

2. Alternatives

This chapter describes the alternatives for preserving the Wesleyan Chapel for current and future generations while improving the visitor experience. Several alternatives were identified and reviewed to determine their ability to meet the goals and objective. Five (5) feasible alternatives were examined, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and four (4) action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, D, and E). A detailed discussion of each alternative is provided in the sections below. Alternatives that were initially considered then dismissed as infeasible are also discussed.

2.1 Alternatives Development

An Alternatives Development meeting was held on April 25 and 26, 2006 at the Women's Rights National Historical Park Visitor Center to determine and define potential alternatives for the proposed action. Representatives and staff from the National Park Service, the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, the NPS Northeast Regional Office, the Village of Seneca Falls, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (EYP), Clough Harbour & Associates LLP (CHA), and Wesleyan Chapel historians attended the meeting. EYP presented several preliminary design alternatives at the meeting in an effort to identify basic alternative concepts. The concepts presented by EYP were for discussion purposes and were used as a foundation from which to refine, consolidate and identify additional alternatives.

A brainstorming session was held after EYP identified the preliminary alternatives in order to enhance and expand upon those just presented. Each meeting member was provided the opportunity to add any new ideas or concepts to modify/enhance EYP's preliminary alternatives. In addition, each member was asked to identify new alternatives. As a result of this brainstorming session, five feasible alternatives were identified, which include:

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative B: Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure

Alternative C: Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material

Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units (NPS Preferred Alternative)

Alternative E: Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure

The Choosing by Advantages Decisionmaking System (CBA) was used to assess each alternative based on the issues and impact topics previously identified. Alternative A is the No Action alternative that must be considered under NEPA guidelines to provide a baseline against which the action alternatives can be compared. Once the action alternatives were compiled, the group then evaluated their advantages and disadvantages. Descriptions of each of the alternatives are presented below.

2.2 Alternative A: No Action

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, is the continuation of current management direction. It does not imply or direct discontinuing the present action or removing existing uses, developments or facilities. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline of existing conditions and actions and a basis for evaluating the changes and impacts of the action alternatives. If the No Action Alternative were to be selected, the NPS would respond to future needs and conditions without substantial action or policy changes.

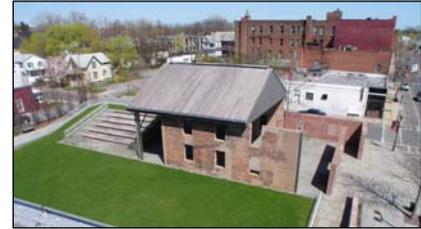


Figure 8: Alternative A - No Action

Under the No Action alternative, no substantial changes would be made to the Wesleyan Chapel other than in accordance with planned routine maintenance operations. Maintenance operations include continuing with the Programmatic Agreement that the NPS executed with the NY SHPO in December 1994 to guide preservation maintenance procedures, brick monitoring and replacement with non-historic bricks, retaining the current configuration. Site drainage would be corrected and maintained, gutters would be repaired and maintained and pavers would be reset. Bird nesting abatement and tree maintenance would also occur. The current structural system would be utilized to minimize impacts to historic fabric.

The park would continue to use the chapel for interpretive programs. The chapel would remain open on three sides and public access to the structure would continue to be unrestricted.

2.3 Alternative B: Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure

Under this alternative, the chapel would remain in its current configuration and minor improvements would be performed to enhance preservation of historic fabric. As shown below, the NPS would clothe the interior brick walls and expand the roof to cover the remaining historic fabric. The NPS would extend the roofing system to the line of the existing brick masonry. New stainless steel roof trusses would also be introduced, but the current structural system would be utilized to minimize impacts to historic fabric. To clothe the interior brick, the NPS could use lime plaster, fabric or panels. New window infill would be provided to reduce wind erosion and moisture intrusion. The outdoor seating would be enclosed with a glass enclosure with limited systems that would include ventilation to allow for all weather interpretation and contemplation.

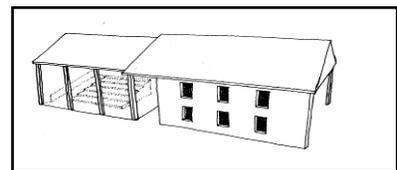


Figure 9: Model of Alternative B

The park would continue to utilize the chapel for tours and interpretive programs. The chapel would remain open on three sides and public access to the structure would continue to be unrestricted. A barrier constructed of appropriate material or form would be developed.



