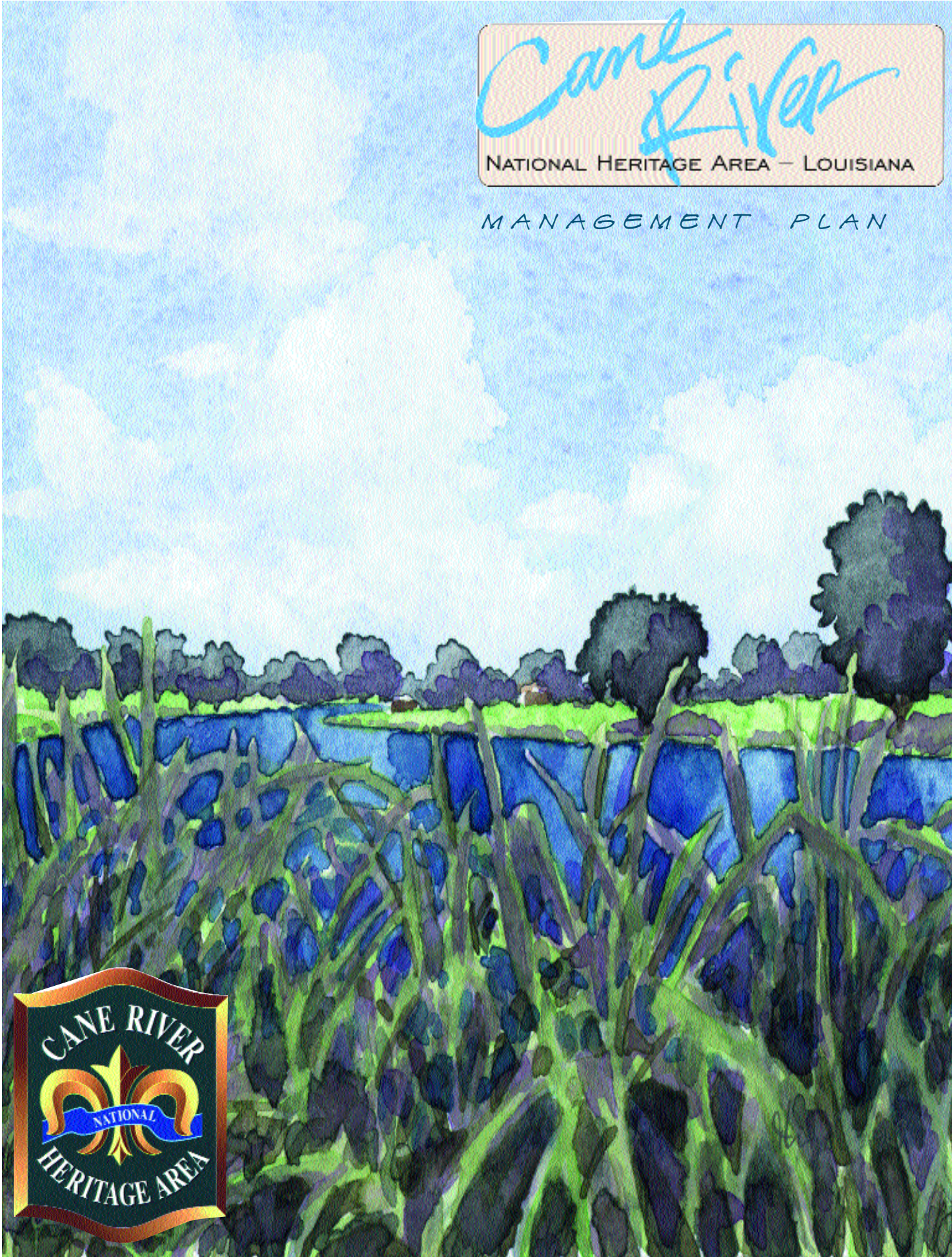


# Cane River

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – LOUISIANA

MANAGEMENT PLAN



**CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Cane River National Heritage Area Commission**

Prepared by the  
National Park Service/Denver Service Center  
at the request of the Commission

## A VISION FOR CANE RIVER

CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA WILL BE THE BEST PRESERVED AND INTERPRETED EXAMPLE OF THE RICH CONTINUUM OF LOUISIANA HISTORY FROM FRONTIER EXPLORATION THROUGH PLANTATION AGRICULTURE TO PRESENT DAY LIFESTYLES, TRADITIONS, AND CELEBRATIONS.

ITS RESIDENTS WILL ENJOY A QUALITY OF LIFE BASED ON RESPECT FOR PRIVACY AND TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES AND ON A STRONG, HEALTHY ECONOMY COMPATIBLE WITH THE HISTORICAL CHARACTER OF THE REGION. ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF HERITAGE TOURISM WILL ASSIST IN THE LONG-TERM PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HERITAGE RESOURCES.

ALL OF THIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND RESIDENTS. HERITAGE AREA LANDOWNERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE, AS LAND USE DECISIONS WILL REMAIN, AS THEY HAVE HISTORICALLY, AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

## SUMMARY

Cane River National Heritage Area is a place where American Indian, French, Spanish, African, and later American cultures came together to create a way of life dependent on the land and the river and each other. Today colonial forts, Creole plantations, churches, cemeteries, historic transportation routes and commercial centers provide a special view into this past. The people of Cane River carry on traditions and rituals handed down through generations that help keep the unique culture of this region alive.

On November 4, 1994, the United States Congress acknowledged the special qualities of this region by creating the Cane River National Heritage Area and Commission and Cane River Creole National Historical Park by Public Law (PL) 103-449 (see appendix A). The heritage area and park are located primarily in Natchitoches Parish in northwestern Louisiana, about 150 miles northwest of Baton Rouge and 70 miles southeast of Shreveport.

This *Management Plan* represents the culmination of many years of combined effort by the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, the National Park Service, state and local governments, and a very active and interested public to chart a plan of action for the future preservation and promotion of the Cane River National Heritage Area. From the range of management alternatives presented in the 2001 *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (DMP/EA), a modified alternative B was selected as the preferred approach to managing the heritage area. This selection was documented in the *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI), signed on May 31, 2002, and is presented in the following pages along with the implementation program.

This plan, including supporting documentation in the DMP/EA and the FONSI, addresses specific legislative requirements (PL 103-449, sec. 403) in the following ways. (1) An initial inventory of historic properties and cultural landscapes are provided in appendix B; (2) Current land uses and how they affect future

preservation and public use are analyzed in the “Affected Environment” chapter of the DMP/EA; (3) Visitor experience and interpretation objectives, themes, and actions in this plan will provide the foundation for a more detailed master interpretive plan to be prepared separately; (4) Recommendations for coordinating actions by others are found in the “Implementation through Partnerships” section of the “Plan Implementation” chapter; and (5) An implementation program specific to the selected action is detailed in Table 1: Implementation Program.

The *Management Plan* guides the long-term stewardship of the heritage area by setting forth a balanced partnership program of preservation, education, and tourism. The overall goal is to ensure that the qualities that make the heritage area a national treasure today will continue far into the future. To accomplish this, management actions will follow three major paths: (1) developing and maintaining a well-organized and funded partnership in conservation, preservation, and research that will help ensure the long-term integrity of heritage resources, including traditions, landscapes, and structures, (2) fostering public support and appreciation for Cane River history and heritage area resources by providing quality educational and interpretive services, and (3) providing support for and effectively marketing a full range of heritage tourism opportunities that will help extend visitors’ stays in the region and encourage repeat visitation.

A major decision of the planning effort is to revise the heritage area boundary, enlarging it from the 1994 boundary that encompassed about 45,000 acres to about 116,000 acres – an increase of about 71,000 acres. This action is consistent with the authority in the heritage area’s establishing legislation that allows for the legislated boundary, which is identified as approximate, to be revised as part of the heritage area management plan. This decision is the result of considerable analysis and discussion and received positive public support through the DMP/EA review process.

## SUMMARY

Resource preservation will focus on documenting and protecting the cultural landscapes and traditions of the region. The commission will develop partnerships with preservation land trust and other nonprofit organizations as well as local and state agencies and universities to explore ways to protect cultural landscapes, provide educational programs for the local community, and conduct research. Based on research, a priority list of cultural landscapes most in need of preservation assistance will be developed. Priorities will be based on the landscape's level of cultural significance and the type and level of threats to the integrity of that landscape.

The heritage area will provide preservation assistance (technical information, financial or in-kind support, etc.) to those properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as funding and staff are available. All assistance will meet the preservation standards set by the secretary of the interior.

The heritage area commission and partners will strive to achieve visitor experience goals by developing a comprehensive marketing strategy and information system. The marketing strategy will (1) identify and target key audiences and (2) facilitate the preparation and distribution of information that will encourage visitors to come and assist them in planning a visit. The visitor information and wayfinding system will help visitors locate and identify heritage sites and activities. This system will include a directional and informational sign program; use of an official logo on signs, banners, and publications; coordinating site brochures; and developing content for a hospitality-training program for front-line service providers.

The commission will assist Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the planning, development, and funding of a joint regional visitor center and headquarters in the Natchitoches/Cane River region. The commission/management entity will have a presence in that facility, and other partners may also share space there. This center will help

orient visitors to the region and provide an overview of the area's heritage, its resources, places to visit, and upcoming events.

Interpretation of heritage area stories and resources will help bring the sites alive to the public. The commission will help in this arena through developing a variety of tours, sponsoring seminars on heritage area history and arts, and assisting local museums and interpretive centers in planning heritage area exhibits and programs. Also, the commission will pursue the development of a system of pull-offs and interpretive waysides along the Cane River.

The heritage area commission will support the development and availability of recreational opportunities that will complement the rural and historical character of the heritage area. The emphasis will be on increasing opportunities for visitors to see the river and access the river's edge. This might include riverside trails, picnicking, and interpretive waysides and more opportunities for nonmotorized boating.

The heritage area commission will work proactively with state and local agencies and others to maintain the rural character of the road system while improving access to the area. The primary route to access the heritage area, especially for buses and recreational vehicles (RVs), will be LA 1. The commission will pursue the widening of those roads that connect LA 1 with the river roads. The rural roads that connect major heritage area sites and follow the Cane River (such as LA 494 and LA 119) will be recommended as an alternative scenic route.

Successful implementation of this plan requires the long-term partnership of local, state, and federal agencies, local landowners, businesses, and organizations. The state of Louisiana has taken a major step toward partnering by designating the heritage area as an official state heritage area. Many other partners have also stepped forward to participate, as reflected in the implementation program table, which include about 65 projects and 45 different partners.

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# INTRODUCTION





## THE LEGACY OF CANE RIVER

A dark ribbon of water winds lazily through fertile farmlands, its path lined with red soil, lush stands of river cane, and majestic live oak and pecan trees. The waterway meanders from town to town, and plantations, homes, and churches mark life's stopping points along its banks. Cane River, an oxbow lake that once was the primary channel of the mighty Red River, defines the region today, just as it has for centuries. The stories of Cane River's people are brimming with the contrasts that comprise our nation's history – conquest and colonialism, militarism and peace, wealth and poverty, slavery and freedom.

The landscape of Cane River has been the focal point for American Indian settlements, colonial forts, and Creole plantations. The river itself was a major trade thoroughfare, one that was crossed by overland trade routes. It was at this crossroads that the Natchitoches band of Caddo Indians dwelled. The prospect of trade and alliance with American Indians brought European colonial powers to the area, and this region soon became the intersection between French and Spanish realms in the New World. The French first came to the region in 1714, establishing Fort Saint Jean Baptiste shortly thereafter. In response the Spanish built the presidio known as Los Adaes, 15 miles to the west. Settlement spread from these early outposts, and the town of Natchitoches grew up around Fort Saint Jean Baptiste to become the most prosperous town in the region.

As countries came together in this place, so did cultures. American Indians were joined by European settlers, who imported large numbers of enslaved Africans to farm the land. The interaction of these groups led to the development of a distinctive Creole culture, a culture that cut across racial categories and drew from many traditions but remained grounded in French colonialism and Catholicism.

A thriving agricultural economy had developed along the banks of the river by the time the region was joined to the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Natchitoches, the oldest permanent European settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory, was the region's commercial center. Downriver from the town, in the areas known as *Côte Joyeuse* ('Joyous Coast') and Isle Brevelle, large and small plantations produced indigo, tobacco, and later cotton.

The Civil War and its aftermath brought great economic devastation and cultural change for the residents of the Cane River region. Tenant farming and sharecropping replaced slavery, exchanging one labor-intensive system for another. After World War II, mechanized farming permanently supplanted the old agricultural practices that depended on human labor in the fields. As a result, many people migrated to urban centers, leaving the fields behind.

This is the complex past that is etched indelibly on the landscape, in the architecture, and in the myriad cultural traditions that have been passed down through generations. In 1994 Congress established the Cane River National Heritage Area in recognition of the history and culture of this unique region. The heritage area is a nationally significant cultural landscape, a place in which the river and the people who have dwelt along its banks through time come together in a history that contributes to the American experience.

## OVERVIEW

### THE PLACE

Cane River National Heritage Area is in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, about 150 miles northwest of Baton Rouge and 70 miles southeast of Shreveport (see Regional Context map). The Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District, an area of historic homes, churches, and commercial structures, covers more than 30 blocks in downtown Natchitoches along Cane River.

The core of this heritage area begins just south of the city and follows the meanders of Cane River along LA 494 and 119 south and east to the Natchitoches-Rapides Parish boundary (see Heritage Area Boundary under “The Plan” section). Most of the acreage within the heritage area is privately owned land and will remain private. Local, state, and federal agencies own a small percentage. As part of this plan, the boundary of the core area has been revised from the 1994 Boundary Concept map.

Among the sites that are open to the public are Cane River Creole National Historical Park (two units that include portions of the Oakland and Magnolia Plantations), and privately owned sites such as the Magnolia, Melrose, and Beau Fort Plantations and the Kate Chopin House. Several other plantation homes, local churches, and other sites are available for intermittent tours or visits. Also included in the heritage area are three state historic sites – a reconstruction of the original French fort, Fort St. Jean Baptiste, in Natchitoches; the Spanish fort and mission site of Los Adaes near Robeline; and an American fort, Fort Jesup, in Sabine Parish. Individual historic buildings and sites in the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District could become designated heritage area sites through cooperative agreements.

### WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

Heritage areas are a relatively new phenomenon in the United States, and many Americans have little to no idea what they are or why they exist. A national heritage area is a place designated by the United States Congress, where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape. Heritage areas are representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the areas. Continued use of the national heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

The designation of a national heritage area is recognition of a community's efforts to identify natural and cultural resources that define its sense of place and its stories. Designation recognizes nationally distinctive landscapes and the role of these landscapes in defining the collective American cultural landscape. Designation also provides important recognition of local community-based efforts to preserve this distinctive character.

Although Congress establishes national heritage areas, a commission, nonprofit group, or other organization comprised primarily of local citizens usually manages them. Most national heritage areas receive some funding and technical assistance from the National Park Service (Department of the Interior). Currently, there are 23 national heritage areas, and Congress is considering several more for establishment. Although each one is distinctly different, their growing number is a reflection of a continuing effort by communities to find ways to protect and promote their resources and obtain national recognition with a minimum of federal government involvement.

Many state heritage areas have also been created, including the Atchafalaya Trace



**REGIONAL  
CONTEXT**

Heritage Area in southwest Louisiana. In 2001 the Louisiana legislature passed a resolution declaring Cane River National Heritage Area a state heritage area also. This designation helps to establish the state of Louisiana as a key partner in the future of the Cane River region.

## **CREATION OF CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AND COMMISSION**

Before the establishment of the Cane River National Heritage Area, there had been a long history of community interest in and commitment to heritage preservation and tourism in the Natchitoches area. This local commitment and pride was an important factor behind Congress passing Public Law 103-449 (16 USC 410cc) on November 2, 1994, which created the Cane River National Heritage Area, the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, and Cane River Creole National Historical Park (see appendix A).

Public Law 103-449 provides specific guidance regarding the role of the heritage area in the region. The heritage area shall

- complement the national historical park
- provide a culturally sensitive approach to preserving the region's heritage
- assist in the preservation and enhancement of the cultural landscape and traditions of the region
- provide a framework for residents within the area to assist in preservation and education
- minimize the need for federal land acquisition

## **THE COMMISSION / MANAGING ENTITY**

The 19-member Cane River National Heritage Area Commission is the management entity that currently guides heritage area activities. The commission is directed by the legislation to (1) prepare the heritage area's management plan in consultation with the National Park

Service, the state of Louisiana, the city and parish of Natchitoches, and the public; (2) develop cooperative agreements with property owners, preservation groups, universities, tourism groups, and others; and (3) consult with the National Park Service on the preparation of a general management plan for the Cane River Creole National Historical Park.

The commission members were appointed by the secretary of the interior and are, therefore, representatives of the secretary and the federal government. As a federal entity, the commission has authority to hire people, administer grant programs, develop loan programs, and set priorities, but it has no zoning or land-use powers and no power of eminent domain. All of the commissioners volunteer their time. Officially, their appointments last three years, after which they can be re-appointed or replaced.

Based on the legislation, the commission will remain the managing entity for the Cane River National Heritage Area until early August 2005 or until approximately August 2010 if the governor and the secretary of the interior grant an extension. However, before its termination, the commission will recommend to the governor of Louisiana and secretary of interior what type of entity or entities should assume the responsibilities for managing the heritage area. A possible proposal could be the introduction of legislation that would make the commission permanent rather than create another management entity.

## **A PARTNERSHIP MANDATE**

The United States Congress, in creating the Cane River National Heritage Area, recognized the Cane River region's significance and the need to provide a mechanism for its preservation, enhancement, and interpretation. Congress felt that extensive land acquisition and administration by a single federal agency would be impractical, costly, and counter to the objective of preserving the area's cultural diversity and character. Instead, Congress knew that partnerships would be the

key to preserving and enhancing the heritage area. By bringing together the vision, expertise, and resources of the state of Louisiana, including Northwestern State University; the city and parish governments of Natchitoches; the National Park Service and other federal agencies; as well as the many area businesses and civic organizations, great strides could be made toward the long-term protection and promotion of the region.

The partnership approach generates opportunities for creative input on the desired future of a community from a broad range of constituents and their diverse perspectives. Participation in a collaborative exercise of idea sharing and planning fosters a spirit of cooperation capable of uniting the many voices of a community into pursuit of a common cause. The participants are able to continually refresh their own perspective on the sense of place that they seek to preserve. This ensures the availability of a greater number of tools for meeting the heritage area goals. Association with the National Park Service makes available significant technical expertise to assist with all stages of this process, from the identification of important resources to planning for preservation, interpretation and the education of future generations.

## **THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RELATIONSHIP**

The National Park Service, when created in 1916, was identified as the federal agency responsible for preserving natural and historic resources that

are nationally significant for present and future generations. Heritage areas are one way in which the Park Service can carry out this mission, by assisting the voluntary efforts of citizens to protect a local cultural landscape. Through the conservation of discrete, intact cultural landscapes, the National Park Service seeks to preserve, in partnership with the local citizenry, a portion of the patchwork of American landscapes, which helps to define the nationally significant American identity.

