

Kaitlin Wieseman
March 31, 2010

The Stone Fort Museum Summary Report

At the Stone Fort Museum on March 3, 2010 the director, Carolyn Spears, held an orientation for the second group of students and me. Mrs. Spears taught us how to use the equipment so that we would be able to record the temperature, RH levels, bug count, and Foot Candles. So every time that I went to the Stone Fort Museum, which was once a week I would check the bug traps, temperature, RH levels, and Foot Candles levels. She also discussed how we would need to pick an object or group of objects that we would research.

On March 9, 2010 I picked the objects, a wedding dress and bonnet, donated by Ura Price Commander on May 7, 1987. Once I received the folder containing the information on these two objects I read the gift agreement and catalogue worksheets. I then decided to start searching for information on the original owners of the articles of clothing. I spent several hours in the ETRC trying to find information in some of the books about Elizabeth Fretwell Mims, her husband Josiah Mims, Ema Price and Elwood Seale. I only found a few things about the Mims in the books called *Nacogdoches—Gateway to Texas Volume II, 1850-1880*. So I photocopied the information off for Mrs. Spears so that she would have a copy. I also found some information about Ema Price (Emma) and Elwood Seale. It wasn't a lot of information but I did find Elwood Seale listed in the book, *Nacogdoches—Gateway to Texas Volume II, 1850-1880* and what I think is Emma Price in the same book under her mother's name Amanda Josephine Mims Price. I then looked through the marriage records of Nacogdoches County for the marriage of Elwood Seale and Emma Price. I found the listing for the marriage and the officiant of the marriage. After searching the ETRC for information on the people I looked at ancestry.com to see if the

census had any more information. I did find three different censuses that contained information about Elizabeth Fretwell Mims. I tried looking for Emma Price and Elwood Seale but could not find any information on either of them. I then started to look for information on the bonnet and wedding dress. I did not find any more information about the owners and their families so I then decided to look for information on the clothing.

I started looking on the internet for time period dresses and bonnets. I really didn't have any luck on the internet so I tried the library. I found two books and checked them out at the library and over Easter break I read them. I found some really good information in one about all the different ways the Victorian ladies took care of their garments and dresses. Mrs. Spears said this would be helpful. So I went to Staples and photocopied any relevant pages to give to Mrs. Spears. I also highlighted the areas that really specifically talked about the care of silk dresses which the wedding dress is made of silk.

Around March 31, 2010 I discovered the graves of Elizabeth Fretwell Mims and several other Mims including her son Ransom are located at Oak Grove Cemetery. I took pictures of their headstones and will be giving the pictures to Mrs. Spears. Lastly I read the other book I checked out but it really did not have any relevant about the garments. Other than these few things that I had found I really didn't find a lot of information. I really enjoyed the time I spent volunteering at the Stone Fort Museum and gained some hands on experience that I'll be able to use in the future.

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March 31, 2010

Reibel, Daniel B. *Registration Methods for the Small Museum* 4th edition. New York: AltaMira Press, 2008.

Simmons, John E. *Things Great and Small: Collections Management Policies*. Washington, D.C.: American Association of Museums, 2006.

The Stone Fort Museum

While volunteering twenty hours at the Stone Fort Museum I learned the process of finding provenance and object information for a wedding dress and black bonnet. These items are unique and important to the collection of the Stone Fort Museum because they depict the museum's mission statement of providing and preserving historical artifacts that come from the East Texas area. I also learned how the Stone Fort Museum's director, Carolyn Spears, protects the museum's collections from pests, dust, theft, humidity, and from law suits over donations. Overall the Stone Fort Museum follows guidelines for protecting the museum's collections.

In Natalie Bach's power point presentation, she mentioned several ways to protect collections from pests such as laying down traps, identifying the pests, using pheromones, and making a floor plan. The Stone Fort Museum uses all of these precautions to keep collections protected from pests. At the orientation for the Stone Fort Museum Mrs. Spears had the volunteers lay down sticky traps. Mrs. Spears told us that she uses the sticky traps because they have no chemicals, which could be harmful to collections. She explained to the volunteers that identifying insects caught in the sticky traps is important because it sometimes indicates a specific insect infestation. Mrs. Spears also uses pheromones to attract a specific insect that is infesting the museum. Finally, the volunteers and workers at the Stone Fort Museum use a floor plan to make locating the sticky traps easy.