Figure 10: Alternative B - Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure

2.4 Alternative C: Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material

Under this alternative, the NPS would rehabilitate the architectural remnants to enclose the historic interior by extending the roof to cover the structure and providing window fill and door treatments. An alternative material such as terra cotta panels or lightweight metal panels would be used to complete the historic form (missing wall sections) of the chapel. These panels would be designed and placed using the Secretary of Interior Standards for treatment of historic properties so that while the panels would be clearly distinguishable from the historic fabric, they would be compatible in color and design.

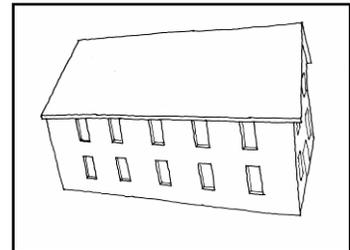


Figure 11: Model of Alternative C

Limited mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems would be installed to provide minimal heat and maximum ventilation to ensure consistent temperature and low moisture content suitable for brick, truss, and historic material preservation. Current structural systems would be utilized to minimize impacts to historic fabric.



Figure 12: Alternative C - Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material

Under this alternative, the seating area would be removed as shown in Figure 12, and the surround wall would be lowered.

The park would continue to utilize the chapel for tours and interpretive programs. The building would be open to the public during regular park hours. After hours, the building would not be accessible to the public. The grounds would remain open to the public with no restrictions.

2.5 Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units (NPS Preferred Alternative)

Under this alternative, the NPS would rehabilitate the architectural remnants to enclose the historic interior through the completion of the walls and roof structure and door and window treatments. The architectural remnants would be rehabilitated to match the historic form (missing wall sections) of the chapel in non-historic brick. The roof framing would be extended, sheathed and shingled. Thus, the exterior envelope would be completed and the exterior would resemble to the greatest extent practicable the original chapel structure.

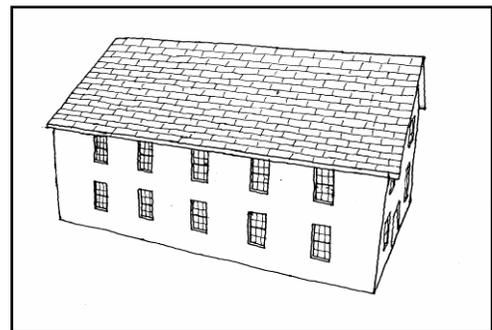


Figure 13: Model of Alternative D

The current structural system would be utilized to minimize any impacts to the historic fabric. The outdoor seating area would be removed and the surround wall would be lowered.



Figure 14: Alternative D - Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units

Minimum mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems would be incorporated to provide minimal heat and maximum ventilation and climate control to ensure consistent temperature and low moisture content suitable for brick, truss, and historic material preservation.

The park would continue to utilize the chapel for tours and interpretive programs. The building would be open to the public during regular park hours and would be closed to the public after hours. The grounds would remain open to the public with no restrictions.

2.6 Alternative E: Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure

Under this alternative (Alternative E), the Wesleyan Chapel would be preserved in an “as is” condition within a new building made of glazing (glass and/or other transparent material) that would encapsulate the chapel. The new building would require installing new footings for support. Ventilation and interior climate control systems would be installed in the new building. The current structural system would be utilized to minimize impacts to historic fabric.

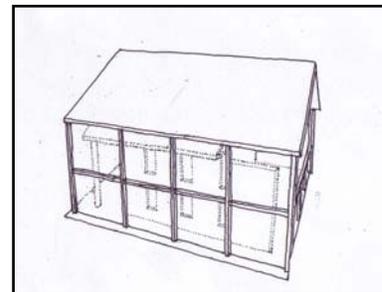


Figure 15: Model of Alternative E

As in Alternatives C and D, the outdoor seating would be removed and the surround wall would be lowered.



Figure 16: Alternative E - Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure

The park would continue to utilize the chapel for tours and interpretive programs. The chapel and immediate surroundings within the glass enclosure would be open to the public during regular park hours and would be closed to the public after hours. The grounds outside the glass enclosure would remain open to the public with no restrictions.

