

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Sealy (703) 289-2530 or via email at GWMP_IRRM_SECRETARY@NPS.GOV.

Audrey F. Calhoun,
Superintendent, George Washington
Memorial Parkway.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Assessment for Proposal to Replace the Existing Deteriorated North Arcade Structure and Damaged Portions of the Adjacent Arcade Structure With a New North Arcade Structure in Glen Echo Park, MD

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposal to replace the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure, and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in Glen Echo Park (GLEC). Both structures are listed as contributing elements of the Glen Echo Park Historic District, Maryland.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service (NPS) policy, the NPS announces the availability of an EA for the proposed replacement of the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in GLEC, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). The EA examines several alternatives aimed to correct the advanced deterioration and design deficiencies of the North Arcade structure. The building currently provides marginal space for park administrative offices, classrooms, a photography studio, and a police substation. The use of these spaces is severely impacted by this advanced deterioration.

The NPS is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

DATES: The EA will remain available for public comment until August 1, 2001. Written comments should be received no later than this date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this EA should be submitted in writing to: Ms. Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway,

Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia, 22101. The EA will be available for public inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia; on the NPS Website, www.nps.gov/gwmp; at GLEC and at the following Montgomery County libraries: Bethesda Regional Library, Davis Library, and Little Falls.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS proposes to replace the existing deteriorated North Arcade structure and damaged portions of the adjacent arcade structure with a new North Arcade structure in GLEC. The intent of the proposed action is to: provide an interpretive area and classroom space to conduct and possibly expand programs; provide alternative space for the Puppet Company or a similar theatre group so that the main entrance of the Spanish Ballroom can be restored and used again; maintain and upgrade the space currently occupied by Photoworks, a portion of the lower level within the North Arcade; provide useful, efficient office space in place of what currently occupies a portion of the upper level within the North Arcade; address and correct structural deficiencies of the current structure (note that 40% of the current structure is vacant because of deterioration) and make the building accessible; address and correct Life and Safety Code deficiencies, including exit and egress requirements; address and correct Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility deficiencies; replace deteriorating mechanical and electrical systems that have exceeded their expected life cycle; enhance protection of natural and cultural resources within the park, especially those of the Glen Echo Historic District; attract more programs and users to the park to possibly create self-sufficiency; and respond to public requests for better facilities, maintenance and upkeep.

The proposed action is based on the fact that the building and canopy of the North Arcade have not fared well over time. This action aims to address structural deterioration of the outdoor concrete deck which has advanced to a state that does not allow use of the lower level rooftop plaza or the spaces below. It will also address other deficiencies, such as multiple floor level changes and varied construction practices that make the building generally unsafe to use and difficult to rehabilitate. In addition, the mechanical and electrical systems, which have been compromised through alteration and have far exceeded their expected life cycles will be replaced.

All interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are urged to provide comments on this EA. The NPS, in making a final decision regarding this matter, will consider all comments received by the closing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dan Sealy (703) 289-2530 or via email at GWMP_IRRM_SECRETARY@NPS.GOV.

Dottie P. Marshall,

Acting Superintendent, George Washington
Memorial Parkway.

[FR Doc. 01-16498 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service, Interior

Notice of Availability of a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Three Dimensional Seismic Survey Within the Barataria Preserve Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Jefferson Parish, LA

SUMMARY: In accordance with § 9.52 of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service has received a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment from Seitel Data, Inc. of Houston, Texas, for a Proposed Three Dimensional Seismic Survey within and near the Barataria Preserve unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

The Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment are available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days from the publication date of this notice, in the office of the Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2400, New Orleans, Louisiana and will be sent upon written request.

DATES: The proposed seismic operation will be initiated following the approval of the Plan of Operations and a Finding of No Significant Impact by the National Park Service Regional Director. Field operations will last approximately six weeks within the Preserve.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2400, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve was established by Congress on November 10, 1978 (Public Law 95-625)

in order to “* * * preserve for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations significant examples of natural and historical resources of the Mississippi Delta region * * *” When the park was established, all subsurface mineral interests were retained by private owners, thus the federal government does not own any of the subsurface oil and gas rights within the park boundary.

Seitel Data Incorporated is proposing to conduct a three dimensional seismic survey encompassing approximately 105 square miles in Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana. A portion of the proposed survey area includes the northernmost 1,500 acres of the Barataria Preserve unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

In accordance with the National Park Service Organic Act and section 902(a) of the park’s enabling legislation, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to control nonfederal oil and gas development in the park. These regulations are published as the NPS Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations, in the Code of Federal Regulations, part 9, subpart B (36 CFR 9B), and include the following:

These regulations control all activities within any unit of the National Park System in the exercise of rights to oil and gas not owned by the United States where access is on, across, or through federally owned or controlled lands or waters * * * These regulations are designed to insure that activities undertaken pursuant to these rights are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the National Park System and each unit thereof were created, to prevent or minimize damage to the environment and other resource values, and to insure to the extent feasible that all units of the National Park System are left unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. These regulations are not intended to result in the taking of a property interest, but rather to impose reasonable regulations on activities which involve and affect federally-owned lands (36 CFR 9.30(a)).

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve has a lawful obligation to provide for the exercise of nonfederal oil and gas rights within its boundary. The NPS Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations require that a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment be submitted and approved by the park Superintendent and Regional Director prior to the initiation of oil and gas exploration activities. A Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment has been prepared by Seitel Data, which documents the procedures required by the National Park Service to accomplish the three dimensional survey while avoiding and minimizing

adverse environmental impacts to park resources.

Dated: June 12, 2001.

W. Thomas Brown,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 01-16495 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service has prepared a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) that evaluates four alternatives for Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (Council House). The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a preferred action, two action alternatives and a no-action alternative. When approved, the plan will guide management actions during the next 15–20 years.

Alternatives

Alternative 1, the no-action alternative, would maintain current management direction. The Council House would continue to operate as a visitor center and administrative office area; archival collections and archive staff offices would remain in the carriage house. Conflicts would continue to occur between visitor and administrative functions in the limited space of the Council House resulting in a less than desirable visitor experience and operational inefficiency. Storage space for archival collections would remain inadequate. Alternative 2, the preferred action, would place dual emphasis on the Council House, which would be used as a museum, and on the archives. Under this alternative new space would be acquired to accommodate some visitor services and most administrative offices. The visitor experience would be enhanced with adequate space to provide broad and comprehensive interpretive opportunities and exhibits in the Council House. The primary storage for archival collections would be in an offsite state-of-the-art facility that would provide enhanced preservation and protection of stored items. The carriage house would be renovated and would

house a research room, offices for archival staff, an area for some processing of collections, and space for frequently accessed collections. Alternative 3 would commemorate the site through the establishment of the Bethune Center for Human Rights. The Council House would be used for interpretation and also would provide a place for groups to meet and engage in activities, workshops and programs. Materials related to social justice and human rights would be emphasized in the archival collections. Additional property would be leased or acquired for administrative offices and would be the primary space for meetings and workshops. This space would be the main contact point for visitors, and access and programmatic interpretation would be provided for visitors with mobility disabilities at this site. Offsite interpretation would be expanded with traveling exhibits. The carriage house would be renovated and expanded to include the archival collections, archival staff offices, and research space. Under Alternative 4, the Council House would be used as a traditional National Park Service museum commemorating the life and times of Mary McLeod Bethune. The Council House would have expanded exhibit space and an orientation area for visitors. Period furnishings would be in the Council House and archival collections would illustrate the highlights of Mary McLeod Bethune’s life and activities. Educational materials would focus on the life contributions and legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune. Space would be leased offsite to accommodate current archival collections that would be managed through a contract with others. The carriage house would be torn down and replaced with a new building that would house a bookstore, visitor restrooms and administrative offices.

Public Review

A 60-day public review period for comment on the draft document will begin after publication of this notice. In order to facilitate the review process, public reading copies of the GMP/EIS will be available for review at the following locations:

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House
National Historic Site, 1318 Vermont
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005
National Capital Parks—East, 1900
Anacostia Drive, SE., Washington, DC
20020
National Capital Region Office of Lands,
Resources and Planning Attention:
Gail Cain 1100 Ohio Drive, NW.,
Washington, DC 20242