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FINAL  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



# NATCHEZ

ON MICROFILM

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

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# United States Department of the Interior



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

75 Spring Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

### RECORD OF DECISION FOR FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

#### Introduction

The purpose of this Record of Decision (ROD) is to document the National Park Service's (NPS) approval of a General Management Plan for Natchez National Historical Park (NHP), Natchez, Mississippi. The Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Natchez NHP was distributed for public and agency review in May 1993. Only minor changes were required as a result of that review. In February 1994, the General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/FEIS) was distributed. The GMP/FEIS documents the environmental consequences of the proposed plan and its alternatives.

#### Alternatives Considered and Description of the Proposed Action

Three alternatives were considered in formulating the park's General Management Plan:

- Alternative 1 — Status Quo (Continuation of Existing Trends)
- Alternative 2 — Partnership Park (Proposed Action)
- Alternative 3 — Expanded Partnership Park

Alternative 2, the proposed action, would be a partnership between the Park Service and the people of Natchez. This alternative includes: rehabilitating a downtown structure for use as the NPS administrative headquarters/visitor center and using the Stietenroth house as the interim administrative headquarters (note: all alternatives included the option for the Park Service to join with the city and State in a combined facility); restoring the Melrose estate to an appropriate period; opening the William Johnson complex for more extensive interpretation of black history; removing all but one or two structures on the Fort Rosalie site (if possible) and making the site a more parklike setting with trails and a picnic area; a special history study to provide necessary data to interpret the role of plantation slavery and cotton production through the park's interpretive program; developing interpretive media/exhibits and possibly tours at Under-the-Hill; and potentially developing many cooperative agreements with State and local government, business entities, and owners of historically significant resources to provide technical assistance for preservation and interpretation. Visitors would learn the story of Natchez from its beginnings to the present.

Impacts of the Proposed Action and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts

There would be minor adverse impacts on natural resources. Bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie would be a positive impact. There would be very positive impacts on visitors and their experiences. The removal or relocation of structures at Fort Rosalie would impact those residents and cultural resources. All practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm, as specified in the GMP/FEIS, are adopted.

Comments on the GMP/FEIS

The Environmental Protection Agency expressed satisfaction with the document. No other comments were received.

Decision

After analysis of the proposed plan and alternatives, and consideration of public and agency comments, the National Park Service has determined that the proposed action, Alternative 2, provides appropriate management direction for Natchez NHP. The proposed plan fulfills the intent of Public Law 100-479 which established the park and complies with other applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, the proposed plan is approved.

FOR *C. W. Coleman, Jr.*  
James W. Coleman, Jr.  
Regional Director  
Southeast Region

5-5-94  
Date

**Final  
General Management Plan  
Development Concept Plan  
Environmental Impact Statement**

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**Natchez  
National Historical Park  
Adams County, Mississippi**

Three alternatives for future management and use of Natchez National Historical Park are analyzed in this document. Alternative 1, the status quo (continuation of existing trends) alternative, describes the continuation of current management strategies. The major change from existing conditions would be removal (if possible) of all structures from Fort Rosalie except the historic Stietenroth house, which would be used for NPS headquarters. The William Johnson house would be open for interpretive exhibits on black history, and the adjacent McCallum house for visitor contact and interpretation; there would also be interpretive exhibits at Under-the-Hill. Visitors would learn the story of antebellum Natchez (1840s to 1860s) at Melrose and the William Johnson house — the two NPS visitor contact areas. The Fort Rosalie site would be informally interpreted. No additional staff would be required. Except for the positive impact of stabilizing the bluff at Fort Rosalie, there would be only minor impacts on natural resources. Impacts on visitors and their experiences would be minor. The removal or relocation of structures at Fort Rosalie would cause major impacts on those residents and cultural resources. Alternative 2, the proposed action, would be a partnership between the Park Service and the people of Natchez. This alternative includes rehabilitating a downtown structure (location as yet undetermined) for use as the NPS administrative headquarters/visitor center; using the Stietenroth house as the interim NPS administrative headquarters; restoring the Melrose estate to an appropriate period; opening the William Johnson complex for more extensive interpretation of black history; removing all but one or two structures on the Fort Rosalie site (if possible) and making the site a more parklike setting, with trails and a picnic area; a special history study to provide necessary data to interpret the role of plantation slavery and cotton production through the park's interpretive program; developing interpretive media/exhibits and possibly tours at Under-the-Hill; and potentially developing many cooperative agreements with state and local government, business entities, and owners of historically significant resources to provide technical assistance for preservation and interpretation. Visitors would learn the story of Natchez from its beginnings to the present, a much broader scope than in alternative 1. Additional staff would be needed. There would be minor adverse impacts on natural resources, although bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie would be a positive impact on that resource. There would be very positive impacts on visitors and their experiences. The removal or relocation of most structures at Fort Rosalie would impact those residents and cultural resources. Alternative 3 would provide a more enhanced and comprehensive view of the Natchez story than alternatives 1 and 2. The new NPS visitor center would be at the Fort Rosalie site, and the Stietenroth house would be used as NPS administrative headquarters. Other structures on the Fort Rosalie site would be removed or relocated as described in alternative 2. Except for the addition of a small visitor contact station, development at Melrose would be very similar to alternative 2. Treatment of the William Johnson complex, Fort Rosalie (except for the new visitor center), Under-the-Hill, and the partnership with the city would be the essentially the same as in alternative 2. Cooperative agreements would be the same as under alternative 2 with additional cooperative agreements for tours, special events, and design guidelines. In alternative 3 the Park Service would acquire interest in (or negotiate a cooperative agreement for) the preservation, restoration, and visitor use of an area cotton plantation, including evaluation of the site for inclusion in Natchez National Historical Park or as a separate unit of the national park system. More staff than under alternative 2 would be needed. The minor difference in terms of impacts between alternatives 2 and 3 would be the enhanced visitor experience, the chance to see the remains of an antebellum cotton plantation, and the additional cooperative ventures under alternative 3. The *Draft General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Environmental Impact Statement* was distributed in May 1993. An abbreviated final plan was issued in January 1994, and the record of decision approving alternative 2 as the final plan was signed on May 5, 1994. The final plan includes the changes that came from the review and the responses to the six comment letters (see appendix J).

For further information about this document, contact the superintendent of Natchez National Historical Park at the following address.

Superintendent, Natchez National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121  
(601) 442-7047

## SUMMARY

Natchez National Historical Park was established by Congress to preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi. This *Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* is prepared to support the objectives for which the park was established. The purpose of this plan is to establish and guide the overall management, development, and use of the park in ways that will best serve visitors while preserving the historic character and appearance of the resources.

Three alternatives for future management and use of the park are analyzed in this document. The alternatives range from continuing existing trends and management actions at two NPS visitor contact areas to a more comprehensive alternative that makes four NPS visitor contact areas open to visitors. All alternatives share the objective of preserving the park while continuing to provide for visitor understanding and appreciation of its resources and their stories.

Alternative 1, the status quo (continuation of existing trends) alternative, describes the conditions that would exist if current management strategies were continued. The Melrose estate would be maintained essentially as it is, and visitors would learn about the workings of the estate. Visitors would see the rehabilitated carriage house, the main house, and the dependencies. Exhibits on black history would be developed in the William Johnson house, and the adjacent McCallum house would be adapted for use as a visitor contact area. Visitors would gain some insights into the story of the free black society. At the Fort Rosalie site the historic Stietenroth house would

be used as NPS headquarters, and all other structures would be removed, if possible. Open space would be established. The fort site would be archeologically investigated and interpreted, the bluff would be stabilized, and the box factory (in the mid-level area of Fort Rosalie) would be removed.

Also, under alternative 1, the relation of plantation slavery and cotton production, an important part of the Natchez story, would be interpreted, and there would be a few exhibits on black history at Under-the-Hill. Limited staffing would mean that few cooperative agreements would be developed to help the community preserve and interpret the city's other significant historic resources. The interpretive story would focus on antebellum Natchez (1840s to 1860s).

Alternative 2, the proposed action, describes conditions that would be needed to meet congressional intent for establishing the park. The National Park Service would rehabilitate a building (as yet undetermined) in downtown Natchez for use as an NPS administrative headquarters/visitor center. At this center, as well as the administrative functions, there would be information about NPS and area resources and a video projection program about Fort Rosalie and Natchez. Visitors to Melrose would find a rehabilitated carriage house, tours of the main house, which would be restored to an appropriate period, and tours of the dependencies, some of which would be restored and/or rehabilitated. The old maintenance building would remain, the greenhouse would be removed, and a new maintenance complex would be built.

## SUMMARY

Both floors of the William Johnson house would be opened to the public — with exhibits and possible restoration of the second floor. Exhibits and interpretation would also be available in the adjacent McCallum house.

The Stietenroth house would be used as interim NPS administrative headquarters. All other structures on the Fort Rosalie site would be removed (if possible), except for one or two that would be used for housing, visitor contact, or other NPS purposes. The bluff would be stabilized, and a more parklike setting would be created, with interpretive trails and a picnic area.

A special history study would be done to gather the data necessary for interpretation of the role of plantation slavery and cotton production in antebellum Natchez. At Under-the-Hill, the National Park Service would provide technical and financial assistance for outdoor wayside and/or interpretive exhibits and possibly rangers to give interpretive tours.

With increased staff, the Park Service would be able to enter into many cooperative agreements with state and local government, business entities, and owners of historically significant properties relating to issues such as interpretation and preservation. This alternative would establish a partnership between the Park Service and the people of Natchez. Visitors would learn about Melrose, urban slavery, the free black society, and the story of Natchez from its beginnings. They would also learn about plantation slavery and cotton production, an integral part of the story of Natchez. The park, in essence, would be the city. A comprehensive visitor experience would be provided, with much broader treatment than under alternative 1.

In alternative 3, a new NPS visitor center would be constructed on the Fort Rosalie site. Actions at Melrose would be much the same as alternative 2 but would include the construction of a small visitor contact facility. Actions at the William Johnson complex and Under-the-Hill would be as described above under alternative 2. Other than the new visitor center, actions at Fort Rosalie would be the same as described under alternative 2.

With more staff than under alternative 2, the Park Service would be able to participate in even more cooperative agreements, including those for tours, special events, and design guidelines. As well as a special history study, a special resource study for an area plantation would also be conducted under this alternative. The Park Service would acquire interest in or negotiate a cooperative agreement with the landowner for preservation, interpretation, and visitor use of the plantation; evaluation would also be done to consider adding the site to Natchez National Historical Park or as a separate unit of the national park system. Visitors would learn much the same story as under alternative 2; however, with the addition of the site and remains of an antebellum cotton plantation, visitors would learn about plantation slavery and cotton production and have an experience that would help them really understand the story of Natchez. This alternative offers the most comprehensive experiences for the visitor.

Overall, no alternative would have an adverse effect on the cultural resources of the park or the city except at Fort Rosalie where many structures would be removed or relocated. All impacts could be mitigated to some degree. Alternative 3 has the most positive potential impact on the cultural resources, alternative 2

somewhat less, and alternative 1 the least. The opportunity for the preservation of cultural resources is approximately the same for alternatives 2 and 3, with the exception of an antebellum plantation complex in alternative 3; alternative 1 provides far less opportunity for preservation of Natchez' cultural

resources. All three alternatives would involve significant impacts to the residents and businesses at the Fort Rosalie site.

With the exception of the positive impact of bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie, the impacts on the natural resources would be minimal under any of the alternatives.



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PURPOSE OF  
AND NEED  
FOR ACTION

*A*t one or two points  
the wearisome level  
line is relieved by  
bluffs, as they call the  
short intervals of high  
ground. The town of  
Natchez is beautifully  
situated on one of  
those high spots. The  
contrast that its bright  
green hill forms with  
the dismal line of  
black forest that  
stretches on every  
side, the abundant  
growth of the  
pau-paw, palmetto,  
and orange, the  
copious variety of  
sweet-scented flowers  
that flourish there, all  
make it appear like an  
oasis in the desert.  
Mrs. Trollope 1827  
quote in Twain *Life  
on the Mississippi*



## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

Natchez National Historical Park was established by Congress by Public Law 100-479 (Oct. 7, 1988) to preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi. This general management plan supports the objectives for which the park was established. Specifically, the enabling legislation establishes the park to

- preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi, as a significant city in the history of the American South
- preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with all the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area, from earliest inhabitants to the modern era and including blacks, both slave and free
- preserve and interpret the region's social, political, and economic development, with particular emphasis on the pre- and post-Civil War eras
- preserve and interpret the region's commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi River and cotton

The purpose of this general management plan for Natchez National Historical Park is to establish and guide the overall management, development, and use of the park in ways that will best serve visitors while preserving the historic character and appearance of the resources. This plan will guide park management for approximately the next 10 to 15 years.

### THE VISION FOR THE PARK

Natchez National Historical Park will preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with the history of the Natchez region and will foster an understanding of the social, political, and economic history of the Natchez region from prehistoric to modern times, with an emphasis on the cotton era (1795-1908).

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK

Natchez National Historical Park became an established unit of the national park system on October 7, 1988 (see appendix A). The park is in the city of Natchez in southwestern Mississippi, approximately 100 miles southwest of Jackson (the capital of Mississippi), 70 miles south of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and 90 miles north of Baton Rouge (the capital of Louisiana). Natchez, on the Mississippi River, is in Adams County and across the river from Louisiana (see Region map). Travelers can easily reach Natchez by car along U.S. Highway 84 from the east and west, U.S. Highway 61 from the north and south, and the Natchez Trace Parkway from Jackson. The nearest major commercial airports are in Jackson and Baton Rouge. In season, riverboats plying the Mississippi River carry tourists to Natchez.

Historically, Natchez was the beginning of the Natchez Trace, a primitive trail stretching about 500 miles to Nashville, Tennessee. Today the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail commemorate the old trace.

The park is comprised of three NPS-owned properties — the Melrose estate (78.6 acres in NPS ownership), the



## PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

William Johnson complex (about 1/3 acre in NPS ownership), and Fort Rosalie (32.48 acres being acquired by the Park Service) (see Vicinity map) — and a larger area known as the preservation district. The pre-Civil War Melrose estate was built by a wealthy cotton planter. This Greek Revival mansion is complete with original furnishings and intact outbuildings and has been well maintained and preserved over the years. The 19th century furnishings collection at Melrose is of museum quality and is directly associated with estate owners.

William Johnson, a slave who was freed, started out as a barber and eventually owned several barber shops, rental property, a farm, and timberland; he also kept a lengthy personal and business diary that offers glimpses of antebellum southern life and relations between whites and free blacks. His Greek Revival town house is in downtown Natchez.

Established by the French in 1715, Fort Rosalie was built on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, high above the insect-ridden bottomland. Significant archeological resources associated with Fort Rosalie may still exist.

There are two major environmental concerns that are being considered in the planning effort. Natchez is on a prominent bluff that rises 150 to 200 feet above the Mississippi River floodplain. Stability and erosion of the bluff (unconsolidated sediments) along the river are issues of concern for the residents of the city as well as the National Park Service. Severe erosion has at times caused loss of life and property damage. The Fort Rosalie site contains approximately 0.25 mile of riverfront property along the bluff.

The National Park Service has few facilities for visitors, although Melrose is open for tours (and was part of a

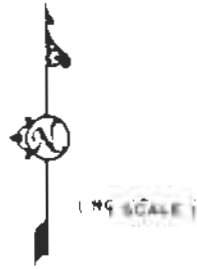
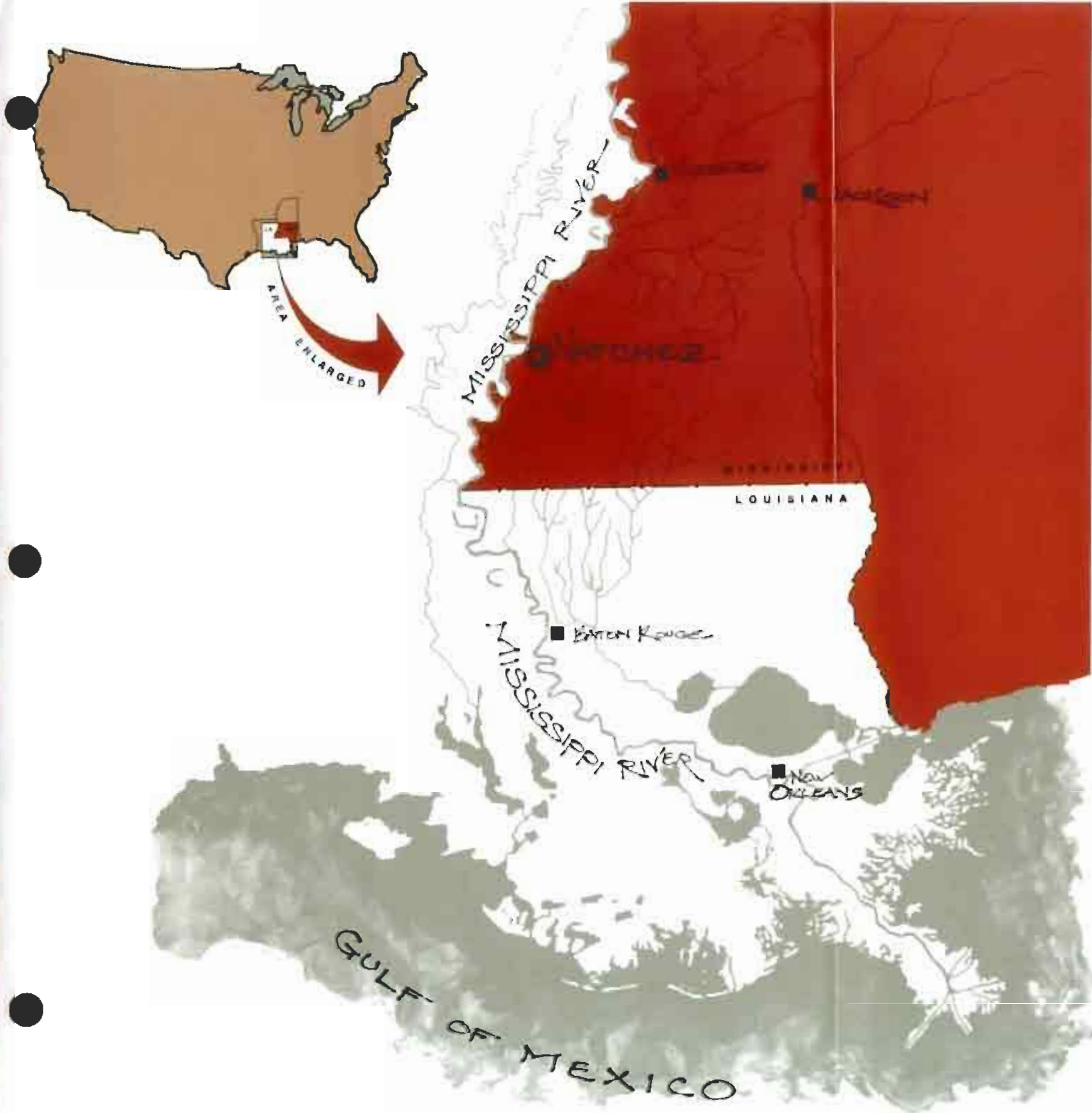
commercial tour before acquisition by the National Park Service).

## NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Antebellum Natchez was a commercial, cultural, and social center of one of the greatest cotton-producing regions — the cotton belt of the American South.
- Natchez was the second largest slave market in the country.
- The sale of cotton, produced by thousands of plantation-based slaves, generated a concentration of power and wealth in Natchez that was unparalleled by other southern towns of comparable size.
- Cotton planters' opulent lifestyles can be seen in the architecturally distinctive antebellum estates, which represent one of the best preserved concentrations of significant antebellum properties in the United States.

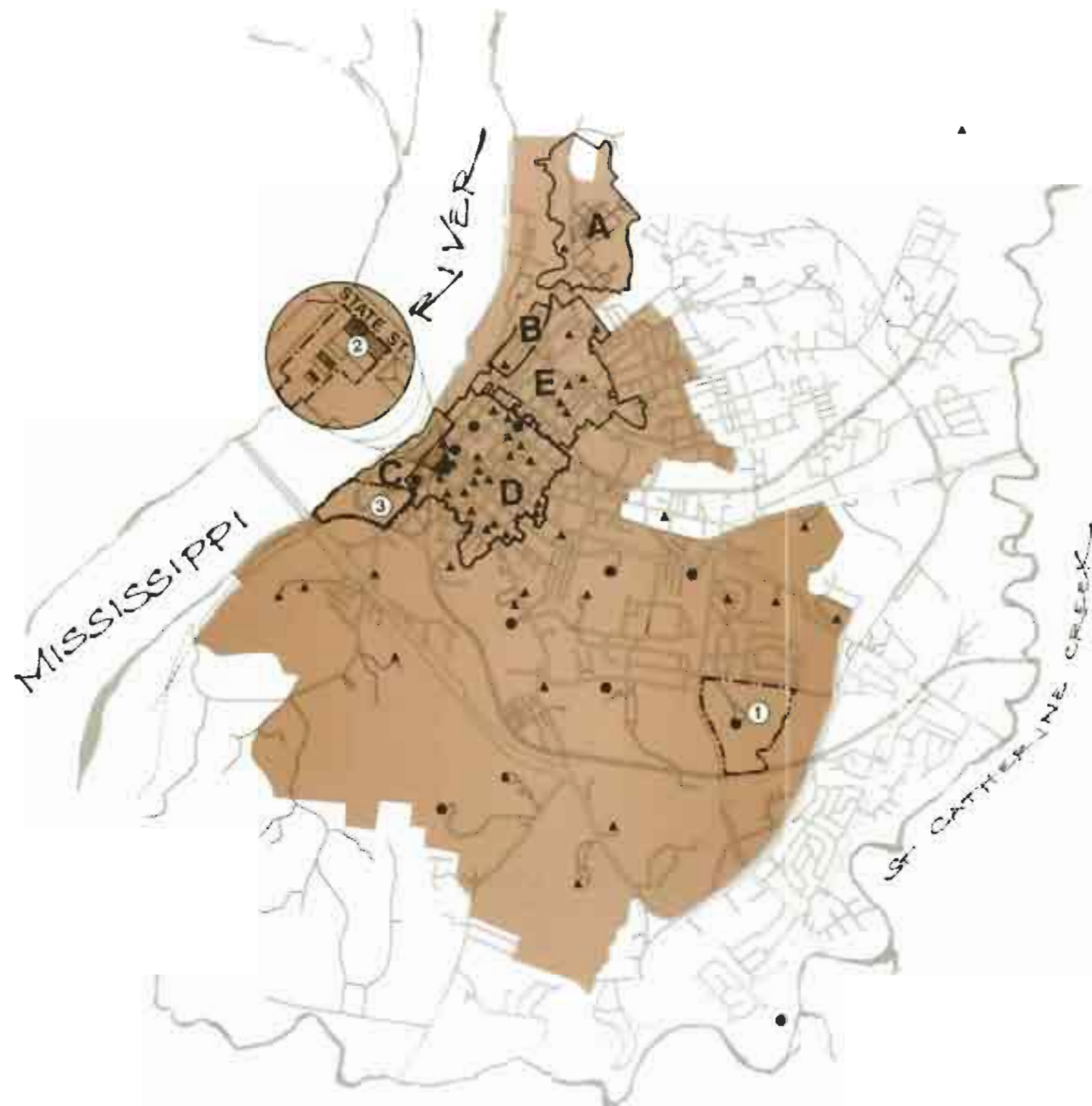
In the decades leading up to the Civil War, Natchez became a commercial, cultural, and social center of one of the world's greatest cotton-producing regions — the "cotton belt" of the American South. Planters living in Natchez controlled vast plantations in Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta and in Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas as well. Thousands of slaves worked these plantations, some of whom were sold in Natchez, at the second largest slave market in the country.

The profits derived from cotton produced a concentration of power and wealth in Natchez that was unparalleled by other southern towns of comparable size. The planters' opulent lifestyles are



REGION  
**NATCHEZ**  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

ON MICROFILM



PRESERVATION DISTRICT  
AND EXISTING  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
HISTORIC DISTRICTS

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characterized by the numerous architecturally distinctive town houses and suburban villas constructed in Natchez before the Civil War. Most of these residences still stand, representing one of the best preserved concentrations of significant antebellum properties in the United States. The Civil War did little physical damage to Natchez.

Natchez did have overriding importance to the antebellum cotton culture, but Natchez' significance is not confined to this era. Other parts of Natchez' history are also important. The mound-building Natchez Indians were dominant in the region, and their Grand Village was the dwelling place of Indian nobility and the location of several temple mounds. During the 1700s, Natchez played a pivotal role in the contest among European powers for control of the lower Mississippi River valley. Natchez was the Mississippi Territory capital from 1798 to 1801 and the state capital from 1817 to 1821. Linked to the Ohio Valley via the Natchez Trace, a post road that evolved from old American Indian paths, for a time Natchez rivaled the biggest of the Mississippi River towns in trade, transportation, commerce, and agriculture.

After the Civil War, the region's prosperous times, which had been based on cotton and slavery, were gone. Tenant farming and sharecropping supplanted slavery, and French, German, and Jewish immigrants fostered some economic growth through their merchant activities. The many national historic landmarks, historic districts, and national register properties in Natchez attest to its significance.

The National Park Service has identified significant topics relating to natural and cultural resources that help determine the national significance of any NPS area. These topics are listed in *History and*

*Prehistory in the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks Program* (NPS 1987). In 1988 the NPS Southeast Regional Office identified topics that are relevant to Natchez National Historical Park (NPS 1988, pp. 50-51), which show why the park is nationally significant. They are as follows.

- I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
  - B. Post-Archaic and Pre-Contact Developments
  - D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
  - 3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation
- II. European Colonial Exploration and Settlement
  - A. Spanish Exploration and Settlement
  - B. French Exploration and Settlement
  - C. English Exploration and Settlement
- IV. The American Revolution
- VI. The Civil War
  - C. War in the West
  - D. Naval Action
- X. Westward Expansion of the British Colonies and the U.S. (1793-1899)
  - D. Western Trails and Travelers
- XI. Agriculture
  - B. Plantation Agriculture, 1607-1860
- XIV. Transportation
  - A. Early Turnpikes, Roads, and Taverns East of Mississippi
- XVI. Architecture
  - C. Federal (1780-1820)
  - D. Greek Revival (1820-1840)
- XVII. Landscape Architecture
- XXVI. Decorative and Folk Art
- XXX. American Ways of Life
  - A. Slavery and Plantation Life

## **THE PRESERVATION DISTRICT**

The legislation establishing Natchez National Historical Park outlines Congress' desire that the park be a community resource — one where the National Park Service cooperates with the community to effectively tell the story of all the peoples of Natchez and actively works to preserve Natchez' resources for future generations.

To carry out the purpose for which the park was established, Congress asked the Park Service to prepare a study of the properties in Natchez and its immediate vicinity that preserve and interpret the history specified in the act that established the park. Following completion of the study, Congress further directed establishment of historic districts in the city and its immediate environs; establishment of these districts would help preserve and promote interpretation of the resources that contribute to the understanding of the purposes of the act.

The completed study presents a single preservation district (instead of several additional historic districts). This preservation district encompasses most of the significant resources in the Natchez vicinity — approximately 6 square miles of the city — and includes 10 of the city's 11 national historic landmarks, all five National Register of Historic Places historic districts, and 41 individually listed national register properties (see Preservation District and Existing National Register Historic Districts map).

The National Park Service has no regulatory or management control over property within this preservation district, other than at the three NPS sites (Melrose, Fort Rosalie, and the William Johnson complex). However, within the preservation district legislation allows the Park Service to enter into cooperative

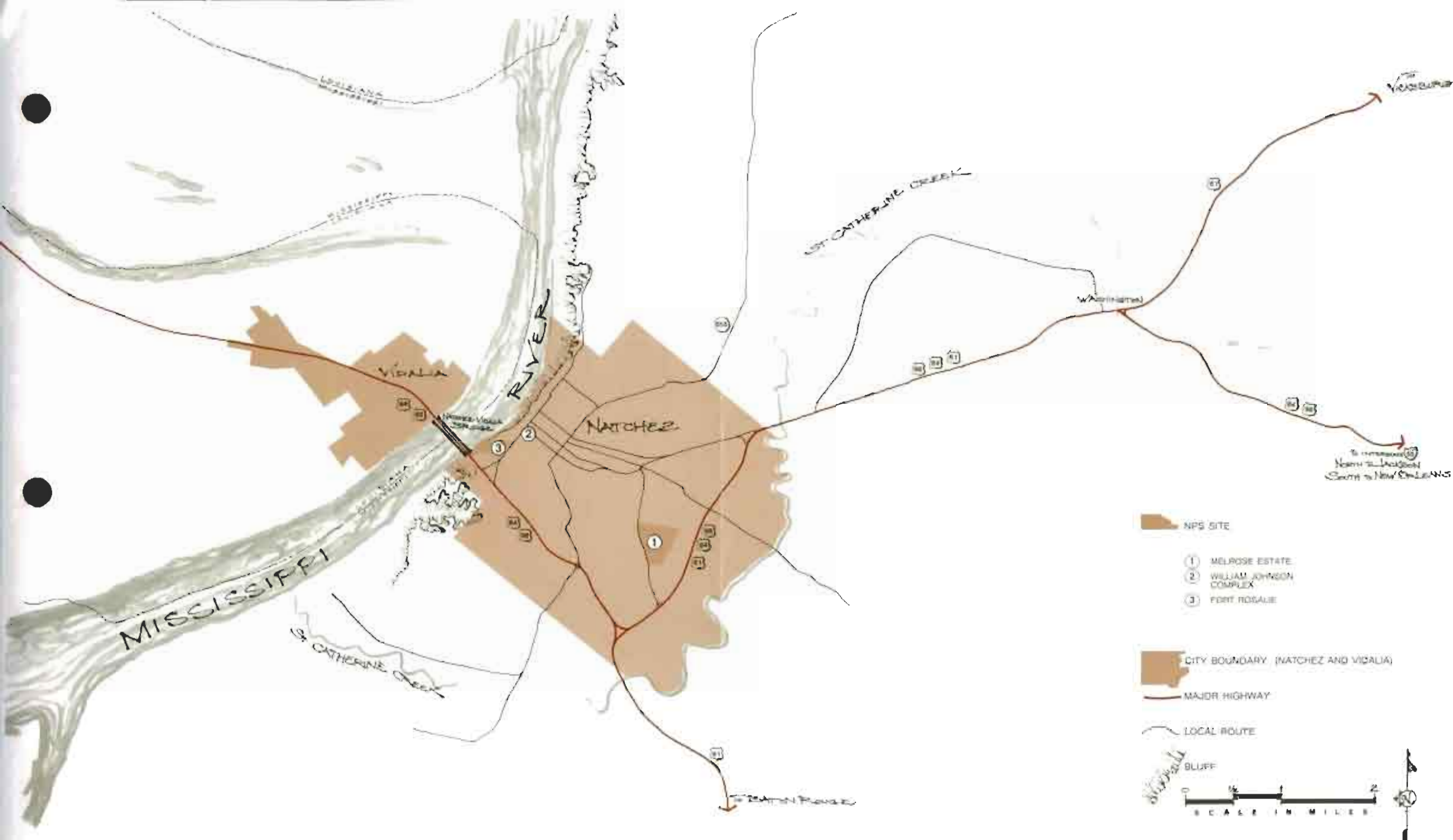
agreements and provide technical advice to government agencies, business entities, and owners of historically or culturally significant properties on issues such as interpretation, preservation, and signs in return for bringing the property within the scope of the park's purpose. NPS assistance would be provided to willing property owners. The preservation district thus identifies a cooperative park that is considerably larger than the three properties that the Park Service has or is acquiring. Within this area, NPS resources and expertise would be used to assist Natchez citizens to preserve and interpret the historic, cultural, and natural resources of their city for the enjoyment of all.

## **ADVISORY COMMISSION**




Public Law 100-479 also established the Natchez National Historical Park Advisory Commission. This six-member advisory commission, appointed by the secretary of the interior, consists of two members appointed from among individuals nominated by the mayor of Natchez and one from among individuals nominated by the governor of Mississippi. The legislation also provided that two of the six members have expertise in historic preservation and one has expertise in architectural history. (This advisory commission has been meeting regularly since February 1992.)

## **SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE PARK**

Management objectives, done for each NPS unit, provide a framework for conserving park resources, integrating the park into its surrounding environment, and accommodating public use in accordance with NPS management policies. Following



-  NPS SITE
- ① MELROSE ESTATE
- ② WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX
- ③ FORT ROSALIE

-  CITY BOUNDARY (NATCHEZ AND VIDALIA)
-  MAJOR HIGHWAY
-  LOCAL ROUTE



VICINITY  
**NATCHEZ**  
 NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DSC Map #1 330 20010

ON MICROFILM

are the management objectives for Natchez National Historical Park.

### **Melrose**

To preserve and restore the structures, collections, and grounds to provide visitors within the viewshed of the mansion the opportunity to experience the estate of a cotton planter during the pre- and post-Civil War era. (The viewshed would be determined in a cultural landscape report, describe under alternative 2 for the Melrose estate.)

### **William Johnson House**

To preserve, rehabilitate, and restore the William Johnson complex to interpret the life and times of William Johnson and the African-American experience in Natchez and the surrounding region.

**Fort Rosalie** (defined as the land that the National Park Service is authorized to own)

To preserve, protect, and manage the natural and cultural resources of the site, especially the view to the river, the topography, and the archeological remains.

To create a setting in which the visitor will be able to understand the site and its relationship to the river during its use as a fort.

**Park District** (defined as the area established by the secretary of the interior in the city of Natchez and its immediate environs for the preservation and interpretation of resources contributing to

the purposes of the establishing legislation)

To encourage the preservation (including restoration) of the historic character of the park district.

To identify the elements of that character in the district and develop guidance to manage change.

### **Interpretation**

To ensure that the history of Natchez is interpreted from early to modern times through those cultural resources in the park and the surrounding region.

To ensure that the history of the cotton era in Natchez (1798-1908) remains central to the park's overall interpretive effort.

To interpret the strategic importance of Natchez in the struggle for control of the lower Mississippi River valley during the colonial and early territorial periods at Fort Rosalie.

To ensure that the diversity of the African-American experience in Natchez and the surrounding region is interpreted.

To ensure that visitors have access to information about the available cultural resources in the park and surrounding region and also have the opportunity to understand all the stories of Natchez, including those where cultural resources are no longer available.

## **Natchez Trace Parkway**

To bring the Natchez Trace Parkway to the bluffs and provide the opportunity for visitors to understand the relationship of the trace to the river and the early history of Natchez.

## **PLANNING ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

The major issues addressed by this general management plan — the major questions to be answered, the major problems to be solved, and the major opportunities to take advantage of — are as follows.

What forms of preservation, resource management, development, and visitor use and interpretation are necessary and appropriate at the Melrose estate, the William Johnson complex, Fort Rosalie, the city of Natchez, and other related, nearby areas?

One of the intents of the national historical park is that the National Park Service work in partnership with city and state officials, business entities, and owners of National Register of Historic Places or other significant properties regarding such topics as interpretation, preservation, and signs. What should be the relationship among the various parties, and what cooperative agreements, if any, should be enacted?

What are the interpretive stories that should be told? How and where should they be told?

The need for a visitor center has been identified. Where should it be, what stories should be told there, and

should it be combined with a city-state welcome center?

What is the appropriate visitor experience at the various sites in the national historical park, and within the city of Natchez as related to the purpose of the park?

How will the congressionally mandated preservation district concept fit with and become a viable part of the plan?

What additional resource studies are needed to carry out the objectives of resource management and interpretation?

The city is planning to establish riverboat gambling at Under-the-Hill and to develop a convention center in Natchez. What effects will these two actions have on the management and visitor experience at the park?

A permanent site for the NPS administrative headquarters is needed. Where should it be?

The bluffs at the Fort Rosalie site pose a threat that the Park Service needs to be concerned about. What mitigation measures are necessary to reduce the threats? How can the bluffs at Fort Rosalie be stabilized with the least impact on any archeological resources associated with the historic fort?

## **RELATIONSHIP OF THIS PLANNING EFFORT TO OTHER PROJECTS**

The relationship of this plan to the development of the Natchez Trace Parkway is discussed in the later "Alternatives Including the Proposed Action" section of this plan.



A land protection plan has been written for the acquisition of property at Fort Rosalie. Acquisition is being conducted concurrently but separately from this general management plan. The city of Natchez has recently contracted with a consulting firm to establish a waterfront development strategy for Natchez Under-the-Hill that reflects the recent legalization of Mississippi River casino gambling, the establishment of Natchez National Historical Park, and the general and desired growth in tourism in Natchez and Adams County.

There are also plans for a new convention center in downtown Natchez. The city's desire to promote Natchez as a tourist destination and the legalization of riverboat gambling could greatly increase the numbers of visitors to Natchez and could create many different kinds of development pressures that will be out of the Park Service's control. Cooperation and communication are critical among the Park Service, the city, and developers to ensure that proposed actions are compatible.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT — THE LEGACY OF NATCHEZ

We arrived at the entrance gate of the plantation after a delightful ride of half an hour, along a fine though dusty road, (for with this impalpable soil it is either paste or powder) bordered with noble forests of oak, black gum, the hoary-coated sycamore, and the rich-leaved, evergreen magnolia, among and around which the grape vine entwined and hung in graceful festoons.

Joseph Holt Ingraham,  
Natchez, 1835

Then our first trip to the Plantation, the coming on Sunday of the negroes, nearly two hundred, in their best clothes to see their "new mistress." How they looked and how they stared! The feelings of fearful responsibility that came over me in the new life before me. All is stamped indelibly upon my mind.

Alice Austen McMurrin  
of Melrose, 1856

The phrase "Natchez on the Mississippi" evokes a series of images: intrigue and mystery on the Natchez Trace; rough-and-tumble rivermen on flatboats and steamboats on the river; a gateway to the Old Southwest of the 18th century; moonlight and magnolias, white-columned houses, and hoopskirts; and slavery and sharecropping. Natchez is rich in both history and lore, and it is a place where the National Park Service has an opportunity to tell stories and explore myths of the Old South.

Consider Natchez' origins. Prehistorically, the area was used by hunters and gatherers, who in turn were followed by Indians who farmed and built ceremonial

mounds. At the first European contact in 1541, the Natchez Indians controlled the Mississippi River from Vicksburg to the Homochitto River. The first Europeans to occupy the site were the French, who nearly eliminated the Natchez Indians. The British moved in, followed by the Spanish, and then the Americans. The aristocratic and the wealthy lived there; yet its reputation suffered from the raffish of the riverfront. It was the terminus of a major road — the Natchez Trace.

Yet in the eyes of most Americans, Natchez is seen primarily as the symbolic capital of the antebellum cotton kingdom. Hardly ever is it viewed in the context of a frontier town. But it was — no less than Abilene, Denver, or San Francisco (Clark and Guice 1989)

Natchez wears many historical faces: that of a frontier settlement and a commercial center of the Old Southwest, the focus of social life for the region's wealthy planters, and the epitome of the slavery system practiced in the cotton district. A recitation of the central stories from Natchez' early history sounds familiar to anyone raised along the mighty Mississippi.

### EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

In 1682 Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, was the first European to sail by what was to become Natchez. His countrymen were attracted to the spot by its height, well above the disease-laden swamps. Led by Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur d'Bienville, the French founded Fort Rosalie in 1716, choosing the site because it was easily defensible and on

rich agricultural soil (Harnett 1947; Elliott 1989). The local inhabitants were the Natchez Indians. Here was a civilization that worshipped the sun, built mounds, and had dominated the region from the mid 1500s. They did not tolerate the cruelties inflicted on them by the foreigners, and in 1729 the Natchez retaliated by massacring the French and burning Fort Rosalie. French retribution was swift and furious; by 1732 the Natchez were gone, one-third killed, one-third sent into slavery, and one-third assimilated into other tribes (Kane 1947; James 1968).

Fort Rosalie itself lived on, to be occupied in succession by the French, British, Spanish, and Americans, finally being abandoned around 1800. The fort had two basic shapes: from 1716 until burned by the Natchez in 1729, it was a rectangular palisade with four bastions, and in the 1730s it was rebuilt on the same site as a pentagon-shaped earthwork. The French called it Rosalie, the British and Spanish named it Fort Panmure, and the Americans renamed it Fort Sargent. The fort was also unofficially known as Fort Natchez. Not only was the fort established on a river landing, but it was at the terminus of a road that passed through Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian villages to the north, probably the predecessor to the Natchez Trace (Elliott 1989).

The isolated garrison was strategically important during the European contests to control the lower Mississippi River. The British took control of the town in 1763 after the French and Indian War and the Treaty of Paris. During the American Revolution, Natchez filled with Loyalists seeking refuge. After Spain declared war on Britain in 1779, the Spanish took over the small settlement and left their imprint on Natchez by surveying the town plat in 1791, including a broad promenade

separating the town from the river. The Spanish did not, however, leave a lasting imprint on the Anglo-American people. After the signing of Pinckney's Treaty in 1795, the Natchez region east of the Mississippi became American. With the establishment of the Mississippi Territory in 1798, with Natchez as capital, Natchez began its transformation from an isolated frontier outpost to an important river port that would rival Memphis, New Orleans, and St. Louis (Kane 1947; James 1968; Miller and Miller 1986; Elliott 1989).

The entire settlement at Natchez, with town and outlying communities, was known as the Natchez District. Although this district evolved with changes in demographics, even taking over land that was relinquished by the Choctaw, eventually it included what is today five Mississippi counties — Wilkinson, Adams, Jefferson, Claiborne, and Warren, and three Louisiana parishes — Concordia, Tensas, and Madison. The Natchez District was a distinct social and political unit, as well as a geographical one (Elliott 1990; Wayne 1983).

Natchez was the westernmost outpost in the Old Southwest and served as the western terminus of the Natchez Trace, a vital communication and transportation route between Natchez and the Ohio River valley. American settlers by the hundreds walked home to the Ohio valley after selling their crops and flatboats in Natchez or New Orleans. The trace was the most important post road in the region until the introduction of steamboating on the Mississippi and the purchase of the Louisiana Territory (Miller and Miller 1986; Kane 1947).

## **NATCHEZ GROWS**

Neither the French nor the British capitalized on Natchez' commercial

promise. When the Spanish took over in 1779 there were only 500 people eking out a subsistence way of life. However, the Spanish opened trade on the river and promoted immigration with land grants, and Natchez grew. Tobacco cultivation was undertaken in the 1780s, and commercial ties were made with New Orleans. Indigo was raised for a short time, unprofitably, but the arrival of the cotton gin in 1795 changed Natchez' future forever. Within a few years cotton was valuable, and with the use of slavery very profitable; by the time the United States took over Natchez in 1798, cotton was the dominant crop (Wayne 1983).

It is not known exactly when trade developed on the river, but flatboats were descending the Mississippi by the 1780s. By 1801 nearly 600 vessels per year passed by Natchez on their way to New Orleans. In 1808 there were 83 riverboats docked at Natchez Under-the-Hill at one time. The War of 1812 slowed the growth of trade temporarily throughout the Old Southwest, but traffic on the river increased phenomenally after the war (Clark and Guice 1989).

"No other port on the Mississippi had a reputation for licentiousness, dissipation, and debauchery that exceeded that of the port of Natchez," which extended 800 yards from the base of the cliffs towards the river in the 1790s. People who lived on top of the bluffs disassociated themselves from the goings-on, but the port was the second leading port on the river from 1800 to 1840.

As such it contributed substantially to the economy of the Old Southwest. Here arrived the manufactured products from Europe and the American Atlantic Seaboard that were to be distributed throughout the Natchez District. At these docks

agricultural staples grown in the upper Mississippi Valley and livestock from Louisiana and Texas also were unloaded (Clark and Guice 1989).

Natchez remained for decades a center of "civilization" in the middle of the Old Southwest frontier. Immigrants arriving in town who feared to find "a mongrel race compounded of French, Spanish, and Negro, with a slight sprinkling of Anglo-Saxon ruffians and outlaws" soon discovered otherwise. There was a local emphasis on education. The founding of Jefferson College in 1802 and the presence of private academies and private tutors for the children of wealthy families all led to a high intellectual level in the wilderness settlement (Clark and Guice 1989).

### **NATCHEZ' COTTON, WEALTH, ARCHITECTURE, AND INFLUENCE**

Cotton grew on the extremely fertile farmland of Mississippi and the bottomlands of Louisiana. The farmland contained rich brown loam, and in Louisiana two bales of cotton per acre were grown on the "almost inexhaustible" alluvial clay. The Natchez District grew and prospered, and by the 1850s the region enjoyed unequalled agricultural riches. In 1860 the Natchez District produced one-tenth of the South's cotton crop. According to historian Michael Wayne, "It can justifiably be said that no place so clearly epitomized the enduring and triumphant nature of the reign of King Cotton" (Wayne 1983).

The cotton textile industry in the northern United States and Great Britain grew dramatically from 1800 to 1839. To the South, the Industrial Revolution meant a virtually unlimited demand for cotton. To increase production, planters in the Old

Southwest planted more cotton, improved cultivation techniques, minimized food crops, and rapidly increased the number of slaves working on the plantations. By 1839 the Mississippi plantation, served by slave labor, was an effective economic system for producing cotton. Thousands of Mississippi farmers emulated the wealthy planters and successfully raised cotton as a cash crop. Whenever possible, farmers purchased slaves to extend their farming capabilities. Through efficient mechanization, crop diversification, soil conservation, and slave management, plantations reached their height of effectiveness just before the Civil War (Moore 1988).

Natchez was the commercial, cultural, and social center of the cotton belt of the American South. According to historian Michael Wayne, the "Natchez district was the richest principality in the domain of King Cotton in the decades leading up to the Civil War. . . . Nowhere in the antebellum South were the cotton economy and the slave plantation more dominant" (Wayne 1983). Natchez planters owned vast plantations worked by thousands of slaves for miles around — in the Mississippi Delta, and in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

The historical importance of the Natchez District extends beyond local economics and social activity. Together, Adams County, Mississippi, and Concordia Parish, Louisiana, were characteristic of the larger southern society. Adams County, home to Natchez and the plantation elite, was one of the oldest cotton-producing regions in the South and had a deep-rooted plantation economy. Concordia Parish, across the river, was also a plantation district, but a relatively new one with large plantations, absentee owners, and a large, isolated slave population. Together, these two counties were typical of the rich black soil belts

and delta regions of the Old Southwest. In one area could be found all of the aspects of the antebellum plantation economy — plantations of all sizes operating at different levels and efficiency, on worn-out soils and rich bottomland soils; absentee owners and resident planters; a healthy mercantile economy; a large class of small farmers, overseers, and plantation managers; and literally thousands of slaves living in diverse situations, from isolated plantations to the bustling streets of Natchez (Davis 1982).

Cotton money produced a concentration of power and wealth in Natchez that was unparalleled by other southern towns of comparable size. The manifestation of the planters' lifestyles can still be seen today in the architecturally significant town houses and villas built in Natchez before the war (Wayne 1983; James 1968). Natchez' influence extended beyond the world of architecture. Historian John Hebron Moore described Natchez' influence in social terms.

As the oldest, largest, wealthiest, and most beautiful of Mississippi towns, Natchez was clearly unique. . . . No rival challenged the preeminence of Natchez in social matters during the slavery era.

Natchez' peculiar social distinction was derived from a small group of enormously wealthy planters who resided on the outskirts of the town. These extremely wealthy planters in the suburbs of Natchez made the little community into the social capital of the planter class of Mississippi. Elsewhere in the state, slave-owning cotton growers tried to imitate Natchez fashions in architecture, carriages, dress, manners, and customs (Moore 1988).

## THE AGRICULTURAL SLAVERY SYSTEM

The definition of a planter, before the Civil War, depended on the number of slaves owned rather than the pounds of crops grown or the amount of land owned. Labor dictated the amount of crops to be grown. Twenty or more slaves were needed to achieve a level of economy of scale on good soil. In 1850, in 15 slave states, only 384,884 whites owned any slaves at all; only a handful of planters owned more than 100 slaves. Whites numbered 353,901 in Mississippi in 1860; 30,943 of these were slaveholders. Blacks totaled 437,303, 436,631 of whom were slaves, most of whom lived on plantations. Despite their small numbers, the planters dictated antebellum economic, political, and social life. Planters possessed power because half of all slaves worked on plantations, and southern exports were dominated by slave products. To be a planter was the ideal, and small farmers and professionals aspired to own plantations (Kirby 1989; Wharton 1947).

Even though the French had slaves in Natchez in the early 1700s, the plantation slavery system in Mississippi dated from British settlement. By that time, the plantation as an economic unit and slavery as a system of forced labor were already established in the southern Atlantic colonies. The term plantation meant a large agricultural enterprise wherein the owners or managers directed a large labor force to produce export crops. Initially, labor was supplied by white indenture, but in the last decades of the 17th century, black slavery took its place. British immigrants arriving in the Natchez District in the 1760s brought slaves with them and set up a slavery system based on the mainland tobacco colonies as opposed to the West Indies sugar colonies. Tobacco plantation

slavery was less harsh than sugar plantation slavery; women were as useful in the tobacco fields as men, which allowed for the importation of equal numbers of women and men and for some measure of family life (Moore 1988; Kirby 1989)

Between 1793 and 1795, planters along the Mississippi River began the transition from growing tobacco to growing cotton. Their slave organizations were already set up and readily adapted to the new crop. Most of the slaves in Mississippi during the antebellum period worked on plantations under conditions dictated by the gang system. This system, which prevailed in Mississippi from the 1760s until the 1840s, called for slaves to work in groups under the direction of a slave known as a driver. Many kinds of work gangs worked on the plantation, depending on the season. Women and men both worked on these gangs. The system emphasized disciplined group activity at the expense of individual initiative and operated with punishment for inadequate work rather than reward for good work (Moore 1988).

Plantation slavery in the Natchez District was not simply an economic institution; it was a way of life, and it had social and political overtones. The legal system dealt with slaves as both property and people. Masters regulated every aspect of their slaves' lives, including food, shelter, public behavior, health care, and religious activity. Blacks, however, developed a "significant degree of autonomy within slavery" in their private family lives, in their relations with each other, and in their religious practices. Slaves were able to endure the worst aspects of slavery through the strength of their social and cultural systems. A distinctive black culture was created, and it provided meaning to life. Cultural values, attitudes, and beliefs were all transmitted through

the slave community (Wayne 1983; Yetman 1984).

## **URBAN SLAVERY AND FREE BLACKS**

Before the Civil War, black urban society in Mississippi was made up of slaves and a small number of free blacks. Slaves who were part of the urban black community worked as domestics or worked in business establishments. Hired slaves belonging to planters were different; they labored as craftspeople, draymen, or industrial workers and contributed to their rural owners' incomes. Craftsmen as well as tradesmen composed Natchez' free black middle class. In 1860 this group included carpenters, barbers, blacksmiths, dressmakers, and seamstresses. A free black lower class consisted of dray drivers, manual laborers, and domestic servants. Still other free blacks earned a living through peddling, prostitution, fishing, farming, and chopping wood (Moore 1988).

