

Section Four: Comments and Responses Concerning the
Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Rebecca L. Harriett, Superintendent
U.S. Department of The Interior
National Park Service
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, VA 24101



Dear Ms. Harriett:

After receiving information about the Booker T. Washington National Monument's desire to create a General Management Plan designed to take the park into the next millennium, and wanting to receive input from the public, I am submitting the following for your consideration:

1. Use the Elementary School for a Library Museum with relics and records pertaining to Booker T. Washington and other articles of national and patriotic interest.
2. Place Famous Quotations of Booker T. Washington along the walls of the Museum. A source of these Quotations may be found in "Quotations of Booker T. Washington" compiled by E. David Washington, Editor of Selected Speeches, 1938, Tuskegee Press - 1938. Such Quotations could be on Plaques.
3. Provide recreational areas for picnicking, swimming, tennis, softball and basketball. These areas of recreation can be enjoyed by the general public: For those who are nearby, Church groups, school children, those who may be traveling by bus car or by whatever means of transportation. Visitors from all over the United States, Canada, and from other lands.

I feel that recreational areas will be a tremendous drawing card for visitors.

Please keep me informed on the progress being made for The General Management Plan for the Booker T. Washington National Monument, for I have a deep and abiding interest in seeing that these plans succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Jack
cc: File



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. Larry Jack

Dear Mr. Jack:

Thank you for your comments on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C that would provide for the expansion of the current visitor center and restore the Booker T. Washington School for public use. We have received funding in 2000 for a historic resource study of the school. This study will allow us to nominate the school to the National Register of Historic Places plus provide information for restoration.

You also requested that Booker T. Washington quotes be displayed. This could be part of the exhibit design for the school and/or visitor center. The current visitor center has some quotes displayed in the exhibit and auditorium, which could be build upon.

The monument will continue to provide opportunities for passive non-intrusive recreational opportunities like picnicking, nature viewing and hiking. Visitors can still play pick-up games of softball or volleyball in the open space northeast of the picnic area or the open field next to the school as part of a picnic outing. More developed recreational facilities are provided by the local parks and recreation department where it is their purpose to provide those services. The National Park Service's mission is to preserve historic and natural sites unimpaired for the public. Building such facilities would jeopardize our historic status and would not be allowed from within the Service or from the State Historic Preservation Office. Historic preservation and educating the public about these historic resources is our primary focus.

Thank you again for your comments. Your support for Booker T. Washington National Monument is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. Otis Bartley

Dear Mr. Bartley:

Thank you for your comments on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C that would provide for the expansion of the current visitor center and restore the Booker T. Washington School for public use. We have received funding in 2000 for a historic resource study of the school. This study will allow us to nominate the school to the National Register of Historic Places plus provide information for restoration.

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Sincerely,

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Superintendent



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12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
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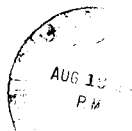
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Respectfully submitted,
Otis S. Bartley

cc: File

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Rebecca L. Harriett, Superintendent
U.S. Department of The Interior
National Park Service
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, VA 24101



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Respectfully submitted,

Bertha Nickens

cc: File



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Ms. Bertha Nickens

Dear Ms. Nickens:

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Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. James A. Holmes

Dear Mr. Holmes:

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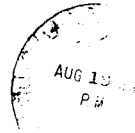
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Sincerely,

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U.S. Department of The Interior
National Park Service
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, VA 24101



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Respectfully submitted,

cc: File

Section Four: Comments and Responses Concerning the
Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Marie Bradby

August 6, 1999

Rebecca L. Harriet
Superintendent
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

Re: Comments on "Draft Management Plan for
BTW Nat. Monument," D18 (BOWA)

Dear Rebecca,

I was delighted to have the opportunity review and comment on your "Draft
General Management Plan for the Booker T. Washington National Monument."

I am in favor of implementing Alternative B, but also adding the 15-acre
boundary adjustment as a buffer against encroaching development. By upgrading the
monument facilities, exhibits, and programs, we make a stronger commitment to
Washington's life work - education and race relations. More people will recognize the
park as an important stop, a place where they can walk in this man's shoes from slavery
to leading educator.

