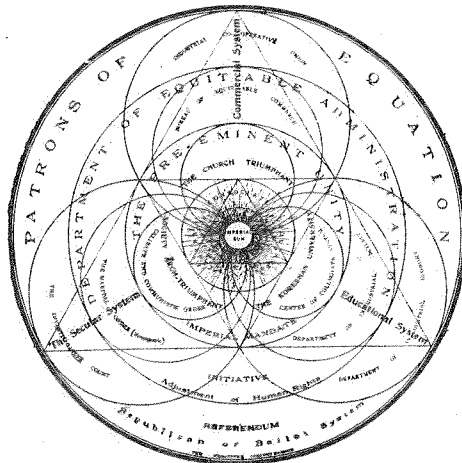


Koreshan Unity Settlement 1894-1977

Kroeshanity is the Imperial System of Theocracy of the Golden Age.



The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated Into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	iv
Forward	v
Preface	vii
1. History.....	1
· Dr. Cyrus Read Teed; the Man	2
2. Koreshan Universology.....	9
· Beliefs	9
· Structure	15
3. Estero 1894.....	19
· The Early Days 1894	19
· The Colony Struggles 1895-1899	25
· Colony to Headquarters 1900-1902.....	29
· The Golden Years 1903-1905.....	31
· The Period of Decline 1906-1930.....	37
· The Unity Today 1931-1977.....	42
4. History of Settlement Structures.....	43
· Structures 1894	46
· Structures 1895-1899	58
· Structures 1900-1902.....	68
· Structures 1903-1905.....	72
· Structures 1906-1930.....	100
· Structures 1931-1977.....	110

5. History of Settlement Grounds	113
· Grounds 1894.....	113
· Grounds 1895-1899	117
· Grounds 1900-1905	118
· Major Landscape Features	124
· Grounds 1906-1930.....	131
· Grounds 1931-1977	133
6. Recommendations for Restoration.....	135
· Settlement Buildings and Grounds.....	138
· Phase I	145
· Phase II.....	147
· Phase III	150
· Phase IV.....	152
· Phase V.....	154
· General Recommendations	157
· Summary Recommendations.....	168
Bibliography	171

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We wish to express our appreciation to the following individuals for the extensive research they conducted, and the documents prepared by them on the Koreshan Unity. These proved to be invaluable reference sources from which we depended upon heavily for information about the Unity.

Elliott J. Mackle, Jr., Master's Thesis 1971, The Koreshan Unity in Florida, 1894-1910.

Howard D. Fine, Master's Thesis 1972, The Koreshan Unity - Utopian Community: "We Live Inside the World"

We wish to express our special appreciation to Linda Lamons for her assistance with this study.

Foreward

We Live History

UTOPIA is "a place or state of ideal perfection," according to Greek language. It may be found at any place, at any time. Also explained as "an impracticable scheme of social regeneration" utopian communities have made history, they have come and gone.

The Koreshan Unity, Inc., described by some historians of the 19th century as different from other utopian communities of the period, is still a working legal body in our time.

CYRUS READ TEED, founder and leader of this genuine American group of different social and religious denominations, came from a family of Baptist believers. A medical doctor by profession, and an ardent Bible student with a searching mind, he had a spiritual awakening when he was 30 years old. The Earth was shown to him as the Universe, the Cosmos, an orderly, harmonious system complete in itself. He translated his Christian name Cyrus into the Biblical KORESH and traced his ancestry to Jesus Christ, to the House of David, and to Abraham.

Koreshan Universology teaches that science and religion are identical. As a world system religio-science concerns all practical life. It applies to every phase and depart-

ment of form and function in the universe. The Bible written under inspiration, is balanced by the Cellular Cosmogony, the textbook written by Koresh. He explains how the smallest unit of life, the microcosmic cell, builds up into all sizes and shapes and forms of cell groups into the macrocosmic cell--the universe. The universe, to be everything, it must contain all things. The universe is the limit of all space and form. Nothing is outside. Analogical reasoning is a Koreshan principle, a guideline. A law found and proved operative in one domain, will prove to be true in every domain.

Koresh, the spiritual leader, also was the sole architect of the material structure of the Koreshan movement. In 1893 he chartered the Koreshan University in Chicago to bring higher education to students of Universology. In 1903 he applied to the State of New Jersey for charter of The Koreshan Unity, Corporation, which guaranteed the legal basis for operation. The Guiding Star Publishing House, the Koreshan Press, was the valued instrument for publishing the religious magazine, The Flaming Sword, the secular paper, The American Eagle, and all his writings, a voluminous material available to students.

To build "The New Jerusalem" according to prophecy, Koresh mapped out in detail land acquired in Estero, Lee County, in 1894. *"You are building for future generations,"* were the inspiring words often heard by the Koreshan pioneers, who knew as well as he did that none of these early settlers would live to see their mission fulfilled.

Koresh died on December 22, 1908. His Universology is living.

In 1961 the Board of Directors of The Koreshan Unity, Inc., deeded 305 acres, a part of their landholdings, to the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials as "*a gift to the people*," known as Koreshan State Park.

At the Bicentennial Celebration, in Estero, on October 17, 1976, at the annual Solar Festival, in memory of the birthday of Koresh, the guest speaker, Ney C. Landrum, Tallahassee, Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Florida Department of Natural Resources, told of the Koreshan Settlement: "There is no other place like this in the nation, nor in the world." A member of the Florida Bicentennial Commission, he outlined future plans for restoration. "We want to bring the Koreshan Unity Settlement back to life in a physical sense as part of the State's "living history" program, showing the way the early settlers here carried on their day-to-day work."

Nominated to the Register of Historic Places on May 5, 1976, as "The Koreshan Unity Settlement Historic District," the pioneer movement will be perpetuated and the legacy of Koreshan Universology will be the subject of learning. "*The seed will sprout*," Koresh said.

May the planners and architects of the historic preservation project, which they present in the following pages, prove their

spiritual and material strength to do justice to their unique task. This is the sincere wish and hope of

Hedwig Michel
President, The Koreshan Unity, Inc.
President, Pioneer Educational Foundation,
Inc.
Estero, Lee County

Preface

The question of the historical significance of any settlement, peoples or buildings is always certain to generate discussions of varied and opposing viewpoints as to the merits of such a project. It is not an issue easily resolved. This study, while recognizing this issue, does not attempt to resolve it. The purpose of this document is to present to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, for the State of Florida, a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the physical development of the structures and grounds of a utopian community established in Florida in the 1890's. The chapters that deal with the history of the people and their religious beliefs as they relate to the development of the settlement is necessarily brief. Our intentions were not to document the Koreshan history but to present a synopsis that would familiarize persons involved in the restoration with the Unity history. It is our expressed desire that this study will serve as the vehicle and catalyst for the restoration of the settlement.

The community still exists today making it one of the most successful communities ever established in Florida, and according to Fine, "....one of the most enduring of the

American originated utopian communities."

It is somewhat unique that the settlers of this pioneer community were highly educated, often very "well-to-do" people who forfeited everything to pursue this pioneer way of life. While the Koreshan philosophy, teachings and way of life originated prior to the establishment of the settlement in Estero, Florida, it is the founding, the development, and the subsequent decline of the Koreshan Unity in Estero to which our efforts will be directed.

We were indeed fortunate that this project was so well documented. There is a tremendous amount of material in the Unity's possession, both written and photographic, that was invaluable in reconstructing the history of its development. A great deal of time and effort went into reviewing the available written materials and reference sources and conducting interviews with persons connected with, or knowledgeable of the history of the settlement. Each source of information was cross-checked against other sources for correlation and to establish the highest degree of authenticity possible. As the work progressed, new pieces of information emerged that generated enthusiasm and a more accurate base for this report. It is realized, however, that there are additional sources of information in the possession of the Unity that as yet have not surfaced. The success of a project of this type is highly dependent upon the accuracy of the resource information reviewed, and it is hoped that when additional sources of information become available, they can and

will be reviewed for their relevancy to the project.

We were assisted in this project by a number of people throughout the State and we are deeply indebted to them for their interest and assistance. We would like to extend our appreciation to Mrs. Alma Trebell for the loan of the pencil sketches drawn by her mother-in-law Mrs. Edith Campbell while she was a member of the Unity. Captain Paul Perras, who served as a liaison and guide and whose interest in the settlement was most inspiring.

A special debt of gratitude is extended to Miss Hedwig Michel, President of the Koreshan Unity, Estero, Florida, for material, information, advice, and above all, her patience in trying to help us understand the intangible aspects of the Koreshan history and philosophy. Her enthusiasm and dedication was contagious and many times the conviction of her beliefs added the necessary impetus to move us out of a maze of seemingly uncomprehensible contradictions and head us in the right direction. We are grateful for the warm hospitality accorded us at the Koreshan community by Miss Michel and Mr. and Mrs. George Horne, and for the many introductions to individuals connected with the community.

G. M. Herbert
I. S. K. Reeves V

1. History

The founding of the Koreshan Unity Settlement, in Estero, Florida, was not a beginning but a continuation of events started in the town of Moravia, New York, in 1880, by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed. What evolved was a post-christian utopian community, the manifestation of a cultural, religious and scientific ethic, that was to survive an unfriendly and often hostile society in its efforts to establish and maintain an environment favorable to the development and growth of its religious, scientific and cultural philosophies. In order to better understand the reasons for the establishment of the settlement in Estero, it is necessary to take a brief look into the history of Koreshanity.

History has been witness to many utopian communities. When man first perceived that there could be a state of ideal perfection, the seed of utopianism was first planted. The visions of this ideal perfection have manifested themselves in many different ways and have been influenced by such diverse characteristics as communism, celibacy, moral freedom, religiousness, communalism, secularism and on and on. As diverse as the communities have been, and as numerous as the characteristics that have influenced them, there were some criteria common

to them all: 1) They were groups of people who withdrew from normal interaction with the rest of society to act as a unit in meeting their common needs, and 2) The roots of almost every community can be traced to an individual, usually of strong character, profound conviction of beliefs and the ability to motivate people, who was the inspiration and provided the dynamic leadership necessary for the development of the community. The Koreshan Unity, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, is such an example. What better place to begin than with the man himself.

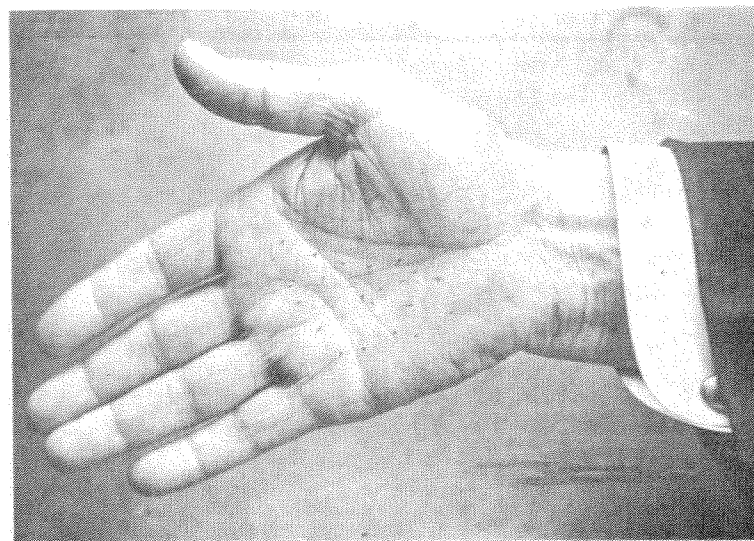


Illustration No. 1. The Hand of Koresh (Dr. Cyrus R. Teed). Photograph found in the Koreshan Unity records, dating to approximately 1905.

Dr. Cyrus Read Teed, The Man

Dr. Cyrus R. Teed has been regarded by many people as the leader of a charlatan-led community. A close examination of his life shows the growth of his powers, the influence that he had over the lives of people and how this influence continued even after his death. Some authors have considered Teed a rogue, others have considered him a sincere unselfish individual. Many have labeled and dismissed him as a charlatan, but he was a man that should be neither easily labeled nor dismissed.¹ In the words of The Chicago Herald, "A man of such tremendous energies is well worth studying."²

Cyrus Read Teed³ was born on October 18, 1839, in a small settlement called Teedsville, in Delaware County, New York. He was the second son of eight children of Jesse and Sarah Ann Tuttle Teed. His father, Jesse Teed, was a farmer and inventor and shortly after the birth of Cyrus, the family moved to New Hartford, New York.⁴ At the age of eleven, Cyrus quit school and went to

¹Howard D. Fine, The Koreshan Unity...Utopian Community; We Live Inside the World, p. 13.

²Ibid.

³Ibid. According to Fine, the middle name of Cyrus Teed may be: Read, which is used by the Koreshan Unity; Reed, which is used by the Library of Congress; or Romulus, which occurs in early sources.

⁴Ibid, p. 14.

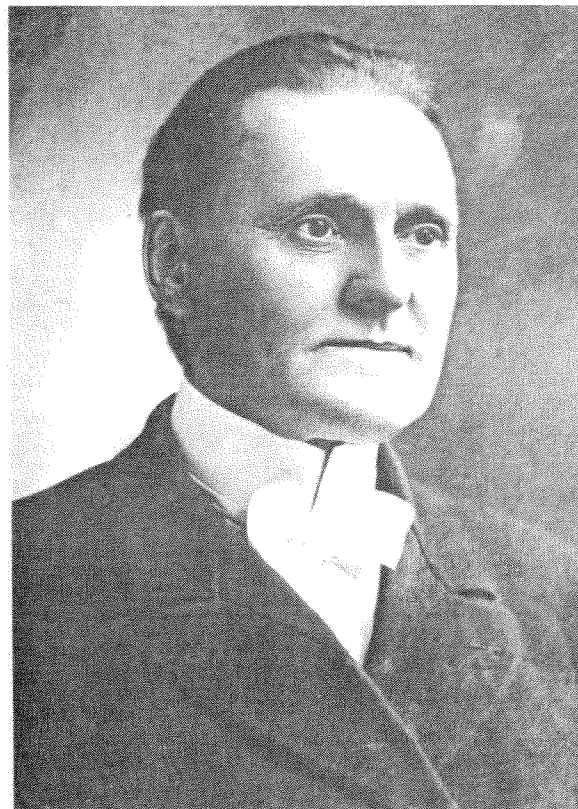


Illustration No. 2. This photograph appears in the pamphlet The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, and is probably circa 1906. In 1898 Henry Silverfriend wrote the following description: "In the personality of Dr. Teed is expressed a man of distinguished appearance; his eyes are a bright and lustrous shade of brown, his hair is worn combed back and always neatly trimmed... He is always clean shaven, has an aquiline nose and chin that is very broad. His perceptive are very prominent, making his forehead appear to recede. In his walk and gesture, he is rather graceful and has a very deep resonant sympathetic voice which is more electrical at times than others. His modulation at times is very good, but at other times he does not appear to realize the amount of energy he puts into his voice."

work on the tow path of the Erie Canal⁵ to help provide for the fast growing family. His parents were of the Baptist faith, and as Cyrus grew older his friends urged him to study for the ministry because of his natural oratorical ability. Cyrus was not interested in the ministry, however, and due, undoubtedly to the influence of his uncle Samuel who was an allopathic physician, decided instead to study medicine.⁶

✓ Cyrus began his medical studies with his uncle, Dr. Samuel F. Teed, in 1859. In that year he also married a distant cousin, Delia M. Row of Meredith, New York, and the following year their son, Douglas Arthur, was born.⁷ In 1862, Cyrus moved his family to New York City and, in August of that year, joined the Union Army and was mustered in as a corporal in Company F of the 127th New York Infantry. In October, 1863, after serving for only fifteen months, Cyrus was discharged for "disability" from

⁵Richard S. Berrey, The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of A Communistic Experiment in Florida, p. 32.

⁶Fine, p. 14.

⁷Ibid, pp. 14-15.

⁸Ibid, p. 15.

⁹Ibid, p. 16.

¹⁰Ibid, pp. 16-17. Another version (Elliott J. Mackle, Jr., The Koreshan Unity In Florida 1894-1810, p.9) is that after graduation,..."he began the practice of eclectic medicine, a discipline which includes the use of many diverse remedies and herb cures," and that in nearby Deerfield..."Teed set up an 'electro-alchemical' laboratory in which to conduct experiments in the transmutation (or 'recipro-

the hospital in Alexandria, Virginia,⁸ and from this point on Teed was no longer to live the life of a normal complacent citizen.

In 1867, after the end of the war, Cyrus attended the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, and was graduated in February, 1868, Cyrus R. Teed, M.D.⁹ Cyrus then joined his uncle Samuel in a joint medical practice in Utica, but left in late 1869 1896 to set up his own practice in an office next door to his residence.¹⁰

In the winter of 1869-1870, Teed, at the age of thirty, was working alone in his laboratory late one night and succeeded in discovering--so he later claimed--"*the secret of transforming matter of one kind to its equivalent energy, and in reducing this energy through polaric influence, to matter of another kind.*"¹¹ This unusual and mysterious revelation was referred to

cal interchange') of matter and energy." This might refer to the practice that he established next door to his residence after leaving his uncle.

¹¹Mackle, p. 10. A more complete account can be found in Cyrus R. Teed, The Illumination of Koresh: Marvelous Experience of the Great Alchemist at Utica, New York, pp. 1-4. Teed is quoted as saying "The 'Philosopher's Stone' had been discovered, and I was the humble instrument for the exploitation of so magnitudinous a result..." He was also quoted elsewhere as saying that "knowledge is power; and the knowledge of the universe at once puts into the hand of the discovered, the supreme power over the world of mind and matter. It is the key to all realms of thought--The Philosopher's Stone." See Berrey, p. 10.

by Teed as an "Illumination," and though there is no contemporary evidence, he did describe what happened in writing, but probably not until about twenty years later.¹² This illumination was to become the principle justification for Teed's leadership and philosophy of life. In his thesis on The Koreshan Unity in Florida, Mackle relates:

"...on the night of his discovery in 1869, elated because of the success of his experiment, Dr. Teed felt that he could cause God the Father to appear before him in bodily form. Concentrating upon this thought, he fell into a trance. Strange sensations affected his brain as he moved into a state of disembodied ecstasy. Soft, sweet music sounded as though from a thousand miles away. A feminine voice, that of the Divine Motherhood, began to speak, telling him that she had, though a virgin, borne him and that she was both his mother and his bride 'from which the Sons of God shall spring into visible creation.' She told him that she had nurtured and supported him through countless incarnations, and that he was now at the end of his transmigrations: 'The broken continuity of perpetual dying is gone from thee forever.'

"Then, appearing to Cyrus in an aurora of purple and gold light,

the Divine and beautiful Mother revealed to him the duality of the parental God (i.e., God the Father-and-Mother in one). She also told him that he had been chosen to redeem the race and that, although his struggle in this would be difficult, she would lead and assist him in the future by again assuming mortal form and joining him in the world. Adding that the light of Jesus's life was to be considered truth and a model of earthly perfection, she turned, and Dr. Teed fell deeper into the trance.

"The vision and trance-state at an end, Cyrus returned to his home and slept for two hours. Upon arising he heard the sound of a hurricane and the voice of chariot wheels in the night. These sounds were twice repeated. When silence returned, Dr. Teed began to hear delicate, rhythmic murmurings. Slowly these sounds revealed to him by gradual unfolding over a period of time, 'the mystery of Immortal Life.'¹³

This was to be the beginning of a new era in Teed's life. In his illumination, he had experienced the female part of the Mother-Father-God, and she had related to him that sometime in the future he would be led by the divine hand. Cyrus was to

¹²Fine, p. 17.

¹³Mackle, pp. 11-13.

later in life change his name to Koresh, the Hebrew transliteration of the Persian translation of Cyrus.¹⁴ This experience was of such magnitude to Dr. Teed that he continued to write and lecture on the subject for the rest of his life.

For the next several years, Dr. Teed began to move from town to town in New York, practicing medicine and spreading the word of the prophecy with which he had been favored. He gained few disciples during the 1870's, but among the converts that he did effect during that period were a Dr. and Mrs. A. W. K. Andrews of Binghamton, New York, who were to be instrumental in helping Teed establish a society of communists in Moravia, New York.¹⁵ About this same time, Doctors Teed and Andrews were corresponding with the trustees of the Harmony Society at Economy, Pennsylvania, and in 1878 Dr. Teed visited their community to see firsthand a successful socialistic community.¹⁶

Mrs. Teed, having been left by Cyrus and experiencing failing health since the mid-1870's, took their son and went to live with her sister in Binghamton, New York, where in 1885, Mrs. Teed died.¹⁷ Teed's son, Douglas Arthur, apparently had little to do with his father, and became quite an accomplished artist in Binghamton, having his paintings displayed at the Royal Academy of Canada, the Guild Hall exhibi-

tion in London, the Crystal Palace at Munich and the International Exhibition of Fine Arts at Rome.¹⁸ In 1905, a number of Douglas Arthur Teed's paintings were pur-



Illustration No. 3. In an early edition of the Flaming Sword, Teed was described as "A man slightly under medium height, about five feet six inches and weight 165 pounds. Quite often he is garbed in a Prince Albert coat and with a white bow tie, he appears the physician of repute and discernment." Photograph circa 1900.

¹⁴Fine, p. 19.

¹⁵Mackle, pp. 13-14.

¹⁶Ibid, p. 15.

¹⁷Fine, p. 21.

¹⁸Ibid, p. 22.

chased by the Koreshan Unity where they still hang in the Art Hall.

Dr. Teed and his followers moved to New York City and, in 1886, he was invited to address a convention of the National Association of Mental Science meeting in Chicago. He accepted, and the delegates to the convention were so impressed with Dr. Teed's persuasiveness that he was elected president of the organization.¹⁹ For this reason, and the fact that the climate was a little more friendly to Teed's beliefs, he decided to remain in Chicago where he began gathering converts in increasing numbers. A church (initially named the Assembly of the Covenant, or Church Triumphant²⁰) and an educational institution (called the World's College of Life) were organized in the fall of 1886, and in December a magazine, the Guiding Star, began publication.²¹ By early 1887, the Society Arch-Triumphant was organized with Mrs. Annie G. Ordway becoming president; assuming the position of dual associate prophesied by the Divine Motherhood in 1869.²² Thus, Teed had succeeded in founding the three basic divisions of his society, the College of Life, the Church Triumphant and the Society Arch-Triumphant; and, during this time, while Cyrus began using such terms as "*Koreshan*

Theology" and "*Koreshan School*," he refrained from referring to himself as "*Koresh*" in print.²³

Teed continued moving about the Chicago area until, on September 6, 1888, a cooperative home for his College of Life was established, appropriately, in a home on College Place.²⁴ This was to be the home where the Koreshan Unity would sprout from a group of religious socialists into a post-Christian utopian community. A print shop, the Guiding Star Publishing House, was established in 1888, and from this began to flow leaflets, pamphlets, books and periodicals issued as educational propaganda by the group.²⁵ The Guiding Star was put to rest in May 1889 and the following December, in its place, rose the monthly Flaming Sword, under Teed's editorship. Teed was still publishing material under the name Cyrus in 1889, but by 1891 he was calling himself Koresh.²⁶

It was during these years that Cyrus was to meet some of the people who would become his most ardent supporters. Dr. Andrews became vice president of the College of Life, James H. Bubbett was secretary of the Guiding Star Publishing House and later Mrs. Evelyn Bubbett was its manager.²⁷ Ulysses

¹⁹Mackle, p. 15.

²⁰Ibid, p. 16.

²¹Ibid.

²²Ibid. This parity of authority was reflected in the Unity's strong emphasis on women's rights, "female equity" (Hedwig Michel). His concern for the liberation of women was to lead to much misunderstanding for Dr. Teed and the Unity, and was

probably responsible for a lot of the unpleasant notoriety. (Mackle)

²³Fine, p. 26.

²⁴Ibid; Berrey, p. 34.

²⁵Mackle, p. 17.

²⁶Fine, p. 27

²⁷Ibid.

G. Morrow, after joining the Koreshans, collaborated on writings with Cyrus, developed the rectilineator and was instrumental in conducting the scientific experiments that "proved" the world's surface was really concave; and, Professor O. F. L'Amoreaux, from Wheaton College, who wrote pamphlets and endless articles for the Koreshan publications.²⁸

In 1890, a colony of the Chicago group called the Golden Gate Assembly of the Koreshan Unity established itself in San Francisco. The colony, however, lasted less than two years, and in 1892 the remaining members (about twenty-five in all) and Teed returned to Chicago.²⁹ Perhaps the only real significant aspect of the San Francisco colony was the publication of a newspaper first called the Pruning Hook and later the Plowshare and Pruning Hook, which continued to be published in Chicago for a few years after the colony in California was dissolved.³⁰

Dr. Teed continued to gain fame and notoriety as he traveled and lectured. The ranks of his membership steadily increased as did the amounts contributed to his movement by audiences and new members of the Unity. Teed was also attempting, at about this same time, to organize a cooperative confederation of the various communistic societies in the United States, including the Shaker Community, but these attempts

were to go unsuccessful.³¹

After some years in Chicago, Dr. Teed decided to remove the Unity from the city and settled in a large communal home which they called Beth-Ophra. While life was at times pleasant and placid, the newspapers of Chicago were not content to ignore the Unity, nor were the husbands of some of the



Illustration No. 4. This early picture of Dr. Teed (circa 1890) was published in the January 1974 edition of the American Eagle. Teed was described by Rahn as "...having a luxuriant growth on his chin and a mustache, and up to 1891 he had never shaved his face as there was very little hair on his face or cheeks."

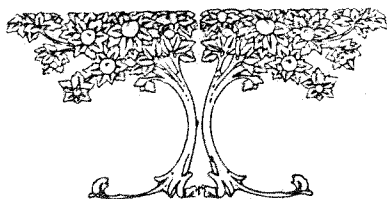
²⁸Fine, p. 27.

²⁹Ibid, pp. 28-31; Mackle, p. 18.

³⁰Berrey, pp. 35-36; Fine, pp. 28-31; Mackle, p. 19.

³¹Fine, pp. 29-30.

women who went to live at Beth-Ophra. Several husbands filed suits for alienation of affection against Teed and, at one time, a committee to lynch Teed was proposed.³² The newspapers sensationalized articles and reported these events in lurid detail, alleging all manor of illicit activities within the Unity. As a result of the pressures being exerted upon the Unity, and the uncomfortable atmosphere in Chicago, Dr. Teed proposed to build a new city where the Unity might live in peace and spread the doctrines of Koreshanity across the earth.³³ Little happened until Koresh went south in the winter of 1893 to look at some land on Pine Island, Florida. Although the cost of the land was prohibitive, he did eventually settle on a piece on the banks of the Estero River south of Fort Myers, Florida; and slowly he moved his followers from under the noses of the press, to the relative seclusion of Estero.



³²Mackle, p. 24. For more detailed information of the suits brought against Teed, see Fine, pp. 31-34.

³³Ibid, p. 25.

2. Koreshan Universology

Beliefs

The Koreshan Unity has been described as "...a religious and fraternal commonwealth, and calls its entire system of religious, scientific and social beliefs Koreshan Universology."¹ Within this system can be found a composite theology, scientific world view, social and economic theory and the organizational structure of the Koreshan Unity. The basis of the system was a literal interpretation of the Bible, however, many separate parts of the system relate to, and were quite possibly derived from similar theories and beliefs. William Alfred Hinds, the author of American Communities,

¹Elliott J. Mackle, Jr., The Koreshan Unity in Florida, p. 20. (According to Fine, the Unity operated under several names over the years, "about 1887-1889 it was called Koreshim, Koreshism, or Koreshan Science and the followers were called Koreshans. By about 1890-1892 the religion was being referred to as Koreshanity. In the late 1890's the term Koreshan Universology came into use as an umbrella description."

²Mackle, p. 20, quoting William Alfred Hinds,

observed that..."Startling as were the claims of Ann Lee, Rapp, Janson, Harris and other community founders, they are not to be named with those of the Koreshan founder, which outrival those of any human being since time began."²

As a post-Christian scientific religion, Koreshanity believes the Bible to be the best written expression of the Divine Mind but that it must be scientifically interpreted in light of the theories of Teed's book, The Cellular Cosmogony.³ Koreshanity teaches that man should revert to the communistic way of the early Christian Church with celibacy being practiced by the leaders and procreation being left to the masses.⁴

God is seen as the origin and destiny of man, the supreme source of being and activity. God is biune, being the Father and Mother in one, and is "alternately male and female in outer manifestation."⁵ Immortality was obtainable by all men if they followed the principles of immortal life, namely: 1) They must accept Koresh as the Messiah and the Messenger of the Covenant, which meant believing in the basic factors

American Communities, p. 387.

³Howard David Fine, The Koreshan Unity: Utopian Community: We Live Inside the World, pp. 64-65. Cyrus R. Teed, pseud, Koresh, and U. G. Morrow, The Cellular Cosmogony; or The Earth A Concave Sphere.

⁴Fine, p. 65.

⁵Ibid.

of the covenant..."The conjunction of God and Elohim, (Elijah) with the sensual man in whom God must come...The conjunction of this man's external with God, through the potency of desire to be one with God...The conjunction of God with all men through the final sex unity, which will be the blending of the two forms, the destruction of the sex dualistic state, and the substitution of the unistic state, which will be the neuter, the virgin man-woman, the eunuch state,"⁶ and 2) that man must also be obedient to the doctrines that Koresh taught...*"Celibacy and the replacement of the selfish love of marriage with the love of God and the love of man supreme over all the ties of selfishness."*⁷

Another important doctrine was belief in the cellular cosmogony, the theory that we live inside a hollow sphere.⁸ Teed reasoned that God would not create an infinite universe for the infinite is beyond the reach of human understanding and man could not comprehend it. Teed merges the scientific, the cellular cosmogony, into his religious dogma that the universe is finite and contained within the sphere; the inside is all there is and man lives on this inside concave surface. *"To know of the earth's concavity and its relation to a universal form, is to know God; while to believe in the earth's convexity is to deny him and all his works. All that is opposed*

⁶Fine, p. 66.

⁷Ibid.

⁸For more in-depth information on this theory, see The Cellular Cosmogony; or The Earth A Concave Sphere.

to Koreshanity is anti-christ."⁹

It was in 1870 that Dr. Teed claimed to discover that the earth was a hollow sphere and that all life was contained within this sphere.¹⁰ He postulated that the sun revolved in the center of the universe every twenty-four hour period, an invisible electro-magnetic battery, and the sun we saw was only a reflection as were the planets and the moon. The sphere had a diameter of 8000 miles and a circumference of 25,000 miles with the concave surface bending upward at the rate of 128 inches every four and one-third miles. It was not possible to see from one side to the other across the sphere because the total atmosphere was too dense, being composed of three atmospheres; oxygen and nitrogen, hydrogen and aboron. The earth's shell was one hundred miles thick and made up of seventeen layers. The inner five layers are geologic strata, the middle five are mineral layers and the outer seven are metallic layers.¹¹

The Koreshan geodetic staff began the first experiments to prove Teed's theory in Chicago in 1896 under the direction of Dr. Teed and U. G. Morrow. These experiments were apparently inclusive though, and it was not until the Naples, Florida, experiment that Teed and Morrow felt that they had satisfactorily proven this theory

⁹Fine, p. 67.

¹⁰Ibid, p. 68.

¹¹Teed and Morrow, The Cellular Cosmogony, p. 105.

and could state with added conviction the words which were to become one of the Koreshan's favorite public mottos: "We Live Inside."¹²

A condensed and authentic synopsis of the main points of Koreshan Universology was printed in the July 12, 1901, edition of the Flaming Sword, and is quoted as follows:¹³

Koreshan Universology is a complete system of Science of the great Universe of Life; and it involves the knowledge of the Creator and his creation. The name by which it is designated, in contradiction to perverted Christianity, is Koreshanity; and the new Religion must supplant Christianity, as Christianity supplanted Judaism. Koreshanity has come to

¹²A good, thorough description of the instrument and its function can be found in The Cellular Cosmogony. We have taken the liberty, however, of reproducing a much more simplified account from Mackle's Thesis, pp. 52-54. "The method of the experiment was to locate an absolutely level air line 128 inches above a fixed water line and then extend this air line in an absolutely straight direction. The apparatus designed by Morrow to extend the air lines was called the rectilineator (Illustration 10), '(from rectus, right and linea, line).' It consisted of a number of sections in the form of double T squares twelve feet long with braced and tensioned cross arms four feet high. The double T squares were of seasoned mahogany cross-braced with steel tension bars; the facing of each vertical

fulfill the hope of the world in the liberation of humanity from the curse, in the establishment of the kingdom of God and earth, the introduction of the new Era of Light and Life, of universal harmony and happiness.

What does Koreshanity teach? We present a brief summary of the System--a few cardinal points, which will serve to suggest the great scope of the System in its completeness. It is the antithesis of all modern theories, of all schools of thought. It is the climax of all mental progress, the ultimate and absolute truth of Being and Existence; it is the revelation of all mystery, the uncovering of the occult; the true explanation of all phenomena, the scientific interpre-

cross arm was fitted with brass flanges through which screws could be inserted. Each section was supported by two platform standards fitted with adjustable cleats with clamps. When the first section was accurately leveled, the vertical bar of a second was carefully attached to it by interlocking the flanges of each with screws, the second section being supported by carefully adjusted platform standards. A third section was then joined to the second, continuing, by the use of right angles, the straight line. The first section could then be removed and joined to the third section."

¹³Richard S. Berrey, The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of A Communistic Experiment in Florida, pp. 3-8. (Berrey cites the July 12, 1901 edition for this information and Mackle cites the February 1, 1901 edition, this author did not verify which date was correct.)

tation of nature and the Bible.

Cosmogony.- The universe is a cell, a hollow globe, the physical body of which is the earth; the sun is at the center. We live on the inside of the cell; and the sun, moon, planets and stars are all within the globe. The universe is eternal, a great battery and perpetually renews itself through inherent functions, by virtue of which it involves and evolves itself.

Alchemy.- The Science of Alchemy is the Philosopher's Stone, the Key to the mystery of life. Chemistry is false; alchemy is true! Matter and energy are interconvertible and interdependent; they are correlates; matter is destructible; the result of its transmutation is energy; alchemy is the key to the analysis of the universe.

Theology.- God is personal and biune, with a trinity of specific attributes. God in his perfection and power is the God-man or man-God, the Seed of universal perpetuity. Jesus the Christ was God Almighty; the Holy Spirit was the product of his transmutation, or the burning of his body.¹⁴

¹⁴This paragraph on Theology was omitted from Berrey's account but appears in Mackle's Thesis, so we have taken the liberty of including it in this

Messianic Law.- The coming of the Messiah is as inevitable as the reproduction of the seed. The divine seed was sown nineteen hundred years ago; the first-fruit is another Messianic personality. The Messiah is now in the world, declaring the scientific Gospel (during the life of Koresh).

Reincarnation is the central law of life--the law of the resurrection.- Reincarnation and resurrection are identical. Resurrection is reached through a succession of re-embodiments. One generation passes into another; the millions of humanity march down the stream of time together.

The Spiritual World.- Heaven and hell are in humanity, and constitute the spiritual world; the spiritual domain is mental, and is in the natural humanity, - not in the sky.

Human Destiny. Origin and destiny are one and the same. The origin of man is God, and God is man's destiny. God is the highest product of the universe, the apex of humanity. Absorption into Nirvana is entrance into eternal life--in the interior spheres of humanity, not in the sky or atmosphere.

account in the same sequence as it appears in Mackle.

Immortality in the Flesh.-

Koreshanity declares and defines the laws of immortality, and its attainment in the natural world. The first step is recognition of the Messiah and the application of his truth. Koresh was the first in modern times to announce the possibility of overcoming death in the natural world, in the flesh.

Celibacy.- The saving of human life consists in the conservation and appropriation of life in humanity. To become immortal, one must cease to propagate life on the plane of mortality. The standard of Koreshan purity is the virgin life of Jesus the Messiah. The Central Order of the Koreshan Unity is celibate and communistic. Celibacy obtains in the central nucleus, never in the world at large (only members of the Ecclesia are by law celibate).

Psychology.- Koreshanity points to the basis of all psychic phenomena of spiritism, mental healing, et cetera, and teaches the science of the revelation of mind and matter.

The Bible.- The Bible is the best written expression of the divine Mind; it is written in the language of universal symbolism, and must be scientifically interpreted. Koreshanity demonstrates the truth and scientific accuracy of the Scriptures, and proves its astronomy, alchemy, theology, eth-

nology, et cetera. There is no conflict between the Bible and genuine Science, the Bible and the natural universe must agree in their expression of the divine Mind.

Communism.- Koreshanity advocates communism, not only of the goods of life, but of life itself. It has not only the scientific theory of communism, but is practically communistic in the relations and affairs of its own people. In this it corresponds to the primitive Christian church, where all things were held in common. The bond of the true communism is the true religion, and the central personality of the divine communism is the Messiah.

Koreshan Socialism.- Our Social System is patterned after the form of the natural cosmos; that form is the natural expression of the laws of order. We demonstrate the fallacy of competition (competition); advocate the destruction of the money power; the control of the products of industry by the government, and the equitable distribution of the goods of life. Koreshanity will abolish wage slavery, and make it impossible for men to accumulate wealth and impoverish the people.

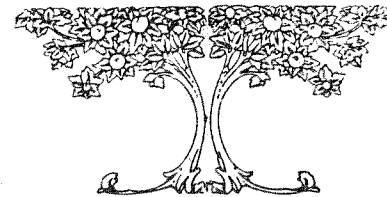
Church and State.- The true form of government is the divine Imperialism, the unity of church and state; such will be the Kingdom of God in earth. The Koreshan Government is the unity

of the empire and the republic, involving the principles of all present forms of government, which are but fragments of the perfect system which existed in ancient times--in the Golden Age of the past. The government of the universe is imperialistic and humanity will constitute a unit only when every class is emplaced at rest and liberty as are the strata, stars and spheres of the physical cosmos.

Another dimension of Koreshanity that was an important aspect of their social beliefs was their theory on women's rights. In the Koreshan Unity, women were given the equity that they were fighting for in the society around them.¹⁵ They were an integral part of the structure of the Unity as witnessed by the fact that Koresh had a "dual-associate" in Victoria Gratia. The Planetary Chamber was comprised of all women and the Signet Chamber was half men and half women. Women were given a strong voice in the decision-making process and took part in running the Koreshan Unity while other women worked in various activities, such as teaching and printing. Through Koreshanity women were to be restored to their rightful

¹⁵The term equity is used here as opposed to equality. While the term equality crops up from time to time in various publications, in personal interviews, Miss Hedwig Michel insisted that the real thrust of the movement was for female equity, recognizing that because of physical differences between men and women, there was no such thing as

place in society, and Victoria Gratia, in her pamphlet Women's Restoration to Her Rightful Dominion, stated that women had the right to their own religious conviction and that by denying their husbands sexual pleasures, women could achieve their emancipation.¹⁶



true "equality."

¹⁶This may be the reason for the reportedly high percentage of female members in various accounts, and the fact that female members seemed somewhat more easily attracted to Koreshanity. They even established a Women's Mission in Chicago to attract women to the movement.

Structure

The structure of the Koreshan Unity had basically two dimensions, with the first dimension involving the levels of membership and the second dimension being the Order of Koresh, which contained the four functional departments--Church Triumphant, College of Life, Society Arch-Triumphant and White Horse Army.

Membership - The Koreshan community was comprised of three ascending levels of membership: The investigative, the marital and the celibate-communal; and the level of a person's membership determined his status in the community.¹⁷ The investigative level was the third and most secular order which included the co-operative economic relation to the community and the common marital state. Membership eligibility was described in a Koreshan Unity publication and is reproduced as follows..."All persons whose morals are not objectionable may unite with this order, on the basis that industry shall constitute the right to an equitable share in the production of the industrial unity of the organization. The object of this order is to provide for all

*who wish employment, education, and the resources of industry in equitable share, the wealth of the individual being proportionate to the mass,--industry and economy being the assurance of abundance."*¹⁸

The second level was the marital order, a system of monogamy in accord with the laws of the state and nation. This level, while allowing marriage and higher status, had a basic limitation: *"No member of the order shall violate the true principle of propagative law by prostituting the marital act. Any other purpose than that of propagation is a prostitution of the act, and a violation of the true natural marriage."*¹⁹

The first and highest level was the celibate-communal level. Professor U. G. Morrow described this level as follows: *"The sexes are separate. The purest ideals of life are constantly inculcated. Celibacy is maintained as a stepping stone to higher natural and mental states. The communistic order is comprised of celibates."*²⁰ The men and women of this group lived in separate buildings or dormitories at Estero and were basically the members who first lived at the Chicago community.

Order of Koresh - The Church Triumphant was the church or ecclesiastical system of the Unity and had a definite leadership structure comprised of the following: the central duality, which during Koresh's

¹⁷Fine, p. 78.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Fine, p. 78.

²⁰Ibid, p. 79.

lifetime was composed of Koresh and Victoria Gratia (this was the highest level), the Planetary Chamber, composed of seven women members, the Stellar Chamber, composed of four men, and the Signet Chamber, composed of six men and six women. During the history of the Koreshan movement only the members or leaders of the Church Triumphant belonged to the celibate order.²¹

The College of Life was the educational system made up of teachers and students with its objects being the teaching of academic and scientific subjects and Koreshan Theology. The Koreshan University was registered as a corporation in May 1893, in Chicago, but was soon moved to Estero where it became known as Pioneer University.²² James A. McCoy reported the following concerning its curriculum at Estero. "About one-half of the courses were; Cosmogony, Osteopathy, Dentistry, History and Ethnology, and Higher Mathematics from the Koreshan standpoint. Two courses were offered in Art, and the remainder, approximately one-third of all academic courses, were devoted to music."²³ This emphasis on education, and in particular their interest in music, resulted in the Koreshans developing a popular symphony orchestra and band.

The third department of the Order of Koresh was the Society Arch-Triumphant, the secular society that comprised the general membership of the Koreshan Unity. It was

through this body that a prospective member first joined, being asked only that they try to follow the moral norms of the Universology.²⁴ "We will not tolerate whiskey, beer, tobacco and opium, nor the vices which usually accompany these factors in commerce...It must not be inferred...that we reject applicants on these grounds. People may bring their evil habits into the outer courts of the Koreshan System, for we must receive mankind as we find it; but it is the determination--through the all-pervasive potency of a new force in the government of man--to revolutionize their social lives for the kingdom of righteousness...Any person of moral character may enter the secular society... It does not require money to join. All we demand is the purpose and ability to be useful. We have a membership fee of two dollars per year, but this is expected only from such as are able to pay, and desire so to do for the purpose of facilitating the progress of the work."²⁵

Belief in the scientific or theological doctrines of Koreshan Universology was not a pre-requisite for membership in the Society Arch-Triumphant. It was the economic aspects advocated by the Bureau of Equitable Commerce on which the emphasis was placed.

The fourth department was called the White Horse Army and served as the military arm

²¹Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President of the Koreshan Unity, July, 1976, Estero, Florida.

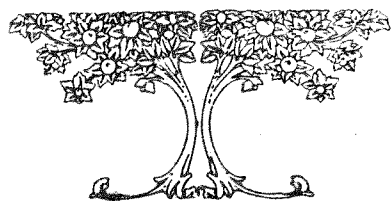
²²Fine, p. 80.

²³The American Eagle, XLV (Estero, Fla.: July, 1966), 15, p. 2.

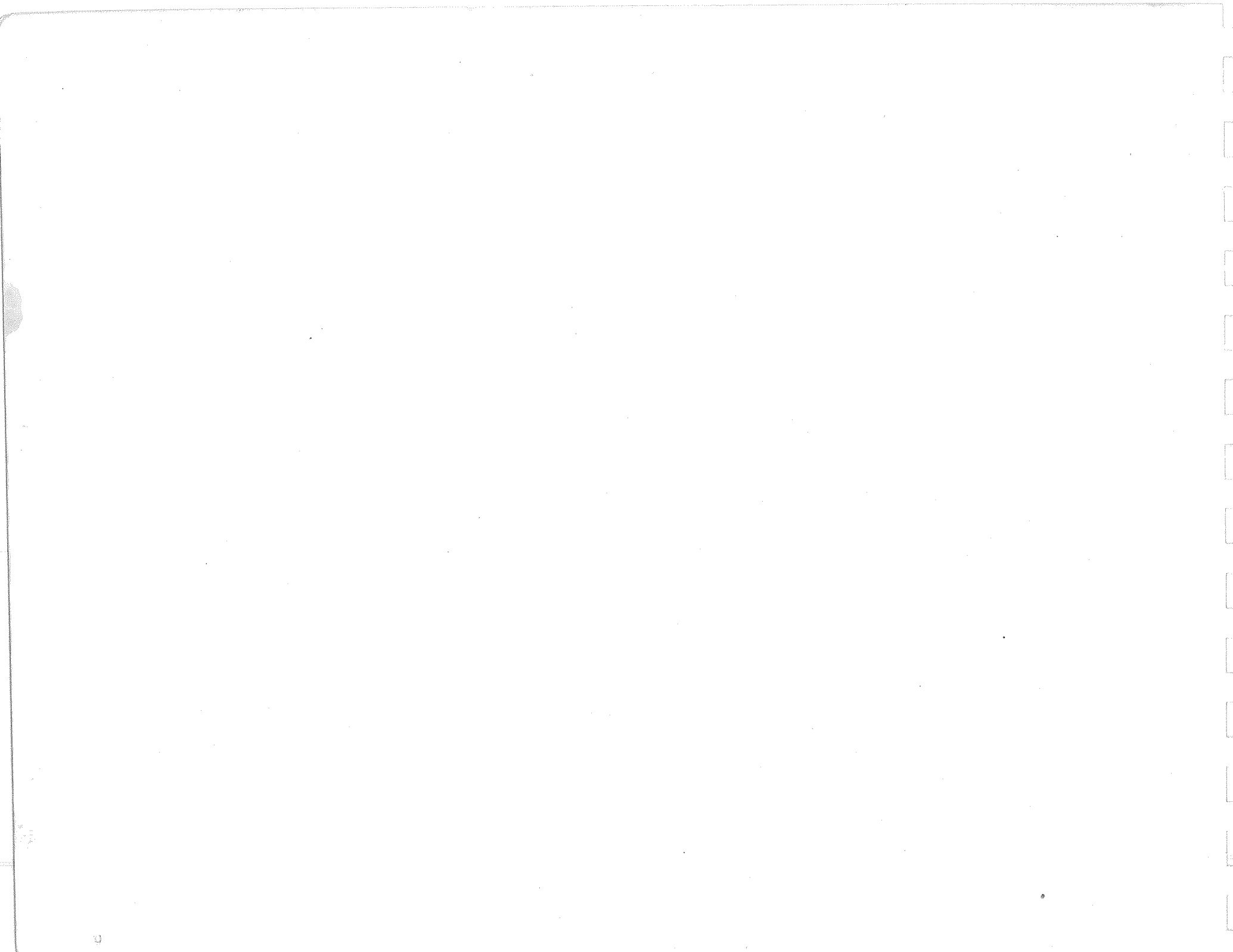
²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Fine, p. 80.

of the Koreshan system. Whether or not it ever really existed is not clear, but in any event, it was to be of a temporary nature, being disbanded after the great battle of Armageddon when the Koreshans would triumph over hell and death. To the army belonged all those *"who will voluntarily place themselves under military discipline and authority for the propaganda of the Koreshan doctrine,"*²⁶



²⁶Fine, p. 80.



