



Development Concept Plan -
Environmental Assessment
Shared Visitor Center

DRAFT

March 2006



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Draft Development Concept Plan and Environmental
Assessment for the

Project to Construct a Visitor Center for
Cane River Creole National Historical Park and
Cane River National Heritage Area
Louisiana

March 2006

Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment

Project to Construct a Visitor Center for Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to construct a new visitor center for Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area. The purpose of this project is to provide a central, readily accessible facility where visitors could be oriented to the region, learn about the area's resources and culture, foster public support and appreciation for Cane River's cultural resources, and provide readily accessible facilities for park and heritage area staff, in accordance with the park and heritage area enabling legislation, management plans, and NPS policy. This project is being proposed in order to implement actions evaluated in the 2001 Cane River Creole National Historical Park General Management Plan and the 2003 Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan.

There currently are no visitor center facilities for either the park or the heritage area, and the park headquarters have inadequate space for offices.

Five alternatives are analyzed in this environmental assessment:

Alternative A, The No Action Alternative: Under Alternative A, visitors would still not have a centralized information center for the Cane River National Heritage Area and Cane River Creole National Historical Park. Headquarters for both groups would remain in the city of Natchitoches.

Alternative B, Lime Kiln Road Representative Site: Visitors would have a centralized information center for the heritage area and park, with park and heritage area headquarters also located there.

Alternative C, Derry Representative Site: Visitors would have a centralized information center for the heritage area and park, with only the park headquarters also located there.

Alternative D, Waterwell Road Representative Site: Visitors would have a centralized information center for the heritage area and park, with only the park headquarters also located there.

Alternative E, Waterwell Road Representative Site, Partnership with LaDOTD, the Preferred Alternative: Visitors would have a centralized information center for the heritage area and park, with only the park headquarters also located there. The

1 National Park Service would share a building with the Louisiana Department of
2 Transportation and Development.

3 The alternatives analyzed in this environmental assessment would not result in major
4 environmental impacts or impairment to park resources or values.

5 **Public Comment**

6 If you wish to comment on the environmental assessment, you may submit
7 comments via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment web site
8 (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>) or via mail to the name and address below. **All**
9 **comments must be received by April 17, 2006.**

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11 **A PUBLIC MEETING** has been scheduled for March 30, 2006 from 3:00 PM until
12 5:00 PM at the Natchitoches Event Center, 750 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA
13 71457. Those who have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities
14 Act (ADA), should notify the Cane River Creole National Historical Park at 318-352-
15 0383 by March 23, 2006.

16
17 Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the
18 public record. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state
19 this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions
20 from organizations, from businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as
21 representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public
22 inspection in their entirety.

23
24 To review or download the document and to provide comments, go to the following
25 website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

26
27 1. Select the link "Plans/Documents Open for Comment" (lower left corner of
28 the page).

29
30 2. Select "DCP/EA for the Cane River National Heritage Area/Cane River
31 Creole National Historical Park Shared Visitor Center" from the menu box.

32
33 3. To review or download the document to your computer select the Draft
34 Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment for the Proposed
35 Shared Visitor Center from the "Document Content" list.

1 4. Make comments on the document by selecting the link “Comment on
2 Document” in the menu on the left side of the page and submit your
3 comments using the “Comment Form.”

4 Printed reference copies of the documents are available for review at the following
5 locations:

6 Cane River Creole National Historical Park Headquarters
7 400 Rapides Drive
8 Natchitoches, LA
9 318-352-0383

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11 Natchitoches Parish Library
12 450 Second Street
13 Natchitoches, LA
14 318-357-3280

15

16 Cane River National Heritage Area Commission Office
17 452 Jefferson
18 Natchitoches, LA
19 318-356-5555

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21 Northwestern State University Campus
22 Watson Library - Cammie Henry Research Center
23 715 College Avenue
24 Natchitoches, LA

25 Comments via the NPS web site referenced above are preferred, but written
26 comments may be sent to:

27 Superintendent
28 Cane River Creole National Historical Park
29 400 Rapides Drive
30 Natchitoches, LA 71457

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32 Mailed comments must be postmarked no latter than April 17, 2006. For additional
33 information please call 318-352-0383