



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hampton National Historic Site
535 Hampton Lane
Towson, Maryland 21286-1397

Spring 2010

Dear Reader:

The National Park Service is pleased to provide you with a copy of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton National Historic Site. This is an exciting time in the history of the park. The Draft General Management Plan (GMP), once reviewed and finalized, will guide the management of the park for the next 20 years.

We invite you to comment on this plan. You may do so by any one of several methods. The preferred method of comment is on the park's planning web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Second, you may mail your comments to Superintendent Gay Vietzke, Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland, 21286-1397.

Whether you comment on the web site or through the mail, if you include your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The National Park Service will accept comments on the Draft GMP from the public for a period of 60 days following publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The closing date for sending in your comments will be announced in the local media and on the park's planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hamp>. It can also be obtained by calling the park office at (410) 823-1309.

Additionally, we will hold public meetings to solicit comments on the Draft GMP during the public review period. Dates, times, and locations will be announced on the agency's planning website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hamp>, and in local papers.

Additional CDs of the Draft GMP may be obtained by contacting the park at (410) 823-1309. The document is also available for download at the park's planning web site. Finally, the document is available for review at park administrative offices at 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland and at area libraries.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

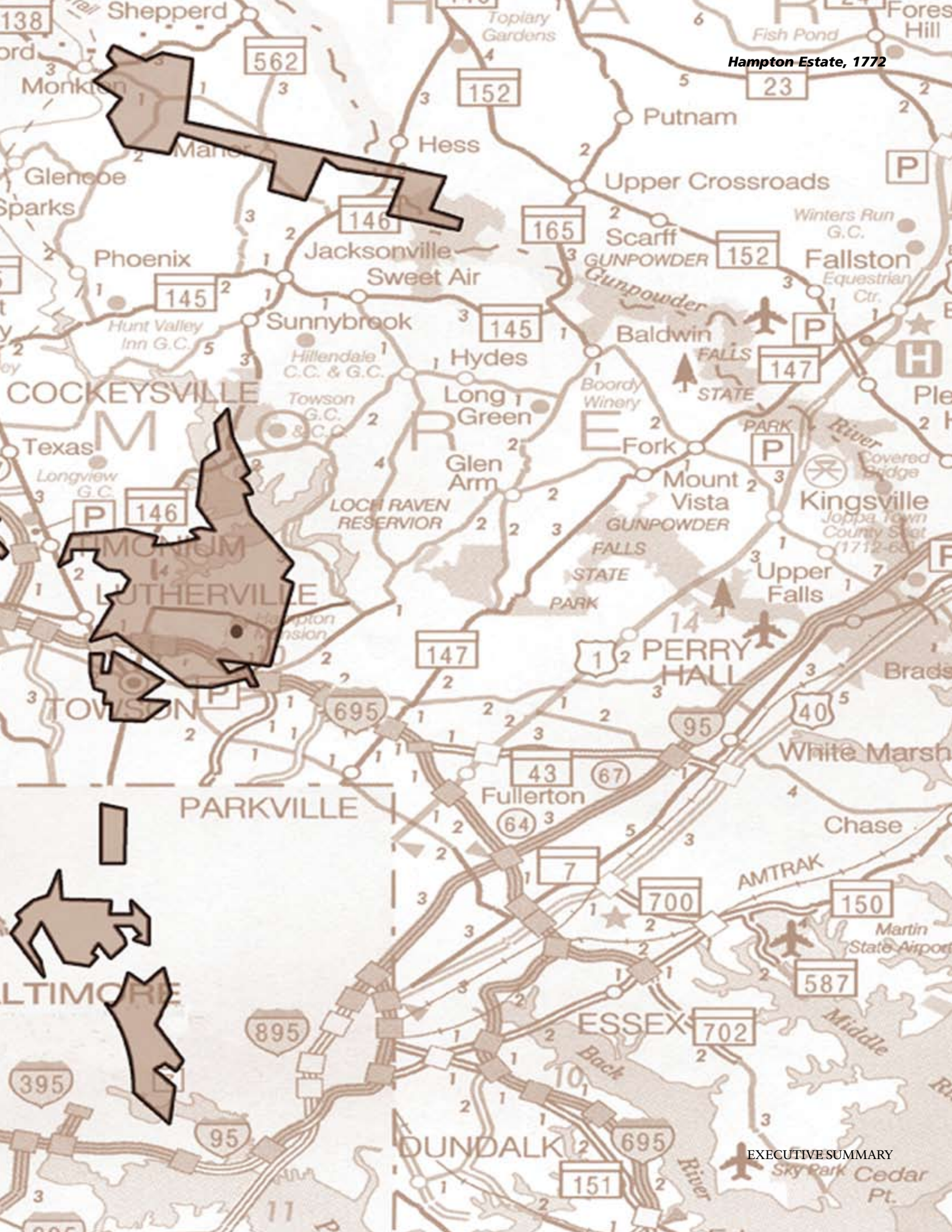
Sincerely,

Gay Vietzke
Superintendent



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Hampton Estate, 1772