3. Estero 1894-1977

The Early Days 1894

The visit of Dr. Teed, Mrs. Ordway and three fellow members¹ of the Koreshan Unity to the homestead of an elderly German settler, Gustave Damkohler, in January of 1894, marks the beginning of the Koreshan Unity Settlement in Estero.

Damkohler, surrounded in mystery, and today still the subject of conflicting reports as to his character, enthusiastically welcomed the group. The Master,² as Damkohler was to refer to Dr. Teed, was able in a short period of time to convince him to give his 320 acres on the Estero river to the Unity. It was on this land that a great city, conceived by Dr. Teed and named "*The New Jerusalem*," was to be built.

This new city, as planned in the 1890's is remarkable in that it envisions concepts of

ecology and "new town" planning being adopted in North America only within the last decade. Designed to eventually have a population of 10,000,000 Koreshans, Dr. Teed described it as follows:

It will contain ten million people, white and black, and will become the greatest city in the world. The site for the construction of the temple is one thousand six hundred feet in diameter, surrounded by a circular sea 300 feet wide, the water being supplied from the Estero bay and Estero river.

The plan for the temple architecture is a central dome and rotunda 300 feet high and 150 feet in diameter. Extending from the rotunda and surrounding it will be a hexagonal structure, from each side of which is a colonnade projecting 150 feet, there being six of these from the six sides of the central structure. These are of complex architectural design. At the end of these six structures will be six magnificent buildings of six distinct kinds of architecture, yet of so congruous a relationship as to give to the entire temple the appearance of general harmony of design and construction. Outside of and around the Crystal sea is a building called the Arcadium. This

¹Richard S. Berrey, The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of a Communistic Experiment in Florida, p. 39. Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer in Florida, p. 46, identifies the women as Mrs. Annie

G. Ordway, Mrs. B. S. Boomer and Mrs. Mary Mills.

²Claude Rahn, A Brief Outline of the Life of Dr. Cyrus R. Teed (Koresh) and of the Koreshan Unity, p. 47.

is not only outside of the temple area, but also outside of the Crystal sea. This enormous edifice will be composed of seven distinct kinds of architecture, encircling seven-eighths of the Crystal sea, one-eighth of the circle being open to the east.

In front of the Arcadium and surrounding it is the Arcade Court. Outside of this court is a circle of eight parks in the form of parabolas adjusted to an octagon street. The parks extend from each section of the octagon toward the Arcade Court. The streets of the city will be laid out 400 feet in breadth, with two lines of parks and three divisions of street in the broad avenues. The parks will embrace fruit and nut trees and ornamental growth. The main streets east and west, north and south, are Meridian Way North, Meridian Way South, Parallel Way East, and Parallel Way West. The name of the octagon street is Triomphe Octagonia. It is about two miles from side to side of this octagon area. It is the design never to construct buildings along the sides of the public avenues. All structures will be arranged in courts at a distance from the streets, and all buildings will be arranged to face outward and inward toward the parks of the city. As the competitive system will be abolished, there will be no necessity

for the kind of traffic which now reduces all our cities to diabolic infernos.

When the New Jerusalem proper assumes such proportions of magnitude and progress in its development as to become permanent in its architectural creation, the underground or basement will be an excavation walled in to complete a system of intercommunication for cables, wires, and perpetually moving platforms for the transportation of the debris and offal, which will be deodorized with earth and chemicals and conveyed to a spot forty or more miles from the city, where it will be reduced to fertilizer and returned to the soil. There will be no dumping of the public waste into the rivers, bays, and gulfs. The waters will never be allowed to be rendered impure by such a barbarian method of disposing of accumulated filth. When the streets are once laid, there will be no necessity for tearing them up to excavate for any purpose, as the channels and avenues for every possible underground use will have been previously arranged for. There will be no telegraphic or telephonic wires overhead to mar the beauty of the city, and to interfere with any kind of traffic. The various kinds of traffic, travel, and transportation will be arranged on planes of different elevations, so as to provide against the commotion, disorder, inconvenience, and danger that now characterizes all large cities

characterize all large cities. The wealth by which these purposes are to be accomplished is the economic adjustment of the uses of industry, as industry alone is the basis of the accumulation of products called wealth.³

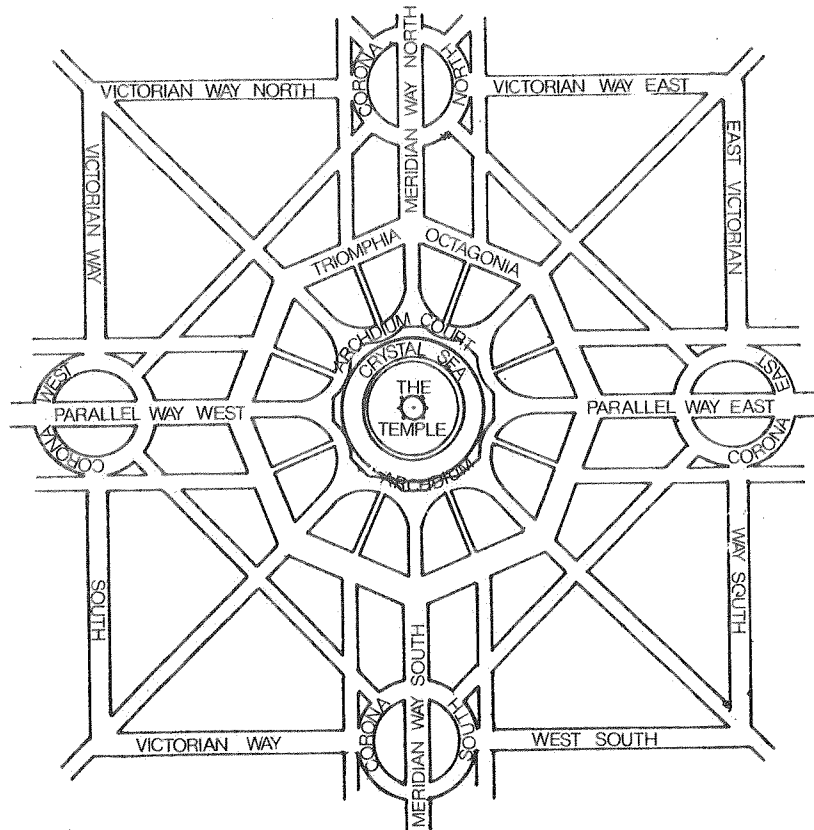


Illustration No. 5. "The New Jerusalem" as envisioned by Dr. Teed, it was planned to eventually house 10,000,000 Koreshans in Estero, and included several concepts of city planning and ecology only recently being adopted in North America.

While these dreams were never to be fulfilled, the fact that the Settlement at Estero prospered and grew is a tribute to the leadership of Dr. Teed, and the enthusiasm of his followers.

The humble one room cottage,⁴ the home of Damkohler, was all that greeted Dr. Teed and his followers when they arrived. The land "...was high and well drained, the river teemed with fish, and the winter weather was decidedly better than that of Chicago."⁵ "They remained for nearly six weeks at Damkohler's small house. Dr. Teed busied himself, grubbing and clearing the land while the women were occupied with the preparation of the meals and other activities about the place. For food supplies they were obliged to row and sail to Pine Island. The river provided fish while Damkohler had quite a few hives of bees. Before returning to Chicago Dr. Teed completed necessary arrangements for the purchase of sufficient land from Mr. Damkohler for the proposed settlement."⁶

The initial concept was to retain the headquarters in Chicago and to establish Estero as a branch colony. Volunteers from the Unity membership were solicited⁷ with four more members joining Dr. Teed and the women on January 29th. "Almost immediately upon

³Berrey, pp. 50-52.

⁴See Structure B-1, 1894 Master Plan.

⁵Allen H. Andrews, Replying to E. E. Damkohler, American Eagle, August 1967, reprint.

⁶Rahn, pp. 47-48.

⁷Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer, pp. 1-2.

their arrival they were sent into the nearby cypress swamps by Mrs. Ordway to cut logs for building materials, but the men's work was unsatisfactory and the project was not a success.⁸

A second group, numbering approximately twenty, arrived from Chicago in February, and were housed initially in tents, such as shown in Illustration #6, and cabbage frond shacks along the banks of the river.⁹

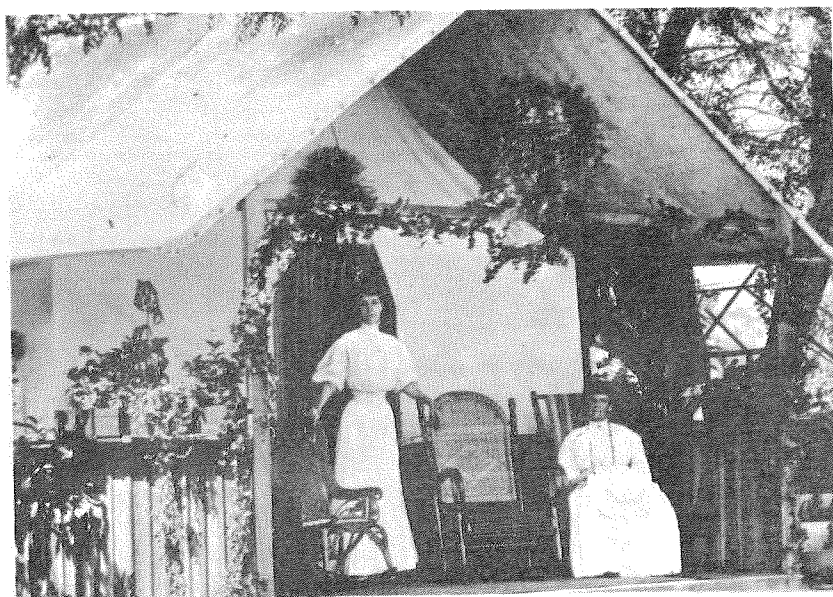


Illustration No. 6. Typical "tent" housing used by the Koreshans when members from Chicago moved to the new Settlement in Estero. It is believed that housing of this type was utilized until construction of the Dining Hall (B-12) in 1897/1898. Photograph circa 1896.

Their first tasks were to continue clearing the land for buildings and to begin establishing gardens to provide vegetables for the settlers. The land did not yield easily to the will of the pioneers and the clearing was tedious and time consuming, but gradually the settlers prevailed over the obstacles nature provided, including the rattlesnakes and mosquitoes. Apparently a greater hinderance to comfort of the settlers than the mosquitoes were the ground fleas, attacking man and animal alike and various means of protection and eradication were undertaken. "At length, the settlers discovered that if they slept inside their blankets, the fleas became entrapped in the woolen lint and were thus easily caught and destroyed. One pioneer reports finding forty-two of these pests in his blanket one morning; but as the land was cleared the fleas gradually disappeared."¹⁰

In mid 1894 work commenced on the first structures of a permanent nature. While there are conflicting reports as to what building was first constructed,¹¹ research indicates that it was the women's log

⁸Elwin E. Damkohler, Estero, Florida, 1882, Memoirs of a First Settler.

⁹Rahn, p. 50.

¹⁰Andrews, Yank Pioneer, p. 6.

¹¹Claude Rahn states the Women's Log House was first, Mackle, referencing Andrews, says the Men's Log House was first. Andrews states the Men's Log House was first, but that construction on the Women's Log House was started at about the same time.

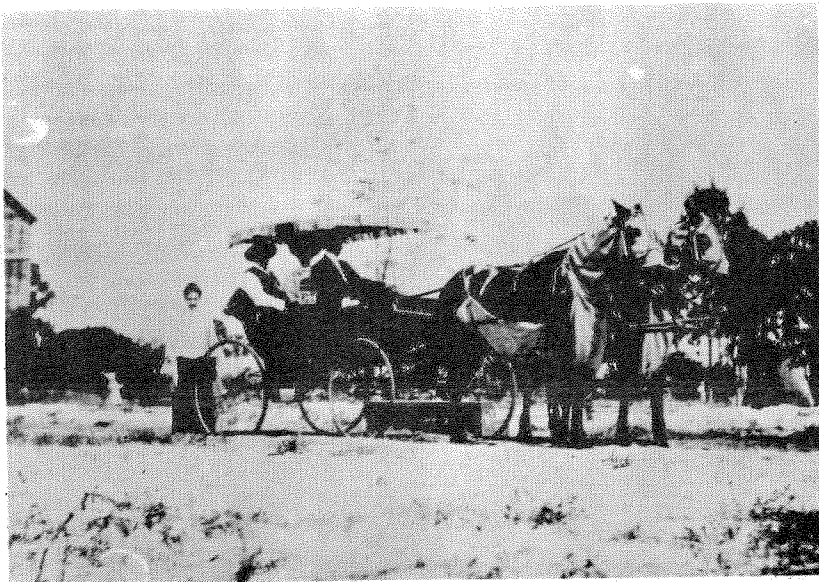


Illustration No. 7. Dr. Teed (Koresh) and fellow members at the Koreshan Unity Settlement. Note the canvas "shields" on the horses believed to be a means of protection from the sand fleas. Photograph circa 1904.

house.¹² Serving various functions and identified by several names over the years, it heralded the first tangible step toward the creation of "*The New Jerusalem*." Built almost totally from local materials, and by Unity labor, it served as the first place of meeting, as well as a women's dormitory. A second structure,¹³ also a log house, was constructed at approximately the same time to house the male Unity members.

Land continued to be cleared, and crops were

planted, but not always successfully. These first steps, as illustrated on the 1894 master development plan, clearly illustrate the substantial amount of work performed by these early pioneers, especially when compared to the minor results of Damkohler and his family after eleven years on the property. Additional buildings were constructed, all basically of indigenous materials and representing typical Florida pioneer construction of the period.

The Settlement, in September 1894, was visited by W. W. Foote, the editor of the Fort Myers Press. "*He found the community located on fine, dry and scrub land, with one of the finest citrus producing tracts in the county. He was impressed by the two-story....dining hall, in which the second floor was used as a dormitory.*"¹⁴ ...Dr. Teed introduced Foote to the Koreshans; they sang a hymn and sat down to a meal of four or five courses, the fare of which was bountiful and sumptuous."¹⁵

It is important to note that the settlement, in its first year of development, was already almost self-sufficient. Fish and seafood, the major food staples, were obtained from the river and bay and vegetables were grown in the gardens.

As was to become typical of various Unity endeavors, specific individuals were

¹²See Building B-2, 1894 Master Plan.

¹³See Building B-3, 1894 Master Plan.

¹⁴The Women's Log House, Building B-2.

¹⁵Fort Myers Press, September 13, 1894.

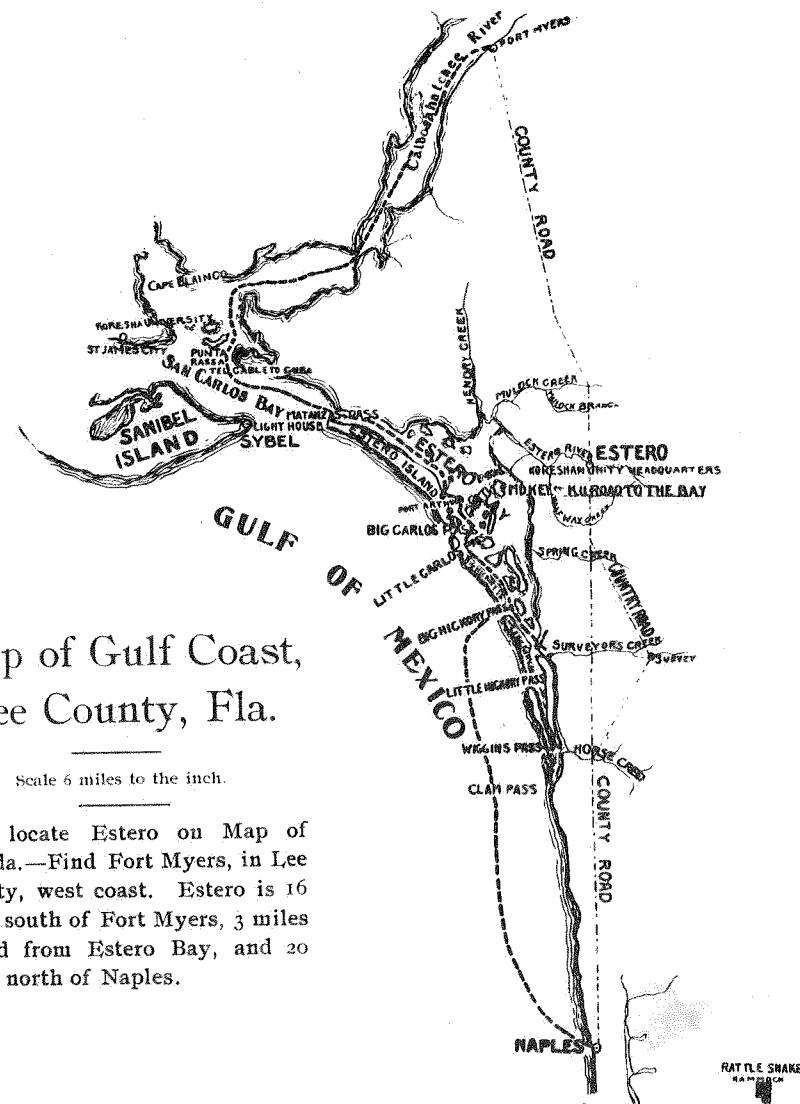
assigned the task of gathering this bountiful harvest from the sea. "This abundance was partly responsible for the loss of the sloop *Ada*¹⁶ a few years later."¹⁷ The captain and crew had gathered over ten thousand clams, loading the sloop beyond capacity, and when returning to the settlement encountered choppy seas near Big Hickory Pass and sank.¹⁸

As dramatic as the progress was in that first year, the new colony was not "ready to receive many additional settlers for several years."¹⁹ An element of concern and one that directly affected its initial growth, was an adequate supply of drinking water. A spring, utilized earlier by Damkohler and his family, had dried up by the time Dr. Teed and his followers arrived. The need for a water source, of a quality fit for drinking, led Andrews to note "Drinking water was brought in by cask on a wheelbarrow...from a surface well out in the woods. It was warm and unsatisfying and having no ice, we hit upon the expedient of adding the juice of limes...There is reason to believe that this water was the direct cause of a fever epidemic that ultimately developed, as with the drilling of a deep well, no more fevers were experienced."²⁰

¹⁶Believed to be the same sloop *Ada* used by William Brickell, an early settler and owner of a store in what was to become Miami, that traded with the Seminole Indians. *Pelts, Plumes and Hides, White Traders Among the Seminole Indians, 1870-1930*, Harry A. Kersey, Jr., p. 30.

¹⁷Elliott J. Mackle, *The Koreshan Unity in Florida, 1894-1910*, p. 34.

¹⁸Andrews, *Yank Pioneer*, p. 35.



Map of Gulf Coast, Lee County, Fla.

Scale 6 miles to the inch.

To locate Estero on Map of Florida.—Find Fort Myers, in Lee County, west coast. Estero is 16 miles south of Fort Myers, 3 miles inland from Estero Bay, and 20 miles north of Naples.

Illustration No. 8. Map, published in *The Koreshan Unity Co-operative*, showing the location of the Koreshan Unity Settlement. The County Road was actually a heavy sandy trail which was often so impassable that boats were used as the main method of transportation. Drawing circa 1906.

¹⁹Andrews, *Yank Pioneer*, pp. 7, 9-10.

²⁰*Ibid*, p. 8.

The Colony Struggles 1895-1899

The construction of additional structures at the colony was "hampered by the inavailability of lumber, so in December, 1894, Dr. Teed bought a sawmill in Fort Myers. The mill was dismantled by the Koreshans, transported to the point at the south end of Estero Island²¹ in the Bay, and there reassembled."²²

The development on Estero Island grew as housing for the workers was constructed, and a machine shop, boat ways and a post office were added.²³ Supplies and mail were carried by boat to the main settlement and to the development on the island. Lumber, which was processed at the sawmill and sold to the public, was also transported in the same manner.

This sawmill, the first industry established by the Koreshan Unity at Estero, was destroyed by fire in December of 1896. Its destruction was a serious financial blow to

the community, and "...most of the workers were transferred to the mainland settlement where they were urgently needed."²⁴

Their return to the small community found some progress--the addition of two barns, a small one room store "selling a few essentials to local people and the occasional traveler who happened along on the trail, which at that time crossed the Estero River on a small wooden bridge,"²⁵ the Dining Hall,²⁶ and several minor sheds and members' houses.

A second visit was made to the Settlement by Foose, accompanied by a local doctor, in April 1897. They reported "...but very little improvements, more than the completion of the large three story building, which is used as a dining hall, a place of worship, with the female departments in the two upper stories. They have made little advancement, so far as cleaning up the grounds and planting out fruit trees and truck are concerned. They all seemed perfectly happy and are strong believers in the theory of Prof. Morrow's concavity scheme."²⁷

The theory of concavity,²⁸ credited to Professor Morrow, was actually a concept of Dr. Teed, with the credit for con-

²¹Now called Fort Myers Beach.

²²Mackle, p. 41; Andrews gives this date as 1895 (p. 23).

²³Mackle gives the date of the post office as 1896 (p. 42).

²⁴Andrews, Yank Pioneer, p. 34.

²⁵Rahn, p. 51.

²⁶See 1895-1899 Master Plan, Building B-12.

²⁷Fort Myers Press, April 29, 1897, p. 8.

²⁸The concept, as noted by Fine, can be traced to early times. See Howard David Fine, The Koreshan Unity: Utopian Community: We Live Inside the World, p. 52.



Illustration No. 9. Solar Festival Celebration on the west porch of the Founder's House. The man in the dark suit standing on the porch is believed to be Dr. Teed (Koresh). Photograph circa 1903-1905.

ducting the experiments and constructing the mechanical devices given to Morrow. Basically stated, Dr. Teed believed that the earth was a hollow sphere, concave not convex, with man living on the inside surface of the sphere.

²⁹Fine, p. 70, see also Illustration #59, portions of the rectilineator are shown displayed before the Art Hall.

The first experiments, performed in 1896, to prove the theory that the earth's surface is concave rather than convex, were conducted in Illinois and Michigan. The instrument used was the rectilineator, "...consisting of a number of sections of three rectangular panels, each of which contained double T-squares set end to end."²⁹

The next experiment was to take place in Naples, Florida, between March and April 1897.

Using the rectilineator, the Koreshan scientists constructed a perfectly straight air line over a distance of four and a third miles. At one end the air line was one hundred and twenty-eight inches in altitude above the datum line, and at the other end the air line was zero inches above or below the datum line. At one end it was one hundred and twenty-eight inches above the surface of the water, and at the other end it extended into the water. If the earth was convex, the Koreshans reasoned, the second end would not be in the water, but rather, would be higher in altitude than the beginning end. The Koreshans now had evidence that the world was a sphere, that the curvature of the

earth was concave, and that the shell bent upward at a rate of one hundred and twenty-eight inches every four and a third miles. The Koreshans now had proof and loudly proclaimed their (theory as) being scientifically right, in a religious-like favour."³⁰

Convinced that the earth was a concave sphere,³¹ they were able to state with strong conviction the words which were to become associated forever with the Koreshans: "We Live Inside."³²

The national publicity given to these experiments, and the claim that they successfully proved Dr. Teed's theory, attracted new attention and visitors to the settlement.

These visitors viewed the progress in a totally different light than Foose. Not recognizing that this settlement was being carved from the wilderness, and the hard work that was required to subdue the land, they were repelled by the harsh life and meager diet of the colonists. Generally from the industrial developed north, they wrote of the Koreshans

³⁰Fine, pp. 71-72.

³¹Dr. Teed was later to offer \$50,000 to anyone who could disprove his theory. Tifton Free Press, September 13, 1952, "More About the Koreshans."

³²This motto was used on numerous Koreshan Unity signs, and a drawing illustrating this concept is still used in The American Eagle.

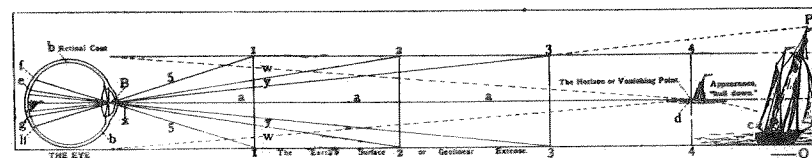


DIAGRAM No. 1. Illustrating "The Laws of Visual Impression."
This Diagram Illustrates a Principle, not Measurements True to Scale; the Height of the Objects Is not Proportioned to the Distance.

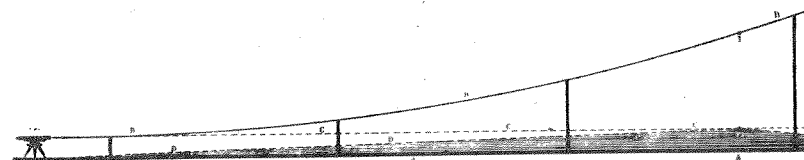


DIAGRAM No. 3. Illustrating the Illusions of Optical Phenomena.



DIAGRAM No. 2. The Rectilinear Used in the Koreshan Geodetic Survey.

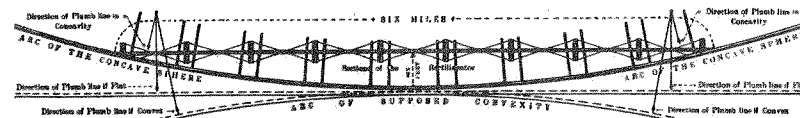
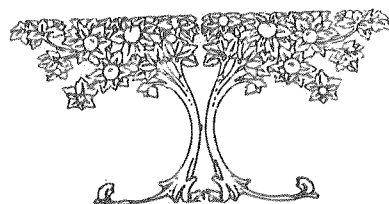


DIAGRAM No. 4. Comprehensive View of the Air Line, Showing Use of the Rectilinear in Survey of Chord of Arc by the Koreshan Geodetic Staff at Naples, Fla.

Illustration No. 10. The four diagrams, published by the Koreshans, illustrate the concept of concavity that they felt had been proven by their experiments at Naples in 1897.

experiencing "hard work, no pay and little food."³³

During this period the settlement, undaunted by a critical press and a series of lawsuits,³⁴ continued to grow and prosper. Work was started on the Children's House³⁵ in 1896, and the large, three story Dining Hall, in 1897. The Dining Hall, serving as the principle place of assembly for the Koreshans, was "...said to be the largest structure in Lee County."³⁶



³³Fort Myers Press, August 5, 1897, (a reprint of an article in the Pittsburg Daily News of May 19, 1897).

³⁴In one suit Gustave Damkohler, the original settler of the property, sued the Koreshans for the return of his property.

³⁵Later to be referred to by several names, but chiefly The Founder's House, see 1895-1899 Master Plan, Building B-10.

³⁶Rahn, p. 52.

Colony to Headquarters 1900-1902

The turn of the century found the Estero colony with forty to sixty members in residence. Earlier advertisements, soliciting new members, had called the colony a tropical paradise. Undoubtedly, influenced by the adverse commentary of the northern newspapers, as well as being aware how similar policies by other utopian communities had led to failure, the Koreshans became more forthright and honest about the actual conditions of life at Estero. A pamphlet, The Koreshan Unity: General Information Concerning Membership and its Obligations clearly stated *"People coming to us in Estero come to a 'simon pure' pioneer life, one of strenuousness and sacrifice" and that "we have not yet reduced labor to a luxury, for our people are performing some drudgery."*

A major decision by Dr. Teed and his followers to move all the Koreshans to Estero had been made. The Chicago headquarters, in rented quarters, *"together with sickness, doctor bills and coal bills incident to*

³⁷Andrews, Yank Pioneer, p. 39. Mackle also cites lawsuits filed against Dr. Teed and unfavorable publicity in the northern newspapers.

³⁸Andrews, Yank Pioneer, p. 38; Fort Myers Press, October 29th, and November 26, 1903.

*winter weather, consumed about all the income."*³⁷ (of the Unity).

The first major contingent left Chicago in 1902, and in October and November of 1903, were joined by the remaining 75 Chicago members,³⁸ with some fifteen carloads of freight containing their possessions and the printing equipment that had been used in Chicago for the printing of the Flaming Sword.

The influx of members to Estero increased the population to approximately 200,³⁹ the largest number of Koreshans ever to be at the settlement. The arrival of so many, in a short period of time, exceeded the housing that was available. A few new members' houses, the men's and women's log houses, and the Dining Hall/Dormitory represented the total housing capability of the settlement.

The Koreshan Unity, in September of 1903, became a legal corporation, holding a charter under the laws of the State of New Jersey. The reason for this legal action is perhaps best expressed by Fine when he states: *"Incorporation made legal life easier for the Unity, by making it harder for former members (and others) to sue it."*

³⁹Rahn, p. 54, "included those located on Mound Key and the lower end of Estero Island. The Estero, or central home, was designated 'The Temple.' The home on the lower end of Estero Island was known as Carlos Point..."

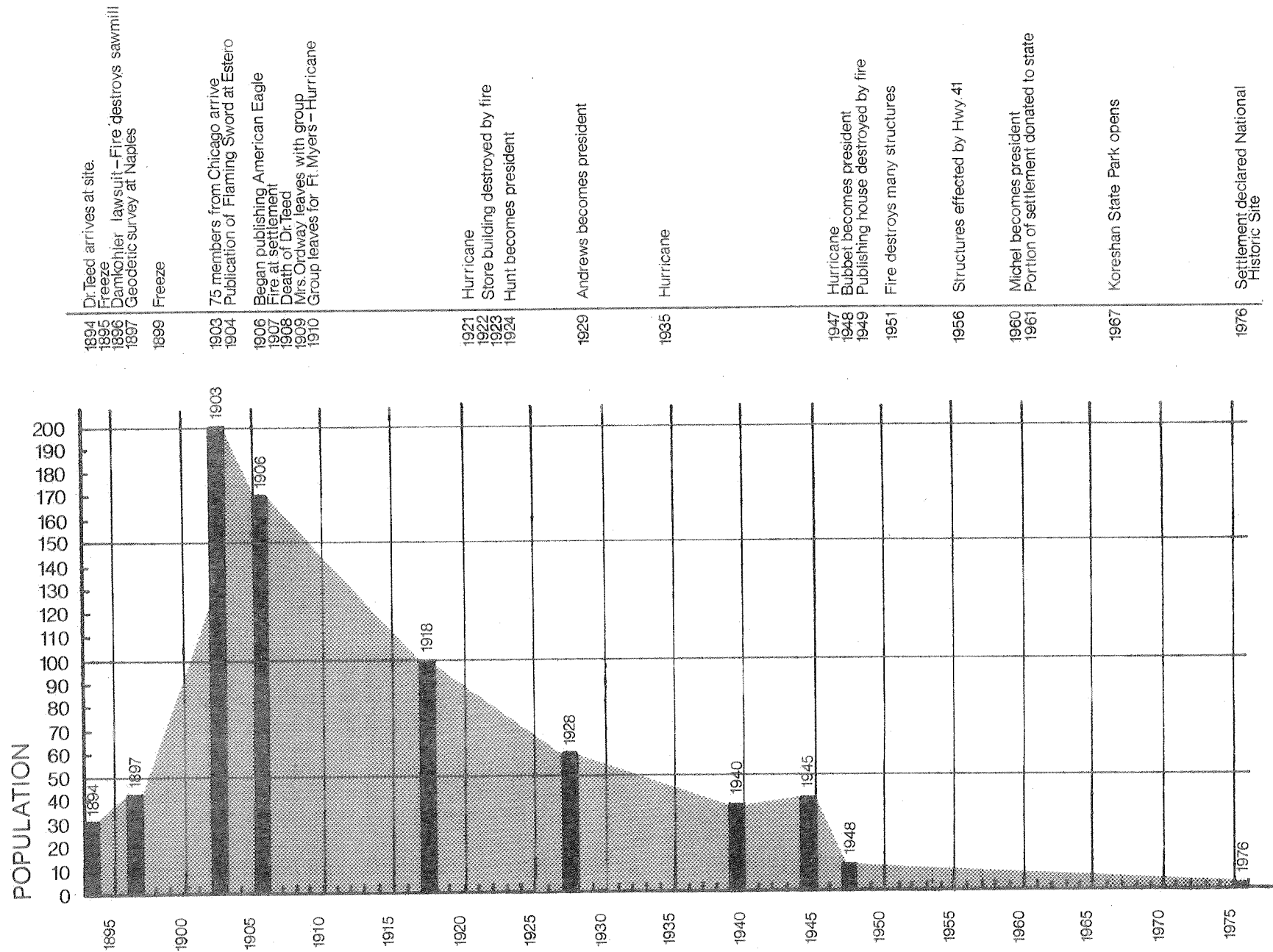


Illustration No. 11. Demographic analysis of the Koreshan Unity Settlement illustrating the period of peak population at the Settlement and related chronological influences.

The Golden Years 1903-1905

The struggle of eight years to establish a colony in Florida had now been transformed into reality. No longer just a colony with the transfer and commitment of all the Koreshan's Chicago assets to Estero, the following years were to mark the period of greatest growth, the real beginning of "*The New Jerusalem*."

New structures were constructed that reflected this commitment. The Publishing House,⁴⁰ to print again the Flaming Sword, was started in 1904 on the banks of the Estero River. Planetary Court,⁴¹ built to house the seven managing women was built in the same year at about the same time that construction was completed on the Old Store,⁴² a three story structure on the river across the sandy trail from the Publishing House.

Estero was now an attractive and growing community, laid out in a garden park along the southern bank of the river. "....*The*

buildings set in this park, although sparse and utilitarian in design and bare of unnecessary outside embellishment, were comfortable and very clean. Most were built of lumber cut in the Koreshan mill at the headwaters⁴³ of the river, some had thatched roofs, all had been built by the pioneers and were owned by the Unity."⁴⁴

The Old Store, built during this period, was to play a major role in the settlement's growth. Always seemingly strapped for finances, the store served as a major commercial center for the Koreshans. The store sold various goods to the public and travelers, and, as a retail outlet, was able to purchase goods not produced by the Koreshans at wholesale prices. Perhaps, more importantly, the store brought Koreshans and non-Koreshans together. Goods were traded and sold, produce from non-Koreshan settlers was purchased giving them needed cash, boats came up the Estero River bringing supplies and left carrying Koreshan produced goods, all of which brought Koreshan and non-Koreshan together, not in beliefs but in commerce.

Another aspect of Koreshan life, music, was to play an important role in fostering good relations between the community of Fort Myers and Estero. The Koreshan Band, quoted in the Fort Myers Press as being

refer to it as being at the mouth of the river, Andrews actually noted its location as being at the headwaters of the river (Andrews, p. 39).

⁴⁴Mackle, pp. 68 and 69.

⁴⁰See Master Plan, 1903-1905, Building B-29.

⁴¹Ibid, Building B-19.

⁴²Ibid, Building B-21.

⁴³Mackle and Fine both misquote Andrews as to the location of the sawmill (Sawmill #2) when they

"composed of excellent musicians," gave concerts, both on the settlement grounds and in Fort Myers.

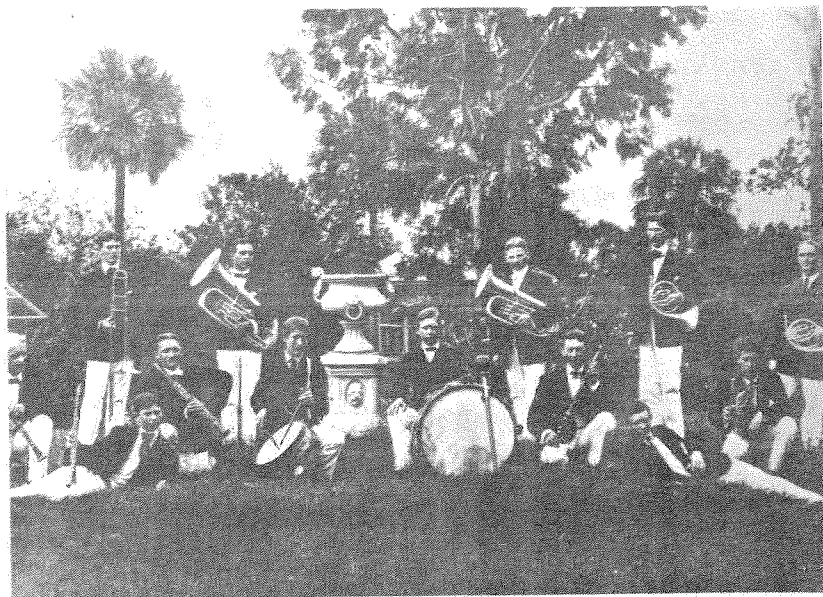


Illustration No. 12. The Koreshan Unity Orchestra and Band which entertained the Unity Settlement and occasionally played in Fort Myers. Photograph circa 1906. The original photograph, published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, is captioned "The Band and Orchestra consist at present of about 15 pieces, played by talented young people who were trained under competent instructors."

Dr. Teed, viewing his growing settlement and its progress, felt that the time for "*The New Jerusalem*" was approaching. In the summer of 1904, plans were formulated

for legally incorporating the settlement, and the area surrounding it, into a city. Dr. Teed, in his writings of the New Jerusalem, had outlined streets being 300' - 400' wide, that there would be "no bawdy-houses, no tobacco shops, no distilleries, no breweries, no gambling houses, nor other forms or dens of vice."⁴⁵ He felt that the public spirit that would be generated by the establishment of a city, would assist in attracting new industry and commerce to the area, to the benefit of its citizens.

The early non-Koreshan pioneers, many of which had homesteaded their land long before the Koreshans, were opposed to Dr. Teed's plans. They organized committees, with their opposition based on three areas: They were basically engaged in agriculture and could see no benefit in incorporation; they could see no merit in streets 300 feet wide going through their orange groves; and, most importantly, they felt they would have the greatest tax burden as they owned the majority of the land Dr. Teed wanted incorporated. It was also quite likely that they did not share Dr. Teed's views on abstinence from tobacco, gambling, liquor and other "vices."

It is interesting to note that the non-Koreshan settlers were not opposed to the Koreshan settlement being incorporated, but to the inclusion of their land into the city. As the time of incorporation

⁴⁵Fort Myers Press, August 11, 1904.

came closer, the opposition became more bitter, and the settlers ceased doing business with the Koreshans.⁴⁶

Incorporation became effective on Sept. 1, 1904, but only after a compromise had been achieved in which the wishes of the opposing community were accepted and their lands excluded. The newly incorporated town comprised one hundred and ten square miles, eighty-two square miles of land, twenty-eight of water. Of this total land territory, the Koreshan Unity now owned about one-eighth, or approximately 7,500 acres.

Municipal ordinances were adopted and on September 1st, in the Old Store, the Koreshan ticket of office holders was elected, adopting at the same time the city's new motto: *"The Guiding Star City."*

Dr. Teed was not among those elected to office, though the mayor, Charles Graves, the clerk, marshall and nine aldermen functioned under his direction.

The system of government which controlled the Unity, totally separate from the city, was such that Dr. Teed, as *"Prime Counselor,"* controlled the day to day affairs as well as the long range planning. Its effect was such *"...that members followed Dr. Teed's suggestions or left the Unity. Some members did leave; those who stayed seemed to have been generally satisfied with arrange-*

*ments as they were. Strong leadership was necessary to the continued development of the community and the members accepted this fact."*⁴⁷

The Unity, as a utopian settlement, was reaching its peak. Improvements to the settlement were extensive and several new structures⁴⁸ were constructed. The grounds were improved and the quality of life became more enjoyable.

Education served an important role, not only for the children at the settlement, but also for the adult members, and was considered to be an indispensable part of the Koreshan system. Dr. Teed had included, in his description of *"The New Jerusalem"* *"magnificent palaces of education,"* which were realized, to a minor degree, in the establishment of the Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology.⁴⁹ Its classes were held in the newly constructed Art Hall built by the students and their professors.

Small children from the settlement, as well as children from the outlying community, attended school daily with classes in history, geography, spelling, singing and instrumental music. Classes for older children were both academic and practical. *"Boys were taken to the woods for a demonstration of surveying, or taught carpentry, printing, bee-keeping or similar*

⁴⁶Fort Myers Press, August 25, 1904.

⁴⁷Mackle, p. 74.

⁴⁸See Master Plan, 1902-1905.

⁴⁹The Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology, Reprint, 1964.

trades in the industrial or agricultural departments. Girls were offered courses in baking, needlework and other domestic sciences, attending some of the industrial and commercial courses as well,"⁵⁰



Illustration No. 13. Gathering horseshoe crabs on Estero Island. Some of the girls are wearing straw hats manufactured at the Settlement. Photograph circa 1905.

⁵⁰Mackle, p. 79, referencing William A. Hinds, *American Communities and Cooperative Colonies*, pp. 478-479.

⁵¹The band even performed on a floating raft at a bend in the river (Bamboo Landing) where a

The Art Hall played a major role in the settlement, being utilized for lectures, concerts and religious services. Musical and theatrical performances were given there, enjoyed not only by the Koreshans, but the community at large.

This emphasis on education and culture was the result of a policy by Dr. Teed to continue the cultural aspects of society that had been enjoyed in Chicago, and certainly represented a major cultural stimulus to an area of Florida that was still rural and pioneer in character. An orchestra and band were formed and played numerous concerts for the Koreshans, in the Art Hall, on the grounds,⁵¹ and all major events at the settlement saw their involvement. The music that was played included the popular song writers of the day, as well as Wagner, Grieg, Verdi, Gounoud, Von Suppe and Beethoven, among others.

A library was planned⁵² to house the numerous volumes that members had brought from Chicago, which ran the gauntlet of subjects from religion to philosophy from bee-keeping to building construction. Though the library to house this collection was never constructed, there was available to the Koreshans a wide range of literary subjects, and for the period and location represented another major cultural aspect of Koreshan society.

natural amphitheater existed. The musical practice periods were so loud that a separate building (Amity) was eventually built separated from the settlement for the students.

⁵²Hinds, p. 479.

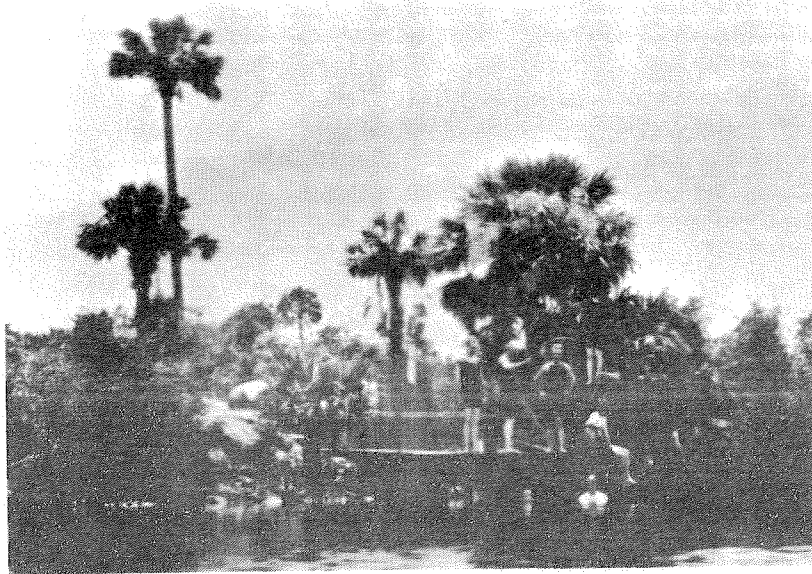


Illustration No. 14. The Brothers' Swimming Bath, located on the south bank of the Estero River at the Settlement. The site is located on the original 1902 map illustrated on the cover of this publication. Photograph circa 1905.

The Koreshan Unity had, by this time, completed the Publishing House, installed the equipment brought from Chicago, and on June 14, 1904, resumed the publication of The Flaming Sword. An important aspect of Koreshanity, the publication of numerous books, leaflets, pamphlets and periodicals were utilized for gaining new converts and for raising funds for Koreshan projects.

The Guiding Star Publishing House also represented a major commercial venture for the

⁵³Cyrus R. Teed (Koresh) and E. B. Webster, The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, The Solution of

settlement by job printing for clients in the community, Fort Myers, and even Chicago. The quality was high and the Koreshans were not modest in stating "*It is one of the best printing and binding establishments in the state.*"⁵³

Several Unity departments were also generating needed cash for the settlement. The bakery, with an oven capacity of five hundred to six hundred loaves of bread per day, was popular with the community.

Boat building and related marine industries represented another commercial venture. The construction of boats for the



Illustration No. 15. This photograph, originally published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, was captioned "This picture shows some of the launches filled with members of the Unity, ready for an outing. The Koreshan band with the flag (of the Koreshan Unity) may be seen standing on a mound in the park."

Industrial Problems, p. 32.

settlement gave them the means to transport goods manufactured by various settlement departments, to harvest food from the sea, and to sell new and refurbished boats to the community.

The comparison between the settlement Master Plan of 1900-1902 and the plan of 1903-1905 clearly shows the dramatic growth that occurred. These were truly "*The Golden Years.*"

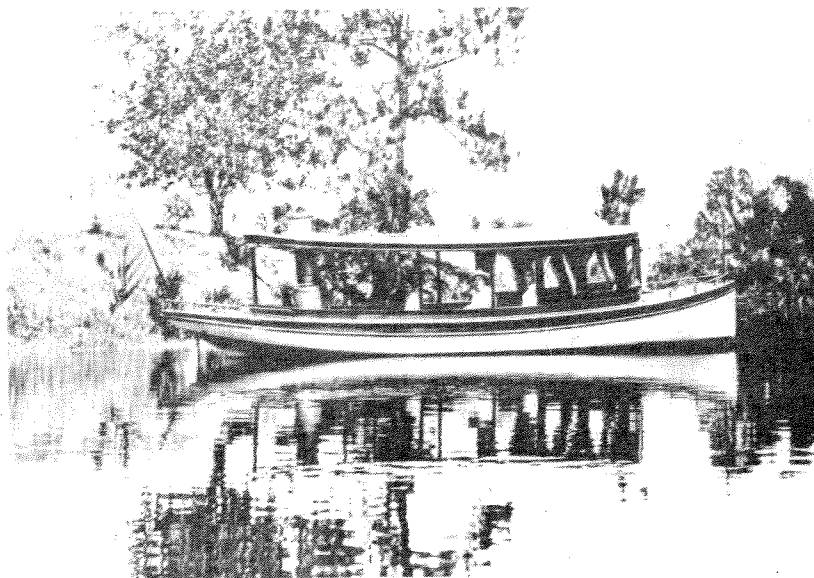


Illustration No. 16. Photograph of the Aquila, one of the many Koreshan boats used for transportation between Fort Myers and the Settlement. Photograph circa 1905.

