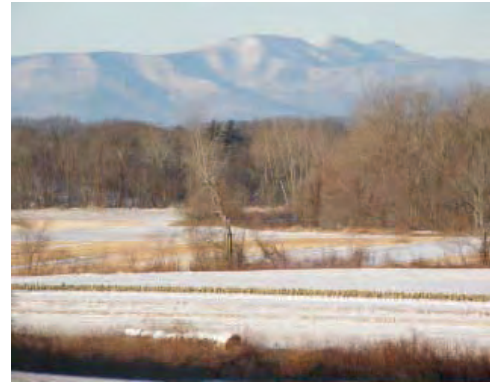




# Martin Van Buren

## National Historic Site

General Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment  
2015



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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (Martin Van Buren NHS or the park) was established in 1974 (Public Law 93-486) to protect and interpret Lindenwald, the home and farm of the eighth President of the United States. The 36-room Lindenwald mansion, South Gatehouse, Old Post Road trace, Farm Cottage, archival and museum collection, cultural landscape, archeological sites, and overall historic setting and scenic views are the park's most significant resources. The park seeks to preserve Lindenwald so present and future generations of visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the life and public career of Martin Van Buren and understand the issues facing America during the formative years of the republic through the turbulent decades leading up to the Civil War.

Martin Van Buren NHS is in the heart of the Hudson River Valley, approximately 20 miles south of the state capital of Albany (see Figure 1) in northwest Columbia County. The park is in the Town of Kinderhook between the village of Kinderhook and the hamlet of Stuyvesant Falls (in the Town of Stuyvesant). It sits on a terrace above Kinderhook Creek near the intersection of New York State Route 9H and Columbia County Route 25, with commanding views of open space and working farms in the near view and the Catskill Mountains in the distance.

## Purpose and Need for the Plan

The main function of a General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (GMP/EA) is to provide a clear definition of the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and a direction that will guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and management. The General Management Plan (GMP) takes the long view— 15 to 20 years into the future. The National Park Service (NPS) seeks to have all parks operate under approved GMPs. This ensures that park managers carry out, as effectively and efficiently as possible, the mission of the NPS.

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared with the GMP to provide a framework for public participation, the development of alternative approaches, and evaluation of their environmental consequences in order to promote better decision making.

## Creating the Plan

The GMP, with a 15 to 20 year planning window, will provide the first comprehensive planning strategy for the park since the 1970 Master Plan which was developed “to provide material for the consideration of the Congress of the United States, and as a management blueprint for the National Park Service, should the area be established.” The GMP proposes strategies and partnerships for resource protection, visitor services, grounds, and facilities, and addresses the potential for enhancing services within the new park boundary. This GMP takes a fresh look at the management of the park's cultural and

natural resources and the opportunities it offers visitors. In consultation with interested citizens, organizations and governmental agencies, the GMP articulates a shared vision for the future of the park.



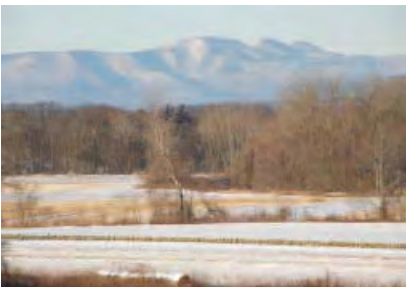
Lindenwald mansion

The GMP process strives to inform and educate the public about the need for the GMP and about key issues being addressed; provides the public with opportunities for meaningful involvement in the planning process; and strengthens and enhances the relationships between the park and its stakeholders. As part of the GMP/EA process, staff of Martin Van Buren NHS and an NPS planning team gathered information from the public, neighbors, partners, public agencies and other interested parties about the future of the park. The team held public meetings and published newsletters and other materials on the park's website to share information about the planning process and invite feedback on various plan components. Extensive discussions with interested parties, local and state agencies, and within the NPS, resulted in many revisions during the planning process. Based on analysis of the resources of the park and the comments received, the team shaped three alternatives, which are contained in this draft report. One of the two action alternatives, Alternative C, has been identified as the NPS's preferred alternative for implementation and is also the environmentally preferable alternative.

The NPS takes an interdisciplinary approach to planning. The planning team that prepared this GMP for Martin Van Buren NHS was made up of individuals skilled in the areas of cultural resource management, historic preservation, interpretation, collections management, landscape architecture, history, archeology, natural resource management, ethnography, park management, and community planning. The planning team also included the Superintendent and all Division Chiefs at the park. Consultants from other agencies and institutions complemented and added to the capabilities of NPS staff.

## Stakeholders and Partnerships

This Draft GMP/EA for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site represents contributions from cooperating park partners. Martin Van Buren NHS presently enjoys strong working relationships with a number of stakeholders in the community. The park is striving to become involved in as many appropriate activities as possible as a way to build awareness of and support for the park, and to become a valuable contributor to the community. Partners include the Friends of Lindenwald; Open Space Institute; Columbia Land Conservancy; Stockbridge Munsee Community, Band of Mohican Indians; Delaware Nation; Delaware Tribe of Indians; Columbia County Historical Society; the Kinderhook-Stockport-Stuyvesant Trail Committee; Friends of Kinderhook Trails; The Landmarks Visitor Collaborative, comprised of Columbia County historic sites and tourism agencies; and the Center for Applied Historical Research of the Department of History at the University at Albany, State University of New York. The park continues to work to create and sustain a mutually beneficial relationship with Roxbury Farm, one of the largest community-supported farms in the United States.



View toward the Catskill Mountains across the farmlands of Lindenwald

## Purpose and Significance of the Park

The purpose of the park is to preserve Lindenwald so present and future generations of visitors will have opportunities to learn about the life and public career of President Martin Van Buren and find meaning in the issues facing America during the formative

years of the republic through the turbulent decades leading up to the Civil War. Martin Van Buren (1782-1862), eighth President of the United States from 1837 to 1841, was a dominant figure in antebellum politics and a primary architect of the American political party system. He was a contender for the Democratic nomination in 1844 and the presidential candidate in 1848 for the Free Soil Party, the first mass anti-slavery party in the United States. Lindenwald reflected Van Buren's interest in progressive farming and his political beliefs, which emphasized the value of agriculture and free labor to the future of democracy. Located in Kinderhook, New York, the rural Dutch village where he was born and raised, Lindenwald was the only home Van Buren ever owned. He returned there after his presidential term, becoming a key figure in the re-orientation of the national debate around the issue of slavery.

### **The Lindenwald Story**

The property has been continually farmed since the 17th century. By the time Van Buren purchased the property in 1839, consisting of the house and 130 acres of land, it had fallen into disrepair. Over the next six years, he expanded the estate by an additional 90 acres and transformed it into a successful working farm with crops and orchards, livestock, ornamental plantings, a formal garden, fish ponds, and numerous outbuildings. He practiced 19th-century progressive farming for market and to support the large array of family, guests, and workers living on the property. The agricultural landscape of Van Buren's estate was a concrete expression of his personal goals and political ideals, in particular his Jeffersonian conception of the national importance of agriculture.

The centerpiece of the property is the Lindenwald mansion, constructed in 1797 as a Federal-style house with fine interior woodwork and decorative details. During Van Buren's tenure at Lindenwald from 1841 to his death in 1862, the mansion underwent several alterations, most notably an addition and brick tower in the Italianate style designed by fashionable architect Richard Upjohn.

Lindenwald was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and a National Historic Site in 1974, at which time the site was automatically listed on the National Register. The List of Classified Structures includes the Lindenwald mansion, the South Gatehouse, the North Gatehouse foundation, the well cap, and the carriage path. Forthcoming additions will include the historic Old Post Road segment and the Farm Cottage. The park has other buildings that are non-contributing and are not on the List of Classified Structures.

### **Establishing a New Direction**

When the GMP process began, the park's boundary consisted of a total of 38.6 acres: 20.3 acres held in fee and an additional 18.3 acres protected through conservation easements. Of the 20.3 acres owned by NPS, only 14 were part of the original 220-acre Van Buren farm. NPS lands encompassed Lindenwald's "house lot" and small areas purchased for development and operational purposes.

In 2009, the boundary was expanded from 39 acres to approximately 295 acres through its inclusion in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act. This law approved a boundary expansion of 256 additional acres, and facilitated the donation of 25 acres of land and structures on the Upper Terrace to NPS by the Open Space Institute (OSI). This donation included two existing leases to Roxbury Farm consisting of a portion of Upper Terrace farmland, the historic Farm Cottage, and the former Meyer farm structures. The former Meyer farm structures, which were built in the 20th century, are



Photograph of Martin Van Buren



Lindenwald mansion





Winter Celebration at Lindenwald

owned and maintained by NPS and leased for operational support to Roxbury Farm. Roxbury Farm owns a 101-acre parcel within the new boundary that is part of Van Buren's original farm, on which OSI holds an easement, which will be transferred to the NPS, contains the grant of a trail right-of-way which will better enable the NPS to work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to protect and interpret cultural features and to develop visitor access to the Van Buren farmland.

In 2013, Martin Van Buren NHS was aligned organizationally with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites (ROVA). The ROVA sites in Hyde Park, New York, include three National Historic Sites-- the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, and Vanderbilt Mansion. Under the new organization, the Martin Van Buren NHS Site Manager will report to the ROVA Superintendent, and the functional areas will work together to share resources to support all the sites.

These changes occurred while the GMP process was underway. In response, the planning team developed the following set of management alternatives through analysis of the park's legislation, purpose and significance, and fundamental resources and goals. After analyzing the information, the team identified several visions for the future of the park, given the boundary change and planning issues identified through the public outreach process.

## **The Management Alternatives**

### **Alternative A: No Action**

In Alternative A, the NPS would continue current management practices and plans without proposing any major new actions. NPS would work to preserve and maintain the significant resources of the site and provide for a visitor experience using existing facilities. As funds become available, the NPS would undertake previously planned activities but the site would remain undeveloped.

### **Resource Preservation:**

Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse, and the adjacent landscape would continue to be maintained in good condition. The North Gatehouse would be maintained as a ruin. The Farm Cottage would be preserved and maintained in stable condition. The museum collection will be moved to Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS; the archeological collection will continue to be housed at Fort Stanwix. Archeological sites will continue to be maintained in good condition. Agricultural production will continue on lands within the park boundary.

### **The Visitor Experience:**

The centerpiece of the visitor experience would continue to be ranger-led tours of Lindenwald with reference to the cultural landscape surrounding the home. Visitors would be able to walk near the ruins of the North Gatehouse and read the wayside exhibit that describes archeological excavations at the site. They would have access to the grounds that surround Lindenwald and the wayside loop trail. They will continue to be given opportunities to learn about the agricultural heritage of the park.

### **Park Operations and Facilities:**

Visitor orientation would continue to be provided in the 625-square foot structure added to the temporary trailers that house the park administration. These services would continue to be unavailable for groups larger than 8-10 individuals.

Maintenance operations including vehicle and equipment storage would continue at the 1950s concrete block garage also immediately adjacent to the Lindenwald mansion. Maintenance services would continue to be supplemented by five nearby storage sheds and five off-site rental units. The 34-car parking lot next to Route 9H would continue to serve as the main visitor/employee parking lot.

In all the alternatives, the park would continue to manage the current leases to Roxbury Farm of the Farm Cottage, a portion of Upper Terrace farmland, and the Meyer farm buildings. The lease for the Farm Cottage extends to 2016, and the lease of the farmland and Meyer farm buildings lasts until 2020 with five possible one year extensions until February, 2026.

### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

The overall emphasis of Alternative B is on Martin Van Buren's political life and the value of civic participation and education. Alternative B would elevate the prominence of Martin Van Buren by providing insights into his contributions to the history of the American political system. Visitors would come to the park to engage in discussions, programs and activities related to history, politics, and civic life. Interpretive programs would inform and engage scholars, students, and the public through a variety of media to make Van Buren's contributions to American politics relevant and to use knowledge of the past to enhance civic discourse.

The primary focus of Alternative B is on the park's Historic Management Area (Figure 4), most substantially Lindenwald. However, this alternative emphasizes developing activities and programs on site in a visitor contact station and off site at schools and colleges, specifically connecting antebellum history and civic life to contemporary issues. Alternative B would restore and preserve selected features of the cultural landscape around Lindenwald and rehabilitate portions of the farm landscape. In contrast with Alternative C, Alternative B does not emphasize large-scale rehabilitation of the cultural landscape.

### **Resource Preservation:**

Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse, and the adjacent landscape would continue to be maintained in good condition. The North Gatehouse would be maintained as a ruin. The interior of the South Gatehouse would be rehabilitated and used for park purposes, such as meeting, educational, or administrative space. The exterior of the Farm Cottage would be restored and the interior adaptively reused for park purposes. Collections storage functions will be located at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Fort Stanwix National Monument. Archeological sites will continue to be maintained in good condition and surveys would be conducted on the easement lands. The historic Van Buren farm, including both park and easement lands, will remain in agricultural production, with Roxbury Farm using contemporary methods of progressive farming. Interpretive vignettes highlighting selectively restored cultural landscape features would be provided to give visitors glimpses of the past landscape. Where feasible, the park would restore natural areas.

### **The Visitor Experience:**

The centerpiece of the visitor experience would be ranger-led tours of the Lindenwald mansion enhanced by changing exhibits in the visitor contact station. The new exhibits would provide insight into the life, ideals, politics and times of Martin Van Buren and his relevance to contemporary life. New and returning visitors would be motivated



View across the farmlands of Lindenwald



to come to the park to experience a fresh perspective that relates history to issues in contemporary civic life. Since the emphasis would be on politics and the role of history in informing contemporary issues, the visitor experience would include active participation as well as exhibits and programs addressing timely topics such as the history of political campaigns, the Indian Removal Act and its implications, and the history and politics of farming in the Hudson River Valley. Visitors would experience the cultural landscape through selectively restored features.

#### **Park Operations and Facilities:**

Alternative B provides for the construction of a multi-use facility. This new facility would have meeting spaces for programs to facilitate political engagement and civic discourse. Visitor parking needs would be reviewed and parking could be relocated in proximity to the visitor contact station.



Library of the Lindenwald mansion

Museum storage would be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. New buildings replacing temporary operational structures would be sensitively sited to protect historic views and would be energy efficient, purpose-built facilities designed to enhance the ability of the park to fulfill its mission goals and optimize operations.

When the easement on the Lower Terrace is transferred to the NPS from the Open Space Institute, the park will work with Roxbury Farm to create public access to the farmland.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

Alternative C is the NPS preferred alternative. In Alternative C, visitors would walk in the footsteps of Martin Van Buren – as the former president, family man, and gentleman farmer. Focal points would be Lindenwald and the farm landscape. As with Alternative B, this alternative would interpret the presidency and political career of Martin Van Buren at the Lindenwald mansion and through exhibits at the visitor contact station. In addition, Alternative C would fully utilize the agricultural landscape of the historic Van Buren farm to interpret Van Buren’s involvement with progressive farming and progressive farming today.

The cultural landscape surrounding the Lindenwald mansion would be restored as fully as feasible to the period of Martin Van Buren’s residence. Recognizing the continuity of agriculture at Lindenwald, the surrounding farmland would provide a context for interpreting the history of progressive farming from Van Buren’s time to the present-day operations of Roxbury Farm.



Carriage ride along the Old Post Road

#### **Resource Preservation:**

Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse, and the adjacent landscape would continue to be maintained in good condition. The North Gatehouse would be maintained as a ruin. The exterior of the Farm Cottage would be restored and the interior adaptively reused as park headquarters. Museum storage would be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Archeological sites will continue to be maintained in good condition and surveys would be conducted on the easement lands. The cultural landscape adjacent to the Lindenwald mansion would be restored to the period 1839-1862 as feasible. The historic Van Buren farm, including both park and easement lands, would remain in agricultural production by Roxbury Farm. Interpretive vignettes would be provided to give visitors glimpses of the past

agricultural landscape. Where feasible, the park would restore natural areas. Natural and cultural sounds consistent with the historic and operational farm will be preserved and protected in order to retain and enhance the cultural landscape.

#### **The Visitor Experience:**

Alternative C would immerse visitors in direct experience of the Lindenwald farm and foster understanding and appreciation of the surrounding progressive farmland. Talks, demonstrations, and workshops would give visitors an opportunity to learn about historic and contemporary sustainable farming techniques. Artifacts illuminating the agricultural and social history of Lindenwald would be collected and displayed in the visitor contact station exhibits and in historic interiors.

#### **Park Operations and Facilities:**

Emphasis would be placed on restoring as much of the cultural landscape surrounding the Lindenwald mansion as is feasible. A new multi-use/visitor facility would be built. The current location of the existing parking lot would be evaluated and could be relocated near the visitor facility. The South Gatehouse would be used interpretively to explore farm life. A maintenance facility would be established outside the historic core in a purpose-built facility. The museum storage facility will be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. New buildings replacing temporary operational structures would be sensitively sited to protect historic views, and would be energy efficient and designed to enhance the ability of the park to fulfill its mission goals and optimize operations.

When the easement is transferred from the Open Space Institute, the park would work with Roxbury Farm to make the farmland accessible to the public.

#### **Common to All Alternatives**

##### **Resource Preservation:**

Under this alternative, Martin Van Buren NHS would be managed to preserve and enhance the natural and historic landscape features associated with its location in the Hudson River Valley. Emphasis would be placed on retaining the park's rural character. Elements of these alternatives will support the resilience of the park to expected impacts from climate change on weather, agricultural land, habitats, wetlands, historic sites, and archeological resources. These impacts may affect cultural and natural resources as well as visitor experience at the park.

##### **Environmentally Preferable Alternative**

In accordance with the DO-12 Handbook, the NPS identifies the environmentally preferable alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment [Sect. 4.5 E(9)]. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources. The environmentally preferable alternative is identified upon consideration and weighing by the Responsible Official of long-term environmental impacts against short-term impacts in evaluating what is the best protection of these resources. In some situations, such as when different alternatives impact different resources to different degrees, there may be more than one environmentally preferable alternative (43 CFR 46.30). The park has determined that Alternative C would best protect the biological and physical environment and preserve and enhance the historic and cultural landscape.



Martin Van Buren NHS ornament created by Bonnie White on the 2007 White House Christmas tree

## **The Next Steps**

The Draft GMP/EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. The NPS will consider all comments received from other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals regarding the plan. Once all comments have been considered, the NPS may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed by the Northeast Regional Director, selecting an alternative for implementation as the final approved GMP for Martin Van Buren NHS. The FONSI will identify any changes made to the approved GMP as a result of public and agency comment, and contain responses to comments, as appropriate. If a FONSI is issued, it will be followed by a 30-day no action period, after which, the approved GMP will be implemented.

## **Implementation**

The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding levels and service wide priorities and on partnership funds, time, and effort. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the GMP could be many years in the future.



# 1

## Framework for the Plan

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# Chapter 1: Foundation for Planning

## Introduction

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (Martin Van Buren NHS) was established in 1974 (Public Law 93-486) to protect and interpret Lindenwald, the home and farm of the eighth President of the United States (1837-1841). The 36-room mansion, South Gatehouse, Old Post Road trace, Farm Cottage, archival and museum collection, cultural landscape, archeological sites and overall historic setting and views are the park's most significant resources. The purpose of the park is to preserve Lindenwald so present and future generations of visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the life and public career of Martin Van Buren and understand the issues facing America during the formative years of the republic through the turbulent decades leading to the Civil War. Van Buren's original purchase of the farm was a direct expression of his republican political philosophy that articulated a belief in an American democracy based on a citizenry working the land. Van Buren's presidential predecessors, most notably Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, each had an impressive estate of his own, the Hermitage, Monticello and Mount Vernon, respectively, which served as a dignified setting for these elder statesmen-farmers to play a continued leading role in American politics. In 2009, the park's boundary was expanded to approximately 295 acres (Public Law 111-11) and now includes most of Van Buren's historic farm holdings.

The General Management Plan (GMP) will provide the first comprehensive planning strategy for the park since the 1970 Master Plan which was developed "to provide material for the consideration of the Congress of the United States and as a management blueprint for the National Park Service, should the area be established." The GMP will propose strategies and partnerships for resource protection, visitor services, grounds and facilities and address the potential of expanding services within the new park boundary. This GMP takes a fresh look at the management of the park's cultural and natural resources and the opportunities it offers visitors. In consultation with interested citizens, organizations and governmental agencies, the GMP articulates a shared vision for the future of the park. The GMP process strives to inform and educate the public about the need for the GMP and about key issues being addressed; provides the public with opportunities for meaningful involvement in the planning process; and strengthens and enhances the relationships between the park and its stakeholders.

## Purpose and Need for the General Management Plan/EA

### Purpose of the GMP/EA

The purpose of a GMP is to define and describe the vision or central management philosophy for each unit within the national park system. It provides a policy framework

for future decision making. An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared with the GMP to provide a framework for public participation, the development of alternative approaches and evaluation of their environmental consequences in order to promote better decision making. This Draft GMP/EA has been prepared in accordance Director's Order #2, Park Planning (DO-2, 1998) and with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and NPS Director's Order #12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making* (DO-12, 2011) and accompanying DO-12 Handbook (2001).

GMPs take a comprehensive approach to determining how to best carry out the mission of the National Park Service, which states: "*The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.*"

The NPS is required by its 1916 Organic Act, echoed in later legislation, to "*conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*" This GMP helps define how to best achieve that goal in the park.

General management planning constitutes the first phase of tiered planning and decision making. It focuses on why the park was established and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time. The plan considers the park holistically in its full ecological and cultural contexts, as a unit of the national park system and as part of a surrounding region. It identifies the kinds of partnerships that can help protect park resources and provide services to visitors.

Five-to-ten-year strategic plans, annual performance plans and project implementation plans comprise the other tiers of NPS planning. Decisions about specific actions discussed in the GMP are typically addressed in these other plans. In most cases, more detailed, site-specific analyses of major projects, along with required consultations, are conducted before any major action is undertaken.

By law (Public Law 95–625, The Redwood Act), GMPs address four general topics:

- Preservation of park resources;
- The types and general intensities of development;
- Visitor carrying capacities; and
- Potential boundary modifications.

These topics are addressed in *Chapter 2: Management Alternatives*. Planning is based on an adequate level of analysis of existing and potential resource conditions, visitor experiences, environmental impacts and costs of alternative courses of action.

In developing the management alternatives for the park, the planning team tried, to the greatest extent possible, to reach consensus among the park, NPS leadership, agencies with jurisdiction by law or expertise, Friends of Lindenwald, partners, landowners and the public. As the first GMP for the park, this plan relies heavily on public input and on previous professional studies completed by various organizations. Planning benefited greatly from the experience of others involved with operating similar sites. The staff



brings the experience of operating the park over the last 35 years. The combined numerous studies and reports that have been generated since 1974 suggest that this GMP provide managers with specific guidance to address the known needs of the park, as well as a broad vision and flexibility to respond to new opportunities that will undoubtedly present themselves over time.

### **Need for the GMP/EA**

This GMP will provide the first comprehensive planning strategy for the park since the 1970 Master Plan and the establishment of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in 1974. The NPS has managed the park in accordance with general NPS policies, relevant federal laws and regulations and the 1970 Master Plan. The previous plans are insufficient to lead the site over the next 20 years. Due to conditions within the site, there are numerous management decisions that need to be made in the near future. The GMP will accomplish this by taking a fresh look at the management of the park's cultural and natural resources and the opportunities they offer visitors.

In 2009, the 111th Congress passed an Omnibus Bill that approved the expansion of the Martin Van Buren NHS by 261 acres. The boundary expansion necessitated a GMP to provide guidance for managing the new boundary acreage, which includes the majority of Van Buren's original farm. NPS authority and jurisdiction will vary for each type of land within the park boundary:

- Land which NPS owns in fee simple;
- Land owned by Roxbury Farm with an easement that will be donated to NPS;
- Other private land on which NPS owns an easement; and
- Private land which NPS can acquire an interest from willing sellers.

## **Description of Martin Van Buren NHS**

### **Regional and Cultural Context**

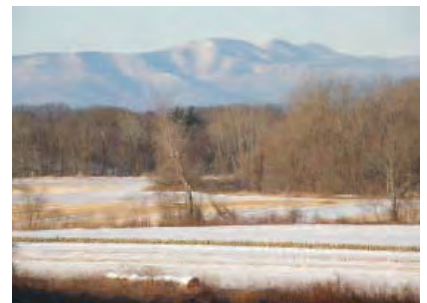
The park is in the heart of the Hudson River Valley, approximately 20 miles south of the state capital of Albany (Figure 1), in northwest Columbia County . The park is located in the Town of Kinderhook between the village of Kinderhook and the hamlet of Stuyvesant Falls in the Town of Stuyvesant. Lindenwald sits on a terrace above Kinderhook Creek near the intersection of New York State Route 9H and County Route 25, with commanding views of open space and working farms in the short view and the Catskill Mountains in the distance.

The park is among a chain of distinguished places along the Hudson River corridor including Saratoga National Historical Park, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

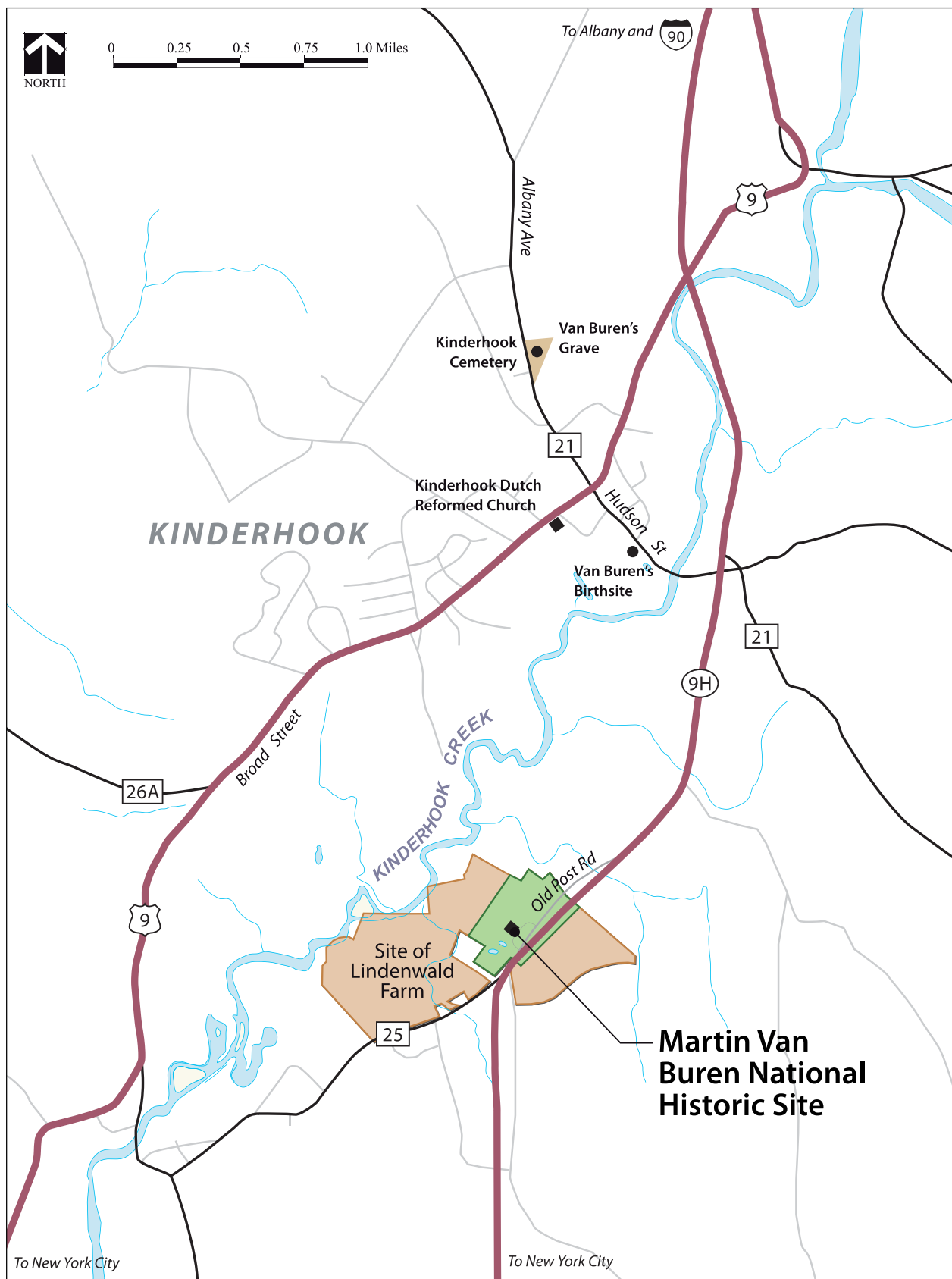
Martin Van Buren NHS is within the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA), which was established by Congress in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the nationally significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation. Hudson River Valley NHA, a 150-mile linear corridor, is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, an organization of the Hudson River Valley Greenway that provides assistance to local governments to promote tourism and land use preservation and fund programs.



Lindenwald mansion



View toward the Catskill Mountains across the farmland of Lindenwald



**Figure 1: Regional Location Map**

## Overview of Park Resources

Martin Van Buren NHS was authorized in 1974 to commemorate the life and work of the eighth President of the United States. After serving one term, Van Buren moved back to his native Kinderhook where he had purchased Lindenwald and, while continuing to remain active in politics, he devoted much of his time to overseeing the operation of the farm.

The property has been continually farmed since the 17th century. By 1839, when Van Buren purchased the property, consisting of the house and 130 acres of land, it had fallen into disrepair. Over the next six years, he expanded the estate by an additional 90 acres and transformed it into a successful working farm with crops and orchards, ornamental plantings, a formal garden, fish ponds and numerous outbuildings. He practiced 19th-century progressive farming for market and to support the large array of family, guests and workers living on the property. The agricultural landscape of Van Buren's estate was a concrete expression of his personal goals and political ideals, in particular his Jeffersonian conception of the national importance of agriculture.

The centerpiece of the property is Lindenwald, a 1797 Federal style house with fine interior woodwork and decorative details. During Van Buren's tenure, the mansion underwent several alterations culminating in an addition and brick tower in the Italianate style designed by Richard Upjohn. Upjohn was an influential English-born architect who popularized the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles in mid-19th-century America.

Lindenwald was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and a National Historic Site in 1974 at which time the 12.8-acre site was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The List of Classified Structures includes the Lindenwald mansion, South Gatehouse, the North Gatehouse foundation, the well cap, and the carriage path. Forthcoming additions will include the Old Post Road segment and the Farm Cottage. There are other buildings that are non-contributing and are not on the List of Classified Structures.

The cultural landscape that comprises the park's historic core retains integrity in setting, design and location, contributing to the understanding of Van Buren's life at Lindenwald. The formal landscape was developed in the context of a large working farm. In 2009, the park's boundary was expanded to approximately 295 acres (Public Law 111-11) to include most of Van Buren's historic farm holdings.

## Boundary and Size

Martin Van Buren NHS was established by an Act of Congress (Public Law 93-486) on October 26, 1974. The authorized boundary embraced a total of 39.55 acres: 21.07 acres held in fee and an additional 18.24 acres protected through conservation easements. Another 0.24 acres remained in private ownership within the boundary (Table 1). Of the 21.07 acres owned by NPS, only 14 were part of the original 220-acre Van Buren estate and farm owned by Van Buren. NPS lands encompassed Lindenwald's "house lot" and small areas purchased for development and operational purposes.

The boundary was expanded from 39.55 acres to 295.53 acres (the exact acreage will not be determined until a survey is completed) through its inclusion in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Figure 2). This law approved a boundary expansion of 256 additional acres, including a donation of approximately 25 acres from the Open Space Institute (OSI), which added nationally-significant resources



Views across the farmlands of Lindenwald



Restored Main Hall of the Lindenwald mansion

to the historic core. Roxbury Farm (a biodynamic farm operated as a Community Supported Agriculture facility or CSA) owns a 101-acre parcel that is part of Van Buren's original farm and OSI holds an easement which it intends to donate to the NPS. The easement contains the grant of a trail right-of-way which will better enable the NPS to work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to protect and interpret cultural features and to develop visitor access to the Van Buren farmland.

**Table 1: Martin Van Buren NHS Legislative Boundary**

Boundary Status	Original Boundary	After 2009 Boundary Adjustment
Lands Owned Fee Simple by NPS	21.07 acres	44.53 acres
NPS Conservation Easements on Van Buren Farmlands (and historic setting)	18.24 acres	18.24 acres
Open Space Institute Conservation Easement on Roxbury Farm to be Donated to NPS	-	101.89 acres
Open Space Institute Property with Conservation Easement	-	59.74 acres
Private Inholdings	.24 acres	71.13 acres
Park Boundary Total	39.55 acres	295.53 acres

With the boundary expansion, NPS owns 44.53 acres in fee simple and holds protective easements on 18.24 acres. The Open Space Institute holds a conservation easement on 101.89 acres owned by Roxbury Farm. OSI intends to donate this easement to NPS. OSI also owns three parcels with 59.74-acres, which carry a conservation easement. Also within the park boundary are 71.13 acres of inholdings, which are owned by private parties and one which is owned by the Town of Kinderhook. Five of the privately-owned parcels carry conservation easements. These parcels are in agricultural use and are zoned for that purpose.

There are three other “cut-out” parcels located on the north side of Albany Avenue just west of the Lindenwald mansion which are outside the park boundary. These private parcels, which are zoned and used for residences, were not included in the 2009 boundary adjustment. The parcel closest to Lindenwald was part of the historic Van Buren farmlands. The other two parcels were not owned by President Van Buren, but were part of the historic setting. If their owners were willing sellers, these three parcels could be obtained by NPS at a future date through an administrative boundary adjustment.

### Origin and Legislative History

Lindenwald drew the attention of preservationists for decades before the 1974 Act of Congress established the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site by passing Public Law 93-486. Interest in the Lindenwald project was expressed by the Congress as early as November 1907. In the mid-1930s, a campaign to protect the site was begun by the Association for the Protection of Lindenwald. By 1935, several groups went on the record to urge state acquisition of Lindenwald, including the New York Historical Association, the Columbia County legislature, the New York State Planning Board and numerous “patriotic” societies, notably the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames and the Holland Society.



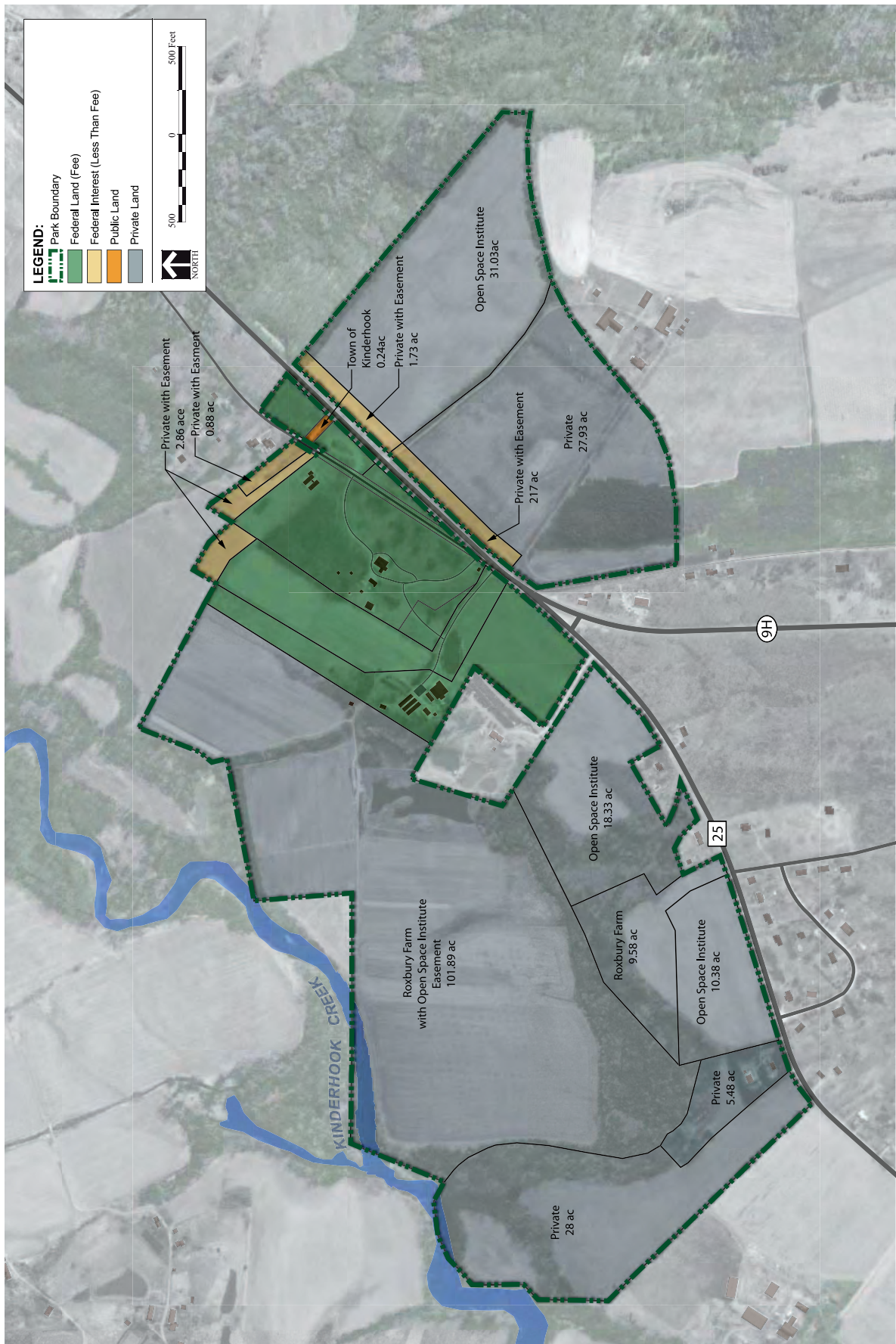


Figure 2: Land Ownership Map

After languishing in the 1940's because of World War II, interest was revived in the 1950's in the form of an initiative to make Lindenwald a National Historic Landmark. This was achieved in 1961 when the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments and the National Survey of Historic Sites voted in support and the Secretary of the Interior made the designation per the Historic Sites Act.

In 1966, the NPS published a feasibility study for preserving the site and by 1967 it was recommended by the Secretary of the Interior to be established as a National Historic Site. In May of 1969, legislation (S. 2098 and H.R. 10165) was sponsored to establish Lindenwald as a National Historic Site, with language emphasizing the importance of saving the "scenic Hudson River Valley." The 1969 legislation was reintroduced in 1971 and again in 1972. In March of 1973, the National Park Foundation purchased the property from an antiques dealer. In 1974, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 93-486 establishing Lindenwald as a National Historic Site. In 2009, the 111th Congress passed an Omnibus Bill that approved the expansion of the Martin Van Buren NHS by 256 acres.

### **Boundary Adjustment**

The study to evaluate the need for a boundary adjustment was completed in 2003 as a direct recommendation of the 2000 Draft Development Concept Plan. Primary reasons for that study included:

- Given contemporary conditions, the conservation easements Congress established to preserve the park's key agricultural views no longer offered adequate protection;
- Resources contributing to the significance of Martin Van Buren NHS existed on lands outside the boundary, diminishing their protection and interpretation; and
- OSI owns interests outside of the park's boundary some of which are protected by easement.

The 2003 boundary adjustment study recommended including surrounding agricultural lands within the park boundary to promote their preservation and interpretation. The Martin Van Buren NHS boundary was expanded on March 30, 2009, when President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 into law. This legislation expanded the boundary by 256 acres, from 39 to approximately 295 acres (the exact acreage will not be determined until a survey is completed). The boundary expansion allows Van Buren's original farm and the surrounding historic setting to be included in all future planning initiatives, including the General Management Plan. These lands include 101.89 acres, which will continue to be owned by Roxbury Farm. The easement on the 101.89 acres is now owned by the Open Space Institute will be donated to the NPS.

OSI's anticipated donation of the easement will provide a means for resource protection and visitor access. In 2011, OSI donated 25 acres of Van Buren farmland in full-fee to NPS. An additional 59.74 acres owned by OSI would be protected through easements (OSI has indicated it will donate these easements to NPS); and 71.13 acres is private inholdings and available on a willing seller basis only. The 2009 boundary adjustment includes approximately 77 percent of the original Lindenwald estate. Efforts by the Open Space Institute have also protected an additional 800 acres of land adjacent to or near Martin Van Buren National Historic Site.