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

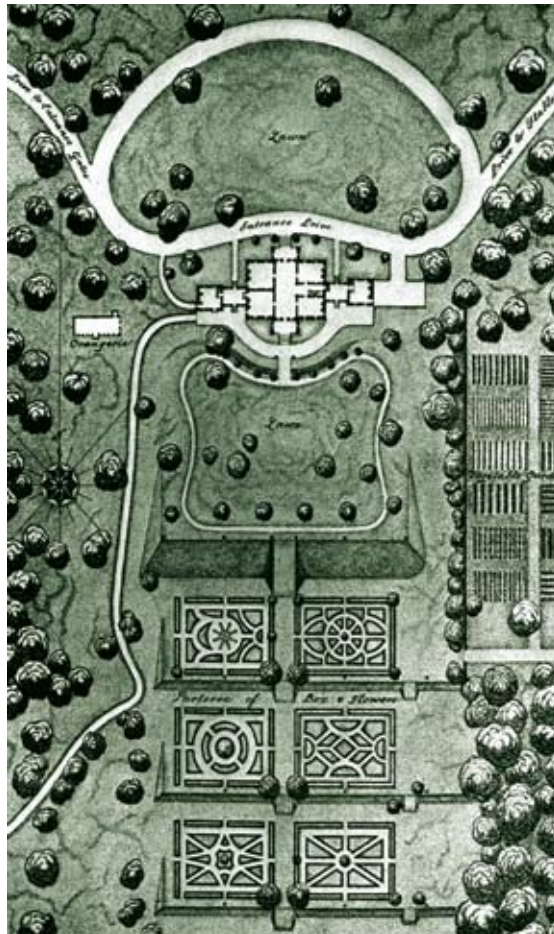
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose And Need For The Plan

The main function of a *General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (GMP/EIS) is to provide a clear definition of the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and the direction that will guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and management. The general management plan takes the long view—15 to 20 years into the future. The National Park Service (NPS) seeks to have all parks operate under approved GMPs. This ensures that park managers carry out, as effectively and efficiently as possible, the mission of the National Park Service. All GMP/EIS documents are required to set forth impacts in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA).

Hampton National Historical Site (Hampton NHS) is a 62-acre unit of the National Park System in Baltimore County, Maryland, located approximately 13 miles north of downtown Baltimore. The park shares a superintendent and five senior park managers with Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, (Fort McHenry NM&HS) located in downtown Baltimore.

As part of the GMP/EIS process, staff of Hampton NHS and Fort McHenry NM&HS and an NPS planning team gathered information from the public, neighbors, partners, public agencies and other interested parties about the future of Hampton National Historic Site. The team held public meetings and published newsletters and information on the park's web site to share information about the planning process and invite feedback on various plan



components. Extensive discussions with interested parties, local and state agencies, and within the NPS, resulted in many revisions during the planning process. Based on analysis of the resources of the park and the comments received, the team shaped three alternatives, which are contained in this draft report. One of the action alternatives, Alternative 3, has been identified as the NPS environmentally preferred alternative and as the park's preferred alternative for implementation.