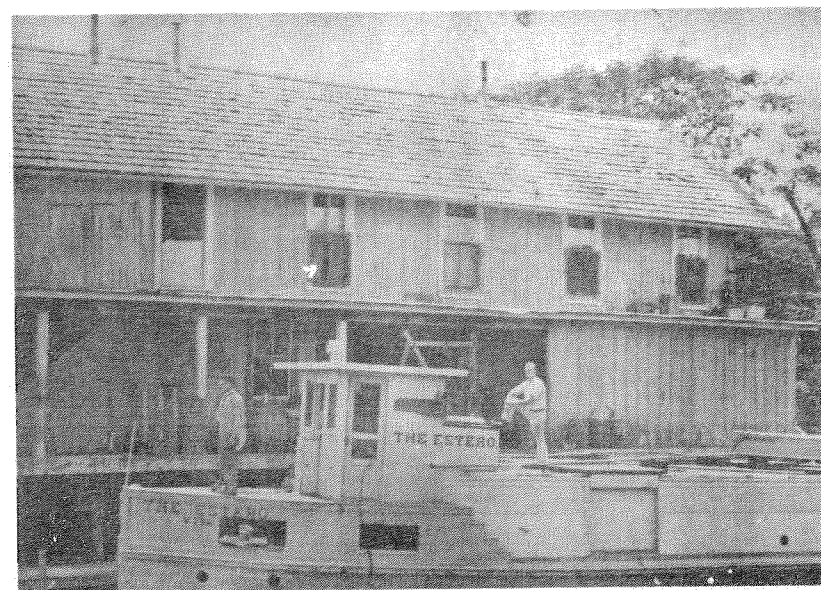
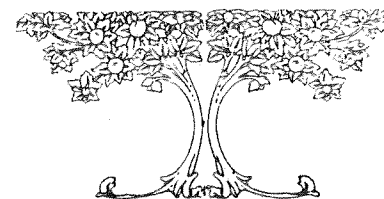


Illustration No. 17. The Estero, a cargo carrier of the Koreshan Unity transportation and cargo line, shown docked at the Old Store. View from the north-east dating to circa 1905.



The Period Of Decline 1906-1930

The resident population of the settlement, which had reached its peak in 1903, was now beginning to gradually decline. By 1906 some thirty or more members had left for varying reasons, some to be replaced by new converts, but never in substantial numbers.

The settlement though, continued to prosper, and to all appearances represented a thriving and growing community. The incorporation of Estero into a town, and the conflict it had caused with the adjacent land owners had continued, and at one point had caused the Estero Post Office to be removed from the settlement property. The Lee County officials were also extremely reluctant to give to the new town the county road tax funds that it was entitled to, for it meant diverting funds from their own projects in Fort Myers.

The Koreshan belief that they "*lived inside the world*," and the establishment of the Pioneer University of Koreshan Universology,

⁵⁴The Koreshans had voted, as a bloc, for Theodore Roosevelt for president over the democratic nominee. "The instrument of this disenfranchisement was a pledge which participants in the first democratic primary of May 1906, were required to sign if

had caused additional resentment and prejudice from the citizens of Fort Myers. There must too have been a degree of jealousy involved. The settlement had grown and prospered when no one thought it possible, and had basically done it by the hard work and dedication of Dr. Teed and his followers. The citizens of Fort Myers had read in their local newspaper, reprints of derogatory articles about Dr. Teed printed in northern newspapers, which tended to cast doubt as to Dr. Teed's sincerity, indeed, even to his avowed celibacy. Those outside influences, combined with the strange beliefs of the Koreshans, the resentment to the progress the settlement was making, and the Koreshans bid for political power, began to change the Koreshan's relations with the community.

This deterioration of relations led, in the election of 1906, to the disenfranchisement of the Koreshans.⁵⁴ The Koreshans, never a group to accept treatment of that nature, retaliated by opposing the democratic candidates in the General election and supporting the socialist organization. Dissatisfied with the lack of organization displayed by the socialists, the Koreshans established a new party, the Progressive Liberty Party, in which Koreshans, socialists, republicans and other groups banded together to

challenged. The pledge stated that the voter would support all democratic nominees of 1906 and that he had "SUPPORTED THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES OF 1904, BOTH STATE, COUNTY AND NATIONAL." Mackle, p. 104; and Fort Myers Press, May 31, 1906.

fight the established local democratic organization.

This newly created political party needed a means of public communication so, under the direction of Dr. Teed with Allan Andrews as editor, publication was started on June 7, 1906, of the American Eagle. Its byline "*Riches and Poverty Cease Where the Commonwealth Begins*" represented the Koreshans' bid for greater political power.

This visual and dramatic entrance of the Koreshans into the political sphere was to have long ranging implications. It generated numerous attacks against the Koreshans in the local press and was to further embitter the citizens of Fort Myers against the Unity members.

A small incident, undoubtedly influenced by this animosity toward the Koreshans, occurred in October. Ross Wallace, a Koreshan and a candidate for the County Commission, was beaten by a Fort Myers citizen over an alleged insult to his wife.⁵⁵

Dr. Teed, in Fort Myers the same day to greet a group of Koreshans arriving from Baltimore on the train, met Wallace, the town marshall and the man who had struck Wallace, Mr. Sellers. During the discussion of the incident, words were exchanged and Sellers struck Dr. Teed several times, without any intervention by the marshall.

⁵⁵For a complete account of the incident, see Fine, pp. 58-59, and Mackle, pp. 115-118.

⁵⁶Fine, p. 59.

At about the same time, the Koreshans arrived from Baltimore and a general free-for-all ensued, with Dr. Teed being struck again, this time by the Marshall.

Teed and two fellow Koreshans were arrested but posted bond and were released. The incident became the focal point for charges and counter-charges in the Koreshan newspaper and the Fort Myers Press, with both parties accusing the other of responsibility. Articles began to appear in the local paper, reprints of earlier articles in Chicago, attacking Teed and his motives. The political party established by Dr. Teed was labled "*the progressive lying party*"⁵⁶ by the Fort Myers Press, calling Teed "... *..the greatest charlatan, bombastic and humbug of the 20th century.*"⁵⁷ Animosity between the two groups reached such a peak that Dr. Teed was hung in effigy in Fort Myers.

Life at the settlement, in complete contrast to their relations with the community, appeared to be happy and full of activity. Concerts by the orchestra and band were given frequently and generally included drama presentations by the school children. Dances were held, lectures given, a full range of activities perhaps "*...as a substitution for, or sublimations of, sexual desires.*"⁵⁸

The capture of a black bear on Estero Island,

⁵⁷Fort Myers Press, November 1, 1906.

⁵⁸Mackle, p. 99.

in 1907 led to the creation of a small zoo. It contained "an eagle, opossum. . .three foxes, wildcat and a pair of otters."⁵⁹ Surprisingly, Dr. Teed is said to have wrestled with the bear on several occasions, to the delight of Unity members.

Picnics were held several times a year, ". . .enlivened with music by the band, speeches, jokes and the playing of various games."⁶⁰

Parades were held and twice yearly the birthdays of Dr. Teed (October 18th) and Mrs. Ordway (April 12th) were celebrated, being named the Solar Festival for Dr. Teed's birthday and the Lunar Festival for Mrs. Ordway.⁶¹

The atmosphere outside the settlement however, was such that Dr. Teed no longer was free from the series of newspaper attacks that had initially influenced him to leave Chicago for south Florida. One series of newspaper articles, printed in the Tallahassee Sun on March 2,⁶² attacked Dr. Teed and the settlement, with facts that apparently came from earlier articles in the Fort Myers Press.

The Lee County Commission, hoping to protect the road tax funds demanded by Dr.

Teed, and in retaliation for the political activity started by the settlement, petitioned their state senator and representatives to have the legislature abolish or reduce the town of Estero. The bill was duly introduced and passed in the legislature by unanimous vote, and Governor Broward allowed the bill, abolishing the town, to become law. The bill, however, was declared unconstitutional⁶³ and Estero remained an incorporated town.

Another fire struck the settlement in the latter part of 1907. In October the two barns were destroyed, but work began immediately to rebuild them. Construction was completed on several other settlement structures, and projects on property owned by the Unity.⁶⁴ Dr. Teed returned to the settlement from a series of trips to the north in August and September. Though still in pain from attacks of neuritis brought on by his fight in Fort Myers, Dr. Teed wrote a book, The Koreshan Unity Cooperative, which gave a concise but glowing account of the settlement. It outlined the general principles of Koreshanity, solutions proposed by Dr. Teed for current industrial problems and explained in detail the settlement and other Koreshan holdings, as they existed in 1907.

⁵⁹American Eagle, May 16, 1907; May 23, 1907.

⁶⁰American Eagle, February 14, 1907.

⁶¹These festivals continued to be held and are celebrated today at the settlement.

⁶²Mackle, p. 122; The title of the article was "Here's Koresh King of Fakirs," March 2, 1907, p. 3

and 10.

⁶³Teed and Webster, p. 56.

⁶⁴Work included: A fruit and vegetable packing house on Mound Key, and an ice house on Estero Island. Mackle, p. 134.

By early 1908 the frequency of the attacks of neuritis had increased but Dr. Teed continued to travel and lecture. The pain became too great and Dr. Teed retired to "La Parita"⁶⁵ to rest, "...where he found some relief in the salt baths, but the strain of his removal proved too great, in his agony he often cried, 'Oh Jerusalem take me!'"⁶⁶ Dr. Teed died peacefully December 22nd on Estero Island. The dream of a "New Jerusalem" was to come to an end.

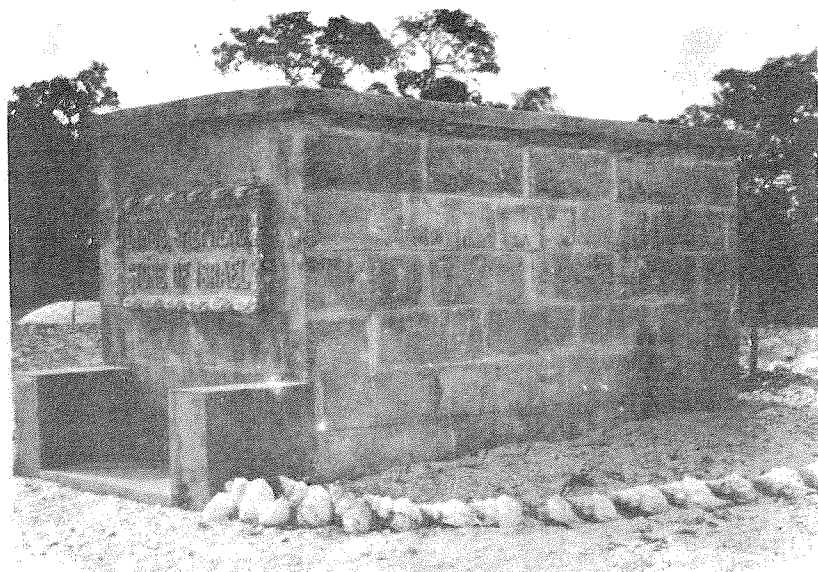


Illustration No. 18. The tomb of Dr. Teed (Koresh) on Estero Island. It was destroyed during the 1910 hurricane. The headstone "Cyrus, Shepherd Stone of Israel" was the only item recovered and is displayed at the Settlement today.

⁶⁵A Unity owned structure on Estero Island.

⁶⁶Berrey, p. 41.

⁶⁷Fine, p. 61, referencing Karl H. Grismer, The Story of Fort Myers; The History of the Land of the

The Koreshans were shocked by Dr. Teed's death, but many believed that he would be reincarnated, "For three days his followers waited in anxious anticipation for him to rise again, but the body only decayed. After four days had passed the local health officer, Dr. William Hanson, ordered the body interred immediately."⁶⁷

The Unity immediately began to divide into factions, and a power struggle ensued, "...as to who was the appointed leader to succeed Koresh as head of the Unity."⁶⁸ One group supported Gustave Faber and his claim that Dr. Teed had, in his dying hours, conferred the succession upon him. An opposing group supported Mrs. Ordway, and were successful in having her position as Pre-Eminent of the Unity retained.

Yet another tragedy was to strike the Koreshans, this time economic. Sometime previously, the exact record is still incomplete, Dr. Teed had authorized a Koreshan Unity member to utilize the name of the settlement in guaranteeing a mortgage on a business, The Ordway Manufacturing Plant in Bristoll, Tennessee. Some months after Dr. Teed's death the plant failed, with the result that the Unity, already in a difficult cash situation, was burdened with the financial obligation of the mortgage.

Caloosahatchee and Southwest Florida (St. Petersburg, Fla.: St. Petersburg Printing Company, Inc., 1949), p. 190.

⁶⁸Berrey, p. 41.



Illustration No. 19. On stage at the Art Hall, one of many plays and productions at the Settlement. Photograph circa 1904/1905.

As the Unity continued to be racked by dis-sention more members left, first individuals, and then whole groups. Mrs. Ordway and a group of her supporters, in 1909, left the settlement and its debts and established a Koreshan Community in Seffner, Florida, a community that was, however, to be short lived.

A second group, named the "Order of Theocracy," left the settlement in 1910 and settled in Fort Myers, later operating Fort Myers' largest laundry.⁶⁹

⁶⁹Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President of the Koreshan Unity, 1976, Estero, Florida.

The Unity, directed by Dr. Teed and the forcefullness of his personalty, kept together and worked toward specific goals. His death represented more than the death of an individual, it marked the end of a period of progress and direction. Memberships declined, factions fought each other, lawsuits were filed against fellow members, all illustrated the decline of Koreshanity.

The relative settlement prosperity that existed at the time of Dr. Teed's death, continued for a few short years, but the settlement appeared to be doomed to obscurity.

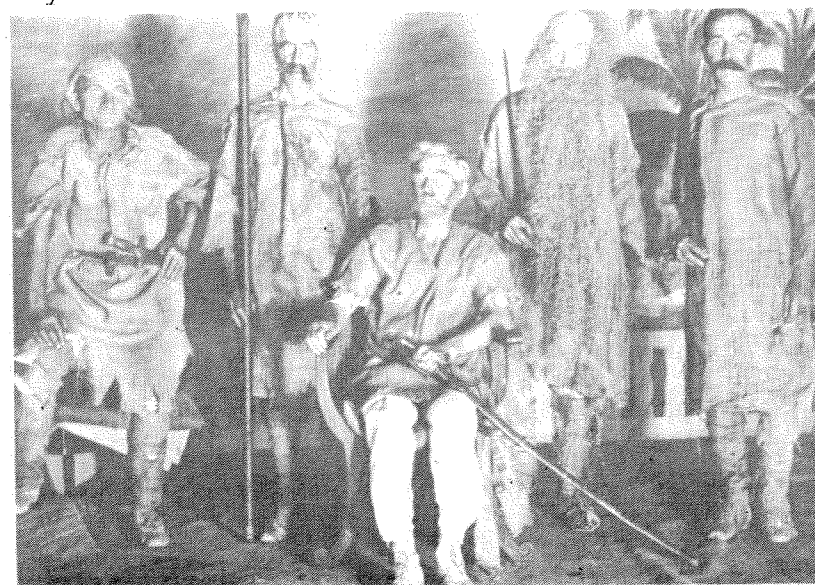


Illustration No. 20. Actors from a play in the Art Hall, displaying the detailed costumes prepared for each production. Title of play and actors unidentified, but believed to date circa 1906.

the efforts of Miss Michel, the settlement, including property not currently in the State Park, was declared a National Historic Site.

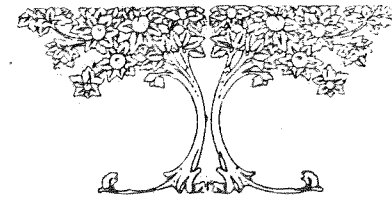
The Unity Today 1931-1977

The later years of the settlement continue to mirror the decline initiated by Dr. Teed's death. The membership grew older, the store on Highway 41 closed, and fires destroyed several settlement buildings; including the Publishing House, members houses and the Men's Log House.

Other buildings, neglected by disuse were demolished, some by order of the State Fire Marshall. Fortunately, some of the more important historical structures survived, though generally in various stages of decay.

One member remains today, Miss Hedwig Michel, the President of the Koreshan Unity, Inc. It is her skill and determination that keeps alive the spirit of Koreshanity, not just the history, but what Koreshanity can become. A relatively recent member, having been accepted for membership in 1940, she has, almost single-handedly saved what remains today. There is no person alive today with a greater knowledge and understanding of Koreshanity.

Miss Michel became President of the Unity in 1961, succeeding Lawrence Bubbett, and was instrumental in having a portion of the settlement donated to the State. The property became a state park and formally opened in 1967. Again, primarily through



4. History of Settlement Structures

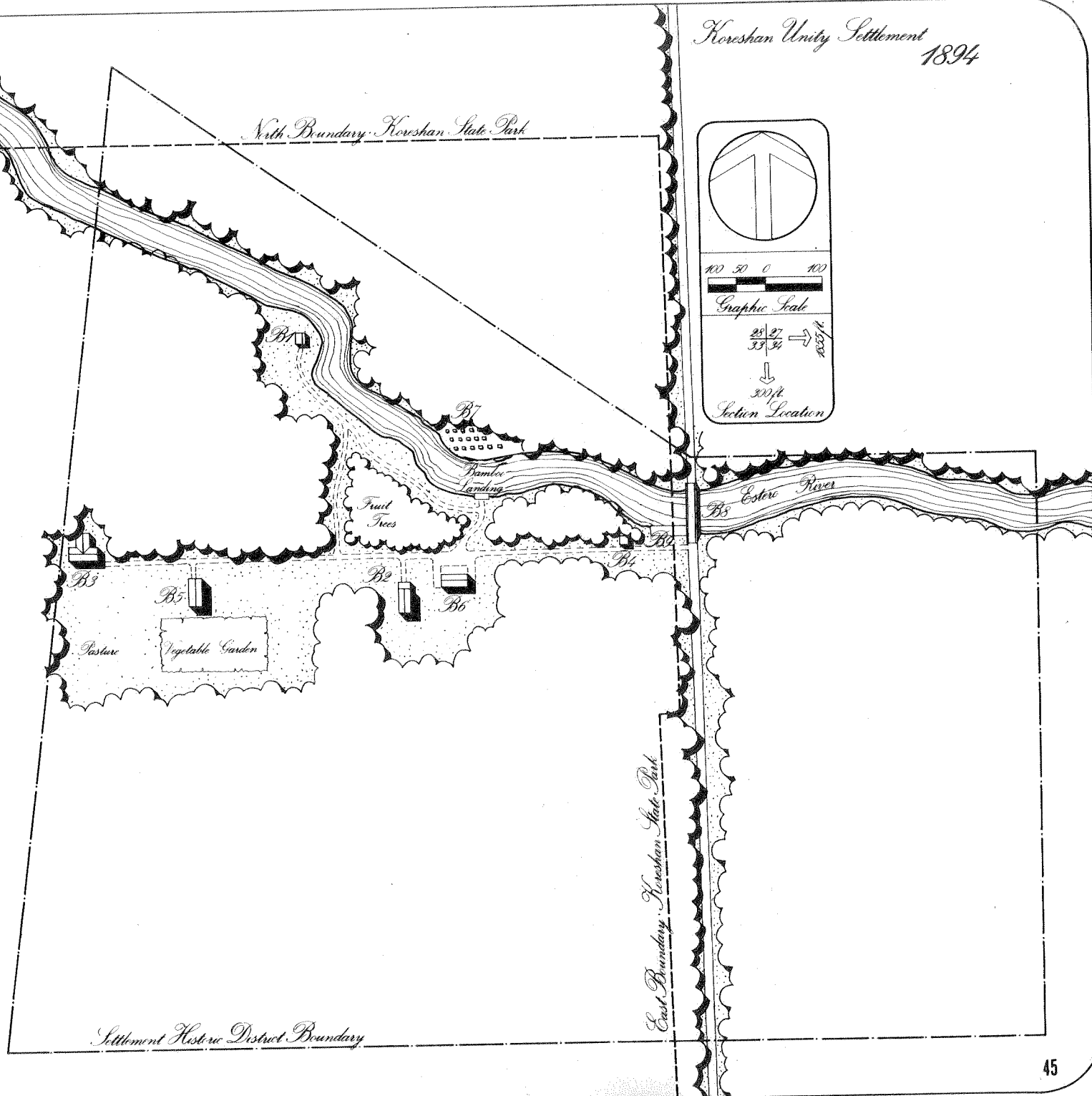
The documentation of settlement structures, as illustrated in this chapter, is the end result of months of research and on-site observation. The majority of structures are no longer in existence, having been removed or destroyed during the last eighty years. The location, as indicated on the site plans, and general size of the structures no longer in existence, have been established by photographic interpretation and by historical drawings from the early years of the settlement.

Actual structure locations, as well as details relative to size, will be established during the aerial and ground survey process and by the archaeological program noted in the general recommendations. The individual structure descriptions are given here to give a general description of each of the structures, and are not intended to represent an exhaustive or comprehensive history and description of each structure.

Illustration No. 21. Master Plan of the settlement as it appeared in late 1894. With the exception of the Damkohler house (B-1), the buildings were constructed by the Unity members during their first year at "The New Jerusalem."

B-1 Damkohler House	B-5 Barn
B-2 Women's Log House	B-6 Barn
B-3 Men's Log House	B-7 Apiary
B-4 One Room Store	B-8 Bridge
	B-9 Landing

Koroshan Unity Settlement 1894



Structures 1894

B-1

Damkohler House (1892/1893 - present)

Also known as the Medical Building, Pioneer Cabin.

The residence of Gustave Damkohler the original settler of the property which was later to become the Koreshan Unity Settlement. The structure, still in existence today, but at a different location,¹ was visited by Dr. Teed, Mrs. Ordway and others in January, 1894. The structure consisted of one room with a sleeping loft and porches to the east and west, with the west porch being used for cooking.²

Construction was of basic wood frame with vertical wood siding on the north and south elevations, horizontal siding on the east and west. The structure was originally covered with a palmetto thatched roof, later changed to tin,³ and was furnished,

¹Claude Rahn, A Brief History of the Life of Dr. Cyrus R. Teed (Koresh) and of the Koreshan Unity, p. 45, notes the original location as being "...on the point of land that projects into the river almost immediately north of the former community dining hall (B-12)."

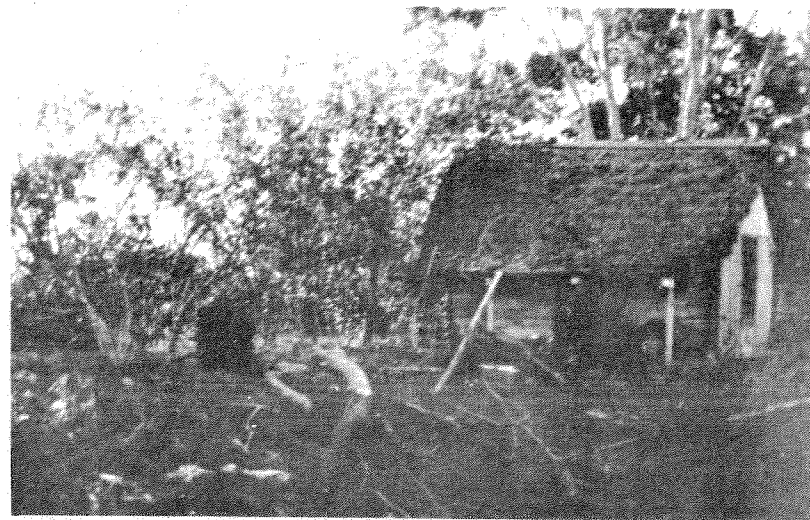


Illustration No. 22. Earliest known photograph of the Damkohler house showing original construction. The house was moved to its present location, on the south bank of the river, east of its original site. View is from the northeast and dates to the late 1890's.

at the time of Dr. Teed's arrival, with rough wooden boxes and homemade furniture.

An addition to the building, made in the early 1950's, consisted of a bathroom and kitchen, constructed on the south side of the structure, allowing the structure to be utilized as a rental unit.⁴ The exterior of this addition was of wood siding,

²Allen H. Andrews, A Yank Pioneer in Florida, p. 8.

³Photographic interpretation, see illustration #18.

⁴Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President of the Koreshan Unity, 1976.

applied horizontally.

Historical documents of that period note that there was a thatched "cabbage palm shack a short distance to the east" which was used for dining.⁵

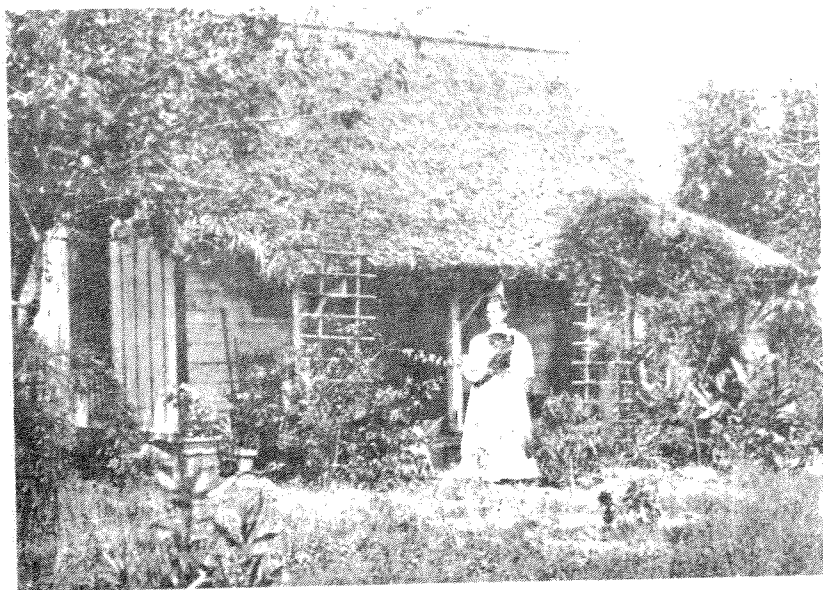


Illustration No. 23. Originally published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, it was entitled, "The Pioneer Cabin. This was the Koreshan Unity's only house in Estero sixteen years ago. It makes a pleasant home for one person now." The date of publication (1907) would date Koreshan usage to approximately 1891, while it was actually first used by the Koreshans in 1894. View from west, circa 1906.

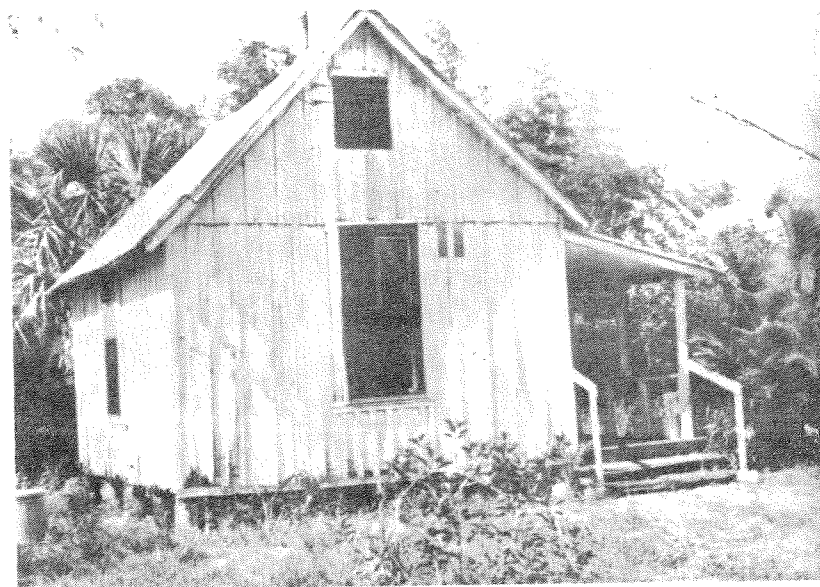


Illustration No. 24. Damkohler house from southwest after original palmetto root construction was replaced with tin and west porch had been removed. Photograph circa 1906.

Current Condition

The structure is in need of immediate renovation. It has undergone several modifications since its original construction, including replacement of exterior wood, the porch, addition of a ceiling, etc. While recent repairs to the exterior have been accomplished, it is anticipated that substantial renovation will be required in

⁵Rahn, p. 51. This structure was later torn down and replaced by the One Room Store (B-4).

order to accurately reconstruct the building to its original condition and character.

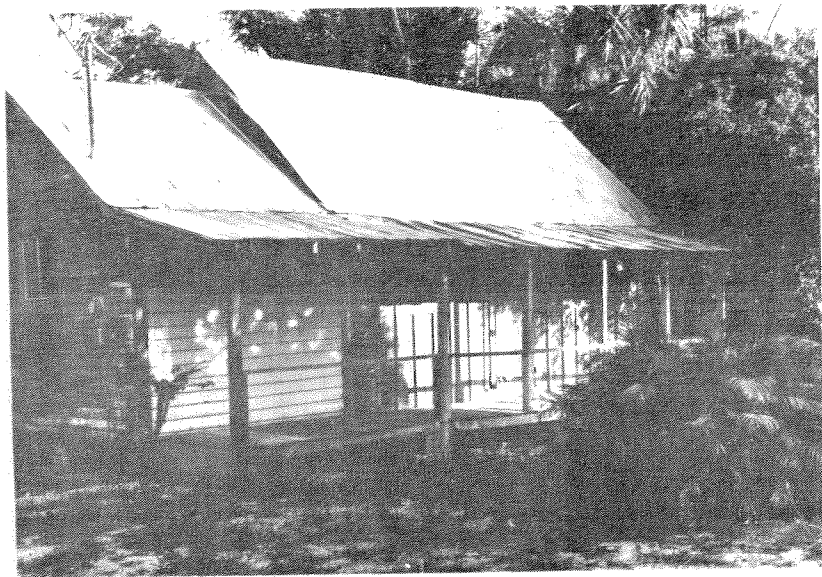
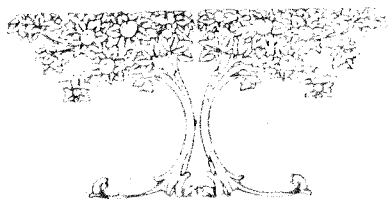


Illustration No. 25. Damkohler house showing early 1950's addition on the south. View is from the southeast and dates to approximately 1955.



⁶Andrews, p. 10; and Rahn, p. 51.

⁷Rahn, pp. 51-52.

B-2

Women's Log House (1894 - 1903[±])

Also known as the Laundry Building, Sister's Dormitory.

Considered to be the first structure of a permanent nature to be constructed at the settlement. Built of peeled cypress logs, the exterior of the building was covered with cypress "*shakes...hand split in the swamp from 30" cypress blocks and dressed smooth with a draw knife.*"⁶

Historical references give various sizes for the building - 25' x 50', 20' x 40', 30' x 60' and 30' x 70'. Its location is noted as being 200 feet east of the original location of the Damkohler House (B-1) and 150 feet south of the river.

It originally served as a dining room and kitchen, at the first floor level, with sisters' dormitory spaces at the second floor loft space.⁷ Reference sources noted that a third floor was added to the basic structure at a later date.⁸

While no photographs of the structure are available, sketch drawings of the exterior, done in August, 1899 by Edith Campbell, indicate the general character of the building as it was utilized originally. A later drawing, by Campbell but undated, shows a series of drying racks adjacent to the building, apparently in 1899/1900 after the dining area had been converted to a

⁸Rahn, p. 52.

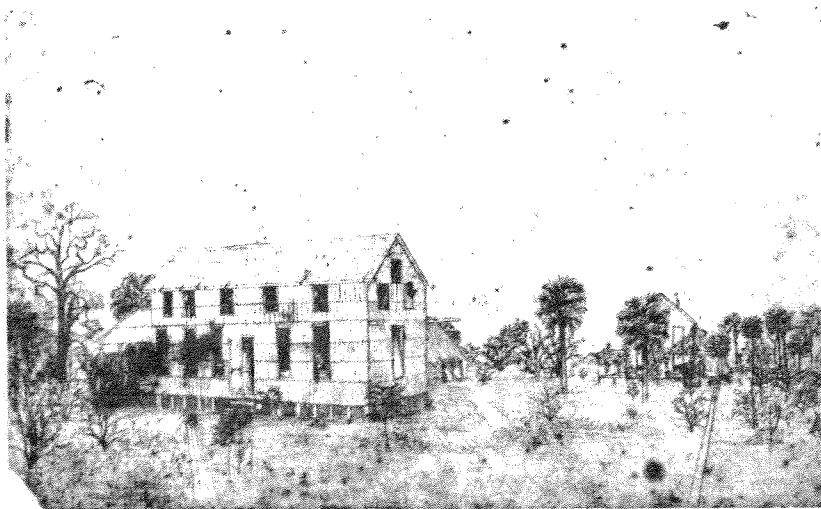


Illustration No. 26. The Women's Log House as shown from southwest. The drawing, by Edith Campbell, is dated August 1899. To the right (east) of the log house can be seen the Founder's House and directly behind is a portion of one of the Settlement barns (B-6).

laundry. This is confirmed by the date of construction of the Main Dining Hall (1896/1897) and by the structure being identified on the original master plan, drawn in 1902, which designates the building as a laundry.

There are no references or information available that indicate when the structure was destroyed or removed from the site. It is assumed that its removal was due to a fire at the settlement, the main cause for the destruction of the majority of the

settlement structures no longer in existence.

It is interesting to note that until the discovery of the drawings by Edith Campbell, in July of 1976, that there was only fragmentary evidence to indicate that the structure had been constructed, and that it had generally been accepted that the sister's log house and the laundry building indicated on the 1902 original map were two separate buildings.

B-3

Men's Log House (1894 - 1951)

Also known as the Brothers' Dormitory.

A log structure, built of pine,⁹ serving as the first settlement constructed dormitory for the men. Dr. Teed lived in the southeast corner of the first floor¹⁰ until the construction of the Founder's House in 1896.

The log house was built in the shape of a "T"¹¹ with north, west and east wings connected by a center breezeway to afford ample ventilation. The pine logs, used for construction of the walls as well as the cypress poles used for ceiling rafters, were peeled to avoid decay. At the roof a series of 1 x 3 cypress strips were

⁹Rahn, p. 52.
¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Rahn, p. 52.

attached perpendicular to the cypress poles and were used for attaching the cabbage palm thatching. Flooring lumber was purchased and installed. As indicated on the photographs, gable ends were also framed with small cypress poles and thatched.¹²

Originally the structure was not chinked, thinking that this would allow for greater ventilation, with some references noting

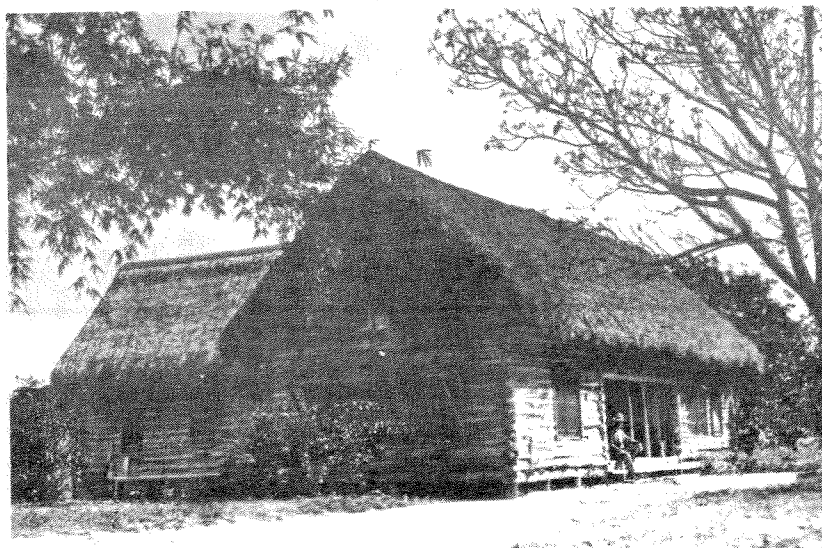


Illustration No. 27. Southwest view of Men's Log House, one of the first Settlement structures and the first Koreshan constructed home of Dr. Teed and fellow male members. Dr. Teed (Koresh) occupied the southeast room until approximately 1896 when the Founder's House was constructed. Photograph circa 1906/1907.

¹²Andrews, p. 9.

¹³Andrews, p. 3.

¹⁴Rahn, p. 52, describes the places between the



Illustration No. 28. Southwest view of the Men's Log Cabin as it appeared in the 1920's. The element over the windows, to provide protection against rain and sun, appears to be made of cypress board sections.

that "there were open spaces between the logs that you could almost throw a dog through."¹³ Rain also posed severe problems, when being blown into the structure by the wind, it forced the inhabitants to move their beds and possessions to the center of the room. Eventually, the open spaces were chinked sufficiently to provide protection against both weather and mosquitoes.¹⁴

logs as being filled with a plaster mortar (apparently after the house had been occupied for a period of time.

While no reference material indicated specific second floor construction, it is apparent that a loft space was constructed and was in all probability used for a sleeping dormitory, with possible secondary access from Dr. Teed's room to a portion of the space. The original 1902 floor plan shows a rough floor plan for the structure, indicating major rooms at each wing with stairs on the east and west. The main access to the building was from the south, fronting on the road.

The log house deteriorated throughout the years and was eventually destroyed during the 1951 fire that destroyed many settlement structures.

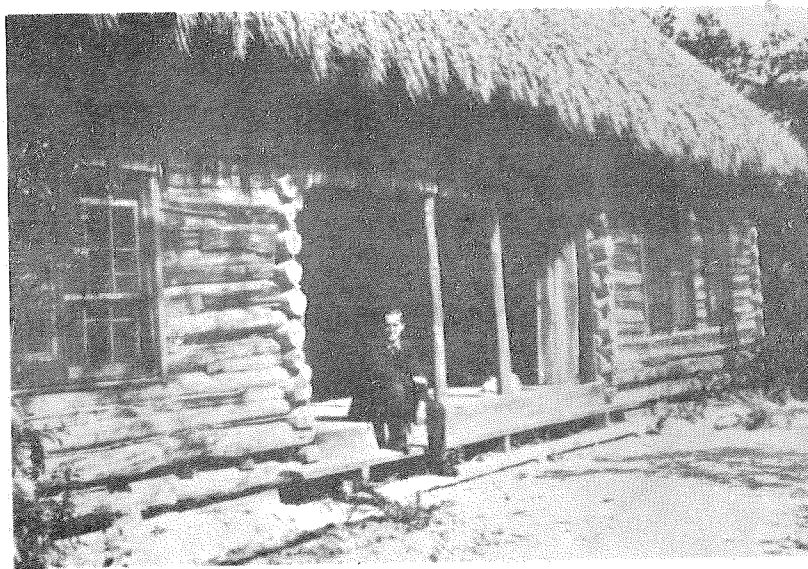


Illustration No. 29. Close up view illustrating the south entrance to the Men's Log House. Dr. Teed's (Koresh) room is the portion to the right (east). The log material was peeled pine logs. Photograph dates to approximately 1906.

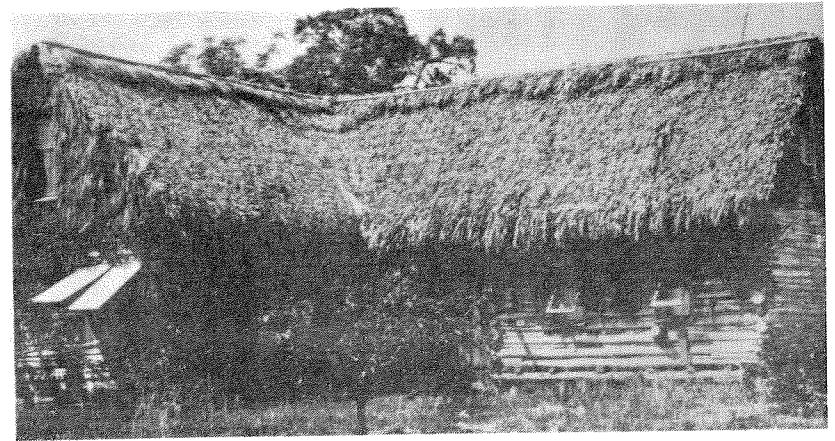


Illustration No. 30. Northeast view of the log house showing the palmetto roof and usage of palmetto at the gable ends. Photograph dates to approximately 1906.

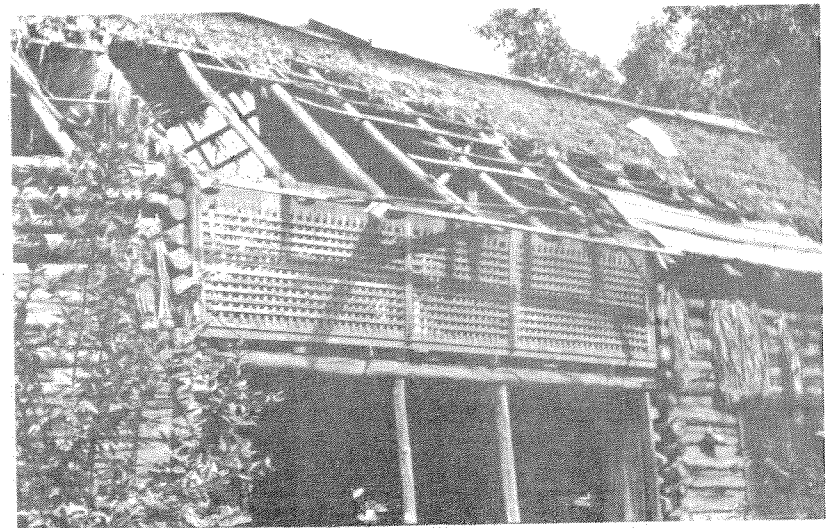


Illustration No. 31. South view of the Men's Log House showing the cypress poles used for roof rafters and 1 x 3 cypress strips used for supporting and securing the palmetto roof thatching. The wooden grille above the breezeway was a later addition. Photograph circa 1920's.

B-4

One Room Store (1894 - 1903±)

A one-room structure, serving as a post office and store "selling a few essentials to local people and the occasional traveler who happened along on the trail which at that time crossed the Estero River on a small wooden bridge."¹⁵ It was located near the present site of the Damkohler house, slightly to the south. The only existing record of its appearance is the sketch drawing by Edith Campbell, dated August, 1899.

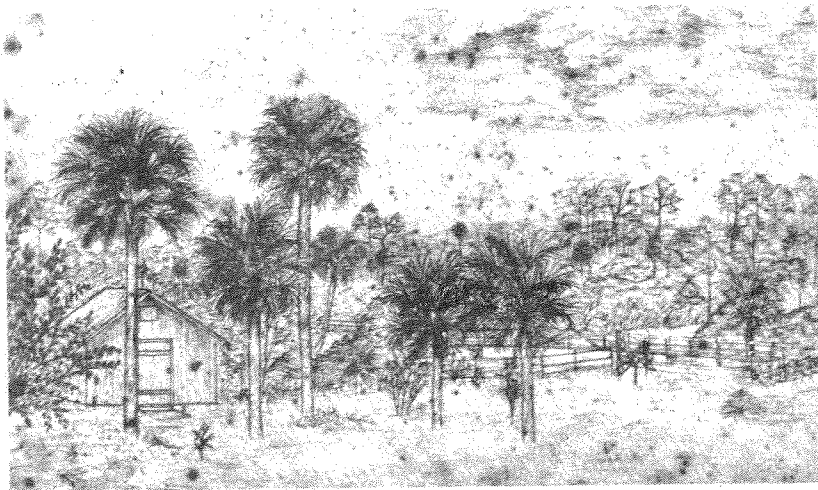


Illustration No. 32. Edith Campbell drawing, dated August 1899, illustrates the southwest view of the one room store. Directly to the right (east) can be seen the original wooden bridge that crossed the Estero River at the county road.

¹⁵Rahn, p. 51

¹⁶Andrews, p. 47

¹⁷Visual interpretation of Edith Campbell drawing.

The structure was apparently constructed of wood frame, possibly shipped by boat to the site, as was much of the original finished lumber, and appears to have wood siding applied vertically on the exterior. It is also assumed that cypress shingles were used as a roofing material.

The building location was verified by the original 1902 map (see cover) and the Campbell drawings. It was torn down in approximately 1903, at about the time the Damkohler house was moved to its present location.

B-5

Barn (1894 - 1907)

Built of pine logs¹⁶ with a roof of palmetto thatch,¹⁷ it is considered to be the first barn/animal structure built at the settlement.

The first floor was partially enclosed and is assumed to have housed horse stables, while the second floor served as a storage space.¹⁸ The structure was 40 feet by 60 feet,¹⁹ with the longer dimension on a north-south access.

¹⁸Andrews, p. 47.

¹⁹Ibid.

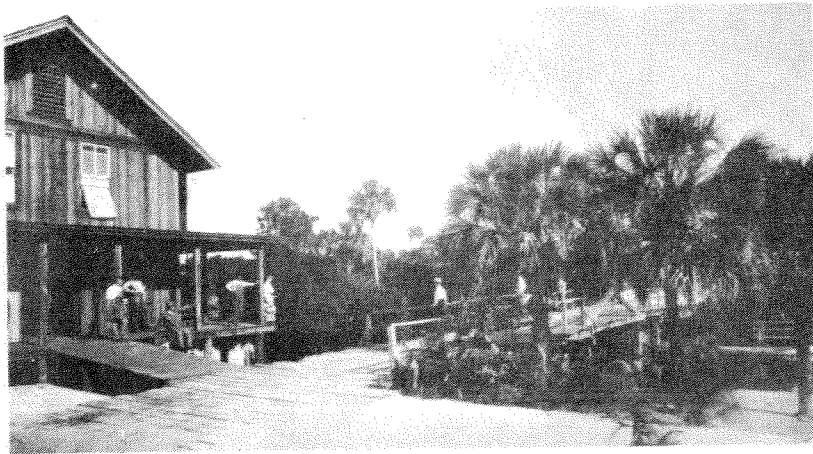


Illustration No. 36. Southeast view of bridge showing the wood planking at its connection to the Old Store (B21). This is believed to be the second wood bridge constructed in approximately 1902. Photograph is approximately 1903/1904.

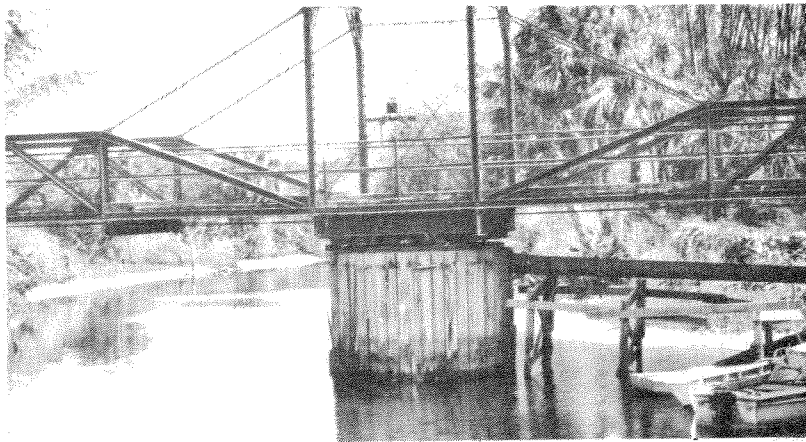


Illustration No. 37. East view of the "Turn table bridge" constructed in 1911/1912, showing the metal frame construction. This bridge was constructed after a flood, which destroyed the circa 1902 bridge, and was constructed to allow for passage of larger boats on the river. Photograph circa 1912.