More than half the free black population in Mississippi in 1840 lived in the Natchez District. Over 280 free blacks lived in Adams County, with 207 living in Natchez. The free black community in Natchez was the most significant one in the state. The best-known member of this community was William Johnson, a former slave who became a prosperous barber. Emancipated in 1820 at age 11, Johnson was apprenticed to a free black barber. He went into business on his own in 1828, and was successful enough by the mid 1830s to take advantage of varied business opportunities. He operated three barbershops — one on Main Street, one in a small hotel, and the third in Natchez Under-the-Hill — where he employed free blacks and slaves, and he owned farmland cultivated by slaves and white overseers. Johnson is known

not only for his business acumen, wealth, and status in Natchez society, but also for keeping detailed business records and personal and business diary (Moore 1988; Davis and Hogan 1973).

## **POSTWAR NATCHEZ**

The years from 1861 to 1867 were several of the most tumultuous ones in American history. The themes of African-American history during this period include slave response to the war and to freedom, independence and optimism, the reuniting of slave families, the migrations of ex-slaves, the call for black education, the development of contract labor, the role of separate black churches, and the power of black political organization. A constant theme throughout this period was white refusal to accept a changed world. The postwar experiences of freedmen and freedwomen were both diverse and complex (Yetman 1984).

Thousands of slaves left the plantations peacefully when federal troops arrived in Natchez during the Civil War. They were a landless people, and what they wanted was to own the ground they farmed. To them, landownership meant self-respect, independence, and economic security. Many former slaves held the belief that "secesh" lands would be redistributed, but only a small percentage of black agricultural workers acquired farms after the war. According to one historian, "The Civil War destroyed slavery, but not plantations," and 15 years after the end of the war, half the plantations were still held by the same families. As late as the 1940s more than half of all Mississippi farms and three-fourths of its tenant farms were run by blacks. However, three of every four farm owners were white. The plantation remained a resilient institution. Sharecropping ensured the continuance of the patterns of antebellum agriculture,

and the system aided in the imposition of white supremacy on rural blacks (Moore 1988; McMillen 1989; Kirby 1989; Holt 1989).

Because Natchez was not strategically important during the Civil War, it was spared extensive damage during Union occupation. The magnificent antebellum estates were not destroyed. Natchez' heyday of architectural excellence was over, as was its symbolic focus for a past way of life, but the homes survived. In time, the homes have become the focus of the city's foremost industry, tourism. In 1932 a local garden club founded the Natchez Pilgrimage, which resulted in the preservation of the historic antebellum homes. Natchez, with its outstanding architecture, stands alongside Savannah and Charleston as a city known for its preservation successes (Miller and Miller 1986; East 1989).

## **SUMMARY**

Natchez is thus illustrative of diverse aspects of American history. Its physical makeup tells many stories from prehistoric times to the present.

Mississippian culture as expressed in mound building and in the Natchez civilization ended forever in a clash with intruding Europeans. As a frontier outpost, Natchez was in the eye of a colonial struggle for power among the French, British, Spanish, and Americans; it was also the southern origin of a route connecting the outpost to the Ohio Valley and beyond. Natchez' geography determined its course; it was blessed by the presence of the Mississippi River and loess soil, which offered easy water transportation and fertile agriculture.

Natchez became the financial and marketing center of an agricultural system that was based on a cotton crop and slave labor. Surrounded by an efficient plantation system, Natchez also became the center of wealth, gentility, decorative art, and architecture. The coming of the Civil War and the end of slavery signalled yet another cycle of boom and bust for Natchez, the rise of the merchant class, accompanied by the development of tenant farming and sharecropping. Natchez' significance is in its resources, which tell these diverse stories and celebrate its legacy with the American people.



ALTERNATIVES  
INCLUDING THE  
PROPOSED ACTION



*I*n November we went south and spent the winter alternately in plantations and at Melrose, the residence of John's father, two and one half miles from Natchez, Mississippi, and one of the most beautiful places of the many beautiful ones in the vicinity of Natchez.

Alice Austen  
McMurry 1856

## INTRODUCTION

This general management plan contains three alternatives for management of Natchez National Historical Park over the next 10 to 15 years: alternative 1, status quo (continuing existing trends); alternative 2, partnership park (the Park Service's proposed action); and alternative 3, expanded partnership park. These alternatives are described individually later in this section of the document.

There are, however, some elements that are common to all alternatives — the parkwide interpretive themes and some planning decisions regarding, for example, the visitor center, Grand Village,

and special populations. These common elements are described first so that the reader has a basis for better understanding the alternatives. Two sections on the management of the natural and cultural resources are presented after the description of the alternatives. These two sections also contain elements that are common to all alternatives. A summary comparison of the alternatives is shown in the General Development maps and in table format at the end of this section. A summary comparison of the environmental impacts of each alternative is also shown in table format.

## ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

### INTERPRETATION

To share with visitors the reasons why the park was established involves not only deciding where the visitor center and restrooms would be and what sites visitors will have access to, but also what visitors need to know about the park. What are the stories to tell, which are the most important, and how will the Park Service tell them? These stories — what the Park Service calls interpretation — are basic to visitor understanding of any national park. Where and how the Park Service would tell these stories is described later in this section under the description of the alternatives; what stories would be told is described in the following interpretive themes.

Interpretation is a process of education that is designed to stimulate curiosity and convey messages to the visiting public. The determination of messages — the interpretive themes — and the means of conveying them and their context in modern society are among the considerations for designing an interpretive program for any NPS area. Six primary interpretive themes and numerous subthemes and topics have been identified for Natchez National Historical Park. Like interpretive themes for many historic sites, considerable overlapping occurs, making it almost impossible to present one theme without incorporating aspects of others. Although these themes would be applicable to any of the alternatives, the differences among alternatives would be the degree and means by which the themes would be addressed and interpreted.

1. **Based on a cotton economy and a slave labor system, Natchez served**

**as the symbolic capital of the cotton kingdom.**

Fertile soil, favorable climate, river transportation, and an established plantation system based on slave labor provided the foundation for Natchez' dominance as the cotton capital.

As soils in the southeastern states deteriorated, the center of cotton production moved west throughout the antebellum period, making Natchez the economic center for the industry.

Although much of the cotton production actually occurred on plantations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, the management center was in Natchez.

A plantation operated as a community, governed by an overseer system with slaves providing the labor force.

Early scientific experimentation with growing, harvesting, and processing cotton in the Natchez area produced new technologies that enhanced the industry.

2. **Natchez was a crossroads for people and transportation due to its location along the Mississippi River, its position as a crossroad on the frontier, its healthy and strategic location atop the high bluffs, and its agriculturally productive loess soils.**

Although the importance of Natchez as a trading and transportation center has changed drastically over time, the Mississippi River was once

the city's link to the rest of America and the European cotton markets.

River trade spurred the town's development as a principal Mississippi port, and the Natchez Trace tied Natchez with the Ohio River valley.

As the westernmost outpost of the Old Southwest, Natchez was a focus of French, British, Spanish, and American control in the lower Mississippi valley.

At Natchez, the high ground touches the river allowing for military control of the area and some protection from mosquitoes and yellow fever. Today, these steep loess bluffs are also a recognized regional landmark.

The Natchez riverfront was the second leading port on the Mississippi in the early 1800s. It also carried a reputation as a rough and tumble area, complete with villains, misfits, outcasts, and people without a country.

The first American Indians to settle in the Natchez area were of the Mississippian culture, and early encounters (both peaceful and hostile) with Europeans provided significant information regarding this ancient culture.

The reasons that European and American settlers were attracted to Natchez have changed over time, but for many the town offered a place to make money and a name for themselves — a place to become part of the landed gentry.

**3. Natchez offers an excellent place to see the evolution of American architecture and the decorative arts.**

Natchez contains one of the best preserved concentrations of 19th century architecture in the southern United States.

Popular images of the "Old South" have some of their roots in Natchez.

The lifestyles of the rich contrasted sharply with other segments of the Natchez community.

The 19th century collection of furnishings at Melrose is of museum quality and belonged to the estate's owners.

**4. Natchez provides an opportunity to portray the diversity of the American black experience during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.**

The French settlers originally introduced the institution of slavery to Natchez, followed by the British who introduced the plantation system.

All aspects of the cotton economy depended on slave labor. This included working the plantations, transporting the harvest, serving the landowners, and supporting the associated businesses and industries in the community.

Free blacks in Natchez reflected a unique social structure that often contradicts popular visions of the Old South.

The church represents a keystone in the history of the black community.

From Reconstruction to the present the black community of Natchez provides examples of struggles, successes, and failures in achieving recognition, civil rights, and freedom through education.

**5. The pre- and post-Civil War economy of Natchez portrays repetitive cycles of boom or bust that have influenced the fabric of the community.**

Land booms followed the establishment of Mississippi as a territory and later as a state.

The financial panic of 1837 and a devastating tornado in 1840 halted a significant building boom in Natchez, which did not rebound until the 1850s.

The Civil War ended the antebellum cotton boom. In the Reconstruction era, industry rebounded only to collapse again as a result of the boll weevil plague in 1908.

Levees constructed along the Mississippi opened up new lands to farming.

The oil and gas boom of the 1940s ended abruptly with the bust in the 1970s.

Efforts to preserve many of the historic homes in Natchez spawned a tourism boom that continues to this day.

Recently reestablished riverboat gambling may signal a new boom to the Natchez economy.

These boom and bust cycles have kept the society of Natchez flexible and tolerant of various influences.

**6. The Civil War was the watershed in Natchez' history that ended its dominance as a center of King Cotton.**

Although no major battles occurred in Natchez, the impact of the Civil War sent shock waves through the town's economic and social structure.

Before the Civil War Natchez was the home of rich planters. After the war Natchez became more like other southern towns but still retained its unique character.

The nature of the Natchez response to the issues of the Civil War bring greater understanding of wartime divisions in society.

**PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following topics relate to information and planning decisions that apply to any of the three alternatives.

**Special Populations**

Under any of the alternatives described below, provisions would be made to accommodate the needs of special populations (those with sight, hearing, learning, and mobility impairments, those who do not speak English, and the elderly and young children) who visit the site.

Accommodations would be made for access to the sites as well as to most of the interpretive media. Guidelines and regulations are available to assist the staff and media/facility designers. Many of the accommodations would benefit all visitors.

Public Law 90-480, the Architectural Barriers Act, establishes standards for

physical access. Any new facilities constructed, as a matter of course, would be designed for accessibility for physically disabled visitors and/or employees. Historic structures require special treatment, and any modifications must be done only with the participation of a qualified historical architect and appropriate review. Where there are alternative methods, the one that is most accessible should be given preference, and inaccessible elements should be made available, if possible, by other means.

All new interpretive media would conform with the NPS *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media* (see appendix B).

### **Projected Visitor Use**

Based on marketing studies that were done for the city of Natchez, the projected annual visitation to Natchez in five years is between 530,000 and 550,000 people. See appendix C for more details on projected visitor use.

### **Relationship to the Natchez Trace Parkway**

Work is progressing toward completing the Natchez Trace Parkway into the city of Natchez. Three different routes are being considered (see appendix D). Planning, design, environmental, and cultural compliance work for the final segment into town will not be accomplished for another two or more years. The local community has expressed preference for alternative 1 as an ultimate goal but has indicated alternative 2 is an acceptable interim solution. Other than the previously stated management objective of bringing the parkway to the bluffs, the Park Service

has, as yet, no preferred alternative. Any of the alternatives described below would be compatible with any of the three routes. The completion of the parkway is beyond the scope of this general management plan and is a matter for separate study and further environmental analysis.

### **"Surface Stabilization" — A Word about Roads and Paths**

For the upgrading, improvements, and construction of roadways, parking areas, the maintenance yard, and trails/paths in alternatives 2 and 3 at Melrose and Fort Rosalie, a process called surface stabilization is recommended. Recent developments using well-graded native aggregates, bonded with soil stabilization agents (such as Road Oyl or enzymes such as the biocatalyst EMC Squared), form durable, dust-free, permeable, hardened surfaces that retain the natural color and texture of the regional soils. These soil stabilization agents are nontoxic, environmentally safe materials such as pine tar derivatives and complex protein molecules. The design objective for this choice would be to create an appearance that is in keeping with the unpaved roads and paths of the 19th century while accommodating 21st century traffic and visitors with disabilities.

### **Gambling and Its Relationship to the Park and the Planning Effort**

The city's proposal to establish riverfront gambling at Natchez Under-the-Hill has a direct effect on planning for the park. Gambling will occur in a historic district next to park property (Fort Rosalie), and a parking lot has recently been developed on the mid-level area of Fort Rosalie — property that the Park Service has authorization to acquire. Development

actions associated with gambling will need to be monitored and the Park Service will need to work with the city and gambling interests to address concerns and minimize impacts.

### **Grand Village and Its Relationship to the Park**

The Grand Village of the Natchez is a national historic landmark within the city limits of Natchez. Administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the site contains a visitor center, mounds and plazas, and reconstructed Natchez Indian structures. Several archeological investigations have occurred at the site over the years. For the purposes of this planning effort, Grand Village is considered the primary area to tell the story of American Indians within a regional context.

### **NPS Visitor Center**

As a part of this planning effort, the National Park Service has considered two basic options for providing a visitor center in Natchez. One option is for the National Park Service to have its own visitor center in downtown Natchez. A second option calls for the Park Service to join with the city and state in a combined facility.

The planning effort for this management plan has highlighted the difficulty in determining an appropriate site for an NPS visitor center. There are many unknowns and many decisions, which are years ahead and outside the scope of this plan, that are needed before an appropriate site can be chosen: How might gambling-associated development affect the city, the park, and the traffic flow? Where will the Natchez Trace

Parkway come into Natchez? Should the visitor center be associated with the route chosen? Should the center be in a historic building, and if so, which would be appropriate in terms of size, location, condition, significance, possibility of acquisition, and environmental and historic preservation concerns?

Alternative 2, which presents an NPS administrative headquarters/visitor center in downtown Natchez (exact location undetermined), and alternative 3, which presents a new visitor center at Fort Rosalie will serve visitor/NPS needs for the life of this plan (10 to 15 years).

Future planning will determine the requirements for a permanent NPS visitor center. An environmental study will be done at that time.

### **Combined City-State Welcome/Visitor Center**

In the first stages of planning and contact with city and state officials, the National Park Service explored the possibility of providing visitor services and interpretation at a combined welcome/visitor center, east of the toll plaza and south of Simmons Street. There continues to be substantial local interest in the concept of a combined welcome/visitor center. The city has received a \$30,000 planning grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation to identify a site and provide conceptual design services for the proposed facility. In addition, the city was awarded a \$3.42 million Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act enhancement grant toward the development of a \$7.13 million visitor/transportation center. The visitor center would include a transportation component, designed to alleviate

problems associated with inadequate downtown parking space and traffic congestion due to increased tourism.

The city has invited the Park Service to participate in the visitor center study. Because the city is subject to many of the same financial constraints facing many state and local governments, and because of the potential funding and management benefits of a partnership arrangement, the Park Service has agreed to work with the city on this project. Should plans for the combined visitor center and transportation component move beyond the idea stage in a timely manner, and if the Park Service determines that the facility would meet its long-term needs in Natchez, the Park Service could decide to discontinue efforts to develop its own visitor center and enter into a formal agreement with the city and the state to develop a

combined facility. Factors that the Park Service would have to take into account before making such a decision would include the facility's location and size, how well it would meet the needs of park visitors, whether the facility could also accommodate the administrative headquarters for Natchez National Historical Park, and whether it would be possible to construct and manage the facility on a cost-sharing basis that would be fair and equitable. Further environmental compliance would be needed if a decision is made to build a joint visitor center.

Although some information would be available regarding visitor attractions in Natchez, especially NPS facilities, the primary purpose of the welcome/visitor center would be to tell the interpretive stories of Natchez.



## ALTERNATIVE 1: STATUS QUO (CONTINUATION OF EXISTING TRENDS)

### EMPHASIS

In this alternative, visitors would learn about Melrose and the workings of the estate household — the story of a rich cotton planter's life and urban slavery. Visitors would gain insights into the free black society at the William Johnson complex. The primary visitor experience would be at two NPS locations, Melrose and the William Johnson complex. The focus of the story would be antebellum Natchez, from the 1840s to the 1860s. This alternative constitutes a continuation of existing management actions.

Under this alternative, visitors coming into Natchez would be directed downtown to the William Johnson complex where they would find information about the park. From here they could walk to Fort Rosalie and then be directed to Melrose.

### VISITOR CENTER

There would be a desk at Melrose and in the McCallum house where visitors could get information and orientation on park and possibly area resources. Minimal exhibits would provide a basic introduction to the significance of Melrose, Fort Rosalie, and the William Johnson complex. There would be no formal NPS visitor center.

### MELROSE

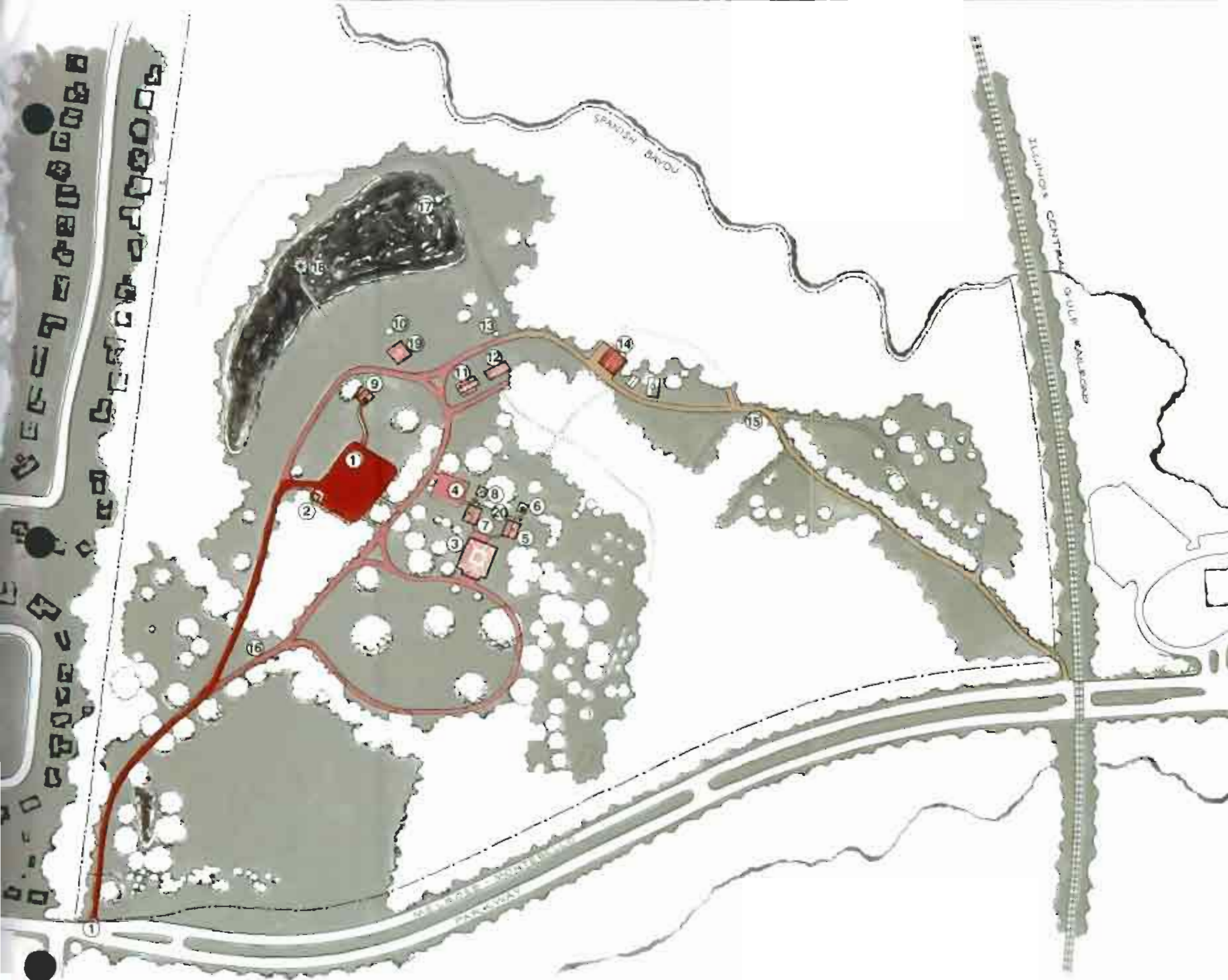
Built by a wealthy planter, Melrose symbolizes the apex of the cotton-based culture and the dominance of Natchez in the King Cotton economy. The story at Melrose would show how a wealthy cotton planter lived and tell how this wealth depended on the slave labor

system on the large plantations. In this alternative Melrose would become the primary site for integrating key interpretive themes to tell the story of the cotton-based culture and economy of Natchez.

After a drive down the entrance road, visitors would be directed to the parking area and the rehabilitated carriage house, where they would see a video projection program that would portray Melrose as an integral part of the Natchez community and show how Melrose was built and maintained with wealth earned from cotton crops and slave labor. Here the visitor would obtain a map and information about Melrose and purchase tickets for tours of the main house. Public restrooms would be provided in the carriage house. The existing ticket booth in the parking area would be removed (see Melrose Alternative 1 map).

Visitors would then be directed to the main house for a guided tour of the first and second floors. The furnishings would essentially be preserved in their present condition. (Table 1 at the end of this section provides a definition of terms such as preservation, rehabilitation, etc.) The tour would cover occupation of the estate by various owners. Preservation would retain Melrose's appearance at the time of its purchase by the National Park Service. No attempt would be made to restore the house to a particular period. If access to the second floor cannot be provided, programmatic accessibility (see appendix B) would be provided.

Visitors would then follow a self-guiding brochure to tour the dependency buildings on the Melrose estate. The kitchen would be used for a cooperating association sales outlet, and the smokehouse next to the kitchen would be preserved on the



- 1 VISITOR ARRIVAL AND PARKING  
drive down gravel rural lane • other than parking for visitors with disabilities, no changes from existing conditions • accessible path to carriage house for visitor contact/information
- 2 TICKET BOOTH  
remove
- 3 MAIN HOUSE  
preserve • guided tours of both floors • no restoration to specific period
- 4 EXISTING STAFF PARKING AREA  
no change • parking for visitors with disabilities
- 5 DAIRY  
preserve • existing exhibits and added interpretive panel
- 6 PRIVY (next to dairy)  
preserve • maintain modern public restrooms and historic privy
- 7 KITCHEN  
use for cooperating association sales
- 8 SMOKEHOUSE  
preserve • maintain use housing air-conditioning equipment
- 9 CARRIAGE HOUSE  
preserve exterior, re-orient interior for initial visitor contact/site orientation • film on Melrose • ticket purchase • restrooms
- 10 STORAGE SHED  
preserve
- 11 NORTH SLAVE CABIN  
preserve exterior • rehab inside for staff housing or administrative use
- 12 SOUTH SLAVE CABIN  
preserve exterior • no interior restoration • interpretation of cabin, the roles of slaves, and post-war servants on exhibit
- 13 SLAVE PRIVY  
preserve
- 14 MAINTENANCE FACILITY GREENHOUSE  
no change • addition of seasonal facility
- 15 SERVICE ROAD  
no change
- 16 CONNECTING SPUR ROAD  
no change
- 17 DOCK  
preserve
- 18 GAZEBO  
remove
- 19 STABLE  
preserve • interpretation of Melrose as a working estate
- 20 CISTERNS (2)  
preserve

— ROAD (VISITOR ACCESS)  
— ROAD (STAFF ACCESS AND VISITOR FOOTPATH)  
— SERVICE ROAD (STAFF ACCESS)  
 OVERGROWN ROAD / PATH  
 GROUNDS AND GARDENS (VISITOR ACCESS)  
 PUBLIC RESTROOM  
 BUILDING WITH INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION  
 MAINTENANCE BUILDING  
 WOODLAND VEGETATION  
 NPS BOUNDARY



## ALTERNATIVE 1 MELROSE ESTATE

# NATCHEZ

exterior and would continue to house mechanical equipment for the complex. The dairy would continue with existing exhibits and an added interpretive panel. Half of the privy next to the dairy has been converted to modern restrooms for public use; the other half remains as a historic privy and would be open for interpretation. The cisterns would be preserved.

The north slave cabin (adapted by a previous owner for employee housing) would be used as housing for park staff to provide onsite security or as additional administrative space. The south slave cabin would be open to visitors, with no attempt to furnish the rooms to their historic appearance. The cabins and the roles of the slaves and post-Civil War servants in estate operations would be interpreted in this cabin. The stable, with interpretive panels inside, would interpret the features and functions of a working estate. Buildings would maintain their modern amenities and certain incongruities of furnishings and architectural appearance.

The gardens and grounds would be open for the public to enjoy. The northern boundary of the estate would be fenced to protect the grounds from the encroachment and trash dumping that currently occurs. The gazebo would be removed. The fishing dock on the pond would remain, and the pond and dam would be managed according to NPS guidelines, *Dams and Appurtenant Works — Maintenance, Operation, and Safety* (NPS-40). See later "Natural Resource Management" section for further information about other studies and actions related to protecting and preserving the natural resources.

The existing maintenance building would also remain, but the greenhouse would be

removed. Curatorial space would be provided in a structure sited by the existing greenhouse. Otherwise, no new construction would be provided for the buildings or grounds.

The additional footpaths shown on the site plan map are only representational; exact locations would be determined by an onsite survey to ensure minimal damage to trees, shrubs, plants, and archeological or cultural landscape values.

Except for necessary maintenance work, public parking (with designated spaces for persons with disabilities), staff parking for the main house, and roads and walkways would remain as they now exist (gravel surfaces). Access for persons with disabilities would be provided throughout the Melrose site where modifications would not adversely affect the architectural integrity of the structures or the historic qualities of the structures or grounds.

Historical, archeological, and architectural investigations and evaluations on all structures and the grounds would properly document the site's history. This intensive research, including a rewrite of the existing inadequate national historic landmark nomination, would be necessary before work on the main house or the grounds begins. In some instances, research results may change proposed development. The existing landscape would be preserved, maintained, and/or restored based on the cultural landscape report that would be done.

The "Cultural Resource Management" section contains further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.

## WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX

William Johnson was a free black man living and working in Natchez before the Civil War. His business and personal diary offers a vignette of the life of a free black in antebellum Natchez from a perspective not often documented in the historical record.

The first floor of the William Johnson house would be rehabilitated and opened to visitors for interpreting black history. (See table 1 at the end of this section for a definition of rehabilitation, preservation, etc.) The exhibits would explore various aspects of black history in Natchez, from slavery to modern times. Special emphasis would be given to seeing Natchez through the eyes of William Johnson. (The interior upper floors would be minimally stabilized for possible future use.) (See William Johnson Complex, Alternative 1 map.)

The first floor of the McCallum house (adjacent to the William Johnson house) would be rehabilitated and used for visitor contact/interpretation (as explained above under visitor center). Restrooms would also be provided in this building. (The interior upper floors would be minimally stabilized for possible future use.) Part of the first floor would be space for staff use.

The interior first floors of the William Johnson house and the McCallum house would be designed to restore historic finishes (for example, plaster, windows, woodwork, and floors) rather than furnishing them to the historic period.

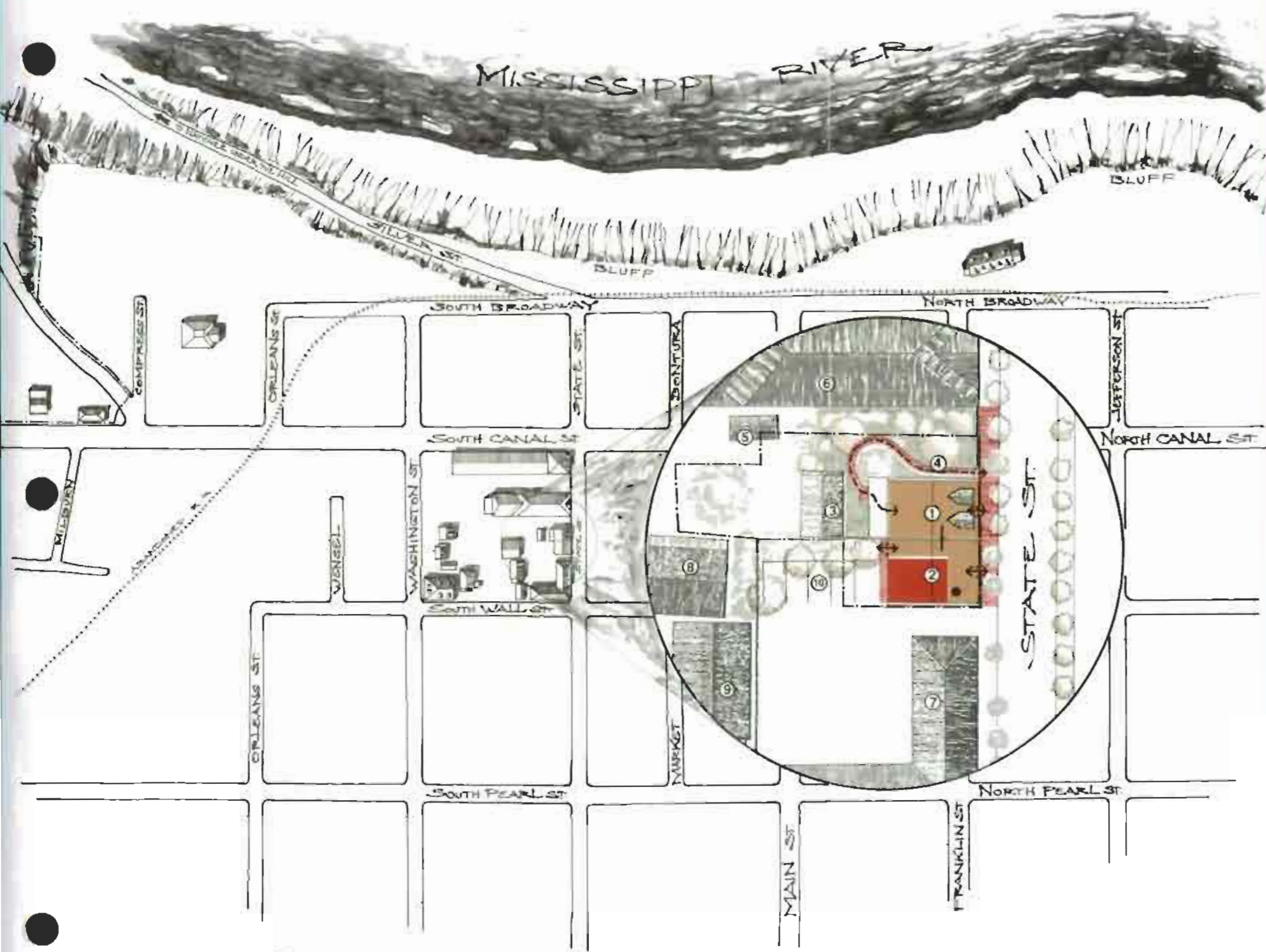
Both the William Johnson house and the McCallum house would undergo historical and architectural investigations to better understand the history of the site and its inhabitants. (See "Cultural Resource Management" section for further information about studies and actions

relating to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.) Both structures would require considerable analysis and stabilization before use can occur. The William Johnson house would be restored to its exterior appearance during the antebellum period if adequate architectural information exists to make that feasible. The exterior of the McCallum house would be rehabilitated unless documentation becomes available that will allow an accurate restoration.

The dependency behind the William Johnson house would be stabilized and have a new roof, and it would be researched historically and architecturally. It might then be used for interpretation.

The grounds around the William Johnson complex (all three structures) would undergo historical and archeological research necessary to understand how the complex functioned as a whole and determine if other outbuildings existed during the antebellum period. (Also see the "Natural Resource Management" section for further information about studies and actions related to preserving and protecting the natural resources.) If it is in keeping with the cultural landscape and/or archeological values of the site, about 1,200 square feet of open space along the northwest wall of the main house would be developed as a gathering place, with seating and native shade trees and shrubs. A brick walkway would be provided from the rear of the house to State Street. Shade trees, consistent with trees that were planted in antebellum Natchez, would also be recommended along State Street, along the wall of the old depot, and in the staff parking area.

For security purposes the William Johnson complex would be fenced. Data from historical research would determine what kind of fence would be used. In the



- 1 WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE  
restore exterior to antebellum period • repair first floor for exhibits on black history • make first floor accessible to visitors with disabilities • minimal stabilization of upper floors for future use
- 2 MCCALLUM HOUSE  
repair exterior • repair first floor for visitor contact station • NPS office and storage • make entire accessible for visitors with disabilities • minimal stabilization of upper floors for future use
- 3 DEPENDENCY  
stabilize structure • possible visitor use
- 4 OPEN SPACE  
develop open space along northwest wall of house as gathering place, with shade and seating
- 5 UTILITY SHED
- 6 OLD DEPOT AND FREIGHT STATION WITH SHOPS
- 7 BRICK OFFICE BUILDING (single story)
- 8 PRIVATE RESIDENCE (single story)
- 9 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- 10 STAFF PARKING

- ↔ VISITOR CIRCULATION
- PUBLIC RESTROOM
- BRICK PATHPAVING
- OPEN TO VISITORS (FIRST FLOOR ONLY)
- NPS STAFF
- LAWN AREA WITH SEATING AND SHADE
- EXISTING PLANTS
- SUGGESTED PLANTING—SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS
- NPS BOUNDARY



**ALTERNATIVE 1**  
**WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX**

ON HIGHWAY  
**NATCHEZ**

interim, especially during restoration work, a chain link fence would be used.

Access to the structures and grounds would require about 200 square feet of new brick walkway. Access for the mobility impaired would be provided to the first floors of the two main buildings.

Parking for staff would be provided behind the McCallum house. Because the parking area belongs to the adjacent landowner, a cooperative agreement would have to be arranged between the Park Service and the landowner. Parking for visitors with disabilities would be on State Street.

Ultimate use of spaces in all three buildings, however, would depend on the results of historical research and structural and architectural studies. Some or all of the proposed use might not occur because of structural deficiencies.

## **FORT ROSALIE**

Fort Rosalie was the site of the initial European settlement at Natchez. Walking through the site offers views of the mighty Mississippi and the chance to enjoy open space. The Fort Rosalie area is being acquired by the Park Service. No aboveground features of Fort Rosalie have been positively identified.

Under this alternative, the Fort Rosalie site would be established as open space through the removal of all structures except the Stietenroth house and through subsequent landscaping (see Fort Rosalie Alternative 1 map). The historic Stietenroth house would be rehabilitated for use as NPS administrative headquarters. (See table 1 at the end of this section for a definition of rehabilitation, preservation, etc.)

Structures that are on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places would be moved to a suitable location, if determined feasible in consultation with the state historic preservation office. Full documentation of historic structures would be undertaken for all structures removed from the site. Structures eligible for the national register may lose this designation if they are moved from their original location. If it is not possible to remove one or more of these historic structures, the Park Service would find uses for these structures — such as for NPS staff housing, storage, administration, or possibly visitor use.

The National Park Service and the state historic preservation office have already agreed informally that 13 of the buildings currently on the Fort Rosalie site could be demolished because they are either noncontributing, intrusive, or so marginal that they do not warrant preservation. The Park Service is in the process of seeking formal determinations of national register eligibility of the structures on Fort Rosalie. The Park Service would continue to consult with the state historic preservation office throughout this process.

An interim *Land Protection Plan* for the park was approved in June 1991 with the intention of revising it to reflect recommendations or ideas that come out of this general management plan.

The mid-level area of Fort Rosalie (between D.A. Biglane Street and the bluff and above Natchez Under-the-Hill) would be returned to open space (with removal of the parking lot). Any remnants of the box factory would be removed for safety reasons. No visitor facilities would be provided; however, the Park Service would encourage independent visitor use

and provide occasional tours or talks. Ownership of the right-of-way for the existing road leading from Under-the-Hill to Canal Street, and associated maintenance responsibilities, would remain with the city.

Archeological investigations would be conducted to locate the fort site accurately and to answer any questions about the fort's inhabitants that cannot adequately be answered through historical research. The archeological investigations themselves could be interpreted, possibly through wayside exhibits, and could become an educational experience, for example interpreting the archeological process and the city's history using findings and artifacts. If archeological research at the Fort Rosalie site identifies other detailed aspects of the Natchez Indians or French exploration and colonization, interpretive treatment might be expanded. (See "Cultural Resource Management" section for further information about studies and actions related to preserving and protecting the cultural resources.)

There would be a visually compatible fence (that is, wood and not chain link) parallel to the bluff edge for visitor safety, which would be set back in compliance with needed bluff stabilization measures. There would be wrought iron gates at the entrances to what were Green and Rumble streets, which would be open at the staff's discretion. The fence and gate design and materials would be appropriate to the site.

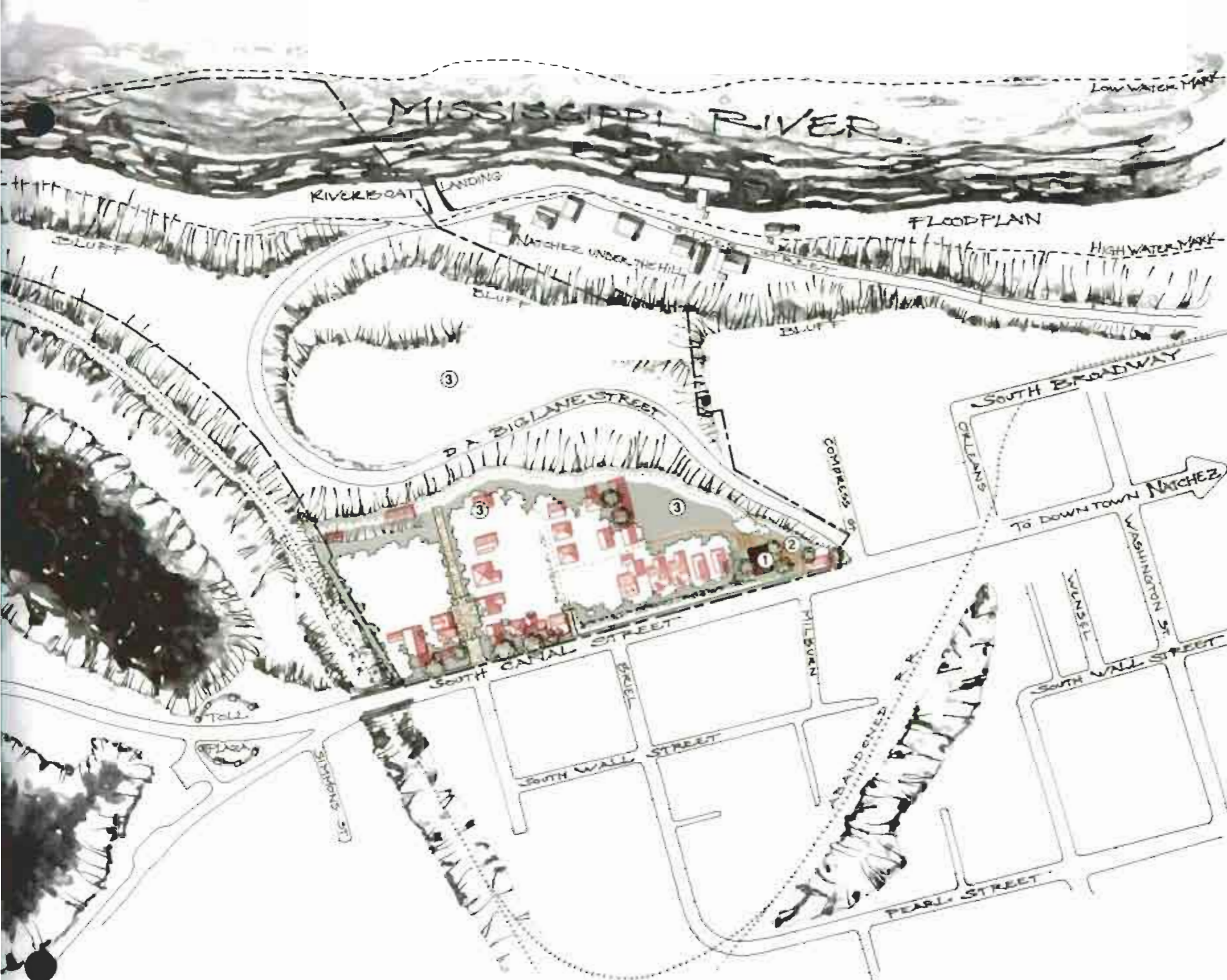
The former streets would be mowed turf that would merge with the 30-foot turfed bluff mitigation zone (where there would be no large trees). Rumble Street would turn into a woodland path that would access the bluff and fort site. Vestiges of both streets would remain. Entries to both former streets would be surfaced with

native gravel that is the color of bluffs. A 12-car parking area, also surfaced with native gravel, would be at the former Green Street entrance.

Much of the turfed area would be maintained as mowed lawn or open field, and the remainder of the area would be allowed to return to woodland vegetation. Trees would be planted along Canal Street, and the understory would be cleared to create a more parklike setting.

Substantial bluff stabilization activities would be necessary at Fort Rosalie. Generic bluff stabilization measures, which include controlling all sources of water near the bluff (within two city blocks), removing large trees close to the bluff, and possibly placing a grassy, 18-inch dike about 5 feet from the edge of the bluff to help control runoff, would be taken to help protect the bluff, the Under-the-Hill area, and the archeological remains at Fort Rosalie from further erosion. An integrated approach to bluff protection would be essential — including protection measures for the top, slope, and toe of the bluff.

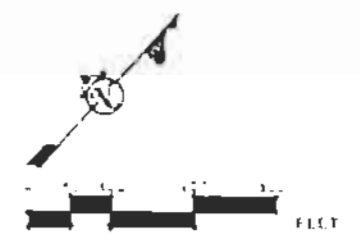
Additional study would be needed to determine what site-specific measures are necessary. Mitigation measures might include both geological and biological engineering. For example, it is possible to determine the most stable slope for the bluff, based on the specific geology of the area. Mitigation might include putting the bluff at a different angle and/or removing vegetation that aggravates bluff erosion and replacing it with vegetation that would help stabilize the bluff. (See later "Natural Resource Management" section for further information about studies and actions related to protecting and preserving the natural resources.)



- 1 STIETENROTH HOUSE (NPS administrative headquarters)
- 2 STAFF PARKING (limited)
- 3 INFORMAL INTERPRETIVE AREA

Site would be accessible to persons with disabilities.  
 Appropriate bluff stabilization and mitigation measures would be undertaken.  
 All but one building would be removed (by relocation or demolition); however, selected structures might be retained for NPS use.  
 No visitor facilities would be provided.  
 Archaeological and historical studies would be conducted.

- PROPOSED FOR REMOVAL
- DRIVEWAY FOR STAFF USE
- WOODLAND TRAIL
- GREEN STREET PARKING AND PROMENADE NATIVE GRAVEL SURFACE
- FENCE LOW IMPACT NONTRUSIVE
- WROUGHT IRON GATES
- NPS BOUNDARY
- BLUFF STABILIZATION/MITIGATION REMOVE TREES
- AREA MAINTAINED AS LAWN OR FIELD
- WOODLAND VEGETATION
- TREES AND CLEARED UNDERSTORY



# ALTERNATIVE 1 FORT ROSALIE

# NATCHEZ



## **COTTON PLANTATION COMPLEX**

An understanding of cotton production at plantations owned by Natchez planters is essential to understanding the importance of Natchez during the antebellum era. Adequate interpretation of this subject would be presented through media and personal services at Melrose and the William Johnson complex.

## **UNDER-THE-HILL**

Reference to Under-the-Hill and its relation to Natchez would be made through the video program at Melrose, exhibits at the William Johnson complex, and, with permission and cooperation of the landowners, interpretive media at the site.

## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

The Park Service might enter into a few cooperative agreements with landowners to preserve or formally assist in the preservation of historically significant structures/properties in Natchez due to limitations in funds and staff. Any assistance provided would be strictly on an "as time and funds permit" basis.

The park staff would work cooperatively with the city of Natchez on issues such as signs and preservation and interpretation of historic resources. As funds and staff time permit, technical assistance would be provided. The park staff would recommend concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction with the city of Natchez.

## **PRESERVATION DISTRICT**

The preservation district (established by a previous study) would not be modified

(see General Development, Alternative 1 map at the end of this section).

## **NPS HEADQUARTERS/ ADMINISTRATION**

Park administrative headquarters would be in the Stietenroth house at Fort Rosalie. The 2,300-square-foot structure would provide ample space to accommodate the four employees who would work there and the associated operational and storage requirements. The building is in excellent condition and would require relatively minor rehabilitation. Adjacent parking space is limited; therefore, parking would be provided only for staff and those who have official business at NPS headquarters. Additional parking, if needed, would be down the block at Green Street — only a 2- or 3-minute walk.

Current park staff consists of a superintendent, a chief of interpretation and visitor services, an administrative support assistant, a secretary, a curator, a museum aide, three maintenance mechanics, a supervisory park ranger (interpretation), two rangers, and five temporary seasonals. This represents approximately 17 full-time equivalent employees, at an annual salary of \$489,000, including benefits. No additional employees would be recommended under alternative 1.

## **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Restoration and development would, ideally, occur in the following priority order.

Development at Melrose.

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Restoration/rehabilitation of and interpretive exhibits in the William Johnson complex.

Development of the Fort Rosalie site, including rehabilitation of the Stietenroth house for administrative headquarters.

In the meantime, plans are moving forward for the acquisition of Fort Rosalie.

**COSTS**

Total costs for development under this alternative would be approximately \$5,259,000, including costs related to interpretation. See appendix E for details.

## ALTERNATIVE 2: PARTNERSHIP PARK (PROPOSED ACTION)

### EMPHASIS

As in alternative 1, under alternative 2 the same stories of a rich cotton planter's life, the workings of an estate household, urban slavery, and the free black society would be told at Melrose and the William Johnson complex. However, with the addition of visitor use and interpretation at Fort Rosalie, the larger story of Natchez and its beginnings would also be told. The story of plantation slavery, so important to understanding the story of Natchez, would be told through interpretive media.

Also under this alternative, the city would in essence become the park. The Park Service would provide technical assistance for preserving and interpreting many historic properties within the city; in turn, property owners would be encouraged to incorporate the recommendations for preservation treatments and interpretive tours.

The emphasis of alternative 2 would be to provide a comprehensive visitor experience throughout the city — at historically or culturally significant properties (mostly privately owned) and at Melrose, the William Johnson complex, Fort Rosalie, and an NPS visitor center. The focus of the story would be Natchez from its beginnings to the present, a much broader treatment than in alternative 1. In addition, there would be more restoration, interpretive media, and personal services, including costumed interpretation and living history, and many more sites at which to more effectively tell the story of Natchez.

Alternative 2 represents a partnership concept between the Park Service and the people of Natchez.

Visitors coming into Natchez would be directed to the visitor center (see below). There they would find information about the other NPS sites as well as the various resources in the city. Visitors could then decide which resources to visit in whatever order they wished.

### VISITOR CENTER

Questions have been raised during the planning process regarding the need for an NPS visitor center in Natchez. During scoping sessions, meetings with various groups and organizations, and public meetings, the need for a visitor center has been repeatedly affirmed. The most commonly asserted reasons for a visitor center were to

- provide a sense of arrival to Natchez, something that currently does not exist
- provide a central location where visitors can be oriented to the city and its resources (Currently, visitors typically just happen upon one of the places where they can get information — for example the state welcome center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, or NPS headquarters; the information visitors receive is often different and sometimes conflicting.)
- provide a logical overview of the city's history and resources

The visitor center would serve to pull the various themes/stories of Natchez together through personal services and interpretive media, including a video projection program in the theater. It would be the place for the interpretive program to focus on the "big picture" of Natchez' history and significance and to place individual sites in a larger context. The interpretive program at the visitor center would also present those themes/stories that are not represented at a specific site.

It is important to note that the visitor center would not duplicate the services, programs, tours, etc. being provided by Natchez Pilgrimage Tours or by other publicly or privately managed historic sites. In addition to thoroughly familiarizing the visitor with major interpretive themes and how they relate to cultural sites and properties in and around Natchez, a primary goal for a visitor center would be to present visitors with the various options for visiting sites and properties regardless of what organization or group owns or manages them. This would allow visitors to make the best use of the time they plan to spend in Natchez, whether that is a few hours, a day, or an entire week.

An easy-to-find location is critical in establishing the visitor center as a point of arrival. It should be a first stop for people, not something they find after visiting other sites. An information desk and lobby displays generally provide the information/orientation functions. Interpretive media (for example, exhibits, audiovisual programs, and publications) relate aspects of the major themes and place them in proper context. These media usually have greater impact when associated with nearby resources that can be seen. In short, the visitor center should be easy to find, associated with the significant resources, and large enough to

perform its functions. See appendix C for more details about requirements for a visitor center.

In the course of the planning process in 1990-91, several sites for a downtown visitor center were examined. Considerable analysis of the railroad depot at Broadway and Franklin streets was done. However, uncertainty over the development of gambling facilities downtown and the final determination of the Natchez Trace Parkway route into Natchez have precluded a final decision on a visitor center site. As of December 1991, the railroad depot is no longer being considered for a visitor center because of the environmental issues surrounding bluff erosion (see appendix F).

The visitor center function would be combined with space to be acquired for the park's administrative headquarters (see discussion under "NPS Headquarters/Administration" section).

## MELROSE

Built by a wealthy planter, Melrose symbolizes the apex of the cotton-based culture and the dominance of Natchez in the King Cotton economy. The story at Melrose would show how a wealthy cotton planter lived and tell how this wealth depended on cotton crops and the slave labor system on plantations that were outside of Natchez.

After driving down the slightly realigned entrance road, visitors arriving at Melrose would be directed toward the carriage house en route to the parking area (see Melrose, Alternative 2 map). At the carriage house visitors would purchase tickets to the main house and obtain a



- 1 VISITOR ARRIVAL AND PARKING  
gravel paved, hardened, compacted, well lit  
• directed parking with convenient access to carriage house-visitor contact building • added trees for shade • hardened, compacted parking surface • no curbs or asphalt • parking for visitors with disabilities
- 2 TICKET BOOTH  
remove
- 3 MANS HOUSE  
remove in restoration period • guided tours of both floors
- 4 EXISTING STAFF PARKING AREA  
remove with openlaw
- 5 DAIRY  
remove in restoration period • interpretation
- 6 PRIVY (next to dairy)  
remove • transfer visitors public restrooms and visitor privy
- 7 KITCHEN  
remove in restoration period • interpretation
- 8 SMOKESHED  
remove exterior • interpret use flag or conditioning equipment
- 9 CARRIAGE HOUSE  
remove exterior, roof for trail visits  
• contactable overhead • access to Melrose only • ticket purchase • cooperating association sales • restroom
- 10 STORAGE SHED  
preserve
- 11 NORTH SLAVE CABIN  
partially remove exterior • interpret interior for administrative use
- 12 SOUTH SLAVE CABIN  
remove exterior and interior • 2 of 3 rooms furnished as slave quarters • third room for artifacts and open interpretation space
- 13 SLAVE PRIVY  
remove exterior
- 14 MAINTENANCE FACILITY  
new maintenance facility for estate park  
• paved, enclosed maintenance yard • parking area • storage shed • facility screened from parkway
- 15 SERVICE ROAD  
new service road to maintenance yard  
• designed to avoid railroad intersection • old railroad cross-tie structure equipment reimagined
- 16 CONNECTING SPUR ROAD  
grass paving remains existing road surface for emergency use • removable curbs and scales
- 17 DOCK  
remove
- 18 GAZEBO  
remove
- 19 STABLE  
preserve • interpretation of Melrose as a working estate
- 20 CISTERN 21  
remove
- 21 STAFF PARKING  
hardened, compacted parking surface (no curbs or asphalt) • pedestrian path to back of estate
- 22 OPERATIONAL STORAGE  
temperature-controlled history unit

- MPS BOUNDARY
- ROAD (VISITOR ACCESS)
- ROAD (STAFF ACCESS AND VISITOR FOOTPATH)
- SERVICE ROAD (STAFF ACCESS)
- OVERGROWN ROAD / PATH
- CROPLAND AND MARDING (VISITOR ACCESS)
- PUBLIC RESTROOM
- BUILDING WITH INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION
- MAINTENANCE BUILDING
- WOODLAND VEGETATION
- GRASS PAVING



## ALTERNATIVE 2 MELROSE ESTATE

# NATCHEZ

map and information about touring the grounds; restrooms, a few exhibits, and a cooperating association sales outlet would also be in the carriage house. The exhibits would emphasize the relationship of Melrose to the cotton plantations owned by John T. McMurrin and the relationship of Melrose to other wealthy cotton planters' estates in Natchez; introduce the various owners of Melrose; explain why Melrose is significant and why it has been so well preserved; and describe Melrose in the old movies that portray the images, myths, and realities of Natchez. Unlike alternative 1, there would be no video projection program offered at the Melrose site.