The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement it will be forthcoming. Funding and staffing decisions are based on available appropriations and staffing priorities of the Northeast Region of the NPS. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

The park's purpose and significance statements, which are based on the park's authorizing legislation or administrative establishment, congressional testimony and legislative history, form a portion of the foundation of the general management plan. The purpose statement explains why the park was established as a unit of the national park system, while the significance statements define the park's place within a broader national context.

Hampton National Historic Site preserves in public ownership the structures, landscapes, collections, archeological sites, and other natural and cultural resources of this rare commercial, industrial and agricultural estate in the Chesapeake Bay region for future generations; and stimulates understanding of how national events and social change are revealed in the site's resources and the interrelationships of the Ridgely family and the workers—free, indentured, and enslaved - who lived and labored on the estate as it took shape and changed over the 18th and 19th centuries.

According to the 1948 *Secretarial Order* designating the site, "Hampton is of national significance as a splendid example of a great Georgian Mansion illustrating a major phase of the architectural history of the United States." In 1978, U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, Jr. of Maryland proposed the addition of the 14.02-acre farm to the park, recognizing its role in conveying the full significance of the site. The property included the core of what had been the home farm, including the lower house (or farm house—the oldest building on the Hampton Estate), slave quarters, the dairy, mule barn, granary and other outbuildings.

In his testimony in support of the legislation, Senator Mathias stated, "...*The significance of the farm is, simply, that Hampton originally was not just the mansion and its immediate grounds; rather, it was a sprawling plantation... We now have the opportunity to rejoin these two properties in one contiguous and grand Hampton National Historic Site. The acquisition of the Hampton Farm and its rehabilitation would have a dynamic effect upon the mansion as it is currently interpreted. The operation of a revitalized farm complex would dramatically help to transform Hampton from a site of primarily genealogical and architectural interest to what it really was—the centerpiece of a once vast estate, of which the farm was a major component.*"

The following are the significance statements that describe

Hampton National Historic Site in the broader national context:

- Hampton National Historic Site, once the center of a vast Maryland land holding, and a premier example of Georgian architecture and landscape design, was a remarkable commercial, industrial and agricultural estate forged with indentured and enslaved labor. Hampton reflects a central irony in U.S. history—that a nation newly created on the principles of equality and freedom could accept the institution of slavery.
- National events and social change—the American Revolution, establishment of a new economy, slavery, the Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction—are reflected by the site's cultural resources, an unmatched and comprehensive assemblage of structures, landscapes, collections and archives, preserved by one family over ten generations. This exceptional ensemble is an unusually complete chronicle that reveals the daily activities of the Ridgely family, laborers and enslaved persons, and illustrates 18th and 19th century history and design.

The period of significance for Hampton NHS is from 1745 to 1948—with the greatest emphasis on the late 18th through the 19th century. That time period begins with Colonel Charles Ridgely's purchase of the 1,500-acre Northampton tract and ends with the transfer of the mansion and 43 acres to the National Park Service.



Goals articulate the ideal conditions that park managers strive to attain in perpetuity. In brief, the goals for Hampton National Historic Site assert that the resources be protected, the audiences be informed and satisfied, and the park work with partners to foster stewardship. The specific goals for Hampton are listed below relating to major management topics of this GMP/EIS.

Park resources are preserved and maintained in good condition, and in a manner that supports a balanced approach to cultural and natural resources management.

Visitors traveling to Hampton experience well marked routes with good directional signage and a clear sense of arrival upon entering the park. Once within the park, pathways and internal roads are well marked and easy to navigate.

Visitors receive orientation to Hampton that helps them understand the experiences available at the park, an overview of the park's significance, the park's place in the national park system, and the relevance of the estate, the family, and paid, indentured and enslaved workers to today.

Visitors experience authentic, tangible resources that help them understand, draw inspiration from and examine the larger meanings, concepts, and stories associated with a formerly vast commercial, industrial and agricultural estate forged with indentured and enslaved labor. The park stimulates understanding of these resources and the activities of the family and workers—paid, indentured, and enslaved—who lived and labored on this estate as it took shape and changed over the 18th and 19th centuries.