It was, at a later date (approximately 1911), washed away in a flood and replaced by a "turn table bridge," as shown in the photograph, allowing for passage of larger boats and permitting access to several industries (boat building, concrete works, etc.) located to the east of the bridge. It was basically of steel frame construction with a wood floor.

B-9

Boat Landing (1894 - 1903±)

A wooden boat landing, constructed directly to the west of the old wooden bridge, served as the main point of river access to the settlement. Early photographs, as well as written descriptions of the site, indicate that the river banks were of a more gradual slope than now exist.

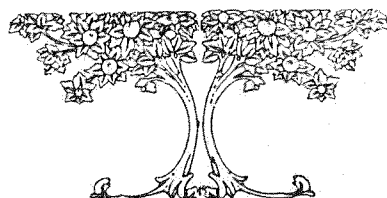
The landing was of rough wood frame construction, and undoubtedly supplies for the One Room Store were unloaded here, as well as other possessions and equipment of the early settlement.

Because of its close proximity to the sand road, it is thought that this landing also served pioneers in the area not connected with the settlement. It is interesting to note that this particular location at the river has been utilized as a landing since the late 1880's, and conceivably earlier. It is recommended that an underwater

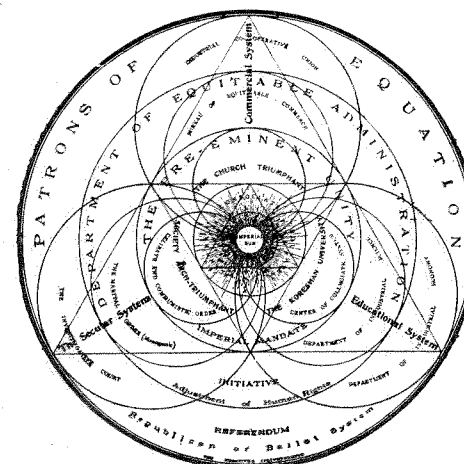
archaeological investigation be conducted at this area with the potential of finding items generally found at boat landings of that period (i.e. bottles, etc.).

No written or visual documentation of the landing exists, and it was replaced, in approximately 1903, by the Old Store and attached landing.

A crude reconstruction of the landing currently exists, which is scheduled to be removed in Phase II, when the Old Store (B-21) is recommended for reconstruction.



Korehshamity is the Imperial System of Theocracy of the Golden Age.



The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated Into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Illustration No. 38. Master Plan of the settlement during the 1895-1899 period. During this time efforts were directed toward providing housing for Unity members and developing Estero Island.

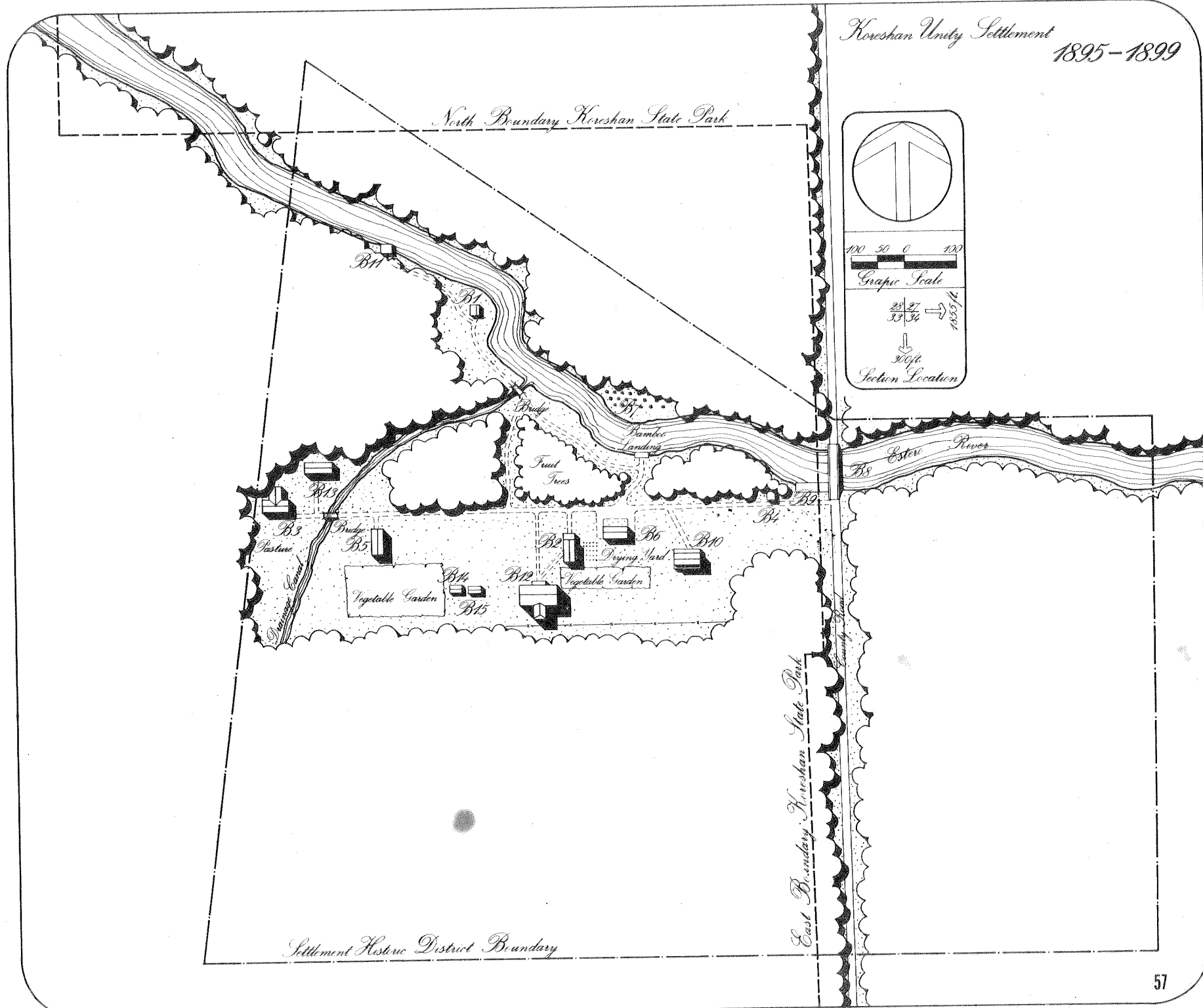
Building Key - 1894

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| B-1 Damkohler House | B-5 Barn |
| B-2 Women's Log House | B-6 Barn |
| B-3 Men's Log House | B-7 Apiary |
| B-4 One Room Store | B-8 Bridge |

Building Key - 1895-1899

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| B- 9 Boat Landing | B-13 Carpentry Building |
| B-10 Founder's House | B-14 Members' House |
| B-11 Fish House | B-15 Members' House |
| B-12 Dining Hall | |

Koreschan Unity Settlement 1895-1899



Structures 1895-1899

B-10

Founder's House (1896-present)

Also called: Children's House, Children's School,²¹ Master's House, Brother's House, and Ordway's House.

A two-story structure, centrally located on the grounds, it is one of the major structures of the settlement. While reference sources disagree as to its original function (i.e. a children's building or a suitable residence for Dr. Teed), it has evolved in history to be known as the Founder's House.

Originally constructed in 1896, the building has undergone more modifications than any other structure in the settlement. The basic building consisted of a two-story structure of conventional wood frame construction, with its longer elevation occurring on the north and south sides. These elevations, in turn, had porches, approxi-

²¹Andrews, p. 22, relates that work had just been completed on a frame building for a school, but gives the date as early 1895.

²²Photographic interpretation, see illustra-

mately eight to ten feet in depth, running the length of the structure. The building, on the exterior, was covered with horizontal wood siding, with a cypress shingle roof.²²

Heating for the building was accomplished by two wood burning stoves, located at the east and west, serving the first and second floors.²³ The interior was divided

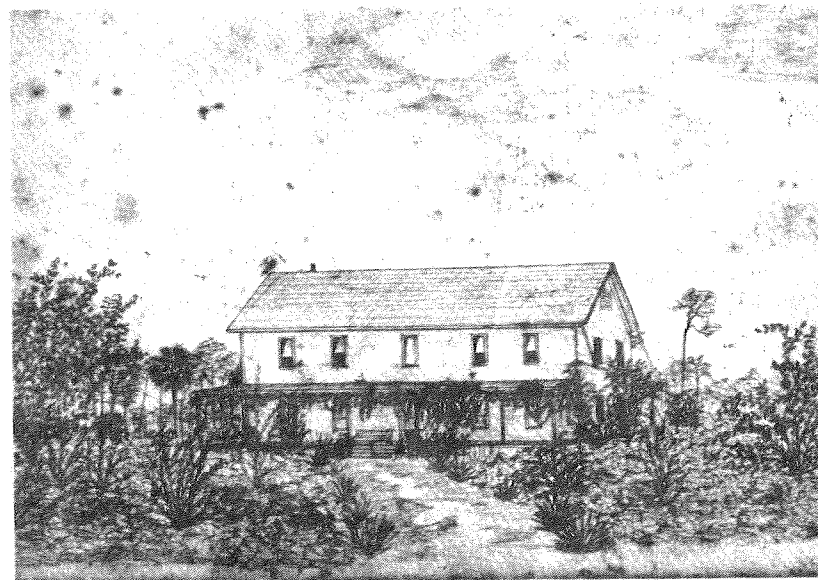


Illustration No. 39. Earliest known view of the Founder's House, dated September 6, 1899, by Edith Campbell, showing the north elevation and one of the porches which were located on the north and south.

trations Nos. 40 and 41.

²³Floor and roof penetrations, indicating the location of these stoves, still exist in the structure.

into a series of rooms, with two interior stairs serving as access to the living units at the second floor.

The earliest known view of the Founder's House is an Edith Campbell drawing, showing the building as it looked from the south side of the Estero River, the north and west elevations illustrated in the drawing, dated September 6, 1899. It is interesting to note that the Campbell drawing, and the other drawings that show portions of the building, identify it as the Children's House, a clue as to its initial usage. The original map of 1902, while not identifying the building with a title, notes that the

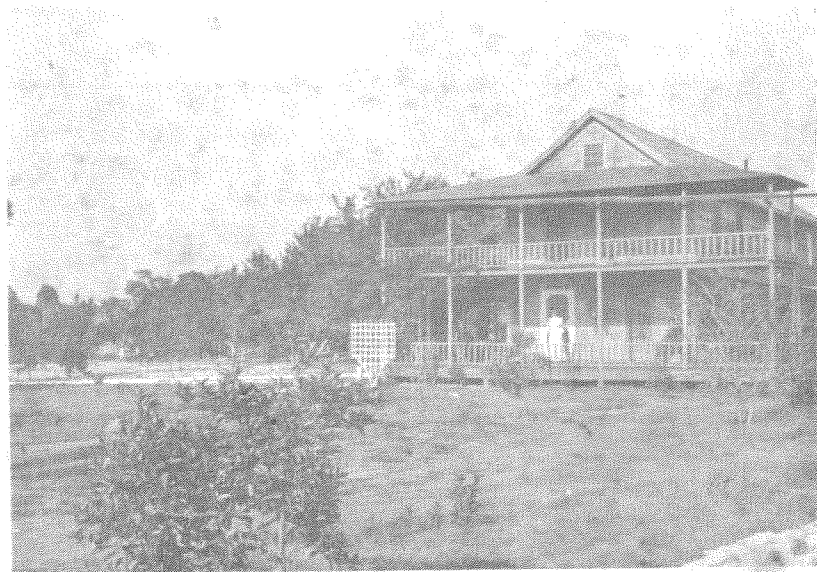


Illustration No. 40. West view of the Founder's House showing the extensive porch added (between 1903 and 1905). A close-up of this porch, taken during the Stella Festival is shown in illustration No. 9. Photograph circa 1905.



Illustration No. 41. Southeast view of the Founder's House illustrating the ornate circular porch constructed in approximately 1905. The original photograph was captioned "Lunar Festival procession, April 10, 1906, on the path south toward the Art Hall."

first floor, from west to east, was occupied by "Victoria's Room" (Mrs. Ordway), "A School Room," and "Dr. Graves Room, Dentist." No identification is given to the second floor nor is any interior or exterior stairway shown to the second floor.

The next modification occurred between 1903 and 1905 with the addition of a large porch attached to the west, longer than the width of the building where it was attached. This porch, identified in early photographs, was approximately ten feet in depth and served, at that time, also for ceremonial functions, such as the Lunar



Illustration No. 42. Southwest view of the Founder's House after removal of the wooden porches on the north, south and west. Photograph, circa 1908, also shows the artificial brownstone applied to the first floor exterior walls.

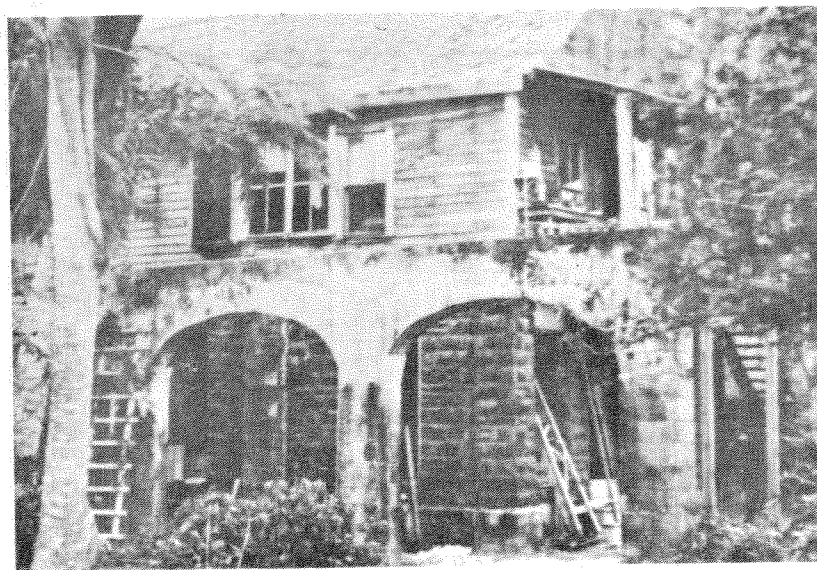


Illustration No. 43. View of the Founder's House, from the southeast, showing the arches after construction in 1908, and the addition of a stair access on the exterior of the east elevation. Photograph circa 1909.

and Solar Festivals.

In approximately 1905, an extensive and ornate circular porch, occurring at both levels, was added to the east side of the building. In contrast to the rest of the building, it appears, from early photographs, to be painted, with the woodwork being ornate and complex.

In 1908, the north, south and west porches were removed, and in April of that year, "while Dr. Teed and Ordway were absent...(a crew set), to work veneering Ordway's frame house with artificial brownstone. Curving arches and a tower were included in the design, and by fall the building had taken on a somewhat Moorish appearance."²⁴

Illustration No. 42 shows the series of arches and brownstone²⁵ described above and the following caption was found on the back: "The old house as you see is undergoing elaborate and extensive repairs, and as it is the Master's House, we hope when it is finished to have an entirely new structure enclosing the old one. The circular tower on the left is 30 feet in diameter. The addition will be 2½ stores. It will be an immense building when completed--upper floor of colonade to be in

²⁴Elliott J. Mackle, Jr., The Koreshan Unity in Florida, p. 137.

²⁵The imitation brownstone was a settlement product of the concrete works, of colored concrete cast into molds.

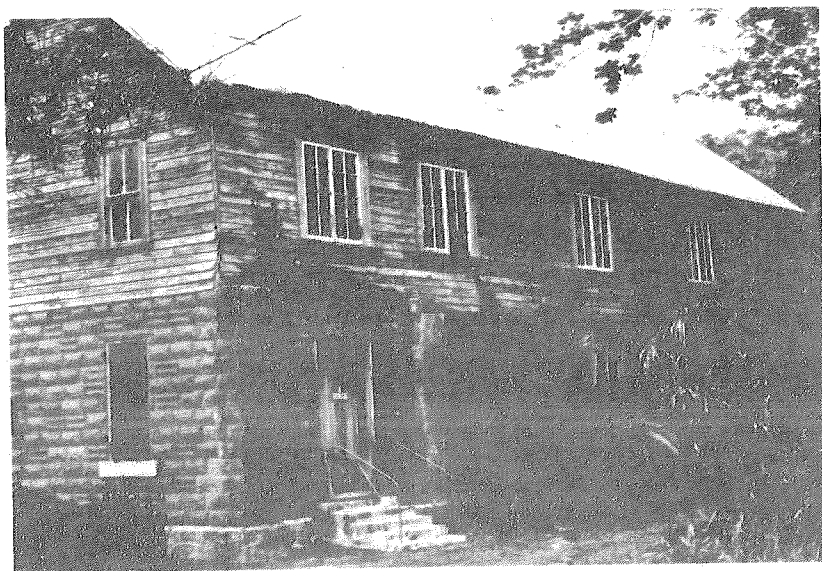


Illustration No. 44. View from southwest showing the Founder's House in late 1976. The exterior wood siding at the second floor, as well as the second floor windows on the south were a 1960 renovation.

*corinthian columns."*²⁶

The death of Dr. Teed, in December, 1908, appears to have stopped the extensive remodeling then in progress. The next photograph, Illustration No. 43, shows the removal of the ornate two-story porch on the east and the addition of a simple stair access to the second floor at the northeast corner.

During the period from 1909 to 1960, the interior partitions were removed and a

²⁶Author is unidentified, but believed to be Edith Campbell.

small porch, with ornate spindles was added. Still in existence today, it is in a much deteriorated condition. Also, during this period, perhaps in its earlier stage, the arches to the south and west were removed.

In 1960 the original wood siding at the second floor, which had not been covered by the imitation stone, was replaced, and the windows, double hung type, were replaced with casement type windows from a Koreshan Unity building located on Estero Island. The original windows, on the north side, were left intact.²⁷

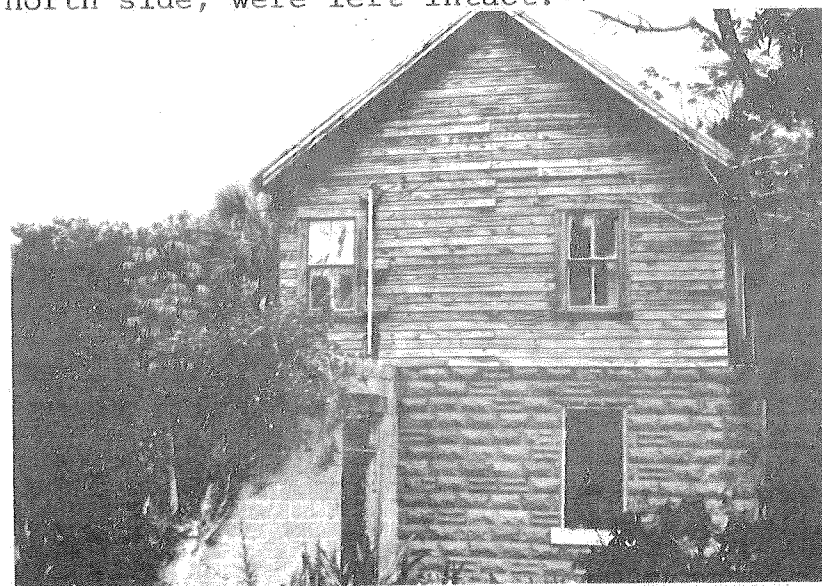


Illustration No. 45. West elevation of the house showing remains of the circular tower which was never completed, but had been planned to rise 2½ stories. Photograph 1976.

²⁷Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.



Illustration No. 46. East elevation of the second floor of the Founder's House showing porch and ornate Koreshan manufactured wood railing constructed after 1909. Photograph taken in late 1976.

During 1976, when minor repair work was occurring, the removal of the vines from the imitation stonewall (of 4" thickness) at the northeast corner, caused the wall to collapse.

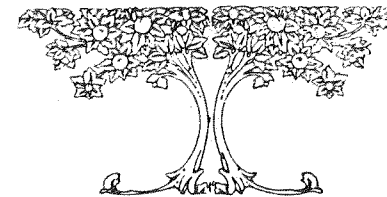
The structure, as previously noted, has apparently served many functions, but most important must be its role as the living quarters of Dr. Teed. Mrs. Ordway left the settlement, with a group of her supporters, shortly after Dr. Teed's death, and after her departure, the building served as a Brother's dormitory.

Current Condition

The building is in immediate need of extensive repair. The porch to the east is in danger of collapsing and the ornate railing should be removed and protected until the necessary repairs are made. There are several roof leaks which, if left unrepaired, will begin to cause damage to the basic structure.

The majority of the "Tower" or courtyard space to the north has been destroyed over the years. A small portion, sufficient to be illustrative of the character of that addition is in existence, but safeguards should be taken to insure its structural stability. Numerous blocks or sections of the imitation stone exist and could be utilized for future repair work.

It is critical that repairs be made as soon as feasible so that this important settlement structure can be saved.



B-11

Fish House (1898/1899 - unknown)

A small palmetto thatched hut was built on the south bank of the Estero River. As fish served a major role as a food source in the early days of the settlement, it is assumed that a series of these temporary type of structures were constructed. While its location is illustrated on the original 1902 map, little information or visual material is available as to its appearance.

One drawing, by Edith Campbell, is available showing its general character and size.

B-12

Dining Hall (1897/1898 - 1949)

Also known as Main Building, Dormitory, New Building.

A large, three-story building, it was constructed to serve as the settlement dining hall and place of assembly, with the two upper floors serving as a Sisters' dormitory. At the time of its construction, "it was said to be the largest structure in Lee County."²⁸

²⁸Rahn, p. 52.

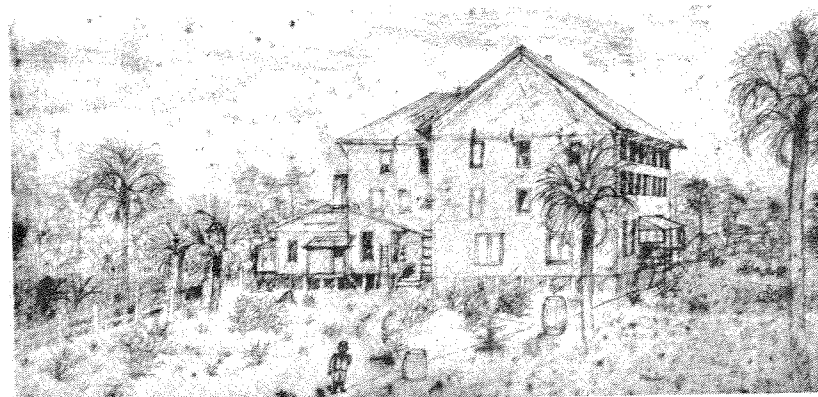


Illustration No. 47. Earliest known view of the Dining Hall drawn by Edith Campbell, undated, but believed to be late 1899. The rain barrels in the foreground were utilized to irrigate a small garden area to the northeast of the Dining Hall. In the background to the right of the Dining Hall can be seen the two small members houses (B-14, B-15).

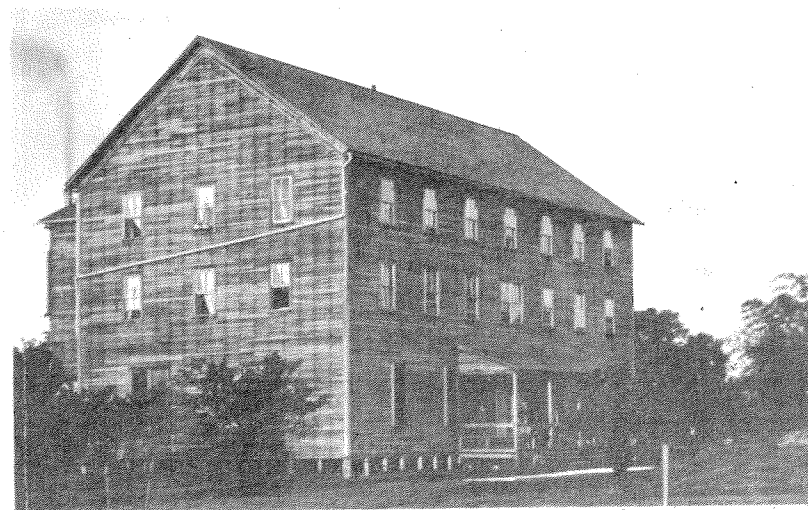


Illustration No. 48. Northwest view of the Dining Hall (B-12). The upper two stories served as a dormitory for female members but was never totally completed in the interior. Photograph circa 1905/1906.



Illustration No. 49. East elevation of the Dining Hall. The small element to the left (south) with the smoke tower contained the kitchen facilities. Photograph circa 1908.

The building was of wood frame construction with horizontal wood siding and a hand split cypress shingle roof. A small entry porch was located on the north side at the center of the building, which was seventy feet in length and forty feet in width. The building was built in the shape of a "T" (as was the men's log house) with a smaller one story kitchen located to the south.

²⁹Rahn, p. 52

³⁰It is interesting to note that Dr. Teed's table was to the east, as was his room in the Men's Log House, and later, his living quarters in the

The dining hall, with a seating capacity of 225, also served as a meeting place and "the principal place of assembly for many years."²⁹ Koresh's (Dr. Teed) table was located at the extreme east end of the room.³⁰ This main space was also utilized as "a place of worship."³¹

Heating for the structure was provided by a large wood or log burning stove located in the middle of the dining room, which also provided heat for the floors above.³²



Illustration No. 50. Photograph shows southeast view of the Dining Hall with small additions made to the kitchen area, believed to be the dishwashing room. Photograph circa 1910.

Founder's House.

³¹Fort Myers Press, April 29, 1897.

³²Rahn, p. 52.

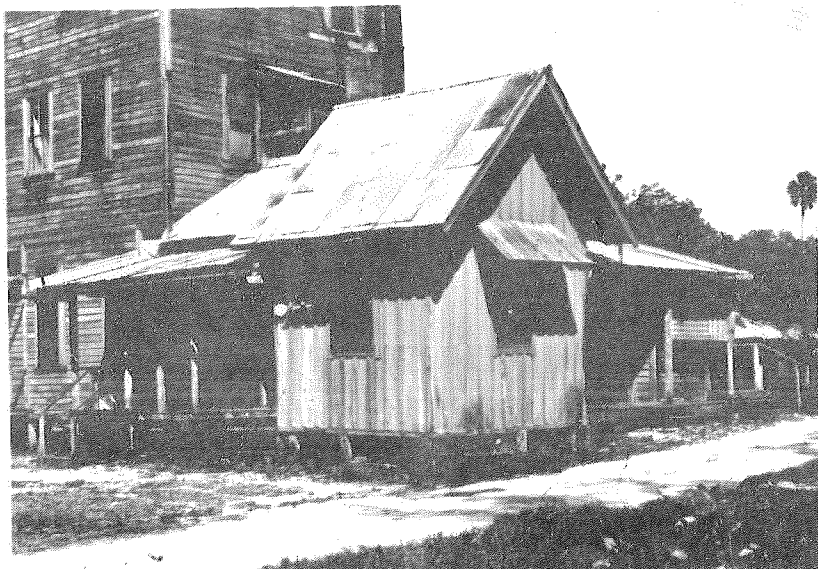


Illustration No. 51. Close-up view of kitchen area and small additions, taken from the southwest. Photograph circa 1912.

While the first floor was completed, the upper two floors were left relatively unfinished with accounts noting that the only partitions on the upper two floors were a series of sheets or cloths hung from the ceiling, with no doors or walls other than the sheets.³³

A series of smaller rooms were added to the building in the general area of the kitchen, one being a dishwashing room located to

³³Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

the east, and shown in Illustration No. 50. It was described as a "light commodious dishwashing room. The dishes being passed through from the dining room with great economy of handling."³⁴

In 1949, after the structure had deteriorated substantially, the building was torn down by order of the State Fire Marshall.

B-13 Carpentry Building (1899± - 1903±)

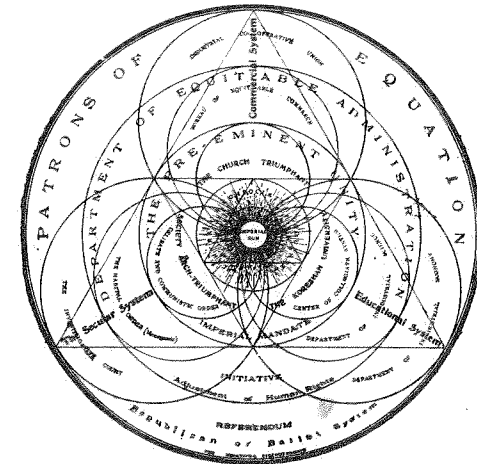
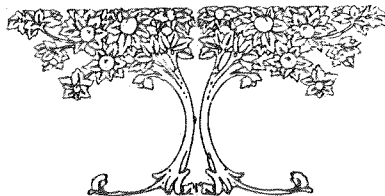
A one-story structure constructed to the east of the Men's Log House, as indicated by the original 1902 map. No information or visual documentation of the structure has been located. The building is also identified on the original 1902 plan (cover).

³⁴Cyrus R. Teed (Koresh) and E.B. Webster, The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, The Solution of Industrial Problems, p. 32.

B-14/B-15
Members' Houses (1899-1901±)

Two small members' houses, located to the west of the Dining Hall (B-12) were constructed in approximately 1899. It is assumed they were of typical frame construction with cypress shingles.

The Edith Campbell drawing of the Dining Hall (Illustration No. 47) shows faintly the structures and indicates that they were one-story buildings with shed roofs of wood shingles or palmetto thatching. No other information or visual record of these buildings has been found.



The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated Into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Illustration No. 52. Master Plan of the settlement during the 1900-1902 period. It was during this time that the status of the settlement at Estero changed from a colony of the Unity to its headquarters. The cover of this publication shows the original Master Plan, drawn in 1902.

Building Key - 1894

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| B- 1 Damkohler House | B- 5 Barn |
| B- 2 Women's Log House | B- 6 Barn* |
| B- 3 Men's Log House | B- 7 Apiary |
| B- 4 One Room Store | B- 8 Bridge |

Building Key - 1895-1899

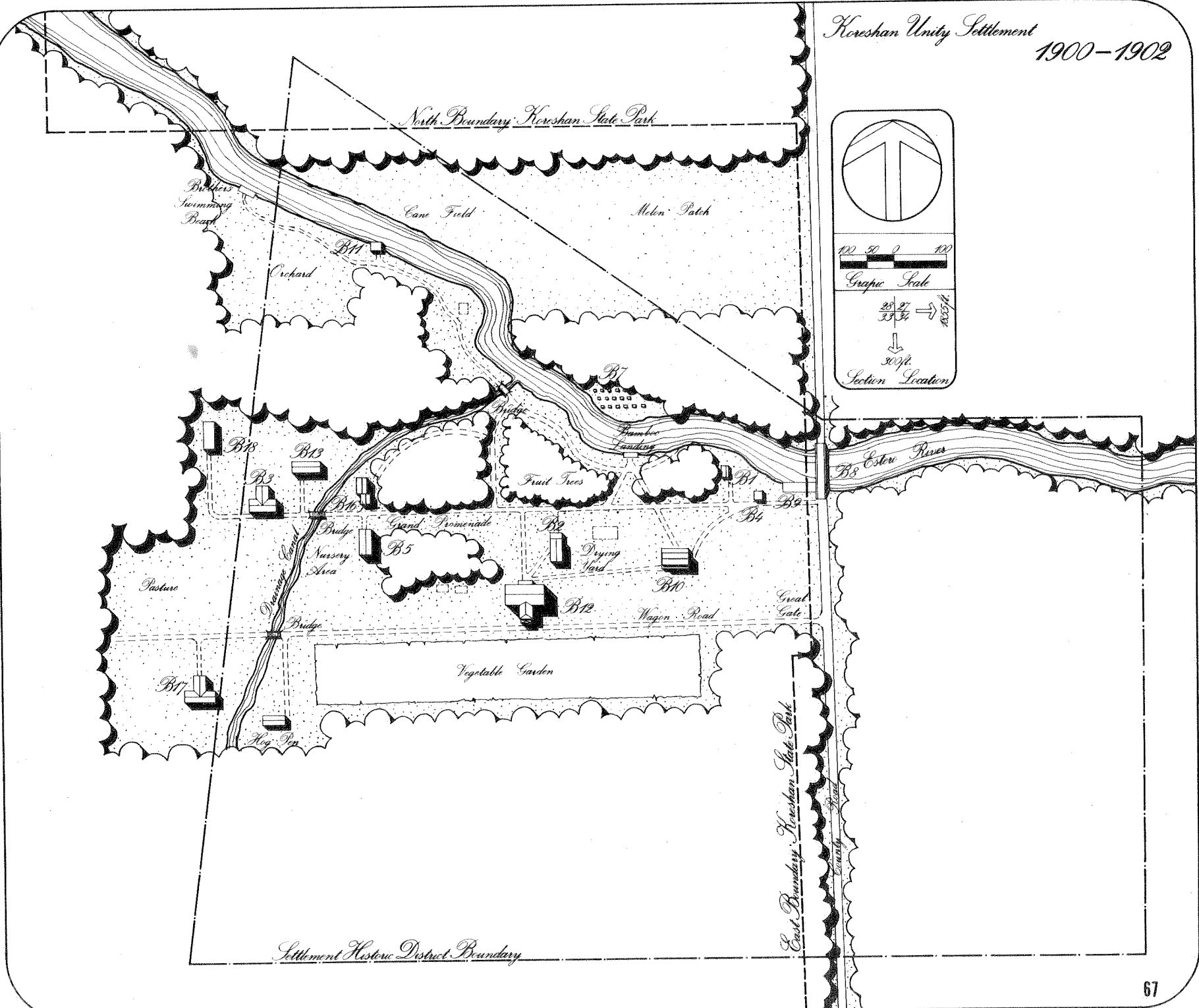
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| B- 9 Boat Landing | B-13 Carpentry Building |
| B-10 Founder's House | B-14 Members' House* |
| B-11 Fish House | B-15 Members' House* |
| B-12 Dining Hall | |

Building Key - 1900-1902

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| B-16 Storage Sheds | B-18 Pineapple Shed |
| B-17 Barn | |

*Indicates structures no longer in existence prior to this period (1900-1902).

Koreshan Unity Settlement
1900-1902



time (B-3 and B-17).³⁷

The photograph shown is the only visual record of the structure, showing the northeast portion of the building.

Structures 1900-1902

B-16 Storage Sheds (1898/1899 - 1901±)

A group of storage sheds or covered elements which were located to the west of the Men's Log House. They appear in the Campbell drawing (Illustration No. 33) of the barn (Building B-5). No other written or visual documentation has been found.

B-17 Barn (1901± - 1907)

A large, two-story pitch pine barn,³⁵ located at the extreme southwest of the settlement. Constructed of wood frame, with vertical wood siding, it was roofed in palmetto thatching.

Constructed in the shape of a "T", it was an imposing structure.³⁶ The fire of 1907 destroyed both barns in existence at that



Illustration No. 53. View of the Barn (B-17) from the northeast. The location and approximate size was established by the original 1902 map (see cover).

³⁵Andrews, p. 47.

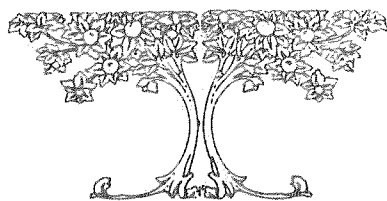
³⁶See original 1902 Master Site Plan (cover).

³⁷Andrews, p. 47.

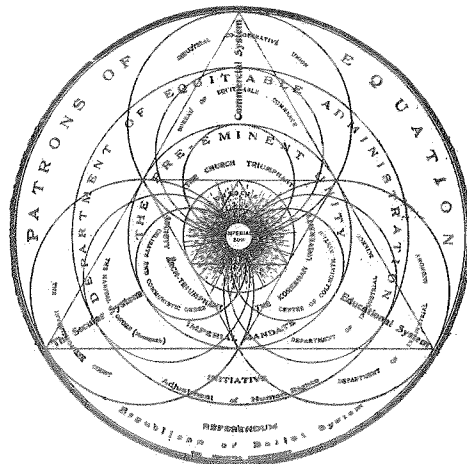
B-18

Pineapple Shed (1900± - 1904±)

The indication on the original 1902 map is the only known reference to this structure. It is assumed to have been an open, slat roofed shed that was in existence for four years or less. No additional information mentioning or showing this structure has been located.



Moresmanship is the Imperial System of Theocracy of the Golden Age.



The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Illustration No. 54. Master Plan of the settlement during 1903-1905. This period, which we have called "The Golden Years," marks a time of major growth for the settlement.

Building Key - 1894

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| B- 1 Damkohler House | B- 5 Barn* |
| B- 2 Women's Log House* | B- 6 Barn* |
| B- 3 Men's Log House | B- 7 Apiary |
| B- 4 One Room Store* | B- 8 Bridge |

Building Key - 1895-1899

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| B- 9 Boat Landing | B-13 Carpentry Building |
| B-10 Founder's House | B-14 Members' House* |
| B-11 Fish House | B-15 Members' House* |
| B-12 Dining Hall | |

Building Key - 1900-1902

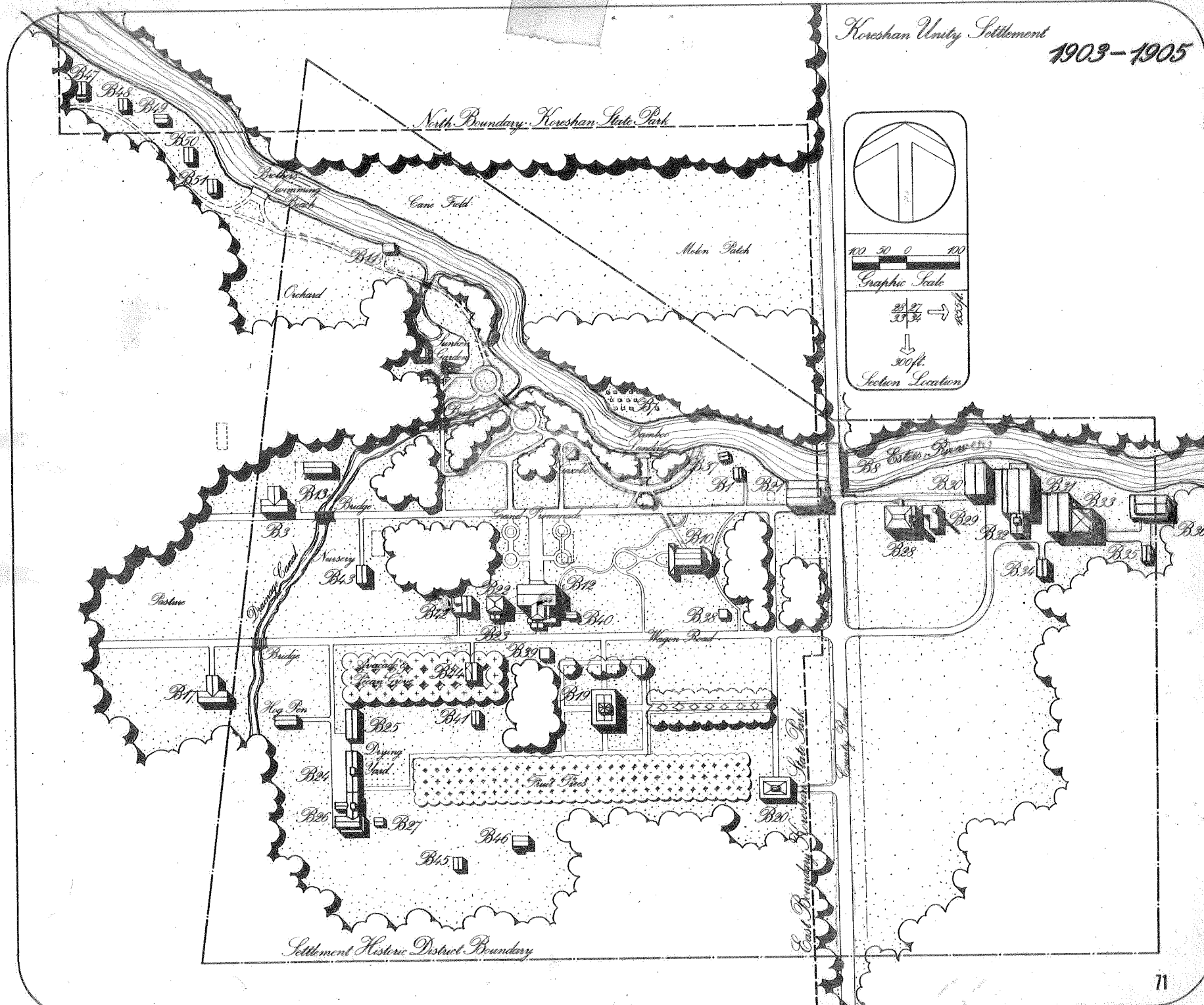
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| B-16 Storage Sheds* | B-18 Pineapple Shed* |
| B-17 Barn | |

Building Key - 1903-1905

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| B-19 Planetary Court | B-36 Concrete Works |
| B-20 Art Hall | B-37 Storage Shed |
| B-21 Old Store | B-38 Storage Shed |
| B-22 Bakery | B-39 Storage Shed |
| B-23 Bakery Ovens | B-40 Storage Shed |
| B-24 Laundry | B-41 Storage Shed |
| B-25 Members' House | B-42 Members' House |
| B-26 Large Machine Shop | B-43 Members' House |
| B-27 Small Machine Shop | B-44 Members' House |
| B-28 Publishing House | B-45 Members' House |
| B-29 Publishing House | B-46 Members' House |
| Power Building | |
| B-30 Sawmill #4 | B-47 Members' House |
| B-31 Boat Works #2 | B-48 Members' House |
| B-32 Machine & Woodworking Building | B-49 Members' House |
| B-33 Blacksmith & Plumbing Shop | B-50 Members' House |
| B-34 Storage Shed | B-51 Members' House |
| B-35 Apiary | |

*Indicates structures no longer in existence prior to this period (1903-1905).

Koreshan Unity Settlement 1903-1905



Structures 1903-1905

B-19

Planetary Court (1904/1905 - existing)

A major structure at the settlement, both physically and historically. It is also the best preserved building remaining. Planetary Court was originally constructed to house the seven managing women, who served as department heads, and one brother responsible for the physical upkeep of the building. The day to day affairs of the settlement were established in meetings held in the building.³⁸

It is a two-story wood frame structure, with vertical 1 x 10 siding, which was covered on the exterior with a heavy kraft paper, conceivably to eliminate drafts and protect against insects.³⁹ Numerous early photographs indicate this paper application, including one taken after the 1921 hurricane, which shows portions of the paper ripped away by the force of the storm. That same storm moved the building off its original pier foundations and some six feet to the west.⁴⁰

³⁸Conversations between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

³⁹Photograph interpretation, see Illustration

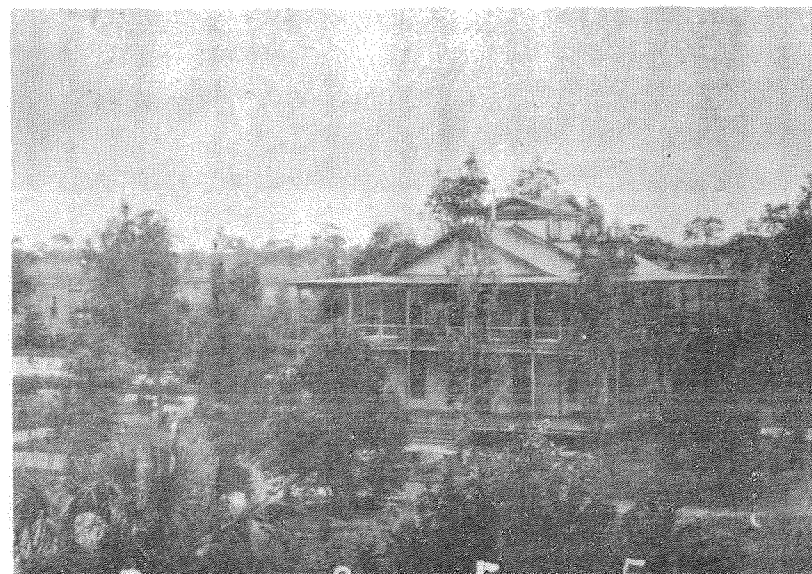


Illustration No. 55. Northwest view of Planetary Court. The caption on the original photograph states "Planetary Court, Estero, Florida" on the front, "completed 1906" on the back of the print.

A porch, occurring at both levels, went around the building on all sides, with a simple open railing at the second floor level. A small room, located at a third level, and built partially into the roof, was accessible from the second floor and had a small porch, with a more ornate railing, on the east side. It was subsequently removed, in all probability when the original cypress shake roof was replaced by tin.

No. 58.

⁴⁰Conversations between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

The interior of the structure was divided into eight bedrooms with a central core area serving as circulation and housing a detailed and ornate wood stairway to the second floor. Interior surfaces of the exterior walls, recently remodeled, were found to be of 2 x 4 construction with a 1/16" layer of pressed paper, covered with layers of wallpaper. During the remodeling, portions of the wallpaper, indicating its manufacturer and style reference, were recovered and preserved for future renovation.⁴¹

The rooms all have exterior exposure, with excellent cross ventilation and air circu-



Illustration No. 56. East view of Planetary Court showing the "Managing Women" seated on the porch. To the right (northwest) can be seen the Bakery (B-22).

⁴¹These are on file with the Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Jim Stevenson, Chief Naturalist.



Illustration No. 57. Northwest view of Planetary Court in approximately 1906/1907. The exterior walls and gable end are covered with Kraft type paper. To the left (southeast) can faintly be seen the Art Hall.

lation, illustrating early Koreshan awareness of environmental design and indigenous architecture.

Several minor modern additions have been made, including the addition of a kitchen and bathroom at the second floor, and a small bathroom at the first floor level under the exterior stairwell. The original vertical siding was, at a later date, covered with horizontal wood siding.⁴²

⁴²Renovation work performed by the Division of Recreation and Parks in 1976 exposed portions of the original wood siding.



Illustration No. 58. Photograph shows Planetary Court from the east and the application of the Kraft paper over the wood siding believed to have been used to protect against insects and drafts. Photograph circa 1906.

A rainwater tank, fed by roof rain gutters provides fresh water, but is not connected into the more recent plumbing system.

