



# Whitman Mission National Historic Site

## *Long-Range Interpretive Plan*



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Prepared by the Department of Interpretive Planning  
Harpers Ferry Center  
and  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site

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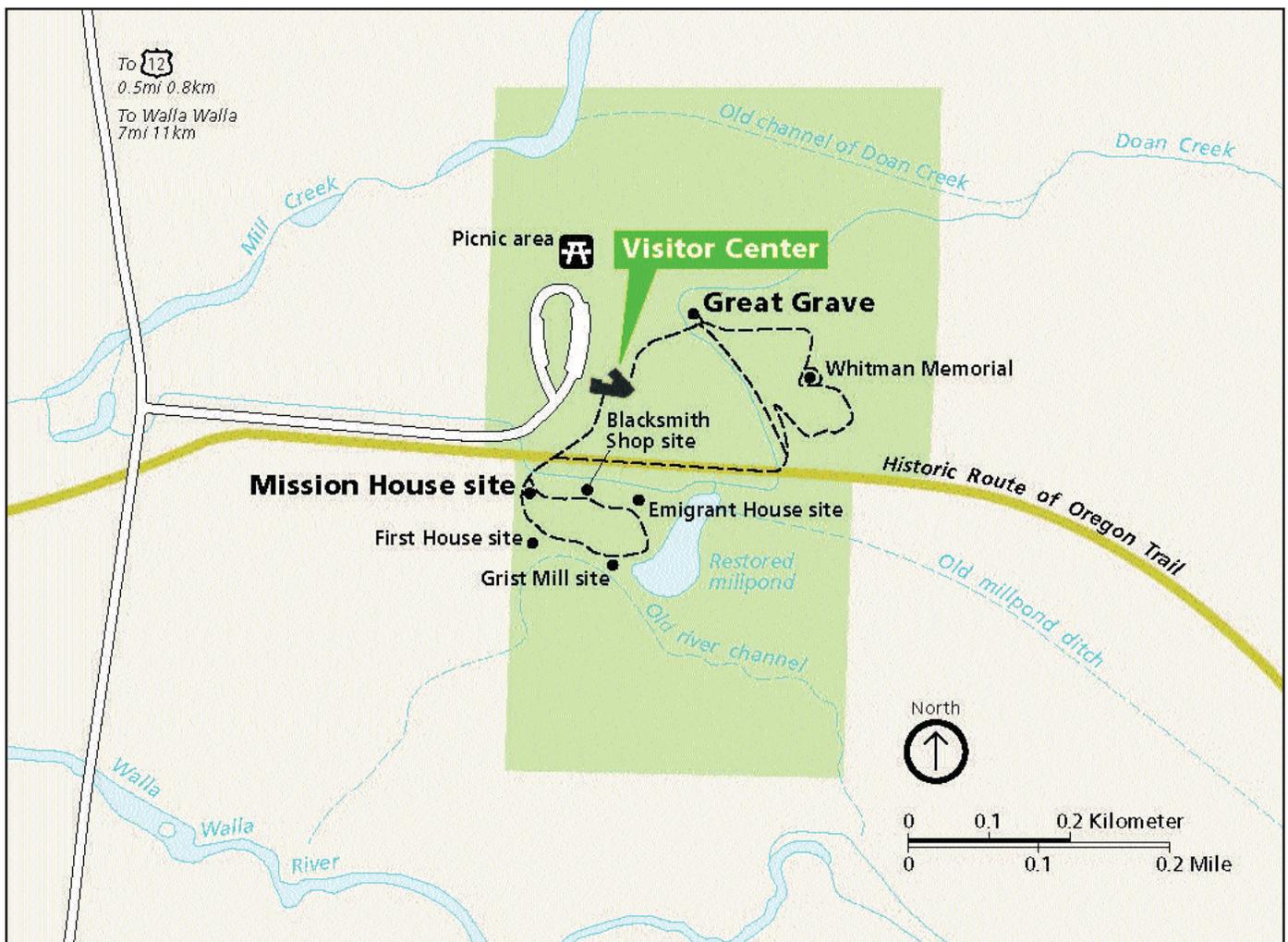
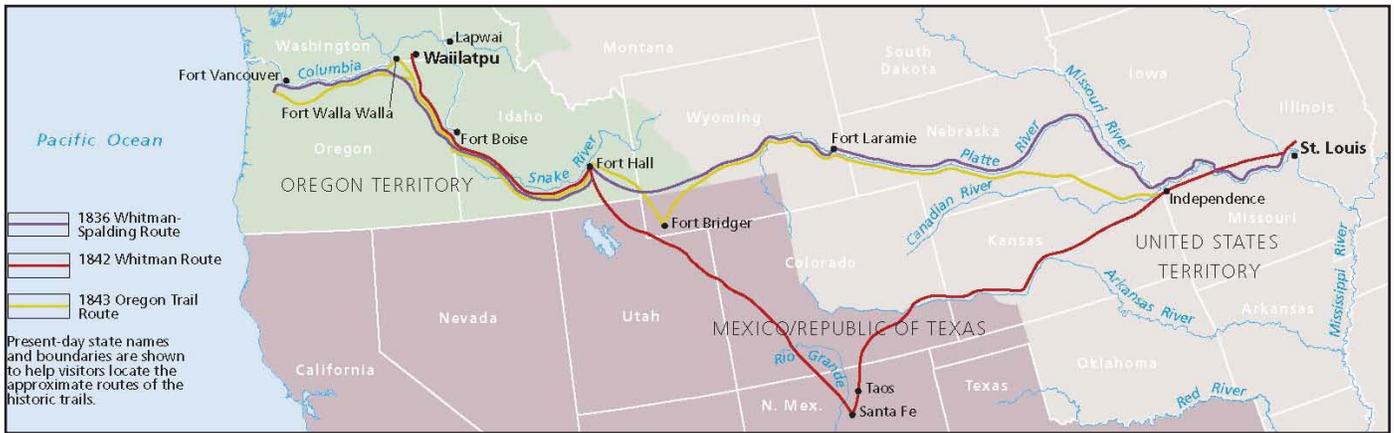
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Whitman Mission National Historic Site was originally established as a national monument unit of the National Park System in 1936. Subsequent changes, including land additions, name changes, and designation as part of the Oregon National Historic Trail have added to the site's significance and purpose.

The historic site owns 98.15 acres, and is located to the west of the Blue Mountains in southeastern Washington. It lies within Washington's Fifth congressional district in Walla Walla County, and is located about seven miles west of the city of Walla Walla. Vehicular access to the site is from U.S. Highway 12 at the Swegle Road intersection (See Oregon Trail and site maps).

In September of 2000 a general management plan clarified the purpose, significance, and management goals for the national historic site. This long-range interpretive plan will provide strategic planning direction for implementing the general management plan recommendations for interpretation and visitor services at the national historic site and in surrounding communities.

The long-range interpretive plan team examined Whitman Mission National Historic Site purposes and significant resources in order to confirm the site's interpretive themes and visitor experience objectives. The plan they developed proposes facilities, landscapes, and interpretive media and activities to enhance opportunities for visitors to make their own intellectual and emotional connections to the meanings and significance of the site's resources. The planning team analyzed the park's current interpretive facilities and recom-

mended future actions needed to facilitate appropriate visitor experiences. This long-range interpretive plan is a concept plan that lays the groundwork for subsequent media planning and design and personal services program development. The actions recommended in the plan are those that the park can reasonably be expected to accomplish in a decade or less.

Opposite Page:  
Top - Oregon Trail Map  
Bottom - Park Site Map  
(both from official park brochure)

# BACKGROUND FOR PLANNING

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Purpose, significance, park mission goals, and interpretive themes were developed during planning for the park general management plan; those statements have been incorporated into this long-range interpretive plan essentially as previously written. Statements describing visitors, visitor experience objectives, and issues and influences have been added to provide a solid foundation for creating a future program description for visitor experience at Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

## PURPOSE

The following purpose statements summarize the reasons why Whitman Mission National Historic Site was established. They are based on the site's enabling legislation and legislative history. Purpose statements are important to planning, because they are basic to all other assumptions about the national park site and the ways in which it should be used and managed.

The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 established the purpose of all units of the National Park System as "... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The specific purpose of Whitman Mission National Historic Site is to:

- Preserve and maintain the site of the mission and school for American Indians established by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman between 1836-1847 along the Walla Walla River at Waiilatpu, and to preserve and maintain the memo-

rials to their lives.

- Relate for the public the events that took place at the mission site and its role in western migration and settlement along the Oregon Trail.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of a national park unit is summarized in statements that capture the essence of the unit's importance to America's natural and cultural heritage.

Whitman Mission National Historic Site is significant because:

- Establishment of Whitman Mission at Waiilatpu and the subsequent events that occurred at the site are important episodes in western pioneer history and settlement. The designation of the national historic site provides a direct link to the theme of America's westward expansion as defined by the National Park System Plan and assists the National Park Service in representing this theme to the American people.
- The story of Whitman Mission is interaction between two cultures and their lack of understanding and ability to solve problems peacefully. One culture was a white American missionary society that produced the Whitmans and brought them to Waiilatpu and the other an American Indian culture of the Cayuse and other native peoples that the Whitmans encountered and attempted to influence.
- The site of Whitman Mission was an important component of the Oregon Trail. The mission was one of seven aid stations along the trail

and provided an important respite for weary emigrants during the early years of the Oregon Trail. Dr. Marcus Whitman had a key role in guiding one of the first wagon trains into Oregon Territory. Finally, the successful crossing of the continent by Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spalding proved that white women could endure the journey.

- The deaths of the Whitmans and eleven others (and one who disappeared and presumably drowned) and the end of the Mission led to a war between the militia and the Cayuse in 1848 and the arrival of federal troops in 1849. The ensuing 1855 treaties resulted in opening the territory to pioneer settlement.
- The national historic site preserves the Mission Grounds, the site of the Great Grave, and the memorials to the Whitmans.

### **PARK MISSION GOALS**

Mission goals describe the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, that taken together, fully achieve the site's purpose, maintain its significance, and are consistent with National Park Service management policies.

Whitman Mission National Historic Site mission goals are:

- To preserve and protect the historic, cultural, and natural resources of Whitman Mission National Historic Site for present and future generations.
- To encourage others to assist in the preservation of the cultural and agricultural setting around Whitman Mission National Historic Site and the historic setting of the mission area.

- To provide the visiting public with an understanding of three primary interpretive objectives:
  - 1) An understanding and appreciation of the Mission Period and the resultant clash of cultures between early pioneer settlers and the Cayuse and other American Indian peoples in the region.
  - 2) The role of the mission as an aid station along the Oregon Trail, Dr. Whitman's important role in guiding early wagon trains west along the trail, and the influence Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spalding had on other pioneer women considering travel to the American West.
  - 3) The importance of the events at Whitman Mission in contributing to the establishment of the Oregon Territory.
- To develop stronger ties with local tribes to assist in the interpretation and understanding of the Mission Period.
- To encourage both visitors and staff to utilize sustainable practices in the present and future use of Whitman Mission National Historic Site.
- To provide adequate administrative space to serve the programs and operations of Whitman Mission National Historic Site.
- To provide adequate permanent, seasonal and volunteer staffing levels to support future Whitman Mission National Historic Site interpretive and educational programs, and other operational needs.
- To explore and promote opportunities to coordinate and share human and physical resources with Nez Perce National Historical Park, Fort Vancouver

National Historic Site, other National Park Service sites, and partners having interpretive themes and programs which relate to the purpose of Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

- To determine and implement an appropriate extent and manner of memorialization of the Whitmans and other people associated with the mission at Waiilatpu.
- To maintain Whitman Mission National Historic Site facilities in a safe condition and to remain open and accessible to the general public.
- To preserve and enhance the natural resources of the national historic site, including riparian and wetland areas, in accord with all applicable laws, National Park Service policies, and executive orders.

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretive themes are based on a park's purpose, significance, and primary resources. They reflect the key stories or concepts that visitors should consider during and after visiting the park. The themes provide one of the building blocks in the foundation for interpretive programs and media developed for the park. They do not include everything the park may interpret, but they do cover those ideas that are critical to visitors' understanding, appreciation, and personal connection to the park's significant resources.

Interpretive themes for Whitman Mission National Historic Site were developed in park's general management plan, and they will be incorporated into this long-range interpretive plan as previously written. The

long-range interpretive planning team reviewed previously written theme statements and suggested two significant changes.

Develop a single, primary theme that ties all other themes together. The current general management plan includes several interpretive theme statements. Each statement is relevant, but developing activities to present a single theme without relating that theme to a central idea tends to create an interpretive program that is difficult to focus on a large iconic message that all visitors should understand after visiting the park. A single umbrella theme that captures the meaning and significance of the park can provide that focus. The primary theme can be kept in view during development and presentation of all activities reflecting any theme. This focus will assure that all visitors leave the national historic site with a basic understanding of a central message.

Develop a list of appropriate topics related to each theme. Interpreters can pick from these topics to develop specific activities that relate the chosen topic to one or more of the interpretive themes.

These changes can create a hierarchy of primary theme, interpretive themes, and topics related to each theme that can provide guidance to all levels of interpretation at Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

### Primary Theme

*Two cultures converged and co-existed at Waiilatpu until mutual misunderstandings led to violence and retribution against people of both cultures.*

This statement can provide focus during interpretive development of the complex Waiilatpu story which has several chapters. The first chapter includes the earliest interactions between native peoples and Europeans and continues through the arrival of missionaries among the Cayuse. The second chapter relates the changing cultural relationships between the missionaries and the native peoples around Waiilatpu, and includes the beginning of the Oregon Trail immigration, the measles epidemic which caused the deaths of half of the Cayuse population and of some of the people living at Whitman Mission. The third chapter describes the aftermath of the deaths at Waiilatpu with the ransoming of survivors, the activities of the militia sent to punish the Cayuse people, the establishment of the Oregon Territory, and the execution of five Cayuse leaders held accountable for the deaths of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. In the fourth chapter, the United States creates the reservation system in the Oregon Territory and opens most of the area to European settlement once the Indian wars are over. The final chapter shows how people still deal with the aftermath of mission history, including lessons for today about the problems, challenges, and successes in dealing with people from other cultures.

### **Interpretive Themes**

**Marcus and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman are memorialized for their courage, adventure, and high idealism, as shaped by their personalities, values, beliefs, and labor while missionaries among the Cayuse Indians in Old Oregon.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will know who the Whitmans were, and understand their values and the time period in which they lived.
- The visitor will be able to discuss the 19th century missionary effort among the native peoples of the West.
- Visitors will be able to describe the history of memorials to the Whitmans and identify who established each of the memorials.

**The mission, established by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, was operated as a Protestant Indian mission and school between 1836 and 1847.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to describe the physical setting and the operation of the mission.
- Visitors will be able to describe the Cayuse land use before the mission was established and how the Whitmans obtained land.
- Visitors will be able to explain the relationship between the mission and the Hudson's Bay Company.

**Cultural differences between the Columbia Plateau Indians and the missionaries, and subsequent American emigrants provide the context for the Whitmans' deaths.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to describe how Columbia Plateau Indians

and the Euro-American missionaries and emigrants differed in the ways they provided themselves with food, clothing, and shelter.

- The visitor will be able to identify some of the significant language, religion, and customs differences of the two groups.
- The visitor will be able to understand some of the positive and adverse consequences of the Whitmans' arrival, such as competition for available resources, and introduction of European diseases.
- The visitor will be able to contrast the land use values of each of the two groups.
- Visitors will be able to list the other missions in the region.

**The Whitmans' association with the Oregon Trail and the development and operation of the mission at Waiilatpu resulted in the mission becoming a way station along the trail.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to discuss the Whitmans' travels along the route which became the Oregon Trail and the influence those travels had on subsequent Oregon Trail travelers.
- The visitor will be able to explain why the mission was an important way station along the trail.

**The killing of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and eleven other people by members of the Waiilatpu Band of the Cayuse Tribe at Whitman Mission was an**

**important catalyst in the establishment of the Oregon Territory by the United States Congress.** Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to identify several events which led to the establishment of the Oregon Territory, including the role of the Whitmans' deaths as a catalyst in its establishment.
- The visitor will be able to describe the impact on the Waiilatpu Band of the Cayuse Tribe as a result of the killings at Waiilatpu Mission and subsequent events.

**The natural environment of Waiilatpu affected the development and life at Whitman Mission.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to describe the general environment and ecology of the area today.
- The visitor will be able to relate how the natural setting affected mission life.
- The visitor will be able to understand how the Whitmans and pioneers affected the ecosystem, such as depleting available natural resources.

**Whitman Mission National Historic Site is part of the National Park System and a component of the Oregon National Historic Trail; the National Park Service continues the preservation of the site begun soon after the Whitmans' deaths.**

Theme-related interpretive objectives:

- The visitor will be able to relate that Whitman Mission National Historic Site is part of the National Park System and on the Oregon National Historic Trail.
- The visitor will understand the stewardship role that the National Park Service performs at Whitman Mission National Historic Site and other National Park Service sites around the country.
- The visitor will be aware that memorial efforts began at Whitman Mission as early as 1859.
- The visitor will be aware of actions the National Park Service is taking to study and preserve the historic landscape, including native plant reintroduction, artifact preservation, and grounds maintenance.