A summary of the benefits brought by the boundary adjustment include the following:

- Forever establishes the preservation of nationally significant resources related to Lindenwald;

- Preserves active farming and open space in a region where it is quickly converting to other uses;
- Lands subject to easements remain in private agricultural use and on the county tax rolls, while visitors would have access to Van Buren's original farm and various new recreational and educational opportunities;
- Enhances interpretation of Van Buren's broader political and agrarian beliefs by enabling public access to key historic agricultural resources and protection of scenic values associated with the historic site;
- Provides an example of planning that preserves a region's historic character in the midst of modern growth and development; and
- Makes a substantial contribution to local, regional and state economic development efforts through preservation of these resources.

## Elements of the Foundation Document

### Overview

This foundation for planning identifies what is most important about the park and establishes the basis for subsequent planning and development. It defines the park purpose and significance, identifies special mandates, expresses its interpretive themes and acknowledges the large body of laws and policies that apply to all units of the national park system. It also identifies and analyzes the park's fundamental resources and values given primary consideration during planning.

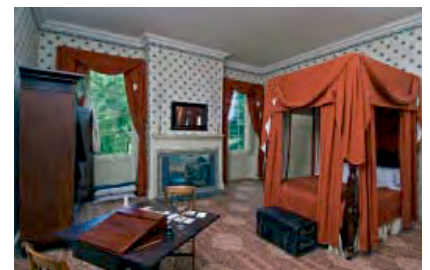
The park's purpose statement summarizes the specific reasons for establishing the park and forms the foundation of the general management plan. Based on the park's authorizing legislation and its legislative history, the purpose statement explains why the park was established as a unit of the national park system. The purpose statement helps NPS managers and their partners, visitors, stakeholders and associated groups or communities, to focus on what is most important about the park and understand why some actions, uses and programs are inappropriate while others are not. The statement of significance communicates why, within a national, regional and system-wide context, the site merits national designation and protection.

### Park Purpose

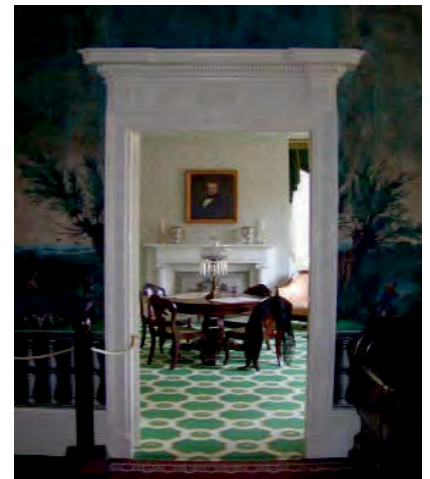
The purpose of the park is to preserve Lindenwald so present and future generations of visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the life and public career of President Martin Van Buren and find meaning in the issues facing America during the formative years of the republic through the turbulent decades leading to the Civil War.

### Park Significance

Martin Van Buren (1782-1862), eighth President of the United States from 1837 to 1841, was a dominant figure in antebellum politics and a primary architect of the American political party system. He was a contender for the Democratic nomination in 1844 and the presidential candidate in 1848 for the Free Soil Party, the first mass anti-slavery party in the United States. Lindenwald reflected Van Buren's interest in progressive farming and his political beliefs, which emphasized the value of agriculture and free labor to the future of democracy. Located in Kinderhook, New York, the rural Dutch village where he was born and raised, Lindenwald was the only home Van Buren ever owned. He returned there after his presidential term, becoming a key figure in the re-orientation of the national debate around the issue of slavery.



Restored Best Bedroom of Lindenwald mansion

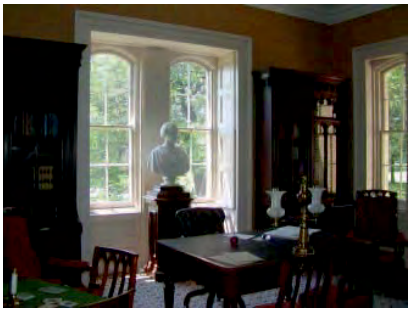


Restored Green Room of Lindenwald mansion





Friends of Lindenwald



Library of the Lindenwald mansion



Inman portrait of Martin Van Buren

## Interpretive Themes

The primary role of interpretation is to connect people to places. Interpretive themes provide the broad framework for all interpretive programming, such as public tours, park publications and special events. The themes are derived from a park's mission and capture the essence of its significance. Interpretation reveals meaning and interpretive themes link common human experiences that transcend time and culture with a park's stories and tangible resources. Themes are purposely broad and are designed to open minds to new ideas, introduce multiple points of view and encourage audiences to discover ideas that have relevance to their own lives. The following themes have been identified for the park:

***Martin Van Buren's experiences at Lindenwald illuminate the struggles of America's second generation of political leaders as they contended with the sectionalism that led to the Civil War.*** Martin Van Buren's political career illuminates the struggles of America's second generation of leaders as they faced the sectionalism that confronted the young republic. In particular, it was at Lindenwald where Martin Van Buren pursued his post-Presidential political career and became an important figure in the political debate over slavery leading up to the Civil War. Topics in this interpretive theme include:

- Right to vote;
- Rise of the "common man";
- Land ownership;
- Abolitionism and slavery;
- Mexican War/United States expansion; and
- States' rights.

***Martin Van Buren was a primary architect of the current political party system that continues to shape American political life.*** He helped pioneer a new politics that replaced leadership by gentlemen of "property and standing" with electoral politics based on party organization, grassroots organizing and popular appeals. Topics in this interpretive theme include:

- Professional politician;
- Workings of the constitutional government; and
- Albany regency.

***The Lindenwald farm was a reflection of the social and economic issues influencing Van Buren's life.*** Lindenwald was an expression of Martin Van Buren's political beliefs, which emphasized the importance of agriculture to the future of democracy. On land located in his ancestral community, Van Buren advocated agriculture improvements and employed a diverse farm and household labor force. The Lindenwald farm reflected the complex social changes that characterized the antebellum period and energized the Democratic Party, including mass immigration and the development of a market economy. Topics in this interpretive theme include:

- Market economy;
- Mass immigration;
- Sectional divisions;
- Agricultural technology;
- Mass production;
- Religion; and
- Van Buren's relationship to Kinderhook.

## Special Mandates and Administrative Agreements

There are several administrative agreements that affect the management of lands within the park boundary. The 2009 boundary adjustment facilitated the donation of 25 acres of land and structures on the Upper Terrace to NPS by the Open Space Institute. This donation included existing leases to Roxbury Farm for the historic Farm Cottage, a portion of Upper Terrace farmland, and the former Meyer Farm structures. The Farm Cottage lease extends to 2016 and the Meyer Farm structures to 2020, and the leases are subject to yearly renewal for up to five years.

Martin Van Buren NHS holds conservation easements on five privately-owned parcels totaling 18.24 acres. These parcels are located within the park boundary. There also is a conservation easement on 101 acres of lands that once belonged to the Van Buren farm and are now owned by Roxbury Farm. The agreement is between grantee - Open Space Institute, Inc. – and grantor - Jean-Paul Courtens and Jody Lynn Bolluyt, proprietors of Roxbury Farm. Signed on April 2, 2004, the agreement enables the property to remain in agricultural use by preserving and protecting its agricultural soils and agricultural viability and productivity while also ensuring that the open space, natural, historic, recreation, habitat and scenic values will be conserved in perpetuity. The OSI easement contains the grant of a trail right-of-way which would better enable the NPS to work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to protect and interpret cultural features and to develop visitor access to the Van Buren farmland. OSI has indicated that it will donate this easement to NPS.

### Summary of Legal and Policy Requirements

This section provides the key laws and policies that must be considered for establishing and managing the Martin Van Buren NHS. Although certain laws or policies may not be specifically referenced in the alternatives, they are an important part of the framework for decision making. Management of the park must comply with numerous federal laws, policies and regulations governing all units of the national park system; the most relevant of these pertaining to Martin Van Buren NHS are summarized below. Additional laws and executive orders that have much broader application include the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 11990 addressing the protection of wetlands.

#### The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916

Often referred to as the charter of the NPS, the Act directed the National Park Service to “promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified... by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” All NPS units are subject to the Organic Act.

#### National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended

The National Historic Preservation Act established a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the United States. It expanded upon the responsibilities of the NPS to include consultation with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (Advisory Council) and state entities and authorized the NPS to provide technical assistance for preservation activities. Section 106 of the Act requires that federal agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings



Hickory presentation cane said to have been given to Martin Van Buren by Andrew Jackson

on National Register properties and allow the Advisory Council an opportunity to comment. Historic areas in the national park system, such as Martin Van Buren NHS, are automatically listed on the National Register upon their establishment. Additionally, the NPS signed a programmatic agreement in 2008 with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the Advisory Council which outlines consultation requirements for NPS undertakings.

Section 110 of the Act sets out the broad historic preservation responsibilities of Federal agencies and is intended to ensure that historic preservation is fully integrated into the ongoing programs of all Federal agencies. Section 110 also charges each Federal agency with the affirmative responsibility for considering projects and programs that further the purposes of the NHPA, and it declares that the costs of preservation activities are eligible project costs in all undertakings conducted or assisted by a Federal agency.

#### Public Law 93-486, October 26, 1974

This act provided for the establishment of the Martin Van Buren NHS.

#### National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978

Title VI Sec. 004 of this act (also known as “The Redwood Act”) requires that GMPs be developed for each unit in the national park system and that the plans include, among other things, measures for preserving the area’s resources and an indication of the types and intensities of development associated with public use of a given unit.

#### Government Performance and Results Act (1993)

The act directs government agencies to set program goals, measure program performance against those goals and report publicly on their progress. The NPS developed four broad goals in response to the act and activities at all NPS units must contribute to the achievement of these goals: resource preservation; public enjoyment and satisfaction; partnerships and outreach; and organizational effectiveness.

#### National Park Service Management Policies (2006)

This document contains policies concerning various aspects of park management and public use for all NPS units.

#### Public Law 111-11, The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

On March 30, 2009, this act designated certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture and for other purposes. Sec. 7112 adjusts the boundary of the Martin Van Buren NHS in the state of New York to include approximately 256 acres of land identified as the “Proposed Park Boundary” depicted on the “Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site,” dated January 2005.

## **Identification and Analysis of Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values**

The NPS works to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of resources and values fundamental to achieving the park’s purpose and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources are identified by a careful analysis of a park’s enabling legislation and examination of the Congressional Record to ensure that they are directly tied to the purpose and significance of the park. These may include features, systems,

processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells and other attributes that warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. The park may possess other resources and values that are important but not fundamental. Fundamental resources are those that are owned and managed by NPS. NPS must ensure that these resources are not adversely impacted by the park's or other's actions. Identifying fundamental resources and values is intended to help focus planning and management on what is truly important about the park.

The following table identifies the fundamental resources and values, describes their condition and lists the stakeholders in their preservation and management (Figure 3). It also identifies other important resources that are located outside the park's boundary but still related to the Martin Van Buren NHS. The analysis was developed during the planning process and reflects the input of park staff, the planning team, other NPS management professionals and the community.

NPS has implemented a facility management system called the Facility Management Software System (FMSS) where a park's assets and conditions can be objectively assessed. An asset priority index (API) is assigned for the maintained physical components of a park. Resources like historic structures, maintained landscapes, and park infrastructure are included; natural resources are not. The API is the combined significance of the resource (the API value), with the Facility Condition Index, an overall condition of the resource at a particular point in time (FCI). The API and FCI have been measured for many of the park's assets and are reported, where applicable, in Table 2.

The fundamental resources and values reflect the boundary expansion that occurred during the GMP planning process. With the boundary expansion, there are four different situations regarding land ownership. NPS authority and jurisdiction will vary in each situation:

- Land which NPS owns in fee simple;
- Land owned by Roxbury Farm with an easement that will be donated to NPS;
- Other private land on which NPS owns an easement; and
- Private land which NPS can acquire an interest from willing sellers.

### **Wilderness Eligibility**

NPS Management Policies 2006 (Section 6.2.1) requires that all lands administered by the National Park Service be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system. The GMP planning process determined that there are no lands within the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site that appear to meet the eligibility for wilderness. The park area is less than 5,000 acres and the resources within the boundary do not meet any of the four characteristics of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act.



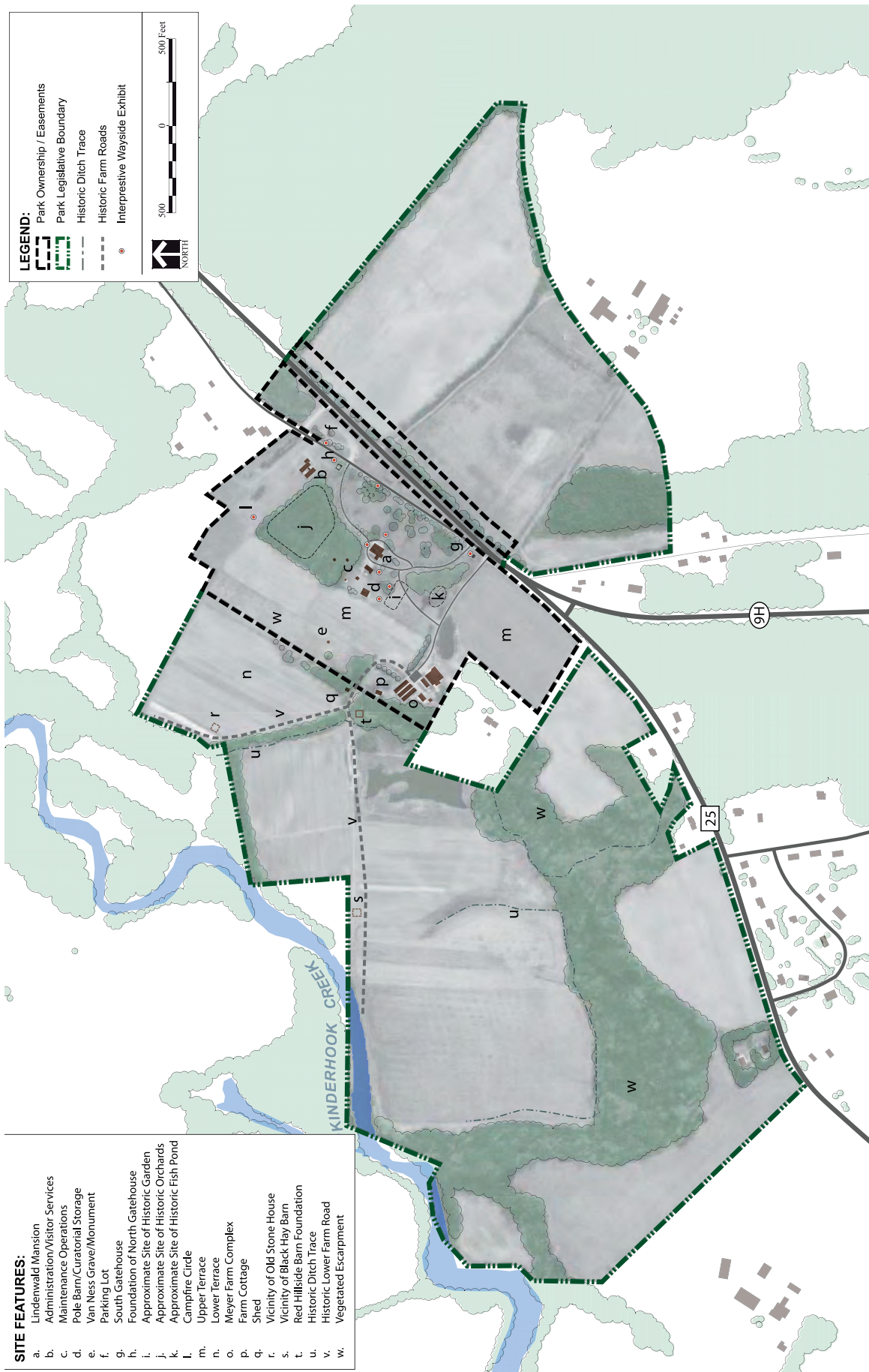


Figure 3: Existing Conditions Map



Table 2: Analysis of Fundamental and Other Important Resources

Fundamental Resources	
Fundamental Resource	Analysis and Guiding Principles
Historic Structures (Lindenwald, South Gatehouse and Farm Cottage)	<p><b>Importance:</b> Lindenwald was the home and farm of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States (1837-1841) and his family from 1839 until his death in 1862. Van Buren moved permanently to Lindenwald in 1840 after his defeat for a second term as president. Van Buren’s influential career as architect of the two-party system and key strategist of Jacksonian Democracy assured him status as a national figure well beyond his presidential years. Lindenwald became a political hub, accommodating a steady stream of visits and correspondence from politicians and dignitaries, as well as family and friends. It was from Lindenwald that Van Buren would pursue the hotly contested Democratic nomination for president in 1844 and run for president again in 1848 as the Free Soil Party candidate. As the nation moved toward Civil War, an aging Van Buren retired to what he called his “last and happiest days” as a farmer in his native Kinderhook. The mansion is a 36-room 18th c. Georgian style brick house that was modernized in the mid-19th c. by Martin Van Buren into a more fashionable Italianate style country house designed by prominent architect Richard Upjohn.</p> <p>There are two historic buildings associated with Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse and the Farm Cottage (other historically associated buildings do not survive). The South Gatehouse marks the south entrance to the curved driveway to Lindenwald and contributes to the historic character of the property. The c.1846-1847 gate “lodge” is the work of local builders and craftsmen incorporating Gothic Revival details. The Farm Cottage is a contributing historic structure built in 1844 for the farm foreman. It is a small house located on the escarpment between the terraces, to the southwest of Lindenwald, behind the site of Van Buren’s garden.</p> <p><b>Current Condition and Trends:</b> The mansion is restored and furnished to the 1849-1862 period and is open daily for guided tours from May through October. The primary interpretive focus of the park is the Lindenwald house tour which extends to all levels of the mansion except the attic and the tower. With increased visibility and programming, visitation is expected to increase. This will result in more wear and tear on the facility which will have to be monitored by staff on a regular basis. The mansion has an Asset Priority Index (API) value of 100 and a Facilities Condition Index (FCI) value of 0.088.</p> <p>According to the Historic Structures Report for The Gate Lodges of Lindenwald (2001), the foundation and portions of the exterior of the South Gatehouse have been maintained but not restored; however, the overall integrity of the building remains in place. The interior has been extensively altered to accommodate various uses and few original materials remain. The building is currently utilized for event restrooms and has an Asset Priority Index (API) value of 100 and a Facilities Condition Index (FCI) value of 0.030.</p> <p>The Farm Cottage is now owned by the NPS and encumbered by a lease through 2016 to Roxbury Farm which presently uses it to house seasonal farm help. The Farm Cottage is known to have undergone a major renovation in the late 1940s. No formal API evaluation has yet been completed.</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b> An assessment of appropriate levels of visitor use for Lindenwald has not been undertaken. In order to evaluate the potential effects of increased visitation, a structural analysis will be required.</p> <p>The South Gatehouse has potential uses for operational space and as a restored building that contributes to the overall historic landscape. A lack of maintenance would compromise this building’s potential. The footings for posts supporting the floor are in need of repair.</p> <p>The Farm Cottage has been utilized as a residence for seasonal farm workers for many years and has experienced normal wear and tear. In addition, the slate roof is reaching the end of its life expectancy, the brick chimney cap needs repair and there is currently no fire suppression system. Since this property has just been transferred to NPS, there is limited information on its condition</p>

and its potential for use for other park purposes is unknown. The structure could potentially support park administrative use or use by the general public. The Farm Cottage has been evaluated by an architectural historian who recommends the undertaking of a Historic Structures Report as soon as funding is available.

**Stakeholders:** Stakeholders include the Friends of Lindenwald, Roxbury Farm and unique groups such as Van Buren scholars and scholars of the decorative arts and the antebellum period.

**Laws and Policies:** Pertinent federal laws and NPS policy guidance on historic structures, as described in NPS Management Policies, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment for Historic Properties, and NPS Cultural Management Guidelines.

On the local level, Lindenwald is part of a heritage overlay district as designated in the Town of Kinderhook Zoning Code. It is a designated Greenway Community under the Hudson River Valley Greenway, an organization that promotes regional cooperation for natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development, public access and heritage and environmental education.

**GMP Issues:** Deferred maintenance; the need for structural load analysis and determination of carrying capacity; and the need for information about the newly acquired Farm Cottage.

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#### **Lindenwald Cultural Landscape, Historic Core and Historic Farmlands**

**Importance:** The cultural landscape surrounding Van Buren's home retains integrity of its setting, design, feeling and location, contributing to our understanding of Van Buren's life at Lindenwald. Extant character-defining features of the formal landscape in front of the home create a symmetrical frame for his Italianate mansion when viewed from the Old Post Road. The cultural landscape also includes remnants of historic agricultural use such as water features and the network of farm roads and ditches that constitute the movement systems. Natural and cultural sounds associated with the setting, design, feeling, and location of the farm also contribute to the cultural landscape of the site.

The structure and order of the historic landscape provide important physical and visual associations that are integral to the character of the park. The agricultural land acquired by Van Buren continues its use as open cultivated fields, thus retaining integrity of its setting, location, feeling and association. Spread across the fertile Upper and Lower Terraces overlooking Kinderhook Creek and the outstanding views of the distant Catskill Mountains, ongoing agricultural activities provide the setting for interpreting the importance of agriculture to Van Buren. Contributing landscape characteristics include topography and sustainable agricultural practices managed by Roxbury Farm.

Agricultural fields contribute to the historic character of the park, particularly since they currently reflect the diversity of crops Van Buren grew. Agricultural soils have been managed in these fields for centuries and as such it is a cultural resource reflecting long history of human intervention, in particular during the Van Buren era when soil "improvement" became a hallmark of progressive farm management. The continuation of active farming through the preservation of viable soil will help provide visitors with an understanding of the agricultural landscape of Lindenwald in the 19th century as well as the present value of historic farm fields.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** Most of the historic landscape is comprised of active agriculture which evokes the life and times of Van Buren. However, there are a number of modern intrusions clustered around the primary historic structures that make it difficult to understand the historic landscape. In addition, there are elements of the cultural landscape, such as the orchards, gardens and ponds that are missing thereby diminishing the visitor's opportunity to understand the historic landscape. For example, the absence of the historic North Gatehouse undermines the intended symmetrical design of the estate fronting the Old Post Road. A Cultural Landscape Report for the historic core was completed in 1994; a Cultural Landscape Report for the Farmland was completed in 2004; and a Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan is underway.

Roxbury Farm, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation, provides an opportunity to deepen the visitors' interpretive experience. The park is working with the landowner to facilitate the work of Roxbury Farm while providing the highest quality of experience for the park visitor. Van Buren farmland is managed according to organic and biodynamic principles that utilize non-chemical techniques such as planting of cover crops, crop rotation, soil conservation measures and the application of biodynamic preparations, composts and manures. Roxbury Farm produces a variety of row crops and raises animals.

For lands in the park prior to the 2009 boundary expansion, the Cultural Landscape has an Asset Priority Index (API) value of 80 and a Facilities Condition Index (FCI) value of 0.040.

**Potential Threats:** Columbia County is growing and development pressure is increasing in the Kinderhook area. Should this trend continue, Route 9H could be widened and traffic and noise would increase, which would have a negative impact on the rural character of the landscape and Old Post Road trace. 20th-century buildings continue to have a negative impact on the historic cultural landscape. Removal of modern buildings would necessitate their replacement in other locations which could impact the historic setting if not done with appropriate planning and design.

**Stakeholders:** As part of the National Historic Site, the cultural landscape has the same stakeholder interests described above. It is also of interest to Friends of Lindenwald, Roxbury Farm, Open Space Institute, the Columbia County Land Conservancy, Van Buren scholars, Van Buren descendants, as well as the Kinderhook- Stockport-Stuyvesant Inter-Municipal Trail committee, Friends of Kinderhook Trails, Columbia County tourist and commercial interests, year-round recreational users, local municipalities and school districts.

**Laws and Policies:** Pertinent federal laws and NPS policy guidance on historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeology, wetlands, agriculture and forest and wildlife management as described in NPS Management Policies, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment for Historic Properties, and NPS Cultural Management Guidelines. OSI transferred property to NPS with an existing lease agreement for lands known as the former Meyer Farm. There are no federal natural resource designations in the park. However, the park is within the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

**GMP Issues:** Diminished historic setting; appropriate recreational uses; 20th-century temporary facilities; development of cooperative management between NPS and Roxbury Farm that perpetuates active farming and the sustainable productivity of the soil.

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## Museum Collections

**Importance:** Martin Van Buren NHS is the primary repository of material related to the life of the eighth president. The park's collection includes over 230,000 items including furnishings original to Lindenwald, artifacts relating to the life of Van Buren and his family, archival collections including documents relating to Van Buren as well as NPS resource management records and an extensive archeological collection.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** Approximately 1,000 objects furnish the Lindenwald period rooms. Other significant items in the collection are located in an onsite temporary museum storage facility that is obsolete and actively deteriorating.

**Potential Threats:** The pole barn structure built in 1983 as a temporary container for Lindenwald's collection, is actively failing leaving the collection vulnerable to significant damage or complete loss. In addition to the pressing storage problem, there is no adequate space for the collection to be conserved or studied by researchers and there are no park facilities for display of artifacts that do not support the period room exhibits.

**Stakeholders:** The museum collection is subject to the same stakeholder interests described as connected to the park generally. In addition, the collection is of interest to Van Buren scholars, scholars of the decorative arts and scholars of the antebellum period.

**Laws and Policies:** Pertinent federal laws and regulations and NPS policy guidance (in particular Director's Order #28 on Cultural Resource Management and Director's Order #24 on Museum Collections Management) are described in NPS Cultural Resource Management Guidelines and the NPS Museum Handbook Parts I, II, and III.

**GMP Issues:** Catalog backlog; inadequate facilities for storage and research; lack of space to exhibit objects in the collection that do not support period room exhibits.

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## Van Buren Era Archeological Sites

**Importance:** Martin Van Buren NHS includes archeological features and sites associated with the Lindenwald Estate structures, the Old Post Road, the carriage barn, the foundations and artifact deposits associated with the North Gatehouse and South Gatehouse and several historic gardens and middens. The North Gatehouse, built in the 1840s, was dismantled in the 1950s prior to the park's establishment. Originally occupied by farm hands and their families, it is currently a ruin that is comprised of its original stone foundation. An interpretive sign is located adjacent to the foundation. The North Gatehouse foundation has an Asset Priority Index (API) value of 80.

The former Van Buren farmland contains several known but undelineated archeological sites that comprise the material remains of Van Buren-era farm structures, including the Red Barn and Black Hay Barn sites. These resources have the potential to contribute to our understanding of the working of the estate and farm during the period of Van Buren's residency.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** The condition of the archeological resources, based on the Archeological Overview and Assessment (2008) and captured in the Archeological Sites Management System, is generally "good."

Several archeological sites exist on lands owned by Roxbury Farm. OSI has indicated it will donate the easement it holds on these lands to the NPS. The easement contains a description of the significance of the historic resources, a map showing their approximate locations; a plan for protecting the archeological resources, historic landscape characteristics and features; and a grant of trail easement.

**Potential Threats:** Archeological surveys have not been conducted to locate structural remains, features and/or artifact deposits associated with former farm buildings, including the carriage barn, the South Gatehouse and the Farm Office. Other sites including gardens have also not been defined. Lack of precise boundaries for these resources makes them vulnerable to disturbance or destruction. Any ground altering activities in archeologically sensitive areas should be preceded by an archeological site evaluation.

**Stakeholders:** The New York State Historic Preservation Office and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, Delaware Tribe of Indians and Delaware Nation are primary off-site consulting parties with the NPS in consideration of potential archeological impacts to the park. In addition, these resources have research interest for archeologists and other scholars.



## Scenic Viewshed

**Importance:** The dramatic views of the Catskill Mountains and the agricultural character of the area surrounding the park are vital to understanding the context of Van Buren's Lindenwald. This understanding is conveyed on three different levels: the working agricultural landscape in the foreground; the scenic vista through the backdrop of the Catskill Mountains; and as a remarkably unchanged view reflecting Van Buren's vision of an appropriate setting for a northern post-presidential estate.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** Although the rural viewshed of open fields and distant views to the Catskill Mountains is currently intact, most of the Hudson Valley is experiencing increasing development pressure, often resulting in a permanent loss of agricultural lands.

**Potential Threats:** The 2009 boundary adjustment encompasses approximately 77 percent of the original Lindenwald Estate. Efforts by OSI have also protected an additional 72 acres of the historic setting, within the new boundary and approximately 900 acres of land adjacent to Martin Van Buren NHS generally along Kinderhook Creek. Future development on properties not adjacent to Lindenwald has the potential to impact the scenic vistas and the rural historic context of the park. A widening of Route 9H could result in a negative impact on the rural setting.

**Stakeholders:** Roxbury Farm, Open Space Institute, Columbia Land Conservancy and municipal planning and legislative bodies, county, regional and state planning and regulatory entities.

**Laws and Policies:** Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural landscapes as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five). The towns within this viewshed, Kinderhook and Stuyvesant, have adopted guidelines that address the protection of scenic vistas.

**GMP Issues:** Loss of rural character; obscured scenic views.

## Important Resources

### Important Resources

### Analysis and Guiding Principles

#### Natural Resources

**Importance:** The park contains prime agricultural soil, woodlands, wetlands, ponds and Kinderhook Creek. The Kinderhook Creek corridor and Southern Swamp are important natural resources for the park in that they represent relatively less disturbed areas that hold much of the site's biodiversity. The park borders and incorporates a small part of Kinderhook Creek. Davis' Sedge (*Carex davisii*), a New York threatened species, is found in the remnant floodplain community. The park is within a 10-20 mile radius of two significant bird conservation areas (BCA), including the Schodack Island BCA and Tivoli Bay BCA and lies within the Hudson River Flyway. Other important natural areas nearby include the Wilson M. Powell Sanctuary, the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve and the Greenport Conservation Area. All of these resources add diversity and provide environmental and recreational enrichment value to the park. The presence of an already established community participating in wildlife and bird watching supports the need for additional recreational trails in the park. Other important natural features include topography, prime soils, vegetation and ponds.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** As a cultural landscape, due to the preponderance of lawn area, the historic core reflects a general lack of biodiversity. However, biodiversity increases in the farmland area and into the reaches of the Kinderhook Creek floodplain. This is a long-term improving condition, as Roxbury Farm moved the farm land from its former treatment as a single agricultural field with a long history of utilizing chemical technology for fertility and pest control to a unique patchwork of smaller fields following the natural contours of the land. The fields are replenished through a sophisticated pattern of crop rotation, which minimizes soil erosion while improving soil fertility. Other sustainable practices include late mowing, which provides a valuable

habitat for many grassland birds, and harvesting straw from the Lower Terrace to reuse as mulch on the Upper Terrace. Organic farming has increased the diversity of plants and insects, reduced soil erosion, and created less nutrient pollution in runoff.

Much of the floodplain has been in agricultural use for the last 150 years. Past plowing and trenching activities have altered the wetland habitat to wet meadows. While the Kinderhook Creek has a buffer area that is less disturbed, riprap along the creek in some areas has altered the size and quality of remaining floodplain habitat. Southern Swamp is the largest hardwood swamp on the site, possessing few introduced plant species and the complex structure characteristic of undisturbed swamps in the region.

**Potential Threats:** Lack of knowledge may result in less than adequate management. Additional studies are needed including surveys of small mammals, butterflies, odonates, terrestrial invertebrates and flora. Known invasive species that may require management include Japanese Knotweed, common reed and purple loosestrife. The introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants and forest pests could compromise natural and cultural values and agricultural use can impact biological diversity and habitat of Kinderhook Creek. With farming in a floodplain, siltation could take place in streams and wetlands.

Sport vehicles, such as ATVs and snowmobiles, may degrade natural and cultural soundscapes, damage soils and vegetation and impact wildlife. Though prohibited in the park, enforcement during off season months has become an issue as the use of sport vehicles has increased in the county. The recent boundary adjustment requires the park to expand its enforcement efforts. The planned Kinderhook-Stockport-Stuyvesant Intermunicipal Trail will bring new trail users into the park.

**Stakeholders:** In addition to the committee proposing the Kinderhook-Stockport-Stuyvesant Intermunicipal Trail, the park's natural resources are subject to the same stakeholder interests described as connected to the park generally.

**Laws and Policies:** Pertinent federal laws and regulations and NPS policy guidance are described in NPS Natural Resource Management Guidelines and outlined in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five), park regulations identified in 36 CFR, Endangered Species Act (if applicable), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NPS Management Policies 2006, Executive Order 13186, "Federal Agency Migratory Bird Protection," Executive Order 11990, Wetland Protection, NPS Director's Order 77: Natural Resource Protection, NPS Director's Order 77-2: Floodplain Management.

**GMP Issues:** Control of incompatible uses; control of invasive species.

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## **Non- Van Buren Era Archeological Resources**

**Importance:** Human occupation both pre-and post-dating the Van Buren period is documented through the presence of a number of archeological sites within the original park boundaries. The Van Ness Stone House site (ca. 1682) dates from the early period of Dutch settlement in the Hudson Valley. Native American use of lands within the newly expanded boundary is documented by artifacts discovered during archaeological surveys and by potential archeological sites identified through surface artifact deposits. Additional sites document Native American presence on this land, and they are important because of their research value and because they must be considered under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Current Conditions and Trends: Based on condition assessments in the Archeological Overview and Assessment, the conditions of the archeological sites are good.

**Potential Threats:** Archeological surveys have not been conducted to determine the precise boundaries of archeological sites on the 101-acre parcel that was part of Van Buren's original farm. Under the responsibilities outlined in the conservation easement, NPS will recommend specific needs for archeological investigation prior to proposed ground altering activities.

**Stakeholders:** The New York State Historic Preservation Office, the Stockbridge- Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, Delaware Tribe of Indians and Delaware Nation are primary consulting parties with the NPS in consideration of potential impacts to these sites. In addition, these resources have research interest for archeologists and other scholars.

**Laws and Policies:** The above federally recognized tribes must be consulted, along with the New York State Historic Preservation Office, when undertakings may have an effect on these sites. Pertinent federal laws and regulations and NPS policy guidance (in particular National Historic Preservation Act Sections 106 and 110 and Director's Order #28 on Cultural Resource Management) are described in NPS Cultural Resource Management Guidelines and the NPS Museum Handbook, Part I.

**GMP Issues:** Protection of known and unknown archeological resources in the park; need for display and interpretive space for Native American resources in the park.

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## Agricultural Soils

**Importance:** Agricultural fields contribute to the historic character of the park, particularly since they currently reflect the diversity of crops Van Buren grew. Agricultural soils have been managed in these fields for centuries and as such it is a cultural resource reflecting a long history of human intervention, in particular during the Van Buren era management. The continuation of active farming through the preservation of viable soil will help provide visitors with an understanding of the agricultural landscape of Lindenwald in the 19th century as well as the present value of historic farm.

**Current Conditions and Trends:** Van Buren farmland is managed according to organic and biodynamic principles that utilize non-chemical techniques such as planting of cover crops, crop rotation, soil conservation measures and the application of biodynamic preparations, composts and manures.

**Potential Threats:** Agricultural practices that could potentially lead to the depletion of soil nutrient values; reduction of the viability of commercial farming.

**Stakeholders:** Roxbury Farm, Open Space Institute, regional agricultural interests.

**Laws and Policies:** Conservation easement and lease between Roxbury Farm and NPS. Also NPS Management Policies 2006 and NPS Director's Order 77: Natural Resource Protection.

**GMP Issues:** Development of management practices that promote active farming and the sustainable productivity of the soil.



Entertainment at Lindenwald

### **Associated Resources Outside of Park Ownership**

A number of sites associated with Martin Van Buren’s life and times and the cultural context for Dutch settlement are located in the Hudson River Valley, outside the park’s boundary. The following section highlights some of these important places.

#### Markers and Monuments

- Martin Van Buren Grave Site, Village of Kinderhook;
- Martin Van Buren Statue, Village Square, Village of Kinderhook;
- Plaque on the building at 111 State Street in Albany, where Van Buren lived as New York state attorney general and; and
- Marble bust of Martin Van Buren and portrait of Angelica Singleton Van Buren, White House Red Room, Washington D.C.

#### Museums and Historic Sites

- Luykas Van Alen Farmhouse, 1734 Dutch Farmhouse, Columbia County Historical Society, Kinderhook, New York;
- Vanderpoel House, Columbia County Historical Society, Kinderhook, New York;
- Martin Van Buren’s mother’s house (Maria Hoes), Village of Valatie, New York (private);
- Cantine House, where Martin Van Buren and Hannah Hoes were married, Catskill, New York (private);
- Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York;
- Martin Van Buren Birthplace and Boyhood Home Site, Village of Kinderhook (private); and
- Decatur House where Van Buren resided, Washington D.C.

## **Planning Issues and Decision Points**

### **Scoping and Identification of Issues**

A planning effort for a general management plan requires both internal and external scoping. Internal scoping included consultation, meetings and coordination with NPS natural resources, cultural resources, interpretation, and facility management experts. An internal NPS issue scoping session took place on November 20, 2008. External scoping included hosting a public scoping session on February 18, 2009, posting information on the website, mailing newsletters, holding meetings with interested community groups and agency consultation and coordinating with cultural and natural resource agencies at the local, state and national levels.

A detailed description of the scoping process for this GMP is presented in Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination. Internal and external scoping helped to formulate the primary issues and decision points that should be addressed in the Martin Van Buren NHS GMP. The planning issues are presented in three categories that correspond to principal goals of the NPS: 1) to preserve park resources; 2) to provide for visitor use and enjoyment; and 3) to ensure organizational effectiveness.

### **1) Preserve Park Resources**

#### Historic Structures Issues

In recent years the historic mansion has been restored and provided with modern fire detection/suppression and climate control systems. However, ongoing preservation



maintenance will continue to be demanding. An assessment of appropriate levels of visitor use for Lindenwald is needed to determine the building's carrying capacity.

The South Gatehouse is presently in fair condition but a plan for future maintenance and use is required. The existing foundation of the North Gatehouse will need to be stabilized. The Farm Cottage has been preliminarily evaluated by a historic resource specialist and found to have serious interior and exterior maintenance issues. Research must be undertaken, funding for repairs must be sought and future potential uses for public use must be evaluated.

#### *Decision Points*

- What is the carrying capacity for the historic mansion, South Gatehouse and Farm Cottage?
- What is the most compatible use for space in the South Gatehouse and the Farm Cottage?

#### Museum Collection Issues

A specific threat to the park's cultural resources is the condition of the pole barn structure built in 1983 as a temporary museum storage facility for Lindenwald's collection. This structure is obsolete and actively deteriorating and the park's Collection Management Plan (1996) emphasized over 15 years ago the urgent need to replace the building with a purpose-built collections storage facility. The park's archeological collection is already stored off site at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York. The intrusive location of the pole barn also continues to be a cultural landscape issue as it impedes the significant view behind the mansion.

#### *Decision Points*

- How will the park best protect its archival and museum collection in good condition?

#### Cultural Landscape Issues

Land within Martin Van Buren NHS's new boundary now totals approximately 295 acres and includes designed landscapes, active agricultural lands (most in private inholdings), woodlands, wetlands, historic roads and a significant view of the distant Catskill Mountains. Progress has been made in implementing some of the recommendations of the park's Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan (1997), and an updated Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan is underway. While some features of the formal historic landscape have been restored, the area still contains noncontributing 20th-century support buildings and bears the burden of park operational traffic. Some landscape features, such as the woodlot screening Lindenwald from the temporary office units to the north, are not historic. Other historic landscape features, such as the orchards, gardens and fish ponds, are either absent or in need of substantial treatment. There are several issues to consider related to the historic landscape:

- Visitors have only partial views of the scenic vistas looking west from the mansion;
- The historic setting is diminished by the presence of modern buildings such as the pole barn and maintenance garage. Although the administrative trailers are not on original Martin Van Buren farmland, they have an impact on the cultural landscape;
- The possible widening of SR 9H has the potential to degrade natural and cultural soundscapes and threaten the rural character of the landscape and Old Post Road trace; and



South Gatehouse



North Gatehouse foundation

- Future development on properties within the viewshed of Lindenwald has the potential to negatively impact the scenic vistas and the rural historic context of the park.

#### *Decision Points*

- How can the cultural landscape resources and values that are fundamental to the purpose and significance of the site be protected, preserved and maintained in good condition for the benefit of present and future generations?
- How will the park manage and protect the lands and resources added to the park after the boundary adjustment?

#### Archeological Resources Issues

The archeological collection is housed off site at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Archeological surveys have not been conducted to determine the precise boundaries of archeological sites referenced by the OSI easement on the privately owned 101-acre parcel that was part of Van Buren's original farm, including the sites of the Red and Black Barns. Structural remains, landscape features and/or artifact deposits associated with former farm buildings, including the carriage barn, the North Gatehouse and the farm office need to be located. Lack of precise boundaries for these resources makes them vulnerable to disturbance or destruction.

