



Foundation Document

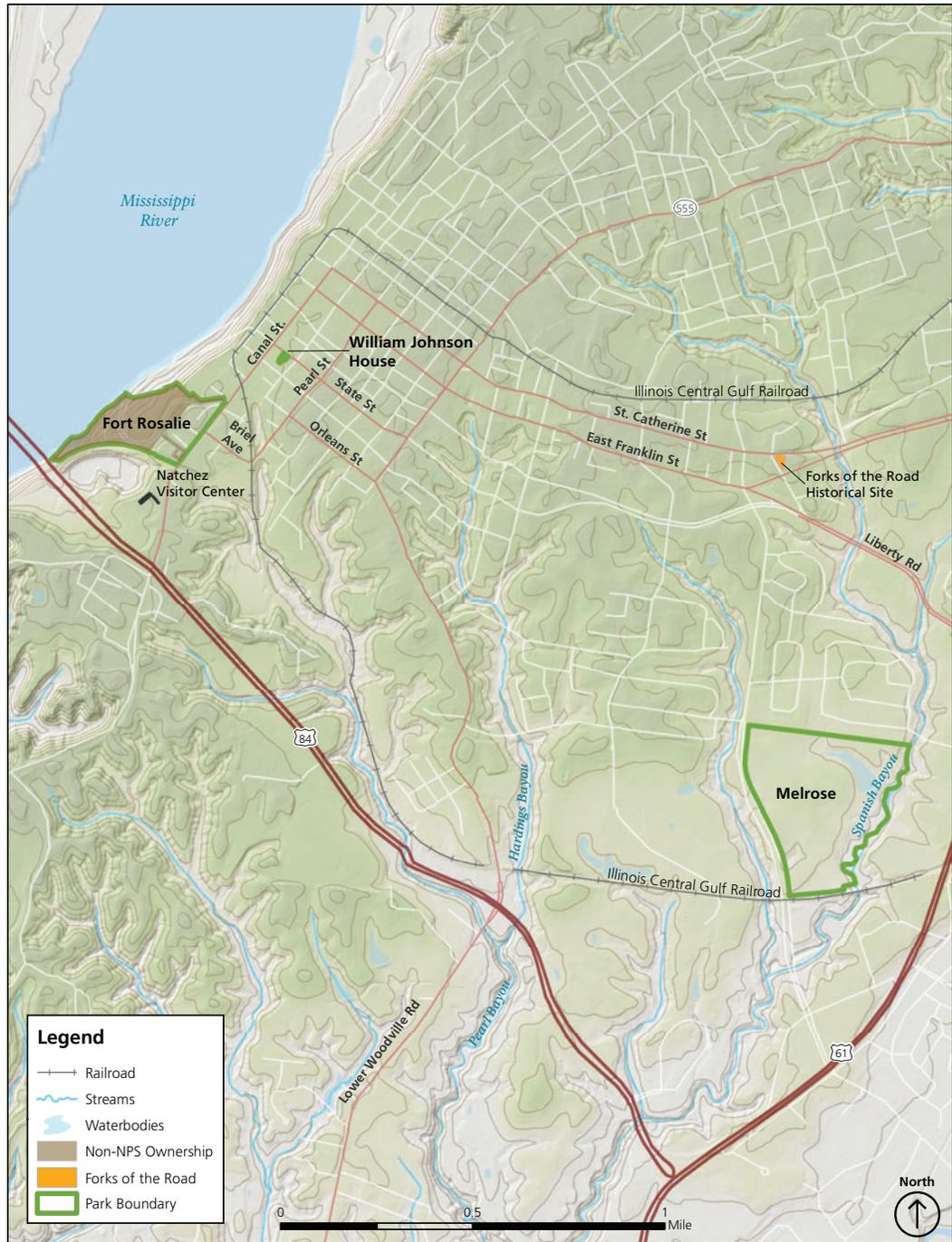
Natchez National Historical Park

Mississippi

November 2013



Natchez National Historical Park



On the cover:

Melrose antebellum estate in spring. (NPS Collection)

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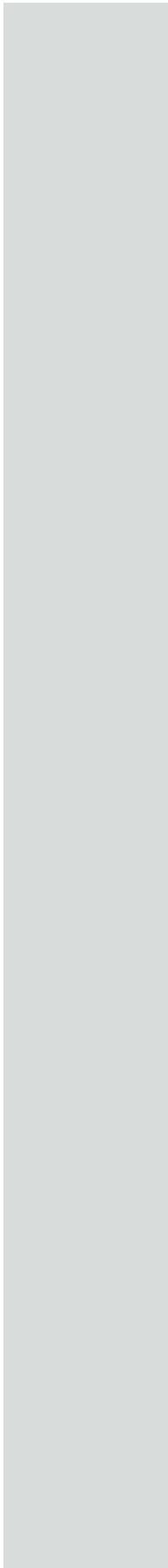
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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archaeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

This foundation document was developed as a collaborative effort among park staff, the Denver Service Center Planning Division, and the Southeast Region. A workshop to facilitate this process was held March 4–8, 2013, at Natchez National Historical Park. A complete list of attendees and preparers is included in part 3 of this document.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Natchez National Historical Park can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Period drawing of Fort Rosalie on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River (NPS Collection)

Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description Of The Park

Natchez National Historical Park was established by Congress by Public Law 100-479 (October 7, 1988) to preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, the City of Natchez is in southwestern Mississippi, approximately 100 miles southwest of Jackson (the state capital), 70 miles south of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and 90 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Natchez National Historical Park tells the story of Natchez in the American South. The park protects the sites and structures associated with the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area from earliest inhabitants to the modern era. The name Natchez is derived from the “Natchez” American Indians who inhabited the area at the time of European exploration. The historic sites maintained by the park, and the surrounding preservation district, give visitors an opportunity to understand the region’s social, political, and economic development, particularly in the pre- and post-Civil War eras. They also provide insights into the region’s commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi River, slavery, and cotton. Cotton planters in Natchez and the surrounding area relied on slave labor to make their businesses highly profitable. With those profits they built palatial columned mansions in the area, many of which remain today.

The park is composed of three NPS-owned properties—Melrose, the William Johnson House, and the Fort Rosalie site—and a larger area known as the preservation district.



Historic photograph of the main house at Melrose (NPS Collection)

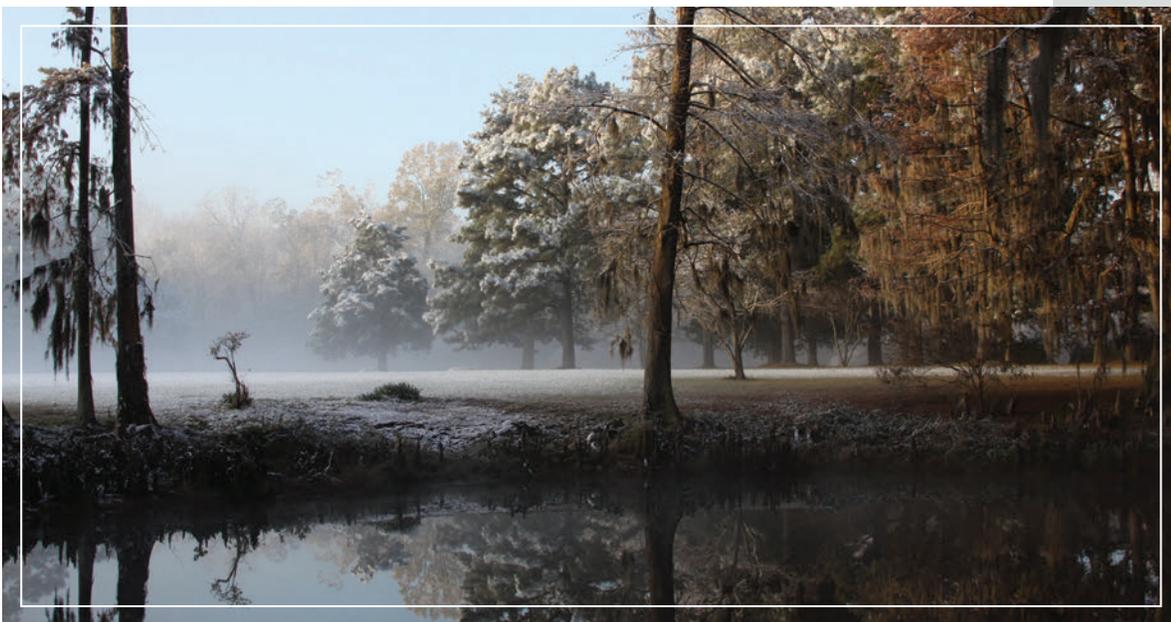
The pre-Civil War Melrose estate was built by a wealthy cotton planter. This Greek Revival mansion is complete with original furnishings and intact outbuildings and has been well-maintained and preserved over the years. The 19th century furnishings collection at Melrose is of museum quality and is directly 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. William Johnson's town house is in downtown Natchez.