A range of interpretive experiences, materials and programs are available to meet the variety of learning styles and interests of individuals, families and groups. The park employs established and emerging technologies on-site, in outreach efforts, and through virtual experiences to attract new visitors and expand the range of audiences.

Scholarship that expands public understanding and

promotes dialogue about the historic events and broader social issues associated with this site is encouraged and supported. Students, scholars and interested people have access to the collections and opportunities to conduct research in adequate and dedicated space.

The park pursues these goals in a flexible, cost effective manner. The implementation of this plan capitalizes on existing and emerging technologies to increase efficiency and to enhance overall operations and partnerships. In this process, the park provides a safe and healthy environment for visitors, employees and partners.

The park strengthens its network of partners and volunteers to preserve the resources and interpret the site. These partnerships engage an increasingly broad range of audiences appreciating the stories and themes associated with Hampton, as well as with management issues that face the park, to enhance public engagement in the park and its management. These outreach efforts build on the strong relationships with existing partners and expand positive relationships with the local community and local, state and federal agencies. Success in meeting the management and interpretive goals is a collective effort and requires the active contribution of these partners.

Hampton National Historic Site has been a partnership park from the time of its designation. It was managed by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities from 1948 until 1979 and has continued to enjoy active affiliations with a number of organizations serving a variety of functions. Historic Hampton, Inc., a nonprofit organization, provides valuable support to the park. The NPS understands partnerships as a means to integrate the park with the community, making the park's resources and benefits more readily available to the public and generating awareness, caring, support, and advocacy for the park.

Under this alternative there would be no change in man-

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Using the information from scholars, NPS staff, partners and numerous public conversations and meetings, the planning team developed three potential management alternatives for Hampton's future.

Alternative 1 would continue the current management practices and serve as a baseline against which the action alternatives would be measured. For both Alternatives 2 and 3, the essential landscape features, integrity and character would be retained, and the time period selected for physical representation would be the latter part of the 19th century. The differences between Alternative 2 and 3 relate to intensity of landscape and historic structure rehabilitation and restoration. Alternative 2 would propose the re-introduction of a number of specific features, recreating as closely as possible the historic appearance of the estate. Alternative 3 would seek to evoke the character of the landscape during the period of significance, but acknowledge compromises in treatment and the depth of rehabilitation in order to insure that operational and maintenance costs remain sustainable.

agement direction or visitor experience—Hampton would continue to embrace its continuum of history in the way the site would be preserved and interpreted.

- Plans already in place would be carried out. Although some restoration and rehabilitation would occur, preservation would be the general approach to treatment of Hampton's historic structures and landscape.
- The park would continue the development of a currently funded new collections storage facility within the Support Zone on the Mansion side of the park. Staff offices, permanently removed from the mansion basement for health and safety reasons, and partner Historic Hampton, Inc., (HHI) offices would continue to occupy modular buildings.
- The visitor experience would primarily rely on conducted tours of the mansion and conducted or self-guided tours of the grounds and the farm. Brochures and a few wayside exhibits would supplement tour guides. Supplemental programs would be offered as staffing and budget allow.
- Park boundaries would remain unchanged.

This alternative would remove post-1948 development and would consolidate administrative functions in an



Dairy

effort to recreate, as closely as possible and feasible, the feeling of the Hampton Estate near the end of its period of greatest significance—the mid to late 19th century.

- Missing architectural and cultural landscape features, critical to understanding the 19th century setting, would be reconstructed. If Department of Interior/National Park Service (DOI/NPS) documentation needs are met, the primary historic structures throughout the park would be rehabilitated and adaptively used for interpretation in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. While the interiors of some historic buildings would

be

- minimally used for park operations, all historic structures and cultural landscapes would be rehabilitated to some degree and additional interpretive media developed so that the visitor could experience the entire estate and those who worked and lived there.
- To further enhance the historic feeling of the site, modern intrusions would be relocated out of the historic core whenever possible. A consolidated park headquarters would be constructed for park administration and a visitor orientation area. All tours would originate from this location, transporting visitors “back in time” as they left a harmoniously designed modern center and entered the historic zone of the park.
- Interpretive media, programs and scholarship, including archeology, would be expanded to widen the audience. Interpretation would also connect the visitor experience with the full range of historic uses of the Hampton Estate, the Home Farm and agricultural and industrial activities that took place throughout the entire estate during the period of significance. Much of the interpretation efforts would focus on the resources and stories from the mid to late 19th century.
- Park boundaries would remain unchanged, although minor adjustments would be considered through donation and willing seller processes.