On a day-to-day basis, the National Park Service and Cane River National Heritage Area are closely tied. The National Park Service provides the heritage area with funding, legal guidance, technical assistance, and some administrative services. Most importantly, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, a unit of the national park system, and the heritage area are bound together by legislation to assist one another in the preservation and interpretation of the Cane River region. The park assists the heritage area by coordinating a comprehensive research program on the complex history of the Cane River region. Both the park and heritage area enter into cooperative agreements with owners of heritage area sites for historic preservation and interpretation purposes. Eventually, the National Park Service will construct an interpretive visitor center complex in the region to serve the needs of the park, heritage area, and potentially other Cane River area partners. And finally, the heritage area complements Cane River Creole National Historical Park by providing a dynamic context of living cultures and historic landscapes that set the stage for the exceptional stories of the Cane River to unfold.

## HERITAGE TOURISM

Travel and tourism is big business in America. In 1998 this industry accounted for more than \$500 billion in the U.S. economy, directly supported more than 7 million jobs, and indirectly supported another 9.2 million jobs (National Trust 1999). In a survey conducted by the Travel Industry Association of America during August 1998, the association discovered that 31% (62.6 million) of the 199.8 million U.S. adult travelers included visits to a historic site as part of their trips.

“Traveling to historic and cultural attractions to learn about the past in an enjoyable way” is how the National Trust for Historic Preservation describes heritage tourism. The development of heritage tourism as a distinct market niche has been increasing in the 1990s. To discover information about this market the Travel Industry Association of America completed its first nationwide study of the cultural and historic travel market in August 1997. This study was based on a monthly survey of 20,000 households from all across the country. Over an entire year, 240,000 households were contacted. The results identified heritage travelers as a group as having some interesting characteristics.

- Heritage travelers spend, on average, \$615 per trip compared to \$425 for all U.S. travelers.
- Heritage travelers stay an average of 4.7 nights away from home compared to 3.3 nights for all U.S. travelers.
- Heritage travelers are more likely to make shopping a part of their trip (45% compared to 33% of the U.S. travelers).
- Heritage travelers are more likely to stay in a hotel, motel, or bed-and-breakfast (56% compared to 42% of the U.S. travelers).
- Heritage travelers are twice as likely to take a group tour than the average traveler (7% verses 3%).
- Heritage travelers are slightly older than other U.S. travelers and are more likely to have a post-graduate degree.
- June, July, and August are the most popular months for cultural or historic travel.

Heritage tourism offers many economic and social benefits to local communities that work to take advantage of this market.

- Heritage tourism can help to diversify the local economy by helping create and expand local businesses such as lodging, restaurants, and retail stores.
- Increased tourist expenditures for meals, lodging, and gifts can be the return on investing in historic preservation that enables property owners to restore and maintain the historic fabric of a community.
- Property owners who restore and adaptively reuse historic properties may realize some property tax savings under Louisiana's Historic Preservation Program, which seeks to encourage historic preservation and restoration. In addition, local preservation efforts fostered by a community's heritage tourism industry will often result in increased property values that benefit individual property owners and the community.
- Preservation of a community's unique character is one of the more important side benefits of heritage tourism. Heritage tourism can help build community pride and improve the quality of life in a community.
- Heritage tourism is also popular with people and local communities because it is a relatively clean and sustainable industry. There are no belching smokestacks, dangerous chemicals, or other hazardous materials associated with tourism.

However, a successful heritage tourism program does not just happen. It requires the hard work and cooperation of many individuals and the community as a whole. Associated with increased visitation are increased demands upon the local infrastructure. Improvements in roads, water supplies, and public services like police, fire, and emergency medical services all have to keep pace for the local tourism industry to thrive. And above all, the local community must meet the challenge to protect

## INTRODUCTION

and preserve the cultural and historic environment in the face of increased use by visitors.

The National Heritage Trust for Historic Preservation has identified the following five principles that make for a successful and sustainable heritage tourism program:

- Focusing on the authenticity and quality of the experience is what attracts visitors and encourages them to make repeat visits.
- Preserving and protecting resources provides the required base upon which to build a successful heritage tourism industry.
- Then, *making the sites come alive* creates the type of experiences that attract visitors.
- Equally important is finding the right fit between the community or region and tourism. Attracting tourists and providing for their needs should be a positive aspect for both the visitor and the community.
- Finally, collaboration between affected and interested parties and agencies is necessary to provide for a successful and sustainable heritage tourism industry. If these five principles are followed then the twin benefits of heritage preservation and economic improvement can be sustained through heritage tourism.

THE  
PLAN  
AND ITS  
FOUNDATIONS





## BACKGROUND

### PLANNING HISTORY

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission embarked upon a comprehensive planning effort in late 1996. The commission wanted a visionary as well as a practical plan that would set the foundation upon which this new heritage area would be developed.

Planning for the heritage area has been a collaborative effort of the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, the National Park Service, the state of Louisiana, the city and parish of Natchitoches, other heritage area partners, and the general public.

The planning effort took on many faces. Cultural landscapes of the heritage area were documented. Interviews with local residents provided information about important ethnographic features of the region. The commission members held several planning workshops and throughout the planning effort were responsible for representing the interests of their nominating organizations or agencies. Public meetings with Cane River communities and local agencies and organizations generated many ideas and planning issues (refer to the *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*). Also, the planning team provided briefings to state agencies in Baton Rouge.

Public involvement opportunities during the life of this planning effort were extensive, and meetings were well attended by heritage area and Natchitoches residents. The effort received much public interest and support. There were eight meetings held at local churches and meeting halls at which the public asked questions and provided comments about planning for the heritage area. Meeting attendance ranged from about 10 to 70 people, depending on the location.

Analysis of resource information, public concerns, and planning concepts gathered during this process resulted in the publication of the *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* for Cane River

National Heritage Area in October 2001. This draft plan presented three planning approaches (alternatives A, B, C) for public consideration and received 30 days of public review, including two public meetings and a briefing for state agencies.

Following release of the draft plan, the community was very familiar with its proposals and many of the public's concerns were addressed in the draft plan. As a result, comments on the plan and attendance at the last meetings were light. Comments were focused on particular actions in one or more of the alternatives. One person voiced support for keeping most heritage area traffic on LA 1, and another thought that camping facilities were not needed in the Isle Brevelle/Cane River Area. A couple other attendees voiced concern about increasing public access on the river and the potential for erosion of the riverbanks. At the meeting with state agencies, the state historic preservation office representative voiced support for alternative B. A representative of the Department of Transportation and Development suggested future opportunities for state assistance and partnership on heritage area projects.

After reviewing public comments and consulting with the commission, the National Park Service issued a *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI) on the *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. The FONSI included the agency decision to select a slightly modified version of alternative B. This decision provides long-term general guidance for a management program that emphasizes partnerships and balances heritage preservation, education, and tourism goals. The purpose in modifying alternative B by including some elements of alternative C was to place a more realistic emphasis on heritage tourism and the role of economic development in achieving heritage preservation goals. The plan presented in the next section is that selected alternative, with the modifications just described, as well as other pertinent components of the draft plan.

This plan provides the commission and any future management entity with comprehensive guidance for managing the heritage area while remaining general enough to provide flexibility as conditions change. This plan is an important document for not only the commission, but also for all those who seek to become involved with the heritage area, such as partners, participating sites, and potential funding sources. Although the objective is for this plan to be applicable for many years to come, changing conditions may eventually require re-examination and revision of this plan for it to remain useful.

The final step of planning for the heritage area was to develop an implementation program for the selected alternative as directed in Public Law 103-449. Both the selected plan and implementation program are presented in this document. The implementation program represents the result of numerous meetings and discussions between the commission and heritage area partners and provides an immediate guide for future heritage area actions to preserve resources, conserve traditions, and promote heritage tourism in the Cane River region.

## HERITAGE AREA PURPOSES

One of the most important steps in the planning process was clarifying the purposes of the heritage area. Purpose statements reflect the reasons why Congress set the national heritage area aside and are closely tied to the legislation. They helped establish the foundation for

planning and management priorities. The commission developed the following purpose statements for the heritage area.

The purposes of the Cane River National Heritage Area are to

- Preserve, interpret, and enhance the cultural landscapes (including archeological sites, natural features, and structures) and conserve and interpret living cultures (including traditions, language, cuisine, religion, and festivals) of the region.
- Interpret the frontier interactions between the American Indians, French, and Spanish, as exemplified by Los Adaes and Fort St. Jean Baptiste and later the American presence at Fort Jesup.
- Interpret the unique plantation life that developed in the Cane River area with the influence of free and enslaved Blacks and Creoles of French, Spanish, African, and American Indian descent.
- Attract more tourists and bring economic benefits to all by promoting the heritage area to a local, regional, and national audience.

For more information on purpose and significance of the heritage area, refer to Public Law 103-449 and the *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*.

## THE PLAN

### CONCEPT

The management plan strives to guide the long-term stewardship of heritage area resources by setting forth a balanced partnership program of preservation, education, and tourism. The overall goal is to ensure that the qualities that make Cane River National Heritage Area a national treasure today will continue far into the future. To accomplish this, management actions will follow three major paths: (1) developing and maintaining a well-organized and funded partnership in conservation, preservation, and research that will help ensure the long-term integrity of heritage resources, including traditions, landscapes, and structures; (2) fostering public support and appreciation for Cane River history and heritage area resources by providing quality educational and interpretive services; and (3) providing support for and effectively marketing a full range of heritage tourism opportunities that will help extend visitors' stays in the region and encourage repeat visitation. For a graphic overview of the plan, see The Plan map.

### PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Critical to both the initial and long-term success of the heritage area will be the management entity's ability to develop strong partnerships and cooperative agreements with landowners and the various community, parish, and state organizations that are active in the preservation and promotion of heritage area resources. The establishing legislation emphasizes that the heritage area will be managed with a minimum of federal government involvement. It further states that the heritage area "is to be undertaken in partnership with the state of Louisiana, the city of Natchitoches, local communities and settlements of the Cane River area, preservation organizations and private landowners, with full recognition that

programs must fully involve the local communities and landowners."

Early in planning, the commission identified some of the key entities with which partnerships would be pursued to help implement the management plan proposals. These entities and the type of partnership assistance they might provide are discussed in the "Implementation through Partnerships" section.

Methods of accomplishing this partnership will include the following objectives:

- Continued representation on the commission/management entity of a cross-section of active members of Cane River area communities and organizations who support the goals of the heritage area.
- Active communication by the commission/management entity of heritage area interests and activities with elected officials, the general public, landowners, and local and state agencies, organizations, and businesses to promote understanding, support, and partnership and to develop cooperative solutions to achieve heritage area goals.
- The development of a professional support staff that will provide major assistance to the commission in (1) locating funding sources such as grants and donations, (2) developing and monitoring cooperative agreements with property owners, (3) providing technical assistance to property owners, (4) representing the commission and heritage area in a variety of public and professional forums, and (5) providing ongoing coordination with partners on heritage area projects.

### THE HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY

The heritage area boundary from the Boundary Concept map developed as part of

the establishing legislation was revised (see Revised Boundary map). The revised boundary enlarges the heritage area from the 1994 boundary that encompassed about 45,000 acres to about 116,000 acres – an increase of about 71,000 acres. This action is consistent with the authority in the heritage area’s establishing legislation that allows for the legislated boundary, which is identified as approximate, to be revised as part of the heritage area management plan. This decision is the result of considerable analysis and discussion and received positive public review through the draft plan and environmental assessment. Some advantages of expanding the heritage area boundary are as follows:

- The revision aligns the boundary with major physical features that are easily identified on the ground. The features include the Red River levee to the east, Interstate 49 to the west, the parish line to the south, and Water Well Road to the north (see the map). This resolves the problem of the arbitrary “1 mile on either side of the river” designation, which was difficult to see on the ground and cut through the middle of many properties.
- The expansion helps protect more of the significant cultural landscapes of the Cane River area identified in “The Cane River Creole [*sic*] National Heritage Area: Cultural Landscape Inventory and Assessment” (NPS 1997)
- Landowners included in the heritage area will have better access to financial and technical assistance for resource preservation. All participation in heritage area preservation actions will be voluntary. Landowners will not be subject to new regulations.

## RESOURCE PRESERVATION

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission will work with landowners, communities, institutions, and government offices to document and protect the important natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the heritage area.

## Cultural Landscape Protection

Although much attention has been and will continue to focus on the protection of specific structures and artifacts, a major priority is the documentation and protection of the heritage area’s cultural landscapes and traditions. “Cultural Landscape Inventory and Assessment” (NPS 1997) identifies potentially significant landscapes within Natchitoches Parish and provides an initial guide for prioritizing future cultural landscape research and protection efforts. Much of this inventory’s findings is discussed in the *Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Other sources of information include oral histories and ethnographic reports, which will further assist in identifying significant cultural resources and traditions associated with the area. (See Cultural Landscape Areas map.)




The commission will develop partnerships with preservation, land trust, and other nonprofit organizations as well as local and state agencies to explore ways to protect cultural landscapes and other natural and cultural resources, and in some cases improve public access to resources, especially the Cane River. Although the commission is prohibited from acquiring property, these partnerships might result in conservation easements, leases, fee-simple acquisition, or other methods that help ensure protection and enhanced visitor opportunities. Protection efforts will always involve the landowner and require landowner permission.

Based on research, a priority list of cultural landscapes most in need of preservation assistance will be developed. Priorities will be based on the landscape’s level of cultural significance and the type and level of threats to the integrity of that landscape. The commission will then work in partnership with land trust organizations and local agencies to protect these landscapes and to develop a set of protocols to follow when addressing landscape preservation issues.

# Cane River

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – LOUISIANA

## THE PLAN

-  REVISED CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY
-  CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SITE
-  PRIMARY HERITAGE AREA SITES
-  OTHER RELATED SITES
-  NHL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

**NATCHITOCHES AREA**

- CONCENTRATE VISITOR SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS FOOD, LODGING, AND SHOPPING.
- ENCOURAGE COOPERATION BY ARBA AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, MUSEUMS, AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON HERITAGE AREA TOPICS.
- PROVIDE HOSPITALITY TRAINING FOR ARBA BUSINESSES THAT CATER TO TOURISTS.
- WORK WITH AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT**

CONSIDER SITES IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR ADDITION TO THE HERITAGE AREA (THROUGH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS)

**NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

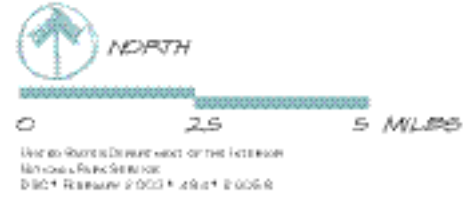
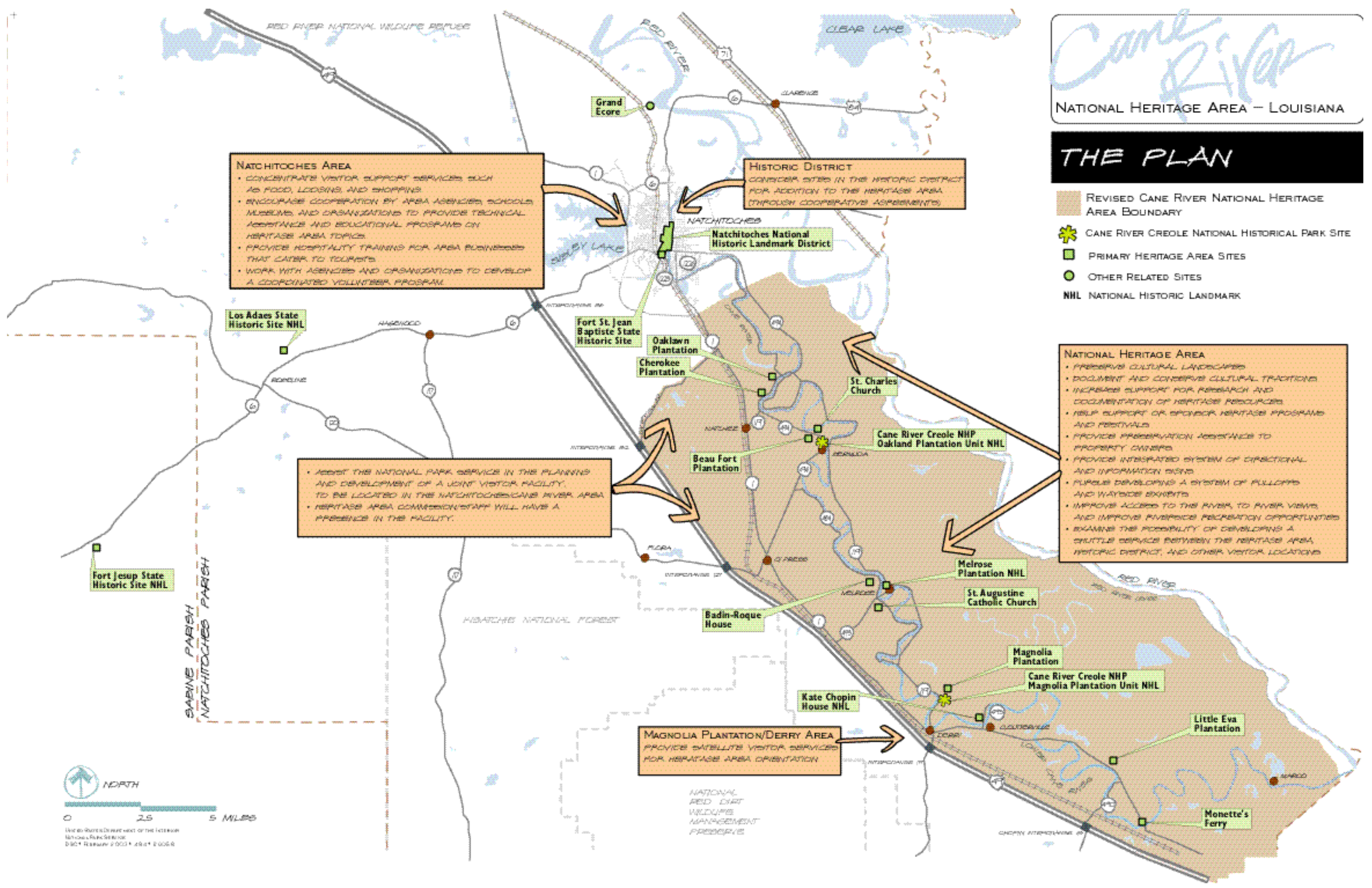
- PRESERVE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
- DOCUMENT AND CONSERVE CULTURAL TRADITIONS
- INCREASE SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES
- HELP SUPPORT OR SPONSOR HERITAGE PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS
- PROVIDE PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE TO PROPERTY OWNERS
- PROVIDE INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF DIRECTIONAL AND INFORMATION SIGNS
- PURSUE DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF FULLY-OPEN AND WAYSIDE EXHIBITS
- IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE RIVER, TO RIVER VIEWS, AND IMPROVE RIVERSIDE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
- EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN THE HERITAGE AREA, HISTORIC DISTRICT, AND OTHER VISITOR LOCATIONS

• ASSIST THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT VISITOR FACILITY, TO BE LOCATED IN THE NATCHITOCHES-CANE RIVER AREA.

• HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION STAFF WILL HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE FACILITY.