Human occupation both pre- and post-dating the Van Buren period is documented through the presence of a number of archeological sites within the original park boundaries. Native American use of lands within the newly expanded boundary is documented by artifacts discovered during archaeological surveys and by potential archeological sites identified through surface artifact deposits.

#### *Decision Point*

- How should the park protect the broad range of known and un-delineated archeological resources related to the historic farm and Native American occupation?

## **2) Provide for Public Use, Enjoyment and Experience of the Park**

#### Visitor Use and Interpretation Issues

Visitors have opportunities to understand the grounds that surround the mansion, but may not have full appreciation of the scenic views and the surrounding landscape due to 20th- century structures, operational intrusions, and associated noise. Limited access has prevented visitors from understanding and appreciating the agricultural heritage of Lindenwald and the current uses and relationships that are part of this heritage. Visitors have been generally focused on house tours and have not had the opportunity to learn about Van Buren in a larger context. The visitor experience at the park has the potential to be greatly expanded. A plan will need to be generated that expands visitor opportunities to explore and interpret lands that are part of the 2009 boundary revision. Additional recreational benefits could be available by linking expanded park trails to the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport trail system. These recreational and other opportunities need to be assessed, planned and constructed to expand visitorship. Guidelines will need to be established to manage and control potential impacts from the use of motorized sport vehicles (ATVs and snowmobiles), including degradation of natural and cultural landscapes. Because the expanded boundary includes active farmland, there are new considerations for establishing regulations that manage potential incompatible activities while expanding potential recreational and interpretive opportunities.

#### *Decision Points*

- How can the park expand its interpretive and educational opportunities beyond those traditionally associated with a house museum?
- How does the park make the primary resources universally accessible?
- What are appropriate uses and visitor experiences on the lands added to the park boundary and how will they relate to uses and visitor experiences within the former boundary?
- How can the park appropriately expand recreational use?

### **3) Ensure Organizational Effectiveness**

#### Facility Use Issues

The park's administrative offices are located in trailers that have been in use since 1999. The existing visitor facility is a small addition to the trailers that serve as the administrative offices and meeting space. The visitor facility cannot accommodate school groups or more than 8-10 people comfortably at a time. Additional space is needed to serve visitor requirements for information, education and interpretation. Well- designed space is needed to provide indoor areas for visitor assembly, as well as a location for programs, exhibits, audiovisual projection, and retail sales.

The pole barn structure, built in 1983 as a temporary container for Lindenwald's museum collection while the house was being restored, is actively failing. Issues include a deteriorating roof, unstable floor, problems with climate and pest control, and an inefficient heating system.

Park maintenance operations are housed in a non-historic garage located directly behind the mansion. This building is inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the park. Spaces for staff support, storage, shop activities and vehicle storage are crowded, resulting in an inefficiency of use. In addition, the associated storage sheds and maintenance pole barn located in the north woods are inadequate and impact the cultural landscape and scenic views.

#### *Decision Points*

- What facilities are required for optimum park operations including visitor services?
- How will staff and operational costs be impacted if existing facilities are replaced by purpose-built facilities?

#### Partnerships and Collaboration Issues

One of the most important features of the recently authorized boundary adjustment is the public-private working relationship that is keeping Van Buren's farm in agricultural use and on the tax rolls as well as providing for future visitor access via interpretive trails. On the same nationally significant landscape, Roxbury Farm's mission is to provide biodynamically grown fruits and vegetables for its 1,100 members, while Martin Van Buren NHS's mission is to protect and preserve Van Buren resources and provide visitor services including access. The park's challenge is to interpret resources and administer easements on land where Roxbury Farm grows crops in such a way that resources are protected, visitors have a meaningful experience and farm operations are successful.

### *Decision Points*

- How can the park optimize its relationship with existing partners and expand partnerships within the region?
- How can the park create and sustain a mutually beneficial working relationship with Roxbury Farm?

## **Impact Topics**

### **Identification of Impact Topics**

Impact topics are resources of concern that could be affected, either beneficially or adversely, by implementing any of the proposed alternatives. The issues outlined above were used to derive a preliminary list of impact topics that should be considered in the Martin Van Buren NHS GMP. After further review, the planning team identified a number of resources in the park that may be impacted by the GMP alternatives and were retained as impact topics for detailed analysis. The team also identified a number of impact topics that were initially considered but were then eliminated from further analysis.

### **Impact Topics Retained for Analysis**

The potential impacts associated with the alternatives are analyzed in detail for the following impact topics. Details on the existing conditions for each resource topic are presented in “Chapter 3: Affected Environment,” and the anticipated impacts are presented in “Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.”

- Historic Structures
- Cultural Landscapes
- Archeological Resources
- Museum Collections
- Surface Water and Wetlands
- Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Park Operations and Facilities
- Socioeconomics

### **Impact Topics Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

The following presents an overview of impact topics that were considered, but ultimately dismissed from further analysis. An outline of background information used in considering each topic is provided below along with the reasons for dismissing each topic from further analysis.

#### Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands

According to the NRCS, there are no unique farmland soils within the study area, however, there are prime farmlands located in the study area (NRCS 2013). Based on the proposed ground-disturbing actions, and because the proposed actions would occur in previously disturbed areas, no prime farmland would be irreversibly converted to other uses. Therefore, the impact topic of prime and unique farmland soils is dismissed from further analysis.

#### Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, “Floodplain Management,” requires examination of impacts to floodplains and potential risks involved in placing facilities within floodplains. NPS Director’s Order #77-2: Floodplain Management and accompanying Procedural Manual #77-2 establish procedures for implementing floodplain protection and



management actions in units of the national park system. Flood Insurance Rate Maps created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency show areas of the park surrounding Kinderhook Creek to fall within the 100-year floodplain. These areas are currently under agricultural use and the alternatives presented in this plan would not change the management strategy or current use of those areas. In addition, the alternatives would not introduce large structures or impervious areas to those areas that would impede the flow of floodwaters or alter the existing floodplain; therefore, the impact topic of floodplains was dismissed from further analysis.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act establishes a system for the protection of rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, cultural, or historic values. These rivers are to be preserved in free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. There are no designated wild and scenic rivers within the Hudson River Valley. Therefore, the impact topic of wild and scenic rivers was dismissed from further analysis.

#### Air Quality

The 1963 Clean Air Act, as amended (42 USC 7401 et seq.) requires that federal land managers protect air quality. The NPS Management Policies 2006 address the need to analyze air quality during park planning. Columbia County, in which Martin Van Buren NHS is located, was given an Air Quality Index (AQI) ranking of “good” by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and is designated an attainment area for the EPA’s 2008 eight-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Implementation of any of the action alternatives proposed could produce a negligible amount of air pollution from short-term emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds during construction. However, these short-term impacts would be minimal, and the proposed activities would not significantly impact local air resources, emissions budgets, or maintenance plans instituted by the state of New York, nor would it fail to maintain the 2008, eight-hour national standard. Therefore, the impact topic of air quality was dismissed from further analysis.

#### Noise and Soundscapes

In accordance with NPS Management Policies 2006, 4.9 and 5.3.1.7, the NPS strives to maintain or reduce existing noise impacts within the park and restore natural and cultural soundscapes to the greatest extent possible. The proposed action would enhance and restore the soundscape at the park. There may be temporary disturbances during construction, but these would be short-term and isolated near the construction areas. Although, the impact topic of noise and soundscapes was dismissed from further specific analysis, attention was given to soundscapes as part of the cultural landscape.

#### Lightscaapes and Night Sky

In accordance with NPS Management Policies 2006 (NPS 2006a), the NPS strives to preserve natural ambient landscapes and other values that exist in the absence of man-made light. Martin Van Buren NHS is located less than 20 miles south of the Capital District. The City of Albany is a major metropolitan area that emits human-caused light. The park would continue to strive to limit the use of artificial outdoor lighting to that which is necessary for basic safety requirements and to ensure that all outdoor lighting is shielded to the maximum extent possible, to keep light on the intended subject and out of the night sky. No net increase in lighting is proposed in the alternatives. Therefore, the impact topic of lightscaapes and night sky was dismissed from further analysis.

### Terrestrial Wildlife

NPS Management Policies 2006 state that it is NPS policy to protect the abundance and diversity of natural resources. The park supports a variety of wildlife and habitat, primarily within the farmland area and into the reaches of the Kinderhook Creek floodplain. Agricultural use and development of the property has resulted in some habitat loss and fragmentation, however, most of the wildlife species likely to be present in the park have adapted to these conditions. Management actions associated with the alternatives that propose rehabilitation of the landscape would produce long-term, beneficial impacts to terrestrial wildlife from increased habitat with slight long-term, negligible impacts where construction of new facilities would occur. These slight long-term, negligible impacts would not noticeably change existing conditions with regard to wildlife and wildlife habitat in the park. Therefore, the impact topic of terrestrial wildlife was dismissed from further analysis.

### Wilderness

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System composed of federal lands designated as wilderness. The act mandates a policy for the enduring protection of wilderness resources for public use and enjoyment. The park does not include any land within the National Wilderness Preservation System designated pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Therefore, the impact topic of wilderness was dismissed from further analysis.

### Climate Change

Climate change refers to any substantial changes in average climatic conditions (such as average temperature, precipitation, or wind) or climatic variability (such as seasonality or storm frequencies) lasting for an extended period of time (decades or longer). Recent reports by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, the National Academy of Sciences, and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) provide clear evidence that climate change is occurring and will accelerate in the coming decades. The effects of climate change on national parks are beginning to emerge as both science and impacts become clearer; however, it is difficult to predict the full extent of the changes that are expected under an altered climate regime.

The National Park Service recognizes that the major drivers of climate change are outside the control of the agency. However, climate change is a phenomenon whose impacts throughout the national park system cannot be discounted. The National Park Service has identified climate change as one of the major threats to national park units, and has developed a Climate Change Response Strategy (NPS 2010) that focuses on science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. Some climate change impacts could occur at Martin Van Buren NHS in the time frame of this management plan. Therefore, climate change is included in this document to recognize its role in the changing environment of the park and provide an understanding of its impact.

Although climate change is a global phenomenon, it manifests differently depending on regional and local factors. Climate change is expected to result in many changes to the Northeastern United States, including hotter summer temperatures and fewer winter freezes.

Questions to be addressed are as follows:

- What is the contribution of the proposed project to climate change, such as greenhouse gas emissions and the “carbon footprint”?

- What are the anticipated effects of climate change on the park's resources and visitors that are affected by the management alternatives?

Because the contribution of the proposed actions to climate change is negligible under any alternative, the former issue has been dismissed. The latter issue, a discussion of the anticipated effects of climate change on park resources, has been carried forward.

### Carbon Footprint

For the purpose of this planning effort, “carbon footprint” is defined as the sum of all emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (e.g., methane and ozone) that would result from implementation of either of the action alternatives. Understanding the carbon footprint of each alternative is important for determining its contribution to climate change.

It has been determined that the action alternatives described in this document would only emit a negligible amount of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change; therefore, this impact topic has been dismissed from detailed analysis in this plan. The reasons for dismissing this impact topic are that (1) no new road construction is proposed under either alternative, and (2) changes to facilities are largely in-kind and should have an overall benefit due to newer sustainable building practices. Because of the negligible amount of greenhouse gas emissions that would result from each alternative, a quantitative measurement of their carbon footprint was determined by the planning team not to be practicable.

### Energy Resources and Conservation Potential

According to the NPS Management Policies 2006, “any facility development, whether it is a new building, a renovation, or an adaptive reuse of an existing facility, must include improvements in energy efficiency and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for both the building envelope and the mechanical systems that support the facility” (NPS 2006a). The park strives to incorporate the principles of sustainable design and development into all facilities and park operations. Sustainability can be described as the result achieved by doing things in ways that do not compromise the environment or its capacity to provide for present and future generations. Sustainable practices minimize the short- and long-term environmental impacts of developments and other activities through resource conservation, recycling, waste minimization, and the use of energy efficient and ecologically responsible materials and techniques. The park also encourages suppliers, permittees, and contractors to follow sustainable practices.

Martin Van Buren NHS would minimize energy costs, eliminate waste, and conserve energy resources by using energy efficient and cost effective technology wherever possible. Energy efficiency would also be incorporated into any decision-making process during the design of facilities, as well as all decisions affecting park operations. The use of value analysis and value engineering, including life cycle cost analysis, would be performed to examine energy, environmental, and economic implications of proposed development. Consequently, any adverse impacts relating to energy use, availability, or conservation would be negligible. Therefore, the impact topic of energy conservation potential and sustainability was dismissed from further analysis.

### Ethnographic Resources

In NPS Management Policies 2006, ethnographic resources are defined as “objects and places, including sites, structures, landscapes, and natural resources, with traditional



Carriage ride on Harvest Day

cultural meaning and value to associated peoples. Research and consultation with associated people identifies and explains the places and things they find culturally meaningful.” Ethnographic resources may be part of a National Register property type known as a “traditional cultural property.” A traditional cultural property is defined as “one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community’s history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community (National Register Bulletin #38). Guidance for identifying a traditional cultural property is found in National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties (NPS 1998). There are no properties that meet the definition of a Traditional Cultural Property within the study area. Therefore, the impact topic of ethnographic resources was dismissed from further analysis.

#### Indian Sacred Sites

Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996), “Indian Sacred Sites,” requires managers of federal lands to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of Indian Sacred Sites. There are no known Indian Sacred Sites. Therefore, the impact topic of Indian Sacred Sites was dismissed from further analysis. In the unlikely event that human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001) would be followed.

#### Indian Trust Resources

Secretarial Order 3175 (November 8, 1993) requires that any anticipated impacts to Indian Trust Resources from a proposed project or action by agencies of the Department of the Interior be explicitly addressed in environmental documents. There are no known Indian Trust Resources at the park. No land within the park is held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of Indians due to their status as Indians. Therefore, the impact topic of Indian Trust Resources was dismissed from further analysis.

#### Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 (February 11, 1994), “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts of their programs and policies on minorities or low income populations or communities as defined in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Revised Draft Environmental Justice Guidance. Although minority and low-income populations as defined in Executive Order 12898 reside in Columbia County, there are no socially or economically disadvantaged populations within the study area. None of the alternatives under consideration would result in disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects, including human health, economic, social, or environmental impacts on minority or low-income populations residing in Columbia County. Negligible beneficial short- and long-term economic impacts on the local and regional economy would result from construction associated with some of the alternatives or from the operation of new visitor facilities. Therefore, the impact topic of environmental justice was dismissed from further analysis.



Friends of Lindenwald



## Collaboration and Partnerships

Martin Van Buren NHS presently enjoys a strong working relationship with a number of stakeholders in the community. The park is striving to become involved in as many appropriate community activities as possible as a way to build awareness and support for the park and to become a valuable member and contributor to the community.

Regional stakeholders include the Friends of Lindenwald, Van Buren descendants, scholars of the decorative arts and the antebellum period, tourism organizations of Columbia County and the Hudson Valley, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Hudson River Ramble, Hudsonia Ltd. (an environmental research institute), American Farmland Trust, Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, the Center for Applied Historical Research of the State University of New York at Albany and Columbia-Greene Community College. The rich assortment of arts organizations and historic sites throughout the Hudson Valley region represent future potential partnerships for the park. Stronger and more effective working relationships will be sought with all of these organizations to develop new programs to ultimately increase park visitorship.

One of the most important features of the recently approved boundary adjustment is the public-private working relationship that is successfully keeping properties in agricultural use and on the tax rolls as well as providing for future recreational possibilities. The park's challenge is to administer easements on Roxbury Farm lands in such a way that resources are protected, visitors have a meaningful experience and the farm operation is positioned to be as successful as possible. A mutually beneficial strategy to manage new easements on lands that serve multiple purposes including farming, resource preservation and expanded visitor experiences will be developed.

## Related Studies, Plans and Initiatives

### Park Studies

The park has completed or initiated a number of studies that contribute to the foundation of the GMP. These include:

#### 2011 Administrative History

Provides a comprehensive account of the establishment and administration of the park from its inception to the present.

#### 2011 Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study

Provides a range of alternative transportation options that might serve the park's needs.

#### 2010 Transportation Analysis Report

Describes current and recommended roadway conditions, signage, trail connections, parking and bus service.

#### 2009 Visitor Study

Identifies the expectations, opinions and areas of interest of visitors to the park.

#### 2006 Historic Resources Study

Identifies the park's important historical themes and resources.



View of Lindenwald from farmland

2005 Interpretive Concept Plan

Discusses issues and influences affecting visitor experience opportunities.

2004 Biological Survey

Describes biological resources and features of the park.

2004 Cultural Landscape Report for Van Buren Farm

Identifies and explains the history and resources of the Van Buren Farm.

2003 Boundary Study/EA

Examines the effectiveness of the current park boundary and makes recommendations.

2003 Interpretive Planning Foundation

Establishes purpose, significance and interpretive themes and identifies visitor experience objectives.

1997 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan

Recommends actions to preserve and restore Lindenwald landscape features.

1995 Cultural Landscape Report

Studies the park “historic core” landscape.

1970 Master Plan

First NPS planning document, prior to the park being established.

### **Municipal Planning**

Planning for the park is taking place within the context of local municipal planning initiatives. One of the main planning issues is to improve the site’s visual context for visitors by limiting 20th-century buildings and land uses to the adjacent landscape. The Town of Kinderhook is working with the park to update the Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan, Kinderhook Zoning Ordinance and Official Map to appropriately zone the non-federal lands within the park boundary as well as adjacent lands. The Town is also developing a trail plan that will provide a connecting link into the park’s expanded trail system.

### **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area**

The park is within the boundary of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, whose mission is to recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the nationally-significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the nation. A Management Plan was prepared in 2001 that seeks to: conserve the natural environment and heritage of the Hudson River Valley by supporting existing and new collaborative conservation initiatives among the Hudson Valley’s many partners; tell the important stories of the Hudson River Valley by supporting and promoting heritage trails based around the region’s most popular destinations; and encourage tourism, agriculture and appropriate economic development consistent with conserving and interpreting regional heritage while providing for sustainable economic growth.

### **Next Steps in the Planning Process**

The Draft GMP/EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. The NPS will consider all comments received from other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals regarding the plan. Once all comments

have been considered, the NPS may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed by the Northeast Regional Director, selecting an alternative for implementation as the final approved GMP for Martin Van Buren NHS. The FONSI will identify any changes made to the approved GMP as a result of public and agency comment, and contain responses to comments, as appropriate. If a FONSI is issued, it will be followed by a 30-day no action period, after which, the approved GMP will be implemented.

## **Implementation of the Plan**

The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding levels and service wide priorities and on partnership funds, time and effort. The approval of a general management plan does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the GMP could be many years in the future.





# 2

## Management Alternatives



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# Chapter 2: Management Alternatives

## Introduction

This chapter presents three alternatives to managing Martin Van Buren NHS. These approaches were carefully developed to fulfill the various requirements expressed in the Foundation for Planning as described in Chapter One, achieve the goals of Martin Van Buren NHS and respond to the interests of various government agencies, park partners, stakeholders and the public. Each alternative represents a feasible future for the park. The alternatives are first described as broad concepts, touching on four key aspects of management: resource protection, visitor experience, operations and facilities and partnerships and outreach. These correspond to four broad NPS service-wide goals. Each of these broad categories represents the desired future conditions that each alternative seeks to achieve. A series of diagrams, tables, illustrations and management prescriptions further express the intent of each alternative.

The first alternative described is Alternative A: No-Action, under which Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to operate much as it does now, without any major changes. Consideration of this alternative serves as a point of comparison between the present and the possible futures expressed in the two “action” alternatives - Alternatives B and C - that follow.

A summary of the costs of implementing the alternatives is included, along with an explanation of the two categories of cost - one-time capital and recurring (Tables 3-5). It is anticipated that any capital improvements and operational costs would be phased over the life of this plan. As noted above, implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding and NPS priorities.

Also included in this chapter is a synopsis of several alternatives that were identified in early stages of planning, but were eliminated from further consideration for various reasons. The rationale for their elimination is explained in this chapter.

## Park Management Areas

### Introduction

The NPS is required to develop management zones for national parks. All management zones are located within the park boundary and represent an important management tool to help managers prioritize park funding and staffing. These management zones do not reflect local zoning districts. The same management zones are used for each of the action alternatives, though the shape/size/criteria may differ between the alternatives.



Lindenwald mansion

## Description of Park Management Areas

The management areas identified for the park are:

### Historic Management Zone

Includes the Lindenwald mansion, associated outbuildings, Farm Cottage and surrounding grounds. The main resources in this zone include historic structures, archeological sites and the cultural landscape. Also in this zone are several 20th-century buildings, including the museum storage pole barn, maintenance facility, and several storage sheds.

### Historic Transition Zone

Encompasses the portions of agricultural lands on the Upper Terrace, portions of the cultural landscape and the 20th-century Meyer farm complex.

### Administrative Zone

This zone includes contemporary facilities supporting visitor services and administrative offices as well as a parking lot. This zone also includes portions of the cultural landscape (part of the area where the Van Buren orchard once stood) and archeological resources.

### Agricultural Zone

Encompasses the agricultural lands associated with the Upper and Lower Terraces as well as lands on the east of SR 9H, which are private inholdings. Lands in this zone would continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

### Natural Resource Zone

Encompasses the wooded areas associated with the escarpment and the riparian zone along Kinderhook Creek.



Main Hall of the Lindenwald mansion

### Management Area Treatment Prescriptions

The core of each alternative is expressed as management prescriptions – desired conditions influencing how the park would manage its resources and provide for public use. Management prescriptions have been formulated for each zone and for each of the alternatives. Management prescriptions address four issues related to the overall goals of general management plans as well as desired future conditions for various aspects of the park:

#### Desired Future Condition of the Resources

Describe the type of treatment or combination of these treatments recommended for each resource under each of the alternatives.

#### Kinds and Levels of Visitor Use

What would visitors be able to do? Where can they go in each of the zones under each alternative? How would each alternative impact the number of visitors at the park?

#### Kinds and Levels of New Development

What kinds of new development are needed for each of the alternatives?

### Management Activities to Maintain the Resources and Provide for Public Enjoyment

Management activities that are needed to maintain the resources in their present condition and provide for a certain level of public access and enjoyment established under each alternative.

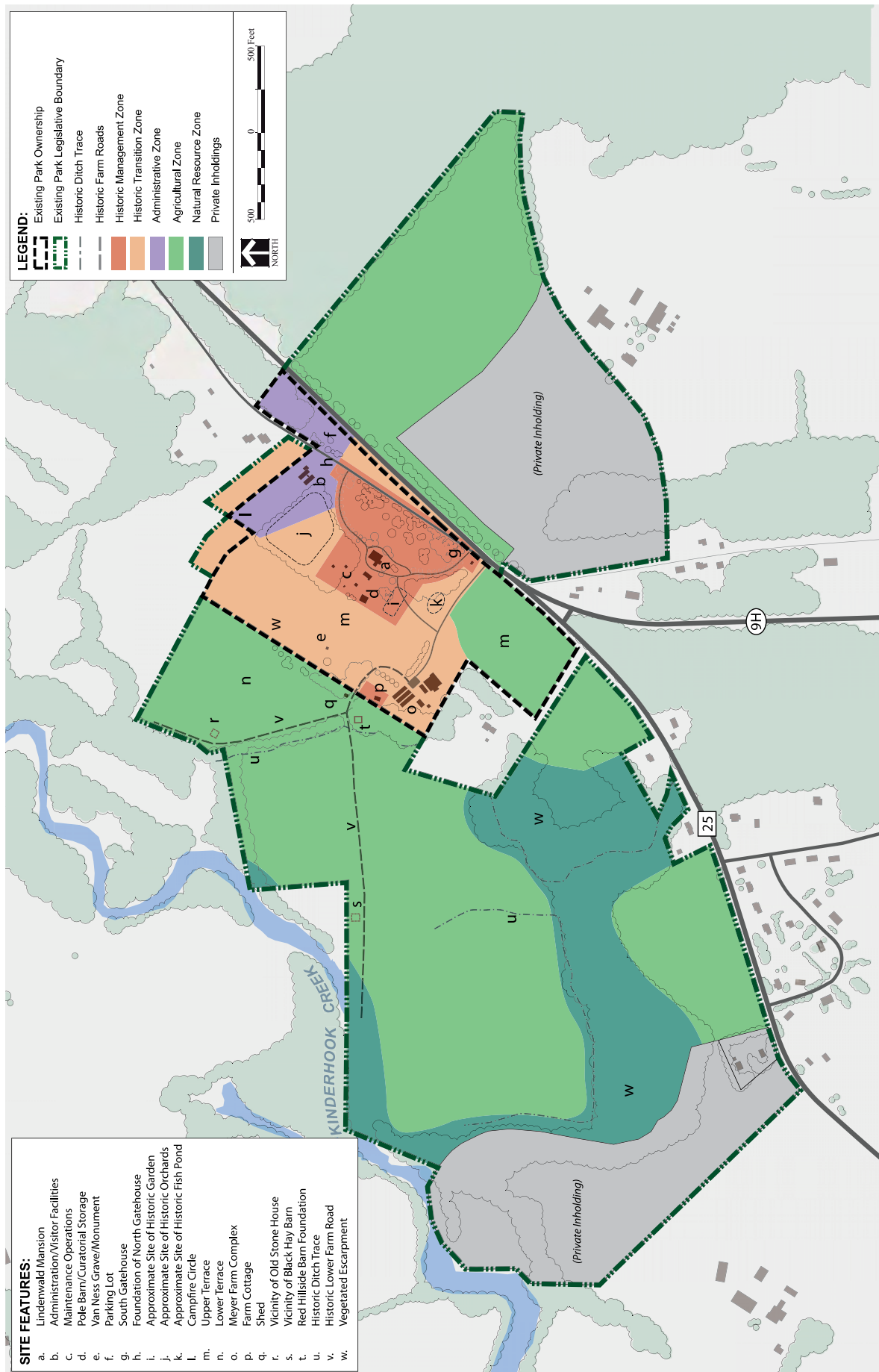


Figure 4: Management Zones Map



## **Boundary Adjustment**

Federal law directs the NPS to evaluate the need to adjust a park's boundary when a GMP is undertaken. This GMP did not undertake a boundary adjustment study, nor does it recommend any boundary adjustments because a major boundary adjustment was made in 2009, which meets the needs of the park. Three private inholdings to the southwest of the Lindenwald mansion along Albany Avenue were not included in the 2009 boundary adjustment because the owners did not wish to be included within the park boundary. If the owners decided to make the property available as a willing seller, NPS could obtain the properties in concert with an administrative boundary adjustment.

## **Desired Future Conditions**

In consultation with members of the public, partners, and stakeholders, the planning team identified the list of issues that the plan should address. Study of these issues has led to the development of desired future conditions which each alternative should set out to achieve. The desired future conditions for the Martin Van Buren NHS General Management Plan are:

### **Preserve Park Resources**

#### Historic Structures

- The park preserves the historic home, the South Gatehouse and the Farm Cottage and occupies vacant spaces with compatible uses. The existing foundation of the North Gatehouse is stabilized

#### Museum Collections

- The park protects its archival and museum collection in good condition for the long term in easily accessible permanent space that is climate-controlled and energy-efficient

#### Archeological Resources

- The park protects the broad range of known and un-delineated archeological resources related to the historic farm and Native American occupation

#### Cultural Landscape

- The park protects, preserves and maintains the cultural landscape in good condition for the benefit of present and future generations
- The park seeks to restore or rehabilitate features of the historic landscape and remove specified noncontributing buildings

#### Natural Resources

- The park protects and preserves natural resources located within the park boundary.

### **Provide for Public Use, Enjoyment and Experience of the Park**

#### Visitor Use and Interpretation

- The park expands its interpretive and educational opportunities beyond those traditionally associated with a house museum to include exhibits, classroom activities, demonstrations, recreational activities and interpretation of the farm
- The park provides for a greater understanding of Martin Van Buren's life, his contributions and his relevance to a diverse 21st-century society
- The park provides a quality experience to those who are handicapped or are not physically able to visit the site
- The park provides appropriate uses and visitor experiences on the lands added to the park boundary

- The park links expanded trails to the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport trail system.
- On the site's farmland, the park works with farmers and landowners to coordinate agriculture and historic preservation, while expanding recreational and interpretive activities

## Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

### Operations and Facilities

- The park upgrades the capacity of its facilities by replacing the inefficient trailers that house administrative offices and the visitor contact station
- The park removes the 20th-century maintenance garage and the deteriorating pole barn, which are inadequate for park needs, have unsafe conditions and intrude upon the historic setting
- The park more effectively fulfills its mission by having support facilities that better meet its needs

### Partnerships and Outreach

- Martin Van Buren NHS optimizes its relationship with existing partners and expands partnerships within the region to enhance resource preservation and the visitor experience at the park
- The park establishes a positive and mutually beneficial working relationship with key partners within its boundary, including Roxbury Farm, the OSI, and other private landowners, to maintain and interpret the agricultural landscape



Servants' Dining Room of the Lindenwald mansion

## Management Alternatives

### Introduction

Developing a vision for the future of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is the primary purpose of this GMP. Chapter 2 lays out three potential alternatives that articulate how the park could move forward in the future. Alternative A: No Action is presented with two action alternatives - B and C. Each alternative presents a different vision for preserving and managing cultural resources and natural resources, providing for visitor use and developing facilities at the national historic site. Together, the alternatives provide a reasonable range of options for the future of the park and reflect discussions recorded at public meetings, workshops and meetings.

The alternatives focus on what resource conditions and visitor uses and experience should be at the park rather than on the details of how these conditions, uses and experiences should be achieved. Each action alternative describes the desired condition of the park approximately 20 years out. The alternatives are summarized below.

#### Alternative A: No Action:

This alternative describes how the park would continue to be managed with no major changes to the current management direction and facilities.

#### Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Contemporary Civic Discourse:

The overall emphasis of Alternative B is on Martin Van Buren the politician. Visitors would come to Martin Van Buren National Historic Site to be engaged in discussions, programs and activities related to the history, politics and civic life associated with Martin Van Buren and to have opportunities to understand the relevance of that history. Scholars and students would be encouraged to explore new insights into the contributions of President Van Buren to the American political system.

### Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren:

The overall emphasis of Alternative C is on Martin Van Buren the resident and farmer at Lindenwald. Visitors would walk in the footsteps of Martin Van Buren - former president, politician, progressive farmer and family man. The site evokes as fully as possible the 1839-1862 period of significance when Lindenwald was the home, political headquarters and progressive working farm of Martin Van Buren. Visitors would have opportunities to experience and learn about the agricultural history of Lindenwald, its reflection of the complex socio-economic changes that characterized the antebellum period, and the connection with the contemporary working farm.

### **Cultural Resource Treatments**

Each alternative entails treatments of cultural resources at Martin Van Buren NHS. In addition to an explanation in the text, cultural resource treatments for each alternative are indicated on the alternative maps. To clarify what various treatments would involve, it should be noted that they are guided by several sections of chapter five of NPS Management Policies 2006. Cultural resource treatments are also guided by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. The cultural resource treatments for each alternative are described in the text and indicated on the alternatives' maps. An explanation of each cultural resource treatment follows:

#### Preservation

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Preservation may be considered as a treatment when the property's distinctive materials, features and spaces are essentially intact and thus convey the historic significance without extensive repair or replacement; when depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate; and when a continuing or new use does not require additions or extensive alterations.

#### Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Rehabilitation may be considered as a treatment when repair and replacement of deteriorated features are necessary; when alterations or additions to the property are planned for a new or continued use; and when its depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate.

#### Restoration

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and replacing missing features

from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Restoration may be considered as a treatment when the property's design, architectural, or historical significance during a particular period of time outweighs the potential loss of extant materials, features, spaces and finishes that characterize other historical periods; when there is substantial physical and documentary evidence for the work; and when contemporary alterations and additions are not planned. Prior to undertaking work, a particular period of time, i.e. the restoration period, should be selected and justified and a documentation plan for restoration developed.

#### Reconstruction of Missing Structures

Reconstruction is a contemporary interpretation of a historic structure rather than an authentic survival. NPS will not reconstruct a missing structure unless there is no alternative that would accomplish the park's interpretive mission; sufficient data exist to enable its accurate reconstruction based on historic features substantiated by documentary or physical evidence rather than conjectural designs or features from other structures; reconstruction will occur in the original location; the disturbance or loss of significant archeological resources is minimized and mitigated by data recovery; and reconstruction is approved by the Director.

#### **Costs of Implementing the Alternatives**

The cost estimates for implementing each alternative reflect certain assumptions. Estimates are based on analyses of the 2009-2010 condition of the park structures and grounds, anticipated historic preservation activities, public programming and staff and operational requirements. Costs are presented in ranges to emphasize this stage of planning and expected inflationary factors. These estimates are for planning and comparison purposes only, represent gross costs and are based on 2011 dollars.

Two categories of cost are estimated for each alternative:

**Total One-Time Costs:** One-time facility costs include those for the design, construction, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of facilities such as visitor facilities, roads, parking areas, administrative facilities, comfort stations, educational facilities, maintenance facilities, museum collection facilities and other visitor facilities.

One-time non-facility costs include actions for the preservation of cultural or natural resources not related to facilities, the development of visitor use tools not related to facilities and other park management activities that would require substantial funding above park annual operating costs. Examples include: the rehabilitation of historic landscapes; plans, studies and inventories; outreach, exhibits and other visitor programs.

One-time costs for the park include the cost to construct new facilities, make infrastructure upgrades, any new development and the associated research and planning. Actual costs would be determined through a design development process.

**Annual Operating Costs:** Annual operating costs for the park would come from the park's annual operating budget and other dedicated funding sources. These figures include staff costs, typical office costs, general maintenance of park facilities and grounds, small repair and maintenance service contracts, utility costs and costs associ-



ated with the periodic maintenance of structures and landscapes, such as replacement of roofs, heaters and other durable systems.

For the purposes of considering the alternatives, it was presumed that the NPS would be able to secure the funds necessary to implement any of the alternatives. However, all rehabilitation, infrastructure, new construction and staffing proposals in the alternatives are contingent on NPS service-wide funding limitations and priorities and full implementation of the GMP could be many years into the future. NPS would phase in capital improvements as funding becomes available. To supplement and enhance Congressional funding, NPS would seek additional public and private funding sources and partners.

## **Alternative A: No-Action**

Alternative A: No Action describes current management policies, practices and trends. Under this alternative, NPS would continue current management policies, practices, and plans for the park with no major changes in management direction (Figure 5). The no-action alternative described below analyzes existing and planned conditions and actions under current management practices when projected into the future; thus, it provides a means to compare the impacts that might occur if either Alternative B or C were implemented.

### Comprehensive Vision for Alternative A

In Alternative A, NPS would continue current management practices and plans without proposing any major changes in management direction (Figure 4). Visitors would continue to come to Martin Van Buren NHS to be engaged in programs and activities about the political and social history of Lindenwald and President Martin Van Buren. NPS would preserve and maintain the significant resources of the site and provide for a quality visitor experience as possible using existing facilities based on existing federal laws, regulations and policies. As funds become available, NPS would undertake the previously planned activities outlined below.

### Resource Protection for Alternative A

Even with no major changes in management direction, some actions necessary for the protection and preservation of the park resources would move forward. NPS would continue to preserve and maintain significant resources in good condition in compliance with NPS standards and based on existing federal laws, regulations and policies. Significant cultural resources include historic structures (Lindenwald, South Gatehouse, North Gatehouse foundation and Farm Cottage), museum collection and archives, archeological resources and the cultural landscape.



Lindenwald mansion

Martin Van Buren NHS is primarily known for Lindenwald, the historic and architecturally important home of President Van Buren. NPS would continue to protect, maintain and restore Lindenwald to the greatest extent possible as funds become available. Treatment of historic resources may include programs of rehabilitation, restoration and adaptive reuse. Specific actions for each of the historic structures are described below.

### **Historic Management Zone**

#### *Lindenwald*

The significant resources and values of Lindenwald are restored, rehabilitated, preserved, and maintained in good condition. The NPS would continue to maintain and preserve the furnishing of Lindenwald's period rooms and would move forward

with current plans to structurally reinforce the Lindenwald center hall. Funding would be pursued to undertake major work on the Victorian porch.

#### *South Gatehouse*

The South Gatehouse exterior is historic and would be preserved and maintained in good condition. The rehabilitated interior would continue to be maintained in its current condition and used for special event support and storage. Funding would be pursued to stabilize and rehabilitate the structure and restore the exterior.

#### *North Gatehouse Foundation*

The North Gatehouse foundation ruins would continue as a contributing element on the cultural landscape and would be maintained in their current condition.

#### *Farm Cottage*

The Farm Cottage was transferred from OSI to NPS in 2011. The building is being stabilized to prevent future deterioration and a maintenance plan would be developed to address future issues. The building would be preserved and maintained in stable condition. The Farm Cottage would continue until 2016 to be utilized as seasonal living quarters for Roxbury Farm.

#### *Cultural Landscape*

The cultural landscape surrounding Lindenwald would be restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible based on the updated Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.

#### **Historic Transition Zone**

##### *Cultural Landscape*

The maintenance garage and storage sheds would remain in their present locations. The pole barn would be removed.

Agricultural production would continue on leased lands on the Upper Terrace and on lands subject to conservation easements on the Lower Terrace. Features on NPS fee lands, such as the garden sites and ponds, would be located, protected and preserved as funds permit.

#### *Museum Collections*

The museum collections would be stored at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, while the park's archeological collection would continue to be stored at the Fort Stanwix National Monument museum storage facility in Rome, New York.

#### *Archeological Resources*

All archeological resources would be protected, preserved and maintained in their current condition following NPS standards and guidelines and implementing the recommendations of the 2004 Archeological Overview and Assessment Report. This report would also be utilized to direct and prioritize specific archeological surveys needed to determine the precise boundaries and conditions of historic farm roads and historic building foundations. The recent boundary expansion requires the preparation of a plan for the protection of archeological sites on lands in this area. NPS would also assume responsibility for carrying out the terms of the current OSI conservation easement on Roxbury Farm's 101 acres.

#### **Administrative Zone**

Park administration would continue to be housed in two connected prefabricated trailers. Attached to the trailers is the visitor contact station, which is a park-built 625-square foot structure.

### **Agricultural Zone**

The 2004 Cultural Landscape Report documents the history of the farmland and identifies numerous character defining features tied to Martin Van Buren's tenure. Following donation of the easement by OSI to NPS, the next step would be to prepare a Landscape Preservation Treatment Plan for the agricultural lands in collaboration with Roxbury Farm.

Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to collaborate with the New York State Historic Preservation Office, the Town of Kinderhook, Columbia County, Open Space Institute, Roxbury Farm, neighbors, stakeholders and others to protect scenic vistas associated with the park.

### **Natural Resource Zone**

The park would continue to preserve natural resources, and opportunities for restoration of natural areas would be pursued when feasible and compatible with cultural landscape goals. Natural resources, such as trees, plants, wildlife and water, are an integral part of the landscape and would be protected and maintained. Consultations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Columbia County, Open Space Institute and the Town of Kinderhook would continue on matters related to natural resources.

### **Visitor Experience for Alternative A**

The center of the visitor experience would continue to be ranger-led tours of Lindenwald with reference to the cultural landscape surrounding the home. Visitors would be able to walk near the ruins of the North Gatehouse and read a wayside exhibit that describes archeological excavations at the site. They would gain understanding of the cultural landscape and have access to the "historic core" grounds that surround Lindenwald. They would continue to be exposed to the agricultural heritage of the park and understand NPS's efforts to protect viewsheds and the surrounding landscape. Visitors can also observe and understand that natural resources such as trees, plants, wildlife and water are an integral part of the cultural landscape. Passive recreational activities such as walking and picnicking would continue. Ranger-guided tours of the house and grounds, self-guided tours of the grounds and special programs related to historic activities associated with the farm could be expanded to take into account the 2009 boundary adjustment.

### **Motivation to Visit**

Visitation would continue to focus on house tours beginning the third week in May and ending the last week of October, as funding permits. On-site special events would continue to draw repeat and expanding visitorship.

### **Orientation**

In Alternative A, visitors would continue to arrive and circulate through the property from the parking lot to the visitor contact station then along the historic carriage path to Lindenwald. The present visitor contact station would continue to receive visitors between May and October. The visitor facility lacks exhibit space. Visitors would continue to be exposed to views of the maintenance facility and storage sheds directly behind Lindenwald, impeding the view of the working farm fields and the scenic view spanning to the Catskill Mountains.

