



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



1 Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment

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

5  
6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7 SUMMARY

8 The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to construct a new visitor center for  
9 Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area.  
10 The purpose of this project is to provide a central, readily accessible facility where  
11 visitors could be oriented to the region, learn about the area’s resources and culture,  
12 foster public support and appreciation for Cane River’s cultural resources, and  
13 provide readily accessible facilities for park and heritage area staff, in accordance  
14 with the park and heritage area enabling legislation, management plans, and NPS  
15 policy. This project is being proposed in order to implement actions evaluated in the  
16 2001 Cane River Creole National Historical Park General Management Plan and the  
17 2003 Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan.

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

20 Five alternatives are analyzed in this environmental assessment:

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

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

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

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

34 **Alternative E, Waterwell Road Representative Site, Partnership with LaDOTD,**  
35 **the Preferred Alternative:** Visitors would have a centralized information center for  
36 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.**

10

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.

36

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

10

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

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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