

Fort Stanwix National Monument

2008

DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



National Park Service – Experience Your America

PART 3. THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

“Affected Environment” is a term employed to describe the area(s) that would be affected or created by the management alternatives under consideration in this draft plan. This section describes existing conditions within the park and adjacent areas, but places special emphasis on those subjects (such as park facilities and visitor services) most likely to be affected by the proposals described in the management alternatives.

For the purposes of this draft general management plan/ draft environmental impact statement (DGMP/DEIS), this section addresses historic context, cultural resources, interpretation, education, visitor services, and socioeconomic conditions. As noted below, a number of topics were eliminated from further analysis because they were not affected by the proposed management actions. The topics eliminated from further analysis include: air quality, soils, prime and unique farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, rare, threatened, or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, topography, hazardous materials, noise, and socially or economically disadvantaged populations.

3.1 Impact Topics Eliminated from Further Analysis

Described below are environmental considerations that were identified but eliminated from further analysis because they were inapplicable to the proposed alternatives or the circumstances of Fort Stanwix National Monument.

3.1.1 Air Quality

Under the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended in 1977 and 1990 (40 CFR 50), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established air quality standards in regard to types of pollutants emitted by internal combustion engines, such as those in aircraft, vehicles, and other sources. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are established for six contaminants, referred to as criteria pollutants, and apply to the ambient air (the air that the general public is exposed to every day). These pollutants include carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and lead. In addition to these six criteria pollutants, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are a source of concern and are regulated as a precursor to ozone. VOCs are created when fuels or organic waste materials are burned. Most hydrocarbons are presumed to be VOCs in the regulatory context, unless otherwise specified by U.S. EPA.

Areas where the ambient air quality does not meet the NAAQS are said to be non-attainment areas. Areas where the ambient air quality currently meets the national standards are said to be in attainment.

Rome, NY is located in EPA Air Quality Region 2 and New York State Department of Environmental Protection (NYSDEP) Region 6. Region 6 is currently in attainment for all criteria pollutants.

Implementation of either alternative would not have an appreciable effect on the local or regional air quality. Consequently, the effects of the plan on air quality will not be evaluated further.

3.1.2 Soils

There is a potential for slight loss of soil from erosion during archeological surveys. Mitigating measures can prevent this adverse impact. Throughout the site, soils are already highly compacted from building construction, pedestrian traffic, and landscape-related projects. Implementation of either alternative will have negligible impact on soils already disturbed by 19th century development and 20th century urban renewal activities.

3.1.3 Prime and Unique Farmlands

A memorandum dated August 11, 1980, from the Council on Environmental Quality requires federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on soils classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the U.S. Soil Conservation Service) as *prime* or *unique* farmlands. There are no prime or unique farmlands on the Fort Stanwix National Monument site.

3.1.4 Water Resources/ Wetlands

There are no wetlands on the Fort Stanwix site. There is a single constructed water feature at Fort Stanwix, a branch of Technohat Creek located east of the fort complex, which was built between 1974 and 1976. This creek is a reconstruction of the natural stream that existed during the Revolutionary War period. The creek is typically dry, carrying only storm water runoff and snowmelt.

3.1.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires an examination of impacts on floodplains and of the potential risk involved in having facilities within the floodplains. Fort Stanwix is not situated in a floodplain. No effects on floodplains are anticipated from implementation of any of the alternatives.

3.1.6 Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act requires an examination of the impact of federal actions on federally-listed, threatened, or endangered species. National Park Service policy also requires possible impacts on state-listed, threatened, or endangered species and federal candidate species be examined. There are no identified, state or federally-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species on the Fort Stanwix site.

3.1.7 Vegetation

The vegetation within the fort and on the surrounding land is maintained as well-kept lawn and frequently mowed borders. Fort Stanwix has eight different species of trees. All were planted following fort reconstruction, with an approximate total of 114 trees in good condition. The dominant species is white pine, with other species including white cedar, red maple, rock elm, amber maple, and red oak. Other than grasses and associated herbaceous plants such as dandelion and broad-leaf plantain, the only noteworthy forbs, shrubs, or trees on-site are a very small stand of cattail along the dry bed of Technohat Creek (historically located east of the fort). Also, a few trees provide shade around the area of the facility management building. Implementation of any alternative will have a negligible impact on the vegetation associated with the landscaped grounds and the fort.

3.1.8 Wildlife

Few mammals, beyond the occasional deer, have been identified on the fort site. The lack of wildlife is the result of the fort's location. Fort Stanwix is in an urban setting effectively isolated by its well-mowed borders and surrounding urban development from any established native wildlife community. Birds such as rock doves (domestic pigeons), starlings, and house sparrows, typical of urban environments, thrive. As a result, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

3.1.9 Topography

The topography outside the fort complex, which was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site, is fairly level with a gentle downgrade toward the south. In the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the elevation of the fort entries, parade grounds, and earthworks of the fort complex were returned to presumed historic levels. The scarp and counterscarp form sloping sides of an eight-foot-deep ditch surrounding the rampart walls on the north, west, and south sides. The glacis rises at a 40-degree angle to a height of six feet at its parapet. From the crest of the parapet the earth gradually slopes down to the original ground level within an approximate distance of 75 feet.

The historic topography surrounding the fort, the major feature of which was the embankment above the Mohawk River, could not be duplicated in the reconstruction due to urban development of canals, roads, and buildings. However, the area immediately surrounding the fort has been reconstructed to reflect the

overall sense of the historic topography. According to the Cultural Landscape Inventory, beyond the glaxis, the existing topography does not reflect conditions during the period of significance and, therefore, does not contribute to the historic significance of the site. As a result, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

3.1.10 Hazardous Materials

Implementation of any of the alternatives is not expected to result in exposure of any population to hazardous materials. Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

3.1.11 Noise

Each alternative could affect noise levels on a site-specific or a local basis. During fort or facility construction, for example, noise levels could be expected to increase in the site vicinity because of vehicular and heavy equipment activity. However, this increase would be short-term. The primary noise source from implementation of the alternatives would be increased automobile traffic associated with visitors and employees. Since the park is located in an urban area, traffic or construction noise would not vary significantly from existing noise levels.

3.1.12 Socially or Economically Disadvantaged Populations

Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to evaluate the impact of proposed actions on socially or economically disadvantaged populations. According to the standards set in this publication, there may be socially or economically disadvantaged populations living within the affected area. However, the alternatives outlined in this document offer the potential to make a positive impact on the city's overall economic health and vitality. Economic impacts from expanded employment and the associated earnings due to implementation of one of the alternatives are expected to be positive, if modest. Furthermore, none of the options would result in disproportionately severe environmental effects (including human health effects, economic effects, and social effects) on minority or low-income communities. The alternatives would not result in air or water pollution that would have an impact on human health. There would not be a significant change in the type or character of land use in the surrounding area that would affect minority or low-income communities.

3.1.13 Energy

Since the GMP has not focused on issues related to new facilities or significant changes to existing facilities, energy issues have not been raised in the GMP. In its operations Fort Stanwix NM will follow NPS policies related to energy conservation.

3.2 Assessment of Resources

Table 3: Contexts of Resource Assessment

Resource	Analytical Context
Cultural Resources	Fort Stanwix NM the Fort and Grounds Archeological and Ethnographic Resources Museum Collection Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier Regions
Visitor Use and Experience	Fort Stanwix NM and Surroundings City of Rome
Public Safety	Points of Entry to Fort and Travel Paths from Parking and Willett Center to Fort Stanwix
Traffic and Parking	Roads adjacent to Fort Stanwix City of Rome
Local Land Use and Planning	City of Rome
Local Economy	Local Recreation and Tourism Industry Downtown Business Base City of Rome Fiscal Status
Social Conditions	Community and Demography
Visual Impacts	Local Viewshed of Fort Stanwix and the Nearby Portions of the City of Rome

3.2.1 Cultural Resources

Prehistoric Context

The prehistoric culture history sequence for Central New York has recently been summarized by Armstrong et al. (2000). Occupation in eastern North America is usually considered to date from the Late Pleistocene period from sometime between 12,000 B.P. and 16,000 B.P. The retreat of the glaciers allowed the development of tundra vegetation which helped to support large herd animals, deer, and migratory birds. The period is characterized by a hunting and gathering adaptation, an association with extinct Pleistocene megafauna, and a specific fluted point technology. While mammoth remains are relatively rare in the Northeast (Ritchie and Funk 1973:6-8), mastodon remains are more numerous. Even so, there is a general lack of direct association of artifacts with these species in the Northeast. Rather, caribou constitute the chief faunal remains associated with Paleo-Indian hunters.

Paleo-Indian sites in the Northeast have chiefly been found on well-elevated locations, the margins of low, swampy ground formerly occupied by lakes and less frequently on only slightly elevated grounds (Ritchie 1980:7). Group size would likely have been small. There is some evidence that Paleo-Indian settlement patterns were technology-based and that raw lithic materials, stone tool-kit refurbishment and big-game food procurement were part of the seasonal rounds of subsistence activities (Armstrong et al. 2000:50-51).

Recent site file checks (Johnson and Donta 1999:10-11) show 46 prehistoric sites in the Rome vicinity. Site types range from Archaic to Woodland. Additionally, work at Fort Stanwix in 1975 encountered a number of prehistoric artifacts (Hanson and Hsu 1975:152). These artifacts included Otter Creek, Brewerton, Lamoka, Fox Creek, and Levanna projectile points. These points range from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland periods. More specifically, the points represent the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland Periods. This multi-component site had one intact feature: a hearth associated with a Lamoka (Late Archaic) point. The authors suggest that many of the artifacts may have been displaced when the fort was built. In any case, the presence of these artifacts suggests a high probability of finding prehistoric artifacts in intact soil horizons, if such exist, in the project area. The project area location was a known portage area and was likely utilized from the beginning of human

settlement in Central New York.

Historic Context

By the early 17th century, Europeans had begun to explore the interior of New York. Henry Hudson traveled up the Hudson River in 1609. A trading post was established at Fort Orange (Albany) between 1624 and 1626 by the Dutch. The Dutch West India Company's land grant system controlled use of the land, which tended to discourage settlement (Johnson and Donta 1999:15). Even under English control, after 1644, settlement west of the Hudson was slow to develop.

In part, expansion into areas west of the Hudson was hampered by British-French conflicts. These conflicts culminated in the French and Indian War (Seven Years War, 1756-1763), which ended with the French surrendering all of Canada. It was during this war that the British built a series of forts to help protect their supply lines. Fort Stanwix was built in 1758 during the war along a portage known as the Oneida Carrying Place. The portage was a link between Wood Creek and the Mohawk River. The area was an important transportation route and hence a strategic military site. Fort Stanwix' military importance in the French and Indian War was short-lived. By the end of the war, the post was only sparsely manned. The fort assumed limited strategic importance in 1763 due to Pontiac's Rebellion, and later the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix was signed there.

The most important historical event to take place at Fort Stanwix occurred during the American Revolution. In 1777, an army of British troops attacked the fort on its way to meet up with General Burgoyne's British army in the Hudson River Valley. Americans defending Fort Stanwix held off the British troops and their allies, thwarting the drive to the Hudson. This victory set the stage for the American victory at Saratoga. The fort was maintained until near the end of the war, when many of the Indians were pushed back to Fort Niagara. The fort was abandoned around 1781 after a devastating fire. Blockhouses were built at the site in 1783. In 1784, the United States negotiated the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, which forced the people of the Six Nations, who allied either with the British or the Americans, to give up much of their land (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Euro-American settlement in the Rome area began after 1785 with the survey of the Oriskany patent. William Livingston and Alida Hoffman acquired a 460-acre parcel which included the site of Fort Stanwix. The parcel was sold to Dominick Lynch who established the settlement of Lynchville (renamed Rome in 1819) (Johnson and Donta 1999).

The village was located at a river portage known as the Oneida Carrying Place, and in 1797 a canal linking Wood Creek and the Mohawk River was completed. The development of water transportation at this time was seen as one of the best ways to improve the transportation infrastructure of a community. The development of agricultural, lumbering, and manufacturing depended upon sending goods to larger regional markets quickly and cheaply. The building and maintenance of canals was viewed as cheaper than construction and maintenance of land transportation systems. Improved transportation routes moved goods out to wider markets and moved more settlers into an area. The subsequent digging of the Erie Canal widened the ability of Rome to easily reach markets from New York City to the Great Lakes (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Canals had a constant depth and tried to maintain a minimal flow of water. Changes of elevation were handled with locks. The use of locks also permitted the waterway to cross natural barriers (Larkin 1998). The Erie Canal, for instance, overcame a 565-foot difference in elevation between Albany and Lake Erie with 83 locks. Completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 helped spur population growth in communities along the canal route (Larkin 1998:21-27). Rome was located about a mile north of the original canal,

and was connected to it when the canal was realigned. This canal was later relocated along the southern boundary of the project area, under the current Erie Boulevard.

The Black River Canal was one of the feeder canals built to connect outlying communities to the Erie Canal. This canal passed along the east side of the project area, following modern-day Black River Boulevard. Construction on this canal began in 1838 and was not completed until 1855, at a cost of \$3,157,296. This canal connected to the Erie at Rome, and followed the Black River through Carthage, Watertown, and thence to Lake Ontario.

The problem with the feeder canals was that the mainline (i.e. Erie Canal) was already built in the most cost effective location. The Genesee Valley Canal, for instance, had to overcome a 1,128-foot elevation difference over its short 107-mile length. The Black River Canal averaged 15 locks per five miles of canal, compared to the Erie Canal's one lock per five miles of canal. Washouts, however, were one of the biggest problems on the Black River Canal. The numerous washouts were expensive to repair and held up shipping (Larkin 1998:65-71). While the canal probably never made much, if any, profit, it did maintain some viability and remained open until 1924. This was the longest that any of the feeder canals, not incorporated into the New York State Barge Canal System, remained operating (Larkin 1998:65-71).

The Syracuse and Utica Railroad began operation in Rome in 1839. When the New York Central Railroad was formed from several companies in 1853, a line connecting Albany and Buffalo ran through Rome. The railroads soon dominated passenger and cargo traffic through the area, with the Erie Canal still hauling a substantial amount of cargo (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Euro-American development in the first half of the 19th century in Rome mirrored the development experienced throughout Central New York. First, there was an influx of settlers, with a concentration on a general agriculture and the lumber industry as the forests were cleared for agriculture. Similarly, one of the first concerns of the settlers was the development of the transportation infrastructure. Improved transportation meant that more settlers could reach the area and farmers could begin growing crops for regional markets (Johnson and Donta 1999).

The site of Fort Stanwix became the focus for Rome's industrial, commercial, and residential development. The fort site was close to both the Erie and Black River Canals. The New York Central Railroad crossed the canals near the site. The fort site itself was a mixed residential and commercial district throughout the 19th century. Gradually evidence of the fort disappeared under city development. In 1802, the earthworks were still standing. In 1815, the blockhouse for military stores was still standing, and the northeast bastion was used as the town dump. By 1830, the fort site had been leveled (Johnson and Donta 1999:26-27).

Commercial development in the project area was extensive. The 1907 New Century Atlas of Oneida County and Sanborn maps from 1884, 1899, and 1924 indicate commercial buildings lining each of the streets in this area. Uses for these map-documented structures ranged from stores, hotels, theaters, an express office, a harness shop, a warehouse, a boys club, and a drug store. Extensive development seems to have occurred in the interior of the lots, as well as on the street front. Remains of some, or all, of these structures are probably extant on the site. It is also possible that remains of shaft features such as privies, wells or cisterns also exist in these areas. It is also probable that intact surfaces survive in some locations, opening the possibility of intact prehistoric archaeological sites as well as historic sheet midden deposits in these areas.

Figure 5: Fort Stanwix NM and the City of Rome, New York



At the time of the site's designation as a national monument in 1935, little was believed to physically remain of Fort Stanwix. In 1965, Colonel J. Duncan Campbell completed test excavations at the fort site for the Rome Urban Renewal Agency and found that substantial parts of the fort survived below ground

(Campbell 1965). The artifacts uncovered by Campbell are currently held by the Rome Historical Society and could be made available for loan to the park if appropriate exhibit space becomes available.

The reconstructed fort is based on extensive archeological and historical research. Between 1970 and 1973, a National Park Service archeological team uncovered the main elements of the fort, which informed the fort's reconstruction over subsequent years. The archeological team also excavated 19th and 20th century features associated with buildings and features that had been constructed over the ruins (Hanson and Hsu 1975).

Significant archeological resources within the footprint of, and related to, Fort Stanwix were recovered and removed prior to reconstruction. Hanson and Hsu estimated that approximately 33 percent of the main fort site was excavated prior to reconstruction, 15 percent of which had been disturbed in the 19th and 20th centuries. They also estimate that 13 percent more of the site was disturbed in unexcavated areas (Hanson and Hsu 1975). It is believed that few unexcavated fort features survived the reconstruction process (Craig Davis, personal communication). Team archeologists continued salvage archeology during 1974 and 1975 while the fort was being rebuilt.

During early archeological excavations, a hearth foundation was identified. The one hearth is preserved in situ as an exhibit in the westernmost room of the North Casemate. It is the only remaining archeological feature to be incorporated within the reconstructed fort.

The grounds of Fort Stanwix National Monument have potential for containing additional archeological resources relating to the fort and 19th century Rome, NY (Johnson and Donta 1999; Auwaerter and Uschold 2000; and *National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory* 1999). In particular, a number of burial sites have been found in the vicinity of the fort. The burials were located in an arc from James Street, just west of the fort, to St. Peter's Church parking lot and the National Park Service facility management building, northwest of the fort. Those human remains uncovered along James Street and near the facility management building in the 1970s have been judged to be of European origin. The James Street burials were re-interred in the nearby Tomb of the Revolutionary War Soldier. Additional burials could still exist in the area.

Archeological background studies and field testing were done by the NPS between 1999 and 2003 to address the potential for archeological resources at a number of locations under preliminary consideration as places to construct the Willett Center. Significant archeological resources were found in the northern portion of the fort grounds, but these are situated a distance from the Willet Center site, southwest of the fort.