Interior changes to the carriage house would follow extensive recordation of its appearance, using photography and measured drawings. The exterior would be restored to an appropriate period that would allow continued use of the existing doors. (See table 1 at the end of this section for a definition of restoration, preservation, etc.) The ticket booth in the visitor parking area would be removed.

From the carriage house, visitors would go to the main house for a guided tour of both floors. The McMurrin period is felt to be the most significant period to interpret. The emphasis of the house tour would be further defined following the historic furnishing report called for in the "Cultural Resource Management" section (later in this document). Architectural investigations would be needed to guide the implementation of this report.

If access to the second floor cannot be provided, programmatic accessibility (see appendix B) would be provided.

Upon leaving the main house, visitors could tour the dependency buildings and grounds, the interpretation of which would focus on the antebellum period and include the operation of a cotton planter's

estate, its dependence on slave labor, and its relation to the Natchez community.

The main house and selected portions of the grounds at Melrose would be restored to an appropriate period, based on historical, archeological, and architectural research. (See "Cultural Resource Management" section for further information about studies and actions related to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.) The kitchen and dairy would be restored and furnished to the antebellum period provided further study indicates that this is possible. The smokehouse next to the kitchen would be restored on the exterior but would continue to house the mechanical equipment for the complex. The privy, with exterior restoration, would be maintained as is — half as a public restroom and half as a historic privy. The cisterns would be restored. Should restoration to a specific period prove infeasible, the house and grounds would be maintained in their present condition. The state historic preservation office would be consulted on any decisions made regarding the period to which the buildings would be restored.

The north slave cabin would be partially restored on the exterior and rehabilitated on the interior for use as housing for park staff to provide onsite security or as additional onsite administrative space. The interior and exterior of the south slave cabin would be restored and open for visitor use. Two of the three rooms would be furnished as slave quarters (pre 1865) if documentation can be found to accurately do so; the third room would serve as an exhibit area and open interpretive space. The slave privy would be restored on the exterior and preserved on the interior. As in alternative 1, the stable would be open to visitors, and text panels inside would interpret key features and functions of a working estate.

The gardens and grounds would be open for the public to enjoy. The northern boundary of the estate would be fenced to protect the grounds from encroachment and trash dumping that currently occurs. The gazebo in the nearby pond would be removed. The small dock at the south end of the pond would remain. The pond and dam would be managed according to NPS guidelines, *Dams and Appurtenant Works — Maintenance, Operation, and Safety* (NPS-40).

A cultural landscape report would be done, which would provide recommendations on managing/ preserving/restoring the gardens and grounds. The report would determine what part of the estate would be essential to achieving the management objective for Melrose, which requires preservation and restoration of the structures, collections, and grounds (see previous "Summary of Management Objectives for the Park" section). This report would also identify the placement of fences, gardens, and other features that would contribute to the visitor's understanding of a working estate. The Park Service would coordinate with the city and others having lands and structures that can be seen from the core area of the estate to minimize visually intrusive elements. See later "Natural Resource Management" section for further information about other actions related to the natural resources.

The building used as a maintenance building (formerly a barn/stable) has been determined to be a contributing historic element to the Melrose National Historic Landmark; it would be preserved and/or restored. The greenhouse, a noncontributing nonhistoric element, would be removed. A new maintenance complex

would be constructed in the open field adjacent to Melrose-Montebello Parkway. The new 3,500-square-foot structure would have a vehicle repair bay, a carpentry bay, an office, a multipurpose room for lunches, meetings, and work sessions, storage space, a toilet and shower, utilities, and, if necessary, a greenhouse.

There would also be a paved yard (about 6,500 square feet) for vehicle and equipment parking and a covered storage area (about 1,250 square feet). The existing path from the old maintenance area to the back of the estate and new staff parking would be upgraded. The entire complex (about 25,000 square feet) would be surrounded by a 7-foot chain link security fence. Although the field where the complex would be is already partially screened from the parkway by trees and shrubs, proper siting of the complex and additional trees and shrubs would make it even less visible. The row of mature cedar trees along the maintenance road should be retained to provide screening. (The map locations of the maintenance complex and relocated service road/parkway intersection are approximate.) The complex would be sited, among other factors, to avoid removing major stands of trees and harming any state-listed species or wetlands and to take advantage of existing vegetative screening.

The maintenance complex site would be advantageous because it would separate the maintenance and visitor use functions — the complex and the historic buildings would be separated by several heavily wooded acres that effectively screen out the audiovisual impacts of the maintenance function. A vegetation

survey would be completed before final design.

The existing service road would link the maintenance area with the rest of the Melrose complex. However, a new service road/parkway intersection would be constructed to provide safe line-of-sight distance, the existing intersection being unsafe because of its proximity to the railroad crossing. The service road segment near the intersection that would no longer be used would be left to nature to revegetate.

Because this new complex would serve as the central maintenance facility for the entire park (Melrose, William Johnson complex, and Fort Rosalie), it is designed and sited to accommodate additional facilities as the park expands. The 25,000-square-foot complex could easily accommodate additional office space, a metal working bay, or more covered storage, if necessary.

The park's curatorial storage facility would be in an abandoned field near the greenhouse and adjacent to the existing service road. This area is close enough to the main complex of historic buildings to allow curatorial personnel easy access to displayed furnishings and other exhibits at Melrose but is also screened from the main visitor use area by dense woods. Additional trees and shrubs could be added if necessary to make the site less visible. The facility would be an insulated, pre-engineered structure containing approximately 1,200 square feet of storage area. Eventually it might be necessary to double the size of the facility.

Visitor parking for the estate, about 1 acre, would remain in its existing location but would be altered to accommodate 35 single-space vehicles, 10 oversize vehicles, and two buses (including

parking for visitors with disabilities). Design of the proposed parking area would direct the visitor to the carriage house for orientation and information. Especially because Melrose is a national historic landmark, it is important that the parking, although relatively close to the existing structures, be well screened by vegetation. Overflow parking (of surface stabilized materials) would be provided on the area adjacent to and south of the visitor parking area.

The entrance road, service road, and parking area would be of surface stabilized materials that are similar in color to the existing brown gravel or local loess soils. (Alternatives to standard concrete and asphalt paving should be used.) Curbs and changes in grade should be avoided. The recently added staff parking area north of the kitchen that is historically out of context would be removed. Existing pedestrian walkways would be upgraded, and new ones would connect parking with the carriage house, the stable, the slave cabins, and the main house. The walkways would be of surface stabilized materials for improved accessibility. Approximately 200 feet of the gravel road that connects the entry road to the circular estate road would be stabilized turf, and removable bollards would prevent public access (but permit access by emergency vehicles).

The proposed roads and footpaths shown on the site plan map are only representational; exact locations would be determined by an onsite survey to ensure minimal damage to valued trees, shrubs, and plants.

Shade is an important consideration in Natchez for the comfort and health of visitors. Therefore, it is highly recommended that native shade trees be planted in the parking area and along pedestrian paths. Such plantings would



be in accord with the findings of the proposed cultural landscape report. Seating should also be provided throughout the grounds. Any changes or additions to the existing pedestrian and vehicle circulation patterns would be preceded by archeological evaluations, a cultural landscape report, and a vegetation survey. Research results might change the proposed development.

Historical, archeological, and architectural investigations and evaluations on all structures and the grounds would properly document the site's history. This intensive research, including rewriting the existing inadequate national historic landmark nomination, would be necessary before work on the main house or the grounds begins. In some instances, research results may change proposed development. The existing landscape would be preserved, maintained, and/or restored based on the cultural landscape report.

Access for persons with disabilities would be provided throughout the Melrose site where modifications would not adversely affect the architectural integrity of the structures or the historic qualities of the structures or grounds.

### **WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX**

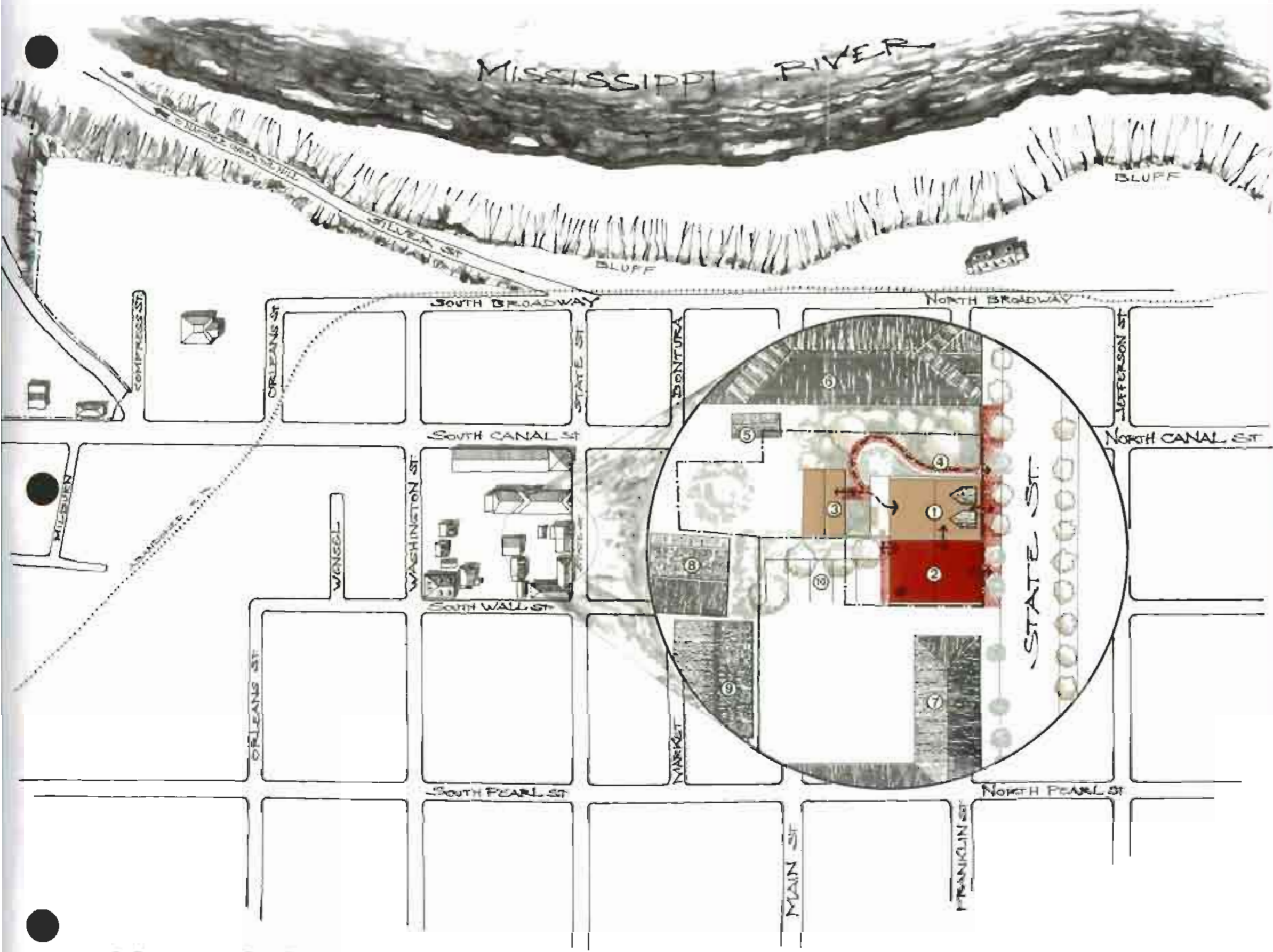
William Johnson was a free black man living and working in Natchez before the Civil War. His business and personal diary offers a vignette of Natchez life from a very unique perspective.

As in alternative 1, the first floor of the William Johnson house would be rehabilitated (see table 1 at the end of this section for definitions of rehabilitation, preservation, etc.) and contain exhibits interpreting the black history themes of Natchez, with special emphasis on seeing







Natchez through the life of William Johnson (see William Johnson Complex, Alternatives 2 and 3 map). The exhibits would explore various aspects of black history in Natchez, from slavery to modern times.


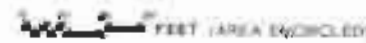
If enough data can be found on its historic appearance and if sufficient original furnishings can be located, the second floor would be furnished as William Johnson's residence. The interior finishes (for example, plaster, windows, woodwork, floors) of the second floor would be restored. A historic furnishings report (which would include the appropriate interior finishes) would be needed. The third floor would be stabilized and preserved. There would be tours of the residence, supplemented by audio programs or a brochure using excerpts from Johnson's diary. The rear exit would be onto the porch and then to a brick walkway that would go to the dependency and State Street. The exterior of the William Johnson house would be restored to the antebellum period if sufficient historical and architectural evidence is available or can be adequately documented through architectural investigations.

The McCallum house has been substantially altered on the ground floor exterior and interior, and much of the masonry throughout the structure is unstable. Partial reconstruction of masonry walls might be required. The building would be returned to a safe and useful condition through rehabilitation and, if possible, restoration of historic finishings. However, if sufficient historical and architectural evidence is available, or can be adequately documented through research and/or architectural investigation, the portions of the exterior visible from the public right-of-way (the primary facade and east sidewall) would be restored to the antebellum period. The



- 1 WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE  
restore exterior to antebellum period • rehab first floor for exhibits on black history • restore second floor and furnish as William Johnson's residence • provide tours and audio programs • provide rest with onto porch and brick walkway to dependency
- 2 McCALLUM HOUSE  
rehab exterior • rehab first floor for exhibits and theater with film on black history • rehab second floor for NPS office and storage
- 3 DEPENDENCY  
restore exterior to antebellum period • rehab first and second floors
- 4 OPEN SPACE  
develop open space along northwest wall of house as gathering place, with shade and seating
- 5 UTILITY SHED
- 6 OLD DEPOT AND FREIGHT STATION WITH SHOPS
- 7 BRICK OFFICE BUILDING (single story)
- 8 PRIVATE RESIDENCE (single story)
- 9 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- 10 STAFF PARKING

←→ VISITOR CIRCULATION  
 ● PUBLIC RESTROOM  
 BRICK PATH/PAVING  
 GREY TO VISITORS  
 NPS STAFF SECOND FLOOR  
 LAWN AREA WITH SEATING AND SHADE  
 EXISTING PLANTS  
 SUGGESTED PLANTING SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS  
 --- NPS BOUNDARY


 FEET (AREA ENCLOSED)

ALTERNATIVES 2 & 3  
WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX

NATCHEZ

ground floor of the McCallum house would be adapted to orient visitors to the Johnson site and would contain an entrance lobby, a small theater to present a video projection program on the black history of Natchez, accessible public restrooms, and possibly a small cooperating association sales area. The second floor would be rehabilitated for use as NPS offices and storage; the third floor would be stabilized.

The ca. 1890s dependency would be thoroughly researched historically and architecturally. Archeological testing on the first floor has revealed the foundation and floor of the original kitchen building, built by Johnson in the 1840s. Additional investigation would determine the extent of the remains and the feasibility of incorporating them into an exhibit. The exterior would be restored to its 1890 appearance. The first-floor interior would be rehabilitated for interpretation, and the second floor interior would be rehabilitated for use as NPS offices and storage.

Primary visitor access and egress to the ground level of all three structures would be from the sidewalk along State Street. Approximately 200 feet of new walkways would connect all three structures. Access for visitors with disabilities would also be provided to all ground floor public spaces in the three structures as well as visitor use areas on the grounds. Planning and design for access to the second floor of the William Johnson house would take into account the needs of the disabled but would depend on the results of historical, architectural, and engineering studies.

For security purposes the William Johnson complex would be fenced. Data from historical research would determine what kind of fence would be used. In the interim, especially during restoration and rehabilitation work, a chain link fence

would be used. In addition, electronic security and fire detection systems would be installed in all three buildings.

Limited staff parking would be provided on NPS property directly behind the McCallum house. If additional staff parking is required, or if additional vehicular access to the site is needed, it would be necessary to negotiate cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, purchase the land in fee, or purchase easements. Parking for visitors with disabilities would be on State Street.

The grounds of the complex would undergo historical and archeological research to determine how they functioned during the antebellum period. Recent archeological investigations have determined that other structures were on the site before the William Johnson house. Although this information might be interpreted, it would not overshadow the black history story. Ultimate use of spaces in all three buildings, however, would depend on the results of historical research and structural and architectural studies. Some or all of the proposed use may not occur because of structural deficiencies.

As guided by a cultural landscape report, landscaping and site work would be designed to allow for maximum use of the site with no damage to the resources. About 1,200 square feet of open space along the northwest wall of the main house would be developed as a gathering place, with seating and native shade trees and shrubs. A brick walk would be provided from the rear of the house and the dependency to State Street. Shade trees, consistent with trees that were planted in antebellum Natchez, would also be recommended along State Street, along the wall of the old depot, and in the staff parking area. These landscaping recommendations would be subject to

changes based on information from future studies and research. The "Natural Resource Management" section contains further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving the natural resources.

Thorough historical and archeological studies would be completed before implementing any actions. The "Cultural Resource Management" section contains further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.

## **FORT ROSALIE**

Fort Rosalie was the site of initial European settlement at Natchez. Walking through the site offers views of the mighty Mississippi and the chance to enjoy open space. The Fort Rosalie area is being acquired by the Park Service. No aboveground features of Fort Rosalie have been positively identified.

All structures would be removed except the Stietenroth house and one or two other historic buildings that would be used for visitor contact, NPS staff quarters, or other park purposes. The Stietenroth house would be rehabilitated for use as interim park administrative headquarters and later visitor use/staff housing. (See table 1 at the end of this section for definitions of rehabilitation, preservation, etc.)

Structures that are on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places would be moved to a suitable location, if determined feasible in consultation with the state historic preservation office. Historic structures would be documented before removal from the site. Structures on or eligible for

the national register may lose this designation if they are moved from their original location. If it is not possible to remove one or more of these historic structures, the Park Service would find uses for them — such as staff housing, storage, or possibly visitor use.

The National Park Service and the state historic preservation office have already agreed informally that 13 of the buildings currently on the Fort Rosalie site could be demolished because they are either noncontributing, intrusive, or so marginal that they do not warrant preservation. The Park Service is in the process of seeking formal determinations of national register eligibility of the structures on Fort Rosalie. The Park Service will continue to consult with the state historic preservation office throughout this process.

An interim *Land Protection Plan* for the park was approved in June 1991, with the intention of revising it to reflect any substantive recommendations or ideas resulting from this completed general management plan.

A more parklike setting would be created at Fort Rosalie (see Fort Rosalie, Alternative 2 map). Site interpretation and landscape maintenance on the site would be greater in alternative 2 than in alternative 1. Fort Rosalie and the river would be interpreted through a video projection program at the visitor center and through an interpretive trail on the bluff that would have wayside exhibits covering many topics related to the fort and the river. The trail (of surface stabilized materials) would be approximately 1,000 feet long (14,000 square feet). The trail would be set back from the bluff edge and meet all bluff stabilization criteria developed for this area (the critical area for bluff stabilization



- 1 STATEMOUTH HOUSE  
what to retain NPS administrative headquarters and later visitor center housing
- 2 STAFF PARKING  
lot
- 3 PUBLIC PARKING  
provide 25 single and 5 oversize parking spaces, designated space for visitors with disabilities
- 4 PICNIC AREA  
provide picnic tables
- 5 BLUFF INTERPRETIVE TRAIL  
provide interpretive trail with shade trees, seating at viewpoints, and wayside exhibits
- 6 PREMIER NORTHWARD VIEW  
provide premier overlook view
- 7 INFORMAL INTERPRETIVE AREA

Site would be accessible to persons with disabilities.  
 Appropriate bluff stabilization and mitigation measures would be undertaken.  
 All but one or two buildings would be removed.  
 Archeological and historical studies would be conducted.

- PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARKING
- FOOTPATH/INTERPRETIVE TRAIL WITH SHADE TREES, WAYSIDES, AND SEATING AT VIEWPOINTS
- STAFF ACCESS AND PARKING
- PICNIC TABLE
- PUBLIC RESTROOM
- BLUFF EDGE - CRITICAL AREA FOR BLUFF STABILIZATION/MITIGATION MEASURES
- GRASS PATH WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS TO NORTHWEST
- FENCE - LOW IMPACT MOUNTAINVIEW
- NPS BOUNDARY
- RIVERFRONT TRAIL
- AREA MAINTAINED AS LAWN OR FIELD
- WOODLAND VEGETATION
- TREES AND CLEARING LABORATORY

# ALTERNATIVE 2 FORT ROSALIE NATCHEZ

and mitigation measures, including monitoring, is a zone of at least 30 feet).

Access to the trail would be from Canal Street near the Stietenroth house and from a proposed picnic/parking area (see below) in the vicinity of Green Street. The trail would connect with significant points of interest associated with the fort that emerge from archeological and historical studies, and with areas that have significant views of the Mississippi River. Shade and benches would be provided at appropriate viewpoints along the trail. The concrete staircases leading down to the sidewalk along Canal Street would be removed, but the retaining wall along the sidewalk would remain in place.

There would also be a path, accessible to visitors with disabilities, with spectacular views to the northwest, along the bluff. A low-impact, nonintrusive fence would be developed along but set in from the bluff — for visitor safety and in accord with bluff stabilization and mitigation requirements.

The above-mentioned views of and across the Mississippi, some of the most spectacular visual resources in Natchez, are important in providing a more tangible understanding of the historic Natchez landscape. There is a need to make these views available to the visiting public and to preserve them. Protection of these views might require cooperative agreements, scenic easements, air quality management, or other protection measures such as bluff stabilization. (See further discussion in the "Affected Environment" section under "Natchez' Visual Resources" and "Air Quality.")

In the vicinity south of Green Street on the upper bluff, a 10-site wooded picnic area and comfort station would be provided. Parking for approximately 23 vehicles (including spaces for visitors with

disabilities) and five oversize vehicles would serve the picnic area and users of the interpretive trail. Green Street would be obliterated. Approximately 3 acres would be needed for this proposed development. Shade trees would be maintained throughout.

As in alternative 1, the mid-level area of Fort Rosalie (between D.A. Biglane Street and Natchez Under-the-Hill) would be returned to open space (with removal of the parking lot) and any remnants of the box factory would be removed for safety reasons. Ownership of the right-of-way for the existing road leading from Under-the-Hill to Canal Street, and associated maintenance responsibilities, would remain with the city. No visitor facilities would be provided; however, the Park Service would encourage independent visitor use and provide occasional tours or talks.

The lower area of Fort Rosalie, along the Mississippi River, would remain in open, undeveloped space for visitor use. The existing road would be removed and replaced by a trail. The existing trail along the river beyond the road would be upgraded and maintained as necessary to ensure safe use of the area. Depending on the water level and season, this trail might sometimes be underwater. A barrier at the entrance to the trail would prevent vehicles from entering the area. The quiet, parklike walkway would connect to the hustle and bustle development at Under-the-Hill, providing visitors with a different experience.

In general, trees and significant stands of other vegetation throughout Fort Rosalie would be preserved except where the vegetation encourages bluff erosion. Open grassy areas and significant views of the Mississippi River from the bluff would also be maintained. These changes would only be made if information from

the needed cultural landscape report supports such changes. Access for visitors with disabilities would be provided for all walkways and at the picnic area and restrooms.

Archeological investigations would attempt to accurately locate the fort site and structural features associated with the fort, and possibly provide information about the fort's inhabitants. If features associated with the fort can be determined with a high degree of certainty, they would be preserved and interpreted on site through wayside exhibits. The fort would not be reconstructed. As in alternative 1, the archeological investigations themselves could be interpreted and could become an educational experience, for example interpreting the archeological process and the city's history using findings and artifacts. The "Cultural Resource Management" section contains further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.

Substantial bluff stabilization activities would be necessary at Fort Rosalie. These measures, as well as other studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving the natural resources, are described in detail in the later "Natural Resource Management" section.

Vegetation management at Fort Rosalie would be necessary to meet the open space objective identified for the area. Small areas that are used intensively by the public might be mowed on a regular basis. All other open grassy areas would be maintained more as fields than mowed lawns. These areas would only be mowed often enough (once or twice a year) to control the intrusion of woody vegetation. Large areas would be left to reforest with native species.

## **COTTON PLANTATION COMPLEX**

Plantation slavery and cotton production are important keys to understanding the antebellum story of Natchez and the wealth of the Natchez planters. As such, this story would be presented as an integral part of the interpretive media and personal services at the visitor center, Melrose, and the William Johnson complex.

A special history study would be done to provide the extensive data that would be needed to interpret the role of plantation slavery and cotton production in antebellum Natchez.

## **UNDER-THE-HILL**

As part of the cooperative agreements (described below), the Park Service would provide technical and financial assistance to plan and design interpretive media to describe the significance of Under-the-Hill. Media could range from creating wayside exhibits to developing exhibits in one of the existing or future buildings. Construction and maintenance costs could be borne by private developers.

The wayside exhibits could focus on the Natchez Under-the-Hill Historic District and the story of the river, wharf area, boat activity, and the loess bluffs; exhibits could create images of Natchez as a major Mississippi port, the rough-and-tumble reputation of Under-the-Hill, buying and selling slaves, and working on the river. In addition, the story of Under-the-Hill would also be interpreted at the visitor center. The possibility of providing rangers to give tours, depending on the owners' willingness to allow this, would be considered.

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

In the enabling legislation, the Park Service was authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of properties of historical or cultural significance within the preservation district. The agreements shall permit the Park Service to mark, interpret, preserve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of such properties.

Owners of historically or culturally significant properties would work closely with the Park Service towards improved restoration and interpretation of their sites. Significant sites relating to established interpretive themes would first be identified. The appropriate interpretive story to be told at each site would then be defined. The Park Service would provide technical assistance, but not necessarily money, to preserve the property and interpret the story. In return, the owner would agree to make the preservation improvements, open the property to visitors, and provide the agreed-upon interpretive tour.

In addition to property owners, the Park Service could enter into cooperative agreements with state and local government agencies and business entities relating to the preservation and interpretation of resources of historical or cultural significance in the preservation district. These agreements could include issues such as interpretation, preservation, signs, and viewshed protection. The Park Service would hire a management assistant whose primary job would be to work with all cooperating entities and manage the agreements. All cooperating entities would be expected to assist in funding and staffing to implement the agreements.

## NPS Leadership

The Park Service could provide leadership for and offer direct assistance for the following actions:

To make this concept work, the Park Service would take an active approach and when requested would reach out to the citizens of Natchez with offers of assistance in the fields of history, architectural history, interpretation, landscape architecture, curation, decorative arts, planning and design, and historic structure preservation. Property owners within the designated preservation district would be eligible for such assistance if they were willing to help in the preservation and interpretation of the history and historic resources of Natchez.

The Park Service might also sponsor training classes in several fields, including curatorial methods, genealogy, historic preservation techniques, and interpretive methods. The NPS Southeast Region and Harpers Ferry Center offices could offer interpretive training, not only for personnel but also for the professional tour operators and guides in the city.

Curation and historic preservation methodology could be offered to local owners of historic homes. Preservation classes could also be offered by the American Association for State and Local History, in conjunction with the Park Service. The NPS Williamsport Preservation Training Center could offer hands-on courses in preservation techniques for park staff and local citizens needing such training. The Park Service could assist the Natchez Main Street program to help owners of commercial properties acquire preservation grants from both the Park Service and the National Trust for



Historic Preservation. The Park Service could coordinate Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Records (HABS/HAER) studies of historic sites.

The Park Service would recommend concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction with the city of Natchez.

The park staff would also work with Adams County, Mississippi, and with Concordia Parish, Louisiana, regarding zoning for viewshed protection.

Cooperative efforts could ensure that each national register historic district is signed and delineated, with interpretive signs highlighting each district's unique qualities and significance and informational signs providing direction for visitors. The Park Service could provide the planning and design technical assistance for a coordinated sign system, while the city could provide construction dollars.

The Park Service, the city and state, and existing preservation groups could work together to establish criteria for preservation, development, and use within the preservation district. These criteria could result in city ordinances. The Park Service could provide professional technical review and comment on related city plans and designs.

The Park Service would also work closely with the city of Natchez and local civic and community groups to ensure that the Park Service and the city are working toward the preservation goals of the park's establishing legislation.

## City and State Leadership

The city of Natchez could provide leadership for the following actions:

The city could establish design guidelines for restoration and development within the preservation district.

Zoning revisions and permitting relating to development and historic restoration within the preservation district could be implemented by the city.

The city could provide a network of hiking/biking trails throughout the preservation district, with special emphasis along the Spanish promenade and into Fort Rosalie.

The city could provide a coordinated system for visitor parking and mass transportation within the city.

The city could install directional and informational signs throughout the historic districts and provide interpretive media at Natchez Under-the-Hill.

The city could provide for adequate visitor parking and mass transportation and could provide landscape and streetscape improvements.

With the National Park Service, the city could provide concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction for visitor and resource protection.

The city could interpret the City Cemetery. By entering into an agreement with the Veterans Administration, the city could also provide visitor use and interpretation of the National Cemetery.

The state could provide leadership for the following actions:

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is already cooperating with the Park Service in the writing of this general management plan. They could provide the primary link between Fort Rosalie and Grand Village and assist with interpretation of Native American themes.

Adams County in Mississippi and Concordia Parish in Louisiana could provide zoning restrictions to protect the views of the natural landscapes along the Mississippi River north of Natchez.

### **Private Leadership**

Private organizations could provide leadership for the following actions:

The Historic Natchez Foundation could fund research for black history, help provide instruction to interpretive guides, continue to provide technical assistance to the Park Service regarding the history of Natchez, provide advice on historic preservation, provide publications, including a guide to Natchez, and continue to provide moral support.

Business interests could become involved with street improvements in the business district, and with modification of building facades in accordance with design guidelines that would be established by the city. The Main Street program could manage the facade restoration program. Local banks could provide grants and low-interest loans for facade rehabilitation. The Park Service could work with Pilgrimage Tours to develop new tours and programs.

Finally, the advisory commission (established in the legislation for the park) is authorized to consult with the park

superintendent on matters relating to management, restoration, and development of the park at least twice a year. The commission could assist from a political standpoint with implementing the general management plan, especially in providing funds for initial costs and annual operating costs, by coordinating with the congressional delegation and with state and city officials. The commission could provide needed advice to the Park Service before entering into cooperative agreements and could also act as a go-between to solve problems that may arise between the park and the city. In summary, the advisory commission could act as technical advisor and political supporter to the park.

### **PRESERVATION DISTRICT**

The preservation district boundary would be modified to include Grand Village (within a noncontiguous boundary) because of its thematic ties to the interpretive programs. The Park Service would enter into a cooperative agreement with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to ensure that the American Indian story in Natchez is told. (See General Development, Alternative 2 map at the end of this section.)

### **NPS HEADQUARTERS/ ADMINISTRATION**

Interim park administrative headquarters would be in the Stietenroth house at Fort Rosalie. This 2,300-square-foot structure could accommodate the park's administrative/headquarters functions for the next few years but would eventually be combined with the visitor center. The Stietenroth house is in good condition and would require relatively minor rehabilitation. Adjacent parking space is limited; therefore, parking would be provided only

for staff and those who have official business at NPS headquarters. Additional parking, if needed, would be on Green Street. After the permanent administrative headquarters (see below) is identified, the Stietenroth house would be used for visitor services and/or staff housing.

The legislation establishing the park authorizes the secretary to acquire "such additional lands and properties as may be necessary for purposes of an administrative headquarters and administrative site." The building should be about 6,000 square feet to accommodate the park's ultimate level of administrative and visitor center functions. The site should include adequate parking for visitors, staff, and those who have official business at NPS headquarters.

Final selection of a site for the administrative headquarters/visitor center would require further study. However, to facilitate the partnership between the park and the community, and for ease of access to the government, business, and civic leadership of Natchez, it should be in the downtown core, defined as the area bounded by Franklin, Pine, Washington, and Broadway streets (see Designated Area for NPS Administrative Headquarters/Visitor Center Downtown map). The adaptive reuse of an existing building should receive primary consideration for economic, administrative, and leadership reasons.



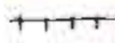

Current park staff consists of a superintendent, a chief of interpretation and visitor services, an administrative support assistant, a secretary, a curator, a museum aide, three maintenance mechanics, a supervisory park ranger (interpretation), two rangers, and five temporary seasonals. This represents approximately 17 full-time-equivalent employees, at an annual salary of \$489,000, including benefits.

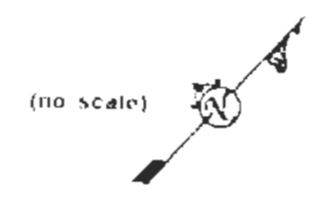
For this alternative, approximately 23 additional full-time-equivalent employees are proposed throughout all divisions, including administration, cultural and natural resource management, interpretation and visitor services, and maintenance. The additional staff would be necessary to manage, maintain, and provide appropriate visitor services for the proposed new and/or expanded facilities at the visitor center/administrative headquarters, Melrose, the William Johnson complex, and Fort Rosalie. Additional staff would also be assigned to work on cooperative agreements with the citizens of Natchez. This would represent a total of 40 full-time-equivalent employees at an annual salary of approximately \$1,135,000. Staffing and costs are preliminary estimates and would be more fully addressed in a future operations plan.

The rate of development for park properties and programs would largely depend on funding and staffing levels. If funding permits the addition of two to three full-time-equivalent employees per year, it would likely take seven to 10 years to reach the desired total of 40 full-time-equivalent employees. If this occurs, it might be possible to implement most of the actions proposed in this alternative within 10 to 15 years, which is the time frame covered by this planning document. If funding and staffing levels see only modest growth over the next decade, the park would still continue to grow and develop, but at a much slower rate. However, if funding and/or staffing levels were to stabilize or be reduced due to budgetary or other considerations beyond the control of the Park Service, implementation of this alternative as it is currently envisioned might not be possible. If that were to occur, it would be appropriate to develop other management alternatives that could be implemented for the park.



- ① FORT ROSALIE
- ② WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX

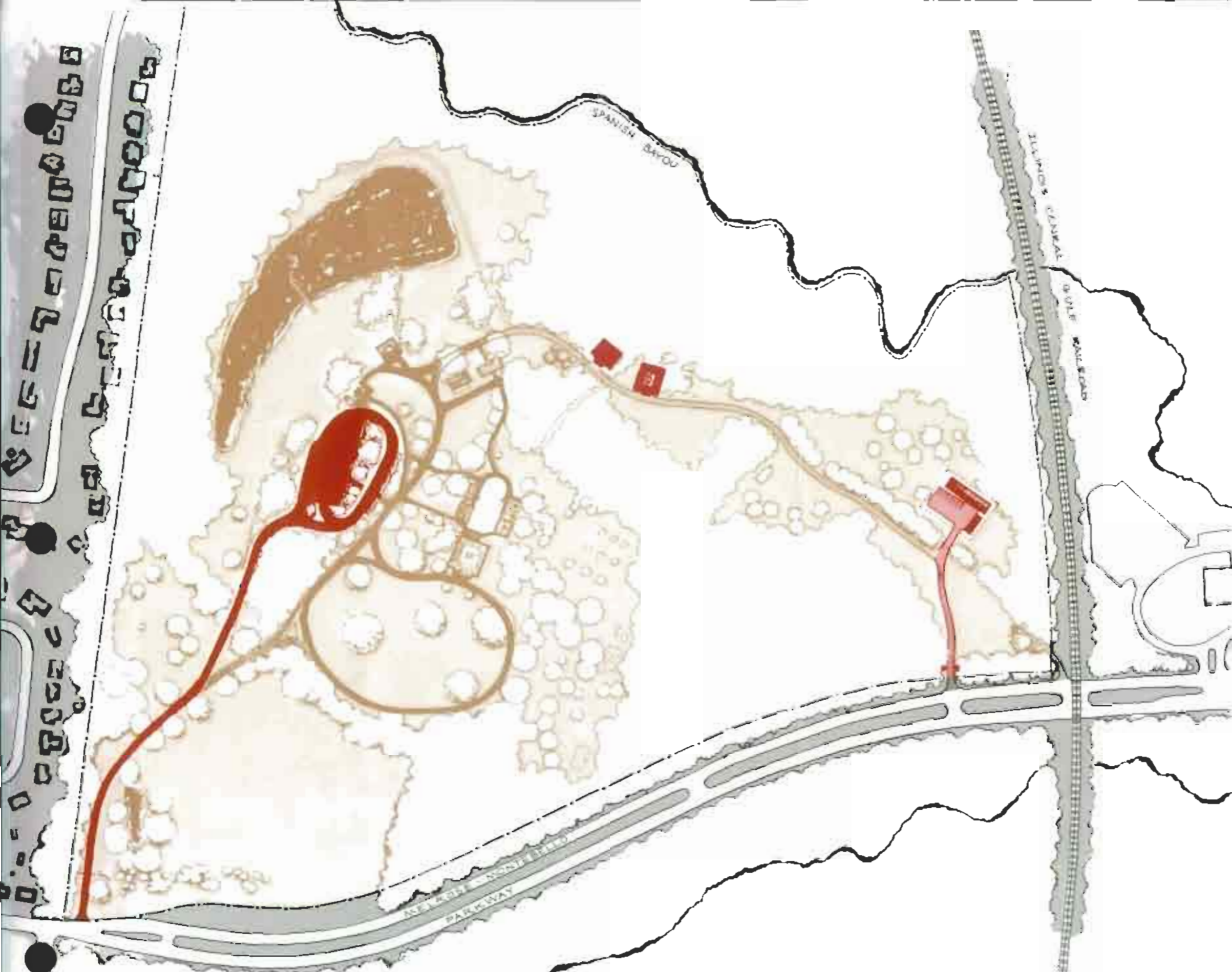
-  NPS SITE
-  DESIGNATED AREA  
bounded by Broadway, Franklin,  
Pine, and Washington streets
-  ILLINOIS CENTRAL GULF RAILROAD
-  ABANDONED TRACK



ALTERNATIVE 2  
DESIGNATED AREA FOR NPS  
VISITOR CENTER DOWNTOWN

# NATCHEZ

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
ON MICROFILM



**HISTORIC ZONE ( ENTIRE SITE )**

-  ROAD (STAFF ACCESS) AND VISITOR FOOTPATH
  -  OVERGROWN ROAD/PATH
  -  GROUNDS AND GARDENS (VISITOR ACCESS)
  -  PUBLIC RESTROOM
  -  BUILDING WITH INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION
  -  WOODLAND
  -  GRASS PAVING
- DEVELOPMENT SUBZONE**
-  ROAD (VISITOR ACCESS)
  -  SERVICE ROAD (STAFF ACCESS)
  -  MAINTENANCE BUILDING
-  NPS BOUNDARY



**MANAGEMENT ZONING  
MELROSE ESTATE**

**NATCHEZ**

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
PSC 339, 20024-JAN 93  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

ON MICROFILM

## MANAGEMENT ZONING

The Melrose estate, Fort Rosalie, and the William Johnson complex would all be zoned as historic, which means that they would be managed to preserve, protect, and interpret the cultural resources and their settings. The primary objective of natural resource management within these historic zones would be to support cultural resource objectives.

At all three sites, some of the existing historic structures would be adapted for use as interim park administrative headquarters, staff housing, and/or visitor information and interpretation. At Melrose there would be development subzones for a visitor parking lot, a curatorial storage facility, and a new maintenance facility (see Management Zoning, Melrose Estate map).

When the acquisition of Fort Rosalie is completed, there would be a development subzone for administration, visitor services, and a visitor parking lot with an adjacent picnic area (see Management Zoning, Fort Rosalie map). The boundaries on these management zoning maps are approximate and might be changed if the cultural landscape report indicates the need. (The William Johnson complex, all in the historic zone, is not mapped.)

The following outlines the number of acres included in each zone.

Melrose = Total of 78.6 acres in historic zone, 2 acres (2.5%) of which would be in the development subzone.

Fort Rosalie = Total of 32.48 acres in historic zone, 3.5 acres (10.8%) of which would be in the development subzone.

William Johnson complex = Total of 0.33 acre in historic zone.

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Restoration and development would, ideally, occur in the following order.

Development at Melrose.

Restoration and rehabilitation of the William Johnson complex and development of interpretive exhibits.

Restoration and development at Fort Rosalie, including preservation and rehabilitation of the Stietenroth house for use as interim NPS administrative headquarters and later visitor use/staff housing.

Rehabilitation of a downtown building for use as the NPS visitor center/administrative headquarters.

Special history study for data needed to interpret the role of plantation slavery and cotton production in antebellum Natchez.




In the meantime, cooperative agreements would be enacted and technical assistance would be provided as soon as staffing permits. Plans are moving forward for the acquisition of Fort Rosalie.

## COSTS

Total costs for development under this alternative would be about \$16,430,000, including costs related to interpretation. See appendix E for details. These costs do not include the costs for rehabilitating a downtown historic structure (for use as the administrative headquarters/visitor center) because which structure would be used is still uncertain.

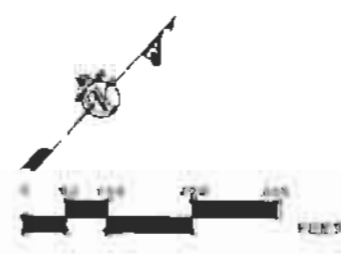


**HISTORIC ZONE ( ENTIRE SITE )**

-  BLUFF EDGE - CRITICAL AREA FOR BLUFF STABILIZATION/MITIGATION MEASURES
-  FENCE (LOW IMPACT, NONINTRUSIVE)
-  RIVERFRONT TRAIL

**DEVELOPMENT SUBZONE**

-  PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARKING
-  FOOTPATH/INTERPRETIVE TRAIL WITH SHADE TREES, WAYSIDES, AND SEATING AT VIEWPOINTS
-  STAFF ACCESS AND PARKING
-  PICNIC TABLE
-  PUBLIC RESTROOM
-  GRASS PATH WITH SPECTACULAR VIEW TO NORTHWEST
-  AREA MAINTAINED AS LAWN OR FIELD
-  NATURALIZED NATIVE WOODLAND VEGETATION
-  TREES AND CLEARED UNDERSTORY
-  NPS BOUNDARY



MANAGEMENT ZONING  
**FORT ROSALIE**  
**NATCHEZ**  
 NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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 United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

ON MICROFILM

## ALTERNATIVE 3: EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP PARK

### EMPHASIS

As under alternative 2, the stories of the Melrose estate, urban slavery, the free black society, and the beginnings of Natchez would be told. However, greater emphasis would be placed on the story of cotton crops and plantation slavery, so essential to understanding the story of Natchez. Visitors would be offered a visit to an area cotton plantation where they could learn about plantation life from onsite experiences.

As in alternative 2, the city would, in essence, become the park. The Park Service would provide technical assistance for preservation and interpretation for many historic properties within the city. In turn, property owners would be encouraged to incorporate recommendations for preservation treatments and interpretive programs and media. Alternative 3 would also represent a partnership concept between the Park Service and the people of Natchez.

The emphasis of alternative 3 would be to provide a comprehensive visitor experience throughout the city — at culturally and historically significant properties (most are privately owned) and at Melrose, the William Johnson complex, and Fort Rosalie. Onsite interpretation of an area cotton plantation would offer the visitor a complete experience of Natchez. The focus of interpretation would be as in alternative 2 — the story of Natchez from its beginnings to the present. However, because of the larger staff and expanded number of sites, interpretation (including costumed interpretation and living history) would be the most comprehensive under this alternative.

Visitors coming into Natchez would be directed to the Fort Rosalie visitor center. There they would find information about the other NPS sites and local and regional resources. Visitors could then decide which resources to visit in whatever order they wished.

### VISITOR CENTER

The NPS visitor center would be at Fort Rosalie, a prime entry point to Natchez. The new building would be close to the fort site and the William Johnson complex to provide contextual elements and introduce the major interpretive themes. It also could be designed to meet specific space and program requirements. The exact location of the visitor center on the Fort Rosalie site has not yet been determined. Further site analysis would need to be done before determining the exact location.

Media requirements and associated costs outlined in alternative 2 would remain essentially the same for this alternative. A preliminary estimate has been made for overall construction of the new facility.

### MELROSE

Development and use at Melrose would be much the same as in alternative 2. One difference would be in opening a view of Melrose from the entrance road, which would require selective clearing of some trees and vegetation (see Melrose, Alternative 3 map). This would give the visitor a framed view of what they are coming to see and set the mood for traveling back to antebellum Natchez. After this enticing view, visitors would first be directed to a proposed new



information/contact station (rather than the carriage house as in alternative 2) that would be constructed unobtrusively in the trees between the proposed parking area and the main house. Here the visitor would purchase tickets for a tour of the main house, obtain a map and information about the estate, and see interpretive exhibits regarding Melrose.

The exhibits would introduce the various owners of Melrose and focus on the relationship of Melrose to the cotton plantations owned by John T. McMurren and the relationship of Melrose to other wealthy cotton planters' estates in Natchez. The approximately 1,200-square-foot contact station would contain public restrooms. The building would be along a more direct visitor route from the parking area to the main house than is the carriage house, which is used for initial contact in alternatives 1 and 2.

From the new contact station, visitors would be directed to the main house and then to the dependencies and estate grounds, as described in alternative 2. Visitors would then be encouraged to go to the carriage house as a final stop before leaving. Here would be a cooperating association sales outlet and interpretive exhibits showing why Melrose has been so well preserved and telling about Melrose in the old movies that portray the images, myths, and realities of Natchez. Public restrooms would also be provided in the carriage house. See later "Cultural Resource Management" section and table 1 for further information about other studies and actions related to protecting and preserving the cultural resources.

The entrance road and design of the parking area would be similar to that proposed in alternative 2 but would direct the visitor first to the new contact station before parking. Other proposals for

Melrose would be the same as described in alternative 2. See later "Natural Resource Management" section for further information about other studies and actions related to protecting and preserving the natural resources.

### **WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX**

Development and use at the William Johnson complex would be the same as in alternative 2. Also see later "Natural Resource Management" and "Cultural Resource Management" sections and table 1 for further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving these resources.

### **FORT ROSALIE**

A new visitor center would be constructed on the Fort Rosalie site; the exact location for this visitor center has not yet been determined. Development, use, bluff stabilization, and vegetation management at Fort Rosalie would be the same as in alternative 2 except that the Stietenroth house would be rehabilitated for use as a permanent NPS headquarters and the trail along the river would be an elevated boardwalk, with benches, that would be accessible to visitors with disabilities (see Fort Rosalie, Alternative 3 map). The boardwalk would be built to withstand flooding, and bluff stabilization requirements would be considered before and during construction.

See later "Natural Resource Management" and "Cultural Resource Management" sections and table 1 for further information about studies and actions relating to protecting and preserving these resources.





- 1) STETENROTH HOUSE - site for NPS administrative headquarters
- 2) STAFF PARKING - paved
- 3) PUBLIC PARKING - provide 23 single and 3 oversize parking spaces. Designated spaces for visitors with disabilities
- 4) PONDIC AREA - provide pondic tables
- 5) BLUFF INTERPRETIVE TRAIL - provide interpretive trail with shade trees existing at viewpoints, and way-side exhibits
- 6) PRIMER NORTHWARD VIEW - Develop primer primer view
- 7) INFORMAL INTERPRETIVE AREA

New visitor center would be constructed - exact location unknown  
 Site would be accessible to persons with disabilities  
 Appropriate bluff stabilization and mitigation measures would be undertaken  
 All but one or two buildings would be removed  
 Archeological and historical studies would be conducted

- Public Access and Parking
- Footpath/Interpretive Trail with Shade Trees, Wayside, and Seating at Viewpoints
- Staff Access and Parking
- Pondic Table
- Public Restroom
- Bluff Edge - Critical Area for Bluff Stabilization/Mitigation Measures
- Issue Path with Spectacular Views to Northwest
- Fence (Low Impact, Non-Struc)
- NPS Boundary
- Boardwalk
- Area Maintained as Lawn or Field
- Woodland Vegetation
- Trees and Cleared Landscaping



# ALTERNATIVE 3 FORT ROSALIE

# NATCHEZ

## **COTTON PLANTATION COMPLEX**

Plantation slavery and cotton production are important stories to understanding the antebellum history of Natchez and the wealth of the Natchez planters. As in alternative 2, these stories would be presented as an integral part of the interpretive media and personal services at the visitor center, Melrose, and the William Johnson complex. To best provide the key to understanding Natchez, visitors would have the opportunity to visit the site of a cotton plantation, which still contains structures that were used during the antebellum period, so the interpretive story of Natchez can be complete.

A special history study would be done to provide the extensive data that would be needed to interpret the role of plantation slavery and cotton production in antebellum Natchez.

A special resource study would be conducted of regional plantations associated with Natchez to determine the best example according to national historic landmark criteria. If an appropriate plantation is found, the Park Service would acquire this plantation as part of Natchez National Historical Park. If acquisition is not feasible or desirable, a cooperative agreement could be negotiated with the owner of the identified site for preservation, interpretation, and visitor use. It might also be possible to evaluate the site for inclusion as a separate unit of the national park system. The Park Service would have the onsite structures documented to Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record standards and would evaluate the structures to determine the best possible measures for preservation, protection, and interpretation.

A separate environmental study would be done for the plantation site once an appropriate site is found. Additional legislative authority would be required to conduct a special resource study and to acquire a plantation as part of the national park system.

## **UNDER-THE-HILL**

NPS involvement in Natchez Under-the-Hill would be the same as in alternative 2.

## **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

The partnership concept, proposed cooperative agreements, and roles and responsibilities of cooperating entities would be much the same as in alternative 2 with the following additions for NPS leadership:

The Park Service could work with the city and business interests to develop visual, landscape, building, and streetscape design guidelines. Significant features of Natchez' cultural landscape would be identified for preservation.

A cooperative agreement could be made with existing tour operators to offer the best possible interpretive services to Natchez' visitors while preventing competition between the Park Service and private enterprise and/or duplication of services. These cooperative efforts with tour operators and the city would deal with transporting visitors around the historic districts to alleviate the adverse impacts of increased automobile traffic. Consideration would be given to carriages, trams, buses, or other mass conveyances.

The Park Service could become more involved with and sponsor other events in the community, such as Christmas decoration tours, waterfront activities, local artist exhibits, the Natchez literary celebration, black history month, fall balloon race, women's history week, and pilgrimage weeks.