The Stone Fort Museum also employs several procedures that Antwain Satterfield addressed in his power point on protecting collections from dust. One of the preventive procedures is keeping all the windows closed and sealed off to prevent dust and dirt from entering the museum and destroying artifacts. The Stone Fort Museum follows this method by always keeping the doors and windows closed. The museum also protects the collections from dust by exhibiting them in showcases. The Stone Fort Museum uses showcases to protect their artifacts that the public views. For instance, in one showcase there are several books and papers that are kept in a regulated environment so they are protected from dust. Antwain Satterfield also mentioned the method of frequently dusting, which the employees at the Stone Fort Museum practice. While volunteering I saw several employees dust the showcases and furniture in the Stone Fort Museum, which kept the artifacts protected.

John E. Simmons explains in *Things Great and Small: Collection Management Policies* how collections can also be protected from theft and vandalism. He discusses the importance of checking and monitoring collections for vandalism or theft.¹ The showcases that the Stone Fort Museum uses help with security by allowing the director and workers the ability to keep the artifacts protected from the public touching the exhibits. Showcases can also be useful when it comes to security because if there is something missing or vandalized the case is clear and an employee or director will be able to see the destruction or that the object is missing. In addition to showcases, the Stone Fort Museums uses a video camera to monitor the entering and exiting public. This monitoring system allows the employees to watch the public and make sure that people are not stealing anything from the museum and its gift shop.

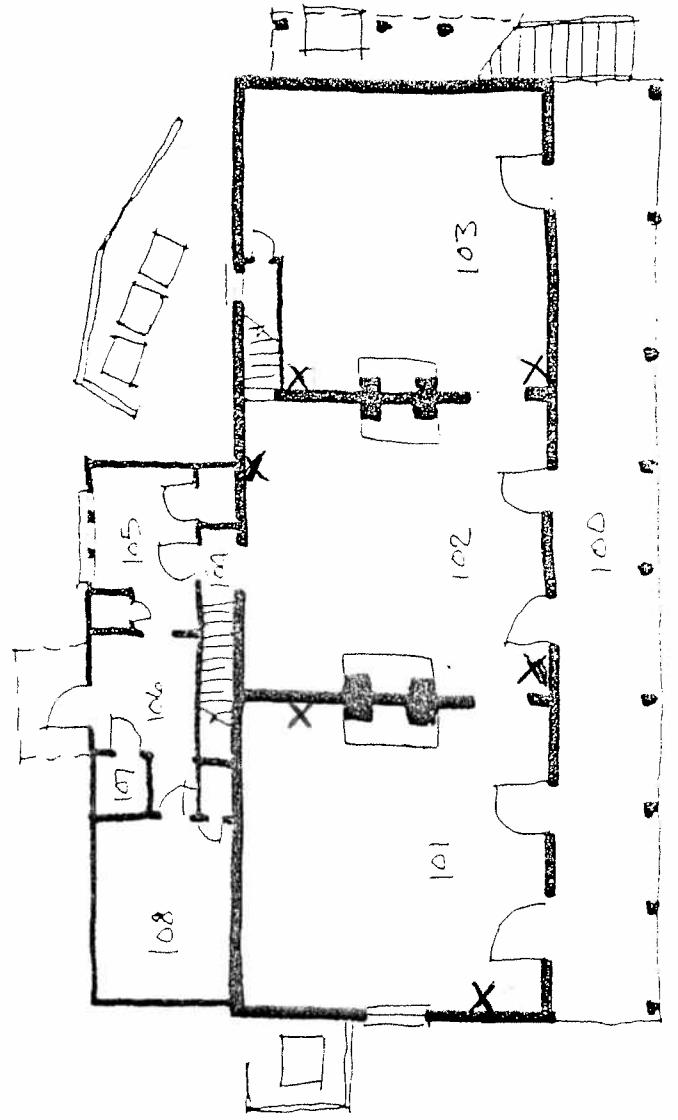
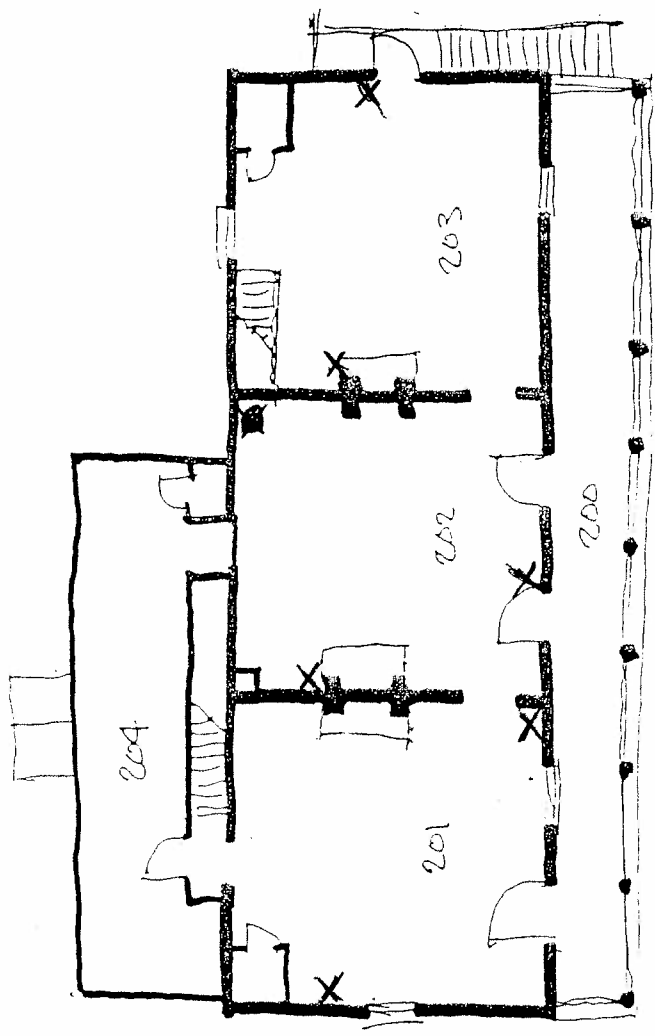
¹ John E. Simmons, *Things Great and Small: Collection Management Policies* (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Museums, 2006), 127.

In James Scott's presentation he mentioned the methods of protecting collections from humidity within museums and the Stone Fort uses some of these practices. For example, as a volunteer Mrs. Spears had us check the humidity (RH) levels in each of the exhibition rooms. The RH levels maintained in the museum were always in the 30 percentile. These levels follow the proper humidity that is suggested to keep in a museum, which is between 30-50 percent. Another method James Scott pointed out is keeping the temperature a maximum of 70 degrees. The Stone Fort Museum did not follow this guideline. Sometimes the Stone Fort Museum's temperature was over 70 degrees. However, the temperature did not go too far over 70 degrees so it did not cause too much damage to their collections.

One last procedure that the Stone Fort Museum uses to keep their collections protected is by having donors fill out donations forms, which Daniel B. Reibel discusses in *Registration Methods for the Small Museum*. The use of the donation forms prevents legal entanglements and lawsuits filed by family members of donors. Daniel B. Reibel explains how the museum should get a form that states the donation and to make sure that other family members do not have an interest in the object.² The Stone Fort Museum, for example, has a donation form for the two artifacts that I had researched. This procedure used by the museum just helps protect the museum from running into any problems with other family members of the donor and helps with provenance research.

Collections Management class has introduced me to various protective procedures that I witnessed in use in the Stone Fort Museum. Overall the museum achieves its goal of protecting its collections from pest, dust, theft, humidity, and from law suits by utilizing these practices.

² Daniel B. Reibel, *Registration Methods for the Small Museum*, 4th edition (New York: AltaMira Press, 2008), 25-26.



STONE FORT MUSEUM

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CHART

DATE: 3/9/2010

RECORDED BY: Kaitlin Wieseman

Location	Foot Candles (FC)	Temp (F)	Data Source	RH (%)	Data Source	insect Traps	
						Type	Number
GALLERIES Rm 101-Educ	21 FC - piano	72.9°	digital	30%	strip	None	0
	30 FC - couch			38%	digital		
Rm 102	39 FC - sash	72.7°	digital	30%	PHP Strip of paper	Spider	1
	20 FC - Anna Raguet Iron dress			38%	digital		
Rm 103-Store	39 FC ^{near 250}	72.4°	digital	30%	PHP Strip	Roaches	4
				38%	digital		
Rm 201	37 FC - pie safe	73.2°	digital	30%	strip	None	0
	10 FC - Half Stock Percussion Rifle			38%	digital		
	23 FC - butter churn						
Rm 202	38 FC - wheel Cradle Scythe	74°	digital	30%	strip	None	0
	21 FC - Civil War Surgeon's Kit			37%	digital		
	21 FC - Semmorn Be Courtenays						
Rm 203	22 FC - Costume from pageant	74.6°	digital	30%	strip	None	0
	15 FC - shells			38%	digital		
OFFICES							
Rm 105							
Rm 106							
Rm 107							
Rm 108							
STORAGE							
Rm 204							

