of resources, interface of land and water, transportation technology

3b1, W. H. White Lumber Company

Lumber mills, first at mouth of Boyne River, timberlands and logging camps, transport of logs, shipping

Shared ownership with brothers James and Thomas

Competitor – Von Platen

Author Bruce Catton's "Waiting for the Morning Train" with boyhood impressions of Boyne City lumber mills

3c1, Lumber Yard Collection Display

Dockwalloper leather apron, cant hook, White Lumber Co. sign

3p2 - 3b2, Other Industries

Many other industries linked to lumber industry

1902, Michigan Tanning & Extract, tanning imported leathers, hemlock waste from pine lumber harvest

1902, Boyne City Chemical Plant, charcoal and chemicals, from hardwoods from lumber harvest

1903, Elm Cooperage, barrel-maker, largest in country, W.H. White secretary

1904, Boyne City Charcoal and Iron Plant, iron smelting, from charcoal from lumber harvest

Brickmaking – 1880 Morgan Brickyard (yellow brick) east of city,

1902 Boyne City Clay Products (red brick), northwest of city

Ice industry

3c2, Other Industries Collection display

Pig iron ingot, tannery sign

3p3 - 3b3, Transportation

Early logging transport – wheels, river, sleighs

Steamships - White Transportation Steamship Company, "Three Brothers" and others, commercial dock

Railroads - White's Boyne City Southeastern, Boyne City Gaylord & Alpena, maintenance shed, depot

3c3 Transportation Collection Display

Driftwood, piece of boat found in lake

Railroad items – RR crossing sign, oil can

Ship compass, telescope

3b4 / Impacts

Support for development of community, buildings, civic and cultural life, government

Demographics – wealthy elite, craftsmen and merchants, migrant labor

Consumption of resources and pollution of landscape and waters, work hazards

Visual: map of waterfront, wide view photo of waterfront

3c4, Lumbering, Collection Display

Small objects, TBD

3c5, Transportation, Collection Display

Small objects, TBD

Section 4 H A L L W A Y to LaFrance and Tower Clock

Narrative

Through doorway and down hallway to displays of the operating tower clock and the LaFrance fire engine. Expressive textures in hallway, and mural along ramp into clock/fire engine display area. Collection displays, graphics, and lighting support the singular roles of the fire department and the tower clock in the community. The fire engine will be secured behind glass partitions like those around the tower clock. Mural graphics, probably of the LaFrance during the lumber mill fire, will fill the frames of the windows facing into the fire department conference room, offering a backdrop to the view of the fire engine from the street.

4p1, "Explore the Door"

Invitation to go thru door, down hall to special displays of tower clock and fire engine

4p2, "Tower Clock"

The historic context of the tower clock, the re-installation of the tower clock

4c1, "Fire Department"

Fire hose nozzles, etc., TBD

4p3, "Fire Department"

The development of fire response through history
The role of the fire department in the community

4p4, "LaFrance"

Reader rail graphic panel
The history of this fire engine, and its maintenance by the department, uses in the community

4p5, "LaFrance"

Reader rail graphic panel
Features and details of the LaFrance fire engine

Section 5 BOOMING BOYNE, 1900-1920

Narrative

On returning from the exploration of the hallway displays, a portrait of booming Boyne and its people is offered by graphics, collection displays, and architecture. Window frames suggest the texture of storefronts. The “toolshed” holds items used in the various types of work in the community, and sleds and skis. The dentist chair offers a playful invitation to sit and feel the busy surroundings.

5b1, Storefronts

Downtown image

5p1 – 5b2, Section title, “Booming Boyne”

The booming exploitation of the landscape – waters, minerals, land, natural resources

The plats of the village

The arc of the shoreline

Buildings – school, Dilworth, Beulah School for Boys

Landmarks – clock tower, movement of river, building the dam, bridges

5c1, Signs

“Millers Addition”, various store signs

Strung among displays along wall

5p2 – 5b3, “Making a Living”

Merchants

Workers

Craftsmen

Agriculture – farms, orchards

5c2, Collection Display, “Toolshed”

Butter churn, harvest rake, yoke, cheese boxes, cider press, sheller, pike spear

5p3 - 5p4, 5b3, Communities

The Boyne “range” – portraits of Walloon Lake, Boyne Falls, Advance, Deer Lake

Dam built around 1900 for power to grist mill and saw mill

Social groups – GAR, Oddfellows, etc.

5c3, Collection Display, Overhead

Winter fun with small sled, large sled, skis

5p4

5c4 – Swoboda carved-doll display, with crank handle

With four interactive videos of the display in operational movement

(Understood that, on special occasions, a Swoboda family member can demonstrate its operation.)

Section 6 DOWNTIME and REVIVAL, 1920- 2000s

Narrative

The lumber boom in the region was unsustainable. As the woods were exhausted the economy declined even before the jolt of the Great Depression. What seemed powerful and permanent, like the local industries and shipping and wealth, became fragile and transitional. Mills and factories closed and people left town and buildings were torn down, and Smeltania became a symbol of humor and survival.

6p1, "Downtime and Revival," White Lumber Co.

In corner, behind the Swoboda carved-doll display

1910, original rail "roundhouse" burns, engines and cars consumed, building replaced.

1913, W. H. White Company and BCG&A railroad in receivership for missed mortgage payments

1918, White lumber mill burns. Office building moved to Park Street, covered in brick.

(Now Stiggs Restaurant)

1918, Boyne City Gaylord & Alpena railroad is completed to Alpena

1919, last steamboat traffic, due to railroad alternative

Buildings torn down

6c1 – Swoboda carved-doll display, with crank handle

With four interactive videos of the display in operational movement

(Understood that, on special occasions, a Swoboda family member can demonstrate its operation.)

6p2 – 6b2, Leaving Town, Hanging On

1920-1925, B.C.G & A and other Boyne businesses layoff 1/3 of employees due to reduced demand

1923, Boyne City Charcoal Iron Plant closes due to lack of charcoal (lack of waste wood in area)

1926, last train load of lumber leaves Boyne City Lumber, end of an era.

1926, Pine Lake renamed Lake Charlevoix

1929, stock market crash, start of Great Depression

1935, White declining revenues and bankruptcy, failure to sell cut-over land to farmers, forfeited land to State of Michigan

1935, White declining revenues and bankruptcy, can't sell land to farmers, forfeited land to Michigan

6p3 – 6b3, Smeltania and other pleasures

1930, first smelt run at mouth of Boyne River

1937, first "Smeltania" organized on frozen lake, with city manager, trading post, etc.

1950s, smelt die-off, then disappear altogether in 1980s

6c2 – Collection display TBD

6c3 – Collection display, Smeltania ice shack

"Playhouse" for children, with mirror to suggest added interior depth.

Cutaway structure to be studied from outside.

Various fishing paraphernalia along inside walls

Ice saw secured to outer structure

6p4 – 6b4, Revival

1935, Boyne City Railroad takes over line between Boyne City and Boyne Falls, to connect to trunk line, operated by Penn Central and Michigan Northern.

1946, Michigan Senator William Pierson land bought by Everett Kircher to create Boyne Mountain

1948, Boyne Mountain opens for skiing

1953, the lowest portion of Boyne River moved to straighten flow into Lake Charlevoix

1963, Boyne River dam bought by Boyne Mountain

1960s, Boyne Mountain develops golf courses

1970s, tearing down the Tannery

1976-78, train line operated as Boyne Valley Railroad for excursions only

Tearing down the train "roundhouse"

6c4 – Collection display TBD

6p4 – 6b4, Rebirth

Mainstreet program beginning in 2003
New City Hall opening in 2017

6c5 – Collection display, dentist chair

Section 7, B O Y N E T O D A Y

Mural graphics segments, between pilings

Seasonal wonders

Regional Gems – Horton Bay, Raven Hill, Ironton Ferry, Boyne Mountain, Avalanche Park,
Greensky church, Lavender Hill, Walloon Lake, Boyne Falls, Deer Lake,
Ye Nyne Olde Holles Golf Club

Invitation to Live, Work and Play

Playful displays of dental chair and jail cell door

Thriving businesses – Van Dam

Civic strength – schools, local governments, Mainstreet program

Preservation – Dilworth Hotel, White home

Environmental stewardship – Friends of the Boyne River, Little Traverse Conservancy

Sustainable lumber practices

Section 8, M U L T I – P U R P O S E

Central “tree” with timbers at 4 cardinal directions (enclosing metal column)

Sweeping mural images of Boyne City, historical and/or contemporary

Four display vitrines for changing exhibits

Two rustic benches

Projections across floor of shimmery waves