## VISITORS

### Annual Park Recreation Visits

1995	79,059
1996	77,338
1997	77,601
1998	77,967
1999	74,954
2000	67,035
2001	64,679
2002	61,293
2003	56,009
2004	56,169
2005	55,826

### Seasonal Recreation Visitation Patterns 2004 & 2005

	2004	2005
Fall (Sep-Nov)	24.61%	25.19%
Winter (Dec-Feb)	6.21%	8.20%
Spring (Mar-May)	31.65%	31.52%
Summer (Jun-Aug)	37.53%	35.09%

### Monthly Park Recreation Visits 2004 & 2005

	2004	2005
January	735	942
February	1,707	1,512
March	3,884	2,277
April	5,323	6,783
May	8,573	8,540
June	8,066	7,386
July	6,326	6,661
August	6,687	5,538
September	6,100	5,721
October	5,495	5,735
November	2,228	2,608
December	1,045	2,123

### Visitor Survey Data

A survey conducted at the park during the summer of 1993 provides the following information about visitors.

Over three-quarters (77%) of visitors surveyed were from the states of Washington and Oregon; 4% or less were from any other single state.

Most visitor groups (88%) stayed in the park two hours or less; 10% stayed three hours.

Many visitors (70%) were on their first visit, but a significant number (23%) had visited two to four times previously and 7% had visited five or more times.

Over seventy percent of visitors came in groups of between two and four people. Almost three-quarters (74%) were in family groups and almost one-third (31%) were age 15 or younger.

A relatively even spread was identified among various age groups: 15 years old and younger (31%); age 31-50 (33%); over 50 (29%).

The most visited site after leaving the parking lot was the visitor center (79%); the least visited was the picnic area (16%). All other interpreted sites, including the Whitman Memorial, were visited relatively equally (range from 60% - 68%).

The most often used sources of information about the park were previous visits (32%), friends and relatives (27%), and maps (26%).

The most commonly used interpretive media were the museum exhibits (93%), park brochure (61%), and information desk personal services (76%).

The most frequently visited sites other than Whitman Mission National Historic Site were Fort Walla Walla Museum (34%), Whitman College (24%), and Pioneer Park (23%).

Peak visitation occurs in May.

Organized groups account for only 15% of park visitation - these visitors get the introductory talk or conclusion talk, the other 85% do not.

In 2005, organized groups accounted for 19.35% of park visitation - these visitors get the introductory talk or conclusion talk, the other almost 80% did not. Park visitation

patterns may be shifting. A new visitor survey should be conducted relatively soon to identify any changes.

## **Audience Needs and Expectations**

The following description of current and potential audiences is based on park staff observation of visitors and review of comments and suggestions in visitor registers. Interpretation, education, and information program activities at Whitman Mission National Historic Site should address seven broad user categories: Families, Organized Groups, Local/Regional, Education, Special Needs, American Indian Tribal, and Distance Learners.

### **Families**

Family groups dominate Whitman Mission National Historic Site visitation, especially in summer. Many family groups are composed of grandparents accompanied by their grandchildren. Some family groups are first time visitors who are independent travelers not attached to an organized tour group. Many are families from Washington and Oregon who are showing visiting friends and relatives from outside the region the local points of interest.

The high number of visitors interacting with Whitman Mission resources in family groups warrants enhanced opportunity to participate in activities as a family unit. Continuation and expansion of a Junior Ranger program can meet the need for families to interact with park resources. Design of artifact-rich exhibits and related interpretive materials can encourage cross-generational conversation that strengthens family ties and encourages learning from each person's previous experience as well as from

interpretive media. Other activities meeting family needs and expectations might include "rainy day" programs, family-oriented walking trails and informal, relaxing, and exciting activities that facilitate inter-generational communication.

### **Organized Groups**

During March to May and September to November several buses a day deliver visitors to the park. Most groups include first time visitors 50 - 70 years old from widely diverse origins. This category of stakeholder expects accurate information, opportunity to talk to a courteous National Park Service employee, timely responses to inquiries, and recommendations about appropriate experience opportunities.

Tour companies need accurate, current information, including information about any restrictions, prior to arrival at the park. Upon arrival, bus tour groups expect convenient restrooms and effective interpretation oriented to their interests. Organized groups need orientation and information about rules and regulations, safety, attraction location, interpretive themes and activities and sights that can be seen quickly in group formats. They appreciate readily available handouts, personal services, and activities to provide interpretive experiences that encourage stewardship.

### **Local/Regional**

Some people from communities in Washington and Oregon use the national historic site regularly for a variety of activities. Others seldom use the park and know little about its significance. This category of stakeholder often has firmly established norms for visiting the park. They likewise often have

strong opinions on how the park is managed and how the limitations imposed by the management in the park impact them. They need frequently updated information about regulations and orientation to the park presented in a way that does not offend and that provides information about how to participate in available visitor opportunities. Information about park resources and National Park Service management needs to be easily available to increase interest and understanding of park roles in the community and park management decisions. Local agencies and interpretive partners need close coordination, cooperation and consultation with park management staff and involvement in planning activities to assure everyone an opportunity to manage visitor services effectively.

### **Education**

This audience group includes students participating in curriculum-based education programs and other visitors enjoying informal education activities. They need information and interpretation presented at many levels from elementary to graduate and using varied media from simple graphics to professional exhibits and audiovisuals.

#### **Formal (Curriculum-Based)**

Most formal education groups participating in curriculum-based activities are from primary, intermediate, and middle schools. Some high school students participating in alternative programs, such as cooperative and family schools, visit the national historic site with their own agenda. Schools need a formal (curriculum-based) education program designed to meet curriculum requirements of public, private, and parochial schools in Washington and Oregon. Participants in educa-

tion activities need access to transportation to and from the national historic site and availability of activities that can be completed at school sites. Teachers need an adequate supply of educational materials and knowledge about grants or other sources of funding. Teachers have specific educational outcomes in mind and expect a park or classroom educational experience to support classroom learning. National park staff expects teachers to prepare their classes for on-site learning before arrival at the historic site. Efforts to fulfill both expectations will rely heavily on teacher workshops. Teachers participating in workshops and seminars will achieve a sense of ownership in the national park education and other programs. Training of teachers will also extend the effectiveness of national historic site staff by providing a continuum of learning for students before, during, and after a site visit. Teachers want the curriculum-based program to focus on hands-on fieldwork that provides an enjoyable experience.

### **Informal**

Students and teachers, parents and children, and resource and community outreach and college groups not participating in formal education activities want a fun-filled informal learning experience in the national historic site. Teachers and parents want to experience something of value even if the experience does not integrate classroom curriculum. Most activities developed for a formal curriculum-based education program can and should be adapted for presentation to all visitors as informal, enjoyable learning experiences. Stakeholders seeking educational interaction with the site as Internet visitors expect the national park web page to give them

a window to the site in a condensed format. Informal activities need to create bridges between young people and adults and between young people and the environment. Park staff needs to plan ways to link young people and their parents to the park.

### **Special Needs**

This visitor category includes language-diverse audiences and people with impairments that require special services. All people of this category need programs, activities and environments with which they can comfortably engage. Park activities must provide information about rules and regulations, orientation to the park, and identification of activity locations in a format usable by the targeted audience. The park staff needs to anticipate a lot of preparation time and plan to provide more attention to special interest stakeholders at the park. Visitors to the national historic site speak many languages, but the primary need for interpretation in different languages include English, Spanish, and American Indian language spoken in communities near the national historic site. A visitor study is needed to scientifically access the need for improvements in physical and programmatic accessibility. The study should include visitors using the national historic site and potential visitors who may not currently be using the park.

### **American Indian Tribes**

Local tribes tie in well with the mission period story told at Whitman Mission, but visitors from those tribes compose less than 1% of total visitation. The park staff and leaders of American Indian communities need to foster cooperation and stronger ties between the national historic site and tribes through con-

sultation and cooperation. Cultural users often seek family activities and social opportunities to enjoy park resources. Members of neighboring American Indian tribes and cultural groups from the surrounding region will participate more freely when they have a sense of belonging. Park staff needs a better understanding of the needs of such groups to provide effective orientation and interpretive services. They need consistent, personal interaction and communication with national park staff on and off-site. They need basic orientation to the site presented in a way that does not offend and that provides information about how to participate in available visitor opportunities. This category of stakeholder benefits from interpretation presented cooperatively with the community. Agencies need close coordination, consultation, and cooperation to assure everyone an opportunity to understand various points of view.

### **Distance Learners**

Many residents of the Walla Walla River region, the United States, and the world may never visit Whitman Mission National Historic Site. These stakeholders still have an interest in the site and may enjoy vicarious visits. They need information in various amounts that match a variety of interests and educational levels. They should have easy access to information about the national historic site. They need information that creates a feeling of excitement about the site and a desire to protect site resources. These virtual visitors need information ranging from basic travel planning to moderate interpretation and a detailed education program. At minimum, they need access to an overview of site resources and themes, and opportunity to learn

about the availability of moderate priced audiovisual and publication materials.

## **VISITOR EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES**

Visitor experience objectives are statements that describe those fundamental opportunities which Whitman Mission National Historic Site, through its visitor services and interpretive program, wants most to facilitate. Visitors cannot be required to have certain experiences, but national historic site staff has identified important experiences that should be available.

- Visitors will have opportunities to participate in an integrated interpretive program developed cooperatively by National Park Service and other visitor service providers to offer a balanced visitor experience, including mission activities at the national historic site and related activities at many sites in the region.
- Visitors will have opportunities to experience quiet contemplation while at the memorials.
- Visitors will be able to obtain information in a variety of ways and to the level of complexity and detail they desire.
- Visitors will be able to visualize the physical environment of the mission at Waiilatpu.
- Visitors will have opportunities to experience the sights and sounds of mission life and the Oregon Trail in sufficient detail to achieve a personal sense of place.
- Visitors will be able to understand and appreciate the size of the original Mission Grounds.

- Visitors will understand the need for preservation of the rural agricultural setting surrounding the national historic site.
- Visitors will understand how the Cayuse people used the land before the Whitmans arrived to build the mission at Waiilatpu.
- Visitor will sense that this is a place of tragedy for the Whitmans and American Indians; the interpretive program will provide opportunity for visitors to achieve an emotional experience without finding all the answers hidden in the park story.

## ISSUES AND INFLUENCES

This long-range interpretive plan will consider several issues that may have an impact on the ability of Whitman Mission National Historic Site to achieve its interpretive and visitor experience goals.

### Cultural Sensitivity

While the events that occurred at Whitman Mission from 1836 to 1847 will not change, interpretation of those events evolves as human perspectives change. In recent years, the interpretive story at Whitman Mission National Historic Site has depicted a "Clash of Cultures." The culture brought west by missionaries and settlers infused the American Indian culture with vast changes. Some people now consider stories related to that interaction of cultures as important history to be preserved and told; others see them as icons of past wounds that need to be healed. These differences indicate that important stories with potential cultural sensitivities need to be told in a non-offensive way with accuracy and sensitivity. Stories related to national historic site interpretive themes need to be told com-

prehensively and inclusively, including stories that link outside the national historic site. Future media and interpretive program activities need to be sensitive to ways to describe human interactions at the mission and to show how people still deal with the aftermath of mission history. Future visitor activities need to relate Whitman Mission history to the continuum of universal human relationships.

### Access

Physical access into a few areas of the national historic site is difficult for many visitors and impossible for some. For example, the tremendous 360 degree panoramic overview of the historic site and surrounding landscape is not available to visitors who cannot walk to the top of the hill. The site needs more Spanish and local American Indian language in media and activities and promotion of those services to people who speak Spanish and American Indian languages. The LRIP needs to deal with these and other accessibility issues. Future interpretation activities should provide physical access to as many spaces as possible. Virtual access through a variety of media should be available to all areas that significantly reflect site themes and cannot be made physically available to visitors.

### Inadequate Space

The atmosphere inside the visitor center during periods of heavy use is impacted by noise, congestion, undirected traffic patterns, and talks presented at or near the information desk. The current interpretive storage facilities are crowded; the visitor center lobby information / exhibit area is inadequate in size for the functions attempted there. These conditions result in frequent congestion during peak visitation. Also,

there is inadequate space to accommodate school groups and other visitors at the same time. The space needs to be enlarged or designed differently to optimize traffic flow and multiple uses.

### Visitation Trends

Park visitor service programs need to adapt to changes in audience composition and patterns of use. Implementation of the fee program in 1980s significantly reduced visitation and created a major impact on some audience groups. School group numbers have trended down but group size has increased in response to school budgets and changing curricula standards. The curriculum-based education program must adapt and adhere to school needs to make the park education opportunities a crucial component of the curriculum in area schools and grades where they study Pacific Northwest history.

### Media

Some interpretive media is dated in content, technology, and focus that do not optimally meet needs of current audiences.

- The current audiovisual program is formatted to serve two purposes: introduction to themes; orientation to the park. For optimum effectiveness, an audiovisual presentation should only attempt one of those purposes. A decision is needed to determine if two audiovisual programs are needed at the park or if other media can better accomplish one of the purposes currently explored by the existing audiovisual presentation.
- Audio boxes at wayside exhibits that frequently fail to operate properly create intensive maintenance demand and poor service to visitors. Sound from audio narration creates adverse impact on the desired visitor experience, especially at the Great Grave and Memorial Shaft sites where a quiet and contemplative experience is preferred.
- The current audiovisual program contains some factual errors, some of which give visitors incorrect impressions of the Cayuse people and of Marcus Whitman. The program includes some cultural bias reflected in narration that can disturb some audiences.
- Visitor requests to purchase copies of the audiovisual program as a take-home interpretive item cannot be met because the program is not available for sale.
- The exhibits need evaluation to determine if some features can be enhanced with application of current technology, revision for improved accuracy of content and quality of presentation, and written to improve appropriateness of language. The current exhibits include biased language and presentation that can only partially be addressed through personal service interpretation. The intent of exhibit design was to tell the American Indian story from one direction and the Whitman story from another with both stories converging at a central diorama. That intent is not readily apparent to visitors.
- As currently written, the site brochure is a loose chronology that seems to end on a minor point about the Sager children. The publication points out the fact that Narcissa and Eliza were the first women to traverse the Oregon Trail. The small brochure

map limits the effectiveness of the brochure as an on-site trail guide to the national historic site and as a pre-arrival way-finding guide for drivers.

- Many of the existing 10 wayside exhibits are located adjacent to significant features, primarily around the mission grounds. Most of these locations are well chosen in that they highlight a building foundation or other feature that is critical to the setting of the park story. However, the waysides currently rely heavily on audio push-button units, some of which are not currently working. The graphics and text on the waysides is old and rather static. Some of the waysides attempt to convey parts of the chronological story of the mission, while others are strictly site specific and do not require the visitor to follow any particular order. The current waysides need to be replaced to update the visuals, content, and intent.

### **Staffing**

Whitman Mission National Historic Site lacks the fiscal and personnel resources to implement a full range of visitor services. The small staff, mostly seasonal and temporary employees, faces many competing interests for their time. Current staff shortfalls in park operational areas such as information, interpretation and education need to be addressed. The National Park Service needs to interpret not only site resources but also place those resources in context of the broader stories related to 19th century United States history and the continuing influence of that history. To accomplish those responsibilities, the role of volunteers and other partners and National Park Service permanent and temporary staff in

operating the park interpretation, education and education programs needs to be identified.

### **Mission Grounds Interpretation**

Currently the manicured lawns throughout the mission grounds and absence of visual historic fabric do not convey the 1840s historic scene to visitors. The outline of the exterior walls of various mission buildings are provided by inlaid concrete blocks, no reconstructed buildings or raised three-dimensional profiles of the mission buildings exist to assist in the interpretation or understanding of the scene. Interpretive facilities, media, and activities need to better reflect the volume of individual and collective structures and the spatial arrangements among buildings that were present at the mission in 1847.

## OUTREACH

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- As funding and staff are available, National Park Service interpretive programs would be expanded outside of Whitman Mission National Historic Site.
- The National Park Service staff would seek rapport of purpose between the national historic site and other areas whose interpretive theme is westward settlement as a means to complement each other and assure continuity of purpose and thought for the visitors.
- Through community outreach, the staff at Whitman Mission National Historic Site would help the surrounding landowners and larger community better appreciate the important historic resources they have in their own backyard, to provide opportunities for area residents to assist the national historic site in protecting the historic setting, and to participate in national historic site programs, events, and other activities.
- There will be improved public information signs to and around the national historic site.

**Appropriate Media/Activities**  
Potential visitors and other people interested in Whitman Mission National Historic Site receive accurate, unbiased information while at home and traveling to the site. They can plan

their national park experience with information from a variety of media. Telephone directories will list numbers for the national historic site headquarters and visitor center at Walla Walla. Free publications will be available by mail from the national historic site headquarters, and sales publications can be purchased from Northwest Interpretive Association sales facility via the Internet. An up-to-date Whitman Mission website will be a part of the National Park Service Internet site to assure interested visitors access to current information. People from communities near the national historic site and those traveling through Washington and Oregon can learn about the site from visitor service facilities and local radio and television broadcasts. Personal services and non-personal media will describe what visitors can expect during their visit to Whitman Mission National Historic Site, including limitations, restrictions and opportunities, and how visitors can prepare for safe, enjoyable experiences.

