

Booker T. Washington
N A T I O N A L M O N U M E N T

Abbreviated
Final
**General Management Plan
Environmental Impact Statement**

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JANUARY 2000

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 historical 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 citizenship participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for the people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.



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Abstract

ABBREVIATED FINAL GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT, HARDY, VIRGINIA

This *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* describes and analyzes the preferred alternative (called “the proposed plan”) for the management and use of Booker T. Washington National Monument.

This plan was developed following a sixty-day public review of the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* dated June 1999, and is designed to be used in conjunction with that document. The two plans are complementary and the reader must consider the information in both documents to get a complete understanding of the planning issues, park resource conditions, visitor use considerations and other background information that helped define the range of management alternatives and the associated environmental impacts. The two documents together constitute the *Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*.

The abbreviated format has been used because the changes to the draft document are minor and do not modify the analysis. Use of this format is in compliance with the 1978 implementing regulations (40 CFR 1503.4[c]) for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

This *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* includes the following sections:

- The Proposed Plan
- Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Plan

- Corrections to the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*
- Comments and Responses Concerning the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*

This plan will be finalized by a record of decision, to be signed by the Regional Director, Northeast Region, 30 days after this document is issued. If you have any questions, please contact:

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This document and the draft plan can also be found on the park’s web site at <http://www.nps.gov/bowa>. E-mail messages can be sent to bowa_superintendent@nps.gov.

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Summary

The National Park Service has developed this *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* to guide management of Booker T. Washington National Monument over the next 20 years. This document builds on the June 1999 *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* and includes the results of the public review and comment period. The two documents are to be used together to understand the full range of issues, management alternatives and the associated environmental impacts that were considered during the planning process.

This plan establishes goals for every aspect of the park, including the use of facilities and land for resource protection, interpretation, visitor experience, visitor services, and park operations and maintenance. It also considers how, like all national parks, Booker T. Washington National Monument, can do more with less in achieving its mission of preservation and interpretation. The park can help achieve its mission through mutually beneficial partnerships with government, business, and non-profit organizations and with individuals interested supporting the park. The proposed plan offers the most feasible means to meet the mission of the park.

This summary provides an introduction to important information contained in both the draft and final plans. Included is:

- Information highlighting what is contained in the draft plan, including a summary of the four management alternatives and their potential impacts
- An overview of the proposed plan – the National Park Service’s preferred alternative
- Updated information on the Section 106 compliance process
- Updated information on the public involvement process

DRAFT PLAN INFORMATION

The draft plan described four management alternatives, including a no-action alternative and a preferred alternative (proposed plan). The potential impacts associated with each alternative were identified and compared. The draft plan also included other information that has not been reprinted in this document but is incorporated by reference:

- A description of the resource and facilities of the park
- A description of the park’s mission and mission goals
- A description of the park’s interpretive themes
- A description of the planning issues affecting development of the General Management Plan
- A description of related planning efforts and research projects within and outside the park
- A description of current and potential future partnerships that would enhance park management and implementation efforts
- A description of the environment surrounding the park that would be affected by actions taken as a result of plan implementation
- A number of appendices including park legislation, preliminary implementation cost estimates, a bibliography, an index, a list of preparers of the documents, and contributors during the planing process

Following the June 1999 publication of the draft plan with its preferred alternative (proposed plan), two public meetings and a public review and comment period were held by the National Park Service. The National Park Service considered all of the

comments and suggestions received in writing and at the public meetings. This public dialogue provided an increased understanding of the issues and challenges to be addressed in developing and implementing the final plan.

SUMMARY OF THE ALTERNATIVE PLANS

To help better understand the relationship between the draft and final plans below is a summary of the four alternative plans for management of Booker T. Washington National Monument found in the draft plan. Among these alternatives are a “no action” alternative (Alternative A) that would continue current management practices and the preferred alternative – the proposed plan (Alternative C).

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative A, the no action alternative, maintains the current management approach at BOWA. Resource protection and visitor use opportunities would continue on their present course, with no new changes planned that would substantially enhance resource management or visitor programs and facilities. Cultural and natural resources would be maintained in their present condition. The present use of the cabin area for primary on-site interpretation; the visitor center for visitor orientation and information; and the former school building for administrative and maintenance purposes would continue.

ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D) provide differing approaches for strengthening resource protection and providing greater visitor opportunities at the park. Each of these alternatives begins with the premise that the newly-defined park purpose and significance of BOWA warrants consideration of a strengthened mission for the NPS to pursue, one that places the achievements of Booker T. Washington within the proper context of American

history, as compared to the purpose described in the park’s 1956 enabling legislation and in the 1980 General Management Plan.

Alternative B

This alternative envisions the park as a national pilgrimage destination dedicated to commemorating the impact that Booker T. Washington had on American education and race relations. Park cultural and natural resources would be managed to maintain existing conditions and provide a contemplative setting appropriate for a commemorative park. The park boundary would remain unchanged.

Implementation would include creating an interpretive Life Walk representing Washington’s achievements; rehabilitating and restoring the former segregated Booker T. Washington Elementary School as a full-scale visitor center; and creating an interactive library at the present visitor center. Cooperative efforts to maintain the park’s viewshed, particularly along the western side of the park near the former school would be increased. New administrative and maintenance facilities would be constructed. Circulation patterns within the park would be reoriented to bring visitors first to the former school, where they would begin their visit. Staffing levels would be increased to meet additional maintenance and programming requirements. Partnerships would focus on establishment of the Life Walk and maintaining the rural setting of the park and surrounding area.

Alternative C: Proposed Plan

This is the proposed plan. It envisions the park as a progressive educational center, offering a broad range of educational and interpretive programs and that uses the site’s cultural and natural resources to encourage awareness of Washington’s life and work, as well as the broader issues of American race relations. A fifteen-acre boundary adjustment would be made at the northeast

border of the park to include the remaining land from the Burroughs Plantation not currently within the park boundary. The present visitor center would be enlarged to allow for expanded exhibits and programming space. Washington's childhood and the later evolution of the site would be examined using a new system of waysides located along an expanded system of trails.

Implementation would be supported by ongoing archeological, ethnographic, and cultural landscape research to better protect the site and enrich the park's interpretive program. There would be increased school and community outreach opportunities, and additional efforts to help maintain and protect the rural, agricultural character of the land surrounding the park. The former school would continue to be used as park administrative space; however a portion of the historic building would be rehabilitated and restored for interpretive and educational purposes, and for use during special events and programs. To create such a space, the maintenance shop and yard would be relocated. Staffing levels would be increased to support expanded research and educational opportunities.

Establishing stronger interpretive and educational connections with other organizations and protecting the rural setting of the park and the surrounding would be the focus of partnership development opportunities.

Alternative D

This alternative is a variation of Alternative C. It also focuses on use of the site's resources to expand understanding of Washington's place in history. The key distinction would involve the rehabilitation and restoration of the former segregated school building and establishing it as the new visitor center. Rehabilitation and restoration of the former school would improve resource protection of the building and fully integrate this significant park resource into the interpretive program. The approach to resource management would otherwise be the same as described in Alternative C. Recommendations regarding boundary are the same as in Alternative

C, although there would be increased attention to land development along the western boundary of the park, near the school building.

Pursuing Alternative D would trigger some key changes including new construction of a building (or relocating and reusing the current visitor center) near the school for park administrative functions and a new maintenance shop and yard in a site where it would not detract from visitor enjoyment. The new use of the school building would result in changes in circulation and visitor use patterns that have existed at the park for more than 30 years. Circulation patterns would be reoriented so that visitors began their tour of the park at the former school. Upon implementation of all other actions associated with this alternative, the present visitor center complex would be removed and the area restored consistent with the park's setting. Staffing levels would be increased to meet expanded research, interpretive, and programming requirements. Partnership opportunities would be pursued the same as in Alternative C.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

To increase understanding of the consequences of each of the management alternatives below is information summarizing the environmental impacts of the four alternatives.

Major impacts associated with Alternative A

- facility overcrowding during group visits and peak periods of visitation;
- threats to cultural and natural resources and the park setting due to development pressure on adjacent lands; and
- operational problems such as inadequate program space and limited staffing.

Major impacts associated with the action alternatives

The action alternatives propose a range of undertakings to address park goals. All action alternatives recommend:

- enhanced management of the park resources;
- increased measures to ensure an adequate park boundary and/or maintain an appropriate park setting;
- additional commitment to help realize the full interpretive potential of the park; and
- improved and expanded facilities to provide additional and better quality visitor opportunities.

Cultural Resource Management

Each of the action alternatives proposes to undertake a range of actions to increase the protection of significant park resources. As one example, the rehabilitation of the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School would have a major positive impact on cultural resources.

All three of the action alternatives recommend rehabilitation of all or part of the former school for interpretive purposes. Before undertaking such an activity, a Historic Resource Study or Historic Structure Report would be initiated. The report findings would be used to guide the rehabilitation of the school. Restoration of select elements that would help support the interpretive program is also recommended. Alternatives B and D propose rehabilitation of the entire building. Alternative C recommends rehabilitation of a portion of the building. Rehabilitation activities would constitute a positive impact on the school, and provide official recognition of its historic significance and interpretive potential.

Construction activity related to facility development has the potential to impact archeological resources. Prior to commencing this type of activity, BOWA would consult with the Virginia SHPO and develop

an appropriate mitigation strategy. The results of BOWA's recently completed *Archeological Overview and Assessment* will inform the site selection process.

Natural Resource Management

Construction related ground disturbing activities and selective clearing of vegetation relating to expansion of the trail system could result in the relocation of certain wildlife species to other locations inside or outside the park. No threatened or endangered species have been identified to date within the park. Before initiating any ground-disturbing activity, the park would consult with appropriate state wildlife agencies to determine whether the proposed activities would represent an adverse affect on natural resources and to determine an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Boundary and Park Setting

Expansion of the current park boundary to enable the acquisition of the 15-acre parcel of land that contains the remaining 7 acres of the Burroughs Plantation is proposed in Alternatives C and D. By preserving a resource that is directly related to the park's significance and securing a measure of viewshed protection for the northeast quadrant of the park, acquisition would be a major positive impact. If NPS does not acquire the property, as recommended by Alternatives A and B, it is likely to be sold and developed privately. Development of that land for a use that is not sympathetic to the purpose of the park would constitute a major negative impact. NPS would continue to work with interested parties to protect the rural character of the area surrounding the park, but it would be difficult to stem the tide of encroaching development coming from the east. Despite proposed cooperative efforts, changes in traditional land use patterns may still have a major negative impact on the setting of the park.

Carrying Capacity

Current visitation levels have not resulted in adverse impacts on the park's cultural or natural resources. Given its acreage and the proposed expansion of the trail system, it is anticipated that the park would be able to accommodate even a doubling of its visitation without negatively affecting resource conditions. Carrying capacity, however, is an issue with respect to facilities. The visitor center and parking lot are regularly overtaxed during group visits, special events, and peak periods of visitation. Current facilities would be unable to accommodate even minor increases in visitation. Consequently, the expansion of visitor facilities proposed in Alternatives B, C, and D would have a major positive impact on facility-related carrying capacity.

Interpretive Program

Each of the action alternatives proposes to significantly expand the scope of site interpretation, reflecting the intent of the new *Comprehensive Interpretive Plan* for the park. Provisions for additional exhibit space, flexible program areas, and related research are recommended. The allocation of financial and human resources to implement an expanded interpretive program would have a major positive impact on the visitor experience and interpretation.

Construction and Facilities

In order to expand site interpretation, additional space would be required to accommodate exhibits, other interpretive media, and educational program space. Impacts that have the greatest potential to adversely affect park resources are construction activities related to proposed facility improvements. The amount of proposed construction varies by alternative. Alternative C is the least construction-intensive, followed by Alternative B, and Alternative D, which is the most construction-intensive.

Short-term impacts related to construction activities, such as fugitive dust, exhaust, soil erosion, and noise, would be mitigated using

methods determined by the appropriate consulting agency and the NPS.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

The proposed plan for the final GMP is a revised version of Alternative C, which was presented as the preferred alternative in the Draft GMP/EIS released in June 1999. Slight modifications to Alternative C were made in response to comments submitted during the public review period to create the proposed plan presented here.

The proposed plan envisions the park working collaboratively with partner institutions—local, regional, and national—to enhance protection of the park's cultural and natural resources and to create opportunities for outstanding and memorable visitor experiences that promote reflection, learning, and enjoyment related to the life and achievements of Booker T. Washington. Priorities for the proposed plan include the investigation and careful stewardship of the park's cultural, ethnographic, and natural resources; the expansion of the site's educational and interpretive offerings; and the preservation of the park's rural setting.

The goal of the proposed plan is to create a dynamic site that offers a changing menu of compelling educational programs—homage to Washington who was one of the most notable educators of his era. Resources would be managed in a way that enables the site's resources to visually tell a compelling story. The park would not attempt to restore the entire site to one particular historic era, but rather would use available above- and below-ground resources to show the evolution of the site through archeological investigation and interpretive signage. Existing historic and reconstructed structures, including buildings and fences, would remain in situ and be preserved through regular maintenance. Some reconstruction of cultural landscape features may be undertaken if sufficient documentation is found.

Utilizing ongoing research and investigation of the site's resources, the park will be able to develop a rich repertoire of programs that will draw visitors of many ages time and again. The idea is to continue in the pursuit of new knowledge that may offer different perspectives or explore different facets of Washington, his childhood, and this site where he was born.

An expanded visitor center will provide a venue where this information can be presented through exhibits and other special programs. Another key element of the proposed plan is the transformation of the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School, which is currently used for offices, into a secondary venue for educational programs. The history of this building, which was constructed as a segregated school for black children in Franklin County, provides a crucial link between the distant and more recent past.

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

The National Park Service is mandated to preserve and protect its cultural resources through the NPS Organic Act of August 25, 1916, and through specific legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Cultural Resources would be managed in accordance with these acts and with Chapter 5 of the NPS Management Policies and NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guidelines.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. NPS would work with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the programmatic agreement among the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Advisory Council, and the NPS. This

agreement requires the NPS to work closely with the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council in planning for new and existing NPS areas.

The agreement also provides for a number of programmatic exclusions for specific actions that are not likely to have an adverse effect on cultural resources. The actions may be implemented without further review by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office or the Advisory Council provided that NPS internal review finds the actions to meet certain conditions. Undertakings, as defined in 36 CFR 800, not specifically excluded in the programmatic agreement must be reviewed by the state historic preservation office and the Advisory Council before implementation. Throughout the process there will be early consultation on all potential actions.

NPS will complete an Assessment of Effect on Cultural Resources before implementation of any of the proposed actions. This is necessary to document any project effects, outline actions proposed to mitigate any effects, and document that the proposed action flows from the GMP. All implementing actions for cultural resources would be reviewed and certified by cultural resource specialists consistent with the August 1990 programmatic agreement.

Prior to any ground-disturbing action by NPS, a professional archeologist would determine the need for archeological activity or testing evaluation. Any such studies would be carried out in conjunction with construction and would meet the needs of the state historic preservation office and the National Park Service. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the NPS to identify and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places all resources under its jurisdiction that appear to be eligible. Historic areas of the national park system are automatically listed on the National Register upon their establishment by law or executive order. A nomination for the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School will be

prepared prior to it becoming eligible for listing in 2004.

At key points in the planning process the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office has been consulted on this project. On October 5, 1998, the NPS consulted in writing with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer regarding development and implementation of the general management plan. The Draft General Management Plan

and Environmental Impact Statement was sent to Virginia State Historic Preservation Office on June 18, 1999 and their response, dated July 29, 1999, is reprinted in Section Four of this document. The following chart identifies actions contained within the proposed plan that would likely require further review under the National Historic Preservation Act.

TABLE S-1. CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE CHART

POTENTIAL ACTION	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT
Continuing of archeological site investigation	Section 106 compliance initiated as part of 1998 <i>Archeological Overview and Assessment</i>
Initiating cultural and natural resource research and planning projects	May require Section 106 SHPO/ACHP to determine effects; Review and comment consultation will occur for each project
Acquisition of additional parkland	Nationwide programmatic exclusion—Section 106 review within NPS
Rehabilitation/restoration of former school	Requires Section 110 compliance National Register eligibility; Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect on structure
Expansion of visitor center complex	Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect
Development of new administrative and maintenance facility	Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect
Establishing new park entrance road	Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect
Removal of existing visitor center complex and restoration of area	Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect
Installation of new wayside exhibits and signage	Nationwide programmatic exclusion—Section 106 review within NPS
Expansion of trail system	Section 106 SHPO/ACHP review to determine any effect
Initiating health and safety improvements to buildings and facilities	Nationwide programmatic exclusion—Section 106 review within NPS
Initiating utility improvements	Nationwide programmatic exclusion—Section 106 review within NPS

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The history of public involvement for this project up until the issuance of the draft plan is described in Chapter Five of the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*.

A public review and comment period began on June 25, 1999 and concluded on August 31, 1999. Written comments on the draft plan were accepted for consideration during this period. In addition, public meetings were held at the Center for Applied Technology, Rocky Mount, Virginia on July 19, 1999 and at the Trinity Ecumenical Church in Moneta, Virginia on July 20, 1999. Comments received during these meetings were considered in developing the final plan.

The public involvement process will conclude with the signing of the record of decision by the Regional Director, Northeast Region, 30 days after this document is issued.

CONCLUSION

This document, with the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, constitutes the general management plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. It meets the requirements set forth under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4 [c]) and Department of the Interior, National Park Service guidelines for the development of plans for units of the national park system. Alternatives for resource protection, visitor use, and management of the park in conjunction with the assessment of the impacts of these actions fulfill the requirements for an environmental impact statement. Requirements for public involvement in issue identification, data collection and alternative development have also been met.

The draft plan will not be reprinted. For the reader's convenience changes that would have been made to the draft plan have been reproduced in Section Three of this document. Copies of the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* can be obtained by visiting the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/bowa> or by an e-mail message addressed to: bowa_superintendent@nps.gov. Copies may also be requested by writing the park:

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

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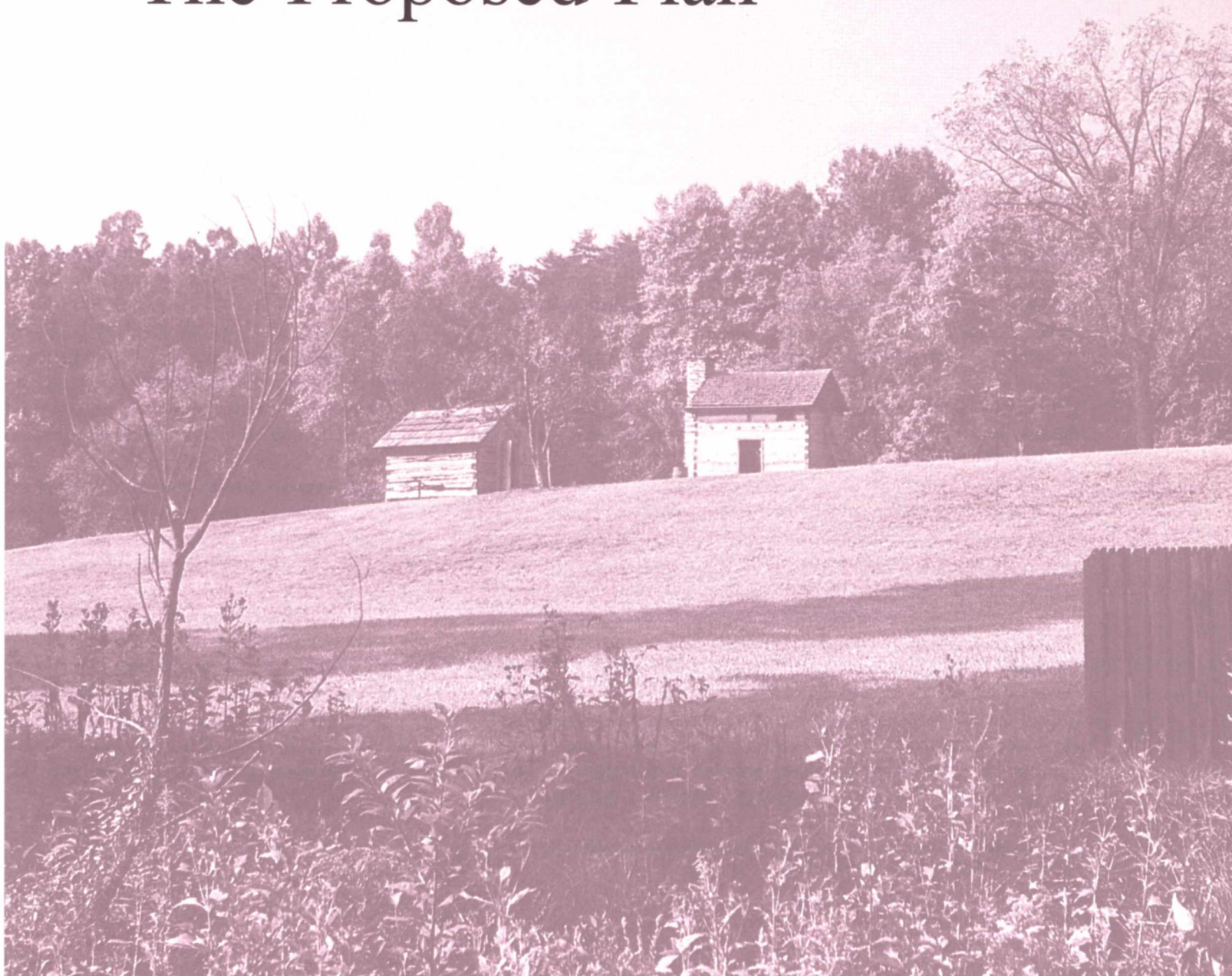
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SECTION ONE

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Proposed Plan



Section One: The Proposed Plan

VISION

The General Management Plan (GMP) for Booker T. Washington National Monument provides clear guidance for the management of the park over the next twenty years. The proposed plan for the final GMP is a revised version of Alternative C, which was presented as the preferred alternative in the Draft GMP/EIS released in June 1999. Slight modifications to Alternative C were made in response to comments submitted during the public review period to create the proposed plan presented here.

The proposed plan envisions the park working collaboratively with partner institutions—local, regional, and national—to enhance protection of the park’s cultural and natural resources and to create opportunities for outstanding and memorable visitor experiences that promote reflection, learning, and enjoyment related to the life and achievements of Booker T. Washington. Priorities for the proposed plan include the investigation and careful stewardship of the park’s cultural, ethnographic, and natural resources; the expansion of the site’s educational and interpretive offerings; and the preservation of the park’s rural setting.

The proposed plan builds upon and reinforces initiatives undertaken by park staff to broaden the scope of interpretive programming, enrich the visitor experience, and attract new audiences to the park. The public response to these efforts thus far has been extremely positive. Indeed, now that the staff has begun to implement and promote a range of curriculum-based educational programs, the park has experienced a 40 percent increase in the

number of school group reservations. Such increases are indicative of the park’s potential to significantly expand its visitor base. By offering topical programs that connect the history of the site with events that continue to affect people today, the park has a tremendous opportunity to meet and further build on its legislated purpose of “providing a public national memorial to Booker T. Washington.” Booker T. Washington National Monument has the potential not only to portray one man’s rise from slavery to worldwide prominence, but just as importantly to examine the impact that Washington’s philosophy has had on the shaping of the civil rights and race relations struggles of this century.

The park, with its rolling pastures, tobacco fields, and woodlands, also provides a direct link to the community’s agricultural past and preserves a piece of the region’s rural character in the midst of increasing modern development along the Route 122 corridor. Comments received throughout the planning process confirmed that the park is a valued part of Franklin County’s cultural heritage. The public recognizes the national significance of the stories that can be told there, and sees the park as an anchor for future heritage preservation and development in the region.

The goal of the proposed plan is to create a dynamic site that offers a changing menu of compelling educational programs—homage to Washington, who was one of the most notable educators of his era. Utilizing ongoing research and investigation of the site’s resources the park will be able to develop a rich repertoire of programs that will draw visitors of many ages time and again. The idea is to

continue in the pursuit of new knowledge that may offer different perspectives or explore different facets of Washington, his childhood, and this site where he was born.

An expanded visitor center will provide a venue where this information can be presented through exhibits and other special programs. Another key element of the proposed plan is the transformation of the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School, which is currently used for offices, into a secondary venue for educational programs. The history of this building, which was constructed as a segregated school for black children in Franklin County, provides a crucial link between the distant and more recent past.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

Booker T. Washington National Monument (BOWA) is located in Franklin County, Virginia within the fifth Virginia Congressional District. It comprises 223.92 acres located in the rolling hills of the Virginia Piedmont, 22 miles south of Roanoke (map 1). The park contains a visitor center, administrative offices located within a former school building, an 1890s tobacco barn, reconstructed plantation outbuildings, two marked archeological sites, three small cemeteries, and two walking trails that loop through the cabin area, meadows, and woodlands (map 2). Twentieth-century replicas include a slave cabin, smoke house, blacksmith shop, privy, hog pen, duck lot, and chicken house. All replicas are highly conjectural, and their designs derive from anecdotal evidence and general historic precedent. No replica of the main plantation house exists, but stones outline the unconfirmed general location and dimensions of the foundation. Based on recent archeological and ethnographic findings, it appears that the foundation's dimensions may be inaccurate and the site may not actually be that of the "big house" as formerly believed.

In 1856, Booker T. Washington was born into slavery on the site, which was then a small tobacco plantation owned by the Burroughs family. He lived there with his mother, sister and

brother until the end of the Civil War in 1865. It is speculated that Washington's father was a white man whose family owned the farm across from the Burroughs Plantation. After the Civil War and Emancipation, Washington's mother moved with her children to Malden, West Virginia to join her husband, who had gone there seeking work. As a child in Malden Booker T. Washington worked long days in a salt mine to help support his family and largely taught himself how to read and write. At the age of 16 Washington journeyed nearly 500 miles by himself with little money and no idea of what lay ahead to enroll in the Hampton Institute—an important step in his pursuit of an education.

Washington excelled at Hampton. After receiving his degree, he worked for several years as a teacher in West Virginia before returning to Hampton to teach. At only 25 years of age, he was recommended by the principal of Hampton to develop a new school in Alabama—The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (which later became Tuskegee University). The institute was established July 4, 1881. There, Washington built, both literally and figuratively, one of the premier educational institutions for African Americans in the United States.

Between 1895, when he delivered his famous speech at the Atlanta Exposition, and his death in 1915, he was arguably the single most influential American in the areas of race relations and black education. He served as an advisor to presidents, politicians, philanthropists, and business leaders. He was not, however, without critics. Some of his contemporaries felt that he made unforgivable compromises in accepting segregation while arguing for education and economic advancement for blacks, rather than advocating strongly for their political and social equality. Others felt that he worked within the constraints of his time to advocate for and achieve significant advances in the areas of education and economic empowerment for African Americans. As noted at the 1998 symposium *Washington and Du Bois: At the Turn of Two Centuries*, Washington was such a complex individual that he merits reevaluation with each new generation. Washington's philosophies and actions continue to spark lively, and sometimes

heated debate today, which opens up many potential doors to interpretation of the site.

In 1940, Sidney Phillips, one of Washington's former students at Tuskegee, purchased the property comprising Washington's birthplace. Phillips developed the site as a memorial where he carried out a wide range of educational and promotional activities. In 1952, the trustees of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace donated six acres of land along the western boundary of what is now the park for the construction of one of Franklin County's last segregated schools for black children. The school opened in 1954 and operated through 1966. The school, operating 100 years after Washington was freed from slavery, offers both physical and emotional links between Booker T. Washington and the continuing struggles of race and equality in America.

In 1956, Congress recognized the remainder of the site as the Booker T. Washington National Monument, and the NPS took responsibility for its administration. The site has been operated as a national monument since that date.

PARK MISSION AND MISSION GOALS

The proposed plan has been developed in order to achieve Booker T. Washington National Monument's mission and its associated mission goals. The mission statement integrates the statements of purpose and significance for the park, describing the guiding reason why the park exists and what unique contribution it makes to understanding an important part of our nation's history. The four mission goals are derived from the mission, and broadly identify the desired conditions in the areas of resource management, site interpretation and visitor experience, facilities and park operations, and partnership development, that park management will seek to attain.

The information presented in Table 1-1. *Summary of Management Goals and Actions for the Proposed Plan*, and in the text that

follows the table are organized according to the park's mission goals.

Park Mission

Booker T. Washington National Monument preserves and protects the birth site and childhood home of Booker T. Washington while interpreting his life experiences and significance in American history as the most influential African American between 1895 and 1915. The park provides a resource for public education and a focal point for continuing discussions about the legacy of Booker T. Washington and the evolving context of race in American society.

Mission Goals for the Park

Land and Resources: Significant cultural and natural resources, including cultural landscapes, are protected and maintained in good condition, and are rehabilitated or restored as appropriate.

Interpretation and Visitor Experience: The public understands the life, legacy and significance of Booker T. Washington. Sites and resources within the park are entry points for discussion of various themes related to Dr. Washington.

Facilities, Visitor Use, and Park Operations: Park facilities and services assure a safe, accessible, and sustainable environment in which visitors explore and enjoy the interpretive and educational opportunities available.

Partnerships: Individuals and organizations understand the park's mission and work in partnership with the park to protect its resources, enhance visitor opportunities and maintain the area's scenic and rural character.

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

This alternative envisions Booker T. Washington National Monument as an engaging educational center where Washington's life and work and the complexity of American civil rights and race relations from the antebellum period to the present could be examined. This concept expands the mission of the site beyond its original legislative purpose as a memorial to Washington, noted "educator and apostle of good will." Rather, it seeks to educate visitors about the complexities of Washington's life, the times in which he lived, and the circles within which he moved.

This approach would use Washington's life and the resources available in the park as launching points for ongoing discussion and dialogue. The goal would be to create a dynamic, challenging environment in which visitors contribute their views on the issues presented through on-site interpretation, supplemented by special programs and interactive exhibits.

In this alternative, resources would be managed in a way that enables the site's resources to visually tell a compelling story. The park would not attempt to restore the entire site to one particular historic era, but rather would use available above- and below-ground resources to show the evolution of the site through archeological investigation and interpretive signage. Existing historic and reconstructed structures, including buildings and fences, would remain in situ and be preserved through regular maintenance. Some reconstruction of cultural landscape features may be undertaken if sufficient documentation is found.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

The proposed plan would comprise one cultural landscape management zone with a facility development overlay zone for proposed and existing facilities. The development overlay delineates where facility and infrastructure improvements may occur. The proposed plan is based on the premise that the park's cultural landscape is a valuable educational resource to be researched and documented in its entirety. The information uncovered through this research would be used to interpret the stories of Booker T. Washington, his legacy, and the evolving context of race in American society. The entire site is a complex system of interrelated resources that contribute to the interpretive continuum. This continuum encompasses not only Washington's birth, but also the site's memorial period, the segregation era, and the period of NPS management. Due to the site's complex interrelationships, actions taking place in one portion of the park would affect all other resources.

Map 3 presents, in a conceptual way, some of the important changes planned at the site in order to carry out the vision described in this plan. As implementation takes place more detailed site information will be prepared and shared with the public.

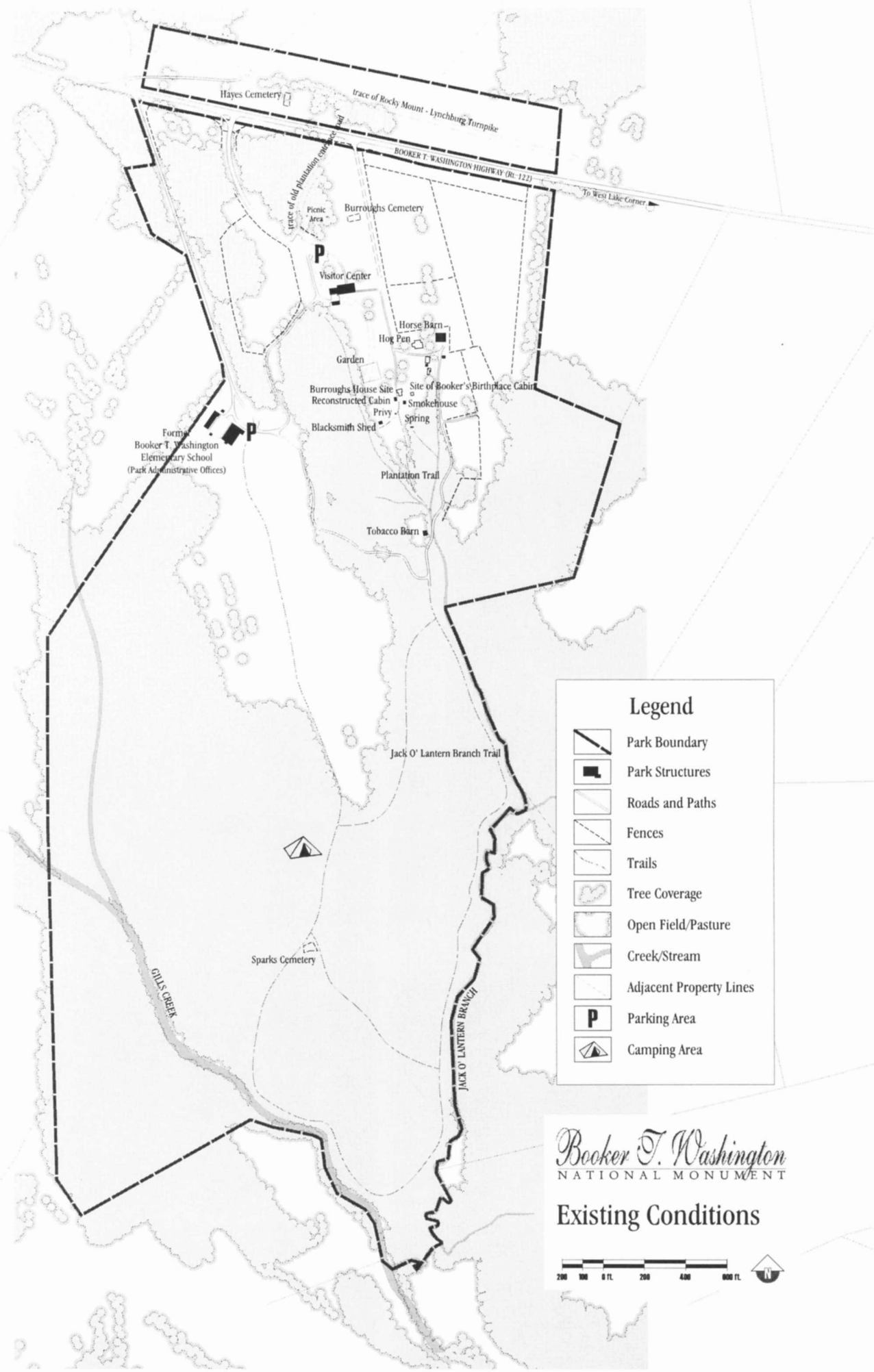
map not to scale



Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT
Park Location



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Legend

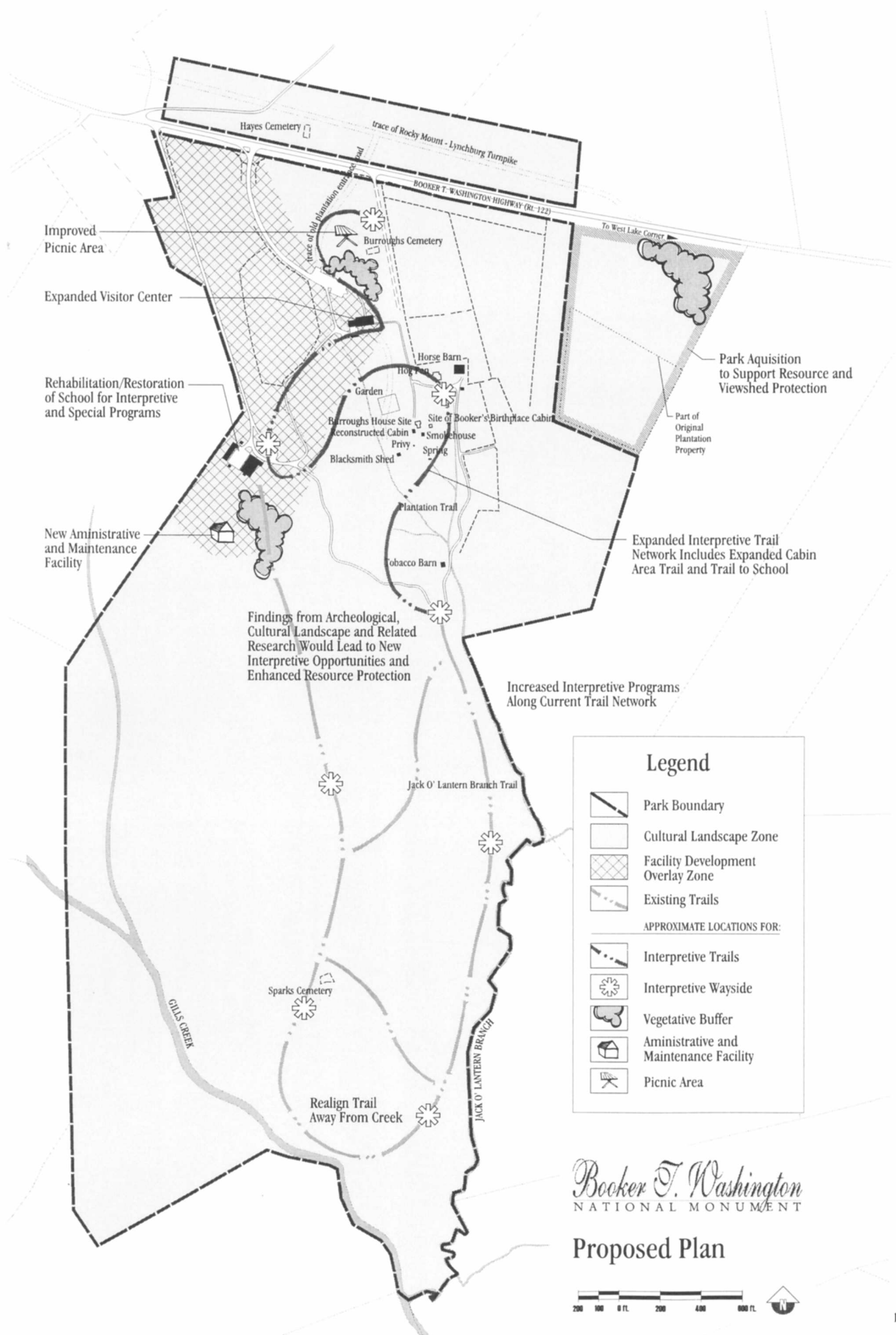
-  Park Boundary
-  Park Structures
-  Roads and Paths
-  Fences
-  Trails
-  Tree Coverage
-  Open Field/Pasture
-  Creek/Stream
-  Adjacent Property Lines
-  Parking Area
-  Camping Area

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Existing Conditions



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TABLE 1-1. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR THE PROPOSED PLAN

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Cultural Resources (Historic Structures, Archeological Resources, Cultural Landscape, Museum Objects, Ethnographic Resources)	The school is recognized as a significant cultural resource. Management decisions are based upon professional studies and adequate planning; cultural and ethnographic resources are actively investigated and documented, and inform interpretation and management of the site. Collections are stored and displayed in adequate environmental conditions. Knowledge about the site's cultural landscape guides resource management policies and decisions.	Prepare a Historic Resource Survey (HRS) and/or a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the former school. Remove maintenance functions from the former school. Prepare a National Register nomination for the former school in 2004 (when it becomes eligible). Initially open a portion of the school for public access with the intent of gradually rehabilitating the entire building for interpretive use. Undertake professional studies and plans to document the park's cultural resources. Undertake an ongoing program of archeology to gain a better understanding of the park's cultural landscape. Undertake ongoing research activities to document and examine the site and Booker T. Washington. Conduct ongoing investigations into the site's ethnographic resources to inform management decisions and site interpretation. Use ethnographic resource information to enrich site interpretation and enhance the visitor experience. Mark, "ghost," or reintroduce cultural landscape features if substantial and compelling evidence is uncovered during archeological work or related research. Create adequate curatorial storage and display environments for the park's artifacts. Update the scope of collections and link it more closely with the interpretive program. Provide proper curatorial storage and display space for artifacts in the expanded visitor center and in the new administrative and maintenance facility. Deaccession artifacts that do not relate to Booker T. Washington according to standard curatorial practices.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Land Management, Boundary, Park Setting and Viewshed	Managers make decisions based upon professional studies and adequate planning. The park's boundary is sufficient to support the interpretive program and provide an enjoyable visitor experience. Landscape strategies carried out within the park help maintain its rural character; the park's scenic and rural setting remains relatively undisturbed. Development within the park is compatible in scale and intensity.	Document existing conditions with inventory and monitoring programs. Complete archeological and historic research necessary to prepare cultural landscape treatment plan. Cooperate with state and local agencies to protect land resources. Initiate a program to control exotics to the extent possible. Purchase the 15-acre parcel adjacent in the northeast corner of the park, which contains the remaining 7 acres of the Burroughs Plantation Continue to work with local and state officials to protect the park's environs through land and transportation planning; zoning, setbacks, signage and site design regulations; and through the application of open space preservation programs and landscaping. Undertake selective clearing of vegetation in construction areas. Design and site proposed construction (an expanded visitor center, new maintenance facility, and trail expansion) to minimize visual intrusions on the landscape.. Maintain patterns of vegetation and open space through agricultural leases and mowing. Allow natural processes to function in woodlands and forest areas. Introduce vegetative screening as needed in certain sections of the park to address intrusions on its viewshed. Construct new park buildings in visually discreet locations.
Threatened and Endangered Species	Areas of the site with high habitat value are protected.	Identify habitats likely to support preservation of rare, threatened and endangered species. Prevent impacts on areas with high habitat value.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Biotic Communities	The site's biotic communities are protected through increased attention to natural resource management.	Preserve, protect, and manage biotic communities. Further develop the park's natural resource inventory and establish thresholds for action. Develop a fire safety program.
Air Quality	Park operations and management do not contribute to air quality degradation.	Undertake monitoring of air quality within the park and cooperate with officials to protect local air quality.
Water Quality	Park operations and management does not cause water quality degradation and seeks opportunities to enhance local water quality.	Continue regular monitoring of water quality and cooperate with officials to protect local water quality. Relocate eroded segments of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail away from Gills Creek. Trail construction will be designed to avoid wetlands. Manage pastures to minimize soil erosion.
Wetlands, Floodplains & Soils	Park management practices and operational decisions do not cause degradation to wetlands, floodplains or soils; opportunities to enhance the value of these resources are sought.	Relocate eroded portions of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail away from Gills Creek. Trail construction will be designed to avoid wetlands.
Carrying Capacity	Resource management is carried out in accordance with all applicable laws and policies.	Expand visitor facilities and opportunities to accommodate increasing levels of visitation and use. Monitor cultural and natural resources for potential adverse impacts resulting from increases in visitation and use.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Interpretation (Interpretive Program, Orientation and Exhibits, Educational Programs, Research, Living History Program)	Visitors understand the full significance of Booker T. Washington's achievements and philosophy. Interpretation focuses on stories that are supported by the resources found at the site; results of resource investigations form the core of the park's interpretive program. Interpretation and visitor experiences are based on the site's cultural resources. The visitor experience includes substantial interaction with park staff.	Expand the focus of the interpretive program and help visitors to understand the complexities of Washington's life. Conduct research and investigative activities that would increase visitor appreciation of the site and its resources. Incorporate the findings of ongoing research into educational programs. Use the school for supplementary interpretive and educational programming space. Gradually phase public access from a portion of the school to the entire building. Illustrate the themes relating to various periods of the site's use and explore issues associated with those periods—the plantation era, Jim Crow era, memorial era, and the era of NPS management. Interpret the site as a cultural landscape using exhibits and other interpretive media; expand exhibit space and introduce interactive interpretive technology within the enlarged visitor center. Undertake selective clearing of vegetation to install new trail segments, interpretive media, and facilities. Use archeology and ethnographic research as an interpretive tool. Increase ranger tours, programs, events, lectures, and workshops. Continue to maintain farm animals on site and better integrate them into the interpretive program. Continue to use living history as a supplementary interpretive tool for special programs and events.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Facilities and Infrastructure (Visitor Center, Former School, Administrative and Maintenance Space, Circulation and Parking, Proposed Construction)	Facilities support expanded interpretive programming and increased access to the site. Administrative and maintenance spaces support operational efficiency. Maintenance facilities do not interfere with visitor experience. Circulation and parking promote efficient and safe movement within the park with minimal impact on park resources. Parking facilities accommodate higher visitation levels.	Expand the current visitor center and add exhibit, programming, office, and bookstore space. Create a more flexible space for educational programs. Rehabilitate the former school for program space. Restore selected elements to their 1950s appearance Relocate collections and the library to the expanded visitor center. Increase office space and storage space to accommodate current and anticipated staff needs. Remove maintenance functions from the school and visitor center. Construct a new maintenance facility and relocate maintenance functions from the school. Maintain the current visitor entrance. Improve traffic safety at the entrance to the park through signage and design measures, including new approach signage and possible turning lanes at the intersection of the entrance road with Route 122. Reconfigure the present parking lot in conjunction with the expansion of the visitor center. Design the parking area to accommodate anticipated increases in visitation. Install a dedicated bus drop-off.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Recreational Use, Picnicking, Trails	Recreational uses are compatible with the mission of the park.	Clarify language in the superintendent's compendium to confirm the position that the park will not be used for active recreational purposes. Limit recreational use to appropriate passive recreational activities, such as walking or wildlife watching. Limit camping activities to groups participating in programs that benefit the park. Upgrade and enhance picnic facility in its current location. Introduce additional trails to increase access to and interpretation of the park's cultural landscape — a loop around the cabin area and a connector between the school and the cabin area. Consider the introduction of bridle trails in the park, if a regional system of trails is proposed.
Health and Safety	Visitors and staff enjoy a safe environment conducive to learning, recreation, and work.	Continue current safety procedures. Implement an integrated pest management program for poison ivy and the tick population. Improve traffic safety at the entrance to the park, and provide a dedicated place for a bus drop-off. Remove maintenance functions from the former school to a new facility with up-to-date health and safety protocols. Remove or seal asbestos tiles now present under the hallway carpet in the school.
Accessibility	The park meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).	Design new and upgraded facilities and visitor opportunities (such as trails and exhibit areas) to provide accessibility consistent with ADA.

CATEGORY	MANAGEMENT GOALS	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Park Staffing	Staff levels are sufficient to offer a full range of interpretive programs and to maintain park resources and facilities.	Create one historian, one educational specialist, and one additional interpretive specialist position to implement the research- and programming-intensive plan. Create one additional maintenance staff position to assist with the increased operational requirements of additional trails and waysides.
Fees and Concessions	Current fee levels and concession opportunities are continued.	Increase accommodations for the bookstore within the expanded visitor center.
Partnerships and Cooperative Relationships	Existing park partnerships are maintained and strengthened and expanded. Partnerships enhance the park's ability to protect park resources and provide quality visitor interpretation and experiences. Relationships with institutions that possess associations with Booker T. Washington support the interpretive program. Ongoing research and interpretation is accomplished through collaboration.	Continue to work with Eastern National to operate the information desk and bookstore. Continue to recruit volunteers from the community. Continue to participate in community initiatives related to the purpose of the park. Establish a cooperative agreement with Ferrum College to inventory and monitor natural resources. Cultivate relationships with subject area specialists and institutions with holdings related to BOWA's expanded interpretive program. Establish relationships with institutions and organizations that possess information on Washington's life and work or on related interpretive issues. Expand interpretive offerings through collaboration with partnering institutions. Develop and accept traveling exhibits. Utilize cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education to undertake expanded research initiatives. Partner with local, state and national organizations involved in interpreting regional history.

THE PROPOSED PLAN ACTIONS

Land and Resources – Cultural Resources

Historic Structures

Reconstructions and the historic tobacco barn south of the cabin area would be maintained and preserved in their current form. There also would be the potential to remove replica buildings if, in the future, they became so deteriorated that continued preservation was not feasible. Additional structures or cultural landscape features could be reconstructed or “ghosted” if sufficient documentation of those structures is found.

The former school would be rehabilitated and made available for educational purposes, with key elements restored to their 1950s appearance. A Historic Structure Report would be prepared to document the school prior to these changes. No irreversible alterations would be undertaken, and all work would be sensitive to the fact that at some point in the future the school may be fully restored. When the school reaches fifty years of age in 2004, a nomination will be prepared to list it in the National Register of Historic Places.

Archeological Resources

An extensive archeological program would be undertaken to document the site in its entirety. Archeological investigations would be initiated, and NPS would retain ownership of all artifacts. Artifacts that would be appropriate for interpretation would be displayed on site as part of the orientation exhibit. Other artifacts would be placed in storage in the expanded visitor center.

The program of archeological fieldwork would be an important interpretive tool for the site. A special exhibit would be developed to present the archeological methodology, questions posed, and

findings thus far, as well as related findings from other archeological projects within the region.

Cultural Landscape

Resource management policies would change from an approach that supports maintaining the status quo to policies based on an ongoing commitment to understanding the cultural landscape. Building on recent research and studies, interpretation of resources through waysides and archeological investigations would expand significantly.

Documentation of the cultural landscape would be crucial to the success of this alternative. As research uncovers the extent and nature of the site’s resources, management practices would be instituted that would help to fully utilize each resource in conveying the interpretive program. Approaches would vary by resource, but would make a range of cultural landscape elements visible to the public and link each to an interpretive message. For example, portions of the landscape would be managed in such a way as to convey a sense of a particular era of the property (i.e. field patterns restored). The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and the recommendations of a cultural landscape report would guide resource management decisions. Interpretive signage and historic photographs would assist in establishing a sense of the site during different eras: antebellum, Emancipation, Reconstruction, and the memorial periods. Visitors would be encouraged to explore all areas of the landscape using an upgraded system of interpreted paths.

Museum Objects

Collection items not directly related to the mission of the park and that do not support the interpretive program would be deaccessioned according to accepted curatorial standards. A selection of Dr. Washington’s documents would be placed on display in the visitor center as part of the orientation exhibit, and

make a range of visual information available to visitors and minimize curatorial responsibility.

Ethnographic Resources

Documenting connections of traditionally associated groups and communities to the site would be a research priority. For example, there would be increased focus on the experiences and use of the site by students and teachers of the segregated Booker T. Washington Elementary School. In addition, investigations into the social conditions in the Hales Ford community before the Civil War, the general characteristics of small Virginia plantations, and the location of the “big house,” would continue to be researched. Findings would guide decisions regarding resource management and site interpretation.

Land and Natural Resource Management

The goal for natural resource management would be to preserve, protect, and, where feasible and prudent, reintroduce certain documented landscape features that are directly related to the park’s mission. Natural resource management would essentially continue present policies with some exceptions. If sufficient documentation is discovered, reintroduction of cultural landscape features may be considered.

The natural resources of the park would be managed in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Staff would work through cooperative agreements with such institutions as Ferrum College to develop baseline inventory information by which future changes to natural resources could be evaluated.

Long term effects caused by actions undertaken within the park are anticipated to be limited; however, impacts originating beyond the park’s boundary, such as changes in water quality, are possible. Prior to undertaking any construction-related activity, the park would assess potential impacts to air and water quality; wetlands and floodplains; biotic communities; and any threatened or

endangered species present and develop mitigation as needed in consultation with appropriate federal and state agencies.

Patterns of vegetation and open space would be maintained through mowing and agricultural leases. Natural processes would function in the woodlands, except where visitor safety issues require intervention (i.e. fire management or unstable trees). Sections of the trail alignment along Gills Creek, which are presently being undermined by erosion, would be relocated to more stable locations. Any new trail construction would be designed to avoid wetland areas. The park also would work with adjacent property owners to develop a fire safety zone within and around the park and with the community at large to address larger regional problems of water quality, erosion, and wildlife habitat.

Selective clearing may be necessary to create the new path alignments. Such clearing would be preceded by biological surveys to ensure that no protected plant or animal species would be adversely affected by such work.

Design and siting of new construction in the park would be sympathetic to the character of the park’s landscape. Preference would be given to unobtrusive sites that minimize disruption to open vistas.

The park would be an active facilitator working with adjacent landowners and government agencies, in guiding anticipated future development of adjacent lands. The park would help landowners secure the technical assistance they would need to plan appropriate, non-intrusive development. The park would also work to coordinate partners, such as land trusts, that become involved in the process. The park would also work with VDOT and local transportation planners to ensure that future Route 122 improvements would not adversely affect the park.

The boundary would be expanded to include a parcel of land encompassing fifteen additional acres along Route 122. This parcel includes the remaining seven acres that belonged to the Burroughs

plantation that is not currently within the park boundary. The rationale for this purchase is twofold. First, it would secure a significant resource—the seven remaining acres of Washington’s birth site—that is related to the purpose of the park. Second, it would protect an important viewshed along the northern border of the park and contribute substantially to visitor enjoyment of the site.

Carrying Capacity

Facility expansions are expected to enhance the visitor experience by reducing overcrowding within the visitor center and dispersing people more widely throughout the park. Carrying capacity with respect to facilities would be increased if the proposed plan is implemented.

Based on analysis of current and projected visitation levels and park operational requirements, the park’s carrying capacity is sufficient to ensure resource protection and provide for the full range of visitor opportunities.

Interpretation and Visitor Experience

Interpretive Program

In the proposed plan, visitors would be encouraged to explore the many aspects of the park’s cultural landscape and discover for themselves the meanings it contains. The proposed plan transcends the legislated intent of the park and seeks to explore the potential of the site to interpret not only Washington’s childhood, but the Reconstruction, Jim Crow, memorial, and NPS eras as well. The five themes identified in the *Comprehensive Interpretive Plan* would be presented in a balanced fashion, and interpretation would rely extensively on available on-site resources, such as archeological and cultural landscape artifacts, including the former Booker T. Washington School.

Orientation exhibits would provide broad contextual information on all five interpretive themes. Interpretation of the cultural landscape, however, would deal with site-specific features, especially archeological resources. Fieldwork exhibits, interpretive signage, and possibly “ghosted” structures would portray the site’s evolution across all eras. Visitors would learn about Booker T. Washington and the site in several ways. Exhibits, interactive programs and self-guided tours would offer different and potentially more in-depth opportunities for visitors to explore the site and understand Booker T. Washington. Ranger-led tours would be constantly updated, presenting recent research findings and examining them within the context of previously held beliefs about Washington and his life experiences.

Orientation and Exhibits

There would be two main interpretive areas and a supplementary interpretive site: 1) visitor orientation, exhibit space, and education program facilities would be located in the expanded visitor center; 2) an interpretive system of trails would take visitors around the cabin area, natural area, and the school; and 3) the school would serve as a secondary interpretive area, open to the public for educational and special event programs.

Visitors would become oriented to the site through permanent and changing exhibits, interactive computer kiosks, and audiovisual presentations, which would be housed within the expanded visitor center. The park would remodel and expand the present visitor center (potentially to twice its current size) to meet the park’s interpretive, visitor use and operational goals. Additional exhibit space, classroom space, and a more flexible program area that could accommodate audiovisual presentations and lectures, workshops, and programs during special events would be created. Portions of the larger exhibit area would be devoted to traveling exhibits on related themes and exhibits that present historic context for the region. The orientation audio-visual program would be updated and enhanced.

The park would install computer kiosks that could support the development of an interactive interpretive program. Given space limitations, computer kiosks with Internet connections or CD-ROM capability would enable the park to provide significantly more in-depth information than would be possible using exhibit displays alone. In addition, information could be updated regularly to reflect the findings of the ongoing research program. Priority would be given to the collaborative development of CD-ROMs on Washington's writings and a range of other related topics. The production of CD-ROMs would also enable the park to reach audiences who cannot travel to the site. Human interaction through programs and tours led by rangers would complement and enrich the "digital experience" for on-site visitors.

Waysides within the cabin area would attempt to capture a sense of the site during Washington's childhood. A range of information would be provided about plantation life in general, as well as Washington's personal experiences living on the site, based on available documentation. Information would be drawn from Washington's writings, as well as from related plantation sites within the region. Expanded interpretation of the rest of the site's cultural landscape would be developed through the installation of a comprehensive wayside program. Additional waysides would be introduced along the loop trails through the natural area, the area around the school, and the connector between the cabin area and the school. The content of the waysides would focus on the site as an evolving landscape, what happened on the site over the past two centuries, and what those events reveal about attitudes on race in American society over time.

Educational Programs

In the proposed plan, visitors would benefit from an expanded range of programs, exhibits, and supplemental materials covering the site's interpretive themes in greater depth than is currently possible. By offering life-long learning opportunities, such as regularly scheduled workshops, programs, lectures, and performances, the park would be able to increase repeat visitation.

On-site programming would be emphasized. The schedule of on-site events and educational programs would be increased, utilizing the program spaces available in both the expanded visitor center and the school. Programs would highlight various aspects of the interpretive themes over time. Resources would be made available to properly promote events and cultivate audiences for these programs. Ranger/visitor interaction would remain an important element of the visitor experience, and efforts would be made to develop activities appropriate for all age levels. Efforts would be made to develop ongoing relationships with teachers through off-site workshops on the park's interpretive themes. Programs would also seek to establish thematic links with other local and regional heritage sites.

Research

Ongoing research on Washington and the resources found at the park would be an important element of the proposed plan. The site would be treated as a complex document from which interpretive information could be drawn given time and the proper tools. Investments would be made in documenting and interpreting the character of the site as it evolved during the antebellum, Reconstruction, memorial, and National Park Service eras. Investigations of primary resources, including ethnographic information and records pertaining to Washington, the Burroughs family, and Phillips, as well as the administrative history of park operations would provide source material for interpretation of the site and related issues. Ongoing archeological investigations and cultural landscape studies would address the physical resources of the site, rounding out the research program. A portion of the exhibit area would be devoted to updates on the information uncovered as the research program progresses.

Living History Program

Living history would continue to be used as a supplementary interpretive tool for special events and programs. A limited number

of farm animals would remain on site, and efforts would be made to incorporate them more directly into the interpretive programs.

Facilities, Visitor Use, and Park Operations

Visitor Center

In the propose plan, the visitor center would be substantially expanded. In addition to expanded program and exhibit space, the visitor center would continue to house a bookstore with an extensive selection of related reading matter. Restroom facilities would be fully upgraded and enlarged so that they could adequately accommodate busloads of schoolchildren and other groups. Staff offices would continue to occupy a portion of the visitor center, because it is most effective to have interpreters and their materials in close proximity to the exhibit and programming areas.

Former School

The entire school would be gradually rehabilitated for interpretive program space. The maintenance shop and yard would be relocated from the building to a new facility sited in a visually unobtrusive location. The library and collections storage would be moved to the expanded visitor center.

Administrative and Maintenance Space

Some interpretive staff offices and storage space for program materials would be accommodated in the expanded visitor center. A new administrative and maintenance facility would be constructed in a discreet location.

Circulation and Parking

The vehicular circulation system for the park would be upgraded, but the present configuration would remain essentially the same. A slightly expanded parking area would be created adjacent to the

expanded visitor center. Care would be taken to grade and screen the parking area to minimize its visual intrusion on the site. The gravel connector road between the cabin area and school would be upgraded, as would the parking area adjacent to the school, to accommodate ADA requirements and use during special programs and events. Better approach signage for the site would be installed along Route 122. If future traffic increases along Rt. 122 require it, the park would work with VDOT officials to build turning lanes at the park entrance.

An expanded system of interpreted pedestrian trails would be developed in this alternative. The existing Plantation Trail would be expanded to create a loop around the cabin area. An additional connector trail would be developed leading to the school. The existing Jack-O-Lantern Trail would be improved through relocation of a portion along Gills Creek that has had long-term erosion problems. Any new trail construction would be designed to avoid wetland areas. Prior to initiating trail design development, fragmented wetlands adjacent to Gills Creek would be surveyed and documented. In addition, the park, working with community interests, may identify a limited bridle trail route in the park that would be established as part of a regional horse trail system.

Recreation Use, Picnicking, Trails

The mission of the site is to preserve and protect the birth site and childhood home of Booker T. Washington, while interpreting his life experiences and significance to American history. The site is intended to serve as a resource for public education and discussion, and use of the site would adhere closely to this stated purpose. Although passive recreation, such as wildlife watching and hiking, would continue to occur, additional active recreational uses would be discouraged because they would not be consistent with the memorial and educational purposes for which the site was established by Congress.

An upgrading of the current picnic area would occur, enhancing the stay of visitors. The area would be redesigned and made more accessible to better accommodate visitors.

The NPS would work with planning officials to ensure that surrounding counties do not view the park as a site with future active recreation potential. Pre-arranged group camping activities in the park (i.e. scout troops), which have waned in recent years, would continue to be downplayed, although overnight stays tied to park improvement projects would continue. The park would be open to discussing establishment of a limited bridle trail route in the park as part of a regional system of bridle trails, if such a community initiative were to be undertaken. The picnic area would remain in its present location and be upgraded with improved landscaping and new tables.

The expanded trail system would permit visitors to explore the entire site at their own pace. Wayfinding signs would be installed where the loop paths join the cabin area circuit. Some adjustments would be made to the current pedestrian circulation system. The present alignments of the Plantation and Jack-O-Lantern Trails would be retained, and an additional loop trail would be created to connect the cabin area to the school.

Accessibility

All facilities would be designed to be accessible to people with physical disabilities. The grade of the new paths would be designed to meet federal laws for accessibility. The section connecting the school to the cabin area, however, is quite steep. It may be necessary to permit limited vehicular access from the cabin area to the school for disabled visitors if a suitable trail alignment cannot be located. Visitors could park on the paved lot presently used by staff, or special parking may be required.

Park Staffing

The regular presence of staff members within the trail area would add a sense of vitality to what could otherwise become a rather static setting. Interpretive staff would not only offer information about the plantation period, but show a willingness to engage visitors in discussing questions they might have from the orientation exhibits that they have just seen, including informal dialogue about race relations. All visitors, whatever their race or national origin, would be made to feel a part of the story of Booker T. Washington, and "safe" in exploring their reactions to his legacy and the evolution of race relations in this nation. This is best done through the kind of personal contact offered by NPS interpretive specialists. Costumed interpretation may be used on a limited basis for special programs, but would not be a regular site feature.

In the proposed plan, staff levels would be increased by four people. A historian would be required to carry out and manage the comprehensive research program for the site, which would include ethnographic surveys, cultural landscape studies, primary source documentation, and archeological investigation. As that information is being collected, a full-time education specialist would develop the interpretive program and related materials and serve as a liaison to local teachers. In addition, an interpretive ranger would be added to carry out the interpretive program on-site and offer the direct one-on-one contact that is required for the success of the plan. An additional maintenance worker would also be hired to address increases in the amount of trails, waysides, and other interpretive elements that would be introduced in this alternative.

Fees and Concessions

No new concession opportunities are anticipated. The bookstore would offer a limited amount of revenue-generating potential. At present, it is a sustainable venture and provides a valuable service to visitors. Accommodations for the bookstore would be increased within the expanded visitor center so that the store could broaden

its offerings to include more literature, as well as park-related items for visitors of all ages.

Partnerships and Cooperative Relationships

Outreach, partnership building, and audience expansion would be important elements of this alternative. Working in collaboration with NPS and non-NPS partners, the park would participate in the development of joint-venture programs, symposia, teaching materials, Internet sites, and traveling exhibits. These initiatives, which could cover such topics as civil and human rights, the institution of slavery, plantation life, and African American heritage would be phased in over the life of the plan. The park would also work to grow its audience base within the region by continuing to work with local school systems to develop age-appropriate, curriculum-based programs and materials.

In order to become a recognized presence in educating the public about Washington, the park would also cultivate relationships with scholars, organizations, and repositories involved in documenting and relating information on his life and work. Institutions possessing significant collections of documents or artifacts related to Dr. Washington, such as Tuskegee University, Hampton University, and the Library of Congress, would be important partners in the development of waysides, traveling exhibits, CD-ROMs, workshops, and educational material.

Links would also be established with organizations and sites that interpret regional history and African American culture. Partners would be sought both within and outside the NPS. Cooperative agreements with regional institutions of higher education would continue to be established to undertake and implement the recommendations of the historic resource, ethnographic, archeological, and cultural landscape studies that are needed to obtain a clearer understanding of the site's evolution.

Efforts would also be made to expand the audience for interpretive programs by linking with local school districts, as well as

organizations pursuing regional heritage development. A better system for the distribution of promotional literature about the park would be implemented. Resources would be devoted to strengthening the volunteer recruitment and retention program.

The park would continue its efforts to establish cooperative relationships with Franklin County, other public agencies, adjacent landowners, Smith Mountain Lake developers, and VDOT to define strategies for long-term protection of the park's viewshed. Special attention would be paid to planning future improvements to Route 122 in a way that would be sympathetic to the park's resources. Important goals and strategies have been identified in a recently issued planning document for the region, "Charting a Course for Smith Mountain Lake: The Vision," which the park was involved in developing. The park supports the recommendations for historic preservation identified in that document.

TABLE 1-2. CLASS C COST ESTIMATES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROPOSED PLAN

Class C cost estimates have been prepared for the proposed plan. Capital costs are total costs over the fifteen to twenty-year life of this plan. All cost estimates are expressed in 1999 dollars. While the plan proposes to expand the park boundary by purchasing an adjacent 15-acre parcel of land, estimated purchase costs cannot be included until congressional approval has authorized such an expansion.

PROPOSED PLAN CAPITAL COSTS	
Land and Resources	
Research and Planning	\$250,000
Land Acquisition	Without congressional authorization, purchase costs cannot be included
Land and Resource Management	\$180,000 (natural screening @ \$9000/acre)
Interpretation and Visitor Experience	
Signage and Wayside Exhibits	\$200,000 (\$10,000/installation)
Plantation Structure Enhancements	\$240,000 (2000 sf @ \$120 sf)
Trail System Improvements	\$195,000

PROPOSED PLAN CAPITAL COSTS	
Facilities, Visitor Use and Park Operations	
School Rehabilitation / Restoration	\$208,000 (\$40 sf @ 5200 sf)
Visitor Center Expansion	\$950,400 (\$165 sf @ 5760 sf, double size of visitor center; this estimate includes an average square footage cost for the entire building that considered the cost for upgrading existing space, the cost of new additions, and the required upgraded utility systems)
New Admin and Maintenance Facility	\$450,000 (2,000 sf administrative space @ \$225 sf; 3,000 square feet of maintenance space @ \$150 sf)
Road Improvements	\$697,000 (turning lane @ \$435,000; visitor center to school road @ \$135,000; school to new admin/maint @ \$112,000)
Parking Improvements	\$205,000 (expanded visitor center lot @ \$100,000; improved school lot @ \$30,000; new road to administrative / maintenance facility @ \$75,000)
Utilities Improvements	\$165,000 (\$30 lf for each utility; water @ \$60,000, sewer @ \$30,000/\$45,000, electric @ \$60,000)
Health and Safety Improvements	\$440,000 (fire suppression @ \$100,000 for school, \$150,000 for visitor center, \$75,000 for new administrative / maintenance facility ; septic @ \$50,000; tank removal @ \$65,000)
Net Costs	\$4,180,400
Supervision and Design Costs	\$725,400
Total Costs	\$4,905,800

TABLE 1-3. CLASS C ESTIMATES FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED PLAN

The following table describes operational costs for the proposed plan. Operational cost estimates are stated on an annual basis. All costs are expressed in 1999 dollars.

CURRENT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONAL COSTS	
Administration	Superintendent Administrative officer Administrative clerk
Interpretation and Resource Management	Supervisory park ranger 3 park rangers
Maintenance	Maintenance work supervisor 3 maintenance workers
Operational Costs	\$650,000

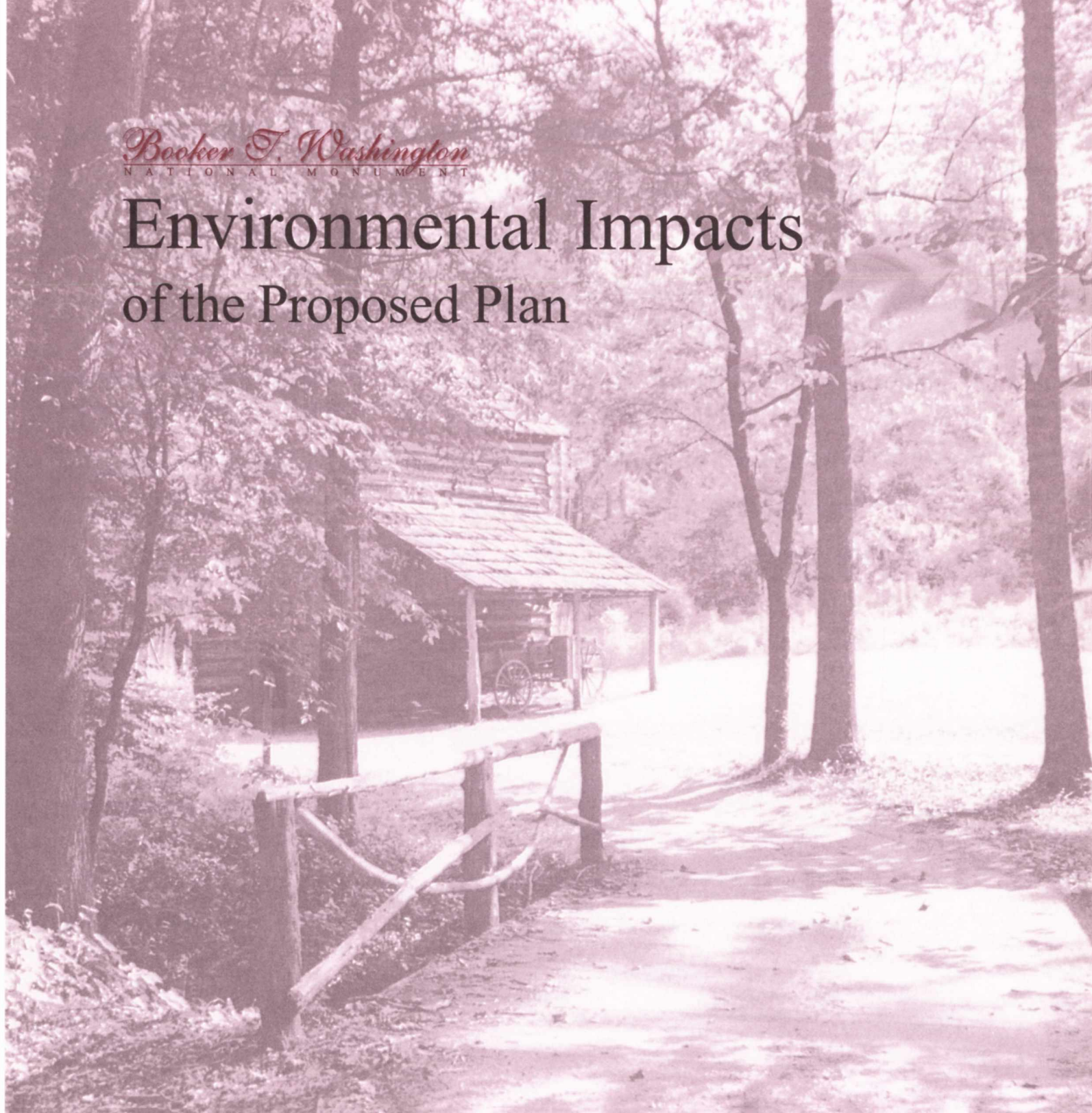
PROPOSED PLAN ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONAL COSTS	
Administration	Superintendent Administrative officer Administrative clerk
Interpretation and Resource Management	Supervisory park ranger 3 park rangers Historian (new) Additional interpretive ranger (new) Educational specialist (new)
Maintenance	Maintenance work supervisor 3 maintenance workers Additional maintenance worker (new)
Estimated Operational Costs	\$870,000

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SECTION TWO

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Plan



Section Two: Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Plan

INTRODUCTION

Section Two evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed plan described in Section One. The impact categories in this section correspond to the categories in Section One.

The impact categories used were determined by Council on Environmental Quality regulations and through observation of potentially affected resources on and adjacent to Booker T. Washington National Monument.

The laws and regulations that informed the impact analysis included:

- National Park Service Organic Act of 1916
- Booker T. Washington National Monument authorizing legislation and amendment
- Antiquities Act of 1906, as amended
- Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act of 1935, as amended
- General Authorities Act of 1970
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, as amended
- National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended
- Administrative Procedures Act of 1979, as amended
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended
- Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended
- Architectural Barriers Act of 1969
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- U.S. Dept. of Transportation Act of 1966, Sec. 4(f)
- Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, as amended
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, as amended
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended
- Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Park Planning – Director’s Order 2
- National Environmental Policy Act Guidelines – NPS 12
- 1997 Cultural Resource Management Guidelines – Director’s Order 28
- Natural Resources Management Guideline – NPS 77
- Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs – EO 12372
- Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality – EO 11991
- Protection of Wetlands – EO 11990
- Floodplain Management – EO 11988
- Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations – EO 12898
- Potential Impacts to Sacred Sites – EO 13007
- Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment – EO 11593
- Commonwealth of Virginia Environmental Review Process
- Virginia Natural Heritage Program Guidelines, 1986

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Historic Structures	Continued routine maintenance, repairs, and preservation would result in no impact to structures. Continued protection of the park's resources from vandalism would result in no impact on historic resources. Removal of maintenance functions from the former school would be a positive impact on that resource. Preparation of a National Register nomination for the former school in 2004 (when it becomes eligible) would be a moderate positive impact. Preparation of a Historic Resource Survey (HRS) and/or a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the former school would be a positive impact that would help guide the rehabilitation activities described in the proposed plan. Using available documentation and first hand accounts, a portion of the former school would be restored to its 1950s appearance. The remainder of the building would continue to be used as administrative space. Restoration activities would constitute a positive impact on the resource.
Archeological Resources	Construction activities and associated ground disturbances would result in moderate to major impacts to potential archeological deposits in localized areas. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Before undertaking any ground-disturbing activity, the NPS would prepare Determinations of Eligibility and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as to appropriate levels of documentation and mitigation.
Cultural Landscape	In addition, ongoing archeological investigations would be carried out as part of a comprehensive program to understand the park's cultural landscape. Archeological activities would be carried out throughout the site and incorporated as a prominent part of the interpretive program. Such investigations would pose a moderate to major impact on archeological deposits. Limited cultural landscape features could be "ghosted," marked, or reintroduced if substantial and compelling evidence were to be uncovered during the archeological work or related research. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Before undertaking any ground-disturbing activity for construction or investigative purposes, the NPS would prepare a Determination of Eligibility and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as to appropriate levels of documentation and mitigation. Reintroduction of cultural landscape features would only be carried out if substantial evidence is found and such activity would significantly enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of the site.
Museum Objects	Development of an updated collections policy, which links acquisitions and deaccessions more closely to the interpretive program, would result in a moderate positive impact. Acquisition of materials that fall within the revised scope of collections is encouraged for display and research purposes. Provisions for proper curatorial storage and display of archeological artifacts in the expanded visitor center and administrative and maintenance facility would result in a moderate positive impact on park collections.
Ethnographic Resources	Ongoing ethnographic research used to inform management and site interpretation would be a positive impact.

Summary of Environmental Impacts Resulting from the Proposed Plan

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Land Management	Introduction of new structures and removal of such vegetation as may be required by construction would result in moderate to major impacts to the visual and aesthetic values of localized areas within the park. Specific activities are described in the <i>Proposed Construction</i> section. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Any new facility would be sited so that impacts to natural resources are minimized. Appropriate design and landscaping techniques would be used to reduce visual intrusiveness. Patterns of forest and vegetation would continue to be maintained by agricultural lease, mowing, and natural processes in the woodland. This would not cause any impacts. Natural vegetative screening would be introduced as needed in certain sections of the park to address intrusions on its viewshed. The introduction of vegetation would impact the appearance of the park in those areas. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Vegetation would be selected based on its appropriateness to the cultural landscape of the park. Construction of facilities proposed in all action alternatives would have the potential to moderately impact land use in localized areas of the park. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Facilities would be sited to minimize clearing of woodland and to maintain open vistas where present. Efforts would be made to retain existing land uses, including agricultural leases, to the greatest extent possible.
Boundary	The proposed plan recommends the purchase of the 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the park, which contains the remaining 7 acres of land that are historically associated with Washington's birth site. Purchase of this land by the park would protect and preserve a historic resource that contributes to the significance of the site. This action would ensure that use of the property would be compatible with the purposes of the park and would also provide a visual buffer from encroaching development along the northern boundary of the park. This would be a major positive impact on resource protection and visitor experience.
Park Setting and Viewshed	Encroachment by development extending from West Lake Corner would have the potential to impact the visual and aesthetic values of the park and the park's character and cultural landscape values. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Park would increase efforts to work with local officials to protect the park through zoning, setbacks, signage and site design regulations and through the application of open space preservation programs and landscaping. Vegetative buffers may be added if additional viewshed protection is required.
Threatened and Endangered Species	Selective clearing related to the construction of new trails, roads, parking, or buildings would have the potential to pose a moderate negative impact to wildlife habitat within localized areas of the park. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Although no threatened or endangered species have been found within the park to date, biological surveys would be conducted to ensure that no listed species would be affected prior to any construction-related activity. If such species are found within the park in the future, consultation with state and federal agencies would be carried out as appropriate.

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Biotic Communities	Expansion of natural resource inventory programs, increased monitoring, and determination of thresholds for action would result in a moderate positive impact to biotic communities. Development of a fire safety program for the park would result in a moderate positive impact. The addition of new trail segments would introduce a human presence into new areas of the park on a regular basis, which could disrupt current wildlife activity within those areas. Any negative impact would be minor. At its highest, visitation is anticipated to be no more than 20,000 additional visitors annually (double current visitation). This would amount to an average of 50-60 additional visitors daily, spread over 224 acres. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Using proposed baseline inventories, wildlife would be monitored. If sensitive species are found to be negatively impacted by human presence along the park's trails, circulation routes will be adjusted to accommodate them. Since such species have not been found within the park as of this date, the occurrence of such an impact has a low probability. Selective clearing related to the construction of new trails, roads, parking areas, or buildings would have the potential to pose a minor negative impact to wildlife habitat within localized areas of the park. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Inventories would be conducted to ensure that biotic communities would not be unduly affected by construction activities. Wherever possible, construction would be designed to fit the existing landscape. Buildings and trails would be sited in areas that minimize the clearing required. It is anticipated that the greatest amount of construction would necessitate the clearing of not more than five acres of woodland. This represents 3% of the 153-acres (approximate) of woodland now in the park. Substantial habitat within and outside the park boundary are available to wildlife species found within the project area. It is anticipated that these species would be able to adjust readily to this minor loss of habitat.
Air Quality	Cooperation with local officials to protect local air quality would result in a minor positive impact. Monitoring air pollutants would be undertaken, which would benefit resource protection efforts. This would be a minor positive impact.
Water Quality	Cooperation with local officials to protect local water quality would result in a minor positive impact. Relocation of eroded segments of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail would result in a minor positive impact on water quality within the park. Prior to any design development, fragmented wetlands located along the creek would be surveyed and documented. Any new trail construction would be designed to avoid these wetlands. Managing pastures to minimize potential for soil erosion would be a minor positive impact on water quality.
Wetlands, Floodplains and Soils	Relocation of eroded portions of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail away from Gills Creek is recommended by the proposed plan. Such activity would occur within the designated 100-year floodplain and could impact some fragmented wetlands seen in field review of the area. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Stabilize affected stream banks to mitigate effects of soil erosion on water quality. Provide vegetative cover and/or structural stream bank protection. Any new trail construction would be designed to avoid wetland areas

Summary of Environmental Impacts Resulting from the Proposed Plan

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Carrying Capacity	Moderate increases in visitor use are projected for the proposed plan. At its highest, visitation is anticipated to be no more than 20,000 additional visitors annually (double current visitation). This would amount to an average of 50-60 additional visitors daily. Expansion of visitor facilities, including interpretive space, program space, and parking would address current visitor use carrying capacity issues associated with these facilities. Increased access to trails and interpretive spaces would distribute visitors more widely throughout the site than at present. This would reduce the likelihood that undue pressure would be placed on resources in any given area. Consequently, no adverse impacts on resource protection related to carrying capacity are anticipated. . The visitor center would be designed to accommodate up to 90 people, based on projections for highest periods of visitation use– summer weekends. The current visitor center accommodates 60 people. The parking lot would be expanded from 25 car spaces and 2 bus spaces to 40 car spaces and 3 bus spaces to accommodate increased parking demands.
Interpretive Program	Enhancements to the interpretive program would assist visitors in understanding the complexities of Washington's life. This would aid in fulfilling the park's mission and result in a positive impact on the visitor experience. Understanding and interpreting the site as a cultural landscape would be emphasized. Exhibits and other interpretive media would be used to show how the landscape illustrates themes relating to various periods of the site's use, and to explore issues associated with those periods—the plantation era, Jim Crow era, memorial era, and the era of NPS management. Research and investigative activities would result in an enhanced appreciation of the site and its resources. This would be a positive impact on resource protection and the visitor experience.
Orientation and Exhibits	Enhancements to the interpretive program would assist visitors in understanding the complexities of Washington's life. This would aid in fulfilling the park's mission and result in a positive impact on the visitor experience. Substantial expansion of the current visitor center would address current facility carrying capacity issues. The added space would allow for the expansion of exhibits, the introduction of interactive interpretive technology, and a dedicated program space for school groups. Such an expansion would result in a major positive impact on the visitor experience. Rehabilitation of the school for interpretation and educational programs would also result in an increase in public indoor space and would capitalize on the building's interpretive potential.
Educational Programs	Staff increases would allow for the significant expansion of research activities and educational programs in the park. Programs would incorporate the findings of archeological investigations and documentary sources. Through collaboration with partnering institutions (both NPS and non-NPS), the park would be able to diversify its exhibit and program offerings. Such improvements would be a positive impact on the visitor experience.
Research	Significant expansion of research activity on both Washington and the site would be a positive impact.
Living History Program	Living history would continue to serve as a supplementary interpretive tool for special programs and events. Continuation of this policy would not impact the visitor experience. Adhering to the park's current policy, farm animals would continue to reside in the park as part of the agricultural setting. Better integration of the animals into the interpretive program would be a positive impact.

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Visitor Center	The proposed plan recommends facility improvements to remedy the situation of overcrowding in the exhibit area and restrooms during group visits and limited opportunities for fully developing interpretive programs that require more than the limited lobby space now available. Such improvements would result in a major positive impact on park facilities, visitor use, and operations. Substantial expansion of the visitor center would address current facility carrying capacity issues, enabling groups to be accommodated with minimal impact on walk-in visitors. Additional exhibit and program space would be provided, which would support the expansion of the interpretive program. This would be a positive impact.
Former School	Rehabilitation and interpretation of the former school would increase public access to an historic resource and provide additional opportunities for educational programs. This would be a positive impact. Construction of a new maintenance facility would address safety issues and allow the school to be opened to the public on a regular basis. It would also address health considerations of having maintenance activities too close to office space. Relocation of the maintenance yard would remove a substantial visual intrusion from the school area, enabling the building to be better appreciated as a historic resource.
Administrative and Maintenance Space	Proposed increases in office, storage and maintenance space would enhance operational efficiency and result in a moderate positive impact.
Circulation and Parking	The proposed plan recommends improving the safety of the park entrance through signage and design strategies. This represents a positive impact on visitor use. The proposed plan recommends upgrading the parking lot to accommodate more cars during high visitation periods; better bus off-loading; and improved accommodations for over-sized vehicles (RVs, etc.). The overall impact would be moderately positive. Moderate increases in visitation are expected under the proposed plan. If visitation were to reach anticipated levels, it would result a .25 percent increase over existing traffic levels on U.S. Route 122. This represents a minor negative impact. Proposed construction of I-73 in the vicinity of the park poses an impact that would eclipse any action the park might undertake. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Consultation with VaDOT concerning improved park entrance access would occur. The proposed plan anticipates an average of 55 additional visitors per day or an increase of 27.4 cars per day. Some of the anticipated increase would be due to school groups. Their use of buses would reduce the estimated number of cars. The current visitor entrance would remain in the proposed plan. Improvements to approach signage and turn lanes at its intersection with Route 122 would address current traffic safety concerns. This would be a positive impact. Exploration of the site using the expanded system of trails would be an important element of this alternative, and trail accessibility would be a major concern. Creating a link between the school and the cabin area could impact visitors with physical disabilities due to the presence of a steep slope between the two portions of the site. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> The connector road between the school and cabin area would remain in place, as would the current staff parking lot at the school. Visitors requiring assistance could drive to the upper parking lot. There they would have access to accessible trails around the school area. This alternative would require minimal changes to current circulation patterns. The present parking lot would be reconfigured in conjunction with the expansion of the visitor center. The parking area would be designed to accommodate anticipated increases in visitation. A dedicated school bus drop-off would be integrated into the design to address safety concerns associated with hosting school groups. Increases in the size and safety of the parking area would be a positive impact, because it would address the current problem with carrying capacity that occurs during special events and high periods of visitation.

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Proposed Construction	Construction activities associated with facility improvements recommended by the proposed plan would result in moderate impacts to localized areas of the site. Negative impacts are anticipated to be short term in nature. Such activities would create fugitive dust, exhaust, soil erosion and noise from equipment. Temporary disruption to utility services and wildlife habitat could also result, as well as generation of solid waste mainly from clearing and grubbing. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Plant quick-growing ground vegetation on cut areas; minimize exposed land surfaces; use sprinkler trucks to water construction sites; minimize open burning; use hay bales or siltation fences on slopes; and implement soil erosion control plan. Recycle uncontaminated construction debris. Dispose of all construction waste in accordance with applicable Commonwealth and local regulations. The proposed plan would entail substantial construction activity; however the proposed construction would build upon the park's existing infrastructure. The construction activities listed below would have the potential to permanently impact below ground resources, the character of the site, patterns of land use, and wildlife habitat. • expansion of the current visitor center • rehabilitation/restoration of a portion of the former school for interpretation to the public • construction of a new maintenance facility • construction of new trail segments to provide increased access to resources and better interpretation of the cultural landscape • relocation of washed out sections of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail • expansion of existing parking lot
Recreational Use	A policy clarification would officially confirm the position that the park should not be used for active recreational purposes. This would be a positive impact, serving to clarify the park's role relative to the region's other cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Continued use for passive recreation (the present policy) would result in no impact on park resources or visitor experience. Recreational camping would be discouraged within the park (the present policy). This would be a positive impact on resources in the park and a potential negative impact on the visitor experience. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Expand the range of on-site visitor programs to encourage types of visitor experiences that are conducive to the purposes of the park.
Picnicking	Existing picnic facilities would be upgraded, resulting in a minor positive impact.

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Trails	The proposed plan recommends various types of enhancements to the existing trail system. Modest expansions of the trail network and introduction of additional interpretive devices would result in a moderate positive impact on visitor use. The introduction of additional trails that provide increased access to the park's cultural landscape would increase interpretive opportunities and opportunities for passive recreation. Such activities would be a positive impact on the visitor experience. Potential introduction of horse trails within the park as part of a larger regional system could raise issues of carrying capacity. Such an activity would present a moderate impact on resource protection and visitor use. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Trails would be designed so as not to impede pedestrian access or impact the safety of other park visitors. Prior to trail construction, consultation would be carried out with appropriate agencies to determine if potential to affect sensitive species exists. If there is potential to affect such species, appropriate mitigation would be carried out.
Health and Safety	Current safety procedures would continue to be implemented in the proposed plan. Strategies would be undertaken to implement an integrated pest management program for poison ivy and the tick population. These represent minor positive impacts to public health and safety. Current safety procedures would continue to be implemented under all action alternatives. Strategies would be undertaken to implement an integrated pest management program and control poison ivy and the tick population. These represent minor positive impacts to public health and safety. The proposed plan recommends improving safety at the entrance to the park using signage and design strategies. Such improvements would be a moderate positive impact on public health and safety. Provisions for a dedicated bus drop-off would be incorporated in the redesign of the current parking lot in conjunction with the expansion of the current visitor center. The creation of a bus drop-off area would be a positive impact on public safety, especially for groups of school children. The proposed plan recommends removal of maintenance functions from the former school to a new facility with up-to-date health and safety protocols. This would result in a moderate positive impact. Relocation of the maintenance facility would probably require the relocation of existing fuel storage tanks. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Fuel storage tanks would be relocated and installed according to US EPA and VA DEQ standards. Prior to any ground disturbance, NPS would coordinate with the VA SHPO regarding potential archeological resources. In the proposed plan the former school would be rehabilitated and opened to the public. This would necessitate the removal of asbestos tiles now present under the hallway carpet. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> During the rehabilitation process, the tiles would be sealed or removed by a licensed asbestos abatement specialist.
Accessibility	All new facilities would be accessible to people with disabilities. Design of a trail connecting the school and cabin area is proposed. Due to the steep slope present between these two resources, appropriate trail design would be a major consideration. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> If an accessible trail alignment between the school and cabin area cannot be devised, provisions will be made for vehicular travel between areas. In both parts of the site, visitors with physical disabilities would have access to interpretive trails.

Summary of Environmental Impacts Resulting from the Proposed Plan

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Park Staffing	The proposed plan recommends staff increases. Increased staffing levels benefit program development and resource protection and would constitute a major positive impact on park operations and the visitor experience. Creating a historian position and two additional interpreter positions would support the implementation of this research- and programming-intensive plan. Ongoing research and one-on-one interaction between rangers and visitors are both key to the success of this approach. An additional maintenance worker would assist with the increased operational requirements of additional trails and waysides. By enabling the expansion of the park's interpretive program, the creation of four additional positions would be a positive impact.
Partnerships and Cooperative Relationships	Continued participation in community discussions and/or planning initiatives to address concerns such as water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic character, would result in a minor to moderate positive impact on resource conditions. Cultivating relationships with subject area specialists and institutions with holdings related to BOWA's expanded interpretive program would enhance educational opportunities on site and result in a moderate positive impact. Cultivation of partnerships is an important aspect of these alternatives. By establishing relationships with institutions that possess information on Washington's life and work or on related interpretive issues, the NPS will be able to expand its exhibit and programmatic offerings substantially. Cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education would also enable the park to undertake expanded research initiatives. Partnership development would represent a positive impact on resource management and site interpretation.
Energy Requirements	Increases in consumption of electricity, fossil fuels and sand and gravel would occur during construction. Adequate capacity and resources are available throughout the planning period. <i>Proposed Mitigation:</i> Relocation of utility corridors during construction and development of a recycling program and energy conservation are recommended.
Environmental Justice	The proposed plan would not result in adverse effects to human health or economic or social conditions in minority or low-income communities. Site enhancements, such as improved public programs and outreach, could potentially result in a positive impact on these communities.
Economic Impacts	National Park Service purchase of the 15-acre parcel of land which contains the last remaining acreage of Washington's birth place would result in a reduction of \$1,200 a year from the local tax rolls. The park currently plays a minor role in the local economy. That is not anticipated to change, although some minor positive impact from increased salaries, expenditures, proposed construction, and increased visitation may accrue to the state and local economy. An increase in park staffing of 4 positions is recommended. This would result in an estimated increase in expenditures of \$220,000 per year in salaries and benefits. Moderate increases in visitation are expected. An increase of up to 20,000 visitors is anticipated for the proposed plan due to an added emphasis on recruiting school groups and encouraging repeat visits among regional residents through varied educational programs. Such increases would be a positive economic impact. Based on anticipated expenditures, an additional \$400,000 in taxable sales for the county would result. This would be a modest positive impact. A \$50 program fee would be applied for school programs. Assuming 300 groups visit the park annually, the park would receive an additional \$15,000 in annual income, a minor positive impact. Short-term benefits related to proposed construction would also constitute a modest positive economic impact. Estimated construction costs for the proposed plan are \$4.91 million.

Unavoidable and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Adjacent Land	Purchase of the proposed 15-acre parcel, which includes the remaining seven acres of land historically associated with Washington's birthplace would be an irretrievable commitment of resources.
Energy Requirements	Limited amounts of non-renewable resources, including energy supplies, would be used in construction-related activities. Although energy supplies are expected to be sufficient, once committed these resources are irretrievable.
Vegetation	Loss of some areas of vegetation due to construction-related clearing would be an irretrievable loss.

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Adjacent Land	Left unaddressed, encroachment of development from West Lake Corner would result in an adverse impact on the current rural character of the park. If unsympathetic development were to occur on lands adjacent to the park, the visual and aesthetic values of the park would be compromised.
Proposed Construction	As described in <i>Proposed Construction</i> certain activities would alter portions of the site from their present appearance. Some loss of wildlife habitat would also likely occur. Short term impacts to water quality, air quality, and noise levels would be mitigated as described above.
Archeological Resources	Construction also has the potential to disrupt below-ground resources. In consultation with the SHPO, the park would determine appropriate mitigation before undertaking any ground-disturbing activity.
Wildlife Habitat	Expansion of the trail system would introduce a regular human presence into new areas of the park. This could result in relocation of some species to different areas of the park or surrounding property.

Cumulative Impacts

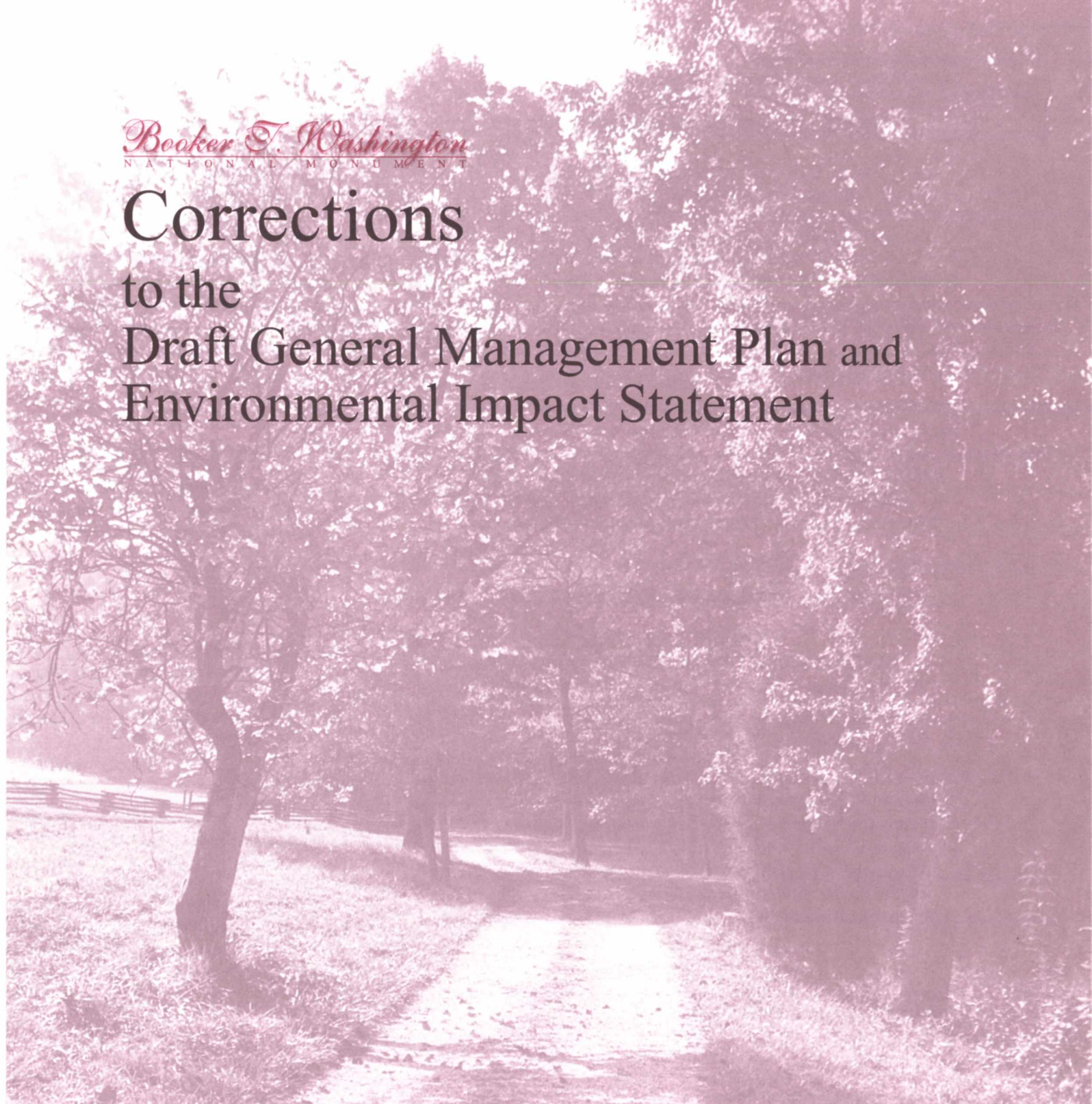
These are defined as "impacts which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time." (40 CFR 1508.7)

IMPACT CATEGORY	PROPOSED PLAN
Viewshed	Purchase of the 15-acre parcel containing the remaining acreage of the Burroughs Plantation would ensure protection of the site in perpetuity. It would also protect the viewshed of the park to the northeast.
Land Use	Development encroaching from West Lake Corner will cumulatively affect the park's cultural landscape and natural resource values, the historic context of the park, the visual and aesthetic values and the visitor experience en route to and within the park. The panoramic viewshed has the potential be disrupted and increased traffic, noise, and emissions will likely continue.
Water Quality	Realignment of washed-out sections of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail would help reduce erosion and improve water quality.
Regional Transportation	Depending on the selected alignment, construction of I-73 in Franklin County could result in increased population, congestion, and development in the vicinity of the park.
School Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the school for public use and relocation of the current maintenance facility might require relocating underground fuel tanks, a new septic system, and removal and abatement of asbestos tiles in the school hallway.
Energy Consumption	Increases in annual visitation would result in an increase in energy consumption at the park.
Wildlife Habitat	Construction, selective clearing, and increased human presence on trails may result in some loss of wildlife habitat and relocation of species to other areas of the park.
Resource Management	Increased research and investigation would result in a better understanding of the cultural landscape of the site, improved resource protection, and greater opportunities for interpretive programming.
Staffing	Staff increase would result in enhanced resource management and program development.

SECTION THREE

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Corrections to the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



Section Three: Corrections to the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

The following corrections to the draft plan are the result of comments and suggestions received during the public review and comment period. When referring back to the draft, the paragraph numbers listed in this section refer to paragraphs that begin on a particular page. A change within a paragraph that began on a previous page is identified as a “carryover paragraph.”

ABSTRACT

Page 2, paragraph 1, change to read:

A fifteen-acre boundary adjustment would be made **and this land would be purchased**, to include the remaining land from the Burroughs Plantation not within the **current** park boundary.

SUMMARY

Page 3, paragraph 1, change to read:

This is the site where Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856. Until 1865 and the end of the Civil War, he was one of 10 **enslaved persons of African descent**, (including his mother, brother and sister), at the Burroughs Plantation...

Page 3, paragraph 3, change to read:

In addition, the potential audience for interpretation and education at BOWA has also grown due to increased interest in African American history and the growth of heritage tourism. ~~within the region.~~

Page 4, paragraph 3, add as last sentence to paragraph:

In each action alternative, existing and new partnerships will play a vital role in the future success of the park.

Page 4, paragraph 6, change to read:

A fifteen-acre boundary adjustment would be made at the northeast border of the park **and this land would be purchased**, to include the remaining land from the Burroughs Plantation not currently within the park boundary.

Page 6, paragraph 5, change to read:

Expansion of the current park boundary to enable the purchase of the 15-acre parcel of land that contains the remaining 7 acres of the Burroughs Plantation is proposed in Alternatives C and D. ~~By~~ Preserving **through federal ownership** a resource that is directly related to the park’s significance and securing a measure of viewshed protection for the northeast quadrant of the park would be a major positive impact.

CHAPTER ONE: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

Page 9, paragraph 4, add at end of paragraph:

Ongoing site research may one day provide more definitive answers to the many unknowns that still remain about the site’s history.

Page 10, paragraph 2, change to read:

After receiving his degree, he worked for several years as a teacher in West Virginia before returning to Hampton **to join the faculty**. At only 25 years of age, he was recommended by the principal of Hampton to develop a new school in Alabama—The Tuskegee **Normal School for Colored Teachers, which later became the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, and which is now known as Tuskegee University**. The **school** was established July 4, 1881.

Page 10, paragraph 3, change to read:

Washington's philosophies and actions continue to spark lively, and sometimes heated debate ~~today~~, which opens up many potential doors to interpretation of the site.

Page 10, paragraph 4, change to read:

In 1952, the trustees of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace donated six acres of land along the western boundary of what is now the park for the construction of one of Franklin County's last segregated schools. ~~for black children~~. The school opened **for African American children** in 1954, **the same year that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine in the Brown v. Board of Education decision. The segregated school remained open** through 1966.

Page 10, paragraph 5, change to read:

The site has been operated as a national monument since **then**.

Page 10, paragraph 6, change to read:

The creation of BOWA followed ~~shortly after~~ the establishment of a national **monument in 1943** at the birthplace of George Washington Carver, who served under Washington at the Tuskegee Institute. BOWA was intended to be a living testament to Washington's memory and to inspire future generations. At the time the bill was passed, some legislators felt that Tuskegee was a more suitable place to commemorate his achievements. **Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site was established in 1974.**

Page 11, paragraph 2, change to read:

Between 1895 and his death in 1915, Booker T. Washington was **arguably** the single most influential American in the areas of race relations and black education, and **he** made important contributions in the areas of politics and business. While there were numerous African Americans working to further the cause of Civil Rights at that time, Washington had the ear of the **nation's political, business and philanthropic leaders.**

Page 13, paragraph 2, change to read:

In addition, the potential audience for the park has grown significantly as a result of increasing interest in African American history, regional population growth, and increasing numbers of heritage tourists. ~~within the region.~~

Page 13, paragraph 4, change to read:

Built as a segregated **public** school for African American children, it illustrates a dramatic point in the continuum of American race relations and could become a valuable interpretive asset.

Page 14, paragraph 1, change to read:

The park's existing collections are stored in an administrative area. ~~off limits to the public. The result is inadequate environmental conditions for resources not incorporated into the park's interpretive program.~~

Page 14, paragraph 3, change to read:

What happens to this land in the near future has the potential to significantly affect not only views from the site, but the **agricultural** character of the park as a whole. Although the park contains all but seven acres of the original Burroughs Plantation, consideration may be given to **purchasing** the remaining acreage or other parcels that allows the park to meet its mission.

Page 21, carryover paragraph, change to read:

Following this preliminary review, they dug a number of strategically located test pits that were examined for clues about ~~the~~ how the site was used throughout its history... The study also begs further and more comprehensive study of the site to answer unresolved questions that ~~still~~ remain and incorporate new knowledge into the GMP implementation process in the coming years.

Page 23, paragraph 4, change to read:

Westlake Corner, a crossroads village that lies less than 3,000 feet east of the park has experienced a significant increase in

construction projects within the past five years and **has** become a commercial hub for the surrounding community...
Given current development trends in the region **and the potential for a nearby interstate, I-73**, the park's rural setting is vulnerable to the effects of **increased** development.

Page 24, paragraph 1, change to read:

Expanding the park boundary is only possible after other **strategies** for management and resource protection have been shown to be inadequate. In addition to being feasible to administer, lands under consideration **as new park land** must also meet one of the following conditions before a park's boundary can be modified:

Page 24, paragraph 3, change to read:

Recommended in Alternatives C and D is the **purchase** of the fifteen-acre tract of land containing the only portion of the Washington's birth site not currently owned by the NPS.

Page 24, paragraph 4, change to read:

Within Alternatives C and D the proposed **boundary change** would satisfy criteria 1 and 3...**Federal ownership of this parcel** would bring the whole birth site under the administration of the NPS and enable it to be documented and interpreted in its entirety, significantly enriching the visitor experience.

Page 25, paragraph 3, change to read:

The park has long maintained a close relationship with nearby Ferrum College **and its Blue Ridge Institute**.

Page 27, add:

Franklin County tourism Board, Franklin County, Virginia
Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce, Moneta, Virginia

Page 27, change to read:

Roanoke Branch, NAACP, Roanoke, Virginia

Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Virginia

Page 27, paragraph 1, change to read:

By establishing cooperative relationships with such organizations, the park would be able **to** collaborate on travelling exhibits, the development of media materials, and symposia.

Page 28, add:

(under *Civil Rights Related*)

National Voting Rights Museum, Selma, Alabama

(under *General*)

Blue Ridge Institute, Ferrum, Virginia

(under *Plantation and Slavery*)

Jubal Early Preservation Trust, Franklin County, Virginia

(under Booker T. Washington)

Town of Malden, Virginia

(under NPS Sites...)

Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, Arkansas

CHAPTER TWO: ALTERNATIVES

Page 31, paragraph 4, change to read:

Members of the public suggested that NPS capitalize on the fact that Dr. Washington was born on this site and use this real, physical place to raise complex issues of slavery, the Civil War, reconstruction, **Jim Crow, the civil rights movement**, and race relations.

Page 40, Interpretive Program, Existing Conditions, change to read:

Auditorium functions ~~to~~ primarily to only show park film.

Page 53, Recreational Opportunities, Potential Actions, delete:
~~Discourage camping in the park.~~

Page 65, paragraph 3, change to read:
The intent is to work with the Library of Congress, Tuskegee
University, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Hampton
University, and others to collect a substantial amount of
documentation relevant to Dr. Washington and place it on CD-
ROM.

Page 71, Boundary, Potential Actions, change to read:
Purchase the 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the park, which
contains the remaining 7 acres of land that are historically
associated with the Burroughs Plantation.

Page 75, Partnerships, Potential Actions, change to read:
Establish relationships with institutions **and organizations** that
possess information on Washington's life and work or on related
interpretive issues.

Partner with local, **state and national** organizations involved in
interpreting regional history.

Page 76, paragraph 2, change to read:
When the school reaches fifty years of age in 2004, a nomination
will be prepared to list it in the National **Register** of Historic
Places.

Page 77, paragraph 8, delete:
~~Acquisition of the entire parcel would be preferable to leaving a
remnant that was not economically viable.~~

Page 80, paragraph 5, change to read:
If future traffic increases along Rt. 122 require it, the park would
work with **VDOT** officials to build turn lanes at the park entrance.

Page 81, paragraph 1, change to read:
The practice of camping on park grounds, which has been
downplayed in recent years, would be **limited to groups
performing volunteer work in the park.**

Page 81, paragraph 5, change to read:
In addition, an interpretive **ranger** would be added to carry out the
interpretive program on-site and offer the direct one-on-one
contact that is required for the success of the alternative.

Page 82, paragraph 5, change to read:
The park would continue its efforts to establish cooperative
relationships with Franklin County, other public agencies, adjacent
landowners, Smith Mountain Lake developers, and **VDOT** to
define strategies for long-term protection of the park's viewshed.

Page 84, Cultural Resources, Management Goals, delete 2nd set of
goals:

~~Resource management is carried out in accordance with all
applicable laws and policies.~~

~~The school is recognized as a significant cultural resource.~~

~~Management decisions are based upon professional studies and
adequate planning.~~

~~Cultural and ethnographic resources are actively investigated and
documented.~~

Page 84, Cultural Resources, Potential Actions, delete 2nd set of
actions:

~~Rehabilitate the entirety of the former school as the primary visitor
center. Restore key elements of the school to their 1950s
appearance.~~

~~Demolish the current visitor center, parking lot, and entrance road.
Reestablish the natural features of those locations in a manner
determined appropriate to the cultural landscape of the site.~~

~~Mitigate disruption to archeological resources prior to undertaking ground-disturbing activity.~~

Page 86, Boundary, Potential Actions, change to read:
Purchase the 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the park, containing the remaining 7 acres of land associated with the Burroughs Plantation.

Page 90, paragraph 2, change to read:
When the school reaches fifty years of age in 2004, a nomination will be prepared to list it in the National **Register** of Historic Places.

Page 91, paragraph 7, delete:
~~Acquisition of the entire parcel would be preferable to leaving a remnant that was not economically viable.~~

Page 94, paragraph 8, change to read:
The practice of camping on park grounds, which has been downplayed in recent years, would be **limited to groups performing volunteer work in the park.**

Page 98, Landscapes, applies to Alternative D only:
Demolish the current visitor center and re-vegetate the area as determined appropriate to the cultural landscape of the site.

Page 99, Boundary, Alternatives C and D, change to read:
Purchase the 15-acre parcel adjacent in the northeast corner of the park, which contains the remaining 7 acres of Washington's birthplace.

Page 100, Park Setting and Viewshed, Alternatives C and D, change to read:
Purchase the 15-acre parcel adjacent in the northeast corner of the park, which contains the remaining 7 acres of Washington's birthplace.

Page 106, Recreational Use, Alternatives A, C and D, change to read:

Continue to permit limited camping opportunities associated with groups performing volunteer work in the park.

CHAPTER THREE: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Page 114, Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, change to read:
Requires survey, recovery and preservation of significant scientific, prehistorical, historical, archaeological or paleontological data when such data may be destroyed ~~to~~ due **to** a Federal project.

Page 118, paragraph 1, change to read:
The following impact categories were prescribed by NPS-12 and by observing the potentially affected resources on **and** adjacent to BOWA.

Page 121, paragraph 7, change to read:
Ethnographic resources for the site include such county records as deeds and tax records, US census records, Washington's personal papers at Tuskegee, **and** Washington's published remembrances of the site. **Also included** are NPS planning and policy documents, published biographical information on Washington, scholarly information about plantation systems, descendants of Washington and the Burroughs family, alumni and staff of the Booker T. Washington school, and the local ~~African American~~ community.

Page 127, paragraph 3, change to read:
In addition to walk-in visitors, the park **is being visited by an increasing number of school groups. In the 1998-99 school year, 4323 students participated in educational programs; 3655 students were involved in 117 on-site curriculum-based programs, 239 participated in 3 special events, and 429 were involved in 10 off-site programs.**

Page 129, paragraph 5, delete:

~~The park has never employed a historian on staff.~~

Page 130, paragraph 3, change to read:

The visitor center has a capacity of approximately sixty people and does not adequately accommodate the park's current level of visitation ~~during~~ many days during the year—

Page 137, paragraph 5, change to read:

The park's 1998 Viewshed Study provides important information to assist the park, adjacent land **owners and the community** in future **planning efforts**.

CHAPTER FOUR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Page 141, paragraph 4, change to read:

Expansion of the current park boundary to enable the **purchase** of the 15-acre parcel of land that contains the remaining seven acres of Washington's birth site is proposed in Alternatives C and D.

Page 149, Land Management, Alternatives C and D, change to read:

Provisions would be made to purchase the 15-acre parcel that contains the remaining 7 acres of Washington's birth site. This would preserve a historically significant resource and ensure that the use of that property would be compatible with the purposes of the park. **Ownership by the federal government would have a major positive impact on land use in and around the park.**

Page 150, Boundary, Alternatives C and D, change to read:

Alternatives C and D recommend **purchase** of the 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the park, which contains the remaining 7 acres of land of Washington's birth site. **This** would protect and preserve a historic resource that contributes to the significance of the site...

Page 159, Recreational Use, Alternatives C and D, change to read: Camping would be **limited** within the park **to groups performing park-related volunteer work**. This would be a positive impact on resources and a positive impact on the visitor experience.

Page 164, Adjacent Land, Alternatives C and D, change to read:

Purchase of the proposed 15-acre parcel that contains the remaining 7 acres of Washington's birth site would be an irretrievable commitment of resources.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Page 167, paragraph 3, change to read:

Individuals representing a variety of interests participated in these workshops, including local residents, business owners, park neighbors, alumni **and faculty** of Booker T. Washington Elementary School, and government officials.

REFERENCES

Page 175, Organizations Contacted, add:
Blue Ridge Institute, Ferrum, Virginia

Page 176, Organizations Contacted, change to read:

Franklin County **Chamber of Commerce**, Rocky Mount, Virginia
Virginia Department of Transportation, Salem, Virginia

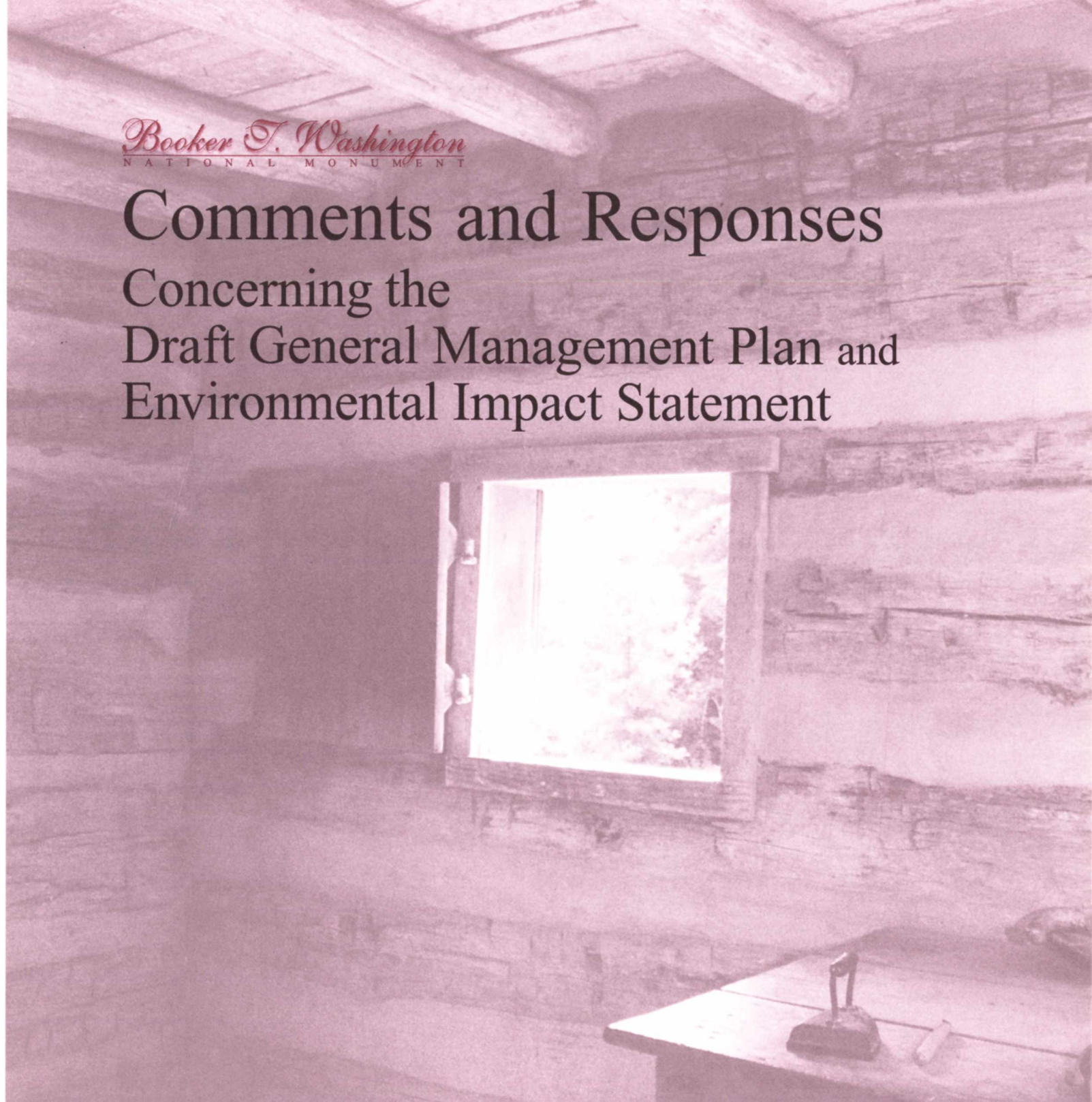
Page 179, Glossary, change to read:

Alternative: a possible course of **action**, one of several different ways to achieve an objective or vision. The term is used in this document to describe different management options.

SECTION FOUR

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

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



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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

AUG 31 1999

Ms. Rebecca Harriett
Superintendent
Booker T. Washington National Monument
12130 Booker T. Washington Highway
Hardy, VA 24101-9688

Re: Booker T. Washington National Monument, Virginia

Dear Ms. Harriett:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the above referenced project. EPA has assigned this DEIS a rating of LO-1 (Lack of Objections/Adequate), which indicates that we have no objections to the proposal and that the DEIS adequately addressed the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative. However, the following comments should be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A copy of EPA's ranking system is enclosed for your information.

- As stated on page 126 of the DEIS, a portion of the study area lies within the 100-year floodplain. The proposed alternative suggests relocating eroded portions of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail away from Gills Creek (floodplain area) to avoid flooding that occurs on the Trail several times a year. Project planning should be coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Since FEMA was not listed as a recipient of the DEIS, EPA suggests that they receive a copy of the FEIS.

- Page 143 states that "Relocation of washed-out sections of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail away from Gills Creek may impact some localized wetlands, but long term impacts would be minimal." As noted on page 152 of the proposed mitigation "Any new trail construction would be designed to avoid wetland areas." EPA would like to emphasize the commitment to avoid impacts to wetland areas by identifying the fragmented wetlands on figures within the FEIS in conjunction with the relocated Jack-O-Lantern Trail proposed to be realigned away from Gills Creek.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. The staff contact for this review is Karen Del Grosso; she can be reached at 215-814-2765.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Slenkamp, Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Programs

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Mr. Thomas A. Slenkamp
Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Programs
USEPA, Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. Slenkamp:

Thank you for your response to the Booker T. Washington National Monument Draft General Management Plan. We will mail the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) a copy of the final environmental impact statement as it applies to the relocation of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail. We will avoid impacts to wetlands with the trail relocation by using another already existing trail. If you have any further comments or questions please contact me at (540) 721-2094. Again, thank you for your help and comments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural
Resources



David G. Brickley
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

203 Governor Street, Suite 326

TDD (804) 786-2121 Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010 (804) 786-2556 FAX (804) 371-7877

August 5, 1999



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

Dear Ms. Harriett:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. This plan provides an excellent description of the alternatives available to the National Park Service for addressing the future direction of this important resource in the Western Piedmont Region of Virginia.

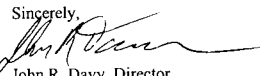
Of the alternatives described in the Draft Plan, it appears to us that Alternative C would provide the most comprehensive approach to permit future visitors to have a proper understanding of Mr. Washington's place in history. The acquisition of the remaining 15 acres of the Burroughs Plantation would appear to be a vital component of protecting the original property. The enhanced educational and interpretive programming that would result from the revised system of waysides and exhibits would provide a better understanding of the life and works of Booker T. Washington. The objective of establishing additional partnerships to help protect the rural character of the site would appear to further protect the scene that the park service is attempting to portray.

The implementation of the Park Service's preferred alternative for the Booker T. Washington National Monument would also help to achieve a number of the objectives outlined in the *1996 Virginia Outdoors Plan* related to the preservation and interpretation of important cultural, archaeological, and historic resources.

We look forward to hearing about additional details of the Park Service plans to expand the educational and interpretive programs delineated in the General Management Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


John R. Davy, Director
Division of Planning And Recreation Resources

cc: The Honorable David G. Brickley
An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Mr. John R. Davy, Director
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources
Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street, Suite 326
Richmond, VA 23219-2010

Dear Mr. Davy:

Thank you for your comments on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have selected Alternative C as the preferred alternative. We found the *1996 Virginia Outdoors Plan* to be extremely helpful in our planning process and glad that the implementation of our GMP will help achieve some of your agency objectives as well as ours. It takes all of us working together to preserve these important historic resources. We look forward to working with you in the future as we now tackle the job of implementation. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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



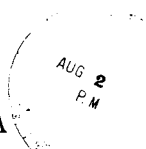
COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources



H. Alexander Wise, Jr.
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386

July 29, 1999

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

Dear Superintendent Harriett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BOWA General Management Plan.

I commend the Management Plan's introductory chapter on Purpose and Need for Action. I appreciated the information provided on the historic background of the park and the report's explicit realization that ideas of purpose and interpretation have changed significantly since the private sector creation of the park in 1940, the congressional creation of the National Monument in 1956, and the development of interpretive living history programs during the 1970s. The GMP correctly identifies new and more complex historical interpretations of Booker T. Washington's role as a principal leader of African Americans from 1885 to 1915, and it is now highly appropriate to reexamine the comprehensive interpretative mission to be accomplished by BOWA.

In my review of Alternative Proposals, I clearly reject Alternative A: No Action. It is necessary to take new steps to present the central story of Washington's life as a slave in Franklin County and to address the legacy of his life as a major African American leader during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Likewise, I reject the essentially passive interpretive role proposed for BOWA in Alternative B.

This leads me to a consideration of Alternatives C and D, and though I must confess to being torn between choosing between these two vastly referable alternatives, obviously I prefer the active interpretive roles proposed by both Alternatives C and D.

I support Alternative D insofar as I am dissatisfied with the present visitor center, which presents the visitor with an initial impression of an architecturally uninteresting structure

that in no way reflects appropriately on Washington's life as a slave on the Burrough plantation—and I believe this is the story that BOWA is uniquely situated to tell. I also think that rehabilitation of one classroom at the former Booker T. Washington school while retaining the remainder of the building for office space will create a building of divided function that is neither fish nor fowl and will make interpretation there problematic.

My reservations to Alternative C would diminish if the present visitor center were truly enlarged in a creative way so as somehow to make its appearance reflective of the slave plantation life that Booker T. lived there during the first decade of his life.

I absolutely agree that archaeological investigations should continue so that interpretation of the cultural landscape of Booker T.'s childhood can be conducted in the most accurate and compelling manner. Similarly, archaeological testing should be continued so that the site of the Burrough's plantation house can be accurately depicted or "ghosted" and so that the Booker T. Washington slave cabin can be shown on its real site, if possible to determine, and so it can look as it did around 1860, not in its present overly substantial reconstruction. Did the Burrough's house have a tobacco barn around 1860, and if so, did it look like the one presently in place?

I really think that BOWA can best focus on Booker T. Washington's life as a slave on the plantation by using comprehensive cultural landscape, historical archaeology, and historic context research. All efforts with interpretation of the parkland should focus on this effort with fieldwork exhibits, interpretive signage, ghosted structures, and in-depth interpretation of slave life on a small Piedmont Virginia plantation. The remainder of Washington's life can then be interpreted in expanded visitor center exhibits.

Land use research should focus on the specific story of mid-nineteenth-century slave life in the oldest and most populous state of the Confederacy. The possibilities of this research are well outlined in Alternatives C and D.

In summation, I would say that Alternative D seems best designed to fulfill the interpretive role I see as most significant for BOWA, but either Alternative C or D is vastly superior to Alternatives A and B.

I commend BOWA for undertaking a much-needed General Management Plan for the park, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources looks forward to a continued partnership role in review and comment on the implementation of either Alternative D or C.

Sincerely,

John R. Kern, Ph.D.
Director RRPO

Petersburg Office
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23903
Tel: (804) 863-1620
Fax: (804) 863-1627

Portsmouth Office
612 Court Street, 3rd Floor
Portsmouth, VA 23704
Tel: (804) 396-6707
Fax: (804) 396-6712

Roanoke Office
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Winchester Office
107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203
Winchester, VA 22601
Tel: (540) 722-3427
Fax: (540) 722-7535



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Mr. John R. Kern, Ph.D.
Director
Roanoke Regional Preservation Office
Department of Historic Resources
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA 24013

Dear John:

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. Your ideas about and support for this historic site are always appreciated.

After careful consideration, the National Park Service has decided to implement Alternative C. Realization of this alternative will meet our interpretive program goals and facility needs. I agree with you about the current location of the visitor center. Mission 66 visitor centers were designed to be located "close" to the historic scene and are now considered an intrusion. In the future, Alternative D could be amended to the approved GMP if the funding becomes available. In fact we designed that alternative with flexibility in mind, but right now, it is just not feasible.

As we work to expand the current facility, we will consult with your office about design and space. We will also need assistance from your office on the historic resource study and register nomination for the Booker T. Washington School. Thank you for your support as we implement this General Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, 23219-1939



EARL T. ROBB
ENVIRONMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR

DAVID R. GEHR
COMMISSIONER

To: Rebecca L. Harriett
US Department of the Interior

From: Kelly S. Coleman, VDOT *Kelly Coleman*

Subject: Booker T. Washington National Monument

Date: July 29, 1999

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. All activities seem to be confined to the limits of the park. Impacts to traffic and the transportation system will be limited to questions of park access and the future overall growth of traffic in the surrounding area.

If additional information is required, please contact Ben Mannell at (804) 786-4739.

WE KEEP VIRGINIA MOVING

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Ms. Kelly S. Coleman
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219-1939

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Thank you for taking the time to review the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. The majority of the activities are within the limits of the park, but I'm sure we will be working with VDOT during the lifetime of this GMP on issues of common concern like park access and highway by-pass as the flow of traffic in the area increases.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

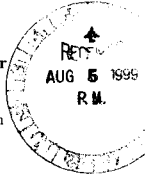
Section Four: Comments and Responses Concerning the
Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



Macon C. Sammons, Jr.
County Administrator
Phone (540) 483-3030
FAX (540) 483-3035

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

Board of Supervisors
Office of County Administrator
40 East Court Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
E-Mail: franklinco@cablenet-va.com



W. Wayne Angell
Blackwater District
Hubert L. Quinn
Blue Ridge District
John W. Helms
Boone District
Donald L. Riddle, Jr.
Gills Creek District
Charles D. Wagne
Rocky Mount District
Page A. Matherly
Snow Creek District
Jerre C. Lumsder
Union Hall District

August 4, 1999

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

Re: Draft GMP/EIS for the Booker T. Washington National Monument

Dear Ms. Harriett:

On behalf of the County, thank you for the public hearings held in the County on July 19th and 20th for the draft management alternatives. We support the efforts to sustain and enhance the monument as a priceless national treasure we are proud to have within the borders of our County, and we appreciate the thoughtful alternative studies provided. Our request is that the National Park Service provide the continued maintenance and improvements contemplated which are in the best interest of the monument and the public, giving consideration to the comments shared during the planning process.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Newlon
Acting County Administrator

BLN/chs

"The Land between the Lakes and the Blue Ridge"



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Ms. Bonnie Newlon
Acting County Administrator
Office of County Administration
40 East Court Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Dear Bonnie:

Thank you for attending the public meeting and reviewing the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We will proceed with implementing Alternative C as explained in the draft plan. This alternative will best preserve the rural quality of the plantation setting which is critical to site interpretation and environmental integrity while ensuring a high quality visitor experience. This alternative also compliments the goals established in the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan and the supplemental "Vision" document for Smith Mountain Lake.

We look forward to working with the County on the Westlake Corner Community Plan and appreciate your support for Booker T. Washington National Monument.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

National Parks
and Conservation Association

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

11 August 1999

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

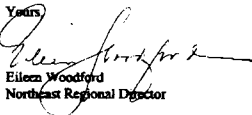
Dear Rebecca:

The National Parks and Conservation Association is pleased to submit these comments on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Booker T. Washington NM. NPCA is America's only private nonprofit citizen organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System. An association of "Citizens Protecting America's Parks," NPCA was founded in 1919, and today has over 400,000 members.

NPCA is pleased to endorse Alternative C as the proposed alternative. This alternative offers the park the best strategy for meeting the park's goals. We are especially supportive of the boundary expansion proposed under this alternative. Maintaining the rural quality of the plantation setting is crucial to site interpretation and ensuring a high quality visitor experience. NPCA is pleased that this alternative will increase access and use of the park's collection, hopefully resulting in greater understanding of Booker T. Washington and the site.

If you have any question regarding our comments, please call me at 617-354-8940.

Yours,


Eileen Woodford
Northeast Regional Director



Northeast Regional Office

P.O. Box 382372, Cambridge, MA 02238-2372
Tel: (617) 354-8940 • Fax: (617) 354-8635
EileenNP@aol.com

National Office

1776 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 223-6722 • Fax: (202) 659-0650
<http://www.npca.org> • AOL Keyword: PARKS



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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

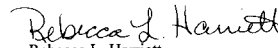
September 30, 1999

Ms. Eileen Woodford
Northeast Regional Director
P.O. Box 382372
Cambridge, MA 02238-2372

Dear Eileen:

Thank you for taking the time to review the Booker T. Washington National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. As you stated "maintaining the rural quality of the plantation setting is critical to site interpretation and ensuring a high quality visitor experience" which is articulated best in Alternative C. We appreciate all the support that NPCA has given to Booker T. National Monument and hope that support will continue as we proceed in implementing this plan.

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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

August 1, 1999



Dear Madame,

In response to your question about improvements to Booker T. Washington Monument, I would offer the following suggestions. First, the school should be restored. This would mean removal of all maintenance supplies out of the classrooms.

Second, a maintenance building would need to be added. It would store the aforementioned supplies. An added bonus would be everything is more readily located and easier access to supplies.

Third, a pavilion or overhang used for a picnic area by the Booker T. Washington reunion committee and church organization. And finally, expansion of the visitation center to seat 300 to 500 people.

Booker T. Washington monument and school are a beautiful part of Franklin County history. It deserves to remain as such into the new millenium.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cyrus Taylor
Rev. Cyrus Taylor



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Reverend Cyrus Taylor

Dear Reverend Taylor:

Thank you for attending the public meeting and your comments on the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C which includes the expansion of the current visitor center and restoration of the Booker T. Washington School for public events. We have received funding in 2000 for a historic resource study for the school which will hopefully result in the school being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Once that is completed we will seek funding to restore the exterior of the school.

As you stated in your comments, a new maintenance/administrative facility will need to be built before the interior of the school can be restored. We are currently working on the plans for expanding the visitor center. Although I doubt if it is feasible to expand the facility to seat 300-500 people, we are working with an historic architect on various designs.

Again, thank you for your support and interest in the monument and the school. We look forward to working with you as we implement this plan.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

Booker T. Washington NATIONAL MONUMENT

Comment and Evaluation Form

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

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

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

Your name: Carol Althoff Address:

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

Visitor Center - alternative C

School " "

administrative

MAINTENANCE alternative C

Parking " "

RECREATION - would like boy scouts to be able to use park for camping & service to park -

Boundary - alternative C -

Staffing - " "

Partners - " "

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Mrs. Carol Althoff

Dear Carol:

Thank you for attending the public meeting and commenting on the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C, which includes expanding the current visitor center and restoring the Booker T. Washington School. We look forward to making these much needed improvements so that we can better tell the story of Booker T. Washington. Thank you for your time, energy and support of Booker T. Washington National Monument. It is appreciated!

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent



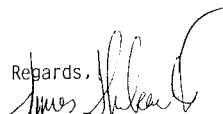
August 2, 1999

Rebecca Harriett
Superintendent
Booker T. Washington Memorial
Hardy, Virginia

Dear Superintendent Harriett:

I would like to respond to the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, Virginia. It would be my recommendation that Alternative C be the NPS choice.

As an organization which has worked with promoting the West Virginia boyhood home of Washington for nearly fifteen years we see the value in a progressive educational program. A program which is comprehensive *and* recognizes the fabulous possibilities that in America can grow out of a red clay tobacco patch. Good luck. . . go forward. . . keep up the good work.

Regards,

James Thibeault
Director

cc: B.T. Washington Assoc.

A self-help quilting cooperative since 1970

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Mr. James Thibeault, Director

Dear James:

Thank you for your comments on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have selected Alternative C because of its focus on preserving the rural landscape plus emphasis on the educational aspects of our programs. We also hope to expand the museum collection and research facilities so that the public will have better access to Washington materials. We always look forward to our continued association with your commemoration of Washington in Malden. Please stay in touch and we will do the same.

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT



Comment and Evaluation Form

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

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

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3. Are you in support of the preferred alternative, Alternative C? ☒ yes ☐ no
4. If so, please explain why. (use back of form if necessary)
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☐ Alternative A ☐ Alternative B ☐ Alternative D ☐ I have another idea
6. Please explain your answer to Question 5. (use back of form if necessary)
7. What, if anything, would you have changed about this meeting? (use back of form if necessary)
8. Other comments? (use back of form if necessary)

*The meeting was very good.
Thank you*

Your name: Barbara Witcher Address:



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Ms. Barbara Witcher

Dear Ms. Witcher:

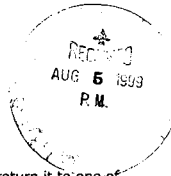
Thank you for attending the public meeting about the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C, which includes expanding the current visitor center and restoring the Booker T. Washington School. We hope to improve our educational programming and research resources so that we can better tell the story of Booker T. Washington. Thank you for your interest and support of this national monument.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT



Comment and Evaluation Form

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

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

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

7. What, if anything, would you have changed about this meeting? (use back of form if necessary)
no

8. Other comments? (use back of form if necessary)
See attached

Your name: TIM ZINCK Address:

Comments on Booker T. Washington National Monument Draft GMP/EIS Continued:

4. Alternative C maximizes the existing infrastructure, recognizes the historic importance of the B.T. Washington School, and provides for the protection of resources and expands the public use/interpretation of the site in a non adversarial manner.

8. I suggest that the park seek legislation to change its name to a National Historic Site which would be more descriptive of this type of park and its nature would be better understood by visitors.

The development alternatives all graphically suggest the expansion of the trail and interpretative program to include trails closer to the VA 122. With the existing volume of traffic on this highway, the noise and sight of the highway would diminish the visitor's experience using these trails.

The plan should clearly state that an expansion of VA 122 on its existing alignment would severally negatively impact the park's historic resources and the visitor's experience and would not be supported, nor approved by the Service.

The park should explore legal opportunities to be able to cooperate with adjacent landowners to be able to assist them to maintain existing open space, farming and forestry uses that are compatible with the park purpose. Cooperation could include planning and use assistance to leasing the land to maintain compatibility. The park should seek this authority if it does not exist.

The park should seek authority to be able to accept donated preservation easements and fee interest in adjacent lands. This ability would provide the park with a minimal level of being able to protect the historic scene and visitor experience.

The park should review the legislation that was passed to assist Gettysburg to be able to protect adjacent lands several years ago (I believe in the early 1990's). The purpose of this legislation may have application to BOWA.



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. Jim Zinck

Dear Mr. Zinck:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft General Management Plan/EIS for Booker T. Washington National Monument. We have decided to implement Alternative C that would allow for the expansion of the current visitor center and restore the Booker T. Washington School for public use. We have received funding in 2000 for a historic resource study of the school that will contribute to the restoration research.

Your concerns regarding the expansion of the trail system negatively impacting the visitor experience are correct. We will remove that component from Alternative C in the final plan. The land will remain in agricultural use to preserve the historic scene.

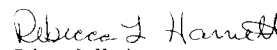
We are researching the feasibility of being able to accept donated preservation easements within our viewshed, but a final decision is still pending.

Your concern about the inevitable expansion of VA 122 is also correct. Although we felt that expansion would not occur within the lifetime of this GMP, a stronger statement about our position is warranted. The park is involved in the Westlake Corner Community Plan where we have supported the recommendation of a by-pass north of the monument.

You also suggested that changing the park's name from "national monument" to "national historic site" might better clarify our identity for the public. This change would require congressional action and we are discussing that possibility with our legislative affairs office.

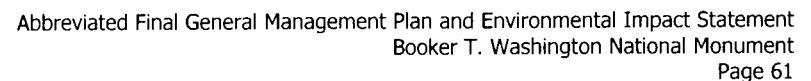
Again, I'd like to thank you for your thoughtful comments and participation in the discussions during the public meeting. Your support for the monument is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Your name: J. Francis Amos, m.d. Address: _____



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

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



Dear Ms. Harriett:

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Jack
cc: File



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. Larry Jack

Dear Mr. Jack:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mr. Otis Bartley

Dear Mr. Bartley:

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent



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

Dear Ms. Harriett:

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3. Provide recreational areas for picnicking, swimming, tennis, softball and basketball. These area of recreation can be enjoyed by the general public: For those who are nearby, Church groups, school children, those who may be traveling by bus car or by whatever means of transportation. Visitors from all over the United States, Canada, and from other lands.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Otis I. Bartley

cc: File

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

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

Dear Ms. Harriett:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bertha Nickens

cc: File



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Ms. Bertha Nickens

Dear Ms. Nickens:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

cc: File

Mr. James A. Holmes

Dear Mr. Holmes:

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

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

Marie Bradby

August 6, 1999

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

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

Dear Rebecca,

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

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

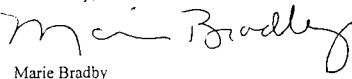
When I first learned about this park, I was fascinated. There are numerous
plantations here in Kentucky where one can visit and tour. But none of them offers any
mention of the slave culture --though the free labor of Negro slaves was responsible for
the support of those working farms. The state-owned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

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

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

Thanks for the opportunity comment on this project.

Sincerely,


Marie Bradby

AUG 10 1999
P.M.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

September 30, 1999

Ms. Marie Bradby

Dear Marie:

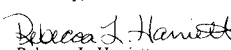
Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the Draft General Management Plan for Booker T.
Washington National Monument. After reviewing the various comments we have decided to proceed with
implementing Alternative C. This alternative will focus on expanding the monument's educational
resources and providing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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

Booker T. Washington
NATIONAL MONUMENT

Comment and Evaluation Form

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

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

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

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

Your name: Darlene Swain Address:

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

Darlene Swain

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



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (BOWA)

October 5, 1999

Mrs. Darlene Swain

Dear Mrs. Swain:

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Harriett
Rebecca L. Harriett
Superintendent

Notes

Notes



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Region**