



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FORT JESUP, KITCHEN BUILDING PRESERVATION & ENGINEERING PLAN SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

This Request for Proposals (RFP) invites responses from qualified, experienced professionals interested in submitting proposals for a preservation and engineering plan of the Fort Jesup Kitchen in Sabine Parish. The purpose of the study will be to assess the feasibility of preserving the structure for future interpretation and educational opportunities.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., a non-profit organization that manages the congressionally designated Cane River National Heritage Area. Its mission is to preserve and promote the cultural and natural resources of Cane River and encourage economic development by strengthening heritage tourism in the region.

Submittal Deadline:

January 7, 2021, 3:00 PM (Central)

Submit RFP Package to:

Rebecca Blankenbaker

Executive Director
Cane River National Heritage Area
1115 Washington St
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Rebecca@CaneRiverNHA.org
318-356-5555

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I FORT JESUP BACKGROUND

Fort Jesup, a state historic site, was built in 1822, 22 miles west of Natchitoches, to protect the United States border with Spain and return order to the Neutral Strip. The Neutral Strip was created after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, from which arose a disagreement about the location of the border between the U.S. and Spanish territories. To avoid a war, the two countries agreed that the disputed land would remain neutral and free of armed forces from either side. This region stretched from the Sabine River to the Arroyo Hondo and encompassed the land that now makes up the modern Sabine Parish. The Neutral Strip remained devoid of government and law enforcement until the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 finally set the border at the Sabine River.

Future U.S. President General Zachary Taylor was in charge of Fort Jesup for the entire time it was active. He quickly subdued the Neutral Strip, gaining experience and popularity. His forces, known as the Army of Observation, remained in the fort and monitored the Texas territory as it passed from Spanish to Mexican control, and finally broke away as an independent republic. Taylor's army participated in the Mexican War of 1846, gaining popularity for Taylor to propel his political career.

After the United States won the Mexican War and gained control of Texas, Fort Jesup was rendered unnecessary. The fort was officially evacuated in 1846 and was allowed to deteriorate. In the 1930s, the only remaining building at Fort Jesup was the kitchen. Residents of the nearby town of Many raised money to restore the building and turned the area into a park. The site was acquired by the Louisiana Office of State Parks in 1956, and in 1961, the fort was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Since then, the kitchen has been restored and decorated with historically accurate furniture. An officer's quarter has been reconstructed and now serves as a museum.

The kitchen mess hall is the only historic structure remaining on the 22-acre compound. The kitchen served 20-25 men who were housed in the adjacent quarters. Historically, cooking took place in a detached building to reduce the danger of fire. Square timbers laid atop one another with "waterproof" slanted interlocking joints at the corners. The fireplace is made of stone and has a 7 & 1/2 foot opening at the hearth.

Fort Jesup, a State Historic Site and a [National Historic Landmark](#), is located about 30 minutes

2 PROJECT VISION

CRNHA's vision for this project (hereafter referred to as 'the Project') focuses on preserving the historic Fort Jesup Kitchen, following the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. The plan will address deferred maintenance, including the need for in-kind replacement of a wood shake roof on the kitchen, a site drainage plan to direct water away from the kitchen foundation, in-kind replacement of rotted wood beams and sill plates, and the removal of downed limbs and hazard trees. Once completed, the plan will identify a phased approach to addressing the deferred maintenance, which can be used to prioritize funding to complete the work.

Funding a preservation & engineering plan will be the first step in saving this unique structure and enhancing tourism within the area. The study will include inspections by a team of preservation engineers to determine the level of deterioration, stabilization recommendations, cost estimates, and phasing to restore the kitchen. All findings and recommendations will be compiled in a draft and final report. CRNHA, the LA Office of State Parks, the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission, and the Sabine Parish Government will use the final report to raise funds to carry out the repairs.

3 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORT

CRNHA recognizes that successful preservation of the Fort Jesup Kitchen requires coordination with and support from numerous local and federal agencies including Sabine Parish, Louisiana Office of State Parks, and local stakeholders. CRNHA will be responsible for this coordination during both this proposal process and throughout the preservation study.

4 SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSAL

RFP Submittals

Professionals and teams interested in submitting a proposal for this project should include the following in their response.

- **Letter of Approach** – The letter of approach shall include a project description and project budget, including:
 - *Project Description / Project Understanding Statement* - Describe project, the scope of work, and any other details that might help the review team better understand how you intend to complete the project. Also, include any special skills and innovative thinking that the team would bring to the project.
 - *Development Budget* – Include budget (hard and soft costs) for completing the engineering/feasibility study. The total budget should not exceed \$25,000.
- **Statement of Qualifications** – The statement of qualifications shall include the following sections:
 - *Project Team and Demonstrated Expertise, Experience, and Knowledge* - For each firm, please include:
 - Firm name, business address, telephone number, email contact, and year established
 - State in which the firm was organized and incorporated and confirmation that the firm is licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana.
 - Type of ownership, and name and location of parent company and subsidiaries, if any.
 - The number of full-time employees. Part-time employees or consultants routinely engaged by the proposer may be included if clearly identified as such. Rate sheet for firms' employees for 2020.
 - *A description of the specific expertise, skills and services the firm offers.*
 - *Project Samples* - Descriptions detailing up to three completed projects that are similar or relevant to the proposed scope of work. Applicants are encouraged to provide graphic representations of and/or links to relevant projects.
 - *Additional Information* - Provide other information relevant to the applicant's abilities to complete the work outlined in this RFP successfully.

Submittal Requirements

In order to be considered, all submissions must comply with the following requirements:

- Completed responses must be received by Rebecca Blankenbaker by **3:00 PM Central time, January 7, 2021** at the email address listed on Page 1 of this RFP. All Proposals must be received by CRNHA no later than the deadline. Proposals and/or modifications received after this time will not be accepted or reviewed.
- Submittals must not exceed 30 sheets (60 pages as a double sided document) and all pages should be numbered sequentially.
- All submissions must be submitted electronically as a single PDF document attached to an email. The email title should include: "RFP for Fort Jesup Kitchen"
- Faxed and hard copy proposals **will not** be accepted.

Evaluation & Selection Process

All submissions will be evaluated by an in-house review and selection committee whose members will likely include relevant staff from the Cane River National Heritage Area and the Louisiana Office of State Parks.

The selection process begins with the receipt of this RFP submittal. Applicants will receive a confirmation email once their submittal is received. Within a reasonable period of time after receipt, CRNHA shall select the successful respondent(s) based on qualifications. If negotiations with the selected project team are unsuccessful, CRNHA may begin negotiations with the next highest-ranked team. CRNHA reserves the right to accept the entire proposal or a part of the proposal.

Questions

Direct all questions regarding this RFP to Rebecca@canerivernha.org. **Questions will be accepted until noon on December 18, 2020**, to ensure all parties have adequate time to review the answers.

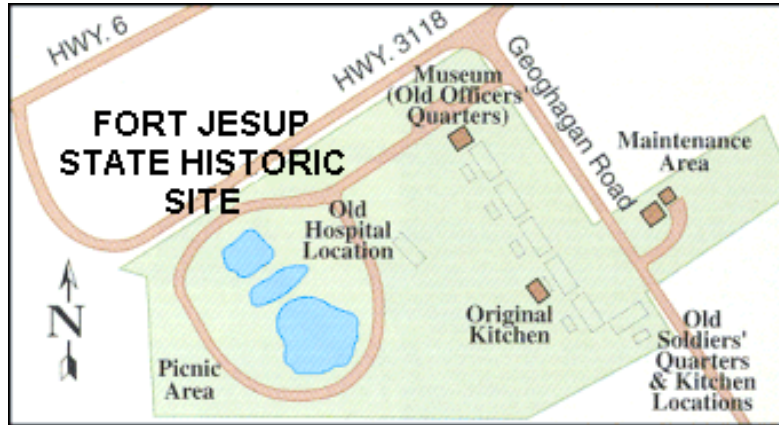
Anticipated Schedule

It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded no later than February 2021, with the bulk of the work to take place in the months following the award. A draft report is anticipated in May 2021, with a final report no later than July 2021. Teams should acknowledge their understanding of and ability to meet this schedule in their response to this RFP.