**Continue to update and expand the national historic site Internet web site.** Internet sites are an important media to provide information; they can also be used as an effective educational and interpretive tool. The depth and breadth of content in the park's current web site is good with extensive, up-to-date text and well-chosen photos. As future changes prescribed in the park general management plan and described in this long-range interpretive plan are implemented, the web site will evolve to present potential visitors and distance learners current information, education and interpretation.

Components of other interpretive media developed for the

national historic site can be adapted for inclusion in the website. Information components can show how the national historic site has been interpreted historically, how the site is interpreted today, and how future interpretation is being planned. For example, an interactive web-based program developed by Plimoth Plantation (<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/>) for children entitled "You are the Historian" may be effectively adapted for use at Whitman Mission. A staff or contracted web coordinator will update and maintain the site with changing technology.

**Develop, coordinate and present personal service activities to communities near the national historic site.** The complete story of Whitman Mission extends beyond the boundaries of the national historic site. Regional cooperation and outreach activities facilitated by National Park Service staff is required to assure visitors and park neighbors opportunity to experience a complete, balanced story of Whitman Mission and its significant influence on the region and the nation. Personal service activities provided by park interpretation staff will include presentations to schools, civic and government organizations, museums and other visitor service facilities outside the boundary of the national park site. Young people who will be future stakeholders and users of the national historic site are a prime audience for outreach activities.

**Create a network of national park, public, and private sites to tell the Whitman Mission story in context with other regional stories.** For example, a trail guide might direct people to Whitman Mission National Historic Site, Tamastslikt Cultural Institute,

Oregon Trail sites, other missions, and American Indian museums. Interpretive, educational, and informational activities at all network sites will present the national historic site story with a broad perspective that encourages stakeholder participation and support of national historic site programs. Personal service activities, publications and audio-visual media at network sites will help people understand National Park Service management practices and learn about Whitman Mission National Historic Site activities and values.

**Develop a single-panel or single-fold brochure specifically for outreach.** If sufficient quantities of the park brochure produced by Harpers Ferry Center are not available for mass distribution, an inexpensive, colorful rack card can inform potential visitors about the significance of national historic site resources and what there is to see and do during a visit to the site. The rack card will feature an attractive photo representing the national historic site, statement of the park significance and primary theme, description of visitor experience opportunities, and regional map with directions Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

**Distribute national historic site brochures to information centers.** Attractive publications distributed in brochure racks at museums, libraries, and tourism service providers outside the national historic site will inform potential visitors about national park values and visitor opportunities.

## **PARK-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Visitor Services Prescription - GMP**

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance throughout the national historic site:

- The intent of National Park Service management in offering interpretive programs and services at Whitman Mission National Historic Site is to provide opportunities for visitors to experience the national historic site through activities which would affect them in thought, feelings, or actions.
- The staff at Whitman Mission National Historic Site would encourage the establishment of a "friends" group to assist the park in a variety of activities and programs.
- Some actions also involve enhancement of visitor facilities and interpretive programming; others enhance administrative and operational capabilities both in terms of facilities and staffing.
- Multiple program topics would be developed including, but not limited to, the Oregon Trail and pioneer history, the mission period and mission life, interaction between early settlers and the Cayuse people, Cayuse people and customs, the establishment of the Oregon Territory, the relationship of Whitman Mission National Historic Site to other historical sites in the Pacific Northwest Region of the United States, the National Park System, and other topics.
- In cooperation with Harpers Ferry Center, national historic site staff would locate "master" film copies of movies made for Whitman Mission National Historic Site and place them on video discs for future use and as archive copies for both Harpers Ferry Center and national historic site archives; the existing audiovisual programs will be archived on video disk or another appropriate format for preservation.
- The staff at the national historic site will expand multi-lingual opportunities.
- The park will develop and implement a plan to provide persons with disabilities the opportunity to experience as many park interpretive programs as possible.
- Interpretive programming concerning Cayuse culture will also continue.
- A new interpretive audiovisual program will be developed for use in the auditorium to replace the existing audiovisual presentation.
- Electronic media will be proposed, such as posting interpretive and archival materials on the park Internet web site.
- Public access will be provided to the research library and archives for research work, projects, and inquiry about the Whitmans, mission life, the Cayuse people, and other topics related to Whitman Mission.

**Appropriate Media/Activities**  
Present park-wide information, interpretation, and education activities and media in a broad

**context.** Future activities and media will relate the events at Whitman Mission between 1836 and 1847 to Nineteenth Century societal conditions in North America. The interpretive context of the events during that short time period will include the aftermath of those events to show the continuing significance of the site, including significance to visitors in the 21st century. Elements of that contextual presentation include the following:

- Mid-1800 geo-political environment.
- Similarities or differences among various mission sites.
- Other religious currents flowing over the continent during Whitman Mission operations, i.e. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), Seventh-Day Adventists, Shakers, etc.
- Post-mission events that climaxed for the American Indians at Oregon City where five Indians were hanged.
- Lingering effects of the events at Whitman Mission continue to affect people; interpretation will show how the effects of this site parallel the positive and negative effects of human reactions universally experienced during interaction among different cultures.

Interpretation will leave visitors with questions so they seek their own connection to the story in context with each visitor's life experience.

**Tell stories related to interpretive themes using carefully selected language that is historically accurate in content and unbiased in**

**presentation.** Language terms, such as clash and massacre, frequently used in media and personal services at the national historic site, are considered inappropriate by some people. The "Clash of Cultures" that eventually led to the "massacre" event are terms that do not convey the complexity of the cultural interactions, nor do those terms begin to cover the aftermath of the tragedy that occurred at Waiilatpu.

- "Clash of Cultures" seems to indicate to some people that the entire mission story was a clash of cultures when in fact the misunderstandings and clashes did not exist at first contact, but occurred and developed over the years as interactions continued. The cultures of the Whitmans and of the Cayuse were very different, and at times it was difficult for one group to understand the thoughts, opinions, and actions of the other group. There were verbal and physical clashes between individuals of the two groups before the Whitmans' deaths in 1847. When planning and developing future interpretive activities and media the park and other interpretive planners will discuss and evaluate the possibility of using other, more appropriate words.
- Explore the term "massacre" in visitor activities. Historically it may be the word and perception commonly used by some people when describing the missionaries' deaths, but it does not reflect the cultural complexities that led to the tragedy of those deaths and the deaths of many other settlers and Indians.

**Incorporate common historical name for mission into all information, interpretation, and education activities and media.**

An exploration is needed into how interpretive media and staff should refer to the national historic site to present a consistent image to visitors and residents in the area around the site. A survey of historical data can identify how people historically and commonly referred to the mission. Did they refer to it as Whitman Mission, Whitman's Mission, or the "Mission at Waiilatpu?" What other words can be used interpretively to help clarify and balance the complex story surrounding the mission and its many related topics?

**Interpretive Experience Areas**  
**Manage the national historic site visitor service program with geographic interpretive experience areas.** Whitman Mission National Historic Site General Management Plan divides the park into five management zones: Historic - Interpretive, Historic - Setting, Historic - Commemorative, Natural, and Park Development. This long-range interpretive plan further divides those management zones into geographic interpretive areas. Each interpretive area will reflect the distinctive character of key resource features and visitor experience opportunities in that section of the national historic site. The following interpretive experience areas will be considered when developing visitor activities:

- **Arrival** - This area includes the approach road, parking lot, and facilities adjacent to the parking lot, including path to the visitor center. Limited interpretive media will welcome people to a rural National Park Service area. Intuitive design of landscape and facilities will ease progression through the arrival area to the visi-

tor center information desk without distraction.

- **Interactive** - This interpretive area includes the visitor center, demonstration area under the shade tree behind the center, and the tipi grove activity site on the trail between the visitor center and Great Grave. A variety of personal services and interpretive media can be presented effectively in this area.
- **Transition** - Trails between the visitor center and the mission site, Oregon Trail and tipi grove will have a conspicuous absence of interpretive media. This will encourage visitors beginning their outdoor park visit to think about and build anticipation for upcoming experiences. Visitors returning to the center through the transition area can quietly reflect on their park experience.
- **Mission Grounds** - This area will feature active interpretation that encourages visitors to explore park interpretive themes. Interpretation in this area can appropriately use a variety of interpretive media.
- **Oregon Trail** - Active interpretation in this area will feature the Oregon Trail, westward migration, and the relationship of the Oregon Trail to Whitman Mission and American Indian people associated with the mission. Interpretation in this area can use a variety of interpretive media
- **Memorial Hill** - A trail on the south slope of this hill is a good location to get to the meanings of the national historic site as visitors have opportunity for an overview of the mission site and surround

ing landscape. Interpretation in this area can use a variety of quiet or silent media (wayside exhibit, publication, personal service) that will not interfere with the contemplative atmosphere at the Memorial Shaft.

- Memorial Shaft/Great Grave -This area will project a contemplative and emotional experience without interpretive media or activity. Experience opportunities will be facilitated by media and activities in other areas of the national historic site.
- Discovery -The general management plan natural zone (northern fields and waterways) and historic setting zone (river oxbow and pasture area) will be treated as "discovery" interpretive areas, one reflecting a natural and the other a cultural setting. This area will provide sensory experiences and very limited interpretive media and activity.

Developing different types of interpretation and education activities in these distinct geographic interpretive areas will diversify use and provide visitors a variety of opportunities to experience all management zones. The sections of this long-range interpretive plan following PARK-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS (see page 39) describe appropriate facilities, media, activities and services for each geographic interpretive experience area.

#### **Information/Orientation**

**Revise park sign plan to make all interpretive signs similar and of design compatible with national historic site story and landscape.** Directional signs throughout the site need updating. A simple design and shape of trail signs to replace intru-

sive signs, such as the orange/yellow signs at Great Grave, will minimize visual distraction on the historic landscape. The highway signs directing visitors to the "exhibits" is confusing; the signs should simply direct visitors to the national historic site visitor center/museum. The park will need to consider updating all way-finding signs at the national historic site after the National Park Service Uniguide program is implemented in 2006.

**Improve National Park Service and Oregon National Historic Trail identity.** National park staff will develop an identity program for Whitman Mission National Historic Site based on the National Park Service Message Project and Graphic Identity Program. The program will recommend appropriate methods to identify the national historic site so interested stakeholders can easily recognize this as a unit of the National Park System.

#### **Interpretation**

**Develop an interpretive program that assures all visitors an opportunity to leave the national historic site with a basic understanding of the primary interpretive theme.** Many stories are appropriate for presentation to visitors at Whitman Mission. Individual components of the interpretive program might present any of the themes and stories described in INTERPRETIVE THEMES section of this long-range interpretive plan. All program components will help visitors understand the primary interpretive theme of the site: *Two cultures converged and co-existed at Waiilatpu until mutual misunderstandings led to violence and retribution against people of both cultures.*

**Interpretation at Whitman Mission National Historic Site will focus on the Mission Period activities at the site but relate the mission story to visitors in a broad context.** Legislation authorizing the national historic site reflects the interpretive intent of creators of the site. However, in keeping with sound principles of interpretation, the national historic site interpretive program will present the mission in context of pre-mission and post-mission influences to show the continuum of human activity in the American West. The focus of pre-mission historical interpretation can be told by the Confederated Tribes and other visitor service entities outside the national historic site using the mission as context.

**Interpretive programming concerning American Indian culture will continue.** Interpretation of the Cayuse and other tribal culture, history, point of view, and relationship with park resources is an important component of interpretation at Whitman Mission, and supports the primary theme of the park. Several components will be explored to heighten the level of interpretation of American Indian stories. Park interpreters and members of the Confederated Tribes will plan this interpretation together, including informal interpretation, personal services programs, and wayside exhibits. The park will sponsor and facilitate programs by local community members and tribal elders to demonstrate the historic and contemporary connection between American Indian people and their environment. The Chief of Interpretation will collaborate with tribal representatives in planning, development, presentation, and operation of interpretive activities

and media relating to American Indian topics.

**Develop and present a variety of non-traditional media to immerse the visitor in mission life throughout their entire visit and beyond.** The goal is to help visitors understand and connect with the story so that they leave with an ability to retell the story and understand their own place in the continuum of cultural convergence. The concept of the park as a storytelling experience could include more non-traditional media opportunities. In the picnic area, mission and Indian foods could be interpreted. A series of fee-free special events can encourage perception that fees are a positive instead of negative influence.

**The various media at Whitman Mission National Historic Site will work together to tell the Waiilatpu story so visitors leave with an understanding of their place in the continuum of cultural convergence.** Interpretation should facilitate a visitor experience of entering and becoming part of the story of Whitman Mission. The interpretive media should set the stage for visitors to understand the characters in the story - the anglo settlers, missionaries, the militia, Cayuse, Nez Perce, and other native populations; the setting - Waiilatpu, the Oregon Trail, and the lands of the native peoples, and the circumstances from which the missionaries came. Each media component will do a specific job in the storytelling, based on the strengths of the media.

- Personal services can explore specific scenes in the story. The personal services provided by the staff can clarify and expand upon some of the outdated media and

bring the complexities of the human story of the park alive.

- The audio visual program can introduce the characters, mood, tone, and emotional energy of the story.
- Exhibits rich in original objects expand programmatic access to character development. Exhibits present the tangible objects that connect visitors to the more intangible concepts presented in the audio visual program.
- Waysides make interpretive links between landscape features and their significance in the setting of the story.
- Publications narrate the chronological story. Personal services can explore specific scenes in the story. The park newspaper can announce current events, ideas, issues, and changes in the most recent chapter in the story.

#### **Personal Services**

During the planned ten-year implementation of this long range interpretive plan additional resources will be sought to enhance the personal service program at the national historic site.

**Plan and implement a personal service program that includes stationed and roving assignments, talks, guided tours and costumed interpretation.**

- Establish stationed assignment locations. The most appropriate location for uniformed ranger presence when facilities are open to the public includes an information/orientation desk and sales area in the visitor center.

- Supplement stationed assignments with park-wide roving personal services when staff is available.
- Present ranger-led talks for school and community groups by scheduled appointment; present regularly scheduled indoor talks in auditorium or exhibit room during inclement weather.
- Present a costumed interpretation program for presentation in appropriate locations. Costumed interpretation is best presented in locations completely surrounded by historic environments. The most appropriate locations at Whitman Mission are the tipi grove encampment site and Oregon Trail wagon demonstration area.

**National historic site staff will market personal service activities to visitors.** A publication or bulletin board listing of those programs should be developed and presented in the lobby area of the visitor center, published in the park newspaper, and posted in a bulletin case outside the visitor center at the parking area, and prominently displayed on the park Internet web site.

#### **Audiovisual**

**Plan and produce a new Whitman Mission National Historic Site audiovisual program.** Currently, the slideshow presents the Whitman Mission story in a linear fashion. However, it lacks emotion and therefore restricts the ability of visitors to connect with the story on a deep level. The strength of audiovisual media is the capability to create and stir drama and emotion. Through the creative use of visuals, sound effects, and music, the visitor can make a stronger connection to

the story on an emotional as well as intellectual level which will ultimately lead to a better understanding of the story. For these reasons, the new Whitman Mission video will build a sense of the human emotions permeating the 1840s mission and leave the linear presentation of events to other media such as publications.

The best use of the audiovisual experience at the national historic site is character development of the personalities who were involved in the Whitman Mission story. The overlapping values and cultures of the missionaries, Indians, and settlers can be introduced with an emotional tension critical to connecting visitors to the significance of the site. The audiovisual program can set the mood, tone, and energy of the Whitman Mission story and of the national historic site visitor experience. The emotional tone of the production can express the human interactions at the mission and show how people still deal with the aftermath of mission history.

Audiovisual is an appropriate medium to create impressions of the Whitmans' and the Cayuse's experiences. For example, the new program can illustrate what it was like for the Whitmans to travel, build, and live at the mission as well as what it was like for the American Indian people to encounter these individuals and watch as they migrated onto Indian lands. Multiple perspectives can be achieved by telling the story through a combination of narration, voice-over readings from journal entries and letters, and interviews with subject-matter experts and descendants of people connected to the story. Small-scale reenactments or vignettes may also be considered.

For example, a reenactment of travel on the Oregon Trail can feature people walking and wagon wheels rolling across the prairie. Camera cuts to people's faces, hands, feet walking or riding can be used to illustrate the hardships of travel and the joy of arrival at Whitman Mission. Dramatic readings from the Whitmans' journals or letters describing their journey west can be used underneath the visuals. There can then be a shift to an interviewee, perhaps someone from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, imagining what the Cayuse people might have thought upon meeting these missionaries and other travelers on the Oregon Trail. This audiovisual approach will be a blending of multiple images and voices.

Planners for the new audiovisual program might consider other stylistic approaches as well. For example, depending on the screen size within the theater, the screen may be broken up into sections and different voices and visuals used in each section. An interview of a native person discussing the native perspective may be featured on one part of the screen. On another part of the screen, an interviewee discussing the motivations of the missionaries traveling to Oregon can be featured. On another part of the screen, a discussion about the Oregon Trail and the motivations of those people traveling west can be discussed. Another section may feature scholars, including National park Service interpretive staff, discussing how this story has been interpreted differently through time in an attempt to integrate some of the issues that the park is grappling with today. This audiovisual approach can also be achieved by using multiple screens.

Regardless of the approach used in the new film, captioning and audio description will be incorporated in the final product.

**Initiate pre-planning and consultation necessary to prepare for future audiovisual planning and production.**

- Schedule an audiovisual technician (Harpers Ferry Center or contract) to visit the national historic site to analyze audiovisual facility needs.
- Consult other National Park System units that have recently acquired audiovisual productions. The Fort Stanwix audiovisual program produced by Northern Lights Production under the direction of Harpers Ferry Center offers four short films to introduce visitors to highly sensitive issues in a manner that respects all viewpoints. National historic site staff can view these and other productions to evaluate the appropriateness of their audiovisual technique at Whitman Mission.
- Assemble a resource packet of information. Some of the work for this packet has already been done during planning for the national historic site website photo gallery and for re-printing the Whitman Mission handbook. The completed packet will contain a comprehensive resource of visuals and other supporting materials. For example, it may include a number of primary visual resources that can be used to tell the Whitmans' story such as original journal entries and letters, drawings of the mission site, and portraits of the Whitmans. Even though these drawings and portraits may have

been created after demise of the mission, they still prove useful to help tell the Whitman Mission story. In addition to images and artifacts, the resource package can include information on potential subject experts (such as individuals from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) who are willing to be interviewed. If re-enactments are included in the audiovisual production, resources for historically accurate clothing and supporting artifacts will be needed.

- Assemble a small team of national historic site staff and outside consultants for the development and review processes of the audiovisual production. Although developmental materials such as scripts and rough cuts can be viewed by a large audience, comments will need to filter to a small team that is familiar with the goals and history of the audiovisual project. Outside consultants may include a representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, teacher from partner schools, and subject-matter expert from a university.
- Before a PMIS statement is submitted for funding the new audiovisual project, consultation with Harper Ferry Center is recommended. The Harpers Ferry Center Budget Estimator (304-535-5050) and the Associate Manager for Audiovisual Arts can help prepare an accurate budget submittal after acquiring a sense of the scope, range, goals, and approach of the production.

**Explore options for developing an audio tour of the national historic site interpretive experience areas.** A variety of audio technologies

can be used effectively at Whitman Mission to deliver interpretive messages to appropriate sites. For example, Minute Man National Historical Park has developed cell phone tours and Shiloh National Battlefield has developed a CD audio tour and guide booklet. A tour of Whitman Mission interpretive areas presented by either technology can enhance park-wide interpretation by helping visitors better connect to the site. Audio descriptions of wayside exhibits will improve accessibility, allow for language translation, and help convey historic quotes with appropriate voice character. For example, one of the more powerful and effective audio stations currently associated with wayside exhibits addresses the death of the Whitmans' daughter. Audio interpretation provided to visitors via portable listening devices with earphones that are available for loan or sale at the visitor center can create effective interpretation that preserves the contemplative atmosphere of the memorial area.

A tour guide book recommended in the PUBLICATIONS section of this long-range interpretive plan can be packaged with the audio tour as a companion media. Together, the audio and book can give visitors more in-depth historical information in a multi-layered format that meets the needs of visitors with various interests and learning styles, including children.

When this recommendation is implemented there will no longer be need for audio narration emitting from wayside exhibits. Therefore, audio will not be recommended in the new wayside exhibit plan proposed in WAYSIDE EXHIBITS section (see page 29) of this long-range

interpretive plan. The absence of open audio speakers will improve the desired visitor experience of learning, reflection and contemplation throughout the national historic site.

**Discontinue use of the audiovisual production currently presented in the visitor center auditorium.** The production attempts to serve dual functions, contains some factual errors that give visitors incorrect impressions of the Cayuse people and of Marcus Whitman, and uses biased language that can disturb some audiences, especially American Indians. The cost of improving the current production (new script development, professional narration, soundtrack re-edit and re-mix, new captions) would be high and could not fix some contextual deficiencies. The cost of improvements can be better applied to a new audiovisual production to replace the current slide show. The discontinued audiovisual program can be retained for use in the curriculum-based education program for language and social studies.

### **Publications**

**Maintain a current scope of sales statement to guide acquisition of sales publications offered to the public by the park cooperating association.** The plan should identify publication, audiovisual, and other interpretive items that reflect park significance and themes. The sales statement should describe appropriate topics, media types, and price range that meet the needs of current audience categories. The park staff will work with the cooperating association to maintain an outlet that provides merchandise that meets the standards of the National Park Service, appeals to visitors, and meets the goals of the

cooperating association. The statement will encourage the cooperating association agent to continue offering the current products for sale and to seek appropriate new items to augment or replace existing inventory. Materials that interpret Mission Period and American Indian themes in a regional and global context are appropriate. The current lack of site specific items suggests a focus on development of more of this type product. Other appropriate items might include:

- Design, produce, and sell a Whitman Mission National Historic Site patch. The patch might include a visual image or logo that graphically identifies the park.
- Design, produce, and sell clothing (shirt, cap, or windbreaker) that displays thematic messages.

**Develop a poster for the national historic site.** The poster, with a learning guide on the back, can be sold through the cooperating association for general distribution and made available to teachers and Junior Rangers for both curriculum-based and informal education experiences.

**Explore potential to revise and reprint the National Park Service handbook, Whitman Mission.** This handbook was printed in 1964 and is now unavailable to visitors. A publishing source and funding should be found to reprint the book as an inexpensive take-home publication to tell the park story more in depth than provided by the free brochure distributed to visitors. If sales capacity at Whitman Mission National Historic Site does not support the cost of revising and printing the existing book, a hand

book that features complimentary stories from several parks could be a strong consideration for the future. The broad scope of stories related to Whitman Mission themes and resources go beyond site boundaries. Detailed information, photographs, and graphics can integrate current and historic landscapes with traditional cultures for people who want more information than provided in brochures.

**Design a park-produced newspaper based on criteria developed by the National Park Service Graphics Identity Program.** The current site newspaper does not project a clear purpose. The content of each future edition will feature graphics and text reflecting a single theme. Dividing the newspaper into sections will emphasize different visitor experience options available in various interpretive experience areas of the national historic site. The publication will include seasonal information about interpretive programs, special events, upcoming changes planned for the park such as the planting of native grasses on the Mission Grounds and the use of green technology throughout the national historic site. The newspaper can also direct visitors to other sites related to Whitman Mission, such as Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, to encourage visitors to learn about the Whitman Mission story in context of other sites and events.

**Develop a rack card for mass distribution.** Whitman Mission National Historic Site currently does not have an inexpensive rack card. A single panel or single fold information card will be developed for distribution to local hotels and other visitor sites to invite local travelers to visit Whitman Mission

National Historic Site. The rack card will be used to respond to requests for large quantities of pre-visit publications when supplies of the brochure produced by Harpers Ferry Center are not available.

**Plan and produce an inexpensive tour guide for the national historic site.** The guide will be distributed through the cooperating association as a sales item. It will be designed and written for on-site use as an interpretive guide to significant park resources and stories. High quality photographs of current park scenes will make the publication a desirable take-home souvenir that reinforces the national historic site experience for visitors long after their national park visit. A tour guide booklet developed as a companion media for the audio tour proposed in Interpretation - AUDIOVISUAL section of these Park-wide Recommendations can give visitors in-depth historical interpretation.

**Revise the current brochure produced by Harpers Ferry Center for the national historic site.** A request will be made to modify the brochure at its next printing to improve map and text. Text of the brochure is likely not read by visitors while they are at the site given that a typical visit is only an hour long. The single map currently has a dual purpose: driving directions; on-site tour guide. The map does not identify the main road near the national historic site, and it does not provide a regional view to help potential visitors find their way to the site. The map is too small to include names, locations, and routes to significant interpretive features. Lack of detail creates difficulty for visitors trying to orient the map to the site landscape. These map

characteristics limit the effectiveness of the brochure as an on-site trail guide to the national historic site. The following changes will be implemented when the brochure is reprinted.

**Map:** The single map will be replaced with two maps that are distinct in purpose and focus.

A small regional way-finding map will provide an effective driving guide for people who received their brochure before arriving at the national historic site. The new map will show major highways (Interstate-84, Interstate-82, US 395, US 12, Oregon 11) and prominent cities (Walla Walla and Pasco, Washington, Pendleton, Oregon, and Lewiston, Idaho ) on those highways. The main road near Whitman Mission National Historic Site will be clearly labeled as US 12, and the road entering the national historic site will be labeled by name.

A large interpretive area map will function as a walking guide as visitors tour the national historic site. The large size of the map will allow more detailed illustration of trails and visitor use features. All interpretive areas can be shown: interactive, transition, mission grounds, Oregon Trail, memorial hill, memorial, and grave. The mission grounds interpretive area will identify individual structures, sites, and landscape features such as Mill Creek and river oxbow which can help visitors orient the map to significant landscape features. Except for identification labels, text will not be necessary to supplement the large interpretive area map; wayside exhibits throughout the national historic site effectively identify and interpret each major interpretive feature. This map will need to be updated when addi

tional land is acquired or new facilities are developed.

**Text:** Since most visitors do not read national park brochures while touring sites, text of the revised brochure should be written as a take-home publication for further reading. Text sections of the brochure will present the primary interpretive theme established for Whitman Mission National Historic Site. The narrative will present the primary theme in a broad context that includes pre-mission influences and post-mission outcomes and that focuses on elements of the Whitman Mission story that are minimally presented during the onsite visit. The text can reflect the idea of cultures with two sets of values converging at this place. As with other media, more quotes can be used effectively to tell the story while avoiding a sterilized interpretation of chronological events. The new brochure text will not present the Whitman Mission story as a conclusive event but as a crescendo on a continuum of significant human cultural evolution.

**Develop a series of site bulletins that provide detailed views of the Whitmans and their associates and of the Cayuse people.** Site bulletins can fill in gaps of the Whitman Mission story that may not be fully explained in other media such as audiovisual and museum exhibits.

- A site bulletin can provide interpretive balance in terms of how the Whitmans and American Indians interacted at Waiilatpu. Stories told in single page publications can focus on daily life at the mission and at American Indian camps.

- The original setting of Waiilatpu prior to the mission can be better understood from the restored natural areas within the park boundaries. A site bulletin would be a good way to interpret the natural areas to avoid modern intrusive development such as signs or waysides. The natural history should be tied to the native people and their use of the land, as well as covering National Park Service restoration and stewardship activities.
- A simplified tour map could also be printed in black and white site-bulletin format to hand out to large groups that do not need multiple copies of the full-color park brochure but would like to have trail maps in hand while exploring the park. This version of the park map could also serve as a "large-print" map for visually impaired visitors.
- A description of travel on the Oregon Trail can include quotes from letters and diaries to personalize the hardships of travel. Topics can include transportation, food, health issues and the importance of way-stops such as Whitman Mission to the health, safety, and emotions of Oregon Trail travelers.

**Design site bulletin publication format to clearly identify the National Park Service and the topic presented by each bulletin.** The proposed format includes prominent titles with few words and bold, large Frutiger font. Body text will use National Park Service Rawlinson fonts in keeping with the National Park Service Message Project and Graphic Identity Program guidelines. Whitman Mission staff might also consider

color coding each bulletin title band to differentiate publications presenting each topic while maintaining overall consistency of format style. All bulletins will contain the National Park Service arrowhead logo.

**Produce an auto tour guide publication featuring regional points of interest related to Whitman Mission themes.** Many sites in the national historic site and surrounding region reflect important and interesting elements of historic and current cultural interactions between American Indian and other people in the Pacific Northwest. Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff would participate with other partners to produce a tour publication to link the national historic site and surrounding parks and public and private historic sites. The automobile tour publication will provide in-depth interpretation of sites along designated roads for local and national visitors who want more information than available in site brochures. An inexpensive publication sold through site sales facilities will provide interesting interpretation, effective way-finding, and an attractive souvenir that extends enjoyment and connection to historic resources long after the visit. Other media alternatives for the automobile tour can be considered: CD, DVD, CD-ROM or other new technology.

### **Wayside Exhibits**

Wayside exhibits at the national historic site provide round-the-clock information and interpretation at many sites where personal services or more elaborate physical facilities are impractical. Waysides should interpret the landscape features that a visitor can see today, and connect those features to the story of the

Whitman Mission. However, the natural zone designated in the national historic site general management plan should be left unobstructed by signs and waysides.

**Develop a new wayside exhibit plan.** National historic site staff will begin the planning process to replace all wayside exhibits. Collaboration of a wayside exhibit planner and subject matter experts will present exhibit design to bring the site wayside exhibit program up to current National Park Service standards and to effectively tell appropriate site stories. The plan will describe the purpose for each wayside exhibit, identify graphics available for use, show thumbnail sketches for exhibit panel design concepts, and determine exhibit sizes, base styles, and installation locations. A detailed budget estimate will also be part of the planning document. The resulting plan will provide a balanced and coordinated program that will promote the most effective use of national park resources in implementing the site wayside exhibit program. New waysides should be sited at significant features and utilize appropriate quotes to bring the landscape back to life with the voices of the missionaries, American Indians, and settlers. New illustrations will help bring the historic landscape back to life. A tentative list of wayside sites and purpose statement for each is included in interpretive area recommendations section of this long-range interpretive plan.

The wayside exhibit plan will recommend new exhibits based on the following criteria:

- All exhibits adhere to current National Park Service design standards for wayside exhibits.

- Up-to-date wayside exhibits help visitors better understand the variety of sites available for their use and enjoyment at Whitman Mission National Historic Site.
- Judiciously placed wayside exhibits help visitors connect with the many significant resources otherwise unknown, unnoticed, underappreciated, or misunderstood.
- Based upon National Park Service Messaging Project and Graphic Identity Program design standards, these exhibits identify each park site as a unit of the National Park System.
- Exhibits provide information or interpretation regarding sites and resources with a consistent and coherent voice.
- Appealing design, concise writing, and high-quality exhibit production materials reinforce respect for important park resources.
- The number of wayside exhibits is adequate to relate interpretive themes to visitors but does not overload the national historic site.
- Use appropriate American Indian language to provide more balance and insight.

**Produce and install outdoor orientation exhibits at the visitor center parking area.** Two upright wayside exhibits will be arranged in a sheltered kiosk. The first will welcome visitors to Whitman Mission National Historic Site. It will introduce the primary theme of the site using Whitman Mission, the Oregon Trail, and Cayuse people role in creating that theme. The second exhibit will feature orientation to the

national historic site. It will present a map of the national historic site, things to see and do at the site, and direct visitors to the visitor center as their first stop for additional information and interpretation.

**Produce and install new interpretive wayside exhibits as directed by the wayside exhibit proposal and plan.** Ideas for specific wayside exhibits are described in interpretive experience area recommendations following the PARK-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS section of this long-range interpretive plan. The wayside exhibit recommendations presented in this long-range interpretive plan are intended as seminal ideas that can be planned further as part of an in-depth park-wide wayside exhibit planning process.

**Create temporary wayside exhibits to interpret short term projects.** Construction, rehabilitation, resource management, and research projects in heavily used visitor areas can be identified and interpreted with wayside exhibits. Exhibits might explain about funding, partnerships, and future plans. For example "Facility improvements brought to you by a partnership between the National Park Service and the (insert partner name). Currently work is being done to \_\_\_\_\_. Future projects include \_\_\_\_". Moveable exhibits can interpret temporary conditions.

### **Education**

To facilitate connections among people, parks, and natural and cultural resources, national historic site managers and staff will strive to accomplish the education initiatives described in this long-range interpretive plan and a curriculum-based education program to be expanded

in the future. The following guidelines will form the basis for an education program centered at Whitman Mission National Historic Site but encompassing regional education activities as well.

**The national historic site fledgling education program will be continued and expanded.** National Park Service staff has initiated a curriculum-based education program and drafted an education plan for the national historic site. The education program will continue using existing facilities to support the national historic site education program and develop new facilities and education activities as time and funding permits. Site managers and staff will strive to accomplish the education initiatives established by the National Park Service and the current Whitman Mission education program. They will develop educational activities to optimize potential opportunities the resources in all interpretive areas of the national historic site offer to schools, such as the following recommended activity.

The cultural sensitivity of the Whitman Mission story and the way that story has historically been told is both a "minefield" and "goldmine" for education and interpretation activities. National park staff and school teachers can use the existing audiovisual program and museum exhibits as a basis for exploring how heritage is interpreted and how specific words chosen to tell stories can reflect real and perceived bias when viewed by various cultures. Language and social studies activities in the education program can analyze words such as "sacred" and "massacre" for biased presentation or potential for biased interpretation. Teachers and stu-

dents can view the audiovisual presentation and walk through the museum exhibit area to discuss language used. Discussion can present different perceptions in a blended format that explores different points of view and perspectives in a holistic approach that is important in modern education theory and practice.

**The national historic site education program will support established Washington and Oregon state curricula and reflect national education standards.** Pre-visit activities will prepare teachers and students for an educational visit to Whitman Mission resources. Post-visit activities will reinforce topics discussed at the national historic site to extend learning experiences throughout the school year. Time spent at the national historic site will include curriculum-based activities and immersion experiences with national park resources and stories.

**Integration of academic content disciplines will be a prime focus for future program development.** New activities developed for the education program will reflect real-life applications. National park interpretation and school education staffs must be aware of various learning styles and develop activities that respond effectively to as many styles as possible. Format of activities will provide multilevel opportunities within each activity to reach different levels of intelligence and interest that are universally found within school groups.

**National historic site staff will explore potential distance learning opportunities.** Cooperation with regional schools and national education organizations will iden-

tify current and future technologies planned to link schools to other education resources. National Park Service education program managers at Whitman Mission will seek opportunities to plan and implement a distance learning program in partnership with school districts near the national historic site. A linked education program may enable students to interact with educators and historic site staff via the Internet and other distance learning venues.

**Enhance partnerships and affiliations with colleges, schools and education networks.** Whitman Mission has an extensive education program that reaches a variety of curriculum-based and non-curriculum-based groups. The current program includes an internship program with Whitman College, a community service program with Whitman High School, on-line volunteer activities with individuals around the world (Poland and Australia), a cooperative arrangement with a Seattle-based education network for the disabled, as well as the more traditional school programs with teacher study guides aimed at the fourth grade level. National Park Service staff will explore opportunities to expand cooperative activities with colleges to offer student teacher internships and other training. Students participating in approved education classes at colleges or universities can spend time at the national historic site honing their museum and outdoor teaching skills. Pre-college education activities will expand to include groups that are currently under represented in program participation, such as middle school and high school classes.

**National Park Service staff will work with an education advisory and implementation group to develop the site education program.** The advisory group will help National Park Service staff determine how to link Whitman Mission themes to teaching requirements of school districts participating in the education program. The education group can provide outside perspectives to help national historic site staff generate new ideas for education activities. The group will be composed of several teachers (including the two teachers who participated in the long-range interpretive planning workshop), curriculum specialists, and other representatives of school districts, education associations, university professors, and state and local department of education representatives. Group members may also assist with classroom instruction and presentation of teacher workshops.

**Implement training and internship programs for education partners.** One goal of the Whitman Mission education program will be well-educated, confident teachers who are knowledgeable of national historic site themes and who can present education activities independently. That requires a change in focus from the traditional education goal of a well-educated student. Teacher training sponsored by the National Park Service will include techniques to help teachers feel comfortable in conducting learning experiences in museum and outdoor environments and opportunities for teachers to visit the national historic site so they are aware of learning potential of the site. One element of teacher training will focus on future teachers who are still in college and participating in practical teaching exercises. All new

teachers participating in the education program will receive copies of activities previously developed by experienced teachers and successfully implemented in a historic site setting.

**Develop a funding strategy for implementing additional education activities.** Whitman Mission education program managers will seek resources to meet current and future demands for educational services. Staff will commit to find and tap varied and sustainable funding sources. Funds and volunteer resources will enable national historic site staff to maintain current programs and develop new ones.

**Establish and maintain currency.** An effective education program will require frequent curriculum refinement and constant interaction between teachers and national historic site staff, so both can quickly learn of changes in program activities and state education department requirements. Future program development will assure that activities are compatible with the needs of classroom teachers. Education program managers will establish verbal or written teacher assessment of the program to assure adherence to current trends in education.

**Retain an education specialist position on Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff.** Active and direct involvement with cooperating school districts will be necessary to assure a well-coordinated, beneficial education experience for all groups. An education specialist position will be retained to coordinate a curriculum-based education program and to participate in faculty meetings, in-service workshops, seminars, and other teacher gatherings. The coordinator and other rangers or volunteers will

visit schools within commuting distance of the national historic site to encourage cooperation between the National Park Service and school district administrators.

**Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff will continue using a reservation system for school groups.** A reservation system will better serve the educational community by assuring them that national historic site staff is available to assist each school group visiting the site for curriculum-based activities.

### Partnerships

The prairie between the Blue Mountains and the Columbia River is rich in natural and cultural features that provide insight into Nineteenth Century life and the continuum of influences from that era upon present ways of life in the area. Many stories related to these features are beyond the focused purpose of Whitman Mission National Historic Site and the financial, personnel, and logistic capabilities of the National Park Service to fully interpret. Partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals will be explored to assure that visitors to Washington, Oregon and Whitman Mission National Historic Site receive a full, balanced experience with the area's heritage and its continuing influence on today's residents and visitors.

**The National Park Service will continue to cooperate with the following organizations to assure high quality visitor services.** The cooperation will not be confined to National Park Service administered parks and sites. Positive cooperation among all providers of tourism services will help each partner respond

to the opportunities and challenges that face them.

- Northwest Interpretive Association - This cooperating association is a non-profit organization that works cooperatively with public land agencies, including the National Park Service, throughout the northwest to support historical, scientific, and educational activities. A bookstore operated by this association at Whitman Mission National Historic Site offers visitors a wide range of interpretive publications for purchase to supplement free interpretation and education at the site. Also, funds raised by the sale of publications are returned to public land partners to further educating people through interpretation.
- Tamastlikt Cultural Institute - The Institute, located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, presents visitors to the reservation with an opportunity to share and participate in the dramatic story of the interaction of two vastly different cultures. The institute provides a brief overview of the Oregon Trail but concentrates on the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes and their traditional culture. Interpretive and educational activities at the reservation institute and at Whitman Mission National Historic Site provide regional visitors and residents opportunities to participate in a complete, balanced program of activities related to the Mission Period of settlement and American Indian culture. Partnership between these two entities can focus Mission Period interpretation at Whitman Mission with limited interpretation of American Indian topics and focus American Indian interpretation at Umatilla Indian Reservation with limited interpretation of Mission Period topics.
- National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center - This 509 acre site with a 23,000 square foot interpretive facility near Baker City, Oregon, is operated by the Bureau of Land Management. It interprets the experience of pioneer families who traveled the 2000 mile Oregon Trail. The interpretive center features historical exhibits, audio, video, dioramas, and artifacts to represent the experiences of Oregon Trail emigrants. Visitors can also visit nearby wagon ruts still visible from emigrant wagons. In addition to this center, there are four others along the Oregon Trail in Oregon, including the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute.
- Whitman College - Located just seven miles east of Whitman Mission National Historic Site, the college staff, students, and facilities have supported the national historic site. The museum and archives at Whitman College became the logical collection point for artifacts associated with the Whitman era prior to development of the national historic site. The college's collection of historical materials and the scholars at the college are important components of the knowledge base associated with the Whitmans and the times in which they lived. The park and college have collaborated on many projects ranging from the items on display in the park's museum to programs relating to local American Indian tribes.
- Fort Walla Walla Park and Museum - Fort Walla Walla Park

is the largest park in the city of Walla Walla. It contains over 200 acres and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant historic site.

The park contains picnic areas, the Fort Wall Walla Museum complex (15 acres that were part of a military reservation in the mid to late 1800s), a historic cavalry and American Indian cemetery, an amphitheater, a bicycle trail system, and a 70 acre nature preserve.

- Other National Park Service units - Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff will collaborate with other national park areas in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to identify themes that are of common concern to all units. Partnership planning and development of interpretation and education activities and other appropriate projects will enhance presentation of common themes to regional visitors and residents.

**Explore potential partnership opportunities with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.**

Whitman Mission National Historic Site and Tamastlikt Cultural Institute share resources and stories related to the cultural convergence that occurred along the Oregon Trail. The National Park Service can effectively tell stories related to Whitman Mission. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation can most effectively tell stories related to American Indian culture and perspectives from ancient to the present. Integration of interpretive themes will present a more complete, balanced story and resources of each partner will be more efficiently utilized. Visitors and regional residents

will benefit from expanded, multi-faceted visitor experience opportunities, including the following partnership endeavors.

- Holistic interpretation: Visitor services and interpretation provided by the National Park Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation must present the Whitman and American Indian story in a holistic and balanced way. Conveyance of interpretive messages related to American Indians can focus on Cayuse people but must include all tribes. To present a holistic look, new approaches must be considered so the history presented to visitors balance the American Indian and Whitman Mission parts of the story.
- American Indian Memorial: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation want an American Indian memorial. An appropriate memorial can acknowledge and commemorate Indian losses as a consequence of the events at Whitman Mission. The memorial can also help heal burdens and emotional wounds still carried by descendants of the people who were involved in incidents at Whitman Mission a century and a half ago. Partnership among the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the National Park Service, and other historical organizations can assist the Confederated Tribes efforts to secure an American Indian memorial - perhaps in Oregon City, on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, or at other appropriate site.
- Unbiased interpretation and information: National Park Service and Confederated Tribes of the

Umatilla Indian Reservation staffs can share knowledge and skills to present unbiased information and interpretation activities and media at Whitman Mission National Historic Site and Tamastslit Cultural Institute. For example, terms such as "sacred" and "massacre" need to be defined so they are consistently understood.

- Historical/cultural preservation and interpretation: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Whitman Mission National Historic Site need to work together to advance preservation activities of both entities. The Confederated Tribes have offered their native nursery stock for re-establishment of native plants on the Mission Grounds. The national historic site can assist the tribes with protection of historic properties and interpretation of past and present Cayuse culture. The Confederated Tribes are working with Washington Department of Transportation to protect a battlefield and a cemetery where tribal people are buried. Tribal leaders and national historic site staff need to work together to protect and interpret these two sites.
- Staffing: Elders and young people from the Umatilla Indian Reservation can present American Indian history, culture, and everyday life interpretive episodes at Whitman Mission National Historic Site. National historic site interpretive staff can present similar activities at the Umatilla Indian Reservation to interpret settler and missionary history, culture and everyday life. For example, reciprocal costumed interpretation can be presented at both

locations if mutually agreed. Presentations can represent Indians visiting missionaries at Whitman Mission and missionaries visiting a Cayuse camp at Tamastslit Cultural Institute.

- Collaboration: National historic site staff will explore with cultural institute staff any opportunity to develop a consultation mechanism or standard operating procedure to assure collaboration on interpretation projects. For example, how to fit American Indian history into Whitman Mission interpretive activities and how to fit the mission history into Tamastslit Cultural Institute activities needs to be thought about. Collaboration between the two history organizations can help each determine what chapters of the story need to be told and which locations can best tell those chapters.

As a result of effective collaboration the visitor experience at Whitman Mission National Historic Site and Tamastslit Cultural Institute can set the stage for greater cultural understanding for all visitors to each site.

**The National Park Service will facilitate other partnership opportunities to improve services to national historic site visitors. Whitman Mission National Historic Site and other partner sites will share expertise for training, historical research, special events and seminars, exhibit planning and development, site promotion, and tours.** Coordination and partnerships will be facilitated with all other agencies to support implementation of the general management plan and this long-range interpretive plan.

### **Access**

**Existing programs and facilities will be made accessible to the extent possible within the limitations of an area with the purpose of preservation of resources.**

National historic site staff and consultants will periodically review activities and facilities and recommend appropriate improvements.

**Design of new facilities and media will provide optimum access for visitors and employees.**

The Architectural Barriers Act and the American's With Disabilities Act establish standards for physical access. All new interpretive media will conform to National Park Service Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media. The techniques of universal design, audio description, and hands-on activities and exhibits will be used in as many interpretive experience areas as possible.

**Develop alternative interpretation methods for inaccessible areas of the national historic site.**

Alternative interpretation presented at facilities near areas that cannot be made physically accessible will enable all visitors to understand and appreciate significant resources and stories. For example, photographs on wayside exhibits at entrances to the Discovery interpretive experience area and publications distributed at the visitor center can make resources of that interpretive area vicariously available to visitors with mobility impairments. Also, visual representations such as QTVR and video projection of the Memorial Shaft and panoramic landscape seen from Memorial Hill will be presented in the visitor center.

**The national historic site interpretive program will provide**

**multilingual information to an appropriate extent based on current visitation.** Whitman Mission interpretive managers and accessibility specialists will decide the needed extent of multilingual presentations. Continuous assessment of visitation trends will determine future need for multilingual information and interpretation. A moderate approach will initially provide fundamental information in English and Spanish, while including regional American Indian languages when they contribute to presenting visitors with the rich cultural heritage of the area. For example, new wayside exhibits presenting orientation and interpretation can be designed to include both English and Spanish languages as well as some Cayuse words.

When museum exhibits that interpret American Indian culture and interaction with Whitman Mission are rehabbed or replaced, appropriate English language text and American Indian terms will be incorporated. If the new audiovisual production described in this long-range interpretive plan proposes American Indian narration, the narration could be delivered with appropriate American Indian language if enough of the language is available. To substitute Nez Perce language in lieu of Cayuse, Walla Walla, or Umatilla would not be appropriate. During planning for the new audiovisual production, consideration will be given to captioning the film in English and Spanish and translating any American Indian language used into both English and Spanish.

**Design, fabricate, and install an interactive interpretive station in the visitor center.** The computer station currently available to visitors

in the visitor center will be upgraded or replaced. A computer station, video kiosk, or discovery station displayed in an area accessible to all visitors can make less accessible areas of the national historic site, such as the panoramic view from Memorial Hill, visually available. The station can present visitor information that is easy to update with current activities, special event schedules, and safety messages.

### **Research and Planning**

**Prepare an implementation plan annually.** Each plan will present a comprehensive view of the annual interpretation and education program. Based on funding projections, these plans will briefly analyze the current program in relation to the long-range interpretive plan. The annual plan will identify management issues facing interpretation, propose an annual work plan, and describe new individual service plans. The plans will establish an annual program far enough in advance to allow efficient implementation.

**Prepare an interpretive database.** The database will be a compilation of plans, documents, and inventories that are gathered together in one place or referenced in one place to facilitate planning and implementation of projects described in this long-range interpretive plan. The database will include at least the following: strategic plan, general management plan, legislative history, media inventory, visitor survey data, interpretive reports, media plans, and national historic site reading list. Database materials can include anything needed to improve media products at Whitman Mission National Historic Site in order to reduce the cultural bias and present a more holistic story. Tamastlikt

Cultural Institute, Fort Walla Walla Museum, Whitman College and Washington State are sources for primary source material.

**Develop a Whitman Mission National Historic Site editorial style guide.** The guide will create a standard for writing and editing of all interpretive media presented at the site and will define policy regarding recurring questions about grammar and editorial style. It is important that the style used at Whitman Mission be consistent, culturally sensitive, and appropriate for the audiences served by the national historic site. The style guide will address the highly charged words that are used in interpretation. Words such as "sacred" and "massacre" need to be included in the style guide with a discussion of their diversity of meanings for different groups of people. Because those words can create misunderstandings, they should be limited in their use. Also, the words used for native peoples such as Indian, American Indian, Native American, Cayuse, Nez Perce, Umatilla, tribe, clan, and other terms must be clearly defined so they are used appropriately and consistently in all national historic site media.

**Program and conduct natural, archeological, and historical research and adapt data for effective use by interpreters and visitors.** Interpretation and education programming should be based on current research. Additional information about Whitman Mission National Historic Site resources and themes is needed to effectively plan and present visitor activities. Good information from nearby sites can be adapted for application at Whitman Mission, but site-specific information must also be collected

and adapted for presentation to visitors. Knowledge gathered by research should be made available to interpretive staff and other audiences in a useable format as soon as possible following acquisition. Additional research that answers questions about gaps in the park story will be given high priority. Was there a difference among missions that contributed to demise of positive relationships between cultures at Whitman Mission resulting in explosive events? What was the character of cross-cultural relationships at other missions? What part, if any, did Marcus Whitman's role as a man of medicine contribute to relationships at Whitman Mission? What societal trends and perspectives were occurring during the years the mission operated? Did those trends and perspectives contribute to the events at the mission?

**Develop a comprehensive wayside exhibit proposal and plan.** National historic site staff will plan future wayside exhibit replacement based on the site general management plan and long-range interpretive plan. All exhibits will reflect Messaging Identity Project standards. The wayside exhibit plan will identify exhibit locations, themes, objectives, topics, and site development.

**Develop a uniform visual identity for signs and interpretive devices.** The visual identity of directional signs and wayside exhibits should project a uniformity that reinforces the visual character of a rural national historic site and conform to National Park Service Graphic Identity Standards. Visitors will be left with no doubt as to the preferred route from one interpretation site to another. Upon arrival at each interpretive feature, the visitor will

sense a uniform visual communication that relates to what he or she experienced when they first turned off the highway into this special place.

## ARRIVAL AREA

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The park visitor center and museum will be named and signed on the exterior of the building "Waiilatpu Visitor Center" to reflect its Cayuse name.
- Some minor modification to the entry landscaping, walkways, and general access to the park will be proposed in order to better direct visitors to the visitor center for their park orientation experience.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

The following recommendations will reduce visitor confusion concerning the desirable way to proceed as they travel from US-12 to the visitor center entrance.

**Develop and implement a way-finding plan.** A way-finding plan will recommend sign locations and content on roadways near the national historic site and architectural elements, signs, and landscape design within the site to facilitate a positive arrival experience. Whitman Mission staff will explore with highway officials the potential to improve way-finding to the park. The distance of the national historic site from major travel routes requires an expanded sign program to improve navigation

from major highways and nearby cities. Using National Park Service Graphic Identity Standards, park and transportation agency staffs will explore sign improvements along Washington 12 and Oregon 11 linkages to major cities and interstate highways to provide clear, accurate, and convenient way-finding. An identifiable visual image, such as the National Park Service arrowhead, can enhance recognition of signs from fast moving vehicles. The way-finding planning team can identify a better attractant to describe Whitman Mission experience opportunities than the current sign on Washington 12 that directs visitors to the "Whitman Mission Exhibits." The way-finding plan can suggest the sign be changed to direct people either to the Whitman Mission Visitor Center or the Whitman Mission National Historic Site. The way-finding plan will also incorporate the other recommendations described in this section of the long-range interpretive plan as deemed appropriate by the way-finding plan team.