Established by the French in 1716, Fort Rosalie was built on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, high above the insect-ridden bottomland. Significant archaeological resources associated with Fort Rosalie still exist. The 200-foot bluff at the Fort Rosalie site provides an expansive view upstream and downstream of the Mississippi River.

The community of Natchez, the nonprofit Historic Natchez Foundation, and the National Park Service work in partnership to enhance the city's preservation landscape. Today, much of the city's antebellum and Reconstruction-era history maintains a high level of preservation through the designation of 8 National Register of Historic Places districts, 13 national historic landmarks, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-recognized Forks of the Road slave market site. These preserved sites provide a collective historic context that includes NPS-owned properties and strengthens educational and interpretive efforts between the National Park Service and the surrounding community.

The integrity of the City of Natchez and the NPS properties attracts a large number of visitors who are seeking to experience a historic landscape that is, in many ways, unchanged from the antebellum period. Natchez National Historical Park saw almost 200,000 visitors in 2012, with visitation peaking during the annual Spring Pilgrimage, a four-week event of historic house tours. Since 1932, the annual Spring Pilgrimage has grown into a four-week historic house tour that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. Visitors are able to tour dozens of historic properties and house museums. The long-standing preservation efforts by the community of Natchez provide the backdrop for an authentic visitor experience. Working in partnership with the local community is an essential element to maintaining the historic context and setting of the Natchez National Historical Park.



Cypress pond at Melrose (NPS Collection)

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Natchez National Historical Park was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on October 7, 1988 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of Natchez National Historical Park is to preserve and interpret the complex history and material culture of all the peoples of Natchez, Mississippi, emphasizing European settlement, African enslavement, the American cotton economy, and the Civil Rights struggle on the lower Mississippi River.



William Johnson House (right) and McCallum House (left) (NPS Collection)

Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Natchez National Historical Park, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Natchez National Historical Park. (Please note that the sequence of the statements do not reflect the level of significance.)

1. Woven into the historic fabric of Natchez, Mississippi, Natchez National Historical Park provides an opportunity to explore the world of the antebellum cotton economy on the Lower Mississippi River, a culture derived from a slave-based plantation system that generated a concentration of wealth and power unparalleled among other American cities at that time.
2. Natchez National Historical Park provides a connection to the world of the enslaved people of African descent who were sold by the thousands at the Forks of the Road slave market, fought for their freedom in the Civil War, and assumed prominent positions as political leaders during Reconstruction, including the first African American to sit in either house of the U. S. Congress.
3. Melrose is one of the great houses of the American South, distinguished by its Greek Revival architecture, original furnishings, decorative arts, landscape, and outbuildings. It is a tangible link to the Southern planter class and the enslaved people who lived and worked on the estate.
4. Natchez National Historical Park preserves an exceptionally comprehensive museum collection of well documented decorative arts, historic objects, original furnishings, archaeological artifacts, and archives that serve as primary source material on the history of Natchez.
5. The William Johnson House provides a window into the life of a free man of color whose published diary and personal papers provide a detailed account of daily life in the antebellum south.
6. Established by the French in 1716, Fort Rosalie was the earliest European settlement on the lower Mississippi River; the French, Spanish, British, and Americans who occupied it considered it a strategic location in their quest for control of the lower Mississippi River.



Interior furnishings at the William Johnson House (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park’s legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Natchez National Historical Park:

Melrose

Melrose is an intact antebellum estate whose main house and surrounding cultural landscape remain largely unchanged. The house, slave quarters, outbuildings, museum collections, and gardens help to illustrate the daily life of the former residents of the estate. Key structures on this cultural landscape include the main house, kitchen building, dairy, two slave quarters, carriage house, and barn. The formal garden, vegetable garden, orchards, pastures, and fields as well as the main entrance and pathways all contribute to the cultural landscape of Melrose as a resource. Because of the working relationships between the structures and their location on the Melrose landscape, managing these elements as a whole is important to maintaining their integrity and the context of the site. As a whole, Melrose and its landscape present a comprehensive picture of the Southern planter class and the enslaved people who lived and worked there.



Dining room inside the Melrose main house with “punkah” or shoo-fly (NPS Collection)

William Johnson House

The William Johnson House connects visitors with the life of a free man of color and his family during the antebellum era. Guided by Johnson's personal papers and published diary, as well as information provided by his descendants, the park has created a historically accurate interpretation of the site. Today, the insightful and engaging exhibits and many original furnishings in the house enable visitors to make meaningful connections to the William Johnson story.

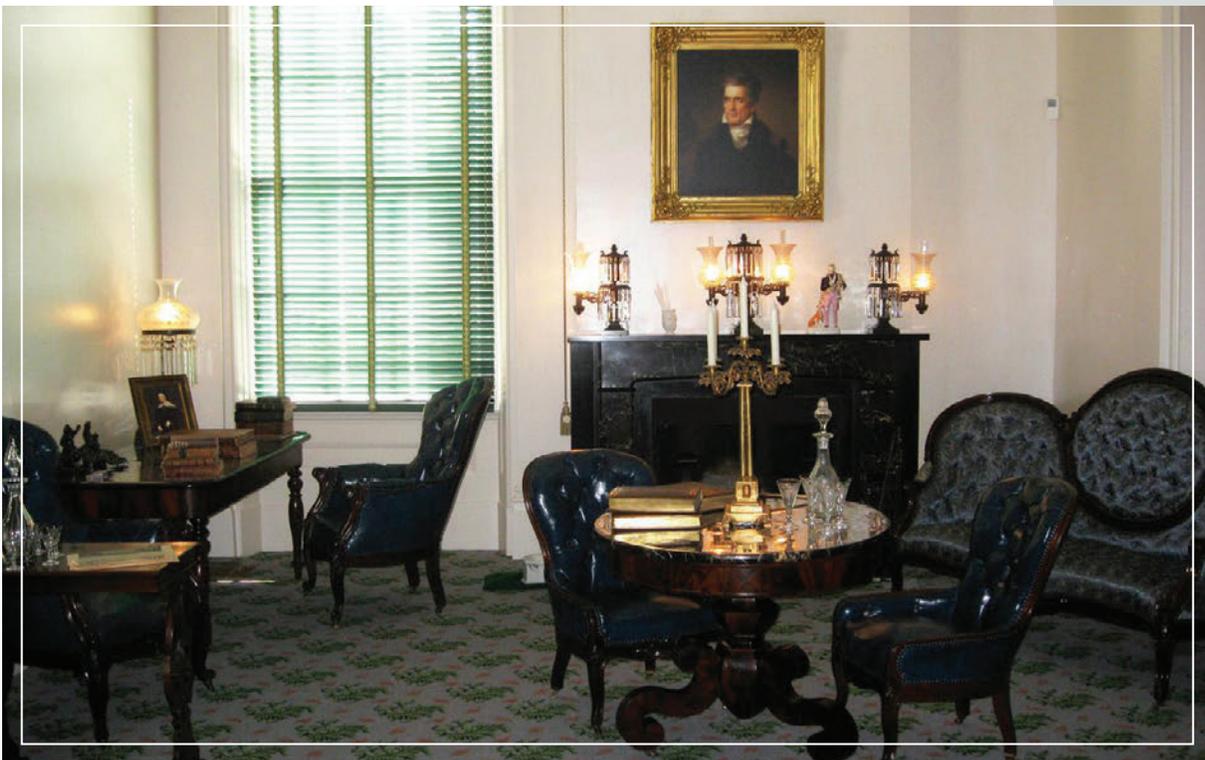


Fort Rosalie Site

In 1716, the French constructed Fort Rosalie, the earliest European settlement in what is now Natchez, Mississippi. Archaeological investigations at the site have provided valuable data on not only the early French settlement but the subsequent British, Spanish, and American occupations. The prominent downtown site presents the National Park Service a unique opportunity to strengthen its presence within the Natchez community. The 200-foot bluff at the Fort Rosalie site provides an expansive view upstream and downstream of the Mississippi River, the vast artery cutting through the center of North America that was used to bring goods and people, including slaves, and to ship cotton out to the world.

