

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD RECEIVES LONG-OVERDUE RECOGNITION

WASHINGTON, DC -- On Thursday, May 15, a bipartisan group of legislators, led by Congressmen Louis Stokes (D, Ohio) and Rob Portman (R, Ohio) introduced a the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Bill to commemorate an overlooked chapter in the American Civil Rights Movement.

"Today is a proud moment for this institution," said Stokes. "I'm pleased that our legislation has such a level of bipartisan support."

Portman added, "The powerful, and largely untold, stories of the brave men and women of the Underground Railroad can inspire us and can instruct us -- even today -- about racial cooperation and reconciliation, and determination and courage. Through the network envisioned by this bill, the dangers and adventures of the Underground Railroad can be preserved and interpreted for future generations."

Prior to 1865, the Underground Railroad was the primary means for slaves to escape to freedom. Spanning 29 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, its "railways" were backroads, waterways, forests and swamps. Dr. Charles Blockson of Temple University, noted African-American historian and author of the Hippocrene Guide to the Underground Railroad, provided a historical perspective on the Railroad's significance.

The legislation would establish the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom -- a way to preserve and link Underground Railroad sites nationwide for the first time, under the auspices of the National Park Service. It will also allow the Park Service to enter into innovative public-private partnerships with local and privately held sites and interpretive centers.

"Grassroots groups, Members of Congress, and the National Park Service have all worked together to tell the story of the Underground Railroad," said Ianthia Gantt-Wright, cultural diversity manager of the National Parks and Conservation Association. "This is a piece of our history in which all Americans can take pride."

CONTACT:

Stokes -- Joyce Larkin (202) 225-7032

Portman -- Brian Besanceney (202) 225-3164

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THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD INITIATIVE

The Underground Railroad. NPS is developing an educational program to use historic places to teach about the Underground Railroad. An unprecedented opportunity exists for the NPS to work with scholars and local enthusiasts to engage the American public in a deeper understanding of African American slaves' quests for freedom and the role of the Underground Railroad in supporting their heroic flights to safety. In September 1995, NPS completed a Special Resource Study of the Underground Railroad and -- in the absence of further funding -- NPS is proceeding within current authorizations to develop an Underground Railroad program. Such a program would combine park-based programs, school programs and public information vehicles -- for instance, travelling exhibits or designations of historic sites as part of the Underground Railroad.

On May 15, Reps. Stokes and Portman introduced bi-partisan legislation to establish the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The bill would allow NPS to enter into public-private partnerships with local- and privately-held sites and interpretive centers.

NPS to sponsor symposium on the history of African American Civil Rights. In March 1998, NPS will co-sponsor a symposium in Roanoke, VA entitled "Washington and DuBois at the Turn of Two Centuries." This will be the first in a series of public debates on civil rights intended to provoke public attention, interest and support of National Parks that interpret minority themes and figures. The conference is seeking a keynote speaker, for either March 20, 1998 or March 27, 1998, depending on the speaker's schedule.

Two sites in the National Park System already prominently feature the experiences of African American slaves:

Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, VA. The National Park Service (NPS) manages the tobacco farm where Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856. Visitors can see reconstructions of the farm buildings where Washington worked as a slave, as well as learn more about his life. After Emancipation, Washington studied at Hampton Institute and later founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. In his autobiography *Up From Slavery*, Washington wrote of his early life, "I had the feeling that to get into a schoolhouse and study would be about the same as getting into paradise."

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, DC. Frederick Douglass was born a slave, but became fascinated by the "mystery of reading" and decided that education was "the pathway from slavery to freedom." By age 13, he was reading articles about the "abolition of slavery" to other slaves. After he escaped to freedom at age 20, Douglass was an abolitionist, women's rights activist, author, Minister to Haiti and the most respected African American orator of the 19th century. The house in Anacostia which became Douglass' home when he was 60 is a unit of the National Park System dedicated to his life.

Other NPS units devoted to African Americans' struggle for Civil Rights include:

- Maggie L. Walker Historic Site in Richmond, VA;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, GA;
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site in Washington, DC;
- George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, MO;
- Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in Tuskegee, AL;
- the Boston African American National Historic Site in Boston, MA;
- Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, KS.