STONE FORT MUSEUM

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CHART

DATE: 3/23/10

RECORDED BY: Kaitlin Wiseman

Location	Foot Candles (FC)	Temp (F)	Data Source	RH (%)	Data Source	insect Traps	
						Type	Number
GALLERIES Rm 101-Educ	30 FC couch 18 FC piano 57 FC "The Dreamers" bench	70.7°	digital	30% 28%	Strip digital	Roaches	2
Rm 102	20 FC - big Stone slabs 19 FC - Spanish & Mexican Real 60 FC - printing press	70.8°	digital	30% 30%	Strip digital	Silverfish	1
Rm 103-Store		70.8°	digital	30% 33%	Strip digital	Roach Fly spibler	1 1 1
Rm 201	10 FC wax cylinders 10 FC wash basin 11 FC vases on table	70.8°	digital	30% 30%	Strip digital	Silverfish	1
Rm 202	36 FC wheat Cradle Scythe 23 FC Adze 27 FC Candlesticks George Crocket	70.8°	digital	30% 30%	Strip digital	None	
Rm 203	23 FC boots 18 FC glass beakers 15 FC green dress	71.1°	digital	30% 30%	Strip digital	None	
OFFICES Rm 105 Rm 106 Rm 107 Rm 108							
STORAGE Rm 204							

**STONE FORT MUSEUM
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CHART**

DATE: 3/30/2010

RECORDED BY: Kaitlin Wiseman

Location	Foot Candles (FC)	Temp (F)	Data Source	RH (%)	Data Source	insect Traps	
						Type	Number
GALLERIES Rm 101-Educ	18 FC - stone fort replica 41 - FC couch	71.7°	digital	30% 35%	strip digital	silver fish	1
Rm 102	22 - FC printing press letters 10 FC - Stone Fort Souvenir plate 21 FC - sword	71.7°	digital	30% 36%	strip digital	None	
Rm 103-Store		71.8°	digital	30% 37%	strip digital	fly	2
Rm 201	32 FC - 12 12 30 FC - Lord Press 16 FC - Saddle	71.9°	digital	30% 36%	strip digital	battle	1
Rm 202	15 FC - Governor Stock Photo 10 FC - barbed wire 15 FC - Apothecary bottles	72°	digital	30% 36%	strip digital	None	
Rm 203	18 FC - Rotary drilling bit 22 FC - books	72.2°	digital	30% 36%	strip digital	Spider	1
OFFICES Rm 105 Rm 106 Rm 107 Rm 108							
STORAGE Rm 204							

**STONE FORT MUSEUM
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CHART**

DATE: April 6, 2010

RECORDED BY: Kaitlin Wiseman

Location	Foot Candles (FC)	Temp (F)	Data Source	RH (%)	Data Source	insect Traps	
						Type	Number
GALLERIES Rm 101-Educ	19 FC - piano	73.9°	digital	30% 38%	stnp digital	silverfish	1
	72 FC - el. cabinet Kral ... poster						
Rm 102	59 FC - Davr prints 30 FC sash 22 FC - Anna Magnet device	73.2°	digital	30% 38%	stnp digital	None	
Rm 103-Store		73°	digital	30% 38%	stnp digital	fly	3
Rm 201	19 FC - Ceramic Pitcher 13 FC - Cannon wall 21 FC - Spider leg mying pan	74.1°	digital	30% 46%	stnp digital	beetle	1
Rm 202	29 FC - Shoe last & peg 15 FC - Mexican Spar 31 FC - Geo. Crocker Boy Scout photo	75.6°	digital	30% 46%	stnp digital	None	
Rm 203	5 FC - Antique clock 15 FC - Fresh water Pearls	71°	digital	30% 47%	stnp digital	spider	1
OFFICES Rm 105 Rm 106 Rm 107 Rm 108							
STORAGE Rm 204							