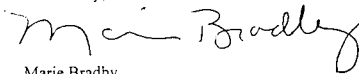
When I first learned about this park, I was fascinated. There are numerous
plantations here in Kentucky where one can visit and tour. But none of them offers any
mention of the slave culture - though the free labor of Negro slaves was responsible for
the support of those working farms. The state-owned and private plantations here give
information mostly about the social lives of the slaveholders. Their Negro slaves remain
invisible.

At Washington's old farm, I had the opportunity, along with my eight-year-old
son, to have a glimpse of the life of young Booker. It was an almost spiritual experience,
one that reached out to the millions of pained Americans who were enslaved on similar
farms. I was impressed by how the park brought the experience of slavery down to the
level of my young child. By enhancing this national monument, visitors might have the
opportunity to encounter multiple complex issues such as adult and child slavery, child
labor, slave culture, slave marriage and family, slave community, separation of slave
families, sexual abuse of slave women, and societal repression of slaves. There are also
other large issues that beg to be experienced from the viewpoint of Negro slaves: the
Civil War, reconstruction, and race relations.

This important national park needs to be developed to its full potential as a tribute
to Washington who, through his struggles and accomplishments, embodies the true spirit
of Americans.

Thanks for the opportunity comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Marie Bradby



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Ms. Marie Bradby

Dear Marie:

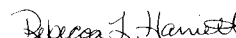
Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T.
Washington National Monument. After reviewing the various comments we have decided to proceed with
implementing Alternative C. This alternative will focus on expanding the monument's educational
resources and providing additional public space at both the current visitor center and the Booker T.
Washington School. Alternative B was also a viable option, but after careful consideration we felt the
"memorial" concept would limit our programming. Alternative C allows us the flexibility to be both a
contemplative and an interactive site.

We hope to enhance the site to incorporate the very themes and topics that you mentioned in your
comments. Although we do some of this now in our education programs, there is always more to learn!
Continued research and learning is the key and what makes this site and Washington's life story so
exciting!

I hope you will consider returning to Virginia for the Booker T. Washington Family Reunion on June 24,
2000. Larry Washington is one of the coordinators and I know he would love to see you again. Maybe
you could do a book reading and signing? I've also enclosed a Fall Calendar of Events. Notice the
program held on September 12.

Thank you for your comments and support of the park. Your insight and thoughts are always appreciated. I
hope to see you next summer.

Sincerely,



Rebecca L. Harriet
Superintendent

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Comment and Evaluation Form

At the end of this meeting, please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to one of the presenters or return it to the address below if you want to take additional time to answer. Your responses will help us make future meetings more useful and effective. Feel free to copy this form for others who could not attend this meeting but are interested in offering their views on the Draft GMP/EIS for Booker T. Washington National Monument. All comments must be received on or before August 11, 1999.

Rebecca Harriett, Superintendent
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, VA 24101

1. Which public hearing did you attend? July 19, 1999 July 20, 1999 neither
2. Was the information presented about the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement clear and informative? yes no
3. Are you in support of the preferred alternative, Alternative C? yes no
4. If so, please explain why. (use back of form if necessary)
5. If you answered "no" to Question 3, which alternative do you prefer?
 Alternative A Alternative B Alternative D I have another idea
6. Please explain your answer to Question 5. (use back of form if necessary)
7. What, if anything, would you have changed about this meeting? (use back of form if necessary)

8. Other comments? (use back of form if necessary) = I think it would be nice to open the school - move and build a mainain shop near the school - also build a large picnic shed near the school yard for

Your name: Darlene Swain Address:

Large Group wanting to come to Booker T.
for picnic also a Amphitheater for groups
wanting to do program - I think all of
this should be near the school.
I like Alternative C with the addition -
and put the other building in the
school area.

Darlene Swain



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, Virginia 24101

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

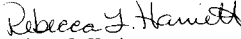
Mrs. Darlene Swain

Dear Mrs. Swain:

Thank you for your review and comments regarding the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C. This alternative allows for the expansion of the current visitor center and restoration of the Booker T. Washington School for public use. We have received funding in 2000 for a historic resource study of the school and it will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This will increase our opportunities to compete successfully for restoration funds.

Again, thank you for attending the public meeting and for sharing your ideas with us.

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent