



# Foundation Document

## Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Iowa

January 2017





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## Mission of the National Park Service

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

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

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

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

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



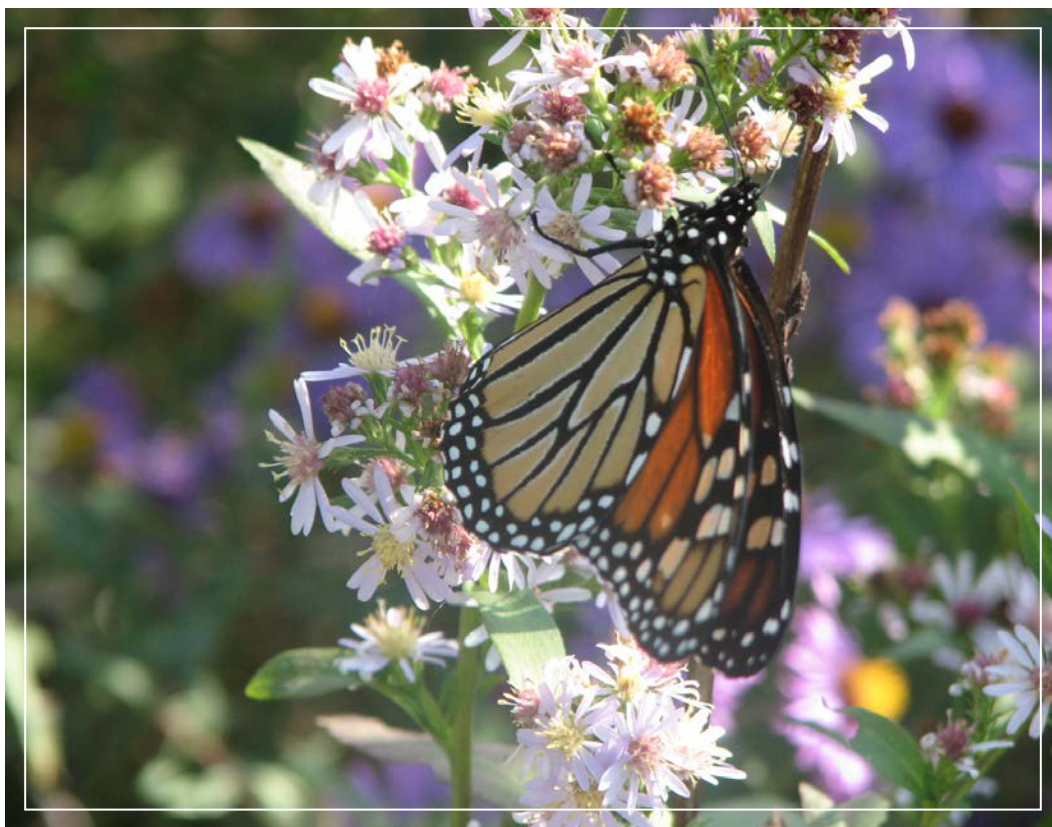
*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological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

## Introduction

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

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

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





## Part 1: Core Components

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

### Brief Description of the Park

Herbert Hoover was a successful engineer, an international humanitarian, and the 31st president of the United States (1929–1933). Hoover spent his early childhood in West Branch, Iowa, from his birth in 1874 to his departure from the community in 1885. His experiences with family, community members, and members of his family's Quaker church were strong influences on his life.

In the mid-1930s, after Hoover left the presidency, the Hoover family purchased and restored the Hoover Birthplace Cottage and began to develop a park on the site. The Hoover Presidential Foundation, which began in 1939 as the Hoover Birthplace Society, facilitated the preservation of the birthplace and the establishment of the park. Mr. Hoover chose West Branch as the location for his presidential library and as the site of his final resting place. The park was designed to tell the story of his life, from humble beginnings to world renown.

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is managed by the National Park Service. It encompasses his Birthplace Cottage, Gravesite, Presidential Library – Museum, Friends Meetinghouse, Blacksmith Shop, Schoolhouse, statue of the Egyptian goddess Isis, two farms, a reconstructed tallgrass prairie, and an originally unnamed tributary of the West Branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek (locally referred to as Hoover Creek). The park is embedded in the town of West Branch, and provides an accessible, dignified, and spacious setting in which visitors can experience these resources.

The gravesite of Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover, rests on a hillside 550 yards southwest of the Birthplace Cottage. The gravesite overlooks both the library and Birthplace Cottage. A reconstructed prairie and agricultural fields provide a background for the gravesite area. A loop road brings visitors to the gravesite, and the 1.8-mile Herbert Hoover Prairie Trail runs along the park perimeter and through a portion of the reconstructed prairie.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library – Museum is also included within the boundaries of the park. It is independently administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and is the primary repository of material related to Herbert Hoover's presidency.

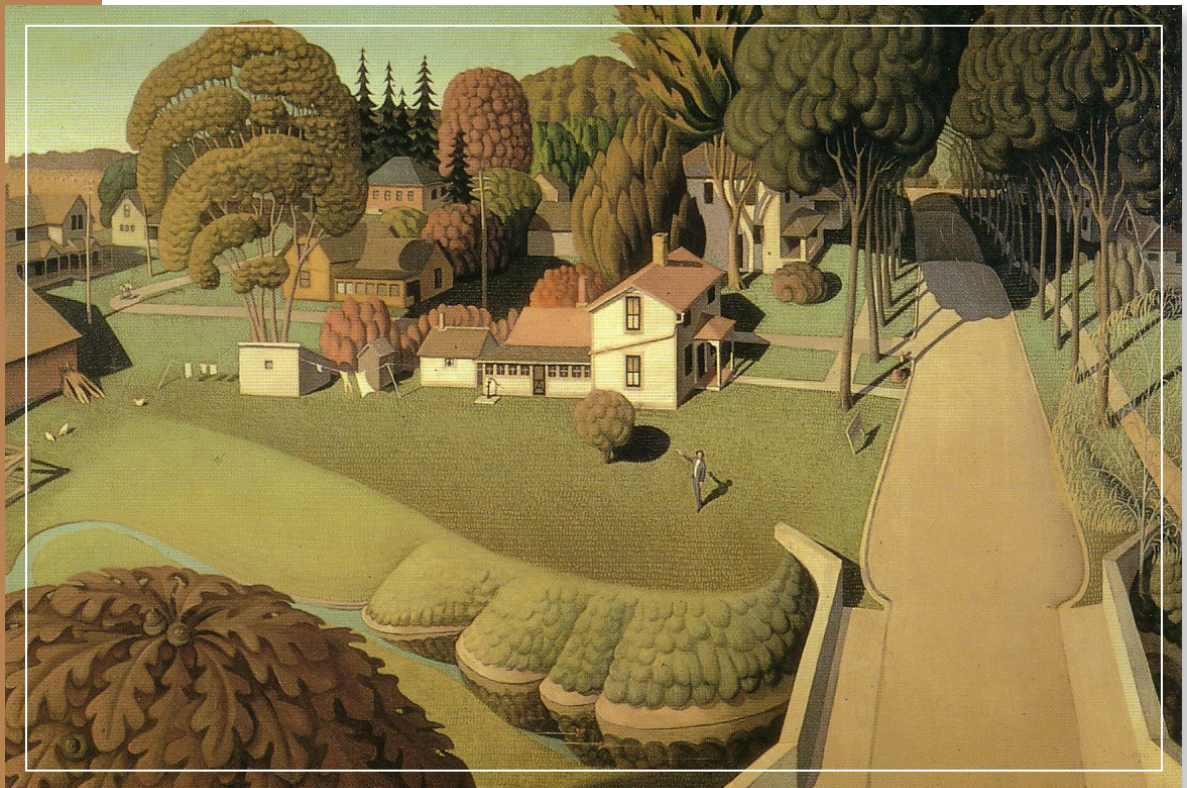
The National Park Service maintains a visitor center to greet visitors and guide their visit. Displays inside the visitor center focus on Mr. Hoover's upbringing in West Branch, his success as an engineer, his significant accomplishments in international relief work following World War I, his presidency, and his involvement in developing the park. There is no fee to visit the NPS visitor center or the NPS-managed portions of the park; visitors must pay a fee to access additional resources at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library – Museum.



## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on August 12, 1965, as Public Law 89-119 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and legislative acts). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*The purpose of HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve in public ownership the Birthplace Cottage, Gravesite, and other historically significant properties associated with the life of Herbert Hoover in West Branch, Iowa, and to commemorate and interpret his life, career, and accomplishments.*





## Park Significance

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

The following significance statements have been identified for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. West Branch, Iowa, is home to the birthplace and the formative years of Herbert Hoover, which set him on the road to becoming the nation's 31st president and a global humanitarian. His experiences and associations with family and the community influenced his personality, work ethic, spiritual and moral character, and ambition.
2. Herbert Hoover National Historic Site commemorates President Herbert Hoover's life and accomplishments, and maintains historically significant properties associated with him. The park was designed with the direct involvement of Herbert Hoover, Lou Henry Hoover, their family, friends, and the community of West Branch.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

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

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

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site:

- **Hoover's Birthplace Cottage.** The cottage birthplace includes the cottage itself, the furnishings in the cottage, and the immediate grounds and associated archeological resources.
- **Hoover's Gravesite.** The gravesite includes the designed memorial hillside landscape, with plantings, walkways, flagpole, and vista to the Birthplace Cottage. The gravesite includes Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover.
- **Friends' Meetinghouse, Reconstructed Blacksmith Shop, and School House.** These buildings form the core historic area and encircle the Birthplace Cottage.
- **Statue of Isis.** This bronze statue was given to Hoover by the people of Belgium for his relief work in that country, and now stands between the Birthplace Cottage and the Presidential Library – Museum.
- **PT Smith House and House of the Maples Site.** Hoover lived in the House of the Maples (no longer extant) and had vivid memories of the Smith House next door.
- **Commemorative Setting.** The core area of the park is managed to commemorate and appreciate the president and Mrs. Hoover's lives and legacies.

## Other Important Resources and Values

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

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site:

- **Historic Buildings on Downey and Poplar Streets.** These homes reflect the setting of Hoover's birthplace and the character of West Branch in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- **Open Rural Space.** A reconstructed prairie and agricultural lands form the backdrop of the park and help maintain the commemorative setting.

## Interpretive Themes

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

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

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site:

- **Simple Beginnings.** “In no other land could a boy from a country village, without inheritance or influential friends, look forward with unbounded hope.” — Herbert Hoover
- **Family and Fellowship.** Growing up in West Branch, Herbert Hoover saw his parents, family, and others in leadership roles, which instilled in him a drive to become a leader and a success.
- **Triumphs and Tragedies.** A child who grows up in a life of adversity takes a path that requires personal endurance and perseverance.
- **Adversity Leads to Opportunity.** Herbert Hoover’s loss of his parents in early childhood influenced his self-reliant character and his future concern for the physical and social well-being of the youth of all nations.
- **Faith, Hope, Charity, and Love.** Herbert Hoover’s Quaker beliefs in the equality of all people and in helping others in times of crisis or need led to his becoming one of the world’s great humanitarians.
- **Nature and Stewardship.** Herbert Hoover’s experience living in a rural environment in early childhood shaped his interest in the natural world, which influenced his choice of career and the recreational activities he pursued throughout his life.
- **A Memorial and a Legacy.** The influence of Herbert Hoover, Lou Henry Hoover, and their family shaped the development of the presidential memorial area in order for the public to gain a fuller understanding of Hoover’s life.

(Each of these main themes has a number of subthemes. The subthemes can be found in the park’s 2009 long-range interpretive plan.)





## Part 2: Dynamic Components

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

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

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

#### Special Mandates

- The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library – Museum is located within the park boundary of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The National Archives and Records Administration owns and manages the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library – Museum and its contents.
- The Hoover Presidential Foundation has an inholding of 1.10 acres, encompassing a parking lot and historic house used as an office.
- The park has specific authority to regulate snowmobiling in the park, found at 36 CFR 7.60.
- There are perpetual access easements in the park for the Hoover Presidential Foundation.
- There is a perpetual access easement through Thompson Farm for neighboring farm access.

#### Administrative Commitments

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, please see appendix B.



## Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

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

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

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

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

### Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

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

| Fundamental Resource or Value              | Hoover's Birthplace Cottage   |
|--|---|
| Related Significance Statements            | Significance statements 1 and 2.  |
| Current Conditions and Trends              | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building itself is in good condition, no deferred maintenance exists.</li> <li>• Furnishings are in fair condition, some items have known Hoover connection.</li> <li>• Needs new alarm systems.</li> <li>• Grounds are in fair condition.</li> <li>• Water pump is heavily modified, some holes on the boards (but well is filled in).</li> <li>• Visitor counts are being recorded; visitation exceeds 4,000 in a given month, less than 1,000 a month in the winter.</li> <li>• Open for self-guided tours; interpretive rangers are occasionally stationed at the cottage.</li> <li>• The Birthplace Cottage is part of the Hoover Birthplace National Historic Landmark.</li> <li>• The Birthplace Cottage does have a fire suppression system for structural fire.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Birthplace Cottage is stable.</li> <li>• As interpretation changes, exhibits have to be moved.</li> </ul> |
| Threats and Opportunities                  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large storms projected to increase due to climate change threaten the integrity of the historic building through flooding and wind damage; subsequent erosion threatens associated archeological sites.</li> <li>• The building is subject to weather effects, no climate control in the structure.</li> <li>• Visitors can cross the barriers inside the cottage.</li> <li>• Insect damage from carpenter ants, lady bugs, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make more information available on the mobile app for visitors.</li> <li>• Add new wayside to increase interpretation.</li> <li>• Increase visitation at Birthplace Cottage to more closely match visitation at the visitor center.</li> <li>• Garden could be used for interpretation and visitor experience.</li> <li>• Increase summer staffing (pending funding availability).</li> </ul>   |
| Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hoover Birthplace National Historic Landmark nomination.</li> <li>• Historic structure report (1970s).</li> <li>• Historic structure reports for all houses except the cottage (1982).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report.</li> <li>• National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>  |
| Data and/or GIS Needs                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct energy audit.</li> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>  |
| Planning Needs                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic structure report (update).</li> <li>• Historic furnishings plan.</li> <li>• Cottage-specific emergency response plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretative plan (update).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>   |



| Fundamental Resource or Value  | Hoover's Birthplace Cottage  |
|--|--|
| Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i></li> </ul> |







| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Hoover's Gravesite  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Related Significance Statements | Significance statements 1 and 2.  |
| Current Conditions and Trends   | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravesite and grounds are in fair condition.</li> <li>Vegetation will need to be replaced soon (cyclical).</li> <li>Stone walkway needs to be reset, curbing is leaning and becoming an accessibility issue.</li> <li>Irrigation system needs to be updated.</li> <li>Electrical system needs to be updated.</li> <li>Memorial benches (marble) need cleaning and have been chipped.</li> <li>Visitation to the gravesite is not counted.</li> <li>Access the gravesite by loop road and walking.</li> <li>Accessible all the way to the grave for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>View from gravesite includes creek and manicured landscaping; viewshed is maintained.</li> <li>Stream conditions influence vista maintenance; deeply incised creek bed cannot be properly manicured and maintained for purposes of the vista.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park has graduated from and is continuing to follow the Beyond Pesticides program.</li> </ul> |
| Threats and Opportunities       | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pavement is settling and creating tripping hazards.</li> <li>Vegetation growth has increased the number of deer and rodents using the vegetation for forage and cover.</li> <li>Potential fire threat on prairie land, likely to be exacerbated by climate change.</li> <li>Visual intrusion from interstate and city development.</li> <li>Sound interference from interstate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue pesticide-free vegetation management.</li> <li>Use vegetation screening to block obstructions in the distance.</li> <li>Partner with nearby landowners, planners, and developers to increase awareness and protection of the views from the park.</li> </ul>  |

| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Hoover's Gravesite   |
|---|--|
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural landscape report addendum for gravesite (1996).</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of grave site (1998).</li> <li>• National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual resource inventory.</li> <li>• Research on soundscape management options.</li> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual resource management plan.</li> <li>• Soundscape management plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> </ul> |







| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Friends' Meetinghouse, Reconstructed Blacksmith Shop, and School House  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Related Significance Statements | Significance statements 1 and 2.  |
| Current Conditions and Trends   | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacksmith Shop is a reconstruction; Friends' Meetinghouse and School House were moved from their original locations.</li> <li>• All buildings are in fair condition; Blacksmith Shop needs attention due to rodent and insect damage.</li> <li>• Floor of Blacksmith Shop is concrete and it has deteriorated.</li> <li>• Furnishings are a combination of period pieces, reproductions, and originals. Most originals are being removed and transferred to collections.</li> <li>• Buildings have alarms and fire suppression systems.</li> <li>• Collections/furnishings are used at Blacksmith Shop and Friends' Meetinghouse.</li> <li>• Buildings are not heated.</li> <li>• Buildings are on the main guided tour.</li> <li>• Added a second blacksmith for visitor experience/interpretation.</li> <li>• Blacksmith is a primary interpretive point of contact, especially when there is not a ranger available at the Birthplace Cottage.</li> <li>• Living history activities have been halted to maintain the commemorative atmosphere.</li> <li>• Buildings have some deferred maintenance needs, but not against critical building envelope and protective systems.</li> <li>• There is no carpenter on staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The buildings have been generally stable over time.</li> <li>• Audio stations are being removed for new interpretation methods.</li> </ul> |
| Threats and Opportunities       | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding of the creek is the primary threat to the Friend's Meetinghouse; collections stored in the basement of this building are at risk. A projected increase in large storms due to climate change exacerbates current flooding risk.</li> <li>• None of the buildings are climate controlled, so historic fabric and furnishings are at risk.</li> <li>• Alarm systems needs to be replaced; this is scheduled for fiscal year 2016 (FY 2016) funding.</li> </ul>  |

| Fundamental Resource or Value  | Friends' Meetinghouse, Reconstructed Blacksmith Shop, and School House  |
|--|---|
| Threats and Opportunities  | <p><b>Threats (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insects, birds, squirrels, and rodents can damage these buildings.</li> <li>• Potential inappropriate visitor uses and related loss.</li> <li>• Structures may need to be closed if visitor impacts become an issue, if furnishings are lost or degraded, or if there are concerns about structural integrity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase opportunities to interpret and use the buildings, such as the Friends meeting in the Friends' Meetinghouse.</li> <li>• New waysides are scheduled to be installed.</li> <li>• Increase content on mobile app.</li> <li>• Use new technology to improve/increase interpretive opportunities, such as more tactile experiences. Explore reproduction artifacts or 3D printing technology. Scan artifacts for digital platforms.</li> <li>• Turn focus to issues relevant to today's issues.</li> <li>• Potential to partner with the presidential library (National Archives and Records Administration) and/or the NPS Independence Multi-Park Facility for long-term preservation and storage to prevent future deterioration of historic furnishings/fabric that are cataloged as museum collections and not currently on exhibit.</li> <li>• Revisions to the 2006 NPS Midwest Region Collection Storage Plan will make recommendations for each storage and exhibit facility (revisions will be completed during FY 2016).</li> </ul> |
| Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural landscape report.</li> <li>• Historic structure reports.</li> <li>• National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| Data and/or GIS Needs  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct energy audit.</li> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>  |
| Planning Needs   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic furnishing plans.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>   |
| Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i></li> </ul>   |

| Fundamental Resource or Value  | Statue of Isis   |
|--|--|
| Related Significance Statements  | Significance statements 1 and 2.   |
| Current Conditions and Trends  | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The statue area comprises the statue of Isis, its pedestal, plantings around the statue, and a stone wall that protects it from the creek.</li> <li>• Wall is in poor condition and is collapsing into the creek due to flooding. The stone wall needs to be rebuilt.</li> <li>• Per the List of Classified Structures database, wall must be preserved and maintained.</li> <li>• Statue is in fair condition, some minimal cracks in statue and in the pedestal.</li> <li>• The statue of Isis is professionally cleaned periodically, and waxed once a year.</li> <li>• Plantings are maturing and may need to be managed in time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze statue is tarnishing due to environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Plants and landscape are outdated.</li> <li>• Erosion of wall.</li> </ul> |
| Threats and Opportunities  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wall is failing, exposing the statue grounds to potential erosion.</li> <li>• Inability to keep up with ongoing maintenance and cleaning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive wayside will be installed in the near future to explain the statue.</li> <li>• Increase use of the mobile app to explain the statue.</li> </ul>  |
| Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural landscape report.</li> <li>• National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| Data and/or GIS Needs  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>  |
| Planning Needs   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>  |
| Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources”</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management”</li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> </ul>   |



| Fundamental Resource or Value              | PT Smith House and House of the Maples Site   |
|--|---|
| Related Significance Statements            | Significance statements 1 and 2.  |
| Current Conditions and Trends              | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House of the Maples was torn down in 1923.</li> <li>• PT Smith House is original, and it is in very poor condition. Basement floods badly, house is gutted, new foundation, no furnace.</li> <li>• Archeological site of House of the Maples has been heavily disturbed (due to another house being built there, wells, etc.).</li> <li>• PT Smith is a small house.</li> <li>• PT Smith House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.</li> <li>• There is no carpenter on staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PT Smith House is being maintained, as it is high in the asset priority index.</li> </ul>   |
| Threats and Opportunities                  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding (up to 3 feet of water in basement of PT Smith House).</li> <li>• Proposed community trail does not balance archeological/cultural concerns with routing on the west side of Parkside Drive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a boardwalk to lead to House of the Maples.</li> <li>• Consider using vegetation, fencing, or other appropriate landscaping features to mark the House of the Maples site.</li> <li>• Identify a long-term viable use for the PT Smith House, such as a distance learning center, classroom or meeting space, or artist-in-residence gallery, or special exhibits on the first floor and storage on the second floor.</li> <li>• Waysides are coming for House of the Maples.</li> <li>• Use the mobile app to interpret the House of the Maples.</li> </ul> |
| Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural landscape report.</li> <li>• General management plan (provides one vision for future use of the PT Smith House).</li> <li>• National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| Data and/or GIS Needs                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkwide archeological survey.</li> <li>• Conduct energy audit.</li> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>  |
| Planning Needs                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future use of the PT Smith House may need to be documented in an amendment to the general management plan if a different use is desired.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>   |

| Fundamental Resource or Value   | PT Smith House and House of the Maples Site  |
|---|--|
| <b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li><li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li><li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li><li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li><li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li><li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li></ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li><li>• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li><li>• Director's Order 28A: Archeology</li><li>• The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</li><li>• The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</li></ul> |



| Fundamental Resource or Value                     | Commemorative Setting  |
|---|--|
| <b>Related Significance Statements</b>            | Significance statements 1 and 2.   |
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>              | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise from Interstate 80 heavily impacts some parts of the park.</li> <li>Gas stations, restaurants, and billboards are visible from the park.</li> <li>Atmosphere is intact, still has simplicity due to protected open space and connections to the small town.</li> <li>Park provides a feeling of coming into a different area, distinct from area around it and gravesite and town are separate.</li> <li>Hometown Days, Christmas Past, and other special events continue to evolve to align with park atmosphere and setting.</li> <li>Emergency vehicle sirens and town whistle are noticeable noise intrusions.</li> <li>Library chimes are considered by some as contributing to the commemorative setting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park monitors trends in special use permit requests and guards against inappropriate use inconsistent with the park purpose.</li> <li>Starting to get more wedding and special use permit requests.</li> <li>Increasing development and noise impacts.</li> <li>Locals want to use the commemorative setting for events unrelated to the park's mission.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>                  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire, rescue, and daily whistles are located next to the park, and are quite loud for visitors. The whistles were not part of the historic setting.</li> <li>Traffic from town and Interstate 80 are noise intrusions into the commemorative setting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install waysides.</li> <li>Issue special use permits to local businesses; if successful, consider implementing an incidental business permit in the future related to weddings/photography.</li> <li>Soundscape improvements.</li> <li>Update lighting strategy at the park. Herbert Hoover National Historic Site's cultural landscape report (p. 5–7) recommends limiting night time lighting, and also says that spotlights on individual buildings and site features are "not appropriate."</li> <li>The park has found a gardener willing to donate trees.</li> <li>Vegetation screening.</li> <li>Partner with nearby landowners, planners, and developers to increase awareness and protection of the commemorative setting.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural landscape report (provides guidance on the Loop Road and recommends against extra lighting).</li> <li>National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkwide archeological survey.</li> <li>Visual resource inventory.</li> <li>Night skies evaluation.</li> <li>Research on soundscape management options.</li> <li>Administrative history.</li> </ul>   |

| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Commemorative Setting   |
|---|---|
| <b>Planning Needs</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkwide lighting management plan.</li> <li>• Tree and garden management plan, including a 5-year programmatic agreement with the state historic preservation officer regarding grounds maintenance.</li> <li>• Soundscape management plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> <li>• Visual resource management plan.</li> <li>• Cultural landscape report (update).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.)</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (§4.9) "Soundscape Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (§4.10) "Lightscape Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" including §5.3.1.7 "Cultural Soundscape Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual</i> 77</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> </ul> |





## Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

| Other Important Resource or Value                  | Historic Buildings on Downey and Poplar Streets   |
|--|---|
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>               | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only two of the houses on Downey Street (Garvin and L. Miles) were here when Hoover lived here. All four houses on Poplar Street were built by the mid-1870s and would have been familiar to Hoover. All are being used as offices, employee housing, etc.</li> <li>All buildings are in good or fair condition.</li> <li>There is no carpenter on staff.</li> <li>Ranger office is newly rehabilitated; historian office will be rehabilitated in 2017.</li> <li>There is some deferred maintenance on these buildings.</li> <li>Some have extra space available for operations, and offices could be merged if needed.</li> <li>None of these buildings are Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible.</li> <li>All historic buildings are of wood frame construction.</li> <li>The Garvin House is reported as a museum collection storage facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings are deteriorating slowly; they are high maintenance because of age and being made of wood.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>                   | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather and environmental deterioration.</li> <li>Fire potential for these wood-framed buildings.</li> <li>Concern over use of second floor in buildings due to accessibility.</li> <li>Deterioration of the structures would result in inability to meet required NPS standards for museum collections.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One wayside going in at beginning of the street.</li> <li>Each building will get a small plaque on the fence in front of the property.</li> <li>Because the Garvin House is reported as a museum collection storage facility on the NPS Automated Checklist Program, the park could partner with either the presidential library or the NPS Independence Multi-Park Facility for long-term preservation and storage.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural landscape report.</li> <li>Historic structure reports.</li> <li>General management plan.</li> <li>National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct energy audit.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkwide signage plan.</li> </ul>  |

| Other Important Resource or Value   | Historic Buildings on Downey and Poplar Streets   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i></li> </ul> |



| Other Important Resource or Value                  | Open Rural Space  |
|--|---|
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>               | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forty-four acres are managed through a special use permit at Thompson Farm (one year permit).</li> <li>Prairie is approximately 81 acres.</li> <li>The prairie diminishes the integrity of the historic scene, per the cultural landscape report. This area would have been in crops during Hoover's time.</li> <li>The prairie requires management by park staff, but there is not a natural resources position at the park.</li> <li>Natural resource management is provided by off-site specialists at the NPS Heartland Inventory &amp; Monitoring Network and Effigy Mounds National Monument.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prairie is getting weedy and woody because prescribed burns have been limited.</li> <li>Thompson Farm agricultural fields have for several years been alfalfa and a rotation crop will be needed soon.</li> <li>Agricultural fields are difficult to manage due to desire by to the National Park Service not to use pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizer on these fields due to their proximity to Hoover Creek and the core of the park.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>                   | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not burning the prairie is negatively impacting its natural integrity (it is getting woody and weedy).</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make the Thompson Farm a prairie instead of row crops.</li> <li>Enter into a different agricultural lease that would generate funds for the park to use to repair the historic buildings.</li> <li>Convert the prairie to orchard, pastureland, or other use to reduce intensity of management needs.</li> <li>Develop a natural soundscape barrier along the I-80 corridor.</li> <li>Special events could be a mechanism to advance visitor appreciation for Hoover and/or the period(s) of significance the park represents.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural landscape report (provides guidance on maintaining open space and agricultural operations).</li> <li>General management plan (notes desired conditions for open and agricultural space).</li> <li>National Register of Historic Places nomination.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research on soundscape management options.</li> <li>Complete natural resource condition assessment.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thompson Farm Strategy (possibly done through an amendment to the general management plan).</li> <li>Prairie management plan (update).</li> <li>Soundscape management plan.</li> </ul>   |



| Other Important Resource or Value  | Open Rural Space   |
|--|--|
| <b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.)</li><li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li><li>• National Invasive Species Act</li><li>• Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended</li><li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li><li>• Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species"</li><li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li></ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4) "Park Management"</li><li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 4) "Natural Resource Management"</li><li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li><li>• Director's Order 18: Wildland Fire Management</li><li>• Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</li><li>• NPS Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</li></ul> |





## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

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

The following are key issues for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Expanding responsibilities and limited budget.** The park has seen an expansion in resource and visitor management since its conception in 1965. Park resources are at risk as a result of park staffing shortfalls. Collateral duties have grown at the park, and employees are tasked with multiple program responsibilities that are beyond their skill sets and capacities to manage. The park is in need of a carpenter and additional seasonal maintenance staff to maintain the historic wood buildings (FRV). The park is also in need of staff in natural resources to manage the prairie and agricultural lands, or should possibly consider a viable partnership with a group such as the Future Farmers of America or another land use organization. Volunteer staffing is used at the park, but permanent staffing is required to manage and train volunteers. Volunteer coordination is a collateral duty. The park's organizational structure should be evaluated and aligned with current and future needs as a result of these emerging trends.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Workforce management strategy.
- **Hoover Creek flooding.** Hoover Creek flooding and erosion present several issues at the park. The maintenance facility is within the 5-year regulatory floodplain of "Hoover Creek" and has flooded 9 times in 11 years including five 100-year floods. Those events hinder efficiency and effectiveness of the maintenance program and damage equipment. A long-term solution is needed to reduce flooding events and protect park resources.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Update Hoover Creek environmental impact statement for stormwater retention/redirection strategy (currently funded in the Line Item Construction program, continue to develop options for stormwater management environmental impact statement).
- **Visitor center constraints/energy consumption.** The park's visitor center has space limitations to accommodate special exhibits, interpretive films, and interpretive programming. The theatre fits 20 people at a maximum, which limits programming options. Additionally, the visitor center is within the Hoover Creek floodplain, which is a concern as Hoover Creek has flooded several times in the past decade. This trend is likely to continue as a result of climate change. Furthermore, the visitor center is shared with the U.S. Postal Service, which occupies a portion of the facility. The park needs to complete an energy audit of the facility to determine if more sustainable use of the resources could be completed.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Energy audit to evaluate opportunities to reduce energy consumption at this facility.

- **Soundscape concerns from adjacent Interstate 80.** Noise from Interstate 80 and its impact on the commemorative setting are a concern. These impacts are likely to grow as the interstate use increases and more development occurs at the interchange near the park. The interstate is also currently in the planning stages to potentially become six lanes as opposed to the existing four lanes in the next five years. In addition, the city of West Brach is also interested in soundscape remedies and would assist the National Park Service on the nonfederal lands.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Soundscape management plan, research on soundscape management options.
- **Relationship with presidential library.** The presidential library and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site share property of the site where President Hoover was born. As a result, the presidential library and national historic site have duplication of programming and operations. The two agencies need to better coordinate on the sharing of resources (public affairs, alarm systems, volunteer pool, interpretive materials, curriculum, etc.) to reduce duplication of efforts. There are opportunities to better collaborate on exhibits and programming.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* None identified.
- **Disposition of Scellars' Barn.** The Scellars' Barn is not a contributing structure on the revised National Register of Historic Places nomination. The barn could be moved or removed, given its low asset priority index score. A decision on the disposition of the barn is needed.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Explore possible uses, movement of, or removal of the Scellars' Barn.
- **Future of Thompson Farm buildings.** The Hoover Creek floodplain resolution will influence the future of the maintenance complex and whether the Thompson Farm is needed for maintenance functions. Operations and maintenance need to be evaluated following the completion of the floodplain mitigation to determine the feasibility of locating maintenance operations, or look at other viable uses before considering removal.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Amendment to the general management plan following the completion of the floodplain mitigation measures. Explore possible uses of Thompson Farm buildings if not needed for maintenance functions and explore different options for prairie and agricultural management.
- **Thompson Farm agricultural fields.** The Thompson Farm agricultural fields' resolution is dependent on the Hoover Creek floodplain planning effort to better control stormwater. This will influence the acreage of lands available for lease and type of uses.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Amendment to the general management plan following the completion of the floodplain mitigation measures. Explore possible uses of Thompson Farm agricultural fields.
- **Prairie management.** Management of the prairie has expanded in recent years. The National Park Service requires management of all park resources. Prairie management options need to be addressed; inability to use prescribed fire has resulted in nonnative species throughout the prairie. Use of mowing would fulfill needs of the park but would not be best practice for natural resources management. The park needs to better understand management options and their impacts on staff limitations.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Amendment to the general management plan if revisions to prairie management are developed.



- **Entrance experience for visitors.** The separate entrance roads and parking lots for the presidential library and the park visitor center confuse visitors. There are two separate places to “start your visit.” Ideally the NPS entrance is the first entrance for visitors as they explore the site. The park is in need of a visitor use study/strategy to determine how to improve the visitor experience. The cultural landscape report provides an alternative entrance scheme that should be considered for its current viability as it would impact both local traffic and visitor traffic to the area.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Visitor use study/strategy, parkwide signage plan.
- **Relationship with the Hoover Presidential Foundation.** The relationship with the Hoover Presidential Foundation needs to be formalized. A partnership agreement was drafted but never finalized. Completing this agreement would clarify roles and responsibilities and allow for fundraising assistance, staffing flexibility, etc. The two groups could cross-promote and share resources for program development.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* None identified.
- **Street and right-of-way ownership issues.** The park and City of West Branch are collaborating at resolving right-of-way ownership issues (roads and utility corridors). The park is working with the NPS Midwest Regional Lands Division in order to record official ownership.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* None identified.

## Planning and Data Needs

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

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



| Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed               |   |                    |   |
|--|---|--------------------|---|
| Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?                                   | Planning Needs  | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes   |
| Key Issue  | Update Hoover Creek environmental impact statement for storm water retention/redirection strategy | H                  | Critical decision-making, as the creek impacts fundamental resources and operations decisions. Ongoing through the Line Item Construction fund source. Regional facilities, GIS, and compliance offices are involved.   |
| Hoover's Gravesite; Commemorative Setting; Open Rural Space; Key Issue   | Soundscape management plan  | H                  | Need to determine possible options through research, and then begin the process of developing alternatives and documenting impacts.   |
| Key Issue  | Workforce management strategy   | H                  | The strategy would include an optimal organizational chart, updated budget cost projections, and consideration of possible changes in operations, zone sharing concept for some collateral duties, training, communication platforms, etc.  |
| Hoover's Birthplace Cottage  | Historic structure report (update)  | H                  | An updated and current historic structures report.  |
| Hoover's Birthplace Cottage  | Cottage-specific emergency response plan  | H                  | Develop emergency response plan to ensure long-term protection of Hoover's Birthplace Cottage.  |
| PT Smith House and House of the Maples; Key Issue                        | General management plan amendment   | M                  | An amendment to the general management plan may be appropriate after retention basin issues are resolved. Scope of the amendment could include decisions on the future of maintenance yard, Thompson Farm buildings, agricultural fields, prairie, streambank treatments, and PT Smith House. The start of this planning effort would be dependent on outcomes and timeline of the Hoover Creek environmental impact statement and impact on resources and operational facilities. Agricultural fields and prairie management are more pressing concerns. |
| All FRVs   | Long-range interpretive plan (update)   | M                  | Major components of the long-range interpretive plan are still current and viable. Updating recommendations would be useful for the interpretive programs, as the programming has changed with technology and adopted more nonpersonal services. Other goals include increased informal services at the cottage and gravesite.  |
| All FRVs   | Cultural landscape report (update)  | M                  | The park has a Project Management Information System (PMIS) statement to update the cultural landscape report. The revised cultural landscape report would provide guidance for tree and garden management, lighting, signage, and other decisions.   |
| Commemorative Setting  | Tree and garden management plan   | M                  | The plan would clarify management of tree replacement, gardens and flower beds. Currently the park loses several trees each year and there is not a clear strategy to replace or not. A tree plan may be necessary if ash trees are lost and need to be replaced. Needs to include a programmatic agreement with the state historic preservation officer regarding grounds maintenance.   |
| Hoover's Birthplace Cottage; Meetinghouse, Blacksmith Shop, School House | Historic furnishings plans for all historic structures  | M                  | These plans should be updated to reflect new use patterns and take advantage of technology. Current plans do not reflect how the buildings are used, and should be updated for the situation on the ground.   |

| Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed |                                   |                    |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?                     | Planning Needs                    | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes  |
| Open Rural Space   | Thompson Farm strategy            | M                  | This could possibly be done through an amendment to the general management plan.   |
| Open Rural Space   | Prairie management plan           | M                  | Update the current plan to address difficulties in using prescribed fire at the park.  |
| Commemorative Setting                                      | Parkwide lighting management plan | L                  | Clarify goals and best practices for lighting resources at the park. Focus on lighting for Birthplace Cottage and gravesite.   |
| Historic Buildings on Downey and Poplar Streets; Key Issue | Parkwide signage plan             | L                  | The signage plan would guide development and installation of directional and information signage at the park. The 2015 wayside plan addressed most critical information signage needs within the park. Wayfinding to the park from some directions could be improved.          |
| Key Issue  | Visitor use study/strategy        | L                  | Consider partnering with presidential library on a visitor use study/strategy with recommendations for improving the visitor experience. The 2008 visitor use study at the park provided good data but no recommendations. Uncertain ability to implement any recommendations. |
| Hoover's Gravesite; Commemorative Setting                  | Visual resource management plan   | L                  | The park will need to consider its natural resource management strategy as it affects the prairie resource, agricultural lands, and potentially soundscaping and their respective impacts in this area.  |

| Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made  |  |                    |   |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?   | Data and GIS Needs   | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes   |
| Key Issue  | Continue to develop options for stormwater management environmental impact statement | H                  | Ongoing with NPS funding and other agency support.  |
| Hoover's Gravesite; Commemorative Setting; Open Rural Space; Key Issue   | Research on soundscape management options  | H                  | Design a research project on soundscape management. Different strategies need to be developed. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Transportation should be consulted to examine "natural sound barriers." Other organizations to consult may include airports, race tracks, universities, etc.<br>May need to complete acoustic resource baseline study to better understand existing soundscape issues. |
| Hoover's Birthplace Cottage; Meetinghouse, Blacksmith Shop, School House; PT Smith House and House of the Maples; Historic Buildings on Downey and Poplar Streets; Key Issue | Conduct energy audits on historic structures and visitor center                      | M                  | Goal would be to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and working conditions. Simple process, but unclear who would be available to assist. Need to approach Alliant Energy provider, or seek contracted firm.   |

| Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made |  |                    |  |
|---|--|--------------------|--|
| Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?                                | Data and GIS Needs   | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes  |
| PT Smith House and House of the Maples; Commemorative Setting         | Parkwide archeological survey  | M                  | Goal would be to simplify project-by-project compliance and reduce ongoing travel costs for the park to solicit NPS Midwest Archeological Center assistance. Parkwide archeological survey is in the PMIS database, but seems unlikely to be funded. Park may be able to retain funding over time to pay for this on a piecemeal basis. The community trail plan calls for a sidewalk near Parkside Drive; potential archeology at these sites needs to be taken into account and the trail plan potentially rerouted. |
| All FRVs  | Administrative history   | M                  | An administrative history would provide better understanding of how the park has been managed, and why various decisions were made, to better inform future decision making. Park has submitted PMIS requests for preparing an administrative history and historic resources study, which has never been done here, either. (Parks should have both, according to NPS-28 standards).   |
| Key Issue   | Explore possible uses of Thompson Farm buildings if not needed for maintenance functions | M                  | This will become more important following the stormwater project and evaluating its relative successful impact. The buildings play an important role in the rural backdrop to the park and are a part of our national register nomination as a contributing feature. Following that, evaluation is necessary to indicate other suitable uses should it not be needed as a maintenance facility. This would require a revision to the general management plan.  |
| Key Issue   | Explore possible uses of Thompson Farm agricultural fields                               | M                  | Examples might include a lease to New Pioneer Coop, partnership with West Branch schools, Scattergood, or university. Possible rotations for alfalfa / sunflowers / beans / oats / other cover crops?  |
| Key Issue   | Explore different options for prairie management   | M                  | Possibilities may include mowing, haying, different burn regime, transferring prairie to agricultural fields or orchards, sacrificing prairie for vegetation that allows for sound screening, etc.   |
| Hoover's Gravesite; Commemorative Setting                             | Visual resource inventory  | L                  | Analyze degree of visibility and evaluate night sky resources.   |
| Commemorative Setting   | Night skies evaluation   | L                  | Implementation of the stormwater management project needs to complete first. Following that, evaluating soundscaping and prairie management would influence the viability of night skies.  |
| Open Rural Space  | Complete natural resource condition assessment   | L                  | Ongoing project needs to complete final steps. Needs to be reviewed from a lens of flexibility for management of the prairie and agricultural fields in order to meet the park goals of providing a dignified open space, and not just optimal resource management.  |
| Key Issue   | Explore possible uses, movement of, or removal of the Scellars' Barn                     | L                  | The barn continues to serve a purpose in storage for the operation of the park. It should be evaluated for moving or in conjunction with the Freeze the Footprint requirements before it is considered for removal.  |



## Part 3: Contributors

### Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Peter S. Swisher, Superintendent

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Mike Torkelson, Chief, Facility Management

Amber L. Revis, Administrative Officer

Cary Weisner, Historian

Adam Prato, Park Ranger, Interpretation

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## Appendixes

### Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

#### Enabling Legislation

On August 12, 1965, Congress passed Public Law 89-119, establishing Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The Act reads:

#### AN ACT

To establish the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in the State of Iowa.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that, in order to preserve in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life of Herbert Hoover, the Secretary of Interior may acquire the necessary acres of land or interest in land (including scenic easements) in or near West Branch, Iowa, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from a federal agency, or otherwise. Such property shall be known as Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

Sec 2. The Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of General Services may enter into agreements which provide for the (1) transfer of lands and other property, except the Herbert Hoover Library Building, from the administrative control of the Administrator to that of the Secretary without transfer of funds; and (2) use of the Administrator of portions of facilities constructed by the Secretary.

Sec 3. The secretary shall administer the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in accordance with the act approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat 666).

Sec 4. There are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$1,650,000 for land acquisition and development in connection with the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site as provided in this Act.

Approved August 12, 1965.

[Almost seven years later, Omnibus Act, P.L. 92-272 (86 Stat. 120; April 11, 1972) authorized an increase in the development and land acquisition ceilings of the site.]

## Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

| Agreement Name  | Type of Agreement              | Start Date – Expiration Date | Stakeholders  | Purpose  |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Thompson Farm special use permit                          | Annual special use permit      | Annually                     | Farmer tenant   | Allows for agricultural uses of NPS lands at the Thompson Farm, until a decision about the wastewater retention basin is reached.                  |
| Post office lease   | Lease                          | 8/01/2013 – 7/31/2018        | United States Postal Service (USPS)                         | Allows USPS to lease a portion of the headquarters/ visitor center building owned by the NPS.  |
| Right-of-way permit – city water                          | Right-of-way                   | 10/23/2015 – 10/23/2025      | City of West Branch   | Water supply line to water tower from I-80.  |
| Fire protection services                                  | Memorandum of understanding    | 7/06/2011 – 7/06/2016        | City of West Branch – West Branch Fire Department           | Allows for fire and emergency services response.   |
| Law enforcement services                                  | Memorandum of understanding    | 6/30/2012 – 6/30/2017        | City of West Branch – Police Department                     | Allows for police and emergency services response.   |
| West Main Pedestrian Trail                                | Memorandum of understanding    | 7/06/2011 – 7/06/2016        | City of West Branch – West Branch Community School District | Provides for joint sharing of lawn mowing, snow removal, and maintenance of the West Main Trail bridge and trail itself.                           |
| Federal financial assistance agreement with the city      | Federal financial assistance   | 6/12/2015 – 9/30/2018        | City of West Branch   | Allows for shared funding and financing for special events and performing arts.  |
| City memorandum of agreement                              | Memorandum of agreement        | 10/01/2015 – 9/30/19         | City of West Branch   | Allows for city donation to the park for visitor experience and living history programs.   |
| Snow contract   | Contract                       | 12/01/2015 – 6/1/2016        | City of West Branch   | Contract for snow removal services on park roads.  |
| Water monitoring agreement                                | Interagency agreement          | 10/01/2015 – 9/30/2016       | United States Geological Survey                             | Provides for water quality, stream, and rainfall monitoring at the park.   |
| Collection policy   | NPS collections storage policy |                              | Presidential library  | Specifies that park collections should be offered to the presidential library for display prior to being transferred to Kansas City storage caves. |
| Partnership agreement with Hoover Presidential Foundation | Partnership agreement          |                              | Hoover Presidential Foundation                              | In development.  |
| Rights-of-way   | Utilities                      |                              | City and individual companies                               | Water, sewer, natural gas, electricity access. Currently researching with NPS Lands Division.  |



## Appendix C: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Planning Portfolio: This is the suite of plans and documents that provide guidance to the management and operation of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

- 2015 Wayside Exhibit Plan
- 2015 List of Classified Structures Update
- 2013 National Register of Historic Places Nomination Update
- 2011 Community Trail Plan
- 2010 Cultural Landscape Inventory
- 2009 Long-Range Interpretive Plan
- 2006 General Management Plan
- 2006 Hoover Creek Environmental Impact Statement
- 1998 Gravesite Rehabilitation Plan
- 1996 Cultural Landscape Report addendum for Gravesite Area
- 1995 Cultural Landscape Report
- 1982 Signage Plan
- 1982 Historic Structure Reports for Isaac Miles Farm House and houses on Downey Street and Poplar Street
- 1971 Historic Structure Report “The Hoover Houses and Community Structures”
- 1970 Historic Structure Report “Buildings in the Core Area and Jesse Hoover’s Blacksmith Shop”
- 1969 Historic Structure Report “The Peter T. Smith House”
- 1968 Base Map and Grounds Study
- 1965 National Historic Landmark nomination
- “Birthplace Foundation Guidelines”
- Structural Fire Plan
- Fire Management Plan
- Prairie Prescribed Burn Plan

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## Midwest Region Foundation Document Recommendation Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

January 2017

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



1-11-17

RECOMMENDED

Peter S. Swisher, Superintendent, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Date



1/19/2017

APPROVED

Cameron H. Sholly, Regional Director, Midwest Region

Date

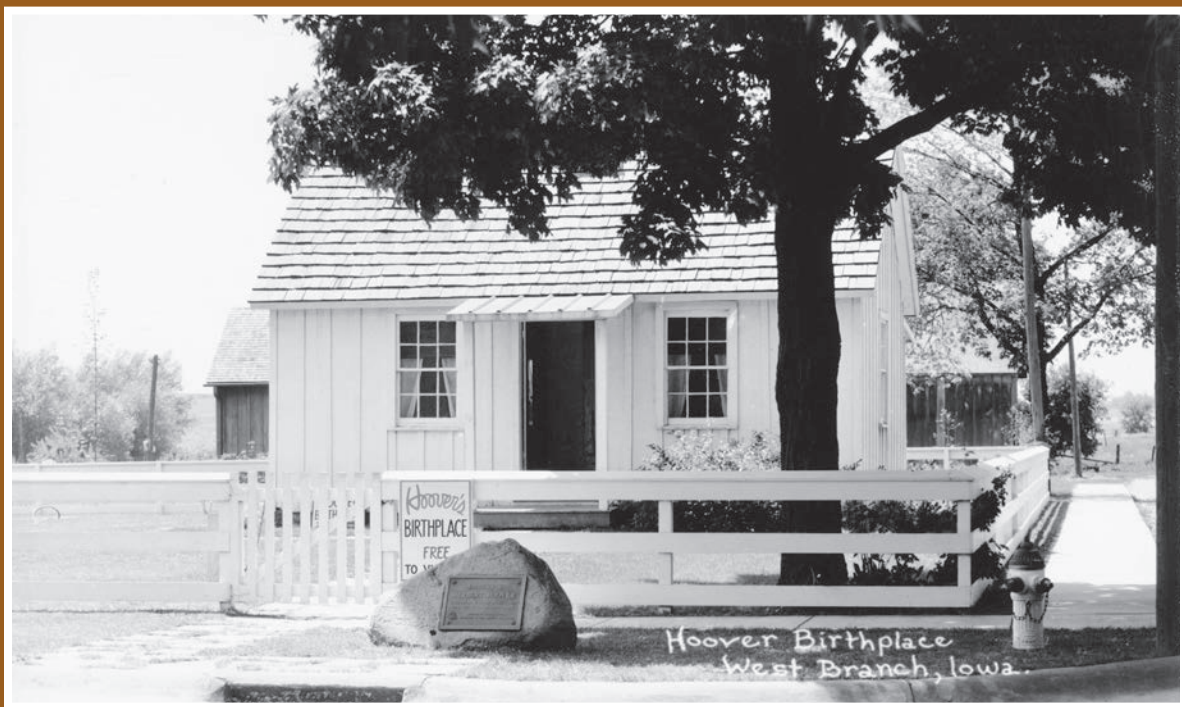


As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving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

HEHO 432/136129

January 2017

## Foundation Document • Herbert Hoover National Historic Site



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR