The La Pointe – Krebs House and Property: An Internship Report

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The La Pointe – Krebs House and Property

An Internship Report

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of New Orleans in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Arts in Arts Administration

by

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Bachelor of Arts in Art History, University of Mississippi, 2012

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ABSTRACT

The following report documents the internship performed by Marks Sokolosky-Wixon at The La Pointe – Krebs House and Property (LPK) in Pascagoula, Mississippi from August 18, 2014 to December 12, 2014. Work on this project included working closely with every aspect of the property including: museum development, colonial structure restoration, fund development, marketing, and other facets of a burgeoning non-profit organization. The internship also included working closely with the five-member board of The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation and each of its committee chairmen and members. This report includes an analysis of the methods used by the LPK Foundation of business and management and also includes information regarding the LPK’s history and organizational structure.
INTRODUCTION

I came to the University of New Orleans straight from the University of Mississippi with the intention of getting my M.A. in Arts Administration after receiving my B.A. in Art History. Originally from Pascagoula, Mississippi, I was yearning for some of my home culture which New Orleans provides and it also happened to contain the Master’s program I had envisioned pursuing. I did not realize at the time of starting the program that I would end up back where I started in the end, Pascagoula, and never thought I would have this opportunity presented to me.

When I found that it was time to begin looking for an internship opportunity, I put feelers out throughout the Gulf Coast area (for fear of leaving my beloved home again). Little did I know that I would get a hit in my very own hometown.

As I grew up, I always noticed a very old building in the north part of Pascagoula on the river that acted as a museum and event space. At a young age, I could not fully comprehend the importance of that old building – there stood the longest-standing outpost in Mississippi (and most experts argue in the Mississippi Valley). At that time, it was always referred to as “The Old Spanish Fort” – which is a misnomer. It is actually The La Pointe – Krebs House (not Spanish nor a fort, but rather a French-Canadian homestead), built circa 1730s and a piece of the beginning of our region of the nation. A major goal of the project and a measure of total success is to achieve national landmark status.

The property (about four acres) on which it sits did not escape the wrath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The nearly 300-year old house withstood water, wind, and rain but stood standing. The museum building on the property was washed out and the interior had to be completely functionally replaced post-Katrina and the artifacts salvaged, cleaned, and stored as best as possible. Support finally started coming in for the property from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal sources, and in 2012 the City of Pascagoula, Jackson County, and The Jackson County Historical and
Genealogical Society formed the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation (a five member board consisting of city appointees, county appointees, and a historical society appointee).

The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation worked for a year preserving and repairing remaining artifacts from the museum after the disaster and in 2013 and 2014 hired part-time interns to help with the process of getting the project back on its feet. When they reached out to me about the opportunity to be the intern of 2014, I was irresolute at first. Did I want to move back to my hometown? Did I want to leave New Orleans? When I began to think, I saw the beauty in it. It was an opportunity to do something hugely meaningful for where I was born and raised. There, in that small city, was a national colonial gem sitting in disrepair that needed some deep polishing. I also took into consideration that my father had put decades of work into the project and I had a chance to make all that worthwhile and finish it.

As I came to the realization that this project not only fit my degree background perfectly but also gave me the opportunity to make a national splash, I returned my intentions to the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation immediately. The next week I went and met with the board personally, submitted a requested proposal, and a week later was called with the offer of the position.

I knew that at the position they were in – the beginning of the restoration project – I would have a lot on my plate as intern. Throughout the internship I worked on an array of things with the respective chairmen, such as:

- Collection and database management
- Fund Development
- Marketing and Publicity
- Event Planning
- Design of the Museum interior and exhibits
But one of the most meaningful experiences gained from the internship was the establishment of a mentor relationship with the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s Museum Consultant, Jeanne Luckett (out of Jackson, Mississippi) who was hired to help with the design of the museum shortly before my internship began. Jeanne is one of the most preeminent museum design and museum writing consultants in the country, and is one of the best teachers of those skills available.
CHAPTER 1: Organization Profile

History

Joseph Simon de La Pointe, a French Canadian, traveled with Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville on his second voyage to the Gulf Coast on the ship Renomée which reached the coast in February 1701. La Pointe petitioned Louisiana governor Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac for land and was granted a tract of land covering most of today’s Pascagoula. He settled in the 1720s and started a plantation. What still stands is a part of that land grant.

The La Pointe – Krebs House itself is not only historically significant on a local and state level, but serves as an architectural and cultural artifact on a regional and national level as well. The construction materials, methods, and alterations to the House contain useful information about the earliest non-native inhabitants of the Mississippi Valley. The House was constructed using 18-inch wide tabby (a type of concrete made by burning oyster shells to make lime then mixing that with water, sand, ash, and broken oyster shells) walls and floors, bousillage (a mixture of clay, mud, Spanish Moss, and pottery sherds used to fill in between the timbers of half-timbered buildings), and timber framing. While these are common historical materials on the Southeast coast, tabby construction is particularly rare on the Gulf Coast. The La Pointe – Krebs House may be the only extant example of tabby construction on the Gulf Coast, other than remnants of structures found at archaeological sites. In fact, the House may be the oldest surviving standing structure of any type in the Mississippi Valley. The techniques of tabby construction vary from site to site, and those employed in the earliest construction of the La Pointe – Krebs House may also be unique.

La Pointe married in 1701 to Catherine Foucault (her family of early Louisiana fame) after he arrived on the Coast, and the marriage produced four children, two of whom survived – daughters. His youngest daughter, Marie Josephe (born 1720), married a German immigrant from Neumagen, Germany
Alsace-Lorraine region) who moved to Pascagoula circa 1730 – Hugo Ernestus Krebs (born 1716). As La Pointe retired back to La Rochelle in later age, his son-in-law inherited most of his land in Pascagoula.

Hugo Krebs was a surgeon and very successful plantation owner growing cotton, rice, indigo, sugar cane, and wax myrtle. Indigo was a large money-maker for dye, but the dye-making process was highly toxic – slaves died at an alarming rate, so it was quickly abandoned. Wax myrtle was another cash crop, as the berries were processed and used for candle wax – the quality of which noted by Bernard Romans in his book *A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida*. The most profitable of Krebs’ crops, though, was cotton. On this very parcel of land, Hugo Krebs created the first ever documented cotton gin. The gin was noted by Bernard Romans in 1772 in his aforementioned book, which proves it predated Eli Whitney’s invention by at least two decades.

Krebs was married twice and had seven children with each wife. His children spread from New Orleans (where Krebs died) to Mobile and even further. Yet most of the following generations stayed in the Pascagoula area. The La Pointe – Krebs House was inherited and lived in solely by direct Krebs descendants until 1914. Even as alliances switched in West Florida, the Krebs’ kept the homestead. This included during the period of Spanish control. In 1781, Hugo Krebs’ granddaughter, Anna Narbonne, married Don Enrique Grimarest, who was the Spanish captain in the regiment of Navarre, appointed Governor of Mobile. It was then that Grimarest temporarily converted the La Pointe – Krebs House into a fortified residence and that was when it probably gained its title as “The Old Spanish Fort.”

In 1946, as the Second World War ended, the La Pointe – Krebs House was used as a meeting place for the American Legion in Pascagoula. In 1950, the House became property of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors who then granted a 99-year lease of the property to the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society. The Property was used as a museum and events ground for the

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1 A book published in 1776 by Bernard Romans noting the demographics and geography of Spanish Florida.
2 West Florida (Spanish: *Florida Occidental*) was a province of the Spanish Empire from 1783 until 1821.
people of Pascagoula, the Gulf Coast area, and those from around the world until the strike of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which badly damaged The House and Museum building (erected in 1986 to take the strain of daily museum use off of The House).

Since then, the property has been under restoration with the help of FEMA, The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), Jackson County, The City of Pascagoula, and private donors. The museum will be open by January of 2016 and Phase I of restoration of the House will begin in the months preceding. The House holds and has witnessed the story of the creation of this region of the country. The historical artifacts found in archaeological digs are second-to-none in the area – as is the structure itself. The historical architecture firm Albert & Associates\(^3\) of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, along with lead Architectural Conservator George T. Fore\(^4\) of Raleigh, North Carolina, is leading the resurrection of this incredible piece of history.

### Mission Statement

“This corporation is organized and shall be operated so as to promote, maintain, keep-up and operate the La Pointe – Krebs House, adjacent grounds and structure (the “Property”) in order to preserve this historic property for future generations, as set forth in the Article of Incorporation.”\(^5\)

The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation has done as good of a job as can be done following its mission statement over the past three years. Since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the property has not been open to the public; but the Foundation has done its full due diligence with promoting, maintaining what they do have, and its operations. The House, even though in a sad state, is temporarily stabilized

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\(^3\) Albert & Associates has received over 30 awards for historical restoration.

\(^4\) George Fore has professionally and skillfully restored dozens of colonial structures throughout the country.