This alternative is the environmentally and NPS preferred

alternative. It would expand the visitor experience to include the entire story of the park, from its heyday in the 19th century through the changes of activity and ownership in the 20th century. It would broaden the stories to include all those who lived and worked at the mansion, the plantations and related Ridgely family enterprises. It would provide visitor services and accommodate park operations within the historic and modern buildings existing on the property now.

- Modern and historic buildings would be rehabilitated to provide for visitor services—orientation, group programming, restrooms and bookstore, limited storage, and administrative and partnership offices within walking distance of the mansion. While this approach could disperse interpretation and administrative functions throughout the park, every effort would be made to group these operational functions near one another to enhance the ‘campus feeling’, encourage organizational efficiency, and minimize their intrusion into the historic scene.
- The modular buildings housing administrative and partner offices would be removed. One critical feature missing from the landscape and interpretively essential to the visitor experience, the corn crib, would be reconstructed. If Department of Interior/National Park Service (DOI/NPS) documentation needs are met, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and used for interpretation on the farm side.

Relocation of the modern entrance drive on the mansion side and changes to the access road to the farm would provide safer access to new visitor orientation areas on both sides of Hampton Lane.

- Exhibits, media, programs and scholarship would reflect the breadth of lives and events experienced by all of Hampton's residents and workers, free and enslaved, and would connect those stories with visitor's lives today.

Park boundaries would remain unchanged, although minor adjustments would be considered through donation and willing seller processes.

An analysis of the potential environmental impacts of

each alternative is included in this Draft GMP/EIS. Potential impacts on cultural resources, certain natural resources, visitor use and experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment were considered in the environmental analysis. Potential cumulative effects were also evaluated. Overall, Alternative 3 provides the greatest number of beneficial impacts in comparison with other alternatives. Alternative 3 has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative

After the distribution of this Draft GMP/EIS there will be a 60-day public review and comment period. The NPS planning team will evaluate comments from other federal agencies, organizations, and individuals regarding the draft plan, and will incorporate appropriate changes into a Final GMP /EIS. The final plan will include comment letters from governmental agencies, any substantive comments on the draft document received from others, and NPS responses to those comments. Following distribution of the Final GMP/EIS and a 30-day “no-action period,” a Record of Decision (ROD) approving a Final GMP/EIS will be signed by the NPS regional director and published in the Federal Register. The ROD documents the NPS selection of an alternative for implementation.

This document can be downloaded from <http://nps.gov/hamp>. During the review period, the NPS will hold public meetings and invites electronic written comments to be placed on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment web site, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or sent to the Superintendent of Hampton National Historic Site at the following address by mail.

Gay Vietzke, Superintendent
Hampton National Historic Site
535 Hampton Lane
Towson, MD 21286

The NPS will carefully review all comments and respond to them, as appropriate, in the *Final GMP/EIS*. This final plan will also be made available to the public. No earlier than 30 days after the is made available, the National Park

Service Northeast Regional Director will prepare and publish a *Record of Decision* (ROD) documenting the selection process. Following the *ROD*, Hampton National Historic Site will begin implementing the plan over the next 15 to 20 years as funding and other contingencies allow.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we can not guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. The implementation of the approved plan will depend on future appropriations, and it could also be affected by factors such as changes in NPS staffing priorities, visitor use patterns, and unanticipated environmental changes. Full implementation could be many years in the future. Once the General Management Plan has been approved, additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning, design, environmental documentation, and consultations with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer and other agencies would be completed, as appropriate, before certain actions in the preferred alternative can be carried out.

Future program and implementation plans, describing more specific actions that managers intend to undertake and accomplish in the park, will tier from this GMP/EIS.