### **Interpretation and Education**

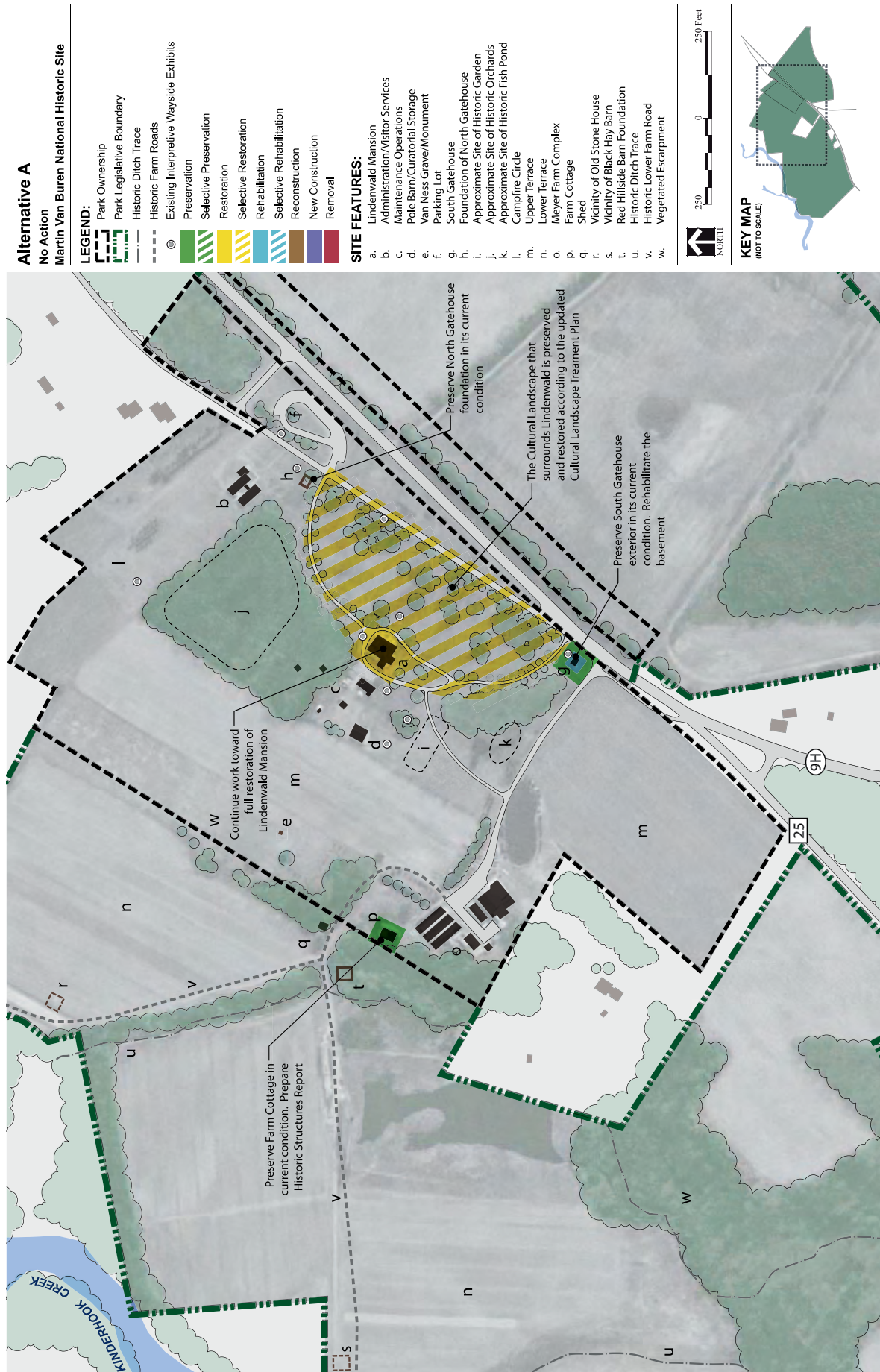


Figure 5: Alternative A - No Action



The park would continue to provide interpreter-led tours with Lindenwald as the central focus, with references to the cultural landscape and farmlands surrounding the home. The visitor experience outside Lindenwald would include educational and interpretive programs within the cultural landscape. Some interpretive tours may be expanded to include such topics as local Native American history and the history of farming in the Hudson Valley. Visitors could observe the park's trees, plants, wildlife, water and climate and experience these natural elements as parts of the cultural landscape. The park would continue to offer limited educational programs (due to the small size of the contact station) and outreach to off-site locations such as schools and community groups.

Visitors would have access to the "historic core" grounds that surround Lindenwald. Visitors may walk near the surface ruins of the North Gatehouse and read a wayside exhibit that describes archeological investigations at the site. Visitors would also continue to utilize the existing  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile interpretive wayside trail which could be eventually enhanced with a wayside exhibit that describes the Farm Cottage as a contributing structure. As funding becomes available, a trail plan with expanded interpretive talks would be explored.

### Impressions

The visitor experience tends to focus on Lindenwald rather than the grounds and surrounding landscape. A visitor survey was launched during the 2009 season indicated that most visitor groups (90%) experienced the park through a ranger-led tour of Lindenwald.

### Transportation

The existing parking lot would be retained in its current condition. The park has completed a GMP Transportation Baseline Analysis which examines a number of transportation related issues. Basic traffic data collection and a review of existing transportation plans and considerations were undertaken. The GMP Transportation Baseline Analysis has found that Martin Van Buren NHS currently attracts between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors per year. The National Park Service predicts an increase in visitation to the site over the next five to ten years based on the park's recent boundary expansion. More options available to the public for transportation would ultimately improve visitorship.

In addition, an Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study (2012) focuses on the feasibility of utilizing a shuttle system or some other form of transportation to provide the connection between local Amtrak train stations (Hudson and Albany-Rensselaer), Martin Van Buren NHS and other Columbia County cultural sites. A shuttle service has been considered for offering opportunities for special event transportation and on-board interpretive programs. The study has also made recommendations for improving signage, parking and walking trail connections.

### Operations and Facilities for Alternative A

Trailers have been in use for operations since 1976. Currently, park administration is housed in two connected prefabricated trailers installed in 1999. They are joined at the front by an enclosed, site-built entrance hall and an open wood deck spans the back of the facility and wheelchair accessible ramp at the entry. All staff, except field maintenance staff, is accommodated in this building. The trailers also include a library, a staff lunch room and a meeting room.

The visitor contact station is a park-built 625-square foot structure that was added to the administrative trailers. The contact station contains the information and fee collection desk, cooperating association sales area and an area for a small group to view an orientation video. Its use for school groups is limited, since it would only accommodate up to 12 students.

Under Alternative A, the park would continue to receive visitors in these existing facilities. Staff would continue to present programs to various organizations at different off-site locations and work with partners throughout the area to place Martin Van Buren NHS literature at their sites.

The pole barn and maintenance garage and associated activities, vehicles and equipment, are within 65 to 100 feet of Lindenwald. Maintenance operations currently take place out of a 1950s concrete block garage, 65 feet from Lindenwald. Maintenance services are supplemented by five nearby storage sheds and five off-site rental units. The park would continue to operate in the existing buildings. The 34-car parking lot next to Route 9H would continue to serve as the main visitor/employee parking lot.

#### Partnerships and Outreach for Alternative A

The park presently enjoys a strong working partnership with a number of stakeholders in the community. The park has a General Agreement with the Friends of Lindenwald (FOL), a not-for-profit all volunteer organization that is dedicated to bringing the life and lessons of Martin Van Buren to the county and state as well as the rest of the country through creative activities and programs. The Friends of Lindenwald would continue to contribute constituency support and funding for a variety of park goals.

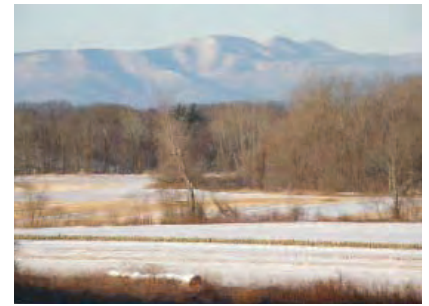
In addition to maintaining this relationship, the park is striving to become involved in as many appropriate activities as possible as a way to build awareness and support for the park and to be a valuable contributor to the community.

The park would continue to enhance its relationships with Roxbury Farm, the Open Space Institute, the Columbia County Historical Society, Landmarks Visitor Collaborative and other organizations, to develop promotional activities and to protect cultural landscapes and historic farmland within the park boundary.

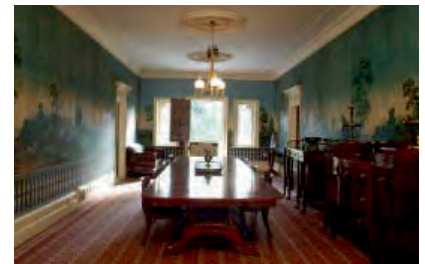
The park would continue to accept donations and seek public and private funds to accomplish the resource preservation and activities described. Consultation would continue with landowners, state and federal agencies regarding protection of archeological resources, scenic viewsheds and the historic resources associated with the park. On matters related to natural resources, consultations would continue with local, state and federal agencies and other environmental groups.

NPS would maintain agreements with other agencies and organizations for purposes of resource preservation, visitor access, visitor and resource protection and public programming. The park would continue to utilize agreements for fire, medical and law enforcement protection through the New York State Police, Stuyvesant Falls Volunteer Fire Department and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department.

NPS would continue to maintain up-to-date and accurate websites; supply printed materials at the visitor contact station and other appropriate off-site areas; and would continue coordinating with other nearby national parks, historic sites, the media, and tourism organizations to provide visitors with basic information and orientation before and during their visit.



View toward the Catskill Mountains across the farmland of Lindenwald



Main Hall of the Lindenwald mansion

### Estimated Costs for Alternative A

The estimated costs in the table below reflect only those costs associated with the “no-action” alternative. These costs do not include costs that might be incurred by cooperating partners. The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are intended to provide an estimate of the relative costs of the alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent possible. The estimates are not intended to be used for budgeting purposes. Most of the specifics about development and management actions would be decided in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to NPS will be highly dependent on when actions are implemented and, to some extent, on contributions from partners.

The implementation of the approved alternative will depend on future NPS funding levels, service wide priorities and partner contributions. The approval of the GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

**Table 3: Estimated Costs to NPS for Alternative A**

<b>ONE-TIME COSTS</b>	
NPS Facility Construction – Rehabilitation for Lindenwald, South Gatehouse	\$745,470
<i>Total Estimated One-Time Costs</i>	<i>\$745,470</i>
<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	
NPS Annual Operating Costs	\$1,232,309
Personnel Costs (included in Annual Operating Costs)	\$933,963
NPS Staffing Levels	13
<i>Total Estimated Annual Costs</i>	<i>\$1,232,309</i>

## **Actions Common to Alternatives B and C**

### **Resource Protection Common to Alternatives B and C**

#### **Historic Management Zone**

The significant resources and values of the Lindenwald estate would be maintained in good condition as a primary action, as with the other alternatives. Treatments may include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptive reuse.

#### *Lindenwald*

The Lindenwald mansion would continue to serve as a house museum with guided tours for visitors. Projects involving Lindenwald’s interior and its furnishings would continue as funding becomes available, such as the restoration of Victorian architectural details, including interior plaster and the porch. The ultimate NPS goal for Lindenwald is full restoration.

#### *South Gatehouse*

The exterior of the South Gatehouse would be restored to reflect the 1839-1862 period of significance in accordance with the 2001 Historic Structures Report. Visitors would

be able to envision how this structure fits into the entire cultural landscape and the structure would be interpreted through the wayside exhibit signage.

#### *Farm Cottage*

The deed to the Farm Cottage was transferred from the Open Space Institute to NPS in 2011. The building would be rehabilitated and would be re-purposed to provide administrative space for the park. The exterior of the Farm Cottage may be restored to the 1839-1862 period of significance and interpreted as part of the cultural landscape.

#### *Museum Collections*

Museum storage would be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. According to the Northeast Region Museum Collection Curatorial Facility Plan (2006), Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to store archeology collections in the shared regional facility at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York.

#### *Archeological Resources*

Archeological resources in the park would be treated in the same manner under all the alternatives. All archeological resources would be protected, preserved and maintained in their current condition following NPS standards and guidelines and implementing the recommendations of the 2004 Archeological Overview and Assessment. This report would also be utilized to direct and prioritize specific archeological surveys needed to determine the precise boundaries and conditions of historic farm roads and historic building foundations. The recent boundary expansion requires the preparation of a plan for the protection of archeological sites on lands in this area. Consultations with the Tribal Preservation Office of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of the Mohican Nation and others would continue so that this aspect of the park's history could be incorporated into interpretation of antebellum history. NPS would also assume responsibility for carrying out the terms of the current OSI conservation easement on 101 acres.

#### *Cultural Landscape*

The cultural landscape surrounding Lindenwald would be restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible based on the Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.

#### **Historic Transition Zone**

##### *Cultural Landscape*

Selected elements of the historic landscape would be restored and/or rehabilitated to provide glimpses into the past. Existing 20th-century facilities currently adapted for operational purposes, among them, a 1950s concrete-block maintenance garage, pole barn, and storage sheds, would be removed because they detract from the 19th-century cultural landscape.

#### **Administrative Zone**

Alternatives B and C provide for the development of a multi-use facility to house visitor services and administrative support. Visitor parking needs would be reviewed and parking could be relocated near the new facility. The new maintenance facility would be located in the Administrative Zone.

#### **Natural Resource Zone**

The park includes terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The NPS would continue to promote protection and stewardship of natural communities and the processes that shape them

in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, New York DEC, Columbia County, Roxbury Farm and the Town of Kinderhook.

#### Visitor Experience

The 20th-century maintenance and collections storage facilities would be removed to expose visitors to the working farm fields that are part of the cultural landscape and the scenic viewshed spanning the Hudson Valley to the Catskill Mountains.

#### Transportation

Additional alternatives may be available to the public for transportation and this could increase visitation. The Alternative Transportation Study focuses on the feasibility of utilizing a shuttle system or some other form of transportation to provide the connection between local Amtrak train stations (Hudson and Albany-Rensselaer), Martin Van Buren NHS and other sites. Connections to historic sites in Columbia County would be explored to encourage heritage travelers to visit multiple sites in the same trip. The park would continue to work with the Landmarks Visitor Collaborative and other historic sites to support transportation connecting sites in the region.

#### Operations and Facilities

Alternatives B and C provide for the construction of a multi-use facility to house visitor services and administrative support. This facility would replace existing trailers. Visitor parking needs would be reviewed and parking could be relocated near the visitor facility.

The 20th-century maintenance and collections storage facilities would be removed and relocated and historic circulation patterns would be re-established. Museum storage will be relocated at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. The maintenance facility would be relocated outside the historic core in a new building. All new buildings would be energy efficient, well-designed purpose-built facilities that enhance park mission goals and operations.

The park would work with Roxbury Farm to develop a trail system. The importance of access to these lands is exemplified by its inclusion in the language of 2009 boundary change legislation. In addition, it is specifically addressed in the OSI easement that will be donated to the NPS.

The towns of Kinderhook, Stockport and Stuyvesant are implementing the first part of their trail plan that would eventually connect both Lindenwald and the village of Stuyvesant Falls. This trail section is part of the greater Hudson River Greenway trail system and represents an important link to other regional resources.

The park would continue to utilize fire, medical and law enforcement protection through the New York State Police, Stuyvesant Falls Volunteer Fire Department and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department.

#### Partnerships and Outreach

The park would continue to enhance the existing strong working relationships with Friends of Lindenwald, Roxbury Farm, Landmarks Visitor Collaborative, the Center for Applied Historical Research at the University at Albany and other organizations, to present special events and programs about the park and to work together to protect the resources and historic farmland within the park boundary. The mutually beneficial



relationship with the Friends of Lindenwald, a public support group that contributes constituency support and funding for a variety of park goals, would continue. The park would continue to accept donations and seek public and private funds to accomplish the resource preservation and activities described. Consultation would continue with landowners, state and federal agencies regarding protection of archeological resources, scenic viewsheds and the historic resources associated with the park. On matters related to natural resources, consultations would also continue with local, state and federal agencies and other environmental groups. The park would consult with the Tribal Preservation Offices of the Stockbridge – Munsee Community of the Mohican Nation, Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians regarding potential partnership initiatives at the park.

NPS would maintain agreements with other agencies and organizations for purposes of resource preservation, visitor access, visitor and resource protection and public programming. NPS would continue to maintain up-to-date and accurate websites; supply printed materials at the visitor contact station and other appropriate off-site areas; and would continue coordinating with other nearby national parks, historic sites, the media, and tourism organizations to provide visitors with basic information and orientation before and during their visit.

### Responding to Climate Change

Over the last decade, the NPS has consulted with the scientific community, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and other informed parties to gather data and explore strategies to prepare the national park system for potential future impacts of a changing climate. River flooding, extreme precipitation events, heat waves, and increases in severe winds or other phenomena related to climate change will alter how natural and cultural resources are managed, and the types of activities, facilities and infrastructure the NPS can support.

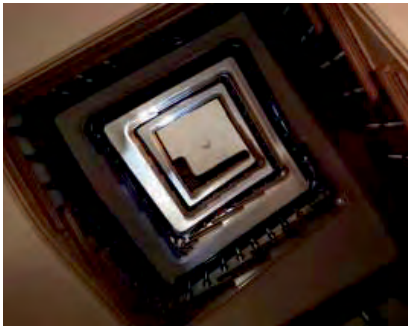
Climate change is expected to result in changes in the Northeastern United States. Both historical trends and future projections suggest increases in temperature, precipitation levels and intensity of weather events, such as storms, should be expected. In addition, climate change is expected to affect Kinderhook, New York's weather, wetlands, habitats, agricultural land, historic sites, and archeological resources. These changes will have direct implications on resource management, park operations, and visitor use and experience. Some of these impacts are expected at Martin Van Buren NHS in the time frame of this management plan.

Temperature shocks may cause damage to historic buildings and paved surfaces such as sidewalks. Increased precipitation, particularly heavy rainfall events, may result in increased occurrences of flooding, which may affect agricultural land. Further, more humid conditions caused by increased precipitation and warmer temperatures will likely accelerate damage to wooden structures.

Opportunities exist for Martin Van Buren NHS to incorporate climate change adaptation into long-term planning for the park. Specific options to protect Martin Van Buren NHS's resources include integrating long-term planning into park operations, monitoring observed and projected climate trends, conducting climate-related vulnerability assessments for fundamental resources and values, monitoring climate sensitive species, and implementing a range of adaptive management actions.



North entrance to Lindenwald mansion



Stairwell of the Lindenwald mansion

Martin Van Buren NHS has adopted the management goal of using and promoting innovation, best practices, and partnerships to respond to the challenges of climate change and its effects on park resources.

NPS staff and partners would proactively monitor, plan, and adapt to the effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources and visitor amenities by using the best information as it becomes available. The park would coordinate with other agencies in developing tools and strategies to help identify and manage climate change impacts. By adopting the best information on climate change as it becomes available, the park would be positioned to respond quickly and appropriately to the local effects of climate change.

#### Examples of Future Actions:

- Inventory, monitor and assess vulnerability of key Inventory and monitor attributes of the natural systems, cultural resources, and visitor experiences likely to be affected by climate change.
- Restore key ecosystem features and processes, and protect key cultural resources to increase their resiliency to climate change. By reducing other types of impacts on resources, the overall condition of the resources could more easily recover from or resist the impacts of climate change.
- Reduce current and future stressors to the resource and the environment; this would improve the condition of the resource and build resiliency in the ecosystem that would help to minimize future adverse effects of climate change.
- Give highest priority to preserving cultural resources and artifacts in situ, coupled with sustainable efforts (intervention techniques) to mitigate and reduce any stressors that might adversely affect the resource.
- Use up-to-date policy guidance to respond to changing conditions.

Opportunities would be pursued in park operations and visitor services to use and promote “green” technologies and products and reduce overall energy and resource consumption. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the park would increase its use of renewable energy and other sustainable practices so it is a carbon neutral park. Park education and interpretive efforts would engage park employees, partners, visitors, and the public on climate change, providing the latest park research and monitoring data and trends, informing the public about what responses are being taken at the park, and inspiring visitors to reduce their carbon footprint.

#### Examples of Future Actions:

- Test, use, and promote carbon-neutral energy, innovations, and infrastructure for NPS and partner operations.
- Consolidate park operations to reduce energy consumption.
- Construct and operate visitor facilities with the highest sustainability standards possible
- Use biodegradable/recycled resources and zero waste options.
- Reduce vehicle miles.



Kitchen of the Lindenwald mansion

## Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse

The management actions described below constitutes Alternative B.

### Comprehensive Vision for Alternative B

The overall emphasis of Alternative B is on Martin Van Buren’s political life. Alterna-

tive B would elevate the prominence of Martin Van Buren and provide new insights into his contributions to the history of the American political system (Figure 6). Visitors would be offered opportunities to develop a new awareness and appreciation for Martin Van Buren's role in history and his importance to the nation. Visitors would come to the park to engage in discussions, programs and activities related to history, politics and civic life. Lindenwald would provide an insight into the life, ideals, politics and times of Martin Van Buren and his relevance to contemporary life. Scholars and students would be encouraged to explore new insights into the contributions of President Van Buren to the American political system. Interpretive programs would inform and engage the public through a variety of media to make Van Buren's contributions to American politics relevant to today and to use knowledge of the past to enhance civic discourse.

The primary focus of Alternative B would be on the park's Historic Management Area, most substantially Lindenwald. However, this alternative emphasizes developing activities and programs on site and off site at schools and colleges specifically connecting antebellum history and civic life to contemporary issues. Alternative B would preserve the core cultural landscape and rehabilitate portions of the cultural landscape to encourage agricultural uses and minimize visual intrusions.

#### **Resource Protection for Alternative B**

The NPS would preserve and protect the significant cultural and natural resources within the park based on existing federal laws, regulations and policies. Significant historic structures include: the Lindenwald mansion, South Gatehouse, North Gatehouse foundation and Farm Cottage. Other fundamental resources are the park's collections and archives, archeological resources and cultural landscape. Treatments may include programs of preservation, rehabilitation and restoration.

#### **Historic Management Zone**

##### *Lindenwald*

The significant resources and values of Lindenwald would be restored, rehabilitated, and maintained in good condition. Projects involving Lindenwald's furnishings and interior would continue as funding becomes available, such as the restoration of Victorian architectural details, including interior plaster and the porch. The ultimate NPS goal for Lindenwald is full restoration. Lindenwald's furnishings would be adjusted to highlight political interpretive themes.

##### *South Gatehouse*

The interior of the South Gatehouse, which is approximately 360 square feet not including the basement and half attic, would be rehabilitated for such purposes as exhibit, meeting, educational, or administrative space.

##### *North Gatehouse Foundation*

The North Gatehouse foundation would be preserved in its current condition as a ruin and a contributing element to the cultural landscape. The existing wayside exhibit that explains the significance of this feature would be maintained and updated as needed.

##### *Farm Cottage*

The interior would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused.

##### *Cultural Landscape*

The cultural landscape surrounding Lindenwald would be restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible based on the Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.

### **Historic Transition Zone**

#### *Cultural Landscape*

The recent boundary adjustment significantly expands the range of the cultural landscape. In Alternative B, the interpretive emphasis would shift to understanding land use in historical, civic and political terms. For example, the park's open space and natural resources might be seen in the context of the political history of the environmental movement - how Van Buren's farming techniques are related to contemporary views of sustainability and modern agricultural technology.

The maintenance vehicles, which have to use the narrow carriage paths along which tour groups walk, would be diverted to a more appropriate location.

#### *Museum Collections*

The park's museum collection and archives would be preserved and maintained in a secure, climate-controlled museum storage space. Museum storage would be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. According to the Northeast Region Museum Collection Curatorial Facility Plan (2006), Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to store archeology collections in the shared regional facility at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York.

The park would explore opportunities to partner with colleges and universities to borrow and lend museum materials and conduct research into antebellum political history and the political life of Martin Van Buren. New opportunities to develop collections-based research and scholarship that illuminates Van Buren's role in shaping the modern American political system would be investigated. This would enhance the relationships with partners in other collection institutions to furnish period rooms to support political interpretive themes. The park would acquire or borrow artifacts for changing exhibits to interpret the park's political story. The park would acquire additional political ephemera such as campaign materials, buttons and broadsides related to Van Buren's career as a politician. The park's Scope of Collections Statement would be updated to reflect this new priority.

### **Agricultural Zone**

In Alternative B, the interpretive emphasis would shift to understanding land use in historical, civic and political terms. Roxbury Farm would continue to actively farm the Lower Terrace and portions of the Upper Terrace using contemporary methods of progressive farming. The modern landscape would be enhanced with interpretive signage to guide the visitor through comparisons between life on a farm in the mid-19th century and the farm of the early 21st century.

#### Visitor Experience for Alternative B

The centerpiece of the visitor experience would focus on tours of Lindenwald supported and enhanced by changing exhibits in the visitor contact station. House tours would provide new insight into the life, ideals, politics and times of Martin Van Buren and his relevance to contemporary life. New and returning visitors would be motivated to come to the park to engage in a fresh perspective that integrates discussions and activities related to history, politics and issues in contemporary civic life. Since the emphasis would be on politics and the role of history in informing contemporary issues, visitor experience would include exhibits and programs addressing topics such as the development of the two-party system, Indian Removal Act and its implications, the history and politics of farming in the Hudson River Valley and the history of political campaigns.





Figure 6: Alternative B - Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse



### Motivation to Visit

Motivation to visit the park would be enhanced by increasing the diversity of experiences, including an opportunity for the park to feature changing exhibits and activities. Based upon improvements proposed under Alternative B, visitorship to the park is forecasted to increase to approximately 29,000.

### Orientation

Alternative B envisions orientation beginning at the visitor contact station, which would provide a thorough presentation of Martin Van Buren's contributions to American politics. There would be exhibit space for interpreting Van Buren's life, changing exhibits on politics and civic discourse and room for workshops, meetings, and public research use of the museum collection. The visitor orientation space would, for example, give visitors an opportunity to experience a deeper understanding of the complicated factors that contributed to various decisions in Van Buren's political life. The park would develop a new research and scholarship initiative to increase knowledge of Martin Van Buren's role in shaping the modern American political system.

The 20th-century maintenance and museum storage facilities would be removed. The removal of these modern intrusions would expose visitors to the working farm fields that are part of the cultural landscape and the scenic viewshed spanning the Hudson Valley to the Catskill Mountains.

After visitors leave the visitor contact station, interpreter-led tours would begin at the North Gatehouse foundation where a wayside exhibit describes archeological investigations at the site and then continue on to Lindenwald. Alternative B refocuses the period rooms to emphasize political history. For example, a guest bedroom might be set up to reflect a political figure visiting the estate and preparing to engage in an important matter with the President. Displays could include objects that would provide insight into political issues of the antebellum period.

Visitors would experience the Farm Cottage as a landscape feature but would not tour the interior. The rural historic context would augment and add authenticity to the visitor experience. Ranger led tours would point out historic viewsheds and features of the original cultural landscape. An interpretive program would be developed for trail users with wayside exhibits about 19th-century historic landscape characteristics and emphasizing change over time and contemporary land management concerns, such as soil conservation.

Activities available for the visitor at the park would include:

- Interactive exhibits
- Tours of Lindenwald
- Agricultural workshops and activities
- Self-guided tours
- Use of alternative external media - ipods, cell phones
- Distance learning opportunities
- Plays and live demonstrations
- Special events
- Scholar's roundtables

### Transportation

Options are being explored to increase public transportation alternatives which would ultimately improve visitorship. The Alternative Transportation Report focuses on the

feasibility of utilizing a shuttle system or some other form of transportation to provide the connection between local Amtrak train stations (Hudson and Albany-Rensselaer) and the site. Connections to other historic sites in Columbia County may also be explored to encourage heritage tourism travelers to visit multiple sites in the same trip.

#### Operations and Facilities for Alternative B

Alternative B provides for construction of a multi-use facility to house visitor services and administrative support. This purpose-built facility would have meeting spaces for programs that would facilitate engagement and “civic discourse.” The goal would be to eliminate the trailers serving as temporary administrative and visitor facilities. Visitor parking needs would be reviewed and parking could be relocated near the visitor facility.

The 20th-century maintenance facility and pole barn would be removed, and historic circulation patterns would be re-established. Museum storage would be relocated at the Home of Franklin D Roosevelt NHS. The maintenance facility would be relocated outside the historic core in a new building. New buildings would be energy efficient well-designed purpose-built facilities that enhance park mission goals and operations.

This alternative would continue to use fire and law enforcement protection through the New York State Police, Stuyvesant Falls Volunteer Fire Department and the Columbia County Sheriff’s Department.

#### Partnerships and Outreach for Alternative B

The park would seek to boost partnerships and develop long-term, mutually beneficial projects with an emphasis on the political history of Martin Van Buren. A partnership would be developed with the OSI and a working relationship Roxbury Farm and other relevant agricultural organizations to preserve and support sustainable farming at Martin Van Buren NHS. The park would also pursue partnerships with scholarly organizations that emphasize antebellum studies and political history and with historic sites and repositories that would loan museum items to enhance the new focus on political history.

The park would also develop relationships and programs with other presidential sites and scholarly organizations such as the Society for Historians of the Early Republic. Outreach would be expanded to identify new partners to place park literature and/or exhibits at their sites. The park would identify Martin Van Buren related sites throughout the greater area and work with partners to develop a heritage driving tour.

The park would continue to enhance the existing strong working relationships with the Friends of Lindenwald, Landmarks Visitor Collaborative, the Center for Applied Historical Research at the University at Albany and other organizations, to present special events and programs about the park and to work together to protect the resources and historic farmland within the park boundary. The relationship with the Friends of Lindenwald, a public support group that contributes constituency support and funding for a variety of park goals, would remain. The park would continue to accept donations and seek public and private funds, where appropriate, to accomplish the resource preservation and activities described. Consultation would continue with landowners, state and federal agencies regarding protection of archeological resources, scenic viewsheds and the historic resources associated with the park. On matters related to natural resources, consultations would also continue with local, state and federal agencies and other environmental groups. The park would consult with the

Tribal Preservation Offices of the Stockbridge – Munsee Community of the Mohican Nation, Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians regarding potential partnership initiatives at the park.

NPS would maintain agreements with other agencies and organizations for purposes of resource preservation, visitor access, visitor and resource protection and public programming. NPS would continue to maintain up-to-date and accurate websites; supply printed materials at the visitor contact station and other appropriate off-site areas; and would continue coordinating with other nearby national parks, historic sites, the media, and tourism organizations to provide visitors with basic information and orientation before and during their visit.

#### Estimated Costs for Alternative B

The estimated costs in the table below reflect only those costs associated Alternative B. These costs do not include costs that might be incurred by cooperating partners. The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are only intended to provide an estimate of the relative costs of the alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent possible. Construction estimates for the visitor services and administrative support facility and the maintenance facility include demolition of the current facilities. The estimates are not intended to be used for budgeting purposes. Most of the specifics about development and management actions will be decided in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to NPS will be highly dependent on when actions are implemented and, to some extent, on contributions from partners.

The implementation of the approved alternative will depend on future NPS funding levels, service wide priorities, and partner contributions. The approval of the GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

**Table 4: Estimated Costs to NPS for Alternative B**

<b>ONE-TIME COSTS</b>	
Multi-use/Visitor Facility	\$1,453,746
Maintenance Repair Facility/Enclosed Equipment Storage	\$1,234,324
Farm Cottage Rehabilitation	\$375,612
Demolition Maintenance, Curatorial Storage, & Multi-Use Visitor Facility	\$80,993
<i><b>Total Estimated One-Time Costs</b></i>	<i><b>\$3,144,675</b></i>
<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	
NPS Annual Operating Costs	\$1,230,951
Personnel Costs (included in Annual Operating Costs)	\$933,963
NPS Staffing Levels	13
<i><b>Total Estimated Annual Costs</b></i>	<i><b>\$1,230,951</b></i>

## **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

The management actions described below constitutes Alternative C.

### Comprehensive Vision for Alternative C

Alternative C would focus on having visitors walk in the footsteps of Martin Van Buren – as eighth president, politician, progressive farmer and family man (Figure 7). The property would evoke the historic period at the time of Martin Van Buren's residence during his later political career to the end of his life in 1862. The story of Van Buren's life and political career would be told at the Lindenwald mansion and at exhibits at the visitor contact station, as in Alternative B. In addition, Alternative C would maintain the site's landscape to reflect Van Buren's vision for a progressive farm and the socio-economic changes taking place in the antebellum period. The 2009 boundary expansion would allow interpretation of the ongoing agricultural history of the site to the present day.

### Resource Protection for Alternative C

The significant natural and cultural resources and values of the Lindenwald estate and farm would be preserved and maintained in good condition as a primary action, as with the other alternatives. Treatments may include programs of rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptive reuse.

### **Historic Management Zone**

#### *Lindenwald*

The Lindenwald mansion would continue to serve as a house museum with guided tours for visitors. President Van Buren's life and political career, with an emphasis on agricultural context, would be interpreted at Lindenwald. Projects involving Lindenwald's furnishings and interior would continue as funding becomes available, such as the restoration of Victorian architectural details, including interior plaster and the porch. The ultimate NPS treatment goal for Lindenwald is full restoration to the period of 1839 - 1862.

#### *South Gatehouse*

The South Gatehouse exterior would be restored to reflect the 1839-1862 period of significance, following the recommendations of the Historic Structures Report. The interior, which is 360 square feet not including a basement and half attic, would be rehabilitated and used based on recommendations from the Historic Structures Report. Following renovations, the South Gatehouse would be utilized interpretively to explore farm life.

#### *North Gatehouse Foundation*

The North Gatehouse foundation would be preserved in its current condition as a ruin and a contributing element to the cultural landscape. The existing wayside exhibit that explains the significance of this feature would be maintained and updated as needed.

#### *Farm Cottage*

The Farm Cottage and its interpretation are integral to understanding the historic farm. The location and spatial mass of the building contribute to the historic character of the park. The Farm Cottage is a priority for treatment under Alternative C. The exterior would be restored to the 1839-1862 period of significance and interpreted as part of the cultural landscape. The interior would be re-purposed for use as park headquarters.

### *Cultural Landscape*

The cultural landscape surrounding Lindenwald would be restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible based on the Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.

### **Historic Transition Zone**

#### *Cultural Landscape*

Alternative C provides interpretive emphasis on the Van Buren home, historic outbuildings and the working farm. Although elements of the landscape have significantly changed since Van Buren's occupancy, the cultural landscape on and surrounding the park retains substantial agricultural character that reflects the farming interests of Van Buren and succeeding landowners. Future activities and development would strive to expand the visitor experience by fostering an authentic sense of Hudson Valley agricultural heritage. Treatment of the cultural landscape would be guided by the recommendations of a new Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan based on the 2004 Cultural Landscape Plan for the farmland and the 1997 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.

Land use patterns based on the temporary NPS structures have made impacts to the contributing cultural landscape and longer viewsheds. The 20th-century maintenance and museum storage buildings would be removed from the landscape.

#### *Museum Collections*

The park's museum collection and archives would be preserved and maintained in a secure, climate-controlled museum storage space. Museum storage would be relocated to a shared facility with the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. According to the Northeast Region Museum Collection Curatorial Facility Plan (2006), Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to store archeology collections in the shared regional facility at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York.

The park would seek to acquire, collect and display artifacts that could have been used, worn or owned by the Van Burens and Lindenwald's domestic and farm workers. Such items could include reproduction farm tools and personal effects illuminating the social history of the Van Buren era. The park's Scope of Collections Statement would be updated to reflect this new priority emphasizing agricultural and social history.

### **Administrative Zone**

Alternative C provides for the construction of a multi-use facility to house visitor services and administrative support. The current parking lot could be relocated and screened from neighboring properties with appropriate landscaping.

### **Agricultural Zone**

The 2009 boundary adjustment has significantly expanded the range of the cultural landscape so that Van Buren's farming techniques could be related to contemporary views of sustainability and modern agricultural technology. The park would be able to extend both ranger-led and self-led tours to areas where Van Buren practiced progressive farming. Collaboration would continue with Roxbury Farm and others support active farming on the Lower Terrace and portions of the Upper Terrace using contemporary progressive techniques to preserve the viability of the agricultural soils.

The modern landscape would be enhanced with interpretive signage to guide the visitor through comparisons of life on a farm in the mid-19th century and the contem-



porary farm of the early 21st century. This alternative would explore the feasibility of restoring or rehabilitating some areas of the Upper Terrace.

### Visitor Experience for Alternative C

Alternative C would focus on having visitors walk in the footsteps of Martin Van Buren – as eighth president, politician, progressive farmer and family man. The property would evoke the historic period at the time of Martin Van Buren’s residence during his later political career to his death in 1862.

Alternative C would also immerse visitors in direct experience of Lindenwald as a farm and its cultural landscape. Talks, demonstrations and workshops would give visitors an opportunity to learn about historic and contemporary sustainable farming techniques. Artifacts illuminating the agricultural and social history of Lindenwald would be collected and displayed in the visitor contact station and in historic interiors where appropriate.

### Motivation to Visit

A goal of the alternatives is to increase visitorship by exposing visitors to new ways to experience the park. Since Alternative C would emphasize historical and current experimental agricultural practices, visitors would experience how Martin Van Buren’s farming practices relate to contemporary sustainable agriculture. The Hudson Valley has a concentration of farm businesses that practice sustainable agriculture and, therefore, the park would have the capacity to generate a good number of visitors from the region.

### Orientation

In Alternative C, visitors would arrive and circulate through the property and experience the place as Martin Van Buren did--they would walk as he walked. Visitors would receive orientation at the visitor contact station. Visitors would be able to learn about farming at Lindenwald, both in Van Buren’s time and today.

### Interpretation and Education

Lindenwald would remain a core visitor experience. The theme of “walking in the footsteps” of Martin Van Buren would tell the story of his political career and impact while also focusing on the daily lives of the Van Buren family and the workers of Lindenwald. Exhibits, demonstrations, and waysides would interpret the farming techniques of Native Americans, the Dutch and Van Buren, up to the present day. Artifacts such as reproduction agricultural implements and personal effects of workers would be displayed in the Lindenwald basement and in other historic interiors. New interpretive exhibits would be installed to communicate stories about the farm workers who lived at the South and North Gatehouses and Farm Cottage.

When feasible, programming would invite visitors to actively participate in agricultural activities and the maintenance of the cultural landscape. Visitors would have opportunities to observe modern sustainable biodynamic farming and participate in gardening and farming workshops. Nature walks, farming demonstrations and farm ecology programs would be offered as a regular component of the interpretive program.

### Impressions

Visitors would achieve a broader understanding of Martin Van Buren’s experiment in progressive farming and the centrality of agriculture to antebellum politics. Visitors would learn how the history of land use and politics at Lindenwald reflected the



Cellar of the Lindenwald mansion

complexity of political and social upheaval prior to the Civil War. These impressions would integrate the story of Van Buren's life as a political strategist with his later life as gentleman farmer. Visitors would leave with a new appreciation of the eighth president and an understanding of his role in the history and development of the United States. With modern intrusions removed, visitors would experience the working farm fields that are part of the original cultural landscape and the scenic views spanning to the Catskill Mountains.

#### Transportation

Additional alternatives may be available to the public for transportation and this could increase visitorship. The Alternative Transportation Study focuses on the feasibility of utilizing a shuttle system or some other form of transportation to provide the connection between local Amtrak train stations (Hudson and Albany-Rensselaer), Martin Van Buren NHS and other sites. Connections to historic sites in Columbia County would be explored to encourage heritage travelers to visit multiple sites in the same trip. The park would continue to work with the Landmarks Visitor Collaborative and other historic sites to support transportation connecting sites in the region.

#### Operations and Facilities for Alternative C

This alternative would create a multi-use/visitor facility in new construction. The existing parking lot would be relocated and screened from neighboring properties with appropriate landscaping. Following renovations, the exterior of the South Gatehouse would be utilized interpretively to explore farm life. A new maintenance facility would be established outside the historic core in a purpose-built facility. The existing trailers, maintenance facility, associated storage sheds and pole barn would be demolished.

#### Partnerships and Outreach for Alternative C

The development of a positive working relationship with Roxbury Farm is a high priority for the park. The park would also seek to create other partnerships to develop long-term, mutually beneficial projects with an emphasis on sustainability, the agricultural history of Lindenwald and the history of agriculture in the Hudson Valley region. Projects would be developed with existing partners such as the Open Space Institute and others to preserve and support sustainable farming at Martin Van Buren NHS. Partnerships also would be sought with scholarly organizations and individuals engaged in agricultural research and contemporary farm issues and practices.



Winter Celebration at Lindenwald

Outreach would be expanded to identify new partners to place park literature and/or exhibits at their sites. The park would identify Martin Van Buren related sites throughout the greater area and work with partners to develop an agricultural heritage driving tour.

The park would continue to enhance the existing strong working relationships with Friends of Lindenwald, Columbia County Historical Society, Landmarks Visitor Collaborative, the University at Albany and other organizations, to present special events and promotional activities about the park and to protect cultural landscape and historic farmland within the park boundary. The relationship with the Friends of Lindenwald, a public support group that contributes constituency support and funding for a variety of park goals, would be considered. The park would continue to accept donations and seek public and private funds, where appropriate, to accomplish the resource preservation and activities described. Consultation would continue with landowners, state and federal agencies regarding protection of archeological resources, scenic viewsheds and the historic resources associated with the park. On matters





related to natural resources, consultations would also continue with local, state and federal agencies and other environmental organizations.

NPS would maintain agreements with other agencies and organizations for purposes of resource preservation, visitor access, visitor and resource protection and public programming. The park would continue to pursue formal agreements with law enforcement protection through the New York State Police and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. The existing agreement with the Stuyvesant Falls Volunteer Fire Department would be maintained.

NPS would continue to maintain up-to-date and accurate web sites; supply printed materials at the visitor contact station and other appropriate off-site areas; and would continue coordinating with other nearby national parks, historic sites, the media, and tourism organizations to provide visitors with basic information and orientation before and during their visit.

#### Estimated Costs for Alternative C

The estimated costs in the table below reflect only those costs associated with Alternative C. These costs do not include costs that might be incurred by cooperating partners. The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are only intended to provide an estimate of the relative costs of the alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent possible. The estimates are not intended to be used for budgeting purposes. Construction estimates for the multi-use/visitor facility and the maintenance facility include demolition of the current facilities. Most of the specifics about development and management actions would be decided in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to NPS will be highly dependent on when actions are implemented and, to some extent, on contributions from partners.

The implementation of the approved alternative will depend on future NPS funding levels, servicewide priorities and partner contributions. The approval of the GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

**Table 5: Estimated Costs to NPS for Alternative C**

<b>ONE-TIME COSTS</b>	
Multi-Use/Visitor Facility	\$1,453,746
Maintenance Repair Facility/Enclosed Equipment Storage	\$1,234,324
Farn Cottage Rehabilitation	\$375,612
Demolition Maintenance, Curatorial Storage, & Multi-Use/Visitor Facility	\$80,993
<i><b>Total Estimated One-Time Costs</b></i>	<i><b>\$3,144,675</b></i>
<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	
NPS Annual Operating Costs	\$1,230,951
Personnel Costs (included in Annual Operating Costs)	\$983,000
NPS Staffing Levels	13
<i><b>Total Estimated Annual Costs</b></i>	<i><b>\$1,230,951</b></i>

## Future Planning Needs

The GMP planning process for Martin Van Buren NHS has identified the need for further plans to inform the implementation of the GMP's preferred alternative. Specific plans and studies are listed below:

*Land Protection Plan*—Long-range plan for protecting lands within boundary or historic setting that are not owned by NPS or are not under a conservation easement.

*Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP)*—Analyzes and documents current footprint, current funding, modeled funding requirements and recommendations for managing the gap between funding and requirements to support the goals and park mission goals.

## Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

This section addresses ideas for the GMP that have been widely discussed among the public and/or advocated by those with specific interests in the uses proposed. Additional alternatives were suggested by the public during the scoping period, including utilizing the site for retail businesses, a restaurant, or Revolutionary War re-enactments. After careful analysis by the NPS, these alternatives were dismissed because they would not fulfill the enabling legislation of the park. The following are four proposals that exemplify the range of suggested activities for the park that were eliminated from further consideration.

### Proposal One: Move Administrative Facility and Visitor Contact Station to the Area of the Park Entrance

Locating the administrative facilities near the current park entrance along Route 9H (near the current parking lot) was dismissed due to the visual impact on the historic site (blocking views of the cultural landscape and structures as visitors enter the park). Another early idea considered was to locate the maintenance facility about 300 feet southwest of the house, but it was rejected due to the fact that it would create an unsafe entrance into the park.

### Proposal Two: Locate Visitor Contact Station Off-Site

Locating the park's primary visitor contact station in the Village of Kinderhook was considered but rejected. A visitor facility would still be required on site to meet certain basic needs such as restrooms, a sheltered area, a bookstore and ranger staff facilities. Since it would be inefficient and costly to have two structures, this proposal was rejected. However, a satellite visitor contact station could still be opened with partners in the Village of Kinderhook.

## Environmentally Preferable Alternative

In accordance with the DO-12 Handbook, the NPS identifies the environmentally preferable alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment [Sect. 4.5 E(9)]. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources. The environmentally preferable alternative is identified upon consideration and weighing by the Responsible Official of long-term environmental impacts against short-term impacts in evaluating what is the best protection of these resources. In some situations, such as when different



alternatives impact different resources to different degrees, there may be more than one environmentally preferable alternative (43 CFR 46.30).

After evaluating the potential impacts of the alternatives on cultural and natural resources, the NPS has determined that Alternative C is the Environmentally Preferable Alternative because it most effectively preserves, maintains, and interprets the park's cultural resources. Table 7 presents a summary of environmental impacts for the alternatives.

**Table 6: Alternatives Matrix**

CONCEPT STATEMENT	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<p><b>Overall emphasis: Lindenwald, the Home of President Martin Van Buren.</b></p> <p>Visitors continue to come to Martin Van Buren NHS to be engaged in programs and activities about the political and social history of Lindenwald and President Martin Van Buren.</p> <p>Visitor services, programming and partnerships continue at current levels; operating from Mid-May to late October. Lindenwald grounds are open year-round. Existing 20th-century structures are used and maintained as possible.</p>			<p><b>Overall emphasis:</b> Political biography and the historical significance of eighth President Martin Van Buren, the relevance of political history, and the value of civic participation and education. Focal points are interpretation of Lindenwald, visitor orientation space with exhibits and space for public discourse, and selected areas of restoration on the cultural landscape.</p> <p><b>Management Focus:</b> To preserve Lindenwald so present and future generations of visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the life and public career of eighth President Martin Van Buren and find meaning in the issues facing America during the formative years of the republic through the turbulent decades leading to the Civil War. Lindenwald is preserved to illuminate Martin Van Buren's political beliefs, with an emphasis on the relevance of this history to today's political issues. Selective rehabilitation of landscape features is developed in core areas to evoke the historic scene. Modern intrusions are minimized and any new facilities are located sensitively.</p> <p><b>Interpretive Focus:</b> Lindenwald was where eighth President Martin Van Buren continued his political career and became an important figure in the political debate over slavery leading up to the Civil War. From Lindenwald he twice pursued a return to the presidency: once in a failed attempt to become the Democratic candidate in 1844, and once as the presidential candidate of the Free Soil Party, the first mass antislavery party in history. Ultimately, it was from Lindenwald that Martin Van Buren witnessed the disintegration of the Union he had dedicated his life to building.</p> <p><b>Visitor Experience:</b> Visitors come to Martin Van Buren National Historic Site to be engaged in discussions, programs and activities related to the history, politics, and civic life associated with the eighth President of the United States and to gain perspective on issues in the present day. Scholars conduct research and explore new insights into the contributions of President Van Buren to the American political system.</p>	<p><b>Overall emphasis:</b> Martin Van Buren as former president, family man, and gentleman farmer. Focal points are Lindenwald, for the story of the presidency and political career, and the farm landscape for interpreting the history of progressive agriculture at the site.</p> <p><b>Management Focus:</b> To preserve Lindenwald and its cultural landscape in order to provide present and future generations with opportunities to understand President Martin Van Buren by “walking in his footsteps.” Proposed resource management efforts focus on restoring the historic appearance of resources to the fullest extent possible and rehabilitation of resources when restoration is not feasible. The site is managed to maximize this potential and eliminate or minimize modern intrusions. Any new facilities would be located away from the restored areas to enhance the historic scene.</p> <p><b>Interpretive Focus:</b> The park would build on the interpretation of Martin Van Buren's Presidency and political career that is expressed in Alternative B and interpret the life of Lindenwald, Van Buren's farm estate. The Lindenwald farm was an expression of Martin Van Buren's political beliefs, which emphasized the importance of agriculture to the future of democracy. On land located in his ancestral community, Van Buren practiced progressive farming and employed a diverse farm and household labor force. The Lindenwald farm reflected the complex social changes that characterized the antebellum period and energized the Democratic Party, including mass immigration and the development of a market economy.</p> <p><b>Visitor Experience:</b> Visitors walk in the footsteps of Martin Van Buren—politician, progressive farmer, and family man-- and are immersed in the experience of a fully restored Lindenwald, including a portion of the surrounding farmland. Visitors have options beyond the bounds of the traditional house tour by experiencing activities on the farm landscape. Talks, demonstrations, and workshops give visitors an opportunity to learn about historic and contemporary sustainable farming techniques.</p>

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>				
<b>LINDENWALD (mansion)</b>	<p>Mansion is the centerpiece of the park that connects with the broader landscape. The significant resources and values of Lindenwald are restored, rehabilitated, preserved and maintained in good condition.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to preserve and maintain. Based on current funding, will work towards full restoration of Lindenwald.</li> </ul>	Same as A.	Same as A.	Same as A.
<b>SOUTH GATEHOUSE</b>	<p>The South Gatehouse is preserved and maintained in its current condition.</p>	<p>The South Gatehouse is preserved and maintained in good condition. The exterior is restored and the interior used for park purposes.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore exterior to reflect the 1839-1862 period of significance.</li> </ul>	Same as A.	Same as A.
<b>NORTH GATEHOUSE FOUNDATION</b>	<p>The North Gatehouse Foundation is preserved in its current condition as a ruin.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain foundation ruins in its current condition.</li> <li>Follow NPS standards for resource preservation/protection.</li> </ul>	None	Same as A.	Same as A.
<b>FARM COTTAGE</b>	<p>The Farm Cottage is stabilized and a maintenance plan would be developed.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stabilize structure to prevent future deterioration.</li> <li>Develop a maintenance plan.</li> <li>Restore and/or rehabilitate as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Rehabilitate Farm Cottage for reuse as park headquarters.	Same as common to B and C.	Same as common to B and C.

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION (CONTINUED)</b>				
<b>MUSEUM COLLECTIONS</b>	<p>The park's collections and archives continue to be managed as they are and remain in their current conditions.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate collection at shared facility at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS.</li> <li>Limit acceptance of loan items to those that can be adequately protected with current facilities.</li> <li>Continue to store archeological collection at Fort Stanwix National Monument museum storage facility consistent with the Northeast Regional Storage Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>The NPS would continue to maintain and preserve the furnishing of Lindenwald's period rooms. Develop a permanent, secure, energy-efficient, climate-controlled museum storage space to house collections and archives, replacing failing pole barn.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to store archeological collection at Fort Stanwix National Monument museum storage facility consistent with the Northeast Regional Storage Plan.</li> <li>Relocate museum storage to Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS.</li> </ul>	Same as Common to B and C.	Same as Common to B and C.
<b>ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>	<p>All archeological resources are protected, preserved, and maintained in their current conditions.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement recommendations of the 2004 Archeological Overview and Assessment Report.</li> </ul>	<p>An archeological study is conducted on NPS owned lands and, in collaboration with private land owners, on original Van Buren owned lands, to determine location and condition of historic farm roads (including Old Post Road, carriage roads, etc.) and historic building foundations.</p> <p>Assume responsibility for terms of easement on 101 acre Roxbury Farm to protect archeological resources.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct archeological surveys and testing as required before any ground disturbance.</li> <li>Provide technical assistance to private land owners for the protection of archeological resources.</li> </ul>	Same as Common to B & C.	Same as Common to B & C.

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION (CONTINUED)				
	<p>Agricultural production continues on easement land and sections of new NPS holdings. On less-than-fee land, contributing features are protected cooperatively with landowner in accordance with easement language.</p> <p>Cultural landscape that surrounds Lindenwald and is owned by NPS is restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible.</p> <p>Resources are protected and opportunities for restoration of natural areas are pursued when feasible and compatible with cultural landscape goals.</p>	<p><b>Historic Management Zone</b> Cultural landscape that surrounds Lindenwald and is owned by NPS is restored or rehabilitated to the greatest extent feasible</p> <p><b>Historic Transition Zone</b> Selected portions are restored/and or rehabilitated as feasible to provide glimpses of the past. Noncontributing structures—maintenance garage and pole barn—are removed from the cultural landscape.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Zone</b> Agricultural production continues on easement land and sections of new NPS owned land. Contributing features in the Agricultural Zones are protected to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p><b>Administrative Zone</b> Construct multi-use/visitor facility and remove existing trailers, which house visitor services and administration.</p> <p><b>Natural Resource Zone</b> On NPS owned land and land under easement to the NPS, resources are protected: opportunities for restoration of natural areas are pursued when feasible and compatible with cultural landscape goals and agricultural practices.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implement 1997 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan.</li><li>Conduct study to develop treatment plan for 2009 boundary change and work collaboratively with landowners to implement recommendations.</li><li>Update the park's 1996 Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan.</li><li>Develop a viewshed analysis report for the site.</li><li>Work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to continue traditional agricultural uses of the land on the upper terrace (lease in place through February 23, 2026).</li><li>Work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to develop guidelines to protect and preserve contributing landscape features on the easement land and to develop guidelines for uses in the Natural Resource Zone.</li><li>Work collaboratively with partners, neighbors and others to advocate for the protection of scenic viewsheds outside the park boundary.</li><li>Continue consultations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, NY DEC, Columbia County, Town of Kinderhook and Town of Stuyvesant on matters related to natural resources.</li></ul>	<p><b>Historic Management Zone</b> Cultural landscape that surrounds Lindenwald and is owned by NPS is restored or rehabilitated as feasible to the 1839-1862 period of significance.</p> <p><b>Historic Transition Zone</b> Rehabilitation of the cultural landscape as feasible on NPS owned land within the pre-2009 boundary change and selective rehabilitation of the cultural landscape as feasible on new NPS owned land (portions of this land would remain in modern agricultural production).</p> <p><b>Agricultural Zone</b> Portions of the cultural landscape that are NPS owned may be selectively restored to a 19th-century appearance as feasible. Farmers use contemporary methods of progressive farming on NPS lands on portions of the Upper Terrace.</p> <p><b>Administrative Zone</b> Same as common to B and C.</p> <p><b>Natural Resource Zone</b> Same as common to B and C.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the Historic Management Zone: rehabilitate selected portions of the new NPS land to 19th-century farm appearance (NPS responsibility only). Work with farmers to continue to keep the majority of land in active agriculture.</li><li>Explore restoration of historic circulation patterns, spatial organization and small scale landscape features that do not exist in the present landscape. As feasible, reestablish landscape features such as Lindenwald's vegetable gardens, orchards, ponds and flower gardens.</li><li>In the Agricultural Zone (lands under easements):work collaboratively with private land owners to protect, restore, and rehabilitate contributing resources as identified in the 2004 Cultural Landscape Report.</li><li>In the Agricultural Zone (lands under NPS ownership): work collaboratively with farmer to continue agricultural use of land.</li></ul>	
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES				



	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
	NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION			
	<p>Continue to preserve natural resources, and opportunities for restoration of natural areas are pursued.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve the natural resources of the park.</li> <li>• Continue to limit practices that impact natural resources.</li> <li>• Continue consultations with NPS on matters related to natural resources.</li> <li>• Develop an inventorying and monitoring program of natural resources.</li> </ul>	Same as A.	Same as A.	Same as A.

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>VISITOR EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Ranger-guided tours of the mansion and periodic events are the focus for visitor offerings.</p> <p>Visitors learn about grounds, farm and vistas through wayside exhibits and loop trail.</p> <p>Limited capacity for visitor orientation and no changing exhibits in visitor contact station.</p> <p>Public programming limited to half the year due to lack of indoor programming space.</p> <p>Education programming limited due to lack of classroom space.</p> <p><b>Potential Management Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive program continues similarly to present configuration. Maintain personal services visitor program for half the year.</li> <li>Trail links are constructed to the Kinderhook-Stockport-Stuyvesant Intermunicipal Trail.</li> <li>Park foregoes demonstrations and lectures due to lack of adequate indoor program space.</li> <li>Park does not have space for permanent exhibits or to offer changing exhibits.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Historic Management/ Historic Transition Zone</b></p> <p>Ranger-guided tours of the mansion and periodic events continue to be offered.</p> <p>Comprehensive visitor orientation, permanent and changing exhibits are available at visitor center.</p> <p>Lectures and demonstrations are offered during the winter in indoor program space in visitor center.</p> <p>Schoolchildren and adults attend programs in classroom space.</p> <p>Tours and publications of the cultural landscape are part of regular interpretive programming.</p> <p>Visitors have access to additional rehabilitated features of the "historic core" grounds that surround Lindenwald.</p>	<p><b>Historic Management/ Historic Transition Zone</b></p> <p>Political history and current political issues are explored through varied interpretive programs and media.</p> <p>First person interpretation in period clothing is used regularly to interpret antebellum political affairs. Host public forums and political debates in the visitor contact station or offsite venues on current local, state, and national political issues.</p> <p>Park creates space for hosting historians and political scientists conducting research.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Zone</b></p> <p>Historical and modern farming, sustainability, and environmental questions within a political context are explored through a variety of interpretive offerings.</p>	<p><b>Historic Management/Historic Transition Zone</b></p> <p>Agricultural and political nexus in U.S. history is explored through varied interpretive programs and media. Interpretation is interactive with selective elements of a 19th-century working farmstead.</p> <p>Develop hands-on agricultural programs to help visitors understand historic agricultural practices and allow for participation in rehabilitation of the cultural landscape.</p> <p>Use reproduction agriculture implements to demonstrate or interpret agricultural history at Lindenwald.</p> <p>Install interpretive exhibits about the workers who lived at the North and South Gatehouses and Farm Cottage.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Zone</b></p> <p>Walking tours of farm field are scheduled.</p> <p>Wayside exhibits and other programming are utilized along multi-use trail interpreting the continuum of agriculture on land within the park from Native Americans to the 21st century.</p>

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
	<b>OPERATION AND FACILITIES</b>			
	<p>The current 450sf (excluding restrooms) temporary structure attached to administrative trailer continues to house the park's visitor contact station.</p> <p>Administrative offices continue to be housed in temporary trailers.</p> <p>Existing 20<sup>th</sup> century support buildings continue to be used for storage and operations purposes.</p> <p>Park operations would continue to use current park roads.</p>	<p>Build new multi-use/visitor facility to replace trailers housing visitor services and administrative offices.</p> <p>Relocate museum storage to Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt.</p> <p>Rehabilitate Farm Cottage to serve as park headquarters.</p> <p>The NPS removes substandard 20th-century maintenance and museum storage facilities within historic core and replaces them with cost-effective efficient structures.</p> <p>Restore historic landscape.</p> <p>Evaluate the current location of the parking lot.</p>	Same as Common to B and C.	Same as Common to B and C.

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES B AND C	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>COLLABORATION &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>				
	<p>The park's current partnerships are maintained and strengthened to promote the protection, preservation, and interpretation of resources.</p> <p>Continue to build public support by strengthening current partnership and outreach efforts.</p>	<p>Outreach efforts are undertaken to promote the protection and preservation of resources. Engage Roxbury Farm as an active interpretive partner to maintain agricultural landscape and viable working farm.</p> <p>Continue to work collaboratively with New York SHPO, Town of Kinderhook, Town of Stuyvesant, Columbia County, Open Space Institute, Roxbury Farm, Columbia Land Conservancy, neighbors and others to advance the protection of important views and vistas outside the park boundary.</p> <p>Expand public support by strengthening current partnership and outreach efforts; continue working with Friends of Lindenwald, Open Space Institute, Columbia County Historical Society, Landmarks Visitor Collaborative, and the Center for Applied Historical Research of the University at Albany.</p> <p>Explore partnership and outreach opportunities with organizations such as, Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Intermunicipal Trail Committee, Friends of Kinderhook Trails, agricultural organizations, and regional town school districts.</p> <p>Develop relationships to support programs about agriculture with organizations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other NPS Sites</li> <li>• Roxbury Farm</li> <li>• Open Space Institute</li> <li>• Garden Clubs</li> <li>• American Farm Land Trust</li> <li>• Cornell Cooperative Extension</li> <li>• Farm Bureau</li> <li>• Columbia County Historical Society</li> </ul>	<p>Outreach efforts target partnerships with emphasis on research, antebellum studies, political history, and primary and secondary educational institutions.</p> <p>Develop relationships and programs with organizations such as other presidential and antebellum historic house sites.</p> <p>Research organizations focusing on scholarly study of antebellum politics, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.</p>	<p>Outreach efforts target partnerships with emphasis on farming and land use in historical perspective: historic agricultural methods, modern sustainable agriculture, and the history of agriculture in the Hudson Valley region.</p>

**Table 7: Summary of Impacts**

	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Historic Structures</b>	Overall beneficial impacts to historic structures through continuing maintenance, stabilization, and preservation efforts. No cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Beneficial impacts would result from continued and additional rehabilitation and preservation efforts. No cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>Cultural Landscapes</b>	Adverse impacts of 20-th century structures in the landscape would continue. Rehabilitation efforts would contribute beneficial impacts. Cumulative impacts would result in beneficial and adverse impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Overall beneficial impacts resulting from removal of non-contributing features and rehabilitation efforts. Cumulative impacts would result in beneficial and adverse impacts. Impacts would be significant.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>Archeological Collections</b>	Beneficial impacts resulting from additional archeological studies. Potential adverse impacts during construction, but adverse impacts would be mitigated through pre-construction surveys. Potential adverse cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Museum Collections</b>	No cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Overall beneficial impacts due to relocation of museum collections to a new storage facility. No cumulative impacts. Impacts would be significant.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Surface Water &amp; Wetlands</b>	Overall localized adverse impacts resulting from agricultural use of the property and landscape rehabilitation efforts. There may be increased flooding due to increased rainfall induced by climate change. Adverse cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.	Same as Alternative A.	Adverse impacts similar to Alternative A. Adverse cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be significant.
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern.</b>	Temporary adverse impacts during constructions, but adverse impacts would be mitigated with pre-construction surveys. Adverse cumulative impacts. Impacts would not be specific.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.



	ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIC DISCOURSE	ALTERNATIVE C: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN
<b>VISITOR USE &amp; EXPERIENCE</b>			
	Adverse impacts would result from a lack of exhibit and classroom space as well as visual intrusions to the cultural landscape. Beneficial impacts would result from restoration efforts within the Lindenwald area of the park as well as additional recreational opportunities.  Beneficial cumulative impacts.  Impacts would not be significant.	Overall beneficial impacts resulting from new visitor facilities, recreational opportunities, and restoration and rehabilitation of the historic structures and cultural landscapes.  Beneficial cumulative impacts.  Impacts would be significant.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>PARK OPERATIONS &amp; FACILITIES</b>			
	Some beneficial impacts would result from restoration efforts reducing maintenance backlogs. Adverse impacts would result from the continued use of insufficient operational facilities.  No cumulative impacts.  Impacts would not be significant.	Overall beneficial impacts would result from restoration efforts reducing maintenance backlogs along with the use of new operational facilities.  No cumulative impacts.  Impacts would be significant.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>SOCIOECONOMICS</b>			
	Overall beneficial impacts resulting from higher visitation levels which could benefit surrounding businesses and communities.  Beneficial cumulative impacts.  Impact would not be significant.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.



# 3

## The Affected Environment

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# Chapter 3: The Affected Environment

## Introduction

This section describes existing conditions associated with the impact topics retained for detailed analysis. As described in Chapter 1, the planning team identified six topic areas because they could be affected by the actions outlined in the alternatives: cultural, natural, visitor use and experience, socioeconomics, park operation, and facilities. Information was drawn from sources listed in the bibliography, most significantly including:

- 2011 Administrative History
- 2010 Transportation Analysis Report
- 2009 Visitor Study
- 2006 Historic Resources Study
- 2005 Interpretive Concept Plan
- 2004 Cultural Landscape Report for Van Buren Farm
- 2003 Boundary Study/EA
- 2003 Interpretive Planning Foundation
- 1997 Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan
- 1995 Cultural Landscape Report
- 1970 Master Plan

The existing conditions described in this chapter establish the baseline for the analysis of impacts of the alternatives found in Chapter Four, Environmental Consequences.

## Cultural Resources

### Introduction

Cultural resource impact topics were selected on the basis of significant values identified in the park's enabling legislation, major values identified during the plan's scoping process and applicable laws, executive orders and regulations, management policies and guidelines. These resources are categorized as historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological resources, and museum collections and archives.

### Historic Structures

Lindenwald was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and authorized by Congress as National Historic Site in 1974 at which time the 12.8-acre site was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park's List of Classified Structures includes Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse, the North Gatehouse foundation, the well cap, and the carriage path. Forthcoming additions will include the Old Post Road segment and the Farm Cottage.

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C and D. It derives its primary significance at the national level under Criteria A and B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with Martin Van Buren (1782-1862) and his political career during the years between 1841 and 1848. During that period, Van Buren, who moved to Lindenwald after his single term as president of the United States (1837-1841), launched two unsuccessful, but historically important campaigns to regain the presidency in 1844 and 1848. The district is also significant under Criterion B as the only surviving property that is associated with the life of Martin Van Buren. The only home that he ever owned, Lindenwald represents the culmination of a remarkable political career that saw Van Buren rise from meager beginnings as a Kinderhook tavern-keeper's son to become the eighth president of the United States. His subsequent development of Lindenwald into a country estate and working farm reflected his Jeffersonian beliefs in the value and virtue of agriculture to a democratic society. Lindenwald is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an important local example of a Federal-style mansion that was redesigned by architect Richard Upjohn to reflect the popular Italian Villa style of the mid-19th century. The district is significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology and the subcategories Prehistoric and Historic-Non Aboriginal as a property that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Surveys and excavations conducted on the property to date have identified four sites that address substantive research questions regarding Native American usage of the land, Van Buren's occupancy of Lindenwald and development of the property by previous and subsequent owners.

#### Lindenwald

Lindenwald was the home and farm of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States (1837-1841) and his family from 1839 until his death in 1862. Van Buren moved permanently to Lindenwald in 1840 after his defeat for a second term as President. Van Buren's influential career as architect of the two-party system and key strategist of Jacksonian Democracy assured him status as a national figure well beyond his presidential years. Lindenwald became a political hub, accommodating a steady stream of visits and correspondence from politicians and dignitaries, as well as family and friends. It was from Lindenwald that Van Buren would pursue the hotly contested Democratic nomination for president in 1844 and run for president again in 1848 as the Free Soil Party candidate. As the nation moved inexorably toward Civil War, an aging Van Buren retired to what he called his "last and happiest days" as a farmer in his native Kinderhook. The 295-acre National Historic Site includes an 18th c. Georgian style brick house modernized during Van Buren's tenure into a more fashionable Italianate style country house by noted architect Richard Upjohn, with the addition of a projecting tower, arched windows and doorways and bracketed cornices that became characteristic of many Hudson River Bracketed houses. Richard Upjohn was a distinguished 19th c. architect who became known for his ecclesiastical and Gothic Revival designs; working out of New York City, he was founder and first president of the American Institute of Architects.

#### Gate Lodges

The two "gate lodges" at Lindenwald were estimated to be constructed in 1847. Census records indicate that these structures, marking either side of the curved driveway to Lindenwald, were originally occupied by employees of Van Buren and their families. The South Gatehouse still marks the entrance to the curved driveway to Lindenwald and contributes to the historic character of the property. Although previously attributed to Richard Upjohn, the c.1846-1847 gatehouse predates the Upjohn alterations to Lindenwald and is the work of local builders and craftsmen incorporating



Gothic Revival details.

### South Gatehouse

The South Gatehouse marks the entrance to the curved driveway to Lindenwald and contributes to the historic character of the property. The South Gatehouse is sixteen by twenty-three feet, one and one-half story, board and batten building with a wood shingle, gable roof, field stone foundation and full basement. The South Gatehouse is presently in fair condition and has been rehabilitated for a number of uses over the years. The interior of the building has been most recently used as a support facility for special events. The Historic Structures Report (2001) recommends restoration of the exterior to its historic appearance. An interpretive sign is located just outside the building.

### North Gatehouse Foundation

The only remains of the North Gatehouse is its original foundation made of stone. It was dismantled in the 1950's. The structure was originally nearly identical in size, materials, fenestration and construction details to the South Gatehouse. Later there were modifications of some the features. An interpretive sign is located adjacent to the foundation.

### Farm Cottage

In June of 1844, former President Martin Van Buren wrote that he had a cottage built for his farm foreman "under the chestnut trees on the brow of the hill." The Farm Cottage is located on the escarpment between the terraces, to the southwest of Lindenwald, behind the site of Van Buren's garden. It is a small house, one and one half stories high and the farm tenant living there would have had easy access to the agricultural fields further west and the red hillside barn and barnyard. The Farm Cottage, although it has undergone numerous modifications, is a contributing feature to the historic landscape at Lindenwald based on findings in the study, *A Farmer in His Native Town: Cultural Landscape Report for the Martin Van Buren Farmland* (Searle, 2004) and the recently updated National Register documentation for the park.

Although it is possible that changes have occurred over time, the 1-1/2 story gabled cottage has some remnants of Gothic Revival style details, such as decorative open-work barge boards at the gable-ends, slate roofs, a small projecting front porch, wide cornice overhangs, elongated 1st-story windows and two gabled dormers intersecting the front cornices; a 1-story ell at one end has similar decorative details to that of the main block; a much smaller ell beyond appears to have modern details, as does a lean-to ell at the rear and the modern attached brick chimney.

OSI donated the Farm Cottage to the NPS in 2011 and NPS will lease it back to Roxbury Farm until 2016. A December 2005 assessment done by a historic preservation architect from Argus Architecture & Preservation, P.C., indicates that the Farm Cottage is known to have undergone a major renovation, perhaps even rebuilding, in the late 1940's. There may have been other alterations prior to the 1940's and there have been interior alterations since the 1940's. Also, salvaged historic building parts, probably from the Farm Cottage but possibly from elsewhere, have been incorporated into the 1940's work in new locations. A historic structures report is being prepared to determine the structure's historic evolution and character-defining features prior to any anticipated rehabilitation work. The Farm Cottage is currently listed as a contributing historic structure. Now that NPS owns Farm Cottage it is taking steps to stabilize the structure.

## **Cultural Landscapes**

### **Landscape Surrounding the Lindenwald Mansion**

Van Buren believed that American civic virtue was rooted in agrarian values and developed an agricultural estate like his presidential predecessors, most notably Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Each had an impressive estate of his own, the Hermitage, Monticello and Mount Vernon, respectively, which served as a dignified setting for these elder statesmen-farmers to play a continued leading role in American politics.

As detailed in the Cultural Landscape Report for the historic core (1995), the cultural landscape surrounding Van Buren's home retains integrity of its setting, design, feeling and location, contributing to our understanding of Van Buren's life at Lindenwald. Extant character-defining features of the formal landscape in front of the home include an expansive front lawn, numerous specimen trees, the semi-circular entrance drive (Carriage Path); landscape features such as the well cap, and the visible section of Old Post Road; and a restored black locust promenade—all of which create a symmetrical frame for his Italianate mansion when viewed from the Old Post Road. Behind Van Buren's home, the open landscape offered views of the distant Catskill Mountains and served as a canvas for Van Buren to establish a large, progressive working farm that included gardens, ponds, fruit orchards and fields under cultivation—on terraces above Kinderhook Creek that are within the recently expanded park boundary. Other nearby elements that are in close proximity to Lindenwald include the Van Ness Grave and Farm Cottage.

A formal garden was once located south of the mansion. The area now consists of mixed evergreen trees and shrubs as does the area surrounding the farm cottage and upper pond. Neither area contributes to the historic vegetative character of the site.

The front lawn during the Van Buren era encompassed the area the area defined by the entry drive and Post Road. Scattered Eastern White pines trees stood between the front lawn and the Post Road. The overall expanse and extent of the front lawn and the existing plants amongst the pine trees have been maintained and contribute to the vegetative character of the site.

### **Landscape of the Upper and Lower Terraces**

The Cultural Landscape Report for the farmland (2004) states that the agricultural land acquired by Van Buren continues its use as open cultivated fields, thus retains integrity of its setting, location, feeling and association. Spread across fertile terraces overlooking Kinderhook Creek and the Catskill Mountains, ongoing agricultural activities provide the bucolic setting for interpreting the importance of agriculture to Van Buren, his vision of Lindenwald, the history of agriculture on the site and in the Hudson Valley and Van Buren's democratic ideals and electoral innovations that supported farmers and laborers. Contributing landscape characteristics include topography and sustainable agriculture, the Historic Lower Farm Road, lower pond, Red Barn Foundation and wooded escarpment; all are features in the area of the recently expanded park boundary.

The woodlands that exist along the escarpment contribute to the historic vegetative landscape of the site. Orchards were planted extensively by Van Buren in the northern portion of the property from the front drive and carriage house extending west down the hill to the beginning of the Lower Terrace and north to the property boundary. The

woodlands that exist there now do not contribute to the historic vegetation of the site. There were two small additional orchards located near the Farm Cottage.

### Agricultural Activities

Agricultural activities in the park represent a continuation of an historic use and allow the park to maintain an appropriate cultural landscape. Active farming contributes to the historic character of the park, particularly since it currently reflects the diversity of crops Van Buren grew. Agricultural soils have been managed in these fields for centuries and as such they are a cultural resource reflecting a long history of human intervention, in particular during the Van Buren era when soil “improvement” became a hallmark of progressive farm management. The continuation of active farming through the preservation of viable soil will help provide visitors an understanding of the agricultural landscape of Lindenwald in the 19th century as well as demonstrating the current practices of sustainable farming.

### Preservation and Condition Issues

Progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the park’s Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan (1997), which only covers land on Upper Terrace that was within the original boundary. While some features of the formal historic landscape have been restored, the area still contains intrusive park operations facilities and bears the burden of park operational traffic. The woodlot screening Lindenwald from the temporary office units to the north is not a historic feature, nor is the south woodlot. Other historic landscape features, such as the orchards, are missing. The absence of the historic North Gatehouse diminishes the intended symmetrical design of the estate fronting the Old Post Road. The recent boundary change will protect the landscape’s rural agricultural context. The new boundary includes additional acreage that was part of the original Lindenwald Estate, available to the NPS on a willing seller basis only.

Prior to the boundary expansion, a number of properties were partially protected by an easement held by the OSI. One of the most important features of this arrangement was a public-private partnership that found innovative solutions to preserving historic, natural and scenic areas, while keeping properties in agricultural use and on the tax rolls, while providing for possible future recreational access. OSI purchased the majority of the original Van Buren farmland and in turn sold a portion of it to Roxbury Farm, a community-supported cooperative biodynamic farm, to keep the land in its historic use. OSI and Roxbury Farm agreed to stipulations suggested by NPS protecting historic resources. OSI holds the easement which will be donated to NPS. OSI donated 25 acres of the Upper Terrace, in full ownership, to the NPS in 2011. The land came with an existing lease to Roxbury Farm, lasting until February, 2026.

The park and Roxbury Farm have different missions and operations. Roxbury Farm’s mission is to provide biodynamically grown meat and vegetables for its members (also to protect the environment, reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides, preserve the soil, and promote human health), while Martin Van Buren NHS’s mission is to protect and preserve Van Buren-associated resources and provide visitor services. The park’s challenge is to administer easements on land where Roxbury Farm grows crops in such a way that resources are protected, visitors have a meaningful experience and farm operations are successful. The easement will enable the NPS to work collaboratively with Roxbury Farm to protect the cultural features and to develop a trail for visitor access to the Van Buren farmland.

The only portion of Van Buren’s historic farmland that has been developed is the lot

across Mill Road, which is now a residential area. Although there was a period in the 20th century during which modern farming techniques, machinery and structures diminished the integrity of the Van Buren farmland, the agricultural methods employed by the current farmers, Roxbury Farm, are closer to those of Van Buren than those of previous owners. Roxbury Farm's commitment to reforming conventional agricultural techniques through organic and biodynamic practices holds some common properties with Van Buren's interest in the agricultural reform movement of his time.

The 20th-century NPS facilities have significant safety issues and their retention would detract from the historic setting.

### Viewsheds

Views are the broad prospect created by a range of vision in the landscape. The Cultural Landscape Report for the historic core (1995) describes the distant views of the mountains and of the agricultural fields which are vital to understanding the rural context of Lindenwald.

The most dramatic views are those from the rear north corner of the house lot looking west across the fields in active cultivation and to the Catskill Mountains. Views to the south have changed due to the loss of the formal gardens the growth of the wooded area, the addition of evergreen trees and the cluster of 20th-century farm buildings (Meyer farm complex). Views to the north shifted to a mix of woodland and active cropland after the orchard began to decline around 1900. While not contributing to the historical viewshed, the woods serve as screening for the modern temporary structures on the site. Expansive easterly views across the front lawn and the surrounding agricultural fields contribute greatly to the historic setting of the property. The mansion is framed by shade trees along the drive and clusters of large evergreen trees and ornamental shrubs.

Although the rural viewshed of open fields and distant views to the Catskill Mountains is currently intact, most of the Hudson Valley is experiencing increasing development pressure, often resulting in a permanent loss of agricultural lands. The 2009 boundary adjustment protected an additional 147 acres (67%) of the original Lindenwald Estate. It is expected to have a beneficial influence on the future protection of the park's rural character by providing opportunities for additional protection through perpetual agricultural easements. Efforts by OSI have also protected an additional 72 acres of the historic setting, within the new boundary and several hundred acres of land adjacent to the park generally along Kinderhook Creek. Approximately 81 percent of the original Van Buren farm is now within the park boundary.

### **Archeological Resources**

Martin Van Buren NHS contains archeological resources that contribute to the National Register significance of the property that date to Van Buren's residency and before. Two sites document precontact occupation of the property and have the potential to yield information important in prehistory: *the Lindenwald South Native American Site* and the *North Field Native American Site*. Two historic sites that date to Van Buren's residency have been investigated: the *Lindenwald Estate Site* encompassing all of the property within the original 1966 register boundary of the park, and the *North Gate-house and Dump Site* have yielded substantial information about the architectural and landscape evolution as well as the occupants of the property.

Archeological surveys within the *Lindenwald Estate Site* have identified the locations

of the Carriage House Foundation, the Farm Office/Smokehouse Foundation, the Van Ness/Van Buren Garden, the Front Lawn and Garden, the Semi-circular Driveway/Allee, and the Old Post Road; these document the evolution of the Van Buren landscape and the lifeway of its occupants (Figure 3). Investigations at the *North Gatehouse and Dump Site* identified the foundation of the North Gatehouse and substantial intact deposits documenting the lifeway of the estate's workers. The condition of these sites, as documented in the *Archeological Sites Management Information System* is "Good."

A number of potential site locations have been identified within the expanded boundary based on extensive historical documentation. These include the former locations of the Red and Black barns (ca. 1845), a shed foundation, the Old Stone House (ca. 1682), and historic ditch traces. These resources contribute to our understanding of the working of the estate and farm during the period of Van Buren's residency. Archeological surveys and subsurface testing, however, have not been conducted to locate structural remains or associated deposits. Additional sites are likely to exist on lands owned by Roxbury Farm and included within the OSI preservation easement that is expected to be donated to the NPS. Protection and access to the sites by the NPS is included in the preservation easement including the provision that prior to any ground-altering activities the NPS will be afforded the opportunity to conduct archeological investigations.

### **Museum Collections**

The museum collection was developed under the guidance of the 1986 Historic Furnishings Report and 1996 Collections Management Plan. Other planning documents that have a bearing on the park's museum collection include: Historic Resources Study (2006), Interpretive Concept Plan (2005), Archeological Overview and Assessment (2004) and Archeological Collections Management Plan (1991). An updated Scope of Collections Statement was completed in 2010 and another update will occur following completion of the General Management Plan.

### **Collections**

Martin Van Buren NHS is the primary repository of material related to the life of the eighth president. The park's collection includes over 230,000 items including furnishings original to Lindenwald, artifacts relating to the life of Van Buren and his family, archival collections including documents relating to Van Buren as well as NPS resource management records and an extensive archeological collection. Approximately 1,000 objects furnish the Lindenwald period rooms. Other significant items in the collection are located in an onsite temporary museum storage facility that is obsolete and actively deteriorating.

The cultural collection includes furnishings, archives, architectural materials, decorative and fine art and archeological materials. The museum collection supports the interpretive functions of the site. Objects are collected in a prioritized order of importance under the disciplines of history, archeology and archives. Objects with relevance to Martin Van Buren and Lindenwald receive a higher collecting priority than other objects.