\(^5\) La Pointe – Krebs Foundation mission statement as accepted June 5, 2012.
and has a roof cover to keep any water from slipping into the house. With the donated help of local pest control agencies, the once bad termite problem has become a thing of the past as well. The Foundation is also working on promotion through its website, being designed by a professional web design firm, that will launch in the coming months. Though not open to the public for almost a decade, every single day the gate must be kept closed due to the number of visitors wanting to enter the property.

**Programs and Activities**

As of now the programs and activities are limited until the restoration work of the House gets underway and the museum opens in January of 2016. Yet there are still attempts to get people involved and to help the Foundation’s cause. At least once a month the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation delegates a member of the board to update the local Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society on progress of rehabilitation at its monthly meetings. These meetings normally pull an attendance of over twenty-five people. Coupled with other meetings and presentations with other aforementioned societies and clubs, there are usually two updates given a month by the Foundation to local citizens.

The biggest program put on by the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation yearly is the Fête La Pointe. The Fête La Pointe is the annual black-tie Spring gala fundraiser for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation for the restoration of the House and Museum. Fête La Pointe was established as an annual event to celebrate the French heritage of this area. A French menu pleases the palate, while visually the guests are treated to society members in colonial French dress. The venue is furbished with an array of birdcages, feathers, candles, and other colonial decoration. The evening consists of socializing, dancing to live Cajun and Zydeco music, a silent auction, a guest master of ceremonies, guest entertainer, and an
historical tableau performed by local actors and actresses. The funds from ticket sales, silent auctions, and donations at the event are compiled and used for the resurrection of the La Pointe – Krebs Property.

Future programs and activities will commence as the property is restored. Some plans for the future include working closely with schools and students with tours of the museum and property, hands-on learning experiences of constructing tabby and bousillage walls, and in-depth tours of colonial crops and plants grown on site – all of this while following STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum popular in the local area. The property will also be used as an event venue as it is restored. Since its founding in the early 18th Century the property has been used as a gathering ground for marriages, baptisms, local celebrations, and local events. In the future, those things will be performed again on these grounds.

**General Management Structure**

In February 2012, the City of Pascagoula and Jackson County, Mississippi established the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation, Inc., assigning duties thereto and determining responsibilities of the respective parties involved in the operation and maintenance of the La Pointe – Krebs House and Property. The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Management consists of a five-member Board of Directors and an Executive Director. At this point in time, the Foundation has no employees other than the Executive Director. The plan is to start with volunteer docents in the museum as it opens and eventually hire a curator for the museum. As of now, the Executive Director takes on all of those roles along with the responsibility of creating and implementing guidelines, daily operations, and a Policies and Procedures Manual used to manage operation.
The La Pointe – Krebs House is owned by the County. In accordance with the Foundation’s bylaws, at all times, two of the members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the County and two shall be appointed by the City. The fifth member shall be appointed by the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society. The Board of Directors are: President, Liz Ford (Society Appointee); Vice-President, Jim Underwood (City Appointee); Fund Development Chairman, The Honorable Robert Krebs (City Appointee); Treasurer/Secretary, Alice Baker (County Appointee); and Museum Chairman, Melanie Moore (County Appointee).

The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation, at its formation, was charged with establishing an operating budget, maintaining the museum collection, restoring the colonial building on site, hiring a director/curator, and raising funds as a non-profit agency. Members of the board act as officers and each take on roles to help operate the organization and accomplish these goals. Liz Ford, President, leads on the publicity front and heads up research endeavors for the grounds and museum. Robert Krebs, Fund Development Chairman, directs all efforts of fund development on a national scale. Jim Underwood, Vice-President, takes on grounds-keeping needs and is in control of website production. Alice Baker, Secretary/Treasurer, keeps all records and keeps in constant contact with accountants and political figures to make sure the organization is on track and transparent. Melanie Moore, Museum Chairman, leads the planning and production of Fête La Pointe every year. Outside of the Board, Eddie Williams, Pascagoula’s City Attorney, attends every monthly board meeting and acts as legal counsel. The Executive Director works with all facets of the organization congruently and acts as a liaison of the Foundation to the archaeological leaders conducting research and excavations.
Financial Structure

Annual revenue for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation consists of donations from individuals/corporations/foundations ($132,046.24 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6}, support from government agencies ($100,000 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6}, activities related to the mission ($25,000 – 2014)\textsuperscript{7}, and financial investments ($87.78 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6} bringing in a grand total of $257,134.02 of annual revenue.

Annual expenses for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation consist of general expenses (bills, lawn care, pest control, etc. - $13,080 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6}, museum expenses (salaries, professional services, printing, cleaning, office supplies, phone/internet, security, etc. - $26,200 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6}, and foundation expenses (directors insurance, accountant fees, mail fees, chamber of commerce dues, bank charges, tax preparation fees, etc. - $3,660 – 2014)\textsuperscript{6} bringing a total of $42,940 in annual expenses.

This leaves the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation in the black over $214,000 in 2014. As things move along and the museum is fully designed and installed and the House restoration begins, there will not be as much carryover. All in all, though, it is quite promising that the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation has been able to accrue as many funds as it has so far and that, in itself, speaks very well for the future.

Goals

The goals of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation are quite simple. The Foundation wants to resurrect, keep-up, conserve, and preserve the La Pointe – Krebs House for many, many generations to come. As this is the family homestead to all known Krebs’ in the United States of America (and

\textsuperscript{6} Actual numbers from La Pointe – Krebs Foundation Budget 01 October 2013 - 30 September 2014
\textsuperscript{7} Fete La Pointe Report by Melanie Moore 21 April 2014
Germany, also) the Foundation wants the family to feel like they are coming home – this very house is where the American branch of the Krebs family originated.

At the same time as righting a colonial structure and revealing the beginnings of a true American family, the Foundation also realizes that others will come to appreciate the treasure that sits in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Not only will the museum open the eyes of visitors to the importance of the House but also encourage them reflect on their own histories. The Foundation seeks to be an advocate of historical awareness, something that continues to fade in popularity in today’s society.

As the property is restored, events will become possible that will also help to prod historical thinking. Activities such as baptisms and marriages, which have happened on these grounds for almost 300 years, will be possible again. Celebrations of culture will take place on the grounds as well, highlighting the area’s historic commixture of cultural backgrounds and ethnologies.
CHAPTER 2: Internship Description

Specific Tasks

Collection

One of my first tasks as the intern for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation was to explore the database system set up a year prior to my time there. On my first day, I met with Joe Dempster, of Pascagoula, who volunteers his time to the Foundation by making sure that all technological applications used are running smoothly. He has been working on computers since the 1960s and created the Foundation’s database system from scratch. I was able to learn the full ins and outs of the database in just an hour, learning from the creator, and even was able to suggest changes and modifications that he was able to adjust as we met. From there, I was able to literally get elbow-deep into what the La Pointe – Krebs collection had left after the devastating storm of almost a decade past.

I spent the first four weeks of my internship in the Foundation’s storage building. With air conditioning, internet access, and facilities, I was able to dive into the collection. The first step I took, after learning my way around the software, was to go back and see what had been added into the database so far in the year prior to my internship. There were 250 items in the database already, some could be seen strewn about storage (those already databased were tagged – so it was easy to see what was what in the database). Each item has an accession number, accession year, collection number, title, description, additional information, category, specific year range, source information, condition information, and a picture. I went through the items already databased over a few days to not only learn what some of them were, but to also check the facts on some of them in the database. The collection has items of all kinds and ranges from the Protohistoric Era to the 20th century – some items are just not commonly known items. For example, an 1860s boot hook (for putting on/removing boots, usually fixed to a wall) – packed in a box, by itself, with no description – is not an item that any person
could pull out and tell you exactly what it is. For every item already identified, I went through and fact-checked as best possible. Again, the unfortunate thing about a storm ravaging a collection is the loss of information – the majority of the Foundation’s files were submerged, stripping items of provenance and provenience.

From there, I started to unpack items packed professionally after Katrina (that service provided by FEMA). For each new item I would photograph, research, tag, and add it to the database. Research was based upon remaining files, internet and hard source research, remembrance of local historians, and personal knowledge. As information was compiled and added to the database, the provenance of each item was slowly (and unfortunately, not as completely as before) restored. As those weeks went on, I completed my task of unpacking, identifying, and tagging and adding over 300 items to the database. I actually completed the work a little ahead of schedule, so I took it upon myself to reorganize the files and completed a new filing system. That work alone helped me to go back and add bits of information as I found them in these unorganized and out-of-place files.

_Fund Development Efforts_

After gaining knowledge of the Foundation’s collection and being introduced into daily operation, I was able to be effective in Fund Development efforts as well. My first introduction into the efforts was meeting with Tom Van Antwerp of the Hearin – Chandler Foundation based in Mobile, Alabama. Melanie Moore and I met with Mr. Van Antwerp in his Mobile office and gave him an introduction to the near-future plans for the property. Mr. Van Antwerp’s Foundation had given to the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation over successive years, but starting in 2014 he started to pull his funding because of what we suspect was the feeling of dormancy in the project. That was the major problem that the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation was facing: people were not seeing any progress and were
starting to think that the project was being abandoned. In our short meeting we were able to convince Mr. Van Antwerp that we were not just sitting on our hands. Using my personal knowledge of local genealogy I was able to establish a direct connection to Mr. Van Antwerp and the property. His ancestors actually lived on the property and many of their religious rites were performed on the grounds. After some short discussion and pleasantries, Mr. Van Antwerp decided to come see the property for himself. His visit came a week after our original meeting and as he was leaving, he mentioned that the funding would not be cut. Shortly thereafter we received word that the Hearin – Chandler Foundation would be contributing $50,000 a year for four years.

My next Fund Development endeavor was to create a packet for Mississippi Representative Steven Palazzo (of the 4th Congressional District – most of the Gulf Coast) and Senator Thad Cochran (who also used to be the 4th Congressional District Representative) under the direction of Robert Krebs (The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s Chairman of Fund Development) and his Fund Development committee of Martin Hegwood and Jerry St. Pé. This packet was comprised of official recognition of the property by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors; a preliminary cost estimate from the project’s Historical Architects (Albert & Associates) supported by The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation, MDAH, and the lead architectural conservators Mark Watson and George Fore; and a concise, comprehensive history of the property and of the project. Representatives from both offices (of Representative Palazzo’s and Senator Cochran’s) are set for a preliminary meeting on the La Pointe – Krebs grounds in May 2015. A following meeting will include Representative Palazzo and Senator Cochran themselves in attendance.

My final Fund Development effort was working in concert with Barbara Dumas-Marshall (Jackson County’s Grants Director) and Sonya Carter (Jackson County’s Grants Administrator) to complete an application for a grant from The Tidelands Trust Fund Program – administered by the
Secretary of State and the Department of Marine Resources. Due to the location being adjacent to the Pascagoula River, the property falls into area affected by tide changes – the main stipulation of the grant. The Tidelands funds have mostly been used to restore and rebuild bridges, piers, docks, and the like around the coastal area. We heard that we were not only eligible to receive funding but also that the Tidelands Program wanted to branch out and contribute to a project with a little more creativeness and originality. A request was submitted and The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation is waiting to hear news of acceptance. Grants administered by the Tidelands Foundation typically range up to $250,000 per year.

Marketing and Publicity

My first taste of publicity and marketing during the internship was speaking to local groups about The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s project and the progress that had been made already. I started by going to meetings of Pascagoula’s and Moss Point’s (neighboring city) Rotary Clubs. Meetings of the clubs are held at seven in the morning and noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays (respectively) every week. I was also able to meet with the members of the Pascagoula Senior Citizens group at the Pascagoula Senior Center. I took these opportunities to spread the word about the work being done on the project and the Foundation’s plans for the future. I gave fifteen minute speeches at each meeting and took around a ten-minute round of questions. It was amazing to see the interest and curiosity of the members and the encouragement received reinforced my belief in local support. Through these meetings we were given the spotlight of the public eye and were able to generate interest and contributions to the project.

I was also able to take a major role in designing The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s website. The website is still under construction, but will roll out with the opening of the museum and property.
The website will act as a source of up-to-date information for potential visitors and contributors. It will also be a very valuable tool in the museum. The museum consists of 900 square feet of exhibit space – not much to work with – so through the use of Quick Response (QR) codes, the Foundation can theoretically expand the floor space exponentially. The website will hold further information that can be accessed by either navigating the website or scanning QR codes that are placed around the exhibit space using smart phones.

My last experience with publicity during my time as an intern was with a news article written about me. Joanne Anderson, a local reporter, reached out to me during my internship to write an article about me and the work that I had been doing. She did not run the article until after my internship was completed, but even then, everywhere I go around town, I am recognized and my brain picked on what is going on around the property (thanks to the picture she included of me in the article). The article also showed everyone that progress was quickly being made on The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s restoration project.

Planning of Fête La Pointe

I was fortunate to be asked by Melanie Moore to assist with the production of Fête La Pointe, the annual fundraising gala, to sit in on every meeting of Melanie’s committee, and to contribute in every way I possibly could. The primary areas I was able to assist were:

- The prediction of attendance

Thanks to my patronage of past Fête’s I was able to help them nail down how many tables should be set out at the event.

- Attaining items to be included in the silent auction at the event
This is one of the most successful fund raisers of the whole event – next to ticket sales. I was able to use my personal relations with artists and craftsmen around the area and to obtain Mississippian Era replica pottery produced by artist and archaeologist Walter Mansfield.

- Promotion and Publicizing

I reached out to Joanne Anderson, the aforementioned local journalist, and helped her with information on an article about Fête La Pointe that ran coast-wide. I was also able to post banners and flyers providing information on the event, ticket sales, and entertainment in most local establishments such as restaurants, bars, art centers, and event venues.

I took it upon myself to help further with the gala, as it is the biggest fundraiser to date for The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation. Other forms of assistance I provided helped the program to be able to run more smoothly. I was able to fact-check the history being presented at the gala (as it is history-based and focuses on a different early family each year) and make sure all information was correct that was given to the speakers. I also helped form the scripts for the Master of Ceremonies and the host of the event. To go along with those scripts, I created digital resources to help the flow of information and provide visible explanation and support of the scripts to the patrons. These resources consisted of photos, charts, design files, and artistic renderings.

Museum Design

During my internship, I was also very involved in the design of the museum exhibits set to be shown at opening. I was very fortunate to be brought on the project when Museum Consultant Jeanne Luckett

8 https://www.linkedin.com/pub/jeanne-luckett/10/10/b4b
was working for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation. Through her I learned more than I thought was to be known about museum design and execution. She helped me immensely throughout the internship.

Together Ms. Luckett and I prepared a floor plan for the museum. We started by compiling information from volunteer committee members provided by Melanie Moore. We broke down the information given to us and separated it into sections. These sections include Native Inhabitants, Exploration, the La Pointe/Krebs story, the La Pointe – Krebs House itself, other early families of the area, livelihood and daily life of the 19th century, and the importance of museums/archives/libraries/conservators now and in the future, among others. We based the square footage of these sections based on importance, volume of information, and actual amount of items from the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s collection.

As the exhibit space was decided upon, the information to fill these spaces needed to be refined. Unfortunately for a site this old, people have been writing about it for hundreds of years and there is a wealth of bad information floating around in books and online. The culling and refining of this information has been no easy task, and continues with the assistance of archaeological experts, architectural experts, and historians. Group efforts in these situations are how a consensus can be established and the most efficient decisions on contested theories can be drawn. The work I put into that phase of museum design will last the longest of any work put into the project so far.

Design of the museum did not just consist of the exhibit space. The peripheral space of the museum, such as office and storage space, I also addressed. I was able to arrange furniture for operations – like a docent desk, curator’s office, file storage, and maintenance equipment – in the peripheral areas and make the space flow even with a number of visitors inside. The storage area now contains all files pertinent to the project where they are accessible by board members and employees, but no one else, and it also contains all maintenance equipment for the museum building and grounds.
The curator’s office and docent area form a welcoming spot and provide access for visitors to additional information, a guest register, and face-to-face interactions. Also, thanks to the help of Jim Underwood, a board member, the museum building’s security system is state of the art. The security contains detectors of every sort including three dimensional motion detectors inside the building.

As far as the grounds around the museum and house go, the grass is maintained through contract with the county, but the landscaping had not been addressed in several years. I was able to obtain the help of 25 volunteers, through Robert Krebs, to do landscaping around the grounds. I directed the volunteers and in a matter of hours had overgrown bushes trimmed, pathways cleared, vines and low-hanging branches removed, and tree trunks cleared of brush throughout the property. Not only did it help to polish up the landscaping, but the property can now be more clearly seen from the street by passersby.

**Responsibilities**

My responsibilities throughout the internship have been touched upon in the preceding sections but a more succinct list is provided here. I wore many hats and learned an immense amount. My responsibilities consisted of:

- Collection database management and research
- Museum content research
- Creating presentations for political figures and local organizations
- Researching the architectural history of the La Pointe – Krebs House
- Working closely with the lead architect and architectural conservator
- Keeping relationships alive with donors of capital, time, and effort as well as with other local museums
- Updating the Board on every step taken during the internship
- Providing guidance here-and-there to the board of correct protocol in the non-profit world.