Historic Structures, Buildings, and Cultural Landscape

The existing National Register listing clearly recognizes that the reconstructed Fort structure does not have integrity as defined by the National Register, although the site itself is considered an historic resource and is managed as one. The existing reconstructed Fort Stanwix is an earth and timber-clad reinforced concrete structure that replicates the historic fort as it may have appeared in 1777. Located on the site of the historic fort, the reconstruction contains an original feature: a brick hearth. The central part of the fort is a square with a side length of 200 feet. At each corner, there are timber and earth pentagonal bastions with flanks of 36 feet and faces of 90 feet. With these elements, the overall dimensions of the fort, from bastion tip to bastion tip, is 330 feet. Outside the fort structure, fort features are covered in turf. The outer edges of the fort on the north, south, and west sides are composed of a berm followed by a ditch, a parapet, a low palisade fence, and a glacis. The glacis is the low, gently sloping outermost earthwork, the outer edges of which are almost imperceptible. The interior of the fort has three

freestanding wood buildings surrounding the parade grounds, along with frame casemates that are built into the four outer earthen walls.

The site outside the glacis is primarily lawn, with deciduous trees lining North James Street and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs north of the fort to screen the facility management building and other buildings north of the site. A footpath loops around the site, and signs mark the entrances on the south and east sides. A reconstructed water feature, the branch of Technohat Creek, is east of the fort. The topography outside of the fort complex, which was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site, is fairly level with a gentle down-grade toward the south.

In the National Register of Historic Places nomination, the recorded period of significance for Fort Stanwix National Monument is 1758 to 1781. It was in 1758 that the British built the fort and in 1781 that the Americans withdrew permanent garrison. The property is listed as being historically significant under National Register Criterion A (association with an important event), primarily for its association with the American Revolution as the site of Fort Stanwix.

The reconstructed fort surrounds three freestanding buildings and is made up of the following structures and features: the north building of the East Casemate, the North Casemate, the East Barracks, the east building of the South Casemate, the west building of the South Casemate, the south building of the East Casemate, the Southwest Bombproof, the Storehouse, the West Barracks, the West Casemate, the Sentry Boxes, Bastions, Bridges, Cannons, Curtain Walls, the Ditch, the Flagstaff, the Glacis, the Parade Ground, Pickets, Sentry Boxes, and the Whipping Post. Located within the reconstructed fort, there is an original feature -- the foundation of a brick hearth.

The structures which have not been reconstructed are the following: the Northwest Bombproof, the Northeast Bombproof, the Headquarters, the Guard House, the Ravelin, the Southeast Bombproof (Bake House), the Necessary, the Sally port, and its redoubt.

The existing National Register listing clearly recognizes that the landscape of this property does not have integrity as defined by the National Register and should not be considered an historic resource. A final Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Stanwix National Monument was completed in 2000. The inventory definitively states that Fort Stanwix National Monument contains no landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. "All of the landscape features are either modern (circulation, buildings, vegetation), non-historic reconstructions (branch of the Technohat Creek), outside the period of significance (setting), or so altered that they no longer convey conditions during the period of significance (topography: embankment above Mohawk River)."

The New York State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred, based on the 1996 List of Classified Structures (LCS) for the park, that there are no National Register-eligible structures or landscape features present because the fort is a reconstruction (National Park Service 1996; New York State Historic Preservation Officer 1996). The only landscape feature identified in the LCS was the reconstructed drainage east of the fort (branch of Technohat Creek).

The fields surrounding Fort Stanwix were managed as meadow for several years after the fort first opened in 1976. That is, grasses were left to grow freely as they may have when the original fort was occupied. Some members of the public saw the uncut grasses as unsightly. More recently, the fort grounds have been mechanically mowed to maintain a lawn with specific areas planted with native grasses to provide a more evocative scene.

Ethnographic Resources

In 1996, Fort Stanwix National Monument initiated an active program of ethnographic resource documentation focused on associations between American Indians and other ethnic or associated groups with ties to Fort Stanwix National Monument and Oriskany Battlefield. National Park Service Management Policies direct attention to park resources that are valued by diverse American populations because of cultural significance established through lengthy, distinctive association. *Director's Order No. 28*, Chapter 10, defines ethnographic resources and sets standards for documentation, protection, and preservation. Other relevant sources include the National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 38, "Traditional Cultural Properties" and the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)*.

Ethnographic resources include cultural and natural landscapes, structures, and artifacts, as well as flora and fauna that are significant to the contemporary lives and heritage of an American population. Identification and assessment of ethnographic resources focuses on the values and characteristics assigned to them by a distinctive cultural community called a traditionally associated group. The features of ethnographic resources may align, overlap, or conflict with other standards of natural and cultural resource management. Ethnographic resource preservation strategies may align, overlap, or conflict with park enabling legislation, management priorities, and other directives. Consultation with traditionally associated groups is a key to documentation, protection, and preservation of ethnographic resources. Government-to-government communication is mandatory when the traditionally associated group(s) is a federally recognized American Indian tribe.

Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an ethnographic resource important to the Six Nation Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Nation and possibly other Indian tribes (Bilharz and Rae, 1998) (Bilharz, 2002). Members of the Six Nations and other American Indian groups served in and around Fort Stanwix during both the French and Indian War and American Revolutionary War. The site is also important because the Oneida Indians in the 1750s gave permission to the British to build Fort Stanwix. The fort was the site of several treaty signings between the British and Indians, and later between the United States and Indians, that set precedents for land conveyances and Indian relations. In addition, the site is important to the members of other ethnic groups whose ancestors comprised the citizenry or soldiery that fought in the Mohawk Valley during the wars of colonization and independence.

The site of Fort Stanwix NM is also an ethnographic resource of substantial symbolic importance to the members of the Six Nation Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Indians in whose homeland it lies. For the Oneidas, who sustained trading and military relationships with the fort's occupants, the fort site itself is of primary significance. For other traditionally associated Indian tribes, Fort Stanwix is most significant in association with Oriskany Battlefield and the greater Mohawk Valley.

Current management practices at Fort Stanwix National Monument exceed minimum standards for ethnographic resource protection. *A Place of Great Sadness: Mohawk Valley Battlefield Ethnography* (Bilharz and Rae, 1998), which addresses the significance of Oriskany Battlefield to contemporary Iroquois descendants of the combatants, also links the battlefield site, currently under state and private ownership, to Fort Stanwix NM. The National Park Service has completed a supplemental investigation of Mississauga and other non-Iroquois associations with the park and Oriskany Battlefield (Bilharz, 2002). National Park Service-sponsored research has been augmented by information from the Oneida Nation of New York, which conducts its own studies. Aided by these information sources, the park is continuing consultations with federally recognized tribes in the United States to support the park's preservation, interpretive, and visitor outreach efforts.

The park has started to establish communication and relationship protocols with the various Six Nations, particularly the Oneida Nation in whose territory Fort Stanwix was built. Relationships with other groups having affiliations with Fort Stanwix National Monument will be sought when these groups and their affiliations become known.

In May 2002, the National Park Service signed a formal General Agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to promote mutual cooperation and assistance with resources protection, interpretation, and public relationships. This agreement supplements and reinforces agreements in place between the Oneida Indian Nation and the United States and its departments or bureaus since the early founding of the country, and seeks to maintain the “Covenant Chain” between the two nations. Members of the Oneida Indian Nation have been consulted under the terms of the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1993 to determine if any archeological objects at the fort are important to them. Consultations are continuing, but no collections important to the Oneida have been identified to date.

Museum Collection

Contents of Collection

Fort Stanwix National Monument has a substantial collection of archeological, archival, and historical objects. Each facet of the collection provides an important reference source and an interpretive tool. The collections of Fort Stanwix National Monument are significant cultural resources. The collections are the physical remains and records of excavation from a listed National Register and National Historic Landmark property.

The Fort Stanwix National Monument collections number approximately 450,000 items, pertaining to the 18th-century fort occupation (1758-1781) or the 19th- and 20th-century City of Rome, NY (1796-1970). The military collection (1758-1781) is comprised of approximately 45,000 objects. The balance of the collection relates to the 19th and 20th century. The military archeology of the site is primarily documented in the report *Casemates and Cannonballs: Archeological Investigations at Fort Stanwix National Monument* (Hanson and Hsu 1975).

As the 2002 Collection Management Plan for the park states, the park’s archeological collection is among the most significant set of artifacts from an 18th-century fort in the country. The ceramics, glassware, metal tools, and architectural hardware span almost the entire range of available items representative of this time period. Unique archeological objects in the collection include a grenadier’s match case, a metal bit for cutting bone buttons, and 3rd New York Battalion buttons. The collection provides irreplaceable evidence relating to fort furnishings, living and working areas, and military culture and lifestyles that are not well documented from written records.

According to the park’s 1992 Resources Management Plan, Fort Stanwix National Monument’s 19th- and 20th-century archeological artifacts form a large and well documented collection. For the period 1850 to 1890, it may be the best representation of material culture from a heterogeneous community. As stated in the park’s Collection Management Plan, during the 19th century the site contained the homes of wealthy professionals and laborers living in rooming houses. The diversity of objects indicates the commerce along the Erie Canal and the range of items transported along it.

The park also maintains an archive and library containing thousands of items, mostly secondary documentation. Annually, a steadily increasing number of researchers, ethnographers, authors, and others will utilize these resources. It is projected that usage figures will significantly increase when the Willett Collections Storage Facility and the Library become more readily accessible to the public.

It must be noted that primary resource items must also be considered under the discussion of collections management in order to address the need for their conservation and protection. Security issues require that primary resources be maintained in a controlled setting, while secondary resources can be made more readily available.

Collections Storage: Background and Deficiencies

Approximately 289 items in the fort's collections are on exhibit in the Willett Center. The collections were removed from makeshift storage in the fort's tunnels to the new Willett Center in 2005. Re-housing of the artifacts into acid-free containers is underway. The 2005 Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections shows 90 percent of standards being met in the new facility. This percentage will continue to improve as operations in the new facility are standardized and formal plans are approved.

Conditions for museum storage prior to the opening of the Willett Center did not meet agency standards. Examples of major collection storage area deficiencies that have been corrected include: lack of any fire suppression system; the existence of utility lines and panels that could have resulted in damage to the collections; lack of adequate emergency exits from the facility; excessive temperature and relative humidity damaging the collections; lack of adequate space for equipment to properly store objects and make them more accessible; lack of conservation and research space; and water seepage, dampness, mold, mildew and rot on the walls, floors ceilings and some items in the collection. Several of these listed deficiencies previously posed a threat to employee and visitor health and safety.

3.2.2 Visitor Use and Experience

Visitor use and experience are a function of the interaction between a visitor's expectations, motivations, past experiences, and personality traits and the recreational carrying capacity of a park. Recreational carrying capacity is defined as "a prescribed number and type of people that an area will accommodate given the desired natural/cultural resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management program" (Haas, 2001). The carrying capacity for a park is a function of two human and physical constraints: 1) what is considered to be a crowded condition, given the park's physical and environmental resources and the visitor experience intended by management, and 2) the level of use that a park can sustain without suffering environmental degradation.

Visitor/Recreation Experience

The psychological and physiological response from participating in a particular recreation activity in a specific park setting (Haas, 2001).

Visitation

The current visitation level, including special-use attendees, is approximately 63,000 annually. Nearly three out of four fort visitors reside within 50 miles of the monument, as lesser known or more geographically isolated historic sites like Fort Stanwix NM serve a primarily local visitor market. A study "Impacts of Visitor Spending on the Local Economy: Fort Stanwix National Monument, 2003" (2005) by Michigan State University's Daniel Stynes and Ya-Yen Sun, found that the two largest segments in terms of days spent in the region are overnight visitors staying with friends and relatives or campgrounds in the area (38 percent) and day visitors coming from outside the region (30 percent). Park visitors accounted for 5,100 room nights in area motels in 2003.

On average, park visitors spent \$63 per party per day in the local area. Spending varies considerably across four visitor segments—from \$181 per night for visitors staying in area motels to \$20 per party for local day visitors. Using the National Park Service's Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2), the study found that \$1.7 million spent by park visitors generated \$491,000 in direct personal income (wages and salaries) for local residents and supported 33 jobs in tourism-related businesses.

The Willett Center enhances the visitor experience by improving the opportunities to interpret the themes of significance and the archeological collection and to educate a more widely diverse public through improved programming, while linking to related sites in the region. On special occasions, higher levels of visitation, such as during group visits, special events and peak seasonal periods of visitation, have conflicted to some extent with other fort operations and may have diminished visitor experience. Administrative functions have been moved to the Rome Historical Society building, which has helped ameliorate this situation.

Fort Stanwix NM has forged significant partnerships with related heritage entities. They include Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, which is owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the Oneida Indian Nation, whose history is related to the events at Fort Stanwix during the era of the American Revolution. Fort Stanwix NM has a cooperative agreement with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site related to coordinated interpretation, and the Oneida Indian nation helps provide interpretive services at Fort Stanwix NM. There are additional neighboring heritage attractions primarily related to the American Revolution, which provide valuable partnership opportunities for Fort Stanwix NM. They include General Herkimer Home State Historic Site; Baron von Steuben Memorial State Historic Park; the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor; Old Erie Canal State Park; Erie Canal Village, which recreates a 19th-century “canal village”; Rome Historical Society Museum and Archives; and the Oneida Nation Shako:wi Cultural Center.

3.2.3 Public Safety and Access

Visitor use and experience is affected by the ease of access to the site and interpretation once on it. Existing access to the site is not easy, by foot or car.

Public Access to Fort Stanwix

Access to the General Public

West Dominick Street and Black River Boulevard are heavily traveled thoroughfares. Visitors access the fort grounds from an entrance on Black River Boulevard or North James Street. All parking is off-site in public and privately owned lots. Approximately 33 percent of all visitors arrive in buses or in carpools. Drop-off areas for bus groups and visitors with disabilities are provided on South James Street and on Black River Boulevard. There is no parking permitted in these areas. The South James Street drop-off is the primary entry point to the fort grounds. It is an area enhanced with contrasting pavement, large site signs, and directional interpretation where the path begins to the main entrance.

Pedestrian Orientation from Parking to Fort Stanwix National Monument

Visitors arriving at the Fort from Erie Boulevard, Black River Boulevard and heading north on North James Street are notified of their arrival by large Fort Stanwix National Monument signs located on Fort grounds at the main entrances on Black River Boulevard near East Dominick Street and on North James Street near West Dominick Street.

Visitors who park in the surface parking lot across from the North James Street use the crosswalk at the southwest corner of West Dominick and North James Street to cross North James Street. Visitors who park at the Fort Stanwix garage may either cross to the east side of North James Street at the crosswalk at the intersection with Liberty Street and walk south to the Fort, or walk south on the west side of North James Street, crossing West Dominick and North James Streets. There is a crosswalk but no crosshatching or pedestrian signal head. Pedestrians cross at risk of oncoming traffic from north- and southbound traffic on North James Street and turning traffic from Black River Road and Erie Boulevard without any traffic sign control or pedestrian signal.

There is a crosswalk with a pedestrian crossing signal but no crosshatching at the eastern end of the intersection of Erie Boulevard and North James Street. This crossing is most likely to be used during large events when people park off-site in the Freedom Mall parking lot.

Pedestrians also gain access to the fort grounds from Black River Boulevard. The park is bordered by concrete sidewalks within the public right-of-way, providing access to the lawn surrounding the fort.

Handicapped Accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The parking garage is accessible to persons in wheelchairs as it has an elevator. Concrete city sidewalks leading from the garage to the Fort are accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

The park meets all standards of programmatic accessibility, especially at the Willett Center. Many park facilities, including trails and structures, are not completely wheelchair accessible. On the fort grounds, the stone dust/gravel surface leading from the entrance on North James Street to the fort's main gate is about one-eighth mile in length and difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair. The circulation paths have similar limitations. The entry trail leads to the main bridge into the parade ground. The Southwest Casemate (artisan area) entry has been graded to serve as a wheelchair ramp. These areas and the entry trail leading from the main bridge to the parade ground may be technically in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but may not be functionally in compliance - the transcendent legal measure of compliance. Both entries to the storehouse (public rest rooms) have been graded to accommodate those with disabilities. Restrooms provide one handicapped sink and toilet in each room. The fort has a portable wheelchair ramp available for use with the help of an employee. Renovations for accessibility have been made in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC 4151 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 701 et seq.), and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (now chiefly merged with ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)).

Public Safety

The City of Rome fire and police departments provide public safety and emergency services. The Rome Memorial Hospital is nearby. Some of the park rangers are trained in the basics of first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. In the event an incident or emergency requiring law enforcement officers occurs, the City of Rome Police Department is requested by calling the emergency services dispatcher at 911. The park has purchased Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) for placement at the fort.

There is a school bus stop in front of St. Peter's Church on North James Street. Children who live in the residential area east of the Rome Historical Society pick up the bus here. The bus heads north on North James Street in the morning, picking children up at 8:00 am. The bus heads south on North James Street in the afternoon, dropping off the children at 3:00 pm (Smith, 2002).

3.2.4 Traffic and Parking

Traffic Patterns

Most visitors to the fort arrive on the New York State Thruway, taking Exit 32. There is a National Park Service sign for the fort on both sides of the highway. Visitors then follow State Route 233 to Erie Boulevard, taking a right after the Fort onto James Street, where there are public parking facilities. There are brown Fort Stanwix National Monument signs directing traffic from the highway exit to the fort.

The fort property is encompassed by public streets, except at the northwest corner where it is abutted by St. Peter's Church. The public streets include Park Street, a narrow city street; North James Street, a two-lane city street; Black River Boulevard (NY Route 26), a four-lane arterial state highway; and Erie

Boulevard (NYS Route 46/49/69), the four-lane major arterial state highway through the downtown area (NPS, 2002a). Speed limits on all of the bordering streets are 30 miles per hour.

There are traffic signals at the corner of North James Street and Erie Boulevard and at the corner of North James and Liberty Streets. There is a stop sign on West Dominick Street at its intersection with North James Street. North James Street has the right-of-way. There are turning lanes from Erie Boulevard onto North James Street and from North James Street onto West Dominick Street.

Traffic Volumes

The fort is bordered by two heavily traveled arterials. Traffic counts in 1999 and 2000 by the fort indicate an average annual daily traffic count (AADT) of about 21,500 on Erie Boulevard, 21,000 on Black River Boulevard, 8,500 on North James Street, and 3,850 on Court Street (NPS, 2002a; Parking Memo, 2002). Counts have generally been stable to slightly increasing over the past five years. The highest hourly volumes are during the morning and evening rush hours (8:00 am – 8:30 am and 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm), and during lunchtime.

Parking Availability

- There is no parking on the fort site. Parking is not permitted on city streets along the perimeter of the park. The main parking for the fort is located on North James Street and points west. Public parking available within two blocks of the fort entrance on North James Street is comprised of a total of 680 spaces:
- 88 spaces in a privately owned parking lot on the southwest corner of North James and West Dominick Streets, including three bus/recreational vehicle (RV) spaces and four handicapped (referred to as ‘the North James Street lot’);
- 533 spaces in the Fort Stanwix Garage, on the southwest corner of North James and Liberty Streets;
- 32 street parking spaces on the 100 – 200 block of West Dominick; and
- 27 spaces behind the Rome Savings Bank, on the north side of West Dominick Street, including two handicapped spaces (referred to as ‘the Rome Savings Bank lot’).

The Fort Stanwix Garage is open from 6:30 am until 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It is closed on weekends and major holidays. The garage is located approximately 700 feet north of the fort entrance.

A limited amount of on-street parking is available in front of businesses on East Dominick Street near Black River Boulevard. A signalized pedestrian crossing on Black River Boulevard directs visitors to the fort entrance.

Large events held at the fort are usually held after business hours and on weekends. Hence, people park at the North James Street lot, on West Dominick Street, in the Rome Savings Bank lot, and in other parking lots, both public and private, which are considered to be outside of the typical visitor’s walking range to the fort. These include Freedom Plaza, the George Street parking garage, and surface lots.

There are signs directing people to the North James Street lot in front of the fort heading west on Erie Boulevard near the corner of North James Street, and heading east on Erie Boulevard near the Freedom Plaza. There are no signs to parking for visitors traveling southbound on James Street or eastbound on Liberty Street.

The Rome Parking Authority operates two parking garages in the Central Business District (CBD). The garages open during the busiest times, weekday business hours. The largest source of parking demand is

downtown workers, who purchase monthly parking permits. Of the 5,496 permits sold in 2001 for the downtown garages, approximately 60 percent, or 3,300 permits are sold to workers at the Rome City Hall and the 100 employees at the Central New York Disabilities Service Office (Central NY DSO), which occupies the ground level of the garage.

Three bus or recreational vehicle parking spaces are available in the North James Street lot. Sometimes tour buses park in the Freedom Mall parking lot. There is no designated bus parking area in Rome, beside the three spaces at the North James Street lot.

Drop off locations for handicapped visitors and buses are available on the east side of North James Street and on Black River Boulevard. There is no handicapped or bus parking at these locations. There are four handicapped spaces at the North James Street lot and two handicapped spaces at the Rome Savings Bank lot. The James Street garage is partially accessible, with elevators and access ramps, but no automatic door openers to the glass enclosed elevator bank.

Bicycle and Public Transportation Access

The City of Rome operates public bus service. Although there is no bus stop directly at the fort, the stops on James Street and Liberty Street are within a five-minute walk. There is also bus service between Rome and Utica. An Amtrak railroad station is located about one mile away.

The roadway system around the park is not particularly accommodating for bicycles. High volumes of motor vehicles, highway ramps, and complicated intersections discourage casual cyclists. There is a bicycle rack at the front entrance to the park for visitors and employees. There are no designated bicycle routes that pass the fort.

3.2.5 Local Land Use Planning

Land Uses

Oneida County

Oneida County is located in central upstate New York, 35 miles east of Syracuse and 90 miles west of Albany. The two urban centers in the county are Rome and Utica, just north and south of the New York State Thruway. Much of the rest of the 1,227.2 square-mile county is rural. The northeastern county boundary is with the Adirondack State Park. North of the park is the Tug Hill area, noted for heavy snowfalls and winter sports. These areas are sparsely populated and popular in the winter for snowmobiling and skiing; in the spring and summer for fishing, hiking and mountain biking; and in the fall for hunting.

In 1998, there were 235,500 acres in farms, 30 percent of Oneida County's acreage. Most of the 1,120 farms are dairy farms. Oneida County ranks sixth in the state for number of farms and sixth for land in farms (USDA, 2000). The land in farms has been slowly declining.

City of Rome and Rome Central Business District (CBD)

The historic center of Rome was planned around the corner of Dominick and James Streets, the location of Fort Stanwix. Urban renewal in the early 1960s replaced many parts of the historic downtown with large urban blocks and West Dominick Street was turned into a pedestrian mall. The land once bordering the intersection of West Dominick Street and Black River Boulevard was blocked off and the sixteen acres used to reconstruct Fort Stanwix in 1974-1976. As was the case with many northeastern cities, pedestrian malls were not successful, and business moved to neighborhood and regional shopping centers

with convenient parking. The pedestrian mall was removed in 1996-97 and vehicular traffic re-introduced to that section of Dominick Street.

With some exceptions, many buildings located in the Central Business District (CBD) were constructed within the last 40 years as part of the city's urban renewal efforts in the late 1960s and early 1970s. While the CBD is very clean and well maintained in comparison to other upstate New York commercial districts, it also lacks turn-of-the-century commercial buildings and thus distinctive architecture.

The 16-acre fort site is on the periphery of the downtown and is the primary green space for the CBD. The four-lane arterial streets surrounding the fort on three sides are heavily traveled.

Surrounding Land Uses

The fort forms the eastern boundary of the CBD. Land uses in the densely developed area west of the fort include two banks, City Hall, two parking garages, several parking lots, two vest pocket parks, a 99-unit apartment building for senior citizens, social service and government agencies, business services, retail stores, and professional offices. Businesses include the Rome Chamber of Commerce, a second-hand jewelry store, a television repair service, the non-profit Capitol Theater, Oneida County offices, a mental health and alcohol recovery program, administrative offices of Rome Hospital, and the United Way. The largest presence on West Dominick Street is non-profit social service agencies and county offices. Oneida County occupies approximately 40,000 square feet of office space on West Dominick Street, near the intersection with George Street.

The former site of the American Café, which is next to the surface parking lot at the corner of North James and West Dominick Streets, is now occupied by the Rome Savings Bank. On the south side of West Dominick Street, one block west of Fort Stanwix, is a large, vacant building formerly occupied by an office supply store. The 28,000 square-foot building also has frontage on Erie Boulevard.

East of the fort on the east side of Black River Boulevard, is a fire station, residential neighborhood with a church, several restaurants and shops. The Rome Fire Department erected and maintains a Fire and Police Memorial Park adjacent to the monument grounds along Black River Boulevard.

North of the fort is the Gansevoort-Bellamy Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a local preservation district. It is what remains of the historic CBD. This district includes Old City Hall, the Old Post Office (now occupied by the Rome Historical Society), and the Oneida County Courthouse. Also north of the fort is a small area of one- and two-family homes, the fire and police memorial, and two blocks improved as small parks. Most of the rest of the city is residential with neighborhood and strip retail on local collectors and main arterials.

The national monument, as federal property, is not subject to the city's zoning jurisdiction. Adjacent zoning is primarily commercial in nature.

3.2.6 Visual Resources

The fort is the primary distinguishing view in the downtown and the first one to make an impression on visitors as they approach the downtown. The expansive views historically found at Fort Stanwix have been obscured by urban development. The immediate existing views and vistas, therefore, do not contribute to the historic significance of the site. Views of adjoining urban properties, notably St. Peter's and City Hall, are used for interpretive purposes to contrast "historic" and existing conditions. In the reconstruction of the fort, the grounds were kept open to suggest the historic views and vistas, except along the west and north edges where plantings were used to screen adjacent urban views. The views to the south and east down the embankment to the Mohawk River have also been lost due to urban development, and have small clusters of trees on the park boundary. The Willett Center, added to the site's south side, was planned to reflect the character of the original fort in form and materials.



Figure 6: Fort Stanwix National Monument – View from South Lawn Area.

The fort grounds are the main landscaped open space in Rome's CBD. The fort is only partly visible above the horizontal plane as one approaches the intersection of Black River Boulevard and North James Street. The fort complex's landscaping was reconstructed at the same time as the Fort. The outer edges of the Fort on the north, south, and west sides are composed of a berm followed by a ditch, a parapet, a low palisade fence, and a glacis. The glacis is the low, gently sloping outermost earthwork, the outer edges of which are almost imperceptible. It was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site and is fairly level with a gentle downgrade toward the south. In the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the elevation of the fort entries, parade grounds, and earthworks of the fort complex were set at historic levels. The scarp and counterscarp form sloping sides of an eight-foot deep ditch surrounding the rampart walls on the north, west, and south sides. The glacis rises at a 40-degree angle to a height of six feet at its parapet. From the crest of the parapet the earth gradually slopes down to the original ground level with an approximate distance of 75 feet.

The site has an appearance typical of relatively undeveloped urban parks and open space – neither wild nor built-up. The site outside the glacis is primarily lawn, with deciduous trees lining North James Street, Erie Boulevard,

and parts of Black River Boulevard, and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs north of the fort to screen the facility management building and residences north of the site. The lawn area is mechanically mowed to maintain a neat appearance. The fort site is surrounded by small-scale urban development: a church, a parking lot, a parking garage, a bank, and one- and two-family homes.



