

Articles

Every once in a while you are fortunate to stumble across a very interesting piece of Florida history in our own back yard. This past weekend our family went camping at Koreshan State Historic Site. This is one of 158 state parks in the Florida system and is located near Fort Myers. This state park is a step back in time to the early Florida architecture and lifestyle. Of much interest were the 1900's machine shop, woodshop, and power generation method.

I have included some photos of the woodshop. This is a traditional line shaft shop running your standard woodworking equipment found in many of our shops. This type of shop is powered by a central spinning shaft running the length of the shop with drop down belts that in turn give power/drive to the machinery. This is a tremendously efficient method of using a single power source to power multiple pieces of equipment or operations. Simply engage the belts tension on the main shaft above, which in turn runs the machine you are using.

This system is still in limited operation at the historical site. It is an absolute pleasure to see this in operation. For more information and a link to the site go to

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/koreshan/default.cfm>

Enjoy,
Adam Ross