Other Terms

- CRNHA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses to this RFP, with or without cause. All decisions related to this solicitation by the Heritage Area will be final.
- CRNHA reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and request additional details of one or more respondents.
- Costs for preparing the RFP in response to this request are solely the responsibility of the respondent. All materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of CRNHA and will not be returned to the respondent.
- This solicitation in no way obligates CRNHA to award a contract. CRNHA reserves the right to amend/terminate the agreement with written notice.
- Equal Opportunity – The selection of consultant shall be made without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or political affiliation. CRNHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages proposals from qualified minority and women-owned businesses.
- All contracts with Cane River National Heritage Area will be in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

5 EXHIBITS



Fort Jesup State Historic Site – Site Map



Fort Jesup Kitchen from above, 2017.
Courtesy: Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation (LTHP).



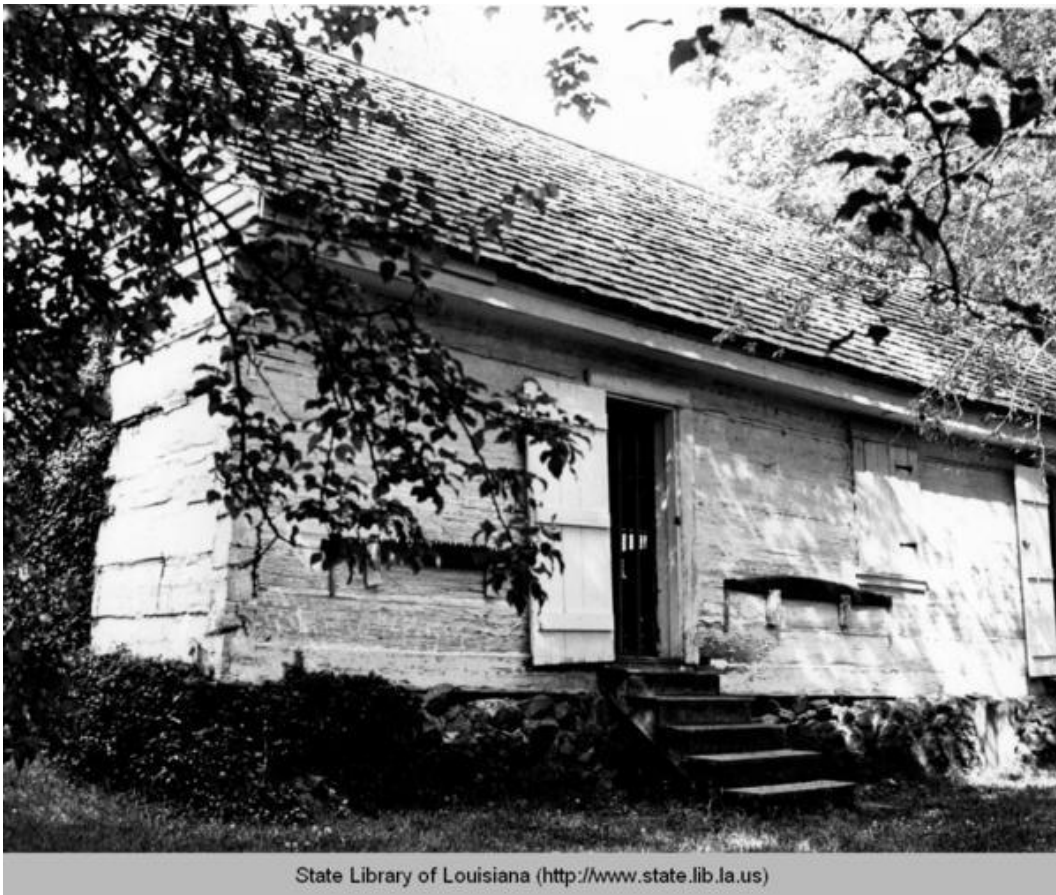
Fort Jesup Kitchen, 2017. Courtesy: LTHP.



Fireplace and hearth, 2017. Courtesy: LTHP.



Interior of Fort Jesup Kitchen, 2017. Courtesy: LTHP.



State Library of Louisiana (<http://www.state.lib.la.us>)

B&W photo, 1970s. Fort Jesup State Park. Close up of roof. Many, Louisiana.



State Library of Louisiana (<http://www.state.lib.la.us>)

B&W photo, 1968. Fort Jesup State Park and Museum. Located near Many, Louisiana, in Sabine Parish.