Figure 7: Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center



Figure 8: View Looking East from Fort to James Street Parking Garage

Part 4. Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

The alternatives outlined in this document establish overarching management guidelines for Fort Stanwix National Monument. The general nature of the alternatives dictates that the analysis of impacts also should be general. Thus, although the National Park Service can make reasonable projections of likely impacts based on best professional judgments and best available information, these projections are based on assumptions that may not prove to be accurate in the future.

As a result, the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) presents an overview of potential impacts relating to each alternative. This DEIS will serve as a basis for future, more in-depth National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents prepared to assess subsequent developments or management actions.

Impact topics were selected for analysis by determining which resources or elements of the human environment would be affected by actions proposed under the two management alternatives; topics were also chosen to address planning issues and concerns. Those resources and environmental concerns that would not be appreciably affected by either of the two management alternatives were eliminated from further consideration and are not discussed in this section of this document. Topics eliminated from further consideration are described in Section 3.1 of this document.

4.2 Methodology

The planning team based this impact analysis and conclusions largely on the review of existing research and studies, information provided by experts in the National Park Service and other agencies and organizations, and Fort Stanwix staff insights and professional judgment. It is important to remember that negative impacts need to be avoided or minimized through mitigating measures.

Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect effects are caused by the action and occur later or farther away, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other action. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Impact duration refers to how long an impact topic would last. For the purposes of this document, the planning team used the following terms to describe the duration of the impacts:

Short-term: The impact would last less than one year, normally occurring during construction and recovery.

Long-term: The impact would last more than one year, normally resulting from operations.

Table 4: Criteria for Impact Intensities

	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Visitor Experience	Park Operations	Socioeconomic Resources
Negligible	Impact localized and not detectable, or at lowest levels of detection	Impact barely perceptible and not measurable; confined to small areas or affecting a single contributing element of a larger national register district with low data potential	Impact barely detectable, not in primary resource areas or occasionally would affect a few visitors	Impact not detectable, no discernible effect on ability to provide services, manage resources, or operate the park	Impact not detectable, no discernible effect on socioeconomic environment
Minor	Impact localized and slightly detectable, but would not affect overall structure of any natural community	Impact perceptible and measurable, but would remain localized; affecting a single contributing element of a larger National Register district with low to moderate data potential, or would not affect character-defining features of a National Register-eligible or listed property	Impact slight but detectable, not in primary resource areas or would affect few visitors	Impact slightly detectable but would not obstruct or improve overall ability to provide services, manage resources, or operate the park	Impact slightly detectable but would not affect overall socioeconomic environment
Moderate	Impact clearly detectable; could appreciably affect individual species, communities, or natural processes	Impact sufficient to change a character-defining feature but would not diminish resource's integrity enough to jeopardize its national register eligibility, or it generally would involve a single or small group of contributing elements with moderate to high data potential	Impact readily apparent, somewhat adverse, or somewhat beneficial, in primary resource areas or would affect many visitors	Impact clearly detectable and could appreciably obstruct or improve the ability to provide services, manage resources, and/or operate the park	Impact clearly detectable and could have an appreciable effect on the socioeconomic environment
Major	Impact highly noticeable and would substantially influence natural resources, e.g. individuals or groups of species, communities, or natural processes	Substantial, highly noticeable change in character-defining features would diminish resource's integrity so much that it would no longer be eligible for national register listing, or it would involve a large group of contributing elements or individually significant properties with exceptional data potential	Effect severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, in primary resource areas, or would affect most visitors	Impact would have a substantial, highly noticeable, potentially permanent influence on the ability to provide services, to manage resources, or to operate the park	Impact would have a substantial, highly noticeable, potentially permanent influence on socioeconomic environment

4.3 Projects That Make Up the Cumulative Impact Scenario

A cumulative impact is described in regulation 1508.7 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as follows:

A “cumulative impact” is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

To determine potential cumulative impacts, projects in the area surrounding Fort Stanwix were identified. The area included Oneida County, NY in particular, as well as several multi-county heritage tourism initiatives including the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. These projects were determined primarily through conversations with park staff and local officials. Potential projects identified as cumulative actions included any planning or development activity that was currently being implemented or would be implemented in the near future.

These cumulative actions are evaluated in the cumulative impact analysis in conjunction with the impacts of each alternative to determine if they would have any additive effects on a particular natural, cultural, visitor use, or socioeconomic resource. Because many of these cumulative actions are in the planning stages, the evaluation of cumulative effects was based on a general description of the project. Actions that will be evaluated for their cumulative effect are described as Other Recent Planning Efforts and Initiatives in Section 1.3.4 of this plan.

4.4 Impairment of Resources

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the preferred alternative and other alternatives, NPS policy (NPS, *Management Policies 2006*, section 1.4) requires that potential effects be analyzed to determine whether or not proposed actions would impair the resources of the unit.

The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve resources and values. National Park Service managers must always seek ways to avoid or minimize, to the greatest degree practicable, adverse impacts on the resources and values. However, the laws do give the National Park Service the management discretion to allow impacts on the resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the National Park Service this management discretion, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the National Park Service must leave the resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise.

The prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of the resources and values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. An impact on any resource or value may constitute an impairment. An impact would be most likely to constitute an impairment if it affected a resource or value whose conservation would be (a) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (b) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (c) identified as a goal in the park’s general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. Impairment might result from NPS activities in managing a park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. In this document, a determination on impairment is made in the conclusion section for each impact topic in the “Environmental Consequences” section.

4.5 Impacts of Actions Associated with Alternative One: No Action

4.5.1 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Resources

The No Action alternative does not include any proposals that would result in ground disturbance. This alternative calls for completion of a comprehensive archeological inventory at the fort, which would improve the park's baseline knowledge of the resource and would support future decisions relative to the management of this resource. This action is expected to have long-term, moderate benefit to the park.

The Reconstructed Fort and its Associated Landscape

The No Action alternative includes a number of proposals that may have an effect on the reconstructed fort. This alternative calls for making improvements to the fort to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); rehabilitating List of Classified Structures resources identified as being in need of repair; and increasing the number of fort structures available for interpretation to the public. All of these proposals are expected to have a moderate long-term impact. The ADA compliance measures and the rehabilitation of existing structures are all expected to have a beneficial effect. Increasing the number of structures open to the public for interpretation could have a negative effect in the absence of mitigating measures. Increased visitor volumes in previously underutilized areas of the fort could result in increased wear and tear on fort structures.

This alternative does not include any proposals that would affect the fort's associated landscape.

Archives and Collections

Completing a collections catalog would have a minimal but long-term benefit in managing archives and collections.

Ethnographic Resources

The No Action alternative does not include any proposals that would result in impacts to sacred sites and ethnographic resources. This alternative calls for the completion of ethnographic research for the park as it relates to the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier. This action would have a moderate, long-term benefit for the park's ability to manage for such resources. This research would allow NPS to identify, acknowledge and collaborate in the protection of sacred sites and ethnographic resources illuminated by the study process.

Section 106 Compliance

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. No actions associated with Alternative 1 will affect cultural resources. NPS will pursue consultation on any actions that may affect cultural resources.

4.5.2 VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

Visitation

Current visitation levels and special-use attendees have not resulted in adverse impacts on the park's resources and existing facilities. It is anticipated that the fort's structure has a carrying capacity that could accommodate a doubling of its visitation without negatively affecting resource conditions. The Willett Center has enhanced the visitor experience and expanded the carrying capacity.

The No Action alternative calls for the development of a new park orientation film. A well-publicized roll-out for a new orientation film could temporarily increase visitation to the park, but would not have a significant effect on overall, long-term visitation to the park. Conversion of fort rooms from administrative uses to interpretive use could enhance visitor interest to a minor degree and extend length of stays. Therefore, it is likely that these actions could have a minimal, short-term beneficial impact on park visitation figures. Aside from routine maintenance and refurbishment of wayside exhibits, the No Action alternative does not call for any other actions that would have an effect on park visitation. Undertaking a National Park Service Visitor Services Project (VSP) could provide a modest long-term benefit in improving interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

Visitor Contact/Orientation/Information

Under the No Action alternative, the park would proceed with plans to develop interpretive programming that would be more historically accurate and would discuss the siege of Fort Stanwix and its causes and effects. This updated program would more accurately depict the role of the American Indians and explore the impact of the Revolutionary War on the Six Nations. The development of the new park programming would be of long-term benefit for visitor understanding and information. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park in terms of visitor orientation and information.

Interpretive and Educational Programming

The relocation of administrative and collections storage space to the park headquarters building (Rome Historical Society) and to the Willett Center has made a considerable area of the fort available for future interpretation. This offers the park the opportunity to expand its interpretive and educational program offerings within the confines of the fort, providing a major, long-term benefit from interpretive and educational programming.

This alternative also calls for the park to expand its staff to meet current needs. The addition of new visitor services staff would allow the park to meet current demands for interpretive and educational programming. However, it would not allow the park to expand its interpretive and educational program offerings. This could be problematic should demand for these services grow. This action is expected to be of moderate, long term benefit to the park.

The No Action alternative does not call for the development of any additional visitor facilities.

Recreational Resources

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect recreational resources associated with the park.

4.5.3 PARK OPERATIONS

Under both alternatives the park would seek congressional action to formalize the park boundary. This action would fulfill legislative requirements laid out in the park's enabling legislation and will not have any significant effect on overall park operations.

Facilities Management

The park would make minor improvements to the existing maintenance building. These improvements would address existing facility management needs but would not accommodate any additional growth in the maintenance. This action would result in a minor, long-term benefit.

Staffing and Volunteers

Under Alternative 1, the park would expand the existing park staff and volunteer corps to meet current needs.

This would not accommodate any significant change or growth in visitor programming or park operations. This action would be of moderate, long-term benefit.

4.5.4 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Parking

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect parking.

Circulation

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect vehicle circulation in and around the park. The NPS will encourage the city and others to enhance traffic circulation and pedestrian safety. Pathway accessibility would be improved as well as access to fort features for mobility impaired visitors. The park would take measures to improve or modify areas of the fort and pathways to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. However, because of the rugged character of the fort, efforts to achieve physical accessibility in all fort structures might not be realistic. Programmatic access would be provided if necessary. The park would support hike and bike trail connections to downtown and to the NY State Canal Recreationway/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and North Country National Scenic Trail and the Black River Trail. Modest long-term benefits would accrue to the visitor experience.

4.5.5 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Adjacent Land Uses

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect adjacent land uses in or around the park.

Local and Regional Economy

As noted in the affected environment section of the document, the park plays a role in the local and regional economy – as an employer, as a consumer of local goods and services, and as a visitor attraction. Under this alternative, the park would experience a modest increase in personnel. Visitation is expected to continue to increase at modest increments over time in concert with visitation to the national park system as a whole. The park would continue to have a minimal to moderate impact on the local and regional economy.

4.5.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an important historic resource in a number of heritage initiatives including the Mohawk River Valley State Heritage Corridor, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and the Northern Frontier Project, Inc. The goal of all of these initiatives is to promote the recognition, preservation, and interpretation of heritage resources in all of these areas. Their operational strategies emphasize cross-marketing, coordinating programming and events, and otherwise trying to encourage increased awareness of and visitation to the region. Under the No Action alternative, Fort Stanwix will not be engaged in these initiatives although it is likely to benefit directly from them.

There are cumulative impacts to cultural resources that may occur in the foreseeable future. Archaeological resources, some of which may still need to be identified, may be impacted by future actions at the site, including municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignment. The fort, which is over 30 years old, may eventually need to have certain features repaired or replaced. The landscape around the fort and the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area may undergo settling, which would have to be remedied.

4.5.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The No Action alternative will not trade off long-term maintenance of resources for short-term uses.

4.5.8 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The No Action alternative will not result in any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

4.5.9 ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

The No Action alternative, by definition, would not result in any unavoidable adverse impacts.

4.6 Impacts of Actions Associated with Management Alternative Two: Preferred Action

4.6.1 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Resources

As in the No Action alternative, the National Park Service would complete a comprehensive archeological inventory at the fort. The completion of the archeological inventory would improve the park's baseline knowledge of the resource and would support future decisions relative to the management of this resource. This action is expected to be of long-term, moderate benefit to the park.

As part of the park's proposed outreach activities under Alternative 2, the National Park Service, in partnership with others, would provide technical advice and assistance to park partners having archeological and/or other cultural resources. This would enable park partners to better understand and evaluate the cultural resources on their properties and to identify opportunities for enhancing protection of resources in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier regions. This is an example of the proposed outreach activities that would contribute positively to the cumulative impacts attributable to the many heritage tourism initiatives incorporating Fort Stanwix National Monument.

The Reconstructed Fort and its Associated Landscape

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative also calls for making improvements to the fort to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); rehabilitating List of Classified Structures resources identified as being in need of repair; planting select areas around the fort in more appropriate vegetative species such as meadow grasses and wildflowers; and increasing the number of fort structures available for interpretation to the public. All of these proposals are expected to have a moderate long-term positive impact. The ADA compliance measures and the rehabilitation of existing structures are all expected to have a beneficial effect. Increasing the number of fort structures open to the public for interpretation could have a negative effect in the absence of mitigating measures. Converting some lawn area to meadow grasses and wildflowers can help to provide a better interpretive experience for visitors while also reducing maintenance and energy consumption. Increased visitor volumes in previously underutilized areas of the fort could result in increased wear and tear on reconstructed fort structures.

Archives and Collections

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative calls for the completion of a collections catalog which would result in a minimal, but long-term benefit in terms of managing and protecting archives and collections.

Ethnographic Resources

As in the No Action alternative, Alternative 2 does not include proposals that would result in impacts to

sacred sites and ethnographic resources. This alternative calls for the completion of ethnographic research for the park as it relates to the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier. This action would have a moderate, long-term benefit relative to the park's ability to manage for such resources. This research would allow NPS to identify, acknowledge and collaborate in the protection of sacred sites and ethnographic resources

illuminated by the study process.

Section 106 Compliance

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. No actions associated with Alternative 2 will affect cultural resources. NPS will pursue consultation on any actions that ultimately may affect cultural resources. Parties that customarily consult on Section 106 issues, including the SHPO and Indian tribes, have been consulted on the Fort Stanwix NM GMP and its pertinent issues.

4.6.2 Visitor Use and Experience

Visitation

The reconstructed Fort Stanwix is currently open to the public only nine months of the year. It is closed January through March. The Willett Center is open 12 months a year. In addition, the Willett Center fulfills a regional gateway function, drawing upon visitors to the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor as well as those visiting Fort Stanwix. With a broadened park interpretive component at the Willett Center, supported by cooperative programs with other Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley institutions, it is assumed that the Willett Center programs could increase attendance by 25 percent in its initial years of operation.

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative calls for the development of a new park orientation film. A well-publicized roll-out for a new and more expansive orientation film could temporarily increase visitation to the park, but would not have a significant effect on long-term visitation to the park. Therefore, it is likely that these actions could have a minimal, short-term beneficial impact on park visitation.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix National Monument would use its existing authorities to offer technical assistance and support coordinated programming at thematically related sites in the Mohawk Valley/ Northern Frontier region. This could offer enhanced opportunities for the park and its partners to more effectively “cross-market” joint programs and events and thereby increase their visitation. Effects of different initiatives could vary widely but would likely offer beneficial, long-term results involving anywhere from minimal to moderate increases in visitation to Fort Stanwix or its partner sites.

Current visitation levels and special-use attendees have not resulted in adverse impacts on the park’s resources and existing facilities. It is anticipated that the fort’s carrying capacity would accommodate a doubling of its visitation without negatively affecting resource conditions. The Willett Center has enhanced the visitor experience and carrying capacity of the site.

Visitor Contact/Orientation/Information

Under this alternative, visitors would have the opportunity to view an orientation film and or exhibits regarding the purpose, significance, and primary themes of the fort, prior to their first exposure the fort proper. This would represent a major, long-term benefit in improving the visitor experience.

The park would proceed with plans to develop public programming that would be more historically accurate and would discuss the siege of Fort Stanwix within in its larger Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context, with more emphasis on diverse themes and groups. Updated programming would more accurately depict the role of the American Indians and explore the impact of the Revolutionary War on the Six Nations of the Iroquois. The development of the new park orientation film would be of major, long-term benefit for visitor orientation and information.

This alternative calls for the park to expand its staff to meet the program requirements described under this alternative. The addition of new visitor services staff would improve opportunities for visitor contact and help meet projected demands for visitor information and orientation upon arrival at the site. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Under this alternative the park would explore with partner organizations the development of a multiple-use trail and/or shuttle vehicle service linking Fort Stanwix with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and other related sites. In addition to offering the public improved recreational and educational opportunities, this action would improve visitor orientation to the park by allowing visitors to experience the fort's regional context and its relationship with related sites. This action is expected to be of major, long-term benefit to park visitors and could result in minimum but long-term energy savings.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix NM would use its existing authorities to offer technical assistance and support programming at thematically related sites in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier region. This initiative would better enable the park to highlight the history of the fort within its regional context and encourage visitors to expand their itineraries to include visits to related sites that would enhance their understanding of the park and broader themes. Interactivity among these related sites would contribute to a clearer understanding of their purpose and significance for visitors to the region. The success of this initiative would rely on a significant amount of cross-marketing of the sites along with joint programs and special events. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Interpretive and Educational Programming

Under this alternative, the interpretive emphasis at the fort would expand to serve as a gateway interpretive locus for the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regions. At the Willett Center, public programming, exhibits and the orientation film would be available year-round. This action is expected to be of major, long-term benefit to the park.

A new area of the fort would be accessible for interpretation through exhibits and interpretive walking tours. This would be of major, long-term benefit in providing interpretive and educational programming.

This alternative calls for the park to expand its staff to meet the program requirements described under this alternative. The addition of new visitor services staff would improve opportunities for visitor contact and meeting projected demands for interpretive and educational programming. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix National Monument would use its existing authorities to offer assistance and support programming at thematically-related sites in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier region. This initiative would better enable the park to highlight the history of the fort within its regional context and encourage visitors to expand their itineraries to include visits to related sites that would enhance their understanding of the events leading up to and resulting from the siege of Fort Stanwix. Interactivity among these related sites would contribute to a clearer understanding of their purpose and significance for visitors to the region. The success of this initiative would rely on a significant amount of cross-marketing of the sites along with joint programs and special events. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park's interpretive and educational programming.

Recreational Resources/ Opportunities

Under this alternative, a limited part of the fort grounds maintained as mowed lawn and used by local residents for informal recreation would be converted to a more natural landscape of native grasses and wildflowers (1-2 acres), subject to a cultural landscape treatment plan. The park has also hosted numerous community-based events on the fort grounds. Although the total amount of open space available for informal recreation and special events would be diminished, it would not be eliminated. There would still be open

space available to accommodate the local demand for informal recreational use and the park would still make areas of the grounds available for special events as appropriate. This action is expected to have a moderate, long-term, adverse impact on current recreational resources and opportunities on the fort grounds, but this would be partially offset by enhancing the landscape setting of the reconstructed fort, providing for a recreational and interpretive experience evoking a greater sense of understanding and appreciation of

the fort's purposes.

Under this alternative the park would pursue the development of a multiple use trail linking Fort Stanwix with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and perhaps other related sites. The proposed trail is part of a larger network of trails being developed along the length of the New York State Canal Recreationway and located in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. This action would enhance recreational opportunities for local residents, as well as for visitors to the region. This action is expected to offer major, long-term benefits in terms of recreational opportunities.

4.6.3 PARK OPERATIONS

Under both alternatives the park would seek congressional action to formalize the park boundary. This action would fulfill legislative requirements laid out in the park's enabling legislation and will not have any significant affect on overall park operations.

Park Facilities

Under this alternative, the park would make internal improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve resource protection and operational efficiency and to meet operational requirements for this alternative. These actions would result in a major, long-term benefit.

Staffing and Volunteers

Under Alternative 2 there are a number of proposals that would affect park staff and volunteers. The addition of an expanded educational outreach and technical assistance initiative, in addition to the development of year-around visitor programming, would all necessitate increases in park staff and the expansion of the volunteer corps. Under this alternative, the park would expand the existing staff and volunteer corps to meet additional management requirements as proposed under this alternative. This action would be of major, long-term benefit to the park.

4.6.4 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Parking

Under Alternative 2, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect parking. Parking on-site would continue to be very restricted, so vehicle egress from the site onto North James Street would be limited to service vehicles and those using the handicapped parking spaces.

Circulation

On average visitor days, park facilities, pathways, and public parking would not exceed carrying capacity. However, during some special events at which visitation far exceeds the average, the park may need to consider ways to mitigate crowding and circulation issues to minimize damage to resources and ensure a positive visitor experience.

Vehicular circulation around the site would not be changed, though the park would work with partners to improve traffic flow and safety, directional signing, and pedestrian safety through traffic calming measures.

Under this alternative, the park would take measures to improve areas of the fort and pathways to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. However, because of the rugged character of the fort, efforts to achieve physical accessibility in all fort structures might not be realistic. Programmatic access would be provided if necessary. This action is expected to provide a moderate, long-term benefit.

Under this alternative, the park would pursue the development of multi-use recreational trail and/or shuttle service joining Fort Stanwix and Oriskany Battlefield and perhaps related sites. In addition to being universally accessible, the trail would offer an attractive, energy-conserving alternative to vehicular access between the fort and Oriskany Battlefield. This action is expected to offer major, long-term benefits in terms

of accessibility and alternative transportation. The shuttle service could also reduce energy consumption.

4.6.5 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Adjacent Land Uses

Under Alternative 2, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect adjacent land uses in or around the park.

Regional and Local Economy

The broader development of Fort Stanwix's interpretation to encompass the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley historical era is likely to have the largest impact on the regional and local economy. Added to the Willett Center's offerings, this expanded role could provide a regional gateway function for the Mohawk Valley/Northern Frontier region of New York while in turn creating partnerships between related sites that energize resource preservation and visitor opportunities in synergistic ways. The actions associated with this alternative are expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the local economy.

4.6.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In addition to cumulative impact described under Alternative 1, the following impacts would result from Alternative 2. In partnership with other regional entities, a broadened interpretive focus with cooperative partnerships would foster increased appreciation of other cultural resources in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier regions of New York.

There are cumulative impacts to cultural resources that may occur in the foreseeable future. Archaeological resources, some of which may still need to be identified, may be impacted by future actions at the site, including municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignment. The fort, which is over 30 years old, may eventually need to have certain features repaired or replaced. The landscape around the fort and the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area may undergo settling, which would have to be remedied.

4.6.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

This alternative will not trade off long-term maintenance of resources for short-term uses.

4.6.8 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

This alternative would not result in any permanent commitment of resources.

4.6.9 ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Unavoidable impacts associated with this alternative include the loss of traditionally mown lawn area due to conversion to vegetation more evocative of the historic scene adjacent to the reconstructed fort.

4.7 Summary of Impacts

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Impact Topic	Alternative 1 “No Action”	Alternative 2 “Preferred”
Cultural Resources		
<i>Archeological Resources</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term /Moderate (+)
<i>Fort and Landscape</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+/--)	Short Term/ Minimal (--) Long Term/ Moderate (+)
<i>Archives and Collections</i>	Long Term/Minimal (+)	Long Term/ Minimal (+)
<i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Moderate (+)
Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services		
<i>Visitation</i>	Short Term/ Minimal (+) Long Term/ Negligible	Long Term/ Minimal (+)
<i>Visitor Contact/ Orientation/ Information</i>	Long Term/ Moderate -- Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Interpretive and Educational Programming</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Recreational Resources</i>	Negligible	Long Term/ Moderate (+)
Park Operations		
<i>Park Facilities</i>	Long Term/ Minimal – Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Staffing & Volunteers</i>	Long Term/ Moderate – Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
Parking and Circulation		
<i>Parking</i>	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Circulation</i>	Negligible	Long Term/ Major (+)
Socioeconomic Environment		
<i>Adjacent Land Uses</i>	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Regional & Local Economy</i>	Long Term/ Minimal – Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Moderate (+)

Alternative 2 has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative, since it provides the greater number of benefits in comparison with Alternative 1. Any adverse impacts from Alternative 2 are considered minimal.

Part 5: Consultation

5.1 American Indian Consultation

Fort Stanwix National Monument has engaged in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes and maintains relationships with non-federally recognized special-interest American Indian organizations with historic ties and interests in the area. American Indian tribes and organizations have been involved extensively in the planning, design, and installation of exhibits in the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, in addition to the preparation of the park's draft General Management Plan. For the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, formal consultations were held in April 2004 with the Oneida Indian Nation and Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and discussions were held in October 2004 and March 2005 with the Haudenosaunee Council Standing Committee as representatives of several recognized tribes and affiliated groups, including the Onondaga Indian Nation, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Tuscarora Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, and Akwesasne Mohawk Territory. The Oneida Indian Nation collaboratively works with the park in providing volunteer support for interpretive programs several days each week, and met formally most recently with the park in November 2005 to discuss the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan.

5.2 State and Federal Consultation

This draft GMP is being submitted to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

5.3 List of Recipients

New York Congressional Delegation

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
Representative Michael Arcuri
Representative John M. McHugh

New York State Assembly

Assemblywoman RoAnn M. Destito
Assemblyman David R. Townsend, Jr.
Senator Joseph A. Griffo
Senator David J. Valesky

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
Northeast Lands Office
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Saratoga National Historical Park
North Country National Scenic Trail
French and Indian and American Revolutionary War National Park Units
Park Planning and Special Studies Division, Washington Office
American Indian Liaison Office, Washington Office
Ethnography Office, Washington Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Tribal Governments

Cayuga Nation of Indians
Onondaga Indian Nation
Oneida Indian Nation
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
Seneca Nation of Indians
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin
Tonawanda Band of Seneca
Tuscarora Nation

American Indian Groups

Haudensaunee Council

State Agencies

Governor, State of New York
NYS Archives
NYS Board of Regents
NYS Department of Economic Development
NYS Department of Education
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Library and Museum
NYS Curator, History
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
State Historic Preservation Officer
Oriskany Battlefield and Steuben Memorial
Lake Delta State Park
Johnson Hall State Historic Site
Herkimer House State Historic Site
Phillip Schuyler State Historic Site
Fort Ontario State Historic Site
Ganondagan State Historic Site
NYS Thruway Authority
NYS Canal Corporation
NYS Department of Transportation Regions 1 and 2
Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission

Local Governments

Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Rome
Mayor, City of Rome
Oneida County Department of Planning
Oneida County Historian
Oswego County Historian
Rome City School District

Non-Governmental Agencies

Canadian National Archives
Canadian War Museum
Christopher Chadbourne Associates
Eastern National
Erie Canal Village
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce
Northern Frontier Project, Inc.
Oneida County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Oneida County Historical Society
Rome Area Chamber of Commerce
Rome Historical Society
Colgate University
Cooperstown Graduate Program
Mohawk Valley Community College
SUNY Oneonta
Syracuse University
Herkimer-Oneida County BOCES
Iroquois Museum
Madison-Oneida County BOCES
Madison-Herkimer-Montgomery County Historical Societies
Museum of Applied Military History (Gavin Watt)
Museum Association of New York
New York Historical Association
New York State Cultural Education Center
Old Stone Fort
Village of Oriskany Museum
Dr. Colin Calloway (Dartmouth College)
Dr. David Preston (Virginia Military Institute)
Dr. Woody Holton (University of Richmond)
Dr. Ed Countryman (Southern Methodist University)
Dr. Karim Tiro (Xavier University)
Dr. Kevin Marken