2.7 Alternatives Considered But Dismissed

During the scoping process, several additional concept alternatives were identified and considered, but subsequently dismissed. Additional alternatives considered during this process included:

- Completing the historic volume using alternative building materials other than brick with no installation of climate control systems. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration after the critical elements from this option were incorporated into Alternative C discussed previously.
- Encapsulating the entire site, including the lawn area, water wall and seating area within a glass structure. The focus of this alternative was on providing an improved environment for preservation of original fabric and amelioration of conditions for interpretation. The advantages of this alternative included providing long-term protection for historic fabric, and avoidance of impacts to historic fabric during construction. It allows for removal of existing roof covering and could simplify visual interpretation (chapel as ruin or relic, not incomplete building). This alternative decreases acoustic problems, increases visitor

comfort during winter and summer months, it retains visual interconnection with remainder of site. It allows for reworking connection to Fall Street with little impact on the Visitor Center, and it provides year-round facility use.

Problems associated with this alternative that have consequently resulted in it being dismissed from further review include the capital investment costs associated with construction and maintenance activities, the need for support systems, visitor access, uncertainty that it may not sufficiently reduce traffic noise, and the need to close the site during construction. This alternative would also likely be determined an adverse effect on the Seneca Falls Historic District.



Figure 17: Drawing Depicting Encapsulating the Site

- Undertaking an interior restoration of the chapel in addition to rehabilitating its exterior. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration as it was determined that there is insufficient architectural evidence and documentation of the chapel’s interior to undertake an interior restoration.
- Other alternatives that would enhance the visitor experience were identified, which included removing the seating area behind the chapel and replacing it with a replica of original stable/shed to evoke the feel of the original site. Other ideas included remodeling the interior of the Visitor Center to resemble the interior of the chapel, removing the water wall to front on Fall Street to allow lawn and visitor center to be redeveloped and used for other purposes (exhibits, etc.), removing the sandstone surround walls, and acquiring Fall Street and rerouting it farther south of the site. Because these alternative ideas did not directly address preservation of the Wesleyan Chapel they were dismissed from further review.
- Another alternative involved backfilling the chapel with earth material in an effort to preserve it for future generations and to allow time for technology to evolve that would create unforeseen preservation opportunities. Because backfilling the chapel with earth materials would result in further deterioration of the remaining historic fabric, it was dismissed from further review.

2.8 Preferred Alternative

The “agency’s preferred alternative” is the alternative which the agency believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical and other factors. The concept of the “agency’s preferred alternative” is different from the “environmentally preferable alternative”, although in some cases one alternative may be

both. The preferred alternative is identified so that agencies and the public can understand the lead agency's orientation.

The preferred alternative is *Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units*. This alternative presents the proposed action and defines the rationale for action in terms of cultural resource protection and preservation as well as visitor use and enjoyment. Under this alternative the chapel would be rehabilitated by completing the historic form (missing wall sections) in non-historic brick masonry units similar to the bricks used during the 1990's. Alternative D provides maximum resource protection and preservation while generating the least confusion regarding the structure's appearance. It is also most sympathetic to the character of the Seneca Falls Historic District.

2.9 Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The NPS is required to identify the environmentally preferred alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment. The NPS, in accordance with the Department of the Interior policies contained in the Departmental Manual (516 DM 4.10) and the CEQ's NEPA's Forty Most Asked Questions, defines the environmentally preferred alternative (or alternatives) as the alternative that best promotes the national environmental policy expressed in NEPA (Section 101(b) (516 DM 4.10). In their Forty Most Asked Questions, CEQ further clarifies the identification of the environmentally preferred alternative, stating "Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources" (Q6a).

The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying criteria recommended in the NEPA of 1969 and by CEQ. According to the CEQ, the environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that would promote the national environmental policy expressed in Section 101 of NEPA, which includes:

- Fulfilling the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- Assuring for all generations safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically pleasing surroundings;
- Attaining the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or undesirable and unintended consequences;
- Preserving important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintaining, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- Achieving a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- Enhancing the quality of renewable resources and approaching the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508).

Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units, surpasses all of the other alternatives in fulfilling these factors. Alternative D would better serve and protect the park resources now and in the future by rehabilitating the Wesleyan Chapel and improving its ability to be preserved and interpreted. Improvements associated with Alternative D would enhance the opportunities for long-term preservation of important historic resources associated with the struggle for women's rights, ensure a safe and aesthetically pleasing structure, obtain the widest range of beneficial uses, and maintain a balance between visitor and resource use. Alternative D best meets the criteria for the environmentally preferred alternative and also serves the NPS preferred alternative.

