DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

PROPOSED

ZACHARY TAYLOR HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center

Regional Director, Southeast Region

9/1/83
SUMMARY

(X) Draft ( ) Final Environmental Statement

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Region

1. Type of action: ( ) Administrative (X) Legislative

2. Brief description of action: The National Park Service proposes the establishment of the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site, including Federal acquisition of the former boyhood home of Zachary Taylor and its operation by a private organization.

3. Summary of environmental impacts and adverse environmental effects:
   a. Preservation of the home of a President.
   b. Preservation of an excellent example of Georgian architecture.
   c. Disruption of the neighborhood continuity.
   d. Decreased lifespan of the home through increased visitation.

4. Alternatives considered:
   a. No action.
   b. Acquisition, administration, operation, and maintenance by a private organization.
   c. Acquisition by the Federal Government with rental to private party and use as a residence.
   d. Federal acquisition with adaptive restoration, operation, and maintenance by one or several historic organizations; no public use.
   e. Federal acquisition, administration, interpretation, and maintenance.

5. Comments have been requested from the following:
   Federal agencies

6. Date draft statement made available to CEQ and the public:
I. Description of the Proposal

The National Park Service proposes Congressional authorization to establish the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site. The former boyhood home of Zachary Taylor—approximately 1/2 acre of land and the house—achieved National Historic Landmark status in 1961. The proposal includes its acquisition, restoration, and maintenance by the Federal Government in order to preserve for the American people at least one significant site pertinent to the life of the 12th President of the United States.

A. Restoration

Once the site is authorized and established and the property is acquired, the National Park Service would initiate architectural studies to determine the structural stability of the home and prepare a Historic Structures Report recording architectural and historical details. Then, Federal funds would finance a restoration of the home to its appearance during Taylor's residence, making it a house museum. Several outbuildings would be reconstructed.

B. Interpretation and Maintenance

It is proposed that the historic site be operated by a local historical organization supported by some Federal funding for maintenance purposes. Cooperation with local organizations would be extremely important in the matter of providing visitor access to the site. With little parking at the home, and no parking on the street, the full potential of the home can only be realized if some tour system is developed, depending on a transit shuttle service and central parking at Locust Grove. Such a shuttle system would limit visitation to the Zachary Taylor Home.

C. Interrelationship with Other Projects

1. Historic Homes Foundation, Inc.

The Zachary Taylor Home (Springfield) is similar in style and period—construction to two other area historical homes, those of the Croghan family (Locust Grove) and the Speed family (Farmington). The Taylors and the Croghans were relatively close neighbors. Locust Grove more closely resembles Springfield and it is located only 2 miles from the Taylor home. One of the Taylor outbuildings is exhibited there.

Both Locust Grove and Farmington are under the direction of Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., a
MAP SHOWING RELATIONSHIP OF THREE HISTORIC HOMES

NO SCALE
private, Louisville organization. Locust Grove would be particularly adaptable to joint interpretation with the historic site, and shared parking and shuttle facilities are a possibility.

2. **Zachary Taylor National Cemetery**

Taylor is buried in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, which is located less than a mile from Springfield. The cemetery is operated by the Department of the Army.
II. Description of the Environment

A. Existing Development

1. Access

The Zachary Taylor Home lies in an exclusive residential (Springfield subdivision) section of Louisville, Kentucky. To the northwest lies Locust Grove and the Ohio River; to the west and south lies metropolitan Louisville; and to the east lies farmland and the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.

Louisville lies in a strategic regional position. Visitors to Louisville arrive via a number of major highways: Interstate 65 and U.S. Highway 31E from the north, U.S. Highway 460 from the west, and Interstate 64 from the east. Louisville is 53 miles from Frankfort, Kentucky; 90 miles north of Mammoth Cave; 111 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio; and five miles from New Albany, Indiana. It is a 1- to 2-day drive from the large metropolitan areas of St. Louis, Chicago, and Atlanta.