Planetary Court is now used as the residence of Miss Hedwig Michel, President of the Koreshan Unity, with her living quarters located on the second floor. The first floor rooms serve as guest rooms for visitors to the settlement and are furnished much as they were when the structure was originally constructed.

⁴³Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

Present Condition:

The structure is basically in good condition. Recent renovations, while not historically accurate, have replaced or corrected potential problem areas. While additional work is required, the building is in no immediate danger.

B-20

Art Hall (1905 - present)

Also known as Music and Art Building

The Art Hall, constructed during the period when the settlement reached its peak, is a one-story wood frame building. Its exterior is surfaced with horizontal wood siding and, similar to other settlement structures of that period, its roof is hand split cypress shingles. A covered porch, originally eight feet in width, occurred on the north, east and south sides of the building.⁴³ The flat roof element covering the porch is supported structurally by a series of wood braces and counter braces, which play an important role in the building's aesthetic appearance.

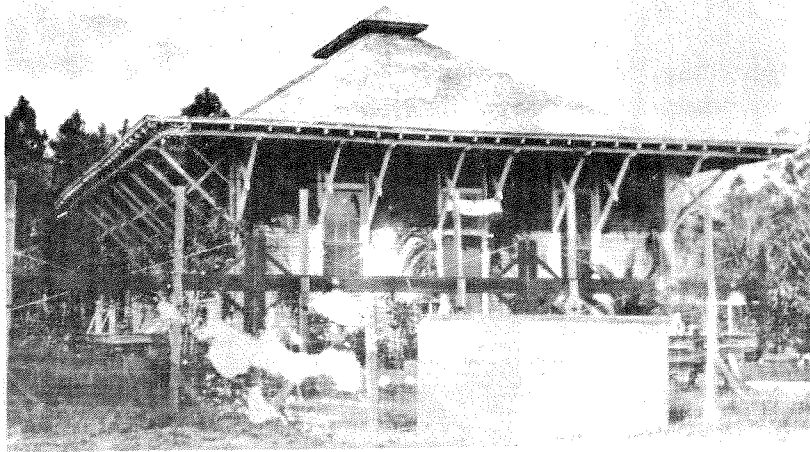


Illustration No. 59. West view of the Art Hall showing the original wood shingle roof and the roof vent element. A similar photograph in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative is captioned "This building contains several thousand dollars worth of oil paintings and other works of art. It is fitted with (a) stage for theatrical performances, and has a seating capacity of about three hundred." Photograph circa 1906. Located in the front are sections of the rectilineator used in the geodetic survey.

The Art Hall is elevated above ground level approximately 18", as are most settlement buildings, and supported structurally on a series of piers. These piers were, in turn, resting on stone indigenous to the site, but were later replaced with concrete after construction of the settlement concrete works.⁴⁴

⁴⁴Teed and Webster, p. 43.

⁴⁵Photographic interpretation, see Illustration No. 49.

⁴⁶Teed and Webster, p. 43.

The interior of the structure is open with no interior columns obstructing the space. At the roof was a small secondary roof element, which served as an air vent.⁴⁵

A raised stage occurs at the west end of the room, behind which is a narrow "back stage" area, originally utilized for dressing and other related activities associated with the numerous theatrical and musical performances given by settlement members.

The Art Hall, with a seating capacity of 300,⁴⁶ was utilized for lectures, concerts,

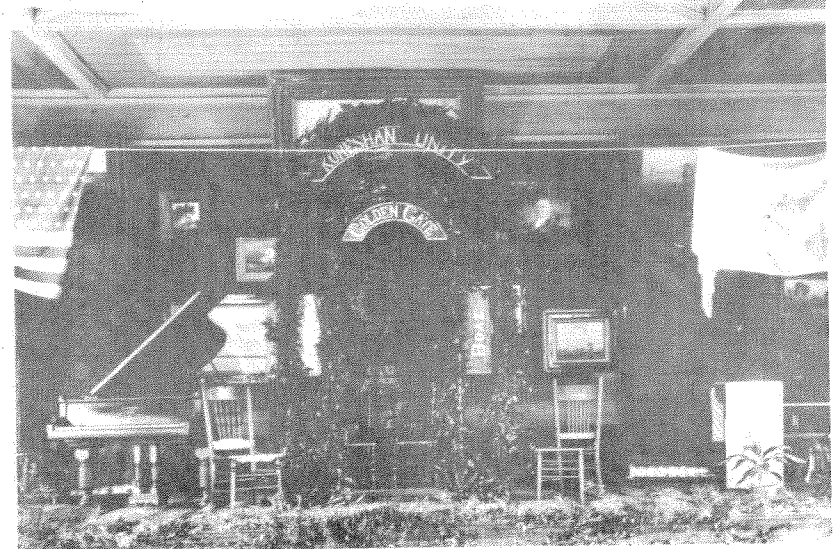


Illustration No. 60. Interior view of the Art Hall, showing the stage area to the west. Oil paintings are by Douglas Arthur Teed, the son of Dr. Teed. Photograph circa 1908.

entertainment, education, and was the center of all religious activity.⁴⁷ Additionally, the building contained some forty paintings by Douglas Arthur Teed, son of Dr. Teed, which had been purchased by the settlement in 1905 for \$4,000.⁴⁸

The Pioneer University of Koreshan University, established in 1904,⁴⁹ included within its curriculum what were considered to be "*useful trades*," such as construction, pattern making, electrical, mechanical, stone construction, as well as a music department and an art department.⁵⁰ It was the professors and students of the university who built the Art Hall⁵¹ and who subsequently held their classes and meetings there.

The Art Hall is today utilized as a lecture hall and museum, containing early historical documents of the Koreshan Unity, musical instruments, the Douglas Teed paintings, and other items of historical interest.

Current Condition

The structure is in good condition, having been renovated under the direction of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic

Structures, in 1969. Modifications to the building include the addition of restroom facilities to the west, entered from the outside, and rebuilding of the porch, which, while not historically accurate, was constructed utilizing quality materials and methods. As previously noted, the original roof vent has been removed, an unfortunate modification as it was an interesting and functional architectural element.



Illustration No. 61. Northwest view of the Art Hall as it appears today. The roof element has been removed and a porch railing added.

⁴⁷Rahn, p. 53.

⁴⁸These paintings, property of the State, have been inventoried and reviewed for possible restoration. A listing of the individual paintings and approximate hours required for restoration is contained in this publication.

⁴⁹The Pioneer University of Koreshan University.

⁵⁰Howard David Fine, *The Koreshan Unity: Utopian Community: We Live Inside the World*, pp. 56-57.

⁵¹Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

B-21

Old Store (1902/1903 - 1924/1926)

This building, a three-story structure, fronting directly on the Estero River, was constructed by the settlement to replace the original One Room Store and post office (B-4).

It functioned as a general store⁵² serving both the settlement, by allowing them to purchase goods at wholesale prices, and for

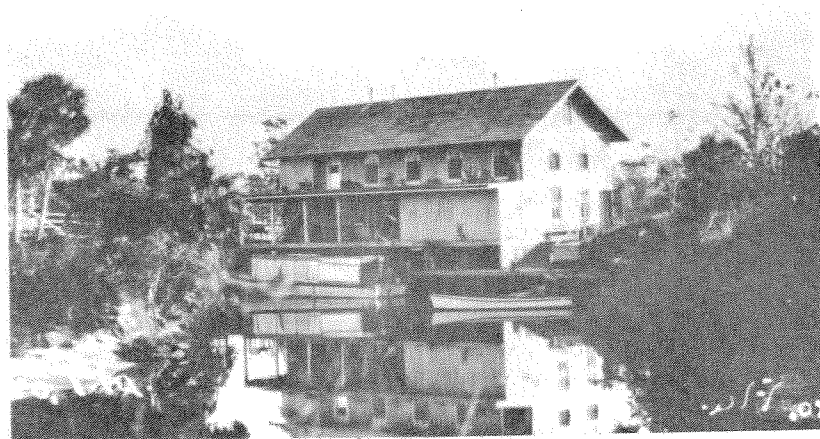


Illustration No. 62. The Old Store as seen from the northwest. It served as the main link of commerce with the non-settlement community. The majority of produce and Settlement manufactured products were shipped from this building on the extensive Koreshan boat line. Photograph circa 1904/1905.

⁵²Rahn, p. 60.

⁵³Ibid.

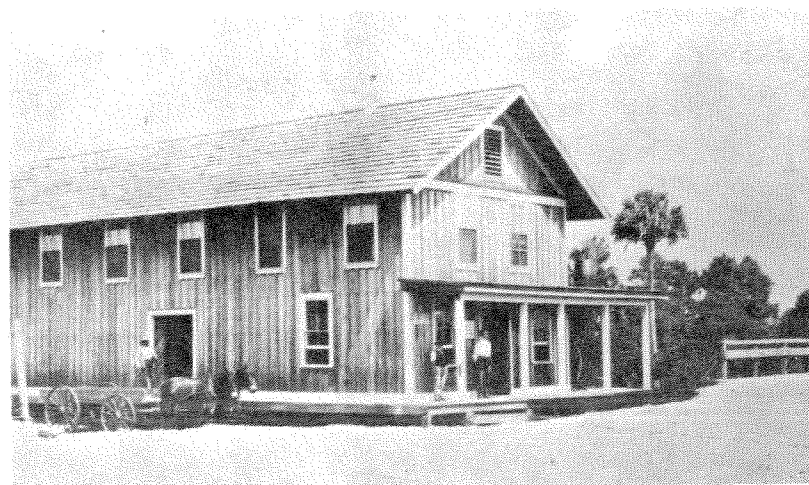


Illustration No. 63. View of the Old Store from the southeast. The porch opened onto the county road. Produce was transported to the store by wagons from the gardens and groves of the Settlement. Photograph circa 1905.

the general community surrounding the settlement grounds. It sold fruit, vegetables and fishing supplies of all kinds. The ground or river level served as a storage and warehouse space for the loading and unloading of materials shipped by boat, the major source of supply. The second floor served as the general store and post office with the third floor utilized as a sister's dormitory.⁵³

The post office was located in one corner of the store.⁵⁴ A portion was renovated and enlarged in the summer of 1908, with

⁵⁴Rahn, p. 60.

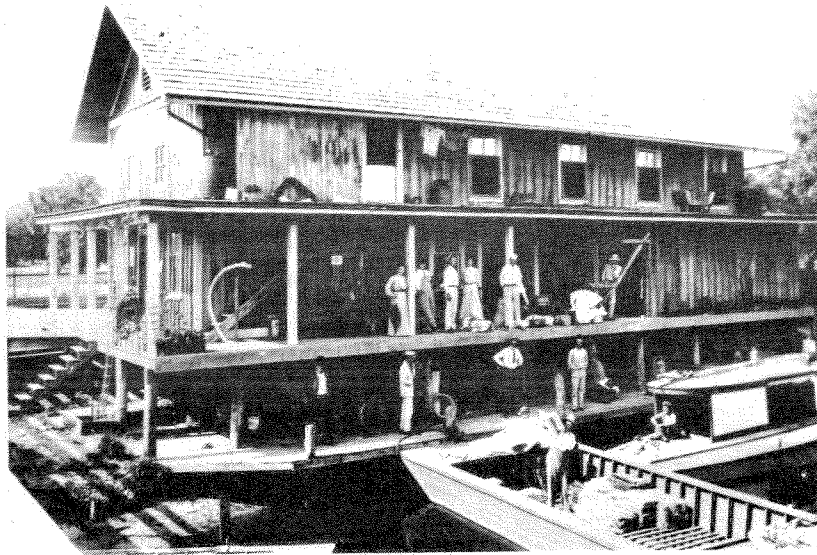


Illustration No. 64. The boat landing area of the Old Store as seen from the northeast. The photograph, taken in approximately 1905, shows the three levels on the river side, the bottom level being used as a warehouse space.

the addition of a new wall, service windows, letter boxes and glass partitions.⁵⁵

The structure was of wood frame construction with vertical board and batten siding, with the roof of wooden shingles.

A covered porch/loading area on the north fronting on the river, and to the east fronting on the county road, occurred at the two lower levels.

⁵⁵Rahn, p. 60.

A series of floods, which severely damaged both the lower storage area, as well as the store, led the settlement to construct a new store in the early 1920's. The Old Store was finally destroyed, by fire, in the 1924-1926 period.

This general store, as well as the structure built to replace it, provided the greatest revenue to the settlement and functioned for several years as its major business endeavor, in terms of financial return for the settlement.



Illustration No. 65. A rare over-all view of the Settlement taken from the second floor of the Publishing House (B-28). The building in the foreground is the Old Store, behind it and to the right is the Damkohler house. To the left of the Old Store can be seen the Founder's House with the ornate porch added to the north. Directly behind the Founder's House is the Dining Hall. Photograph circa 1906.

B-22

Bakery (1903/1904 - present)

Constructed twenty-five feet west of the Dining Hall,⁵⁶ it served as a bakery, producing 500-600 loaves of bread per day, some being sold to local people.

It is a two-story wood frame structure, 30' x 50'⁵⁷ with sisters housed in the four dormitory rooms on the second floor. The large, first floor room has structural wood columns at its interior, supporting the

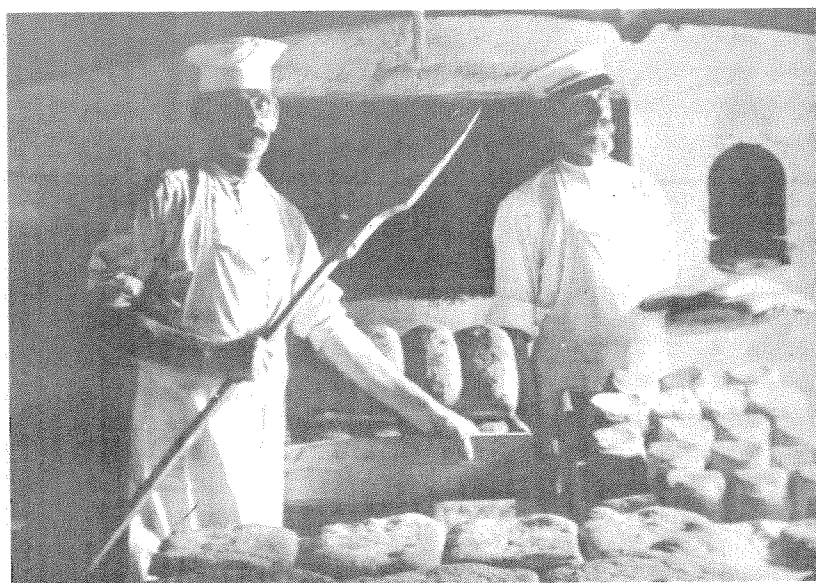


Illustration No. 66. Interior view of the Bakery Oven building (B-23) looking toward the south. The ovens had a capacity of 500 to 600 loaves of bread per day for consumption by the members, as well as being sold to other settlers in the area. Photograph circa 1906.

⁵⁶Teed and Webster, p. 33

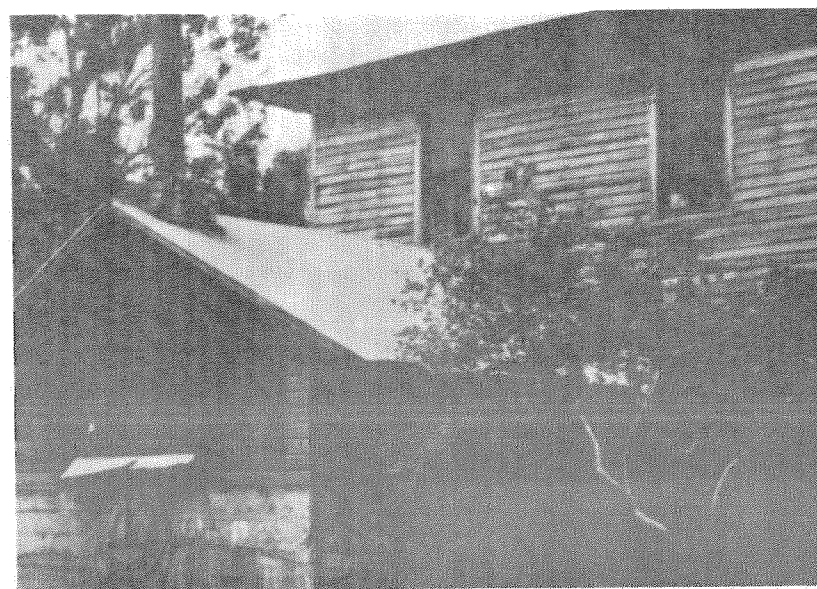


Illustration No. 67. Partial view of the Bakery and Bakery Ovens from the southeast. This is the only known view of the exterior of the oven areas and shows the partial stone wall approximately four feet in height. Photograph circa 1905.

second floor. The exterior of the bakery was covered with horizontal wood siding and a cypress shingle roof, later changed to a tin roof.

Connected to the south were the bake ovens (B-23), and at the northwest corner was located a large rainwater collector, recently constructed by the State.

The structure has been remodeled to serve as a present day dining hall. A kitchen, at the south end has been added, with the

⁵⁷Teed and Webster, p. 33

upstairs serving as guest rooms for visitors to the settlement. A small bathroom has been built in what was the west portion of the hallway at the second floor. New wood siding has been installed on the exterior walls, removing any visual trace of the connection between the oven structure and the bakery.

Current Condition

The building is in good condition for a structure of that age. The bathroom, added to the second floor, is a potential water damage problem because of inadequate protection at the shower. The building has been maintained over the years and continues to function as an active settlement building.

B-23

Bakery Ovens (1903[±] to mid-1930's)

A small room, approximately 15' x 20', was built with the bakery, or added shortly thereafter. It was of masonry construction with an application of wood siding going from a point four feet above grade to the roof. The stone was collected locally from

⁵⁸Richard S. Berrey, The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of A Communistic Experiment in Florida, p. 46.

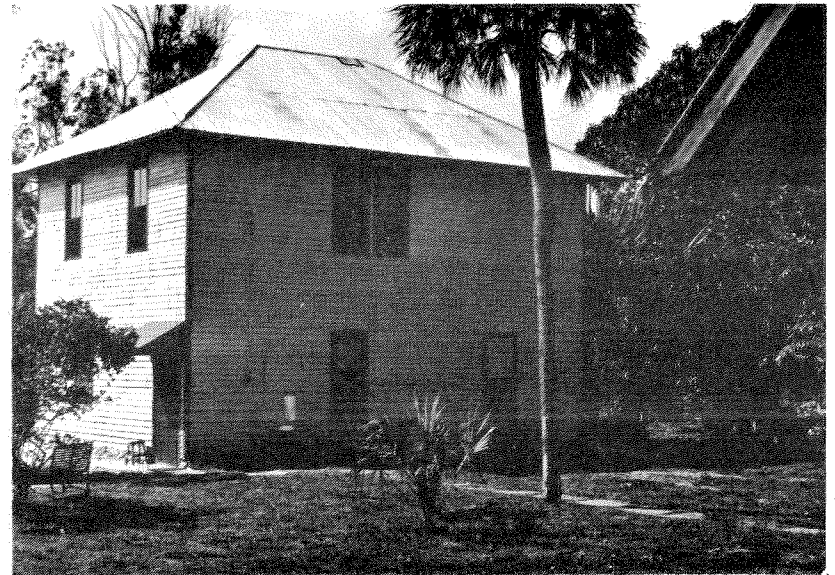


Illustration No. 68. View of the Bakery from the Dining Hall (southeast) after removal of the ovens. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced with tin. Photograph circa 1930's.

the settlement grounds.⁵⁸

There is no apparent explanation for the removal of the ovens other than a gradual disuse as the population of the settlement declined (from a peak of 200 in 1903 to approximately 60 in 1930).

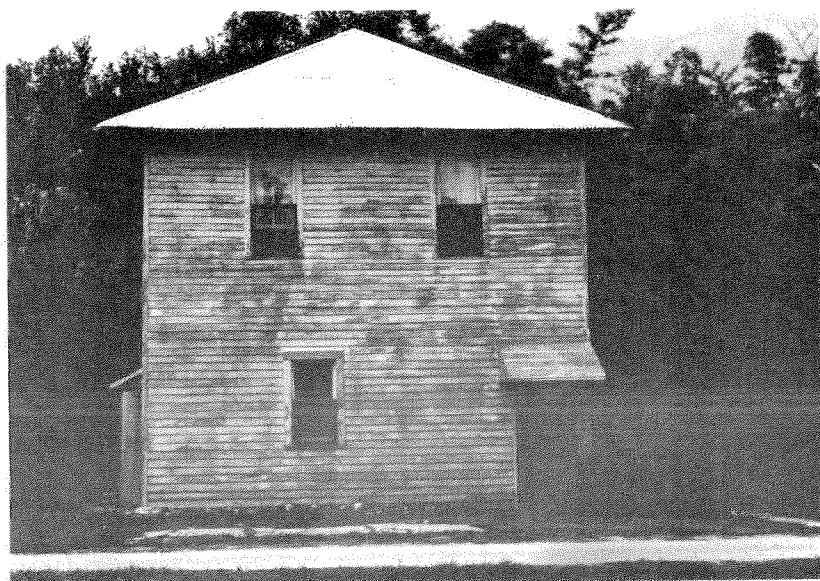


Illustration No. 69. South elevation of the Bakery as it appeared in 1976. The second floor, originally used as a sisters' dormitory, is used today to house visitors to the Settlement.

B-24
Laundry (1903/1904 - mid-1950's)

Constructed to replace the original laundry (modification occurring in the original Women's Log House B-12), it was a conventional wood framed structure 24' x 75',⁵⁹ with the longer dimension on the

⁵⁹Teed and Webster, p. 48.

east and west, one story in height.

The laundry was powered "...by steam power. The drying is accomplished by the use of a centrifugal machine that makes three thousand revolutions a minute, and dries its capacity of clothes in three minutes. All machines are set on solid stone foundations made in our stone and sidewalk department..."⁶⁰

The room was kept cool "...by the use of revolving fans made in our machine

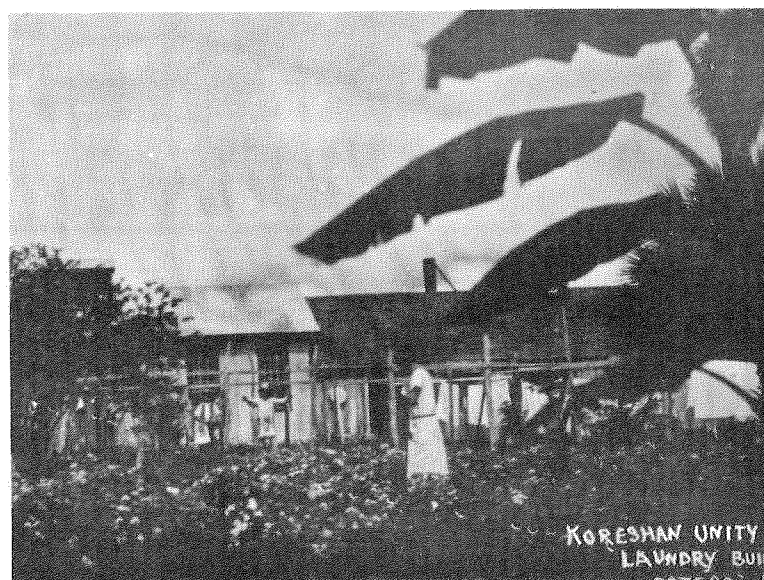


Illustration No. 70. East view of the Laundry building showing its connection to the large machine shop to the left (south). In the foreground are shown a series of drying racks. Photograph circa 1906.

⁶⁰Teed and Webster, p. 48.



Illustration No. 71. Close-up view of the Laundry from the northwest showing details of the frame construction, and wood shingle roof. Photograph circa 1906.

shop."⁶¹ Six people, settlement members, worked here doing all the laundry work for the Unity, a capability of serving some 200 members.

While the structure is no longer in existence, having been demolished in the mid-1950's after having deteriorated, the original stone foundations supporting the machinery are in place, and the roof line can be identified at the large machine building (B-26) built connected to the laundry.

⁶¹Teed and Webster, p. 48.

⁶²One settlement member who lived there has been identified as Conrad Schlender (1876-1965);

B-25

Member's House (1903/1904± - mid-1950's)

A one-story members' house constructed to the north of the Laundry (B-24) and housing two male members of the settlement.⁶²

The structure, approximately 20' x 50' was of typical frame and vertical wood siding construction with a wood shingle roof. The view illustrated is believed to be of the east elevation, showing the later tin roof.

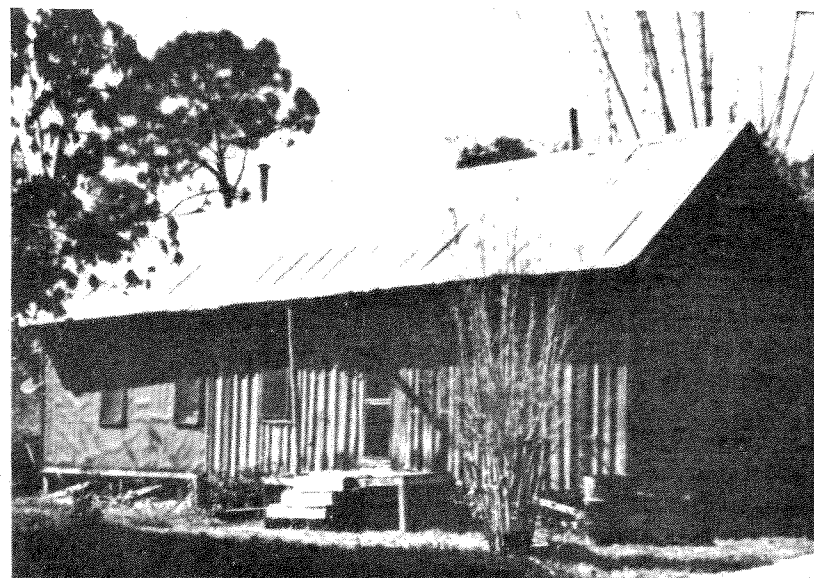


Illustration No. 72. Northeast view of the Members' House (B-25) located directly north of the Laundry. It represents typical housing constructed for Unity members. Photograph approximately 1907.

conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity, 1976.

The paper covering the southern end of the house is believed to have been applied over the wood siding. The horizontal joint occurring at the top of the door and continuing the length of the building is not believed to represent any element of construction, but rather the length of mill cut boards available at the time of construction. Similar joints, also running through windows, appear on structures of that period.

B-26

Large Machine Shop (1904/1905[±] - present)

A one-story, wood frame structure, of irregular configuration, it contained the steam power equipment that served the adjacent laundry. It housed, in addition to the steam equipment, "...engine lathes, drill presses, shapers, power metal saw, grinding machines and emery wheels, forge and brazing tools."⁶³

Reflecting the inventive character of the Unity settlers, several special tools and engines were designed and constructed in this facility, including "...a marine gas engine which we contemplate manufacturing for our own use..."⁶⁴

⁶³Teed and Webster, p. 47.

⁶⁴Ibid.

⁶⁵Conversation between the authors and Miss

The south portion of the building was removed in the late 1940's or early 1950's,⁶⁵ portions of the concrete slab being the only remaining trace. The small room, at the northwest corner, has recently (1976) been partially rebuilt. The roof vent, as shown in the illustration has been removed.

Present Condition

The structure is in poor condition, being basically open to the elements. Both the



Illustration No. 73. Southeast view of the Large Machine Shop in approximately the 1920's. The large portion, gable end facing east, was removed between 1946 and 1955.

Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

north and south ends of the building are open, the walls having been removed, and several of the windows are gone or so damaged as to afford little, if any, protection from the elements. Some portions of the equipment originally housed there are still in existence, such as the crank shaft, mounted in the ceiling, which provided power to the laundry. Several of the wooden gear elements and miscellaneous items related to the building are stored there and should be protected and safeguarded for future display purposes.

Immediate steps must be taken if this building is to be retained for future usage in the settlement.

B-27

Small Machine Shop (1905/1906 - present)

A small, one-story building, located to the east of the Large Machine Shop, it housed a workshop utilized for the manufacturing of small special tools, kitchen items and clock and watch repair.

It is a typical settlement wood frame building with horizontal wood siding. It is now covered with a tin roof, but it is believed to originally have had a cypress

shingle roof so common to structures at the settlement.

A small addition of metal was built at a later date on the southwest corner, and the entry or doorway appears to have undergone modification. The building was operated by Alfred Christensen (1878-1903), a lifelong member of the settlement.⁶⁶

Current Condition

The structure is in generally fair condition, but will require some immediate work

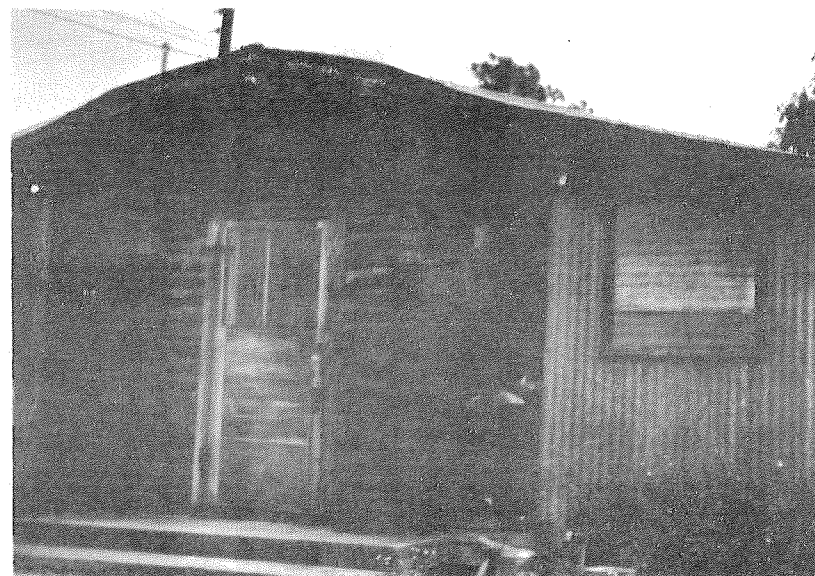


Illustration No. 74. View of the Small Machine Shop from the west. The metal covered portion of the building to the right is a late addition. Photograph circa 1920's.

⁶⁶Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement. 1976.

in order to preserve several of the windows. The building contains most of the original equipment and steps should be taken to preserve them for future display purposes.

B-28

Publishing House (1904 - 1949)

Also known as Guiding Star Publishing House

A two-story building, 38' x 70'⁶⁷ of wood frame construction with a wood shingle roof, it contained the publishing arm of the Koreshan Unity and, as such, played an important role in the history of Koreshanity. The printing and caliber of work done by the settlement was acknowledged by all to be excellent and to rival the work done by eastern publishing companies.

The first floor of the building contained "The press room...the latest and most improved machinery for printing and binding books and magazines, printing and folding newspapers and pamphlets,...legal documents of all kinds; also color printing, maps, charts, etc. It has two large Miehle presses, also two large power paper cutters, one of which is a 39 'white,' insuring accuracy in producing a high grade of work."⁶⁸

The second floor contained the general

⁶⁷Andrews, p. 39.

⁶⁸Teed and Webster, p. 38.



Illustration No. 75. The Publishing House from the west on the county road. Directly behind and to the left can be seen the Boat Works (B-31). Photograph circa 1905.

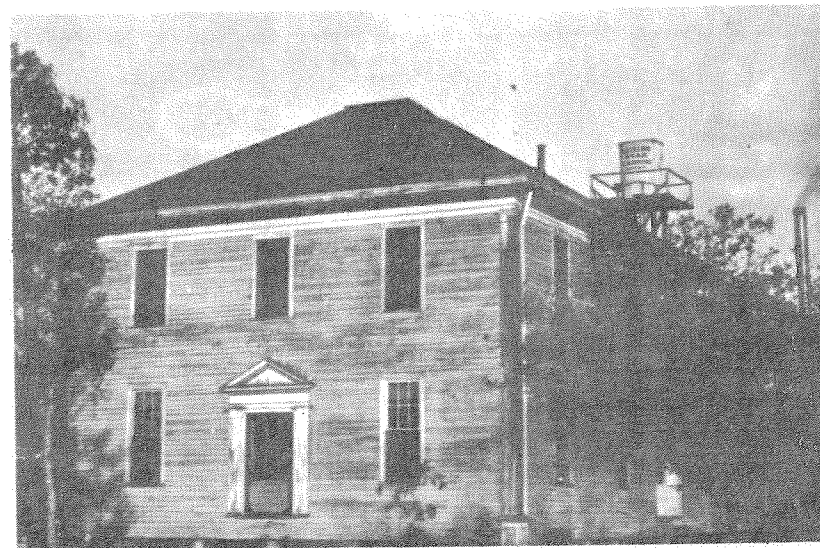


Illustration No. 76. Southwest view of the Publishing House. The water tower entitled "Guiding Star Publishing House" provided water for the steam generated equipment. Photograph circa 1905.

Office of the Unity, the type-setting department, photograph and engraving department, with dark room and apparatus.⁶⁹

The Publishing House, originally painted yellow⁷⁰ fronted on the county road and was directly west of the Old Store. Providing work for 25 Unity members, it was an important source of revenue for the settlement, second only to the Old Store.

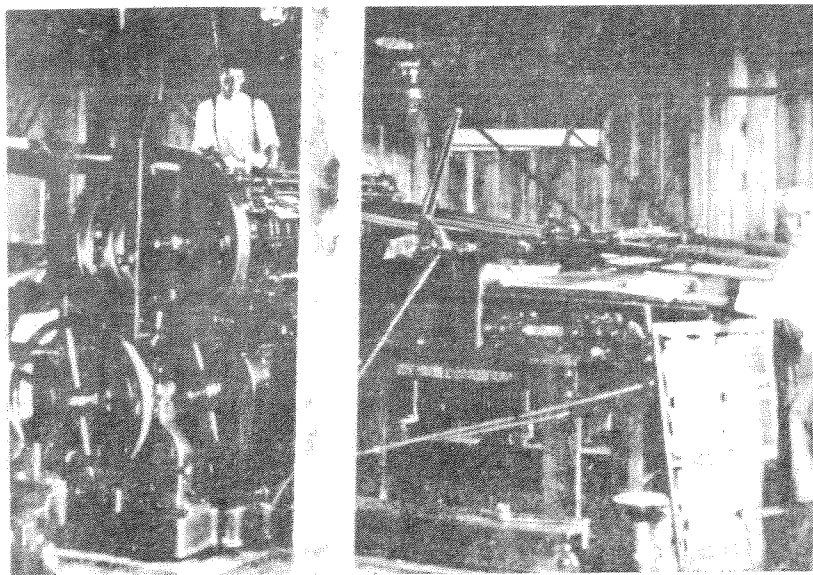


Illustration No. 77. Interior view of the Printing House, showing one of the "Miehle" presses on the first floor. Photograph, originally published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, dates to approximately 1906.

⁶⁹Teed and Webster, p. 38.

⁷⁰Florida Guide to the Southernmost States, p. 400. (This is the only reference found to any



Illustration No. 78. Second floor interior view of the Publishing House. The photograph, dating to approximately 1906, shows the editorial and general offices of the Publishing House.

Power for the equipment was provided by a steam engine housed in the adjacent Publishing House Power Building (B-29).

As most of the official records and items of Unity historical importance were housed in the building, its destruction, in a fire, was a great loss to the settlement.

settlement structure being painted before 1910-author.)

B-29

Publishing House Power Building (1904-1949)

A one-story shed roofed building, located directly east, and adjacent to, the Publishing House. It contained the steam equipment⁷¹ which provided power to the Publishing House machinery. Approximately 20' x 38', its smoke tower rose some 30 feet. Connected to both this building and the Publishing House was a large, elevated water

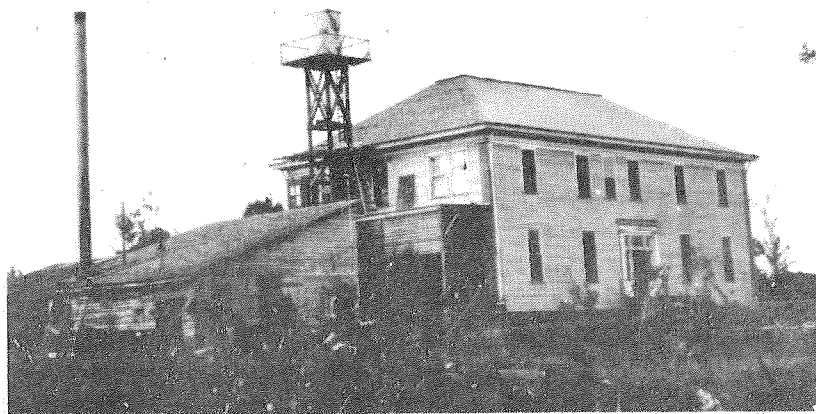


Illustration No. 79. Northeast view of the Power Building (B-29) and the Publishing House. The fire that destroyed both buildings in 1949 was believed to have occurred when children were melting down lead type in the Power Building. Photograph circa 1906.

⁷¹Andrews, p. 39.

⁷²Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

tank, inscribed "*The Guiding Star Publishing House.*" This water tower, one of the highest structures for miles around was eventually torn down in the late 1940's when it became unsafe, and against the wishes of the then president of the settlement, Allen Andrews,⁷² while he was out of town.

Lead type, used in the Publishing House, was melted down in this structure. It is believed that children, attempting to do the same, started the fire that destroyed both this building and the Publishing House in 1949.

B-30

Sawmill #4 (190073 - 1949)

The fourth in a series of sawmills built by the settlement, it was located to the east of the Publishing House. The structure, of wood frame construction, measured 33' x 36' and contained the Tinware and Pattern Makers Shop.⁷⁴

⁷³Berrey, p. 49.

⁷⁴Teed and Webster, pp. 39-40.

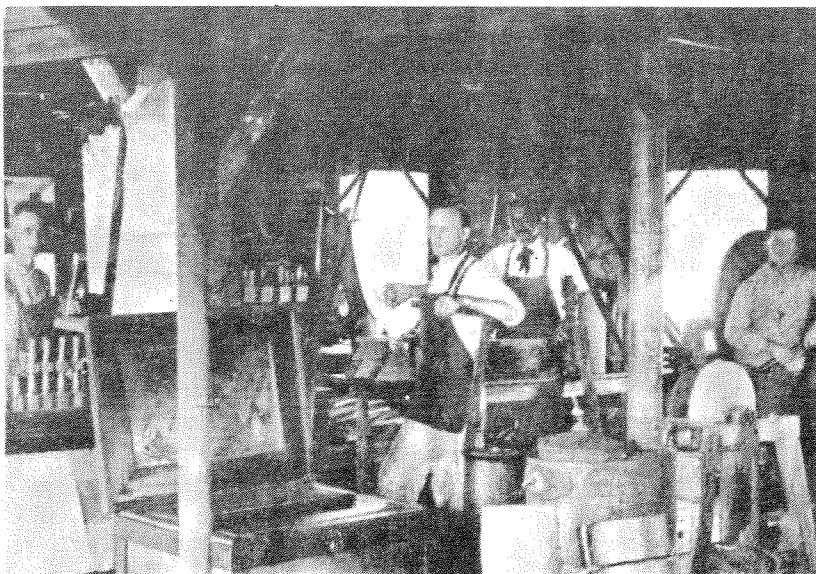


Illustration No. 80. Interior view of the Sawmill (B-30) showing the pattern making and wood turning departments on the second floor. Photograph circa 1906.

The tinware department was run by a *"life-long worker in this and kindred lines."*⁷⁵ Designed and manufactured there were articles of tin, brass and copper, including cornice work and tin, slate and gravel roofing materials.

Located on the second floor was the pattern making and wood turning department, in a *"...well ventilated and lighted"* space,⁷⁶

⁷⁵Teed and Webster, p. 75.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷Ibid, p. 39.

⁷⁸Conversation between the authors and Miss

it contained wood turning, pattern lathe, band saw and combination saw, *"...with almost an unlimited supply of hand tools.. .."*⁷⁷

The structure was demolished in 1949 when in a deteriorated condition.⁷⁸ Building materials, reported to be from the sawmill, can be found in the general area, and it is assumed that extensive field research will determine its actual location.

B-31

Boat Works No. 2 (1900±⁷⁹ - 1949)

Located behind (east of) the Publishing House and adjacent to the river, it was a two-story structure of wood frame construction with a wood shingled roof. A portion of the building, the northwest corner, can be seen in Illustration No. 75, to the left of the Publishing House, with a boat partially into the building.

The building was approximately 20' x 70'

Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

⁷⁹Berrey, p. 49.

with a one-story element attached on the west, approximately 10' x 70'.⁸⁰

Boat building, a major industry of the settlement, because of its role in shipping materials both to and from the settlement, continued into the early 1900's. The gradual improvement of county roads, as well as the declining necessity of fish as a food source, generally led to the abandonment of the industry. The building, as others in the general location, was allowed to deteriorate and eventually was demolished in 1949.⁸¹

The structure can be located by the partial concrete walls, approximately two feet in height, in existence today. Substantial wood materials from the building are at the site at present and can be partially salvaged for repairs on existing structures.

B-32
Machine and Woodworking Building (1901[±] - 1949)

A small wood frame one-story structure connected to the south end of the Boat Works (B-32).

⁸⁰Interpretation of photographs on file at the Koreshan Unity.

⁸¹Conversation between the authors and Miss

Mounted at the roof was a square, 6' x 6', wood roof element, utilized for air ventilation. While little is known of the function of this building, other than its title, it is assumed that specialty machinery and woodworking related to the manufacturing of boats occurred in this space.

The only known photograph of the building is shown in Illustration No. 81.



Illustration No. 81. View from the southwest illustrating the Publishing House and complex of buildings to the east. The road shown is the county sand road that connected the Settlement with Fort Myers. Photograph circa 1906.

Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

B-33
Blacksmith and Plumbing Shop (1901/1902 - 1949)

Also known as Shoe Repair Shop.

A two-story structure constructed to the east of the Boat Works (B-31). It was apparently constructed in two phases, the element to the east constructed initially with the rectangular portion constructed soon after.

The construction is typical wood frame, the buildings originally having wood shingle



Illustration No. 82. Southwest view of the Blacksmith and Plumbing Shop (B-33) as it appeared in the late 1940's. The structure originally contained the Blacksmith and Plumbing departments, shoe repair and a tailor shop.

⁸²Approximate size only, based upon photographic examination.

⁸³See Illustration No. 81.

roofs, later replaced with metal. Siding is 1 x 8 horizontal wood siding.⁸²

Originally the first floor was an open space, with no exterior walls.⁸³ At a later date the south wall, at the first floor level, was constructed.

The building contained several departments, the Blacksmith and Plumbing Shop,⁸⁴ the shoe repair shop and tailor shop. A tall exhaust stack, located adjacent and to the east of the building is visible in the photograph. Extensive work was also performed on wagons as noted *"We do all our own repairs on wagons and make our own log carts. One of our men is a thorough wagon-maker, and we believe that the time has come when a good wagon-making business can be built up in this section of Florida."*⁸⁵

B-34
Storage Shed (1901/1902 - 1949)

A small, one-story shed constructed south of the boat works. Constructed of wood frame, with vertical wood siding and a wood shingle roof, it functioned as a storage building for the industrial complex in that part of the settlement.

⁸⁴Teed and Webster, p. 25.

⁸⁵Ibid.

B-35
Apiary (1904 - 1949)

A small one-story building it was located to the east of the Concrete Works building. The original Apiary (B-7) was relocated to this location in 1904.

The structure was of wood frame construction with a wood shingle roof. Its exact location is unknown at present, but presumably can be located with field investigation of foundations in the area.

The only known image of the structure is Illustration No. 4.

B-36
Concrete Works (1905± - 1940±)

The structure, 60' x 45', was located "on the river bank east of the sawmill..." and was "equipped with power hoisting machinery, derrick and dump buckets for rapidly transferring the materials from lighters into the two large gravity delivery receiving lines."⁸⁶

The building was "...of the Rondelay type;⁸⁷ no posts obstruct the floor space, the roof being carried on seven large

trussed arches. Two sets of sliding doors are provided on each side for the passage of teams through the building, so that the product may be taken either direct from the power mixer or from the curing racks, and delivered where required.

"The mixer is equipped with engine and pump, and a large reservoir overhead for water supply. This is used also for watering the finished product throughout the building. The pump has connection with (a)



Illustration No. 83. Interior view of the Concrete Works (B-36) showing the manufacturing of the imitation "brownstones" used to face the first floor of the Founder's House. Photograph circa 1906.

⁸⁶Teed and Webster, p. 44.

⁸⁷Teed and Webster, p. 43.



Illustration No. 84. The sculpture department, located in the Concrete Works as it appeared in approximately 1906. The original designs and molds for the numerous fountains and large vases were created in this department, then manufactured in the Concrete Works.

*cement cistern, and also (1) artesian well."*⁸⁸

The buildings of the settlement were of basic wood frame construction, typical of the methods used during that period in Florida. It was the intent of the settlement to replace these wood structures with those that were "...more enduring,"⁸⁹ partially because of the decreasing supply of lumber, as well as the growing needs of the community.

⁸⁸Teed and Webster, p. 43

⁸⁹Ibid, p. 43.

Materials manufactured at the Concrete Works included blocks simulating stone, as used on the Founder's House, hexagon paving blocks and specialty items used throughout the gardens, such as fountains, columns, cisterns and other ornamental work. Additionally, materials from this department were utilized to replace stone and wood foundation systems and for making the supporting piers for equipment in several of the settlement structures.⁹⁰

B-37

Storage Shed (1901± - unknown)

A small, one-story structure, located adjacent and northeast of the Damkohler House. It was constructed as a typical wood frame structure with wood shingle roof.

The only known photographic view of the structure is Illustration No. 65, shown to the right of the Damkohler House.

⁹⁰Teed and Webster, pp. 43-45.

B-38

Storage Shed (1901± - unknown)

A small, one-story flat roofed storage building, located southwest of the Founder's House (B-10). The only known photographic image of the structure is in the files of the Koreshan Unity.

B-39

Storage Shed (1901/1902 - 1950±)

A small, one-story structure of wood frame construction with a wood shingled roof. It appeared to be constructed for usage other than storage, and some accounts indicate it may have served as an office for the settlement prior to its conversion to a storage building in the 1930's.

In the early 1950's it was dismantled with the lumber materials being utilized for the construction of the Post Office/Koreshan Unity Office (B-69).⁹¹

The building is shown in a photograph showing an overall view of the grounds, but was not available for this publication.

⁹¹Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

B-40

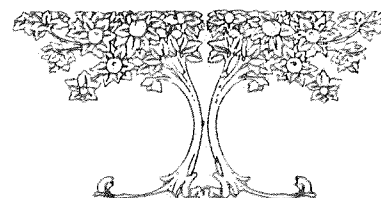
Storage Shed (1903± - 1949)

A small, open sided storage shed, originally with a wood shingled roof. It was located directly east of the Dining Hall kitchen (B-12). Supported by six round and roughly cut tree trunk columns, it was approximately 10 feet by 20 feet in size. The only known photograph showing the structure is Illustration No. 50.