In addition, some NPS units integrate teaching about slavery into their interpretive programs. For instance, tours and educational programs at Hampton House National Historic Site include descriptions of the lives of the 200 slaves who worked the plantation.

Schedule Proposal

Date: _____

ACCEPT REGRET PENDING

TO:

FROM:

REQUEST: The First Lady to deliver the keynote address at a major symposium in Roanoke, VA which will consider how the National Park Service (NPS) can, by its interpretation of African-American leaders, convey to children the ongoing struggle for equality and self-sufficiency.

PURPOSE: To highlight the role of teaching in bridging the racial divide in the United States. Participants in the symposium -- entitled "Washington and DuBois at the turn of two centuries" -- will discuss how the teachings of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois impacted African-American society in the past, and how their principles affect Americans today. Because NPS is developing an extensive educational program to use historic places and public-private partnerships to teach about the Underground Railroad, the First Lady can use this occasion to emphasize that the government's actions are following through on the First Family's deep commitment to racial healing.

BACKGROUND: This symposium -- sponsored by NPS and the Organization of American Historians -- will be the first in a series of public debates on civil rights intended to provoke public attention, interest and support of National Parks that interpret minority themes and figures. Participants will speak on how Washington and DuBois' different beliefs and rivalry are reflected in today's society, policies and leaders. Participants will also discuss how the teaching of history at NPS parks can be made more relevant to today's children and visitors.

Another topic of discussion will be the unprecedented opportunity which exists for the NPS to work with scholars and local enthusiasts to engage the American public in a deeper understanding of African American slaves' quests for freedom and the role of the Underground Railroad in supporting their heroic flights to safety. NPS is proceeding within current authorizations to develop an Underground Railroad program. The program will combine park-based programs, school programs and public information vehicles -- for instance, documentaries, travelling exhibits or designations of historic sites as part of the Underground Railroad.

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, March 20, 1998 or Saturday, March 27, 1998; Any time mid-morning through lunch, depending on the First Lady's schedule.

CONTACTS: Nat Wood, Special Assistant to the NPS Director, (202) 208-3080
Mike Adlerstein, NPS New York Office, (212) 825-6882



February 1996, No. 3

National Park Service/Denver Service Center D-2

Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was perhaps the most dramatic protest action against slavery in United States history. It was a clandestine operation that began during the colonial period, later became part of organized abolitionist activity in the 19th century, and reached its peak in the period 1830-1865. The story of the Underground Railroad is one of individual sacrifice and heroism in the efforts of enslaved people to reach freedom from bondage.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In 1990 Congress directed the National Park Service to study how to best interpret and commemorate the Underground Railroad, emphasizing the approximate routes taken by slaves escaping to freedom before the Civil War. The *Special Resource Study* was completed in cooperation with an advisory committee representing experts in historic preservation, African American history, United States history, and members of the general public with special interest and experience in the Underground Railroad.

Underground Railroad Advisory Committee
 Mr. Charles Blockson, Chair
 Ms. Barbara A. Hudson, Vice Chair
 Ms. Rose Powhatan (Pamunkey), Secretary
 Ms. Vivian Abdur-Rahim
 Dr. Thomas Battle
 Dr. Ancella Bickley
 Dr. John Fleming
 Ms. Glennette Turner
 Dr. Robin Winks

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The most important findings of the study include the following:

- The Underground Railroad story is nationally significant.

- Some elements of the story are represented in existing NPS units and other sites, but many important resource types are not adequately represented and protected.
- Many sites meet established criteria for designation as national historic landmarks.
- Some sites have very high potential for preservation and visitor use.
- Many sites are in imminent danger of being lost or destroyed.
- No single site or route completely reflects and characterizes the Underground Railroad. The story and resources involve networks and regions rather than individual sites and trails.
- There is a tremendous amount of interest in the subject, but little organized coordination and communication among interested individuals and organizations.
- A variety of partnership approaches would be most appropriate for the protection and interpretation of the Underground Railroad — e.g., federal, state, and local governments along with a variety of private sector involvement.

The *Special Resource Study* involved consultation with 34 states, two territories, hundreds of interested individuals and organizations around the country, as well as connections with Canada and the Caribbean.

The study considered 380 suggestions about potential sites of significance to the Underground Railroad story. Additional research has identified 42 sites as having the highest potential to meet established national historic landmark criteria for national significance. Detailed descriptions of 13 sites that appear to have the highest potential for preservation and interpretation are provided in the study.

THE CONCEPTS

Five concepts have been developed for preserving, commemorating, and interpreting resources associated with the Underground Railroad. Management options for these concepts range from no federal action to the creation of a new national park system unit. All of these concepts, with the exception of no action, are intended to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the Underground Railroad and to preserve its many important resources. A no-action concept is also included to provide a base for comparing existing conditions with the other concepts. It is important to note that while each concept could stand on its own, certain elements could be combined to better serve resource protection and interpretation objectives.

Concept A — At a newly established commemorative, interpretive, educational, and research center, visitors would come to understand the whole story of the Underground Railroad and its significance in their area or region and in United States history. Resources related to the Underground Railroad would be fully inventoried and documented.

Concept B — An appreciation of the Underground Railroad would be accomplished by improving existing interpretive programs and by implementing new programs that would provide visitors with a complete, in-depth understanding of the Underground Railroad while focusing on local aspects of the story of the site.

Concept C — Visitors would have an opportunity to encounter a concentration of Underground Railroad resources over a large geographic area (up to several hundred miles). These areas could include national historic landmarks and existing NPS units associated with the Underground Railroad story, documented escape routes used by enslaved Americans, structures and sites associated with personalities and aspects of the Underground Railroad story, various landscapes significant to the Underground Railroad story, and

opportunities to illustrate the international connection to the Underground Railroad.

Concept D — The history, meaning, significance, and legacy of the Underground Railroad would be remembered through a single commemorative monument. This monument would honor those people who risked or lost their lives to escape the oppression of slavery and reach freedom on the Underground Railroad and those who assisted them.

Concept E — Visitors would have an opportunity to travel along trail systems that evoke the perilous experience encountered by those who sought freedom through escape on the Underground Railroad. A variety of natural resources (e.g., swamps, forests, and rivers) and cultural resources (e.g., Underground Railroad stations, homes of significant individuals, and archeological sites) along these trail systems would help to bring this story alive. A trail or trails would be designated through the National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended. One option in implementing concept E would be to establish a government-chartered commission or foundation to work toward establishment of the trail(s).

Concept F (No Action) — The history, meaning, and significance of the Underground Railroad would continue at the current level of commemoration, interpretation, and preservation.

The study also includes an environmental assessment of the potential impacts of the concepts. Because the ideas presented in this study are conceptual, the potential consequences can only be addressed in a general way. Should any of the action-oriented concepts be implemented, specific environmental consequences would be evaluated during any necessary management planning or subsequent development planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Underground Railroad Advisory Committee actively advised the NPS study team and national historic landmark theme study team throughout the development of the *Special Resource Study*. Their recommendations are as follows:

- That the U.S. Congress authorize a national Underground Railroad Commission and fund a national initiative to support projects focusing on activities associated with the Underground Railroad.
- That concepts A-E in the *Special Resource Study* be pursued with equal vigor and simultaneously as appropriate.
- That public and private sector (corporate, university, organizational) partnerships be encouraged and pursued wherever possible and appropriate to achieve the varying goals of the Underground Railroad project.
- That an interpretive handbook on the Underground Railroad be researched, written, and published, and that the skills of non-NPS experts be used wherever possible to ensure historical accuracy and the broadest range of interpretation.
- That the mandate of the current Underground Railroad Advisory Committee be extended through the congressional funding and NPS implementation stages to ensure project continuity and to maintain project oversight.
- That, regardless of the existence of other congressional mandates or funding initiatives, the National Park Service continue and accelerate its efforts regarding the documentation and interpretation of the Underground Railroad in all parks, memorials, and trails within its jurisdiction.
- That the National Capital Field Area Office of the National Park Service be authorized to coordinate Underground Railroad activities throughout the National Park Service.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

The study report was transmitted to Congress in early February 1996.

Individual members of Congress may propose legislation or action to the appropriations committees to follow up on some of the ideas in the study.

Interested individuals and organizations will be working from the "grass roots" to identify sites, route, and interpretive or commemorative opportunities.

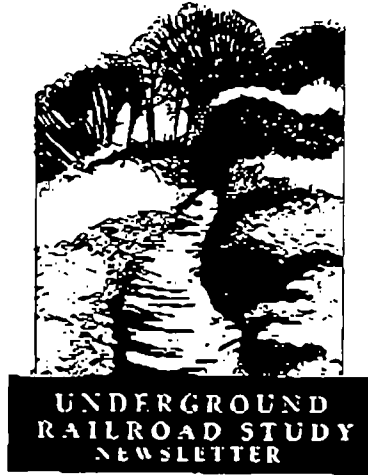
OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR PROPOSED

In addition to any action that Congress may take on the Underground Railroad study, a variety of other activities and projects will commemorate and interpret this significant part of American and world history.

- An interpretive brochure will depict in text, maps, and illustrations the Underground Railroad story (available through the National Park Service in spring 1996).
- A handbook will be produced to interpret the Underground Railroad story in the larger context of American antebellum society, including the history of slavery and abolitionism. The handbook will also be a guide to representative Underground Railroad sites.
- An internal NPS task force will continue to work toward preserving, commemorating, and interpreting the Underground Railroad story. Mr. Vincent deForest of the National Capital Field Area, (202) 619-7077, will be the coordinator of NPS efforts to recognize the Underground Railroad. Initiatives could include (1) working toward establishing an international link with Mexico, (2) surveying selected parks to find out what Underground Railroad activities or programs reflect the story, (3) developing educational materials on the Underground Railroad through teaching with the Historic Places Program and the Junior Ranger Program, (4) building on existing national historic landmark designations and completing thematic inventories of Underground Railroad sites from the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Register of Historic Places, and similar lists, and (5) revising interpretive programs in national park system units to include Underground Railroad issues.
- An international exchange and study tour involving the National Park Service and Parks Canada is underway. This program will focus on sites in the Niagara Falls area, and seek broader opportunities to link Canadian Black History Initiatives with similar efforts in the U.S.
- The NPS Internet home page will include key parts of the study report, including the various concepts for interpretation and commemoration, sites considered, and information about other organizations active in interpreting Underground Railroad routes. Internet address is as follows: <http://www.nps.gov/undergroundrr/>

In Cincinnati, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Inc. has made substantial progress in securing financial support from the private sector for a commemorative and interpretive center.

NPS staff have been corresponding with members of the Ohio congressional delegation and the sponsors of the project to define how the National Park Service can be a partner in this project, while recognizing tight constraints on federal funds.



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TO:

Tom Friedman

FAX NUMBER:

456-7431

FROM:

Nat Wood ph208-3080

SUBJECT:

Underground Railroad

NUMBER OF PAGES:

8

(including cover)

REMARKS:

Please call when you get a
chance for a short discussion on this. -N

If there is a problem, please call (202)208-4621.

6/19/97 evening

**NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROGRAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CONCEPT PAPER**

June 1997

The Underground Railroad Special Resource Study required by Congress was printed in September, 1995. The National Park Service is now proceeding within current authorizations to develop an Underground Railroad Program that uses its preservation and educational capabilities to formulate a historic context, identify historic places, establish educational programs, and create the thematic and cohesive linking of these into a National Underground Railroad Program.

The initiatives which comprise the program will present the Underground Railroad within the larger story of slavery and resistance to slavery in the United States from the colonial period through the Civil War. As a historic narrative dispersed over time and space, the underground railroad has both a legendary and a verifiable existence. The power of the legend is evident in the oral histories and written literature that it has inspired and in its reiteration of the values of individual conscience and initiative. The essence of the Underground Railroad Program will be the preservation and interpretation of the authentic places that tell that multi-faceted story.

The following initiatives in developing the National Underground Railroad Program are intended to be suggestive, not definitive. The list includes projects that are near completion and others in an initial planning stage. It is expected that more elements will be added as programs within the National Park Service review their resources.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROGRAM

FUNDED

Underground Railroad Handbook

This Congressionally mandated publication is being produced through the Harpers Ferry Design Center and will articulate the intellectual framework for the Service's program. Scheduled for a spring 1998 completion, it combines essays by noted scholars Dr. Brenda Stevenson, Dr. Peter Ripley, and Owen Thomas with an introduction by Dr. Larry Gara, author of The Liberty Line, and features by Dr. Marie Tyler-McGraw. It is intended as a guide for program development within the National Park Service as well as an illustrated and accessible handbook for the general public.

Multiple Property Context

This document is designed to assist individuals, communities, and states in the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and for designation as National Historic Landmarks, using the multiple property system of submission appropriate for a national theme such as the Underground Railroad. The report will contain a historic context, the state of current scholarship, a methodology for researching the underground railroad at specific sites, a bibliography, and provide preliminary standards for assessing associated historic places. The historical context will also examine typical forms and methods of escape, the role of organized vigilance committees, the undocumented assistance of slaves and free blacks, and the difficulties in marking precise geographical sites while attempting to convey the antislavery activities of certain communities, households, individuals, and religious and political factions. This document is being prepared under the direction of the Keeper of the National Register. Contact: Carol Shull (202) 343-9504.

National Register and National Historic Landmarks

The National Park Service has contracted for the preparation of National Historic Landmark nominations for a number of properties identified earlier as significant to the Underground Railroad Study. The multiple property documentation form and completed nominations will serve as models and will be disseminated to parks, state historic preservation offices, and other nominating authorities.

Field Study

The Office of International Affairs, NPS, will sponsor an eight-day field study of underground railroad sites in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada scheduled to take place in September, 1997. Participants will prepare a report that will outline strategies for interpreting the underground railroad in an international context. Contact: Vincent DeForest (202) 619-7077 or Barbara Tagger (404) 331-6131.

Interpreting the Underground Railroad

Using the intellectual parameters established in the handbook and the multiple property context, this pamphlet will provide further guidance to members of the public interested in investigating and interpreting potential sites as well as to administrators of properties associated with the underground railroad story. The pamphlet will present a historic context, a methodology for researching the Underground Railroad at specific sites with case studies, and an annotated bibliography. Interpretive issues such as the use of maps, folklore, music, published memoirs, local histories, and oral narratives will be examined. Like Interpreting Women's History in the National Park Service, it will be designed for use inside as well as outside the National Park Service. Projected completion date is October, 1997. Contact: Dr. Marie Tyler-McGraw (202) 343-5380.

Park Education Packets

Education/Information packets will be sent to each park to assist the education program. The packet will contain the handbook, multiple property context, interpretive pamphlet, and other materials that will help all parks develop educational programs on the underground railroad. These programs may be complete in themselves or be used to supplement such activities as the Junior Ranger program.

UNFUNDED

Lesson Plans [\$50,000]

The Teaching with Historic Places program would facilitate the development of lesson plans for underground railroad sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, especially those identified through the Multiple Property Context Study. The lessons will be modeled after those created by the Teaching With Historic Places program for other historic sites and would develop classroom-ready teaching materials for dissemination in a series of nationwide workshops for teachers. This program has received awards for the quality of its educational materials. Contact Beth Boland, National Register of Historic Places, (202) 343-9545. In addition, Parks as Classrooms program will encourage the development of curricula and related educational programs related to the underground railroad. Contact: Bob Huggins, (202) 565-1056.

Traveling Exhibit [\$30,000]

Based on the handbook and including images from the National Register, National Historic Landmarks, and other documented sites, Harpers Ferry would design a traveling exhibit. The Public Programs Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities has indicated a willingness to assist in providing and scheduling venues.

Travel Itineraries [\$50,000]

As additional sites and structures are identified and nominated to the National Register the National Register would develop one or more travel itineraries, similar to those prepared for the Georgia and Florida coast, south and west Texas, and the American Southwest. These multi-color maps would be available on the UGRR web page and distributed widely outside the NPS, possibly through a commercial distributor.

Film and Video

An educational film on the history and material culture of the underground railroad might be produced in partnership with a cable or network channel. In addition, the History Channel has agreed to produce a fifteen-minute introduction to the Underground Railroad for National Park Service training and outreach purposes.

National Conference

A national conference would bring together scholars from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to discuss the current state of scholarship on the underground railroad. The conference would produce a book of essays published by an academic press. The Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati is planning its own conference with the assistance of Professor James O. Horton and the National Park Service may want to become a co-sponsor along with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) [\$40,000. per property]

HABS/HAER has identified documented structures associated with the underground railroad. This documentation, which includes measured drawings, large-format photography and short histories, provides both baseline data for planning rehabilitation and restoration work and support for preservation and interpretation efforts. HABS/HAER records are archived in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. HABS/HAER documentation techniques should be considered for other properties established as related to the underground railroad.