Museum Collections

Natchez National Historical Park contains an exceptionally important museum collection, an assemblage of decorative arts, historic objects, personal papers, and archives intrinsically tied to the various sites. The collection's direct connection to Melrose, the William Johnson House, and the Fort Rosalie site allow for interpretation based on accurate historical evidence, fostering an authentic experience for visitors.



Above: Melrose library (NPS Collection)

Top right: 1890s kitchen behind the William Johnson House (NPS Collection)

Connections to the Natchez Historic District and Community

Natchez National Historical Park is deeply rooted in the City of Natchez, Mississippi, a community containing eight National Register of Historic Places districts, 13 national historic landmarks, and the UNESCO-recognized Forks of the Road slave market site. Through its various relationships and partnerships with local and state agencies, the park plays a pivotal role in the interconnected preservation landscape, as well as regional education and interpretive efforts. This relationship means that the preservation of park lands and structures is dependent on a continued connection between the park and the Natchez community.



Ranger-led interpretive talk in the historic community of Natchez (NPS Collection)

Other Important Resources and Values

Natchez National Historical Park contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park, and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park, and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Natchez National Historical Park:

Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop

Located near the original site of Fort Rosalie, the log cabin is the last remaining building of a Natchez tourist attraction constructed in the late 1930s. While not a historically accurate representation of the original Fort Rosalie design, the complex represented an early effort in the heritage tourism movement in Natchez. Today, tourism is one of the leading industries in the region.

Stietenroth House

Although portions of this house were constructed prior to the Civil War, the Stietenroth House achieved its present form in the last quarter of the 19th century and is the last of a number of Victorian-era houses that once lined south Canal Street. Located near the original site of Fort Rosalie, the property will serve as a visitor center and exhibit space.

Heritage Gardens and Gardening at Melrose

The Melrose cultural landscape includes existing formal gardens as well as the location of former vegetables plots and orchards, which provide an interactive gardening experience. These outdoor classrooms support both educational and research opportunities, engaging youth and adults in a wide range of interpretive programs. Local garden clubs and area master gardeners support the stewardship of the park’s heritage gardens.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Natchez National Historical Park:

- The Mississippi River served as the major American pathway for exploration and transportation. The river provided for the survival of Natchezians, bringing success and prosperity to some and enslavement and despair to others.
- Natchez’s economic development and success in the early- to mid-19th century was due to a plantation-based economy, a slave labor system, fertile soil, favorable climate, and river transportation.
- Social class and economic prosperity in Natchez was achieved and sustained through racial and cultural exploitation. Natchez National Historical Park and the surrounding community reflect the environment in which enslaved people lived, labored, struggled, and fought for their freedom and went on to provide leadership during Reconstruction.
- The success of the planter class and the exploitation of enslaved labor sustained an integrated and diversified economy that supported a multifaceted middle class, both black and white.
- The community’s historic sites tell the story of power, control, and agency in Natchez.
- The unique concentration of antebellum buildings in Natchez is the result of the economic exploitation of enslaved labor and success of the southern planter, while the postbellum architecture largely reflects the influence of a newly emerging merchant class.
- Natchez was a highly cosmopolitan commercial center with complex economic and social ties to major American cities.



Melrose stables (right) and carriage house (left) (NPS Collection)



One of two remaining slave cabins at Melrose (NPS Collection)



Furnished slave cabin interior at Melrose (NPS Collection)

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many of the management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memoranda of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Natchez National Historical Park.

For more information about the existing special mandates and administrative commitments for Natchez National Historical Park, please see appendix B.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

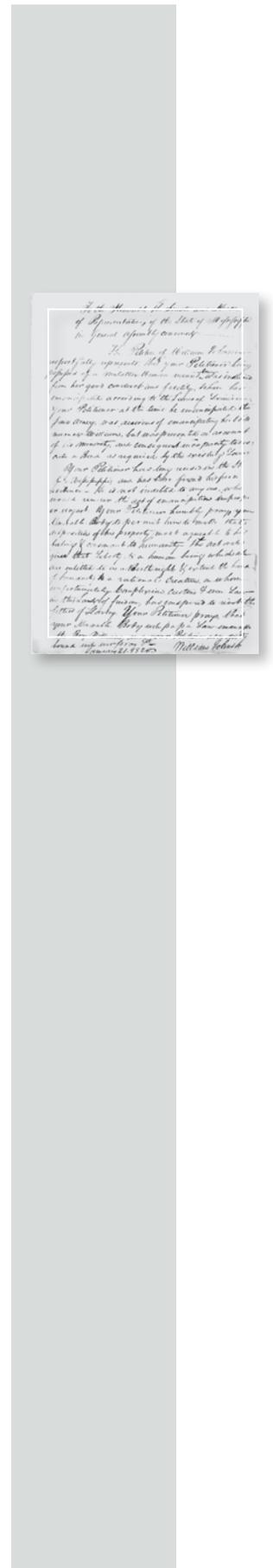
Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Above: A page from William Johnson's diary (NPS Collection)



Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource and value analysis table includes current condition, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Melrose
Related Significance Statements	Related directly to significance statement 3 and indirectly to 1, 2, and 4.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple buildings make up the estate, including: the main house, kitchen, dairy, two slave cabins, the carriage house, and barn. • Important landscape features include: the estate grounds, the formal garden, vegetable garden, orchard, and large pond. • Overall, the entire estate is listed as fair condition in the cultural landscape inventory. • Formal gardens of the estate are in good condition. • The park has recently implemented a mowing plan for the estate grounds. • The main house is undergoing the structural phase of a preservation project. • Foundation and structural issues exist in the south slave cabin. • Current light levels in the main house must be kept low to protect the decorative arts, fine furnishings, and exhibits. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape maintenance is an ongoing process, and requires constant work. • The condition and restoration of the formal gardens continues to improve. • The recently implemented mowing plan has increased visibility of the pathways and improved both visitor access and mobility through the landscape. • The historic buildings continue to age and are on ongoing maintenance cycles. • The condition of the main house continues to improve as it undergoes continued preservation treatments.



Melrose drawing room (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Melrose
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage in and around the historic buildings poses a threat to building foundations and structural stability. • Frequency of severe storm events and heavy downpours impact the integrity of historic buildings. Annual number of precipitation events > 1 inch projected to increase 5–10% (2041–2070 compared with 1980–2000, Kunkel et al. 2013). • The age of trees poses a threat of falling limbs and overall stability. • Wildlife, such as deer, fire ants, and feral cats, threaten the landscape as well as historic structures. • Approximately 30 different invasive plant species have been identified on the grounds at Melrose. • Litter and chemical run-off from adjacent properties pose threats to Melrose’s larger retaining pond. • Melrose does not have adequate restroom facilities to accommodate the level of visitation that the site receives. • Carpenter bees on the rear porch of the main house are causing structural damage to the building. • Current light levels in the main house must be kept low to protect the decorative arts, fine furnishings, and exhibits, but the low light levels create a challenging environment for visitors to navigate and view exhibits. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility on paths throughout Melrose will have a positive effect on visitor experiences and site interpretation. • There are opportunities for increased wayfinding through the development of new interpretive media and signage. • The development of an education center in the carriage house will improve interpretive programming and visitor experiences. • The kitchen, slave cabin, bathroom, and dairy could house new exhibits.
Existing Information about the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report. • Historic structure report. • Historic furnishings report. • Cultural landscape inventory (in process). • Invasive plant inventory. • Pond management plan. • Annual visitor understanding and satisfaction survey. • Structural fire plan. • Orchard rehabilitation plan (in progress).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological research and survey on slave cemetery. • GIS data collection on the historic fence lines of the entire property. • Research and data on the mechanics, stabilization, and preservation of the property’s cisterns. • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Melrose
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside exhibit plan. • Trail management plan. • Landscape management plan (including a landscape planting plan) and invasive plant management plan. • Preservation maintenance plan for the structures. • Sign plan. • Accessibility management plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Livestock management plan. • Museum housekeeping plan.
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • 36 CFR 79 "Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collection" • 36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic Properties" • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeological Documentation</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • Director's Order 24: <i>Museum Collections</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>; 4A(3) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"