**Office/Departments to Which I Was Assigned**

Throughout my internship, I was assigned at various times to all operational areas of the organization. If I could provide help in an area, I went all-in and helped as much as possible. When the work was finished, I moved on to the next issue that needed addressing. I felt that I excelled in every department in which I was able to assist. The only areas that I do not particularly enjoy working in are Fund Development and Marketing/Publicity. Even though I feel that I did great work in these areas – and they are very, very important – I just never felt comfortable in them. Most of that discomfort, though, is due to the requirement of so much face-time and self-promotion – neither of those do I enjoy, but they are something I am working on. Whether or not I personally enjoyed the work I was doing, I learned a tremendous amount while doing so.
CHAPTER 3: S.W.O.T. Analysis

Any upstanding organization must step back and take a look at its internal structure and procedures on a regular basis to determine in which direction the organization is heading. One successful, yet simple, form of analysis that covers all angles of the organization is referred to as a “S.W.O.T. Analysis.” The acronym stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. These four components of analysis consist of two internal-origin factors (Strengths and Weaknesses) and two external-origin factors (Opportunities and Threats).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Unique Architecture and Location</td>
<td>- Public Perception of Inactivity</td>
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<td>- Rich Colonial History</td>
<td>- Lack of Clarity in Governance</td>
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<td>- Standing Structure</td>
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<td>- Involved Governance</td>
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<td>- Community Interest</td>
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<th>Opportunities</th>
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<td>- National Recognition</td>
<td>- Natural Disaster</td>
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<td>- Unique Colonial Education Experience</td>
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<td>- Deeper Connections With Descendants</td>
<td>- Board of Supervisors</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Partnering With Other Local Museums and Attractions</td>
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Strengths

UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE AND LOCATION

The unique example of colonial architecture coupled with the unique location of the property is a major asset of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation. There is no other colonial tabby structure anywhere else on the Gulf Coast, other than remains found in archaeological investigations. Most tabby structures are unique in construction, this one following suit – the walls not only include local oyster shell, sand, and ash but they also include local Native American pottery sherds of the Pascagoula Indian tribe. The composition of the bousillage\(^9\) used in The La Pointe – Krebs House is also unique – each site containing bousillage construction techniques also has a unique recipe. Here the technique includes local mud, clay, pottery sherds, and Spanish Moss\(^10\). On top of the building techniques, this area ties directly to d’Iberville’s and Bienville’s explorations and the beginning of this area of the country – this house was constructed by a French-Canadian that accompanied Iberville and Bienville during the initial explorations of the area.

RICH COLONIAL HISTORY

The colonial history of the property is rich in French-Canadian and Alsatian-German influence. The uniqueness of the history and of the property itself is a seller. The property itself was given to an admiral in Bienville’s fleet who came with d’Iberville on his second voyage to the Gulf Coast, Joseph Simon de La Pointe. The French were renowned for their equitable demeanor and amiable relations with the Native Americans of the area and established connections that improved life in a new area.

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\(^9\) A mixture of Spanish Moss, mud, clay, pottery sherds (this formula is unique to the La Pointe – Krebs Site) used as the infill between the timbers of a half-timbered building. This material was commonly used by 18th century French colonial settlers in the historical New France region of the United States.

\(^10\) *Tillandsia usneoides*
dramatically. Trade was very evident between the Europeans and the Native Americans, starting as far back as European-made calumet pipes ("peace pipes") being given as gifts to tribes encountered during reconnaissance missions. The amount of calumet pipes found on La Pointe – Krebs site are unmatched in the area. The German who inherited the property also invented, on the property, the first cotton gin ever documented.

STANDING STRUCTURE

Another strength of the project is the standing structure itself. As The House approaches its 300th birthday, it inspires awe in the fact that it is still standing. So much is learned of this area colonially by the mere existence of the structure. From an engineering standpoint it is unmatched in the area. Just by investigation, construction techniques and purposes are exposed to a society that has no other opportunity to witness. The property would still be quite fascinating archaeologically without the standing outpost, but the addition of the structure adds eons of educational opportunities. Not many foundations in the nation can claim such an important relic.

INVOLVED GOVERNANCE

The hands-on approach of the Board of Directors is a very large asset of the project. Two members of the Board are actually descendants (one a direct descendant) of the families (La Pointe and Krebs) that acquired the land, constructed the House, and inhabited the property for 200 years. Due to that, there is vested interest in seeing the project come to fruition. Having a Board comprised of local residents also assists in constant monitoring of progress and a personal attachment that spurs a desire for quality execution. All members of the Board of Directors go well out of their way to make sure tasks
are accomplished in a timely manner – even going as far as single-handedly felling trees on the property to ensure one does not damage the House and property in any way. Every board member donates personal time to the project on a regular basis. It is also a large asset to have a Board comprised of members with such varying backgrounds – one an established historian, another well-versed in legal affairs, another a rather successful accountant and bookkeeper, another a gifted craftsman, and so forth.

COMMUNITY INTEREST

As mentioned before, the gates of the property must be kept closed even as work progresses due to the fact that patrons constantly want to come onto the property out of curiosity. Descendants and locals alike take pride in the House as an ancestral home as well as a snapshot of the beginning of the area. The visitors range from construction workers to politicians and they all go home with as much information as can be acquired in a quick conversation with the Executive Director. The buzz created by these patrons inevitably spreads and piques the interests of those that have either not yet visited the property as it stands or have not been to the property in many years.
Weaknesses

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF INACTIVITY

One thing not addressed as fully as it should be is the slip in the public’s faith in the project. In the near decade since Hurricane Katrina has passed, many promises were made to the public regarding restoration and conservation. Unfortunately for the Board of Directors, those promises have been difficult to follow through on in a timely manner – whether it be because of sub-par contractor relations that had to be terminated, difficulty of fund raising, or staffing issues. The Foundation has yet to launch a website (which, to its credit, is currently in development) and has no social media presence. But, promotion only does so much when the public does not see physical progress. As hard as the Foundation works to keep progressing in restoration, it is not always the visible kind of restoration – therefore the public sees it as nothing being accomplished. An online presence will enable the Foundation get the message out of progress, especially on aforementioned non-visible fronts. This, by far, is the biggest weakness.

LACK OF CLARITY IN GOVERNANCE

As new non-profits are formed, there are always learning periods and trials. The Board of Directors has a solid understanding of the requirements of the status, but it is still a bit fresh and not all members are fully aligned around the vision and understanding of boardmember roles and responsibilities. The resulting confusion slows the processes of the board down and bogs the project down as a whole. While it would not be fair to say that the formation of the foundation was overly hasty, some of these issues could be avoided in the future with a more careful board recruitment and member preparation process. And within the board, those members who will serve as officers need to
be more aware of their duties, expectations, and singular responsibilities. The current lack of board professionalism may jeopardize fundraising if not addressed.

THIN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Although not particularly uncommon, there is only one employee of the Foundation, the Executive Director. For a project in its early stages the workload created for the Executive Director is quite a large one. Although the director is not the sole decision maker, as the board as a whole makes them, most creative decisions are left to the director. The newness of the non-profit formation and the beginning stages of the restoration project seem to keep the Board of Directors too busy to significantly contribute to the Executive Director’s daily decisions and workload. A director is ultimately there to make decisions, but it helps to have input from others (a curator, for example). It also is an aid to a director to have others to delegate some responsibilities and therefore be able to focus on tasks at hand, rather than taking on every subtlety singularly. As more funds are acquired this needs to become a problem of the past.
Opportunities

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

With the uniqueness of the project and the property itself, national acknowledgement must be in the future plans of the Foundation. The spark in tourism, especially colonial, and the funds that could be acquired on a national scale would ensure the future of The La Pointe – Krebs House and Property. Even though not as old, the site could be compared with Plymouth Rock (for this part of the country, of course). It represents the beginning of a large and very important part of our country, and should be recognized as such. Interest in the project\(^{11}\) shown from Colonial Williamsburg\(^{12}\) also lends much to the case being made. Even before being recognized as a national landmark, national attention alone would raise the fund development opportunities through the roof – grant opportunities would fall into the lap of the Foundation.

UNIQUE COLONIAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The uniqueness of the colonial history of this site and area can be showcased and appreciated more deeply than ever before due to the success in more recent colonial research. The project would not only provide a point of pride to the local citizens but also would provide visitors from all over the world with a unique educational opportunity.

\(^{11}\) Colonial Williamsburg created a Plan of Action and Interpretive Plan for the property for the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society in 2006 (pre-La Pointe – Krebs Foundation) after Hurricane Katrina. There are regular updates provided to and correspondence from Dr. Thomas H. Taylor from Colonial Williamsburg.

\(^{12}\) Colonial Williamsburg is a 301-acre living-history museum and private foundation preserving part of a historic district in the city of Williamsburg, Virginia.
DEEPER CONNECTIONS WITH DESCENDANTS

A unique opportunity for the Foundation is the opportunity of deeper connections with Krebs family members all over the world that would strengthen the project. What lies on the property is the American homestead and the beginning of the Krebs family that has now spread throughout the country and continent. As Hugo, the first Krebs to America, had 14 children, the family expanded exponentially. Members of the Krebs family run the gamut from doctors and lawyers to politicians and travelers. A connection established with the family only strengthens the project and provides yet another support base for fund development and family research.