Impact Analysis: restores chapel, uses non-historic materials, follows secretary standards, setting within the historic district.

Table 1 provides a summary of the five alternatives presented above and analyzes the degree to which each alternative meets the purpose and need identified in Chapter 1.

Table 1: Comparative Summary of how Alternatives Meet the Purpose of the Project

	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure	Alternative C: Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material	Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units (NPS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative E: Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure
<i>Deterioration of Historic Fabric</i>	Would not prevent extensive deterioration of historic fabric. Improved bird roosting and nesting abatement and protection of historic fabric only to extent of routine maintenance practices.	Would reduce deterioration of bricks and historic fabric. Would reduce bird nesting to a limited degree.	Would retard the deterioration of historic fabric by enclosing the space and installing mechanical electrical and plumbing systems. Would eliminate bird nesting by enclosing structure.	Would retard the deterioration of historic fabric by enclosing the space and installing mechanical electrical and plumbing systems. Would eliminate bird nesting by enclosing structure.	Would retard the deterioration of historic fabric by enclosing the chapel in a secondary structure and installing mechanical electrical and plumbing systems.
<i>Eliminate Inappropriate Use and Vandalism of Historic Fabric</i>	Would not reduce vandalism, graffiti, physical damage or littering.	Would not reduce vandalism, graffiti, physical damage or littering and would create additional building surfaces to maintain.	Would reduce vandalism, graffiti, physical damage, littering and create better visibility to the building's exterior.	Would reduce vandalism, graffiti, physical damage, littering and create better visibility to the building's exterior.	Would eliminate vandalism, graffiti, physical damage and littering to historic structure.
<i>Improve visitor experience by reducing noise levels</i>	Would not reduce noise as no substantial improvements would be performed to mitigate the impacts of noise.	New enclosure could worsen noise problem.	Would reduce noise inside chapel.	Would reduce noise inside chapel.	Would reduce noise inside chapel.

Table 1: Comparative Summary of how Alternatives Meet the Purpose of the Project

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<i>Improve visitor understanding</i>	Would not improve visitor interpretation of the site.	Would not improve visitor interpretation of the site.	The park would need additional interpretation to eliminate confusion of use of non-brick materials.	Would enhance visitor understanding of historic volume through use of brick materials and improve visitor interpretation of the site.	Would indicate to visitors there is something here worth preserving but would complicate visitor interpretation of the site.
<i>Reduce Occurrences of Inappropriate Use and Behavior</i>	Would not reduce vandalism or inappropriate uses.	Would not reduce vandalism or inappropriate uses.	Would reduce vandalism as interior of building would be secured; exterior still susceptible to vandalism; however, vandalism levels reduced as visibility to structure would be improved.	Would reduce vandalism as interior of building would be secured; exterior still susceptible to vandalism; however, vandalism levels reduced as visibility to structure would be improved.	Would eliminate vandalism of interior and exterior of chapel.
<i>Meet Purpose and Need</i>	No. This alternative would not reduce inappropriate uses of the chapel or the historic fabric. Visitor experience would not be improved and noise levels would not be reduced. Visitor experience would not change.	No. This alternative meets some of the project's objectives by reducing the deterioration of historic fabric and bird nesting. Does not reduce noise vandalism, inappropriate use issues, or visitor experience.	Yes. Although this alternative meets the project's objectives, it falls short of meeting the planning issues to the same extent as Alternative D because additional interpretation would be needed to explain the use of non-brick materials.	Yes. This alternative meets the project's objectives by protecting the historic fabric, improving visitor experience, reducing external noise levels, and reducing the inappropriate uses to the chapel.	Yes. Although this meets the project's objectives, it creates new maintenance issues, would negatively impact the surrounding historic district and impact a greater potentially archaeologically significant area.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the environmental consequences of the proposed alternatives. See Chapter 4 for a detailed impact analysis.

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Consequences					
	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure	Alternative C: Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material	Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units (NPS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative E: Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure
Historic Architectural Resources	Alternative A would have indirect, site-specific, long term, moderate adverse impacts on the chapel and no impacts on the historic district. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of adverse effect is anticipated for the chapel and historic district. No improvement in the relationship between the existing design treatment of the chapel and the Seneca Falls Historic District.	Alternative B would have direct, site-specific, short and long-term moderate adverse impacts on the chapel and direct, local, long term, minor, adverse impact to the historic district. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated for the chapel and might have an adverse effect on the historic district. Benefits include some protection of historic material. No improvement in the relationship between the existing design treatment of the chapel and the Seneca Falls Historic District.	Alternative C would have direct, site-specific, short and long-term, minor adverse impacts on the chapel and direct, local, long term minor and adverse impacts to the historic district. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, with mitigation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated for the chapel and may have an adverse effect on the historic district. Benefits include moisture protection, temperature control, and creation of full historic volume. The structure would be more sympathetic regarding its design to other structures in the Seneca Falls Historic District.	Alternative D would have direct, site-specific, short and long-term, minor adverse impacts on the chapel and direct, local, long term, negligible impacts on the historic district. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated for the chapel and historic district. Benefits include moisture protection, temperature control, and creation of full historic volume. The structure would be more sympathetic regarding its design and use of materials that are similar to other structures in the Seneca Falls Historic District.	Alternative E would have direct, site specific, short and long-term, negligible impacts on the chapel and direct, local, long-term, moderate and adverse impacts on the historic district. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated for the chapel and an adverse effect on the historic district. Would negatively impact Seneca Falls Historic District. Would eliminate bird nesting by enclosing structure.

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Consequences

	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Expand the Existing Treatment/Provide Visitor Enclosure	Alternative C: Rehabilitate Chapel with Alternative Material	Alternative D: Rehabilitate Chapel with Non-Historic Brick Masonry Units (NPS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative E: Enclose Chapel Remains in a New Structure
Archeological Resources	Alternative A would have no direct or cumulative impacts on archeological resources. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no effect is anticipated.	Alternative B would have direct, site-specific, long-term, minor adverse impacts. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated.	With mitigation, alternative C would have direct, site-specific, long-term, minor adverse impacts. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated.	With mitigation, alternative D would have direct, site-specific, long-term, minor adverse impacts. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated.	Alternative E would have direct, site specific, long-term, minor adverse impacts to archeological resources. No cumulative impacts. For purposes of Section 106 consultation, a determination of no adverse effect is anticipated.
Visitor Use and Experience	Alternative A would have direct, long-term, site-specific, moderate and adverse impacts to visitor use and experience. No cumulative impacts.	Alternative B would have direct, short and long-term, site specific moderate and adverse impacts to visitor use and experience. No cumulative impacts. Benefits include improved visitor experience by improved interpretation.	Alternative C would have direct, site-specific, short and long-term minor impacts to visitor use and experience. No cumulative impacts. May have encounter difficulty interpreting site. Benefits include greatly improved visitor experience, noise reduction, reduced, vandalism and unwanted use. Limited climate control introduced.	Alternative D would have direct site-specific, short and long-term minor impacts to visitor use and experience. No cumulative impacts. Benefits include improved visitor experience, eliminated difficulty understanding structure, noise reduction, reduced vandalism and unwanted use. Limited climate control introduced.	Alternative E would have direct, short and long term, site-specific, minor impacts to visitor use and experience to visitor use and experience. No cumulative impacts. May encounter difficulty interpreting the site, Benefits include improved visitor experience, noise reduction, limited temperature control, eliminated vandalism to chapel,

3. Affected Environment

The Wesleyan Chapel site consists of the chapel, a seating area to the north of the chapel, and open lawn for public gatherings that extends to an adjoining visitor center to the west. Along the exterior wall of the visitor center there is a water wall displaying the Declaration of Sentiments, the document signed at the convention that was modeled on the Declaration of Independence and offers a blueprint for women's rights. Additional features of the chapel site include a commemorative, designed landscape, signage and surround walls constructed of sandstone, which frame the chapel site.

This chapter describes the existing conditions for each impact topic retained for detailed analysis, as identified in Chapter 1, which includes Historic Architectural Resources (the historic Wesleyan Chapel and Seneca Falls Historic District), Archeological Resources (out parcel building and resources in the ground within and outside of the chapel excluding the chapel's foundation) and Visitor Use and Experience.

3.1 Area of Potential Effect for Cultural Resources under Section 106

The Area of Potential Effect for cultural resources under Section 106 includes the Wesleyan Chapel site (area immediately surrounding the chapel footprint) and the Seneca Falls Historic District. The cultural resources directly involved with the project include the historic architectural resources, consisting of the wall, roof and foundation elements, and the archeological resources. As changes to the historic architectural resources of the chapel may affect the historic district as a whole, the entire historic district is considered part of the area of potential effect.