**MAGNOLIA PLANTATION/DERRY AREA**

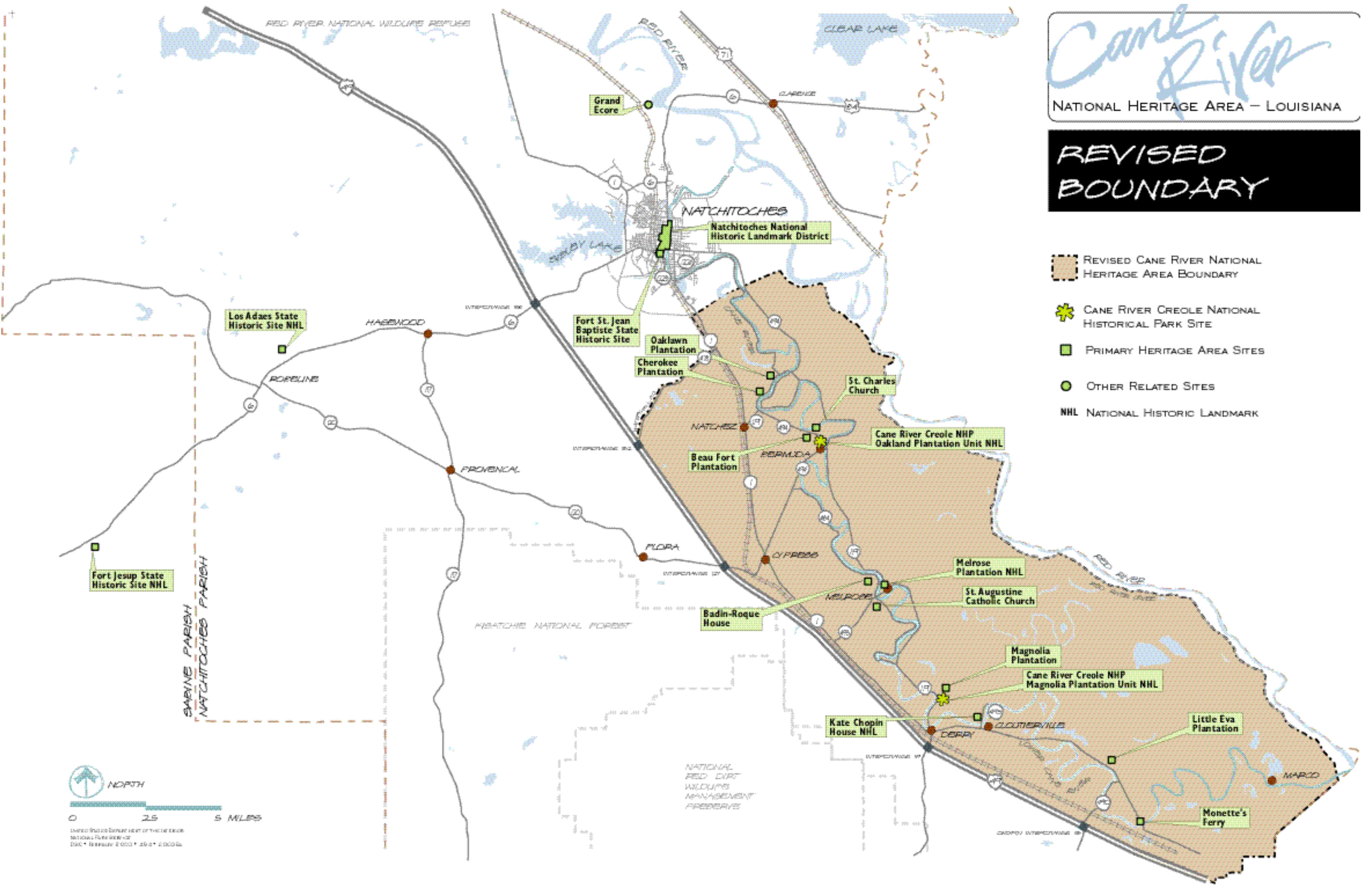
PROVIDE SATELLITE VISITOR SERVICES FOR HERITAGE AREA ORIENTATION









# Cane River

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA - LOUISIANA

## REVISED BOUNDARY



-  REVISED CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY
-  CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SITE
-  PRIMARY HERITAGE AREA SITES
-  OTHER RELATED SITES
-  NHL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

 NORTH

0 25 50 MILES

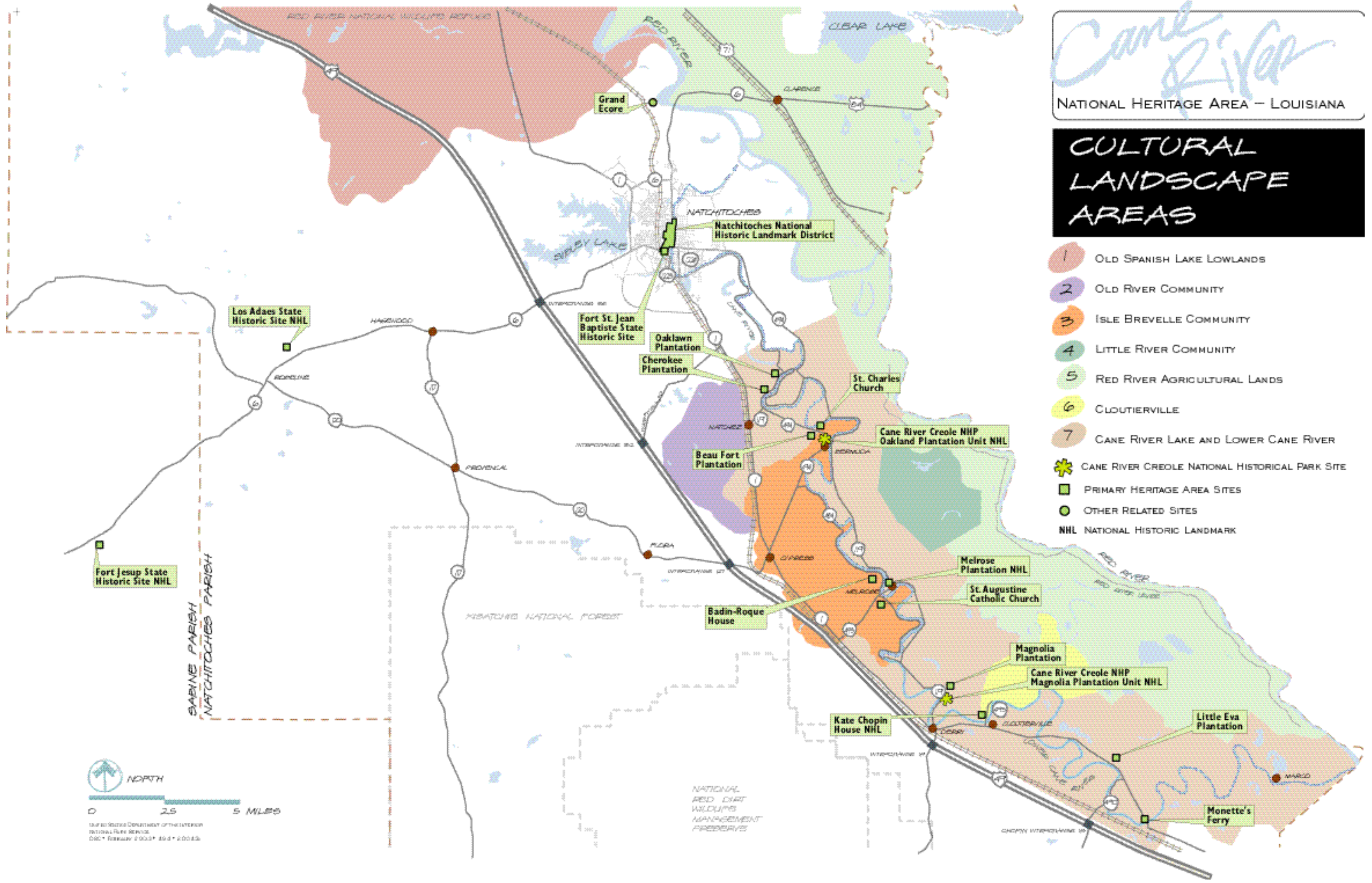
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
DISC • February 2000 • 2601 • 2000/04


# Cane River

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – LOUISIANA

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- 1 OLD SPANISH LAKE LOWLANDS
- 2 OLD RIVER COMMUNITY
- 3 ISLE BREVELLE COMMUNITY
- 4 LITTLE RIVER COMMUNITY
- 5 RED RIVER AGRICULTURAL LANDS
- 6 CLOUTIERVILLE
- 7 CANE RIVER LAKE AND LOWER CANE RIVER
- \* CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SITE
- PRIMARY HERITAGE AREA SITES
- OTHER RELATED SITES
- NHL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



 NORTH  
 0 2.5 5 MILES  
MAP BY STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL FILM SERVICE  
 DDC • February 2003 • 89.4 • 2003B

NATIONAL RED CHART WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRESERVE

Protection approaches may include conservation easements, particularly for lands along Cane River; the use of tax incentives to preserve landscapes (cultural and natural); or more stringent zoning for lands with cultural and natural values.

In addition, the commission will work in partnership to develop educational programs and curricula for area residents, especially for landowners and local primary and secondary school students, to meet the following objectives:

- Foster an awareness and appreciation of the significant resource values of the heritage area.
- Develop an ethic that supports the protection of the area's heritage resources, including cultural landscapes.
- Provide practical information on how to protect resource values and make sensitive improvements to them.

### **Conserving Cultural Traditions**

To document and help conserve the area's cultural traditions and lifeways, research projects and educational programs, including an oral history program, will be pursued in cooperation with partners. Also, the heritage area staff will help sponsor those cultural events that substantially support the goals of the heritage area. The heritage area staff will develop guidelines that organizations will be required to follow to receive heritage area support.

### **Natural Resource Protection**

An active liaison will be maintained with the natural resource agencies and organizations that have interest in or responsibility for protecting natural resources in the heritage area. The purpose of such a liaison will be to maintain awareness of natural resource issues within the heritage area, obtain assistance in interpreting the natural environment, and find ways to help heritage area residents protect and enhance their natural resource assets.

### **Research Needs**

There is an ongoing need for research on a variety of subjects, primarily within the areas of archeology, history, and ethnography. The heritage area commission will oversee a research program and will set priorities and periodically re-evaluate priorities in coordination with the research programs of other partners, especially Cane River Creole National Historical Park. (See table 1 and appendix C.)

### **Technical and Financial Assistance**

The heritage area will provide preservation assistance (technical information, financial or in-kind support, etc.) to those properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as funding and staff are available. All assistance will meet the preservation standards set by the secretary of the interior. In this regard, the process of nominating properties in the heritage area to the national register will be encouraged. In addition, those properties already on the national register will be reexamined to determine if their cultural landscape documentation is adequate. This process will be undertaken in consultation with the Louisiana historic preservation office.

The commission, in developing priorities for preservation assistance, will consider the wishes of the various communities within the heritage area. Certain areas in the heritage area, such as Isle Brevelle and Cloutierville, will be evaluated using criteria for national historic landmark districts, and if they are found suitable, national historic landmark designation will be sought.

### **VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

Visitor experience goals were established to help the commission and partners define actions that should be taken to ensure that visitors will have the opportunity to have specific experiences while visiting the region. The term "visitor" is a broad term relating to



the public at large and may include people of local, national, and international origin. Because of recent advancements in technology, the term visitor can be applied to those who visit the heritage area in person or through advanced technologies such as the Internet. Although each visitor may visit the heritage area in different ways, the visitor experience goals help establish the desired range of opportunities that the visitor might have.

Visitors to the heritage area and vicinity will

- have the opportunity to plan their trip based on the abundance of information available on the heritage area
- be able to easily locate the heritage area and navigate to and through its landscapes and sites
- be able to obtain convenient quality lodging, food services, and shopping in the area
- feel welcome, want to extend their stay, and recommend visiting the heritage area to others
- gain a fundamental understanding and appreciation of the area's significance through information and programs that are based on the heritage area's themes and stories
- gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the various cultural groups in the heritage area and their unique stories and contributions
- experience a variety of programs that would appeal to people with diverse interests, ages, backgrounds, learning styles, and abilities. Ensure that these programs are consistent, complimentary, and compatible among the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the state historic sites, and other historic properties
- experience views of the heritage area's cultural landscapes from a variety of perspectives, including from the roadway and river and from Kisatchie National Forest
- experience local traditions through visiting local public places, events, and festivals

## Marketing

A comprehensive marketing strategy will be developed that will (1) identify and target key audiences and (2) facilitate the preparation and distribution of information that will encourage visitors to come and assist them in planning a visit.

- The heritage area commission will work with the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission and other groups to ensure that brochures and other media about the Natchitoches/Cane River region include up-to-date information about the heritage area.
- Heritage area brochures will be available at heritage area sites and visitor facilities as well as at tourist centers throughout the state. These brochures will help provide a comprehensive overview of the area's significance, sites, and visitor opportunities.
- General information on the heritage area and its opportunities will be distributed through the Internet, information centers at airports and highways, and through informational mailers prepared in cooperation with the tourist commission.
- The heritage area commission will work in partnership with the appropriate agencies and organizations to develop information packages that will be customized to the age and interests of various targeted groups (such as schools, senior citizens, singles, and special interest groups) and for conferences and cultural events.

- The heritage area will serve as a clearing-house to coordinate and standardize the literature about historic properties in the heritage area.
- The commission will encourage heritage-area-related product sales that carry the heritage area logo or “brand.” Products with this logo will meet criteria that ensure quality and authenticity. This may be accomplished through cooperation with an existing nonprofit organization or a future friends group.

### Visitor Information and Wayfinding

A system of information and services will be developed to help visitors locate and identify heritage sites and activities.

- A directional and informational sign program will be developed. Signs will be placed at key locations to welcome visitors and direct them to sites and facilities. Sign development and placement will be coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to prevent duplication and clutter and to ensure accuracy.
- The commission will develop an official logo or symbol for the heritage area. The logo will provide a quickly recognizable image on signs, banners, and publications that will guide visitors in identifying heritage area resources and events.
- The commission will help coordinate heritage area site brochures in order to provide a consistent message about the heritage area.
- The feasibility of developing a repeating radio broadcast message for tourists entering or traveling through the area to help them locate and learn about the area’s attractions and special events will be analyzed.
- The commission will develop the content for hospitality training that can be conducted by the tourist commission, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, the Natchitoches

Area Chamber of Commerce, the Louisiana Technical College, and others. The purpose will be to help ensure high quality hospitality to visitors by training frontline service providers, such as restaurant workers, gas station attendants, and lodging workers. The training will help them understand the area’s history and the opportunities available to visitors and enable them to answer standard visitor questions. The training can be done through a variety of media, and successful completion can be recognized by certification.

### Visitor Facilities

Cane River Creole National Historical Park will proceed in obtaining funding for and developing a joint regional visitor center and headquarters in the Natchitoches / Cane River region, outside the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District. The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission will participate in its planning, development and funding and will have a presence in that facility. Consistent with the partnership approach, the facility may also be shared by other entities that have a role in providing visitor services and/or have public stewardship responsibilities for natural and cultural resources of the Cane River region. Such entities may include the U.S. Forest Service (Kisatchie National Forest), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Red River National Wildlife Refuge), the state of Louisiana (state historic sites, state museum), the chamber of commerce, and the tourist commission.

This center will provide a regional information facility that will orient visitors to the region and provide an overview of the area’s heritage, its resources, the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve those resources, places to visit, and upcoming events and activities. Visitors will have access to basic services and a variety of interpretive opportunities through audiovisual programs, interpretive exhibits, and demonstrations. A visit to a facility like this will likely take 15 to 60 minutes. Planning for this center and its services will remain flexible to accommodate potential partnerships. The

facility’s program will likely require the following spaces and services:

- an area for orienting visitors to the Cane River region
- an area equipped for interpretive demonstrations
- an assembly and staging area for tours
- a place for viewing audiovisual materials
- housing and security for temporary exhibits
- facilities to provide for visitor needs, such as restrooms, telephones, water fountains, and first aid
- office space for heritage area and park staff and possibly others

Visitor orientation services will also be needed at other locations in the region due to the size of the heritage area and the different points at which visitors will enter the area. These outlying orientation services will help ensure that most visitors will have some access to heritage area information. This orientation can be accomplished through the use of existing visitor service facilities in the region and through the development of new facilities. As partnerships evolve, a variety of opportunities to accomplish this secondary level of orientation services will be identified.

### Interpretation

As noted earlier, making the sites come alive creates the type of experiences that attract visitors. It also is key to building a constituency that understands and supports the heritage area. Interpretation and education are the avenues by which the heritage area commission will strive to achieve this. Early in the planning process the commission identified broad interpretive themes that would be the basis of interpretive information and programs developed for the public. These themes are presented in appendix D.

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission recently funded the development of the master interpretive plan for the heritage area. This interpretive plan will provide more detailed guidance for an interpretive program that is consistent with the management plan

actions. For example, this new interpretive plan will refine and expand upon the commission’s interpretive themes, present a unified approach to telling the region’s stories, help coordinate the efforts of the heritage area sites, and address media needs, including personal services.

The following are the general interpretation program actions of this management plan.

- Different tours will be offered using a variety of methods and formats, such as general tours with different timeframes; theme- or subject-specific multisite tours, such as “the frontier experience,” “plantation lifeways,” or “the Red River Campaign of the Civil War”; and tours using different transportation modes, such as walking, bicycle, car, boat, and bus tours.
- The feasibility of packaging separate tours for “cluster” areas within the heritage area will be explored. For example, an interpretive tour can potentially be developed for the Badin-Roque House, St. Augustine Catholic Church, and Melrose Plantation, and another can be developed for the Kate Chopin House, Cloutierville, and Magnolia Plantation. Another tour can include Oakland Plantation, Beau Fort Plantation, and St. Charles Church.
- Seminars on heritage area history and arts will be sponsored for children, teachers, students, and adults.
- The heritage area will work in partnership with local museums and interpretive centers to develop exhibits and programs on heritage area topics.
- The joint regional visitor center will include interpretive services about the heritage area, emphasizing the major interpretive themes and stories, through a variety of media and programs (see “Visitor Facilities,” below).
- The commission will pursue development of a system of pull-offs and interpretive waysides, primarily along Cane River, to

provide safe and relaxing opportunities for visitors to see the scenery and learn about the area's history between major stops.

- The commission will work with federal and state land management agencies to interpret the region's natural environment, especially the complex Red River Valley ecosystem and the significant influence it has had on the cultural development of the Cane River region.

### Volunteer Services

The commission will work with other agencies and organizations that rely on volunteer services to develop a coordinated volunteer program. The program will strive to increase the number of volunteers, pool volunteer resources, and organize the assignment of volunteers to where they are most needed (special events, festivals, school programs, etc.). The state historic sites and national historical park units will be key participants.

### Recreation

The heritage area commission will support the development and availability of recreational opportunities that will complement the rural and historical character of the heritage area. The emphasis will be on increasing opportunities for visitors to view the river and access the river's edge. This may include riverside trails, picnicking, and interpretive waysides and more opportunities for non-motorized boating. Scenic byway designation, bicycle trails or routes, and other types of trails will also be supported.

### TRANSPORTATION, CIRCULATION, AND LINKS

The heritage area commission will work proactively with state and local agencies and others to maintain the rural character of the road system while improving access to the area.

- The primary route to access the heritage area, especially for buses and recreational vehicles (RVs), will be LA 1 (see Access and Circulation Routes map). The commission will pursue the widening of those roads that connect LA 1 with the river roads (specifically LA 119 at Natchez, LA 494 at Cypress, LA 493 at Montrose, and LA 478) to ensure that oversize vehicles can pass safely.
- The rural roads that connect major heritage area sites and follow the Cane River (such as LA 494 and LA 119) will be recommended as an alternative scenic route for visitors who have more time to spend in the area. The heritage area commission will encourage improvements to the surface of these roadways, such as repairing asphalt and improving road shoulders, but not widening.
- The heritage area partnership will develop strategies to manage traffic and parking during festivals, special events, and heavy visitation periods to help make visits more pleasant for visitors and to reduce impacts on residents and resources.
- The commission will work with the parish to encourage designation of bicycle routes on existing roads.
- The heritage area commission will work cooperatively with the private sector and other partners to develop a shuttle service that can provide transportation for visitors between places such as the joint visitor facility, the historic district, heritage area sites, transportation nodes, and lodging sites. If such an operation can eventually be funded, the route and shuttle stops would be determined at that time.
- To help market the heritage area as a scenic rural driving experience, an investigation will be made into the feasibility of designating a route through the heritage area as an official scenic byway.
- The commission will work with local agencies and landowners to pursue development of pull-offs and accompanying wayside exhibits primarily along the Cane River.

Developing pull-offs will help accomplish several objectives. They will serve as places for slow-moving cars to pull off and allow faster traffic to pass, which will help alleviate the pressure to widen the traditionally narrow rural roadways. Pull-offs will also make the heritage area more accessible to visitors by providing additional sites where visitors can become oriented to the area, see the resources, and learn about their history. They also will be potential places for picnic tables and public access to the river.

### **SITE ADDITIONS TO THE HERITAGE AREA**

Sites in the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District (see Natchitoches map) can be included in the heritage area through cooperative agreements. Sites outside of the heritage area and historic district that want to be included will have to pursue federal legislation. Sites seeking inclusion into the heritage area will need to meet the first criterion and at least one of the last three criteria:

- The property is or will be made open to the public for a minimum of 12 days a year.
- The property is listed on or is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The property represents one or more of the heritage area interpretive themes.
- The property has an important ethnographic association with one of the heritage area cultural groups.

### **FUNDING**

The commission's goal is to obtain federal funding on a level comparable to the funding currently being provided by Congress to other national heritage areas. Funding objectives include the following:

- Obtain adequate base funding to enable the hiring and retention of a professional

support staff that will be the primary implementers of the management plan.

- Obtain funding that can provide seed money to seek out other funding sources, such as donations and grants.
- Enable the heritage area to begin tackling critically needed projects to protect resources and demonstrate commitment to other partners and funding sources.
- Pursue other potential funding sources such as state, regional, and local agencies, private foundations, and philanthropic groups.
- Maintain the amount of funding available for the commission's ongoing grants program. Grants to individuals and organizations are available in the categories of research, historic preservation, and development.

### **STAFFING ESTIMATES**

The following staffing plan will provide the commission with the basic administrative support necessary to ensure that the proposals in this plan can be pursued and implemented. Contracted services or other staff positions (including term positions) may be considered as the program matures, more funding sources are found, and specific needs arise. For example, professional support in planning and landscape architecture may be needed to help implement parts of the plan, and additional staff may be needed to assist in staffing the joint visitor center.

- executive director
- administrative assistant
- management assistant
- program manager – grants
- program manager – projects
- interns (two)

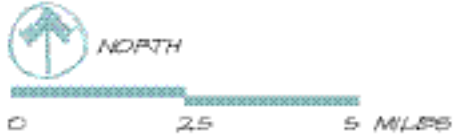
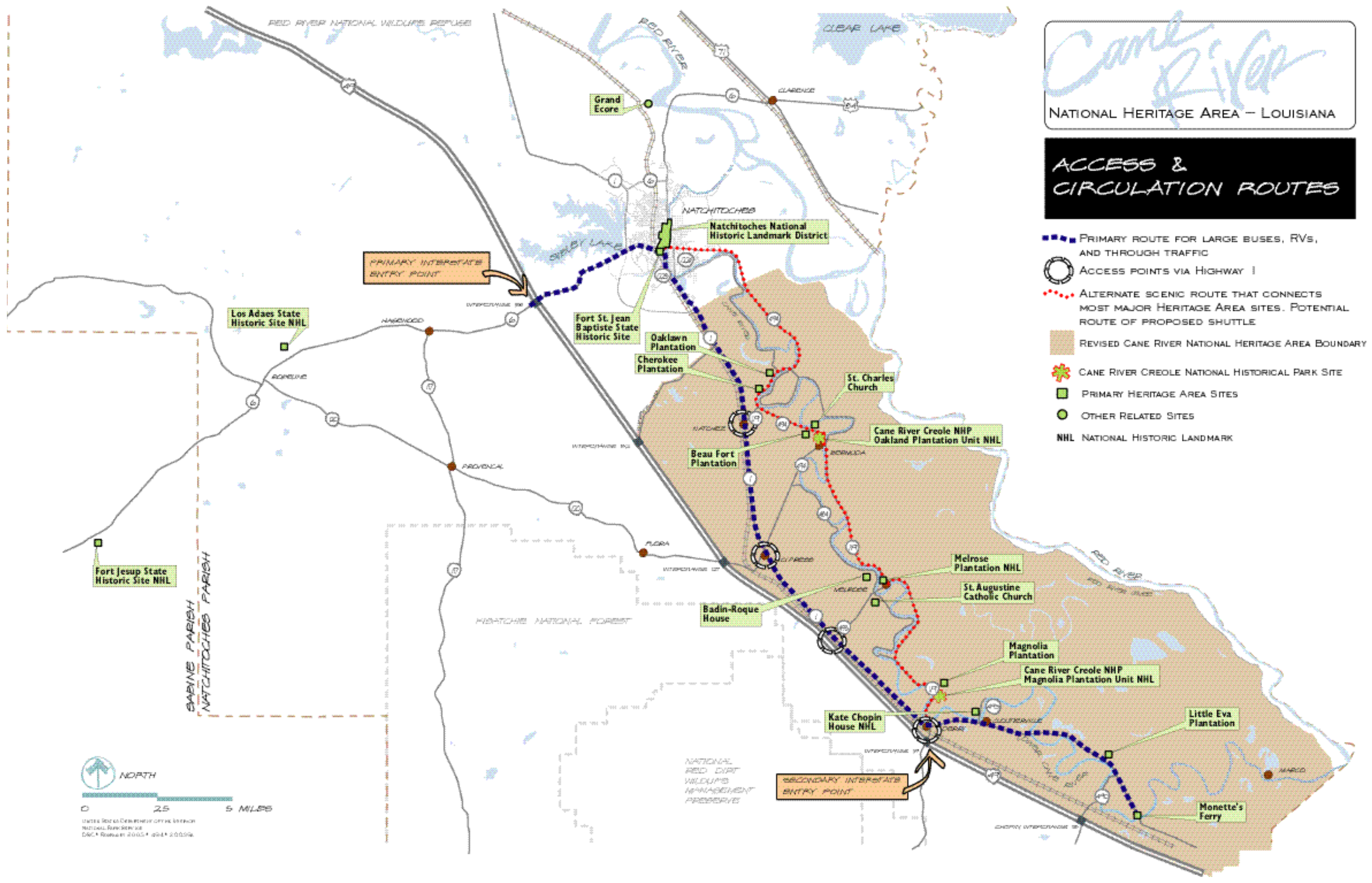
The executive director will (1) report directly to the commission, (2) represent the commission in various public capacities, (3) provide the key leadership in implementing the heritage area management plan, and (4) supervise other heritage area staff. The

# Cane River

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – LOUISIANA

## ACCESS & CIRCULATION ROUTES

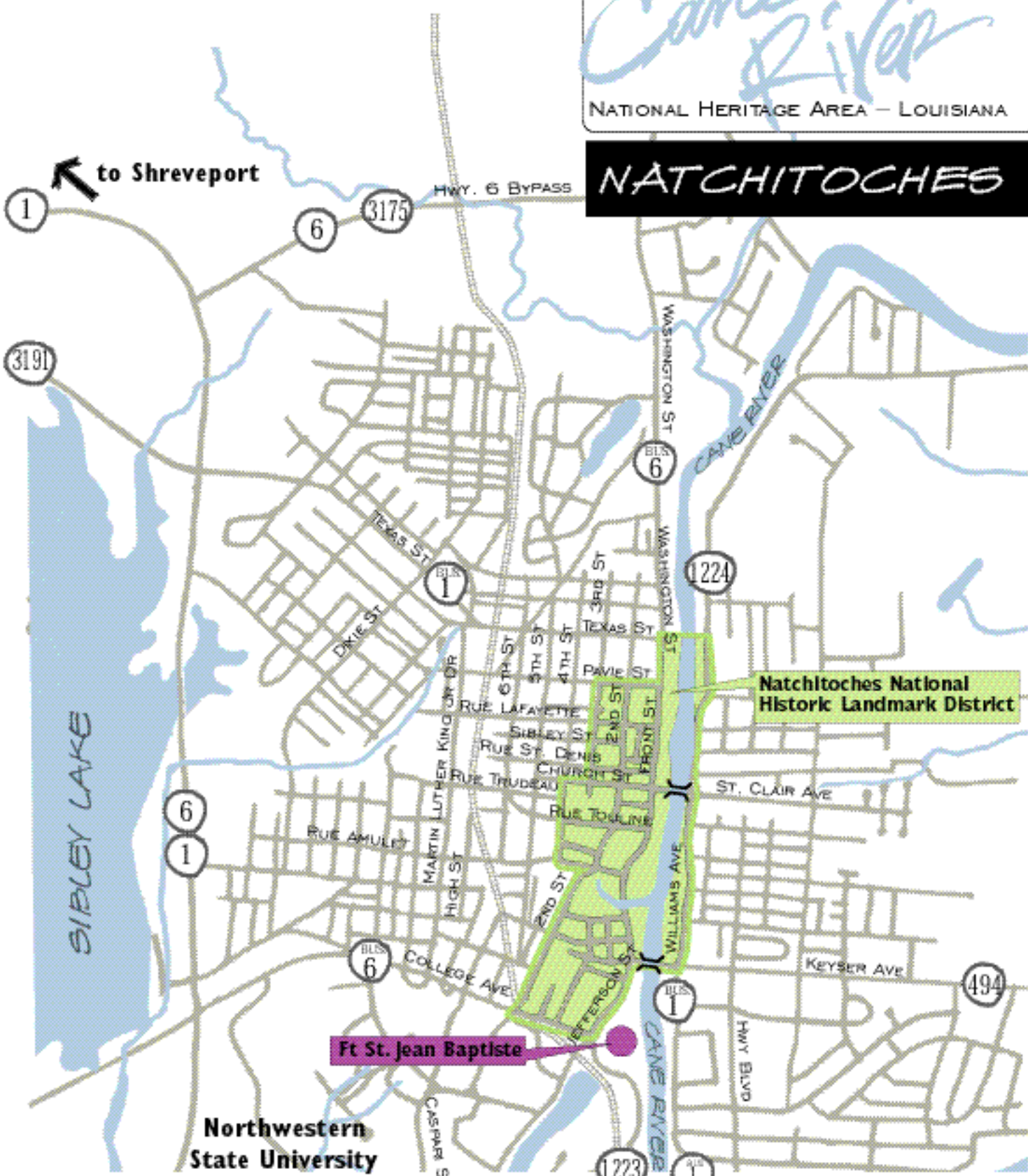
- PRIMARY ROUTE FOR LARGE BUSES, RVs, AND THROUGH TRAFFIC
- ACCESS POINTS VIA HIGHWAY 1
- ALTERNATE SCENIC ROUTE THAT CONNECTS MOST MAJOR HERITAGE AREA SITES. POTENTIAL ROUTE OF PROPOSED SHUTTLE
- REVISED CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY
- CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SITE
- PRIMARY HERITAGE AREA SITES
- OTHER RELATED SITES
- NHL** NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DWC • Revision 2005 • 09/04/2009

*Cane River*  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA - LOUISIANA

**NATCHITOCHEES**



to Shreveport

to Alexandria



0 0.5 1 MILE  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
DATE: 2005

management team will form the core of the financial and technical assistance program and will consist of individuals who will have responsibility for grant writing, grants administration, heritage preservation, and outreach programs.

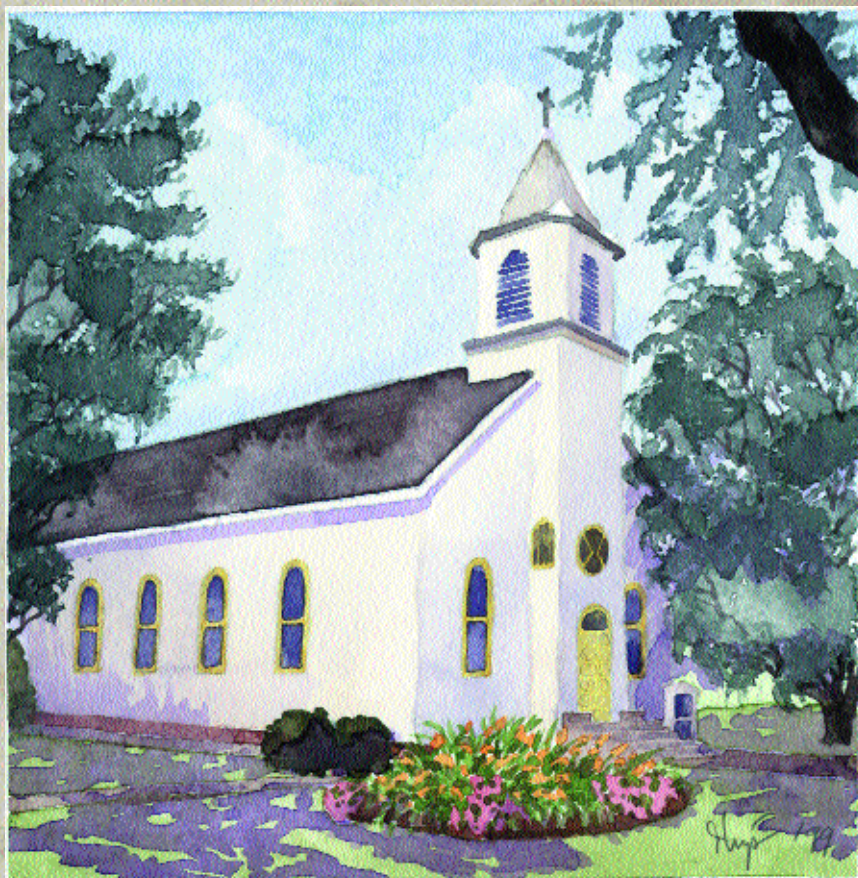
## **COSTS**

Cost estimates were developed for the planning alternatives in the *Draft Management*

*Plan and Environmental Assessment*. They were general costs used to compare the alternatives. Please refer to the draft plan for more information about those estimates. For future planning and budgetary purposes, the commission/managing entity and other lead partners will develop more detailed cost estimates that will better reflect the specific requirements of implementing this plan.



PLAN  
IMPLEMENTATION



## IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Many agencies and organizations are, or have expressed interest in, working with the heritage area commission to further the goals of the heritage area. Most groups remain cautious in making commitments until the extent of the commission's and National Park Service's commitment is understood. The following is a discussion about partnership roles based on the current understanding of the resources and expertise available through these various agencies and organizations. For more specific partnership projects that are part of the implementation program, see table 1.

### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

The long-term protection or loss of the visible heritage of the Cane River National Heritage Area will be affected by the land use decisions made by local government. Ultimately, local government can and must be one of the primary partners in protecting and enhancing the heritage area. Local government can make great strides in helping protect the area's heritage while enhancing economic opportunities. Local planning and land management initiatives, when sensitively combined with economic incentives, can help ensure a quality environment for its residents and visitors. Some of the areas in which local government can assist include helping maintain scenic and cultural landscapes; providing outdoor recreation opportunities; working with other agencies to achieve shared goals in areas of land use planning, tourism, and transportation; and keeping the heritage area commission informed of local issues that are important to the future of the heritage area. Also, the commission can help find resources for local governments to help achieve mutual goals.

Some of the most immediately important local agencies are listed below with the types of partnership assistance they participate in

currently or which they have the potential to in the future:

#### Cane River Waterway Commission

The commission, appointed by the state, has an important role to play in the overall management of the upper Cane River. Their partnership will be important in helping maintain good water quality, promoting river friendly activities and sports, protecting natural and cultural landscape values along the riverbanks; and helping provide more public access to the river, including accompanying support facilities such as docks and parking.

#### City of Natchitoches

The mayor's office is very supportive of finding ways to promote the special qualities of the area and the opportunities available to the visiting public. The city does and will play an important role in helping promote the area through various media. The city also plays an important role in supporting preservation activities, and this support will continue. The city may be a key player in helping identify appropriate sites for a future regional visitor center and in helping to provide services to that facility. Since the heritage area office was established at the Roque House in 1999, the city has provided utility services. Given the concentration of tourism activities in the historic landmark district and the many special events held in town, the city can play an important role in improving traffic management and public transportation opportunities in the region. The city and heritage area commission will work to coordinate planning for recreational trails in the heritage area and the city (historic landmark district recreational trails project).

### **Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce**

The chamber will have the ongoing role of promoting the area to potential businesses and assisting local businesses to become established and successful.

### **Natchitoches Historic District Commission**

The historic district commission is helping oversee the protection of the historic landmark district and the many resources integrally linked to the themes and stories of the Cane River National Heritage Area. The two commissions are working together to blend preservation values with ongoing community events. The historic district commission may have a role in helping to locate tourist facilities, developing historic landmark district tours, and supporting efforts to improve traffic conditions, including alternative transportation. The historic district commission will be instrumental in efforts to regulate the tour industry in Natchitoches.

### **Natchitoches Parish Police Jury**

The police jury will be a major player in the heritage area partnership due to its role of overseeing the management of the parish. The police jury may be key in helping to identify a future site for a regional visitor center and provide services to that facility. The police jury will be important in conducting project reviews. They can be key supporters and implementers of strategies to protect natural and cultural resources and landscapes in the heritage area to help ensure the “heritage area” status can be retained for a long term. Such strategies might include tax incentives, land use zoning, and design and suitability guidelines. The police jury also could play a key role in addressing various transportation and access issues, such as improving public access to Cane River, supporting establishment of a scenic byway, developing additional bike routes, helping improve road conditions and

traffic flow through the area, and helping improve traffic regulation and parking during special events.

### **Natchitoches Parish Planning and Zoning Commission**

The planning commission will be a key agency in helping conduct project reviews. They also can be key in helping develop strategies to protect natural and cultural resources and landscapes in the heritage area to help ensure that the “heritage area” status can be retained for the long term. Such strategies may include tax incentives, land use zoning, and design and suitability guidelines.

### **Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission**

The tourist commission has always played a key role in helping to promote and market tourism activities, with more than \$80,000 annually going toward promotions. They will continue to have this role, and the heritage area site personnel and commission will work with them to help collect, coordinate, and distribute information about heritage area sites and activities. The tourist commission could participate in a joint regional visitor center. The commission could assist in developing and promoting tours and alternative transportation systems; help explore the establishment of a scenic byway in the area; and support the development of additional regional bike and walking trails.

## **THE ROLE OF LOCAL SCHOOLS**

Schools ultimately play a huge role in helping preserve a region’s heritage over the long term, because children who understand their history, choices, and responsibilities are irreplaceable assets to their community. Local schools will be a forum of heritage area activities, and teachers, principals, and university administrators and faculty are all important players. Heritage, environmental,

and outdoor education programs and activities are among the obvious potential areas of cooperation; others include programs to develop student skills in oral history programs, archival and historic preservation, and environmental problem solving. Other areas of cooperation could include ethnic celebrations and festivals; community clean-up projects; river recreation events; and other volunteer programs such as the junior rangers.

School organizations that the commission will strive to coordinate activities with will be the following:

#### **The Natchitoches Parish School Board**

The heritage area commission and the school board will work toward establishing cooperative agreements to develop educational and research projects, programs, and seminars about the heritage area. Schools and the heritage area commission could collaborate on developing informational/curriculum packages on heritage area history and resources.

#### **Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSU)**

The park and heritage area will continue to benefit from the assistance of local universities. The proximity of Northwestern State University and its affiliated scholars provides a much-needed source for scholarly research and assistance on heritage area subjects such as anthropology, archeology, history, historic preservation, curation, tourism, recreation, and natural resource management. Through cooperative agreements between the heritage area and universities such as Northwestern State University, the following efforts will be possible:

- developing a coordinated research program
- conducting an oral history program
- helping develop and conduct educational programs and seminars

- helping develop design and suitability guidelines for the heritage area
- providing technical assistance

One of the educational programs sponsored by Northwestern State University is the annual Folk Festival, which is centered on local cultures. In addition, Northwestern State University provides space on campus for the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center and the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The university has given the heritage area matching funds, staff, and equipment for several major archeological and ethnographic projects, including an archeological study at Fort Jesup and the publication of an ethnographic study, "We Know Who We Are" (Gregory and Moran 1996). The Cane River National Heritage Area master interpretive plan is being conducted in cooperation with the university.

### **THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The private sector is everything from business and industry to nonprofit organizations such as historic preservation, conservation, and civic groups. Without private-sector investment in heritage area projects, it is unlikely that the goals and objectives of the heritage area can ever be fully met.

#### **The Business Community**

The business sector can be instrumental in helping revitalize its community. Business people know that good schools, effective planning, good transportation, and a beautiful and healthy environment are important for attracting quality businesses and good-paying jobs. Natchitoches businesses can enter into partnerships with other businesses, organizations, and agencies to help achieve mutual goals. They can help develop an effective tourism strategy and sponsor alternative transportation modes, such as shuttles, tour boats, and bicycle routes; provide frontline hospitality

services to the visiting public; and cooperate in helping stimulate commercial center activity. Architecture and engineering firms can provide expertise in preservation, communications, planning, design, and construction.

### **Historic Preservation Organizations**

The strongest partners that the heritage area currently has are the local preservation groups – the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, Inc., and Museum Contents, Inc. These groups have helped or are helping to restore and preserve a variety of resources, including the Kate Chopin House, Melrose Plantation, Magnolia Plantation, and several sites in the historic landmark district. These groups also will participate in preserving local heritage by helping sponsor educational seminars on heritage area topics, supporting efforts to improve traffic conditions and parking, especially during special events, and helping package tours and activities. Also, the St. Augustine Historical Society is involved in a project restoring the Badin-Roque House, and the Service League of Natchitoches has donated more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time to restoration projects.

### **Land Trusts**

Land trusts are nonprofit conservation organizations that assist in protecting land. They do this either by acquisition of the land through gift or purchase or by acceptance of a conservation easement on the land. Land trusts work closely with willing landowners to help them develop a voluntary plan for conserving their land. A land trust's flexibility and techniques can be tailored to the needs of private landowners with conservation interests. Land trusts also provide a nonpolitical alternative to government agencies. Conserving open spaces through a land trust may also provide substantial tax benefits for the contributor. Most land trusts are locally founded and operate on a local or regional level.

Some of the largest trusts are national in their scope and are involved in many other associated conservation activities, such as creating forums for education, providing technical assistance, and working to influence public policy. Already the National Trust for Historic Preservation has been significantly involved in conducting educational forums in Natchitoches on heritage area preservation. Examples of other trusts that could provide a source of assistance include the Louisiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the American Farmland Trust, the Conservation Fund, and the Trust for Public Lands.

### **Other Organizations**

Many other types of community clubs and organizations can contribute significantly to the multiple objectives of heritage area management. These groups can bring energy, commitment, imagination, funding, and expertise to a variety of projects. Recently the Ben D. Johnson Educational Foundation provided matching funds, space, and technical assistance for an oral history project. The Friends of the Old Courthouse Museum donated matching funds, staff, and space for two educational children's programs. Some other organizations are the Black Heritage Committee, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, Inc., and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

## **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ROLE**

The state of Louisiana will play a major role in the success of the heritage area. In the Second Extraordinary Session of 2001, the state legislature passed a resolution designating Cane River National Heritage Area as a state heritage area. This designation is an important opportunity to expand on and deepen the current partnership.

Also, there are three state historic sites in the heritage area and a state museum site in the

historic landmark district. The state also oversees various programs and funding sources that could contribute to the accomplishment of various heritage area objectives.

**Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

This office provides technical assistance with recording and protecting sites on private or state property through the regional archeology program. To protect resources, this office implements state and federal environmental laws and guidelines and has a very active role in providing project guidance and review of plans that affect the character and integrity of archeological resources within the heritage area. In addition, this office is a source of educational materials for teachers.

**Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

The Louisiana Division of the Arts was created in 1977 to support established and emerging nonprofit arts institutions, to assist individual artists, and to stimulate public participation in the arts. Each year it awards about \$5 million in grants to support activities that affect every parish in Louisiana. These public funds are provided by the Louisiana legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). The two principal grants programs of the division are the Louisiana Decentralized Arts Funding Program and the Statewide Arts Grants Program. In addition to its role as a grant maker, the Louisiana Division of the Arts serves as a trainer, clearinghouse, and advocate for the arts and folk traditions of Louisiana. The division recently gave funds to the heritage area for a heritage area history workshop and heritage demonstrations of storytelling, folkways, and other local art forms.

**Louisiana State Museum, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism**

The museum exists to preserve, present, and promote the state's cultural heritage. It does this primarily through exhibitions and special events. The state museum purchased the Old Courthouse Museum in Natchitoches in 1998. The museum's partnership role will be providing occasional educational and interpretive opportunities that highlight themes and stories associated with the Cane River National Heritage Area. Since 2000, the heritage area has partnered with the museum on two children's programs that focus on the culture and history of the Cane River region. The museum is also a potential partner in the regional visitor center.

**Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

Fort Jesup, Fort St. Jean Baptiste, and Los Adaes are state historic sites and are also designated heritage area sites. These sites have established programs for resource protection and visitor services. They will play an important partnership role by helping provide quality interpretive programs and events for the public about important heritage area themes. For example, the state has committed funding for major expansion of Los Adaes interpretive facilities and for a new visitor center at Ft. St. Jean Baptiste. These historic sites will participate in providing information and orientation to the heritage area, and in providing information and program exchanges with other heritage area sites; they could also participate in the regional visitor center. Their staff will participate in a coordinated volunteer program for the heritage area and be a potential source of technical assistance to other heritage area sites.

### **Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

This office is also known as the state historic preservation office. It does and will continue to play an important role in planning for and protecting historic resources in the heritage area. The office prepares and revises nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and recently has completed the nominations of the two Cane River Creole National Historical Park units to the national historic landmark program. To protect resources, this office implements state and federal environmental laws and guidelines, including the *Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Preservation*, and has a very active role in providing project guidance and review of plans that affect the character and integrity of historic properties within the heritage area. This office also provides technical assistance and incentive programs of grants and tax benefits to help owners protect historic buildings. Finally, it oversees the Louisiana Main Street Program, which is very active in the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District.

### **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

This department works to ensure that Louisiana citizens have a clean and healthy environment. The department provides environmental assistance and oversees permit applications, conducts inspections of permitted activities, monitors air and water quality, and is involved with the remediation of contamination in the environment. This agency must be consulted when actions are planned or taken that can impact the quality of the environment.

### **Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development**

Most of the roads in the heritage area are state roads, which are maintained by the Louisiana Department of Transportation

and Development. The heritage area commission will coordinate with this department regarding road signs, road improvements, safety issues, and wayside pull-offs. This department also oversees the Transportation Enhancement Program, which includes the funds allocated to the state through the TEA-21 program. The TEA-21 program could be an important source of project funding. See the discussion about the TEA-21 program under the Federal Highway Administration. Finally, this office is responsible for the construction and maintenance of state rest areas along interstate highways. A new rest area is being planned within the heritage area, where LA 478 intersects I-49. The heritage area, the park, and the city of Natchitoches are cooperating with state Department of Transportation and Development in the planning process. The heritage area and the park will have an informational presence in the new facility.

### **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

This department conducts biological research and oversees statewide management of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including fisheries. It is responsible for enforcing state laws to protect fish and wildlife resources and boating safety regulations, as well as federal regulations pertaining to migratory birds and endangered species. It also has a role of providing educational opportunities and technical advice about the conservation of wildlife resources and outdoor recreation skills.

## **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ROLE**

Federal legislation created the national heritage area and a federal management entity, the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, to oversee the initial planning for and establishment of the area. The secretary of the interior remains

responsible for appointing (renewing or replacing) members of the commission until the commission is terminated. The federal government is a source of funds and resources that can be used to help leverage other public and private investment in the heritage area. In addition, the federal government provides professional expertise and oversight regarding compliance with federal laws, regulations, guidelines, and policies.

#### **Cane River Creole National Historical Park, National Park Service**

The most important federally owned and managed part of the heritage area is Cane River Creole National Historical Park, a unit of the national park system. The superintendent of the park represents the director of the National Park Service and is a voting member of the heritage area commission. The park will be a major player in working with the heritage area to (1) develop and staff a regional visitor center, (2) coordinate a comprehensive research program on the history of the Cane River region, (3) enter into cooperative agreements with owners of heritage area sites for historic preservation and interpretation, (4) provide technical and financial assistance for preservation and education projects, (5) help disseminate information about the area to the public, and (6) help ensure that federal actions being undertaken with the heritage area comply with applicable laws and guidelines.

#### **The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, National Park Service**

This facility, on the campus of Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, has a mandate to provide historic preservation technical assistance and training on a nationwide scale. The commission currently has and will continue to have occasional opportunities to draw on the expertise of this center's staff and resources for assistance in developing and reviewing preservation (rehabilitation,

repair, etc.) plans. Also, the commission may be able to obtain the center's assistance in future efforts to develop education programs for landowners and others about preserving cultural landscapes and structures.

#### **Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey, National Park Service**

The Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record/ Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/HALS) are programs that document important architectural, engineering, and industrial sites and significant landscapes throughout the United States and its territories. A complete set of HABS/HAER/HALS documentation consists of measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written history. This documentation plays a key role in accomplishing the mission of creating an archive of American architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture, and in better understanding what historic resources tell us about America's diverse ethnic and cultural heritage. HABS/HAER/HALS collections are archived at the Library of Congress, where they are made available to the public.

#### **Historic Landscape Initiative, National Park Service**

The Historic Landscape Initiative provides guidance to accomplish sound preservation of a variety of landscapes, from parks and gardens to rural villages and agricultural landscapes. In partnership with federal and state agencies, professional organizations, and colleges and universities, the Historic Landscape Initiative develops and disseminates guidelines for significant historic landscape preservation; produces innovative tools to raise the awareness of the general public; organizes and conducts training symposia and workshops; and provides technical assistance for significant properties and districts.



### **National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service**

The National Park Service also oversees the National Historic Landmarks Program, a program that identifies and designates for protection buildings, structures, sites, and objects of national significance. Through this program the National Park Service can assist landowners of landmark properties and landowners can obtain income tax incentives and federal grants.

### **The Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service**

The Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program is part of the external technical assistance arm of the National Park Service. Assistance from this program is available to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups. Types of assistance can range from helping communities address problems of environmental degradation and loss of community character to the enhancement of recreational programs and the development of trails.

### **Other Federal Agencies**

The federal legislation establishing the heritage area requires any federal agency conducting or supporting activities directly affecting the heritage area to (1) consult with the secretary of the interior and the commission with respect to implementing their proposed actions, and (2) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate such activities with the commission to minimize potential impacts on the resources of the heritage area.

The congressional direction also requires that the commission take affirmative action to determine the effect of federal activities on the heritage area. As the representative of the secretary, the National Park Service will assist in this compliance process.

Other key federal agencies include the following:

**Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.** This agency administers section 4f of the Transportation Act, which protects federally designated recreation or historical lands under certain circumstances from federal highway project impacts and administers funds for grants for highway and bikeway projects. Probably the most significant program administered by the Federal Highway Administration that has the potential to help the heritage area is the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21). This program apportions transportation funds to the states that can be used for a wide variety of projects, including road and bridge improvements; the national scenic byways program; pedestrian and bicycle trail development or improvement; assistance in funding alternative transit systems and alternative fuel vehicles; scenic and historic restoration (including the acquisition of scenic easements or historic sites or the rehabilitation of historic railroad facilities); scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities); signs; and more. Louisiana's apportionment of the approximately \$216 billion national program (for 1998–2003) is approximately \$416 million.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior.** The Fish and Wildlife Service collects data and produces studies in coordination with federal development programs, often involving the Corps of Engineers; oversees the endangered species program; and administers various programs for the protection of wildlife habitat. This agency also is a source of technical assistance to landowners and the community, as is the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The possible location of a unit of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in or adjacent to the heritage area would open key partnership opportunities for the enhanced management of wildlife and native habitat,

as well as for environmental education and interpretive programs for the local community and the visiting public.

**U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.** This agency manages the Kisatchie National Forest, which is adjacent to the heritage area. The agency strives to wisely manage the natural and cultural resources of the forest and provide visitors with quality interpretive and outdoor recreational opportunities. Its partnership could fall into several areas, including sharing visitor facility space; providing technical assistance; helping distribute information about the heritage area to the public; providing programs about the area's natural history (longleaf pine bioregion) and cultural history (life and lumbering in the Kisatchie hills); and providing additional camping facilities.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), U.S. Department of Agriculture.** This agency administers several programs to help landowners conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. It provides environmental education

information and technical assistance to local districts.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense.** The Vicksburg District of the Corps of Engineers has been involved with flood protection projects in the heritage area and can give local communities technical assistance on waterway projects. The corps also oversees the Clean Water Act's section 404 permitting process for actions that involve discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States. Also, the Corps of Engineers is in the process of constructing a new visitor center on the bluffs above the Red River at Grand Ecore. This facility could contribute to educational and interpretive programming concerning the ecology of the Red River region.

**Environmental Protection Agency.** This agency sets standards for clean air and water programs that are managed by the states. It also manages priorities and funding to states for the Superfund cleanup program and assists in funding for water pollution cleanup.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

### INTRODUCTION

The implementation program below is an action guide that the commission/managing entity and heritage area partners will be following in the future to help make the management plan a reality. It represents the culmination of many discussions and meetings among the commission, its staff, and heritage area partners. As a strategy it is subject to change, but it provides the best guide at this point in time for future implementation steps. As these implementation steps are accomplished, new projects will be identified.

This program is the final step in completing the commission's legislative requirements (Public Law 103-449) for preparing their management plan. The implementation program is based on the approved plan presented in the previous chapter.

The partners and potential partners that will or may play a role in accomplishing the actions in the implementation program are listed below. The acronyms/short titles shown on this list are used in the following table for the purpose of saving space. An alphabetical list is also given at the end of table 1.

### LIST OF CURRENT HERITAGE AREA PARTNERS

#### Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA)

- Cane River National Heritage Area Commission (CRNHAC)

#### City of Natchitoches (City)

- Economic Development Commission (EDC)
- Main Street Program (Main Street)
- Natchitoches Historic District Commission (HDC)

#### Historic Preservation Organizations

- Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches (APHN)

- Museum Contents, Inc.
- Natchitoches Historic Foundation (NHF)

#### Natchitoches Parish

- Natchitoches Parish Library (NPL)
- Natchitoches Parish Police Jury (NPPJ)
- Natchitoches Parish School Board (School Board)
- Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department (Sheriff)
- Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission (NPTC)

#### National Park Service (NPS)

- Cane River Creole National Historical Park (CARI)
- Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)
- Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)
- Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)
- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA)
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)
- New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park (JAZZ)
- Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

#### Native American Tribe/Group

- Adai Caddo Indian Community – not a federal or state recognized group
- Caddo Nation – federally recognized tribe

#### Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSU)

- Cammie G. Henry Research Center/Watson Library (NSU-Cammie Henry Center)
- Department of Social Sciences
  - Anthropology and History (NSU-DSS)
  - Cultural Resource Office (NSU-CRO)
- Hospitality Management (NSU-Hospitality)
- Louisiana Creole Heritage Center (Creole Center)

State of Louisiana

- Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (DOCRT)
  - Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area (ATCH)
  - Division of Archaeology
  - Division of Historic Preservation (LAHP)
  - LA State Museum (Old Courthouse Museum)
  - LA State Parks (Ft. St. Jean Baptiste, Los Adaes, Ft. Jesup State Historic Sites)
- Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery (USFWS-Hatchery)

Other Organizations/Universities:

- American Cemetery Association
- Beau Fort Historic Site
- Ben D. Johnson Educational Foundation (Ben D. Johnson)
- Black Heritage Committee
- Deep South Regional Humanities Center/Tulane University (Tulane)
- Foundation for the Preservation of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, Inc. (C. Dormon)
- Friends in Support of the Hatchery (FISH)
- Friends of the Old Courthouse Museum
- Historic District Business Association (HDBA)
- Historic District Development Commission (HDDC)
- Louisiana Regional Folklife Program (LA Folklife)

- Louisiana Technical College, Natchitoches Campus
- Magnolia Plantation House
- Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber)
- Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association (NGHA)
- Natchitoches Louisiana Purchase Committee
- St. Augustine Historical Society (St. Augustine)
- Service League of Natchitoches (Service League)
- Trust for Public Land (TPL)
- University College London

**LIST OF POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

- American Society for Landscape Architecture (ASLA)
- Colonial Trails Association
- Community of Flora
- Friends groups (for CRNHAC and other local organizations)
- Joyous Coast, LLC
- Kisatchie National Forest/U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Louisiana Preservation Alliance
- Red River National Wildlife Refuge/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS-Red River)
- St. Matthew School Community Association, Inc.
- The Louisiana School
- The Wilderness Society
- Weaver Brothers Land & Timber Company
- Other universities to be defined at a later date

**Table 1. Implementation Program**

A. CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROTECTION		
<i>Objective: To bring together the expertise of key organizations, agencies, and individuals to develop a multi-layered strategy for effecting the long-term protection of heritage area landscapes.</i>		
ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Develop criteria for landscape protection priorities.	CRNHA (lead), APHN, CARI, City, HDC, NHF, NPPJ, St. Augustine	2002-2003
2. Create a working map of cultural landscapes that reflects priority levels and status of protection.	CRNHA (lead), APHN, CARI, City, HABS, HALS, HDC, NHF, St. Augustine Potential Partners: USFS, USFWS-Red River	2001-2003
3. Examine parish zoning system and establish special zoning in sensitive areas.	CRNHA and NPPJ Planning and Zoning Commission (co-leads), CARI, City, landowners	2001-2004
4. Work with existing land trusts for acquisition and easements. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Other trusts may be identified as part of implementation. Due to the nature of estate planning, tax credits, etc., this activity likely will continue in perpetuity.	CRNHA and TPL (co-leads), ATCH  Potential Partner: USFWS-Red River	Began 2001  Continuing, long-term effort
5. Develop a statewide land trust. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area would represent the state.	ATCH and CRNHA (co-leads/partners)	2002-2004
6. Set-up or identify a land-holding organization.	CRNHA (lead), CARI, and all organizations that are potential management entities.	2002-2003
7. Coordinate information/education/assistance opportunities for landowners to help them manage their cultural landscape.	CARI, CRNHA, and USFWS (co-leads), ATCH, landowners  Potential Partners: USFS	Begin 2003 Continuing, long-term effort
8. Continue to carry out historic preservation projects in cooperation with other organizations, institutions, and individuals. Pursue funding for historic preservation.	Lead/partners are determined by the needs of projects	Continuing, long-term effort

## B. RESEARCH

*Objective: To bring together the expertise of organizations and educational institutions in order to identify research needs, coordinate a research program under the direction of the heritage area, and facilitate ongoing research in the heritage area. Research in the heritage area will focus on Cane River culture and the built environment, targeting such disciplines as archaeology, history, ethnography, and architecture. The heritage area will partner with organizations and educational institutions to periodically re-evaluate research priorities, and to provide technical and financial assistance to research initiatives.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Evaluate research needs and priorities, and develop criteria for technical and financial assistance through a one-day seminar.	CRNHA (lead), *American Cemetery Association, APHN, Ben D. Johnson, Black Heritage Committee, Adai Caddo, Caddo Nation, CARI, C. Dormon, HABS, HALS, LA Folklife, NCPTT, NGHHA, NPL, NSU-(Cammie Henry Center, CRO, DSS, Creole Center), St. Augustine, University College London, Tulane, and other area universities	2002-2003
2. Provide financial assistance to research projects through the grants program. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Criteria for the competitive grants program were developed from priorities set in the heritage area planning process. The program requires that research results be shared with the public in the manner most appropriate to each project. Current and projected projects that the commission has or will provide technical or financial assistance are listed below:	CRNHA (lead), all organizations beginning with asterisk above, community members that assist with grant evaluation process, eligible applicants	Began 1999  Continuing, long-term effort
a. Archeological investigation at Fort Jesup	NSU-CRO (lead), CARI, CRNHA	2000-2002
b. Cane River African Diaspora Archeological Project	NSU-CRO, University College London (co-leads), CARI, Creole Center, CRNHA	2001-2004
c. Powered parachute aerial reconnaissance survey	NSU-CRO (lead), CRNHA, NCPTT	2001-2003
d. Creole genealogy (Cane River Genealogy Research Guide, Creole Surnames Project)	Creole Center (lead), CRNHA	2000-2002
e. French Document Translation Project	NGHHA (lead), CRNHA, NSU-Cammie Henry Center	2002-2004
f. Natchitoches Cemeteries Projects <i>Additional Notes:</i> These projects include mapping, conditions assessment, and historic compilations concerning select Natchitoches cemeteries.	American Cemetery Association, CARI, City, CRNHA, NCPTT, NSU-CRO	2002-2005
g. African American Oral History Project	Ben D. Johnson, Black Heritage Committee, and CARI (co-leads), CRNHA, NSU-DSS	2000-2003
h. Caddo Oral History Project	Caddo Nation (lead), CRNHA	2002-2003
i. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Cane River Documentation Project	CRNHA and HABS (co-leads), local landowners, NCPTT	2001-2003
j. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Cane River GIS Documentation Project	CRNHA and HABS (co-leads), landowners	2002-2003
k. Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Briarwood Documentation Project	C. Dormon and HALS (co-leads), CRNHA Potential Partners: ASLA, The Wilderness Society, USFS	2003-2004
l. Documentation assistance for St. Augustine Historical Society	St. Augustine (lead), CRNHA, two local landowners	2002-2003

**C. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*Objective: To develop strategies for providing technical and financial assistance to organizations and individuals for projects that align with the objectives and goals put forth in heritage area legislation and planning documents. The CRNHAC grants program will be the major vehicle for financial assistance for historic preservation, research, and development projects in the heritage area. Historic preservation and land conservation are the primary areas in which the Commission will offer technical assistance.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Award grants for research, historic preservation and restoration, and development projects that contribute to the goals set forth in heritage area legislation and planning documents.	CRNHA (lead)	Began 1999 Continuing, long-term effort
2. Manage grants program and facilitate compliance with federal regulations for historic preservation projects. <i>Additional Notes:</i> This will be the responsibility of one staff member.	CRNHA (lead)	2002 (permanent staff position)
3. Serve as a liaison to the LA Division of Historic Preservation regarding the documentation and preservation of properties in the Cane River region. The details of the liaison relationship will be outlined in a memorandum of understanding to be drafted in fall 2002. The relationship will include, but not be limited to, technical assistance regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Register nominations</li> <li>• cultural landscape documentation for National Register properties</li> <li>• state and federal tax credits for historic preservation</li> <li>• compliance with Section 106 and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) regarding grants and other historic preservation projects</li> <li>• Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation supported by the Cane River National Heritage Area</li> <li>• coordination and distribution to interested landowners of existing information on historic preservation</li> <li>• referrals to the state office concerning all of the above</li> </ul> <i>Additional Notes:</i> The activities of the Cane River National Heritage Area will not supplant the activities of the LA Division of Historic Preservation. Instead, the liaison relationship will allow the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission to complement the LA Division of Historic Preservation’s work by helping connect local property owners to the services available through the state office.	CRNHAC (liaison) LAHP (lead), APHN, CARI, City, HDC, landowners, NHF, St. Augustine	Begin 2003  Continuing, long-term effort
4. Develop a resource guide on the basics of preservation, including preservation resources available in Natchitoches area libraries and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.	CRNHA (lead), CARI, HDC, NCPTT, NGHA, NPL, NSU-Cammie Henry Center	2003-2004

5. Facilitate technical assistance by serving as a liaison between NPS and the local community. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Technical assistance may be available through Cane River Creole National Historical Park and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.	CARI and NCPTT (co-leads), CRNHA	Began 1999 Continuing, long-term effort
6. Provide technical assistance to landowners interested in conservation and easements.	CRNHA (lead)	Begin 2003 Continuing, long-term effort
7. Serve as facilitators/coordinators for people seeking information on water safety, erosion control, and tourism in the region. <i>Additional Notes:</i> The staff will not be the primary information providers or developers of such information, but will work with appropriate local, state, and federal organizations/government to collect and coordinate information on these and other relevant topics.	CRNHA (facilitator), local, state, and federal organizations and agencies	Begin 2003  Continuing, long-term effort
7. Discuss the technical assistance opportunities available through the NPS Southeast Regional Office. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Executive Director will meet with the Regional Director of the NPS Southeast Regional Office, the NPS Deputy Regional Director, and Executive Directors of the other national heritage areas in the Southeast Region for the discussions.	CRNHA (lead), NPS-SERO	2003

#### D. CONSERVING CULTURAL TRADITIONS

*Objective: To bring together the knowledge and expertise of local and regional specialists to explore strategies that contribute to conservation of cultural traditions of the Cane River region. This includes identifying how the different entities can contribute toward achieving these strategies.*

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Provide technical and financial support to research activities that contribute to knowledge of living traditions, including oral history and ethnography.	(See "Research")	
2. Serve as a partner in the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training heritage education initiative.	NCPTT (lead), ATCH, CRNHA, DOCRT, Louisiana educators,	Began 2000 Continuing, long-term effort
3. Contribute to the development of the Caddo Indian exhibit at the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery.	FISH and USFWS (co-leads), Adai Caddo, Caddo Nation, CRNHA	2001-2003
4. Develop criteria for providing technical and financial support of and participation in cultural events. <i>Additional Notes:</i> Cultural events could include festivals and exhibitions, and programs such as the NSU Folklife Festival, Cane River Creole National Historical Park's Feast or Famine, and the Creole Heritage Day celebration, among others.	CRNHA	2003
5. Continue participation in children's programming at the Old Courthouse Museum (a branch of the Louisiana State Museum)	Friends of the Old Courthouse Museum and Old Courthouse Museum (co-leads), CRNHA	Began 2001 Continuing, long-term effort



**E. MARKETING**

*Objective: To bring together the expertise of key organizations, agencies, and individuals to develop a multi-layered strategy for marketing the heritage tourism opportunities of the Cane River region. This includes identifying how the different entities can contribute toward achieving these strategies.*

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Develop a well-linked, integrated Web site system among heritage area partners.	CRNHA (lead), City, DOCRT, NPTC	2001-2003
2. Coordinate with NPS sites in Louisiana to increase exposure. <i>Additional Notes:</i> The three national parks and one national heritage area have combined efforts to develop new marketing tools – a new brochure, a rack card, and a trimester newsletter. The entities will meet quarterly. Future projects may include a marketing video; a shared staff position for marketing, and hiring a marketing consultant.	CARI, CRNHA, JAZZ, JELA, New Orleans Jazz Commission, (co-leads/partners)	Began 2001  Continuing, long-term effort
3. Coordinate with other agencies and organizations to include heritage area info in the development and distribution of marketing materials. <i>Additional Notes:</i> The groups listed at right represent groups that are responsible for developing, distributing, or funding materials that include tourist and retirement information.	CRNHA (lead), APHN, City (including EDC, HDC, and Main Street), Creole Center, DOCRT, HDDC, NPTC, Service League, other local organizations that develop or distribute tourist information	Began 2000 Continuing, long-term effort
4. Develop additional heritage area brochures. <i>Additional Notes:</i> As the need for additional brochures is identified, the heritage area will work with appropriate partners to develop more brochures and tourist information. Three projects are already underway. 1. Map and brochure featuring information on the heritage area and the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District. 2. A series of two-sided rack cards will be developed to provide tourist information on various aspects of Cane River culture, history, and events. 3. Laminated map and tourist information sheet will be developed to provide front-line tourist employees easily accessible information to answer tourist inquiries.	CRNHA and NPTC (co-leads), APHN, City (including EDC, HDC, and Main Street), Creole Center, DOCRT, HDBA, HDDC, Natchitoches LA Purchase Committee, and other local organizations that develop or distribute tourist information	Began 2000  Continuing, long-term effort
5. Coordinate heritage area site brochures <i>Additional Notes:</i> As sites within the heritage area move to reprint brochures, the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission is working with the managing organization for each site to coordinate logistical, factual, and interpretive content and use of the heritage area logo. The master interpretive plan will help to guide this process.	APHN, organizations/ institutions responsible for heritage tourism sites, and Service League (co-leads/partners)	Began 2002  Continuing, long-term effort
6. Explore development of a marketing strategy.	CRNHA, City, NPTC	2003 or 2004

## F. VISITOR INFORMATION AND WAYFINDING

*Objective: To improve the ability of visitors to the area to obtain information, become oriented, and find their way to desired destinations. Bring together the expertise of key organizations, agencies, and individuals to prioritize regional needs and strategize cooperative approaches to meeting these needs.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Develop two continuing education courses focusing on hospitality and docent training.	CRNHA (lead), CARI, Chamber, City (EDC and Main Street), Creole Center, heritage area sites open to the public, LA Technical College, NPTC, NSU-DSS	Begin 2002  Continuing, long-term effort
2. Participate with several other local organizations in a program called "First Impressions." <i>Additional Notes:</i> LSU Agricultural Extension Office coordinates "First Impressions." This program will result in a report that outlines tourists' perceptions of the community, and will help identify training needs that the heritage area can address. The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, the City of Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission, and the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce will share the cost of the program.	Chamber (lead), City, CRNHA, NPTC	2002
3. Improve directional and informational signs. <i>Additional Notes:</i> The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission has contracted with the Society for Environmental Design Education Program to begin a sign initiative in the heritage area. The contractor will assist the Commission to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish a series of initiatives based around established wayfinding and interpretive goals.</li> <li>b. Create sample request for proposals and request for qualifications.</li> <li>c. Develop an approval process for the Department of Transportation and Development.</li> <li>d. Create a summary for design guidelines book and slide presentation on the development of complete guidelines.</li> </ul>	CRNHA (lead), Chamber, City (EDC, Main Street), DOTD, HDBA, HDDC, heritage area sites, NPPJ, NPTC, Sheriff	2003
4. Develop an information card with map and information that frontline service providers can share easily with visitors	(see <i>Marketing #4</i> above)	2002
5. Develop additional heritage area brochures	(see <i>Marketing #4</i> above)	
6. Coordinate site brochures	(see <i>Marketing #5</i> above)	
7. Establish visitor contact facility in Derry	(see <i>Visitor Facilities #2</i> below)	

**G. INTERPRETATION**

*Objective: Bring together the expertise of key organizations, agencies, and individuals to map out strategies to implement the recently completed Interpretation Plan for the Heritage Area. This includes identifying how the different entities can contribute toward achieving these strategies.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Distribute final interpretive plan to public sites managers, historians and anthropologists, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies that have heritage area sites. Where possible, encourage/facilitate adoption of interpretive plan guidelines and suggestions.	CRNHA (lead), *APHN (Kate Chopin House and Melrose), Beau Fort Historic Site, Black Heritage Committee, CARI, Chamber, City (Main Street), C. Dormon, Creole Center, LA (Old Courthouse Museum, State Parks), LA Folklife, Magnolia Plantation House, NPTC, NSU (Cammie Henry Center, DSS)	2002
2. Convene the interpretive committee, comprised of people concerned with interpretation in the heritage area, and meet periodically to list major projects and priorities and identify strategies for accomplishing them.	CRNHA (lead), see names following asterisk above	Continuing, long-term effort
3. Develop new exhibit for the Kate Chopin House based on recommendations from the master interpretive plan. This exhibit will serve as a model for other house museums that are open to the public.	APHN and CRNHA (co-leads), NSU-(Cammie Henry Center, Old Courthouse Museum)	2002-2004
4. Explore possibilities of grants/internships to extend hours of privately owned historic sites that are open to the public.	CRNHA (lead), heritage area sites	Begin 2003 Continuing long-term effort

**H. VISITOR FACILITIES**

*Objective: To strategize approaches to developing conveniently located quality visitor service facilities in and around the heritage area. Bring together potential partners to explore possibilities and timeframes.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Plan for the joint regional visitor center.	CARI and CRNHA (co-leads/partners), Creole Center Potential partners: USFS, USFWS-Red River	2003 – begin site selection
2. Establish and maintain a Derry visitor contact facility (I-49 Exit 119)	Creole Center and CRNHA (leads), CARI, Sheriff	2002
3. Establish information presence in state DOTD rest area at Water Well Road (I-49 Exit 132)	DOTD (lead), CARI, City, CRNHA	2002-2004
4. Rehabilitate the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot as an African American heritage museum and a transportation hub. <i>Additional Notes:</i> The facility will serve as the point of debarkation for coach tour services and an intermodal transportation hub for local tourist transportation. As a major point of debarkation, the depot will be a visitor contact facility.	CRNHA (lead), Ben D. Johnson, Black Heritage Committee, CARI, City	2002-2007
5. Work with partners to identify other partners and places for visitor contact.	CRNHA (lead), Ben D. Johnson, Black Heritage Committee, CARI, City, Creole Center, DOCRT, DOTD, NPTC, Sheriff	After the visitor contact facilities listed above are established
6. Coordinate planning for recreational trails in the heritage area and city.	City (lead), CRNHA	2003-2007

**I. VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

*Objective: To improve mutual assistance between the various agencies and organizations that rely on the use of visitor service/heritage preservation volunteers. Strategize approaches to maximizing the use of area volunteers.*

Action	Partners	Time Frame
1. Establish a “friends group” to allow for broader community participation in heritage area activities. This group of volunteers will help to coordinate volunteer activities with the heritage area and other existing volunteer organizations.	CARI, CRNHAC	2003
2. Expand staff to accommodate running a volunteer program.	CRNHAC	2003-2006

**J. TRANSPORTATION**

*Objective: To strategize approaches to improving transportation options for visitors to the area and the quality of their experience as they move through the area.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Develop scenic/interpretive pull-offs on the roads adjacent to Cane River.	CRNHA (lead), DOTD, landowners and historic sites along the river roads, NPPJ, Sheriff	2003-2006
2. Rehabilitate the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot as an African American heritage museum and a transportation hub.	(see <i>Visitor Facilities #4</i> above)	
3. Work with the city to establish a transportation shuttle concession service to provide visitors with transportation that links heritage area and historic district sites.	City, CRNHA, HDDC	2006-2008
4. Pursue a scenic byway designation for the roads along Cane River.	CRNHA (lead), DOTD, landowners and historic sites along the river roads, NPPJ	2002-2007

**K. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

*Objective: To examine the current and/or future role of area agencies in the protection and interpretation of the region’s natural resources and how information/environmental education can be made available to residents and visitors.*

ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
1. Develop educational materials concerning the ecosystem of Cane River Lake.	FISH (lead), CRNHAC, USFWS	2002-2003
2. Develop information/education/assistance opportunities for the public concerning natural resources to help them manage their cultural landscape	CRNHAC, NPS, USFWS (co-leads), ATCH  Potential partner: USFS	Begin 2003 – continuing, long-term effort
3. HALS Briarwood Documentation Project	(see “ <i>Research</i> ” # 2k above)	

L. OTHER ACTIONS		
ACTION	PARTNERS	TIME FRAME
<p>1. Form a State Working Group for the heritage area, composed of top leadership from key state agencies, such as those currently represented on Atchafalaya’s Advisory Board</p> <p><i>Additional Notes:</i> The group’s main task would be to develop (within legislative and statutory boundaries) a deliberately coordinated “boundary crossing” approach for the state’s role in implementing the management plan’s strategies. The nature of the working relationship between these state agencies will vary according to the project or initiatives being undertaken. The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission will cooperate with Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area to develop such a working group.</p>	<p>CRNHA (lead), DOCRT, DOTD, other state agencies whose activities impact heritage area goals</p>	<p>Begin 2003</p>
<p>2. Periodically meet to evaluate progress made in implementing the management plan.</p> <p><i>Additional Notes:</i> The commission/management entity will examine its ongoing projects and current needs and opportunities. Based on this evaluation, the commission may designate new implementation priorities consistent with the heritage area’s establishing legislation and planning documents.</p>	<p>CRNHA (lead), all other interested partners</p>	<p>Every 2 years</p>

## Acronyms for Table 1. Implementation Program

**Adai Caddo** – Adai Caddo Indian Community  
**APHN** – Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches  
**ASLA** – American Society for Landscape Architecture  
**ATCH** – Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area  
**CARI** – Cane River Creole National Historical Park  
**Chamber** – Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce  
**City** – City of Natchitoches  
**C. Dormon** – Foundation for the Preservation of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, Inc.  
**Creole Center** – NSU Louisiana Creole Heritage Center  
**CRNHA** – Cane River National Heritage Area  
**CRNHAC** – Cane River National Heritage Area Commission  
**Ben D. Johnson** - Ben D. Johnson Educational Foundation  
**DOCRT** – State Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism  
**DOTD** – State Department of Transportation and Development  
**EDC** – City Economic Development Commission  
**FISH** – Friends in Support of the Hatchery  
**HABS** - Historic American Buildings Survey  
**HALS** - Historic American Landscapes Survey  
**HDBA** – Historic District Business Association  
**HDC** – Natchitoches Historic District Commission  
**HDDC** – Historic District Development Commission  
**JAZZ** - New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park  
**JELA** - Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve  
**LA Folklife** – Louisiana Regional Folklife Program  
**LAHP** – Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation  
**Main Street** – City Main Street Program  
**NHF** – Natchitoches Historic Foundation  
**NCPTT** – NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training  
**NGHA** - Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association  
**NPL** – Natchitoches Parish Library  
**NPPJ** - Natchitoches Parish Police Jury  
**NPTC** - Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission  
**NPS** – National Park Service  
**NPS-SERO** – National Park Service Southeast Regional Office  
**NSU** – Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
**NSU-Cammie Henry Center** – Cammie G. Henry Research Center/Watson Library  
**NSU-CRO** – NSU Cultural Resource Office  
**NSU-DSS** – NSU Department of Social Sciences  
**Old Courthouse Museum** – LA State Museum  
**Service League** – Service League of Natchitoches  
**Sheriff** – Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department  
**St. Augustine** - St. Augustine Historical Society  
**State Parks** – Louisiana State Parks (Ft. St. Jean Baptiste, Los Adaes, Ft. Jesup State Historic Sites)  
**TPL** - Trust for Public Land  
**Tulane** – Deep South Regional Humanities Center/Tulane University  
**USFS** – U.S. Forest Service  
**USFWS**- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

APPENDIXES  
AND  
GLOSSARY



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**TITLE III—CANE RIVER CREOLE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK**

Cane River  
Creole National  
Historical  
Park and  
National  
Heritage  
Area Act.  
16 USC 410ccc  
note.

**SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

Titles III and IV of this Act may be cited as the “Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area Act”.

**SEC. 302. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

16 USC 410ccc.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Natchitoches area along Cane River, established in 1714, is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory;

(2) the Cane River area is the locale of the development of Creole culture, from French-Spanish interactions of the early 18th century of today’s living communities;

(3) the Cane River, historically a segment of the Red River, provided the focal point for early settlement, serving as a transportation route upon which commerce and communication reached all parts of the colony;

(4) although a number of Creole structures, sites, and landscapes exist in Louisiana and elsewhere, unlike the Cane River area, most are isolated examples, and lack original outbuilding complexes or integrity;

(5) the Cane River area includes a great variety of historical features with original elements in both rural and urban settings and a cultural landscape that represents various aspects of Creole culture, providing the base for a holistic approach to understanding the broad continuum of history within the region;

(6) the Cane River region includes the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District, composed of approximately 300 publicly and privately owned properties, four other national historic landmarks, and other structures and sites that may meet criteria for landmark significance following further study;

(7) historic preservation within the Cane River area has greatly benefitted from individuals and organizations that have strived to protect their heritage and educate others about their rich history; and

(8) because of the complexity and magnitude of preservation needs in the Cane River area, and the vital need for a culturally sensitive approach, a partnership approach is desirable for addressing the many preservation and educational needs.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of titles III and IV of this Act are to—

(1) recognize the importance of the Cane River Creole culture as a nationally significant element of the cultural heritage of the United States;

(2) establish a Cane River Creole National Historical Park to serve as the focus of interpretive and educational programs on the history of the Cane River area and to assist in the preservation of certain historic sites along the river; and

(3) establish a Cane River National Heritage Area and Commission to be undertaken in partnership with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, local communities and settlements of the Cane River area, preservation organizations,



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and private landowners, with full recognition that programs must fully involve the local communities and landowners.

16 USC 410ccc-1. **SEC. 303. ESTABLISHMENT OF CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to assist in the preservation and interpretation of, and education concerning, the Creole culture and diverse history of the Natchitoches region, and to provide technical assistance to a broad range of public and private landowners and preservation organizations, there is hereby established the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana (hereinafter in titles III and IV of this Act referred to as the “historical park”).

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The historical park shall consist of lands and interests therein as follows:

(1) Lands and structures associated with the Oakland Plantation as depicted on map CARI, 80,002, dated January 1994.

(2) Lands and structures owned or acquired by Museum Contents, Inc. as depicted on map CARI, 80,001A, dated May 1994.

(3) Sites that may be the subject of cooperative agreements with the National Park Service for the purposes of historic preservation and interpretation including, but not limited to, the Melrose Plantation, the Badin-Rouge site, the Cherokee Plantation, the Beau Fort Plantation, and sites within the Natchitoches National Historical Landmark District: *Provided*, That such sites may not be added to the historical park unless the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) determines, based on further research and planning, that such sites meet the applicable criteria for national historical significance, suitability, and feasibility, and notification of the proposed addition has been transmitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives.

(4) Not to exceed 10 acres of land that the Secretary may designate for an interpretive visitor center complex to serve the needs of the historical park and heritage area established in title IV of this Act.

16 USC 410ccc-2. **SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this title and with provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C. 461-467). The Secretary shall manage the historical park in such a manner as will preserve resources and cultural landscapes relating to the Creole culture of the Cane River and enhance public understanding of the important cultural heritage of the Cane River region.

(b) **DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept and retain donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, or other public or private entities for the purposes of providing programs, services, facilities, or technical assistance that further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act. Any funds donated

to the Secretary pursuant to this subsection may be expended without further appropriation.

(c) **INTERPRETIVE CENTER.**—The Secretary is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain an interpretive center on lands identified by the Secretary pursuant to section 303(b)(4). Such center shall provide for the general information and orientation needs of the historical park and the heritage area. The Secretary shall consult with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, and the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission pursuant to section 402 of this Act in the planning and development of the interpretive center.

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) The Secretary, after consultation with the Cane River Heritage Area Commission established pursuant to section 402 of this Act, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with owners of properties within the heritage area and owners of properties within the historical park that provide important educational and interpretive opportunities relating to the heritage of the Cane River region. The Secretary may also enter into cooperative agreements for the purpose of facilitating the preservation of important historic sites and structures identified in the historical park's general management plan or other heritage elements related to the heritage of the Cane River region. Such cooperative agreements shall specify that the National Park Service shall have reasonable rights of access for operational and visitor use needs and that preservation treatments will meet the Secretary's standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the City of Natchitoches, the State of Louisiana, and other public or private organizations for the development of the interpretive center, educational programs, and other materials that will facilitate public use of the historical park and heritage area.

(e) **RESEARCH.**—The Secretary, acting through the National Park Service, shall coordinate a comprehensive research program on the complex history of the Cane River region, including ethnography studies of the living communities along the Cane River, and how past and present generations have adapted to their environment, including genealogical studies of families within the Cane River area. Research shall include, but not be limited to, the extensive primary historic documents within the Natchitoches and Cane River areas, and curation methods for their care and exhibition. The research program shall be coordinated with Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the National Center for Preservation of Technology and Training in Natchitoches.

#### **SEC. 305. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**

16 USC 410ccc-3.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interest therein within the boundaries of the historical park by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(b) **STATE AND LOCAL PROPERTIES.**—Lands and interests therein that are owned by the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation or exchange.

(c) **MUSEUM CONTENTS, INC.**—Lands and structures identified in section 303(b)(2) may be acquired only by donation.

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(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SITES.**—Lands and interests therein that are the subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 303(b)(3) shall not be acquired except with the consent of the owner thereof.

16 USC 410ccc-4. **SEC. 306. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Within 3 years after the date funds are made available therefor and in consultation with the Cane River Heritage Area Commission, the National Park Service shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to—

(1) a visitor use plan indicating programs and facilities that will be provided for public use, including the location and cost of an interpretive center;

(2) programs and management actions that the National Park Service will undertake cooperatively with the heritage area commission, including preservation treatments for important sites, structures, objects, and research materials. Planning shall address educational media, roadway signing, and brochures that could be coordinated with the Commission pursuant to section 403 of this Act; and

(3) preservation and use plans for any sites and structures that are identified for National Park Service involvement through cooperative agreements.

Short title.  
*Ante*, p. 4757.

## TITLE IV—CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

16 USC  
410ccc-21.

**SEC. 401. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Cane River National Heritage Area (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “heritage area”).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—In furtherance of the need to recognize the value and importance of the Cane River region and in recognition of the findings of section 302(a) of this Act, it is the purpose of this title to establish a heritage area to complement the historical park and to provide for a culturally sensitive approach to the preservation of the heritage of the Cane River region, and for other needs including—

(1) recognizing areas important to the Nation’s heritage and identity;

(2) assisting in the preservation and enhancement of the cultural landscape and traditions of the Cane River region;

(3) providing a framework for those who live within this important dynamic cultural landscape to assist in preservation and educational actions; and

(4) minimizing the need for Federal land acquisition and management.

(c) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The heritage area shall include—

(1) an area approximately 1 mile on both sides of the Cane River as depicted on map CARI, 80,000A, dated May 1994;

(2) those properties within the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District which are the subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 304(d) of this Act;

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- (3) the Los Adaes State Commemorative Area;
  - (4) the Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area;
  - (5) the Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Commemorative Area;
- and
- (6) the Kate Chopin House.

A final identification of all areas and sites to be included in the heritage area shall be included in the heritage area management plan as required in section 403.

**SEC. 402. CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION.**

16 USC  
410ccc-22.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—To assist in implementing the purposes of titles II and III of this Act and to provide guidance for the management of the heritage area, there is established the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of 19 members to be appointed no later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this title. The Commission shall be appointed by the Secretary as follows—

- (1) one member from recommendations submitted by the Mayor of Natchitoches;
- (2) one member from recommendations submitted by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches;
- (3) one member from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, Inc.;
- (4) two members with experience in and knowledge of tourism in the heritage area from recommendations submitted by local business and tourism organizations;
- (5) one member from recommendations submitted by the Governor of the State of Louisiana;
- (6) one member from recommendations submitted by the Police Jury of Natchitoches Parish;
- (7) one member from recommendations submitted by the Concern Citizens of Cloutierville;
- (8) one member from recommendations submitted by the St. Augustine Historical Society;
- (9) one member from recommendations submitted by the Black Heritage Committee;
- (10) one member from recommendations submitted by the Los Adaes/Robeline Community;
- (11) one member from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Historic District Commission;
- (12) one member from recommendations submitted by the Cane River Waterway Commission;
- (13) two members who are landowners in and residents of the heritage area;
- (14) one member with experience and knowledge of historic preservation from recommendations submitted by the Museum Contents, Inc.;
- (15) one member with experience and knowledge of historic preservation from recommendations submitted by the President of Northwestern State University of Louisiana;
- (16) one member with experience in and knowledge of environmental, recreational and conservation matters affecting the heritage area from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Sportsmans Association and other local recreational and environmental organizations; and

(17) the director of the National Park Service, or the Director's designee, ex officio.

(c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the heritage area in consultation with the National Park Service, the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, interested groups, property owners, and the public;

(2) consult with the Secretary on the preparation of the general management plan for the historical park;

(3) develop cooperative agreements with property owners, preservation groups, educational groups, the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, universities, and tourism groups, and other groups to further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and

(4) identify appropriate entities, such as a non-profit corporation, that could be established to assume the responsibilities of the Commission following its termination.

(d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—In furtherance of the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act, the Commission is authorized to—

(1) procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent that is authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates determined by the Commission to be reasonable;

(2) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof, and may reimburse the State or political subdivision for such services;

(3) upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties;

(4) appoint and fix the compensation of such staff as may be necessary to carry out its duties. Staff shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

(5) enter into cooperative agreements with public or private individuals or entities for research, historic preservation, and education purposes;

(6) make grants to assist in the preparation of studies that identify, preserve, and plan for the management of the heritage area;

(7) notwithstanding any other provision of law, seek and accept donations of funds or services from individuals, foundations, or other public or private entities and expend the same for the purposes of providing services and programs in furtherance of the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act;

(8) assist others in developing educational, informational, and interpretive programs and facilities;

(9) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission may consider appropriate; and

(10) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments or agencies of the United States.

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(e) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service on the Commission. While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **CHAIRMAN.**—The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members. The term of the chairman shall be for 3 years.

(g) **TERMS.**—The terms of Commission members shall be for 3 years. Any member of the Commission appointed by the Secretary for a 3-year term may serve after expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(h) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Secretary identifying its expenses and any income, the entities to which any grants or technical assistance were made during the year for which the report is made, and actions that are planned for the following year.

#### SEC. 403. PREPARATION OF THE PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 3 years after the Commission conducts its first meeting, it shall prepare and submit a heritage area management plan to the Governor of the State of Louisiana. The Governor shall, if the Governor approves the plan, submit it to the Secretary for review and approval. The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to the Commission in the preparation and implementation of the plan, in concert with actions by the National Park Service to prepare a general management plan for the historical park. The plan shall consider local government plans and shall present a unified heritage preservation and education plan for the heritage area. The plan shall include, but not be limited to—

(1) an inventory of important properties and cultural landscapes that should be preserved, managed, developed, and maintained because of their cultural, natural, and public use significance;

(2) an analysis of current land uses within the area and how they affect the goals of preservation and public use of the heritage area;

(3) an interpretive plan to address the cultural and natural history of the area, and actions to enhance visitor use. This element of the plan shall be undertaken in consultation with the National Park Service and visitor use plans for the historical park;

(4) recommendations for coordinating actions by local, State, and Federal governments within the heritage area, to further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and

(5) an implementation program for the plan including desired actions by State and local governments and other involved groups and entities.

(b) **APPROVAL OF THE PLAN.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove the plan within 90 days after receipt of the plan from the Commission. The Commission shall notify the Secretary of

16 USC  
410ccc-23.

Technical  
assistance.

108 STAT. 4764

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the status of approval by the Governor of Louisiana when the plan is submitted for review and approval. In determining whether or not to approve the plan the Secretary shall consider—

(1) whether the Commission has afforded adequate opportunity, including public meetings and hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the plan; and

(2) whether reasonable assurances have been received from the State and local governments that the plan is supported and that the implementation program is feasible.

(c) **DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN.**—If the Secretary disapproves the plan, he shall advise the Commission in writing of the reasons for disapproval, and shall provide recommendations and assistance in the revision plan. Following completion of any revisions to the plan, the Commission shall resubmit the plan to the Governor of Louisiana for approval, and to the Secretary, who shall approve or disapprove the plan within 90 days after the date that the plan is revised.

16 USC  
410ccc-24.

**SEC. 404. TERMINATION OF HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION.**

(a) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on the day occurring 10 years after the first official meeting of the Commission.

(b) **EXTENSION.**—The Commission may petition to be extended for a period of not more than 5 years beginning on the day referred to in subsection (a), provided the Commission determines a critical need to fulfill the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and the Commission obtains approval from the Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of Louisiana.

(c) **HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**—The national heritage area status for the Cane River region shall continue following the termination of the Commission. The management plan, and partnerships and agreements subject to the plan shall guide the future management of the heritage area. The Commission, prior to its termination, shall recommend to the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the Secretary, appropriate entities, including the potential for a nonprofit corporation, to assume the responsibilities of the Commission.

16 USC  
410ccc-25.

**SEC. 405. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activities directly affecting the heritage area shall—

(1) consult with the Secretary and the Commission with respect to implementation of their proposed actions; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate such activities with the Commission to minimize potential impacts on the resources of the heritage area.

16 USC  
410ccc-26.

**SEC. 406. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out titles III and IV of this Act.

Approved November 2, 1994.

**APPENDIX B: INVENTORY OF IMPORTANT PROPERTIES AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES,  
NATCHITOCHE PARISH AND VICINITY**

The following inventory of resources is based on available information about important properties and cultural landscapes in Natchitoches Parish that are associated with the heritage of the Cane River region. The primary data sources are the National Register of Historic Places; the “Cane River Creole [sic] National Heritage Area: Cultural Landscape Inventory and Assessment (NPS 1997)”;  
*the National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment: El Camino Real de los Tejas, Texas, Louisiana* (NPS 1998c); and the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District nomination. This is the best available data at this point in time. Additional work is necessary to develop a complete inventory. In 1992, the Division of Historic Preservation of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

completed a survey of structures in Natchitoches Parish that were 50 years old or more. This lengthy survey listed a number of structures but did not document their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This survey needs to be updated and, for those sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, nomination forms need to be completed. Also, many of the properties currently listed on the National Register need further evaluation and documentation of their cultural landscape component. Further, there may be a number of archeological remains in the heritage area, particularly of early tobacco and indigo plantations. Full surveys have not been completed.

**Table B-1. National Register of Historic Places Sites**

<b>SITE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Alumni Center (former president’s home), Northwestern State University	College Avenue, Natchitoches
Badin-Roque House	1996 Highway 484, Natchez
Beau Fort Plantation (Narcisse Prud’homme Plantation)	4078 Highway 494, Natchez
Cane River Creole National Historical Park Oakland Plantation (Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud’homme Plantation)* Magnolia Plantation Unit*	4386 Highway 494, Natchez  5487 Highway 119, Natchez
Carnahan Store	372 Highway 495, Cloutierville
Caspiana Plantation Store	1300 Texas Street, Natchitoches
Cedar Bend Plantation	LA 119, Natchez
Cherokee Plantation	3110 Highway 494, Natchitoches
Chopin, Kate, House*(Alexis Cloutier House, Bayou Folk Museum)	243 Highway 485, Cloutierville
Church of St. Anne	4310 Highway 485, Robeline
City Hotel	Junction of LA 120 and Rains Avenue, Marthaville
Ft. Jesup*	32 Geoghagan Road, Many
Jones House	LA 484 along Cane River, Melrose
Keegan House	225 Williams Avenue, Natchitoches
Keegan House	143 Chapin Loop, Robeline
Los Adaes*	6354 Highway 485, Robeline
Los Adaes (Boundary Increase)*	0.5 mile north of LA 6 north of Robeline
Madame Aubin Roque House	1 Rue Beau Port



SITE	LOCATION
Melrose Plantation*	LA 119 off LA 493, Melrose
Natchitoches Historic District *	Roughly bounded by 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , Jefferson, and Pavie Streets and Williams and College Avenue, Natchitoches
Natchitoches Historic District (Boundary Increase)*	Natchitoches
Normal Hill Historic District	Northwestern State University campus, Natchitoches
Oaklawn Plantation	2966 Highway 494, Natchitoches
Robieau Plantation (Carrol Jones House/Refuge Plantation)	LA 484 along Cane River Lake, Melrose vicinity
Robeline Methodist Church	Texas Street, LA 6, Robeline
Stoker House	LA 6 near Fort Jesup (Sabine Parish)
Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot	Sixth/Seventh Street, Natchitoches
Women’s Gymnasium, Northwestern State University	College Avenue, Natchitoches

\*National Historic Landmark

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPES**

The cultural landscape inventory prepared by the National Park Service in 1997 identified and evaluated significant properties and landscapes within Natchitoches Parish that contribute to the comprehensive understanding of the heritage of the Cane River region. This inventory is only a first step and does not provide the detailed analysis, mapping, and recommended treatments that should be conducted subsequently in cultural landscape reports. The seven distinct cultural landscape areas inventoried are defined by physiographic and/or historic property lines. They are listed below and illustrated on the Cultural Landscape Areas map.

- Cane River Corridor (Cane River Lake and lower Cane River)
- Cloutierville Area
- Isle Brevelle Community
- Little River Community
- Old Spanish Lake Lowlands
- Old River Community
- Red River Agricultural Lands

Other important landscapes of a smaller scale that were also listed (but not mapped) in this inventory were those associated with the following resources:

- Briarwood Nature Preserve
- Adai Caddo Indian Community (in the vicinity of the Spanish Lake Lowlands)
- Campiti (railroad town)
- Drake Salt Works (outside the parish)
- Flora (railroad town)
- Fort Jesup
- Kisatchie National Forest (including Melrose overlook)
- Los Adaes
- Marco area
- Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District
- Robeline (railroad town)

The inventory further identified 13 properties along the Cane River that have the most intact cultural landscape resources that help illustrate the plantation era. They are as follows:

- Badin-Roque House
- Beau Fort Plantation (Narcisse Prud’homme Plantation)
- Cherokee Plantation (Sompayarac Plantation)
- Kate Chopin House (Alexis Cloutier House)
- Little Eva Plantation (Chopin Plantation)
- Magnolia Plantation (including Magnolia Unit, Cane River Creole National Historical Park)
- Melrose Plantation

Oakland-Atahoe Plantation (Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation) (Oakland Unit, Cane River Creole National Historical Park)  
 Oaklawn Plantation (Achille Prud'homme Plantation)  
 St. Charles Church  
 St. Augustine Church  
 St. Augustine Church on Little River  
 St. Mary's Baptist Church on Little River

The cultural landscape inventory mentioned many other associated structures that are not on the national register but contribute to the historic character of the heritage area. Some of these are as follows:

Lambre Cotton Gin  
 Rachal House  
 St. Matthews Baptist Church and School

**EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS AND THE OLD SAN ANTONIO ROAD**

Congress directed the National Park Service to undertake the *National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment: El Camino Real de los Tejas, Texas, Louisiana* that was completed in 1998. This study determined that the El Camino Real de los Tejas and the Old San Antonio Road were suitable and feasible to be designated as national historic trails, if so authorized by Congress. Both of these routes terminated in the vicinity of Natchitoches, thereby contributing to the area's importance as a transportation crossroads. For the most part, both routes follow LA 6 and pass through or near Fort Jesup, Los Adaes, and into the city of Natchitoches.

**NATCHITOCHEs NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT**

The historic city of Natchitoches has been designated the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District. This district contains over 100 buildings and places of interest situated along and near the banks of the Cane River. This town played a significant role in the Cane River story. The district was an important

transportation crossroads as well as the commercial and political center of the parish. It contains historic town homes, stores, churches, and other public buildings that served the needs of the plantations. Currently, the following structures are listed as contributing to significance of the historic landmark district. The boundaries of the district could be amended in the future to include additional resources.

115 Amulet Street  
 120 Amulet Street, Chamard House  
 121 Amulet Street  
 131 Amulet Street  
 314 Amulet Street  
 145 Church Street, Bishop Martin's Residence, St. Joseph's College, Catholic Rectory  
 210 College Avenue  
 216 College Avenue  
 115 Cypress Avenue  
 118 Cypress Avenue  
 127 Cypress Avenue  
 133 Cypress Avenue  
 136 Cypress Avenue  
 139 Cypress Avenue  
 145 Cypress Avenue  
 146 Cypress Avenue  
 149 Cypress Avenue  
 150 Cypress Avenue  
 165 Cypress Avenue  
 169 Cypress Avenue  
 225 Demeziere Street  
 310 Demeziere Street  
 321 Demeziere Street  
 512 Front Street  
 524 Front Street  
 550 Front Street, DeBlieux Building  
 558 – 560 Front Street, Opera House  
 582 Front Street  
 600-602 Front Street  
 608 Front Street  
 612 Front Street  
 616 Front Street  
 624 Front Street  
 626 Front Street  
 720 Front Street, Prud'homme Building  
 732 Front Street, Blanchard Building  
 744 Front Street, Cloutier Townhouses  
 758 Front Street, Kaffie-Fredericks Hardware  
 780 Front Street  
 130 Horn Street  
 142 Jefferson Street

146 Jefferson Street, Dranguet House  
 150 Jefferson Street  
 170 Jefferson Street, Nelken House  
 200 Jefferson Street, Steamboat House  
 230 Jefferson Street  
 240 Jefferson Street, Soldini House  
 300 Jefferson Street  
 310 Jefferson Street, Lemee House  
 320 Jefferson Street, Taylor House  
 332 Jefferson Street, Rusca House  
 358 Jefferson Street, Levy House  
 366 Jefferson Street  
 416 Jefferson Street  
 424 Jefferson Street, Tante Huppe' House  
 436 Jefferson Street, Prud'homme-Rouquier  
     House  
 448 Jefferson Street, Kaffie House  
 318 Nelken Street  
 116 Pine Street  
 125 Pine Street, Greene House  
 200 Pine Street  
 201 Pine Street  
 207 Pine Street, Plauche House  
 202 Poete Street  
 208 Poete Street  
 225 Poete Street, Laureate House  
 329 Poete Street  
 220 Ragan Street  
 129-133 St. Denis Street  
 141 St. Denis Street  
 240 St. Denis Street  
 313 Second Street  
 317 Second Street  
 321 Second Street  
 329 Second Street  
 336 Second Street  
 339 Second Street  
 422 Second Street  
 428 Second Street  
 434 Second Street, Chaplin House  
 533 Second Street  
 550 Second Street, Cunningham Law Offices  
 600 Second Street, Old Courthouse  
 605 Second Street, Immaculate Conception  
     Catholic Church  
 613 Second Street  
 617-619 Second Street  
 622 Second Street  
 630 Second Street  
 801 Second Street  
 824 Second Street  
 840 Second Street  
 846 Second Street  
 852 Second Street  
 119 Sidney Street  
 202 Sidney Street  
 203 Sidney Street  
 211 Sidney Street  
 215 Sidney Street  
 812 Third Street  
 825 Third Street  
 833 Third Street  
 301 Touline Street  
 307 Touline Street  
 315 Touline Street  
 116 Trudeau Street  
 137 Trudeau Street  
 804 Washington Street, Sompayrac Building  
 843 Washington Street  
 869 Washington Street  
 874 Washington Street, Unter House  
 901 Washington Street  
 902 Washington Street, Magnolias  
 907 Washington Street  
 917 Washington Street  
 927 Washington Street, Tauzin House  
 983 Washington Street

## APPENDIX C: FUTURE PLANS AND STUDIES NEEDED

The development of a management plan is the first planning step for Cane River National Heritage Area; it sets the overall vision and direction for the heritage area and identifies future planning needs. To implement aspects of this management plan, more research and information will be necessary to support efforts to preserve cultural landscapes and resources, conserve living cultures and traditions, and ensure that accurate information is used in interpretive and educational programming. Some research has been completed or is underway by federal, state, and local agencies as well as the private sector. Part of the goal of the heritage area is to continue to foster cooperation and partnerships with academic institutions and individual scholars to help accomplish this research.

The following studies, which are not listed in priority order, will probably be needed at some time in the future to fully implement this management plan and achieve the legislative mandate for this area. This list is not necessarily comprehensive, and other studies may be needed that are not shown here.

### ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

#### **Ethnographic Overview and Assessment**

This basic document emphasizes the review and analysis of accessible archival and documentary data on the heritage area's ethnographic resources and the groups that traditionally define such cultural and natural features as significant to their ethnic heritage and cultural viability. A professional cultural anthropologist would conduct site visits, limited interviews, and discussions with traditionally associated people to supplement and assess the documentary evidence and identify gaps in the available data.

#### **Cultural Affiliation Study**

This study would examine the heritage area's relationship to those people that lived in it historically. This study would help define the association of the American Indian groups with the heritage area.

#### **Ethnographic Landscape Study and Ethnographic Resource Inventory**

This would be a field study to identify and describe the names, locations, distributions, and meanings of ethnographic landscape features. It could be combined with the cultural landscape studies or the ethnographic overview and assessment. Community members would be involved in site visits and ethnographic interviews. This study would assist in the identification of cultural landscapes and the management of these landscapes.

#### **Traditional Use Study**

This study would identify groups traditionally associated with heritage area resources. This field study would be conducted by a professional cultural anthropologist and would involve community members in site visits and interviews. Oral history would be one technique that could be used in this study.

### HISTORICAL RESEARCH

#### **Oral Histories**

An oral history program could capture a great deal of information about the lives and traditions of people who lived in the region during the early 1900s. This is a very time-dependent area of research.

### **Cultural Landscape Report**

This is the primary guide to treatment and use of a cultural landscape. The report documents and evaluates landscape evolution, including features, materials, and qualities that make a landscape culturally significant, and it makes treatment recommendations. It could be an interdisciplinary study that would identify both ethnographic and technological values of the landscape.

### **Other Historical Research**

As gaps in information regarding the history of the area or specific sites are identified, additional research may be needed and may take the form of historic resource reports, historic structure reports, etc. This documentation may be needed to develop a sensitive protection strategy for a structure or landscape, to prepare nominations of sites to the National Register of Historic Places, to develop accurate and informative interpretive programs and tours, etc.

### **ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

In addition to the above research needs, there is a substantial research gap in regard to archeological resources in the heritage area. With the exception of the historic site excavations at the Badin-Roque house and the more recent excavations at Oakland and Magnolia Plantations, little archeological investigation has been conducted in the Cane River National Heritage Area. The completion of archeological research would provide much needed knowledge in regard to the heritage area's cultural resources and enhance the visitor experience with a wider range of opportunities for appreciating the heritage area. The following projects would help to meet this deficiency.

#### **Prehistoric Archeology**

Of the 12,000 or so years of human occupation in Louisiana, little is known about the first

11,800 years of this period in the heritage area. Geomorphic changes in the Cane River area could easily have buried early prehistoric sites under several meters of alluvium. If so, these early sites are protected from most current land modification activities, but any deep disturbance of alluvial deposits should be monitored for these early archeological remains. There is a need for intensive survey in the Old River and Little River drainages because these natural levees are not buried by as much alluvium as other areas. The mounds at Melrose Plantation also need to be tested.

#### **Historic American Indian Settlements**

An early historic trading post was in Natchitoches, and several American Indian settlements were in the Natchitoches vicinity. Burials have been recovered from several of these sites, but little is known about the villages and campsites. Efforts should be made to identify all of the archeological sites associated with these Natchitoches groups. Once located, efforts should be made to test the sites for structural remains to augment the burial data. The 19th century Natchitoches Indian village needs to be found and tested. The sites and the locations of structures associated with trading, such as the "American Factory," need to be found and tested. These may be outside of the heritage area, but they are important to understanding the history of the area.

#### **Early French Settlement**

Archeological sites related to the early French Colonial inhabitants of Natchitoches and the surrounding area (the ranches and farms) need to be tested. Published information on these sites is sparse.

#### **Early Indigo and Tobacco Plantations**

Early maps show several indigo plantations in the heritage area. Very little is known about these plantations. Although there are no aboveground remains of these early agricultural industries, good archival

information is available, and archeological investigations should be done to locate these sites. Only one site, the Marie Therese Coin-Coin house, has been tested at all, and this site has been tested very little.

### **Cotton Plantations and Upland Sites**

Cotton was an important cash crop during most of the antebellum period. In the heritage area large cotton plantations predominated along Cane River. There is a growing amount of archeological information about these plantations, especially at Oakland and Magnolia Plantations (Cane River Creole National Historical Park). There is less information available about the smaller farms and plantations.

Also important to understanding the area, but not directly within the heritage area itself, are the remains of log houses, barns, smokehouses, saltworks, and other features of the poorer upland farmers of the area. “Peckwood” sawmills, syrup mills, pottery kilns, and other “folk” industrial sites in the upland area should be investigated, as well as the large and small farms and plantations in the valley.

### **Postbellum Cotton Plantations**

After the Civil War, plantation stores developed and the industrial/processing complexes changed. Large plantation store sites exist along Cane River, but there has been little archeological investigation with the exception of the store at Magnolia Plantation. Also, the postbellum sawmills at Montrose and Cypress had a big impact on the region, but little is known about the industrial archeology of the sawmill towns and the mills themselves. There is considerable documentation available to facilitate this archeological research.

### **Other Archeological Research**

The following topics deserve more research:

1. The history and archeology of the Creole houses.
2. Forts Jesup, Claiborne, Selden, and Salubrity – these earliest of the American western forts have been badly treated and almost totally neglected. More work in the vicinity of Los Adaes would also be important.
3. Boat wrecks in the Red and Cane Rivers should be identified and recorded. At least two sites are known.
4. The city of Natchitoches needs a systematic archeological survey to identify the location of the more important archeological parts of the city.

## APPENDIX D: INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Each heritage area site has stories to tell that tie into the different chapters of the region's history. Collectively, these stories tell a compelling story of a delicate and evolving relationship between different cultures and the landscape. It is a personal story, a family story, a community story, and a national story. Woven through these stories are the themes that link the essential related elements of each story. Themes become the broad unifying concepts about the area and form the foundation of interpretative programs and media. Themes provide guidance to the various organizations and agencies within the heritage area about the resources that best illustrate these themes and are necessary to ensure that visitors gain a full understanding and appreciation for the vast history of the area, the culture of the people, and their relationship with the landscape.

The following interpretive themes were developed by the commission, with some revisions to reflect public comment. These themes are not intended to be a comprehensive listing of the many individual stories or potential interpretive or educational program titles.

### THE FRONTIER

As the oldest permanent European settlement within the Louisiana Purchase territory, the people and community of Natchitoches represent the history of the frontier. Not only was the area frontier to the French and Spanish, but also later to Americans moving west. The frontier had a very different meaning to the Choctaw, Caddo, Coushatta, Apalachee, Chitimacha, Tunica-Biloxi, and Houma Indians and their story, as well as that of European and United States settlement, needs to be told.

### CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Despite the seeming isolation of the people in the Cane River region, they were not immune to national political or economic issues and could not avoid involvement in the Civil War and the subsequent destruction or deny the changes that would result from the war.

### CANE RIVER CULTURE

The Cane River region has served as a cultural crossroads for four distinct groups (American Indian, French, Spanish, and African) as well as other peoples. Their interaction resulted in a diverse Creole culture, which is characterized by strong religious and family bonds, cross-cultural lifeways, distinctive architecture, and an intimate relationship with the landscape.

### THE RIVER

A diversity of cultures have thrived within the changing dynamics of the Cane River region's natural environment and acclimated to the changing course of the Red River. This theme would take in the entire area's ecosystem and the interrelated natural and human components as well as the forested uplands, diverse land/ water patterns and the ways of life they support.

### ARCHITECTURE

The Cane River region has numerous excellent examples of vernacular architecture influenced by French, Spanish, African, and American Indian cultures. A large number of historic structures have been maintained in or restored to their original condition. In the present, the cultural integrity of architecture in the region remains intact. Many historic structures are occupied by descendants of the people that originally constructed or owned them, demonstrating up to 10 generations of cultural

continuity for heritage and traditions along Cane River.

### **LEGENDS AND STORIES**

The unique culture of the Creole people and the history of the Cane River area are reflected in many legends and stories.

### **ISLE BREVELLE COMMUNITY**

Marie Therese Coin-Coin and her family and descendants portray the unique social and economic history of the Isle Brevelle Creole community.

### **PLANTATION SYSTEM**

The prominence of the plantation culture and the significance at first of tobacco and indigo and later the cotton economy in the Cane River region is reflected in the abundant collection and preservation of many preserved historic plantation landscapes, structures and artifacts, as well as the historic agricultural land use of the region.

### **RECREATION**

The natural environment of the Cane River Region provided, and continues to offer, a diversity of recreational and sporting activities, which have become characteristic forms of pleasure and subsistence for the community.



## GLOSSARY

*Advisory Council on Historic Preservation* – An independent federal agency with statutory authority to: review and comment on federal actions affecting properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; advise the president and Congress on historic preservation matters; and recommend measures to coordinate activities of federal, state, and local agencies. Its members include cabinet-level representatives from federal agencies and presidential appointees from outside the federal government.

*Cultural Landscapes* – A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

*Cultural Resource* – An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource might be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the National Register of Historic Places and as archeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources.

*Fee Simple Ownership* – A category of landownership in which one person or agency owns all the rights associated with a parcel of land, in contrast to less-than-fee ownership.

*Easement* — A right afforded a property owner to make limited use of another property owner’s real property. The landowner is reserved all rights and privileges that do not interfere with or abridge this right. The easement may be permanent or occasional.

*Environmental Assessment (EA)* – A concise public document prepared by a federal agency to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The document contains sufficient analysis to

determine whether the proposed action (1) constitutes a major action adversely affecting the quality of the human environment, thereby requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, or (2) does not constitute such an action, resulting in a “Finding of No Significant Impact” being issued.

*Ethnographic Resources* – A site, structure, object, landscape, or natural resource feature assigned legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it.

*Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)* – A public document that briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a major adverse impact on the human environment, and therefore will not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

*Historic District* – A geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, link, or continuity of sites, landscapes, structures, or objects, united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical developments. A district may also be composed of individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.

*Historic Site* — The site of a significant event, prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or structure or landscape whether extant or vanished, where the site itself has historical, cultural, or archeological value apart from the value of any existing structure or landscape.

*National Historic Landmark (NHL)* – These are districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects found to possess national significance in illustrating or representing the prehistory and history of the United States. National historic landmarks are designated by the secretary of the interior. Other than inclusion in the national park system, landmark designation is the federal government’s only official designation of national significance of a historic property.

*National Register of Historic Places* – The comprehensive list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, regional, state, and local significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture kept by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

*Orientation Facility* – A place where visitors generally start a visit by getting general information about the heritage area, including what there is to do and see and where things are.

*Preservation* – The act or process of applying measures to sustain the form, integrity, and material of a building or structure, landscape, or object. Work may include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally focuses upon the ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of

historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work.

*Rehabilitation* – The act or process of returning a property to use by repair or alteration; preserves portions or features that are significant to historical, architectural, and cultural values.

*Visitor Center* – This structure would include the functions of an orientation facility and adds educational devices such as exhibits, programs, and other media that would interpret the heritage area’s significance. This building could contain administrative functions.

*Viewshed* – The area that can be seen from a particular location, including near or distant views.

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Introduction – African House at Melrose Plantation

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Plan Implementation – St. Augustine Catholic Church

Appendixes and Glossary – Oakland Plantation

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