

Facts and figures



- Vesterheim collection started in 1877 at Luther College
- Artifacts number 24,000
- Known especially for folk art, such as painted trunks, textiles and woodcarvings



Need more
space!

Small Object Storage,
visible to general visitors



Need more space!

Basement
storage in
“The Vault”



MACC assessment

“Many storage areas are overcrowded to the point that artifacts are inaccessible, which can lead to unnecessary damage when having to move several collection items in order to reach desired objects.”

Basement storage, known as
“The Trunk Room”



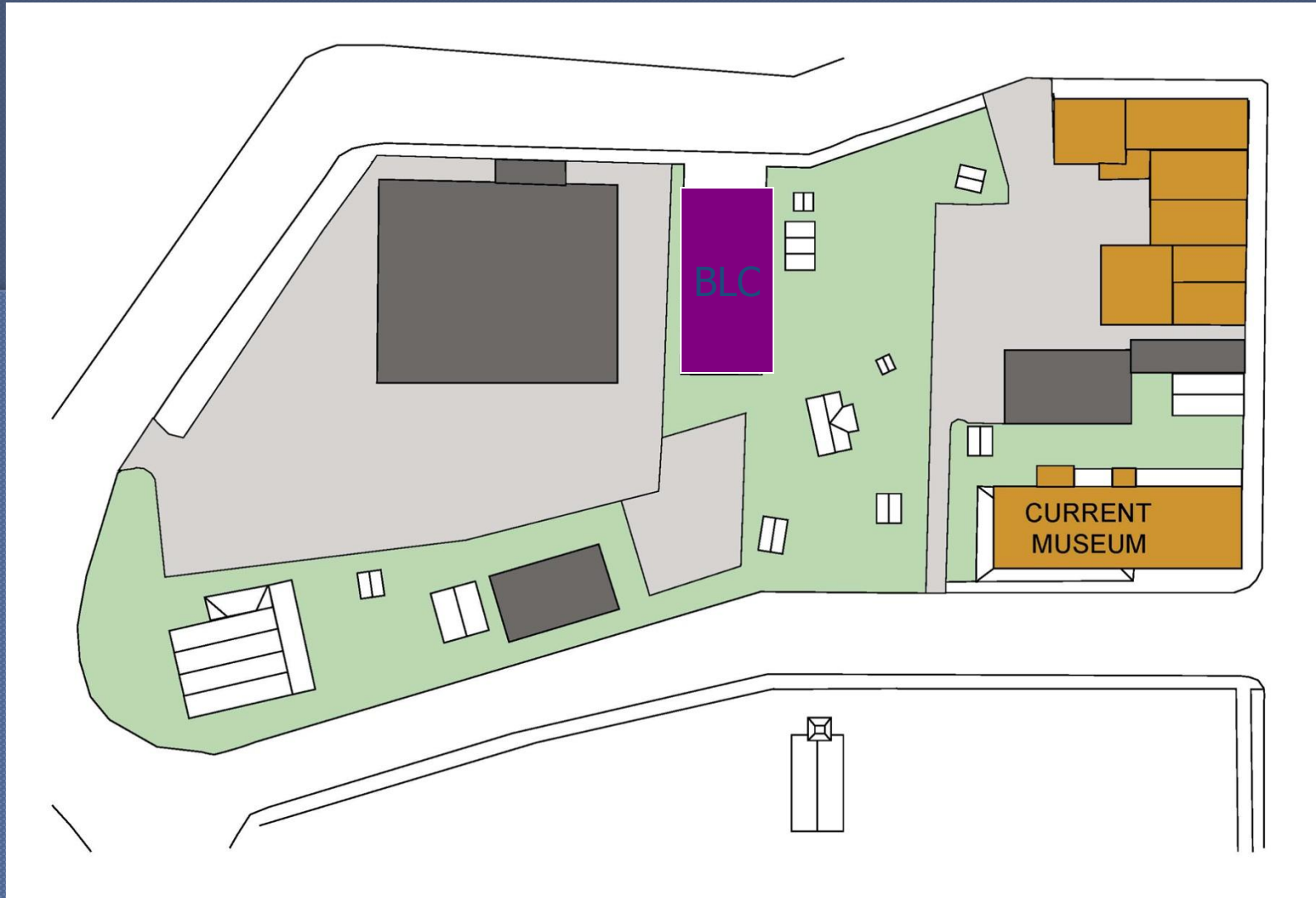
Planning Timeline

2003 Evaluate space needs

2004 MACC general preservation assessment
Develop plan, seek funding
Submit NEH application
Building acquisition funds donated

2005 NEH funding granted
Vision Iowa funding granted
Renovate building
Hire project staff

Vesterheim downtown campus



Site Plan as of 2006

Developing the plan



Developing the plan

- How many shelves?
- What will they cost?
- What other materials and supplies?
- How much time will it take?
- Who will do the work?
- What other help do we need?



Tova's basic math

Estimated 10,000 objects to move.

Two people can retrieve, pack, and move 40 small objects in one day.

40 objects x 20 working days/month = 800

800 objects x 12 months = about 10,000



Tova's basic math

BUT:

Allow for set-up, photography, large objects (like trunks), condition reports, data entry, bad weather.

Add the help of interns, volunteers, student workers.

And therefore allow for training, supervision, paperwork, administrative duties.



Tova's basic math

THEREFORE:

It takes two years to retrieve, pack, process, photograph, and re-house 10,000 objects.

Need two full-time staff, with assorted part-time assistance, for two years.

Need to average almost
500 objects /month.



Extra help



Making the Case

How do you make a compelling case for funding a lot of pricy shelves?

- ◎ Objects will be MORE accessible, not less
- ◎ More space in Museum's main building will be dedicated to changing exhibitions
- ◎ Digital photographs can be used in many web-based applications



Making the Case

Public Relations are important:

- Invite people in – open house (with food before artifacts move in!), tours for local groups, tours for general visitors
- Website – regular updates on progress
- Signs in the museum itself
- Newsletters
- Other print media



Outcomes

- Collection move completed in Spring 2008
- Final total of 9,000 artifacts moved
- New gallery in former storage space
- Well-trained core of students and volunteers for future collections projects
- Staff more aware of collections needs, scope of collections, and proper procedures