Four-lane U.S. 42 (Brownsboro Road) is the main access route to the Zachary Taylor Home vicinity. Two narrow, residential streets, Spruce Street and Apache Road, lead to the home. No parking is allowed on these streets.

2. Home and grounds

The original Taylor family tract of 400 acres was increased in time to a 700-acre productive, flourishing farm. In approximately 1960, the farm was subdivided.

The grounds are landscaped with various native trees, shrubs, and grasses. The home itself is a two-story brick structure with eight rooms and a full basement. Its motif, Georgian architecture, is copied throughout the contemporary neighborhood. Floors, woodwork, ceilings, some original windowpanes, and doors are all in excellent condition.

Although visitation is expected to be quite minimal (approximately 5,000 to 6,000 per year), limiting factors would be the present sewage disposal system (consisting of a septic tank unit) and the residential setting.
B. History

The Zachary Taylor Home's historical significance is its major resource and includes its period architecture and regional setting as well as the fact that it was the home of a President.

The Ohio Falls area of Kentucky historically contained vast forests and plentiful game and was an important hunting ground for the various Indian tribes frequenting the region. The first Europeans to enter the area were the Spanish in the late 1600's, followed by the French and the English. The first major establishment was founded by General George Rogers Clark in 1778 and consisted of an 18-cabin base and fort on Corn Island in the Ohio River. In 1779, Clark's command moved to the mainland, establishing a new base and fort which later became the town of Louisville. The town, named after King Louis XVI of France for help received during the revolution, was then a part of Jefferson County, Virginia.

Louisville's location on the Ohio River (a main artery of civilization moving West from the eastern seaboard States) made it an important river port and frontier town. People of various nationalities converged on Louisville, bringing their cultural and wealthy influences.

The Louisville area has gone through several periods of growth. The first was the result of river transportation of goods and the necessity of transferring cargo from one boat to another over the falls. The second was largely due to agriculture. Next, the tobacco industry added to growth, and, finally, the distilling industry. During the Civil War, Louisville, where loyalties were divided, was an important Union supply depot.

Springfield was built in the earliest civilized period of Louisville's development. The present brick structure was constructed in approximately 1790, on the 400-acre Taylor farm on Beargrass Creek. It was then just east of the tiny village of Louisville. Zachary Taylor lived at this residence from the age of approximately one year until he was in his twenties. He then left the farm for the army.
He was married at Springfield, and five of his six children were born in the home. After his death in 1850, Taylor's remains were returned to the Springfield area where he is now buried.

C. Physical Environment

1. Topography and geology

Jefferson County, except for the Knob Hills to the southwest, lies in the outer Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Land rises from 382 feet along the Ohio River to elevations of 900 feet; slope ranges normally from 3 to 20 percent but may be as much as 30 to 50 percent.

The Crider-Corydon soil association is the predominant soil type in the Springfield area. About 75 percent is developed in residuum derived from underlying, nearly horizontal beds of limestone, sandstone, and shale of the Louisville, Jeffersonville, and Sellersberg types. The remaining 25 percent developed in local alluvium and loess (wind blown material). Most soils are gently sloping to rolling and fairly well drained, but some of the nearly level soils have a fragipan that impedes drainage. Streams in the area form a north-south drainage pattern.

2. Climate

Considerable variability in temperature range, rainfall, wind, and humidity characterizes the climate in Jefferson County. Temperatures of 90 degrees F. or higher occur on an average of 49 days a year and temperatures fall below freezing on an average of 92 nights during the winter months. The average annual rainfall is 41.32 inches. Thunderstorms occur on an average of 46 days a year. They are more frequent from March through November. Less intense rainfall that lasts for several days sometimes occurs late in Spring and delays early tillage.

Although the average yearly snowfall is 15.7 inches, the ground is seldom covered with snow for more than a few days.

Average relative humidity for early morning is 87 percent and for early afternoon is 64 percent.
Winds, prevailing from the south, average 8.5 miles per hour. Calm periods seldom persist for as long as 24 hours. Peak gusts, ranging from 50 to 65 miles per hour, generally occur at the beginning of heavy thunderstorms.

During an average year, there are 100 clear days, 101 cloudy days, and 164 partly cloudy days.

3. Vegetation

Vegetation of the Louisville area is representative of Kentucky's flora. Historically, deciduous forests covered nearly the whole of the State, with clearings here and there for native shrubbery and grasses. Today, much of the original vast forestlands are gone, but remnants of those great areas are still to be found intermingled with farmlands and large metropolitan areas such as Louisville. Trees and shrubs common to the present grounds of the Taylor home are cypress, cherry, oak, maple, beech, magnolia, box elder, and yew. Several varieties of algae, moss, grasses, and ivy are also present.

4. Fauna

Cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, mourning dove, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, skunk, mink, muskrat, red fox, gray fox, and numerous insects are still abundant in Jefferson County. Exterpated species of this area include buffalo, elk, and wolf; the passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeet are extinct.

D. Socioeconomic Environment

The Louisville area's strategic regional position on the Ohio River and topographic and soil characteristics make it a significant center of industrial and agricultural activity. Transportation of product goods and people is carried out by six trunkline railroads, two terminal railroads, 85 intercity trucklines, five river bargelines, five buslines, and seven airlines. The city is a convention center, with 202,000 people attending 430 conventions in 1971.

In the 1970 census, there were 321,180 persons employed in the Louisville standard metropolitan statistical area; jobs were distributed as follows:
Despite the large number of jobs within Louisville, the metropolitan population has decreased within the past few years; but population within Jefferson County has shown a marked increase. This could indicate a population shift from urban to suburban areas.

Seventy-six percent of the Louisville population is white. Per capita income is $3,598, with a household median income of $8,763. In the immediate vicinity of the Taylor home, median household income jumps to $32,000 plus.

In Louisville, there are 40 parochial schools and 65 public schools (schools are elementary through secondary). Higher education facilities include 13 colleges, universities, and seminaries.

E. Visitation

Visitation to the proposed historic site is projected to be 5,000 to 6,000 persons annually. Locust Grove, which is larger than Springfield and includes adjacent parking facilities, has an estimated annual visitation of 10,000 to 12,000 persons. If access to the Zachary Taylor Home is via a shuttle system from Locust Grove, visitation patterns and visitor types would be similar. Locust Grove is open six days a week, excluding Mondays, and receives the heaviest visitation on weekends. Most visitors are from the immediate vicinity and many come as school groups. The peak visitor season is summer through fall. Visitors are expected to spend approximately 45 minutes at Springfield.

F. Archeological, Paleontological, and Historical Resources

Springfield is a National Historic Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Advisory
Council on Historic Preservation and the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted regarding the effects of this proposal in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

In addition to Springfield, two buildings in the immediate Louisville vicinity are National Historic Landmarks. They are the Southern National Bank (Old Bank of Louisville) and the Louisville Water Company pumping stations. Several other buildings or sites, including Locust Grove, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the Zachary Taylor Home outbuildings is located at Locust Grove.

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is located at Hodgenville, Kentucky, 46 miles from Louisville. Ohio Coral Reef is a National Natural Landmark located on the Ohio River between Louisville and Jeffersonville, Indiana.

There are no known sites of archeological or paleontological significance in the immediate vicinity of the historic site.
III. **Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action**

A. **Preservation and Interpretation of the Resource**

Establishment of the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site would fulfill one segment of a National Park Service plan to preserve at least one site important in the life of each former U.S. President. It would assure the preservation of a home that is also an excellent example of Georgian architecture. Full restoration and maintenance of the home and grounds would preclude possible destruction and increase historic credibility, in order to interpret for contemporary and future citizens a historic period and significant personality from their cultural heritage.

B. **Disruption of Neighborhood Continuity**

The proposed historic site lies in a residential neighborhood where public visitation with its attendant noise, traffic congestion, and litter would disrupt the established quiet, clean, and private atmosphere.

C. **Displacement**

Social and psychological costs of displacement would be suffered by the present occupant of the home.

D. **Deterioration of Home and Grounds**

Visitation would increase littering, trampling of vegetation, wearing of surfaces (floors, windows, walls, doors, etc.), and the possibility of vandalism. Accelerated maintenance schedules and replacement with contemporary materials could decrease the historic credibility of the home.

E. **Limited Visitation**

Limitations on visitation, to protect the historic resource and the integrity of the neighborhood, would preclude enjoyment of the site by the casual passer-by.

F. **Loss of Revenue to Jefferson County**

Jefferson County would lose approximately $467.10 from its tax base (based on a 1.038 mils tax rate) because of the Federal acquisition of the home.
IV. Mitigating Measures

A. Research

Historic structures and furnishings reports would precede restoration and visitor capacity determinations. Archeological studies would be made prior to any construction that might disturb presently unknown archeological sites.

B. Limited Visitation

Limitations on visitation would minimize the adverse human impact upon the home and the immediate neighborhood.

C. Adequate Staffing

Sufficient paid and volunteer personnel would be employed to minimize littering and vandalism. Visitors would not be allowed to tour the site without a guide.

D. Relocation Assistance

The present occupant of the home would receive relocation assistance in accordance with the "Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970" (P.L. 91-646).
V. Any Adverse Effects that Cannot Be Avoided Should the Proposal Be Implemented

Limitations on visitation would only partially mitigate disruption to the neighborhood continuity and the increased adverse human impact upon the home and grounds.
VI. The Relationship between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The local short-term neighborhood environment would be disturbed in order to preserve and interpret for contemporary and future citizens an element of American history.
VII. Any Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources that Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented

The proposal calls only for the restoration and preservation of the historic resource.
VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

A. No Action

If the proposal is not implemented, the Zachary Taylor Home would probably be sold to another private party and remain a private residence; there would be little or no disruption to the neighborhood environment. However, preservation of the historic credibility of the home would not be assured. Possible alteration or destruction could preclude the future interpretive value of this site—the only known remaining structure pertinent to Zachary Taylor's life.

B. Acquisition, Administration, Operation, and Maintenance by a Private Organization with Assistance of Federal Government

Acquisition of the home and ground would be the responsibility of a single or combined group of private organizations such as the Historic Homes Foundation, Incorporated; the Kentucky Heritage Commission; or the Kentucky Historical Society. The Federal Government would provide restoration assistance and subsidize the operation. Springfield would be only partially restored and interpreted jointly with Locust Grove and Farmington. The most probable means of access would be via station wagon tours from Locust Grove or Farmington.

The following impacts would result:

1. The home of a President and an excellent example of Georgian architecture would be protected, however, the preservation and restoration of the home would not be assured under non-Federal ownership.

2. Ownership and interpretation of the site by a private local organization would encourage community involvement and a spirit of cooperation with the Federal Government in preserving a resource of national significance.

3. Joint interpretation of Springfield and other local historic sites via shuttle access would help to relate the home's significance to the regional historic setting.
4. Use of the facility would be limited to those persons using the guided tour facilities.

C. Acquisition by the Federal Government with Rental to Private Party and Use as a Residence

The home would be acquired and adaptively restored by the Federal Government. It would then be leased or rented to a private party who would be responsible for protecting and maintaining the residence in satisfactory and historic condition.

The following impacts would result:

1. The home of a President and an excellent example of Georgian architecture would be preserved and protected.

2. Maintaining the home as a private residence would preclude adverse human impacts of visitation upon both the home and the neighborhood.

3. The Federal Government would be preserving a historic resource without providing for its interpretation and enjoyment by the public. The benefit of a cooperative effort between the Federal Government and private organizations in order to interpret a national historical resource would not be realized.

D. Federal Acquisition with Adaptive Restoration, Operation, and Maintenance by One or Several Historic Organizations; No Public Use

The following impacts would result:

1. The Federal Government and private organizations would cooperate in the preservation and partial restoration of a President's home and an excellent example of Georgian architecture.