PARTNERING WITH OTHER LOCAL MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

Using a system of joint promotion and tour scheduling, all museums in the area could benefit. There are other small museums and attractions in the area (The Round Island Lighthouse and Park, The Scranton Museum, The G.I. Museum) that could benefit from cross promotion. It seems as though it will become a responsibility of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation to help other community educational opportunities (such as other local museums) thrive as it does itself due to the magnitude and importance of the Foundation’s project. Local museums and attractions are good for tourists and local history, therefore good for the community – it would be wise to parlay national attention into all of the area’s institutions.
Threats

NATURAL DISASTER

The biggest threat to the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s project is another natural disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina, striking the area again. Especially in the hurricane season of 2015. Starting by the end of 2015, Phase I of the restoration of the La Pointe – Krebs House hopes to begin and that phase consists of structural stabilization. After the first phase is complete, the House will be able to stand up to another hurricane of the magnitude of Katrina – but not until the phase is complete. Even so, a project of this nature (a building nearing its 300th birthday) is never completely safe from the elements. It still stands, through all this time, for good reason – it is a sturdy, well-designed building and has been since the beginning. But you never have control over forces of nature. This is an undying and unpredictable threat that will always surround the project well after completion. At least if it were to happen again, the process of evacuation and protection of the collection will be handled quite effectively. Hurricane Katrina was a teacher to this area, if nothing else.

DIFFICULT POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

It would not, by any means, seriously decide the fate of the project or its future but if the other museums around the area were to not agree to a partnership of some kind, I think it could negatively affect all. Political relationships can be difficult around this area. Being a small town, if someone has something on their personal agenda to be done, there are ways to make that happen. There are no enemies of the La Pointe – Krebs House that I am aware of, and there never should be, but sometimes people do not have the wherewithal to understand how projects of this stature and magnitude rely on the community.
The fact that a partnership may not be properly nurtured by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors also exists. The Board of Supervisors, as it stands, has a lot on its plate. A major situation has developed in the worst way possible in the county for which the Board of Supervisors is partly responsible, and the citizens hold resentment: The Jackson County hospital system’s pension plan has crumbled. The shakeup that could occur could leave no time for attention to projects of this nature for some time. The community (citizens, politicians, officials) all need to be hand-in-hand with projects like this and, as of now, due to all the recent happenings, they are not.

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13 Singing River Hospital System is the third largest employer in the county.
CHAPTER 4: “Best Practices”

“The sharing of best practices makes sense in any field. That’s especially true in philanthropy, where good governance makes it easier for charities to continue their work,” says Senator Chuck Grassley (R – Iowa). “Donors want to give to organizations that have transparency, strong financial management, and get the most value from every dollar donated.”

It is important for any non-profit organization to heed the sharing of “Best Practices.” They are the continuing guidepost keeping organizations up-to-date on current standards. These established standards help to keep organizations running as continuously and as morally sound as possible. All “Best Practices” will not always stay the same, as things change. “The environment in which the nonprofit sector operates has evolved since 2007, notably in the areas of data protection, transparency and privacy, and overhead costs.” As things progress in the digital age security becomes more of an issue. Although with the quick nature of change in this age, preventative measures can be implemented as instantaneously if knowledge is shared and observed – as through “Best Practices.”

501 Commons, a non-profit resource center, updated its “Best Practices” in March of 2015. These three areas are analyzed:

- Boards and Governance
  - “The Difference Between a Board and a Boss”

- Communications and Marketing
  - “Marketing and Social Media”

- Fundraising and Development
  - “Relationship Management”

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14 The Non-Profit Times
BOARDS AND GOVERNANCE

The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s Board of Directors is a point of pride for the organization. The board is diverse enough to cover every need of the project, especially in this state. The board is comprised of the foremost authority on local history, a judge, a craftsman, an accountant, and an entertainment specialist. Not only is the diversity of the board exactly what is needed for the project, but the Board works as a team on every decision made.

The point of a Board of Directors is to bring consensus decision-making into an organization and not let a singular authority decide all. “Actions must be taken by the full board. The processes required for group action are agreeing to an agenda, determining options to be evaluated, evaluating them using different lenses and points of view, and, lastly, making a group decision.” Through this process, the best decisions for the organization are more easily obtained. This process also lends to the direction of the Executive Director because “these actions, even under the best of circumstances, do not move quickly enough for the board to be telling the executive what to do about day-to-day management issues.” It is the board’s job to hire the Executive Director, not direct the director’s daily operation – but the vision of the project must be directed from the board through the director using the consensus decision-making application. Boards must also keep their meetings at a regular, preferably frequent, rate to keep on top of issues as well as fulfill their duties.

All this being said, the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s Board of Directors is quite proficient in its decision-making and delegation abilities as well as its responsibility to each committee and the community as a whole.

15 IndependentSector.org
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Marketing is a central issue for all non-profit organizations. An essential element of being a successful organization is a good public perception. Marketing is an organization’s most extensive way of shaping its image in the public eye. Providing a consistent, clear message is most important in a marketing campaign and helps to establish the mission and values held dear to the organization. There are ways to help provide that consistency in marketing, one of the most utilized today being social media. The use of social media in itself creates a sense of connectivity and keeps the organization from seeming not up-to-date with trends and technology. Social media also helps with damage control during a bad situation. It provides the organization with a quick outlet to the entire world. It also provides the organization with constant visibility. Social media is unlike other forms of marketing where visibility is either limited or for a limited time — social media keeps your organization at the same level of access consistently, sustaining visibility. All the while, social media provides a sense of a personification of the organization and that creates a sense of comfortability for prospective donors and other interests. The easier it is for prospective donors and contributors to feel personal with the organization, the easier it is to gain their trust. The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation is still not up to the current level of professional expectation, but vies to be on track as restoration and installation of exhibits begin.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

“Charitable donations may be down 11% from pre-recession levels but have been gradually increasing over the last three years. Individual donors continue to make up over 70% of donations each year.”16
The aim is to push the case of addressing community and societal needs by raising capital. In order to have a compelling case for development and abide by an organization’s mission specific, measurable

16 501commons
goals must be presented. Measurable goals also put into perspective what can actually be achieved by an organization depending on the support received.

A personal relationship sense of a donor with a non-profit organization is important. If donors feel that they are helping to attain these goals and feel appreciated for it, the success rate of the organization should climb exponentially. Donors should never feel left out or that once they have contributed they are forgotten. Establishing a relationship with donors is integral in continuing success for an organization. Donors that feel they have a relationship are more likely to not only keep contributing but contribute more as the relationship continues – they start to feel as though they have become part of the organization and invest more personally and monetarily.

Organizations should always keep information on donors and keep them updated regularly. Donors of higher levels should be invited to be more involved in special activities of the organization – that keeps the feeling of appreciation and importance in the forefront of the donor’s mind. An organization, especially during the rebuild after the recession of 2008, relies on individual donors and therefore donor relationship management. With much more scrutiny of how money is spent and donated by individuals, relationship management is essential in securing donors for an organization.

Although not totally inefficient in fund development, the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation must focus on attaining meaningful donor relationships. Problems, such as the aforementioned perceived dormancy in the project, can hinder donor relationships and keep the foundation from gaining much needed capital. Now that the project is well underway, this issue needs to be attacked. As for relationship maintenance, the foundation must consider taking advantage of a Point of Contact database. It compiles donors and their information so that the information is easily accessible to the organization and makes it to where all of the donors can be reached by a single message. As soon as the
La Pointe – Krebs Foundation begins to take advantage of these opportunities its fund development efforts should start to more effectively blossom.

**Similar Organization**

Although the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s project is very unique, there is another project in Pascagoula that is also in the beginning stages, The Mississippi Maritime Museum. The organizations’ histories overlap somewhat (“Honoring Mississippi’s Maritime Heritage from 1699...”17) and even have some of the same Board of Directors (Liz Ford). The Hermann-Grima House18 in New Orleans is another similar organization, another historical residence that has been preserved for education and enjoyment in the French Quarter. But The Mississippi Maritime Museum and the Hermann-Grima House excel in a few areas that the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation needs to address.

The Mississippi Maritime Museum sends out monthly newsletters and the Hermann-Grima House sends out quarterly newsletters to all members. These newsletters keep up-to-date all persons interested with updates of progress, activities, invitations to upcoming events, and even a new membership sign-up sheet attached to each one.

The Mississippi Maritime Museum goes well out of its way to invite the public to every board meeting. While the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s monthly board meetings are open to the public, it does not advertise the invitations to the public as the Mississippi Maritime Museum does with newspaper advertisements and inclusions in the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society newsletters.

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17 Excerpt from Mississippi Maritime Museum’s Mission Statement.
The Mississippi Maritime Museum and Hermann-Grima House each has a well-established social media presence. They post to Facebook over four times a week and have followings of over 400 (which is good for a project in the beginning stages) and 600 people respectively.