### **PRESERVATION DISTRICT**

As in alternative 2, the preservation district boundary would be modified to include Grand Village (within a noncontiguous boundary) because of its thematic ties to interpretive programs. A plantation complex (within a noncontiguous boundary) would also be included (see General Development, Alternative 3 map at the end of this section).

### **NPS HEADQUARTERS/ ADMINISTRATION**

The Stietenroth house would serve as NPS headquarters. The 2,300-square-foot structure would provide ample space to accommodate the 11 (4 existing and 7 proposed) employees who would work there and the associated operational and storage requirements. The building is in excellent condition and would require relatively minor rehabilitation. Adjacent parking space is limited; therefore parking would be provided only for staff and those with official business. Additional parking, if needed, would be down the block on Green Street — only a two- or three-minute walk.

Current park staff consists of a superintendent, a chief of interpretation and visitor services, an administrative support assistant, a secretary, a curator, a museum aide, three maintenance mechanics, a supervisory park ranger

(interpretation), two rangers, and five temporary seasonals. This represents approximately 17 full-time-equivalent employees, at an annual salary of \$489,000, including benefits.

For alternative 3, approximately 27 additional full-time-equivalent employees are proposed throughout all divisions, including administration, cultural and natural resource management, interpretation and visitor services, and maintenance. The additional staff would be necessary to manage, maintain, and provide visitor services for the proposed new and/or expanded facilities at the NPS visitor center, Melrose, the William Johnson complex, Fort Rosalie, and the cotton plantation. Additional staff would also be assigned to work on cooperative agreements with the citizens of Natchez. This would represent a total of 44 full-time-equivalent employees at an annual salary of approximately \$1,241,000. Staffing and costs are preliminary estimates and would be more fully addressed in a future operations plan.

### **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Restoration and development would, ideally, occur in the following order of priority.

Development at Melrose.

Restoration and rehabilitation of the William Johnson complex and development of interpretive exhibits at the William Johnson house.

Restoration and development at Fort Rosalie, including preservation and rehabilitation of NPS administrative headquarters in the Stietenroth house.

Construction of new NPS visitor center at Fort Rosalie.

Special history study and special resource study for data, conditions evaluation, and preservation of an area cotton plantation.

In the meantime, cooperative agreements would be enacted, and technical assistance would be provided as soon as staffing permits. Plans are moving forward for NPS acquisition of Fort Rosalie.

## **COSTS**

Total costs for development under this alternative would be about \$17,241,000,

including costs related to interpretation. See appendix E for details.

These costs include the costs for constructing a 6,000-square-foot visitor center at Fort Rosalie; however, the exact site and design have not been chosen and these costs could change considerably after the site has been chosen and design has been done.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### GENERAL CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this section is to set forth some cultural resource management actions and studies that would be undertaken under any of the three alternatives just described and to guide the cultural resource management section of the resource management plan that will be written for the park. Under NPS policies, each park must have a resource management plan.

Cultural resource management serves to preserve and perpetuate the park's cultural resources. Proposed strategies for managing the cultural resources are in response to the issues identified in this general management plan. Resources are not to be destroyed or impaired by the type or amount of use they would receive under the different alternatives, and management strategies must reflect the capacity of the resources to accept use without degradation.

However, before actions can be taken to prevent damage to the park's cultural resources, it is necessary to find out exactly what is there, what is the best strategy for preserving and/or protecting the particular resource, how best to maintain it, and how much use it can tolerate without degradation. The following basic cultural resource plans and plans related to interpretation of the natural and cultural resources are needed at Natchez National Historical Park:

- Archeological evaluation studies
- Black history study (a draft of this study is complete)
- Carrying capacity studies for each structure open to the public
- Collection condition survey

- Collection management plan
- Collection storage plan
- Cultural landscape report
- Resource management plan
- Exhibit plan
- Ethnographic overview and assessment
- Historic furnishings reports (Melrose and William Johnson complex)
- Historic resource study (the park)
- Revised national historic landmark nomination for Melrose
- Revised national register nomination for Fort Rosalie and William Johnson complex
- Historic structure preservation guides
- Historic structure reports (Melrose and William Johnson complex)
- Oral histories of former residents and employees
- Park administrative history
- Scope of collection statement
- Special history study (cotton plantation, alternatives 2 and 3)
- Special resource study (cotton plantation, alternative 3)

To construct adequate data for ongoing maintenance of the historic scene, historic settings around or adjacent to structures would be included in these reports. Specific structure evaluation and preservation actions would be applied to each building to protect and/or enhance existing cultural remains.

The national historic landmark nomination for Melrose clearly needs to be revised. Written in 1974, the nomination contains very little data to help guide management, preservation, and visitor use needs at the site. Resources are described only minimally, and criteria for significance and contributing elements are barely touched upon. This work should be a priority, to further define the national significance of Melrose.

An active program of oral history interviews would be undertaken to obtain information about the history and peoples of Natchez. Especially valuable information on local history, including black history and lifestyles and customs, would enhance existing knowledge of local people and provide data for interpreting local culture.

Collections and archives would be managed under standards and guidelines for protecting the resources and information. They would be exhibited or stored in appropriately controlled environments with adequate protection against accidents, theft, atmospheric elements, insects, and vandalism, and they would be examined periodically to ensure protection.

The presence of so many original furnishings coupled with the exceptional architectural merit of Melrose are, in large part, the park's significance and the reasons that Melrose was added to the national park system. The museum collection is an integral part of the park's cultural resources. The overall quality of the 19th century objects at Melrose is outstanding. Much of the collection dates from the McMurren era, with additional furnishings from the Davis-Kelly and Callon occupancies. The collection is specific to the site, with good provenance. Although individual pieces are very rare or have high monetary value, the collection as a whole has greater value given the time span it reflects and the provenance of the furnishings.

Additional research must be undertaken to further document provenance of all furnishings already in the park collection. Because each piece of furnishing at Melrose is a contributing element of the site's significance, it is also important to locate and document the availability of all McMurren and Davis-Kelly furnishings

from Melrose. Some furnishings may have been sold, traded, or given away during the estate's long history. Identifying the current location and the availability of historic Melrose furnishings would allow the park staff to document specific objects or actually acquire the furnishings.

The park requires a museum storage and treatment facility at Melrose to preserve the furnishings. Because of the age and significance of the furnishings, consideration should be given to establishing a staff curator/conservator position.

The carrying capacity for all sites and historic structures would be determined to ensure that visitation would not adversely affect the stability or integrity of the cultural resources. Depending on the results of the carrying capacity studies, there might need to be a limit on the number of tours, the number of people in a tour, and/or the number of people allowed into a specific site. Controlling the numbers of visitors on tours at Melrose is crucial to protecting the Melrose collection.

All structures open to the public would be made accessible, to the extent possible, to visitors and employees with disabilities. In some instances, it may be difficult to achieve full access to historic properties without compromising their integrity and significance. If the Park Service, in consultation with the state historic preservation office and with the concurrence of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, determines that full compliance would have a negative effect on a historic property, then providing a lesser level of accessibility (called programmatic accessibility, see appendix B) might be acceptable.

All alternatives would include identification and study of the effects of bluff erosion



on the park's cultural resources and those cultural resources outside the park boundaries that could be affected by erosion of the bluffs within park boundaries. The purpose of this effort would be to draw conclusions and make pragmatic decisions based on existing data. Archeological studies are especially important for the Fort Rosalie site where bluff erosion appears to be threatening not only the archeological data at the fort site but also the continued use and preservation of the Natchez Under-the-Hill Historic District. Historic research would be undertaken to identify where historical and/or archeological resources might be located, whether on the bluff or down by the river. The Park Service would then evaluate the options for bluff stabilization, with preservation of the cultural resources a significant factor in any decision to act.

The William Johnson complex (all three structures) would undergo architectural, historical, and archeological research.

Before any preservation/restoration work on the Melrose property that is not routine maintenance work, the Park Service would prepare a cultural landscape report

and a historic structure report to provide background data and recommendations for accurate restoration and for interpretive information. These documents would guide the Park Service in the determination of what actions can be taken, with minimal conjecture, to return the house, other structures, and grounds to an earlier appearance. Because Melrose has a long history under four owners, it is very important that the house's changes through time be understood and honored through preservation. Removal of later additions or decorative elements of the house could be construed as a loss of the site's historical and architectural continuum.

The paths in any of the alternatives would, as possible, be accessible to visitors with disabilities, use native materials such as compacted gravel, and intrude on the historic setting as little as possible.

#### **SITE- AND ALTERNATIVE-SPECIFIC CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The following table compares cultural resource management actions at the different sites under the three alternatives.

TABLE 1: COMPARISON, CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Site	Exterior Treatment*			Interior Treatment*		
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Melrose main house dairy building kitchen building cisterns smokehouse privy  stable carriage house north slave cabin  south slave cabin  slave privy gazebo	preservation preservation preservation preservation preservation preservation  preservation preservation preservation  preservation remove	restoration restoration restoration restoration restoration restoration  preservation restoration restoration (partial) restoration  restoration remove	restoration restoration restoration restoration restoration restoration  preservation restoration restoration (partial) restoration  restoration remove	preservation preservation rehabilitation preservation no change preservation  preservation rehabilitation rehabilitation  preservation preservation N/A	restoration restoration restoration restoration no change restoration restoration (partial) rehabilitation rehabilitation rehabilitation  restoration/ rehabilitation preservation N/A	restoration restoration restoration restoration no change restoration restoration (partial) rehabilitation rehabilitation rehabilitation  restoration/ rehabilitation preservation N/A
William Johnson Complex main house	restoration	restoration	restoration	rehab of 1st floor; stabilization of upper floors	rehab of 1st floor; restoration of 2nd floor; stabilization/preservation of 3rd floor	same as alt. 2
McCallum house	rehabilitation	rehabilitation	rehabilitation	rehab of 1st floor; stabilization of upper floors	rehab of 1st & 2nd floors; stabilization/preservation of 3rd floor	same as alt. 2
dependency	stabilization	restoration	restoration	rehabilitation	rehabilitation	same as alt. 2
Fort Rosalie (arch. site)	preservation	preservation	preservation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stietenroth House	preservation	preservation	preservation	rehabilitation	rehabilitation	rehabilitation
Visitor Center	N/A	rehabilitation	new construction	N/A	rehabilitation	new construction
Cotton Plantation	N/A	N/A	preservation/ restoration	N/A	N/A	preservation/ restoration

TABLE 1. COMPARISON, CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)

Site	Use			Studies Needed for Site **		
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Melrose main house dairy building kitchen building cisterns smokehouse  privy  stable carriage house  north slave cabin  south slave cabin slave privy	interpretation interpretation coop. assoc. interpretation mechanical equipment interpretation/ public use interpretation interpretation	interpretation interpretation interpretation interpretation mechanical equipment interpretation/ public use interpretation interpretation/ coop. assoc. staff housing/ administration interpretation interpretation	interpretation interpretation interpretation interpretation mechanical equipment interpretation/ public use interpretation interpretation/ coop. assoc. staff housing/ administration interpretation interpretation	AES, CLR, HFR, HRS, HSPG, HSR, revised landmark and register nominations	AES, CLR, HFR, HRS, HSPG, HSR, revised landmark and register nominations	AES, CLR, HFR, HRS, HSPG, HSR, revised landmark and register nominations
William Johnson Complex main house McCallum house  dependency	interpretation interpretation/ administration  coop. assoc.	interpretation interpretation/ administration/ coop. assoc. interpretation/ administration	interpretation interpretation/ administration/ coop. assoc. interpretation/ administration	AES, CLR, HSPG, HSR	AES, CLR, HFR, HSPG, HSR	AES, CLR, HFR, HSPG, HSR
Fort Rosalie archeological site	interpretation	interpretation	interpretation	AES, CLR, bluff studies	AES, CLR, bluff studies	AES, CLR, bluff studies
Stietenroth house	administration	interim administration and later visitor use/ staff housing	administration	HSR	HSR	HSR
Visitor Center	N/A	interpretation (combined with admin. hdqrts.)	interpretation	N/A	HSR	bluff studies if appropriate; AES
Under-the-Hill	interpretation	interpretation	interpretation			
Cotton Plantation	N/A	N/A	interpretation	N/A	SHS	CLR, HRS, HSR, SHS, SRS, thorough documentation

- \* **Rehabilitation** — Adapting a structure to accommodate new uses other than those for which it was originally designed.
  - Removal** — Disassembling the existing structure and/or ruins, usually leaving foundations to mark the site.
  - Restoration** — Recovering the general historic appearance of a structure and its setting by removing incompatible additions and replacing missing elements. Restoration may be for exteriors and/or interiors and may be partial or complete.
  - Preservation** — Applying measures to sustain existing terrain or vegetation of a site and/or the existing form, integrity, and material of a structure; preservation can occur if that condition allows for satisfactory protection, maintenance, use, and interpretation.
  - Stabilization** — Reestablishing and/or ongoing maintenance of structural stability by arresting material deterioration, protecting essential form, and providing weather-resistant conditions.
- 
- \*\* **AES** = archeological evaluation study — collects sufficient data and analysis to determine the eligibility of the archeological properties for the National Register of Historic Places; describes and assesses the known and potential archeological resources in the park.
  - CLR** = cultural landscape report — identifies, evaluates, and determines management options for cultural landscapes. The report collects, presents, and evaluates documentary and field survey findings and proposes options for management.
  - HFR** = historic furnishings report — documents the historic furnishings associated with a structure, determines what furnishings to display, if any, and controls maintenance and changes of furnishings to protect quality and integrity. Research data can be used for interpretation purposes.
  - HRS** = historic resource study — identifies and evaluates the historic events that occurred in the area and identifies any historic sites. This study includes historical resources base map(s) and national register nomination forms.
  - HSR** = historic structure report — required whenever there is to be a major intervention into historic structures or where activities may affect the qualities and characteristics identified in a property's national register nomination. The report contains an administrative section, a physical history and analysis section, and appendixes.
  - HSPG** = historic structures preservation guide — directs preservation maintenance activities on specific historic and prehistoric structures once the structures are in a maintainable condition.
  - SHS** = special history study — focuses on the associations, events, and personalities of a park rather than its cultural resources and provides information for both resource management and interpretation.
  - SRS** = special resource study — focuses on the associations, events, and personalities of a park rather than its cultural resources and provides information for both resource management and interpretation.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this section is to set forth some natural resource management studies and actions that would be undertaken under any of the three alternatives just described and to guide the natural resource management section of the resource management plan that will be written for the park. As well as cultural resource issues (described in the previous section), this resource management plan will address various natural resource issues, including inventory and monitoring, bluff stabilization and management, vegetation management, integrated pest management, visibility monitoring, fishing, preservation of wetlands, and protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species. The few alternative-specific natural resource management actions are included in the previous section that details the alternatives.

The natural resources at Natchez National Historical Park are an integral part of the historic scene. Natural resources would be managed to preserve and/or restore the historic setting where necessary to support interpretation of themes and historic structures. Overall, natural resource management in the park supports cultural resource management objectives. These objectives would be determined in more detail in the park's cultural landscape report.

According to the Park Service's *Natural Resource Management Guideline* (NPS-77), the development of an up-to-date inventory of natural resources in each park is important, including historical areas. Only when a manager has an accurate picture of the type and condition of the natural resources in the park can effective management decisions be made. Natural resources are constantly changing; thus, a program of long-term

monitoring is also essential. Monitoring can help detect changes in resource conditions before unacceptable changes occur.

The natural resource issue in Natchez National Historical Park that needs most immediate attention is bluff stabilization and management. As discussed in the "Affected Environment" section, bluff erosion in Natchez has resulted in loss of life and damage to historic buildings. All alternatives call for the acquisition of Fort Rosalie, and a site-specific bluff stabilization and protection strategy is needed. Generic bluff stabilization activities are possible and necessary at this site. Generic bluff stabilization measures, including control of all sources of water within one to two city blocks of the bluff, removal of large trees close to the edge of the bluff, establishment of a bluff mitigation zone (at least 30 feet) on the bluff, and possibly placing a grassy, 18-inch dike about 5 feet from the edge of the bluff to help control runoff, would help protect the bluff from further erosion and help protect the Under-the-Hill area and the site's archeological resources.

An integrated approach to bluff protection is essential — including monitoring and protection measures for the top, slope, and toe of the bluff. Additional study would be needed to determine what site-specific measures are necessary. Mitigation measures might include both geological and biological engineering. For example, it is possible to determine the most stable slope for the bluff, based on the specific geology of the area, and mitigation might include changing the bluff angle and/or removing vegetation that aggravates bluff erosion and replacing it with vegetation that would help stabilize the bluff. Monitoring the stability of the

bluff might be done with an inclinometer that can detect movements up to 400 feet below the surface. Detecting movement as early as possible is important because some types of bluff failure are potentially life threatening.

It is essential to go beyond generic mitigation measures and develop a comprehensive bluff protection, stabilization, monitoring, and management plan. The geology of the area must be analyzed, and mitigation and monitoring measures must be properly integrated. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has expertise in this area and should be consulted. The Soil Conservation Service's plant material centers may be able to recommend species of vegetation that would enhance the bluff's stability.

Vegetation management in the park would accomplish several objectives, for example, bluff stabilization as just described. At Melrose, the objective of vegetation management would be to complement both the historic resources and the interpretive story. Vegetation would also be used to screen resources from visual intrusions such as subdivisions, railroads, power lines, parking areas, Melrose-Montebello Parkway, and maintenance facilities. The vegetation screen throughout the estate should be evaluated and enhanced if necessary. This may be desirable along the north side of the entrance road.

A cultural landscape report is needed to determine the composition of the grounds at Melrose at various stages of its history. Based on this study, small areas may be planted to support cultural resource objectives. This would be accomplished primarily in the nonforested areas of the estate.

Generally, except for proposed development under alternatives 2 and 3, the

forested areas at Melrose would remain, especially those areas that provide a visual screen. The structure of the forest is the most important element to be preserved; thus an attempt would not be made to preserve individual trees in the forest or to keep the forest a particular age. Sections of the forest remaining after development actions are implemented would be removed only if the cultural landscape report reveals a significant aspect of the historic landscape that should be re-created. Both ponds and associated wetland vegetation would remain intact and would not be affected by landscape changes.

In addition, in keeping with the results of the cultural landscape report, some of the areas of Melrose that are presently maintained as mowed lawns might be allowed to grow into fields that only need to be mowed once or twice a year to prevent woody vegetation from intruding. This would be done for as many of the grassy areas as possible because it is more representative of the lifestyles of past residents of Melrose.

The National Park Service requires an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to control any pests in the park. IPM includes the use of cultural, mechanical, biological, or chemical control methods. Chemical pesticides are only used as a last resort and in conjunction with nonchemical methods. An IPM plan would be prepared as part of the park's resource management plan. The plan would discuss an IPM approach to the control of unwanted vegetation at Fort Rosalie, the management of pests in the Melrose orchard, the control of pests in the curatorial collection, and other pest control issues, as necessary.

Management of the orchard at Melrose is an issue that needs to be addressed in an orchard management plan or in the

resource management plan. The composition of the orchard would be determined through the cultural landscape report. Emphasis would be on maintaining healthy trees, not necessarily on producing quality fruit. Routine care of the orchard, harvest of the fruit, and tree maintenance would be addressed in the plan. Organic fertilizers would be used, to prevent chemical or other nonorganic contamination of the ground or surface water. IPM methods would be used to control pests, and chemical pesticides would only be used as a last resort. If the cultural landscape report determines that certain species need to be added to the orchard, low maintenance and pest-resistance taxa would be used whenever possible.

Because the views from the bluff at Fort Rosalie have been identified as a significant resource, it would be valuable to initiate a long-term visibility monitoring program. The NPS Air Quality Office in Denver is available to help establish and operate park visibility monitoring programs. Park staff could take photographs of the view from Fort Rosalie on a routine basis and have them analyzed by air quality specialists in Fort Collins, Colorado, to measure changes in visibility caused by both natural and anthropogenic sources. Done over the long term, this program would provide valuable information on any changes in visibility from Natchez National Historical Park.

Hunting is not permitted in the park. Fishing, however, is permitted, in compliance with state laws and regulations. At Melrose, fishing would remain unobtrusive and would not interfere with the primary historical values of the site. NPS management policies strongly discourage fish stocking in all NPS areas. Stocking is allowed in some areas only where there is a special need associated with the historic events being commemorated. Because this is not the case at Melrose, fish stocking would not occur in either pond.

The following is a summary of the natural-resource-related studies/reports needed for the park; most would be included in the resource management plan:

- Comprehensive bluff protection, stabilization, monitoring, and management plan
- Integrated pest management plan
- Inventory of natural resources
- Long-term monitoring of natural resources
- Long-term visibility monitoring
- Resource management plan
- Orchard management plan
- Vegetation management plan
- Vegetation survey (Melrose)

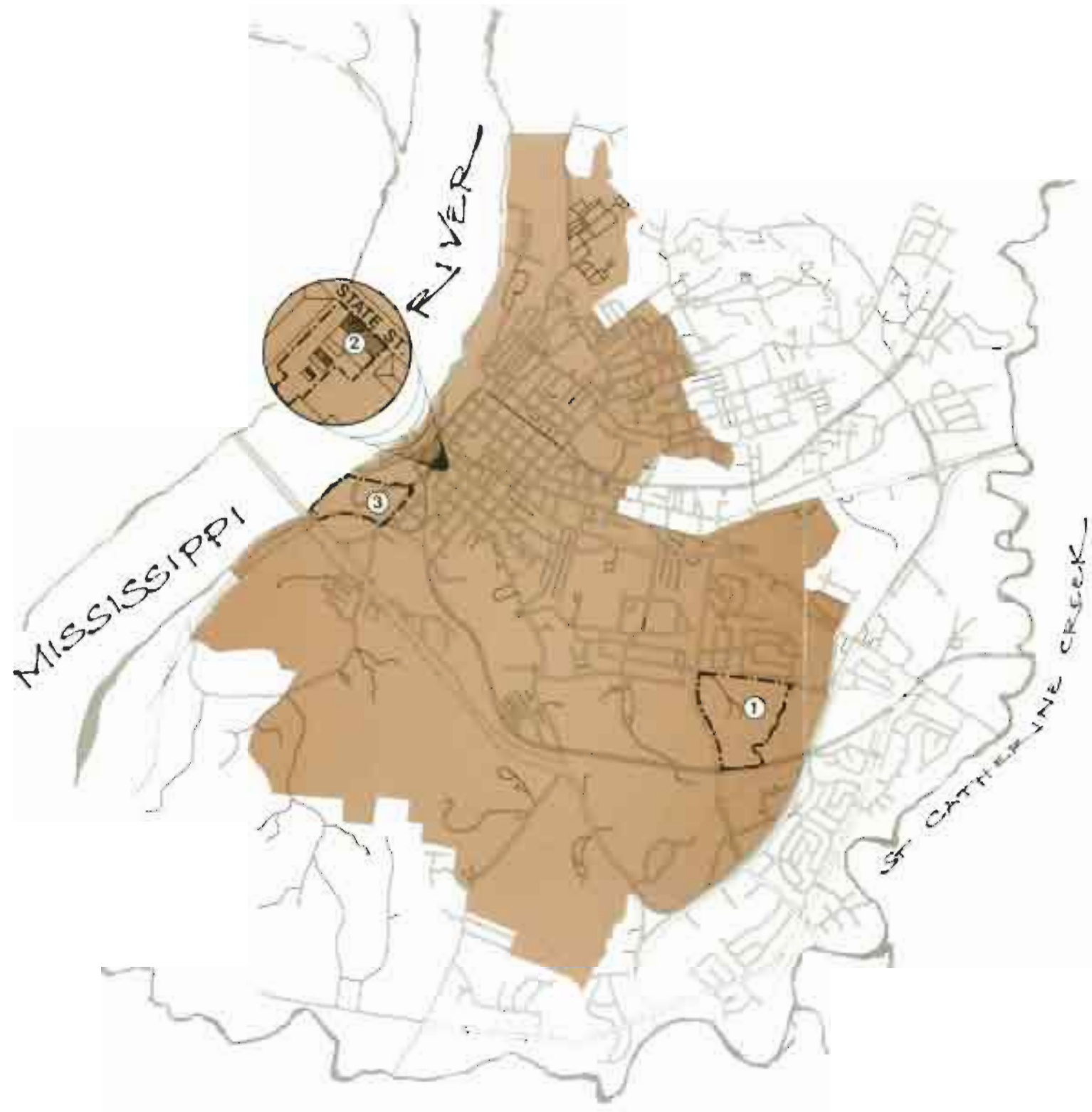
## COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

The following General Development maps for the three alternatives provide an overall look at the general areas that would be included in each alternative.


The table after the General Development maps gives a more detailed summary comparison, as does the following table that compares the environmental impacts of the alternatives.










- 1 MELROSE ESTATE  
preserve existing estate + continue tours + interpret antebellum Natchez rich cotton planter's life and workings of estate and its slave quarters
- 2 WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX  
restore/repair building exteriors + rehab first floor several of houses to interpret Black history + rehab first floor of McCullum house for use as visitor contact station
- 3 FORT ROSALIE  
remove most structures + adaptively use selected structures if necessary + stabilize bluff + provide no visitor facilities + use Greenoth house as permanent NPS headquarters

 PRESERVATION DISTRICT

 NPS SITE

 0 50 100 200 FEET



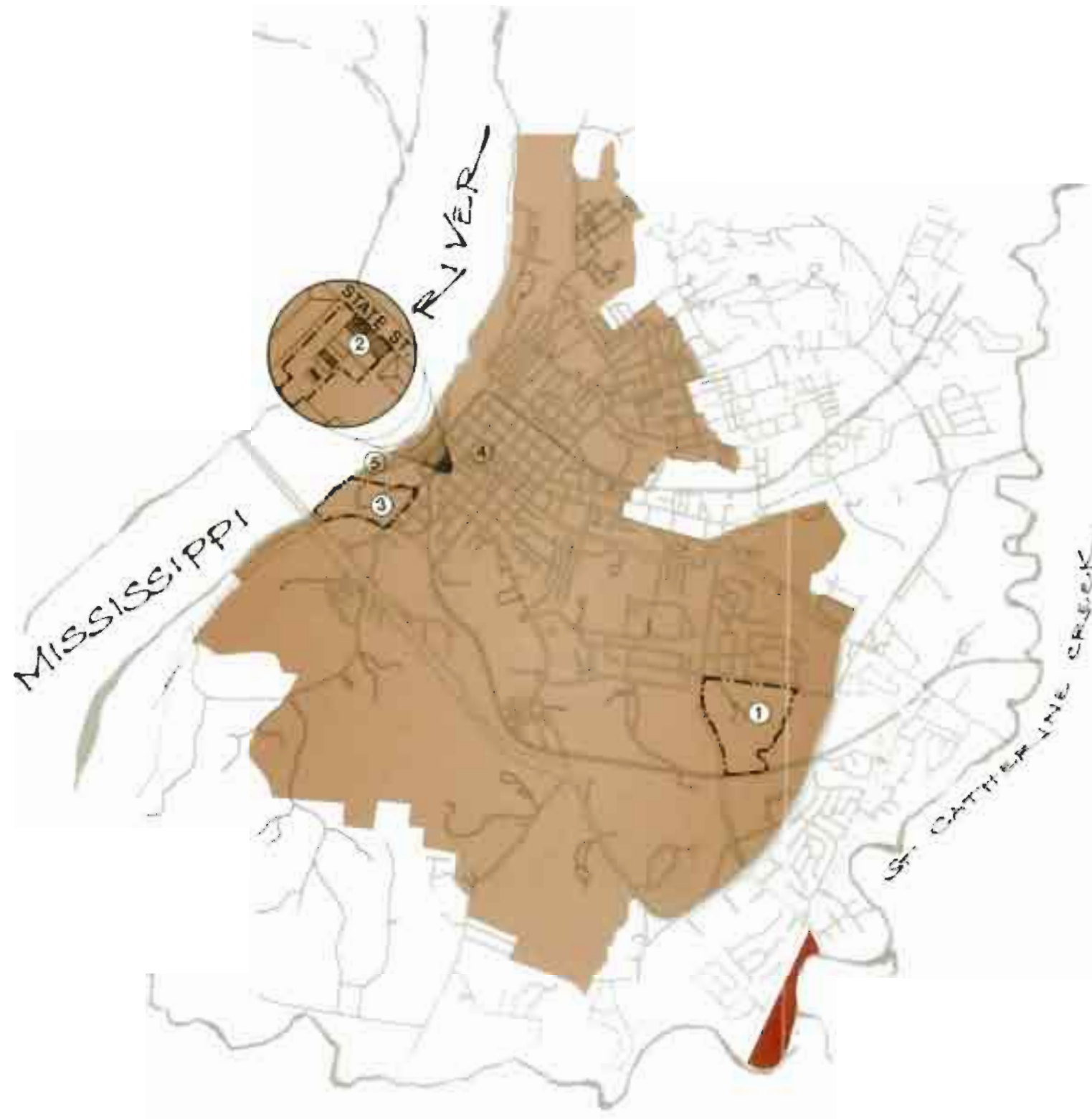
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVE 1

# NATCHEZ

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DHC / AUG 81 / 329-200 11

ON MICROFILM



1. MELROSE ESTATE

restore historic structure • rehab carriage house as visitor contact building • improve parking and circulation • construct maintenance facilities and service road • interpret antebellum Natchez, not cotton planter's life • workings of estate and its slave quarters, cotton-based economy, and plantation slavery

2. WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX

restoration building exterior • rehab William Johnson house first floor interior for interpretation of black history and William Johnson's life • restore second floor • rehab McCullum house for theater and office-storage space • provide visitor and staff parking • use discrepancy for interpretation/NPS office space

3. FORT ROSALIE

restore or demolish all but a few significant historic structures • provide interpretive trail, visitor parking, wayside exhibits, and footpath along Mississippi • interpret early fort and Natchez relationship to the river • interpret fort site • stabilize bluff • use Stollenrath house for interpret NPS headquarters and later visitor center staff housing

4. DOWNTOWN VISITOR CENTER

location as yet unknown

5. NATCHEZ UNDER THE HILL

provide NPS assistance for interpretation



PRESERVATION DISTRICT



PROPOSED INCLUSION IN PRESERVATION DISTRICT



NPS SITE

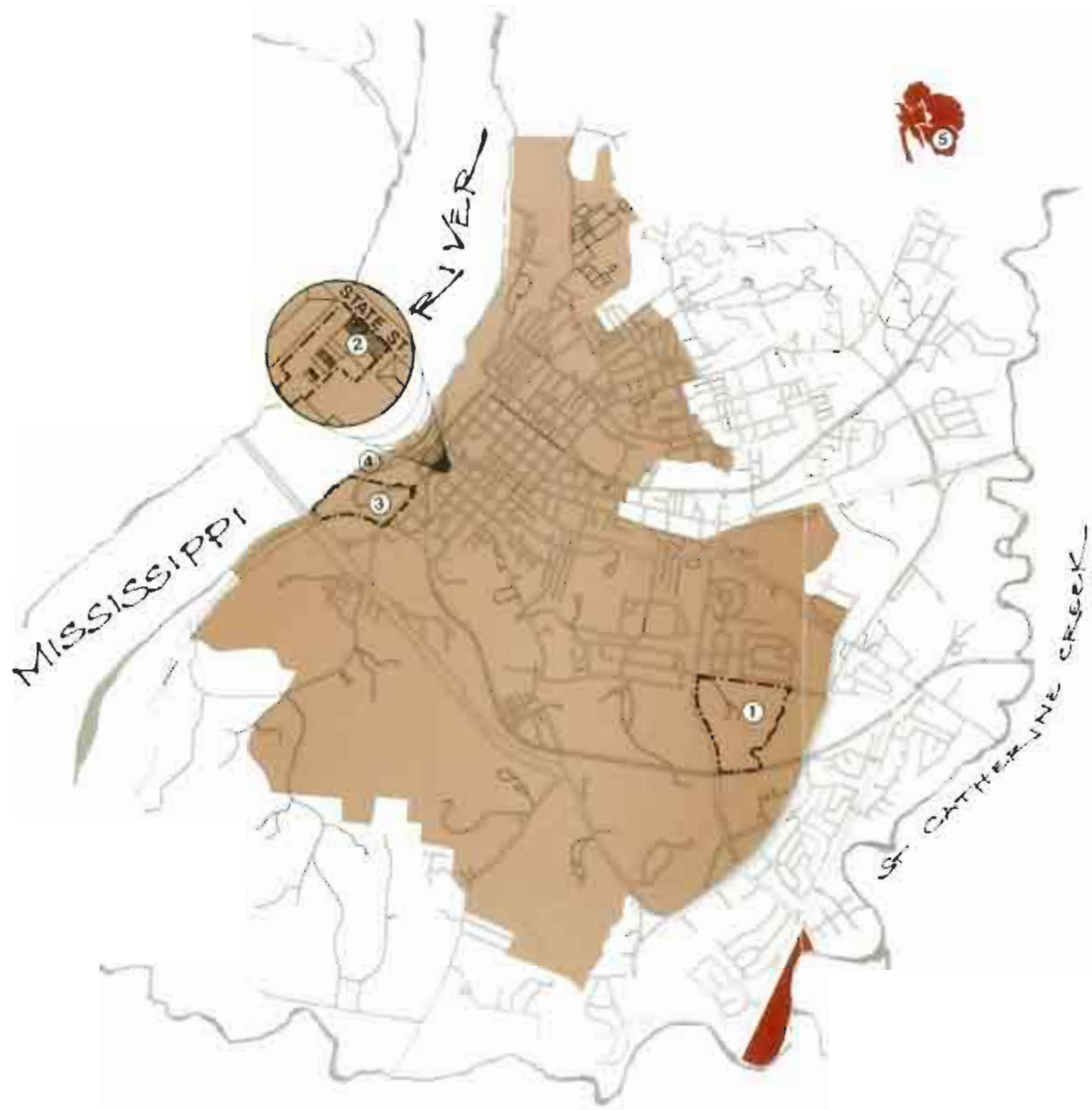


GENERAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
ALTERNATIVE 2

**NATCHEZ**  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DSC • AUG 91 • 339 20912

ON MICROFILM



1. MELROSE ESTATE

restore historic structures • improve parking and circulation • construct visitor contact building, maintenance facilities, and service road • interpret antebellum Natchez: rich cotton planter's life, workings of estate and its slave quarters, cotton-based economy, and plantation slavery

2. WILLIAM JOHNSON COMPLEX

restore/renov building exterior • rehab William Johnson house first floor interior for interpretation of black history and William Johnson's life • restore second floor • rehab McCallum house for theater, interpretation, and office storage space • provide visitor and staff parking • provide site-yard seating and tour of houses • use dependency for interpretation/NPS office space

3. FORT ROSALIE

build new NPS visitor center • relocate or demolish all but a few significant historic structures • provide interpretive trail, picnic area, visitor parking, wayside exhibits, and boardwalk along Mississippi • interpret early fort and Natchez' relationship to the river • interpret fort site • stabilize bluff • use (Shelworth) house as NPS headquarters

4. NATCHÉZ UNDER-THE-HILL

provide NPS assistance for interpretation

5. COTTON PLANTATION

conduct study to identify plantation for purchase or cooperative agreement • preservation for visitor use • possible establishment as part of national park system (site undetermined)



PRESERVATION DISTRICT

PROPOSED INCLUSION IN PRESERVATION DISTRICT

NPS SITE

0 100 200 300 FEET



GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

ALTERNATIVE 3

NATCHÉZ  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

DEC - AUG 81 • 338-0013

ON MICROFILM

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

	<b>Alternative 1 — Continuation of Existing Trends</b>	<b>Alternative 2 — Partnership Park (Proposed Action)</b>	<b>Alternative 3 — Expanded Partnership Park</b>
<b>Emphasis</b>	Visitors would learn about Melrose and the workings of the estate household — the story of a rich cotton planter's life. Minimal interpretation at Fort Rosalie of Natchez' early history. Some insights given into free black society and urban slavery. Focus of story would be antebellum Natchez (1840s to 1860s).	Visitors would learn about Melrose and the workings of the estate household, and about urban slavery and the free black society at the William Johnson complex. However, with more interpretation at Fort Rosalie, the larger story of Natchez and its beginnings would also be told. The important story of plantation slavery and cotton production would also be told through interpretive media. The city would, in essence, become the park. The emphasis would be a comprehensive visitor experience throughout the city as well as at the three NPS locations and the visitor center. There would also be more exhibits, personal services, restoration, interpretation, and many more sites to more effectively tell the Natchez story. A true partnership between the Park Service and the people of Natchez would be the result.	The emphasis of this alternative would be much as described in alternative 2, with the addition of a cotton plantation where visitors could see the site of an antebellum cotton plantation and learn about plantation slavery and cotton production. With a larger staff and four NPS sites, interpretation and thus the visitor experience would be the most comprehensive of the three alternatives. This alternative represents an enhanced partnership with the people of Natchez.
<b>Visitor Center</b>	Visitor information provided at Melrose and McCallum house; no formal NPS visitor center.	NPS visitor center at undetermined downtown site (combined with NPS administrative headquarters). Video projection program about Fort Rosalie/Natchez at theater in center.	New NPS visitor center at undetermined location at Fort Rosalie. Video projection program about Fort Rosalie/Natchez at theater in center.
<b>Melrose</b>	Melrose would be key site to tell the story of the cotton-based economy/culture of Natchez. Visitors would see video program about Melrose in carriage house, then tour the main house (no change from time of NPS acquisition), and follow a self-guiding brochure to tour dependencies. Dairy would have existing exhibits plus new interpretive panel; kitchen would be a cooperating association sales outlet. North slave cabin used as staff housing or for other administrative purposes. South slave cabin (exterior restoration) open to visitors (no interior restoration). Many research studies would be needed before implementation.	Melrose would be key site to tell the story of the cotton-based economy/culture of Natchez. Information and tickets at carriage house, which would also have a few exhibits and cooperating association sales. No video program would be provided. Tours of main house and dependencies. Main house and selected portions of grounds restored to antebellum period (if possible). North slave cabin restored on exterior and used for administrative purposes. South slave cabin restored on interior and exterior; two rooms restored as slave quarters (if possible). Parking for 47 vehicles (including buses and RVs). New and upgraded walkways would connect various areas. New maintenance complex built on site; existing maintenance building preserved, and greenhouse removed. Research studies would be needed before implementation of any actions.	Same as alternative 2, except for an open view of the main house from the entrance road and the construction of a small visitor contact station near the parking area.

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES (CONT.)**

	<b>Alternative 1 — Continuation of Existing Trends</b>	<b>Alternative 2 — Partnership Park (Proposed Action)</b>	<b>Alternative 3 — Expanded Partnership Park</b>
William Johnson House	Exterior restored. First-floor interior rehabilitated for interpretation of black history in Natchez, especially as related to William Johnson. Upper floors stabilized.	Exterior restored; first floor rehabilitated for exhibits and interpretation of black history, especially as related to William Johnson. Second floor restored to its historic appearance as Johnson's home, if possible. Third floor would be stabilized.	Same as alternative 2.
McCallum House	Exterior rehabilitated. Interior first floor rehabilitated for NPS visitor contact and staff use. Upper floors stabilized.	Exterior rehabilitated; adaptive use of first floor for exhibits and theater for video program on black history of Natchez; second floor used for NPS offices/storage. Third floor stabilized and preserved.	Same as alternative 2.
Dependency	After needed studies, structure might be used for visitor services, such as a cooperating association sales outlet or interpretation.	Adaptive use for interpretation and administrative space.	Same as alternative 2.
Entire Complex	Thorough archeological and historical research would be done before any actions. Fenced for protection.	Same as alternative 1.	Same as alternative 2.
Fort Rosalie	Removal/relocation of all structures on site, except Stietenroth house (for NPS headquarters). Box factory remnants removed for safety reasons. No visitor facilities; occasional tours. Archeological investigations to locate fort site; possible interpretation of these investigations. Bluff would be stabilized.	Removal/relocation of all but one or two structures on site; Stietenroth house would remain (for interim NPS headquarters and later visitor services/staff housing). Box factory remnants removed for safety reasons. Create parklike setting — with interpretive trails, picnic area, parking, and a foot trail along the river. Archeological investigations to locate fort site; possible interpretation of these investigations. Bluff would be stabilized.	Same as alternative 2, except Stietenroth house would become NPS administrative headquarters and river trail would be an elevated boardwalk.
Cotton Plantation	Adequate interpretation of plantation slavery and its significance to the Natchez story at Melrose and William Johnson complex.	Story of plantation slavery and cotton production presented as integral part of interpretive media at visitor contact areas. Special history study conducted to gather data on area plantations.	Same as alternative 2 for interpretation and special history study. However, Park Service would conduct special resource study to find and acquire interest in or negotiate a cooperative agreement with landowner for preservation, interpretation, restoration, and visitor use of a plantation. Evaluation of site for addition to Natchez National Historical Park or as a separate unit of the national park system.

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES (CONT.)**

	<b>Alternative 1 — Continuation of Existing Trends</b>	<b>Alternative 2 — Partnership Park (Proposed Action)</b>	<b>Alternative 3 — Expanded Partnership Park</b>
Under-the-Hill	Reference to Under-the-Hill and its relation to Natchez through video program at Melrose, exhibits at the William Johnson complex, and interpretive media at the site.	NPS technical and financial assistance for planning and designing interpretive media to describe significance of Under-the-Hill through outdoor wayside exhibits or exhibits in existing building. Additional interpretation of Under-the-Hill at visitor contact areas.	Same as alternative 2.
Cooperative Agreements	Park Service would enter into few if any cooperative agreements. NPS assistance on as time and funds permit basis.	Park Service would enter into cooperative agreements with state and local government, business entities, and owners of historically significant properties. Staffed position for managing the agreements.	Same as alternative 2 with additional cooperative agreements for tours, special events, and design guidelines.
Preservation District Boundary	Boundary not modified.	Boundary modified to include Grand Village.	Boundary modified to include Grand Village and area cotton plantation.
NPS Administration	Administration in Stietenroth house. No increase over current staff.	Administration in Stietenroth house on interim basis; new administrative headquarters/visitor center in downtown area. Total staff of approximately 40 full-time-equivalent employees.	Administration in Stietenroth house. Total staff of approximately 44 full-time-equivalent employees.
Estimated Costs	\$5,259,000	\$16,430,000	\$17,241,000

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Note: In general, the following table does not show the impacts that are common to all alternatives.

	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED	ALTERNATIVE 3
<p><b>IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE/EXPERIENCE</b> Overall</p>	<p>Because interpretation would be focused at two visitor contact areas — Melrose and the William Johnson complex — on antebellum Natchez (1840s to 1860s); interpretation of Natchez' history from 1715 to the present would be limited.</p> <p>Opportunity to "preserve and interpret the history of Natchez" beyond what is now being done would be limited because of little new site development or interpretation. Legislative intent of park establishment would not be met.</p>	<p>With three visitor contact areas, a visitor center, improved interpretation, and more preservation of historic structures citywide, visitors could learn about all the significant facets of the history of Natchez, 1715 to present day.</p> <p>Full partnership with city would be possible, resulting in a broader opportunity to "preserve and interpret the history of Natchez."</p> <p>New maintenance facility location would ensure separation of maintenance and visitor activities.</p> <p>Would meet the intent of establishing the park.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2 except cotton plantation would be included as an established NPS site for visitor use, resulting in enhanced protection and interpretation of a significant and rare resource.</p> <p>Would most fully meet legislative intent for park establishment.</p>
Melrose	<p>New interpretive video projection program at Melrose would provide greater visitor understanding of historic context. Visitors would not see the estate as it appeared in antebellum period because of the continuation of architectural and furnishing incongruities.</p>	<p>Restoration to appropriate period (probably antebellum era) and more complete interpretation would allow visitors to see the estate as it appeared in the antebellum era and understand the historical context of the estate.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2; new visitor contact station would allow visitors an added interpretive experience.</p>
William Johnson Complex	<p>Exhibits would give visitors an understanding of black history and William Johnson. Visitor services would be increased by using McCallum house for visitor contact/interpretation.</p>	<p>With more comprehensive exhibits and interpretation, the black history story would be told more comprehensively at the William Johnson complex; visitors could gain a better sense of how Johnson might have lived within his home.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2.</p>
Fort Rosalie	<p>River views would be open to the public. Minimal interpretation about the founding of Natchez and Fort Rosalie would occur. Alteration of overall setting would change visual appearance of the site.</p>	<p>Bluff stabilization and zoning regulations would protect views, which would create opportunities for increased understanding of the fort's historical context. A more parklike setting, with picnic area and trails, would create opportunities for increased recreational use. Much alteration of overall setting would change visual appearance.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2.</p>



**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	<b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b>
Cotton Plantation Complex	Visitors would have no opportunity for an onsite plantation experience; however, this vital part of Natchez story — life on a cotton plantation and contrast with urban slavery — would be interpreted at Melrose and the William Johnson complex.	Visitors would learn more about plantation slavery, cotton production, and the plantation's relation to Natchez planters, but would not have opportunity to see a plantation.	With firsthand look at the remains of an antebellum plantation, visitors would have most comprehensive interpretation of plantation slavery and cotton production and their relationship to Natchez planters.
Under-the-Hill	Minimal interpretation of this colorful side of Natchez' history.	Onsite interpretation of Under-the-Hill would provide an opportunity for increased understanding of this site's contribution to Natchez' history.	Same as alternative 2
<b>IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> Overall	<p>Few avenues for NPS technical assistance to individuals or organizations for preservation, interpretation, etc.</p> <p>Protection of historic structures at Melrose from deterioration through overuse. Some loss of historic fabric through restoration and rehabilitation of some structures — mitigated by prior thorough documentation and continued preservation of structures and grounds.</p> <p>New curatorial building at Melrose would mean protection and proper care of valuable artifacts.</p> <p>Archeological and historical investigations and various other studies, done before construction, would ensure that no historic resources would be disturbed.</p> <p>Alternative 1 provides the least opportunity for preservation of cultural resources in Natchez.</p>	<p>Expanded preservation, site development, staffing, and interpretation would open many avenues for NPS technical assistance for preservation and interpretation of cultural/historic resources throughout Natchez.</p> <p>Protection of historic structures at Melrose from deterioration through overuse. Some loss of historic fabric through restoration and rehabilitation of some structures — mitigated by prior thorough documentation and continued preservation of structures and grounds.</p> <p>New curatorial building at Melrose would mean protection and proper care of valuable artifacts.</p> <p>Archeological and historical investigations and various other studies, done before construction, would ensure that no historic resources would be disturbed.</p> <p>Significantly better opportunity for preservation of cultural resources in Natchez than in alternative 1.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2, with the exception of the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of an antebellum plantation complex.</p> <p>Alternative 3 has most positive potential impact on the cultural resources.</p>

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	<b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b>
Visitor Center		One of Natchez' downtown historic structures would be preserved and rehabilitated for use as NPS visitor center/administrative headquarters.	Impact of new visitor center <i>unknown</i> at this time.
Melrose	House and grounds would retain incongruities of more modern amenities.	Some loss of historic fabric from restoration and rehabilitation. Furnishings would more accurately reflect the antebellum period. Overall effect would be continued preservation of the structures.	Same as alternative 2 except for opening view of Melrose and minor intrusion of visitor contact station.
William Johnson Complex	Some loss of historic fabric from restoration and adaptive use; overall effect would be continued preservation of the structures.	Same as alternative 1, but restoration and rehabilitation would be more extensive.	Same as alternative 2.
Fort Rosalie	Bluff stabilization would help protect archeological resources. Stietenroth house would be preserved. Possible loss of significance to historic structures that are removed. Significant alteration of existing setting of resources.	Same as alternative 1. Parklike setting and greater NPS presence might mean less vandalism of archeological features; archeological features would be interpreted. Greater use of the site might also mean more wear and tear.	Same as alternative 2.
Under-the-Hill	Bluff stabilization would help protect Under-the-Hill area. Exhibits and interpretation of Under-the-Hill story available.	Bluff stabilization would help protect Under-the-Hill area. More extensive exhibits and interpretation of Under-the-Hill story available than in alternative 1.	Same as alternative 2.
Cotton Plantation Complex	No federal assistance to preserve remains of plantation complex; this could mean deterioration and eventual loss of a significant resource if monies are not provided for preservation.	Same as alternative 1. However, the special history study would provide important information on an antebellum plantation for interpretation.	Preservation and interpretation of a cotton plantation would ensure the long-term preservation of one of the few antebellum plantation complexes in the south; prior consideration needed for possible adverse effect of opening such a site to visitors.

TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)

	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED	ALTERNATIVE 3
Preservation District		Inclusion of Grand Village in noncontiguous boundary would mean that it would be interpreted at visitor center, have a higher priority for NPS assistance, and possibly have increased visitation to the site.	Same as alternative 2, with addition of cotton plantation within noncontiguous boundary.
<b>IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES</b> Overall	Minimal overall disturbance to natural resources.	Minor overall disturbance to natural resources.	Minor overall disturbance to natural resources.
Impacts on Geology and Soils	Generic and site-specific bluff stabilization and monitoring at Fort Rosalie would help protect bluff from further erosion.	Same as alternative 1.	Same as alternative 2 with addition of stabilization of toe of bluff at Under-the-Hill because of boardwalk pylons.
Impacts on Floodplains	No impacts	Foot trail in lower portion of Fort Rosalie would be partially in 100-year floodplain. (This is an excepted action.)	Boardwalk at Fort Rosalie would partially be in 100-year floodplain (an excepted action); boardwalk would be designed to withstand 100-year floods.
Impacts on Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	No impacts	No impacts on federal species. Prior survey and possible resulting adjustments would mitigate impacts to three state-listed species that might be at Melrose.	Same as alternative 2.

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	<b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b>
Impacts on Other Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife	<p>Minimal disturbance from providing access for visitors with disabilities at Melrose.</p> <p>Minimal impacts on mowed lawn and paved areas at William Johnson complex.</p> <p>Increased parkwide visitation might cause additional minor disturbance to wildlife species.</p>	<p>Parking area and entrance road at Melrose would disturb 0.5 acre each of forest, lawn, and existing disturbed land. Walkways would require 0.2 acre additional pavement. All would blend into environment. New maintenance complex would disturb 0.75 acre of overgrown field. Maintenance road would disturb 0.2 acre of mostly open field. about .4 acre of road and parking lot would be revegetated, and 0.1 acre of road would be replaced with surface stabilized materials. Animals in less than 1 acre of forest that would be disturbed would be displaced.</p> <p>The 1,150 sq ft of walkway and parking area at Johnson complex would be on lawn or already disturbed areas.</p> <p>Picnic area at Fort Rosalie would impact about 3 acres of disturbed land; parking area would disturb minimal vegetation. Trail, turnouts, and access at Fort Rosalie would disturb minimal amount of grass and second-growth vegetation.</p> <p>The total amount of vegetation disturbed at all sites under this alternative includes about 1.5 acres of lawn and open field, less than 1 acre of forest (Melrose), and about 4 acres of previously disturbed land.</p> <p>At all sites, landscaping, with previously collected native plants, would mitigate impacts. Construction activity would displace small mammals and birds.</p>	Same as alternative 2.

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	<b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b>
<b>IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES</b>	<p>Spectacular river views at Fort Rosalie might be lost without proper zoning restrictions. Removal of structures at Fort Rosalie and subsequent return to open setting would significantly alter the look of the area.</p> <p>Little overall change in visual aspects of park and city because of the minimal number of cooperative agreements and NPS technical assistance that would be available.</p>	<p>Zoning restrictions and bluff stabilization would ensure continuation of spectacular river views, and views from Fort Rosalie would be opened to the public. Removal of structures at Fort Rosalie and development of a parklike setting and picnic area would significantly alter the site.</p> <p>With myriad cooperative agreements and NPS technical assistance, visual aspects of many citywide resources would be improved.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2 with addition of minimal visual intrusion of visitor contact station and opened view at Melrose.</p>
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS ON RESIDENTS</b>	<p>Change in land uses at Fort Rosalie. If all structures but the Stietenroth house are removed, about nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced and approximately 27 structures would be removed from the site.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 1, except one or two structures might remain on site for NPS purposes.</p> <p>Some minor revenue losses due to removal of properties from local tax rolls.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2.</p>
<p><b>COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS</b>                      Impacts on visitor experience                      Impacts on cultural resources                      Impacts on natural resources                      Impacts on city/residents</p>	<p>Little avenue provided for residents, businesses, and owners of historically significant properties to get assistance for projects such as preservation, interpretation, and signs for historically significant resources. Some avenues would exist for limited NPS assistance to Natchez officials.</p>	<p>Due to myriad cooperative agreements and NPS technical assistance that would be available, many avenues provided for residents, business entities, and owners of historically significant properties to get assistance for projects such as preservation, interpretation, and signs for historically significant resources.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2, but with even greater number of cooperative agreements.</p>
<b>IMPACTS ON STAFFING</b>	<p>Continuation of current 17 full-time-equivalent employees.</p>	<p>Continuation of current 17 plus approximately 23 additional full-time-equivalent employees.</p>	<p>Continuation of current 17 plus approximately 27 additional full-time-equivalent employees.</p>

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	<b>ALTERNATIVE 1</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3</b>
<b>CUMULATIVE IMPACTS</b>	<p>Increased visitation from legalized riverboat gambling plus establishment of park could result in traffic congestion, lack of parking, inadequate support services, and increases in crime. A positive benefit to the local economy could result because of increased visitor dollars expended.</p> <p>City might take steps to stabilize other bluff areas if Park Service stabilizes Fort Rosalie area, thus protecting additional natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 1; with more cooperative agreements in place, many more efforts by groups and individuals would help protect and preserve other privately owned historic resources in the city.</p>	<p>Same as alternative 2.</p>
<b>UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS</b>		<p>Less than 1 acre of forest and 1.5 acres of grassy lawn and overgrown field would be permanently lost at Melrose. About nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced and approximately 27 structures would be removed from the site. Properties acquired by Park Service would be removed from tax rolls.</p> <p>Removal of historic structures at Fort Rosalie would be significant adverse impact.</p>	
<b>SHORT-TERM USES vs. MAINTENANCE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY</b>		<p>About 2 acres of vegetation and soil at Melrose would be removed from natural productivity for NPS development to provide for public education and enjoyment. About 0.5 acre of gravel roads and parking at Melrose would be replaced with vegetation, adding to long-term enhancement of biological resources. Bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie would contribute to long-term productivity of that site.</p>	

**TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CONT.)**

	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2 — PREFERRED	ALTERNATIVE 3
<b>IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES</b>		<p>Increased visitation at Melrose and William Johnson complex might mean more theft or damage of historic furnishings.</p> <p>Archeological excavations at Fort Rosalie and the William Johnson complex would mean irreversible loss of archeological resources.</p> <p>All loss of historic fabric (for rehab, adaptive use, or in preparation for visitor use) would be irreversible and irretrievable.</p>	

Note: Impacts related to options for extending the parkway in the city are not analyzed as part of this plan. They will be addressed in phase 2 of the environmental analysis for construction of that particular section of the parkway.





## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT



*A*round Natchez is a beautiful rolling country, abounding in park-like scenery. Showy, and, in some cases, elegant residences crown the little knolls; and the country, for several miles back into Mississippi, wears an air of wealth and comfort. On the opposite side of the river are "the swamps." But the swamps are the gold mines. It is only those who draw their support from the rich, low lands of the neighboring parishes of Louisiana who can afford the display that crowns the hills of Natchez.

Whitelaw Reid, *After the War: A Southern Tour, May 1, 1865 to May 1, 1866*, p. 481

## NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### REGIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Adams County, Mississippi

The city of Natchez is in Adams County, along the lower Mississippi River in the southwestern portion of Mississippi (see Region map). The county is contiguous to Jefferson, Franklin, and Wilkinson counties in Mississippi and Concordia Parish in Louisiana. Many recognized regional cultural resources are related to Natchez' history. In addition to the numerous historic landmarks and national register properties and districts in Natchez, Adams County contains cultural properties that are significant in local, regional, and national history contexts, as well as traditional ethnographic resources significant to African-Americans and other local ethnic groups. The following sites are representative of significant cultural resources in Adams County outside of Natchez:

The nationally significant Emerald Mound site, on the Natchez Trace Parkway, was a major late prehistoric Plaquemine and historic Natchez culture ceremonial center. Emerald Mound is a massive, flat-topped platform mound and is the second largest late prehistoric earthwork in the United States.

The site of Fort Dearborn is in the vicinity of Washington, Mississippi, which served as the territorial capital of Mississippi. The timber fort housed U.S. troops in 1802-03 and served as a fortification for the territorial interior, but lost its military significance with the Louisiana Purchase.

The Assembly Hall, in Washington, Mississippi, is believed to be the meeting place of the legislative body

of the Mississippi Territory (1709 to 1817), serving from ca. 1808 until 1811. It is one of the few surviving buildings from Mississippi's territorial period. It is also the sole known example in Mississippi of a Natchez Trace tavern built specifically for commercial use.

The Elizabeth Female Academy, outside Washington, was the first chartered (in 1818) institution for women's higher education in the South. The building is in ruins.

Jefferson College, also in Washington, was incorporated by the Mississippi territorial legislature in 1802 and opened its doors to students in 1811. Mississippi's first constitution was written and signed in the old Methodist Church on the college campus; the college is the birthplace of Mississippi's statehood.

Significant plantation houses in Adams County, noted for their architecture, are Bedford, Beechland, Brandon Hall, Buie House, Cedar Grove, The Cliffs, Cherry Grove, Edgewood, Fair Oaks, Foster's Mound, Glen Mary, Hillside, Laurel Hill, Magnolia Hill, Mistletoe, Montpelier, Mount Olive, Mount Repose, Oakland, Oakwood, Saragossa, Selma Plantation House, Smithland, Warren-Erwin House, and Woodstock. Both China Grove Plantation and Glen Aubin have histories of black ownership, being purchased by former slaves or their children in the years immediately after the Civil War. Mistletoe was built by slave craftsmen. Only China Grove, and Saragossa have extant tenant houses or slave quarters. Cedar Grove contains a cemetery for plantation slaves.

## Concordia Parish, Louisiana

Part of the historic Natchez District, this parish, across the Mississippi River from Natchez, has six properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Frogmore is an original planter's cottage with no outbuildings. Both the Lisburn plantation house and Roseland were moved from their original sites, and no outbuildings survive. The Tacony plantation house possesses significance as the plantation where John R. Lynch labored as a slave; however, it no longer is a working plantation. The Sheriff Eugene P. Campbell house has burned since it was nominated to the national register.

The sixth national register property in Concordia Parish is the 531-acre Canebrake plantation. Several plantation outbuildings are on the property, including a frame chicken house, a 20th century frame garage, and a gabled-roof frame barn north of the house. Behind the house is the "quarter lot," which contains five double slave cabins. North of the barn is an additional double slave cabin that was relocated from the quarter lot.

Canebrake plantation is the most architecturally significant antebellum plantation complex in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. Its significance is derived from the survival and integrity of the slave cabins and the survival of the main house as a rare example of an overseer's house on a plantation owned and operated by an absentee landlord who belonged to Natchez aristocracy. In the early 19th century, Concordia Parish was the principal planting province for Natchez' cotton-planting elite.

## NATCHEZ' VISUAL RESOURCES

Natchez is a marvelous place to excite the visual senses. Probably the best known visual resources, which are scattered throughout the city, are the many magnificent antebellum mansions and their gardens and landscapes. The mansions are currently the major drawing card for the visitor, and there is a need to appropriately preserve these structures and their grounds and gardens.

The city itself is also a pleasant visual attraction. The architecture of many of the buildings is historic, attractive, and provides a sense of comfort and retrospection to the visitor walking by. The size, scale, color, and texture of certain buildings, as well as features such as porches, fences, gates, vest pocket parks, small gardens, and shade trees, all combine to provide a positive experience for the visitor willing to take the time to walk around the city. Visual enhancement of the city can be done through projects such as building facade rehabilitation and streetscape improvements, which should conform to design guidelines that would be based on the existing visual tone of historic Natchez.

One of the most spectacular visual resources in Natchez is the Mississippi River, especially as seen from the bluff at Fort Rosalie. The views across the river into Louisiana, especially looking north with the unspoiled natural landscape on both sides of the river, are unique and memorable. The value of this scenic resource, however, goes beyond the view itself and provides the visitor with a more tangible understanding of the historic Natchez landscape.

There is a need to make these views available to the visiting public and preserve them for future generations of visitors and residents. These views are

not currently available to the public because they are on private property. The views of the river from the Spanish Promenade along Broadway are also valuable and need to remain unobstructed. Protection of these views may require cooperative agreements, scenic easements, air quality management, or other protection measures such as bluff stabilization.

## **NATCHEZ' CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Historic Resources in the City**

Natchez is a historic city, touched by many people of many cultures. The first inhabitants left temple and burial mounds, as well as the city's name. Remnants of the first French effort at settlement, Fort Rosalie, are on a terrace high above the Mississippi River. Sandwiched between the river and the city, the Fort Rosalie site offers open space and open views of the Natchez bluffs and Mississippi River. The green commons extending along the bluff's edge along the length of Broadway Avenue is a legacy of Natchez' colonial era. This open space served as a promenade, and military parade ground for the French, British, and Spanish.

Underneath the bluffs, at the end of Silver Street, is Natchez' once infamous waterfront, Natchez Under-the-Hill. Once consisting of five streets, and numerous shops, houses, and packet and steam-boat landings, the site now contains several commercial establishments in restored buildings. Both the Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen dock here regularly, and add a semblance of past activity.

Historically, the Natchez Trace ended in Natchez on the bluffs at the end of Main Street. The downtown streets of Natchez were laid out by the Spanish — a grid pattern of eight streets parallel to the river

and eight crossing streets. As Natchez grew, blocks were added through standardized platting. Beyond town, the roads turned into trails leading to the countryside, home to many of the antebellum estates that circled the city.

The oldest surviving structures in Natchez date before 1800. King's Tavern, Airlie, Hope Farm, and the House on Ellicott's Hill are all wooden structures; Texada was the first brick house built in town. Surviving early structures reflect French, Spanish, and English influences, as well as West Indian. As Natchez grew in population and wealth, classical architectural styles became popular. Introduced at Auburn in 1812, the grand portico, with its two-story columns, has become one of the best-known symbols of the social, economic, and cultural aspirations of antebellum southern life.

Melrose is the grandest of the Greek Revival mansions, with its outbuildings, furnishings, formal garden, and landscaped grounds. Natchez' postwar ruined economy eventually proved beneficial from a historic preservation point of view — there were no funds to alter historic homes or to promote new development. The numerous national historic landmarks, historic districts, and national register properties contribute to Natchez' historical ambience and also honor the people of Natchez, from the wealthiest planter to the slave.

Black slaves were brought into Natchez on the landing in Natchez Under-the-Hill and were sold on almost any street corner until the early part of the 19th century. After that, Natchez' "forks of the road" slave market gained prominence and was second in volume only to the markets in New Orleans. No aboveground remnants of this slave market remain (where D'Evereux Drive and Liberty Road merge with St. Catherine Street).

Other structures in Natchez, however, are associated with black history. Very few domestic structures associated with slavery survive, especially those of field hands. Many of these structures were replaced by larger tenant houses. The homes of house servants are more prevalent and can be seen in association with the big estates. Several buildings associated with free blacks still remain, including the William Johnson house and the Smith-Bontura-Evans house. Congregations from black churches such as the Zion Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rose Hill Baptist Church, and Holy Family Catholic Church contributed greatly to the larger community. Predominantly black neighborhoods such as the upriver residential district contribute to Natchez' heritage.

#### **Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Resources in the City**

The following *Brief Summary of Southwest Mississippi Prehistory* was written in July 1991 by Jim Barnett, Director, Division of Historic Properties, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Southwest Mississippi lies mostly within the Loess Hills physiographic region. This region is characterized by rugged topography and dense forests of mixed hardwoods. The areas along the major rivers have received the greatest amount of archeological attention. Not surprisingly, archeological activity has long been concentrated around the present city of Natchez.

Surface finds of early stone tools in Adams, Jefferson, and Amite counties indicate that hunters and gatherers were in the area during

the Paleo-Indian Period. Very little is known of these early inhabitants. The long Archaic Period is represented by sites composed primarily of surface scatters of lithic material. This was a time of adaptation to the rich environment of the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The Woodland Period, represented locally by the florescence of the Marksville and the Coles Creek cultural traditions, encompassed the introduction and development of pottery and the bow and arrow. These technological innovations, along with the beginnings of ceremonial mound construction and corn agriculture, set the stage for the Mississippian Period.

In Southwest Mississippi, the Mississippian Period is represented by the Plaquemine cultural tradition. During this period, influences from the north, from centers such as Cahokia, led to the increased use of agriculture and the dramatic expansion of ceremonial mound centers.

Large mound sites such as Emerald Mound, near the Natchez Trace Parkway, indicate the degree of social organization reached by the ancestors of the historic Natchez Indians. The Natchez were probably contacted by the De Soto expedition in the mid 16th century; however, their first clearly documented encounter with Europeans occurred in March, 1682, when the La Salle expedition reached the Natchez area.

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, the French established a colony at Natchez. In 1716, Fort Rosalie was built at the site of the present-day city. Trading relationships with the tribe were quickly established; however, frequent disputes and conflicts occurred. French records indicate that the Grand Village mound center, located near St. Catherine Creek about three miles from the fort, was the tribe's main ceremonial center during the historic period.

In 1729, the Natchez rebelled against the French, destroying the fort and killing many of the colonists. The French retaliated and, by the mid 1730s, the Natchez tribe had been driven from the area and reduced to a few wandering refugee groups.

### Historic Resources in the Park

Natchez National Historical Park is comprised of three separate properties — the Melrose estate (in NPS ownership), the William Johnson complex (in NPS ownership), and Fort Rosalie (in the process of being acquired) — all of which have been recognized for their historical significance. Melrose, the William Johnson house, and Fort Rosalie (as part of the Natchez Bluff and Under-the-Hill Historic District) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Melrose is also a national historic landmark, and it has been documented by the NPS Historic American Buildings Survey through photographs.

Natchez also contains many historic resources that could be used to interpret its history — 11 national historic landmarks, 41 national register properties, and 5 national register historic districts.

These resources/properties, most of which relate to the park's interpretive themes, are described in appendix G and on the Preservation District and Existing National Register Historic Districts map.

**Melrose.** Melrose, an antebellum estate, is a national historic landmark that is now owned by the Park Service and will serve as the park's focal point for interpreting Natchez' antebellum history. According to the landmark nomination form, "Melrose is remarkable for the perfection of its design and the integrity of its maintenance and surroundings." The site contains 78.6 acres of ground, a Greek Revival mansion complete with historic furnishings, and intact outbuildings. The quality of the preservation and maintenance of the house, outbuildings, and grounds is outstanding. Behind the house is a symmetrical service yard; on one side is a two-story kitchen and slave quarters, a latticed octagonal cistern house, and a smokehouse; on the other side are a two-story dairy and slave quarters, an identical cistern house, and a square brick privy with storage. Also on site are a barn/carriage house, a stable, two slave cabins, and a slave privy.

Built in 1845 for attorney and planter John T. McMurrin and his wife Mary Louisa Turner, the estate has been in the ownership of only three families (but four actual owners), which has aided in its preservation. The main house was furnished in the height of mid 19th century taste. The McMurrins, considered Natchez aristocracy, purchased furnishings for the house in New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans.

In 1865 the McMurrins, financially ruined by the war, sold Melrose to Natchez attorney George Malin Davis and his wife Elizabeth. The household furnishings were included in the sale. The estate sat empty after 1883, at the deaths of George

Malin Davis and his only heir, Julia Davis Kelly. The house was kept intact through the years by Jane Johnson and Alice Sims, former Davis slaves who kept out intruders and would-be thieves. The estate was not occupied again until 1901 when Julia Davis Kelly's son George Malin Davis Kelly and his bride Ethel Moore Kelly began living there occasionally.

The Kellys decided to keep and preserve the house's interior rather than redecorate. The Kellys' daughter, Marion Kelly Ferry, also kept the estate intact and sold it in 1976, with furnishings, to John and Betty Callon, who restored the house soon afterwards. Thus, the house's first-floor furnishings are museum quality and original to the McMurrans, Davises, and Kellys. The house is complete with furniture, dishes, books, paintings, curtains, lighting, painted canvas floorcloths, and working slave bell system. Extant are 1865 and 1883 inventories of the house's contents. The second floor, having served as living quarters for the Davis, Kelly, and Callon families, has been altered to include modern restrooms and contains fewer original furnishings.

Melrose's significance is enhanced due to the intactness of its 19th century furnishings. The following are some of the more noteworthy artifacts:

Rear Hall: Pair of matching end tables (attributed to Anthony Gabriel Quervelle (1789-1856) and probably made in Philadelphia, c. 1840) and original painted canvas floorcloth

Dining Room: Mid 19th century dining table, two Gothic armchairs, and 12 side chairs (all probably purchased in Philadelphia); mahogany punkah with carved anthemion; and a pair of Argand lamps (Lewis Vernon and Company, Philadelphia)

Drawing Room: Original green and gold brocade draperies, tiebacks, and cornices; walnut rococo revival chairs, table, and sofa; settee with two swivel seats and hassock; oil-burning chandelier (Cornelius and Company, 1845)

Parlor: Walnut sofa, round mahogany table (Joseph Meeks and Sons, New York City, c. 1835), portrait of Julia Davis Kelly (1846-1883)

The house's first floor interior does contain several restoration changes dating from 1976-1978. The Zuber scenic wallpaper in the front hall dates from 1978, and the wooden pilasters have been painted. The interior hardware, specifically the silver plate doorknob, doorbell pull, and lock cover on the front door, was replaced ca. 1978. The painted canvas floorcloths were restored ca. 1978. The Callons changed many of the interior finishes; the interior was much more plain when the Kelly family lived there.

The house's exterior has had very few changes. The stucco blocks surrounding the front door have been painted white; they originally were tinted colors to emulate scored-cut sandstone.

The outbuildings are also intact and contribute to the historical and architectural significance of Melrose. Most of these structures are in good condition and were rehabilitated/restored ca. 1978-1980. The interior of Melrose's primary kitchen was rehabilitated with modern kitchen facilities ca. 1978. The original configuration of the slave quarters on the second floor of both buildings (three chambers with partition walls) was altered ca. 1978. These quarters contain no original furnishings. The dairy contains its original troughs, but has otherwise been altered slightly. A pair of wood garage doors were added to the building in the early

20th century to accommodate an automobile. There are no known original furnishings.

The cisterns, smokehouse, and privies are original. The privies contain separate compartments for men and women, with scaled seating for children and adults. The smokehouse has been converted into a mechanical room, but an early 20th century pump and compressor are in place.

The stable and carriage house are original. Large doors were added to the carriage house by the Kellys to allow for automobile storage, but otherwise appears unaltered. The stable appears to be unaltered.

One slave cabin, originally two rooms but reconfigured to three rooms, retains its original, restored exterior. The other slave cabin has incompatible additions that can be removed, including modern kitchen and bathroom facilities in an added rear shed and a nonhistoric shed. This cabin retains its original two-room configuration. The interiors of both have been rehabilitated with modern furnishings. There is no evidence that the slave privy existed before 1860.

Landscaping around the estate contains historic and modern elements. Melrose was a working estate, but there are no known remnants of the vegetable gardens, fencing, or small animal pens, hatches, or coops, which would have existed. The Kellys planted the large tree screen that separates the house from the cypress pond and cuts the front lawn in half. The Kellys also replaced the original shell walks that connected the house to the kitchen and dairy with brick.

The pond behind the dependencies was built by the Callons in 1982. It is on the site of a smaller pond built by the Kellys

in the early 1900s, that eventually filled in. The gazebo was added by the Callons. The driveway leading to the front door is not the original; the original white gate posts are in the tree screen. The formal garden is believed to date to the McMurrin era, although both the Kellys and Callons made changes. The Kellys added the clay tennis court; only the court corner posts remain. The fruit trees were planted by the Davises, and the iron gates came from one of their other estates, Choctaw. The stone carriage block at the east entrance of the main house is historic; the concrete entrance pad is modern.

The maintenance facility appears to have been built by the Kellys between 1900-1910. The adjacent greenhouse was added in the 1980s by the Callons.

In 1978, after their acquisition of Melrose, the Callons hired a professional landscape architect to evaluate the property and make recommendations.

The landscaping performed at Melrose between 1978 to 1986 included the following additions: a large pea-graveled parking area with chain and post decorative fencing for bus tours and guests, a small parking area adjacent to the old kitchen for family parking, and brick walks from the family parking area to the house. The modern brick paths were laid to resemble the historic paths, in herringbone and basket-weave patterns. The original orchard was defined, and some new fruit trees were planted. None of the major roads were disturbed, but they were groomed for use and good drainage. Flowering trees were added to the fringe areas of the existing forest, and several live oak trees were placed along the entrance road. Large indica azaleas (matching existing plants) were added, especially along the entrance drive. Some screening was



added to the Melrose-Montebello street front of the property, but the old cypress pond was not disturbed. A collection of mature *Camellia japonicas* were planted around the family parking area.

Recommendations were made for seasonal color plantings in various flower beds around the buildings, including a rose garden around the cistern gazebo adjacent to the family parking. Recommendations were also made for foundation plantings around the restored dependencies (the kitchen/dairy buildings) used as guest houses. Plans were submitted for an English "cut-flower" garden adjacent to the orchard. None of the major garden elements were disturbed because historic integrity was a primary goal.

There has been no survey of archeological resources at Melrose. It is possible more outbuildings existed on site. It may be possible to determine the location and identity of such buildings. It is also possible that artifacts from earlier eras, including French and Spanish ownership of the land, may exist on the property.

**William Johnson House.** Born a slave and freed by a white planter believed to be his father, William Johnson started out as a barber and eventually owned several barber shops, rental property in town, and farmland and timberland where the labor was performed by his slaves and hired white workers. Johnson is remembered today as a diarist who kept a 2,000-page personal and business diary offering glimpses of antebellum southern life and relations between whites and free blacks. William Johnson's home will serve as a center for interpreting Natchez' African-American history.

The William Johnson house is a 2½-story, brick Greek Revival town house, on State Street between Canal and Wall streets. It

was built to the street, in commercial fashion. Johnson recorded the construction of the house in 1841 in his diary, and he described its use. He and his family lived in the upper stories while the first floor was leased to commercial enterprises. An inventory of the house's furnishings was made at Johnson's death in 1851. The late 19th century two-story brick outbuilding behind the house replaced an earlier building that housed a kitchen and servants' quarters.

Johnson's descendants owned the house until 1976, when it was sold to the Preservation Society of Ellicott Hill. This society stabilized the house, restored the street facade and rear two-story gallery on the house and a collapsed wall on the outbuilding and removed a 20th century porch and interior residential partitions. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History became involved with the house's preservation in 1986, with the establishment of a trust fund for restoration and acquisition.

The integrity of the original residential portion of the house is good. The original floor plan is intact; no bathrooms were installed, all original millwork remains, and remnants of 19th century wallpaper and paint survive. Most of the doors have their original hardware.

**McCallum House.** This 2½-story brick building was built in 1837, possibly as a duplex. Although the ground floor may have been for a commercial use, the upper floors were for residential use. The rear porch is missing. Although the ground floor has been altered on the interior and exterior, some integrity is retained on the second and third floor interiors and the second floor exterior of the facade. The structural condition of this building is extremely poor.

**Fort Rosalie Site.** The site of the original Fort Rosalie, where the colonial and territorial aspects of Natchez' history could be told, is on 32.48 acres on a hill west of South Canal Street. Several frame houses are on the site. Between the fort site and the Mississippi River is a cleared terrace where ancillary buildings, including the commandant's house, a Catholic church, and a priest's house, were located in the 1720s. West of this terrace, at the river, was the fort's old river landing. The site maintains much of its topographical integrity; the fort site on the knoll and terrace are essentially intact. Limited archeological testing at the fort site by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History resulted in the discovery of 18th century artifacts as well as one feature believed to be a portion of one of the fort's ramparts. Other archeological remains could exist and be excavated, although their significance is not known.

Fort Rosalie contains many structures in addition to the archeological fort site. These are on South Canal, Green, Rumble, and D.A. Biglane streets. There are seven significant historic buildings eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, six of which are frame residences and date ca. 1880s to 1900. All of these structures possess high/excellent architectural integrity and are in poor to good condition. One significant historic building is log, dates to pre-World War II, and is a remnant of a "reconstruction" of Fort Rosalie. It possesses high architectural integrity and is in fair condition.

Seven buildings on the site are marginally significant. They are frame or board-and-batten residences and are in fair to good condition. One house dates to ca. 1904,

one to 1920, and the remainder from 1925-1946.

Six buildings on site are noncontributing because of deterioration or unsympathetic alterations. All are frame, in poor to deteriorated condition, and lack architectural integrity. Four of these buildings were built ca. 1900, and two date from 1925-1946.

Eight buildings/structures are considered intrusive in appearance. These are frame or brick houses or garage structures that range in condition from good to deteriorated. No construction date has been determined for three of the buildings; the others range from 1925-1950. One of the structures is a brick tower associated with a ca. 1920 box factory on D.A. Biglane Street. The tower is in reasonably good condition, but other associated structures are in ruins.

The National Park Service and the state historic preservation office have already agreed informally that 13 of the buildings currently on the Fort Rosalie site could be demolished because they are either non-contributing, intrusive, or are so marginal that they do not warrant preservation. The Park Service is in the process of seeking formal determinations of national register eligibility of the structures on Fort Rosalie.

D.A. Biglane Street, which winds through the Fort Rosalie site from Compress and South Canal streets to Natchez Under-the-Hill was improperly designed and lacks stability. Although maintenance for this street would continue to be the responsibility of the city, problems that develop along the road could become problems for adjoining NPS property. Private developers have recently constructed a parking lot in this mid-level area.

## NATCHEZ' NATURAL RESOURCES

### Location and Topography

Natchez, Mississippi, is on a prominent bluff that rises 150 to 200 feet above the floodplain of the Mississippi River. The city extends from this high bluff to St. Catherine Creek, which curves around the east side of the city and empties into the Mississippi River south of the city.

The topography of the Natchez area is one of contrast. The gently rolling terrain on which most of Natchez developed is dissected by bayous (drainages). Over the years, water flowing through the bayous has carved deep, steep-walled ravines, including some that are dry most of the year. The river bluff, an even more dramatic contrast to the gentle terrain of the city, has several vertical-walled coves that have formed primarily through erosion.

### Climate

The climate of Natchez is subtropical, generally rainy with mild winters. The colder continental climate to the north is moderated somewhat by the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Prevailing winds are from the west.

Rainfall, averaging about 55 inches annually, is distributed throughout the year. Thunderstorms are common in the summer and early fall while hailstorms and tornadoes occur frequently in the late spring and early summer.

During the summer, southerly winds bring moist tropical air into the area. In winter, periods of moist tropical air alternate with periods of dry polar air, resulting in sudden shifts of temperature. Monthly average temperatures range from 48° F in January to 81° F in July. Temperatures

above 90° F occur an average of 95 days per year, while temperatures below 32° F occur about 30 days per year.

### Air Quality

Natchez National Historical Park is classified as a class II clean air area under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401). Under this classification maximum allowable increases (increments) in sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) cannot be exceeded. These increments allow for modest industrial growth in the vicinity of the park.

The park is in the Mobile-Pensacola-Panama City-Southern Mississippi Interstate Air Quality Control Region (Alabama-Florida-Mississippi). Data from the Environmental Protection Agency in July 1990 indicates that emissions in this region are within the national ambient air quality standards for SO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter. Emissions of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen oxides (expressed as NO<sub>x</sub>) are unclassified or better than the national standards. (Unclassified usually means lack of monitoring data). One nearby Louisiana parish, Point Coupee, is classified as nonattainment (not meeting the standard) for O<sub>3</sub>.

Ambient air quality monitoring is conducted in Natchez, including total suspended particulate matter (TSP), SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and lead (Pb). TSP is also monitored in nearby Vidalia, Louisiana.

In Louisiana there are 14 and in Mississippi there are 25 major stationary air pollution sources within 50 miles of Natchez. Each source emits more than 100 tons per year of one or more regulated pollutants (see table 4).

Air pollution has adversely affected visibility in many NPS units. There are several spectacular views of the Mississippi River and the Louisiana countryside from the Natchez bluff, especially at Fort Rosalie. One of the most spectacular visual resources in Natchez is the Mississippi River, especially as seen from the bluff at Fort Rosalie. The views across the river into Louisiana, especially looking north with the unspoiled natural landscape on both sides of the river, are unique and memorable. The value of this scenic resource, however, goes beyond the view itself and provides the visitor with a more tangible understanding of the historic Natchez landscape. Thus these vistas are integral to the visitor's experience and are an important resource to be protected and preserved from adverse air pollution (visibility) impacts.

No study has been done on the possible impacts of air pollution or acid rain on the historic resources of Natchez.

### **Water Resources and Wetlands**

Natchez is in the St. Catherine Creek drainage basin. St. Catherine Creek is a tributary of the Mississippi River. An inventory of fish species conducted in 1976 lists eight species in St. Catherine Creek. A 1-mile stretch of the stream upstream of Natchez is being mined for sand and gravel.

Water resources at Melrose include an intermittent stream — Spanish Bayou — and two ponds. Spanish Bayou, a tributary of St. Catherine Creek, flows southward along the eastern park boundary. A small (1/10 acre) cypress pond sits along the south side of the front entrance road; rainwater is the sole source of its water. An approximately 2-acre pond is on the northeast side of the

Melrose property, behind the main house, on a tributary to Spanish Bayou. It is believed that a pond was originally constructed on this site in the early 1900s. It was abandoned and became overgrown. In 1982 the owners (the Callons) built the existing pond. A pump house and dam were constructed by the Callons, and the pond was filled with city water and rainwater. The pump house is no longer operational; currently, this pond fills only with rainwater.

The lower portion of the Fort Rosalie site is along the Mississippi River. This powerful, 3,000-foot-wide river has a mean flow of about 500,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). NPS jurisdiction will extend to the center of the main thalweg (the middle of the chief navigable channel in a waterway that constitutes the boundary line between two states) in the river after Fort Rosalie is acquired unless the Park Service negotiates a different jurisdiction with the city of Natchez.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that no significant wetlands occur in the park.

### **Geology and Soils**

Natchez, in the lower Mississippi River valley, is part of the Gulf Coastal Plain Province. The coastal plain includes 10 distinct land resource areas in Mississippi. Natchez extends into two of these areas. The long Mississippi River Delta area, averaging 65 miles wide, is the result of the erosional and depositional processes of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. This alluvial plain narrows in the southwestern part of the state, and only the western portion of Natchez that is below the bluff is in this area. The remainder of Natchez is in the Bluff Hills area, also referred to as the Loess Hills

**TABLE 4: MAJOR STATIONARY AIR POLLUTION SOURCES\* WITHIN 50 MILES  
OF NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

STATE	COUNTY	COMMUNITY	SOURCE
Louisiana	Caldwell	Columbia	Texas Gas Transmission
	East Feliciana	Jackson	TGPL-Enviro. Eng.
		(Rural)	TGPL-Enviro. Eng.
	Franklin	Ft. Necessity	Tenn. Gas Pipeline
	La Salle	Jena	A&R Jena Co.
		Urania	Louisiana-Pacific Corp.
	Pointe Coupee	Erwinville	Big River Industries, Inc.
		Lakeland	Alma Plantation, Ltd.
		Lottie	Oryx Energy Co.
			Texaco Fardoche GPP
		New Roads	Big Cajun No. 2
			Big Cajun No. 1
	West Feliciana	St. Francisville	James River
			St. Francisville Compressor Station
Mississippi	Adams	Natchez	Fidelity Tire Manufacturing International Paper Manville Sales Corporation Mississippi Power and Light
		Washington	The Blain Companies, Inc.
	Amite	Gloster	Georgia Pacific Corporation
	Claiborne	Hermanville	Southern Lumber Company
	Copiah	Galman	Georgia-Gulf Corporation
		Hazelhurst	Hazelhurst Lumber Company Hyman Edward Company Kitchens Bros. Manufacturing
	Lincoln	Bogue Chitto	Dickerson and Bowen
		Brookhaven	Columbus Lumber Company Southwest Paving Company
	Warren	Vicksburg	Anderson Tully Company Lee Street Mill; Waltersville Mill Apac-Mississippi, Inc. Bunge Corporation Cedar Chemical Corporation Champlin Refining and Chemicals Ergon Refining, Inc. International Paper Mississippi Power and Light Petro Source Resources
	Wilkinson	Woodville	Netterville Fred Lumber

\* Permitted sources generating more than 100 tons per year of one or more regulated pollutants.

Sources: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, July 10, 1991  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, July 25, 1991

because of the predominant loess soil, an eolian (wind-blown) silt.

According to the most current soil survey available, the loess soils of Natchez National Historical Park can be classified into two associations — the Memphis association and the Gullied Land-Natchez-Memphis association. Memphis soils have a surface layer of brown silt loam about 8 inches thick. The subsoil (up to 64 inches) ranges from brown silty clay loam to silt loam. Soils in the Memphis association are generally deep and well drained. Slopes range from 0 to 60 percent, but slopes of 12 to 25 percent are dominant. Memphis soils with slopes of less than 5 percent have few limitations for development while steep soils have severe limitations.

In the Gullied Land-Natchez-Memphis association, deep, wide gullies and steep, rough hills are dominant. The soil is mostly silty, but can be sandy and silty where the gullies are deeper and wider. The Natchez soils on the side slopes are generally deep, well-drained silt. Both the surface layer and subsoil of the Natchez soils are brown silt loam. Memphis soils occur on the upper slopes and ridges. Generally, soils of the Gullied Land-Natchez-Memphis association are found adjacent to the Mississippi River floodplain. The dominant soils in this association have severe limitations for development.

The William Johnson complex area is entirely within the Memphis association. Melrose is also within the Memphis association, although Spanish Bayou, on the eastern property line, is part of the Gullied Land series. Fort Rosalie is predominately within the Gullied Land-Natchez-Memphis association. The lower portion of Fort Rosalie, bordering the Mississippi River, is within the Gullied Land series of this association while parts

of the upper portion of Fort Rosalie are within the Memphis series.

At one point consideration was given to building a city-state welcome/visitor center near the toll plaza. It is important to point out that this area is within the Gullied Land-Natchez-Memphis association. The western portion of the site is in the Memphis series of this association, and the eastern portion is in the Gullied Land series.

Vertical cuts are common in loess soils. If the surface drainage is away from the top of the cut, the cut will stand without special treatment. Many vertical slopes in this area are over 40 years old and still in good condition. However, special attention must be given to moisture content during compaction when this soil is used for fill.

### **Geologic Hazards**

Stability and erosion of the bluff (unconsolidated sediments) along the river are issues of concern for the residents of the city as well as the National Park Service. Severe erosion has at times caused loss of life and property damage. The Fort Rosalie site contains approximately 0.25 mile of riverfront property along the bluff.

This issue was studied extensively by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the supervision of the National Park Service. The objectives of the bluff study were to identify the causes of bluff instability at Natchez and recommend options for bluff stabilization and protection from failure. A subsurface investigation indicated that four geologic formations are found in the bluff. The upper 50 feet is composed of two formations of silty loess soil. Below the loess is the Natchez formation, consisting of interbedded clay, sand, and

silt that grade to dense sand and gravelly sand with increasing depth. The Hattiesburg formation, a hard clay shale, is below the Natchez formation.

Before 1933, the Mississippi River flowed along a course that assaulted the river-bank at the base of the bluff, deepening the channel along the east bank of the river. The Giles cutoff (just north of Natchez) was completed in 1933 by the Army Corps of Engineers, and now the river flows roughly parallel to the bluff line. Sediment has been deposited along the east bank of the river as a result of this change in flow. In the southern half of the area studied, most of the east bank of the river has revetments that were built by the Corps of Engineers.

The study, completed in 1985, revealed that five types of bluff failure have occurred along the bluff: (1) rotational slump, (2) soil slide and soil fall, (3) mudflow, (4) soil creep, and (5) surface wash. (During a rotational slump, a fairly coherent mass of soil or rock slips along a well-defined, curved failure surface.) One of the problem areas addressed in the study was the Under-the-Hill area, which is adjacent to the Fort Rosalie site. A major bluff failure occurred in Under-the-Hill in March 1980 due primarily to a loess mudflow in which the soil became saturated from rainfall, groundwater seepage, and/or leaky utilities. Two people lost their lives, and two historically significant buildings were damaged.

Overall, bluff retreat is the result of slow, normal processes of erosion, except in a few places where erosion has been accelerated by humans. The Corps of Engineers concluded that infiltration of water into the bluff from rainfall and leaky utilities is primarily responsible for bluff instability in Natchez. A comprehensive examination of the condition of water lines, storm sewers, and sanitary sewer

lines in the area studied revealed that all utilities are in a state of disrepair and leaking. Estimations were that 247,000 gallons of water are lost each day from the water system alone. This volume of seepage, especially adjacent to the bluff, could be detrimental to bluff stability. Also, large trees tend to weaken the bluff because water flows along the roots and wind creates a pull on the roots causing the soil to loosen.

Although not evaluated as a potential problem area, the bluff and shoreline along the Fort Rosalie site were described in some detail. Based on observations and historical records, a long, large slide likely occurred in the southern portion of this site, possibly two centuries ago. A fairly uniform section of this area that slopes to the river was probably created during this slide. The toe of this large slide has been gradually worn down by erosion.

When the Giles cutoff was completed, the river began to flow parallel to the shoreline in this area. Thus, the river has gradually pulled away from the shoreline and the area began to fill with sediment. In 1971, a proposal to build a series of apartment buildings in this area was abandoned when investigation revealed adverse foundation conditions. Between this long gentle slope and the south end of Natchez Under-the-Hill, there are two steep-sided gullies.

The composition and condition of the soil, the depth of the rock formations under the soil, the slope of the bluff, the type of vegetation on the bluff, and the condition of the toe of the bluff vary all along the bluff. To determine the proper integration of bluff stabilization activities in any area, including Fort Rosalie, site-specific surveys would be needed.

## Prime and Unique Farmlands

The Soil Conservation Service office in Adams County, Mississippi, was consulted for a determination of prime and unique farmland on present and proposed national historical park property. Prime or unique farmlands are defined as soils particularly suited for growing general or specialty crops. Prime farmland produces general crops such as forage, fiber, and oil seed; unique farmland produces specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts.

According to an August 11, 1980, memorandum from the Council on Environmental Quality, federal agencies must assess the effects of their actions on soils classified by the Soil Conservation Service as prime or unique. Melrose, Fort Rosalie, and the William Johnson complex, all within the city limits of Natchez, are classified as urban and built-up land; none of this land is classified as prime or unique farmland and is exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

## Floodplains

The eastern boundary of the Melrose property, Spanish Bayou, is in the 100-year floodplain. This floodplain includes an area ranging from 200 to 400 feet surrounding the bayou. All other property within the Melrose boundary is outside the 500-year floodplain.

The lower portion of Fort Rosalie is within the 100-year floodplain. Base floodplain elevations in this area have been mapped and are available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The lower portion of Fort Rosalie is adjacent to the Natchez Under-the-Hill Historic District. A portion of Silver Street in this district is within the 100-year

floodplain. Ferry Street, an extension of Silver Street within the Fort Rosalie site is, in places, entirely within the 100-year floodplain. Parts of this road have been almost completely undermined by high flows of the Mississippi River. All other parts of Fort Rosalie are outside the 500-year floodplain.

The William Johnson house is outside the 500-year floodplain.

## Vegetation

The Melrose estate is about 50 percent forested. The 30-year-old stand is primarily a mixed hardwood forest, including such species as chestnut oak, southern red oak, hickory, sweet gum, magnolia, sycamore, persimmon, and mock orange. Loblolly and slash pine trees are also found in the forest. Understory species include immature trees, flowering and alternate dogwood, redbud, mulberry, blackberry, wild rose, cinnamon fern, jack-in-the-pulpit, mayapple, trillium, and violets.

The balance of the estate, excluding the buildings and developed areas, is a combination of mowed lawn, ornamental plantings, formal gardens, an orchard, and infrequently mowed grassy fields. There are also two ponds (previously described) on the property.

All vegetation is lush and green because of the long growing season and ample rainfall. Scattered throughout the open areas of the estate are such species as catawba, dogwood, American and yaupon holly, tallow tree, boxwood, camellia, mountain laurel, and crepe myrtle. The orchard includes a variety of trees such as fig, pear, peach, pecan, crabapple, and tung oil. Currently, the orchard is somewhat neglected. The park does not have an orchard management plan, and



no gardeners or natural resource personnel are on the staff.

Of all the plants on the property, perhaps the large live oak trees, draped in generous quantities of Spanish moss, best symbolize the essence of Melrose as a southern estate. The bigleaf magnolia trees enhance this southern ambiance.

The Fort Rosalie site can be divided into three sections. Section 1, between South Canal Street and the high bluff, is primarily residential with a few commercial properties. Vegetation here is a mixture of ornamentals that have been planted around the houses and wild species that have grown up naturally. Each of these categories include both native and exotic species. Ornamentals around the houses include native species such as privet hedges, wisteria, roses, pink lycoris, Louisiana iris, day lily, gladiolus, and phlox. Exotic ornamentals include azalea, English ivy, amaryllis, Confederate jasmine, daffodils, cannas, calla lilies, and camellia. The wild vegetation in this section includes native species such as black locust, black cherry, cedar, pecan, cottonwood, Virginia creeper, wild geranium, bedstraw, resurrection fern, daisies, thistles, and mustards, as well as the exotic species Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu, and chinaberry.

Just below the bluff line is section 2 of the Fort Rosalie site. A city road curves through this section from the Under-the-Hill area to Canal Street. The remains of an abandoned box factory are on a level part of this site, while the balance of the land slopes down toward the river. The predominant vegetation left in this section (private developers have put in a parking lot) is the native ground cover, crimson clover.

The lower portion of Fort Rosalie, section 3, extends along the Mississippi River from Under-the-Hill to the Mississippi-Louisiana bridge. Along the southern end of this section, the slope is fairly uniform, while steep-sided ravines cut into the slope along the northern part. The ravines support such species as alternate dogwood, Christmas fern, and ebony spleenwort, while the southern slope is almost completely covered in kudzu, an exotic vine. Trees along the river include sycamore, black willow, cottonwood, and boxelder.

The William Johnson house is a town house on a small downtown lot. Some of the vegetation is ornamental, including species such as crepe myrtle, camellia, and canna. Species such as fig trees, paper mulberry, dewberry, violets, and dandelions are also present.

Preliminary flora lists for each site are provided in appendix H.

### **Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species**

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Mississippi indicates that there are no federally listed threatened or endangered plant species in the areas described above.

According to the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program coordinator, there are no known state-listed species at Fort Rosalie or the William Johnson complex. However, three such species — fetid trillium (*Trillium foetidissimum*), red flag (*Iris fluva*), and Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) — may occur at Melrose. The state status of these species has been identified by the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program staff using the ranking system developed by The Nature Conservancy and used

nationwide by natural heritage programs. This system includes the following codes: S2 — imperiled, S3 — rare and/or threatened, and S4 — secure. Fetid trillium is classified as S2-S3, red flag as S3-S4, and Florida flame azalea as S2-S3. A combined code denotes uncertainty about the rank; more information about the species is needed to verify the status.

### **Fish and Wildlife**

Most of Natchez National Historical Park is classified as urban land. Though urban, Melrose provides an important pocket of habitat for small wildlife species. Animals include raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, snakes, and various birds. The pond at the rear of the property was stocked with bass, bream, and catfish, before the National Park Service acquired the area. Fishing is permitted in this pond.

Fort Rosalie and the William Johnson complex, in downtown Natchez, are primarily developed areas. Some of the Fort Rosalie site is undeveloped and thickly vegetated, and wildlife in this area includes small mammals and birds. Abundant catfish are found in the Mississippi River adjacent to Fort Rosalie.

### **Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Wildlife Species**

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Mississippi indicates that there are no federally listed threatened or endangered animal species in the areas described above. In addition, the state Natural Heritage Program coordinator has indicated that there are no known state-listed animal species that exist on actual or proposed park property.

## NATCHEZ' SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The population of Natchez is approximately 21,000, and Adams County has a population of approximately 37,000 people. More than 1.5 million people live within a 100-mile radius of Adams County, and more than 7.2 million people live within a 200-mile radius. As many as 50 million people live within a 500-mile radius of Adams County.

The average household size in Adams County in 1989 was 2.7 people, and the average annual household income was about \$22,600. However, almost one-third (32.5%) of these incomes were below \$10,000, and two-thirds were below \$25,000.

As of 1988, Adams County had about 14,000 people in the labor force. Just over 11% were unemployed, 18.1% were employed in manufacturing, 1.2% were employed in agriculture, 17.4% were employed in government, 19.6% were employed in the service industries, and the balance (44.9%) were in nonmanufacturing jobs such as mining, wholesale and retail trade, financial, insurance, real estate, construction, and transportation. In 1989 and 1990 (through June) the unemployment rates were 10.1 and 9.35, respectively.

## EXISTING VISITOR USE

### VISITOR USE DATA

Although the city of Natchez supports a lively tourist trade, very little statistical data has come to light. Data from various sources reveals the following:

- In 1988 the city estimated having 150,000 visitors. Of these, 50,000 were day use visits, and 100,000 stayed overnight.
- The busiest months are March and April, followed by May and October.
- Individuals or couples comprise 65% of the visitation to Natchez, while family groups make up 35%.
- The average stay for couples without children is 2 days and 1.5 nights. During their stay couples spend an average of \$40.00 per night on lodging, \$20.00 per person per day on food, and \$15.00 per person on tours, souvenirs, fuel, and miscellaneous items.
- The average stay for family groups is 1.5 days and 1.5 nights. Families typically spend \$40.00 per night on lodging, \$13.00 per person per day on food, and \$23.00 per family on tours, souvenirs, fuel, and miscellaneous items.
- During March 1990, 350 motorcoaches visited Natchez. This coincided with the annual spring pilgrimage when many of the historic homes are open and special events are scheduled.

Tourism is considered the largest growth industry in the Natchez area. Dockside riverboat gambling is expected to come to Natchez in March 1993. Expectations for a rise in tourism associated with gambling are strong in the local community.

To meet the expected rise in visitation, the city and state are considering opening a visitor center in town, on or near the bluffs of the river. This visitor center, along with riverboat gambling and the

push to develop tourism in Natchez, will probably lead to increased visitation in the city and subsequently in the park.

Natchez National Historical Park is now into its third full year of operation. Since opening in May 1990, visitation has increased dramatically and very steadily.

Systematic recordkeeping concerning numbers of park visitors began in 1991. The NPS Denver Service Center is preparing formulas for tracking visitor use, visitor activity hours, and recreational visits. This system should be in place by early 1993. To assist in tracking visitor use, a traffic counter will be installed at Melrose.

Visitation totals have been recorded on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis. Park visitation records indicate that 1992 will show approximately a 10-15% increase over 1991. Similar increases each year over the next four–five years are likely.

The park does not have a visitor profile, but it is known that visitors come from all over the country as well as from various foreign countries. Foreign visitors appear to be predominantly from Germany or France. There are many local and state visitors. The development of a visitor profile would enable the park staff to better understand the kinds of visitors who come to the park and to provide higher quality visitor services geared to the actual rather than perceived needs of park visitors.

The most current records of total visitation at Melrose (the only site formally open in the park) are shown in table 5. The park is still in the early stages of development, and visitation patterns have not been set for the park as a whole.

TABLE 5: VISITATION AT MELROSE, 1987-1992

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Jan.	656	583	525	--	827	1,184
Feb.	1,206	761	730	--	1,403	1,455
Mar.	4,818	4,815	5,017	--	5,912 <sup>b</sup>	6,230 <sup>b</sup>
Apr.	2,425	2,676	2,656	--	3,922	3,716
May	2,883	3,214	2,477	386 <sup>a</sup>	3,052	3,336
Jun.	2,791	2,630	1,761	1,000	2,878	3,259
Jul.	2,355	2,293	--	1,301	2,745	4,098
Aug.	1,781	1,902	--	1,033	3,423	3,250
Sep.	1,470	1,349	--	637	2,009	2,870
Oct.	1,602	649	--	1,447 <sup>b</sup>	3,289 <sup>b</sup>	6,349 <sup>b</sup>
Nov.	1,361	1,520	--	695	1,465	2,320
Dec.	<u>1,465</u>	<u>1,094</u>	--	827	<u>1,627</u>	<u>2,972</u>
Total	20,813	23,491			32,552	41,039

<sup>a</sup> Total represents visitation from May 15-30, 1990.

<sup>b</sup> Pilgrimage months.

## EXISTING INTERPRETATION

Because Natchez National Historical Park is a new NPS area, the interpretive program is still in its infancy. Fort Rosalie is not yet in park ownership, and no interpretive programs or media are offered here. The William Johnson complex was acquired by the Park Service in May 1991; it was opened on weekends from July through November 1991. The NPS Harpers Ferry Center has provided a wayside exhibit for the William Johnson house to provide some interpretation while the building is restored. The publication *The Barber of Natchez* by Edwin Davis and William Hogan gives an account of William Johnson's life through excerpts from his diary. This book, along with others dealing with black history and the history of Natchez, is sold at the cooperating association bookstore at Melrose, as well as in gift shops throughout Natchez.

Interpretive efforts are currently concentrated at Melrose. Visitors purchase tour tickets at the fee booth in the main parking area and are then

directed to either the main house for a guided tour by a park ranger, the cooperating association bookstore (on the ground floor room of the dairy), or the visitor contact center (in a ground floor room of the kitchen building).

At Melrose, tours of the main house are offered every half hour. Interpreters meet visitors at the front door and take them on a tour of the first and second floors of the house, exiting from the second floor. The interpretive program at Melrose is moving in the direction of costumed interpretation. Research is being conducted to costume interpreters accurately. A site bulletin with a self-guided tour of the grounds and out-buildings is available to visitors. Visitors can tour the grounds, visit the bookstore, and, when available, attend a ranger-guided program. Ranger-guided programs (other than guided house tours) are offered primarily during the spring and fall pilgrimage and during special events.

At the visitor contact station at Melrose, visitors are oriented to the park and get information about programs, special events, touring the park, and visiting other

sites in the area. There are also exhibits about the park, and there is a continuous slide show highlighting the grounds and the house. Curriculum-based education programs are scheduled to begin in spring 1993. These programs will be based on the local school board's educational curriculum, are presented in the park, and are accompanied by pre- and post-visit educational packets.

To develop stronger community relations and foster local support for the park, community outreach programs are being presented to local groups and organizations. Specialized ranger programs about African-American history, slavery, cotton production, and cotton planters are presented free to the public during the

highest visitation months and during special events. Living history programs, park neighbors days, and park concerts are also offered free to the public. This programming effectively draws the local community into the park.

Masonry restoration has begun at the William Johnson complex, and architectural conservators have begun doing materials analyses. The interpretive focus at the Johnson complex will be on William Johnson and the free black society in antebellum Natchez. The dependency building, though in need of repair, shows potential for use as a visitor contact station while restoration/rehabilitation of the rest of the complex takes place.



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSEQUENCES



*B*ut the grand feature  
of Natchez is the bluff,  
terminating in an  
abrupt precipice over  
the river, with the  
public garden upon it.

Frederick Law Olmsted

Winter 1853-54



## INTRODUCTION

This section evaluates the impacts of implementing any of the three alternatives, including impacts on the cultural, natural, and visual resources, on visitors, and on the socioeconomic environment. Some of the impacts would be common to any of the alternatives, as described below; some impacts would vary between alternatives, as described later.

The impacts of a downtown NPS visitor center/administrative headquarters (alternative 2) and an NPS visitor center

at Fort Rosalie (alternative 3) are unknown. Future planning and environmental analysis will be conducted when sites are chosen.

Alternative 1 would not meet the intent of the legislation that established the park; alternative 2 would meet legislative intent, and alternative 3 would most fully meet the legislative intent. A summary comparison of the impacts can be found at the end of the "Alternatives Including the Proposed Action" section.

## IMPACTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Impacts related to options for extending the Natchez Trace Parkway in the city will not be analyzed as part of this plan. They will be addressed in the future in a separate environmental document.

### IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

There would be some increased visitation to Natchez because of the presence of an NPS area (and because of the influx of visitors for riverboat gambling and the proposed convention center). This would put increased pressure on the park's cultural resources, such as wear and tear on historic structures, possible overuse of grounds, and erosion at Fort Rosalie.

In all alternatives, parking at the William Johnson complex would be for staff. Most visitors would be required to park on the street or walk to the site from downtown parking lots. Parking would be provided for visitors with disabilities on State Street. Because of the expected influx of visitors to Natchez for riverboat gambling and for conventions, parking on the street and elsewhere downtown might be difficult. In all alternatives there would be increased visitor use of the mid-level section of the Fort Rosalie site.

### IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cleanup/fixing up and subsequent maintenance of each site would result in a visual improvement, which might attract more visitors as well as allow the sites to function better; it should also lead to better preservation of structures.

Determining the carrying capacity for all historic structures open to the public

would result in visitation levels that would not adversely affect the stability or integrity of the cultural resources.

The various studies conducted on the different sites and structures would provide more knowledge of the structures and grounds, which would be used to ensure their preservation.

Making all structures accessible to visitors and employees with disabilities would result in some adverse visual impact to the historic structures. Efforts would be made to design such access with as little physical and visual impact on historic fabric as possible.

Identification and mitigation of the effects of bluff erosion on the park's cultural resources, and the cultural resources outside the park boundaries but within the preservation district that might be affected by bluff erosion, would allow the National Park Service and the city to provide increased protection for these resources. (These mitigation measures are discussed in the previous "Natural Resource Management" section.)

The park's presence and the park staff's expertise would result in a heightened sense of the significance of historic properties in Natchez as well as provide a source for preservation advice and data within the community. This should result in a more knowledgeable public and a higher level of preservation of the community's historic resources.

Removal of later additions or decorative elements at Melrose without prior documentation of changes through time could be construed as a loss of the site's historical and architectural continuum, and therefore an adverse effect on the site.

The historic structure report would provide a logical and defensible time period to which the house could be restored.

Adaptive use of any historic structures in the park would result in the loss of historic fabric that is too deteriorated to be reused and that must be replaced to preserve the structure or to allow the structures to serve a public function. However, prior historic structure reports would document the history, the historic appearance of, and the changes of the buildings through time. Materials that were removed would be evaluated to determine their value to the park's museum collections and/or for their comparative use in future preservation work at the site. However, the overall impact would be continued preservation of the structures.

The disturbance of resources for the needed archeological investigations/studies destroys the site as data is retrieved, and there is the risk that significant information would be overlooked or lost during the excavation process. This is especially true at Fort Rosalie where an appropriate level of archeological investigation would be needed to locate the fort site accurately and answer questions about the fort's inhabitants and history that cannot be answered through historical research. However, at Fort Rosalie the archeological data appears to be threatened by the instability of the bluff, and excavation may be the only feasible way of protecting the data within the site. Archeological excavation, at any site, would be considered only when ground disturbance is absolutely necessary for preservation of archeological resources, before park development, or interpretation.

Because the extent of the remains of the fort is unknown, the impact of bluff stabilization efforts on the remains is

difficult to quantify. However, remote sensing techniques, if appropriate, and archeological excavations would be undertaken to specifically determine the site's parameters and identify areas requiring extensive excavation before beginning bluff stabilization. Bluff stabilization should provide a high degree of protection for archeological resources and help protect the Natchez Under-the-Hill Historic District.

Sites that are pinpointed by archeologists would be more vulnerable to vandalism and would have to be carefully patrolled. Also, any features exposed at Fort Rosalie would require special attention to ensure their continued protection.

Any loss of significance to historic structures moved from Fort Rosalie would result in an adverse impact to that relocated structure. Because the Fort Rosalie site would remain much as it is but with greater visitation, damage to cultural resources would likely be increased.

The removal of structures and possible relocation of historic structures at Fort Rosalie would alter the overall setting. The historic Stietenroth house would be preserved.

## **IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Impacts on Air Quality**

Increased visitation related to the park would result in a minor increase in air pollution under any of the alternatives.

### **Impacts on Water Resources and Wetlands**

No impacts on water resources or wetlands would occur under any of the

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

alternatives in this plan. Water quality controls would be specified in individual construction plans.

**Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmlands**

There would be no impact on prime and unique farmlands under any of the alternatives in this plan.

## IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1: STATUS QUO (CONTINUING EXISTING TRENDS)

### IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

Under this alternative, the visitor experience at the park would change from what now exists. At Melrose, one new feature would be an interpretive video projection program. People on the guided tours at Melrose would continue to see furnishings that do not all date to the same period of time. Visitors would not see the house as it might have appeared during the antebellum era.

The William Johnson house, currently not open to the public, would be open for interpretive displays of black history on the first floor. The McCallum house would be open for visitor contact/interpretation.

Bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie would protect the vantage points for the spectacular views of the Mississippi, opened to the public through the development of trails. However, the lack of zoning restrictions might allow intrusions into the up-river views.

Visitors would not be able to learn much about the story of the founding of Natchez and the story of Fort Rosalie or about one of the more adventurous and colorful sides of Natchez' history at Under-the-Hill.

There would be no preservation of an antebellum plantation complex to complement the stories of urban slavery and the planter's life in Natchez. Plantation slavery, or the agricultural story, would only be interpreted at Melrose as background for the main Melrose stories and minimally through interpretive exhibits at the William Johnson house. A plantation complex itself would serve no vital interpretive function in this alternative despite its

historic significance and association with the Natchez story. This would result in the loss of a significant part of the story of Natchez.

Due to relatively little new site development and interpretation, and very little partnership with the local community under this alternative, the opportunity to "preserve and interpret the history of Natchez" beyond what is now being done would be limited.

### IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

The house and grounds at Melrose would maintain their updated amenities (such as indoor bathrooms and modern kitchen) and certain incongruities of furnishing and architectural appearance, which would lead to visitor confusion about the historic appearance of the estate.

Moving curatorial functions from the Melrose basement to a new building near the existing greenhouse, would result in the protection and proper care of the artifacts.

Bluff stabilization would help protect the archeological resources and preserve the Stietenroth building. There would be a possible loss of significance to historic structures that are removed. Major alteration of the overall setting of the remaining resources would result from development actions at Fort Rosalie. Bluff stabilization would also help protect the resources at Under-the-Hill.

The Park Service would not provide assistance to preserve the physical remains of a plantation complex, which could result in the deterioration and

eventual loss of such a resource if monies are not provided for preservation.

Significantly fewer avenues for NPS technical assistance to owners of historically significant properties in the preservation district and few if any cooperative agreements would be available or undertaken under this alternative (compared to the other two alternatives); the effect of this is difficult to calculate, but preservation would not be enhanced. Any staff assistance would be strictly on an as time permits basis.

Alternative 1 provides the least opportunity for preservation of cultural resources in Natchez.

## **IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Impacts on Geology and Soils**

Generic bluff stabilization measures at Fort Rosalie, including control of all sources of water within one to two blocks of the bluff, removal of large trees close to the bluff, and possibly placing a grassy, 18-inch dike about 5 feet from the edge of the bluff to help control runoff, would help protect the bluff from further erosion. An integrated approach to protection of the entire bluff — top, slope, and toe — would help protect and stabilize the bluff. Additional site-specific mitigation measures (for example removing vegetation that aggravates erosion and replacing it with vegetation that would help stabilize) would also help protect and stabilize the bluff. The installation of an inclinometer, for monitoring, would provide warning time for some types of bluff failure; especially in terms of safety, this would be a positive impact.

### **Impacts on Floodplains**

Under this alternative, no development is proposed in the 100-year floodplain; thus, no impacts on floodplains would occur.

### **Impacts on Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species**

There would be no impacts on federal or state-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species under this alternative.

### **Impacts on Other Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife**

At Melrose, no new construction would occur on the grounds, except to provide access for people with disabilities. The extent of this construction cannot be determined without further study; however, this construction would cause minimal disturbance of vegetative communities.

At the William Johnson complex, about 200 square feet of lawn or previously paved areas would be used to provide walkways to the house. The proposed 900-square-foot parking lot behind the McCallum house would primarily displace mowed lawn. Thus impacts at this site would be minimal.

At Fort Rosalie there would be minimal impacts from parking and the promenade on Green Street because they would be built on existing disturbed area (the street).

Increased visitation might cause additional minor disturbance to wildlife species throughout the park.

## **IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES**

Without zoning restrictions, the spectacular views of the river might be lost. However, continued bluff erosion might eventually limit the view available from this area. Removal of structures at Fort Rosalie and subsequent return of open space would significantly alter the site. There would be little overall change in visual aspects of the city because of the minimal number of cooperative agreements and NPS technical assistance that would be available.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Current land uses in the Fort Rosalie area would change. If all but the Stietenroth house is removed, approximately nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced and approximately 27 structures would be removed from the site.

A minor impact would be tax losses that would occur in Natchez because properties acquired by the Park Service would be removed from the local tax rolls.

## **IMPACTS ON STAFFING**

No additional staff would be needed.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

There would be cumulative effects on the socioeconomic environment as a result of this alternative. The city of Natchez has recently authorized the introduction of legalized riverboat gambling, and, depending on the amount of resulting development, visitation in Natchez could increase dramatically. Additionally, the slight increase in visitation because of the establishment of the park could result in a cumulative impact in the form of increased traffic congestion, lack of parking, inadequate support services, and/or an increase in crime.

The increase of visitation to Natchez because of gambling and the park's establishment would have a positive cumulative effect on the local economy through the expenditure of visitor dollars.

A great deal of knowledge was gained about bluff stabilization through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers existing study, and the Park Service will need a more detailed bluff study before initiating actions at Fort Rosalie. With this more detailed information and implementation of stabilization actions at Fort Rosalie, the city might also take steps to stabilize the bluff in areas north and south of Fort Rosalie, which would have a positive cumulative impact on the natural and cultural resources that are along the Natchez Bluff.

## **IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2: PARTNERSHIP PARK (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)**

Other than the preservation and rehabilitation of one of Natchez' historic structures, the impacts of a downtown visitor center are unknown.

### **IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE**

Under this alternative, the visitor experience of the park would be significantly more positive than in alternative 1. Visitors would be able to learn much more about the history of Natchez through improved interpretation at historic sites throughout the city.

At a downtown visitor center, visitors would be able to learn about all the significant facets of the history of Natchez that were not told elsewhere in the park or in the city.

Interpretation of and at Melrose would be more complete and more true to the chosen period of restoration (probably the antebellum era).

The maintenance facility at Melrose is not readily visible from grounds around the house and slave cabins. Most visitors do not know that it exists. Building a facility farther from the house and removal of the existing facility would ensure that visitors were not aware of its presence and would be less impacted by its use than at present.

Because of more comprehensive exhibits and interpretation of black history, the story of William Johnson and how he lived, and the video projection program and exhibits in the McCallum house, visitors would have better understanding of the depth and range of the black experience in Natchez.

At the site of Fort Rosalie, visitors would be able to appreciate the river view and learn about the early history of Natchez, dating from the time of the fort in the early 18th century. The more parklike setting, with a picnic area and trails, would benefit visitors. Also, views of the river would be accessible to the public. The existing conditions would be greatly altered — from a scene of residential development to a pastoral or natural scene.

Visitors would learn more about urban and plantation slavery, cotton production, and the plantation's relation to Natchez planters; however these stories would not be complemented by an opportunity to see a cotton plantation, slave quarters, overseer's house, and cotton fields.

Visitors would be able to learn about one of the more adventurous and colorful sides of Natchez' history at Under-the-Hill.

### **IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Use of a downtown building for the NPS visitor center/administrative headquarters could result in the preservation and rehabilitation of one of Natchez' historic structures.

New curatorial space would result in better care and protection of the park's collections.

At Melrose there would be some loss of historic fabric from restoration and rehabilitation. Furnishings would more accurately reflect the antebellum period, and the overall effect would be continued preservation of the structures.



There would also be some loss of historic fabric of the William Johnson house, the McCallum house, and the dependency because of more extensive restoration and adaptive use; overall, the effect would be continued preservation of the structures.

Bluff stabilization would help protect the archeological resources at Fort Rosalie. Removal of most structures would be a significant impact and could mean the loss of significance of these structures. The historic Stietenroth house would also be preserved on site under this alternative. There would be a major alteration of the overall Fort Rosalie site setting.

A greater NPS presence at the Fort Rosalie site might result in a corresponding drop in vandalism of archeological features. The archeological features would be interpreted. Bluff stabilization would retard the erosion of the bluff, which now threatens to destroy the fort's archeological remains. However, there would be greater use of the site by visitors, and, therefore, more wear and tear.

The Park Service would not provide assistance to preserve the physical remains of a plantation complex, which could result in the deterioration and eventual loss of such a resource if monies are not provided for preservation. However the special history study would provide important information on an antebellum plantation for interpretation.

The Grand Village would be included in the preservation district. Limited NPS funds and technical assistance are available for such sites; however, being within the preservation boundary would ensure that interpretation at the visitor center would integrate these resources into the story of Natchez and ensure that any technical assistance that the Park

Service would make would be a high priority. Visitation to the site would probably increase.

Expanded preservation, site development, staffing, and interpretation and a full partnership between the Park Service and the community of Natchez would open many avenues for NPS technical assistance for preservation and interpretation of cultural/historic resources throughout Natchez. The opportunity to preserve cultural resources and "preserve and interpret the history of Natchez" would be far greater than in alternative 1.

## **IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Impacts on Geology and Soils**

The positive impacts of bluff stabilization at Fort Rosalie would be the same as discussed in alternative 1.

### **Impacts on Floodplains**

The foot trail proposed for the lower portion of Fort Rosalie would be at least partially in the 100-year floodplain. The National Park Service has determined that trails of this type are compatible uses in floodplains. The intent of this trail is to provide a riverside recreational experience that cannot be accomplished without being in proximity to the water. This action is excepted from compliance with Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management."

### **Impacts on Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species**

There are no federal threatened or endangered species in the park. Three state-listed rare species (fetid trillium, red flag, and Florida flame azalea) might

occur in the forests at Melrose. Any construction in the forested areas would be preceded by a comprehensive vegetation survey. As required by NPS management policies, the National Park Service would cooperate with the state to ensure protection of any state-listed species found. If necessary, the new maintenance road segment would be adjusted or alternate arrangements would be made to accommodate the maintenance vehicles.

### **Impacts on Other Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife**

Expanding and upgrading the existing visitor parking area and entrance road would disturb approximately 1.5 acres at Melrose, approximately 0.5 acre each of forest, lawn, and existing gravel parking lot. Establishment of walkways for better visitor circulation throughout the site, on existing paved areas or lawn, would result in approximately 7,000 square feet (0.2 acre) of additional pavement at Melrose. The light brown aggregate paving material used for the roads, parking lot, and walkways would blend into the surrounding landscape as much as possible. The stabilization materials used to bond the aggregate would be nontoxic, environmentally safe materials such as pine tar derivatives and complex protein molecules. Use of these materials would reduce the need for more complex road construction using petroleum-based materials such as asphalt.

Because the 0.75 acre that would be disturbed for the new maintenance facility complex would be largely restricted to an overgrown field near the south boundary of the estate, there would be minimal intrusion into the forest. Using the existing maintenance facility site for staff parking would mean that more undisturbed area would remain in its natural state.

The proposed extension of the maintenance access road (approximately 440 feet long) would be built almost entirely in a grassy area of the estate. Construction would destroy less than 0.1 acre of forest. The resulting stabilized surface would cover approximately 0.2 acre of land. An existing portion of road (approximately 0.2 acre) would no longer be needed and would be revegetated in open field and tree screen.

The cultural landscape report, done before any construction at Melrose, would ensure that natural resources that may be historically significant would not be disturbed. In addition, if significant natural resources are found — such as federal or state-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species — adequate protection measures would be implemented.

As a result of the proposed changes at Melrose, approximately 0.2 acre of gravel entrance road and a staff parking lot would no longer be needed and would be replaced with grass and appropriate native plants. In addition, approximately 0.1 acre of gravel road leading to the circle drive would be replaced with grass paving. Native vegetation, needed for landscaping after construction, would be obtained as much as possible on site from the construction zone before it is cleared. These plants would be held temporarily in a screened holding area on the estate. Using plants adapted to the site would increase the success of all revegetation work.

The 250-square-foot walkway and 900-square-foot parking area at the William Johnson complex would take place only on the lawn or on previously disturbed areas and would cause only minimal impacts.

The 10-site picnic area at Fort Rosalie would occupy about 3 acres of previously

disturbed land, including a city street and second-growth vegetation. Construction of the parking area would involve about 1 acre of this land and replace commercial buildings, residences, roads, and a minor amount of vegetation. Landscaping, including grass and some larger trees (as long as they are not near the edge of the bluff), would mitigate some of the impacts of disturbance in this area. As at Melrose, native vegetation for landscaping would be obtained as much as possible from the site before any construction disturbance. These plants could be stored in the holding area at Melrose until needed.

The approximately 3,000-foot interpretive trail and turnouts at Fort Rosalie would be in an area that is now a mixture of grass and second-growth vegetation. Access to the interpretive trail would be from the picnic area and the Stietenroth house and would include a 2,100-square-foot area of pavement and gravel along Rumble Street. No additional impact would occur because this area is already disturbed; however, the existing surface would be upgraded to blend in with the interpretive trail. Some vegetation would be removed to help stabilize the bluff and provide good viewpoints. The trail surface and location would be designed according to bluff stabilization criteria and would blend in with the environment. Current pedestrian and vehicular access at the Fort Rosalie site (6,850 square feet) would be upgraded causing minimal additional disturbance to vegetative communities.

Construction activity at all sites would result in the displacement and disruption of small mammals and birds. At Melrose, less than 1 acre of forest habitat would be destroyed and replaced by new facilities and road. Displaced animals would be forced to compete with existing populations for food and cover. If unsuccessful, they would die.

## **IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES**

Development of zoning restrictions with Adams County, Mississippi, and Concordia Parish, Louisiana, would protect the Mississippi River viewshed, especially at Fort Rosalie, preventing development and further visual intrusion into the views across the river. This increased protection of the visual resources in the Natchez area would be a positive impact.

Stabilization of the bluff at Fort Rosalie would ensure that the spectacular views of the river would not be lost. However, continued bluff erosion might eventually limit the view available from this area. Scenic river views from Fort Rosalie would be protected and opened to the public. Removal of structures at Fort Rosalie and development of a parklike setting and picnic area would significantly alter the site. Due to myriad cooperative agreements and NPS technical assistance that would be available, citywide visual resources would be improved under this alternative.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Current land uses in the Fort Rosalie area would change. If all but the Stietenroth house and one or two structures are removed, approximately nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced and approximately 27 structures would be removed from the site.

A minor impact would be tax losses that would occur in Natchez because properties acquired by the Park Service would be removed from the local tax rolls.

### **IMPACTS ON STAFFING**

About 40 total full-time-equivalent staff would be needed under this alternative, an increase of about 23 full-time-equivalent employees.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Under this alternative, the Park Service would participate in many cooperative agreements with private citizens, city and state agencies, and private organizations and foundations to restore and preserve historic properties citywide. Because of this heightened emphasis on historic preservation, it is reasonable to assume that individual efforts to protect and preserve other privately owned historic resources would increase, resulting in a positive cumulative impact on these resources.

There would be cumulative effects on the socioeconomic environment as a result of this alternative. The city of Natchez has recently authorized the introduction of legalized riverboat gambling, and, depending on the amount of resulting development, visitation in Natchez could increase dramatically. Additionally, the increase in visitation because of the establishment of the park could result in a cumulative impact in the form of increased traffic congestion, lack of parking, inadequate support services, and/or an increase in crime.

The increase of visitation to Natchez because of gambling and the park's establishment would have a positive cumulative effect on the local economy through the expenditure of visitor dollars.

A great deal of knowledge was gained about bluff stabilization through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers existing study, and the Park Service will need a more

detailed bluff study before initiating actions at Fort Rosalie. With this more detailed information and implementation of stabilization actions at Fort Rosalie, the city might also take steps to stabilize the bluff in areas north and south of Fort Rosalie, which would have a positive cumulative impact on the natural and cultural resources that are along the Natchez Bluff.

### **UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS**

At Melrose proposed development would destroy less than 1 acre of forest and 1.5 acres of grassy lawn and overgrown fields. This includes upgrading the entrance road, parking and walkways, and building a new maintenance facility.

There would be unavoidable adverse impacts on the residents of the Fort Rosalie site. Approximately nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced. In addition, a minor adverse impact to the city of Natchez would be the tax losses that would occur because properties acquired by the Park Service would be removed from the local tax rolls.

Removal of historic structures at Fort Rosalie would be a significant adverse effect.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

At Melrose approximately 2 acres of vegetation and soil would be removed from natural productivity for NPS developments to provide for public education and enjoyment. Approximately 0.5 acre of existing gravel roads and parking would no longer be needed and

would be replaced with grass and appropriate native plants, thus contributing to the long-term enhancement of biological resources. Bluff stabilization activities at Fort Rosalie would reduce the loss of the bluff and contribute to the long-term productivity of that site.

**IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES**

Historic furnishings and objects at Melrose and the William Johnson complex might be stolen or damaged because of increased visitation.

Archeological excavation at Fort Rosalie, Melrose, and the William Johnson house would result in an irreversible loss of the archeological resource because excavation destroys the resource as data is recovered from the site. Because new archeological techniques are constantly

being developed, it is likely that better future excavation methods could recover significant additional data. Once a site has been excavated, it is unlikely that further research would be profitable because the stratigraphy of the site and the site's context and makeup have been forever altered. Only foundations left in place would remain.

Restoration and/or adaptive rehabilitation nearly always require removal of deteriorated historic fabric and replacement with newer materials of like quality, appearance, and workmanship. However, it is often necessary to remove historic fabric and replace it with modern materials to meet the new requirements posed by the building's proposed use. Often, the building will require a new heating/ventilation/air-conditioning system, floor load strengthening, etc. All of these things result in a loss of historic fabric that is an irreversible and irretrievable impact on the structure.

## IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 3: EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP PARK

If a representative cotton plantation is selected, a separate environmental analysis would be done that would address various applicable impact topics. Thus, only general impacts related to the plantation are included in the following discussion.

### IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

The new visitor contact station and opened view at Melrose would allow visitors an added interpretive experience. The visitor experience at the William Johnson complex would be the same as described in alternative 2. Visitors at Fort Rosalie would benefit from the addition of the visitor center.

In alternative 3 the visitor experience would be more enhanced than in alternative 2 in another important respect. Cotton plantations were the primary source of the wealth of antebellum Natchez, and one of the most important stories to tell at Natchez is the story of life on the plantations. In this alternative, this story would be most effectively complemented by the chance for visitors to see a preserved cotton plantation, with slave quarters, an overseer's house, and cotton fields. The relationships between plantation and city life could be contrasted and interpreted.

### IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impacts on the cultural resources at Melrose would be essentially the same as alternative 2 except for the minor intrusion of the contact station. Impacts on the cultural resources at the William Johnson complex and Under-the-Hill would be the

same as those in alternative 2. The impacts of constructing a new visitor center at Fort Rosalie are unknown; siting of the new structure might impact archeological resources.

Preservation and interpretation of a cotton plantation would ensure the long-term preservation of a rare antebellum plantation complex in the Natchez area, although prior consideration would have to be given to the possible adverse effect of opening such a site to visitors through a separate study. With acquisition of the plantation, the Park Service would be preserving one of the few such existing intact plantations in the south. This would only be possible with additional legislative authority.

Grand Village and the cotton plantation would be included in the preservation district. Limited funds and NPS technical assistance are available for such sites; however, being within the preservation boundary would ensure that interpretation at the visitor center would integrate these resources into the story of Natchez and ensure that any technical assistance that the Park Service would make would be a high priority. Visitation to each site might also increase.

Of all alternatives, alternative 3 would have the most positive potential impact on the cultural resources.

### IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Impacts on Geology and Soils

These impacts would be the same as those discussed under alternative 2. In addition, the pylons used for boardwalk

construction might serve to help stabilize the toe of the bluff in this area.

### **Impacts on Floodplains**

The boardwalk proposed for the lower portion of Fort Rosalie would be at least partially in the 100-year floodplain. The National Park Service has determined that boardwalks of this type are compatible uses of floodplains. The intent of this boardwalk is to provide a riverside recreational experience that cannot be accomplished without being in proximity to the water. This action is excepted from compliance with Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management."

### **Impacts on Federal and State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species**

There are no federal threatened or endangered species in the park. The impact on state-listed species would be the same as those discussed under alternative 2.

### **Impacts on Other Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife**

The impacts under this alternative would be the same as those described under alternative 2.

### **IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES**

Impacts on the resources that would be seen by visitors would be generally the

same as under alternative 2. The visitor contact station at Melrose would be an additional visual intrusion, and the opened view of Melrose would be a positive impact.

### **SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Current land uses in the Fort Rosalie area would change. If all but the Stietenroth house and one or two structures are removed, approximately nine families (six who own and three who rent) and three businesses would be displaced and approximately 27 structures would be removed from the site.

A minor impact would be tax losses that would occur in Natchez because properties acquired by the Park Service would be removed from the local tax rolls.

### **IMPACTS ON STAFFING**

A total of 44 full-time equivalent staff would be needed under this alternative, an increase of 27 full-time-equivalent employees.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts would be the same as described under alternative 2.

## COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS

In implementing the Natchez National Historical Park general management plan, the National Park Service would comply with all applicable laws and executive orders, including those listed below. Informal consultation with appropriate federal, state and local agencies has been conducted in the preparation of this document. The draft environmental impact statement for the general management plan was on public review for 60 days. This final environmental impact statement reflects changes that were made in response to public comments. Letters received and responses to the letters are included in this final environmental impact statement. After a 30-day no-action period, a record of decision was prepared and circulated to interested parties, thus completing the National Environmental Policy Act process. The procedures to be followed are described as follows.

### NATURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE

**Clean Air Act, as amended (42 USC 7401 et seq.)** — Natchez National Historical Park is designated as a class II clean air area. Maximum allowable increases of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides beyond baseline concentrations established for class II areas cannot be exceeded. These class II increments would allow modest industrial activities in the vicinity of the park. Section 118 of the Clean Air Act requires all federal facilities to comply with existing federal, state, and local air pollution control laws and regulations. Natchez National Historical Park would work with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, to ensure

that all in-park activities meet the requirements of the state air quality implementation plan.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.)** — Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service has revealed that there are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species in the park (see appendix I). Thus, none of the alternatives identified in this general management plan would jeopardize any listed species or critical habitat. Further consultation would be carried out before construction to ensure that no new listed species have been found on any of the sites.

**Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management"** — This order requires all federal agencies to avoid building in the 100-year floodplain unless no other practical alternative exists. Under alternatives 2 and 3, a trail and boardwalk (respectively) might be built in the 100-year floodplain adjacent to the Mississippi River. According to NPS guidelines, these actions are excepted from compliance with Executive Order 11988.

**Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"** — This order requires all federal agencies to avoid, where possible, impacts on wetlands. No known wetlands would be affected by



any of the alternatives proposed in this document.

**Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands in Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (45 FR 59189)** — Federal agencies are required to analyze the impacts of federal actions on agricultural lands, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. This policy was developed to minimize the effect of federal programs in converting prime, unique, or locally important farmland to nonagricultural uses. There are no prime or unique farmlands in the park.

The following additional compliance actions would be taken:

Consultation with the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program revealed that no known state-listed rare or threatened species would be affected by any of the alternatives proposed in this document. Consultation with the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program would include ensuring that no new listed species have been found in the park. However, three species classified by the state as special plants may occur at Melrose — fetid trillium (*Trillium foetidissimum*), red flag (*Iris fulva*), and Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*).

Any construction at Melrose would be preceded by a comprehensive vegetation survey. As required by NPS management policies, the National Park Service would cooperate with the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program to ensure protection of any state-listed species found.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE

The National Park Service is mandated to preserve and protect its cultural resources — through the act of August 25, 1916, and through specific legislation such as the Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the National Historic Preservation Act, which is described below. Cultural resources in Natchez National Historical Park would be managed in accord with these acts and in accord with chapter V of the NPS *Management Policies*, the *Cultural Resources Management Guideline* (NPS-28), and other relevant policy directives.

As part of its cultural resource management responsibilities, the National Park Service surveys and evaluates all cultural resources on lands under its jurisdiction. Cultural resources are evaluated by applying the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the National Park Service maintains an inventory of all above-grade historic and prehistoric structures within the national park system, which is called the List of Classified Structures. All cultural resources eligible for the national register would be recorded and/or measured, according to the highest professional standards.

**Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC 4151 et seq.); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 701 et seq.); and, as appropriate, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336, 104 Stat. 327)** — All facilities and programs developed would be accessible to disabled visitors.

**Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470, et seq.)** — Section 106 requires that federal agencies having direct or indirect jurisdiction over undertakings take into

account the effect of those undertakings on National Register properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Toward that end, the National Park Service would work with the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the August 1990 programmatic agreement among the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Advisory Council, and the Park Service. This agreement requires the Park Service to work closely with the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council in planning for new and existing NPS areas.

Also, this agreement provides for a number of "programmatic exclusions" for specified actions that are not likely to have an adverse effect on cultural resources. These actions may be implemented without further review by the state historic preservation office or the Advisory Council (reducing required consultations with the state historic preservation office) provided NPS internal review finds the actions meet certain conditions. Undertakings, as defined in 36 CFR 800, not specifically excluded in the programmatic agreement must be reviewed by the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council during the design stage and before implementation. Programmatic exclusions and actions requiring further review in this general management plan are listed in the following table so that further consultation may be undertaken to ensure adequate mitigation of any effects.

Internally, the National Park Service will complete a XXX form (Assessment of Effect on Cultural Resources) before implementing any proposed actions.

This is necessary to document any project effects, outline actions proposed to mitigate any effects, and document that the proposed action flows from the general management plan. All implementing actions for cultural resources would be reviewed, using the XXX form, and certified by regional office cultural resource specialists as specified in NPS-28.

Before any ground-disturbing action by the National Park Service, a professional archeologist would determine the need for archeological inventory or testing evaluation. Any such studies would be carried out before or in conjunction with construction and would meet the needs of the state historic preservation office as well as the National Park Service. Any large-scale archeological investigations would be undertaken in consultation with the state historic preservation office.

## **SECTION 106 REQUIREMENTS**

The actions listed in table 6 are actions that are either programmatic exclusions under the programmatic agreement between the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service or are subject to further consultation with the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council. Should the National Park Service and the state historic preservation office so decide, other actions not meeting the programmatic exclusion definition may be determined to need no further review under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see section c.2. of the programmatic agreement). Any such agreement, however, must be determined mutually and must be fully documented.

**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<b>ALTERNATIVE 1 — STATUS QUO (EXISTING TRENDS)</b>	
<u>Melrose Estate</u>	
Rehabilitate carriage house for site orientation/information	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modification of structures to allow access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Fence north boundary, construct structure for curatorial space, and construct additional footpaths	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove nonhistoric gazebo	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
<u>William Johnson Complex</u>	
Restore/rehab exteriors of William Johnson complex	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Rehabilitate interiors of William Johnson complex for interpretive purposes	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures to allow access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Landscape site and construct walkways	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Fence entire complex	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Fort Rosalie</u>	
Stabilize bluff	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Landscape site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Install fence along bluff edge	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove nonhistoric structures and restore site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove box factory	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Rehabilitate historic structures for park purposes or relocate to another site in Natchez	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Modify structures to allow access for visitors with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct parking	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

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**ALTERNATIVE TWO — PARTNERSHIP PARK (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)**

Downtown Administrative Headquarters/Visitor Center

Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structure and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Preserve and rehabilitate site for park interpretation/administration, including access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

Melrose Estate

Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
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**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Melrose Estate (cont.)</u>	
Restore main house, dairy, kitchen, and selected portions of the grounds	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore exteriors of smokehouse, privy, and cisterns	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Rehabilitate carriage house for use as a visitor contact station and restore exterior	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Preserve stable exterior and rehabilitate interior	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove nonhistoric gazebo	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore exterior and interior of south slave cabin; continue present use of north slave cabin with partial restoration of exterior	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct new segment of staff access road from maintenance complex to Melrose-Montebello Parkway	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove existing greenhouse and preserve maintenance building	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct new maintenance complex and pave maintenance yard	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Realign entrance road	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Reconfigure parking area in existing location and pave	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove parking area adjacent to main house	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Upgrade existing pedestrian walkways	Programmatic exclusion (f)
Construct new pedestrian walkways	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures to allow access for visitors with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Fence north boundary	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Landscape site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>William Johnson House</u>	
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document house and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Restore/rehab exteriors and adaptively rehabilitate interior of Johnson complex for interpretation and visitor use	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore second floor William Johnson house	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct walkways and landscape site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures to allow access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Fence entire complex	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
<u>Fort Rosalie</u>	
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Remove all existing structures and sidewalks, stairs, driveways, etc., except Stietenroth house and landscape	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Rehabilitate Stietenroth house for park administrative use with parking and entrance road	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct trails, walkways, shade structures, waysides, benches, etc.	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Obliterate Green Street and install picnic area and restroom facilities with parking area	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Stabilize bluff and fence for safety	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Landscape site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Fort Rosalie (cont.)</u>	
Construct trail along Mississippi River; remove existing roadway	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove box factory	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Provide access for visitors with disabilities where necessary	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

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**ALTERNATIVE THREE — EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP PARK**

Melrose Estate

Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document house and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Restore main house, dairy, kitchen, and selected portions of the grounds	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore exteriors of smokehouse, cisterns, and privy	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore exterior and rehabilitate interior of carriage house for use as a cooperating association sales outlet and exhibits	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Landscape site	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Preserve stable exterior and rehabilitate interior	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove nonhistoric gazebo	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct new visitor contact station	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Restore exterior and interior of south slave cabin; continue present use of north slave cabin with partial restoration of exterior	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Melrose Estate (cont.)</u>	
Construct new segment of staff access road from maintenance complex to Melrose-Montebello Parkway	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove existing greenhouse and preserve maintenance building	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Construct new maintenance complex and pave maintenance yard	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Realign entrance road	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Reconfigure parking area in existing location and pave	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Upgrade existing pedestrian walkways	Programmatic exclusion (f)
Construct new pedestrian walkways	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures to allow access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Remove parking area adjacent to main house	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Fence north boundary	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
<u>William Johnson House</u>	
Same as alternative 2.	
<u>Fort Rosalie</u>	
Install boardwalk along Mississippi, with appropriate benches and lighting; remove existing roadway	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Otherwise, same as alternative 2.	



**TABLE 6: GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

ACTIONS	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Visitor Center</u>	
Construct new visitor center at Fort Rosalie	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Rehabilitate grounds for park interpretation/administration including access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
<u>Cotton Plantation</u>	
Document structures at plantation to HABS/HAER standards	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Conduct historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds	Programmatic exclusion (d)
Preserve overseer's house, slave cabins, and grounds to the antebellum period, if possible, based on research	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures, if possible, for visitors with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Provide parking for staff and visitors	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Provide restroom facilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review
Modify structures to allow access for those with disabilities	Requires further SHPO/ACHP review

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### PRELIMINARY SCOPING/ PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

#### Phase I

Efforts to keep the community informed by way of articles in the local newspaper (*The Natchez Democrat*) and meetings between the superintendent and local representatives have been ongoing since the arrival of the superintendent on site in January 1990. These efforts will continue.

#### Phase II

During the week of June 25, 1990 presentations describing the NPS planning process and the intent of Natchez National Historical Park were given to the general public, as well as to a number of special interest groups. These groups included officials from the city, black religious and business leaders, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Adams County Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Partnership Program, the Natchez National Historical Park Foundation, and the Historic Natchez Foundation. Input from attendees was requested, including ideas and concerns regarding a vision of what the park might be, the desired visitor experience, interpretive themes, and other issues. The results of these meetings were publicized and distributed to those on the mailing list.

#### Phase III

During the week of February 4, 1991, planning alternatives were presented to state and local officials and special interest groups at six different meetings. Resulting comments contributed to minor

changes or refinement of the alternatives. In general, the alternatives were well received.

#### Phase IV

On May 13 and 14, 1991, two meetings were held in Natchez with the general public and with members of the black community to present the status of the black history study and the proposals for interpretation. The progress to date in both areas was well received, although concern was expressed about the approach, accuracy, sensitivity, and direction of the interpretation program regarding the subject of slavery.

#### Phase V

Initial scoping for this general management plan identified the need for an environmental assessment of the alternatives to be completed as part of the planning process. Subsequent policy decisions dictated the need for an environmental impact statement to be completed instead of an environmental assessment. A notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement was printed in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 1991.

The draft general management plan was distributed and made available to the public, and a notice of availability was printed in the *Federal Register* on May 3, 1993. Public comments are reflected in the final environmental impact statement. A record of decision was signed on May 5, 1994.

Contact with local, state, and federal government agencies, special interest groups, interested persons, and other

members of the public has been conducted on formal and informal bases by various members of the planning team throughout the planning process, as necessary to gather information.

### **AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED DURING SCOPING**

During the course of the planning effort for Natchez National Historical Park, the following agencies, organizations, and individuals were contacted:

#### **Federal Agencies**

Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.  
Department of the Interior  
Curtis B. James, Environmental  
Coordinator, Mississippi Field Office  
Mr. David W. Fruge, Field Supervisor,  
Louisiana Field Office

Soil Conservation Service, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture  
Natchez Field Office, Brian D. Stringer,  
District Conservationist  
Vidalia Field Office, Jerol W. Magoun,  
District Conservationist

#### **State Agencies**

Louisiana Department of Environmental  
Quality, Office of Air Quality and  
Radiation Protection  
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program,  
Department of Wildlife and Parks, Gary  
Lester, Coordinator  
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development  
Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History \*  
Mississippi Department of Economics and  
Community Development  
Mississippi Department of Environmental  
Quality, Office of Pollution Control

Mississippi Natural Heritage Program,  
Kenneth L. Gordon, Coordinator

#### **Local Agencies and Organizations**

Adams County Board of Supervisors  
Historic Natchez Foundation  
Main Street Partnership Program  
Natchez-Adams County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Natchez Mayor, David Armstrong  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Foundation  
Natchez Tourism Council

#### **Individuals**

Charles Bartley  
Mary Lee Davis Toles, Natchez  
George Dunkley, Natchez  
Ora Frazier, Natchez  
Dr. J. R. Todd, Jr., Natchez  
Theodore West, Alderman, Natchez  
Thelma Williams, Natchez

### **LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE FINAL IMPACT STATEMENT ARE BEING SENT**

#### **Federal Agencies**

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Environmental Protection Agency \*  
Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi  
Field Office \*  
National Park Service, Natchez Trace  
Parkway  
St. Catherine's Creek National Wildlife  
Refuge  
Soil Conservation Service, Natchez Field  
Office  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Waterways Experiment Station,  
Vicksburg, MS \*

**LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS,  
AND INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM COPIES  
OF THE FINAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
ARE BEING SENT (cont.)**

**Federal Agencies (cont.)**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg  
District, Vicksburg, MS \*  
Veterans Administration

**State Agencies**

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History \*  
Mississippi Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
Mississippi Department of Wildlife and  
Parks, Natural Heritage Program

\* This agency/group/individual  
commented on the draft plan.

**Federal, State, County, and Local  
Officials**

Adams County Board of Supervisors  
Governor Kirk Fordice  
Natchez Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown  
Representative Jamie Whitten  
Representative Mike Parker  
Senator Thad Cochran  
Senator Trent Lott  
Vidalia Mayor Hiram Copeland

**Organizations and Local Agencies**

Historic Natchez Foundation  
Natchez-Adams County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Natchez-Adams County Economic  
Development Authority  
Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau  
Natchez Historical Society  
Natchez National Historical Park Advisory  
Commission \*  
Natchez Pilgrimage Tours



*F*rom this place the  
eye commands one of  
the most extensive  
prospects to be found  
on the Mississippi.

Joseph Holt Ingraham

*The South-West by a*

*Yankee* 1835 pp. 22-23

APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

102 STAT. 2324

PUBLIC LAW 100-479—OCT. 7, 1988

Public Law 100-479  
100th Congress

An Act

Oct. 7, 1988  
[H.R. 4457]

To create a national park at Natchez, Mississippi.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Historic  
preservation.  
Conservation.  
16 USC 4100o.

SECTION 1. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

- (1) preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi, as a significant city in the history of the American South;
- (2) preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with all the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area from earliest inhabitants to the modern era, and including blacks both slave and free;
- (3) preserve and interpret the region's social, political, and economic development, with particular emphasis on the pre- and post-Civil War eras; and
- (4) preserve and interpret the region's commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi River and cotton.

16 USC 4100o-1.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide for the benefit, inspiration, and education of the American people, there is hereby established the Natchez National Historical Park (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "park") in the State of Mississippi.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.—The park shall consist of the historic districts established under this Act and the following properties:

- (1) The lands and structures known as Melrose, together with all personal property located on such lands.
- (2) The lands and improvements thereon known as, or associated with, Fort Rosalie.

The property referred to in paragraph (2) shall be included within the park only if the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") determines that the historic resources of Fort Rosalie are of sufficient national significance and integrity to warrant inclusion in the National Park System. The Secretary shall make such determination after receiving from the Governor of the State of Mississippi and the mayor of the city of Natchez, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, a recommendation based on scholarly research as to the national significance and integrity of such historic resources.

(c) BOUNDARIES; MAP.—The Secretary shall prepare a map of the lands included within the park. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service at the park and at the Department of the Interior in the District of Columbia. The Secretary may from time to time make minor revisions in the boundary of the park in accordance with section 7(c) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 and following).

Public  
information.  
District of  
Columbia.

## SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

16 USC 41000-2.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary may acquire, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, land or interests in land, together with structures and other improvements thereon and personal property, which is included within the park. In addition the Secretary may acquire by any such means such personal property associated with the park as he deems appropriate for interpretation of the park and such additional lands and properties as may be necessary for purposes of an administrative headquarters and administrative site. Any land, interests in land, structures, improvements, or personal property owned by the State of Mississippi or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation. The Secretary may not acquire fee title to any property other than the property he deems necessary for an administrative site and headquarters and the property referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2, and the Secretary may not acquire the property referred to in paragraph (1) of section 2 unless at least 25 per centum of the fair market value of such property (as determined by the Secretary) is donated to the United States in connection with such acquisition.

## SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF PARK.

16 USC 41000-3.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467). Properties acquired under this Act for purposes of inclusion in the park shall be available for visitor inspection and enjoyment as promptly as practicable after the date of acquisition notwithstanding the absence of a park management plan.

Public information.

(b) **DONATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept and expend donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of providing services and facilities which he deems consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(c) **HISTORIC DISTRICTS.**—

(1) **STUDY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES.**—The Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a study of the properties in the city of Natchez and its immediate environs that preserve and interpret the history contained in the purposes of this Act. Such report shall consider which properties best exemplify such purposes and appropriate means for providing technical assistance to, and interpretation of, such properties. The study and report shall include consideration of Natchez-Under-the-Hill and the Briars.

Reports.

(2) **ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS.**—Following completion of the study under paragraph (1), but not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish historic districts in the city of Natchez and its immediate environs for the preservation and interpretation of the resources that contribute to the understanding of the purposes of this Act.

(3) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS.**—In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, and after consultation with the Advisory Commission established by this Act, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of properties of historical or cultural significance (as determined by the Secretary) within any historic district established under this subsection. Such agreements shall permit the Secretary to mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of such properties. Such agreements shall contain, but need not be limited to, provisions that the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to public portions of any property covered by such agreement for purposes of conducting visitors through such properties and interpreting them to the public, and that no changes or alterations shall be made in the property except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and other parties to the agreement.

(d) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Within three complete fiscal years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a general management plan for the park. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (84 Stat. 825; 16 U.S.C. 1a-1 through 1a-7). Such plan shall identify appropriate facilities for proper interpretation of the site for visitors.

Gifts and  
property.  
16 USC 4100o-4.

**SEC. 5. NATCHEZ TRACE STUDY.**

The Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with the city of Natchez, a study of the feasibility of extending the Natchez Trace within the city of Natchez, including the acceptance of donations of rights-of-way. The Secretary shall transmit the study to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 USC 4100o-5.

**SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Natchez National Historical Park Advisory Commission (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Advisory Commission"). The Advisory Commission shall be composed of six members appointed by the Secretary. Two of such members shall be appointed from among individuals nominated by the mayor of Natchez and one from among individuals nominated by the Governor of Mississippi. Two of the members shall have expertise in historic preservation and one shall have expertise in architectural history. Any member of the Advisory Commission appointed for a definite term may serve after the expiration of his term until his successor is appointed. The Advisory Commission shall designate one of its members as Chairperson.

(b) **MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.**—The Secretary, or his designee, shall from time to time, but at least semiannually, meet and consult with the Advisory Commission on matters relating to the management and development of the park.

Public  
information.

(c) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Commission shall meet on a regular basis. Notice of meetings and agenda shall be published in local newspapers which have a distribution which generally covers the



area affected by the park. Advisory Commission meetings shall be held at locations and in such a manner as to ensure adequate public involvement.

(d) EXPENSES.—Members of the Advisory Commission shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

(e) CHARTER.—The provisions of section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Act of October 6, 1972; 86 Stat. 776), are hereby waived with respect to this Advisory Commission.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 USC 4100o-6.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$12,000,000 to carry out this Act.

Approved October 7, 1988.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4457:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-793 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-538 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

July 26, considered and passed House.

Sept. 27, considered and passed Senate.

104 STAT. 860

PUBLIC LAW 101-399—SEPT. 28, 1990

Public Law 101-399  
101st Congress

An Act

Sept. 28, 1990  
[H.R. 4501]

To provide for the acquisition of the William Johnson House and its addition to the Natchez National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Mississippi.

SECTION 1. ACQUISITION OF WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE.

Real property.  
Gifts and  
property.

(a) INCLUSION WITHIN NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—Section 2(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to create a national park at Natchez, Mississippi” (16 U.S.C. 4100o-1(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) The lands and structures known as the William Johnson House, together with all personal property located on such lands, and the building adjacent thereto which bears a common wall.”.

(b) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—Section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 4100o-2) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (1) or (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), or (3)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary may not acquire the property referred to in paragraph (3) of section 2(b) except by donation.”.

Approved September 28, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4501:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 101-550 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).  
SENATE REPORTS: No. 101-424 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):  
June 25, considered and passed House.  
Sept. 11, considered and passed Senate.

APPENDIX B: ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

FOR INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HARPERS FERRY CENTER

March 1988  
(Version 1.0)

Prepared by  
the Harpers Ferry Center  
Accessibility Task Force

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This document is a guide for promoting full access to interpretive media by people with physical and mental disabilities. Just as the needs and abilities of individuals cannot be reduced to simple statements, it is impossible to construct guidelines for interpretive media that can apply to every situation in the National Park Service.

These guidelines define a high level of programmatic access which can be met in most situations. They articulate key areas of concern and note generally accepted solutions. Due to the diversity of park resources and the variety of interpretive situations, flexibility and versatility are important.

Each interpretive medium contributes to the total park program. All media have inherent strengths and weaknesses, and it is our intent to capitalize on their strengths and provide alternatives where they are deficient. It should also be understood that any interpretive medium is just one component of the overall park experience. In many instances, personal services, that is one-on-one interaction, may be the most appropriate and versatile interpretive approach.

In the final analysis, interpretive design is subjective, and dependent on both aesthetic considerations as well as the particular characteristics and resources available at a specific program. Success or failure should be evaluated by examining the entire interpretive offering of a park. Due to the unique characteristics of each situation, parks should be evaluated on a case by case basis. Nonetheless, the goal is to fully comply with NPS policy:

". . . To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the quality of the park experience for everyone."

NPS Special Directive 83-3  
Accessibility for Disabled  
Persons

## EXHIBITS

Numerous factors affect the design of exhibits reflecting the unique circumstances of the specific space and the nature of the materials to be interpreted. It is clear that thoughtful, sensitive design can go a long way in producing exhibits that can be enjoyed by a broad range of people. Yet, due to the diversity of situations encountered, it is impossible to articulate guidelines that can be applied universally.

In some situations, the exhibit designed has little or no control over the space. Often exhibits are placed in areas ill suited for that purpose, they may incorporate large or unwieldy specimens, may incorporate sensitive artifacts which require special environmental controls, and room decor or architectural features may dictate certain solutions. All in all, exhibit design is an art which defies simple description. However, one central feature concern is to communicate the message to the largest audience possible.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING MOBILITY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Exhibit space will be free of architectural barriers or a method of alternate accommodation shall be provided.
2. All pathways, aisles, and clearances will meet standards set forth in UFAS 4.3. Generally a minimum width of 36" will be provided.
3. Ramps will not exceed a slope of 1" rise in 12" run, and otherwise conform with UFAS 4.8.
4. Important artifacts, labels, and graphics will be placed at a comfortable viewing level relative to their size. Important text will be viewable to all visitors. Display cases will allow short or seated people to view the contents and the labels. Video monitors associated with exhibits will be positioned to be comfortably viewed by all visitors.
5. Lighting will be designed to reduce glare or reflections, especially when viewed from a

wheelchair.

6. Ground and floor surfaces will be stable, firm, and slip-resistant. (UFAS 4.5)

7. Operating controls or objects to be handled by visitors will be located in an area between 9" and 48" from the ground and no more than 24" deep. (UFAS 4.3)

8. Horizontal exhibits (e.g., terrain model) will be located in a comfortable viewing area.

9. Information desks and sales counters will be designed for use by wheelchair visitors and employees, and will include a section with a desk height no greater than 32 inches.

10. Accessibility information about the specific park should be available at the information desk and the international symbol of access should be visible.

11. Railings and barriers will be positioned in such a way as to provide unobstructed viewing by persons in wheelchairs.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Exhibit topography will be selected with readability and legibility in mind.

2. Characters and symbols shall contrast with their backgrounds - either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background. (UFAS 4.30.3)

3. Tactile and participatory elements will be included where possible.

4. Audio description will be provided where applicable.

5. Signage will be provided to indicate accessible rest rooms and telephones.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING HEARING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Information presented via audio formats will be duplicated in a visual medium, either in the exhibit copy or in text.
2. Written text of all audio narrations will be provided.
3. All narrated AV programs will be captioned.
4. Allowance for telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) will be included into information desk designs.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING LEARNING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Exhibits will avoid unnecessarily complex and confusing topics.
2. Graphic elements will be developed to communicate non-verbally.
3. Unfamiliar expressions and technical terms will be avoided and pronunciation aids will be provided where appropriate.
4. To the extent possible, information will be provided in a manner suitable to a diversity of abilities and interests.
5. Where possible, exhibits will be multi-sensory. Techniques to maximize the number of senses utilized in an exhibit will be encouraged.
6. Exhibit design will be cognizant of directional handicaps and will utilize color and other creative approaches to facilitate comprehension of maps.

**AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMS**

Audiovisual programs include motion pictures, sound/slide programs, video programs, and oral history programs. As a matter of policy, all audiovisual programs produced by the Harpers Ferry Center will include some method of captioning. The approach used will vary according to the conditions of the installation area and the media format used, and will be selected in consultation with the

parks and regions.

The captioning method used will be identified as early as possible in the planning process. To the extent possible, visitors will be offered a choice in viewing captioned or uncaptioned versions, but in situations where a choice is not possible or feasible, a captioned version will always be provided.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING MOBILITY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. The theater, auditorium, or other area should be accessible and free of architectural barriers, or alternative accommodations will be provided.

(UFAS 4.1)

2. Wheelchair locations will be provided according to ratios outlined in UFAS 4.1.2 (18a).

3. Viewing heights and angles will be favorable for those in designated wheelchair positions.

4. In designing video or interactive components, control mechanisms will be placed in an accessible location, usually between 9" and 48" from the ground and no more than 24" deep.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Simultaneous audio description will be considered for installations when the equipment can be properly installed and maintained.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING HEARING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. All audiovisual programs will be produced with appropriate captions.

2. Copies of scripts will be provided to the parks as a standard procedure.

3. Audio amplification and listening systems



will be provided in accordance with UFAS 4.1.2 (18b).

GUIDELINES AFFECTING LEARNING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Unnecessarily complex and confusing concepts will be avoided.
2. Graphic elements will be chosen to communicate without reliance on the verbal component.
3. Narration will be concise and free of unnecessary jargon and technical information.

**WAYSIDE EXHIBITS**

Wayside exhibits, which include outdoor interpretive exhibits and signs, orientation shelter exhibits, and trailhead exhibits, offer special advantages to disabled visitors. The liberal use of photographs, art work, diagrams, and maps, combined with the highly readable type, make wayside exhibits an excellent medium for visitors with hearing and learning impairments. For visitors with sight impairments, waysides offer large type with high legibility.

Although a limited number of NPS wayside exhibits will always be inaccessible to visitors with mobility impairments, the great majority are placed at accessible pullouts, viewpoints, parking areas, and trailheads.

The NPS accessibility guidelines for wayside exhibits help insure a standard of quality that will be appreciated by all visitors. Everyone benefits from high quality graphics, readable type, comfortable base designs, accessible locations, hard-surfaced exhibit pads, and well-designed exhibit sites.

While waysides are valuable on-site "interpreters", it should be remembered that the park resources themselves are the primary things visitors come to experience. Good waysides focus attention on the features they interpret, and not on themselves. A wayside exhibit is only one of the many interpretive tools which visitors can use to enhance their

appreciation of a park.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING MOBILITY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Wayside exhibits will generally be installed at accessible locations.
2. Wayside exhibits will be installed at heights and angles favorable for viewing by most visitors including those in wheelchairs.
3. Trailhead exhibits will include an accessible advisory.
4. Wayside exhibit sites will have level, hard-surfaced exhibit pads.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Exhibit type will be as legible and readable as possible.
2. Panel colors will be selected to reduce eye strain and glare, and to provide excellent readability under field conditions.
3. Where applicable, selected wayside exhibits will incorporate tactile elements such as models, texture blocks, and relief maps.
4. Where applicable, selected wayside exhibit developments will incorporate audio stations.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING HEARING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Wayside exhibits will communicate visually, and will rely on graphics as well as text to interpret park resources.
2. The wayside exhibit sites will offer clear, unobstructed views of the feature or resources to be interpreted.
3. Essential information included in audio messages will be duplicated in written form, either as part of the exhibit copy or in

separate printed literature.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING LEARNING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Topics for wayside exhibits will be specific and of general interest. Unnecessary complexity will be avoided.
2. Whenever possible, easy to understand graphics will be used to convey ideas, rather than text alone.
3. Unfamiliar expressions and technical terms will be avoided, and pronunciation aids will be provided where appropriate.
4. Text will be concise and free of long paragraphs and wordy language.

**PUBLICATIONS**

A variety of publications are offered to visitors, ranging from park folders which provide an overview and orientation to a park to more comprehensive handbooks. Each park folder should give a brief description of services available to the disabled, list significant barriers, and note the existence of TDD phone numbers, if available.

In addition, informal site bulletins are often produced to provide more specialized information about a specific site or topic. It is recommended that each park produce an "Accessibility Site Bulletin" which could include detailed information about the specific programs, services, and opportunities available for the disabled and to describe barriers which are present in the park. These bulletins should be in reasonably large type, 14 points or larger.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING MOBILITY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Park folders, site bulletins, and sales literature will be distributed from accessible locations.

2. Park folders should endeavor to carry information on the accessibility of buildings and programs for the disabled.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Publications will be designed with the largest type size appropriate for the format.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING HEARING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Park site bulletins will note the availability of such special services as sign language interpretation and captioned programs.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING LEARNING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. The park site bulletin should list any special services available to this group.

**HISTORIC FURNISHINGS**

Historically refurnished rooms offer the public a unique interpretive experience by placing visitors within historic spaces. Surrounded by historic artifacts visitors can feel the spaces "come alive" and relate more directly to the historic events or personalities commemorated by the park.

Accessibility is problematical in many NPS furnished sites because of the very nature of historic architecture. Buildings were erected with a functional point of view that is many times at odds with our modern view of accessibility.

The approach used to convey the experience of historically furnished spaces will vary from site to site. The goals, however, will remain the same, to give the public as rich an interpretive experience as possible given the nature of the structure.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING MOBILITY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. The exhibit space should be free of architectural barriers or a method of alternate accommodation should be provided, such as slide programs, videotaped tours, visual aids, dioramas, etc.
2. All pathways, aisles, and clearances shall (when possible) meet standards set forth in UFAS 4.3 to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair routes.
3. Ramps shall not exceed a 1" rise in 12" run, and conform with UFAS 4.8.
4. Railings and room barriers will be constructed in such a way as to provide unobstructed viewing by persons in wheelchairs.
5. In the planning and design process, furnishing inaccessible areas, such as upper floors of historic buildings, will be discouraged.
6. Lighting will be designed to reduce glare or reflections when viewed from a wheelchair.
7. Alternative methods of interpretation, such as AV programs, audio description, photo albums, and personal services will be used in areas which present difficulty for the mobility impaired.

GUIDELINES AFFECTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Exhibit typefaces will be selected for readability, legibility, and conform with good industry practice.
2. Audio description will be used to describe furnished rooms, where appropriate.
3. Windows will be treated with film to provide balanced light levels and minimize glare.
4. Where appropriate, visitor-controlled

rheostat-type lighting will be provided to augment general room lighting.

5. Where appropriate and when proper clearance has been approved, surplus artifacts or reproductions will be utilized as "hands-on" tactile interpretive devices.

#### GUIDELINES AFFECTING HEARING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Information about room interiors will be presented in a visual medium such as exhibit copy, text, pamphlets, etc.

2. Captions will be provided for all AV programs regarding historic furnishings.

#### GUIDELINES AFFECTING LEARNING IMPAIRED VISITORS

1. Where appropriate, hands-on participatory elements geared to the level of visitor capabilities will be used.

2. Living history activities and demonstrations which utilize the physical space as a method of providing multi-sensory experiences will be encouraged.

## APPENDIX C: VISITOR USE PROJECTIONS AND VISITOR CENTER SIZE

Projected visitor use data comes from a series of marketing studies prepared in 1990 for the city of Natchez by Davidson-Peterson Associates, Inc. These studies were done as part of the city's plans to develop a new Natchez Conference and Exhibition Center and to explore the potential to institute riverboat gambling on the Natchez riverfront. Highlights of the findings, as they relate to projected visitor use and interpretation in the park and related sites, are presented below.


- Projected five-year growth goals are that visitation to Natchez will increase three-fold to include 400,000 visitors to historic resources, 100,000 attendees to conventions and meetings, and 36,000 gamblers who will stay overnight in Natchez. Many individuals in this latter group may choose to visit historical sites during their extended stay. This is the source of the projected annual visitation of 530,000-550,000 in determining the size of the city-state welcome/visitor center.
- Visitors most likely to visit Natchez tend to live within a 300-mile radius of the city.
- Visitors generally come from traditional households where the chief wage earner has some college background. They tend to be in their middle years, with no children under the age of 16 living at home.
- Most visitors come from homes where the chief wage earner holds a white collar job and earns at least \$25,000 annually.
- Most visitors are interested in experiences along the riverfront or on the river, including tours, cruises, dining, music, etc. These visitors also are interested in touring historic homes, Fort Rosalie, black history sites, and other historic attractions in the area.
- Motorcoach tour operators believe the historic homes offer the major attraction in Natchez for their customers.

- Most conventions/meetings held in Natchez currently attract groups of 50-250. These meetings are generally held in the summer or fall, with the abundance of historic resources providing the major attraction. With plans for the new convention center and the establishment of riverboat gambling, the city hopes to attract groups that range from 400-500 attendees.

Projected visitation figures furnish important data in determining the overall size of a visitor center. However, the above study was done for a combined city-state welcome center. Projected visitation at an NPS visitor center (often difficult to accurately determine for new or developing areas) is anticipated to be considerably less than that proposed for a combined center. Best estimates project that during the peak (busiest) month, about 60,000 visitors may stop at an NPS visitor center in Natchez. This would place about 150 people inside the facility at one time, called the "peak moment." (This figure is 60,000 divided by 31 days divided by 8 hours divided by 60%). This process is not a science, but rather an estimate based on existing information or data from other sites with similar characteristics.

The peak moment figure of 150 people for Natchez National Historical Park serves as the basis for calculating the square feet required for each of the interpretive areas in the visitor center (that is, the lobby, sales area, exhibit room, and theater). Other factors, such as the number and size of display objects and whether the visitor center will be in an existing or new structure, must be considered in determining the size requirements. A degree of flexibility is inherent in these estimates, as media and building designers can be very creative in effective use of space.

Other noninterpretive space requirements also need to be factored into the visitor center total. Restrooms are essential, as are storage areas for publications and custodial supplies and space for building utilities; however, other

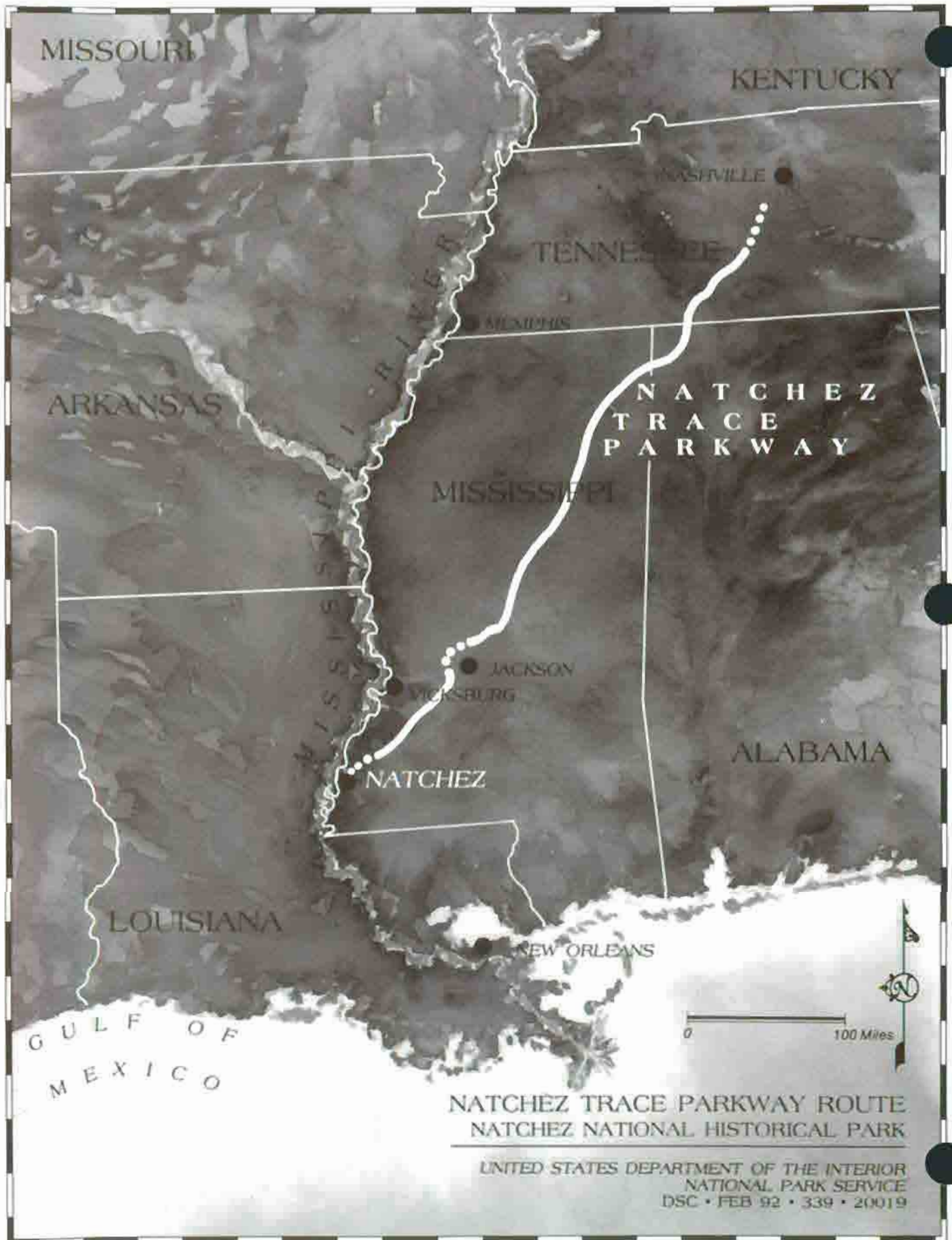


spaces (such as offices, workrooms, meeting rooms, library, staff lounge, or first aid room)

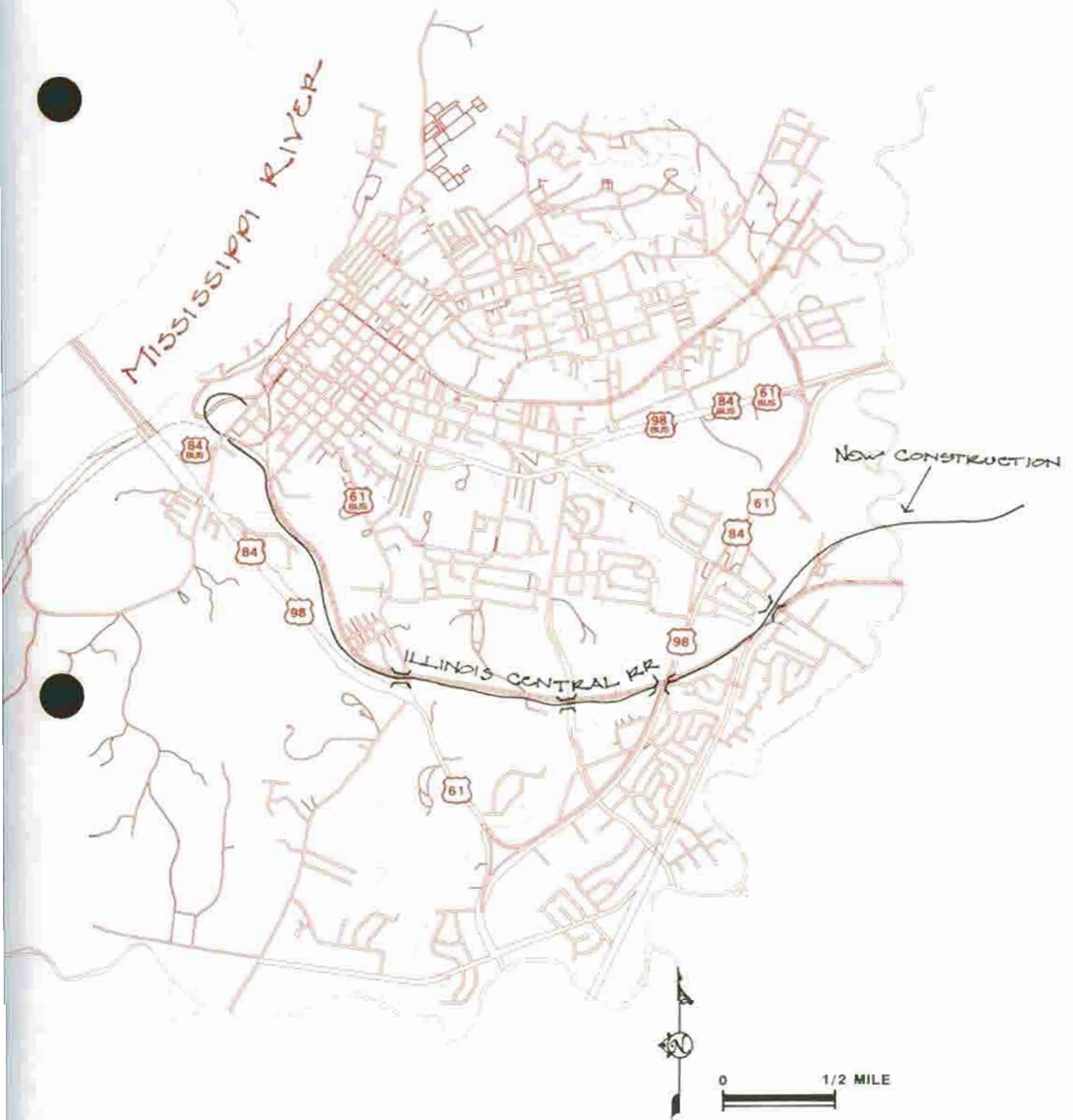
may be optional depending on specific need or proximity to other facilities.



APPENDIX D: THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY AND ALTERNATIVES FOR ITS ENTRANCE INTO NATCHEZ



ON MICROFILM

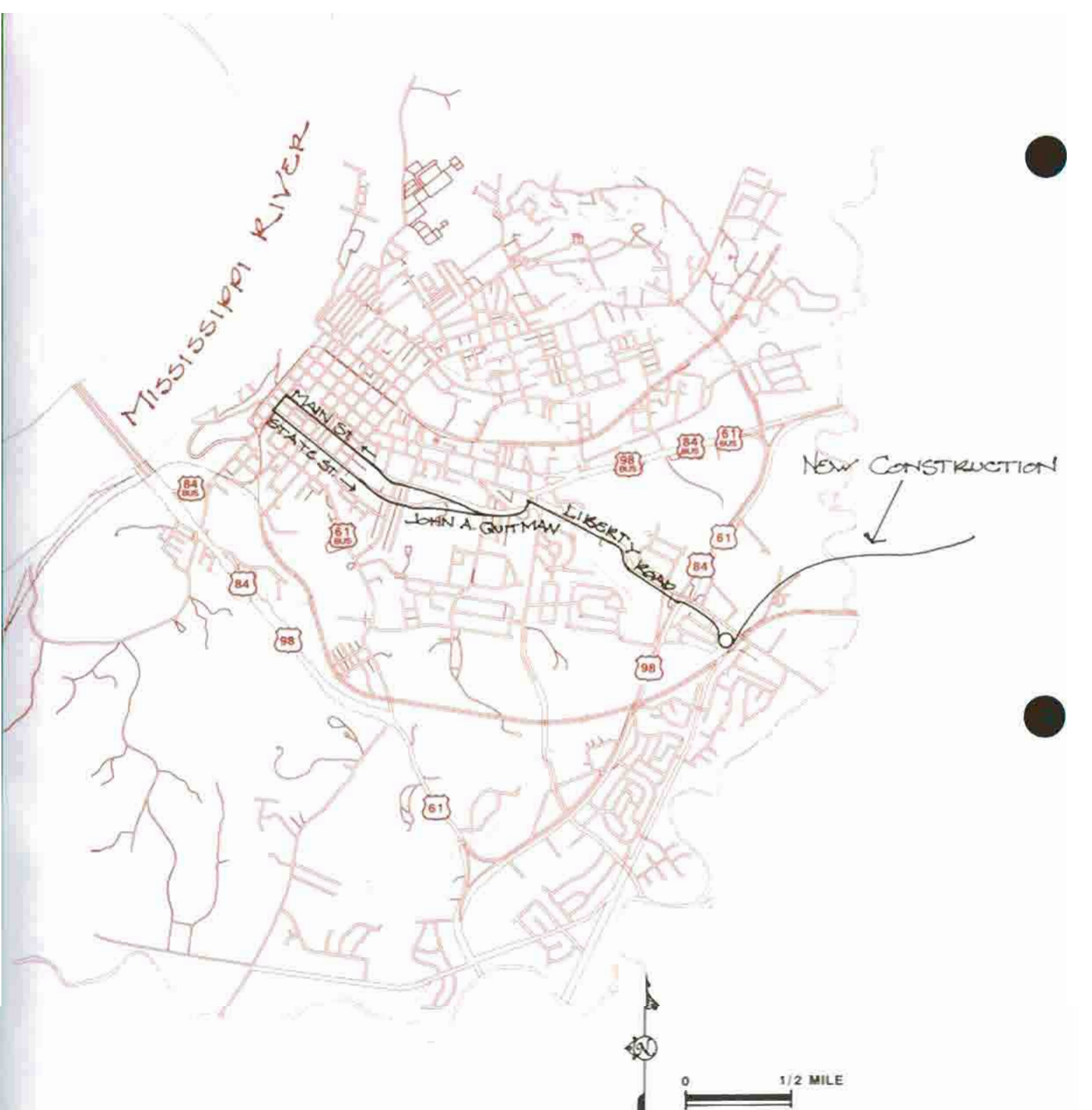


PARKWAY ALTERNATIVE 1  
**NATCHEZ**  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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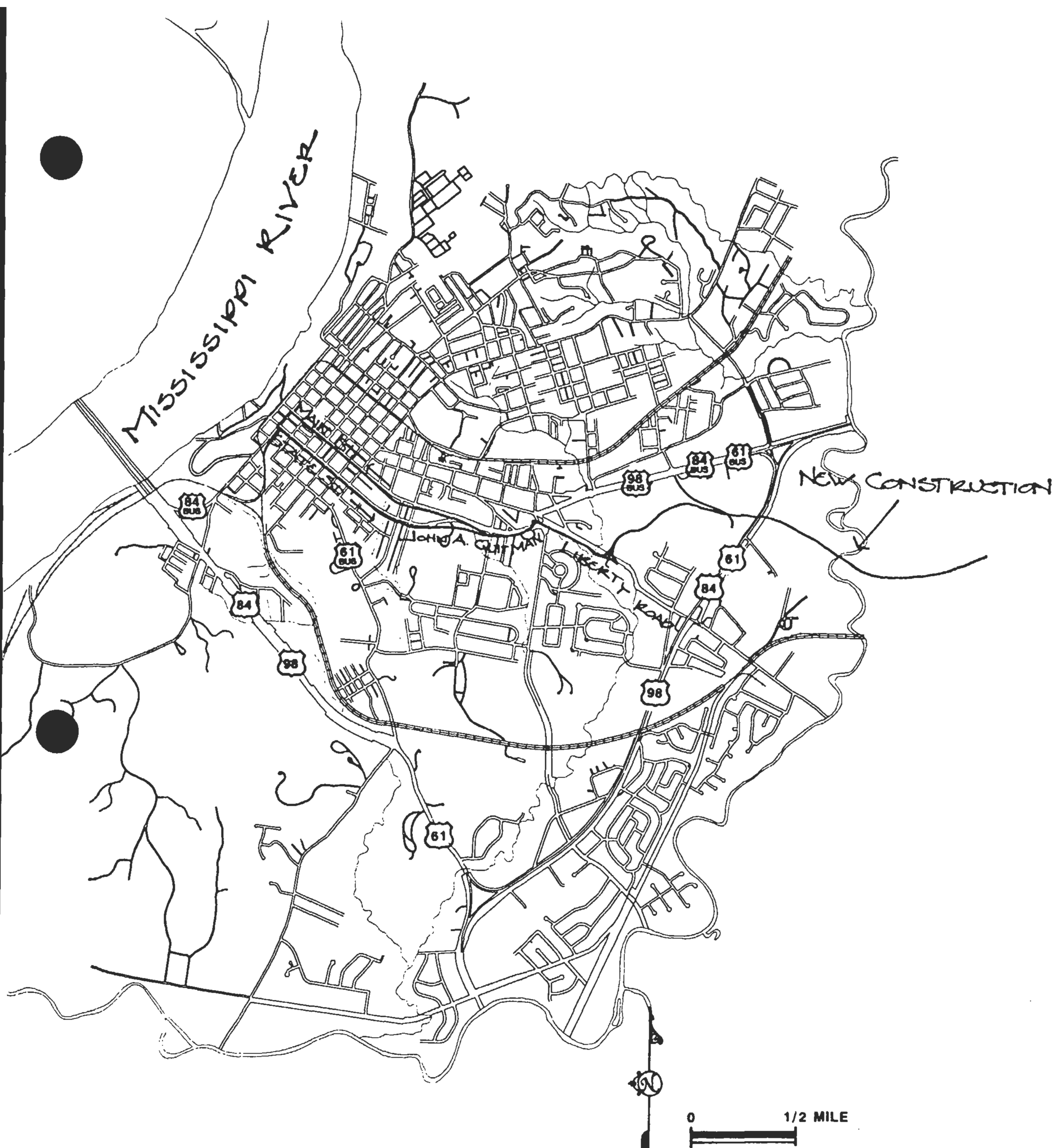
PARKWAY ALTERNATIVE 2  
**NATCHEZ**

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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ON MICROFILM



PARKWAY ALTERNATIVE 3

# NATCHEZ

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

ON MICROFILM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## APPENDIX E: RANGE OF ESTIMATED COSTS FOR NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

**TABLE E-1. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND STAFFING COSTS**

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<b>Melrose</b>			
Gross construction			
Restore main house		\$2,225,000	\$2,225,000
Restore kitchen		318,000	318,000
Restore dairy		318,000	318,000
Restore smokehouse		42,000	42,000
Restore privy		42,000	42,000
Restore cisterns		13,000	13,000
Restore north slave cabin		160,000	160,000
Restore south slave cabin		174,000	174,000
Restore slave privy		34,000	34,000
Restore some of the grounds		49,000	49,000
Restore carriage house (exterior)		169,000	169,000
Rehabilitate carriage house (interior)	\$135,000	135,000	135,000
Rehabilitate stable		215,000	215,000
Demolish greenhouse		13,000	13,000
Demolish ticket booth	1,000	1,000	1,000
Demolish gazebo and bridge	26,000	26,000	26,000
Construct maintenance building		527,000	527,000
Construct vehicle shed		52,000	52,000
Construct paved maintenance yard		26,000	26,000
Construct staff parking		16,000	16,000
Install north boundary fence	74,000	74,000	74,000
Install maintenance yard fence		14,000	14,000
Realign part of entrance road		68,000	68,000
Construct new service road		85,000	85,000
Construct new parking area		94,000	94,000
Resurface other existing roads		304,000	304,000
Construct new walkways	8,000	59,000	59,000
Remove current staff parking		13,000	13,000
Construct stabilized turf connector road		14,000	14,000
Construct visitor contact station			<u>\$259,000</u>
Subtotal gross construction	\$244,000	\$5,280,000	\$5,539,000
Advanced project planning	\$46,000	\$1,008,000	\$1,057,000
Interpretation	<u>\$760,000</u>	<u>\$1,446,000</u>	<u>\$1,320,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,000</b>	<b>\$7,734,000</b>	<b>\$7,916,000</b>
<b>William Johnson Complex</b>			
Gross construction			
Rehabilitate first floor of William Johnson house	\$477,000		
Rehabilitate first and restore second floor of William Johnson house		\$954,000	\$954,000
Stabilize second and third floors of William Johnson house	348,000		
Stabilize third floor of William Johnson house		158,000	158,000
Rehabilitate first floor of McCallum house	361,000		
Rehabilitate first and second floors of McCallum house		721,000	721,000
Stabilize second and third floors of McCallum house	361,000		
Stabilize third floor of McCallum house		180,000	180,000
Rehabilitate first floor of dependency	196,000		
Rehabilitate both floors of dependency		392,000	392,000
Construct brick walkways	28,000	28,000	28,000
Landscaping	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Subtotal gross construction	\$1,781,000	\$2,443,000	\$2,443,000
Advanced project planning	\$340,000	\$467,000	\$467,000
Interpretation	<u>\$763,000</u>	<u>\$1,329,000</u>	<u>\$1,329,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,884,000</b>	<b>\$4,239,000</b>	<b>\$4,239,000</b>

TABLE E-1. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND STAFFING COSTS (CONT.)

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<b>Fort Rosalie<sup>a</sup></b>			
Gross construction			
Demolish or relocate structures	\$524,000	\$524,000	\$524,000
Landscaping	49,000	49,000	49,000
Interpretive trail	12,000	98,000	98,000
Install benches		7,000	7,000
Wooden safety fence along bluff	39,000	39,000	39,000
Picnic area		209,000	209,000
Remove Green and Rumble streets	10,000	10,000	10,000
Trail along river (remove dirt road)		39,000	
Elevated boardwalk			94,000
Rehab Stietenroth House	377,000	377,000	377,000
Parking for staff	43,000	43,000	43,000
Entrance gates	8,000		
Remove box factory ruins <sup>b</sup>	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Subtotal gross construction	\$1,075,000	\$1,408,000	\$1,463,000
Advanced project planning	\$205,000	\$269,000	\$279,000
Interpretation	0 <sup>c</sup>	\$54,000	\$54,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,280,000<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>\$1,731,000</b>	<b>\$1,796,000</b>
<b>Visitor Center</b>			
Gross construction	--- <sup>d</sup>	\$1,179,000 <sup>e</sup>	\$1,651,000 <sup>f</sup>
Advanced project planning	--- <sup>d</sup>	225,000	315,000
Interpretation	--- <sup>d</sup>	\$1,141,000	\$1,141,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,545,000</b>	<b>\$3,107,000</b>
Interpretation <sup>g</sup> — Under-the-Hill	\$18,000	\$124,000	\$124,000
Office Furnishings	\$27,000	\$57,000	\$59,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,259,000</b>	<b>\$16,430,000</b>	<b>\$17,241,000</b>
<b>PRELIMINARY STAFFING COSTS<sup>h</sup></b> (including benefits)	<b>\$489,000</b>	<b>\$1,135,000</b>	<b>\$1,241,000</b>

## Notes:

- <sup>a</sup> The determination of which structures at Fort Rosalie would be moved or demolished is still unknown. For the purposes of estimating costs, it is assumed that five structures would be moved and the rest (excluding the Stietenroth house) would be demolished. Land acquisition costs at Fort Rosalie are not included.
- <sup>b</sup> This cost may change. Costs of removing the parking lot in the mid-level area and the effect that parking has had on the box factory remnants and associated removal costs are unknown at this time.
- <sup>c</sup> Interpretive media at Fort Rosalie will be determined after archeological studies have been completed.
- <sup>d</sup> Rehabilitation and interpretation costs for the visitor contact station are included in the costs for the William Johnson complex.
- <sup>e</sup> Costs shown are for rehabilitating an existing 6,000-square-foot building for the combined administrative headquarters/visitor center. Costs for constructing a new building could be 40% to 50% higher. Land acquisition costs are not included.
- <sup>f</sup> Costs shown are for new construction. Land acquisition costs are not included.
- <sup>g</sup> Costs for interpretation inside a building in alternatives 2 and 3 are shown. The building would be provided through a partnership agreement, and costs would not be borne by the Park Service.
- <sup>h</sup> Staffing costs are preliminary estimates and will be more fully addressed in a future operations plan.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS/SPECIAL STUDIES**

In the cultural and natural resource management sections of this document, numerous studies, reports, and plans are listed that would be needed to assist in management of the park regardless of which alternative is selected. Some reports will be needed before restoration, rehabilitation, or reconstruction. The most critical reports and their estimated costs are listed below.

William Johnson house, historic structure report	\$80,000
William Johnson house, historic furnishings report	30,000
Fort Rosalie, archeological phase 1 field shovel testing	60,000
Fort Rosalie, archeological phase 2 selective excavation	100,000
Fort Rosalie, historic structure report for Stietenroth house	50,000
Melrose main house, historic structure report	120,000
Melrose main house, historic furnishings report	30,000
Melrose outbuildings, historic structure report	160,000
Melrose outbuildings, historic furnishings report	20,000
Melrose cultural landscape report	20,000
Special resource study, cotton plantation*	20,000
Ethnographic overview and assessment	<u>25,000</u>
	\$715,000

\* Costs relating to preservation, HABS/HAER work, a historic structure report, and environmental documentation could range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for the plantation, depending on the site.

## APPENDIX F: CONSIDERATION OF DOWNTOWN VISITOR CENTER SITES

Under alternatives 2 and 3, the Park Service identified the need for a visitor center, possibly in cooperation with the city and state. Early in the planning process for the general management plan, several downtown sites were considered. No site has been chosen, and other sites, including historic structures on the Fort Rosalie site, construction of a new facility at Fort Rosalie, or other as yet unidentified structures in downtown Natchez, need further study before a final decision is made.

One site that received a great deal of study early on in the planning process was the railroad depot on the bluff at Broadway and Franklin streets. The depot might have been donated to the Park Service by the city. Following archeological, historical, and architectural studies, the building could have been preserved (exterior) and rehabilitated (interior) for adaptive use. Interior finishes would have been preserved to the extent possible, but some modifications might have been necessary to make it function as a visitor center.

However, as more information became available, several potential problems with the depot site were identified. The 1985 Corps of Engineers study indicates that a medium-scale rotational slump occurred in the area of the depot, extending through the loess and into the Natchez formation. (During a rotational slump, a fairly coherent mass of soil or rock slips along a well-defined, curved failure surface.) Just north of the railroad depot a large recession in the bluff exists. The tilted trees north of the depot indicate a recent slide. There is also a dense tangle of brush and large trees at the top of the bluff and along the slope. Large trees tend to weaken the bluff because water flows along the roots and wind creates a pull on the roots causing the soil to loosen. There is no control of surface runoff in this area. The study also indicated that the bluff in the area directly behind the depot is only marginally stable, based on limited testing of the shear strength of the soil.

The bluff directly behind the railroad depot has some good erosion control measures in place. The ground is sloped away from the edge of the bluff, there is a good stand of grass as a ground cover, and the large trees have been cleared, except on the bluff itself. However, the Corps of Engineers recommended additional bluff stabilization activities for this entire area — a dike, surface grading, clearing, and seeding along the full length of the bluff, including the pecan factory, the train depot, and the parking lots in between. The area requires additional drainage, especially those areas that pond with surface runoff. It was recommended that all water lines, sanitary sewer lines, and storm sewers within 1 to 2 blocks of the bluff be repaired or replaced. The study indicated that the buildings in this area are not in immediate danger; however, it is important to institute bluff stabilization activities as soon as possible.

The composition and condition of the soil, the depth of the rock formations under the soil, the slope of the bluff, the type of vegetation on the bluff, and the condition of the toe of the bluff vary all along the bluff. To determine the proper integration of bluff stabilization activities in the depot area, a more site-specific survey would have to be conducted.

If the National Park Service acquired the railroad depot on the bluff for use as a visitor center, the agency would be assuming responsibility for a building that is only about 65 feet from the edge of a marginally stable bluff. All development would need to adhere to bluff stabilization and mitigation measures. If this property were acquired, bluff stabilization activities would need to be implemented immediately, including some of the generic measures described in the "Natural Resource Management" section. It would also be necessary to determine needed site-specific geological and biological engineering techniques as well as methods to monitor the stability of the bluff. These could be costly procedures. In addition, the depot property line does not extend to the river. If the Park Service obtained the depot and



## APPENDIXES

started mitigation measures on the bluff another property owner at the toe of the bluff would have to be considered. It would have been important that the boundaries of the site extend beyond the top of the bluff to the toe of the bluff so that mitigation measures could be properly integrated.

It is generally accepted that the bluff will continue to erode, rapidly in some places and more gradually in others, including the portion of the bluff near the depot. Bluff stabilization

activities might buy some time, but it is difficult to predict how much. If this building were acquired, it would be with the full understanding that the depot could not be a long-term site for a visitor center. A definitive geological study of the site would have been needed before acquisition or development.

For the above reasons, no further consideration was given to using the depot for the NPS visitor center.

## APPENDIX G: HISTORIC RESOURCES IN NATCHEZ

In the following description, the themes, given in parentheses after each description, refer to the interpretive themes in the "Interpretation" section. Each resource is thus identified according to the interpretive theme it illustrates due to aspects of its history — builder, owner, history of occupancy, association with significant individuals, etc.

### NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

**Arlington.** 1320 Main Street – In an expansive setting of live oaks and azaleas, Arlington epitomizes the architectural qualities for which Natchez is famous. The mansion was built in 1818 for John Hampton White and Jane Surget White. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Auburn.** Duncan Park – Auburn's two-story portico became a model for Natchez houses and a prototype for Southern plantation houses. Built in 1812 for attorney and planter Lyman Harding, Auburn was later purchased by Dr. Stephen Duncan, the world's richest cotton planter in the 1850s. Duncan was also the vice-president of the American Colonization Society. (Themes 1, 3, and 4)

**Commercial Bank and Banker's House.** 206 Main Street and 107 Canal Street – These buildings illustrate Greek Revival style, with the Ionic temple of the bank facade and the Doric columns of the house. (Theme 2)

**Dunleith.** 84 Homochitto Street – The only remaining example of a full peripteral colonnaded plantation house, Dunleith's ornamental iron balustrades enclose the galleries. Dunleith was built in 1856 for Charles Dahlgren, a brigadier general in the Confederate Army of Mississippi, and his wife, Mary Routh Ellis. John R. Lynch, a Reconstruction U.S. congressman, was a slave in his youth at Dunleith. (Themes 1, 3, and 4)

**Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.** 400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard – The Grand

Village site has remnants of three temple mounds and a plaza. (Theme 2)

**House on Ellicott's Hill.** 215 Canal Street – Built shortly after 1797 and one of the earliest houses built in Natchez, this house reflects the architectural tastes of the early Mississippi Territory. The house was built for James Moore. (Theme 2)

**Longwood.** 2 Longwood Road – Longwood was designed by noted Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan; it was built by master craftsmen, and slaves owned by Dr. Haller Nutt, a wealthy cotton planter, and his wife Julia. It is the largest and most elaborate octagonal house in the United States, and one of the finest surviving examples of an Oriental Revival style. The house was never completed due to the Civil War. (Themes 1, 3, 4, and 6)

**Melrose.** 136 Melrose Avenue – Remarkable for the perfection of its Greek Revival design and the integrity of its surroundings, Melrose was built for attorney and planter John T. McMurrin and his wife Mary. The associated slave quarters and other dependencies are intact. (Themes 1, 3, 4, and 6)

**Monmouth.** 1 Melrose Avenue – Monmouth was built for John Hankinson, a Natchez postmaster, in 1820 in Federal style, and remodeled in Greek Revival style ca. 1853. Later the mansion was owned by James Anthony Quitman. Quitman, who supported the nullification theories and was an ardent secessionist, was a lawyer, planter, state legislator, state governor, U.S. congressman, and civil and military governor of Mexico City after its surrender during the Mexican War. (Themes 1, 3, and 6)

**Rosalie.** 100 Orleans Street – Built for Peter Little and his wife Eliza in 1823 in Federal style and redecorated in the 1850s, Rosalie helped establish the architectural form for other grand houses in Natchez. The house served as Federal headquarters in 1863. (Themes 1, 3, 6)

**Stanton Hall.** 401 High Street – Built in 1857 for wealthy planter and cotton broker Frederick Stanton, the house has palatial proportions and Victorian detail. (Themes 1 and 3)

## NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS

**Cemetery Bluff Historic District.** Cemetery Road — This historic district is significant for its landscape, conveyed primarily by natural areas, the bluff and the deep ravines or bayous that are characteristic of the Natchez area, and the terraced city cemetery and National Cemetery, which are defining elements of the district. Cemetery Road (Maple Street within the city limits) forms the spine of the district. The city cemetery (1824) and the National Cemetery (1867) marked the northern terminus of urban development of Natchez in the 19th century and comprise a major portion of the district. Along with the cemeteries, the predominantly 19th century character of the district is defined by Weymouth Hall, a ca. 1854 Greek Revival suburban villa that has many features that are unique in Natchez, and the Gardens, a Federal period residence. A portion of the district was once the site of Fort McPherson, built by Union forces in 1863 after they occupied Natchez. The old powder magazine, a brick structure on Maple Drive, may have been constructed as part of the fort. The district also includes some early 20th century residences, the ca. 1903 Charity Hospital Nursing School building, and a collection of frame cottages with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements.

The National Cemetery is nationally significant. The city cemetery is significant as a historic cemetery within the city and, at a state level, for the outstanding quality of its grave markers and ironwork. The city cemetery contains the graves of numerous political, military, social, and religious leaders and also illustrates (in its Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Black sections) the diverse population of Natchez in the 19th century. (Themes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6)

**Clifton Heights Historic District.** Roughly bounded by Ridge and Mulberry Alley, the Natchez Bluff, Park Avenue, and Maple Street — This district contains 61 properties on three parallel streets – Clifton, Taylor, and Linton avenues. Developed between 1888 and 1925 on the site of Clifton, a 19th century suburban villa destroyed during the Civil War, Clifton Heights was one of the city's first corporate subdivisions. The district is characterized by regular placement of houses on uniformly subdivided landscaped lots.

Pivotal buildings are 2 or 2½ story frame residences with multigabled roofs, decorative wood trim (including porches, brackets, and turned columns and posts), and leaded and stained glass. Secondary houses are 1- to 2-story bungalows and plainer cottages that use the decorative elements of the major houses, although in less complexity. The houses illustrate the range of styles popular at different time periods – Queen Anne and Colonial Revival (the town's best examples), Shingle and Tudor (the town's only examples), and Bungalow – and are architecturally significant for the individual stylistic expression in many of the structures. All but one of the structures are residential.

Clifton Heights is historically significant for two reasons: first, it is associated with the Jewish community, and second, it illustrates one type of late 19th century suburban development in Natchez. Most residences in Clifton Heights were constructed for prominent Jewish families in Natchez, and the district reflects the prosperity of that ethnic group in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Clifton Heights also illustrates the character of the newly planned late 19th century subdivision in Natchez, contrasting with the character of the Upriver Residential Historic District, where the pre-existing (early 19th century) street pattern and estate layout dictated later subdivision of land. (Theme 5)

**Natchez Bluffs and Under-the-Hill Historic District.** Bounded by S. Canal Street, Broadway, and the Mississippi River (between river and bluff edge) — This district includes the riverfront, six rectangular brick buildings (dating from 1840 to 1890) on the east side of

Silver Street, and six frame worker/tenant houses dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the east side of Water Street. An area of frame Queen Anne and Colonial Revival cottages dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries is on the bluffs above the landing. Between the rear of these houses and the bluff is the site of Fort Rosalie, which was built by the French in 1716 and rebuilt in 1730 and which was successively occupied by French, English, Spanish, and American troops until it was abandoned in 1804.

The character of the Under-the-Hill area was frequently modified during the 19th century as a result of landslides and construction in the landing area. Levee Street, an original street parallel to Silver Street, has been lost through erosion. Silver Street, the main street, was historically lined with a dense row of brick and frame buildings, few of which remain. The collection of structures on the landing was historically more varied and included a coal yard, icehouse, and waterworks. The remaining brick buildings on Silver Street are in fair to good condition; the frame houses on Water Street are uninhabited and deteriorated.

This district includes the site of the original French settlement at Natchez and the remaining portions of the commercial landing, significant in commerce and transportation. The setting on the river landing itself is a major component of the district. The surviving commercial warehouse buildings reflect the use of the area in the 19th century. The district is important, because it represents the city's founding, the early settlement of the lower Mississippi River valley, and the city's ties with the river and river trade. (Themes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6)

**Natchez On-Top-of-the-Hill Historic District.**

Roughly bounded by Broadway, Monroe, North Pine, and Orleans streets — This district is organized around the Spanish town plan of ca. 1792 (a grid plan of 7 x 8 blocks) and includes significant landscaped spaces as well as structures. Within the district are buildings from the late 18th century to the present; one of the finest collections of Greek Revival architecture in the United States;

representative examples of other styles of 19th century domestic architecture; and 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. Most (60%) of the buildings were constructed during the 19th century. Numerous buildings are individually listed on the national register.

Historically, this area developed in the 19th century as the general commercial and residential center of Natchez, as distinct from the specialized river trade area represented by Under-the-Hill. Natchez' place as a very important regional trade center in the early to mid 19th century is reflected in the high quality of the architecture in this historic district. Although its national prominence moderated in the late 19th century, Natchez remained the center of commercial activity for the region through the 20th century. A commercial building boom that began after the Civil War ended about 1910 when the economy declined because of a depressed agricultural market. Natchez, however, continued to be the locally significant center of commerce for the region.

Preservation of many of the homes in this district occurred because of lack of funding, and "reverence" for the homes as reminders of antebellum life. In 1932 the annual Pilgrimage house tours began, and tourism based on preservation became a major factor in the city's economic life. (Themes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)

**Upriver Residential Historic District.**

Roughly bounded by Pine, Monroe, Elm/Bishop, and Ridge/Maple streets, in the old northern suburban area of Natchez — This district, which is principally late 19th and early 20th century in character, encompasses an area that was developed on the subdivided grounds of pre-Civil War suburban villa estates like The Burn (Greek Revival), Riverview (Italianate/Greek Revival), The Towers (Italianate/Greek Revival), Airlie (Federal), Cottage Gardens (Federal), The Wigwam (Italianate), Shadyside (Greek Revival), and Melmont (Greek Revival/Italianate). The areas of high elevation are principally the house sites of the pre-Civil War villa residences, with the remaining area filled by later development. The villas have retained

larger lots. The buildings in the district are almost all residential, although one factory, several churches and institutions, and a few commercial buildings are also present.

This district represents one of the most historically and architecturally significant collections of mid 19th, late 19th, and early 20th century residences in Mississippi. Historically, the area reflects the post Civil War subdivision of suburban landholding as the city expanded and the typical Natchez residential pattern of large fine houses intermixed with small tenant houses of household workers. The district contains the city's only significant factory building, the pecan shelling factory, and areas of employee housing for the Rosalie and Natchez cotton mills. Architecturally, the district is significant for the range of styles and types of buildings and quality of design, materials, and workmanship of the major buildings. (Themes 3 and 5)

#### INDIVIDUALLY LISTED NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES

**William Ailes House.** 657 S. Canal Street – Built ca. 1852 by Thomas Bowen for William Ailes, a drayman whose business was in Natchez Under-the-Hill. The house is a Greek Revival dwelling typical of residences built by the working middle class of antebellum Natchez. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Airlie (Belvedere).** 9 Elm Street – Built ca. 1800, the one-story frame home is one of the earliest planter's houses in Natchez. It was built for Stephen Minor, an official of the Spanish government, and was later the home of Revolutionary War Colonel John Steele, secretary of the Mississippi Territory. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**John Baynton House (Williamsburg).** 821 Main Street – Built ca. 1830, this Federal style one-story frame house has unusually fine detailing, two dormers, and a front porch recessed under a gabled roof. The style of the house indicates an earlier construction date, but this is undocumented. The house

was the home of John Baynton, a land speculator, and the Irish Junkin family, who were influential in Natchez' economic and political life. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Belvidere.** 70 Homochitto Street – Built ca. 1837, this Greek Revival one-story frame home has a gabled roof with dormers and four-columned portico. The structure was relocated in 1926. Originally built for Robert and/or Samuel Patterson (possibly by Neibert and Gemmell, builders of many Natchez homes of this period), the house has been owned by the Henderson family and descendants since 1868. The house has never been restored, and contains furnishings original to 1868. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Gerald Brandon IV House.** 708 N. Union Street – Built in 1890, the two-story frame house has many projections, offsets, gables, and dormers and a one-story porch with bamboo-like columns. It is one of the first houses built in the ca. 1900 northern suburbs of Natchez, and a good example of the Queen Anne style in the city. Brandon was principal of the Natchez public school system, a practicing attorney, city solicitor, and elected state senator. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**The Briars.** 31 Irving Lane – Built in 1818, the one-story Federal style Briars has front and rear galleries and is a sophisticated example of the long, low "undercut" architectural form that is indigenous to the lower Mississippi River Valley. This regional idiom was characterized by a long, low profile. Both galleries are "undercut" into the structure. Nearly square rooms are placed between the broad front and rear verandas set into the building. Situated on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the home was built for Maryland native and Natchez planter John Perkins; Jefferson Davis and Varina Howell were wed here in 1845. Today it is a privately owned bed-and-breakfast. (Themes 1 and 3)

**The Burn.** 307 Oak Street – Built in 1834, this 2½ story frame Greek Revival home has

a central portico with Greek Doric entablature; it has exceptionally fine exterior and interior detailing, especially the interior stairs. Built by the contracting firm of Montgomery and Keys for Natchez planter, merchant, and mayor John P. Walworth, its design is attributed to T.J. Hoyt; it is one of the earliest purely Greek Revival residences in Natchez. It was the headquarters for the 6th U.S. Army Artillery and 3rd Maryland Cavalry during the Civil War, and was within Fort McPherson, the Union fortification. Today it is a privately owned bed-and-breakfast. (Themes 1, 3, and 6)

**Cottage Gardens.** 816 Myrtle Avenue – Built ca. 1795, the 1½ story frame Greek Revival home was remodeled 1828. It has a full-length front gallery and a rare combination of central portico that is set into an unbroken gabled roof; the interior stairs are similar to those at The Burn. Earl Norman, noted photographer of Natchez and son of photographer Henry C. Norman, lived at the Cottage Gardens. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**D'evereux.** 160 D'Evereux Drive – Built ca. 1840, D'evereux has Greek Revival style architecture with Federal elements. It is two stories, massive, square, brick stuccoed and scored, and has a pyramidal roof and front and rear Greek Doric colonnades. An original outbuilding is in the rear. D'evereux was built for Maryland native and Natchez planter and philanthropist William St. John Elliott and restored after 1925 by Myra Virginia Smith. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 1, 3, and 6)

**John Dicks House.** 802 North Union Street – Built ca. 1888-89, this Victorian eclectic style frame house has a hipped roof and a one-story front porch. One of the most architecturally significant residences of post-Civil War Mississippi, the house was built for John A. Dicks and designed by Sidney V. Stratton, at one time associated with the architectural firm of McKim, Meade & White. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 5)

**Dixon Building.** 514 Main Street – Built ca. 1866-72 for Robert S. Dixon, an ornamental

paperhanger and painter, this brick stuccoed and scored two-story commercial building maintains a double-tiered porch supported by cast-iron columns. The building is the most architecturally significant of the post-Civil War commercial buildings in downtown Natchez; it has extraordinary integrity and a high degree of exterior finish. The building is used for commercial purposes. (Theme 5)

**Dr. Charles H. Dubs Townhouse.** 311 N. Pearl Street – Built ca. 1852 in Greek Revival style, this two-story brick hipped roof home has a rear wing and a two-story outbuilding. Built for Philadelphian Dr. Charles H. Dubs, a Natchez inventor and dental surgeon, it is a rare example in Natchez of the northern townhouse form. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 5)

**The Elms.** 215 S. Pine Street – Built in 1804 in Federal style, the Elms was renovated ca. 1850 to Greek Revival style. The main house is 2½ stories, brick, and completely encircled by a two-story gallery; there is also a stuccoed frame wing. This is one of the oldest, most unusual, and most prominent "suburban villas" in Natchez. The house was built for Scotsman John Henderson, merchant, auctioneer, lawyer, and writer of the first book published in the Natchez Territory. It is today a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Elms Court.** 42 John R. Junkin Drive – Built ca. 1836 and enlarged c. 1850, this two-story frame home has a pyramidal roof and central block; the one-story wings are brick, and there are ornate cast-iron galleries on the main house and wings. It is one of the most prominent suburban villas, with lavish use of ornamental iron, in Mississippi. The home was built for Eliza and Catherine Evans. During the Civil War, Elms Court was owned by planter Ayers P. Merrill and his wife Jane Surget. Merrill became ambassador to Belgium in 1876. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Eola Hotel.** Main and Pearl streets – This seven-story, concrete frame, brick veneer building, built in 1927, combined Neoclassical-Colonial Revival styles. Built for Natchez

Investment Corp., Inc. president, Leon M. Levy, and named for Levy's daughter, Eola, the building expresses architecture and decorative arts of the 1920s; it was designed by the New Orleans architectural firm of Weiss, Dreyfus, & Seiferth, Inc. After closing in 1972, the extensively renovated building was reopened in 1982 as an operating hotel. (Theme 5)

**First Presbyterian Church.** 117 S. Pearl Street – Built ca. 1828-30, this Federal style church has been renovated and enlarged several times. The rectangular, stuccoed brick building is monumental in scale and has a four-columned Tuscan entry portico, a tower with clocks on its four faces, and an octagonal domed cupola. Today, it is an active church. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Glenburnie.** 551 John R. Junkin Drive – Today a private residence, this Federal style one-story frame home was built ca. 1833 and enlarged and altered between 1901-04. The front wall is plastered and scored, other walls are weatherboarded. It is an example of the merging of two architectural styles, late Federal and neo-Colonial. Built for attorney Sturges Sprague and his wife Frances, the home is the site of the celebrated "Goat Castle" murder in 1932. (Theme 2)

**Gloucester (Gloster).** 201 Lower Woodville Road – Acquired in 1807 by Winthrop Sargent, first governor of the Mississippi Territory, Gloucester was built ca. 1803 and enlarged several times. The two-story brick home has a full basement, a low hipped roof, a portico on the front, and a colonnade on the rear. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 2 and 3)

**Hawthorne Place (Hawthorne).** 3 Hawthorne Place (Lower Woodville Road) – Built ca. 1825-1827 for Maria Overaker and her mother, Margaret Overaker, this 1½ story Federal style frame home has brick nogging infill. The front wall is plastered and scored, the other walls are weatherboarded, and the front gallery is recessed under the roof. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Henderson-Britton House (Magnolia Hall).** 215 S. Pearl Street – Built ca. 1858, this two-story residence is an unusually large and well-designed example of Greek Revival with Italianate details. The structure is monumental and brick stuccoed and scored and has a two-story Ionic portico and attached kitchen wing. Built for wealthy cotton broker and merchant Thomas Henderson, the house was later owned by Eliza M. Britton, the wife of A. C. Britton, president and one of founders of Britton & Koontz Bank in Natchez. The house was restored by the Natchez Garden Club and is operated as a museum. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Hope Farm.** 147 Homochitto Street – Built before 1789 and remodeled in Greek Revival style in 1830s, this one-story frame house has a front gallery and weatherboarded walls, except for the front wall that is plastered and scored. The home is a rare and well-preserved example of domestic architecture that characterized the lower Mississippi valley during the pre-territorial era. It was the residence of Don Carlo de Grand Pre, Spanish Commandant of the Natchez District 1780-92. In this century it was owned by the late Katherine Grafton Miller, founder of the Natchez Pilgrimage. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 2 and 5)

**Institute Hall.** 1095 Pearl Street – This monumental, stuccoed brick public building was built ca. 1853 and is a rare surviving example of a Greek Revival auditorium. Built as the auditorium of the adjacent Natchez Institute, the hall was the first public school in Mississippi to offer a full course of free education; it also served as the main entertainment center for Natchez. George and Thomas Weldon did the carpentry, and Reynolds and Brown did the masonry work; the Weldon brothers may also have designed the building. A major renovation occurred in 1921, as a memorial to World War I veterans. (Theme 3)

**William Johnson House.** 210 State Street – Built ca. 1841 for William Johnson, this two-story brick townhouse has dormer windows. Johnson was a free black who started as a barber and eventually became a prosperous

businessman, landowner, and slaveowner. His diary is an important source for documentation on the life of free blacks in the antebellum South. (Themes 3 and 4)

**Keyhole House.** Main Street — This ca. 1890 two-story brick home has turned wooden columns, jigsaw brackets, railings with turned wooden balusters, spindle friezes, and a large second-story window surrounded by keyhole-shaped stone. The house exhibits an Oriental, or Moorish, influence. It is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**King's Tavern.** 611 Jefferson Street — A two-story frame structure built ca. 1789, King's Tavern has a steeply pitched gabled roof and a raised basement. Long considered to be the oldest building in Natchez, it served as a tavern on the Natchez Trace and as a mail and stage coach station. Restored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club in the early 1970s, the structure currently houses a restaurant and lounge. (Theme 2)

**Koontz House (Green Leaves).** 303 S. Rankin Street — Built ca. 1836, this Greek Revival one-story frame home has a raised basement, a hipped roof, and a Doric entrance portico. The house retains an impressive collection of period decorative treatments and objects. Built for Edward P. Fourniquet, the house was later acquired by George W. Koontz, a prominent Natchez banker and partner with William and Audley Tritton. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Lansdowne.** Pine Ridge Road — This house maintains remarkable integrity, and contains Zuber "fresco paper," as the most significant feature of its interior scheme. Built ca. 1853, the one-story rectangular brick stuccoed and scored home is Greek Revival style and has a pyramidal roof topped by a balustraded belvedere. Today a private residence, the house remains in the same family for whom it was built — planter George M. Marshall and his wife Charlotte. (Themes 1, 3)

**Linden.** 1 Linden Place — This two-story frame Federal style home has a two-story central portico, one-story wings, a one-story

gallery across the front, a front wall that is plastered and scored, and other walls that are weatherboarded. Built before 1818, at one time the residence of Thomas Buck Reed, one of Mississippi's first United States senators; Dr. John Kaer, a prominent physician and planter; and Jane E. Connor, whose descendants still live in this private residence. (Themes 2, 3)

**Lisle-Shields Town House (Petit Bijou).** 701 N. Union Street — This ca. 1860-64 Greek Revival style brick stuccoed town house is 1½ stories and significant as a well-designed and executed late Greek Revival city residence. It was home to a locally prominent upper middle class family of the antebellum period. Built for Isabella Lisle and her husband Maurice, who owned the Natchez Foundry, the home was sold in 1860 to Wilmer Shields, operator of Laurel Hill plantation. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**The Manse (Presbyterian Manse).** 307 S. Rankin Street — Built ca. 1824-32, this one-story Federal style stuccoed brick home has a single-bay entry portico. It is the only documented one-story Federal-style brick dwelling in the state with its original single-bay portico and handsomely detailed frontispiece. Built for Reverend Doctor Joseph Buck Stratton, the home has served since 1838 as the home for ministers of the First Presbyterian Church. (Theme 2)

**Mercer-Laird House.** 118 S. Wall Street — This Federal style two-story stuccoed brick home with a hipped roof was built ca. 1819 for Mrs. Jane Ellis Rapalje. Ann Eliza Farar, her niece and the wife of William N. Newton, a physician who became a prominent planter and businessman, inherited the house. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 1 and 3)

**Monteigne.** 200 Liberty Road — Although completely remodeled in 1927 in neoclassical style, this 1½ story brick stuccoed home was built ca. 1855 in Italianate style. The house was designed and built by James McClure for William Thompson Martin, a Natchez attorney, Confederate general, trustee of the University of Mississippi, and president of board of



trustees of Jefferson College. The remodeling was done according to designs by New Orleans architects Weiss, Dreyfus, and Seiferth. It is today a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Patrick Murphy House.** 21 Irvine Lane — This frame T-shaped residence is an outstanding example of a late 19th century Italianate style. It has gabled roof and dentilled cornice. The house was built ca. 1872-80 for Irish immigrant Patrick Murphy, a levy contractor. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 2)

**Myrtle Bank.** 408 N. Pearl Street — This Spanish-colonial style one-story frame cottage has a raised basement, front gallery, and gabled roof with dormers. Built for George Overaker before 1817, the home was purchased by Alfred Cochran and his wife Eliza who enlarged the house (1850s-70s). Later occupied by the Natchez Young Ladies Institute, today it is a private residence. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Neibert-Fisk House (Choctaw).** 310 North Wall Street — Built ca. 1836, this Federal and Greek Revival style three-story brick house has a raised basement, hipped roof, Roman Ionic front portico, and double-tiered gallery across rear. Built for contractor and real estate investor Joseph Neibert, it later was the home of Alvarez Fisk, who donated the residence to the Natchez Institute, which was the first public school in Mississippi with a full course of free education. Fisk was a commission merchant, philanthropist, and belonged to the Mississippi Colonization Society. In 1855 George Malin Davis bought the house, and it remained in the Davis family until 1920. From 1909 to 1915 the mansion housed Stanton College, a school for young women. (Theme 3)

**Oakland.** 9 Oakhurst Drive — This square, one-story, brick stuccoed and scored Greek Revival house has front and rear galleries that are recessed beneath a pyramidal roof. The interior detailing is exceptional. Built ca. 1838-44 for Rhode Island native Horatio S. Eustis and his wife Catherine Chotard, the house was owned during the Civil War by John

Minor and Katherine Surget Minor. Oakland was a center for Union sympathizers during the war. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 3 and 6)

**Pleasant Hill.** 310 Pearl Street — This 1½ story frame house has a gabled roof, a two-columned pedimented entrance porch, a raised basement, and a distinctive open staircase. Built ca. 1800-04 for John Henderson, a merchant, author, book dealer who helped found the First Presbyterian Church, the house was moved to its current site in 1858 to make room for the construction of the Henderson-Britton house. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Prentiss Club.** Pearl and Jefferson streets — Built in 1905, this two-story, yellow brick, Second Renaissance Revival style structure has a low-pitched hipped roof that is covered with tile and a recessed entrance porch. Architecturally it is the most significant public building built in Natchez in the 20th century. Originally a men's club, it was the center of Natchez social activity until 1927. The structure was designed by the New Orleans architectural firm of Soule and McDonald and constructed by a local firm of Stietenroth and Dowda. Later serving as the Masonic lodge, the building was recently rehabilitated for commercial use. (Theme 3)

**Ravennaside (Ravenna).** 601 S. Union Street — This two-story frame Greek Revival style house has double-tiered galleries recessed under the front and rear slopes of the gabled roof. It was probably built ca. 1835-36 by Natchez contracting firm of Neibert and Gemmell for William Harris, a cotton merchant, real estate developer, planter, and Natchez alderman. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Richmond.** 710 S. Canal Street — Composed of three elements, this ca. 1800-10 house has been remodeled and altered several times. The earliest section is a "raised cottage", an example of 18th century lower Mississippi Valley vernacular architecture. Adjoining the west side is a frame, 1½ story, Greek Revival section that was built in 1832. The third section is a brick wing, joined in

1860 to the eastern elevation of the original house. The house was acquired in 1832 by Levin R. Marshall and his wife, Maria Chotard. Marshall helped form the Natchez Steam Packet Company and was a financier and a planter with extensive property in Adams County and Louisiana. A private residence, the home is still owned by the Marshall descendants. (Theme 3)

**The Roos House.** 208 Linton Avenue — This ca. 1905 Victorian frame two-story gabled roof house has a bracketed cornice and Art Nouveau elements; it also has a one-story Colonial Revival porch. Symbolic of the prominence of the Jewish community which dominated Natchez' cultural, social, intellectual, and economic life from 1865 to the 1930s, it is one of the finest examples of early 20th century residential architecture. It was built for Julius Roos, a prominent Natchez citizen. (Theme 4)

**Routhland.** 92 Winchester Road — With elements of Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles, this ca. 1815-24 house was remodeled and added to several times. Built for John Routh and his wife Nancy Smith, this frame house has 1½ stories, hipped roofs, and a broad gallery across front. Routh was considered the world's largest cotton planter in the early 19th century. The house was also the postwar home of Charles Clark, Mississippi's Civil War governor. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Shadyside.** 107 Shadyside Street — This square one-story Greek Revival brick house has a raised basement, a pyramidal roof, a Doric entrance portico, and a rear gallery. Built ca. 1850 for Ralph North, attorney, legislator, circuit court judge, and author, this house is representative of dwellings built by rising middle class in antebellum Natchez. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Smart-Griffin House (Angeletty House).** 180 Saint Catherine Street — This ca. 1840s-50s, Greek Revival, 1½ story brick house has Gothic Revival dormers and a gabled roof. It is not known exactly who built the house. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Smith-Bontura-Evans House.** 107 South Broadway — Built by Robert D. Smith and his wife Ann, this two-story brick townhouse has cast-iron, double-tiered galleries and a rear wing for carriages. The ca. 1851-1858 house was a three-part residential-commercial complex; Smith, a free black, operated a successful hack (taxi) and livery service out of the house. Later owned by the Bontura and Evans families, today the house is operated as a house museum by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Mississippi. (Theme 4)

**Texada Tavern.** 222 S. Wall Street — Considered to be the first brick building constructed in Natchez, this ca. 1793-1805 two-story brick house has a rear two-story gallery and a rear dependency. Built during the period of Spanish control of Natchez, the house was sold in 1798 to Manuel Garcia de Texada, a lawyer, planter, and tavern keeper. This structure has had many uses — a temporary meeting place of the state legislature, tavern and hotel, tailor shop, and dance academy. The house was later owned by Edward Turner, Natchez mayor, state attorney general, speaker of the state house of representatives, chief justice of the state supreme court. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 2 and 3)

**Tillman House.** 506 High Street — This ca. 1834 frame two-story Greek Revival house has a gabled roof and a double-tiered gallery across the front; the west wall is a brick fire wall. Built by the firm of Neibert and Gemmel as a speculative business venture, today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Van Court Townhouse.** 510 Washington Street — This transitional Federal and Greek Revival style stuccoed brick house has two stories and roof dormers; there is also a later cast-iron front porch. Built ca. 1835 by James Ferguson, this house was later owned by Dr. Andrew Macrery, a prominent Natchez physician, and Dr. Elias J. Van Court. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

**Weymouth Hall.** 1 Cemetery Road — This brick, two-story, Greek Revival style house has a raised basement and a hipped roof.

## APPENDIXES

The matching front and rear facades have recessed porches. The rear of the house faces the Mississippi River. Built ca 1855 for Judge Reuben Bullock, today the structure is a bed-and-breakfast inn. (Themes 1 and 3)

**Winchester House (1979).** 810 Main Street — Typical of houses built by rising middle-class merchants of antebellum Natchez, this house was originally built as a duplex. The one-story, frame, Greek Revival and Federal style structure has a partial basement, a gabled roof, and a front porch that is recessed under the roof. Built ca. 1836-38 by Horace Gridley, a builder and city selectman, the house was later owned by Judge Josiah Winchester and his wife Margaret Graham Sprague. Today it is a private residence. (Themes 1 and 3)

**White Cottage (Twin Oaks).** 71 Homochitto Street — The front of this 1½ story Greek Revival brick house is stuccoed and scored; there is also a temple-like front portico. The house was built ca. 1850 for New York native Charles Dubuisson by contractors Thomas Bowen and John Crothers. Dubuisson became president of Jefferson College in 1835 and later practiced law in Natchez. Today it is a private residence. (Theme 3)

## APPENDIX H: SITE-SPECIFIC FLORA LIST

### MELROSE

o = ornamental    e = exotic

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer negundo</i>	box elder
<i>Acer japonicum</i>	Japanese maple (e,o)
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red buckeye
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	mimosa (o)
<i>Aleurites fordii</i>	tung oil tree
<i>Allium bivalve</i>	false garlic
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligatorweed
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	ragweed
<i>Anisostichus capreolata</i> ( <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> L.)	cross vine
<i>Ariseama dracontium</i>	green dragon
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	jack-in-the-pulpit
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	ebony spleenwort
<i>Aster</i> spp.	fall blooming asters
<i>Bidens</i> spp.	tickseed daisies
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	mustard
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	broom grass
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	paper mulberry
<i>Buxus</i> spp.	boxwoods (e,o)
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	camellia (e,o)
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	sasanqua (e,o)
<i>Campsis radicans</i> ( <i>Bignonia radicans</i> L.)	trumpet creeper
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's purse
<i>Carex</i> spp.	various sedges
<i>Carex esculentus</i>	nutgrass
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	ironwood
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	pecan
<i>Carya</i> spp.	hickories
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	catalpa tree, "catawba"
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	redbud
<i>Chaenomeles</i> hybrid	flowering quince (e,o)
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	spring beauty
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	virgin's bower
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	alternate dogwood
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Deutzia lemoinei</i>	pearl bush, deutzia (e,o)
<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	double/fuzzy pearl bush, deutzia (e,o)
<i>Dichondra carolinensis</i>	dichondra
<i>Digitaria</i> sp.	crabgrass
<i>Diospyros virginica</i>	persimmon
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	daisy flea-bane
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	winged euonymus, burning bush
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig
<i>Firmiana platanifolia</i> Marsili	china parasol-tree (e)
<i>Forsythia</i> sp.	(hybrid) yellow bells (e,o)
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	ash
<i>Galium</i> sp.	bedstraw
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	gardenia, cape jasmine (e,o)

APPENDIXES

Scientific Name

Common Name

<i>Gaylussacia</i> sp.	huckleberry
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	yellow jessamine
<i>Geranium</i> spp.	wild geraniums
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy (e,o)
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i> L.	bluets
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	blue hydrangea (e,o)
<i>Hymenocallis caroliniana</i>	spider lily, Peruvian daffodil
<i>Ilex cornuta</i> Burfordii	Burford holly
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	yaupon
<i>Indigofera</i> sp.	pink indigo
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	common morning glory
<i>Iris germanica</i>	garden iris (e,o)
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Louisiana iris, blue flag (o)
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	red cedar
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel
<i>Krigia dandelion</i>	potato-dandelion
<i>Laegerstromia indica</i>	crepe myrtle (e,o)
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit
<i>Lepidium</i> sp.	pepper-grass
<i>Linaria canadensis</i>	toad-flax
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tulip poplar, yellow poplar
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	monkey grass, lily turf (o)
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle (e)
<i>Lycoris radiata</i>	red spider lily (e,o)
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	pink magic lily (e,o)
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	<i>bois d'arque</i> , hedge apple
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	southern magnolia
<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	bigleaf magnolia, cucumber tree
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	Japanese magnolia (e,o)
<i>Malus hybrid</i>	flowering crabapple (o)
<i>Malus pumila</i>	apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	crabapple
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	spotted medic
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	chinaberry tree (e,o)
<i>Michelia figo</i> ( <i>Magnolia fuscata</i> )	banana bush (e,o)
<i>Mikania scandens</i>	climbing hempweed
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry
<i>Morus rubra</i>	red mulberry
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	nandina (o)
<i>Oenothera laciniata</i>	primrose
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	showy evening-primrose
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	sweet olive (o)
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern
<i>Oxalis rubra</i>	cultivated wood sorrel (e,o)
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	yellow wood sorrel
<i>Oxalis violaceae</i>	violet wood sorrel
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper
<i>Philadelphus</i> sp.	mock orange (e,o)
<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>	mistletoe
<i>Photinia villosa</i>	red tip photinia (e,o)
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	pokeweed, poke salad
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	sycamore
<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	southern yew

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Polypodium polypodioides</i>	resurrection fern
<i>Polystichum achrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>	hedge orange
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	cottonwood
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	common purselane (o)
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	heal-all
<i>Prunus americana</i>	wild plum
<i>Prunus persica</i>	peach
<i>Prunus persica cv alboplana</i>	flowering peach (o)
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	kudzu (e)
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	pear
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	southern red oak
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	chestnut oak
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	water oak
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	swamp red oak
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	live oak
<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>	buttercups
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	wild azalea, wild honeysuckle
<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	flame azalea
<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	hybrid azaleas (e,o)
<i>Rhus radicans</i>	poison ivy
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	black locust
<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	Cherokee rose (e)
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	hybrid roses (o)
<i>Rubus argutus</i>	blackberry
<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>	dewberry
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	elderberry
<i>Sapium sebiferoides</i>	popcorn or tallow tree
<i>Senecio glabellus</i>	butterweed
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	sherardia
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	blue-eyed grass
<i>Sisyrinchium rosulatum</i>	pink "blue-eyed grass"
<i>Smilax spp.</i>	catbriers, greenbriers
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	goldenrods
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Indian pink
<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>	bridal wreath spirea (e,o)
<i>Spiraea vanhouttei</i>	white spirea (e,o)
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed
<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	St. Augustine grass (e,o)
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	bald cypress
<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	Spanish moss
<i>Commelina communis</i>	dayflower
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	spiderwort
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	white clover
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	yellow hop clover
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	crimson clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>	sessile trillium
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	hybrid blueberry (o)
<i>Valerianella radiata</i>	corn-salad
<i>Verbena braziliensis</i>	tall verbena
<i>Verbena rigida</i>	verbena
<i>Veronica persica</i>	veronica, speedwell

## APPENDIXES

### Scientific Name

*Virburnum* sp.  
*Vicia caroliniana*  
*Vinca major*  
*Vinca minor*  
*Viola raffinesquii*  
*Viola sororia*  
*Vitis* spp.  
*Wisteria frutescens*  
*Wisteria sinensis*  
*Yucca filamentosa*

### Common Name

snowball bush (e,o)  
vetch  
blue periwinkle  
blue periwinkle  
field pansy  
common violet  
grapevines, muscadines  
native wisteria  
wisteria (e,o)  
beargrass, Spanish daggers

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## FORT ROSALIE

### Scientific Name

*Acer negundo*  
*Ajuga reptans*  
*Albizia julibrissin*  
*Allium canadense*  
*Allium* sp.  
*Althea rosea* (*Hibiscus syriacus*)  
*Anisostichus capreolata* (*Bignonia capreolata* L.)  
*Aralia spinosa*  
*Asplenium platyneuron*  
*Aster* spp.  
*Bidens* spp.  
*Brassica* sp.  
*Broussonetia papyrifera*  
*Camellia japonica*  
*Canna* sp.  
*Carya illinoensis*  
*Chrysanthemum* sp.  
*Cirsium carolinianus*  
*Cirsium spinosissimus* (*C. horridulum* Michaux)  
*Cornus alterniflora*  
*Crinum* sp.  
*Cyperus esculentus*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Duchesnea indica*  
*Erigeron philadelphicus*  
*Ficus carica*  
*Fraxinus americana*  
*Galium* sp.  
*Geranium maculatum*  
*Geranium* sp.  
*Gladiolus* sp.  
*Gleditsia tricanthos*  
*Hedera helix*  
*Hemerocallis fulva*  
*Hippeastrum* sp.  
*Hydrangea grandiflora*  
*Ilex cornuta* Burfordii

### Common Name

box elder  
bugleweed (o)  
mimosa (o)  
wild onion  
garlic  
rose-of-sharon (e,o)  
cross vine  
Hercules'-club, toothache tree  
ebony spleenwort  
various fall asters  
tickseed daisies  
mustard  
paper mulberry  
camellia (e,o)  
canna (o)  
pecan tree  
hybrid chrysanthemum (o)  
purple thistle  
yellow thistle  
alternate dogwood  
hybrid amaryllis (o)  
yellow nut-grass  
wild carrot  
wild strawberry  
daisy flea-bane  
fig  
ash  
bedstraw  
wild geranium  
cranesbill  
hybrid gladiolus (o)  
honey locust  
English ivy (e,o)  
daylily (o)  
hybrid amaryllis  
blue hydrangea (e,o)  
Burford holly (o)

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	common morning glory
<i>Iris germanica</i>	garden iris (e,o)
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow-flag iris (o)
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Louisiana iris, blue flag (o)
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	red cedar
<i>Laegerstromia indica</i>	crepe myrtle (e,o)
<i>Ligustrum amurense</i>	privet (e,o)
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	ligustrum (e,o)
<i>Lilium longiflorum</i>	Easter lily (o)
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	monkey grass, lily turf
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle (e)
<i>Lycoris radiata</i>	red spider lily (e,o)
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	pink magic lily (e,o)
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	chinaberry tree (e,o)
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	spearmint
<i>Michelia figo (Magnolia fuscata)</i>	banana bush (e,o)
<i>Mikania scandens</i>	climbing hempweed
<i>Morus rubra</i>	red mulberry
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	nandina (o)
<i>Narcissus spp.</i>	daffodils (o)
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	showy evening-primrose
<i>Oxalis rubra</i>	cultivated wood sorrel (e,o)
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	yellow wood sorrel
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy grass
<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	phlox (o)
<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>	mistletoe
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	sycamore
<i>Polypodium polypodioides</i>	resurrection fern
<i>Polystichum achrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	cottonwood
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	black cherry
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	kudzu (e)
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	southern red oak
<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	blackjack oak
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	water oak
<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	marsh marigold, buttercup
<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>	hybrid azalea (e,o)
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	smooth sumac
<i>Rhus radicans</i>	poison ivy
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	black locust
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	hybrid roses (o)
<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>	dewberry
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curly dock
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow
<i>Sapium sebiferoides</i>	popcorn or tallow tree
<i>Smilax spp.</i>	catbriers, greenbriers
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	goldenrods
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson-grass
<i>Spirea vanhouttei</i>	white spirea (e,o)
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Confederate jasmine (e,o)



APPENDIXES

Scientific Name

Common Name

*Tradescantia virginiana*  
*Trifolium pratense*  
*Ulmus americana*  
*Verbena braziliensis*  
*Veronica persica*  
*Vicia dasycarpa*  
*Vicia hugeri*  
*Vicia sp.*  
*Vinca minor*  
*Viola sororia*  
*Vitis rotundifolia*  
*Wisteria sinensis*  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica*

spiderwort  
red clover  
American elm  
tall verbena  
veronica, speedwell  
vetch  
vetch  
white vetch  
blue periwinkle  
common violet  
muscadine grapes  
wisteria (e,o)  
calla lily (e,o)

Main reference: Radford 1968; the nomenclature of ornamentals is highly variable and subject to frequent change. The following references were used for most ornamentals and those species not found in the main reference: Armitage 1989, Crockett 1972, and Duncan 1988.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
12795 W. ALAMEDA PARKWAY
P.O. BOX 25287
DENVER, COLORADO 80225-0287

TELETYPE
TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (DSC-TEA)
NATC-101-02

Mr. Curtis James
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
900 Clay Street, Room 235
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Received in Management Unit

Routing slip table with columns for Manager, Management Assistant, FWS, Planning, Construction, Park Roads & Trails-DSC, Park Roads & Trails-EAF, EAF, IAA, and App. Includes handwritten signature 'McNulty-Huffman' and date 'APR 26 1991'.

Dear Mr. James:

Reference: Natchez National Historical Park; Package 101; Park General; Project Type 02, General Management Plan

Subject: Endangered and Threatened Species; Wetlands

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a general management plan for the Natchez National Historical Park in Natchez, Mississippi. This new park area was established in October 1988.

The purpose of this letter is to request a current list of federally listed threatened or endangered species, candidate species, special-status species that might occur in these localities, and designated critical habitats, if any, for these species. Enclosed is a copy of a topographic map of the area. The three park areas of concern are marked in red on the map: 1) Melrose, 2) William Johnson House and 3) Fort Rosalie.

This letter will serve as a record that the National Park Service is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and NPS Management Policies.

We have reviewed the Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory maps for this area and did not find any wetlands within the park. If you know of any wetlands in the area that do not appear on the wetlands inventory map, we would appreciate knowing about them.

If you or your staff have questions, please contact Natural Resource Specialist Carol McNulty-Huffman at (303) 969-2462 or FTS 327-2462.

Sincerely,

Signature of Donald A. Falvey
Donald A. Falvey
Manager
Eastern Team

Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Signature of Curtis B. James

Log No. 91-334
Date May 9 1991



## APPENDIX J: COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approximately 200 copies of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* were distributed to agencies, organizations, and individuals. A total of six individuals, organizations, and agencies presented written comments. These letters are reproduced in the following pages with the adjacent NPS response.

In addition, a public meeting was held on June 9, 1993, during the public review

period. Two people attended the public meeting. Comments ranged from concern about the archeological resources at Fort Rosalie, to voicing support for alternative 3 because of the possibility of visiting a cotton plantation, to a desire for the National Park Service to work cooperatively with the Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture.



FEDERAL AGENCIES



COMMENTS

RESPONSES



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39180-0060

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF.

June 23, 1993

Directorate of Planning  
Environmental Analysis Division

Superintendent  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Post Office Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Dear Sir:

Appropriate staff in the Corps' Lower Mississippi Valley Division and the Vicksburg District offices have reviewed the Draft General Management Plan/EIS. The following comments are provided for your consideration as a result of that review.

a. It appears that most areas under consideration for construction are located in non-jurisdictional areas and would not be subject to regulation by Federal laws administered by the Corps. However, proposed work at the Melrose and Fort Rosalie sites may impact wetlands or other regulated waters of the United States. Ponds, wetlands, and intermittent streams have been identified on the Melrose site and the Fort Rosalie site extends to the thalweg of the Mississippi River. Proposed work at both of these locations, as well as other areas which might contain wetlands or other waters of the United States, should be reviewed by the Corps for possible regulatory requirements prior to beginning work.

b. Activities proposed within the 100-year floodplain are those which are regarded as appropriate.

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact Dr. Tom Pullen, our point of contact for the Division office.

Sincerely,

*James R. Hanchey*  
James R. Hanchey  
Director of Planning

1. None of the proposed actions would affect wetlands. As indicated on p. 123 of the draft plan, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that there are no significant wetlands in the park. However, we will consult as appropriate.
2. Noted.

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1

2

**COMMENTS**

**RESPONSES**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
3808 HALLS FERRY ROAD  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39180-0198

Maureen K. Corcoran

June 25, 1993

Ms. Deb Liggett, Interim Superintendent  
Natchez National Historical Park  
P. O. Box 1208  
Natchez, MS 39121

Dear Ms. Liggett:

I have recently reviewed the draft plan for the Natchez National Historical Park. I am very interested in the development of this plan as both a geologist for the Waterways Experiment Station and as a resident of Natchez. The research you conducted was very thorough and well-presented.

I believe that Alternative 3 would benefit both Natchez and the park service. Tourism is the largest industry Natchez has and I feel that this alternative plan would capitalize on this industry. Although Natchez has much to offer, many tourists are only aware of the antebellum homes. Tours are now being conducted to include the Victorian style houses (1880's and 1890's). Many of these houses are located in the first established subdivision of the Natchez known as Clifton Heights (Linton and Clifton Avenues). In Alternative 3, there is mention of community sponsored events such as Christmas decorating tours. A tour of the Victorian houses during the Christmas season instead of in June would attract more people. Natchez is an active community for its size and I'm sure its citizens would welcome any involvement from the park service.

The oil industry has also played a major role in the economical and community development of Natchez. I believe Alternative 3 could include an exhibit on the oil industry from the beginning of exploration to modern times.

Alternative 3 also mentions acquiring a plantation. Tacony Plantation in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, is the only remaining brick antebellum working plantation. Although the house is located in Louisiana, it has many ties to Natchez. Over 81% of Concordia Parish was owned by Natchez planters living in Adams County. The plantation was built in 1850 by Alfred Vidal Davis, Sr., the owner of Dunleith before the Civil War. This plantation was one of the top ten cotton producing plantations in Louisiana before the Civil War. John R. Lynch, Mississippi's first black U.S. representative and Speaker of the House, was born a slave here in 1847.

1. Alternative 2 fulfills the legislative intent for community involvement. Your ideas on community-sponsored events will be considered as funding and staffing are available.
2. Interpretation of the oil industry is identified under interpretive theme 5 on p. 28 and would be included as part of alternative 2.
3. Noted. Also, alternative 2 (the preferred alternative) fulfills the legislative intent of the park. As described on page 60, interpretation of the role of the cotton plantation in Natchez history would be an integral part of the interpretive media and personal services at the visitor center, Melrose, and the William Johnson complex.

However, to explore this issue more fully, the National Park Service will seek funding for a special resource study of regional plantations associated with Natchez to determine the best examples according to national historic landmark criteria and new area criteria. The purpose of this study would be to determine the suitability and feasibility of either entering into a cooperative agreement or other appropriate arrangement with the owner to incorporate the site's preservation, interpretation, and visitor use into the interpretive and management program of Natchez National Historical Park or to seek legislation to add the site to the park.

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3

HYDRAULICS  
LABORATORY

GEOTECHNICAL  
LABORATORY

STRUCTURES  
LABORATORY

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LABORATORY

COASTAL ENGINEERING  
RESEARCH CENTER

INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

## COMMENTS

## RESPONSES

Again, I would like to compliment you on a through investigation. If I can be of any service, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

*Maureen K. Corcoran*  
Maureen K. Corcoran  
Research Geologist  
Earthquake, Engineering, and  
Geosciences Division



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Waterways Experiment Station

**MAUREEN K. CORCORAN**

Research Geologist

Earthquake Engineering & Geosciences Division

OFFICE (601) 634-3334 3909 HALLS FERRY ROAD  
FAX (601) 634-3183 VICKSBURG, MS. 39180-6199

COMMENTS

RESPONSES



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

900 Clay Street, Room 235  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180  
June 9, 1993

Mr. Don R. Thompson  
Acting Superintendent  
National Park Service  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Post Office Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of April 21, 1993, concerning the GMP/EIS for Natchez National Historical Park. Our comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

None of the alternatives would result in significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Overall, the Fish and Wildlife Service would recommend implementation of Alternative 2.

Sincerely,

Curtis B. James  
Environmental Coordinator

CBJ/ds

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## COMMENTS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET, N.E.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

JUN 14 1993

Mr. Don R. Thompson, Acting Superintendent  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

RE: Draft General Management Plan, Draft Development Concept  
Plan, and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the  
Natchez National Historical Park

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Environmental Protection Agency Region IV (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Draft EIS. This review was conducted in accordance with EPA's responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102 (2)(C) of NEPA. The Draft EIS analyzes three alternatives to management of the historical and cultural resources located in the Natchez region.

We enjoyed reviewing this document because the actions were clearly described in an attractive and inviting format that was easy to follow. The graphics were particularly well done and added clarity to the presentation. The following comments concerning the impacts of the proposed alternative are provided below.

1

### Erosion Control at Fort Rosalie

As discussed in the "Affected Environment" section, bluff erosion at Fort Rosalie was identified as causing of loss of life and damage to historic buildings following a mudslide that struck Natchez Under-the-Hill in March, 1980. (Natchez Under-the-Hill is a small historic settlement situated at the edge of the Mississippi River at the base of the bluff system.) This episode was identified in the Draft EIS as being caused by rainfall, ground water seepage, and erosion caused by leaky utilities. Although bluff erosion protection was identified as being the most significant environmental action requiring immediate attention, specific plans detailing bluff stabilization were lamentably lacking. References to "generic bluff stabilization measures" (page 40 and elsewhere) were vague and would be considerably enhanced by including more specific details.

## RESPONSES

1. Bluff stabilization actions at Fort Rosalie will not be taken by the National Park Service until further study is done to determine the site-specific actions needed. These studies cannot be accomplished until the land is in federal ownership (which it currently is not). An environmental document, which would be tiered to this environmental impact statement, will accompany any action plan developed for the site.

Recent consultation with geologists at the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, indicates that probable bluff stabilization activities at the site would not include moving large amounts of earth. They believe that major realignment of the slope is not necessary. Instead, stabilization activities would focus on repairing damaged utility lines, controlling stormwater runoff, and performing vegetation management activities such as removing large trees from the top of the bluff because the weight of the trees and the roots weaken the loess soil.

In addition, the city recently initiated a bluff stabilization study on a site close to Ft. Rosalie. Review of this study and consultation with the investigators will be undertaken as part of any NPS study or action plan.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

It was suggested (page 88 and elsewhere) that the bluffs be protected by "changing the bluff angle", which we interpret to mean altering the topography of the bluffs to achieve a reduced angle of repose and creating a more stable bluff system which can better resist man-induced and natural wear. Altering the topography of the bluffs would surely require moving considerable amounts of earth, and the Draft EIS should examine the impacts of both heavy earth moving equipment having access to, and operation upon, the fragile bluff system. Would reconfiguration of the bluffs require additional fill, or would the existing earth be rearranged to achieve a more stable slope?

Erosion of the bluffs was also attributed to leaking utilities that were found to be in a state of disrepair, uncontrolled storm water runoff, and large tree roots creating instability at the top of the bluff. As the first two items are having detrimental impacts affecting the quality of the environment, the Draft EIS should focus upon specific remedies that will improve these unacceptable conditions. In the absence of clarification, we assume what is leaking and saturating the soil is domestic sewage. The document should identify which components of the utilities system needs repair, and explain how these repairs will be affected within the scope of the overall renovation. Also, the Draft EIS should identify some means to contain and direct stormwater runoff, make estimates of anticipated stormwater volume, provide options for disposal, and demonstrate how the proposed stormwater runoff control plan will integrate with the State of Mississippi NPDES Program.

Waste Reduction  
The project should be examined to determine where pollution prevention opportunities might be identified. Coordinated efforts to develop waste disposal options and source reduction measures could reduce the amount of waste generated at the site.

The final EIS and Management Plan, as well as Park visitor brochures, might be printed on recyclable paper stock rather than clay-filled paper stock that was used in printing the Draft EIS.

Reduce Cooling Loads to Park Buildings  
Shade is an important means to reduce the need for electric power used in air conditioning. In addition to planting native shade trees to shade pedestrian paths and parking areas, we would encourage planting shade trees adjacent to the visitor buildings and other facilities. Reducing heat load to buildings is cost-effective and is a form of pollution prevention.

We rate the environmental impact of this action as EC-2, (Environmental Concerns) because the Draft EIS does not contain sufficient information to fully assess environmental impacts of the proposed bluff stabilization. In order to fully protect the environment, certain environmental impacts must be avoided, and to determine these impacts, we suggest the inclusion of the additional information noted above.

- 2. The project will be examined in the design stage for pollution prevention opportunities.
- 3. The draft plan was printed on recycled/recyclable paper that meets the Joint Committee on Printing requirements. The revision package for the final plan and the final *Interpretive Prospectus* is also printed on recycled/recyclable paper.
- 4. Planting native shade trees adjacent to visitor buildings will be considered during the development of the site plans for these facilities.

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**COMMENTS**

**RESPONSES**

We appreciate the opportunity to review this proposed action.  
Please call me or John Hamilton at (404) 347-3776 if additional  
information is needed.

Sincerely,

*Heinz Mueller*

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
Environmental Policy Section



STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

## COMMENTS



### Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Post Office Box 571 • Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571 • Telephone 601-359-6850  
Elbert R. Hilliard, Director

June 30, 1993

Ms. Deb Liggett  
Acting Superintendent  
Natchez National Historical Park  
P. O. Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Dear Ms. Liggett:

I am writing in response to Don Thompson's recent letter seeking our comments on the draft of the Natchez National Historical Park General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Overall we feel that the plan is good and that it represents excellent work on the part of the planning team. However, we do have a few areas of concern.

First, is the matter of the log cabin on the Fort Rosalie site. Although Alternatives 2 and 3 could possibly permit retention of the log cabin, maps for both alternatives indicate removal. Our office strongly disagrees with this plan and would like to reiterate our recommendation for the building made in July of 1991 as part of comments on the "Interim Land Protection Plan":

Recommendation: This log cabin is the sole surviving structure from an ambitious "reconstruction" of Fort Rosalie that was undertaken by entrepreneur Jefferson Davis Dickson just prior to World War II. Now over fifty years old, this building is a locally important landmark and is associated with the beginning of tourism as a major industry in Natchez. The building should be preserved on site as it has a historical relationship to the Fort Rosalie site. Fortunately, the cabin is located at the northern limit of the Fort Rosalie site and should not intrude on the National Park Service's interpretation of the seventeenth-century fort site.

For what it would cost to remove the building from the site, it could probably be stabilized and used for National Park Service equipment storage, etc. Because the log cabin is the last remaining structure from a significant (although misguided) earlier attempt to interpret Fort Rosalie and because of local sentiment for the structure, we believe it would be inappropriate historically and inexpedient politically to remove the log building from the Fort Rosalie Site.

## RESPONSES

1. The significance determination of the Fort Rosalie site made pursuant to the establishing legislation was based on the site's relationship to colonial history and the early (founding) history of Natchez. Retention of past attempts at site interpretation (recognized as inaccurate) would be intrusive and confusing to the public's understanding of the site. For these reasons the National Park Service proposes removal of the log cabin.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Ms. Deb Liggett  
June 30, 1993  
Page two

2

For other buildings to be removed from the Fort Rosalie Site, we request that, in the early planning stages, NPS coordinate proposed actions with our office, pursuant to Federal agency responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. As outlined in our July 1991 comments on the "Interim Land Protection Plan," we would like for NPS to work with our office and local preservation organizations in relocating those buildings possessing local architectural significance to appropriate sites within the city.

3

The next issue is in regard to the Cotton Plantation Complex. We wholeheartedly agree that "Plantation slavery and cotton production are important keys to understanding the antebellum story of Natchez . . ." (page 60)--too much so to leave its interpretation just to interpretive media at the visitor center and periodically scheduled tours of a cotton plantation. Because this aspect of Natchez history is so important, we strongly suggest that the course of action delineated in Alternative 3 be adopted for interpretation of a cotton plantation. Without the Cotton Plantation experience, there will be a great hole in the interpretive efforts and message of the Natchez National Historical Park. It is one thing to see an exhibit about a cotton plantation; it is quite another to actually experience a plantation.

4

The Department of Archives and History endorses inclusion of our archaeological park, Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, within the boundaries of the Natchez National Historical Park Preservation District. We will gladly cooperate with the National Park Service to ensure that the very important story of Native Americans in the Natchez area is properly interpreted to the public.

Again, I want to compliment the National Park Service on the preparation and beautiful presentation of the draft General Management Plan and appreciate the opportunity to comment on it at this stage of its development. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Elbert R. Hilliard  
State Historic Preservation Officer

ERH/gj

cc: Mr. Roger Walker

2.

As indicated on p. 56, the National Park Service will coordinate with the state historic preservation officer on this issue.

3.

Alternative 2 (the preferred alternative) fulfills the legislative intent of the park. As described on page 60, interpretation of the role of the cotton plantation in Natchez history would be an integral part of the interpretive media and personal services at the visitor center, Melrose, and the William Johnson complex.

However, to explore this issue more fully, the National Park Service will seek funding for a special resource study of regional plantations associated with Natchez to determine the best examples according to national historic landmark criteria and new area criteria. The purpose of this study would be to determine the suitability and feasibility of either entering into a cooperative agreement or other appropriate arrangement with the owner to incorporate the site's preservation, interpretation, and visitor use into the interpretive and management program of Natchez National Historical Park or to seek legislation to add the site to the park.

4.

Noted.

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## ORGANIZATIONS

## COMMENTS

1827 Teakwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39212  
June 28, 1993

Ms. Deb Liggett  
Acting Superintendent  
Natchez National Historical Park  
P. O. Box 1208  
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

Dear Ms. Liggett:

I am writing on behalf of the Natchez National Historical Park Advisory Commission regarding public comments on the Park's draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) that was recently released. The Commission wishes to complement the National Park Service on the preparation of the plan. It is a beautifully illustrated, attractively designed, and carefully studied report.

Although the Commission is in agreement with most of GMP/EIS recommendations, there are some items we feel should be added or revised. These are itemized as follows:

1. **Preservation District:** We believe there should be a grater emphasis within the GMP/EIS to clarify that the area encompassed within the Preservation District boundaries actually is the Park, not merely a "zone of influence." Public Law 100-479, Section 2(b) states, "The park shall consist of the historic districts established under this Act and the following properties: [Melrose and Fort Rosalie]." Of course, Public Law 101-399 later provided for the acquisition of the William Johnson House complex.

Perhaps this emphasis could be partially accomplished by identifying in both the text and map legends the properties held in fee simple ownership by the National park Service as "NPS-owned properties" rather than "NPS properties." Additionally, the maps (particularly the one on page 11 that illustrates the Preservation District and the National Register Historic Districts) should clearly communicate that the Preservation District constitutes the Park's boundary.

On page 10, the GMP/EIS very clearly and correctly states that in creating this unit of the National Park System, Congress desired, "...a park that actively reaches out to the community to effectively tell the story of all the peoples of Natchez, and a park that actively works to preserve Natchez' resources for future generations." However, only a few paragraphs later, the statement that "NPS assistance would be provided only in response to specific requests from the community" reduces the active role of the National Park Service to one of passive reaction. We find this not only contradictory within the GMP/EIS but contrary to our understanding of the intent of Public Law 100-479.

The National Park Service has a very important pro-active role to play in Natchez, not only in the restoration/preservation/interpretation of NPS-owned properties, but also in assisting, even leading, efforts to preserve and interpret the city's rich historic resources. As presently written the GMP/EIS does not adequately describe or emphasize the pro-active role for the National Park Service within the community.

## RESPONSES

1. The text has been revised to emphasize the preservation district as the park and to better describe the cooperative role of the National Park Service within the community. See pages 3-4, 10, and 45.

The National Park Service is committed to the cooperative nature of the park. As indicated on page 10, however, the National Park Service has no regulatory or management control over property within the preservation district, other than at the sites it owns and those properties whose owners choose to enter into a cooperative agreement.



## COMMENTS

Ms. Deb Liggett  
June 28, 1993  
Page Two

2 II. Cotton Plantation: The cotton plantation is central to understanding the history, development, and importance of Natchez. In fact, the story of Natchez is primarily that of the cotton plantation -- its rise, its operation, its wealth, and its decline. The two are inseparably intertwined.

Therefore, the Commission emphatically recommends that the proposals for the cotton plantation's interpretation outlined in Alternative 3 be incorporated into whichever plan alternative is eventually adopted. Obviously an interpretive museum exhibit in New York, or Alaska, or anywhere else, could impart information about cotton plantations. However, only at the Natchez National Historical Park does the National Park Service have the opportunity and the mandate to provide the plantation experience that is central to understanding the history of the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area. Failure to take advantage of this opportunity would be a tragedy.

3 III. Log Cabin at Fort Rosalie Site: The log cabin situated at the intersection of South Canal Street and D.A. Biglane Street is the last extant remnant of a circa 1940 interpretation of Fort Rosalie undertaken by Jefferson Davis Dixon, an internationally recognized promoter and a native son of Natchez. Because the log cabin is the only remaining tangible evidence of the community's earlier efforts to recognize and interpret the history of Fort Rosalie and because the building physically embodies Natchez' early promotion of tourism as a tool for economic development and preservation (e.g. Interpretive Theme #5, page 28), it should be retained and preserved as a component of the Fort Rosalie Site. Although the structure would not have to be preserved on its present site, it should remain within the NPS-owned Fort Rosalie property, since it relates directly to the history and interpretation of the site.

4 IV. Melrose: Great care should be taken not to state or infer a definite period of interpretation for any one of the NPS-owned properties until all management reports and/or special studies have been completed for each project. This is particularly true for Melrose, since significant aspects of its history occurred over long periods of time and issues pertaining to its period of interpretation are complex. We would suggest that statements such as "the kitchen and dairy would be restored and furnished to the antebellum period" (page 49) be made only after all the recommended studies for the property have been completed and evaluated. Statements such as "the main house and selected portions of the grounds at Melrose would be restored to an appropriate period, based on historical, archaeological, and architectural research" (also page 49) would be much better for all components of the site.

5 V. Visitor Center: Although the GMP/EIS for this element leaves flexibility for working with the City of Natchez in developing a joint visitor center, we believe that the City's recent award of a \$3.42 million Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) enhancement grant toward development of a \$7.13 million visitor/intermodal transportation center warrants further comment within the GMP/EIS.

6 VI. Alternatives: The minimalist approach to the Park's development/interpretation offered in Alternative #1 is, in our opinion, too meager to

## RESPONSES

2. Alternative 2 (the preferred alternative) fulfills the legislative intent of the park. As described on page 60, interpretation of the role of the cotton plantation in Natchez history would be an integral part of the interpretive media and personal services at the visitor center, Melrose, and the William Johnson complex.

However, to explore this issue more fully, the National Park Service will seek funding for a special resource study of regional plantations associated with Natchez to determine the best examples according to national historic landmark criteria and new area criteria. The purpose of this study would be to determine the suitability and feasibility of either entering into a cooperative agreement or other appropriate arrangement with the owner to incorporate the site's preservation, interpretation, and visitor use into the interpretive and management program of Natchez National Historical Park or to seek legislation to add the site to the park.

3. The significance determination of the Fort Rosalie site made pursuant to the establishing legislation was based on the site's relationship to colonial history and the early (founding) history of Natchez. Retention of past attempts at site interpretation (recognized as inaccurate) would be intrusive and confusing to the public's understanding of the site. For these reasons the National Park Service proposes removal of the log cabin.

4. Wording has been changed on p. 49 to appropriately qualify the period of restoration for the kitchen and dairy at Melrose. The National Park Service agrees, as indicated throughout the document, that a time period for interpretation or restoration at any of the NPS-owned sites in the park must wait until the appropriate studies are completed.

5. Update made on p. 30. The National Park Service will continue to work with the city toward a joint visitor center.

6. See response to comment 2. In addition, no costs for a plantation were included in alternative 3 because the cost of a plantation is unknown. This information would need to come from a special resource study.

## COMMENTS

## RESPONSES

Ms. Deb Liggett  
June 28, 1993  
Page Three

be effective, and well may not even comply with the intent of Public Law 100-479 which created the Park. The primary difference between Alternatives #2 and #3 appears to be how the cotton plantation is interpreted. Because experiencing an actual cotton plantation is so important to understanding the Natchez story and because the estimated cost difference between implementing Alternative #3 is only \$811,00 (or 4.9%) more than the cost of Alternative #2, we believe it would be unwise to omit the plantation experience from the Park's plans. We, therefore, strongly endorse adoption of Alternative #3 as the course of action for the Natchez National Historical Park.

The Commission appreciates the excellent work that has gone into the preparation of the draft GMP/EIS, as well as this opportunity to comment on the draft. We look forward to working with the local and regional National Park Service staff toward fulfillment of the Park's goals and potentials.

Sincerely,



Kenneth H. P'Pool  
Chairman  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Advisory Commission

KHP/lr

cc: Advisory Commission Members

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