B-41

Storage Shed (1902± - unknown)

A one-story structure of wood frame construction, it was constructed due west of Planetary Court (B-19). Approximately 10 feet by 20 feet in size, it was built with horizontal siding and a wood shingled roof. The photograph, Illustration No. 87, was taken in 1906/1907, and shows a portion of the Jersey cattle belonging to the settlement.



B-42

Members' House (1903[†] - unknown)

A wood frame structure, a portion two stories in height, it was constructed to the west of the Bake Shop (B-22). The exterior of the building, as shown in Illustration No. 85, was of horizontal siding. The structure originally had a wood shingled roof⁹² replaced in later years with metal, as shown in the illustration.



Illustration No. 85. Southwest view of the Members' House (B-42) which served as women's living quarters. Photograph circa 1905.

⁹²Interpretation of photographs in possession of the Koreshan Unity and as published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative.

The structure was used as women's living quarters, housing two members, until it was demolished in the mid-1940's.⁹³

B-43

Members' House (1903/1904 - 1940's)

A one-story wood frame structure, located to the west of the Bakery, it was typical of construction at the settlement. The exterior was covered in vertical board and batten, and the roof is assumed to have been originally of wood shingle construction. The illustration (No. 86) shows the entrance to the House, the south end of the building.

B-44

Members' House (1903/1904 - unknown)

A one-story wood structure with wood shingled roof, it was located to the south of the Bakery and is shown in Illustration No. 87. It was approximately 12 feet by 20 feet in size and is believed to have

⁹³Interpretation of photographs on file at the Koreshan Unity.



Illustration No. 86. Members' House (B-43) from the southeast. Construction is typical of Settlement members' houses of that period. Photograph circa 1905.



Illustration No. 87. Southwest view of Members' House (B-44) shown behind the cattle pens to the left. To the right, in front of Planetary Court, is a storage shed (B-41). The photograph originally published in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, was captioned "Our Jersey Cattle" and dates to approximately 1906.

housed female settlement workers.⁹⁴

B-45

Members' House (1903/1904 - unknown)

Little is known of the specific location or size of this structure, other than a members' house was located in this general area. No photographic evidence or reference material related to this structure has been recovered to date. It is assumed to have been a male members' house, housing men working at the machine shop to the west.

B-46

Members' House (1903/1904 - unknown)

No photographic or reference material has been located giving any specifics of the building. It is assumed, as with the adjacent members' house, to have housed male settlement members.

⁹⁴Conversation between authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

B-47 thru B-51
Members' Houses (1903/1904± - 1951)

A series of Members' Houses, located along the south bank of the Estero River, were constructed to house male settlement members. Illustrated, in the two photographs, are two of these houses showing the typical type of construction. Both houses, built of wood frame with exterior board and batten, were believed to originally have had wood shingle roofs, later replaced with metal.

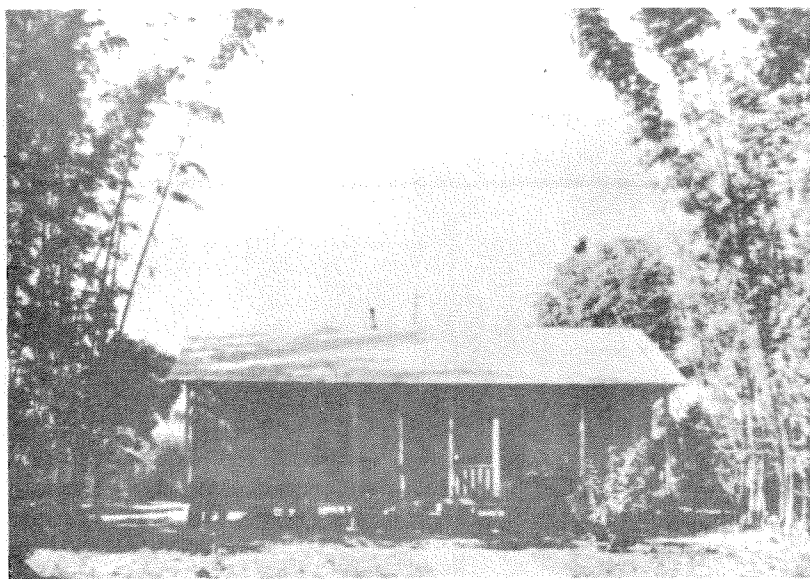


Illustration No. 88. Members' House (B-47 thru B-51), it is typical of housing constructed at the Settlement for members. The photograph, taken in approximately 1906, is not identified as to specific location.

⁹⁵Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

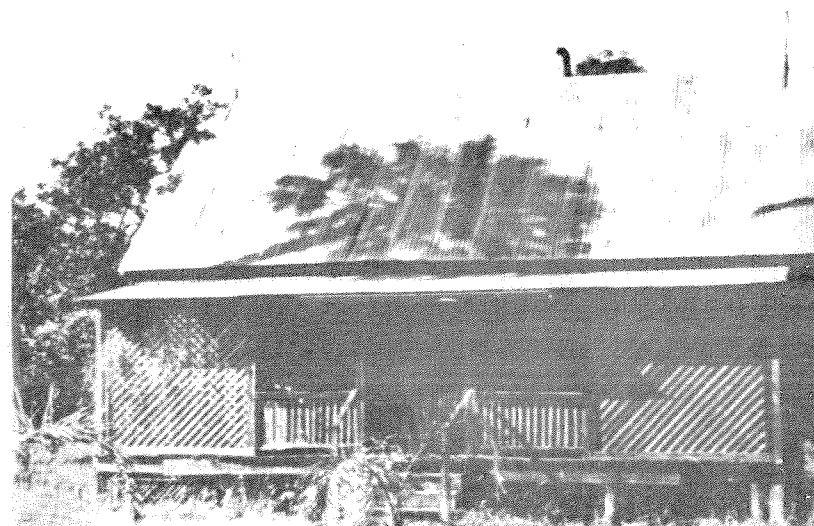


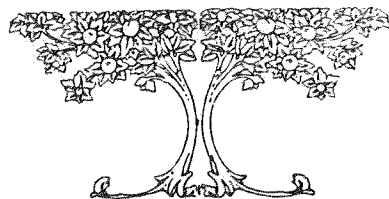
Illustration No. 89. Members' House (B-47 thru B-51), believed to be one of the members' houses along the south bank of the river, exact location and identity is unknown. Photograph circa 1906.

Generally, these member houses served for two members, with few single-member houses being constructed at the settlement. All five houses were destroyed in the 1951 fire,⁹⁵ but portions of the metal roofs and framing, as well as foundations exist, indicating their locations, which are illustrated generally on the 1903-1905 site plan.

These houses were constructed generally by the individuals as life-long homes, and displayed their individual desires. They can all be classified as early "Florida Pioneer Homes," with porches and elevated floors of such size and design as to take advantage of cross ventilation.

It is reflective of Koreshan Philosophy that no uniform design was utilized, rather, the expression of individual needs and desires.

The specific location of this group of houses will be established as the grounds are cleared of undergrowth and during the on-site aerial and land surveying recommended for Phase I development.



[illegible]

The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated Into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Building Key - 1894

B- 5 Barn*
B- 6 Barn*
B- 7 Apiary*
B- 8 Bridge

B- 9 Boat Landing
B-10 Founder's House
B-11 Fish House
B-12 Dining Hall

Building Key - 1900-1902

B-18 Pineapple Shed*

- B-19 Planetary Court
- B-20 Art Hall
- B-21 Old Store
- B-22 Bakery
- B-23 Bakery Ovens
- B-24 Laundry
- B-25 Members' House
- B-26 Large Machine Shop
- B-27 Small Machine Shop
- B-28 Publishing House
- B-29 Publishing House
Power Building
- B-30 Sawmill #4
- B-31 Boat Works #2
- B-32 Machine & Woodworking
Building
- B-33 Blacksmith & Plumbing
Shop

B-34 Storage Shed
B-35 Apiary
B-36 Concrete Works
B-37 Storage Shed
B-38 Storage Shed
B-39 Storage Shed
B-40 Storage Shed
B-41 Storage Shed
B-42 Members' House
B-43 Members' House
B-44 Members' House
B-45 Members' House
B-46 Members' House
B-47 Members' House
B-48 Members' House
B-49 Members' House
B-50 Members' House
B-51 Members' House

B-52 Electric Generator
Building
B-53 Storage Shed
B-54 Tennis Court
B-55 Rustic Tea Garden
B-56 Exhibit Building

B-57 Rental Building
B-58 Bear Pit/Zoo
B-59 New Store
B-60 Gasoline Service
Station
B-61 Members' House

98

100 50 0 100

Graphic Scale

$25 \frac{27}{34}$ → 103 5/16

↓

300 ft

Section Location



Structures 1906-1930

B-52

Electric Generator Building (1908/1909±⁹⁶ - present)

Also known as Power House.

A large structure, built of wood frame construction, it was built in the early 1900's and eventually housed the electrical generating equipment of the settlement. Directly to the east of the building was a water tower built on a massive wood frame approximately 30 feet in height.

The structure appears to have been constructed with corrugated metal sides and roof, and may represent the first structure of that type to have been constructed at the settlement.

The electrical equipment, purchased in the north by the Koreshan Unity, was shipped to the site and was generating electricity to the settlement buildings in the 1920's.⁹⁷

⁹⁶See The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, pp. 41-42, for a discussion of early (pre 1907) electricity at the settlement.

⁹⁷The date is approximate, no concise date has been found.

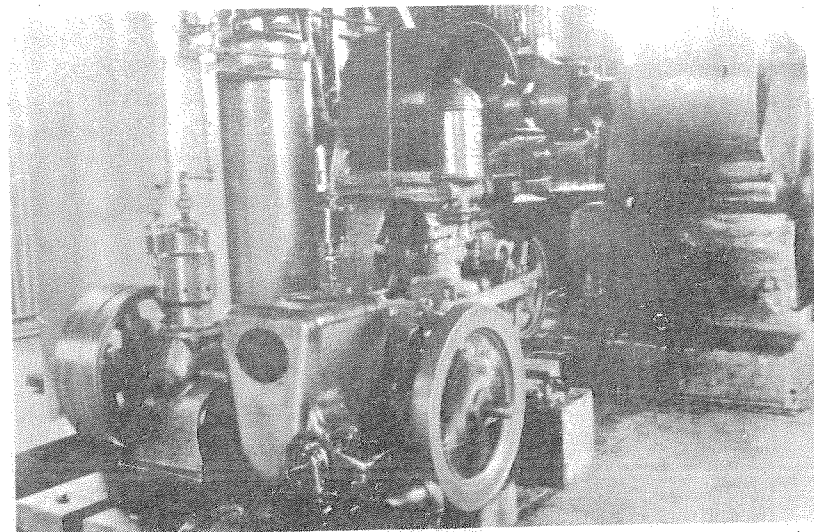


Illustration No. 91. Interior view of the Electric Generator Building, showing part of the equipment purchased by the Koreshans for generating electricity. Photograph believed to date to the 1920's.

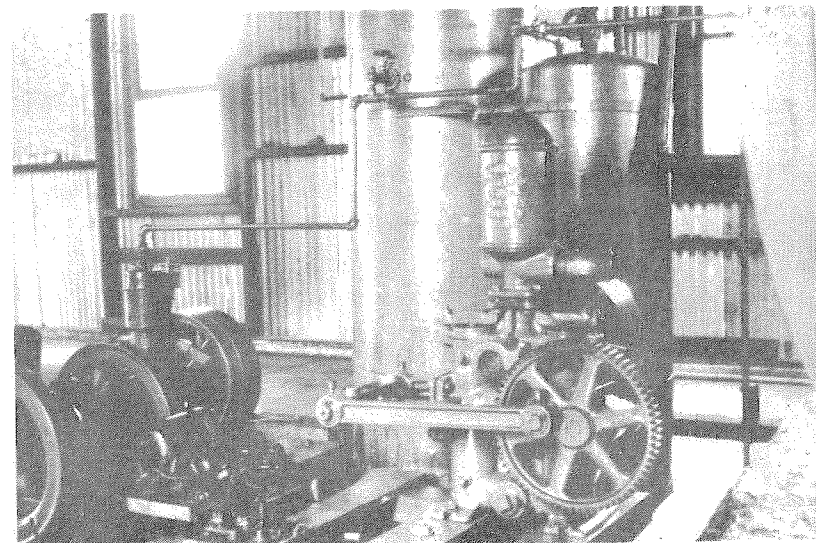


Illustration No. 92. View of the interior of the Electric Generator Building. This equipment was gradually sold by the Koreshans in the 1930's and 40's to obtain funds for the Settlement. Photograph circa 1920's.

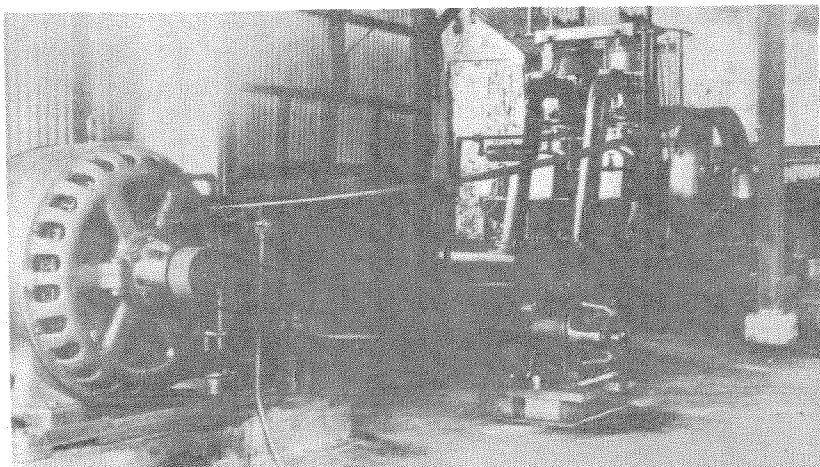


Illustration No. 93. Photograph of interior of the building illustrating wood structural frame with corrugated metal siding. Photograph dates to the 1920's.

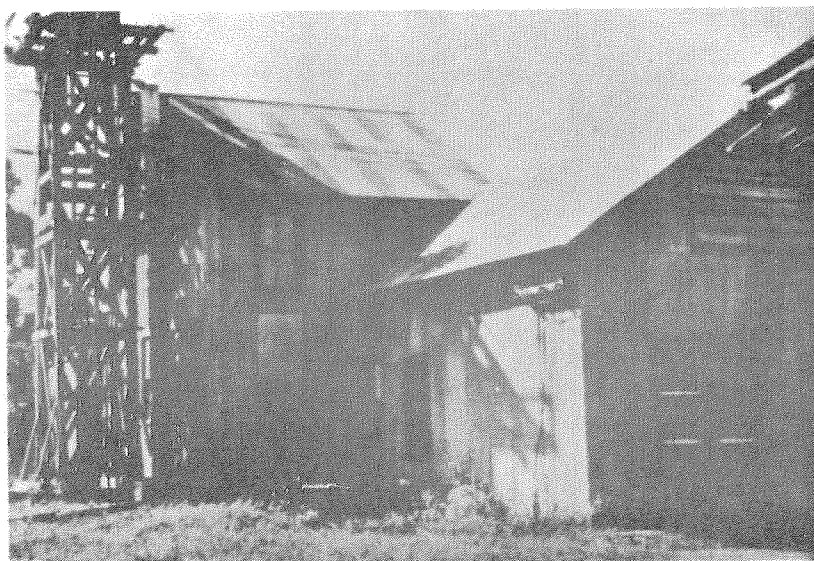


Illustration No. 94. Northeast view of the Electric Generator Building, as seen during the 1920's. View shows the corrugated metal siding and roof construction and represents the first usage of this type of construction at the Settlement.

While portions of the equipment remain, the majority was sold by the settlement in the 1930's and 40's when money was needed to maintain the settlement.

The building exists today, serving as a storage facility for many of the early furnishings of various settlement buildings. While some minor maintenance and repair work has recently been accomplished, it is in need of immediate repair.

B-53

Storage Shed (1910± - present)

A storage shed, located to the west of the Electrical Generator Building, it is constructed of log (peeled cypress and pine) posts and wood framing with corrugated metal roof and sides.⁹⁸ While its actual date of construction is unknown, it is assumed to have been constructed in approximately 1910, and to have served as a covered area for settlement grounds equipment.

⁹⁸Almost all materials in this structure have been replaced over the years by a series of renovations.

B-54

Tennis Court (1910[±] - late 1940's/early 1950's)

A one-court tennis area was constructed by the settlement to the southwest of the Bakery, reflecting the Unity's involvement with all aspects of community life. Constructed of shell, presumably taken from Mound Key, and covered with concrete,⁹⁹ it was broken into sections in the late 1940's or early 1950's and reused as road bed in the adjacent Koreshan owned trailer park.¹⁰⁰

B-55

Rustic Tea Garden (1930 - mid-1940's)
Also known as Industrial Arts Building

This unique settlement structure, constructed in 1930, served initially as an exhibit building for the products and accomplishments of the settlement. Displays of fruits, vegetables, jams and other settlement-grown food products were displayed, as well as items manufactured by the various settlement departments.

⁹⁹Berrey, p. 47.

¹⁰⁰Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

The building was later converted, in the mid-1930's, to a tea garden, serving meals to travelers along the now paved road. While managed by two women that were not settlement members, it was closely tied to the Unity and was one of the few sources of money to them during that difficult period. Guest books, signed by travelers and guests have been kept over the years, including such notables as Thomas Edison,¹⁰¹ a visitor to the settlement on several occasions.



Illustration No. 95. General view of palmetto thatched structures adjacent to the Rustic Tea Garden. Caption on back of original photograph reads "First Industrial and Art Exhibit 1922."

¹⁰¹Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976. Also: Andrews, pp. 240-241.

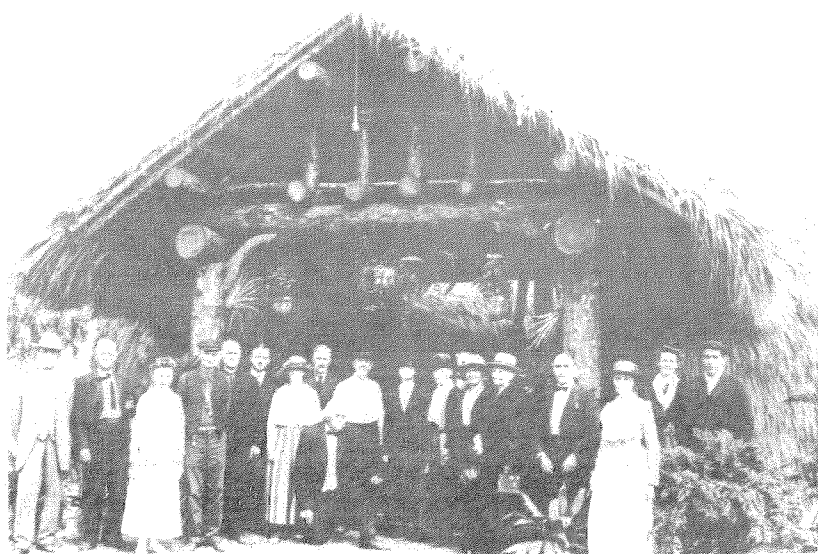


Illustration No. 96. Close-up view showing the entrance to the Rustic Tea Garden, taken from the west. Construction was of pine logs and palmetto thatch. Photograph dated 1922.

Constructed of rough log elements, with the bark retained, and covered walls and roof with palmetto thatching, its character was in total contrast to other settlement structures. Other related structures, of similar construction, were located adjacent to the main structure, including a "teepee" shaped building named the "Wigwam Camp."

They gradually fell into disuse in the early 1940's and were removed in mid-1940.



Illustration No. 97. Entry view of the Rustic Tea Garden from the west, county road shown in foreground. A unique Settlement structure, it provided a space for industrial and agricultural exhibits, as well as serving meals to travelers. Photograph dates to approximately 1922.



Illustration No. 98. View of the Rustic Tea Gardens from the west. The ornate gate posts, in the foreground, were located at one of the entrances to the main complex of buildings at the Settlement. Original photograph captioned "5th Estero Exhibit," is undated but believed to be from the 1920's.

B-56

Exhibit Building (1930 - mid-1940's)

A small "teepee" form structure, covered with Palmetto fronds and named the "*Wigwam Camp*," it was located adjacent to, and north of, the Rustic Tea Gardens. It contained a small seating area, in all probability for refreshment of people visiting the exhibits displayed in the larger building.

B-57

Rental Building (unknown - present)

Originally constructed (in approximately the early 1920's) at some site in the general area of Estero, it was purchased by a settlement member and moved to the location shown on the 1906-1930 master site plan, and utilized as a rental building.¹⁰²

In the 1930's, it was moved, by the settlement, to its present location west of the Bakery and utilized as a member house. It is constructed of wood frame, horizontal wood siding and originally covered with a wood shingle roof, later replaced with metal. Its construction is typical of settlement buildings, reflecting their influence on the adjacent community.

¹⁰²Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

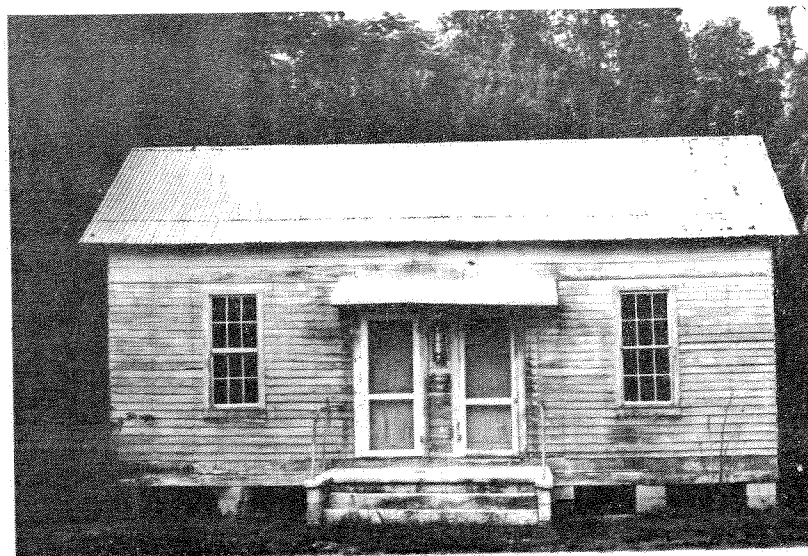


Illustration No. 99. South view of the Rental Building (B-57) at its current location, to the west of the Bakery. Photograph taken in 1976.

B-58

Bear Pit/Zoo (1907/1908 - unknown)

A small area to the northeast of the Dining Hall (B-12) was utilized by the settlement for a small zoo, with its major feature a pit, containing a black bear. Found and captured on Estero Island "...it was here during the month of February, 1907, that a

large black bear was trapped. It has been making the vegetable garden one of its favorite haunts. It was taken up the river to Estero where it lived for sometime in a large cage."¹⁰³

It has been said that Koresh would enter the bear pit and wrestle with the bear, and that after Koresh's death, the bear became listless and eventually died.

This area also contained, more as pets than as a zoo, "an eagle, opossum..., 3 foxes, wildeat and a pair of otters."¹⁰⁴

B-59

New Store (early 1920's - present)

Built to replace the Old Store (B-21) which had been damaged by a series of floods, it was constructed in the early 1920's. Its construction, stucco over a wood frame, was the first of its kind to be built at the settlement. The structure, two stories in height, originally had an ornate entry canopy facing the road, as shown in Illustration No. 100, which was later removed in 1956, along with the front 8 inches of the building, when the State Road Department was anticipating the widening of Highway 41.

¹⁰³Rahn, pp. 54-55.

¹⁰⁴American Eagle, May 16, 1907; May 23, 1907.

¹⁰⁵Conversation between the authors and Miss

The first floor contained a country store, occupying 1/3 of the floor, and a restaurant, the Riverview Inn, contributing needed revenue to the settlement, with the balance of the first floor used for storage of goods.¹⁰⁵ The second floor contained rooms for male settlement members, and was accessible both from the interior of the store, at the east, and from a stairwell on the exterior, at the west. A small Koreshan Unity office was located in the southeast corner with access to the General Store.



Illustration No. 100. Southeast view of the New Store taken in approximately 1922 before the destruction of the Old Store (B-21). Photograph is believed to date to 1923 and showing two of the cars used in the "Trail Blazing" establishing the route of the Tamiami Trail between Fort Myers and Miami.

Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

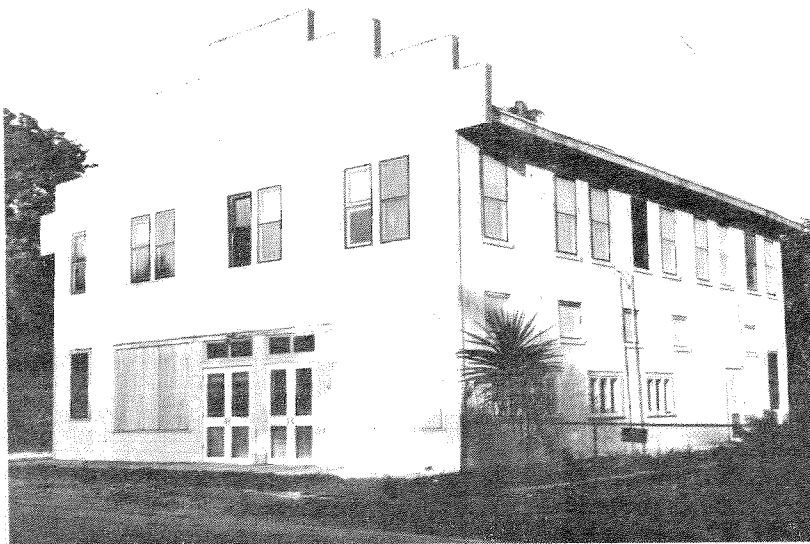


Illustration No. 101. The New Store as it exists today, showing the removal of the original facade in 1956 and the ornate canopy at the entrance.

Both the restaurant and the general store were closed by the settlement in 1963, because of the difficulty in obtaining working help and its declining revenue.¹⁰⁶

The structure is currently utilized to house the archives, library and historical documents of the settlement, with the rooms on the second floor being used to house guests visiting the grounds.

¹⁰⁶Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

B-60

Gasoline Service Station (1926 - 1956)

A one-story stucco structure, of a spanish style, it was constructed to the east of the Post Office (B-69) to serve tourists traveling on Highway 41. The additional right-of-way, taken by the State Road Department in 1956, caused the structure to be demolished.¹⁰⁷

B-61

Members' House (unknown - early 1930's)

A two-member house of typical settlement construction, it is believed to have housed female Koreshan members. Demolished in the early 1930's, it was later to become the site of a non-constructed residence (B-57) moved there shortly after the existing residence was removed. No photographs of the original members' house have been located to date.

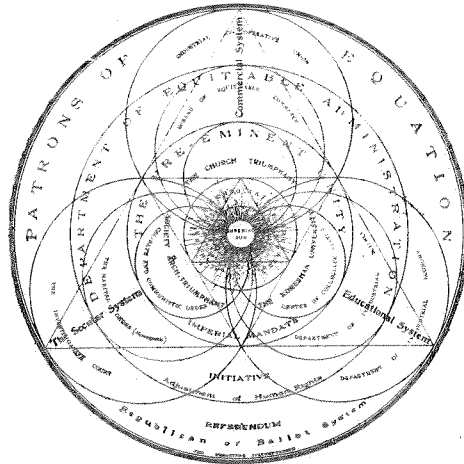
¹⁰⁷Conversation between the authors and Miss Hedwig Michel, President, Koreshan Unity Settlement, 1976.

Vessels Owned or Operated by Koreshan Unity Settlement

Name	Type	Lgh.	Wd.	Draft	Use	Remarks
Pioneer	NA	42'	9'	32"	freight	Koreshan Unity Transportation Line
Curlew	NA	43'	7'	28"	freight	Koreshan Unity Transportation Line
Pelican	NA	34'	7.5'	28"	freight	Koreshan Unity Transportation Line
The Estero	NA	56'	12'	30"	freight	Koreshan Unity Transportation Line
The Newport	NA	30'	7.5'	26"	freight	Koreshan Unity Transportation Line
Victoria	Naphtla Launch	25'	NA	NA	freight	Flat bottomed paddle wheel steamer powered by wood burning engines 400 gross tons
O.A. Mygatt	Sharpy	50'	NA	NA	freight	Two masted without jib and bowsprit
Ada	Sloop	NA	NA	NA	fishing	Purchased 1894, 5 ton
Liberator	Launch	NA	NA	NA	passenger	Fitted for 25 hp gas engine. Elegantly fitted, stateroom spacious seating capacity on deck. Used for propaganda work.
Arrow	Motor Launch	NA	NA	NA	passenger	Made weekly run between Estero and Fort Myers in four hours
Eden	Houseboat	53'	16.5'	NA	passenger	Took week long cruises on inland waterways. Open for charter cruising to Cuba and Nassau. Sleeping quarters on lower deck.
Elizabeth	NA	NA	9'	2.6'	freight	Could carry 200 boxes citrus fruit. Made Estero/Fort Myers run once per week in 1907.
Pelican	NA	NA	NA	NA	freight	Made above run
Three Friends	NA	NA	NA	NA	freight	Made above run

*Most of this information was obtained from a letter H. D. Silverfriend wrote to Mr. O. N. Bie with the United States Engineering Office, in Tampa. Other sources include A Yank Pioneer in Florida, Pelts, Plumes and Hides, White Traders Among the Seminole Indians, 1870-1930, and Koreshan Unity publications and files.

Koreshanity is the Imperial System of Theocracy of the Golden Age.



The Language of the Physical Cosmos Scientifically Translated Into the Domain of Human Affairs, and Reduced to Diagram.

Illustration No. 102. Master Plan of the settlement as it existed in 1977. Several major structures were demolished or destroyed during the preceeding period (1906-1930), but, surprisingly, many buildings of a historical significance remain.

Building Key - 1894

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| B- 1 Damkohler House | B- 5 Barn* |
| B- 2 Women's Log House* | B- 6 Barn* |
| B- 3 Men's Log House* | B- 7 Apiary* |
| B- 4 One Room Store* | B- 8 Bridge* |

Building Key - 1895-1899

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| B- 9 Boat Landing | B-13 Carpentry Building* |
| B-10 Founder's House | B-14 Members' House* |
| B-11 Fish House* | B-15 Members' House* |
| B-12 Dining Hall* | |

Building Key - 1900-1902

- B-16 Storage Sheds*
B-17 Barn*

- B-18 Pineapple Shed*

Building Key - 1903-1905

- B-19 Planetary Court
B-20 Art Hall
B-21 Old Store*
B-22 Bakery
B-23 Bakery Ovens*
B-24 Laundry*
B-25 Members' House*
B-26 Large Machine Shop
B-27 Small Machine Shop
B-28 Publishing House*
B-29 Publishing House
Power Building*
B-30 Sawmill #4*
B-31 Boat Works #2*
B-32 Machine & Woodworking
Building*
B-33 Blacksmith and
Plumbing Shop*

- B-34 Storage Shed*
B-35 Apiary*
B-36 Concrete Works*
B-37 Storage Shed*
B-38 Storage Shed*
B-39 Storage Shed*
B-40 Storage Shed*
B-41 Storage Shed*
B-42 Members' House*
B-43 Members' House*
B-44 Members' House*
B-45 Members' House*
B-46 Members' House*
B-47 Members' House*
B-48 Members' House*
B-49 Members' House*
B-50 Members' House*
B-51 Members' House*

Building Key - 1906-1930

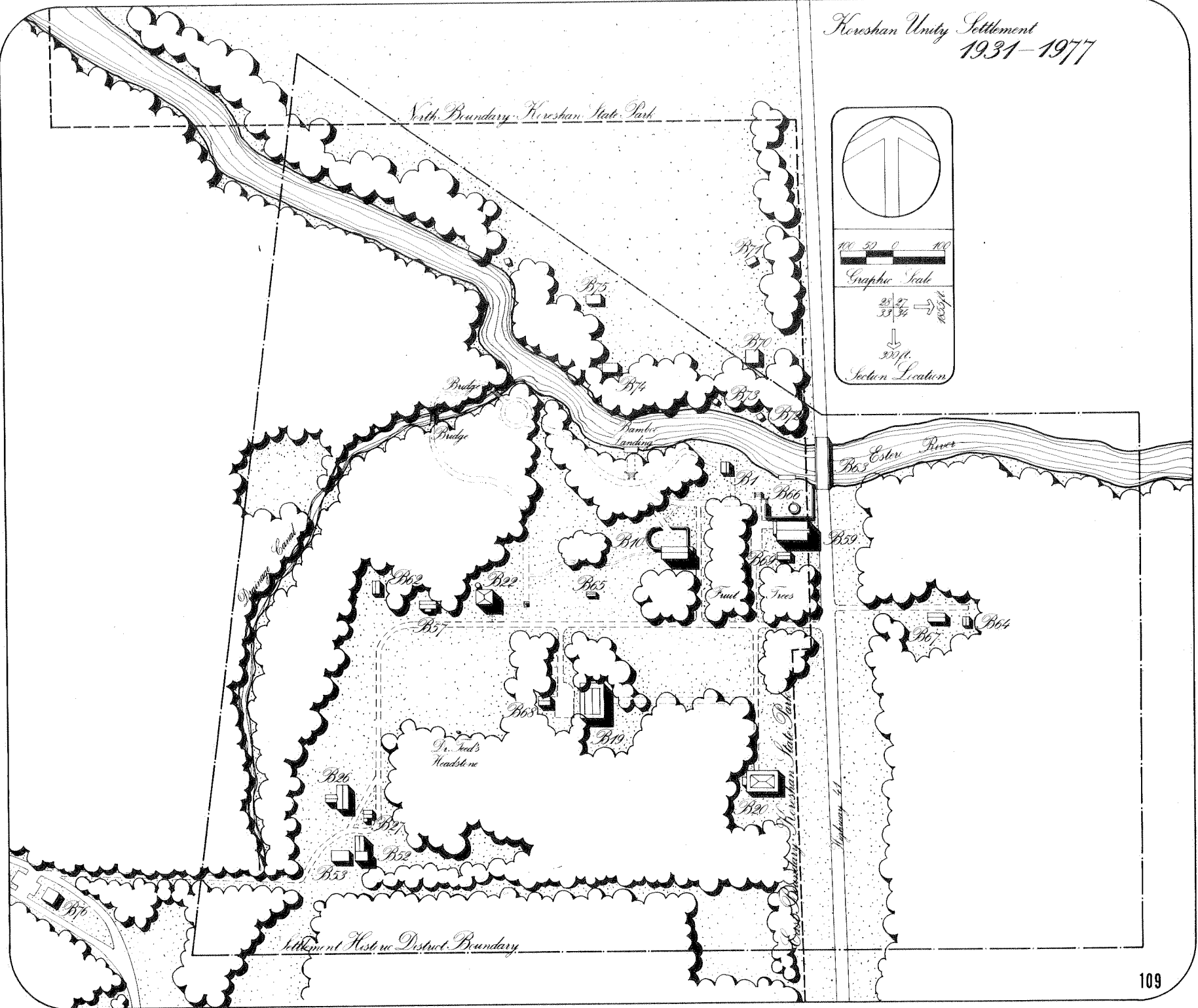
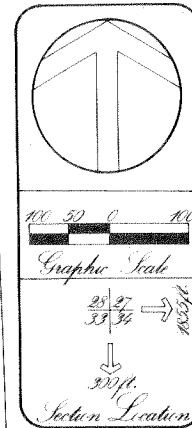
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| B-52 Electric Generator
Building | B-57 Rental Building |
| B-53 Storage Shed | B-58 Bear Pit/Zoo* |
| B-54 Tennis Court* | B-59 New Store |
| B-55 Rustic Tea Garden* | B-60 Gasoline Service
Station* |
| B-56 Exhibit Building* | B-61 Members' House* |

Building Key - 1931-1977

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| B-62 Members' House | B-70 Cabin |
| B-63 Bridge | B-71 Cabin |
| B-64 Garage | B-72 Cabin |
| B-65 Chickee | B-73 Boat House |
| B-66 Landing | B-74 Recreation Building |
| B-67 "El Retiro" | B-75 Restrooms |
| B-68 Garage | B-76 Park Entrance Station |
| B-69 Post Office/Office | |

*Indicates structures no longer in existence prior to this period (1976).

Keresan Unity Settlement 1934-1977



Structures 1931 - 1977

B-62

Members' House (unknown - present)

A non-settlement structure, but constructed as a pioneer residence in the general area of Estero, it was moved to its present location in the early 1930's.

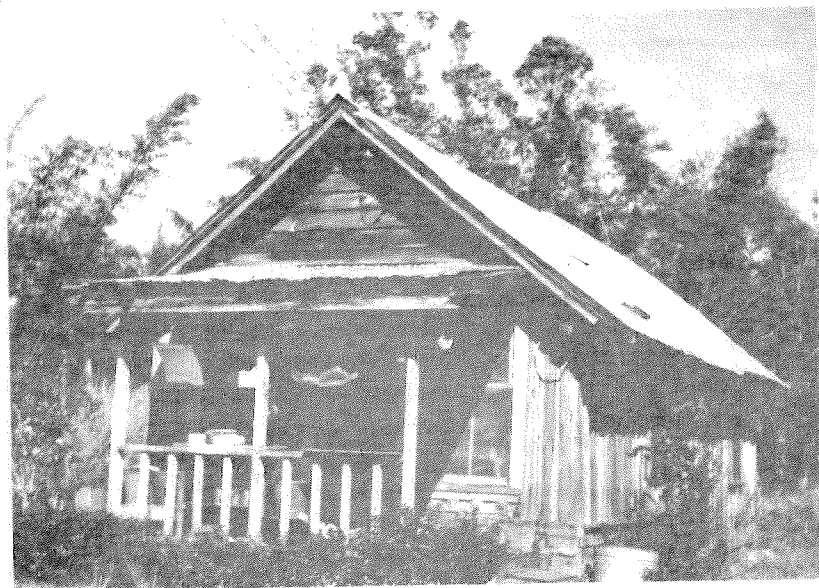


Illustration No. 103. Southeast view of the Members' House (B-62). While not constructed by the Koreshans, it is typical of one-member homes found at the Settlement. Photograph circa 1940's.



Illustration No. 104. South elevation of the Members' House as it exists today. The front porch has been partially rebuilt and led to the discovery of a small ground level water well, directly below the porch.

It is a small, one-story wood frame building, with vertical board and batten siding, originally covered with a wood shingle roof, replaced at a later date with metal. The structure has experienced serious termite damage with portions of the exterior being recently replaced. While repairing a section of the front porch, a small pump/well system was discovered at ground level. The structure is in immediate need of repair, and while not originally a settlement structure, it is characteristic of early home construction in that area of Florida.

B-63
Bridge (1930's - present)

The concrete bridge currently spanning the Estero River. In deteriorated condition and supported by wooden piers, it is scheduled to be replaced by the Department of Transportation within the next few years.

B-64
Garage (1938/1940 - present)

Constructed adjacent and to the west of "El Retiro" (B-67), it is of frame construction and serves as a garage/storage space.

B-65
Chickee (1956 - present)

Constructed by Seminole Indians, at the request of the Settlement, it has no historical significance and is utilized for outdoor meetings. It is of typical cypress pole and palmetto frond construction.

B-66
Landing (1950's - present)

A small, poorly constructed wood landing at the general location of the original settlement landing (later the location of the Old Store), it has undergone several renovations and bares little resemblance to the original landing.

B-67
"El Retiro" (1938/1940 - present)
Also called Members' House, Natural Order House.

Constructed in the late 1930's or early 1940's by a married couple (members of the Marital Order of the Unity), it has continued to be utilized as a rental property.

It is a one-story, wood frame structure with horizontal siding, typical of construction of the period.



Illustration No. 105. Southwest view of "El Retiro" located on the east side of the highway, it was originally occupied by members of the Marital Order of the Unity. Photograph taken in 1976.

B-68

Garage (1960 - present)

A one-story structure of wood frame construction, with metal exterior, it is a relatively recent settlement structure. It is of little historical importance and is recommended for removal as the restoration of the settlement progresses.

B-69

Post Office/Office (1951/1952 - present)

Constructed, in the early 1950's, to replace the post office facilities in the New Store that had become inadequate, it was built from the materials recovered when Structure B-39 was dismantled. It was closed as a post office in 1963 when converted to the office of the Koreshan Unity Settlement.

B-70, 71 & 72

Cabins

Non-settlement structures, constructed on the north side of the Estero River in the present-day trailer park, they have no historical importance to the Koreshan Unity Settlement.

B-73

Boat House (unknown - present)

Non-settlement structure, constructed of wood frame on the north shore of the river.

B-74

Recreation Building

A non-settlement structure on the north shore of the river.

B-75

Restrooms

A non-settlement structure constructed on the north side of the river in the trailer park.

B-76

Park Entrance Station

Park ranger offices and Entrance Station to the Koreshan State Park.

5. History of Settlement Grounds

Grounds 1894

The land homesteaded by Gustave Damkohler in 1882 that was to later become the site of the Koreshan Unity Settlement, was typical of the high hammock land of southwest Florida. Fort Myers was located 16 miles to the north and Surveyor's Creek (which is now Bonita Springs) was 7 miles to the south. The two towns were connected by a heavy sandy trail that meandered through the forest, twisting and turning through deep sand in the dry season and swimming through water during the rainy season. The trail crossed the Estero River on a narrow wooden bridge that was to provide access across the river for a number of years to come, and which in later years would become known as the Tamiami Trail (Highway 41).

¹Damkohler, Elwin E., Estero, Florida 1882 Memoirs of a First Settler, p. 20; and Rahn, Claude J., A Brief Outline of the Life of Dr. Cyrus R. Teed and the Koreshan Unity, p. 45.

The surrounding land was relatively high and flat, sloping gently in the direction of the river and being covered with scrub oak and palmetto, topped by an occasional pine. It is approximately six miles from the bridge to Estero Bay, with the river having relatively high banks as you leave the bridge and proceed toward the bay. The river was flanked by pine woods with saw palmetto undergrowth gradually giving way to the Red Mangrove swamp that bordered the river from its mouth inland for approximately two miles. In the eleven years that Damkohler homesteaded the land, prior to the arrival of Dr. Teed and his party, relatively little was accomplished in the way of clearing or farming the land. During that period of time he cleared about one acre of land in the vicinity of his cabin, and most of this was planted in tropical fruit trees with a small area being used to raise a few vegetables for the family's consumption.¹

A friend of Damkohler's from Australia, Baron VonMuller, had imported a number of fruit trees from Australia and among them were: Olive, mulberry, eucalyptus, pomegranates, key limes, lemons, sapodillas and guavas. Damkohler had been given many "*valuable and rare*" trees by his friend² sometime around 1883, and although the

²Damkohler, p. 20, also mentions oranges and a later article mentions mangoes. It is possible that these may have been acquired from local sources in the area.

types that were given to Damkohler are not specifically identified, a later reference is made to partaking of oranges, key limes, lemons, guavas, sapodillas, mangoes, and pomegranates by the first group of settlers. This latter statement would support the previous dates in that the fruit trees would have been of bearing age by then.

Clearing of the land was one of the first projects undertaken by these early pioneers. Pine trees were easily felled but the removal of the saw palmettoes with their snake-like roots and trunks was quite a different proposition. The palmetto fronds were gathered for thatching roof tops and the pine logs were stored for construction. The brush was piled up and burned at night with the settlers gathering around these fires for warmth and conversation and respite from the swarms of mosquitos that drifted in from the swamps with the growing darkness.³ Within the period of two short months the location was made ready for the arrival of the next contingent of pioneers from Chicago.

The loose sandy soils of Florida were quite a contrast to the rich Illinois farmlands that the colonists were accustomed to. Virgin soils in this area were generally acid but gradually sweetened under cultivation, and raising crops required different

methods of cultivation than those employed in the north. Damkohler was placed in charge of agriculture and on the advice of local county farmers, sweet potatoes and cow peas were selected as the best crops for this newly-cleared land.⁴ Although no specific reference could be found, it would seem safe to assume additional crops were also planted, in that Allen Andrews intimates that he and his fellow farmers "*enjoyed a bountiful winter harvest from their summer planting.*"⁵

It appears that the Koreshans were wasting little time constructing buildings and developing gardens. About this time, in June, 1894, some of their efforts were directed toward developing and landscaping the grounds, however, these efforts were to meet with limited success.⁶ Professor O. F. L'Amoreaux, Capt. Gustave Faber, Messrs. Allen Andrews, Will Morgan and George Ordway made their way to Fort Myers and "*gathered a lot of shrubs, trees, seed, etc. for planting at their place in Estero.*"⁷ The citizens of Fort Myers were most kind and made the Koreshans liberal gifts of these plantings. By August the gifts had withered and L'Amoreaux wrote a letter to the Fort Myers Press that was an indirect, sarcastic denunciation of those in Florida who had given him incorrect advice.⁸ Another account of apparent fail-

reference to the Koreshans raising potatoes, peas and other staples.

⁶Fort Myers Press, June 28, 1894, p. 4.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Fort Myers Press, August 23, 1894, p. 4.

³Andrews, Allen H., A Yank Pioneer in Florida, pp. 7-10.

⁴Ibid, p. 34.

⁵Ibid. W. W. Foote of the Fort Myers Press visited the community in September, 1894, and makes

ure along these lines comes from Allen Andrews:

During the earlier months of my residence in Estero I was assigned to assist in the newly established plant nursery under direction of an old college professor who had taught Greek and Latin in an Illinois college and had occupied his spare hours by growing nursery stock of various fruit trees in his backyard. From far-off California he had received cuttings of figs, pears, jujubes, grapes and other fruits too numerous to mention, and although we tended them assiduously, they failed to respond satisfactorily and eventually died.⁹

The enthusiasm of these pioneers seemed undaunted by the temporary setbacks encountered in their early agricultural pursuits. They soon discovered that this loose, sandy soil was ideal for citrus production. This led to the first experiment in the large-scale production of fruit, the planting of an orange grove. The Koreshans learned of a man who was willing to sell, for a few cents per tree, a grove he had planted, if the colonists would dig and remove the trees. Being unaware of the differences in the four rootstocks used (lime, lemon, grapefruit and sour orange), the colonists carefully removed the entire grove and set

the trees out in nursery rows, at Estero, to be later planted in permanent locations. Within a few years they discovered that only the trees budded on the sour orange rootstock were dependable, satisfactory producers, and the others died or were eventually replaced.¹⁰

That first fall the Unity was visited by the editor of the Fort Myers Press, a W. W. Foose, who was favorably impressed with the progress being made by the pioneers, and in turn reported:

There are in this colony about thirty in all, mostly men, every-one a worker, no drones in the hive. Those here now are only laying the foundation, there being large accessions ready and anxious to come as soon as the colony is ready to receive them. They are making quite an opening in that oaky woods, and although they are giving much attention to peas, potatoes and other staples of the country, they are also planting every variety of grain, grass, fruit, shrub or flower they can find. I apprehend that they will have one of the finest experiment stations in the state, and if their enterprise succeeds, 'Koresia' will someday be the gem of the peninsula.¹¹

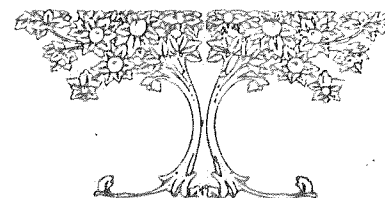
⁹Andrews, p. 11.

¹⁰Ibid, pp. 11-12.

¹¹Fort Myers Press, September 13, 1894, p. 1, col. 2.

Undoubtedly, part of this report refers to Professor L'Amoreaux's ill fated fruit cuttings from California, however, other endeavors and experiments did prove more successful and the Unity later became well known for its horticultural activities.¹² Giant bamboo, obtained from cuttings at the Thomas Edison Estate in Fort Myers, were among the early plantings, as were Eucalyptus trees grown from seeds acquired from California in the summer of 1894.¹³ These trees, however, were soon to undergo their first test for survival as Florida suffered one of the worst freezes in its history. On December 29, 1894, and again on February 9, 1895, the temperature dropped into the low twenties and virtually all of the citrus in Florida, with the exception of the groves in the Fort Myers area (including the newly planted Koreshan trees), were frozen to the ground. The colonists had the misfortune of losing their winter garden crops and a substantial number of plants that they had started on and about the grounds, among these being some of the eucalyptus trees, but in general they weathered the freeze considerably better than most of the state.

¹²Reference is made that the Unity was the site of "the first tropical horticultural experiment station in the United States," however, no evidence can be found to substantiate that claim, or at least it had no official recognition from, or connection with, the Horticultural Experiment or Research Services of the Department of Agriculture. It more likely assumed that identity because of its interest and involvement in, and extensive experimentation with,



tropical ornamental trees and shrubs. There was reference of some of the colonists receiving plants from the Plant Introduction Bureau in Washington (i.e. Edith Campbell received two budded Letchi trees around 1930) and perhaps this was more the nature of their experimentation--receiving seeds and cuttings from different sources and experimenting with them at Estero as to their value and adaptability.

¹³Andrews, p. 36.

being devoted to conducting the geodetic experiments at Naples on the earth's concavity theory.¹⁷

Grounds 1895-1899

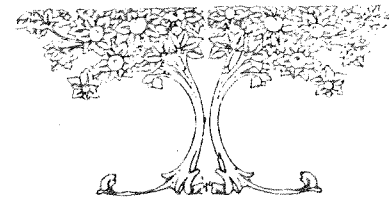
Life at Estero continued at a relatively constant pace for the next few years. Most of the time was devoted to building new buildings, clearing more lands, and tending the truck gardens and citrus trees that were scattered about the mainland settlement and along the river. The colonists experimented with different crops and built a slat house¹⁴ near the Men's Log House and began producing cane syrup at the rate of 1000-1200 gallons per year growing mostly three varieties: The Ribbon, the Burbon and the Green.¹⁵ They had impressive plans to expand this cane growing operation to Honduras¹⁶ but apparently these plans failed to materialize. Little reference can be found as to their horticultural pursuits, but it is to be assumed that these were also continued with five or six months

¹⁴Hinds, William Alfred, American Communities and Co-operative Colonies, makes reference to a greenhouse near the Men's Log House, and other references are made to the Koreshans' growing pineapples. Since pineapples were grown under slat houses, it is more likely that the "pineapple shed" was mistakenly referred to as a greenhouse.

¹⁵Teed, Cyrus R. (Koresh) and E.B. Webster, The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, The Solution of Industrial Problems, pp. 53-54.

¹⁶Teed and Webster, pp. 79-81.

¹⁷Allen Andrews, on whom we must rely heavily for information concerning early agricultural and horticultural pursuits, left for Chicago in late October 1898. He did not return until November of 1903 when the Chicago group was consolidated with the Estero branch, and therefore, the information concerning horticultural pursuits in Estero over that five year period is very sketchy.



Grounds 1900-1905

By 1901 about thirty acres were under cultivation near the mainland settlement and on Mound Key and Estero Island. Vegetables were plentiful, guavas and other fruits were abundant, and the citrus trees were beginning to bear (though as previously noted, with mixed success).¹⁸

Ten years hard work had begun to transform the original small clearing on the Estero



Illustration No. 106. Earth mounds and garden walks built around 1904-1905, as seen looking northwest from the second floor of the Dining Hall. (Circa 1906)

¹⁸Mackle, Elliott J., Jr., The Koreshan Unity in Florida, 1894-1910, p. 57.



Illustration No. 107. Group portrait of Unity Members taken from the second floor of the Dining Hall looking north toward the river. Main walk in the center of the picture terminates at Grand Promenade, and mounds are located at left and right hand edge of picture. (Circa 1906)

River into a substantial community. By 1904 most of the main buildings had been constructed and the Chicago branch was now consolidated in Estero. The additional members from Chicago, along with the now almost constant presence of Koresh, gave an added impetus and strong sense of security that had been lacking so long as the membership was divided into several groups. The majority of work on the grounds was to take place during this period of time.

An extensive tropical park was planned as a setting for the principal buildings of the town. The park was to extend along the shore for about a mile and be filled with flowering shrubs, plants and fruit trees of many varieties. [For several weeks a gang of twenty ^{LaBare's} negroes worked under the direction of some of the colonists digging ravines for drainage and using the dirt to



Illustration No. 108. View looking north to Grand Promenade from Dining Hall. Phoenix reclinata palm clumps obscure mounds on either side. Palms later froze to the ground. (Circa 1915)



Illustration No. 109. Same view looking north from where old Dining Hall stood. Bamboo has encroached on left and oak tree and sago palms have replaced palm clumps. (1976)

create elevated mounds and terraces.¹⁹ They laid out and leveled paths and driveways, installing wood curbs on the main drives, and paved them with crushed shell.²⁰ It was during this concerted work effort that the sunken gardens were constructed, under Dr. Teed's close supervision, and a great deal of the trees and shrubs were installed.²¹

¹⁹Andrews, p. 39; and Mackle, p. 68.

²⁰Berrey, Richard S., The Koreshan Unity: An Economic History of A Communistic Experiment in Florida, p. 45.

²¹Andrews, p. 39. Also, Miss Michel, in a personal interview stressed that this work was done under the direct supervision of Dr. Teed.



Illustration No. 110. View of the grounds looking west from porch of Founder's House. Dining Hall is on the left just out of the photograph. Note pedestals with planter urns. (Circa 1915)



Illustration No. 111. Recent picture of same area as Illustration No. 110, looking east toward Founder's House (hidden behind palm clump in center of picture). Note pedestal and planter urn to left of palm clump are in the same location as in previous picture. (1976)



Illustration No. 112. View from the steps at Bamboo Landing looking west. Note the small arbovitae hedge on the back side of the walk and the citrus trees in the background. (Circa 1910)



Illustration No. 113. A later picture at the steps of Bamboo Landing with some of the Unity Members. The arbovitae hedge in background is now about five feet high. (Date of photograph unknown but believed to be circa 1920.)

The carpentry shop was being kept busy with their efforts being directed to building bridges, benches, trellises, gazebos and other garden structures. The concrete works began making paving stones for walkways, stone facing for walls and fountain ornaments, many of which can still be seen about the grounds. Some of the specific

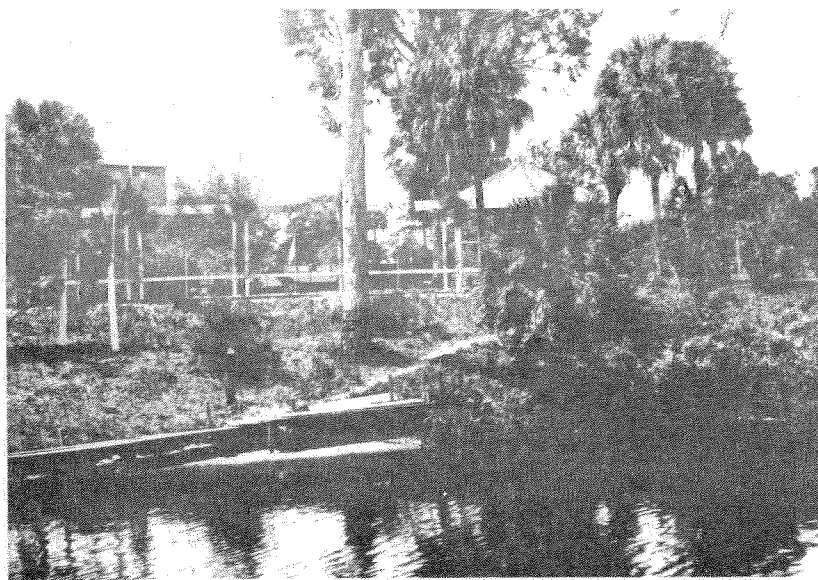


Illustration No. 114. View looking south from the river toward the trellis and gazebo just east of Bamboo Landing. The bear pit is in the center of the photograph, behind the trellis and to the left of the gazebo. (Circa 1907)

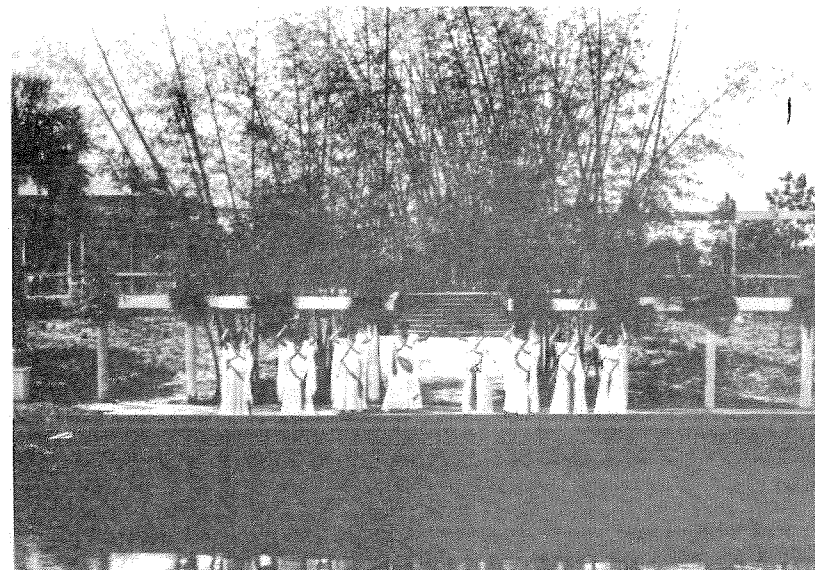


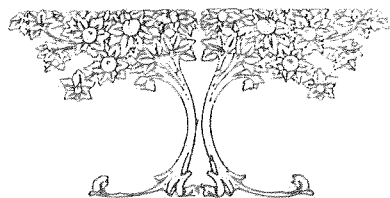
Illustration No. 115. View of the landing from the north bank of the river looking south. The concrete steps and trellises are in place and the Founder's House is in the background. This photograph was probably taken around festival time and depicts some of the participants in their costumes. (Circa 1905)

items will be discussed in greater detail under "Major Landscape Features."

In 1905 several additional eucalyptus were experimented with, some 15-20 varieties, but according to Allen Andrews, only about three proved successful, and only on high dry land. The colonists were also experimenting with additional types of fruit trees and shrubs; a yellow fruited raspberry was set out at Estero and continued to grow despite the lack of attention;²² the "Scuppernong" grape which is a variety

²²Andrews, p. 402.

of the Muscadine; a yellow Chinese guava was grown in addition to the Cattley Guavas; and a garden huckleberry, similar to the wild huckleberry except that it was used for pies, jams, jelleys and sauces as opposed to being eaten raw.²³ In general, gardening occupied a major portion of the time allotted to horticultural pursuits.



²³Teed and Webster, pp. 77-78.

Major Landscape Features

"Bamboo Landing" (Approximately 42' x 12')

This was built along with some of the initial structures around 1894.²⁴ It was used as the main landing for goods and supplies coming up the river until the wharf and store were built east of this location and next to the bridge. It was probably constructed of cypress posts and planks with a step down on either end and a sand path leading up to a pair of wooden steps.²⁵ The bamboo was from the original cuttings taken from the Edison estate that first summer.

The landing was used extensively for concerts by the Koreshan Unity band until the construction of the Art Hall about 1905. The band would position itself on the landing or on a barge anchored in the river with the audience clustered on and around the steps and the landing. It was also used as a stage for a water pageant presented at the celebration of the Solar Festival (Dr. Teed's birthday) complete with lanterns, music, etc.

²⁴There is no information giving the exact date of construction, but this author assumed that since the major access to the settlement was the river, the landing was probably one of the first improvements made.

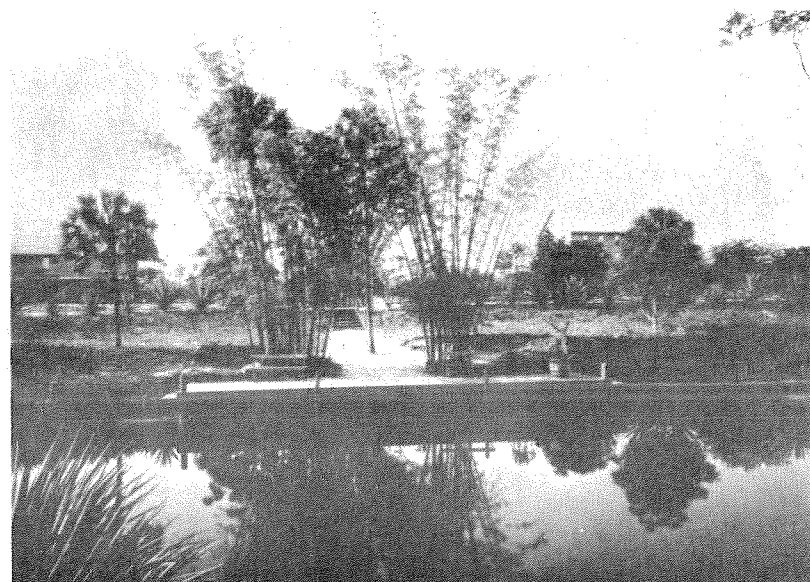


Illustration No. 116. A photograph of Bamboo Landing from the bank on the north side of the river, showing the original wooden steps and bamboo cuttings, with the Founder's House and the Dining Hall in the background. (Circa 1900)

Around 1905, the wooden steps at the bamboo landing were replaced with concrete steps and the trellis backdrop directly behind the dock was added sometime around 1907. It was constructed of palm trunks connected by a 2" x 12" at the top. There was a section on either side of the walk

²⁵This information was obtained from close investigation of old photographs and the high probability that due to the nature of the construction (marine) and the availability of cypress in the area, this was an obvious choice of materials.

about 15'-18' in length and about 6'-7' high painted white.²⁶ The second trellis bordered the semi-circular walk behind the landing at the top of the steps and consisted of two sections on either side of the bamboo clump directly behind the concrete steps. Each section was approximately 50' in length and subdivided into five 10' sections with double vertical 4" x 4" posts and a 2" x 12" horizontal rail at the top and a 2" x 4" horizontal rail about three feet off the ground. The overall height was about 10 feet and it too was painted white.²⁷ There is no way to determine for certain what type of wood it was constructed of but it quite possibly was pine since it no longer existed in photographs taken a few years later.

Sunken Gardens

These were located on the south bank at a bend in the river, just west of the drainage canal, and were constructed under the direction of Dr. Teed around 1904-1905.²⁸ They consisted of a series of terraces, mounds and steps leading down to a recessed

²⁶This information was obtained from visual interpretation of old photographs and by establishing a scale for individual photographs and scaling off particular elements. This author does not present these dimensions as being exact, but only as approximate to show their relation to other features.

²⁷Ibid.

area and the terraces were built up into triangular and rectangular mounds which were covered with Para and Guinea grasses from Cuba.²⁹ The steps leading down into the gardens were formed with wood headers and packed with crushed shell as were the walks leading to it.³⁰ There were banana

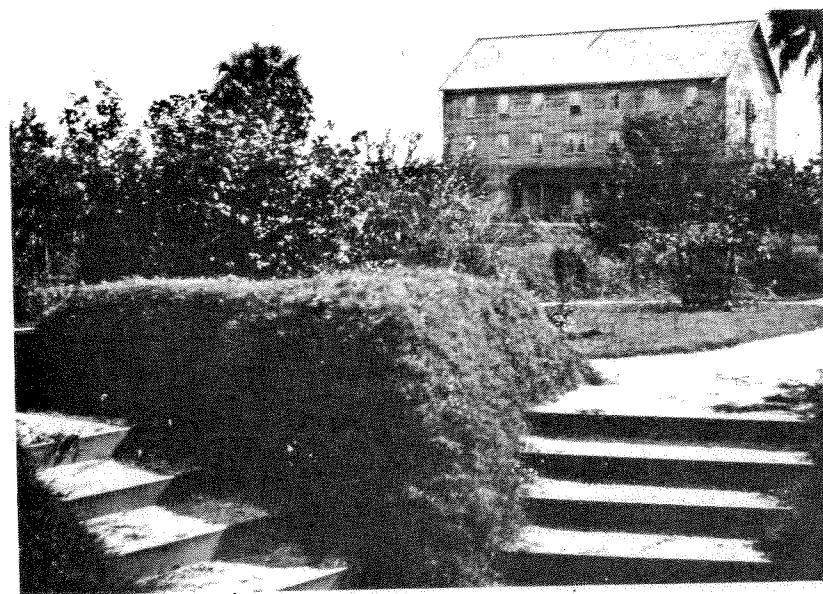


Illustration No. 117. Detail of steps leading down into the sunken gardens, with the drainage canal and Dining Hall in the background. Victorian bridge is to the right just out of the photograph. (Circa 1906)

²⁸See "History of Settlement Grounds 1900-1905."

²⁹Hinds, p. 479.

³⁰This information was obtained from close investigation of old photographs and information previously outlined in "History of Settlement Grounds 1900-1905".

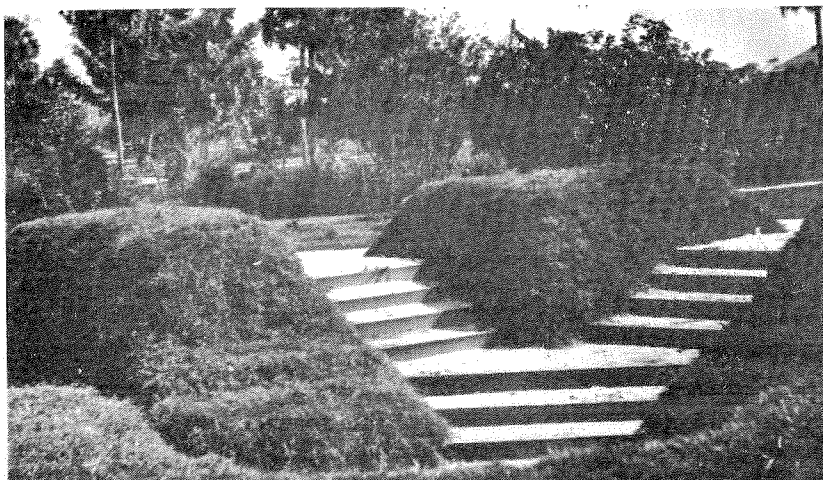


Illustration No. 118. View looking southeast across sunken gardens showing detail of mounds, terraces and steps. (Circa 1906)

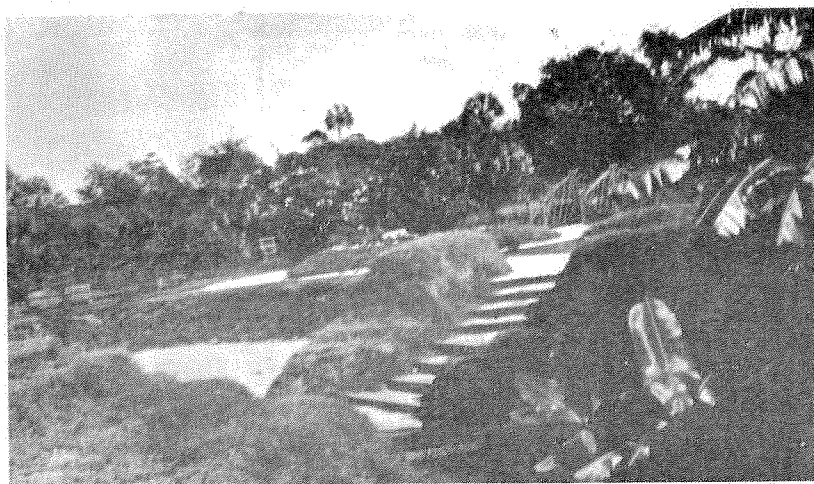


Illustration No. 119. Sunken gardens looking east with rustic wooden bridge in background. (Circa 1906)

³¹This information was obtained from a 1902 map of settlement grounds.

³²The location of these bridges was obtained

trees adjacent to this area and other fruit trees (oranges, grapefruit, lemon, guavas, peaches, pomegranates, mangoes and tamarind) located just to the west of the gardens.³¹

Foot Bridges

There were two significant wooden bridges constructed around the 1904-1905 grounds development period and for purposes of identification shall be referred to as the "Rustic Wooden Bridge" and the white "Victorian" bridge. They were both in the vicinity of the sunken gardens and spanned the drainage canal in two different places.³²

✓ The Rustic Wooden Bridge. It was approximately 6 feet wide and 12-15 feet long. It appeared to be supported by three 4" x 8" beams (single span) with 2" x 8" plank decking. The sides were arched-shaped being approximately six feet high at the center, sloping down to three or three and one-half feet high at the ends. There were two vertical 6" x 6" posts at the center, side braced from the mid-points down to the decking. The newels, or end posts, were also 6 x 6's approximately three feet high with a wood turned finial

from studying old photographs and on-site investigations which revealed the original foundations.

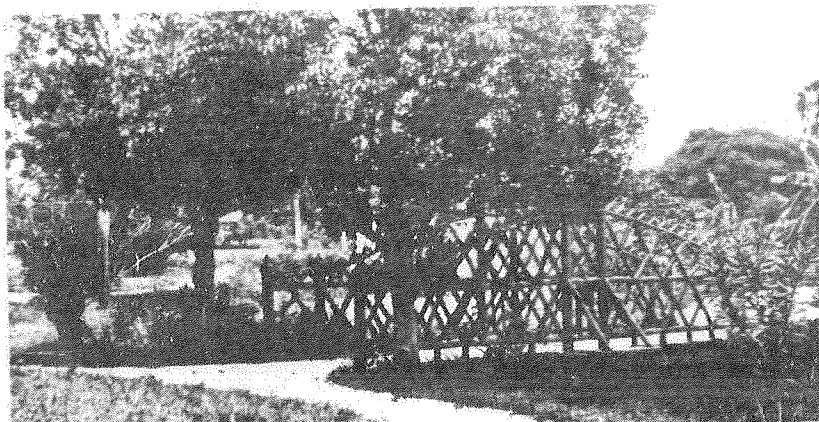


Illustration No. 120. Rustic wooden bridge looking west across drainage canal. "Victorian" bridge is directly behind this bridge and oak trees at the end of bridge are still existing. (Circa 1906)

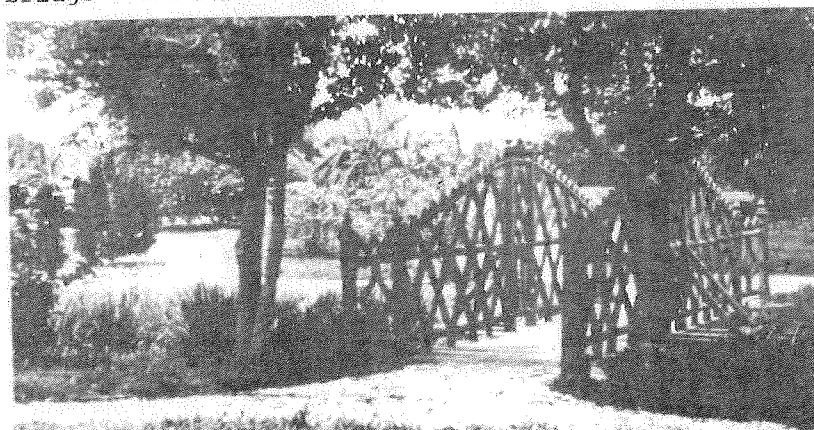


Illustration No. 121. Rustic wooden bridge looking northwest, sunken gardens are behind to the right of the bridge, and the "Victorian" bridge is in the left hand edge of the photograph. Old log house is in the background in the center of the picture. (Circa 1906)

³³These dimensions and information were obtained from determining the scale on several photographs from different angles and then scaling off various parts of the bridge and cross-checking it against

on top. The sides had a diamond pattern made out of 2"-3" rails, probably peeled cypress, and a sawtoothed design across the top of the arch. There were two horizontal rails, one 6" off the ground and one three feet off the ground.³³

The White Victorian Bridge. This was somewhat larger and of quite a different design from the Rustic Wooden Bridge. It combined intricate wood turning with masonry in a victorian style and the entire bridge was painted white, making it one of a very few structures in the Unity that

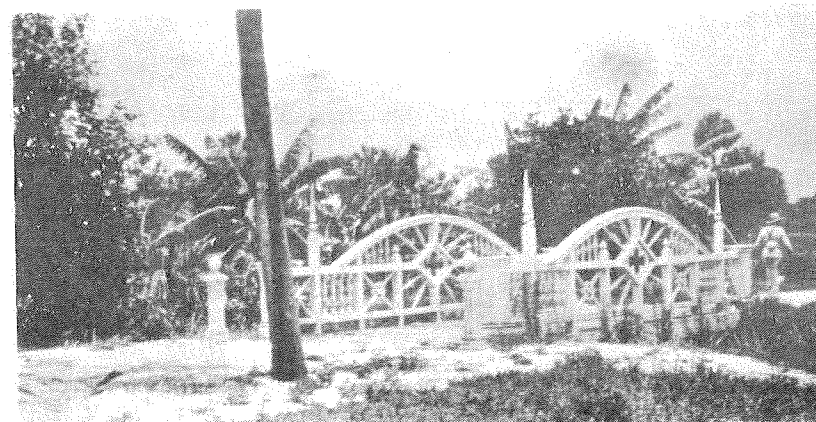


Illustration No. 122. White "Victorian" bridge looking northwest in the direction of the sunken gardens with banana and citrus trees in the background. (Circa 1906)

other photographs. This author does not present these dimensions as being exact but only close enough to construct a reliably authentic replica.

was painted. The bridge was 8'-10' wide and 12'-15' long. There were masonry ballards on either side with decorative pedestals and capitals and topped with a spherical finial. The ballards were 2' or 3' in front of the masonry newels and off-set out from the sides of the bridge. The newels were masonry, being approximately 16" square and 3' high, topped with a decorative flat capital and decorative pedestal. The sides of this bridge were also arched with a horizontal rail running from the end posts to a diamond shaped configuration in the center. There were wood turned spindles radiating out from the diamond in the center and running vertically along the sides. There were two vertical 6" x 6" posts located at third points and wood turned spires approximately 6' high located at the junction of the arch and the top rail. This bridge also appears to be supported by 4" x 8" beams, probably four equally spaced, and the 2" x 8" plank decking again all painted white.³⁴

Garden Ornaments

The establishment of the concrete works and the sculpture department at the Estero community, were to make a significant contribu-

³⁴These dimensions and information were obtained from determining the scale on several photographs from different angles and then scaling off various parts of the bridge and cross-checking it against



Illustration No. 123. This urn and pedestal are a typical example of the "co-operative" performance of the sculpture department and concrete stone works. Many such items were at one time located about the grounds. (Circa 1905)

other photographs. This author does not present these dimensions as being exact but only close enough to construct a reliably authentic replica.

tion to the enhancement of the grounds. The sculpture department busied itself making medallions, vases, urns, plaques, figure heads and all manner of ornamentation. When it was desirable to reproduce a number of pieces of a given pattern, such as vases, newel posts, brackets, etc., the sculpture department would build a piece mold and then turn it over to the concrete stone works for production.³⁵ At one time numerous vases and urns on pedestals were scattered about the grounds--most have



Illustration No. 124. Petronian fountain constructed by the concrete stone works. The urn used for a basin was later replaced and the piping to the fountain disconnected. (Circa 1906)

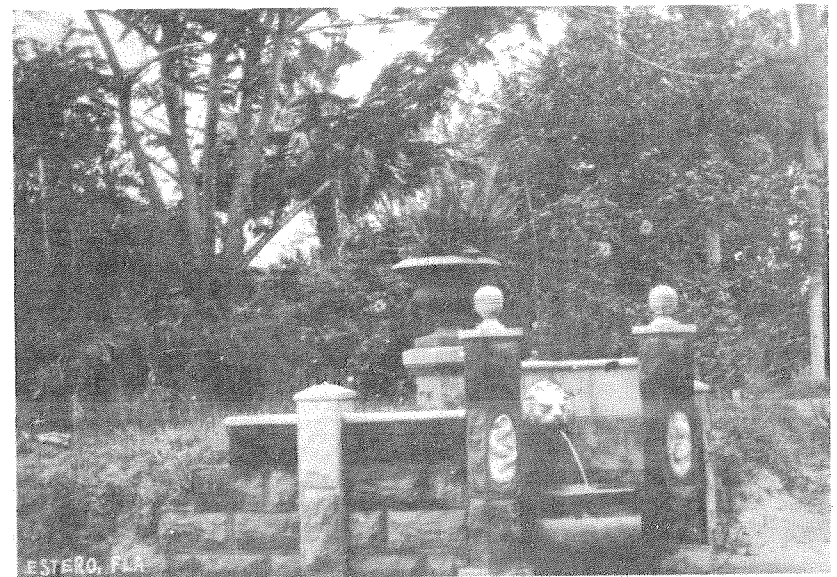


Illustration No. 125. Petronian fountain with pedestal and planter urn added behind fountain. The urn used for the basin was later replaced by the planter urn on the pedestal, and the cast stone plaque of the woman with the vase, on right hand column, has been replaced with duplicate of dolphin plaque on left. (Circa 1930)

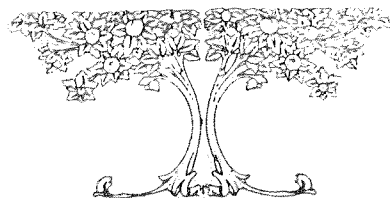
since disappeared, but a few can still be seen around the grounds and at the entrance to the settlement. The remains of some pieces still lie broken in the woods, the reminder of a more prosperous period in time.

The *Petronian Fountain* is a good example of capabilities and methods of construction of the sculpture and concrete works. It is one of the few features of its kind that is

³⁵Teed and Webster, pp. 45-47.

still relatively intact, being located immediately west of where the Old Store stood. It was covered with imitation brownstone and had a lion's head mask for a fountain spout. There were two columns, one on either side of the fountain, with a cast stone plaque inset and capped with a spherical finial. At a later date a column was added directly behind the fountain (made of the same brownstone) with an urn for plants. This was later removed.

The concrete steps at Bamboo Landing, that replaced the original wooden steps, were also an example of the efforts of the Estero Concrete Works. Oyster shell was used for aggregate in the concrete mix and then "stuccoed" over with a tinted concrete mix, to give the smooth, "finished" appearance.³⁷



³⁶This information was obtained from close investigation of old photographs and discussions with Miss Michel.

³⁷This information was obtained from on-site



Illustration No. 126. Recent photograph looking south from the river of the concrete steps at Bamboo Landing. Path from dock to steps has long since disappeared and vegetation has matured and encroached on the open area around the landing. (1976)

investigation. The exact date of when the wooden steps were replaced with concrete is not known for sure, but it was probably about the time the concrete works were established (ca. 1905).

Grounds 1906-1930

While it is true that horticulture improved the appearance of the community and contributed to the pleasures of life, it was the farming and gardening that lowered expenses and provided food for the Koreshan tables. Of the purported 7000 acres of land that the Koreshans owned around 1906, there was probably less than five percent under cultivation. Citrus fruit was the single most important agricultural product at Estero, there being at this time about seventy acres of oranges and grapefruits, containing over 3,200 trees, of which forty percent were bearing fruit.³⁸ Sugar cane probably ranked as the second most important crop in terms of total acreage. There were many smaller farms scattered through the woods, along the river and on the shores and islands of the bay³⁹ which produced garden fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, strawberries, beans and greens. Some of these were also grown commercially and shipped; however, it is doubtful that this type of farming operation contributed much financially to the settlement. There was also reference in the January 23, 1908 American Eagle that a shed for mushroom culture was built during the winter of 1907-

1908. In the Koreshan Unity Co-operative, on page 57, reference is made to "*garden cocoanut palms*" being grown on a small piece of land owned by the Unity, and although this author could find no other reference to this fact, there seems to be no reason to doubt it.

As is often the case in farming, some garden crops have side benefits such as providing forage for livestock. The ground sugar cane stalks, the cassava, and the velvet bean were used by the Koreshans for this purpose. In later years (around 1912), they experimented with some improved pasture grasses, one being Rhodes Grass, the seeds of which they obtained from Australia, and another being Gordura Grass (or molasses grass) which was obtained from a man in Florida.⁴⁰

The death of Dr. Teed in 1908 dealt a severe blow to the future of the settlement in Estero. While the various pursuits continued, it was not with the same zeal and dedication with which it started. As members left the Unity, the depleted labor force was hard pressed to maintain the gardens and grounds at the same level to which they had developed. The woods and the weeds began to reclaim the lush garden and tropical fruit trees planted so carefully along the river, and the grounds fell victim to the same apathy that seemed to prevail throughout the settlement.

³⁸Jacksonville Times Union (1907), quoted in The Koreshan Unity Co-operative, p. 50.

³⁹Hinds, p. 478.

⁴⁰Andrews, pp. 61-62.

While there have been repeated references to a "plant nursery" at the Koreshan settlement, this author has not been able to find anything in his research that would indicate the size of this operation. It is apparent that as far back as 1904 there was some type of area and activity along these lines, but it appears that it mainly functioned to supply foliage plants⁴¹ for the settlement, and as an area where new seeds and plants could be sprouted and tested for the adaptability to the area. Richard Berrey stated in his economic history of the Koreshan Unity, that;

The horticultural industry has at times brought quite a little money into the treasury but does not function regularly as a source of income. The plants are raised and cared for by one who has little time to devote to them and sold as opportunity affords. During the boom period in Florida, the Davis Island Corporation, of Tampa, purchased in one consignment, more than one thousand dollars worth of plants.

On-site investigation has revealed an area that was presumably the original location of this "nursery," however, in conversations with Miss Hedwig Michel, she revealed

⁴¹Berrey, p. 76.

⁴²Andrews, p. 63.

⁴³The Melaneuca Leucadendron was one such plant experimented with in search of a tree that would grow fast and withstand wet conditions. The seeds

that the nursery was relocated between the Old Store and the Founder's House in later years to provide for easier accessibility.

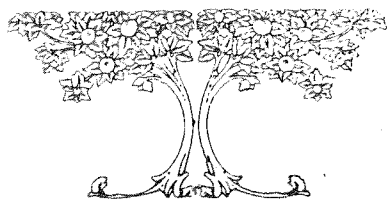
As other areas of the settlement experienced a marked decline after the death of Dr. Teed, the horticultural pursuits seemed to advance. This can be attributed in part to the interests of Allan Andrews who, at the time, was editor of the American Eagle. In 1911, at the time the Fort Myers Press began publishing a daily paper, it was decided that the Eagle would become a horticultural weekly paper devoted to the promotion of fruits and ornamental plants of the temperate and tropic zones. Thus, through gradual transformation, the Eagle began its career as a horticultural weekly paper.⁴²

Over the years Andrews' interests in horticulture carried him throughout the state and brought him in contact with new varieties of fruits and plants. Those that he became interested in he brought back to Estero to be experimented with and often seeds were acquired from other countries to be tested at Estero.⁴³ The mangoes planted south of where the printing house stood are of the Mulgoba, Haden, Pakeri and Cecil varieties and were obtained by Andrews and are still in existence and bearing.⁴⁴

were secured from Australia in 1912 and planted around Estero where they subsequently went "native". However, this was not the first introduction of this plant into the country.

⁴⁴Andrews, p. 427.

In 1921 the Eagle began publishing articles written by the late Dr. Henry Nehrling, and continued publishing these articles almost every week until Dr. Nehrling's death in 1929.⁴⁵ Reprints of the articles were in such demand that they were compiled into a book by Andrews, My Florida Garden, in the early 1940's.



Grounds 1931-1977

Reference has been made to "greenhouses" and a "...conservatory started to provide a constant supply of plants for the parks and gardens"⁴⁶ but no trace or record of any such structures have been found. It is very likely that these references referred to "slat houses" that were used for pineapple culture and possibly shade houses for the nursery.

During the next forty years the character of the grounds continued to deteriorate due to the lack of manpower and financial resources of the Unity. In 1940 Miss Hedwig Michel was admitted to the Unity and being a skilled botanist, she voluntarily filed and labelled two hundred trees in two weeks.⁴⁷ It appeared the gardens were to be once again well cared for, but the lack of manpower and funds for laborers could not be offset by the dedication and enthusiasm of one person. While new plantings were added, and the grounds were better cared for, nature, in her persistence, was more than a match and the grounds slowly yielded as she reclaimed that which was hers.

⁴⁵Andrews, p. 427.

⁴⁶Hinds, p. 480.

⁴⁷Conversations with Miss Hedwig Michel, August 1977.

6. Recommendations for Restoration

The majority of the visitors attracted to the Koreshan State Park will generally fall into two categories; the tourist/sightseer and the camper. Those in the first group will undoubtedly be attracted by the historical aspect of the settlement, but the campground could generate substantial attendance from the "captive" audience staying on site. Whatever the origin of the user, the primary goal should be to entertain him in the most informative way possible, while relating the significance of the Koreshan Settlement.

We feel that every effort should be made to present to the visitor the most authentic interpretation, or adaptation, of the settlement buildings and grounds. This includes, in addition to the existing facilities, those features designated for future reconstruction. A major consideration should be to try to capture and interpret the lifestyle of the Koreshans, and relate the essence of their philosophy to the pub-

¹Many of these suggestions were a result of input from Ms. Mildred Fryman, with the Bureau of

lic. The religious and social theories of Dr. Teed were a major part of this philosophy, and were briefly explained in the previous chapters of this study.

An attempt should be made to transmit to the visitor the intangible aspects of Koreshanity, such as their emphasis on education and their social theories on women's rights, along with the factual information on the settlement. Also, a concerned effort should be made to educate someone along these lines while a person like Miss Michel is still available for "tutoring."

Another consideration would be the use of the facilities by small conference or seminar groups. This would suggest an adaptive use for several of the buildings as dormitory space and the present kitchen and dining hall could provide full, country style meals. The atmosphere in general would be quite hospitable to educational pursuits, the very same activities that were so important to the Koreshans.¹



History, Archives and Records Management of the State of Florida.

The diagram is a complex geometric construction, likely a form of sacred geometry or a political allegory. It consists of a central point labeled "THE NEW". From this point, numerous lines radiate outwards, intersecting to form a series of concentric circles and a web of smaller, overlapping circles. The entire structure is enclosed within a large outer circle. The diagram is divided into several sectors, each labeled with a different system or department. The sectors include: "COMMERCIAL SYSTEM" (top), "EQUITABLE ADMINISTRATION" (top-right), "FREEMINENT" (right), "THE CHURCH TRINITY" (bottom-right), "EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM" (bottom), "INITIATIVE" (bottom-left), "DEPARTMENT OF" (left), "SOCIAL SYSTEM" (top-left), and "THE DEPARTMENT OF" (top). The diagram is also labeled with "PATRONS OF EQUATION" on the left and "EQUATION" on the right. The bottom of the diagram is labeled "REFERENDUM" and "REDUCTION OF BALIST OPINION".

Illustration No. 127. Proposed Restoration Master Plan of the settlement. The accompanying recommendations note in detail the extent of restoration and phasing for the settlement buildings and grounds.

R- 1 Damkohler House	R-52 Electric Generator Building
R-10 Founder's House	
R-19 Planetary Court	R-53 Storage Shed
R-20 Art Hall	R-59 New Store
R-22 Bakery	R-61 Members' House
R-26 Large Machine Shop	R-62 Members' House
R-27 Small Machine Shop	R-69 Post Office/Office

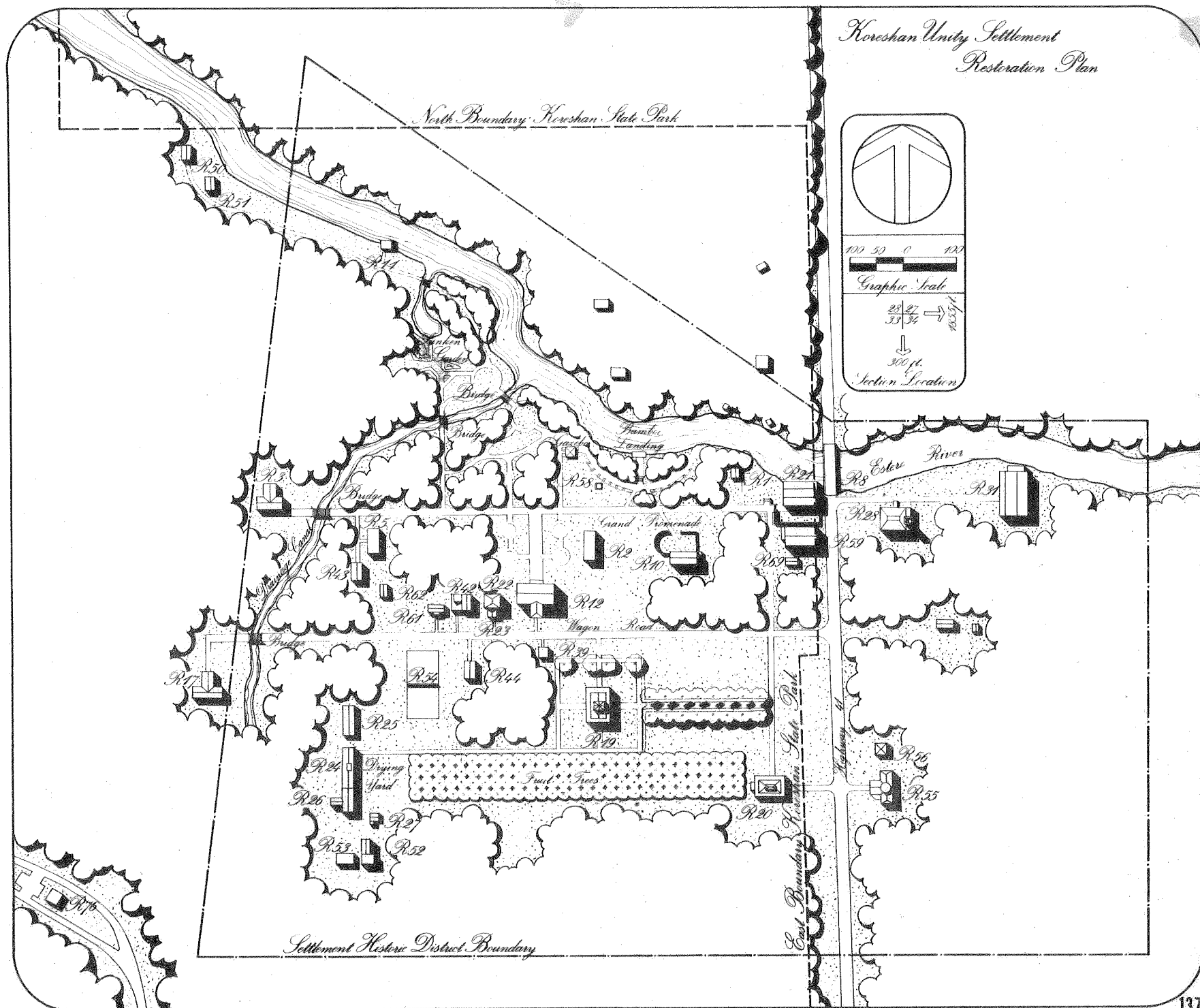
R- 2 Women's Log House	R-21 Old Store
R- 3 Men's Log House	R-23 Bakery Ovens
R- 5 Barn	R-58 Bear Pit/Zoo

R-11 Fish House
R-12 Dining Hall
R-17 Barn
R-43 Members' House
R-44 Members' House

R-24 Laundry	R-50 Members' House
R-25 Members' House	R-51 Members' House
R-39 Storage Building	R-54 Tennis Court
R-42 Members' House	

R- 8 Bridge	R-59 New Store
R-28 Publishing House	R-26 Large Machine Shop
R-31 Boat Works	R-27 Small Machine Shop
R-55 Rustic Tea Garden	R-52 Electric Generator
R-56 Exhibit Building	Building

Koreshan Unity Settlement Restoration Plan



Settlement Structures and Grounds

The condition and character of the buildings and grounds of the Koreshan Unity have changed a great deal over the last eighty years as the forces of man and nature have struggled to assert their dominance. Most of the buildings have undergone substantial transformations through the efforts of the settlers striving to improve their standard of living and as a result of the forces of nature exerting their influence. Buildings began as log cabins with thatched roofs and progressed to fairly refined structures, only to be indiscriminately destroyed at nature's will. The grounds were not immune to this constant state of change and they also reflected this evolutionary process. Oak trees that were not yet acorns when the first settlers arrived have grown and matured and spread their canopy over the park. Underbrush, weeds and suckering growth that once yielded to the settlers' axes and shovels has again returned. Freezes, hurricanes and brush fires have all taken their toll as nature, with her indeterminable amount of patience, continues to reclaim what man singled out and developed.

This section deals with the buildings and landscape features recommended for renovation or reconstruction, and are identified in phased developments, reflecting what is felt to be a realistic appraisal of State

funding ability. In the summary recommendations included at the end of this chapter specific items continued in the general recommendations are listed chronologically to establish a priority rating along with the various elements contained in each phase. These recommendations identify what we feel will be required to make the Koreshan Unity Settlement a viable State Historic Park.



Structures

As previously noted, substantial research has been conducted on each structure as to its origin, usage and historical significance. The structures recommended for reconstruction have been chosen so as to create a community environment, reflecting accurately the actual development at the settlement. Not all structures, however, are of great historical significance, some were selected on the basis that they were reflective of types of structures, such as members' houses and barns. Others were selected on the basis of their relationship with other buildings, and the environment that the structures, when combined, will create. Here follows the recommendations:

1 Phase I Development

All structures in Phase I are existing and are recommended for renovation restoration, with minor additions for historical authenticity. Structures of recent vintage, of no historical significance, are recommended for removal.

1 Damkohler House (R-1)

- 1.1.1 Remove 1950 addition to south end of structure.