3.2 Historic Architectural Resources

For purposes of NEPA, the affected environment for historic architectural resources is the commemorative chapel site and historic district. In 1985, NPS purchased the building for inclusion in Women's Right's National Historical Park. From 1985 to 1988 the National Park Service undertook extensive investigations at the chapel, augmented by archival research, in order to understand the history of the site and the architectural evolution of the structure. Architectural research and investigations provided information on the historic appearance of the chapel's exterior and a conjectural appearance of the interior. Historic architectural resources associated with the chapel included the eastern and western brick walls, wooden roof trusses and the original foundation.

The architectural investigations concluded that no evidence was discovered of "prehistoric or historic occupations or use of the site prior to the construction of the Wesleyan Chapel in 1843"; approximately two thirds of the existing east and west walls were original; one unaltered window opening remained in the west wall, complete with header, and wood nailing blocks; the north and south walls were missing; four of six roof trusses remained along with random-width roof

sheathing boards with remnants of roof shingles and nailing patterns. In addition, archival evidence supported the conclusions that:

- The north wall had two chimneys with no doorway or window openings
- The interior contained a vestibule and main meeting room surrounded on three sides by a gallery.

3.3 Archeological Resources

The affected environment for archeological resources is limited to the land immediately around and within the footprint of the Wesleyan Chapel. For areas of temporary disturbance, a 10-foot buffer around the chapel's footprint is a measurement that is commonly used to include construction-related impacts. In September 1989, Paula A. Zitzler published an archeological study of the chapel's foundation entitled *Historic Structure Report – Archeological Data Section*. The purpose of the *Historic Structure Report – Archeological Data Section* was to help identify any remaining archeological resources.

The 1989 study concluded that no evidence was discovered of “prehistoric or historic occupations or use of the site prior to the construction of the Wesleyan Chapel in 1843 and that the original chapel structure did not have a basement, only a crawl space. However, the *Historic Structure Report – Archeological Data Section* recommended that additional archeological data recovery be conducted on a case-by-case basis for any future ground-disturbing activities, including, but not limited to excavations for new utilities, sidewalks and soil borings. When possible, areas containing, or expected to contain, chapel remains should be avoided by construction. Finally, the study identified areas where development should not occur as well as areas where additional excavations could take place to identify any additional archeological resources. These areas were identified so that they could be taken into consideration during the design and build phases of the commemorative site national design competition.

3.4 Visitor Use and Experience

Part of the mission of the park is to interpret for the education, inspiration, and benefit for the public the nationally significant historical and cultural sites, structures, and events associated with Women's Rights National Historical Park. Approximately 22,000 people visit the park annually with higher visitation from March through November. Visitors commonly view the park film, the visitor center museum and attend guided tours of the Wesleyan Chapel and Stanton Home. Some visitors view the chapel and adjacent Declaration Park as a self-guided experience, although some express difficulty in understanding the current appearance of the Wesleyan Chapel.

In addition to the Wesleyan Chapel tour, the park also offers seasonal guided tours of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House and the M'Clintock House in neighboring Waterloo. On occasion interpretive programs are given at the Hunt House, also in Waterloo. Visitors can utilize the park interpretive map and brochure to visit park sites and view wayside exhibits year round.

The chapel is the primary resource for the park. The project area consists of the features that form the site. This includes the footprint of the chapel, the grass amphitheater, and surrounding features including a “water-wall”, line of beech trees, and plantings.

The chapel and immediate surroundings have been experiencing inappropriate uses that have contributed to the decline of the chapel. Inappropriate activities include skateboarding, rollerblading, bike-riding, after hours congregating, alcohol and drug use, and vandalism. The majority of inappropriate use that occurs comes from local users of the park and not visitors. These activities largely occur only in the chapel and its immediate surroundings. A sandstone surround wall shields most of the Wesleyan Chapel from street view, making policing the chapel and the adjacent step seating very difficult. The openness of the current chapel design also serves as a convenient "cut through" for local pedestrian traffic, particularly for youngsters on bicycles and skateboards. While these inappropriate uses can and do occur year-round, they diminish in the months of January and February due to snow pack.