Although the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation is also a project in the early stages, it seems as though the Mississippi Maritime Museum and Hermann-Grima House are surpassing efforts in the three “Best Practices” aforementioned. Yet, even though the Mississippi Maritime Museum has a great board, the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s Board of Directors has navigated through so many tough issues and has gotten its project closer to fruition. As things stand, the Mississippi Maritime Museum has only obtained a storage room, an extremely small collection, and a respectable public turnout for board meetings. The organization is in an earlier developmental state. The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation has a naturally beautiful, large campus; a collection of serious significance; and a vision near to being accomplished which is much more like the Hermann-Grima House. The latter is complete in respect to all of these practices and physical state; it is a role model for the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation.

In the areas of Marketing and Social Media, the Mississippi Maritime Museum and The Hermann-Grima House have surpassed the efforts of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation so far, but social media efforts will begin with the La Pointe – Krebs House as things begin to really move in the coming year. That does not give the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation a pass on the issue, but there is promise that this shortfall will be rectified.

For both Pascagoula organizations, donor relationship management has not quite come into play. With so much buzz being created by the Mississippi Maritime Museum’s efforts to involve the public the donations to that organization should start coming in. The same could be said about the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation as work begins, as daily people stop by the closed property to peep through
the gate and hope to one day be let onto the grounds. Eventually, both of these organizations will be able to work together to mutual benefit.
CHAPTER 5: Recommendations of Intern

Online Presence

As discussed before, the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s online presence is lacking. This is hurtful to the organization in two ways. The public begins, after a certain amount of time (in this case, a decade), to start to lose faith and interest in projects that have shown no visible progress. Although the property can be seen, and therefore the progress made, that in itself is not enough. The ability to keep the public updated and intrigued lies at the fingertips of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation. Times have definitely changed from 2005 in regards to online interaction. The internet was not utilized in this capacity at the most recent time of activity for this project. Yet it takes very little effort to run a social media platform and a website, once created, can be maintained just as easily. The other reason that a weak online presence hurts this project is in that it has such a deep history – almost 300 years. Not to anyone’s fault, but a large of amount of bad information and outdated research on the property and its history is easily found online. If an online presence were to be established, though this old information cannot be completely removed, the bad information can be flooded out with up-to-date, correct data. An online presence is rudimentary to any great and successful organization and the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation must follow suit.

Marketing & Public Image

In sort of the same vein, some marketing issues need to be addressed. Mentioned in the “Similar Organization” section in the above chapter, a newsletter is one of the most successful tactics for updates and generating interest. Being able to get the Foundation’s name and recent information into every mailbox in the surrounding area is a large step towards garnering support and attention to the
I, personally, am a believer in hard-copy marketing. Digital marketing is efficient, cost-effective, and simple but it does not physically endure like a newsletter would. If those receiving these efforts were to not have time to focus on the communications immediately the online efforts would pass right by and have to be located again whereas the hard copy communications will physically still be in their possession. There, of course, are pros and cons to both, but these two forms must work in concert.

Another issue that must be bolstered is the issue of directional way-finding signs in the area. The signs have not been updated since before 2005 and are now very out-of-date. The signs near nearby road signs and the area of the property still refer to the property as “The Old Spanish Fort and Museum.” This misnomer must be phased out over time (not exactly immediately, due to the years of the project being referred to as “The Old Spanish Fort” that is what some in the public still refer to it as) and the way-finding signage must reflect the project as it is now, not what it was. Not only should the misnomer be addressed, but the actual directions of the signs must be addressed also. Strategic planning needs to take place within the board to decide where the new signs should be placed to make finding the property as easy as possible on potential visitors.

As projects of this sort move along, directions will inevitably change from the original ideas as obstacles arise. When a mission statement starts to become slightly out-dated, as the foundation’s is beginning to, it must be amended. The omission of restoration, the largest element of the project at this point in time, in the mission statement is a misstep that must be addressed.

Management

Some issues still exist in regards to management. Being such a small city, generally everyone knows one another. That can create problems on boards such as these because of established
relationships outside of the project. This can create political alignments that are detrimental to the successful completion of the project. Relationships like these cannot always be avoided, but they can be contained. The board must seek on a regular basis to identify these possibly detrimental matters. It is not a major problem with the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation’s board as of now, but it may turn into a problem as the project progresses and bigger decisions are made. Establishing a formal set of guidelines and training process for board member preparation will help to curb these possible complications. Fortunately, terms are set for each board member which can be renewed or finished with no return.

I would suggest a procedure be implemented by which the board can review the conduct of board members if thought to be detrimental to the project. This might be assisted with outside support from an outside consulting group or the Board of Supervisors.

As mentioned before, almost all operational responsibility resting on the shoulders of an Executive Director can be overwhelming. I would suggest that the board eventually consider hiring a curator, grounds director, and/or volunteer coordinator to lighten the load. It gives the opportunity of delegation of responsibilities and increased results.

As that funding does materialize, the relationship to donors must be nurtured by the foundation. Establishing a Point of Contact Database will streamline the process. These databases hold the crucial information of past donors and automatically keep all of their information in an organized manner and includes all past donors in updates sent out by the foundation, as mentioned above. Constant Contact offers free Point of Contact database management.
Dilation

The next step for the project is to expand. Fortunately, it has multiple ways of doing that. Establishing a connection to the remaining Krebs family members in Neumagen is a great start. That relationship would spread the project’s mission throughout the relatives and others interested that reside in Europe. That should create connection opportunities, research opportunities, and funding opportunities all in one. In the United States these opportunities can also be achieved. The University of West Florida\(^\text{19}\) and Colonial Williamsburg have both expressed much interest in the project. An educational tie to the university will help spread the project’s mission throughout the academic realm and a cultural tie to Colonial Williamsburg helps to promote the importance of the project through another rare colonial site. Establishing these relationships provides a myriad of opportunities in the future.

Another form of expansion that would be quite helpful to the project in the future is to establish a “Friends of the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation” membership opportunity. These are not only fund raisers, but encourage investment and physical attendance to all facets of the project. With membership opportunities like these, people feel that they are personally pushing progress along and the opportunities give them a sense of involvement.

\(^{19}\) A mid-sized public university located in Pensacola, Florida. The University of West Florida is a comprehensive research university without faculties of law or medicine.
CHAPTER 6: Contribution of Intern

Short-range

I feel that I was able to contribute substantially to this project in both short-term and long-term capacities. In the short-term realm, I was able to assist in multiple arenas. I was able to immediately step in and help the project move forward in numerous ways. As I came on, I was immediately involved in the monthly Board of Directors’ meetings. Through those meetings I was able to give advice on proper protocol for non-profits through what I had learned through the graduate program at the University of New Orleans. The board did not come into the project blind, but intricacies involved in reciprocation to donors, for example, was something I was able to immediately clear up for the board’s understanding.

I was also able to directly contribute to the annual fund raiser’s planning and design. I was able to interact directly with the committee created for the fund raiser as well as all artists and politicians that contributed work, time, and effort to the event. Through that I was able to establish relationships with those volunteers that will continue in the future for the fund raiser.

In respects to the museum building itself, I was able to help push that progress as well. I was able to coordinate volunteers to remove windows from the building, replace those windows with insulation and sheetrock, cover the outside with historically-consistent shutters, and install the modular walls now in formation of the floor plan. I was also able to set up a functional working space for the executive director’s office area. Through those endeavors I was able to move office materials as well as research materials from storage to the museum building and was able to establish a functional system for both.
Long-range

I feel that I really displayed my professional abilities in my long-term contributions. I was able to help establish an organized future for the project and also provide stepping stones for employees to come. I felt most the appreciation from the board for these activities.

My first task as intern ended up being one of the most important. The establishment and completion of the databasing system helped everything that came to pass after it. Once the information was put into the system and was able to share with museum consultants, the design of the museum became much more effortless. Plus with all of the collection being databased, all of the information on each item is easily accessible at any time (including loan status). One touch access to the information streamlines any activity that needs specifics on the collection – and will well into the future.

Establishing a filing system was another contribution I believe will assist the Foundation well into the future. After Hurricane Katrina, what files were salvageable were in disarray. I was able to take those files, create a system, and helped to reestablish lost or misplaced information. These files included information about the beginning of the project (including documents from the 1950s), items in the collection, research of all facets done in the past, as well as some operations protocol still relevant for operation in the future. The establishment of this filing system brought these pieces of crucial information back into use.

The research I conducted during my internship changed the face of the project in itself. I was able to nail down and cite facts previously uncited as well as discover new documents, information, and maps that were before unknown to the Foundation. I was able to help in establishing “good information” that will continue to be built upon as the almost 300 year old story is fleshed out further.
This process also helped the Foundation to establish its importance in the face of the local area, nation, and world as a whole.