- 1.1.2 Replace existing roof with original palmetto thatched roof type.

- 1.1.3 Replace existing wood siding, roof and interior elements with construction to match original as documented by written reports and photographs.

1.1.4 General

Structure is in need of immediate repair and restoration. Recent additions and modifications recommended to be removed.

*1.2 Founder's House (R-10)

- 1.2.1 Reconstruct the porch element on the south side of the existing structure.

- 1.2.2 Remove the simulated concrete block on the first floor level, with the exception of the west elevation. Retain the material removed for restoration of landscape features and for display purposes related to work performed at the concrete works.

- 1.2.3 Remove existing porch and stair addition to east elevation. Store, for future usage, existing railing on porch.

- 1.2.4 Remove portion of simulated stone wall at northeast corner

of structure. Store for future usage.

- 1.2.5 Replace existing windows on south elevation wall units to match original windows on north.
- 1.2.6 Restore interior of structure to original condition with addition of original interior stairs and partitions.
- 1.2.7 Replace existing roof with hand split cedar or cypress shakes.
- 1.2.8 Restore structure to basic original construction with exception of items previously noted.

1.3 Planetary Court (R-19)

- 1.3.1 Remove existing metal roof, replace with wood shingle roof.
- 1.3.2 Add original roof element as indicated on early photographs of structure.
- 1.3.3 Make repairs to porch areas, beams, etc., in need of immediate renovation.
- 1.3.4 Add wallpaper to interior spaces to match original (samples of original paper are in possession of State).
- 1.3.5 Relocate existing electrical power service to structure, meters and disconnects.

- 1.3.6 Recondition existing porch bathroom for usage by public and guests staying in building. (This element, as well as exterior stair, are recommended for removal at such time as Miss Michel is not using this building as a residence.)

- 1.3.7 Restore structure at first floor level to original condition. A substantial portion of this work has recently been accomplished, but some areas are in need of modification to be historically correct.

1.4 Art Hall (R-20)

- 1.4.1 Restore original roof element as indicated on early photographs.
- 1.4.2 Renovate existing restrooms at west side of building for public usage. These restrooms are recommended for removal at such time as adequate facilities are constructed at the settlement.
- 1.4.3 Make minor restorations to interior, such as at roof element.
- 1.4.4 Relocate existing air conditioning compressor unit to area not immediately adjacent to building.

1.5 Bakery (R-22)

- 1.5.1 Make modifications and renovations to existing second floor bathroom to protect against water damage.
- 1.5.2 Make necessary repairs to interior of structure to more accurately reflect historical character.
- 1.5.3 Replace existing metal roof with wood shingles to match original.
- 1.5.4 Allow existing first floor kitchen area to remain until such time as bake ovens are reconstructed (recommended in Phase II).

1.6 Large Machine Shop (R-26)

- 1.6.1 Install windows to match original in existing voids.
- 1.6.2 Construct north and south walls where original construction has been removed and voids, exposing the building to the elements, exist.
- 1.6.3 Reconstruct roof element of original construction as indicated on earlier photographs, replace metal roof with original wood shingle roof.

- 1.6.4 Make necessary renovations to exterior of structure, replacing rotten and damaged wood siding.

- 1.6.5 The interior renovation, and restoration is recommended for Phase IV when adjacent structures, completing the original complex are recommended. The structure now contains portions of the original equipment which should be cataloged and secured for future display purposes.

1.7 Small Machine Shop (R-27)

- 1.7.1 Replace existing metal roof with original wood shingle roof.
- 1.7.2 Restore exterior of structure to accurately reflect original condition, removing small addition at southwest corner of building.
- 1.7.3 As in structure R-26, the interior renovation and restoration is recommended for Phase IV. Original equipment, currently stored in the building should be cataloged and secured for future display purposes.

1.8 Electric Generator Building (R-52)

- 1.8.1 Make necessary renovations to exterior of structure to insure its protection.

- 1.8.2 Catalog and secure existing equipment and furnishings stored in the building for future usage. Interior restoration scheduled for Phase IV.

1.9 Storage Shed (R-53)

- 1.9.1 Replace damaged wood structural elements with non-milled lumber to match original construction.
- 1.9.2 Make such repairs to existing roof and walls as to protect structure.

1.10 New Store

- 1.10.1 Renovate interior at second floor to repair existing deterioration.
- 1.10.2 Renovate exterior of structure with exception of east elevation.
- 1.10.3 Interior of first floor to be renovated at such time as disposition has been made of books currently stored and being catalogued.
- 1.10.4 Exterior of structure, at east elevation to be reconstructed, based upon early photographs, at such time as a decision has been made by the State Department of Transportation as to

Highway 41.

1.11 Members' House (R-61)

- 1.11.1 Replace existing metal roof with wood shingles to match original construction.
- 1.11.2 Make renovations to interior to allow structure to be utilized for display and public viewing.
- 1.11.3 Make necessary repairs to exterior to insure its protection from the elements.

1.12 Members' House (R-62)

- 1.12.1 Replace existing metal roof with wood shingles to match original construction.
- 1.12.2 Replace concrete entry landing with wood construction.
- 1.12.3 Make necessary repairs to exterior and interior so structure can be utilized for public viewing and display.
- 1.12.4 Replace partially reconstructed porch to match original construction, utilizing early photographs.

1.13 Post Office/Office (R-69)

- 1.13.1 Renovate exterior to minor degree, structure is basic-

ally in sound condition.

- 1.13.2 Replace existing metal roof with wood shingle roof.

Grounds

As previously noted, the condition and character of the grounds has been constantly changing for the last eighty years. Substantial research has been conducted to try to determine as accurately as possible the various features that existed, the types of materials used in their construction, and their arrangement as the grounds evolved over the years. The following general criteria for the walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features and, their subsequent phasing, are a part of our recommendations.

2 General

- 2.1 Walkways: In the 1905 period, identified for restoration, there existed a fairly elaborate system of paths and walkways. Most of the major walkways were paved with crushed oyster shell, some were paved with concrete and some with sand. We recommend that the walkway system identified on the restoration plan be re-established with slight modification, and installed in phases to coincide with the reconstruction of the buildings. Since there

was no vehicular access other than wagons, in 1905, all traces of the existing roadways should be removed. Access, where necessary for service purposes, can be accomplished by using the major roadways (paved with oyster shell), identified with the 1905 period of restoration, i.e. the "Wagon Road" and the "Grand Promenade." All walks should be reconstructed of crushed shell, (except where concrete walks exist) well packed, and with wood header curbs. The crushed shell would make all areas more accessible to the handicapped and the wood curbs would provide for easire maintenance by retaining the shell, retarding the intrusion of grass, and establishing a permanent edge for the walks.

- 2.2 Landscaping: Since landscaping will play an important part in the grounds restoration, it cannot be over emphasized. With the limited amount of documentation that exists concerning landscape plantings and designs that have evolved over the years, it would be virtually impossible to reproduce a replica of the 1905 period. Each person that became involved with the grounds over the last eighty years has added and subtracted to suit their own personal taste. Very few elements, with the exception of some of the trees, remain from the early years, and where these elements can be identified, their authenticity should be played up. Specimen plant material that exist should be retained

when it is not in direct conflict with structures or other major features and these elements should be supplemented with additional plantings to create the "tropical garden park" that was originally planned. We feel that the intent should be to organize and beautify the grounds in keeping with what was intended, despite the fact that it was never fully realized. In so doing we recommend making use of the plant materials representative of the 1905 period being used in and around the Fort Myers area, as the colonists were undoubtedly influenced by these local sources.

We feel that the large open areas of the grounds should be grassed and a maintenance program established for the grounds that would provide for proper grounds maintenance (i.e., fertilizing, pruning, insect control, etc.), on a regular basis. Along these same lines we would recommend that the grounds maintenance be taken over by non-park personnel, civilian laborers under the direction of the park staff.

- 2.3 Irrigation: This is a major item that needs to be recognized and dealt with in the grounds restoration. If the grounds are to be restored with open lawn areas and extensive landscaping, then it is imperative that some type of irrigation system be installed to maintain them. It should be an underground system with pop-up heads on an

automatic timer. In this way the system can be set to operate at night and early morning, when the park is not in use, and it will not require a man to go around and turn on a maze of valves.

Sprinkler heads that throw a large pattern can be used in most of the areas by allowing for sufficient overlap. There will probably be a need for a new well to supply the system, however, the productivity of existing wells should be investigated as a source of water. The system can be designed so that it can be expanded (by installing a looped main) as the restoration progresses through the various phases and the needs increase.

While an irrigation system is a departure from the authenticity of the period, it should be justified as necessary since the manpower that the colonists used to water is no longer available. There are sprinkler heads that are virtually undetectable even at very close range and since all of the piping and valves will be underground, there will be nothing visible to give away its appearance.

- 2.4. Major Landscape Features: It is our feeling that the major landscape features that existed during the 1905 period be reconstructed or renovated as accurately as possible to re-establish the character of the grounds

that existed during this period. Some of the original garden ornaments are still in existence around the grounds, and quite possibly others will emerge during the grounds clean-up. Detailed measurements and casts should be made of some of the medallions, vases, urns, plaques and pedestals that are still in existence, and drawings made of those portrayed in photographs. These ornaments should then be re-created in sufficient numbers to be distributed about the grounds. Undoubtedly, miscellaneous elements and features will emerge that will need to be dealt with on an individual basis as to the merits of renovating them and including them as a part of the overall plan.

2.4.1 Nursery: As previously mentioned, the nursery had a somewhat sketchy history, and little can be found to document its existence during the 1905 period. It did serve an important function (more so in later years) though, and some facsimile or adaptation of this feature should be reinstated. A number of the old pots, planters, cans and other miscellaneous containers have been found in the "old nursery" area and these could be used and planted with plant materials reminiscent of the 1905 period and established in a "nursery area." It would not have to be a large display and could be located in the area

where the "Grand Promenade" meets the drainage canal - close to the original nursery area. It is entirely possible that the clean-up operation will produce other articles associated with the plant nursery. Another consideration would be the construction of a slat house in this area reminiscent of the one used as a pineapple shed. This could double as a shade house for the nursery and a section could be used for growing pineapples (ones of the Ananas varieties), and seedlings collected from the grounds, as part of an ongoing or "living" history.

3 Phase I Grounds Development

3.1 General: Walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features to be constructed based on general criteria outlined under 2.1 - 2.4.

3.2 Walkways:

3.2.1 Reconstruct the "Wagon Road" from Highway 41 west as far as the drainage canal.

3.2.2 Reconstruct the "Grand Promenade" from the location of the "Petronian Fountain" west to the intersection of the north/south walk leading to the "White Victorian Bridge."

3.2.3 Reconstruct the walkway from the Petronian Fountain south to the Art Hall (R-20).

3.2.4 Reconstruct the walkway system around the Planetary Court (R-19) including the east/west walk that leads under the tree canopy to the Art Hall (R-20) walkway.

3.2.5 Reconstruct the semi-circular walk at the Bamboo Landing west to the Gazebo, and the north/south section of walk leading from the Gazebo south to the "Grand Promenade."

3.2.6 In the area where the steps lead down at the Bamboo Landing, ramps should be discreetly added to provide access for the handicapped.

3.2.7 Construct the walkway connecting the Damkohler House (R-11) with the "Grand Promenade."

3.3 Landscaping:

3.3.1 Install landscaping around the Damkohler House (R-1), Planetary Court (R-19), the Art Hall (R-20), the Founder's House (R-10), the New Store (R-59) and the Bamboo Landing.

3.3.2 Initiate general grounds improvement identified on master landscape plan, as funding permits.

3.4 Irrigation:

3.4.1 Install irrigation system in all areas designated for landscaping, under 3.3.

3.4.2 Install irrigation system in the areas adjacent to the Bamboo Landing and the area between the "Wagon Road and the "Grand Promenade" to the north and south from the Bakery (R-22) to the New Store (R-59).

3.5 Major Landscape Features:

3.5.1 Petronian Fountain is still standing, but has been partially defaced and slightly altered, the following changes are recommended:

3.5.1.1 Replace brownstone veneer on wall left of fountain with stone from Founder's House.

3.5.1.2 Repair fountain and reconnect water line to fountain head.

3.5.1.3 Add replica of original basin.

3.5.1.4 Repaint finials, caps and plaques white, and clean stone. However, maintain "patina" effect to prevent fountain from looking like

it was newly constructed.

3.5.2 Bamboo Landing was reconstructed by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Recreation and Parks a few years ago, and although not entirely authentic, with some modification, it would be acceptable as a replica of the original landing. The following changes are recommended:

3.5.2.1 Add replicas of the original benches and rain barrell.

3.5.2.2 Add step-down on either end of dock.

3.5.2.3 Remove and thin out vegetation around landing to open up and recreate "amphitheater" effect.

3.5.2.4 Reconstruct trellis that bordered the semi-circular walk at top of the steps to help establish a feeling of enclosure.

3.5.2.5 Replace arbovitae hedge that bordered walk if clearing permits sufficient light for its growth, if not, another plant more tolerant of shade conditions, and

representative of the period should be substituted to re-establish the same feeling of enclosure.

3.5.3 Miscellaneous Landscape Features will arise throughout the project and will need to be dealt with on an individual basis. Some that should be considered in this phase are as follows:

3.5.3.1 Reconstruct trellis that bordered the semi-circular walk at the top of the steps at the Bamboo Landing.

3.5.3.2 Construct replicas of some of the garden ornaments, such as benches, vases, urns, etc.



4 Phase II Development (Structures)

All structures recommended in this phase are reconstructions based upon research data and existing photographs reflecting their character.

4.1 Women's Log House (R-2)

- 4.1.1 Reconstruct the original structure based upon drawings of building by Edith Campbell and historical data. This recommendation for reconstruction is made due to the structure's historical importance.

4.2 Men's Log House (R-3)

- 4.2.1 Reconstruct the original structure based upon photographs illustrating the character of the building, and later photographs that show the structural system. Substantial information is available as to its construction, including a basic floor plan on the original 1902 master plan.

4.3 Barn (R-5)

- 4.3.1 Recommended for reconstruction based upon its historical importance (the first structure of its type constructed at the settlement). Reconstruction would be based upon the Edith Campbell drawing of the building.

4.4 Old Store (R-21)

- 4.4.1 Recommended for reconstruction because of the important role it played in the settlement's history. Numerous photographs

illustrating the building through the years are available and sufficient research information exists to justify its reconstruction.

4.5 Bakery Ovens (R-23)

- 4.5.1 Reconstruct the structure to its original, based upon early photographs. The structure and the connected Bakery played an important economic role in the settlement's history and reflect a unique aspect of the Koreshan settlement.

4.6 Bear Pit/Zoo (R-58)

- 4.6.1 Recommended for reconstruction because of its unique character and its reflection on Koreshan life at the settlement. While not of great historical significance, it is considered to be important because of the interest it is anticipated to generate with visitors to the settlement.

5 Phase II Development (Grounds)

- 5.1 General: Walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features to be constructed based on general criteria outlined under 2.1 - 2.4.

5.2 Walkways:

- 5.2.1 Extend "Grand Promenade" from

intersection of north/south walk leading to the White Victorian Bridge west over drainage canal to Men's Log House (R-3).

5.2.2 Reconstruct walkway from "Grand Promenade" south to Old Barn (R-5).

5.2.3 Reconstruct walkway from the Gazebo northwest to the Rustic Wooden Bridge, including the circular walks around the mounds to the east and west of the bridge.

5.2.4 Reconstruct the walkway connecting the Rustic Wooden Bridge with the White Victorian Bridge and south to where it intersects the "Grand Promenade."

5.2.5 Reconstruct additional walkways identified on Restoration Plan from the "Grand Promenade" north to Gazebo and west from mound to White Victorian Bridge walkway.

5.3 Landscaping:

5.3.1 Install landscaping around area of the mounds to the east and west of the Rustic Wooden Bridge.

5.3.2 Install landscaping along the drainage canal at the bridge by the Men's Log House (R-3) and around the White Victorian

Bridge and the Rustic Wooden Bridge.

5.3.3 Initiate landscaping around the Men's Log House (R-3), the Old Barn (R-5), the Bakery (R-22), the Women's Log House (R-2), the Old Store (R-21), and the Bear Pit/Zoo (R-58).

5.3.4 Continue general grounds improvement identified on master landscape plan as funding permits.

5.4 Irrigation:

5.4.1 Extend irrigation system initiated in Phase I to include all areas identified for landscaping in 5.3.

5.4.2 Install additional irrigation in perimeter areas identified on master irrigation plans as funding permits.

5.5 Major Landscape Features:

5.5.1 Reconstruct wooden bridge across drainage canal leading to Men's Log House (R-3).

5.5.2 Reconstruct Rustic Wooden Bridge that led across drainage canal in the area of the Sunken Gardens.

5.5.3 Reconstruct White Victorian Bridge that led across drainage

canal in same general area of the Sunken Gardens.

5.5.4 Construct additional garden ornaments identified in 2.4 in whatever quantities available funding permits for distribution around the grounds.

5.5.5 Reconstruct garden mounds on either side of Rustic Wooden Bridge.



6 Phase III Development (Structures)

All structures in this phase are nonexisting structures recommended for reconstruction.

6.1 Fish House (R-11)

6.1.1 Recommended for reconstruction to reflect the settlement's early history and dependence upon fish as a major food source. Structure is minor in nature and its character is reflected in an early drawing by Edith Campbell.

6.2 Dining Hall (R-12)

6.2.1 This major structure is recommended for reconstruction be-

cause of its historical significance to the Unity Settlement. Numerous early photographs of the exterior and interior are available to allow for accurate reconstruction. Its location, as a central element in the settlement, is important, helping to establish the community environment to be viewed by the public.

6.3 Barn (R-17)

6.3.1 Recommended for reconstruction to reflect, with the Barn (R-5, Phase II), the agricultural aspects of Koreshan Society and to illustrate the pioneer character of the buildings at the settlement.

6.4 Members' House (R-43)

6.4.1 Recommended for reconstruction as a typical members' house. Several early photographs exist of this structure indicating its character. It is anticipated that this building would be furnished as a typical members' house of the 1905 period.

6.5 Members' House (R-44)

6.5.1 Recommended for reconstruction as a typical members' house. It would help, because of its location, to establish a settlement concept.

7 Phase III Development (Grounds)

7.1 General: Walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features to be constructed based on general criteria outlined under 2.1 - 2.4.

7.2 Walkways:

- 7.2.1 Extend walkways from the White Victorian Bridge and the mound northwest of the Rustic Wooden Bridge to the area of the Sunken Gardens.
- 7.2.2 Extend "Wagon Road" from the bridge at the drainage canal west to the Old Barn (R-17).
- 7.2.3 Reconstruct main walk running north from the Dining Hall (R-12) to the "Grand Promenade". Also walks east and west of this main walk that connect the two sets of mounds with the "Grand Promenade."
- 7.2.4 Construct walks on south side of Dining Hall (R-12) leading to the "Wagon Road" and the walk connecting the Dining Hall with the Bakery (R-22).
- 7.2.5 Construct walks to Members' Houses (R-43 and R-44).
- 7.2.6 In the area where the steps lead down into the Sunken Gardens, ramps should be discreetly added to provide access for the handicapped.

7.3 Landscaping:

- 7.3.1 Install landscaping in the area of the Sunken Gardens.
- 7.3.2 Install landscaping along the drainage canal around the wooden bridge leading to the Old Barn (R-17) on the "Wagon Road."
- 7.3.3 Initiate landscaping in the area of the Dining Hall (R-12), the Old Barn (R-17) and the Members' Houses (R-43 and R-44).
- 7.3.4 Continue general grounds improvement identified on master landscape plan as funding permits.

7.4 Irrigation:

- 7.4.1 Extend irrigation system installed in Phase I and II to include all areas identified for landscaping in 7.3.
- 7.4.2 Install additional irrigation in perimeter areas identified on master irrigation plans as funding permits.

7.5 Major Landscape Features:

- 7.5.1 Reconstruct wooden bridge across drainage canal leading to Old Barn (R-17).
- 7.5.2 Reconstruct Sunken Gardens in area indicated on restoration plan.

7.5.3 Construct additional garden ornaments identified in 2.4 in whatever quantities available funding permits for distribution around the grounds.

7.5.4 Reconstruct garden mounds on either side of walkway leading from the Dining Hall (R-12) to the "Grand Promenade."

7.5.4.1 Remove bamboo that has encroached between the Dining Hall and the mounds.

7.5.4.2 Reshape mounds and coordinate with installation of walks in this area.

7.5.4.3 Retain oak trees on most northwesterly mound and reshape as necessary.



8 Phase IV Development (Structures)

All structures in this phase are nonexisting buildings and elements recommended for reconstruction

8.1 Laundry (R-24)

8.1.1 This structure is recommended

for reconstruction because of its unique nature in the Settlement, and because it reflects the ability of the Koreshans to employ non-standard equipment for specialized usage. Additionally, the building is located adjacent to a complex of structures and illustrates an additional aspect of Koreshan life at the settlement.

8.2 Members' House (R-25)

8.2.1 This Members' House, adjacent to the Laundry, is recommended for reconstruction because of its location and its character as a typical Members' House.

8.3 Storage Building (R-39)

8.3.1 This small building, of unique architectural character, is believed to have served as an early Koreshan Unity office, and is recommended for reconstruction.

8.4 Members' House (R-42)

8.4.1 This Members' House is recommended for reconstruction because of its location in what is anticipated to be the community central area, an area reflecting several aspects of Koreshan development.

8.5 Members' House (R-50)

8.6 Members' House (R-51)

8.5.1/8.6.1

These two Members' Houses, located along the south bank of the river are recommended for reconstruction to reflect the complex of Members' Houses that existed at that location. They are anticipated to function as a rest stop for visitors touring the grounds and to reflect the development that occurred in that area.

8.7 Tennis Court (R-54)

8.7.1 This element is recommended to be identified in outline form only. It is unique to the settlement and is a reflection on Koreshan life, and occurs in an area of no previous or subsequent development.

9 Phase IV Development (Grounds)

9.1 General: Walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features to be constructed based on general criteria outlined under 2.1 - 2.4.

9.2 Walkways:

9.2.1 Reconstruct walkway leading from "Wagon Road" east of bridge south to the Laundry (R-24) and Machine Shop (R-26).

9.2.2 Add walks to Members' Houses (R-25, R-42, R-50 and R-51), and to the Storage Building (R-39).

9.3 Landscaping:

9.3.1 Install landscaping around Laundry (R-24) and Machine Shop (R-26).

9.3.2 Install landscaping around Members' Houses (R-25, R-42, R-50 and R-51).

9.3.3 Install landscaping along river from Sunken Gardens west to Members' Houses (R-50 and R-51).

9.3.4 Install landscape buffer along north bank of river to screen trailer park and other undesirable elements from view of the park visitor.

9.3.5 Re-establish fruit tree orchard south of Planetary Court (R-19) as indicated on restoration plan.

9.3.6 Continue general grounds improvement identified on master landscape plan, and if funding permits, complete any areas left over from three previous phases.

9.4 Irrigation:

9.4.1 Extend irrigation system instal-

led in three previous phases to include all areas identified for landscaping in 9.3.

- 9.4.2 Install additional irrigation in perimeter areas identified on master irrigation plans as funding permits.

9.5 Major Landscape Features:

- 9.5.1 Construct additional garden ornaments identified in 2.4, in whatever quantities available funding permits for distribution around the grounds.

- 9.5.2 Nursery: Reconstruct facsimile of plant nursery as outlined under 2.4.1.



10 Phase V Development (Structures)

Structures and elements recommended for this phase include buildings not located currently in the Koreshan State Park (see recommendations: land acquisition), and structures that are contingent upon relocation of State Highway 41.

10.1 Bridge (R-8)

- 10.1.1 The recommendation to replace the existing bridge over

Highway 41 is contingent, as previously noted, upon the relocation of Highway 41. Criteria for Federal Historic Districts place certain limitations about highway construction within such a designated area (see General Recommendations). In the event the highway is relocated, it is recommended that the original wood bridge be reconstructed, reflecting the original character of the settlement.

10.3 Boat Works (R-31)

- 10.3.1 This building functioned as the main boat building facility at the settlement, and played an important role economically. Initially, the majority of Koreshan commerce and communication with the "outside" world was by boat, and most of these vessels were constructed at this facility. Again, this structure is located outside of the State Park currently.

10.4 Rustic Tea Garden (R-55)

10.5 Exhibit Building (R-56)

10.4.1/10.5.1

These two structures are unique in character and reflect a style of construction not duplicated, to our

knowledge, anywhere in the State. Their role as exhibit buildings displaying goods produced at the settlement, is recommended to be duplicated, if these structures are reconstructed.

10.6 New Store (R-59)
(See also Phase I Development)

10.6.1 The east elevation of this building is recommended for reconstruction, contingent upon the relocation of Highway 41. This elevation contained the public access to the building, and it would be necessary to reconstruct the original facade to accurately reflect the building's nature.

- 10.7 Large Machine Shop (R-26)
- 10.8 Small Machine Shop (R-27)
- 10.9 Electric Generator Building (R-52)

10.7.1/10.8.1/10.9.1

Previously discussed in Phase I Development, the interiors are recommended for reconstruction in this phase. With the possible exception of the Storage Shed (R-53), these structures played an important role in the Koreshan Unity Settlement development. Additionally, in this phase, it is recommended that the large, ele-

vated water tower, located to the east of the Electric Generator Building (R-52) be reconstructed.

11 Phase V Development (Grounds)

11.1 General: This phase is contingent upon the State acquiring additional Koreshan Unity property, located on the eastern side of Highway 41. If this phase is constructed, walkways, landscaping, irrigation and major landscape features should be constructed based on the general criteria outlined under 2.1 - 2.4.

11.2 Walkways:

11.2.1 Reconstruct walkway leading to Publishing House (R-28) from Highway 41 adjacent to bridge.

11.2.2 Reconstruct walkway from Highway 41 opposite "Wagon Road" intersection east, and then north to the Boat Works (R-31).

11.2.3 Construct walkway from the Art Hall (R-20) east across Highway 41 to the Tea Garden (R-55).

11.3 Landscaping:

11.3.1 Install landscaping around Publishing House (R-28) and Boat Works (R-31).

11.3.2 Install landscaping along river bank and supplemental plantings around Tea Garden (R-55).

11.4 Irrigation:

11.4.1 Install irrigation system to cover all areas designated for landscaping under 11.3.

11.5 Major Landscape Features:

11.5.1 Reconstruct wall and gate along Highway 41 in front of Publishing House (R-28) adjacent to bridge (portion of original wall still exists).

11.5.2 Construct miscellaneous garden ornaments identified in 2.4 for distribution around Phase V structures.



General Recommendations

This section deals with those items that do not fall under the category of structures and grounds and are therefore identified in a separate recommendation section. The phasing of some of these items, likewise, does not fall into a convenient chronological sequence as some will be initiated in first couple of phases and continued throughout the project while others will need to be accomplished prior to any of the actual restoration work at the settlement. We have attempted to list these elements in a priority sequence realizing that the State's funding capabilities and the acquisition of grant money may restructure certain priorities.

1. Grounds Clean-Up

The initial element that needs to be accomplished is an extensive clean-up and removal of plant material from the entire area within the Historic District Boundary west of Highway 41. We recommend that the State employ a group of approximately ten to fifteen laborers and place them under a full time foreman to direct their operations. This foreman would be directed by the Landscape Architect for the project through on-site consultation and supervision, and the Park Superintendent

could direct the clean-up operations in the absence of the Landscape Architect. With this type of labor force (along with some trucks, grinders and other equipment), the grounds could be cleaned up and the plant material thinned out and pruned up to conform with the general character of the 1905 period identified for restoration (with some adaptation due to mature plants and specimen plants). We estimate that this operation could take approximately two to three months, and should be a prerequisite to any other work, even areial photography. Some of the main things that would be accomplished during this operation would be:

- Removal of some of the giant bamboo that has encroached on the walkways, garden spaces and open areas.
- Removal of most of the smaller clumps of bamboo scattered around the grounds that are neither attractive nor representative of the restoration period.
- Removal of plant material from the locations of walkways, garden features, and buildings slated for reconstruction.
- Opening of vistas and selected views within the park and along the river.
- General clean-up and elimination of the underbrush that has re-established itself and is not in keeping with the character of the 1905 period.
- Pruning up and thinning of palms, bamboo, trees, and other plant materials.
- An added bonus of this operation may be the discovery of settlement artifacts such as vases, urns and other paraphernalia.

This work should be accomplished prior to beginning any restoration drawings.

2. Archaeological Investigation

Archaeology of a preliminary nature should be initiated simultaneously with the grounds clean-up operation. This element would be concerned with locating specifically the location, size and general character of major roadways, walkways, structures, and other significant features slated for restoration or identification.

3. Aerial and Ground Surveys

At the completion of the archaeological investigation, it is recommended that a ground survey be accomplished, identifying specific locations of existing structures, foundations or evidence of historic structures no longer in existence, and major landscape features. After these elements are located and targeted, it is recommended that a series of aerial photographs be taken and converted to a comprehensive ground survey illustrating the elements mentioned.

4. Documented Master Site Plan

The information generated by the archaeological investigations and supplemented by aerial and ground surveys will need to be interpreted on a master site plan. This plan should reflect all of the components of a land use plan, including access, parking, public facilities,

etc. In addition, this plan will accurately locate all buildings, walks, bridges, property lines, major landscape features, etc., and be the base for all future restoration drawings.

5. Restoration and Measured Drawings

During Phase I, it is recommended that measured drawings of all existing historic structures be prepared, generally following the guidelines of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service. This procedure of utilizing the H.A.B.S. procedures will allow the documents so prepared to be made part of the Library of Congress collection, and will assist in possible future Federal funding.

Restoration drawings, as recommended for specific structures, and major landscape features, are to then be prepared, documenting the scope of work to be performed.

6. Fire Protection

Historically, the settlement has had numerous fires, with several buildings being destroyed. As all settlement structures are of wood construction, it is recommended that a fire protection system be designed, incorporating holding tanks of sufficient capacity to insure adequate protection. The settlement originally had a series of above-ground water tanks for domestic and industrial purposes, the restoration of these facilities could help to

provide such protection.

The existing fire protection at the settlement consists of one forestry truck with a 250 gallon capacity. A tanker truck, with a 600 gallon capacity has been requested and is anticipated to be delivered in 1977. We feel that this recommendation should be initiated very early in Phase I and continued through the other phases as the restoration progresses.

7. Public Facilities

It is anticipated that the restoration of the Koreshan Unity Settlement will require substantial visitor facilities, necessitating construction of the following elements.

There exist several restrooms currently on the grounds, all in need of extensive renovation. Additionally, restroom facilities need to be constructed in some central location, with provisions for the handicapped. These facilities could be incorporated into a reconstructed members' house, or a new facility constructed in an area away from the central complex of proposed renovation or reconstruction. It is anticipated that existing facilities could be adequate, after renovation, to serve the public, at the completion of Phase I Development.

8. Photographic Material

There is a tremendous amount of photo-

graphic material in the possession of the Koreshan Unity. A great many of the photographs were copied and reproduced for this report, however, there are many more that would be significant in interpreting the development and cultural aspects of the Koreshan Unity Settlement. Many of the photographs are in poor condition and need to be copied and restored. These photographs are an irreplaceable source of historical information and every effort should be made to insure their preservation.

We recommend that the first step would be for the State to hire a responsible individual, with the Florida Photographic Archives, with a combination of training in history and library science to identify and catalog, with Miss Michel's assistance, all of the photographs in the Unity's possession. It is very important that a brief narrative description be written for each photograph while there are still individuals like Miss Michel present to identify and describe the scenes portrayed in the photographs. Many of the photographs have information written on the backs that should be recorded, and all photographs should be dated as accurately as possible to when the picture was made.

The next step would be for the Architects and the Department of Natural Resources Interpretive Services, and the Bureau of History, Archives and Records Management, to review all of

the photographs cataloged and identify any and all that would be significant in interpreting the culture, history, religion, beliefs, etc., of the Unity. The possible criteria for their selection might be: enlargement for display purposes, to identify manner of dress, to illustrate notable events at the settlement, to identify key personnel associated with the Unity, to illustrate their pioneer way of life, to trace the development of the settlement and to depict portions of the settlement not slated for reconstruction.

The third step would be for the State to retain the services of a professional photographer, with the Florida Photographic Archives, to reproduce photographic material selected. We would recommend that the State be supplied with a set of reproducible negatives (some 35mm, some 2½ x 2½, depending on the pictures copied) for the History and Archives files and later reproduction. The negatives in the Architect's possession should be reviewed prior to the photographer performing his work to avoid duplication of any useable negatives. These file negatives could later be printed at whatever size was appropriate for their use.

The fourth step would be for the State to investigate the possibility of obtaining some of the original photographs from the Koreshan Unity, either through purchase or donation, and preserve them in permanent displays. These could depict particular points of interest,

such as Unity members, notable events, etc., and would convey a degree of authenticity not possible with reproduced photographs.

The fifth and final step would be to identify additional sources of photographs previously published. Allen Andrews used several in his book, A Yank Pioneer in Florida, as did several other authors, a complete list of which is contained in the bibliography. It is possible that some of the printing houses may still have the plates for the books that are still in print.

9. Building Identification

It is recommended that a graphics system be utilized to indicate the location and general character of structures to be constructed in subsequent phases. This system, of a similar design to the graphics to be utilized for the landscaping features, should be so designed as to reflect the general character of construction at the settlement.

Structures and major landscape features, not restored during Phase I, should be outlined to reflect their size and location. Additionally, it is recommended that a display be created, at each of these structures or landscape elements, that identifies to the public the name, history and general character of the element.

10. Displays

There has been reference made about the possibility of developing a "living history" interpretation of the settlement. This would make an excellend display and, if handled with integrity, could aid greatly in re-establishing the original character of the park. The Publishing House, for example, could be developed into an informative and useful exhibit by reconstructing the building and furnishing it with the same or similar equipment (complete with paper cutters, presses, samples of hand type, etc.). There would still exist a need, however, for additional informative displays depicting all aspects of the Koreshan life-style, industry, dress, cultural activities, etc.

It should be recognized that the attention span of a visitor is limited, and the area of the park will be extensive once the full reconstruction is realized. Therefore, the park should be divided up into several individual tour areas, and these individual tour areas should coincide with the phased development of the park, with new ones being added as the settlement renovation progresses. (This would be applicable for both grounds and buildings.) Self-guided historical tours would need to be carefully planned, with map diagrams and descriptive text (probably in the form of a pamphlet) prepared for dissemination to the public. Other descriptive and interpretive devices should be erected including a complete

signage system for the settlement. The system should include directional, identification and informational elements, and should be handled in such a way as to be compatible with the character of the settlement.

We also recommend that museum-type facilities, similar to those in the Art Hall, be developed within the initial Phase I core area. These facilities should remain open during the regular park hours with an attendant on duty to answer questions and protect the materials. The individual displays exhibiting the cultural and documentary artifacts should be displayed with explanatory materials in method of presentation typical of modern museum standards.

11. Drawings

There are a few original drawings in the possession of the Koreshan Unity and Mrs. Alma Trebell that we feel the State should try to acquire. The 1902 map of the settlement in the Unity's possession is truly a unique discovery. We have reproduced it photographically, both in color and black and white, for this report, but the very nature of the original document is of great value for display purposes. The other drawing is an electrical diagram drawn by Alfred Christensen, showing the power distribution to the various buildings when the electrical generating plant was added. The State should investigate as to whether or not the Unity would be willing to donate these

original documents to the State for incorporation into a permanent display.

There are a series of pencil sketches (12) drawn by Edith Campbell, a former member of the Koreshan Unity, depicting scenes of the buildings and grounds and the Estero River. They were drawn between the years of 1889-1901 and give a brief description on the back of the picture of the scenes portrayed. They are now in the possession of Mrs. Alma Trebell and we would suggest that the State investigate the possibility of purchasing these sketches from Mrs. Trebell, or try to persuade her to make a gift of them to the State. They can then be preserved in a permanent display with proper credit being given to Mrs. Trebell. These sketches have also been reproduced for this report, but as is true of the photographs, the original documents convey a degree of authenticity not possible with reproductions.

The following recommendations are not indicated in any specific phase, but reflect items which the authors felt should be noted and action taken as is found necessary, as the restoration of the settlement progresses.

- Highway 41

A major portion of the Koreshan State Park is located within the boundary of the recently established "Settlement Historic District." Federal guidelines relative to construction, and specifically public roads, within Historic Districts, suggest

the eventual, or potential, relocation of U.S. Highway 41.

Federal guidelines recommend that a highway not be built within 150 feet of a historic monument (i.e. a historic building). Several such buildings are recommended for reconstruction that would make the relocation of the highway desirable.

Additionally, the Florida Department of Transportation is required, by Federal Regulation, to submit a 4F Statement because there is a noise impact to be considered in connection with the designated historical site.

Mr. J. M. Peterson, Division Engineer of the Department of Transportation, Bartow office, indicated in a recent newspaper article¹ that one alternative now being considered is to abandon the two lane highway as it is and go around Estero, either westerly or easterly. It is anticipated that a delay, possibly as long as three or four years may be required before definitive action is taken.

The noise impact from Highway 41, on the settlement, is substantial. The proximity of the existing highway poses safety hazards to visitors to the settlement, which will increase as work progresses on the restoration. The recommendation to reconstruct several historically significant buildings, in an area of the settlement impacted by U. S. 41 is, in part,

¹Naples Daily News, June 23, 1976, p. 4B.

based upon the eventual relocation of the highway.

We strongly recommend that the State take whatever action necessary, with the Department of Transportation and the Federal Government, to insure that the highway is relocated.

At such time as the relocation is accomplished, we recommend that the existing highway bridge, scheduled to be replaced in the next few years, be replaced with the original wood bridge (R-8).

- Permits

Government agencies requiring permits, or having review requirements for the proposed project, are as follows:

- Lee County Building Department
Permit required, no inspection of work for State projects (see related correspondence, appendix).
- State Fire Marshall (or local designated agent)
Required to review structures constructed by State (see also: Fire Protection Recommendations).
- U.S. Corps of Engineers
Permit required for all structures connected to navigatable waters. Application forms and guidelines are on file.
- Lee County Health Department
Review and approval of restoration structures.
- Florida Department of General Services
Review and approval of restoration.
- Bureau of History, Archives and Records

Management

Review and approval by State Historic Preservation Officer.

- A-95 Clearinghouse Review

Conversation with these agencies indicates no apparent difficulty in the restoration of the settlement, recognizing the unique nature of the settlement and its historical significance.

- Furnishings

There is a tremendous amount of furniture, mostly antiques, stored in the various buildings on the grounds. Most of them will require repairing and refinishing of varying degrees to make them suitable for display purposes. A thorough inventory of all of the furniture should be made to determine how many pieces of furniture could be refinished for a nominal fee, and if this quantity will be sufficient for display purposes.

Also included as part of the furnishings, are an assortment of tools and garden implements. These should also be inventoried and secured for possible inclusion in displays of the barns, machine shops, etc.

- Removal of Non-Settlement Structures

There are several non-settlement structures currently located on the grounds. While some are of a similar period, and were moved to the site for usage as members' houses, there exist some buildings which should be scheduled for

removal. These structures are:

- "Chickee" (B-65)
- Garage (B-68)
- Fire Pit, concrete platform at location of Dining Hall (B-12).
- Fountain, to north of New Store (B-66).

• Land Acquisition

It is our recommendation that the State investigate the possibility of acquiring a portion of the land which lies east of Highway 41 and falls within the Historic District Boundary. It was on this land that the Publishing House (B-28), the Boat Works (B-31), the Rustic Tea Garden (B-55) and the Exhibit Building (B-56) (along with numerous other buildings) all stood, and which are recommended for reconstruction. There has been reference made that the Koreshan Unity may be willing to donate this land, or a portion of it, to the State if they rebuild some of the buildings, a proposition that certainly should be investigated and pursued.

• Book Restoration

A preliminary investigation was conducted of the Koreshan Library, currently in the process of being catalogued in the New Store. As the books are generally in poor condition, and are in need of immediate attention, contact was made with several Florida companies with expertise in the restoration of books. This was not pursued, however, due to the fact that the books are the property of the Koreshan Unity, Inc. and Miss Michel, President of

the Unity, declined to have the books reviewed by any parties. In the event that the library/office building, now proposed for construction in the general area of the Publishing House, is not constructed, it is recommended that the State attempt to acquire, through purchase or donation, all or part of the library and have them restored for future display purposes.

• Paintings

The majority of the paintings that currently hang in the Art Hall were painted by Dr. Teed's son, Douglas Arthur, and were purchased by the Unity around 1900 for Five Thousand Dollars. Most of these paintings are in very poor condition and badly in need of restoration. There are also a few etchings and photographs on display and a few paintings that were painted by former members of the Unity.

With the aid of a painting restorer, we reviewed the paintings on display as thoroughly as possible under the prevailing conditions. We were allowed only three hours for this review and we did not have the facilities to remove the paintings from where they hung and examine them at close range. Based on this cursory review, we itemized the paintings and assigned a number to each, these numbers corresponding to the State's inventory numbers. We then identified, in general terminology, the restoration that would be required for each of the paintings, a summary of which is attached to this section. Based on this review and a few other salient points, the following

recommendations are offered:

- Reduce the number of paintings displayed or provide additional gallery space in another building. (There are far too many paintings to be effectively displayed in the space provided in the Art Hall. Probably the maximum the space will permit is fifteen or twenty of Douglas Arthur Teed's works and five or six additional pieces by other artists.)
- Make final review of paintings with Architects and representative from the from the Department of Natural Resources Interpretive Services to determine which ones should be restored. (There are twenty-five paintings identified on the Art Works Inventory that can serve as a guide from which fifteen or twenty paintings could be selected.)
- The restored paintings should be re-hung in the Art Hall so as to be more effectively displayed. Possibly some of them will require lighting.
- The aerial perspective of the "*New Jerusalem*" needs to be restored and possibly displayed with the detailed description of this proposed new town.
- There are three paintings by a former member, Bertie Boomer, that probably should be retained. While the artistic quality of the paintings is not that good, they were created by a Koreshan, and they do depict local scenes.
- The actual restoration work should be

performed by a qualified, properly credentialed art restorer. This could be executed in phases, however, it would be more effective if the restoration could coincide with the Art Hall renovation and the design of new display facilities.



Art Works - Inventory and Needed Restoration

Prop. No. [†]	Title	Artist	Comments
*50001	The Watering Place	D.A. Teed	On board, cleaning, revarnishing, good condition
50002	Seed Sowing	D.A. Teed	Beyond effective restoration
*50003	At Home	D.A. Teed	Good condition, needs relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50004	Dreaming	D.A. Teed	Reasonably good condition, needs relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50005	Mound Key	D.A. Teed	Canvas punctured in lower and upper parts; needs restoration, relining, cleaning and revarnishing
*50006	Panorama	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50007	The Bullfight	D.A. Teed	Hard to tell; needs a lot of restoration
50008	The Promenade	Bertie Boomer	Needs relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50009	Florida in Summer	Bertie Boomer	Needs restoration, relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50010	Lake Refuge	D.A. Teed	Possible restoration, pretty bad condition
*50011	Countryside	D.A. Teed	Slight cracking, needs relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50012	Sultan	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, good condition
*50013	The Disaffected Emirs	D.A. Teed	Slight cracking, needs relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50014	Sheet Taken to Shelter	D.A. Teed	Beyond restoration
*50015	Dutch Farm	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, cracking
50016	Palm Glade	D.A. Teed	Cracked severely; possible restoration
50017	Desert Sea	D.A. Teed	Might be able to be restored; severe holes
*50018	Estero Island	D.A. Teed	Badly cracked, relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50019	Warriors	D.A. Teed	Beyond restoration
50020	Persidon & Mermaids	D.A. Teed	Beyond restoration
*50021	Three Kings	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50022	Mountain Lochs	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50023	Plea at Court	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, restoration
*50024	Town Entrance	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50025	Island Hut	D.A. Teed	Wood panel; cleaning, revarnishing, restoring
*50026	Tropical Dawn	D.A. Teed	On board, cleaning, revarnishing
*50027	Angel Rescue	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing

Prop No [†]	Title	Artist	Comments
*50028	Courtyard	D.A. Teed	On board, cleaning, revarnishing
*50029	Fish Houses	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50030	Gateway	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, restoring
*50031	French Farm	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50032	Parade in India Led By Elephants	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50033	The New Jerusalem	Moses Weaver	Memorandum; advice of consultant for type of work involved
50034	Spanish Bride	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing (much)
50035	Mrs. Victoria Teed	D.A. Teed	
50036	Sailing	Bertie Boomer	No frame, but needs one; on board, cleaning, revarnishing
50037	Napoleon	D.A. Teed	Rematting, cleaning, restoring (etching)
*50038	Dawn in the Country	D.A. Teed	Restoring, relining, cleaning, revarnishing
*50040	Sea Passage	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, slight restoration
50041	Oriental	D.A. Teed	Says etching, but looks like charcoal, need closer look
*50042	Cockfight	D.A. Teed	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing, poor condition
50043	Estero River	Paul Sargent	Cleaning, revarnishing
50044	The Campagna	D.A. Teed	Much restoration, relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50045	Cypress Glade	Paul Sargent	Relining, cleaning, revarnishing
50046	Christ's Head	D.A. Teed	Black & white detail of painting
50047	Pines and Cypress	Paul Sargent	On board, cleaning, revarnishing
50048	Outdoors Party	D.A. Teed	Etching; might be beyond restoration
50131	Theodore Roosevelt		Photograph
50132	Napoleon	L.J. Steel	Etching; serious need of restoration

*Paintings recommended for restoration.

[†]Property No. of Florida Department of Natural Resources.

Summary Recommendations

The following summary identifies all recommendations in a chronological sequence for Phase I. As previously noted, some items will need to be accomplished as a prerequisite to any of the actual phased restorations, and others will be ongoing operations initiated throughout various phases. The following sequence will take the project through Phase I, with the successive phases being accomplished as funding permits.

1. Initiate Grounds Clean-Up.
2. Begin Preliminary Archaeological Investigations.
3. Conduct Aerial and Ground Surveys.
4. Prepare Documented Master Site plan.
5. Prepare Restoration Drawings:
 - Measured drawings of existing settlement structures
 - Measured drawings of existing settlement grounds
 - Restoration and renovation documents for settlement structures identified in Phase I
 - Master Landscape Plan for Settlement Historic District
 - Landscape Planting Plans for items identified in Phase I
 - Irrigation plans for items identified in Phase I
 - Restoration documents for major landscape features.

6. Initiate fire protection.
7. Initiate documentation of photographic material.
8. Initiate acquisition of original drawings.
9. Begin Phase I restoration.
10. Prepare interpretative displays.
11. Initiate building identification system.
12. Provide public facilities.



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The decorative scrolls utilized throughout
this publication, and the circular diagrams
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