Archeological Initiative

The purpose of the Archeological Initiative is to assemble archeological information about the underground railroad, identify the range of archeological property types associated with its history, and nominate nationally significant places as National Historic Landmarks or for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The archeological initiative will emphasize professional archeological and preservationist participation through a cooperative agreement with the Society for Historical Archeology. This cooperative effort includes educational and interpretive activities plus creation of a contact network for those concerned with the archeological and ethnographic resources of the Underground Railroad.

National Historic Landmark and National Register Nominations [\$50,000]

Funding is needed to prepare additional National Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Places nominations as research uncovers additional properties. The Underground Railroad Handbook, the pamphlet on Interpreting the Underground Railroad and the Multiple Context Property Study will each contribute to an understanding of a research methodology for such nominations.

Ethnography Initiative [\$250,000]

The ethnography initiative is a community-based initiative emphasizing the perspectives and knowledge of people affected by the Underground Railroad and its social, political, and economic contexts. It incorporates African American voices in the study and interpretation of the past so that its reconstruction is not only by cultural outsiders but developed in tandem with people whose ancestors experienced that past. Accomplishing this goal requires a community/university/park network to systematically gather information, for example, through community oral histories and mapping of social space and place, about the Underground Railroad and associated sites, structures, objects and both cultural and natural landscapes in and around national parks. The NPS ethnography program is a catalyst in the process. It will (a) forge alliances among parks, communities, and Cultural Anthropology Departments in Historically Black Colleges and other universities concerned with African American experiences, (b) formulate ethnographic community approaches to developing data that communities deem relevant to understanding the Underground Railroad resources. Over 5 years, this initiative would establish the community-university-park infrastructure, provide training, and fund innovative community and graduate student projects. Outcomes include resource data, models for community-university-park interaction, mobile exhibits for parks and communities, and African American partners in resource protection.

Special Marker Program

Special markers for all underground railroad sites and structures listed in the National Register or designated National Historic Landmarks. The marker would be purchased by sites wishing to participate and would heighten public recognition of the Underground Railroad Program and create a visible identity for associated properties.

Underground Railroad Website and Computer Uses [\$500,000]

Using material developed for the handbook, multiple property context, interpretive pamphlet, and National Register and National Historic Landmark documentation, the Park History Program would produce a website. Designed as an educational tool, the website would contain well-researched and authoritative materials on the underground railroad, links to related sites, bibliographies, and underground railroad research materials. It may also contain primary historic research material through a partnership with a major university. While the website and its related programs would remain the central on-line repository for the National Underground Railroad Program, the new informational technologies of the last decade will be periodically reassessed for their educational and informational effectiveness.

One or Two-Day Seminars [\$6,000 each/two days]

A series of short seminars on the underground railroad would be designed to provide an introduction to the subject for park service personnel and encourage self study. The seminars may be jointly sponsored by the National Park Service and George Washington University.

Demonstration Projects [\$50,000]

The National Park Service would select two or more parks to serve as interpretive demonstration areas. These parks would receive focused assistance for the development of educational exhibits and programs in support of the underground railroad program.

Future Connections [unfunded]

As the Underground Railroad Program develops, additional connections will be made to educational institutions, school systems, and especially, historically black colleges and universities. The Education Development and Demonstration Cluster at the National Endowment for the Humanities is currently discussing the possibility of teacher institutes and technology development with the underground railroad as the theme.

SUMMARY: The initiatives, projects and resources listed in this Concept Paper are linked by their fundamental task of combining sound scholarship with the tangible and visible world in which most Americans live. The United States is in a period of profound social, economic and technological change. The ethnic composition and national origins of the American public are changing even as we continue to reinterpret our past to make the story more inclusive. The Underground Railroad Program offers an opportunity to enrich our educational programs and to meet the needs of the National Park Service to research and interpret its resources.

In carrying out these goals, The Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Stewardship & Partnerships will seek the appointment of a committee of scholars and educators to advise on, and ensure the quality of, the Underground Railroad. Technical assistance through the regional and support offices is available for all non-National Park Service underground railroad sites. Assistance for many of the above-listed projects may be in the form of advice in the areas of preservation planning, interpretation, or documentation. At the present time, there is no special account for these activities.