Although much of the collection is located in the Lindenwald period rooms, other significant items in the collection are located in an onsite temporary museum storage facility. The pole barn structure built in 1983 as a temporary container for Lindenwald's collection while the house was being restored is actively failing: the roof is



deteriorating, the floor is unstable, there are problems with climate and pest control, and the heating system is inefficient and aging. The 1996 Collection Management Plan emphasized almost two decades ago the urgent need for a modest permanent purpose-built collections storage facility and the 2006 NER Storage Plan concurred. In addition to the pressing storage problem, there is no adequate space for the collection to be conserved or studied by researchers and there are no park facilities for display of artifacts that do not support the period room exhibits. Therefore, the museum collection is being relocated to the Home F. Franklin D. Roosevelt. There are a number of objects in the collection that should be considered for deaccession. In general, these items were accessioned pending further study when the NPS acquired Lindenwald in the 1970's.

The Historic Furnishings Report documented a number of items with Lindenwald provenance that would be appropriate for acquisition, most notably the original Van Buren banquet table, the location of which is currently unknown (the collection includes a reproduction of this table, located in the Lindenwald center hall).

The park currently has an extensive collection of archeological resources, which includes artifacts and specimens of excavations, accompanied by all associated field records. All excavated materials are retained as part of the museum collection. The archeological collection is stored at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Archeological collections are generated in response to cultural resource management requirements related to legal mandates, to development of park facilities, to preservation-related activities and to address interpretive and research needs.

#### Archives and Manuscripts

The archives of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site encompass two major collection elements: manuscripts/papers from the period of significance and records documenting the establishment of the site and management of park cultural and natural resources.

Museum archival and manuscript collections (non-official records) include all types of documentary records that contribute substantially to the understanding, interpretation and management of other park resources (cultural and natural) as well as being important resources in their own right. These records are arranged and described according to the standards stated in the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix D and guidance in DO-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline (Chapter 9 and chapter Checklists).

### **Natural Resources**

The impact topic of natural resources includes the discussions of the existing conditions of natural systems and features, including surface water and wetlands and threatened, endangered, and special concern species.

The Kinderhook Creek corridor and Southern Swamp are important natural resources for the park in that they represent relatively less disturbed areas that hold much of the site's biodiversity. Part of Kinderhook Creek either borders or is within the park boundary. Davis' Sedge (*Carex davisii*), a New York threatened species, is found in the remnant floodplain community.

#### **Surface Water and Wetlands**

##### Surface Water

The overall hydrology of the lands west of New York State Route 9H consists of a

drainage pattern from east to west, draining into Kinderhook Creek. On the historic Van Buren property, the natural hydrological systems of surface and subsurface water have been manipulated with constructed water features for aesthetic and utilitarian functions. There are two natural springs and a wetland. The first spring was located just south of the mansion. It drained through a ravine feeding two artificial ponds constructed by Martin Van Buren on the first terrace. The upper fish pond, which still exists, is located at the south edge of the garden directly below the spring. The lower fish pond was located down the ravine and drained into the wetland at the ravine's base on the Lower Terrace. This wetland was traversed by a series of ditches that allowed it to drain into Kinderhook Creek via a small ravine. Remnants of these historic drainage ditches remain throughout most of the site.

A section of the park boundary is located directly on the Kinderhook Creek, a New York State DEC Class C stream, meaning its highest use is for fishing and swimming. The course of Kinderhook Creek and its floodplain as well as the Lower Terrace and Upper Terrace are influenced by the presence of bedrock. The streambed is primarily a gravel base. The average depth is 2 feet and the average width is 45 feet. Most of Kinderhook Creek has a significant overhead canopy of mostly hardwood trees and shrubs and grass along the stream banks. The creek is stocked annually with approximately 10,000 brown trout. The few wild brook trout are available in the upper sections of the creek. There are no Public Fishing Rights in the section of Kinderhook Creek near Martin Van Buren NHS.

An assessment of Kinderhook Creek was conducted through the Hudson River Estuary Watershed Assessment and Outreach Project in 2006. This *Watershed Report Card for Kinderhook Creek* assesses water quality impacts at ten stream stations in the Kinderhook Watershed. Station 19094 is located near the County Route 25A Bridge. The Biological Assessment Profile indicates a value of 6.05, or the slightly impacted category. The New York State DEC Stream Biomonitoring Unit's methodology also calls for an Impact Source Determination (ISD) which attempts to rank the most likely cause of water quality impacts at each monitoring site. The ISD categories are: non-point source nutrient enrichment; organic (sewage and animal waste); complex (municipal and industrial waste); toxic; siltation; impoundment; and natural. The ISD for Station 19094 indicates "a community most similar to a natural community, or to one affected by an impoundment, which does exist just above the station."

### Wetlands

There are freshwater wetlands in the park boundary on the properties that were part of the historic farm along Kinderhook Creek and along New York State Route 9H south of the Old Post Road (Figure 8). The largest wetland on the site, Southern Swamp, is relatively undisturbed compared to the surrounding agricultural areas.

Climate change is expected to increase the extent and frequency of flooding. These floods may alter the natural floodplain distribution and wetlands, leading to changes in vegetation and wildlife habitat.

## **Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern**

### Federally-listed Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website indicates that four federally-listed species have the potential to be located within Columbia County and the boundary of the park: the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)-endangered; the Northern Long-Eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)-proposed endangered; the New England Cottontail rabbit

(*Sylvilagus transitionalis*)-a candidate species; and the bog turtle (*Clemmys (Glyptemys) muhlenbergii*)-threatened. None of the species were identified during previous park surveys as being present at the park, but suitable habitats for the species do occur within park boundaries.

#### State-listed Species

The New York State Natural Heritage Program's website indicated two species which are of state concern: the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and the Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), both of which were identified through surveys as being present in the park. The NHP lists three rare plant records found in the vicinity of Martin Van Buren NHS (see February 19, 2009 letter in Appendix B): Davis' Sedge (*Carex davisii*)-New York State Threatened; Rattlebox (*Crotalaria sagittalis*)-New York State Endangered; Spotted Pondweed (*Potamogeton pulcher*)-New York State Threatened. Although these species have been located within 1-2 miles of the site, only the Davis' Sedge has been located within the park boundary along Kinderhook Creek.

### **Visitor Use and Experience**

The Organic Act and NPS Management Policies 2006 direct NPS to provide enjoyment opportunities that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the resources found in the park.

A variety of services are made available to park visitors, students, neighbors and the general public through on-site and outreach programs. The goal of visitor services at Martin Van Buren NHS is to help a variety of audiences understand and appreciate the environment in which Martin Van Buren lived, his rise to the presidency and the accomplishments he made toward establishing the party-based system that became a defining feature of the politics in the United States. Management activities provide opportunities for public enjoyment of on-site and off-site experiences that lead to a greater understanding of the unique and diverse park resources and stories. Visitors can experience the park through guided tours of the historic mansion, enjoying the trail system and special events and programs. In order to reach a wider audience, education and interpretation activities extend well beyond the boundary of the park. Outreach extends into communities, schools and long distance opportunities.

#### Programming

Ranger-led tours of President Van Buren's 36-room restored mansion are offered daily during the regular season. The mansion highlights park interpretive themes, for example it is where Van Buren managed two presidential campaigns and entertained politicians and celebrities during the turbulent 1840's and 1850's. It also supports interpretation of the stories of the diversity of people residing at Lindenwald in the historic period, from a southern belle to an Irish domestic servant; all are indispensable to telling the whole story of Martin Van Buren's life after his presidency.

In 2011, the park began to offer weekend tours of the Upper Terrace of Martin Van Buren's farm. In addition to house tours, regular events and concerts, programming has included hikes, bike tours, campfires and daily 20-minute talks on political issues and campaigns of Martin Van Buren.

During recent years specific programming and tours for educational groups at a variety of grade levels has expanded dramatically.



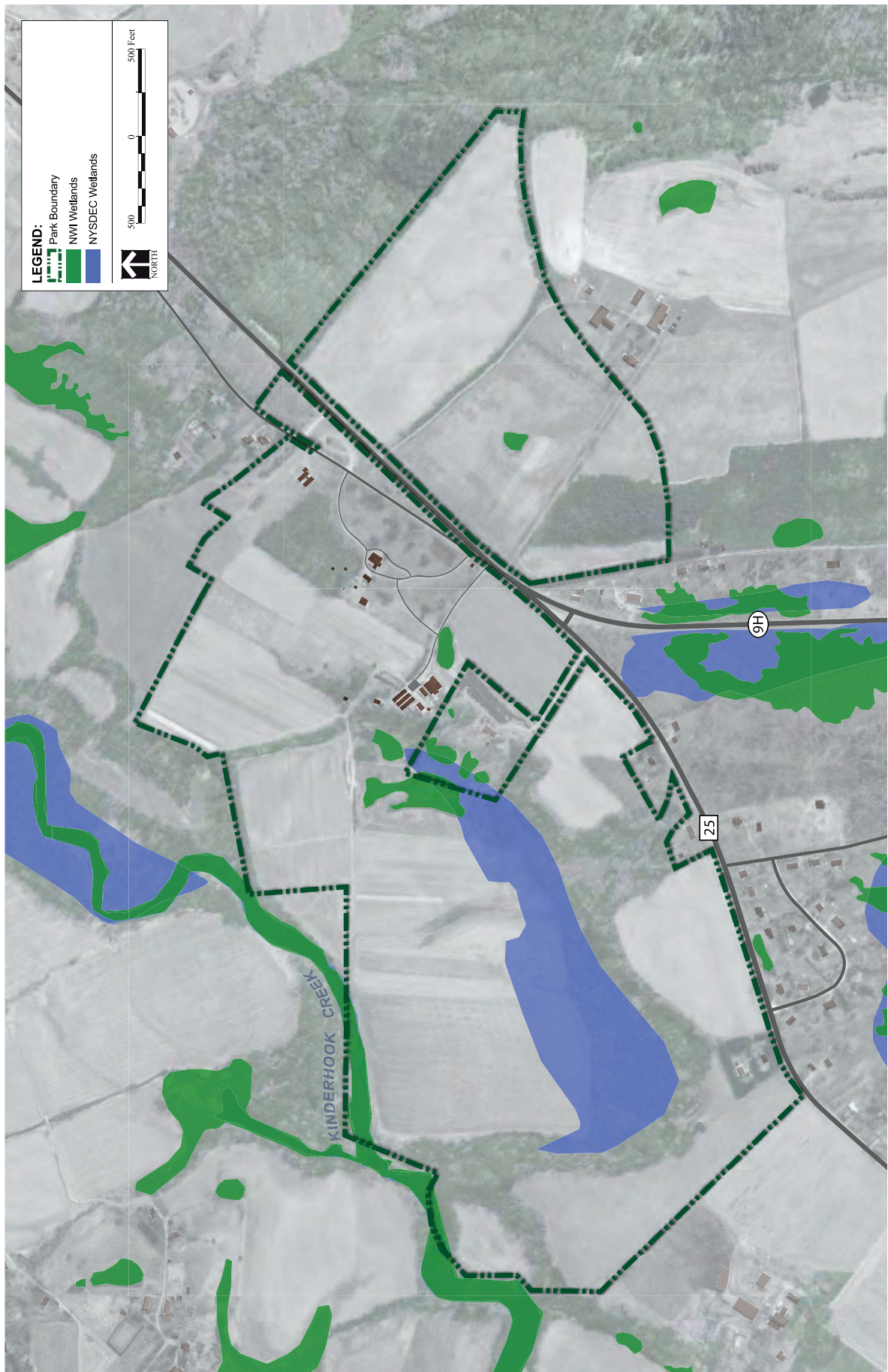
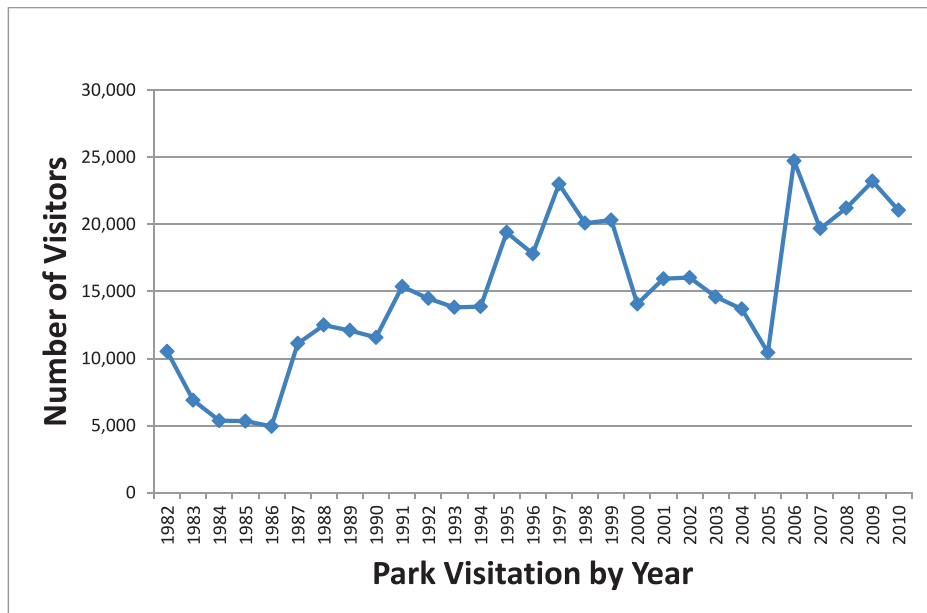


Figure 8: Wetlands Map

### Park Visitation

The visitor season runs seven days a week from mid-May to the end of October at the park, as funding permits. President Van Buren's mansion is open for tours daily at the top of every hour from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. The current entrance fee for individuals 16 and older is \$7.00. The family entrance fee is \$12.00 and is valid for four adults to tour Lindenwald. Federal recreation passes authorized under LWCF are sold and honored. The grounds are open and free of charge on a year round basis and the park hosts several special events and activities.

The park reported a total of 22,062 visits in 2012. As Figure 9 indicates, visitation rose appreciably since 1982. Fluctuations between 2002 and 2005 occurred because the mansion was closed for renovations. Park visitation is concentrated during the summer months, peaking in July and August.



**Figure 9: Park Visitation by Year**

During normal operations (when Lindenwald is open and the park has a full staff) the annual visits average 20,000 annually. Parks that have experienced the kind of development that boundary expansion legislation has made possible have typically experienced an increase in visitation from 6% to 25%, over a few years. Table 8 indicates visitor levels since 1995. Table 9 indicates visitation trends during individual months. A 2009 visitor survey shows that only 18% of the visitors are locals and only 7% are repeats. Only 1% are tour/school groups due to the absence of group facilities—approximately 18 school groups (2012 data) visit Martin Van Buren NHS each year. Presently visitation is not at its full potential due to lack of access to the original Martin Van Buren farm and dedicated spaces to accommodate bus tour groups.



**Table 8: Visitation Trends**

Year	Visitation	Explanation for Changes in Visitation
1995	19,402	-
1996	17,807	Period of normal operations, staff levels and outreach programs
1997	23,008	-
1998	20,087	-
1999	20,087	Total 100,629 divided by 5 yrs. = 20,125 average
2000	14,066	-
2001	15,950	Period of reduced interpretive staff and hours of operations due to budget issues
2002	16,036	Operational changes
2003	14,594	-
2004	13,686	Lindenwald closed due to major mechanical upgrade project
2005	10,445	-
2006	24,735	Normal operations return
2007	19,678	-
2008	21,216	Rising attendance at special events
2009	23,216	-
2010	21,055	Special Union College Tour; 346 Primary Election Voters
2011	19,287	Just down from five-year visitor average of 20,890
2012	22,062	Visitation up due to Harvest Day, Packard Club, 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Columbia County Fair

**Table 9: Monthly Distribution of 2009-2012 Visitation**

Month	Recreational Visits			
	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012
January	58	150	118	177
February	230	105	100	150
March	540	190	264	273
April	454	209	111	243
May	966	824	678	832
June	2,051	2,519	2,173	2,726
July	3,140	2,824	3,592	3,180
August	3,197	3,903	3,139	3,440
September	8,223	6,227	5,072	6,096
October	2,757	3,157	2,465	2,679
November	495	288	346	1,698
December	1,105	659	1,229	568
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,216</b>	<b>21,055</b>	<b>19,287</b>	<b>22,062</b>

A Visitor Study was conducted at Martin Van Buren NHS between August 8 – September 5, 2009 by the NPS Visitor Services Project (VSP), a section of the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho. A total of 339 questionnaires were distributed to visitor groups. Of those, 267 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 78.8% response rate. The report profiles a systematic random sample of Martin Van Buren NHS visitors over that four week period. The most significant findings are as follows:

- Fifty-six percent of visitor groups were in groups of two and 31% were in groups of three or four. Seventy-one percent of visitor groups were in family groups;
- United States visitors comprised 99% of total visitation during the survey period, with 52% from New York and smaller proportions from 32 other states and Washington, DC. International visitors were from three countries and comprised 1% of total visitation;
- Eighty-six percent of visitors were visiting the park for the first time and 9% had visited two times;
- Sixty-six percent of visitors were ages 46-75 years, 13% were ages 15 years or younger and 4% were ages 76 or older. Fifty percent of respondents had a graduate degree;
- For 49% of non-resident visitor groups, the primary reason for visiting the park area (within 50 miles) was to visit Martin Van Buren NHS;
- Of those visitors who stayed overnight away from their permanent residence in the area within 50 miles of the park (45%), thirty-one percent stayed four or more nights and 30% stayed two nights. The average length of visit in the park was 1.6 hours;
- The most common activities were visiting the visitor facility (88%) and taking ranger-led tours of the Martin Van Buren home (86%). For 67% of visitor groups, the primary reason for visiting the park was to take a ranger-led tour of the Martin Van Buren home;
- Most visitor groups (93%) took a tour of the Martin Van Buren home. Most (95%) found the tour to be about the right length and almost all (99%) found the tour topics of interest; and
- The visitor services and facilities most commonly used by visitor groups were the ranger-led tour of the Martin Van Buren home (90%) and restrooms (70%).

#### Orientation and Information

Interpretive planning determines appropriate interpretive services, facilities, programs and media to communicate in the most effective way the park's purpose, significance, compelling stories, themes and values, while protecting and preserving park resources. Sound interpretive planning defines desirable and diverse experiences, recommends ways to facilitate those experiences and assures they are accessible. The outcome of interpretive planning is effectiveness in communicating the park's story in a larger context, ideas, meanings and the values associated with the resources themselves and achieving the balance between resource protection and visitor use and enjoyment.

The park is currently limited to themes that can be interpreted through the landscape and period rooms. There is no permanent, dedicated space for basic visitor service activities such as exhibits, audiovisual projection and sales, or visitor assembly.

#### Visitor Safety

The Van Buren home, Lindenwald, has been restored and provided with state of the art fire-detection and suppression systems, original and reproduction furniture, finishes and fittings. The main floor is universally accessible. Physical access via stairs to the

other levels inside the historic mansion is difficult for many visitors and impossible for some. Virtual access to the second floor and basement is available to visitors on a laptop computer, and to those who cannot visit on the park website, which features a virtual tour of all interior areas that reflect significant interpretive themes.

#### Visitor Uses

Many visitors value the park for its outdoor recreational opportunities, primarily the existing trail system and expansive grounds for walking and enjoying the wayside exhibits, the historic setting and views of the Catskills. A discussion of existing trails in the park and regional trail connections can be found in the Park Operations and Facilities section.

Permitted, prohibited and special uses are specified in the park's compendium. On average over the past decade the park has issued approximately six special use permits each year for activities ranging from wedding ceremonies to commercial filming and photography to camping by scout groups.

#### Visitor Facilities

The primary public use facility is the visitor contact station which is attached to the administrative office trailer complex. Restrooms account for more than one-third of the available space. The remaining space consists of approximately 400 square feet and contains arrival and assembly space, ticket sales for the mansion tour, orientation, books, brochures and display racks and an area for benches, that accommodates no more than six to eight people facing the orientation film.

#### Circulation

The site has one main access point from Route 9H to the main parking lot. For pedestrian and operational use only, Old Post Road leads to the semi-circular drive that leads to the mansion. Access to the Meyer farm complex and the historic Farm Cottage is by way of a paved road from SR 9H, located south of the South Gatehouse. When the house is closed for the season, a small sign is hung from the primary park entrance sign indicating the reopening date. Prior to special events, banners are hung in this location to announce the date to passing motorists.

There are seven different types of parking needs at Martin Van Buren NHS: year long weekday parking for permanent staff; weekday spring and fall bus and car parking for educational programs and National Park Service Week; daily summer season parking for visitors, volunteers and seasonal rangers; special events parking; after hours community meeting parking; and occasional truck and commercial deliveries. On weekdays, staff parking coincides with school group and summer visitor parking, but during summer weekends the additional load of staff parking would generally be confined to seasonal ranger vehicles.

In the Martin Van Buren NHS paved parking lot, there are 38 parking spaces and two bus parking spaces. The lot was redesigned in 2007 to simplify visitor entrance into the park. A new top coat was put onto the parking area in the spring of 2009; the design of the lot did not change at that time. A 2008 park facility study, *Preliminary Analysis of Existing Facility Needs and Parking Requirements*, calculates parking requirements to be 40 parking spaces to meet the current peak visitor loads that occur in the fall along with the staff parking requirements. Without any nearby public transportation or designated bicycle lanes, all staff drives personal vehicles to the park.

Both Martin Van Buren NHS staff and the 2008 facility analysis report acknowledge that event parking for the park is a substantial problem. Staff report that the 38 spaces have filled quickly during events such as the Harvest Day in September and Winter Celebration in December. During events, park staff directs traffic to overflow locations within the park. None of the overflow parking locations, however, is designed to accommodate cars. During Harvest Day in 2009, the park's busiest day, the park reported accommodating 100 cars on the lawn behind the park headquarters building, 150-200 cars on the lawn behind the mansion and 60 cars along the Old Post Road. Because of the availability of parking, restrooms, information and access at Martin Van Buren NHS, it is likely to become a "trail head" location with the future development of the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Community Trail.

The Martin Van Buren nature area owned and operated by the Friends of Lindenwald, located across SR 9H from Martin Van Buren NHS, includes a parking area can accommodate approximately 50 cars, however, it is hazardous to cross Route 9H by foot, especially because there is a slight rise in the roadway, which reduces drivers' sightlines. Despite there being public parking lots in the vicinity, there are currently no official overflow locations off-site because there is no shuttle to connect other parking facilities to the park.

Within the park boundary there is a primary entry sign, small wayfinding signs to the visitor contact station and signage along the Wayside Loop trail. The wayside exhibits along the Wayside Loop are porcelain and enamel. There are brochures available in the parking lot to guide visitors to the wayfinding exhibits along the trail. The Wayside Loop trail connects to the newly established Kinderhook Dutch Farming Heritage trail through Roxbury Farm to the Van Alen House. The park is working with partners to create trail connections to the planned Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Intermunicipal Trail and to locate new signs that direct pedestrians to the park.

There are several informal pedestrian trails and one loop trail within the Martin Van Buren NHS boundary. There are trails that connect the parking lot to the visitor contact station and to the mansion (the walkways to the mansion are the historic carriage paths). In addition, Old Post Road is a wide gravel road with a right of way that continues north of the site through town of Kinderhook property as part of the Kinderhook Dutch Farming Heritage Trail. The Wayside Loop trail, located on the Upper Terrace, is three quarters of a mile long looped trail that connects ten interpretive markers throughout the park. Trail waysides cover a number of topics relating to the park's interpretive themes including archeological findings, the mansion, farm work and the gatehouses. The Wayside Loop trail surface varies from gravel around the mansion to grass fields and overlook of surrounding farmland.

There is presently no formal trail connection to Kinderhook Creek or the Lower Terrace from the Wayside Loop trail.

Currently Martin Van Buren NHS does not encourage bicycling within the park boundary. The trails onsite are narrow and lack adequate design for bicycle traffic. There is no formal bicycle path adjacent to the park; however, bicycles are allowed on the trails owned and operated by the Friends of Lindenwald, across New York State Route 9H from Martin Van Buren NHS, and on State Routes. There is a bicycle rack adjacent to the parking lot for visitors who arrive to the site on bicycle. SR 9H is designated New York State Bicycle Route 9, a bicycle route between New York City and the Canadian border, one of three long-distance bicycle routes in the state of New

York. This route is intended for experienced bicyclists because of the speed of traffic and shared use of the road along much of the route.

## **Park Operations and Facilities**

Martin Van Buren NHS is comprised of a total of 295 acres - 38.6 acres within its original authorized boundary plus 256 acres that are part of the March 30, 2009 boundary expansion. The initial land acquisitions associated with the boundary expansion include the acceptance of a land donation of 25 acres and pending is an easement donation of 101 acres from OSI. Van Buren associated structures within the new boundary include the Farm Cottage, the Van Ness grave site and historic farm road. The remaining noncontributing buildings within the new boundary are at the Meyer farm complex, presently leased to Roxbury Farm.

### Park Operations and Support Facilities

Support facilities are located both within and outside the historic core of the park. The maintenance garage, museum storage building (pole barn), and several storage sheds are located inside the historic core, immediately adjacent to the Lindenwald mansion. The 20th-century Meyer farm buildings, which provide operational support for Roxbury Farm, are within the historic limits of Van Buren's farm. The administration trailer complex with attached visitor contact station exists outside the historic core on land that was not part of Van Buren's farm. None of these buildings were present during the period of significance and are non-contributing to the property's eligibility to the National Register.

The pole barn was erected for temporary collections storage 30 years ago. The structure is located within 100 feet of Lindenwald.

Maintenance operations currently take place out of a 1950's concrete block garage, less than 65 feet from Lindenwald. Maintenance services are supplemented by five nearby storage sheds and five off-site rental units. The maintenance building is a four-bay concrete block and wood residential garage. There is a shortage of storage space for equipment and supplies which creates crowded and inefficient work areas and the need for off-site rented space. In addition to the maintenance building, there are two maintenance sheds for miscellaneous needs. The park maintains two on-site septic and water systems for the garage and the for the trailers. The water system supplies untreated water that is not suitable for drinking. The park purchases bottled drinking water for staff and visitor consumption.

Trailers have been in use for operations since 1976. The administration building is assembled from two independent prefabricated trailers which are joined at the front by a small enclosed entryway and at the back by an open wood deck. These units, leased in 1999 and subsequently purchased by the park in 2010, house staff offices, a library, a meeting room, staff support space and interpretive and administrative storage. All staff, except field maintenance staff, is accommodated in this building. The visitor contact station is a 625-square foot space that was attached to the northeast corner of the temporary administrative trailers. Off-site venues are required to be rented for public meetings and park activities.

The visitor contact station contains the information and fee collection desk, cooperating association sales area, and an area for a small group to view an orientation video. Its use for school groups is limited, since it would only accommodate up to



12 students. The remaining students in a larger group must be split between tours of the house, the staff lunch room and conference room, and outside grounds, weather permitting.

The Meyer farm complex is comprised of a farmhouse (Farm Cottage), agricultural land, former candle shop, main barn, garage/machine shop, pole barn, and greenhouse. The Farm Cottage, a contributing building, is discussed in the section on Cultural Resources (above). The other farm buildings are noncontributing. These structures are owned and maintained by NPS and leased to Roxbury Farm for the purposes of maintaining agriculture on much of the lands in the park boundary. However, the complex does not reflect the historic character of the park and has no significance of its own. The Lease Agreement for Roxbury Farm's use of the Farm Cottage goes to 2016. The Lease Agreement for Roxbury Farm's use of the Meyer farm complex lasts until 2020, with five one year extensions up until February 2026.

### Staffing

At present, there are a total of ten permanent employees at Martin Van Buren NHS. This includes one administrative staff (office automation assistant), two interpretive park rangers (chief ranger and year-round ranger), two museum collection preservation staff professionals (chief curator and museum specialist), four in maintenance (facilities manager and three maintenance workers) and a site manager. As funding permits, during the visitor season the interpretation division hires four full-time seasonal park ranger interpreters, museum services hires a seasonal museum technician and maintenance hires a seasonal laborer.

### Visitor Safety and Resource Protection

Park rangers conduct regular patrol activities on the site. Patrol activities include motor vehicle operations, protection of cultural/natural resources, protection of archeological resources and visitor safety. Currently, no park rangers on site have law enforcement authority so the main purpose of patrols is to make observations and report illegal activity to the proper authorities. Law enforcement protection is dispatched through Columbia County 911 to the New York State Police and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. Additional assistance is provided by the law enforcement rangers from Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.

The facilities operation maintains historic structures, operational facilities, monuments and markers, support structures, roads, trails, landscaping, tree management and parking areas. Primary maintenance functions include: preventative maintenance on utility systems; equipment and automotive care; mowing and managing vegetation; janitorial services; and the cleaning and routine maintenance of the operational and historic structures. The focus of collections management includes documentation, research, care and treatment of records, archives and management and care of historic artifacts in storage and in Lindenwald. Facility and collections management also provide technical input for the park's development program, compliance and long-range planning.

## **Socioeconomics**

### Local and Regional Tourism

Martin Van Buren NHS is located in the Hudson Valley amid numerous cultural and historic attractions. The park is promoted through its dedicated web site, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area website and the National Parks Conservation Association.

A 2002 Marist College study sponsored by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (Hudson River Valley NHA) reported the following visitation for local historic sites: Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, 85,569 and at the Home of Franklin Roosevelt and FDR Library, the annual visitation is 100,558.

During 2005, visitation at the New York State Museum in Albany was approximately 700,000 and 37,000 at the Troy Children's Museum of Science and Technology. In the nearby Massachusetts Berkshires, at Jacob's Pillow, 83,000 guests paid to see dance performances at this National Historic Landmark and in 2004, 321,000 guests paid to attend concerts at Tanglewood's Summer Music Center.

On the local level, the village of Kinderhook promotes a walking tour through downtown that explores some of the historic structures in the historic district. Many of the houses within Kinderhook are from the 18th or 19th century. Several sites in town are on the National Register of Historic Places or are popular visitor destinations. These sites include:

*Columbia County Museum* is three miles north of the park on Albany Avenue near the intersection with Broad Street. The museum is in a building originally built as a Masonic Temple in 1916. The building includes the Historical Society's offices, storage and exhibits. Exhibits typically include items from the Society's Columbia County collection. The museum is open weekends and Monday, Thursday and Friday. The museum is free to the public.

*Martin Van Buren's statue* is three miles north of the park at the corner of Albany Avenue (County Road 21) and Broad Street. The statue is in the center of the village of Kinderhook because of the efforts in 2007 of the Friends of Lindenwald.

*Martin Van Buren's gravesite* is three and a half miles north of the park on Albany Avenue, near the center of the village of Kinderhook.

Other sites of interest in the vicinity include:

*Luykas Van Alen House* is one and a half miles north of the park on Route 9H. The house is a historic Dutch farmhouse and is operated by the Columbia County Historical Society. The house was built by Luykas Van Alen in 1737 and is an example of colonial Dutch farm life. The house is a National Historic Landmark and open to the public on weekends from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

*The Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse* is on the same property as the Van Alen house. The schoolhouse was moved to the property in 1974 and restored to its 1920 condition. The schoolhouse takes its name from the teacher in Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The teacher in the book is modeled after Jesse Merwin, the district's schoolmaster from the mid-19th century. The hours of the schoolhouse are the same as the Luykas Van Alen house and admission is included in the Van Alen entrance fee.

*Stuyvesant Falls*, two miles southwest of Martin Van Buren NHS, is the location of a hydroelectric plant and scenic waterfalls and is a popular picnicking destination.

There are numerous regional attractions in the Hudson River Valley that are accessible by car from the park, including:

*The Millay Poetry Trail* at Steepletop, 16 miles east of the park, is near the home of famous poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. The home, a National Historic Landmark, is in Austerlitz, New York. The trail is open to the public year round and guided tours occur occasionally during the summer.

*City of Hudson*, 11 miles south of the park, is a popular tourist town with many artist studios, antique stores and restaurants. Hudson has the closest Amtrak station to Martin Van Buren NHS, which includes service south to New York City and north to Albany and Montreal. Within Hudson, the Museum of the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) contains rare firefighting trucks, equipment and gear. The FASNY Museum is open every day except holidays.

*Olana State Historic Site*, 15 miles south of Martin Van Buren NHS, is approximately five miles south of Hudson. Olana is the home of Frederic Edwin Church and the house remains true to its late 19th century design. Church, a well-known figure in the Hudson River School of landscape painting, lived in the house until his death in the beginning of the 20th century. House tours occur Friday and Saturday November to March and Tuesday through Sunday, April to October. The house is open only to guided tours and the grounds are open year round. Annual visitation is approximately 150,000 people.

*The Thomas Cole Historic Site*, an affiliated site of the NPS, 16 miles south of the park, is in the city of Catskill across the Hudson River in Greene County. Visits typically include a tour of the house and Thomas Cole's studio. In addition, there are several recognizable views near the historic site that can be found in the artist's paintings. The house and studio are open by guided tour from Thursday through Sunday, May through October. Group tours are offered by appointment in the winter.

*Clermont State Historic Site*, 26 miles south of the park, is the home of seven generations of the Livingston family. Robert Livingston Jr. helped draft the Declaration of Independence. The site became a National Historic Landmark in 1973. The house and visitor facility are open Tuesday through Sunday, April through October. The grounds are open year round.

*Rip Van Winkle Bridge*, 15 miles south of the park, is named after Washington Irving's short story. The bridge connects Hudson and Catskill across Hudson River and includes a pedestrian walkway.

*Taconic State Park*, 20 miles south of Martin Van Buren NHS, is a popular beach, recreation and camping location. The park is open year round with camping, swimming and facilities open during the summer.

*The Martin Van Buren Nature Trails*, across SR 9H from Martin Van Buren NHS, is owned by the Friends of Lindenwald. The Friends group, a volunteer based non-profit organization, is responsible for the maintenance of the site's 1.5 miles of trails. The trail network is comprised of several small loops and is used by hikers and bicyclists in the summer and cross country skiers and snowshoers in the winter. The trailhead is a parking lot with picnic tables.

#### Regional Trail System

The Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport (KSS) Trail Committee is in the process of developing the *Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport InterMunicipal Trail Feasibility*

*Study* to identify a trail route linking the towns of Kinderhook, Stuyvesant Falls and Stockport. The proposed trail, approximately 5.6 miles long, potentially along a former electric trolley line, Kinderhook Creek, segments of Old Post Road and the transmission right of way. Martin Van Buren NHS prefers an alignment that links to the Old Post Road on the northern end, from which a spur trail joins with the park's trail and a link in the southern end at a location to be determined.

### Demographics

Martin Van Buren NHS is located in the town of Kinderhook, Columbia County. Columbia County is located in the Hudson River Valley, a corridor being promoted for heritage and agricultural tourism. The park is anchored between the concentration of populations in the Capital District to the north and the New York Metropolitan area to the south. There is a relationship between rising population in the Hudson River Valley and visitorship at the park. Based on the park's geographical location and general demographics of the Valley, the potential for future visitorship is very good.

The Town of Kinderhook is one of Columbia County's most populous towns. Table 10 provides census numbers, historic changes and national, state, regional comparisons. According to the US Census, the Town's 2010 population was 8,498. The population of the villages of Kinderhook and Valatie (representing over 38 percent of the total populace) are included in the town's total population. Over the last thirty years, Valatie gained 327 residents while the village of Kinderhook lost 166 residents. The town outside the villages experienced a gain of 862 residents over this same period.

**Table 10: Population Changes 1980 - 2010**

Area	1980 Census	2010 Census	Change by Number	Change by Percent
United States	226,546,000	308,745,538	82,199,538	36.3%
New York State	17,558,165	19,378,102	1,819,937	10.4%
Columbia County	59,487	63,096	3,609	06.1%
Town of Kinderhook – Including Villages	7,636	8,498	862	11.3%
Town of Kinderhook – Portion Outside Villages	4,767	5,468	701	14.7%
Village of Kinderhook	1,377	1,211	-166	-12.0%
Village of Valatie	1,492	1,819	327	21.9%

The population in the town is distributed with roughly 24 % under the age of 19, 4% from 20 to 24, 22% from 25 to 44, 32% from 45 to 64 and 18% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age followed a national trend upward, rising from 41 years in 2000 to 45 years in 2010. The US median (38) and state median (36.8) is considerably lower than the town of Kinderhook. The Census reports that 96.8 percent of Kinderhook residents are white compared to 90.6 percent in Columbia County, 65.7 percent in New York State and 72.4 percent in the US.

Kinderhook is primarily comprised of single-family year round owners. The homeownership rate in Columbia County is 73 percent compared to the statewide rate of 55.6 percent and the nationwide rate of 66.9 percent. The sales value of an existing single family home in Columbia County fell 21.3 percent over the last two year period.

The New York State Association of Realtors reported that the June 2011 median was \$176,700 compared to the New York State median of \$221,595. The average number of persons per household is 2.27 in Columbia County, 2.64 in New York State and 2.6 in the US.

The 2010 median household income was \$49,795 in the County, \$54,554 in the State and \$50,221 in the US. Approximately 10.3 percent of Columbia County residents are living below the poverty level, compared to 14.2 percent in New York State and 14.3 percent in the US. The September 2013 seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for New York State was 7.6 percent, ranking 36 for the US which had an overall value of 7.2 percent.

#### Land Use

The lands surrounding Lindenwald are comprised of a mix of agricultural, residential, commercial and recreational uses (Figure 10). Lands to the southwest of the park on properties that were part of the historic farm are now within the park and in agricultural use. The larger parcel that was part of the historic farm (126 acres) is divided into two areas; the 25-acre Upper Terrace which OSI donated to the NPS in 2011 and the 101-acre Lower Terrace owned by Roxbury Farm with an easement owned by OSI which it intends to donate to the NPS.

Properties to the south of New York State Route 9H that were also part of the historic farm outside the park boundary are in residential use. Bordering the historic farm to the southwest is a 182.3-acre parcel that is commercially farmed and under agricultural easement. Across NYR 9H from the site and within the park's boundary are two parcels totaling 66 acres which preserve the historic setting. Surrounding land uses include an auto repair shop, a large private horse farm, corn field and the Martin Van Buren nature trails (owned and operated by the Friends of Lindenwald).

Lands to the north include four private residences along Old Post Road. Beyond these residences are two parcels owned by the Equity Trust under a long-term lease to Roxbury Farm CSA. The Van Alen House, a National Historic Landmark operated by the Columbia County Historical Society, is located approximately two miles north of the park. A county transfer station and Department of Public Works facility is located to the north of the Martin Van Buren nature area trails.

The Town of Kinderhook includes thirty square miles and the villages of Kinderhook and Valatie. The Town of Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan recommends the preservation of agricultural land, open space and architectural heritage. These landscape features are important to Kinderhook residents in order to maintain agricultural land and a small town atmosphere. The plan recommends housing and commercial development that retains open space where possible. The loss of agriculture land and businesses influence the land use and the economy. The plan encourages the continuation of the agricultural economy and the preservation of agricultural landscapes. The plan recommends the use of zoning, conservation easements, farmland protection and the provision of incentives for farmers to preserve the existing farm land.