2. Lack of public use would prevent adverse human impacts of visitation upon both the home and the neighborhood.

3. The Federal Government would acquire a historic resource with no provision for its interpretation and enjoyment by the public.
E. Federal Acquisition, Administration, Interpretation, and Maintenance

The home and grounds would be fully restored. Additional land acquisition would provide parking facilities for visitors to the site.

The following impacts would result:

1. A President's home and an excellent example of Georgian architecture would be preserved and protected.

2. Adequate funding for operation and maintenance would be assured.

3. Complete restoration would increase the interpretive value of the site as an illustration of the lifestyle of a President and of an era of American history.

4. On-site parking would facilitate visitor access to the site and encourage increased visitation.

5. Increased levels of visitation would increase the disruption to the neighborhood and adverse human impact upon the house and grounds.

6. Cooperation of the Federal Government with private, local organizations would not be realized, with the possible reduction of local enthusiasm for the project.
IX. Consultation and Coordination in the Development of the Proposal

A. Evolution of the Proposal

In 1961, the Zachary Taylor Home was designated as a National Historical Landmark. Senate Bill 2814 and House Bill 11233 (appendix) were introduced into the 92nd Congress to authorize the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of the home as a national historic site. A preliminary new area/feasibility study was prepared by the National Park Service in October, 1972. A team from the Denver Service Center, consisting of a landscape architect, a restoration architect, and an environmental impact specialist, and two specialists from the Southeast Regional Office, met in Louisville, Kentucky, to research the site and to consult the following individuals:

- Charles Parrish  
  Assistant Director of Kentucky Heritage Commission

- Samuel Thomas  
  Director, Archives and Records, Jefferson County, Kentucky

- Frank Rankin  
  President, Kentucky Historic Homes Foundation, Incorporated

B. Comments Have Been Requested from the Following:

Federal agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Environmental Protection Agency
United States Department of Commerce
United States Department of Defense
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
United States Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
United States Department of Transportation
LITERATURE CITED

HAMILTON, HOMAN

NEWCOMB, REXFORD
1940 Old Kentucky architecture. New York.

THOMAS, ELIZABETH P.
1939 Old Kentucky homes and gardens. Louisville.

SARLES, FRANK B., JR.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
APPENDIX

Legislation
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 13, 1971

Mr. Snyder introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 That, in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of
4 present and future generations the home of President Zach-
5 ary Taylor in Jefferson County, Kentucky, the Secretary
6 of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase
7 with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange such home
8 and so much of the surrounding property as he determines
9 necessary and appropriate for the establishment and admin-
10 istration of a national historic site.
SEC. 2. The property acquired pursuant to the first section of this Act shall be known as the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site, and it shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4), and the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes”, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–467).

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, except that not more than $100,000 of appropriated sums shall be expended in connection with the acquisition of the home and surrounding property referred to in the first section.
Mr. Natcher introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2. That, in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the home of President Zachary Taylor in Jefferson County, Kentucky, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange such home and so much of the surrounding property as he determines necessary and appropriate for the establishment and administration of a national historic site.
Sec. 2. The property acquired pursuant to the first section of this Act shall be known as the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site, and it shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4), and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–467).

Sec. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, except that not more than $100,000 of appropriated sums shall be expended in connection with the acquisition of the home and surrounding property referred to in the first section.
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 5, 1971

Mr. Cook introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 That, in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the home of President Zachary Taylor in Jefferson County, Kentucky, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange such home and so much of the surrounding property as he determines necessary and appropriate for the establishment and administration of a national historic site.
SEC. 2. The property acquired pursuant to the first section of this Act shall be known as the Zachary Taylor Home National Historic Site, and it shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4) and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467).

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, except that not more than $100,000 of appropriated sums shall be expended in connection with the acquisition of the home and surrounding property referred to in the first section.