**Plan, produce and install a short range radio broadcast station.** A station on the new U. S. Route 12 near the exit for the national historic site can welcome people to Whitman Mission National Historic Site and identify the site's association with the National Park Service and the Oregon National Historic Trail. The station message can transmit information appropriate for visitors and residents of the region who frequently commute near the park. The message can identify the primary theme of Whitman Mission, describe visitor experience opportunities at the site, and direct visitors to follow signs to the national park interpretive center. The message can be easily changed to reflect seasonal interpretive programs

and special events that encourage national historic site visitation by regional residents.

**Reconfigure parking lot to accommodate buses and enhance visitor experience.** Architectural elements, site planning and landscape design at the parking area will contribute to a positive arrival experience. Trees that shade the parking area will also shield parked cars from the historic areas of the national historic site and baffle traffic noise.

All elements of site design in and around the parking area will focus visitor attention toward the visitor center. Design of paths and landscape between the parking area and the visitor center will create intuitive way-finding so visitors can easily find their way without distraction and without the need for intrusive signs.

**Plan, produce and install two visible but unobtrusive wayside exhibits near the visitor center parking area.** Visitors need access to wayside exhibits with information, maps and basic interpretation outside the visitor center. The exhibits can extend a welcome to all visitors and summarize orientation and interpretation provided inside the visitor center for visitors who may arrive when that facility is closed.

Exhibit 1  
Name: Orientation

Location: South end of parking area facing the visitor center. Another option would be to mount the exhibit on the wall of the visitor center.

Purpose: Welcome visitors and provide orientation and information essential for a safe and enjoyable



Visitor Center Entrance

visit. Display of the National Park Service and Oregon National Historic Trail logos on the exhibit will help visitors identify both entities and understand the historic and modern association between Whitman Mission and the Oregon Trail. The exhibit will include a map of the national historic site indicating availability and location of visitor facilities.

#### Exhibit 2

Name: Whitman Mission

Location: South end of parking area facing the visitor center. Another option would be to mount the exhibit on the wall of the visitor center.

Purpose: Identify the primary interpretive theme established for Whitman Mission National Historic Site; a rich and attractive graphic presentation will provide introductory interpretation of that theme reflecting the significance of this National Park System unit.

**Develop a landscaped plaza adjacent to the visitor center.** A covered entry portico in front of

the visitor center and a landscaped plaza between the portico and the parking area will create a positive sense of arrival. Native grasses, curving lines, and textural elements will initiate a sense of the national historic site character, help visitors decelerate from the hectic environment of the highway, and impart a more inviting appearance to the large blank exterior wall of the visitor center building. This landscaped area will attract visitors toward the visitor center as their first destination for introductory information about what they may choose to do next. The model for this experience consists of the visitor center, "experience pod" in the plaza, and connecting paths. A roofed structure at the visitor center entrance and unsheltered landscaped plaza with benches between the entrance and the parking area will create outdoor rooms that provide opportunities for visitors to choose to be in the sun or shade.

**Architectural features will attract visitors to the visitor center as the initial destination.** Prominent display of the United States flag in

front of the visitor center capture attention on visitors arriving in the parking area. The name of the visitor center and museum, "Wailatpu Visitor Center," will be signed in large three-dimensional letterforms on the exterior wall of the building between the auditorium exit door and the main entrance. Smaller three-dimensional letters underneath the name will sub-title the name, "Place of the Rye Grass," in both Cayuse and English languages.

## **INTERACTIVE AREA**

### **Visitor Services Prescription - GMP**

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- A range of general improvements will be made to the existing visitor center building; various building remodeling projects will provide needed space for the public.
- Some actions involve the enhancement of visitor facilities and interpretive programming.
- The Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff would provide traveler information about other historic sites, camping, points of interest, and information to the visiting public, at, or in proximity to, the visitor center desk.
- A new interpretive audiovisual program will be developed for use in the auditorium to replace the existing audiovisual presentation.
- A covered picnic shelter will be constructed in the picnic area; the shelter will be made available to school groups and others.

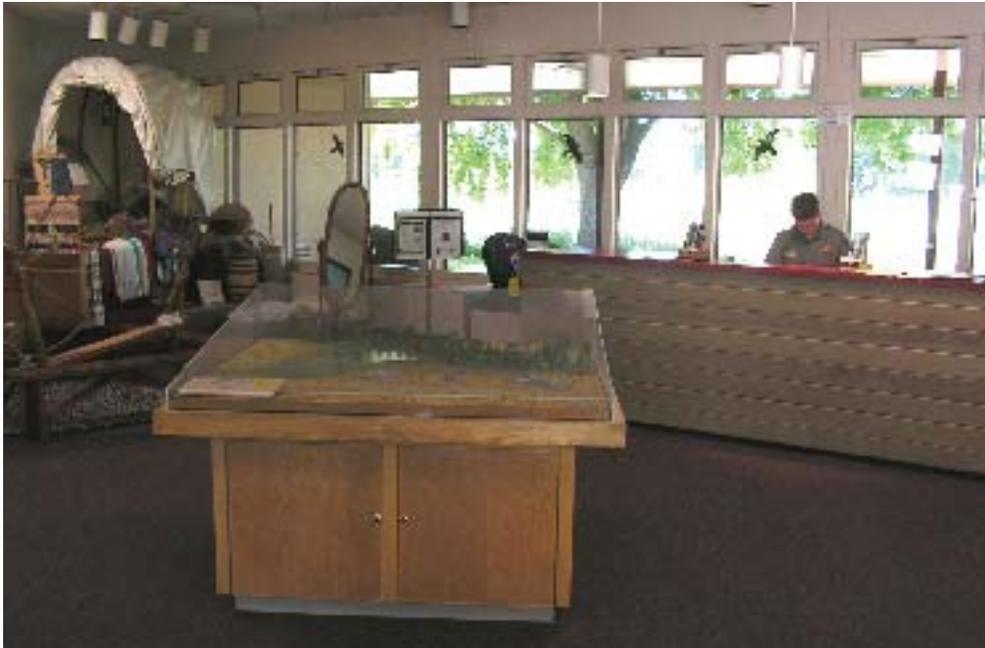
### **Appropriate Media/Activities**

The interactive interpretive experience area includes the visitor center and the personal services program areas behind the visitor center and near the Great Grave.

### **Visitor Center - Lobby**

The lobby is a multifunctional area that currently projects a feeling of congestion and lack of cohesiveness. In addition to housing an information desk and cooperating association sales area, the lobby shelters several exhibits and visitor activity stations. A large diorama model of the mission site in the center of the lobby attempts to orient visitors to the historic scene of Whitman Mission. Two displays of reproduction objects representing mission and American Indian life are the visual focus in the lobby. Temporary panels with images and text about Whitman Mission archeology and a computer work station with a variety of programs for visitor use complicate the lobby experience.

The site general management plan directs that walls defining the visitor center lobby be extended to enclose a concrete patio and an activity area outside the visitor center. The expansion will create additional interior space in which to more effectively configure lobby functional areas. Until the expansion is constructed, the lobby will continue to function as an area for information/ orientation, sales, introductory exhibits, and travel lanes to other sections of the visitor center. Most of the following recommendations can be implemented prior to expansion of the visitor center; they will be scheduled for completion as soon as possible to enhance visitor experience in the lobby. The recommendations can also be expanded



Existing Visitor Center Lobby

and adapted for development when the proposed visitor center expansion is constructed.

**Produce and install signs in the lobby to facilitate way-finding.** Many of the recommendations in this section of the long-range interpretive plan will enhance intuitive way-finding in the visitor center. A reorganized lobby can facilitate a sense of welcome and improve intuitive guidance to all functional areas in the visitor center. Changes to existing signs and installation of new signs will alleviate visitor uncertainty as they enter the visitor center. A few strategically positioned signs can make activity choices more obvious to visitors. The sign at the entrance to the museum exhibit area will be changed from "Welcome" to "Museum Exhibits." Similarly designed signs will identify other experience options including "Exit to Mission Grounds and Oregon Trail," "Exit to Monument and Grave," and "Theater."

**Plan, design, construct and install a new information desk.** Currently,

the desk sits in front of the windows and doors facing the primary site resources. This positioning blocks the visitor's view of the resource and detracts from ability of visitors to easily orient themselves to the view or the resource. A new accessible information desk located away from the windows and doors will enhance the visitor experience. The redesigned desk will contain a display for free publications. Publications made available to visitors at the desk will include a small number of site bulletins and the Harpers Ferry produced brochure. The latter will provide visitors an overview of the national historic site story and a map showing trails to the site of mission buildings and other interpretive features. A large version of the new site map proposed for the brochure will supplement personal service orientation provided to visitors. The new information desk will be designed and built to better muffle the sounds of the cash register that currently is a noisy interference in the lobby area.

**Continue use of a portion of the lobby as a Northwest Interpretive**

**Association sales area.** When the information desk is installed in a new location in the lobby, the cooperating association sales area will be relocated to remain in close proximity of the desk. A scope of sales statement will authorize a variety of items appropriate for the national historic site and that satisfies a wide range of visitor interest. Some high end items that relate specifically to the national historic site will satisfy those adults who have funds to spend and want an attractive memory of this National Park System unit to take home. The sales inventory will also include some low priced items for children who must rely on their allowance to purchased interpretive items.

The sales area will be clearly visible from the new information desk. If line-of-sight between the two functional areas is partially blocked by architectural features or visitor congestion, a discreet but clearly visible sign located above head-height will identify the sales area.

**Improve the visitor center computer station.** The current computer workstation in the lobby looks more like an office space than a visitor activity site. Low cost improvements will be made to encourage visitor use of the station. A sign will clearly identify the computer as an interactive visitor opportunity. The sign will list computer program activities so visitors can easily determine if the computer station contains materials of interest to them. The computer will be housed in a more protected but accessible cabinet to secure the equipment and eliminate a safety hazard for young children. The miscellaneous programs currently available at the computer station will be evaluated for their effectiveness and useful

ness to visitors. The evaluation can answer several questions concerning the current station. How long do people interact with the program? Which activities are popular? What is the important message visitors take from each program? What do visitors like about each program? Old programs will be adapted or eliminated and new programs will be developed to meet current interests of visitors.

**Incorporate computer station in a Discovery Station exhibit.** National historic site managers will seek funding to develop a more cohesive computer station program. The new interactive computer program will combine elements from each of the existing programs with new computer activities, exhibits, audiovisual, and publications. Presenting all these elements in a Discovery Station exhibit will meet needs of current audiences, but the elements can be changed easily in response to changing visitor trends and national historic site development. For example, an environmental education element can connect the visitor to land use practices and attitudes of 1800s missionaries and American Indians to current perspectives of land use. Another interactive component can guide visitors through construction of a model of mission buildings; this interpretive tool can explain why the site is featured today without reconstructions. Sketches, primary and secondary written descriptions, and archeological research data can provide the tools visitors need to visualize buildings on the historic landscape. The interactive computer program will also provide an opportunity for teachers of any subject to involve students in mentally reconstructing the mission environment.

The Discovery Station exhibit can include a QTVR presentation of the 360 degree view from the top of Memorial Hill. This element will provide a vicarious experience of this important feature for people who cannot or choose not to walk to the top of the hill. This component may also feature audio, perhaps about where the Oregon Trail went and the natural resources of the 1830s.

**Convert lobby exhibits to interactive "touch table" format.** The manner of presentation of lobby exhibits does not clearly indicate to visitors whether the interesting and inviting reproduction objects are exhibits, props, or hands-on displays. Signs on many exhibits warn "Please do not touch." The usefulness of the Cayuse, Wagon (Oregon Trail), and spinning wheel exhibits as interactive elements for all visitors can be enhanced by making the exhibits tactile experiences. The objects can be arranged with interpretive information so visitors entering the lobby can quickly see that these items are for hands-on interaction.

The maps currently located inside an American Indian shelter can be rehabilitated to improve hierarchy and focus, legibility, scale, and connection to the Whitman Mission site. The revised maps will be moved to a panel in front of the exhibit.

The rock in the picnic area with the petroglyph needs to be moved to a place where it can be better protected from potential vandalism. Other exhibits with objects will be rehabilitated to encourage tactile experiences. For example, include in the settler exhibit a spinning wheel that people can turn.

**Improve exhibit labels.** New interpretive labels with text relating exhibited objects to interpretive themes will help visitors understand what they are looking at and why it is significant. Labels will be consistent in font, materials, and format style so that they do not contribute to a cluttered, mix-matched look. Interpretive signs can make clear to visitors that lobby exhibits are interactive, tactile opportunities to physically connect visitors to site resources.

**Remove or relocate some lobby exhibits.** Interpretive managers will assess lobby exhibits with the intent to scale back and streamline displays to include items of highest interest to visitors. A less crowded lobby will improve orientation and intuitive guidance, especially during the busy season. Managers will consider moving some lobby exhibits outside the visitor center for hands-on interactive experiences when the pioneer wagon and tipi interpretive sites are operational. The exhibits can be returned to the lobby during the off-season when fewer visitors are present.

**Create a dedicated space for changing/temporary exhibits when the lobby is expanded.** A dedicated space can present the material with a more intentional approach. Well-designed temporary exhibits will keep the lobby exhibit area dynamic. Special emphasis exhibits will encourage return visits, especially for local and regional visitors such as people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

**Improve and relocate the existing diorama map in the visitor center lobby.** As currently used, the map does not effectively orient visitors to

the features of the national historic site. Without a scale, it is difficult to understand the proximity of the buildings to one another, the physical space that the map covers, where the Cayuse and other Native peoples lived in relation to the Mission, or where the mission "site" was historically located in relation to the visitor center.

In the short term, the information desk will be moved and the diorama map placed adjacent to the windows facing the Mission Grounds. Orienting the map to the Mission Grounds and placing it against the window will require visitors to stand on one side and look over the map as they look through the window toward the Mission Grounds. This arrangement will help orient visitors to the national historic site resources. The new location will also contribute to excitement that intuitively attracts visitors toward the direction they are looking - making them want to get out into the national historic site for interesting interaction with park resources. Other features will be added to the map to enhance orientation, such as north/south arrow, a distance scale, and labels indicating direction and distance to Indian villages and other significant features related to Whitman Mission.

In the long term, a touchable, scale model will replace the current diorama. A new exhibit that encourages tactile experiences will better accomplish orientation to the historic scene while improving accessibility for visually impaired visitors. Small free-standing exhibits in front of the window and around the diorama map can supplement interpretation. These exhibit panels will be located no higher than a standard cantilevered wayside exhibit

so the view outside the window will not be obstructed. These panels can feature sketches and artwork of the mission to help visitors connect with the site. Primary quotes describing the site can be used as supporting text. In this series of panels, visitors can progress from the sketches of what the site may have looked like historically to what visitors see today. This will not only help orient visitors to the site but will also explain changes that have occurred such as re-routing of the river. This may also be a place to explain how the present national historic site will be presented by an outline of the building foot print and three-dimensional wall representations.

#### **Visitor Center - Exhibit Area**

The exhibit area includes a central diorama with full size manikins, panel exhibits and many three-dimensional elements. The exhibits are rich in objects that help develop a human connection to the life of the missionaries, settlers, and American Indians. The centerpiece exhibit - the full-size diorama - is a striking, engaging colorful exhibit focusing on the main chapter in the Whitman Mission story. The introductory quote at the entrance to the exhibit space is an effective way to set the tone of the exhibits. The intent of exhibit design was to tell the American Indian story counter-clockwise and the Whitman story clockwise with the two stories converging at the diorama in the center of the exhibit room. That intent is too subtle for most people to detect without explicit explanation which is not given in the exhibit area. That and several issues (described in ISSUES AND INFLUENCES section of this long-range interpretive plan) restrict visitors from realizing the experience intended by exhibit designers.

Several short-term enhancements and long-term reconstructions need to be made to improve the overall focus, effectiveness, and messages of the exhibit area, especially the displays on the four walls surrounding the main exhibit.

### **Short-Term**

#### **Rehabilitate the exhibit area to support original intent and enhance exhibit experience.**

Exhibits will be adapted, primarily with low-cost methods such as text label changes and additions, to better present a single take-home message (the primary theme established for the national historic site) and to build emotion. The rehabilitated exhibit area will present the primary theme in a way that encourages visitors to form personal opinions about the events at Whitman Mission after receiving accurate, unbiased information about those events.