A main facet of my internship was to help in the design of the museum. From that I gained more experience in the museum world than I had had in all previous experiences. I was able to establish a floor plan, a storyline, and visual design with the aid of museum consultant Jeannne Luckett that will endure through the foreseeable future. The museum is a large aspect of the educational opportunities of the project and serves as the main station of the property.

Another contribution I was able to make towards the project came from the happenstance that I was able to complete the work in my hometown. I was able to spread the word around town, especially through my younger generation, about the project and its progress. In this small city, word of mouth is invaluable to projects of this sort – especially to a generation, such as mine, that does not read physical newspapers. Spreading the news in itself acted as a form of free publicity that stretched to all corners of the city. The awareness of progress and the aim for the future that was disseminated helps to establish a connection already to a project currently in the works that will be completed in the near future.
CONCLUSION

The La Pointe – Krebs Foundation is such an important organization on a local, statewide, regional, and national level. Even though the project is still near the beginning stages, I have all confidence that the rest of the growing process will run efficiently. With a strong inner core to the Board of Directors and expanding outside support, this project will bring more recognition and appreciation to the 300 year old building than it has ever had before. Strides are being made every day on the project and as long as short-term (online presence) and long-term (marketing/rebranding) development goals are met, the goal of national landmark status will be achieved rapidly. The colonial story of the house should be enough, but with the solid management by the Foundation nothing will be left to chance.

Appreciation cannot be conveyed enough to the La Pointe – Krebs Foundation for this very unique learning opportunity. I could not have dreamt of an opportunity such as this arising and having the chance to be able to further myself but also to be able to contribute to my hometown and my roots at the same time. I most certainly learned more from this personal experience than I ever could have reading from a book. Throughout this internship I have formed a deep personal interest and relationship in the project and plan to contribute to it in every way possible to me in the future. No words can describe staring the beginning of your country in the face.
Bibliography


Appendices

Appendix A: Board of Directors

Liz Ford, President

Jim Underwood, Vice President (Grounds Committee Chairman)

Alice Baker, Treasurer

Hon. Robert P. Krebs, Secretary (Fund Development Committee Chairman)

Melanie Moore (Museum Committee Chairman)
Appendix B: La Pointe – Krebs Foundation Monthly Meeting Reminder E-Mail

LP-K Foundation meets Monday

Liz Ford <lizford@yahoo.com>
to Alice, Melanie, Eddie, Bob, Jim, me

Good Morning

This is your friendly reminder - the LP-K Foundation meets Monday the 20th at 5 PM with a change of venue. We will meet at the Museum instead of the City Hall. As per Melanie’s email of the other day, Jeannine Luckett and Nc will have presentations for us, after which we will have budget discussions, etc.

Attached is a proposed agenda (with Jeanne’s last name spelled wrong - this will be corrected.) If you have any items for the agenda, or would like to rearrange the agenda, please let me know.

The last item regarding amending the Bylaws was on last month’s agenda, but I do not recall if it was discussed. I will have a formal piece of paper at the meeting Monday evening so it will be done correctly (I hope) and the minutes will reflect same.

I am still working on the proposed budget and the yearly report to the Board of Supervisors. Hopefully will send draft copies of same to you on Monday before the meeting.

Thanks

Liz Ford
Appendix C: La Pointe – Krebs Foundation Monthly Meeting Agenda

LA POINTE-KREBS FOUNDATION

PROPOSED AGENDA

Monday 20 October 2014 — 5 PM — Museum Building LPK Property

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome visitors
3. Approval of September 2014 meeting minutes
4. Reports by Jeanne Lucky and Mc Wixon
5. Secretary/Treasurer Reports
   a. Correspondence, if any
   b. Bank Balance
   c. Approval of large invoices, if any
   d. Approve contract for Auditors
6. Budget for 2014-15
7. Annual Report to Supervisors
8. Committee Reports
   a. Museum, Artifacts, Displays, etc. – Melanie
   b. House & Grounds – Jim
   c. Development Committee – Bob
9. Old Business
   a. Funding requests
10. New Business
    a. Budget 2014-15
    b. Amend Bylaws to read Annual meeting to be held the 3rd Monday of September instead of the 15th of September?????
11. Any other Business to come before the Foundation
12. Next meeting date — Monday 20 October 5 PM

*Jim’s contact information: 1-925-842-1111 (select numbers as prompted to access Malongo) then ext 6114
Appendix D: Newspaper Article

Restoration of La Pointe-Krebs House and museum in Pascagoula no longer at standstill

By Susan Ruddiman, The Mississippi Press
on June 13, 2011 at 8:06 AM

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi –
The La Pointe-Krebs House
and its accompanying museum
have sat idle and closed to the
public for almost six years.

The Jackson County Board
of Supervisors last week
adopted a resolution that will
move forward the grant process
from the Mississippi
Department of Archives
and History.

The original $400,000 grant,
issued under the Hurricane
Relief Grant Program for
Historic Preservation, was
applied for by and presented to the city of Pascagoula, according to Supervisor Mike
Mangum.

Though the county has owned the property since 1942, it had been turned over to
Pascagoula to operate and maintain. When it came to doing post-Hurricane Katrina

The La Pointe-Krebs House, formerly known as the Old Spanish Fort, overlooks Krebs Lake in Pascagoula. It is believed to have been constructed around 1772, making it one of the oldest buildings in Mississippi and the region. After it was acquired by Jackson County in 1942, many historic artifacts were on display there for the public to view, like the cannon. (The Mississippi Press/Susan Ruddiman)
Though the county has owned the property since 1942, it had been turned over to Pascagoula to operate and maintain. When it came to doing post-Hurricane Katrina repairs, however, it made sense for the county to handle the administration of that work, Mangum said.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees approved the change in the grant administration from the city to the county earlier this year, according to Barbara Dumas-Marshall, county grants administrator.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had approved funds to be spent on the property as well. The first phase of the restoration involves FEMA funds that will handle hurricane-related damage to the property, which also includes the newer museum building, Dumas-Marshall said.

“The county already had FEMA project work orders to do the repairs on the property,” Mangum said.

With FEMA funds, the bulkhead was restored a few months ago on the north side of the historic property that overlooks Krebs Lake, he said.

The grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will make up the second phase of work, and is aimed at stabilizing, rehabilitating and restoring the La Poine-Krebs House.

“It was confusing to have two separate entities bid out on one project. By turning it over to the county, it is making the process simpler and more manageable,” said Darcie Crew, director of the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department.

The grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will expire Dec. 31, Dumas-Marshall said, though it possibly could be extended.

“We will be working aggressively on this. We have to pick up the ball and run a little faster now,” she said.
"We will be working aggressively on this. We have to pick up the ball and run a little faster now," she said.

The La Poine-Krebs House is among the oldest structures in the state, as well as in the region between the Appalachians and the Rockies, said Ken P Pool, deputy state historic preservation officer for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"It's a very rare and important example of French Colonial heavy-timber frame construction, still exhibiting the original nogging of tabby (shell concrete) and bousillage (mud and Spanish moss) that fills the spaces between the timbers of the frame walls," P Pool said.

"They just don't build structures like that anymore," said Joey Duggan, senior project manager of Compton Engineering, the engineers on record for the project.

The La Poine-Krebs House is on Fort Avenue, on about 4 acres overlooking the Pascagoula River. The original plantation homestead was settled by Joseph La Poine about 1772. The property was acquired in 1751 by Hugo Ernestus Krebs, who had married Joseph La Poine’s daughter, Marie. It remained in ownership by the Krebs family until 1947, when it was acquired by Jackson County.

The house has been dated to 1772, and was built on the site of an old Indian settlement, according to Bonnie Gann, a University of South Alabama archaeologist. She and a team excavated the grounds in the summer of 2010.

Liz Ford, chairwoman of the Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission, said a public and private bill was passed by the Mississippi
1772, and was built on the site of an old Indian settlement, according to Bonnie Guns, a University of South Alabama archaeologist. She and a team excavated the grounds in the summer of 2010.

Liz Ford, chairwoman of the Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission, said a public and private bill was passed by the Mississippi Legislature this spring that establishes a foundation for the management of the La Pointe-Krebs House.

From Port Avenue, visitors first see the dark museum structure. It held historic artifacts, which are now in storage. After touring the museum, guests then could walk the grounds. The Krebs Cemetery is to the right and the La Pointe-Krebs House is to the left, closer to Krebs Lake. The museum was flooded by about 3 feet of water during Hurricane Katrina, and will be restored as well as the house. (The Mississippi Press/Susan Fridman)

“The La Pointe-Krebs House and museum are important. It’s not the county’s top priority and it’s not the city’s top priority. This foundation will manage and operate the museum. It will be the foundation’s No. 1 priority,” Ford said.

Three members of the foundation will be appointed by the county and three members by the city, with the seventh member being selected by the six members, she said.

“They can make it a more interactive museum, and they will have the ability to have fundraisers,” Crew said.

“It’s been a long road and it’s been a hard road. It’s no one’s fault nothing has been done. All the entities had to be satisfied,” Ford said. “I would hope by this time next year, the museum will be open and the next year, the La Pointe-Krebs House will open.”
Appendix E: 1726 Dumont Du Montigny Map Noting The Property, Detail of Property, Translation of Key
Explication des chiffres marqués cy de sus
1. maison de M. La pointe, de deux étages et un balcon tout au tour
2. magasin qui est fait 3 colombier, 4 maison des negres, 5 la forge chap
3. projetée, 7 autre magasin projeté. L scierie a Bras M. Jardin o laiterie
4. cuisine. Q. la Cour, R.S vue de la mer T debordement. V. la rivière
RESIDENCE MR. DE LA POINTE AT PASCAGOULA

1. Two Story House of Mr. La Pointe Surrounded with Balconies
2. Complete Store
3. Dovecote (Pigeon House)
4. Negroes House
5. The Forge (Blacksmith Shop)
6. Projected Frame (Shop)
7. Projected Store (To Be Built)
L. Hand Well (or Arm Well)
M. Garden
O. Milk House
P. Kitchen
Q. The Yard
R&S. View of the Ocean
T. Landings
U. The River
Appendix F: Deed of Property to Joseph Simon de La Pointe from Governor Antoine de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac (1715)
Appendix G: Detail of Bernard Romans Map of East and West Florida denoting Krebs on the very spot the La Pointe – Krebs House is located today
Appendix H: Signature Page of Hugo Ernestus Krebs’ Will
Appendix I: Portrait of Hugo Ernestus Krebs
Appendix J: Hugo Ernestus Krebs’ Roller Cotton Gin (invented two decades prior to Eli Whitney’s)
Appendix K: Explanation of Tabby Walls

Tabby

The Tabby sections of the house, were constructed of tabby walls poured into forms as shown in the wall segment on the right. This also had a tabby floor raised above the surrounding grade. The door and window posts seen on the exterior of the tabby walls do not extend into the ground; the posts were set into the tabby as it was poured and were used solely for the support of the doors and windows. Additional posts were set at each exterior corner to protect the tabby. Instead of supporting the tabby the post are supported by the tabby walls. The primary components of tabby are water, lime, sand, oyster shells, and ash.
Appendix L: Explanation of Bousillage Walls

Bousillage

The Western Room of the LaPointe Krebs House was an addition to the original structure that was constructed in ca.1790. This West Room and cabinet were constructed of wide wall posts mortised into plates and sills and set onto a tabby concrete floor raised above the surrounding yard. Bousillage was installed between the posts, and held by wood stays set into notches cut into the opposing faces of the posts. This technique was taught to the French Settlers by native Americans.

The primary components of Bousillage in this area are mud and retted Spanish Moss. Sticks are wedged into the spaces between the vertical wall timbers to support the bousillage. These are referred to as batons or rabots. The material is formed into loaf sized portions called “mud cats” and then packed into the void areas between the upright wall timbers and around the rabots. This construction is shown in full sized at the right in the wall section.
Appendix M: Tabby and Bousillage Explanatory Drawings

Full Sized Wall Segments
Appendix N: Fete La Pointe Invitation and Program

Introducing Valentine Delmas and Louis Augustus Frederic de St. Ferol

Valentine Delmas was born in 1789 to Jean Baptiste Delmas and Magdelenda Raby. He married Josephine Krebs and together they had ten children. As the town had no school, Valentine traveled to Mobile in search of a teacher. There he met Louis Augustus Frederic de St. Ferol. Frederic was born in Lyons, France and at age 18 was awarded the Legion of Honor medal by Napoleon. He came to America in about 1815. He was in Mobile on business when he met Captain Delmas and accepted his invitation to come to Scranton (later Pascagoula) and start a school. In 1829 Louis Augustus married the eldest of the Delmas daughters, Emily Marie. Frederic helped Captain Delmas lay out the streets of Scranton and served as the town's first postmaster in 1829.

As a tribute to Louis Augustus Frederic the evening will include special recognition of all teachers.
Jackson County Historical & Genealogical Society
and the La Pointe-Krebs Foundation

FÊTE
La Pointe

Honoring the Delmas and Frederic Families
Featuring a live performance by comedian MACK DRYDEN

Friday, April 17, 2015 · 6:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn · Pascagoula, Mississippi

Tickets $60  Attire: Cocktail/Black Tie  Silent Auction  
Dinner Buffet with Complimentary Wine  Cash Bar

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RESPONSE CARD

Name______________________________
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☐ Yes I would like to purchase _______tickets at $60 ea.
☐ I would like to be a sponsor of Fête La Pointe
   (see reverse side)
I am enclosing $_________. Please use enclosed envelope.

Make checks payable to:
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The good faith estimate of goods and services is $30 for the Gala.

FÊTE
La Pointe
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☐ La Pointe: $5000  Receive 12 tickets and name in program
☐ Chaumont: $2500  Receive 10 tickets and name in program
☐ Krebs: $1000  Receive 8 tickets and name in program
☐ DuPont: $500  Receive 4 tickets and name in program
☐ Singing River: $250  Receive 2 tickets, name in program
☐ Patron

LA POINTE - KREBS HOUSE
RESTORATION PROJECT

It's Not Spanish...And, It's Not a Fort.
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Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society

Your Membership Invitation
Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of every month with an enjoyable program of local interest at the Pascagoula Library from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
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Jackson County
Historical & Genealogical Society

FÊTE
La Pointe
2015

Honoring the Descendants of
Marie Josephine Krebs and Valentine Delmas
and
Emily Marie Delmas
and Louis Augustus Frederic

Friday, April 17, 2015
6:30 P.M.
Hilton Garden Inn
Pascagoula, Mississippi
History Notes

In 1812 during the French invasion of Russia, an 18-year-old corporal, Louis Augustus Frederic de St. Feral, attacked a squad of Russian soldiers causing them to retreat, and captured their cannon. In light of this bravery, Napoleon Bonaparte awarded him the Legion of Honor medal.

Meanwhile, in Pascagoula, MS, an Indian uprising, which would soon become the Creek War, threatened the locals. Valentine Delmas, and his wife, Marie Josephine (Krebs), along with other citizens barricaded themselves on Round Island where they stayed for 3 years. While there, their oldest child, Emily Marie Delmas, was born.

When the uprising was over Delmas built a large house on the east bank of the Pascagoula River near what is now Delmas Ave. The couple had 9 more children and were soon in need of a school and teacher, not just for themselves, but for the town.

Meanwhile, the abdication of Napoleon led Louis Augustus to flee with other exiles to the United States. In about 1820 he met Valentine Delmas in Mobile, A.L. Frederic's Parishian French, and fine education led Delmas to offer him the position of teacher in Pascagoula's first school at the tremendous salary of $600 per year! In 1829 he married Emily Marie Delmas, 19 years his junior. He was the first Postmaster and a Notary Public, served as a translator for the Louisiana State Legislature, and was editor and reporter for a local paper. As an engineer, he and Delmas laid out the first streets of Pascagoula. Louis Augustus died in 1840 leaving Emily to run the school which she did successfully for many years.

This Evening

6:30 p.m. Enjoy wines and artisan breads.
Music by Davis and Sax.

7:00 p.m. Wines

7:15 p.m. Dinner is served

8:15 p.m. Program Begins

The Honorable Charles Busby
Serving as Emcee is the Honorable Charles Busby, a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Mr. Busby is a native of Laurel, MS, the owner of Orton Engineering, and married to the former Felicia Hillman. They have two daughters, the Busbys live in Pascagoula.

Recognition of Honored Families

Appreciation of Teachers

8:30 p.m. Special Guest Mr. Mack Dryden

9:30 p.m. Baccio Del

Purchase a ticket to win a beautiful pearl necklace donated by W.B. Shelton Jewelers

Music and Dancing

Dessert Dripping

10:00 p.m. Silent Auction Ends
Book and DVD Sales End

10:30 p.m. Pa Revoir

French Legion of Honor Medal

Merci Beaucoup!

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Titos Tacos
Woolf, McDuff & O'Gara, CCA
Appendix O: Museum Floorplan
Appendix P: Pictures of The House
Pit-sawn Kingpost:
VITA

Marks Sokolosky-Wixon was born and raised in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Mississippi in 2011 and applied to the Arts Administration Graduate Program at the University of New Orleans the following year. He has since moved back and now resides in Pascagoula.
MASTER’S EXAMINATION REPORT
Non-Thesis

CANDIDATE: Marks Sokolosky-Wixon

MAJOR PROGRAM: Graduate Program in Arts Administration

APPROVED

Tony Micocci
Major Professor (typed)
Signature

Ashlye Keaton
Committee Member (typed)
Signature

Gene Meneray
Committee Member (typed)
Signature

Executive Director of Graduate Programs
Signature

DATE OF EXAMINATION: 07/09/2015