Fundamental Resource or Value	Melrose
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites are identified and inventoried, and their significance is determined and documented. Archaeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. • When disturbance or deterioration is unavoidable, the site is professionally documented and excavated, and the resulting artifacts, materials, and records are curated and conserved in consultation with the appropriate state historic preservation offices and traditionally associated American Indian tribes. • Some archaeological sites that can be adequately protected may be interpreted to the visitor. • Cultural landscape inventories are conducted to identify landscapes potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to assist in future management decisions for landscapes and associated resources, both cultural and natural. • The management of cultural landscapes focuses on preserving the landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use when that use contributes to its historical significance. • Appropriate cultural anthropological research is conducted in consultation with groups traditionally associated with Natchez National Historical Park. • All executive agencies are required to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments before taking actions that potentially affect federally recognized tribal governments. American Indians and other individuals and groups linked by ties of kinship or culture to ethnically identifiable human remains, sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and associated funerary objects are consulted when such items may be disturbed or are encountered on park lands. • All ethnographic resources determined eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places are protected. If disturbance of such resources is unavoidable, formal consultation with the appropriate state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and with American Indian tribes as appropriate, is conducted. • Potentially sensitive natural and cultural resources and traditional cultural properties (ethnographic resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) are identified, recorded, and evaluated through consultation with affected tribes. The integrity of traditional cultural properties is preserved and protected. • Historic structures are inventoried and their significance and integrity are evaluated under National Register of Historic Places criteria. • The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic structures in the national register are protected in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, unless it is determined through a formal process that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. • The historic character of historic structures is managed in accordance with section 5.3.5.4 of NPS Management Policies 2006.

Fundamental Resource or Value	William Johnson House
Related Significance Statements	Related directly to significance statement 5 and indirectly to 1, 2, and 4.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The William Johnson House (HS-01) and Kitchen dependency (HS-02) are both ranked in the List of Classified Structures as good. • The William Johnson House cultural landscape is currently listed in good condition. • The roofs on the Johnson House and the dependency/outbuilding were replaced in 2013. The house is located on a busy street in downtown Natchez resulting in vehicular and visitor conflicts due to limited visibility and limited on-street parking opportunities. • Some ultraviolet light damage to interpretive exhibits has occurred due to high light levels at the front of the building. • There are ongoing efforts to protect the exhibits from light damage; there are limited opportunities for the visitor to interact with museum objects in this space. • The implementation of the historic furnishings plan is currently in progress. • Currently, visitors enter the site through the McCallum House, which serves as a visitor center and staff offices and is located next to the William Johnson House. • Spalling (or fragmenting) of the common wall between the Johnson House and the McCallum House continues to occur because of moisture uptake in the common wall from the foundation. • The Johnson and McCallum houses are racking, or moving in different directions, due to foundation issues. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brick/masonry work is scheduled to be re-pointed on the Johnson House and McCallum House in Fiscal Year 2014. • Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems will need modification or replacement on both the Johnson House and McCallum House. • Maintaining an exterior Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant elevator in working condition continues to be a challenge. • A higher percentage of visitors to the site arrive via commercial tour buses. • There are ongoing investigations and surveying of the archaeological site in the dependency/outbuilding of the Johnson House.

Fundamental Resource or Value	William Johnson House
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site / street flooding from heavy rainfall has been occurring and flows over onto the property, impacting the overall site's foundations and cellars. • Annual number of precipitation events > 1 inch projected to increase 5–10% (2041–2070 compared with 1980–2000, Kunkel et al. 2013). • Congestion and limited visibility due to traffic on State Street impacts visitor experiences and their safety. • Limited available bus and visitor parking poses a threat to both site visitation and visitor safety. • Spalling (or fragmenting) of the common wall between the Johnson House and the McCallum House negatively impacts the resources and leads to the loss of historic fabric. • Water damage and poor site drainage from the exterior decks of the kitchen building is resulting in foundation and structural issues. • Some ultraviolet light damage to interpretive exhibits has occurred due to light levels in the front of the house. • Maintaining an exterior ADA-compliant elevator in working condition continues to be a challenge. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park could explore options for subterranean drainage to address severe storm events and flooding from these events. • There are opportunities to collect rainfall on-site for use in the historic vegetable gardens on the Johnson House property. • Improved signage would better integrate the Johnston House into city of Natchez walking tours, address visitor safety concerns, and improve overall site visibility within the community. • Application of non-tinted ultraviolet light protective coating to the windows of the Johnson House would better protect the exhibits as well as historic objects on display.
<p>Existing Information about the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site water mitigation strategies. • Historic structures report. • Cultural landscapes inventory. • Historic furnishings report. • Structural fire plan. • Collections management plan (outdated). • Scope of collections statement. • Collections storage plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data on site drainage by conducting a topographic survey at the Johnson House to help mitigate drainage and structural issues. • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	William Johnson House
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report for the Johnson House property. • Marketing/communications plan. • Wayside exhibit plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Develop an exhibit plan for the dependency building/ archaeological site.
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV” for Melrose <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “NPS Policy-level Guidance” for Melrose

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fort Rosalie Site
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>Related directly to significance statement 6 and indirectly to 4.</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southeastern Archaeological Center conducted site surveys and investigative test pits at the Fort Rosalie site (phase 2) and a formal report on their findings is in process. • The National Park Service owns 20% of the actual Fort Rosalie site. • Currently eight deteriorating (noncontributing) structures occupy the Fort Rosalie site and need to be removed. • Two structures at the site, the Stietenroth House and the Cabin at Fort Rosalie, need to be stabilized and have been identified as other important resources and values for the park. • The viewsheds of the Mississippi River at the top of the bluff are blocked by overgrown vegetation. • The site is currently inaccessible with no formal NPS development, and is not open to the public. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is preparing for the tricentennial celebration of the Fort Rosalie site, and plans for this event are focused on improving the condition of the Fort Rosalie site by making it accessible to the public. • Vegetation is increasingly becoming overgrown and blocking historic views of the Mississippi River. • Erosion of the bluff is increasing due to heavy rain events and severe storms.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fort Rosalie Site
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain events, severe storms, and poor drainage at the Fort Rosalie site are resulting in erosion of the bluffs. Annual number of precipitation events > 1 inch projected to increase 5–10% (2041–2070 compared with 1980–2000, Kunkel et al. 2013). • Substantial erosion issues are occurring on adjacent property and are impacting resources on park property. • The historic viewsheds at the top of the bluffs are blocked by vegetation growing outside the park boundary. • Access issues at the Fort Rosalie site are resulting in improper uses, such as vandalism, overnight campers, squatting, etc. • Unauthorized parking at the Fort Rosalie site during key events like the Great Mississippi River Balloon Race negatively impacts the site. • The cistern on Green Street is contributing to water drainage and soil stability issues on the site and it is unclear who owns this cistern. • Invasive nonnative plants negatively impact viewsheds and overall stewardship at the Fort Rosalie site. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the Fort Rosalie site will increase community engagement with the National Park Service, and improve NPS presence within the community. • The Fort Rosalie site provides an opportunity to serve as the only protected and interpreted military site in Natchez, Mississippi. • There are opportunities to improve connectivity between the park visitor center and other historic resources in the community of Natchez including the Johnson House. • The Fort Rosalie site would tie into the existing downtown walking tours and trails that have been developed by the community.
Existing Information about the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southeastern Archaeological Center has conducted site surveys and investigative test pits at the Fort Rosalie site (phase 2) (report in process). • Structural fire plan.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotech to evaluate erosion. • Water entry and ownership of the cistern. • Special history study on the French, Spanish, British, and American periods at the Fort Rosalie site. • Cultural landscapes inventory for the Fort Rosalie site. • Viewshed analysis. • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Fort Rosalie Site
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development concept plan for the Fort Rosalie site. • Interpretive plan for the Fort Rosalie site. • Exhibit plan for the Fort Rosalie site. • Wayside exhibit plan. • Trail management plan. • Cultural landscape report for the Fort Rosalie site. • Viewshed management plan.
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV” for Melrose <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “NPS Policy-level Guidance” for Melrose



Artist’s rendering of Fort Rosalie (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>Related to significance statement 4.</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of objects in the museum collection varies, but overall the museum collection as a whole is in good condition. • Many of the museum collection’s decorative arts and fine furnishing are on display at Melrose and the William Johnson House. • Generally, there is a high level of documentation and primary source material for the items in the museum collection. • The museum collection’s decorative arts and fine furnishing are recognized for their comprehensiveness and used by researchers. • A small percentage of the museum collection is deteriorating due to inadequate storage conditions. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management capacity and increased staffing have improved the collection condition, accountability, and planning. • There has been increasing interest from researchers in the decorative arts and fine furnishings in the museum collection.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not adequate storage space for the museum collection, resulting in the collection being stored in multiple dispersed storage locations. • The Bally building used as a storage facility is past its life span, there are temporary building leaks, and it is overcrowded with objects being stored in the basement, attic, stable, shed, servant barn, and off-site. • There is a backlog in the collections cataloging needs. • A small percentage of items could be lost due to inadequate accountability procedures during the inventorying of museum collections. • Environmental conditions (e.g., climate, light, and pests) could pose a threat to the museum collections and their condition. • Allowing the museum collections to be exhibited to the public increases risk of damage to some of the more sensitive pieces of the museum collection. • Some of the collections are naturally deteriorating with time. • Hazardous materials may be located near or in some of the museum collections. • The back-up generator is inoperable at both Melrose and the William Johnson House and failure to operate during an emergency will lead to the damage of the museum collections. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information on park collections continues to emerge as scholars use the collections for their research. • Documentation of the museum collections through photography would add to accountability and make the collections more accessible to the general public through the internet and social media. • Acquisition of materials from descendants would aid in acquiring needed objects and growing the museum collection, while supporting interpretive efforts at historic sites throughout the park. • Acquisitions of new materials to the museum collection will be in accordance with the scope of the collection. • There are opportunities for the conservation of objects (individual and groups of objects) in the museum collection. • The National Park Service and Historic Natchez Foundation are working together to develop a comprehensive museum facility and shared museum storage that will provide public access as well as emergency storage facilities for other Gulf Coast park museum collections.
<p>Existing Information about the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collections management plan (outdated). • Scope of collections statement. • Collection storage plan. • Collections move plan. • Museum emergency operations plan. • Collection conditions survey (multiple). • Historic furnishings report for Melrose. • Historic furnishings report for Johnson. • Museum security and fire protection survey.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory entire museum collection. • Conduct additional museum object research, museum cataloging (archives), finding aids (museum object location guides). • Collection conditions survey (multiple). • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated pest management plan (Project Management Information System request submitted). • Update collections management plan (Project Management Information System request submitted). • Update 2006 museum housekeeping plan / preventative conservation plan.



Volunteer cleaning artifacts in the museum collections (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • 36 CFR 79 “Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collection” • 36 CFR 800 “Protection of Historic Properties” • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Archaeological Documentation</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Director’s Order 24: <i>Museum Collections</i> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>; 4A(3) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (1995) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All museum collections (objects, specimens, and manuscript collections) are identified and inventoried, catalogued, documented, preserved, and protected. • Provision is made for access to and use of Natchez National Historical Park’s museum collections for exhibits, research, and interpretation. • The qualities that contribute to the significance of collections are protected in accordance with established standards. • Research and development projects include plans for the curation of collected objects and specimens. • Natchez National Historical Park’s museum collections are housed in appropriate facilities that provide protection for current collections and allow for future collection expansion. • Museum collections provide documentation of Natchez National Historical Park’s natural and cultural resources.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Connections to the Natchez Historic District and Community
Related Significance Statements	Related to significance statement 1 and 2.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park currently works in collaboration with and provides technical expertise to the community of Natchez and numerous stakeholders who own and manage other historic resources and sites as well as museum collections and archives in the community. • There are 8 National Register of Historic Places historic districts, 13 national historic landmarks and the UNESCO-recognized Forks of the Road site within Natchez and the park maintains working relationships with all of these different sites. • There are varying levels of resource conditions and interpretive programming at these different sites. • There are also varying levels of engagement with different property owners and the general public regarding these resources. • A new system of downtown walking trails provides connectivity to many of these sites within Natchez. • There is growing interest in recognizing and preserving sites related to African American heritage in Natchez (e.g., Forks of the Road, the Rhythm Night Club, and St. Catherine Street district). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been decreasing revenue and funding opportunities for partner groups and other historic sites. • There is a decreasing interest and attendance at historic house tours. • More scholarly information about other historic sites and resources within the community of Natchez is becoming available. • Improvements are being made in the preservation and recording of the Natchez courthouse records through various funding and grant agreements.



Forks of the Road, site of one of the largest slave markets in the United States (NPS Collection)

<p>Fundamental Resource or Value</p>	<p>Connections to the Natchez Historic District and Community</p>
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are varying levels of engagement with property owners of historic sites and the ability of property owners to support interpretation at these sites is limited. • Grant opportunities for national register historic districts, national historic landmark sites, and partner groups are decreasing and becoming more competitive. • Decreased revenues are impacting the funding of partner groups and other historic sites. • Increased competition from other recreational activities and tourism dollars is leading to a decreased interest in historic house tours. • Inappropriate preservation and maintenance treatments of historic structures are leading to the loss of historic fabric and impacting the integrity of historic sites and resources in Natchez. • The National Park Service has no authority to enforce historic ordinances or design guidelines within the historic districts and relies on local municipal and community groups in order to protect these historic resources. • There are varying levels of capacity to raise funds, provide interpretation, and maintain historic properties from partner groups. • Pressure for development along the Mississippi River waterfront with Natchez continues to increase. • Climate change and more severe storms impact historic structures and resources throughout Natchez. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections to the community provide an opportunity for educational programs and outreach through preservation trade schools, workshops with NPS preservation professionals, and other stewardship related programs. • Research possible national historic landmark nomination for Suburban Villas. • Expansion of downtown walking trails would increase visibility of the National Park Service, improve attendance, and deliver a more comprehensive visitor experience. • The Forks of the Road slave market site, which has been recognized by UNESCO's Slave Route Project, provides a significant opportunity to extend interpretation at Natchez and connect descendant communities with the past and present in the quest for heritage preservation. • There is also the potential to develop new educational opportunities by interpreting Fort McPherson, a fortification built during the Civil War by federal soldiers.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Connections to the Natchez Historic District and Community
Existing Information about the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natchez National Historical Park General Management Plan</i>, appendix G: Historic Resources in Natchez. • Boundary study, including archeology phase 1 study for Forks of the Road. • National historic landmarks nominations. • National Register of Historic Places nominations. • Inventory and documentation of house interiors. • Numerous scholarly books. • NPS-sponsored publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Black Experience in Natchez 1820–1880</i>, by Ronald L. F. Davis • <i>African American Heritage Tourism Sites Assessment, Natchez, Miss.</i>, by Mary Ruffin Hanbury • <i>Sharpening the Focus of Natchez Tour Houses for the 21st Century Market: Taking the Past into the Future</i>, by Mary Ruffin Hanbury
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Register of Historic Places nominations needed (at least three for Eastern Suburbs, Arlington Heights, and St. Catherine historic districts). • Research national historic landmark nomination for Suburban Villas. • Research African American history of Natchez. • Research 20th century history of Natchez. • Research Reconstruction history of Natchez. • Provide technical assistance for local condition assessments of properties in the Historic District of Natchez. • Evaluate various historic structures reports for different sites and buildings to see if they need updating.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside exhibit plan (as part of the sign management plan). • Update 2001 long range interpretive plan • Volunteer management plan (focusing on development of friends group)



Iris around the cypress pond at Melrose (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Connections to the Natchez Historic District and Community
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • Director's Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i> <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natchez National Historical Park is managed as part of a greater ecological, social, economic, and cultural system. • Good relations are maintained with adjacent landowners, surrounding communities, and private and public groups that affect and are affected by Natchez National Historical Park. The area is managed proactively to resolve external issues and concerns and ensure that area values are not compromised. • Because the park is a part of a larger regional environment, the National Park Service and its neighbors work cooperatively with others to anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts; protect the park's resources; and address mutual interests in the quality of life for community residents. Regional cooperation involves federal, state, and local agencies, American Indian tribes, neighboring landowners, and all other concerned parties. • Collaborative partnerships with nonprofit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences. • The scope and contribution of volunteer programs in resource management, interpretation and visitor services, maintenance, and administration are enhanced; the volunteer program is popular; all ages can participate in meaningful ways to benefit resources and visitors.



Ranger-led tour in the historic gardens at Melrose (NPS Collection)

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sill logs of the log cabin are rotting. • Damage to the roof has been caused by tree limbs. • Extensive termite damage throughout the structure has occurred. • The log cabin interior is in better condition than the exterior; the inside floor floats on concrete pillars so it has stayed in good condition. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is currently preparing for the tricentennial celebration of the Fort Rosalie site and is focusing attention on improving the overall visitor experience at this site and improving the condition of its associated resources, such as the log cabin. • The log cabin is planned to undergo stabilization and its condition will improve with this preservation treatment. • Vegetation near the log cabin is being removed in order to protect the structure and help in its stabilization.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for structural fire is a threat to the log cabin. • The log cabin is situated near the road right-of-way and close to a busy intersection. Generally, structures have a setback of at least 25 feet off the road right-of-way, but this is not the case with the log cabin. The log cabin's close proximity to the road presents a threat to pedestrian safety. • Because of the log cabin's proximity to the roadway, exhaust from idling bus engines has impacted the resource. • Continued termite activity threatens the structural stability of the log cabin. • Feral cats have become an increasing nuisance and are having a negative impact on the log cabin (structural wear and tear and feces). • Vandalism has negatively impacted the condition of the log cabin. • Illegal dumping has become an increasing issue in the area around the log cabin. • Surrounding vegetation continues to impact the log cabin's stability. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The log cabin sits in a highly visible location on a busy street and could potentially showcase the NPS presence within the community of Natchez. • The log cabin is a local landmark in Natchez and could be used as an exhibit space for the Fort Rosalie site. • There are opportunities to form partnerships with local site neighbors, such as the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
<p>Existing Information about the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop historic structures report. • Structural fire plan.

Other Important Resource or Value	Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General baseline maps and topography (GIS). • Determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive reuse plan for the Stietenroth House and log cabin. • Exhibit plan. • Site plan – phased in relation to development concept plan for the Fort Rosalie site. • Wayside exhibit plan. • Trail management plan. • Accessibility management plan.
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV” for Melrose <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “NPS Policy-level Guidance” for Melrose

Other Important Resource or Value	Stietenroth House
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stietenroth House is located within the larger Fort Rosalie site. • The interior of the Stietenroth House is currently in poor condition and it is lacking a floor. • Interior walls of the Stietenroth House are splayed. • The building envelope is not intact, which has led to water infiltration and drainage problems for the Stietenroth House. • The Stietenroth House’s roof needs replacing. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is currently preparing for the tricentennial celebration of the Fort Rosalie site and is focusing attention on improving the overall visitor experience at this site and improving the condition of its associated resources, such as the Steitenroth House. • Along with the tricentennial of the Fort Rosalie site, the bicentennial of the state of Mississippi and the centennial of the National Park Service are other events that the park hopes to capitalize on in the development of the Fort Rosalie site and its other resources.

Other Important Resource or Value	Stietenroth House
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further deterioration and damage to the Steitenroth House from drainage problems is likely. • Feral cats have become an increasing nuisance and are having a negative impact on the Steitenroth House (structural wear and tear and feces). • Vandalism has negatively impacted the condition of the Steitenroth House and drawn negative attention to the site. • Illegal dumping has become an increasing issue in the area around the Steitenroth House. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steitenroth House could be used as a visitor contact station, exhibit space, and park offices for visitors to the Fort Rosalie site. • There are opportunities to develop interpretive exhibits in the Steitenroth House that focus on the Reconstruction Era story in Natchez. • The Steitenroth House could be used to increase the NPS presence at the Fort Rosalie site and improve community relations as well as connectivity to other park resources.
<p>Existing Information about the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic structures report is largely complete, and the expectation is that the building will be improving prior to completion of the report. • Archive information available from the Historic Natchez Foundation. • Structural fire plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General baseline maps and topography (GIS). • Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor plan for building. • Exhibit plan. • Site plan – phased in relation to development concept plan for the Fort Rosalie Site. • Wayside exhibit plan. • Trail management plan. • Accessibility management plan.
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV” for Melrose <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “NPS Policy-level Guidance” for Melrose

Other Important Resource or Value	Heritage Gardens and Gardening at Melrose
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heritage gardens at Melrose include: the original formal garden, original orchard, and a small interpretive vegetable garden located near the original. • The heritage gardens are used as a valuable educational/interpretive tool, and are particularly popular with school groups. • Gardening tools are currently stored in the Smoke House at Melrose. • The overall condition of the heritage gardens has improved through various gardening and mowing programs. • Hands-on gardening has been underway in the historic gardens at Melrose. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing interest by the public to volunteer for various gardening projects at Melrose. • Visitors to the park have shown increased interest in the historic gardens.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive/nonnative plant species threaten to overtake the historic plants that would traditionally be found at Melrose. • Erosion from severe storm events and heavy rain has a negative impact on the health of the heritage gardens. Annual number of precipitation events > 1 inch projected to increase 5–10% (2041–2070 compared with 1980–2000, Kunkel et al. 2013). • Deer are becoming an increasing pest within the park, and have caused damage to the heritage garden by grazing. • Access to the heritage gardens and accessibility throughout the grounds at Melrose has proven to be a barrier to some visitors and volunteers. • Over the years there has been a loss in the historic varieties of native plants. • As the climate continues to change, including warmer temperatures and a more variable precipitation regime (Kunkel et al. 2013), maintenance of some historic plant species and varieties will become more challenging. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gardening experience for larger tour groups could be created. • Gardening service projects are a potential way to engage youth within the Natchez community. • A rainwater capture and reuse systems can be implemented and provide water for the gardens. • Heritage gardening provides an opportunity for reintroduction of historic varieties of plants into the landscape at Melrose. • The use and replanting of the historic orchard serves as an opportunity to engage volunteer gardeners while providing educational programs. • Partnership with local farmers markets could potentially be developed and provide an avenue for selling fruits and vegetables produced in the heritage gardens.

Other Important Resource or Value	Heritage Gardens and Gardening at Melrose
Existing Information about the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report for Melrose. • Comprehensive plant inventory. • Cultural landscape inventory – includes an orchard management plan (in process) as an appendix. • Orchard rehabilitation plan (ongoing).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of bird species in the heritage gardens at Melrose.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer management plan. • Accessibility management plan. • Annual garden planting/ management plan.
Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Laws and Policies That Apply to the FRV” for Melrose <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “NPS Policy-level Guidance” for Melrose



Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop (Library of Congress)

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management, and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance, and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions not directly related to purpose and significance, but still indirectly affects them. Usually a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Natchez National Historical Park and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

Climate Change. The effects of climate change are an important factor in considering parkwide planning and data needs. Climate change and the increasing frequency of severe weather events present a number of challenges for the park. Higher numbers of severe storm events and heavy rains have led to measurable increase in water infiltration of historic structures throughout the park. Both increased flooding on the Mississippi River. Climate change will impact the species composition and structure of natural and cultural landscapes in and around Natchez National Historical Park in the coming decades. Managing for an 18th or 19th century landscape under a 21st century climate may require the use of alternative species and management techniques to retain the historical appearance. The 1933 Giles Cut in the Mississippi River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has negatively impacted erosion on the bluffs overlooking the river by shifting the river's direction so that it flows directly towards the Natchez bluffs. Because of the park's inland location in the region, it has taken on a strategic role for other national park units in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in response to disaster preparedness strategies for museum collections.

Regional Tourism Trends. Natchez National Historical Park is heavily influenced by regional tourism trends along the Mississippi River stretching from New Orleans to destinations upriver such as Memphis and St. Louis. Riverboat cruises, bus tours, and the annual Spring Pilgrimage of antebellum homes all impact the park's historic resources and are opportunities to raise public awareness about the work of the National Park Service. The community of Natchez is the southern terminus for the Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, creating an opportunity to better connect the trace and its travelers to park resources such as the visitor center while better leveraging the relationship between these two park units. Natchez also sits at the intersection of two additional scenic byways: Highway 61 (The Blues Highway) that runs north-south from Minnesota to New Orleans, and Highway 84 (El Camino Real) that runs east-west from the Atlantic coast of Georgia to west Texas. The Forks of the Road slave market site is another important regional tourism asset in the Natchez community that has been recognized internationally by the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Recognizing the impact of regional tourism on park visitation and resources is an important factor in both park management and visibility.

Casino Development on the Mississippi River. In recent years the success of riverboat gambling and the development of casinos along the banks of the Mississippi River have encouraged economic growth and regional development. Currently there are two casinos operating in the City of Natchez and more may be proposed in the future depending on their financial viability. The potential for the development of land around these casinos is high and may impact park resources. Working with partners and nearby property owners to successfully respond to growing tourism demands in a sustainable way while maintaining the historic integrity of both park and community resources is a key consideration in planning decisions.

Oil and Gas Exploration. Growing national trends in domestic energy production have led to increased oil and gas exploration throughout the Gulf Coast region including in and around the community of Natchez. New technologies have increased the potential for oil and gas production on historic sites. Current efforts within the community of Natchez to drill on national register-designated properties have increased concerns about mineral rights on park-owned properties. Addressing the future needs for energy exploration and production while protecting the park’s nationally significant resources and stories is a concern for the park.

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation, and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management’s efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
FRV	Development concept plan: Fort Rosalie site	H		The Fort Rosalie site is a relatively new site at the park, and includes a variety of planning needs, particularly with the site’s approaching tricentennial anniversary. The development concept plan would address fencing, trails, and maintenance needs on the NPS-owned property at the site, as well as site plans for the Stietenroth House and the log cabin at Fort Rosalie. Issues of site stabilization and soil erosion along the bluff also need to be addressed through this plan.
FRV	Preservation maintenance plan and implementation strategy for the historic structures	H		This plan would provide technical guidance on historic structures best practices, treatment recommendations, and implementation strategies for ongoing cyclical maintenance and stewardship of historic structures within the park.
FRV	Update long range interpretive plan to include the Fort Rosalie site	H		The long range interpretive plan was developed in 2001, prior to the acquisition of additional acreage at the Fort Rosalie site. It needs to be updated to include strategies for interpreting the site to the public. This project could be conducted in tandem with the development concept plan for the Fort Rosalie site.
FRV	Comprehensive sign plan	H		This plan would be a parkwide effort, and would help increase the visibility of the NPS presence within Natchez. A draft sign plan has been developed by the Harpers Ferry Center and is currently going through a review process with the City of Natchez. Park staff is involved with these ongoing efforts.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
FRV	Wayside exhibit plan	H		This plan would be a parkwide effort and would focus on developing outdoor interpretive exhibits close to the park's resources. This plan would aid orientation of visitors as they visit a diverse range of resources in the park.
OIRV	Adaptive reuse plan for the Stietenroth House and the cabin at Fort Rosalie	H		By using existing historic structure reports, this plan would provide recommendations and guidance for the potential adaptive reuses of these structures. A building program for use of these structures would be a part of this planning effort and would identify specific functions and activities that the buildings would be expected to support.
FRV	Accessibility management plan	H	# 18722	This plan would be a parkwide effort. Components of the plan could be correlated with other planning efforts, and would address current ADA infrastructure, as well as identified future ADA needs (such as at the Fort Rosalie site). Projects have already been submitted for both Melrose and Johnson House for ADA pathways and parking.
FRV	Update collections management plan (2004)	H	# 159735	The collections management plan needs to be updated to better reflect current park efforts in the management and stewardship of the museum collection.
FRV	Trail management plan	M		This plan would have a parkwide scope, and would improve connectivity between the different sites of the park and the City of Natchez. Other planning efforts need to be undertaken first, such as the development concept plan for NPS-owned property at the Fort Rosalie site.
FRV	Visitor use management plan	M		This plan would have a parkwide scope, and would plan for the implementation of effective visitor use management that protects both resources and visitor experiences.
FRV	Integrated pest management plan	M	# 87900	This plan would have a parkwide scope, and is an important component of preservation and protection of museum collections. The park currently consistently monitors for pests.
FRV	Landscape management plan (including a landscape planting plan) and invasive plant management plan	M		The landscape at Melrose is an important component to visitors' understanding and interpretation of this resource. A landscape management plan would provide guidance on seasonal maintenance and annual planting schedules. This plan would also address invasive plant species and would help inform annual work plans. This plan would help maintain the historical accuracy of plant type and location.
FRV	Cultural landscape report for the Johnson House	M	# 115334	This plan would help showcase the importance of the often overlooked resource, draw visitors to the site, and improve the visitor experience. The park currently has a cultural landscape inventory for the previously larger site, including the now sold depot house.
FRV	Exhibit plan	L		This plan would have a parkwide scope, though is not a high priority because other plans need to be developed first, and some of the elements may be covered in other planning efforts.
FRV	Viewshed management plan for the bluffs at the Fort Rosalie site	L		This component will be addressed in the development concept plan for the Fort Rosalie site.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
FRV	Cultural landscape report for the Fort Rosalie site	L		This plan will become a high priority after other plans are completed first. The development concept plan may include this component if the cultural landscape component can be minimal. Invasive plant species will be addressed in this plan.
FRV	Livestock management plan	L		This plan is a low priority because it is a very small part of the long-term vision for the park. The plan could be developed in-house at the park.
FRV	Update museum housekeeping plan / preventative conservation plan (2006)	L		This plan would help preserve and protect the museum collections and exhibits.
FRV	Volunteer management plan	L		This plan would have a parkwide scope, and would help inform the park’s volunteer program and administration. It would develop strategies for working with the friends group and building volunteer capacity.
FRV	Marketing and communications plan	L		This plan would have a parkwide scope, and could be accomplished with the help of the City of Natchez and friends groups. It would help improve the visibility of the park’s sites, through signage and way finding, as well as develop strategies for effective public relations and marketing, such as through the internet and social media sites.

*Project Management Information System number, if available.



Original furnishings in William Johnson’s parlor (NPS Collection)

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
OIRV	Geotech evaluation of erosion and general baseline mapping data for log cabin at Fort Rosalie (including GIS and topography) and general baseline mapping data for the Stietenroth House (including GIS and topography)	H		This data would help identify potential impairment to the resources.
FRV	Special history study related to the French, Spanish, British, and American periods at the Fort Rosalie site	H		This data would help inform site interpretation and ready the site for its tricentennial.
FRV	Collect data on site drainage and conduct a topographic survey at the Johnson House to help mitigate drainage issues	H		This data would help address the basement flooding issues at the Johnson House.
FRV	Research African American history of Natchez	H		This research would help identify the historic sites associated with the African American history of Natchez, in order to better protect those sites from impairment within the historic district. It would also improve outreach to the African American community and expand the interpretive messages being conveyed by the park.
FRV	Research and data on the mechanics, stabilization, and preservation of the Melrose cisterns	H		This study would encompass the six cisterns at Melrose. The George Kelly diaries and the historical museum provide information on the construction and location of the cisterns.
FRV	Water entry and ownership of the cistern at the Fort Rosalie site	H		This study would provide data on the water entry issues and ownership of the cistern located partially on the Fort Rosalie site. Data would also address stabilization and preservation concerns.
FRV	Inventory entire museum collection	H		An inventory of the entire museum collection will help ensure that the park has properly planned for museum storage at the Historic Natchez Foundation.
FRV	Complete National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Eastern Suburbs Historic District and complete national register nomination for Arlington Heights Historic District	H		To be completed by the Historic Natchez Foundation.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
FRV	Need to use GIS to collect data to collect locations of historic fence lines at Melrose so that the fence lines can be accurately reestablished	H	# 197887	
FRV	Research Reconstruction history of Natchez	M		This research would be timely and could be interwoven with the research on African American history of Natchez.
FRV	Research 20th century history of Natchez	M		This research would be timely and could be interwoven with the research on African American history of Natchez.
FRV	Archaeological research and survey on the slave cemetery at Melrose	M		The location of the cemetery could be easily confirmed. The cemetery is located in a wooded site on the estate. Its precise location is unknown. Historic Natchez Foundation has identified a community member with local knowledge who would be able to identify the exact location of the cemetery for the park.
FRV	Viewshed analysis at the Fort Rosalie site	M		Partnership efforts with adjacent property owner to be conducted over a longer timeframe may result in a working relationship to stabilize the bluff property and provide secure viewing points along the bluff. Due to the current instability of the bluff, visitor safety prohibits access toward the bluff edge for viewing.
FRV	Conduct additional museum object research, museum cataloging (archives), finding aids (museum object location guides)	M		Other data needs may be more critical or need to be completed prior to the conduction of additional research.
???	Collection condition survey (multiple)	M		These surveys would require bringing in material-specific experts to the park to conduct. Other data needs may be more critical or need to be completed prior to collection condition surveys.
FRV	National historic landmark nomination for the Suburban Villas	M		The nomination was linked to potential funding that used to exist. The National Park Service would aid the Historic Natchez Foundation by supporting the grant request to the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative funding sources. The National Park Service could also provide technical assistance to Historic Natchez Foundation in grant preparation.
FRV	Cultural resource condition assessment and climate change vulnerability assessment	M		These assessments would provide data on and systematically address issues of potential vulnerability of fundamental resources and values to climate change.
FRV	Cultural landscapes inventory for the Fort Rosalie site	M		This inventory would comprehensively record the Fort Rosalie site, its historic development, and existing conditions. These baseline data will inform management decisions as well as interpretive programming at the site.
FRV	Ethnographic overview and assessment	M		This overview and assessment would provide baseline data on historical and present day connections to the park by communities with ties to the park including descendants of plantation owners, merchants, and enslaved Africans.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made

Related to an FRV/OIRV?	Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	PMIS*	Rationale
FRV	Complete National Register of Historic Places nomination for St. Catherine Historic District	L		The park would help provide technical expertise and assistance to local preservation groups working on this nomination.
FRV	Research national historic landmark nomination for Suburban Villas	L		This is a large component of ongoing activities by the Historic Natchez Foundation.
FRV	Update 1994–1996 historic resource studies	L		A park historic resource study was conducted in 1994–1996 for Melrose, the William Johnson House, and the Fort Rosalie site. The park identified a need to update the data and information found in these studies. Pending legislation regarding the Forks of the Road slave market site may elevate the prioritization of this data need.
OIRV	Determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop	L		Determining the National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the Old Fort Rosalie Gift Shop will guide the future use, maintenance, and management strategies for this structure.
OIRV	Inventory of bird species in the gardens at Melrose	L		Efforts to document and inventory bird species are currently done informally by park staff and volunteers. A formal bird species inventory is a long-term goal for the park.

*Project Management Information System number, if available.



William Johnson's washstand (NPS Collection)



Educational programming with volunteer reenactment group at Melrose (NPS Collection)



Educational event at the William Johnson House (NPS Collection)

Part 3: Contributors

Natchez National Historical Park

Kathleen Jenkins, Superintendent

Dave Wyrick, Chief of Interpretation & Resource Management

Melissa Tynes, Park Ranger

Amy Smith, Chief of Administration

Carolyn Tyler, Budget Analyst

Larry Stewart, Facility Manager

Jeff Mansell, Historian

Cheryl Munyer, Curator

Stephen Don, Park Guide

Southeast Regional Office

Ben West, Chief of Planning

Steven Wright, Environmental Protection Specialist

Other NPS Staff

Justin Henderson, Project Manager, Denver Service Center-Planning Division

Kelly Donahue, Landscape Architect, Denver Service Center-Planning Division

Sarah Conlin, Natural Resource Specialist, Denver Service Center-Planning Division

Melody Bentfield, Contract Librarian, Denver Service Center-Planning Division

Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Washington Office Park Planning and Special Studies

Pam Holtman, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Washington Office Park Planning and Special Studies

Park Partners

Mimi Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation



Historic photograph of formerly enslaved Jane Johnson in front of the Melrose kitchen (NPS Collection)

Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Natchez National Historical Park

Natchez National Historical Park is established by Congressional Act of October 7, 1988 (P.L. 100-479, 102 Stat. 2324)

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 410oo.

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 410oo-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 410oo-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 410oo-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 410oo-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 410oo-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.

(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

Public
information.

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.

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.

The William Johnson House is acquired and added to Natchez National Historical Park by Congressional Act of September 28, 1990 (P.L. 101-399, 104 Stat. 860)

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.

(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:

Real property. Gifts and property. “(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.

Natchez Visitor Center Supporting Legislation 1996 (P.L. 104-333, 110 STAT. 4093)

Mississippi.

SEC. 1030. NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

16 USC 4100o-2. Section 3 of the Act of October 8, 1988, entitled "An Act to create a national park at Natchez, Mississippi" (16 U.S.C. 4100o et seq.), is amended—

- (1) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" after "SEC. 3."; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) BUILDING FOR JOINT USE BY THE SECRETARY AND THE CITY OF NATCHEZ.—

"(1) CONTRIBUTION TOWARD CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the City of Natchez under which the Secretary agrees to pay not to exceed \$3,000,000 toward the planning and construction by the City of Natchez

PUBLIC LAW 104-333—NOV. 12, 1996

110 STAT. 4239

of a structure to be partially used by the Secretary as an administrative headquarters, administrative site, and visitors' center for Natchez National Historical Park.

"(2) USE FOR SATISFACTION OF MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The amount of payment under paragraph (1) may be available for matching Federal grants authorized under other law notwithstanding any limitations in any such law.

"(3) AGREEMENT.—Prior to the execution of an agreement under paragraph (1), and subject to the appropriation of necessary funds in advance, the Secretary may enter into a contract, lease, cooperative agreement, or other appropriate form of agreement with the City of Natchez providing for the use and occupancy of a portion of the structure constructed under paragraph (1) (including appropriate use of the land on which it is situated), at no cost to the Secretary (except maintenance, utility, and other operational costs), for a period of 50 years, with an option for renewal by the Secretary for an additional 50 years.

"(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out this subsection."

Appendix B:

Inventory of Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Termination	Stakeholders	Purpose
City of Natchez (Natchez Visitor Reception and Intermodal Transportation System)	Cooperative agreement	3/13/1998	3/13/2048	National Park Service and City of Natchez	Joint Visitor Center authorized by P.L. 104-333 and Chapter 1014, Local & Private Laws of Mississippi, 1994 as amended by Chapter 902, Local and Private Laws of Mississippi, 1995
City of Natchez (Fire Department)	Memorandum of understanding	expired - to be renewed		National Park Service and City of Natchez Fire Department	City fire department provides fire suppression/prevention for NATC
City of Natchez (Office of Tourism Management)	Memorandum of agreement	2/26/2013	2/26/2015	National Park Service and City of Natchez Office of Tourism Management	City of Natchez sells group and individual tickets on behalf of NPS
Melrose Preservation	Programmatic agreement	3/15/2004	---	National Park Service, Historic Natchez Foundation, and Mississippi state historic preservation office	Provides stipulations for the preservation treatment at the Melrose estate
State Historic Preservation Office (disposition of houses at Fort Rosalie)	Memorandum of agreement	7/18/2011	---	National Park Service and State of Mississippi historic preservation officer	Provide stipulations for removal of nine structures on the grounds of Fort Rosalie
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (section 106)	Programmatic agreement	11/14/2008		National Park Service, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers	For compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
Adams County Master Gardeners	Memorandum of understanding	10/19/2012	10/19/2013	National Park Service and Adams County Master Gardeners	Cooperative framework for the parties to develop and operate "Laura's Garden," an interpretive heirloom garden in raised beds at Melrose estate
<i>Seeking an Agreement with the Natchez Trace for shared law enforcement</i>	Memorandum of agreement	---	---		
Natchez Pilgrimage Tours	Memorandum of agreement	2/26/2013	2/26/2016	National Park Service and Natchez Pilgrimage Tours	Natchez Pilgrimage Tours handles reservations for commercial bus tours to Park

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Termination	Stakeholders	Purpose
Natchez-Adams School District	Inter-governmental personnel agreement				
First Natchez Radio Group (Natchez History Moment)	Memorandum of understanding	11/28/2012	11/28/2013	National Park Service and First Natchez Radio Group	Framework for "Natchez History Minutes" an interpretive educational program consisting of one minute public service announcements
Casino parking on old box factory site	Memorandum of agreement	6/26/1992	---	National Park Service, Lady Luck Casino (now Isle of Capri), City of Natchez	City will develop offsite parking facilities for casino



Main house at Melrose (NPS Collection)

Southeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation Natchez National Historical Park

November 2013

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Southeast Regional Director.

Kathleen M. Jenkins

RECOMMENDED
Superintendent, Natchez National Historical Park

11-8-2013

Date

Steve Austin

APPROVED
Regional Director, Southeast Region

11/14/13

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS/NATC/339/121819A NOVEMBER 2013



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