- Develop an introductory exhibit for display at the exhibit area entrance. A simple panel exhibit mounted on the wall or an easel will supplement the existing quote with a text statement of the primary theme.
- Light the entrance to attract visitors. The first few exhibits will remain lighted at all times the visitor center is open. The remainder of exhibits may remain unlighted to conserve energy until visitors activate power by entering the exhibit area.
- Separate entrance and exit lanes at the exhibit area. This will guide visitors along the right wall as they enter, and focus visitor attention on the American Indian exhibits that reflect native culture before arrival of missionaries and settlers. It also will also conceal the central diorama.
- Rehabilitate maps representing American Indian country. Text labels can be changed to improve hierarchy, focus, and legibility, and to make a clearer connection between American Indian sites and the Whitman Mission site.
- Exhibit labels will be removed or changed to improve presentation, accuracy, and tone. Labels relating first person quotes will create a more personal connection to the people who made history at Whitman Mission. Personal quotes from the Whitmans and oral history from American Indians will personalize exhibits. Labels which convey a strong cultural bias will be removed and new labels made and installed to provide a more balanced presentation. Labels that are inaccessible (headdress label) will be relocated. Labels that are too small to be fully legible (the first exhibit case on the left side of the room has very small labels set in all caps) will be replaced with larger label panels. Others which are not properly illuminated (The Circle of Life panel text, and some other exhibit headers) will be relocated or track lighting adjusted to improve readability.
- Develop a concluding exhibit for display at the exhibit area exit. A simple panel exhibit mounted on the wall or an easel will discuss bias as an integral component of interpretation. The panel can briefly describe how the events of history do not change, but the interpretation of those events does change over time and with new scholarship. It can show how the National Park Service is now working with American Indian people to present the Whitman Mission story from more than one point of view.

### **Long-Term**

**Produce an exhibit plan for replacing the visitor center exhibits.** Planning should begin now for long-term replacement of exhibits in the main exhibit area of the visitor center. A design, production and installation plan will propose new exhibits to completely reconstruct the exhibit area. The new exhibits will be planned to reduce or eliminate bias, to present accurate information based on current research, and to incorporate updated technology. The plan will include exhibit case recommendations, label copy, design elements, and graphic components for all new exhibits. The plan will keep the center life-size in-the-round diorama exhibit as the centerpiece display of the exhibit area. The new plan will consider replacing other exhibits to interpret American Indian and missionary perspectives. Integrated interpretation will help viewers compare and contrast similarities, differences, and subtle nuances of the different cultures.

The exhibit plan will also include an audiovisual component to guide production and installation of audiovisual elements of the museum exhibits. Audio stations can improve accessibility of the exhibits. Exhibit videos or audio planned as integral elements of the museum exhibits can present multiple perspectives from the cultures that converged at Whitman Mission. Video and audio stations may also be used to feature cultural traditions such as the music prevalent in these cultures in the 1840s. Comparisons of music then and now can give visitors a sense of the continuity of culture beyond the eleven year history of Whitman Mission.

Accessibility standards and universal design concepts will be considered during planning so that all exhibits are accessible to visitors with a variety of learning styles and impairments.

### **Visitor Center - Theater**

**Position seating in the theater so that viewing quality is optimized.** Seats in the theater will be staggered so that each viewing position is not directly in front and in back of one another. This will help individuals of different heights see better.

**Conduct a technical assessment of the theater.** As long as the existing slideshow or similar production continues to be shown in the theater, the playback system currently in place will be retained. It would cost a lot to replace the system that will need to be replaced again when a new film is developed. National historic site managers can request Harpers Ferry Center assistance to assess the current quality of the theater space. The assessment can evaluate the feasibility and desirability of upgrading the space and associated equipment to optimize future functionality as a theater. Can the current space be adapted to accommodate technologically advanced equipment? What improvements can and should be made during theater renovation to accommodate a new audiovisual production proposed in this long-range interpretive plan? Can minor, inexpensive changes improve projection quality until a major renovation is completed?

### **Demonstration Areas**

**Continue and enhance a costumed interpretation program.** Costumed activities at the tipi grove and Oregon Trail can enhance visitor enjoyment of national historic

site resources and stories. This interpretive method will enhance the ability of visitors to understand and appreciate the way of life of missionaries at Whitman Mission, American Indians in the Walla Walla River area, and settlers on the Oregon Trail. Appropriate costumed interpretation activities can include frequent informal roving in the two demonstration areas, occasional special events, and hands-on education activities.

## TRANSITION AREA

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The park would develop and implement a plan to provide persons with disabilities the opportunity to experience as many park interpretive programs as possible.
- The general management plan Schematic Development Concept Plan prescribes action to reconfigure pedestrian access to the Oregon Trail and the Mission Grounds.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

The transition interpretive area will provide a sense of anticipation and adventure for many visitors. Little formal interpretation or interpretive media will be planned for this area; visitors will be encouraged to explore independently for excitement and contemplation.

**Plan, produce and install two new wayside exhibits on the perimeter of the transition area.** Standard size cantilevered wayside exhibits

or small trailside signs will facilitate visitor transition between the historic and developed areas of the national historic site.

#### Exhibit 1

Name: Invitation to Explore Whitman Mission

Location: Located to be seen as visitors depart the visitor center to visit other interpretive experience areas.

Purpose: Invite visitors to explore resources related to primary interpretive themes. The exhibit will build on excitement initiated in the visitor center to heighten anticipation as visitors travel from the visitor center to other interpretive areas.

#### Exhibit 2

Name: Thanks for Visiting Whitman Mission (Note: The need for this exhibit will be evaluated during the development of the park wide wayside exhibit proposal and plan.)

Location: To be seen as visitors enter the transition area on their return to the visitor center.

Purpose: Thank visitors for coming. This exhibit will encourage visitors to contemplate the Whitman Mission story.

## MISSION GROUNDS

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The overall interpretation of the Mission Grounds will be enhanced, including the connection between the Mission Grounds and the former location

of the Walla Walla River (river oxbow area).

- The setting for the visitor will be one of active interpretation of the Mission Grounds illustrating the life of the Whitmans and the Mission Period.
- The delineation of the original building foundation of each building on the mission grounds will be enhanced using a three-dimensional approach. Using this method various interpretive treatment concepts will be explored; this will include consideration of materials.
- Vegetation management activities to maintain the native grasses within the Mission Grounds, river oxbow, and pasture area could include mowing, burning, and use of herbicides. Existing non-native trees and shrubs would be replaced with native species when they die, except for those plants that have an historic association with the Whitmans.
- Existing audio wayside exhibits (sound boxes) located on the Mission Grounds will be either replaced or removed to address problems of noise distractions to visitors. However, other interpre-

tive media will be proposed to replace it.

### **Appropriate Media/Activities**

#### **Change landscape in mission grounds interpretive area from manicured lawn to native grasses.**

A less manicured historic area will help visitors sense what the landscape of Whitman Mission was like in the 1840s. Native short grasses will replace the "golf course" grasses around all building sites. This treatment will be more suggestive of the historic scene and help visitors understand the scope and scale of the mission complex. Within the delineated foundation of each building site, the soil will be stabilized without grass to suggest the pounded dirt or wood floor surface that would have likely been the condition of the building interior during mission activity. Native shrubbery along the river oxbow can create more definition of the historic river location so visitors can better sense the historic landscape.

#### **Select a preferred alternative for three-dimensional representation of mission buildings.**

The general management plan directs that the delineation of the original building foundation of each building on the mission grounds will be enhanced using a three-dimensional approach.

Mission Grounds



Limited historical data is available to implement this directive with a high degree of historical detail. Archeology data identifies locations of missing buildings, including features such as doors and fireplaces, but the data does not provide much information about above-ground features such as height, volume, relationship of walls to one another, and construction materials. As this site was not a military base, no detailed engineering drawings were made to describe mission buildings. National historic site archives contain a diagram showing buildings and some landscape features. Some sketches made after Whitman Mission was abandoned are available to help conjure mission appearance. These and other sources of information will be considered to devise a plan for fulfilling the general management plan directive.

### Criteria

The following criteria will be used to select the most appropriate alternative to meet general management plan directive and to help visitors sense the size and complexity of historic Whitman Mission.

1. Materials used will require high sustainability and low cost of maintenance
2. Materials will not adversely impact historic foundations and other archeological resources.
3. Design and materials will be sympathetic to the historic setting.
4. Materials used are intuitively recognized as non-historic fabric.
5. A three-dimensional representation will depict the volume of each mission building.
6. A three-dimensional representation will reflect the spatial arrangement among all known mission buildings.
7. A three-dimensional representation will show specific features such as windows and doors that can be accurately determined.
8. The representation method will not require ground disturbance.

### Alternatives

The three-dimensional representation may include various creative concepts to give visitors a sense of how the area looked when operational, while at the same time preserving the remains of the original buildings.

Alternative A: Continue current foundation outline. The historic building foundations are currently outlined with concrete blocks embedded flush with the ground. This treatment makes it difficult for visitors to visualize the locations, size and relationships of the structures, even when viewed from within the mission grounds interpretive area. Therefore, other interpretive media and personal services are critical for visitors to understand the resource.

Alternative B: Define buildings with vegetation. The park has used different types of grass to mark building locations: tall grass to denote building sites; shorter grass to denote space between buildings. The vegetation alternative obliterates foundation markings for room dividing walls and prevents visitors from seeing any of the building sites except the area represented by tall grass immediately in front of the viewing point.



"Ghosting" a structure

Alternative C: Define buildings with above-ground steel or wood rail. This method was previously applied at the site but replaced with the flush concrete blocks. Raised rails can more effectively mark foundations than flush mounted representations if the vegetative ground cover remains as manicured lawn. Alternative D has the same adverse impact as Alternative C in that it cannot depict approximate building heights needed to comprehend the volume of each building.

Alternative D: Construct a partial wall. Under this alternative, sections of wall may be constructed of simulated adobe or brick to reflect exterior walls and interior partitions. Partial walls can clearly identify the site of original foundations and interior partitions, but cannot depict approximate building heights needed to comprehend the volume of each building. Also, use of building materials familiar to visitors such as adobe or brick can lead visitors to think that they are seeing original historic fabric.

Alternative E: Construct "ghost" outline of mission buildings. At the most developed extent, replications of the outlines of the buildings may be considered. A 2"x2" or 4"x4" steel or composite frame can depict foundations and partitions, show approximate wall and roof heights,

and indicate locations of doors and fireplaces revealed by archeological research. Windows can be shown if they can be historically documented.

The following table compares all alternatives to the criteria for selecting a preferred alternative.

### Preferred Alternative

Alternative E appears to have a more positive impact when compared to the criteria. Materials and construction design proposed in Alternative E will not attempt to replicate the historic structures that originally occupied this site. Therefore, this alternative will not contribute to visitor perception that the representation consists of original fabric. This alternative will not impose a massive structure on the landscape, just a simple see-through outline of the original structures. If constructed of the same steel the National Park Service has used for highway sign posts, the outline structure will require little to no maintenance time and cost after installation. Also, the flat, brown oxidation color will be compatible with the landscape year-round. The ghost structures will be visible from within the Mission Grounds and from other locations in the national historic site. This can especially create a beneficial impact considering the outlines can be seen from the visitor center and from Memorial Hill. While the see-through construction enhances visibility, it will appear to lie lightly on the land. The greatest advantage of Alternative E is that it is the only alternative that effectively projects to visitors the volume of buildings at Whitman Mission.

Remove all audio from wayside exhibits. Several audio sound boxes attached to existing wayside exhibits

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Alternative A	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
Alternative B	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Alternative C	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+
Alternative D	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
Alternative E	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+

presents narration to supplement graphic and text displays. The audio equipment requires frequent maintenance. Simultaneous activation of several audio stations in the small area of the Mission Grounds interpretive area creates a noisy distraction to visitors. The intrusive audio stations will be removed and replaced with personal audio devices described in PARK-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - Interpretation.

**Plan, produce and install new wayside exhibits in the mission grounds interpretive area.**

Exhibit 1

Name: Fences and Farms

Location: North of the millpond ditch on the loop trail through the Mission Grounds; facing southwest toward the mission building sites.  
 Purpose: To interpret agriculture as a cultural change brought to the Cayuse by the Whitmans.

Exhibit 2

Name: Mission House

Location: Facing south from the trail "y" junction.

Purpose: To interpret the significance of the mission house and its design and function. Include the fact that this is the site where the

Whitmans were killed.

Exhibit 3

Name: Blacksmith Shop

Location: Facing north at the site of the existing wayside exhibit south of the blacksmith shop foundation.

Purpose: Interpret the significance of the blacksmith shop as a critical function of life at Whitman Mission.

Exhibit 4

Name: Emigrant House

Location: Facing north at the site of the existing wayside exhibit south of the emigrant house foundation.

Purpose: Interpret the significance of the emigrant house as a critical function of life at Whitman Mission.

Exhibit 5

Name: Restored Mill Pond

Location: Facing east toward the mill pond.

Purpose: Interpret the significance of the mill pond as a critical feature in the Whitman Mission complex.

Exhibit 6

Name: Grist Mill

Location: Site of present-day wayside exhibit north of the old grist mill; facing south.

Purpose: Interpret the significance of the Grist Mill along the old river channel as a critical function of life at Whitman Mission.

Exhibit 7

Name: The First House

Location: Present day wayside exhibit location north of the building foundation; facing south.

Purpose: Interpret the significance of the First House as a part of the Whitman Mission complex.

Exhibit 8

Name: Walla Walla River Ox-bow

Location: Ox-bow viewpoint.

Purpose: To identify the site where Alice Clarissa Whitman drowned.

## OREGON TRAIL

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The National Park Service staff would seek rapport of purpose between the national historic site and other areas whose interpretive theme is westward settlement as a means to complement each other and assure continuity of purpose and thought for the visitors. This cooperation would not be confined to National Park Service administered parks and sites.
- Maintenance staff will continue to keep weeds off the trail and keep down the height of grass to simu-

late the impact on the trail during historic use by wheels, hooves, and feet.

- In addition, the national historic site staff will take measures to formally sign the trail within the national historic site with the official Oregon National Historic Trail logo.

- For interpretive purposes, the placement of the pioneer wagon and the simulated wagon ruts will be maintained along the Oregon Trail; interpretive materials will

note that the wagon ruts are reconstructed.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

Continue and enhance a costumed interpretation activity at the Oregon Trail interpretive area. A costumed interpretation presentation on the Oregon Trail in the national historic site can enhance visitor enjoyment and increase their ability to understand the emotions of hardship, relief and expectation on the trail during the 1840s. The pioneer wagon will be placed in the Oregon Trail interpretive area during the busy visitor season. Regularly scheduled costumed interpretation activities will be presented at the wagon to interpret travel on the Oregon Trail and emphasize the importance of Whitman Mission to emigrants using the trail.

Identify the trail within the national historic site using the official Oregon National Historic Trail logo. The National Park Service and Oregon National Historic Trail logos will be placed prominently on all wayside exhibits in the national historic site that interpret the Oregon Trail. Exhibits at each end of the

trail in the national historic site will feature a map that identifies the location of the national historic site in context with the entire Oregon Trail and major landmarks along the trail. Text and graphics will interpret the reason for establishing the north branch of the Oregon Trail that ran by Whitman Mission.

**Plan, produce and install new wayside exhibits in the Oregon Trail interpretive area.**

Exhibit 1

Name: Oregon Trail

Location: On the trail south of the visitor center just north of where the path to the Mission Grounds crosses the Oregon Trail.

Purpose: To identify and interpret the Oregon Trail as a significant part of the Whitman Mission complex.

Exhibit 2

Name: The Wagon

Location: Facing the reconstructed wagon.

Purpose: Movable wayside to interpret the significance of wagons as a primary mode of transportation for settlers.

Exhibit 3

Name: The Oregon Trail

Location: At the trail junction on the eastern end of the Oregon Trail facing east (where the ground is still level and considered fully wheelchair accessible).

Purpose: To interpret the significance of the Waiilatpu site in the larger context of the Blue Mountains and the main path of the Oregon Trail.

Exhibit 4

Name: Orientation

Location: At the walking entrance of the national historic site from the Oregon Trail on the east side.

Purpose: To provide after hours orientation to the national historic site, its interpretive significance and primary features.

## MEMORIAL HILL

### Visitor Services Prescription

#### - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The overall setting for the visitor experience will be preserved as memorial and contemplative.
- For persons with disabilities or others who are unable to ascend or descend Memorial Hill, a photographic panorama would be made available at the visitor center to provide visitors with a scene of what a 360 degree view is like from the top of the hill.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

#### Reroute upper section of trail on south side of Memorial Hill.

Visitor experience will transition from active interpretation to contemplative atmosphere as people travel up the south side of Memorial Hill from the Oregon Trail. To provide a better overview of the Mission Grounds in relation to the panoramic view of surrounding landscape, the last switch-back that faces visitors toward the Memorial Shaft will be relocated farther east to the flat area on top of the hill. From a position farther east the



Memorial Hill Trail - Future  
Wayside Exhibit Site

entire Mission Grounds interpretive area can be seen and a better view of the Memorial Shaft is available.

**Plan, produce and install two new wayside exhibits for display in the Memorial Hill interpretive area.**

Exhibit 1

Name: Historic Landscape

Location: A short distance downhill from the new switchback described above (perhaps at a rest stop with benches on the trail ascending Memorial Hill).

Purpose: Develop overview interpretation of Whitman Mission, Oregon Trail, and American Indian interaction. This wayside exhibit will depict the historic scene. Depiction of the view from this vantage point might use a new painting that populates the scene with the mission structures, American Indians, and a wagon train on the Oregon Trail. A less expensive alternative can be a photographic copy of William H. Jackson painting of Waiilatpu made in 1930.

Exhibit 2

Name: Memorial Shaft

Location: Just above the new trail switchback as visitors face full view of the Memorial Shaft for the first time.

Purpose: Interpret history of commemoration, introduce a memorial environment, and encourage a quiet, respectful visit.

**Encourage one-way travel through the Memorial Hill interpretive area.** The preferred route ascends the south slope of the hill by way of the previously described trail relocation and descends the north-slope from the Memorial Shaft to the Great Grave site on the existing trail. No interpretive media is planned for the north-slope trail; leave this section of trail for contemplation as visitors travel between the memorial and grave sites.

**Provide a vicarious experience of the view from Memorial Hill.** The tremendous 360-degree panoramic overview of the historic site and surrounding landscape is not currently available to visitors who cannot walk to the top of the hill. This overview experience will be made available to visitors in the visitor center. (See PARK-WIDE-Access

and INTERACTIVE-Visitor Center Lobby)

## MEMORIAL SHAFT/GREAT GRAVE

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- Since the Memorial Shaft and the Great Grave were established to memorialize the Whitmans, the setting for the visitor will be contemplative and commemorative.
- Existing audio wayside exhibits (sound boxes) located on the Memorial Hill and the Great Grave will be either replaced or removed to address problems of noise distractions to visitors. However, other interpretive media will be proposed to replace it.
- The interpretive sign for the Great Grave site will be located farther from the site to provide a more contemplative setting at the grave site.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

The Memorial Shaft and Great Grave are designated as memorial and contemplative environments. Therefore, wayside exhibits and audio should be removed from the immediate vicinity of both sites. Interpretation can be provided by wayside exhibits a respectful distance from the sites and by a personal audio tour (see PARK-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS-AUDIOVISUALS).

**Remove all interpretive media at the Memorial Shaft. Wayside**

exhibits and audio at the memorial site creates inappropriate visual and audible intrusions on the preferred commemorative atmosphere. The current exhibits showing the mission site and audio messages with quotes from the Whitmans can be better presented at a viewpoint that enables visitors to see the entire mission grounds (perhaps at a rest stop with benches on the trail ascending Memorial Hill to the memorial site).

**Design facilities at the Memorial Shaft so visitors always face the memorial.** The trail, seating and fencing can be designed to focus visitor attention on the commemorative monument, not the surrounding views and landscape. The landscape can be better emphasized on the trail through the Memorial Hill interpretive area.

**Plan, produce and install a new wayside exhibit for display near the Great Grave.** Yellow signs at the Great Grave burial site may be considered by many people an

intrusive, inappropriate color for signing a memorial area.

Exhibit

Name: The Great Grave

Location: Along the trail to the Great Grave within sight but a respectful distance from the grave.

Purpose: To interpret the Great Grave and its significance in the Whitman Mission story. Interpretation of the burial site will inform visitors that this is the third burial site and identify the other people buried here and their role in Whitman Mission history.

## DISCOVERY AREA

### Visitor Services Prescription - GMP

The park general management plan prescribes the following actions to enhance visitor experience and understanding of park themes and significance in this interpretive area:

- The wetlands, channels, and floodplains of Doan Creek and Mill Creek: This zone will be consistent with the historic scene. The NPS staff would allow natural processes to occur on land and river environs so long as the effects do not adversely impact cultural resources and existing public facilities.
- River oxbow and pasture area: This zone is intended to convey to the visitor a sense of the historic setting and pastoral character. Vegetation management activities to maintain the native grasses within the river oxbow and pasture area could include mowing, burning, and use of herbicides.
- The Walla Walla River oxbow will continue to be interpreted from the Mission Grounds.
- A new unpaved nature loop trail will be developed south of the Mission Grounds; interpretive wayside exhibits ... will be considered in the river oxbow and pasture area.

### Appropriate Media/Activities

The Discovery interpretive area includes the general management plan designated Natural Zone in the north portion of the national historic site, the river oxbow, and pasture area in the south section of the site. Each area may have a short,

rustic trail for limited access and very limited interpretive media such as a wayside exhibit to introduce each trail.

### Plan and develop a new trail in the river oxbow and pasture area.

A trail through this section of the Discovery interpretive area will provide safe passage for visitors and opportunities to enhance interpretation of the continuum of agriculture initiated by Marcus Whitman in the area around the mission. This pedestrian trail will provide opportunities for self-guided walks with sensory experiences. Appropriate interpretive presentations and educational activities will relate to the flora, fauna, and history of the area, including the natural forces wrought by the changing Walla Walla River. The landscape surrounding the trail will be interpreted as vistas seen from the trail. A standard cantilevered wayside exhibit unobtrusively placed at the trail head will inform visitors of walking opportunities along the trail. Several small trailside exhibits along the trail will provide interpretation.

### Plan and develop a new nature loop trail in the natural area.

A trail through the north section of the Discovery interpretive area will provide safe passage for visitors. It will also enhance opportunities to experience natural resources that are being restored to resemble the environment experienced by the Whitmans and the Cayuse people. Visitors can stroll through a natural area reflecting minimal development to achieve a sense of discovery. Activities will encourage visitors to observe the integrity of the current natural and cultural scene that is the same environment enjoyed by the Whitmans and Cayuse people who previously looked at these same scenes. Education activities presented along this trail will

describe the plant and animal diversity of the riparian environment. A standard cantilevered wayside exhibit unobtrusively placed at the trail head will inform visitors of walking opportunities along the trail. No additional wayside exhibits will be developed for the trail; if onsite interpretation is desirable, it will be accomplished by personal services or site bulletin publication.

**Plan, produce and install new wayside exhibits on trails in the Discovery interpretive area.**

Exhibit 1  
Name: Nature Trail

Location: Trail head of unpaved loop trail in the natural area.

Purpose: Introduce resources in the natural area, provide safety information, encourage inter-generational communication, and independent exploration and discovery. The trail head exhibit will present a detailed orientation map for the trail; a "You Are Here" approach will help visitors understand the relationship, complexity and solidarity of features along the trail. The exhibit will identify trail route, length, difficulty, estimated time, safety considerations and photographs of natural features that can be seen from the trail.

Exhibit 2  
Name: Oxbow Pasture Trail

Location: Trail head of trail in the south Discovery area.

Purpose: To introduce resources in the river oxbow and pasture area and to provide safety information. This trail head exhibit will present an orientation map; a "You Are Here" approach will help visitors

understand the relationship, complexity and solidarity of features along the trail. Exhibit text will identify trail route, length, difficulty, estimated time, and safety issues. Photographs will identify the most significant natural or cultural features that can be seen from the trail.

Exhibit 3  
Name: Trailside Exhibits

Location: Along the Oxbow Pasture Trail  
Purpose: To identify resources and provide basic interpretation of resources in the Discovery area in context with the other areas of the national historic site and the interpretive themes established for Whitman Mission National Historic Site.



Great Grave

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation plan summarizes proposals presented in this long-range interpretive plan, establishes priorities, identifies possible funding sources, describes some design and production considerations, and recommends evaluation methods. Whitman Mission

National Historic Site staff will develop necessary funding requests to begin the federal funding process. They will also initiate contacts with partnership organizations to implement projects well suited to alternative funding.

<b>PROJECT SUMMARY/SCHEDULE</b>						
<b>WHITMAN MISSION NHS</b>						
<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Outreach</b>						
People interested in Whitman Mission National Historic Site receive accurate, unbiased information by telephone, mail, and electronic media.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to update and expand the national historic site Internet web site.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop, coordinate, and present personal service activities to communities near the national historic site.			X	X	X	X
Develop a single-panel or single-fold brochure specifically for outreach.	X					
Distribute national historic site brochures to information centers.		X				
<b>Park-wide Recommendations</b>						
Present natural and cultural resource information, interpretation, and education activities and media in a broad context.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tell stories related to interpretive themes using carefully selected language that is historically accurate and unbiased in presentation.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Incorporate common historical name for mission into all information, interpretation, and education activities and media.	X					

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FUTURE</b>
Revise park sign plan to make all signs similar and of design compatible with national historic site story and landscape.			X			
Develop an interpretive program that assures all visitors an opportunity to leave the national historic site with a basic understanding of the primary interpretive themes.		X				
Interpretation at Whilman Mission National Historic Site will focus on the Mission Period activities at the site but relate the mission story to visitors in a broad context.	X					
Interpretive programming concerning American Indian culture will continue.	X					
The various media at Whitman Mission National Historic Site will work together to tell the Waiilatpu story so visitors leave with an understanding of their place in the continuum of cultural convergence.			X			
Plan and implement a personal service program that includes stationed and roving assignments, talks, guided tours, and costumed interpretation.			X			
National historic site staff will market personal service activities to visitors.		X				
Plan and produce a new Whitman Mission National Historic Site audiovisual program.		X				
Initiate pre-planning and consultation necessary to prepare for future audiovisual planning and production.	X					
Develop an audio tour of the national historic site experience areas.						X

PROJECT	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FUTURE
Maintain a current scope of sales statement to guide acquisition of sales publications offered to the public by the park cooperating association.	X					
Develop a poster for the national historic site.				X		
Explore potential to revise and reprint the National Park Service handbook, <i>Whilman Mission</i>		X				
Design a park-produced newspaper based on criteria developed by the National Park Service Graphic Identity Program.	X					
Develop a rack card for mass distribution.	X					
Plan and produce an inexpensive tour guide for the national historic site.						X
Revise the current brochure produced by Harpers Ferry Center for the national historic site.			X			
Develop a series of site bulletins that provide detailed views of the Whitmans and their associates and of the Cayuse people.	X	X				
Design site bulletin publication format to clearly identify the National Park Service and the topic presented by each bulletin.	X					
Develop a new wayside exhibit plan.			X			
Produce and install new interpretive wayside exhibits as directed by the wayside exhibit plan.				X		
Create temporary wayside exhibits to interpret short term projects.	X	X	X	X	X	X
The national historic site fledgling education program will be continued and expanded.	X	X	X	X	X	X

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FUTURE</b>
Existing programs & facilities will be made accessible to the extent possible within the limitations of the preservation of resources.	X	X	X	X	X	X
The national historic site interpretive program will provide multilingual information to an appropriate extent based on current visitation.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prepare an implementation plan annually & prepare an interpretive database.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop a national historic site editorial style guide.	X					
Program and conduct natural, archeological, and historical research and adapt data for effective use by interpreters and visitors.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop a comprehensive way-side exhibit plan & develop a uniform visual identity for signs and interpretive devices.			X			
Retain and education specialist position on Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff.	X	X	X	X	X	X
The National Park Service will continue to cooperate with other organizations to assure high quality visitor services.	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Arrival</b>						
Develop and implement a way-finding plan.		X				
Plan, produce & install a short range radio broadcast station.					X	
Reconfigure parking lot to accommodate buses and enhance visitor experience.						X
Plan, produce, & install 2 waside exhibits near the visitor center parking area.						X

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FUTURE</b>
Develop a landscape plaza adjacent to the visitor center.					X	
Change architectural features to attract visitors to the visitor center as the primary destination.						X
<b>Interactive</b>						
A new interpretive audiovisual program will be developed.			X			
Produce and install signs in the lobby to facilitate way-finding.			X			
Plan, design, construct, and install a new information desk.				X		
Continue use of a portion of the lobby as a Northwest Interpretive Association sales area.	X					
Improve the visitor center computer station.	X					
Incorporate computer station in a Discovery Station exhibit.			X			
Convert lobby exhibits to interactive "touch table" format.				X		
Improve exhibit labels.				X		
Remove or relocate some lobby exhibits.	X					
Create a dedicated space for changing/temporary exhibits when the lobby is expanded.						X
Improve and relocate the existing diorama map in the visitor center lobby.					X	
Rehab exhibit area to support original intent & enhance museum experience.					X	
Produce exhibit plan for replacing the museum exhibits.						X
Position seating in the theater to optimize viewing.	X					
Conduct technical assessment of the theater			X			

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FUTURE</b>
<b>Transition</b>						
Develop and implement plan to provide persons with disabilities as many park interpretive programs as possible.		X				
Plan, produce, & install 1-2 new wayside exhibits on the perimeter of the transition area.			X			
<b>Mission Grounds</b>						
Re- landscape mission grounds interpretive area from manicured lawn to native grasses.				X		
Select preferred alternative for 3-dimensional representation of mission buildings.		X				
Remove all audio from wayside exhibits.					X	
Plan, produce, & install new wayside exhibits in the mission grounds interpretive area.				X		
<b>Oregon Trail</b>						
Continue & enhance a costumed interpretation activity at the Oregon Trail interpretive area.	X					
Identify trail within the national historic site with the official Oregon National Historic Trail logo.	X					
Plan, produce, & install new wayside exhibits in the Oregon Trail interpretive area.			X			
<b>Memorial Hill</b>						
Provide a vicarious experience of the view from Memorial Hill			X			
Reroute upper section of trail on south side of the hill.					X	
Plan, produce, & install 2 new wayside exhibits.					X	
Encourage One-way travel through the area.						X

PROJECT	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FUTURE
<b>Memorial Shaft/Great Grave</b>						
Remove all interpretive media at the Memorial Shaft.					X	
Design facilities at the Memorial Shaft so visitors always face the memorial.						X
Plan, produce, & install anew wayside exhibit for display near the Great Grave.				X		
<b>Discovery</b>						
Plan & develop a new trail in the river oxbow and pasture area.					X	
Plan and develop a new unpaved nature loop trail in the natural area.				X		
Plan, produce, & install new wayside exhibits on trails in the Discovery interpretive area.				X		

**STAFFING NEEDS**

In order to fulfill the proposals of this plan and of the General Management Plan, additional fund-

well as summer demonstrations that highlight both Plateau Indian culture and pioneer culture. The following table outlines the funded and unfunded positions for the

Title	Grade	Type	Funded	Pay Period	Unfunded
Supv. Park Ranger	11	PFT	\$80,500	26	
Park Ranger	9	PFT	\$74,000	26	
Education Specialist	9	STF	\$65,000	24	
Visitor Use Assistant	5	PLFT	\$46,750	26	
Park Ranger	5	Seas		8	\$13,000
Park Ranger	5	Seas		8	\$13,000
Park Ranger	5	Seas		8	\$13,000
Park Guide	4	Seas	\$11,600	8	
Park Guide	4	Seas		7	\$10,200

ing will be required. Increased funds will enable the park to hire additional interpretive staff that can provide school groups with more in-depth and varied programs, as

interpretive program.

Total unfunded needs are four seasonal interpreters at a cost of \$49,200. The park will be able to expand opportunities to fully imple-

ment the Interpretive Development Program curriculum and offer training to non-NPS personnel who engage in interpretive, education, and information/orientation activities. Training could be offered through scheduled courses, workshops, etc. Potential trainees could include area educators, volunteers, interagency staff, tribal members, and others in the region and local communities who offer interpretive and informational services.

The positions listed in the table would have the following major duties:

Supervisory Park Ranger, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management, GS-II

- Oversight for park wide interpretation, education, information services, and collections management.
- Long-range planning, member of park's management team
- Provide interpretive training, coaching, mentoring, and evaluation.
- Maintain orderly daily operations
- Assure effective implementation of Interpretive Development Program
- Resource management and research liaison

Park Ranger, GS-9

- Provide interpretive training, coaching, and mentoring
- Develop and present interpretive programs on- and off-site
- Writer/editor for published materials about the park, write text for exhibits, manage park website
- Liaison with cooperating association

Education Specialist, GS-9

- Develop and present interpre-

tive programs

- Manage park volunteer program
- Provide interpretive training, coaching, and mentoring

Visitor Use Assistant, GS-5

- Provide orientation information for visitors at visitor center information desk
- Collect appropriate park fees
- Provide training and coaching for visitor center information desk functions

Seasonal Park Rangers and Park Guides, GS-5 and GS-4

- Provide orientation information for visitors
- Present interpretive programs on- and off-site
- Provide roving interpretation for protection of park resources

## **Whitman Mission National Historic Site**

Francis T. Darby, Superintendent

Roger Trick, Chief of Interpretation & Resource Management

Renee Rusler, Park Ranger

Mike Dedman, Education Specialist

Richard Laughlin, Visitor Use Assistant

Bruce Hancock, Chief of Maintenance

## **Harpers Ferry Center**

Betsy Erlich, Design & Cartography - Wayside Exhibits

Michele Hartley, Audiovisual Producer

Keith Morgan, Park Ranger - Planner (Team Leader-Retired)

Paul Lee, Park Ranger - Planner (Team Leader)

## **National Trails System Office**

Sharon A. Brown, Interpretive Specialist

## **Pacific West Regional Office**

Lynne Nakata, Interpretive Specialist

## **Stakeholders / Partners**

Armand Minthorn, Member, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of  
the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Mark Blackburn, Media Specialist, Nez Perce National Historical Park

Jason Lyon, Integrated Resource Specialist, Nez Perce National Historical Park

Kirstie Haertel, Archeologist, Pacific West Region/Seattle

Cecilia Bearchum, Member, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian  
Reservation

Lori Dohe, English teacher, Walla Walla High School

Carmella Phillips, Social Studies teacher (retired), Walla Walla High School

## APPENDIX 2-BIBLIOGRAPHY

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