According to the plan, parking is to be located behind existing structures or set back from the road with a planted buffer. Signage should be clear and consistent with other signs in the area and controlled so as to not confuse drivers. Pedestrian access is to be available and safe and may require new traffic slowing techniques. Since 2000, the Town of Kinderhook has been building a relationship with the park to foster



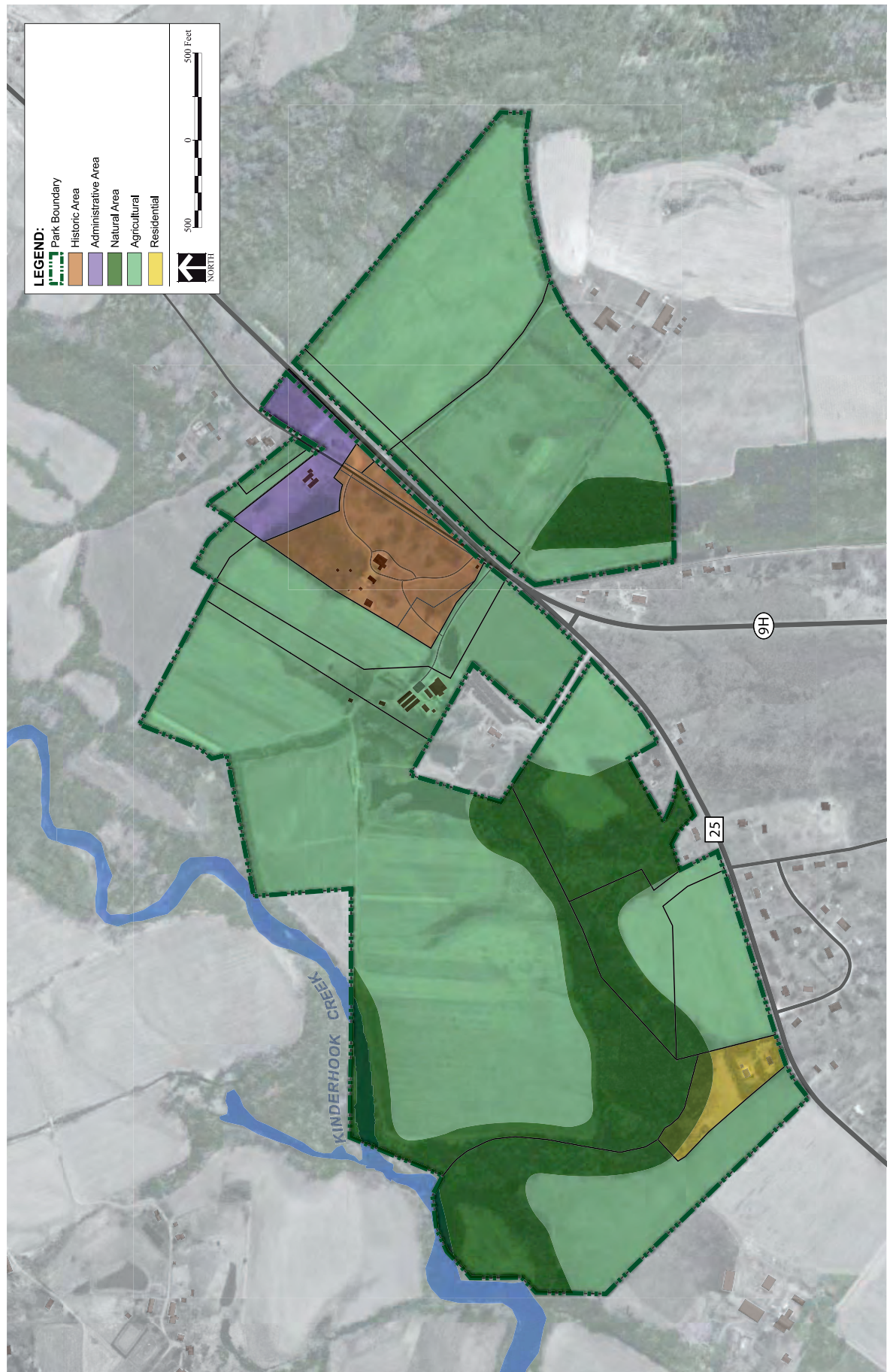


Figure 10: Current Land Use Map

recreation and tourism. While the population increase over the last couple of decades for the Town of Kinderhook has been small, the subsequent change in employment affects land use for the region. While the most common occupations in the 1970s included craftsmen, foremen, operators and sales, the most common occupations in 1990 included administrative support, professional and executive positions. Due to this change, there has been a loss of agricultural and craft related employment opportunities and associated land uses.

The 2007 Kinderhook Village Comprehensive Plan Update recognizes the town's planning accomplishments since the 2000 Town of Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan publication. The update recognizes public concern over the shortage of commercial density, need for economic development and desire for greater preservation efforts. The update also states the public concern about street lighting and speed limit enforcement. One important transportation item mentioned in the update is that the Village began to investigate with New York State Department of Transportation to convert New York Route 9H into a truck route. This change would increase traffic levels and noise and present safety concerns for park. The plan also encourages the visual enhancement of Route 9, which runs through the village of Kinderhook. The existing and proposed land uses of Martin Van Buren NHS are in conformance with local land use plans.

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area. While Columbia County is not within CDTC's boundary, the planning decisions for this MPO influence Columbia County. The CDTC's vision for 2030 includes a focus on urban investment, smart urban growth and economic development. Within the CDTC there is funding available for transportation and land use plans that support transit and pedestrian access.





# 4

## Environmental Consequences

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# Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences

## General Methodology for Analyzing Impacts

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts are described (40 CFR 1502.16) and the significance of the impacts is assessed (40 CFR 1508.27). Where appropriate, mitigating measures for adverse impacts are also described and incorporated into the evaluation of impacts. The specific methods used to assess impacts for each resource may vary; therefore, these methodologies are described under each impact topic.

### Geographic Area Evaluated for Impacts

The primary study area for the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (GMP/EA) is the legislated park boundary, which is located in Kinderhook, New York.

### Type of Impact

The types of impacts discussed in this GMP/EA include the following:

- Direct:** Impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed action at the same time and place of implementation.
- Indirect:** Impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed action but later in time or farther in distance from the action.
- Adverse:** An impact that causes an unfavorable result to the resource when compared to the existing conditions.
- Beneficial:** An impact that would result in a positive change to the resource when compared to the existing conditions.

### Cumulative Impact Analysis Methodology

In addition to direct and indirect impacts from the alternatives, the GMP/EA evaluates cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). A cumulative impacts analysis is intended to give a better picture of the additive or total impacts a given resource may experience when the impacts of the alternatives are considered in combination with the impacts of unrelated actions or events on that



same resource. Listed below are other actions and events that were identified by the planning team as contributing to cumulative impacts in combination with the impacts of the alternatives evaluated in this GMP/EA.

### **Larger Actions Contributing to Cumulative Impacts**

#### **Hudson River Valley Development**

The population of Columbia County continues to rise and development pressure is increasing in the Kinderhook area. These development pressures have the potential to impact cultural landscapes, surface water and wetlands.

#### **Open Space Institute Lands Protection**

The Open Space Institute has protected an approximately 800 acres of land adjacent to or near Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. These land protection measures contribute to cumulative impacts on cultural landscapes, visitor use and experience.

#### **Widening of State Route 9H**

There is a possibility that the New York Department of Transportation may widen Route 9H to accommodate trucks and increased traffic loads. This could impact cultural landscapes, archeology, surface water and wetlands, and visitor use and experience.

#### **Development of Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Trail System**

The Kinderhook- Stockport–Stuyvesant Intermunicipal Trail committee is in the process of planning a trail connection from the existing regional trail network to the park. This trail system could result in cumulative impacts to cultural landscapes; soils; threatened and endangered species; visitor use and experience.

### **Assessing Impacts Using CEQ Criteria**

The impacts of the alternatives are assessed using the CEQ definition of “significantly” (1508.27), which requires consideration of both context and intensity:

**Context:** This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.

**Intensity:** This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following should be considered in evaluating intensity:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the federal agency believes that on balance the effect would be beneficial.
2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.
3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.
5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.
7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.
8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Context depends on comparative or surrounding information to help give impacts meaning. The National Park Service (NPS) is an agency with a “conservation” mandate and identifies fundamental resources and values in its general management plans, defined as those resources or values that are critical to achieving a park’s purpose or maintaining its significance. These resources and values collectively capture the essence of the park and provide overall context for evaluating the relative severity of an impact; e.g., the degree to which an alternative would help or hurt these resources would be important in assessing whether impacts of that alternative are significant. Fundamental resources identified for Martin Van Buren NHS are described in Chapter 1 of this GMP/EA. Other examples of context that may be used in assessing the significance of impacts include geography, population size, uniqueness of the resource, agency mandates or other resource-specific laws and policies, etc.

For each impact topic analyzed, an assessment of the potential significance of the impacts according to context and intensity is provided in the “Conclusion” section that follows the discussion of the impacts under each alternative. In addition to the overall context of the park’s purpose and significance, resource-specific context is presented in the “Methods” section under each resource topic and applies across all alternatives. Intensity of the impacts is discussed by considering the relevant factors listed above. Intensity factors that do not apply to a given resource topic and/or alternative are not discussed.

## **Cultural Resources**

In this impact analysis, cultural resources include historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological resources, and museum collections and archives.

## **Historic Structures**

### **Methodology**

Potential impacts to historic structures are evaluated based on changes to character-defining features of the resources. This approach is derived from both the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings as well as NPS policy and guidelines for cultural resource management and preservation. The resource-specific context for the evaluation of impacts on historic structures includes:

- Preservation and protection of historic structures associated with Martin Van Buren are key to the park's mission and enabling legislation; and
- The national historic site is listed in the National Register for both its association with Martin Van Buren and for its architecture.

## **Alternative A: No-Action**

### **Impacts**

Under Alternative A, the park would continue to work towards full restoration of Lindenwald and advance plans to pursue funding to structurally reinforce the center hall and undertake restoration work on the Victorian porch. The South Gatehouse exterior would continue to be preserved and maintained until funding becomes available to stabilize and restore the structure to its historic appearance. These activities would have beneficial impacts to those historic structures by correcting their structural deficiencies, improving their condition, removing non-historic features from the structures, and maximizing the preservation of their character-defining features. The North Gatehouse foundation ruins would continue to be preserved and maintained as a ruin and a contributing resource to the historic district. The Farm Cottage would be stabilized and a maintenance plan developed which would prevent further deterioration of the structure and provide preventative maintenance to avoid any potential loss or degradation of historic fabric in the future. Yet, there would still be non-historic material in this building. The Historic Structures Report will indicate a long-term plan for use and treatment for the Farm Cottage to ensure protection of its character-defining features. All work would conform to the *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to minimize the likelihood of any adverse impacts as a result of construction activities.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

No unrelated actions or events were identified that would have impacts on historic structures; therefore, Alternative A would not contribute to cumulative impacts on historic structures.

### **Conclusion**

Actions proposed under Alternative A would result in beneficial impacts to historic structures through continuing maintenance, stabilization, and preservation efforts. Restoration efforts for Lindenwald and the South Gatehouse would result in beneficial impacts to those structures as non-historic fabric is removed and the character-defining features are preserved and/or replaced. The continued presence of non-historic materials in the Farm Cottage would be an adverse impact. The inclusion of a maintenance plan and Historic Structures Report for the Farm Cottage would provide the park with the necessary tools to prioritize efforts to ensure that its character-defining features are maintained in good condition. All of these actions would prevent further deterioration of the historic structures while maintaining them at a level acceptable for their inclusion in the National Register. Alternative A would not contribute to cumulative impacts. Overall, impacts resulting from actions proposed under Alternative A would not be significant because the park's historic structures would continue to be managed

at a level suitable for meeting the park's mission and for inclusion in the National Register.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### **Impacts**

Under Alternative B, beneficial impacts similar to those presented under Alternative A would be expected for Lindenwald, the Farm Cottage, the South Gatehouse, and the North Gatehouse. The South Gatehouse exterior would be restored. In addition, the exterior of the Farm Cottage would be restored to reflect its historic appearance and the interiors of the Farm Cottage would be rehabilitated for park use. Restoration of the Farm Cottage would allow for the removal of non-historic material and/or additions along with the replacement of missing historic features. All work would conform to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to minimize the likelihood of any adverse impacts as a result of construction activities. These proposed actions would result in beneficial impacts to the Farm Cottage by restoring the exterior character-defining features of the building that convey its architectural significance and aid in its ability to contribute to the historic district. Interior rehabilitation of the Farm Cottage and South Gatehouse would be guided by their respective Historic Structure Reports. Additional beneficial impacts would result from the removal of non-historic modifications to the structures.

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

No unrelated actions or events were identified that would have impacts on historic structures; therefore, Alternative B would not contribute to cumulative impacts on historic structures.

##### **Conclusion**

Actions proposed under Alternative B would result in beneficial impacts to historic structures similar to those listed under Alternative A. However, Alternative B would offer additional beneficial impacts from restoration of the exterior of the Farm Cottage and rehabilitation of the interior of the Farm Cottage. Restoration of the park's historic structures would allow for the removal of non-historic fabric which detracts from the overall character and setting of the structures while allowing for the replacement of missing historic features. Alternative B would not contribute to cumulative impacts on historic structures. While Alternative B would improve the condition and appearance of the park's historic structures over the no action alternative, these benefits would still not be considered significant because the overall condition of historic structures would not be substantially different from what would be achieved under no action, which is the basic level necessary for meeting the park's mission and for inclusion in the National Register.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

##### **Impacts**

Alternative C would result in the same beneficial impacts as listed under Alternative B.

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

No unrelated actions or events were identified that would have impacts on historic structures; therefore, Alternative B would not contribute to cumulative impacts on historic structures.

##### **Conclusion**

Alternative C would result in beneficial and adverse impacts as listed under Alterna-

tive B. No cumulative impacts to historic structures would result from other past, present, or future projects.

## **Cultural Landscapes**

### **Methodology**

According to the NPS Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management (Director's Order 28) (NPS 2002), a cultural landscape is:

*...a reflection of human adaptation and use of natural resources and is often expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built. The character of a cultural landscape is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, buildings, walls, and vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions.*

Potential impacts on cultural landscapes, vegetation, viewsheds, and use are evaluated in terms of past, present and future change resulting from implementation of the alternatives. The cultural landscapes evaluation addresses anticipated changes to land use, vegetation patterns, circulation systems, locations of structures, and views.

The resource-specific context for assessing impacts to cultural landscapes and topographic and landform features includes:

- the ability of the landscape to fully represent and convey its appearance during the period of significance as Martin Van Buren's farm and home; and
- protection and preservation of the contributing features of the cultural landscape are key to the park's mission and enabling legislation.

## **Alternative A: No-Action**

### **Impacts**

In the No-Action Alternative, cultural landscapes would be managed as at present. Active agricultural production would continue on easement land, sections of new NPS owned land, and inholdings within the park boundary, reflecting the historic use of those areas of the park to the greatest extent possible. Funding would be pursued to restore or rehabilitate the cultural landscape surrounding Lindenwald to the greatest extent possible. These actions would result in beneficial impacts on cultural landscapes as some of the non-historic elements are removed and missing elements of the Lindenwald cultural landscape are replaced. Restoration of historic structures within and surrounding the cultural landscape would also result in beneficial impacts as the structures would represent their historic appearance, contributing to the overall rehabilitation of the landscape. Twentieth-century buildings, sheds and trailers surrounding the Lindenwald landscape would be retained which would continue to alter historic views and detract from the historic setting, resulting in an adverse impact.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Several present and reasonably foreseeable future actions may contribute to cumulative impact on the cultural landscapes at Martin Van Buren NHS in combination with the impacts of Alternative A. These actions may include incremental actions that could result in the widening of New York State Route 9H and the beneficial impacts of agricultural and open space lands protection. The Open Space Institute has protected an additional 800 acres of land adjacent to or near Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, resulting in beneficial impacts to cultural landscapes by protecting historic views. In contrast, if development pressures in the region increase, additional development could occur in the area, resulting in adverse impacts to cultural landscapes. In addition,



increased development could result in the widening of Route 9H adjacent to the park boundary along the Old Post Road. Widening the highway in immediate proximity to the park's cultural landscape could pose a noticeable adverse impact by increasing traffic noise. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative A are combined with other projects in the study area, beneficial cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative A would contribute beneficial increments to the overall cumulative impact.

### **Conclusion**

Alternative A would result in adverse and beneficial impacts to cultural landscapes. Adverse impacts would result primarily from the presence of NPS temporary structures, associated vegetative screening, and temporary roads and paths within the cultural landscapes, detracting from its historic character and degrading historic views. Restoration of portions of the Lindenwald cultural landscape would result in beneficial impacts as some missing elements of that landscape are replaced. The continued agricultural use of the landscapes surrounding Lindenwald would also contribute beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape as these uses reflect the historic use and character of the property. The NPS administration of the easement on 101 acres farmed by Roxbury Farm would help preserve the cultural landscape. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative A are combined with other projects in the study area, both beneficial and adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Overall, impacts associated with Alternative A would not be significant because much of the historic appearance of the cultural landscapes, including its extant character-defining features, would be realized and preserved in its current condition.

### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

#### **Impacts**

Under Alternative B, as with Alternative A, active agricultural use would continue on easement land, private inholdings and sections of new NPS owned land, resulting in beneficial impacts similar to those listed under Alternative A above. Restoration or rehabilitation of the Lindenwald cultural landscape and historic structures would occur in Alternative B, resulting in beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

The existing substandard 20th-century facilities currently adapted for operational purposes, including trailers, a 1950's concrete-block garage, pole barn and storage sheds, would be removed. These actions would result in a beneficial impact to cultural landscapes as the historic setting and views are restored, allowing visitors the opportunity to experience elements of the 19th-century historic cultural landscape. The park's maintenance vehicles, which currently have to use the historic carriage paths, would be diverted to a safer and less intrusive location. Restoring portions of a 19th-century landscape in a 21st-century climate may require the use of alternative species and management techniques to retain the historical appearance. These actions would have a beneficial impact on cultural resources.

A new visitor contact station and administrative office complex would be constructed. Existing visitor parking may be relocated. The new building and any new parking would be screened from Lindenwald so that there would be no adverse impacts on the cultural landscape.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact to cultural landscapes at Martin Van Buren NHS are described above under

Cumulative Impact for Alternative A. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative B are combined with other projects in the study area, a fairly large beneficial increment and a smaller adverse cumulative increment would be expected. Alternative B would contribute a beneficial increment to the overall cumulative impact.

#### Conclusion

Actions proposed under Alternative B would result in primarily beneficial impacts to cultural landscapes. Removal of non-historic structures and vegetation from the cultural landscape would restore the historic setting and character of Van Buren's residence. Restoration of portions of the Lindenwald cultural landscape would also result in beneficial impacts as some missing elements of that landscape are replaced. The continued agricultural use of the landscapes surrounding Lindenwald would also contribute beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape as these uses reflect the historic use and character of the property. The NPS administration of the easement on 101 acres farmed by Roxbury Farm would help preserve the cultural landscape. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative B are combined with other projects in the study area, both beneficial and adverse cumulative impacts would be expected but the overall beneficial cumulative impacts outweigh the adverse impacts. Overall, the beneficial impacts associated with Alternative B would be considered significant as non-contributing intrusions would be removed and the cultural landscape would more accurately convey its historic appearance.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

##### Impacts

Impacts to the cultural landscape under Alternative C would be the same as under Alternative B for the following proposed actions: continued agricultural use on easement land, private inholdings, and sections of new NPS owned land; restoration and rehabilitation of the Lindenwald landscape; removal of NPS operational structures immediately surrounding Lindenwald and non-historic vegetation; development of a new trail system; and construction of a new contact station and administrative facility. The visitor parking lot could also be relocated and screened under Alternative C, resulting in a beneficial impact by eliminating its visual intrusion from the landscape.

##### Cumulative Impacts

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact to cultural landscapes at Martin Van Buren NHS are described above under Cumulative Impacts for Alternative A. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative C are combined with other projects in the study area, a fairly large beneficial increment and a smaller adverse cumulative increment would be expected. Alternative C would contribute both beneficial and adverse increments to the overall cumulative impact.

#### Conclusion

Overall, actions proposed under Alternative C would result in beneficial impacts to cultural landscapes. Removal of non-historic structures and vegetation from the cultural landscape would restore the historic setting and character of Van Buren's residence. Restoration of the Lindenwald cultural landscape would also result in beneficial impacts. The continued agricultural use of the landscapes surrounding Lindenwald would also contribute beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape as these uses reflect the historic use and character of the property. The NPS administration of the easement on 101 acres farmed by Roxbury Farm would help preserve the cultural landscape. When the impacts on cultural landscapes as a result of Alternative C are combined with

other projects in the study area, both beneficial and adverse cumulative impacts would be expected; however, Alternative B contributes a mainly beneficial increment to cumulative impacts. Overall, impacts associated with Alternative C would be significant because the historic appearance of the cultural landscapes would be improved and preserved to convey its historic appearance.

## **Archeological Resources**

### **Methodology**

Archeological resources are the remains of past human activity and the records documenting the analysis of such remains (NPS DO28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline). Potential impacts on archeological resources are assessed based on the amount of disturbance to an archeological resource and the degree to which the integrity remains or is otherwise lost without recordation of the remains. Resource-specific context for the evaluation of impacts on archeological resources include: archeological resources have been found within the park which contribute to the National Register significance of the property, dating to both the Van Buren era and pre-contact occupation of the property.

### **Alternative A: No-Action**

#### **Impacts**

Under Alternative A, the park would continue to carry out the recommendations of the 2004 Archeological Overview and Assessment Report which would include additional research and inventories of the artifacts as well as additional field surveys to determine the location and condition of historic farm roads and foundations. These actions would result in beneficial impacts to archeological resources by identifying and documenting sensitive sites. Beneficial impacts would also be expected from existing easements the park holds over portions of the Roxbury Farm, enabling the NPS to survey sites for archeological resources prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

Ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of Alternative A, including restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures and cultural landscapes, could have the potential to result in adverse impacts on archeological resources. Existing archeological surveys would serve as guiding documents indicating known and potential archeologically sensitive areas. New research or surveys may be needed to evaluate the known and potential archeological resources in areas where no previous studies have occurred. Known archeological sites would be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction as needed. During construction, archeological monitoring would ensure that proper procedures are followed for minimal disturbance, such as appropriate construction staging areas. If any unknown significant resources are uncovered during ground-disturbing activity, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties would be followed to treat these resources.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Any actions accruing to the widening of Route 9H would take place beyond the park boundary in an area that may or may not yield artifacts. Widening of the road could alter or increase the existing stormwater runoff patterns which currently flow from east to west within the park boundary. Any failure to protect against stormwater runoff could exacerbate flooding within the park and on Roxbury Farm, causing adverse impacts to archeological resources. Development pressure in the surrounding area plus the widening of Route 9H would have cumulative adverse impacts on archeology, but these would likely be outweighed by the beneficial cumulative impacts of measures to

survey and protect archeological resources. There would be no cumulative impacts to archeological resources associated with other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects.

### Conclusion

Under Alternative A, some adverse and beneficial impacts on archeological resources would be expected. Beneficial impacts would result from additional archeological surveying to identify, and therefore avoid, sensitive archeological areas. Adverse impacts could be expected from some ground-disturbing activities, but mitigation measures would be employed to avoid or lessen the adverse impacts. Neither the adverse nor beneficial impacts of Alternative A on archeological resources would be considered significant because all of these impacts are small in scale, are associated with standard practices that adhere to NPS resource management policies and guidelines for protecting archeological resources, and are in keeping with park's purpose and mission.

### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

#### Impacts

Under Alternative B, the park would carry out the recommendations of the 2004 Archeological Overview and Assessment Report, as stated above under the No-Action Alternative, resulting in similar beneficial impacts. Restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures and the cultural landscape, as listed under Alternative A above, would also be completed under Alternative B. Mitigation measure employed during those construction activities would minimize adverse impacts to archeological resources.

In addition to the ground-disturbing activities listed above, Alternative B proposes the construction of a new multi-use/visitor building and removal of some 20th-century structures from the cultural landscape. Each of these actions would result in a certain amount of ground disturbance and potential to adversely impact archeological resources. While the exact location for construction has not yet been determined, archeological surveys would serve as guiding documents to avoid sensitive archeological areas. It is possible that buried archeological resources could be encountered during any of these ground-disturbing activities, but the implementation of mitigation measures, such as pre-construction surveys, would limit the potential for adverse impacts.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact to archeological resources at Martin Van Buren NHS are related to the potential widening of Route 9H, as described above under Cumulative Impact for Alternative A. The highway widening actions on drainage of the Martin Van Buren NHS, along with the impacts of Alternative B, may result in a noticeable, adverse cumulative impact.

### Conclusion

Under Alternative B, there would be adverse impacts to archeological resources from construction activities; however, beneficial impacts would also result from additional archeological surveying to identify sensitive archeological sites. This information would be used during restoration and rehabilitation efforts proposed under this alternative to mitigate any adverse impacts to archeological resources as a result of construction. Mitigation actions related to adverse impacts would ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as well as help to fulfill the park's purpose of the preservation and interpretation of those cultural

resources. Neither the adverse nor beneficial impacts of Alternative B on archeological resources would be considered significant because all of these impacts are small in scale, are associated with standard practices that adhere to NPS resource management policies and guidelines for protecting archeological resources, and are in keeping with park's purpose and mission.

### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

#### **Impacts**

The impacts of Alternative C would be the same as those listed under Alternative B above. New and existing archeological surveys would be used to identify sensitive areas surrounding the North Gatehouse and pond area, minimizing the likelihood of adverse impacts. Known archeological sites would be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction as needed. During construction activity, archeological monitoring would ensure that proper procedures are followed for minimal disturbance, such as appropriate construction staging areas. If any unknown significant resources are uncovered during ground-disturbing activity, procedures to implement the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties would be followed.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact to archeological resources at Martin Van Buren NHS are related to the potential widening of Route 9H, as described above under Cumulative Impact for Alternative A. The highway widening actions on drainage of the Martin Van Buren NHS, along with the impacts of Alternative C, may result in a noticeable, adverse cumulative impact.

#### **Conclusion**

Overall, Alternative C would result in beneficial and adverse impacts to archeological resources. Beneficial impacts would result from additional archeological surveying to identify sensitive archeological sites. This information would be used during restoration and rehabilitation efforts proposed under this alternative to mitigate any adverse impacts to archeological resources as a result of construction. Mitigation actions related to adverse impacts would ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as well as help to fulfill the park's purpose of the preservation and interpretation of those cultural resources. Neither the adverse nor beneficial impacts of Alternative C on archeological resources would be considered significant because all of these impacts are small in scale, are associated with standard practices that adhere to NPS resource management policies and guidelines for protecting archeological resources, and are in keeping with park's purpose and mission.

### **Museum Collections**

#### **Methodology**

Museum collections (historic artifacts, natural specimens, and archival and manuscript material) may be threatened by fire, theft, vandalism, natural disasters, light exposure and humidity. The preservation of museum collections is an ongoing process of preventative conservation, supplemented by conservation treatment when necessary. The primary goal is preservation of artifacts in as stable a condition as possible to prevent damage and minimize deterioration. The park's archives and collection are characterized in a 2010 Scope of Collections Statement. The findings of these documents form the basis for the analysis of impacts in this section.



Resource-specific context for the evaluation of impacts on museum collections include:

- The ability of the park to provide adequate and appropriate collection storage areas in accordance with regulatory and policy guidance as recommended in the 1996 Collections Management Plan;
- Preservation and protection of museum collections associated with Martin Van Buren are key to the park's mission and enabling legislation; and
- The museum collection is listed as contributing on the National Register of Historic Places documentation for the park.

#### **Alternative A: No-Action**

##### **Impacts**

Under the No-Action alternative, some of the museum collections would continue to be displayed, maintained, and preserved within the Lindenwald period rooms. Continual display of objects within the Lindenwald rooms could have an adverse impact on museum collections by increasing their general exposure to environmental stresses, increased handling, and theft. Since the pole barn provides substandard museum storage, that function is being moved to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, where state-of-the art storage is being provided.

Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to store the archeology collection in the shared regional facility at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, New York. These actions would have a beneficial impact because the Fort Stanwix National Monument storage facility meets NPS standards.

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

No other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects were identified that have impacts on museum collections; therefore, there are no cumulative impacts.

##### **Conclusion**

Under Alternative A, the adverse impacts of continually exhibiting objects as part of the Lindenwald exhibits could contribute to the overall adverse impacts, but these would be offset by the park's ability to interpret Lindenwald. The ongoing deficiencies related to the existing condition of the pole barn are being remedied by transferring the collections to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, where state-of-the-art storage is being provided.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### **Impacts**

The park's museum collection and archives would be preserved and maintained in a secure, climate-controlled museum storage facility at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS. Relocating the park's collections objects into an adequate storage facility which meets NPS museum collections storage standards would have a beneficial impact by providing appropriate security and climate-controlled measures, aiding in the protection and preservation of those resources. As in Alternative A, Martin Van Buren NHS would continue to store archeology collections in the shared regional facility at Fort Stanwix National Monument which would result in impacts similar to those described above.

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

As described under Alternative A, there are no cumulative impacts on museum collections.

### Conclusion

The relocation of museum objects from the pole barn to space which meets the NPS collections storage standards would result in beneficial impacts on museum collections. The creation of adequate storage space would improve the park's ability to properly maintain, protect, and preserve the existing collection as well as accepting additional items. At the same time, the new space would allow the park to meet the recommendation of the 1996 Collections Management Plan. No cumulative impacts to museum collections would result from other past, present, or future projects. Impacts under Alternative B would be significant because the new storage facility would enable the collections to be maintained and preserved at a level that would meet NPS museum collections storage standards.

### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

#### Impacts

The impacts of Alternative C would be the same as those listed under Alternative B above.

#### Cumulative Impacts

As described for Alternatives A and B, there are no cumulative impacts.

### Conclusion

As with Alternative B, the relocation of museum objects from the pole barn to space which meets the NPS collections storage standards would result in beneficial impacts on museum collections. The creation of adequate storage and work space would improve the park's ability to properly maintain, protect, and preserve the existing collection. At the same time, the new space would allow the park to meet the recommendation of the 1996 Collections Management Plan. No cumulative impacts to museum collections would result from other past, present, or future projects. Impacts under Alternative C would be significant because the collections would be maintained at a level that would meet NPS museum collections storage standards.

## **Natural Resources**

### **Surface Water and Wetlands**

#### Methodology

The NPS Management Policies 2006 state that the NPS will "take all necessary actions to maintain or restore the quality of surface waters and groundwaters within the parks consistent with the Clean Water Act and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations."

Wetlands are "lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface" (USFWS 1979). The impact analysis and conclusions for possible impacts to wetlands were based on the on-site inspection of known and potential wetlands within the park, review of existing literature and studies, information provided by experts in the NPS and other agencies, Martin Van Buren NHS staff insights, and professional judgment. Map locations of wetlands were compared with locations of proposed developments and modifications of existing facilities.

Resource-specific context for mitigating impacts to surface waters and groundwaters includes the following:

NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 4.6.3 Water Quality, which enjoins NPS to

- Work with appropriate governmental bodies to obtain the highest possible standards available under the Clean Water Act for the protection for park waters;
- Take all necessary actions to maintain or restore the quality of surface waters and groundwaters within the parks consistent with the Clean Water Act and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and
- Enter into agreements with other agencies and governing bodies, as appropriate, to secure their cooperation in maintaining or restoring the quality of park water resources.

Resource-specific context for assessing impacts to wetlands includes the following:

Executive Order (E.O.) 11990 directs federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long- and adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative. E.O. 11990 is implemented by the NPS through Director's Order #77-1 (2002) and accompanying Procedural Manual (2012).

- NPS Director's Order 77-1 adopts a goal of "no net loss of wetlands;" in addition, the NPS will strive to achieve a longer-term goal of net gain of wetlands; and
- Wetlands have unique functions and values (groundwater recharge, stormwater storage and discharge, unique habitats, etc.) that are intrinsic to wetlands and cannot be easily duplicated or replaced.

The quality of the particular wetland being impacted related to the functions and values performed by that wetland.

#### **Alternative A: No-Action**

##### **Impacts**

The main source of surface water and wetland degradation in the park is from nonpoint sources such as runoff from agricultural lands within the park boundary. Under Alternative A, park managers would continue to manage agricultural uses under the same policies, which would continue to have adverse impact on surface water and wetlands due to runoff. The current owner and leasee of the Van Buren farmland, Roxbury Farm, would minimize deleterious runoff through organic and biodynamic practices such as planting cover crops, crop rotation, soil conservation measures, and the application of biodynamic preparations, composts, and manures rather than pesticides and herbicides. The park and Roxbury Farm would maintain vegetated buffer strips adjacent to the Kinderhook Creek and Southern Swamp to mitigate the potential adverse impacts from agricultural runoff.

Other actions proposed under Alternative A which could result in impacts to surface water and wetlands include the restoration or rehabilitation of the cultural landscape. Ground-disturbing activities associated with these efforts, including vegetation removal and reestablishment of gardens, have the potential to increase sediment loads in surface waters and discharge sediment into the wetlands surrounding the Lindenwald landscape, resulting in adverse impacts during construction. The impacts would be mitigated by implementing standard construction best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation from construction sites, but it is likely that some sediment will escape into waters and wetlands.

### Cumulative Impacts

Other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects which could impact surface water and wetlands include additional development in the Kinderhook Creek area and the widening of Route 9H, which could result in adverse impacts as impervious surface area increases, creating additional runoff. When the impact of future projects is combined with the impact on surface water and wetlands as a result of Alternative A, adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative A would contribute a small adverse increment to the overall cumulative impacts.

### Conclusion

Alternative A could result in some adverse impacts on surface water and wetlands due to construction activities needed to rehabilitate the cultural landscape and runoff from agricultural practices. The adverse impacts due to construction would be localized, limited in extent, and minimized through the implementation of erosion control measures. Buffers along the Kinderhook Creek and the park's ponds would be maintained to reduce the likelihood of agricultural runoff impacting those water resources. Alternative A would also contribute a small adverse increment to overall adverse cumulative impacts on surface waters and wetlands. Adverse impacts associated with Alternative A would not be significant because the small amount of sediment that may be discharged to wetlands would not substantially change the wetland functions and values nor would it result in loss of wetlands. Similarly, construction activities may result in a temporary increase in sediment loads of surface waters, even with implementation of erosion and sediment control measures; however, the excess sediment would be localized in extent, short-lived and would not result in reduction in the quality of water resources; thus, any adverse impacts to surface waters would not be expected to be significant.

### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse** Impacts

Under Alternative B, actions related to the continued use of agricultural practices on the farm's lower tiers and rehabilitation of the cultural landscape would result in adverse impacts as listed for those actions under Alternative A. Mitigation measures, as under Alternative A, would also be employed under Alternative B to reduce the level of adverse impacts.

Demolition of the NPS operational structures proposed under Alternative B could result in additional adverse impacts during construction as soils are modified and exposed, potentially leading to runoff and siltation in nearby ponds and wetlands. Impacts associated with all of these ground-disturbing activities would only exist during the time of construction and until the park could reestablish vegetative cover for disturbed areas of the landscape. The park would adhere to best management practices during and following construction to reduce these adverse impacts.

### Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts to surface water and wetlands from other reasonably foreseeable actions are described under Alternative A above. When the impact of increased development is combined with the impact on surface water and wetlands as a result of Alternative B, the cumulative impacts would be adverse, with Alternative B contributing a small adverse increment.

### Conclusion

Overall, Alternative B would result in adverse impacts on surface water and wetlands

primarily due to construction and the continued agricultural use of the farm. Construction related ground-disturbing activity would be localized, limited in extent, and minimized through the implementation of erosion control measures. Buffers along the Kinderhook Creek and the park's ponds would be maintained to reduce the likelihood of agricultural runoff impacting those water resources. Alternative B would also contribute a small adverse increment to overall adverse cumulative impacts. The adverse impacts associated with Alternative B would not be considered significant because, even with the additional construction activities, any discharges to surface waters or wetlands would be relatively small, limited in areal extent, and would not substantially change existing wetland functions and values or surface water quality. As with the agricultural runoff, adverse impacts of construction could be effectively mitigated through implementation of best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation.

### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

#### **Impacts**

Proposed actions which have the potential to impact surface water and wetlands as described under Alternative B above would also occur under Alternative C with similar adverse impacts. Mitigation measures as described under Alternative B would also occur under Alternative C.

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts to surface water and wetlands are described under Alternative A above. When the impact of increased development is combined with the impact on surface water and wetlands as a result of Alternative C, overall adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative C would contribute an adverse increment to the overall cumulative impact.

#### **Conclusion**

Alternative C would result in the same impacts to surface water and wetlands as under Alternative B.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern**

#### **Methodology**

Impacts are analyzed for federally-listed and state-listed endangered, threatened, and special concern species described as present or with the potential to be found in the study area in Chapter 3. Impacts on species were based on the following: (1) the known or likely occurrence of a species or its preferred habitat in the vicinity of the project area; (2) the direct physical loss or modification of habitat; (3) the effective loss of habitat due to construction activity or noise, or the species' sensitivity to human disturbance.

Resource-specific context for assessing impacts to endangered, threatened, and special concern species includes the following:

- These species are protected by federal and state laws, meaning that protection of these species is significant on a national, statewide, and/or regional scale;
- All federal agencies are specifically charged by the Endangered Species Act to conserve federally-listed species and are prohibited from taking actions that would jeopardize the continued existence of these species. NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Order 77 (Natural Resource Protection) also direct the NPS to treat state-listed species in the same way that federally-listed species are treated to the extent practicable;



- The presence of federal and state-listed species in the parks is an important component of the visitor experience; and
- Maintaining the integrity of local populations (occurrences) of federal and state-listed species, and their habitat, is important because these species are rare; have specialized habitat requirements; and because the parks serve as a refuge from surrounding habitat loss and alteration due to development pressure in the region.

#### **Alternative A: No-Action**

##### **Impacts**

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, three federally-listed species have the potential to be located within the boundary of the park: the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)-endangered, the New England Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*)-a candidate species, and the bog turtle (*Clemmys (Glyptemys) muhlenbergii*)-threatened. It should be noted that none of the species were identified during previous park surveys as being present at the park, but suitable habitats for the species do occur within park boundaries. Under the No-Action Alternative, existing management strategies would continue for the agricultural fields which would not alter existing habitat conditions and no measureable change in federal or state-listed species habitat would occur outside of natural variability. Impacts to species and communities due to restoration or rehabilitation projects are not likely due to habitat preferences and a lack of documented occurrences of these species in and surrounding the structures.

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact to federally-listed threatened and endangered species at Martin Van Buren NHS is increased development pressure in the Hudson River Valley. Additional development in the area of the park would have an adverse impact on these species by reducing areas of natural habitat. Depending on the level of development, these adverse impacts could potentially be noticeable. When the impact of future projects is combined with the adverse impact on threatened, endangered, and special concern species as a result of Alternative A, adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative A would contribute an imperceptible adverse increment to the overall cumulative impact.

##### **Conclusion**

Alternative A would result in adverse impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species as areas of the cultural landscape are disturbed during rehabilitation construction efforts. These adverse impacts, however, would be mitigated through the implementation of mitigation measures including pre-construction surveys. In addition, adverse impacts would only exist during construction efforts and long-term impacts would not be expected to continue. When these impacts are combined with the adverse cumulative impacts under Alternative A, an overall adverse impact would be expected. Adverse impacts associated with Alternative A would not be significant because they would only exist short-term and mitigation measures would help to ensure that threatened, endangered, or special concern species and their habitats would continue to be protected.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### **Impacts**

Under Alternative B, existing management strategies would continue for the agricultural fields which would not alter existing habitat conditions and no measure-

able change in federal or state-listed species habitat would occur outside of natural variability. Impacts to species and communities due to park structural stabilization or rehabilitation projects are not likely due to habitat preferences and a lack of documented occurrences of these species in and surrounding the structures. Rehabilitation of the cultural landscapes have the potential to disturb habitat areas for federal and state-listed species, however. This adverse impact would be temporary and would only last during the period of construction. In addition, all species are mobile and would be expected to vacate those areas during construction activities. Pre-construction surveys would mitigate the likelihood of impacting these species during construction activities. Should construction staging areas be needed, the park would survey the area for federal and state-listed species and select the most appropriate location based on those findings.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species under Alternative B would be the same as under Alternative A above. When the impacts of these projects are combined with the adverse impact on threatened, endangered, and special concern species as a result of Alternative B, adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative B would contribute an imperceptible adverse increment to the overall cumulative impact.

#### Conclusion

Alternative B would result in short-term adverse impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species during periods of construction. Impacts under Alternative B would be much the same as under Alternative A. Mitigation measures, including pre-construction surveys, would be used to lessen the adverse impacts. When these impacts are combined with the adverse cumulative impacts under Alternative B, an overall adverse impact would be expected. Adverse impacts associated with Alternative B would not be significant because they would only exist short-term and mitigation measures would help to ensure that threatened, endangered, or special concern species and their habitats would continue to be protected.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

##### Impacts

Under Alternative C, existing management strategies would continue for the agricultural fields which would not alter existing habitat conditions and no measureable change in federal or state-listed species habitat would occur outside of natural variability. Impacts to federal- and state-listed species and communities due to park structural stabilization or rehabilitation projects are not likely due to habitat preferences and a lack of documented occurrences of these species in and surrounding the structures. Rehabilitation of the cultural landscapes has the potential to disturb habitat areas for federal and state-listed species, however, this adverse impact would be temporary and only last during the period of construction. In addition, all species are mobile and would be expected to vacate those areas during construction activities. Pre-construction surveys would mitigate the likelihood of impacting these species during construction activities. Should construction staging areas be needed, the park would survey the area for federal and state-listed species and select the most appropriate location based on those findings.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species under Alternative C would be the same as under Alternative A above. When the impacts of

these projects are combined with the adverse impact on federally-listed threatened and endangered species as a result of Alternative C, adverse cumulative impacts would be expected. Alternative C would contribute an imperceptible adverse increment to the overall cumulative impact.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, Alternative C would result in adverse impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species due to the temporary disturbance of habitat during cultural landscape rehabilitation efforts. The adverse impacts would be reduced through mitigation measures and would only be expected to last during the time of construction. When these impacts are combined with the adverse cumulative impacts under Alternative C, an overall adverse impact would be expected. Adverse impacts associated with Alternative C would not be significant because they would only exist short-term and mitigation measures would help to ensure that federally-listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats would continue to be protected.

## **Visitor Use and Experience**

### **Methodology**

Potential impacts on visitor use and experience are assessed based on the current description of visitor use and experience presented in this document. Enjoyment of park resources and values by visitors is part of the fundamental purpose of all parks. This analysis considers how the proposed alternatives would affect how people use the park, as well as how the alternatives would alter visitors' experiences.

Resource-specific context for assessing impacts of the alternatives to visitor use and experience includes:

- Visitor understanding of the environment in which Martin Van Buren lived, his rise to presidency, and efforts he made as a United States political leader; and
- Visitor understanding of Van Buren's political beliefs which emphasized the importance of agriculture to the future of democracy.

### **Alternative A: No-Action**

#### **Impacts**

In the No-Action Alternative, the centerpiece of the visitor experience would continue to focus on Lindenwald mansion. Visitors would have the opportunity to learn about the grounds and farm surrounding Lindenwald mansion, experience scenic vistas, and learn from wayside exhibits along the loop trail. Efforts to construct trail links to the Kinderhook-Stockport-Stuyvesant Intermunicipal Trail would continue, providing visitors with expanded opportunities to experience the agricultural setting and participate in recreational activities.

Under Alternative A, NPS operational structures would remain within the cultural landscape, resulting in adverse impacts to visitor experience due to the physical intrusion of these structures on the landscape and historic views. In addition, the current location of park maintenance facilities within the historic core of the park would contribute to additional visual and noise intrusions, detracting from the visitor experience.

Preservation and stabilization work would continue for some historic structures and the cultural landscape surrounding the Lindenwald mansion would be restored or rehabilitated. These improvements would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use

and experience by providing a greater understanding of the historic appearance of the property. The North Gatehouse ruins would remain, having the adverse impact of preventing visitors from appreciating the cultural landscape of President Van Buren's era. No additional exhibit or visitor orientation space would be created under Alternative A, resulting in limitations to public and educational programming, adversely impacting visitor use and experience.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Other present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact on the visitor experience at Martin Van Buren NHS include the development of the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport trail system, Hudson River Valley development, OSI lands protection and the widening of Route 9H. Increased development in the Hudson River Valley and the widening of Route 9H would contribute a noticeable adverse impact to visitor experience by creating additional visual and noise intrusions. The beneficial impacts of land protection measures by the OSI would reduce some of the adverse impacts of local development. In Alternative A, work would begin on connecting to the regional trail system. Actions by the Friends of Kinderhook Trails, the Town of Kinderhook and others involved in the emergent regional trail system would contribute a beneficial impact. These projects, along with Alternative A, would result in an overall adverse impact, with smaller beneficial cumulative impacts to visitor use and experience. Alternative A would contribute both adverse and beneficial increments to the cumulative impact.

#### Conclusion

Overall, Alternative A would result in adverse and beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience. Beneficial impacts could be expected as a result of improvements to the historic appearance of the park through preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures and the cultural landscape. Beneficial impacts would also result from linking the park's loop trail with the emerging regional trail system, which would provide additional opportunities for experiencing the park's agricultural setting. The lack of adequate exhibit and classroom space, along with the visual intrusion of NPS operational structures surrounding the Lindenwald mansion, would contribute adverse impacts to the visitor's experience. Alternative A would contribute adverse and beneficial increments to the overall beneficial cumulative impact. Impacts would not be significant, as visitors would still be able to understand and experience the environment in which Van Buren lived and which contributed to his political beliefs.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### Impacts

The centerpiece of the visitor experience would continue to focus on the Lindenwald mansion, but under Alternative B, changing exhibits would be incorporated into the visitor experience in a new visitor contact station. This would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience by extending the value of the mansion tour to explore new insights into the life, ideals, politics and times of Martin Van Buren and his relevance to contemporary life. Political history and current political issues would be explored through varied interpretive programs and media such as hosting public forums and debates in the visitor contact station theater on current local, state and national political issues. An expanded collection might include political ephemera such as campaign materials, buttons and posters, related to Van Buren's career as a politician. The addition of a new visitor contact station would also provide the park with needed classroom or meeting space and room for additional interpretive exhibits dealing with topics that don't lend themselves to exploration in house tours.

Rehabilitation and preservation efforts for the historic structures and cultural landscapes would contribute beneficial impacts to the visitor experience. Under Alternative B, NPS operational facilities would be removed from the historic core, allowing visitors to appreciate the working farm fields and fully understand the historic appearance of the cultural landscape and scenic viewshed spanning the Hudson Valley to the Catskill Mountains. The North Gatehouse ruins would remain, having the adverse impact of preventing visitors from appreciating the cultural landscape of President Van Buren's era. On balance, park improvements would result in additional beneficial impacts to the visitor experience.

It is anticipated that Alternative B would increase visitation. Motivation to visit the park, to make return visits and to stay for an extended time would be enhanced by increasing the diversity and depth of experiences, including changing exhibits, and hosting larger events and school groups indoors. An increase in visitation, and potentially more crowds, could be construed by some visitors as a negative impact, but the provision of more and improved visitor uses and recreational opportunities would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact on the visitor experience at Martin Van Buren NHS include the expansion of the regional trail network which could connect to the park. These cumulative actions would contribute to a beneficial impact on visitor use and experience. When beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience as a result of Alternative B are combined with other projects in the study area, an overall beneficial cumulative impact would be expected. Alternative B would contribute a beneficial increment to the overall cumulative impacts.

#### Conclusion

Alternative B would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience as a result of improvements to the historic appearance of the park through preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures and the cultural landscape. Construction of a new visitor contact station would create additional exhibit space and visitor amenities which would supplement the current visitor experience to include a more in-depth look at Van Buren's political career. The beneficial impacts of Alternative B on visitor use and significance would be significant because the additional facilities would allow the park to expand current programming to provide more exhibits and insights into Van Buren's political career and beliefs.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren** Impacts

Under Alternative C, visitors would be encouraged to experience the entire park, moving beyond Lindenwald into the agricultural terraces to experience the place "in the footsteps" of Martin Van Buren. While Lindenwald would remain the core visitor experience, a new visitor contact station, and new programming would provide additional opportunity for visitors to learn about the working landscape. The lives of workers on Van Buren's farm would be featured in exhibits and would be integrated into programming. These actions would further enhance the visitor experience at the park by expanding programming to focus more attention on Van Buren's agricultural activities.



As under Alternative B, preservation, restoration or rehabilitation work would continue for the historic structures and cultural landscape, including removal of the NPS operational structures, with similar beneficial impacts as described under Alternative B above. These actions would increase the visitor's ability to visualize the historic landscape by replacing features which have been lost. The addition of new facilities, such as the visitor contact station, would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience, as described under Alternative B, by providing new classroom space and areas for new interpretive exhibits. The addition of new programming would be expected to increase visitation to the park. An increase in visitation and potentially more crowds could be construed by some visitors as a negative impact, but overall, the provision of more and improved visitor uses and recreational opportunities would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Present and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would contribute to the cumulative impact are described under Alternative A. These cumulative actions would contribute to a beneficial impact on visitor use and experience. When beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience as a result of Alternative C are combined with other projects in the study area, an overall beneficial cumulative impact would be expected. Alternative C would contribute a beneficial increment to the overall cumulative impacts.

#### Conclusion

Alternative C would result in beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience. An expanded interpretation and education program would include new opportunities for visitors to learn about Van Buren's farm and his agricultural ideas and practices. Improvements to the historic appearance of the park through preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic structures and the cultural landscape would provide additional beneficial impacts by returning much of the historic core to its appearance during Van Buren's occupation. Construction of a new visitor contact station would create additional exhibit space and visitor amenities which would expand the current visitor experience beyond Lindenwald mansion to the broader story of Van Buren's farmstead. The beneficial impacts of Alternative C on visitor use and significance would be substantial because the expanded programming would increase visitor's understanding of Van Buren's home and political career while emphasizing his views on the importance of agriculture, allowing the park to more effectively communicate and interpret these concepts that are key to the park's purpose and mission.

### **Park Operations and Facilities**

#### Methodology

Impact analyses are based on the current description of park operations presented in Chapter 3. Park operations includes quality of effectiveness and the ability to maintain the infrastructure used in the operation of the park in order to adequately protect and preserve vital resources and provide for an effective and safe employee and visitor experience.

Resource-specific context for assessing impacts of the alternatives to park operations and facilities includes:

- Parks must operate within the constraints of the unit-specific budget and number of staff positions that have been allocated by NPS ;
- Park staff must provide for an effective and safe experience and protect resources within the park; and

- The effects of temporary construction and/or demolition on the ability of park staff to complete maintenance activities and ensure a safe environment.

#### **Alternative A: No-Action**

##### Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, no changes are planned for the storage building, sheds, or maintenance facilities. This would have an adverse impact on park operations and facilities. Space for staff support, storage, shop activities, and vehicle storage within the maintenance facility is unsafe and crowded, resulting in an inefficiency of use.

The existing visitor facility and administrative offices would continue to be housed in two non-contributing prefabricated trailers. The visitor contact facility is not large enough to accommodate school groups or meetings for more than 8-10 people and there is no space for the additional education and interpretation needs of the park. The continuation of visitor and administrative uses in inadequate space, plus a building lifespan that is limited, would have an adverse impact on park operations and facilities.

Restoration and rehabilitation efforts for the park's historic structures and cultural landscape would continue under Alternative A. Once these projects were completed, deferred maintenance needs of the park would be expected to decrease, resulting in a beneficial impact on park operations.

##### Cumulative Impacts

There are no other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects that would have impacts on park operations and facilities; therefore, there are no cumulative impacts.

##### Conclusion

Under Alternative A, some beneficial impacts would be expected from restoration and rehabilitation of some structures and the cultural landscape which would reduce existing maintenance backlogs. Adverse impacts would result from the continued use of the existing visitor, curatorial, administrative, and maintenance facilities which are inadequate for current park operations. While not ideal for park operations and facilities, the impacts of Alternative A would not be significant because the park would still be able to provide an effective and safe visitor experience, while protecting the park's resources under the existing operational budget.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### Impacts

Alternative B provides for the development of a safe, energy-efficient, multi-use facility to house a visitor contact station, administrative offices, and meeting space outside of the park's historic core. This new facility would result in beneficial impacts to park operations and facilities by providing adequate space for interpretation and education needs, as well as providing sufficient office and storage space to meet the needs of park administration. Museum storage would be relocated to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS. The new maintenance facility would provide adequate work and storage space, along with consolidating equipment into one structure, thereby improving the efficiency of park operations. Removal of the existing administrative trailers, museum collections building, and maintenance facility would result in beneficial

impacts to park operations and facilities because their removal would relieve of the operational burden of maintaining the deteriorating non-historic structures.

#### Cumulative Impacts

There are no other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects that would have impacts on park operations and facilities; therefore, there are no cumulative impacts.

#### Conclusion

Alternative B would result in beneficial impacts to park operations and facilities. New visitor, administrative, and maintenance facilities would provide adequate work and meeting space while allowing the park to expand interpretation and education programming. A consolidated maintenance facility would improve safety and operational efficiency by eliminating the need to store equipment and supplies in multiple locations throughout the park. Removal of the existing administrative and maintenance structures would also result in beneficial impacts to park operations and facilities by eliminating the maintenance needs for those deteriorating structures. Beneficial impacts resulting from Alternative B would be significant because the park's ability to provide an effective and safe visitor experience and protect park resources would be improved.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

##### Impacts

Impacts to park operations and facilities under Alternative C would be that same as those under Alternative B.

#### Cumulative Impacts

There are no other past, present, or reasonable foreseeable future projects that would have impacts on park operations and facilities; therefore, there are no cumulative impacts.

#### Conclusion

Alternative C would result in beneficial impacts to park operations and facilities. New visitor, administrative, collections, and maintenance facilities would provide adequate work and meeting space while allowing the park to expand interpretation and education programming. A consolidated maintenance facility would improve operational efficiency by eliminating the need to store equipment and supplies in multiple locations throughout the park. Removal of the existing administrative and maintenance structures would also result in beneficial impacts to park operations and facilities by eliminating the maintenance needs for those deteriorating structures. Beneficial impacts resulting from Alternative C would be significant because the park's ability to provide an effective and safe visitor experience and protect park resources would be improved.

### **Socioeconomics**

#### Methodology

Impacts of proposed alternatives on the regional economy are created by visitor expenditures, both within the park and outside park boundaries, through the NPS management and operation of the park, and through regional non-labor expenditures. For the analysis, potential impacts on socioeconomics are assessed based on the current description of socioeconomics presented in Chapter 3.

Resource-specific context for the evaluation of impacts on socioeconomics include:

- The effects of temporary construction and/or demolition on the regional economy; and
- The effects of park uses and management options, including the park's role in regional tourism initiatives and partnership actions, on the regional economy.

#### **Alternative A: No-Action**

##### Impacts

Under Alternative A, existing visitor uses and experiences would be maintained and, other than restoration and rehabilitation work on the historic structures, no new visitor facilities would be constructed. Some beneficial impacts to local businesses could occur through rehabilitation projects, but any increase would be temporary, lasting only as long as construction. Restoration and rehabilitation of the park's historic structures and cultural landscapes could attract more visitors than are currently visiting the site, which could result in more customers frequenting the local businesses. This would be considered a beneficial impact to the local community.

##### Cumulative Impacts

Population growth in Hudson River Valley and the greater Albany area (Capital District) could increase visitation to Martin Van Buren NHS as well as put more pressure on the region's infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. These trends would have a negligible impact on the socio-economic environment due to the static condition at Martin Van Buren NHS and the lack of meaningful growth in the immediate area. When the impacts on socioeconomics as a result of Alternative A are combined with other projects in the study area, an overall beneficial cumulative impact would be expected. Alternative A would contribute a beneficial increment to the overall cumulative impacts.

##### Conclusion

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be some beneficial impacts due to continuing current levels of visitation plus the potential for small increases from ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation work. These potential beneficial impacts would not be significant as the park would continue to contribute to the tourism and economic levels of the surrounding communities at about the current level.

#### **Alternative B: Martin Van Buren and Civic Discourse**

##### Impacts

Under Alternative B, increases in visitor numbers, repeat visitors and extended time of visits would be expected with the construction of a new visitor contact station and a diversified set of exhibits and programs. Under Alternative B, these actions could have a beneficial impact on the socioeconomic environment of the region by increasing tourism which may be beneficial for some local businesses.

Beneficial impacts could also be expected from demolition and construction activities associated with restoring or rehabilitating historic structures and cultural landscapes and demolishing and constructing NPS operational structures.

##### Cumulative Impacts

Population growth in Hudson River Valley and the Capital District could increase visitation to Martin Van Buren NHS as well as put more pressure on the region's infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. These trends would have a negligible impact on the socio-economic environment since the increase in visitation at Martin

Van Buren NHS would not be dramatic and there would be a lack of meaningful growth in the immediate area. When the impacts on socioeconomics as a result of Alternative B are combined with other projects in the study area, an overall beneficial cumulative impact would be expected. Alternative B would contribute a beneficial increment to the overall cumulative impacts.

#### Conclusion

Overall, impacts of this alternative on socioeconomics would be beneficial, due primarily to the increased visitation expected under this alternative. Alternative B would also contribute a beneficial increment to cumulative impacts. These potential beneficial impacts would be significant, as the park would increase its tourism and economic contribution to the surrounding communities.

#### **Alternative C: In the Footsteps of Martin Van Buren**

##### Impacts

Impacts to socioeconomics under Alternative C would be that same as those described under Alternative B above.

##### Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts of Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B.

##### Conclusion

The impacts of Alternative C would be the same as described for Alternative B; thus, the impacts would not be significant for the same reasons stated under Alternative B.





# 5

## Coordination and Consultation

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# Chapter 5: Coordination and Consultation

## Summary of Planning Process

### Public Internal Scoping and Project Team Meetings

An internal scoping session with park staff, other NPS personnel, and consultants took place on November 20, 2008. A follow-up team meeting took place on January 14, 2009. An alternatives workshop with the project team took place on March 11, 2009. Further team meetings on refining the alternatives occurred on June 9, 2010 and May 5, 2011. Numerous smaller meetings related to GMP alternatives and the overall plan took place with park staff.

### Public Outreach and Scoping

This General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (Martin Van Buren NHS) represents input from cooperating park partners; participants in local community meetings; local, regional, and national government agencies; and comments gathered at a public scoping session. The public was informed about the process and invited to participate through newsletters, email blasts, letters and response cards. Consultation and coordination among the agencies and the public were vitally important throughout the planning process. Responses were entered on the NPS public comment website.

NPS held a public scoping meeting on February 18, 2009, at which the attendees identified a range of issues related to the park that should be considered in a GMP. A GMP newsletter was published for distribution prior to the public scoping meeting. During the planning process, numerous meetings were held with partners, particularly Roxbury Farm.

### Notifications and Consultation with Other Agencies, Officials and Organizations Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

The NPS sent a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) informing them of preparation of the Draft GMP/EA and requesting information regarding federally-listed threatened and endangered species in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. NPS staff coordinated informally with the USFWS during the planning process. The NPS determined that the management plan is not likely to adversely affect any federally-threatened or endangered species. NPS provided a copy of this draft GMP/EA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office for their concurrence with that determination.

### Consultation on State-listed Threatened and Endangered Species

The NPS sent a letter requesting consultation on state-listed species of special concern to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York Natural

Heritage Program Information Services (DEC, NYNHPS). NPS staff has also coordinated with this agency during the planning process and will provide a copy of the Draft GMP/EA for their review and comment.

#### Consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the 2008 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and the Quitclaim Deed, the NPS consulted with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in the preparation of the Draft GMP/EA. The National Park Service sent letters to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Delaware Nation, and Delaware Tribe Historic Preservation Office inviting participation in the planning process.

#### Tribal Consultation

On January 29, 2009, NPS sent consultation letters regarding the plan preparation to Indian tribes historically associated with the region around Martin Van Buren NHS. These tribes were the Delaware Nation and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. No responses have been received. Copies of the Draft Martin Van Buren National Historic Site GMP/EA were sent to the tribes for review.

### **List of Draft General Management Plan Recipients**

#### **Partners in Stewardship**

Friends of Lindenwald  
Open Space Institute  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Roxbury Farm  
Historic Kinderhook Committee  
Hudson River Valley Greenway  
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area  
American Farmland Trust  
Columbia County Historical Society  
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians  
Delaware Tribe  
Delaware Tribe of Indians  
Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Intermunicipal Trail Committee  
The Landmarks Visitor Collaborative  
The Center for Applied Historical Research of the Department of History at the University at Albany, State University of New York  
Town of Kinderhook Historian

#### **Consultation**

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
American Indian Interests  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Agencies and Organizations**

Town of Kinderhook  
Village of Kinderhook  
Village of Valatie  
Town of Stuyvesant  
Town of Stockport  
Town of Ghent  
Town of Chatham  
Columbia County Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Tourism Department  
Columbia County Chamber of Commerce  
Columbia County Planning Department  
Clermont State Historic Site  
Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop  
Olana State Historic Site  
The Olana Partnership  
Shaker Museum/Mount Lebanon  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Museum  
United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **List of Preparers, Partners, Consultants and Advisors**

### **Team Members**

#### **Martin Van Buren National Historic Site**

Sarah Olson, Superintendent  
Justin Monetti, Site Manager  
Daniel Dattilio, Superintendent (former)  
Patricia West, Ph.D., Chief Curator  
Jim McKay, Chief Ranger-Interpreter  
David J. Hayes, Chief, Facilities and Resource Management  
Steve Hanaburgh, Facilities Manager

#### **National Park Service Northeast Region Preparers and Contributors**

Mike Caldwell, Regional Director  
Brian Strack Associate Regional Director, Construction and Facility Management  
Michael Quijano-West, Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies  
Allen Cooper, Senior Planner  
James C. O'Connell, Ph.D., Project Manager and Community Planner  
Christine Arato, Chief Historian  
Karl Beard, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
Joanne Blacoe, Regional Interpreter  
Margie Coffin Brown, Historical Landscape Architect  
Sheila Colwell, Wildlife Biologist  
Alan Ellsworth, Regional Hydrologist  
David Funk, Concessions/Realty Specialist  
Christine Gabriel, Community Planner (former)  
Jim Harmon, Ph.D., Archeologist  
Elizabeth Hoermann, Education Specialist, Northeast Center for Education  
Peter Iris-Williams, Outdoor Recreation Planner (former)  
Elizabeth Johnson, Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator



Amanda Jones, Community Planner  
Jacki Katzmire, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Rachel McManus, Deputy Realty Officer, Land Resources Program  
Brian Mitchell, Ph.D., Inventory and Monitoring Program Manager  
Peter Samuel, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
David Uschold, Compliance and 106 Review

**Project Consultants**

David Miller, RLA, Associate Partner, The LA Group, P.C.  
Tracey M. Clothier, AICP, CEP, Senior Planner, The LA Group, P.C.  
Michael Marquard, RLA, Landscape Architect, The LA Group, P.C.

**Other Advisors and Consultants**

Winthrop Aldrich, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area  
Ethan Carr, Ph.D., Professor, University of Massachusetts, Department of Landscape Architecture  
David Colby, President, Columbia County Chamber of Commerce  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Jonathan Earle, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of Kansas  
Susan Ferentinos, Ph.D., Public History Manager (former), Organization of American Historians  
Patrick M. Grattan, Supervisor, Town of Kinderhook  
Reeve Huston, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Duke University  
Hudsonia Environmental Research Institute  
University of Idaho, Park Studies Unit Visitor Services Project  
John A. Volpe Center National Transportation Systems Center, U.S. Department of Transportation,  
Suzanne Julin, Ph.D., Historian  
Ann-Eliza Lewis, Ph.D., former Executive Director, Columbia County Historical Society  
Doug McGivney, Supervisor, Town of Kinderhook (former)  
Barnabas McHenry, Chair, Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council  
Joe Martens, President (former), Open Space Institute  
Marla Miller, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Public History Program  
Ruth Piwonka, Town of Kinderhook Historian  
Edwin Simonsen, Town of Kinderhook  
Cathy Stanton, Ph.D., Ethnographer  
William A. Starna, Ph.D., Ethnographer  
Katie Stone Petronis, Open Space Institute  
Christopher J. Tavener, Architect, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering, P.C.  
Roland Vosburgh, Director, Columbia County Planning and Economic Development Department (former)  
Sean Wilentz, Ph.D., Professor of History, Princeton University



# 6

## Appendices

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## Chapter 6: Appendices

### Appendix A: Consultation Letters



IN REPLY REFER TO:

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## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

January 29, 2009

Mr. David Stilwell, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, NY 13045

Dear Mr. Stilwell:

The National Park Service has initiated the process to develop a general management plan/environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York.

The purpose of Martin Van Buren NHS is to preserve and interpret the landscape, structures, and collections of 'Lindenwald', the Kinderhook farm owned by Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, where he lived from 1839 to his death in 1862. The park embraces 38.6 acres within its authorized boundary: 20.3 acres held in fee and an additional 18.3 acres protected through conservation easements.

The objective of the GMP/EIS effort is to prescribe resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved over the next 15 to 20 years. Once all planning issues are identified, a range of alternatives will be developed and analyzed. Alternatives will be presented for public review in a draft environmental impact statement in the fall of 2009.

In 2005 the NPS conducted a Biological Survey at MAVA on all lands that currently comprise the park, 38.6 acres, and on the majority of lands proposed to be in the new boundary (an additional 145 acres). The survey detected a number of rare birds and plants in the study area (per New York Heritage Programs Ranks (Statewide) The results of the survey indicated 12 fish species, 11 amphibians, 2 reptiles, about 90 birds (many rare), 17 mammals observed and 29 mammals potentially occurring. This report is available online at:

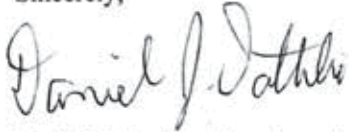
[http://www.nps.gov/nero/science/FINAL/MAVA\\_bio\\_survey/MAVA\\_bio\\_survey.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nero/science/FINAL/MAVA_bio_survey/MAVA_bio_survey.htm).

We have researched your website and we are aware of the list of *Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Candidate Species* listed for Columbia County, (see attached). This letter serves as a request for a confirmation of this information and inquiry if there are any other special status species that we need to be aware of in the locality of the park.

Legislation for an adjustment to the park's boundary is pending, and may be passed in Congress this year. If that happens we would need information on the entire 300 acres within the boundary. (see attached map). Please contact me if you would like to discuss this request or your agency's involvement in the planning effort.

The planning team held the first public scoping meeting last year, and will continue to engage the public throughout the planning process. For general information about the process, and about the park please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/mava/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. Dattilio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "J".

Daniel J. Dattilio, Superintendent  
Martin Van Buren, NHS





IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617

*YDI 8*

January 29, 2009

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
NY Natural Heritage Program-Information Services  
625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-0001

Dear Madams and Sirs:

The National Park Service has initiated the process to develop a general management plan/environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York.

The purpose of Martin Van Buren NHS is to preserve and interpret the landscape, structures, and collections of 'Lindenwald', the Kinderhook farm owned by Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, where he lived from 1839 to his death in 1862. The park embraces 38.6 acres within its authorized boundary: 20.3 acres held in fee and an additional 18.3 acres protected through conservation easements.

The objective of the GMP/EIS effort is to prescribe resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved over the next 15 to 20 years. Once all planning issues are identified, a range of alternatives will be developed and analyzed. Alternatives will be presented for public review in a draft environmental impact statement in the fall of 2009.

In 2005 the NPS conducted a Biological Survey at MAVA on all lands that currently comprise the park, 38.6 acres, and on the majority of lands proposed to be in the new boundary (an additional 145 acres). The survey detected a number of rare birds and plants in the study area (per New York Heritage Programs Ranks (Statewide) The results of the survey indicated 12 fish species, 11 amphibians, 2 reptiles, about 90 birds (many rare), 17 mammals observed and 29 mammals potentially occurring. This report is available on-line at:

[http://www.nps.gov/nero/science/FINAL/MAVA\\_bio\\_survey/MAVA\\_bio\\_survey.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nero/science/FINAL/MAVA_bio_survey/MAVA_bio_survey.htm)

We have researched the US Fish and Wildlife website and we are aware of the list of *Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Candidate Species* listed for Columbia County, (see attached). This letter serves as a request for information about any other special status species that we need to be aware of in the locality of the park.

Legislation for an adjustment to the park's boundary is pending, and may be passed in Congress this year. If that happens we would need information on the entire 300 acres within the boundary. (see attached map). Please contact me if you would like to discuss this request or your agency's involvement in the planning effort.

The planning team held the first public scoping meeting last year, and will continue to engage the public throughout the planning process. For general information about the process, and about the park please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/mava/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Dattilio".

Daniel J. Dattilio, Superintendent  
Martin Van Buren, NHS



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

L7617

X 44217

January 29, 2009

Ruth Pierpoint, Director  
**New York State Historic Preservation Office**  
Peebles Island Resource Center  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently developing and will subsequently implement a General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, NY.

The purpose of Martin Van Buren NHS is to preserve and interpret the landscape, structures, and collections of 'Lindenwald', the Kinderhook farm owned by Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, where he lived from 1839 to his death in 1862. The park embraces 38.6 acres within its authorized boundary: 20.3 acres held in fee and an additional 18.3 acres protected through conservation easements.

We would like to begin the consultation process set forth in 36 CFR 800.8(a) and the 1995 Programmatic Agreement for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. We are initiating consultation and advice to ensure that cultural resources are adequately considered in the planning process. We welcome your input at this stage and will continue to seek your comments as the planning process advances.

The GMP/EIS will present and evaluate a range of alternative approaches to NPS management and development of the park, built upon a description and assessment of existing conditions, consideration of public comments and ideas, and with a grounding in federal and NPS policies, regulations, and laws. NPS cultural resource management professionals in archeology, historic architecture, historic landscape architecture, ethnography, and collections management are members of the planning team, and will be consulted throughout the process.

The planning team is beginning to formulate park goals, conduct analyses, and consider a range of alternatives. Planning issues to be addressed relate to cultural and natural resource preservation, park operations, safety and visitor use and enjoyment.

We anticipate developing alternatives in spring 2009 and moving to a draft GMP/EIS by December 2009. Our intent is to enable the Regional Director to release a Record of Decision sometime in mid-2010.

We look forward to working with you on the Martin Van Buren NHS. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 518-758-9689 or our GMP Project Manager in the Northeast Regional Office, Peter Samuel at 215-597-1848.

The planning team held a preliminary scoping meeting with the public last year, and will continue to engage the public throughout the planning process. For general information about the GMP and upcoming meetings you can go to the MAVA website: <http://www.nps.gov/mava/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Dattilio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being more prominent than the last name "Dattilio".

Daniel J. Dattilio  
Superintendent





IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

L7617

X D18

January 29, 2009

Sherry White, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community  
W13447 Camp 14 Road  
P.O. Box 70  
Bowler, WI 54416

Dear Ms. White:

The National Park Service is developing a general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York. The park is located along the Hudson River in upstate New York and lies within the aboriginal homeland of the Mahican Indians. Pre-contact and historic period archeological sites with Native American components have been identified on the property. I am including an archeological report which describes these features within the park, and the explorations that have occurred there.

I am writing to inform you about this project and to inquire whether you might have any information about this area that we should know about before we proceed further. I would like to invite you to consult with us about historic properties within the park that may be important to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, or any other topics that you might wish to bring to our attention. The park currently embraces 38.6 acres within its authorized boundary; and legislation for an expansion of the park's boundary (to include 300 acres) is pending and may be passed by Congress this year. If that happens we will develop a plan for the entire 300 acres (see attached map).

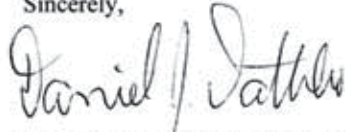
We are interested in understanding if the park might encompass areas to which your tribe attaches religious and cultural significance, as well as whether there are important tribal history events or geographic areas that are of special concern to your tribal members. Specifically, we would like to learn if there are cultural resources that we must consider during our evaluation of the "affected environment" during the EIS process.

The planning team is beginning to formulate park goals, conduct analyses, and consider a range of alternatives. Planning issues to be addressed relate to cultural and natural resource preservation, park operations, safety and visitor use and enjoyment. We anticipate developing alternatives in spring 2009 and developing a draft GMP/EIS by December 2009.



I look forward to talking with you about any tribal interests in the general management plan. As you know, I hope to be visiting the Stockbridge-Munsee Community during the coming month, and this is one project which I would like to discuss with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 518-758-9689, or our GMP Project Manager in the Northeast Regional Office, Peter Samuel, at 215-597-1848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Dattilio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel J. Dattilio, Superintendent



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

A22  
X L7617

March 20, 2009

Ms. Tamara Francis  
Delaware Nation  
NAGPRA/Cultural Preservation  
P.O. Box 825  
Anadarko, OK 73005

Dear Ms. Francis:

The National Park Service is developing a general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York. The park is located in Columbia County along the Hudson River in upstate New York. Pre-contact and historic period archeological sites with Native American components have been identified on the property. I am including an archeological report which describes these features within the park, and the explorations that have occurred there.

I am writing to inform you about this project and to inquire whether you might have any information about this area that we should know about before we proceed further. I would like to invite you to consult with us about any resources or places of historic and cultural significance to the Delaware Nation within the park, or any other topics that you might wish to bring to our attention. The park currently embraces 38.6 acres within its authorized boundary; and legislation for an expansion of the park's boundary (to include 300 acres) is pending and may be passed by Congress this year. If that happens we will develop a plan for the entire 300 acres (see attached map).

We are interested in understanding if the park might encompass areas to which your tribe attaches religious and cultural significance, as well as whether there are important tribal history events or geographic areas that are of special concern to your tribal members. Specifically, we would like to learn if there are cultural resources that we must consider during our evaluation of the "affected environment" during the EIS process.

The planning team is beginning to formulate park goals, conduct analyses, and consider a range of alternatives. Planning issues to be addressed relate to cultural and natural resource preservation, park operations, safety and visitor use and enjoyment. We

anticipate developing alternatives in spring 2009 and developing a draft GMP/EIS by December 2009.

I look forward to talking with you about any tribal interests in the general management plan. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 518-758-9689, or our GMP Project Manager in the Northeast Regional Office, Peter Samuel, at 215-597-1848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Dattilio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "J".

Daniel J. Dattilio, Superintendent



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Old Post Road

Kinderhook, New York 12106

L7617

October, 17, 2012

Brice Obermeyer  
Delaware Tribe Historic Preservation Office  
1420 C of E Drive, Suite 190  
Emporia, KS 66801

Dear Mr. Obermeyer:

The National Park Service is developing a general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, New York. The park is located along the Hudson River in upstate New York and lies within the aboriginal homeland of the Mahican Indians. Pre-contact and historic period archeological sites with Native American components have been identified on the property. I am including an archeological report which describes these features within the park and the explorations that have occurred there, and a history of the Mahican Indians from 1600-1830 which includes a description of their relations with neighboring Indian tribes.

I am writing to inform you about this project and to inquire whether you might have any information about this area that we should know about before we proceed further. I would like to invite you to consult with us about historic properties within the park that may be important to the Delaware Tribe of Indians, or any other topics that you might wish to bring to our attention. In 2009 the park's boundary was adjusted from 38.6 acres to 300 acres. The plan is for the entire 300 acres. (see attached map).

We are interested in understanding if the park might encompass areas to which your tribe attaches religious and cultural significance, as well as whether there are important tribal history events or geographic areas that are of special concern to your tribal members. Specifically, we would like to learn if there are cultural resources that we must consider during our evaluation of the "affected environment" in the EIS

The planning team has formulated park goals, conducted analyses, and considered a range of alternatives. Planning issues addressed relate to cultural and natural resource preservation, park operations, safety and visitor use and enjoyment. However, the plan is still in draft form and will be made available for public review and comment in the near future.

I look forward to talking with you about any tribal interests in the general management plan. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 518-758-9689, or our GMP Project Manager in the Northeast Regional Office, Jim O'Connell, at 617-223-5222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Dattilio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "J".

Daniel J. Dattilio  
Superintendent



## Appendix B: Bibliography

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## Appendix C: Park Legislation



Public Law 93-486  
93rd Congress, H. R. 13157  
October 26, 1974

### An Act

88 STAT. 1461

To provide for the establishment of the Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland; John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon; Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota; Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts; Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama; Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York; and Sewall-Beimont House National Historic Site, Washington, District of Columbia; and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Historic sites  
and national  
monument.  
Establishment.

#### TITLE I

SEC. 101. (a) Unless otherwise provided hereafter, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, donation, exchange, or by transfer from another Federal agency such lands and interests in lands as hereafter provided for establishment as units of the national park system, as follows:

Land acquisition.

(1) for establishment as the Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland", numbered NHS-CLBA 90,001 and dated February 1974, which shall include the land and improvements occupied by Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross located at 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo, Maryland: *Provided*, That the above-mentioned land and improvements may be acquired only by donation: *And provided further*, That the donation of any privately owned lands within the historic site may not be accepted unless and until the property is vacant;

Clara Barton  
National Historic Site,  
Md.  
16 USC 461  
note.

(2) for establishment as the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument", numbered NM-JDFB-20,014-A and dated June 1971: *Provided*, That the national monument shall not be established unless and until the State of Oregon donates or agrees to donate the Thomas Condon-John Day Fossil Beds, Clarno, and Painted Hills State Parks: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not acquire a fee title interest to more than one thousand acres of privately owned lands except by donation or exchange: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall designate the principal visitor center as the "Thomas Condon Visitor Center";

John Day Fossil  
Beds National  
Monument, Oreg.  
16 USC 431  
note.

(3) for establishment as the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota", numbered 468-20,012 and dated July 1970;

Thomas Condon  
Visitor Center,  
designation.  
Knife River  
Indian Villages  
National Historic Site,  
N. Dak.  
16 USC 461  
note.

(4) for establishment as the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts", numbered NHS-SPAR-91,003 and dated January 1974, the oldest manufacturing arsenal in the United States: *Provided*, That the historic site shall not be established unless an agreement is executed which will assure the historical integrity of the site and until such lands as are needed for the historic site are donated for this purpose;

Springfield  
Armory National  
Historic Site, Mass.  
16 USC 461  
note.



Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Ala.  
16 USC 461 note.

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, N.Y.  
16 USC 461 note.

Personal property, acquisition.

Notice to congressional committees.

Publication in Federal Register.

Administration.

16 USC 1.  
16 USC 461.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, road construction.

Appropriation.

(5) for establishment as the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama", numbered NHS-TI 20,000-C and dated September 1973, which shall include the home of Booker T. Washington, the Carver Museum, and an antebellum property adjacent to the campus of Tuskegee Institute, known as Grey Columns; and

(6) for establishment as the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York", numbered NHS-MAVA-91,001 and dated January 1974, which shall include the home of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States.

(b) The Secretary may also acquire personal property associated with the areas referred to in subsection (a) of this section. Lands and interests therein owned by a State or any political subdivision thereof which are acquired for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section may be acquired only by donation.

SEC. 102. (a) When the Secretary determines that an adequate interest in lands has been acquired to constitute an administrable unit for each of the areas described in section 1 of this Act, he may, after notifying the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress of his intention to do so at least fourteen days in advance, declare the establishment of such unit by publication of a notice to that effect in the Federal Register. Such notice shall contain a map or other description of the boundaries of the unit, together with an explanation of the interests acquired and the costs incident thereto. The Secretary may refrain from acquiring property for establishment of any unit authorized by this Act where, in his judgment, satisfactory agreements or donations with respect to properties which are needed for the protection and administration of a particular unit have not been consummated with the owners of such properties.

(b) Pending the establishment of each unit and, thereafter, the Secretary shall administer the property acquired pursuant to this Act in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and, to the extent applicable, the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

SEC. 103. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to construct roads on real property in non-Federal ownership within the boundaries of the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site. Any roads so constructed shall be controlled and maintained by the owners of the real property.

SEC. 104. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed, however, the following:

(a) Clara Barton National Historic Site, \$812,000 for acquisition of lands and interests in lands and for development;

(b) John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, \$400,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and \$1,435,200 for development;

(c) Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, \$600,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and \$2,268,000 for development;

(d) Springfield Armory National Historic Site, \$5,300,000 for development;

(e) Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, \$185,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and \$2,722,000 for development; and

(f) Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, \$213,000 for acquisition of lands and interests in lands and \$2,737,000 for development.

## TITLE II

SEC. 201. In order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historic site, the Sewall-Belmont House within the District of Columbia, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement to assist in the preservation and interpretation of such house.

Sewall-Belmont  
House National  
Historic Site,  
D. C.

SEC. 202. The property subject to cooperative agreement pursuant to section 101 of this Act is hereby designated as the "Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site".

16 USC 461  
note.

SEC. 203. The cooperative agreement shall contain, but shall not be limited to, provisions that the Secretary, through the National Park Service, shall have right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property covered by such agreement for the purpose of conducting visitors through such property and interpreting it to the public, that no changes or alterations shall be made in such property except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and the other parties to such agreement. The agreement may contain specific provisions which outline in detail the extent of the participation by the Secretary in the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the historic site.

Cooperative  
agreement.

SEC. 204. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, but not to exceed \$500,000.

Appropriation.

Approved October 26, 1974.

### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

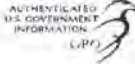
HOUSE REPORT No. 93-1285 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs)  
SENATE REPORT No. 93-1233 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs)  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 120 (1974):

Aug. 19, considered and passed House.

Oct. 8, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 16, House concurred in Senate amendments.





PUBLIC LAW 111-11—MAR. 30, 2009

123 STAT. 991

Public Law 111-11  
111th Congress

An Act

To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Mar. 30, 2009  
[H.R. 146]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Omnibus  
Public Land  
Management Act  
of 2009.  
16 USC 1 note.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Subtitle A—Wild Monongahela Wilderness

- Sec. 1001. Designation of wilderness, Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia.
- Sec. 1002. Boundary adjustment, Laurel Fork South Wilderness, Monongahela National Forest.
- Sec. 1003. Monongahela National Forest boundary confirmation.
- Sec. 1004. Enhanced Trail Opportunities.

Subtitle B—Virginia Ridge and Valley Wilderness

- Sec. 1101. Definitions.
- Sec. 1102. Designation of additional National Forest System land in Jefferson National Forest as wilderness or a wilderness study area.
- Sec. 1103. Designation of Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.
- Sec. 1104. Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.
- Sec. 1105. Trail plan and development.
- Sec. 1106. Maps and boundary descriptions.
- Sec. 1107. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Mt. Hood Wilderness, Oregon

- Sec. 1201. Definitions.
- Sec. 1202. Designation of wilderness areas.
- Sec. 1203. Designation of streams for wild and scenic river protection in the Mount Hood area.
- Sec. 1204. Mount Hood National Recreation Area.
- Sec. 1205. Protections for Crystal Springs, Upper Big Bottom, and Cultus Creek.
- Sec. 1206. Land exchanges.
- Sec. 1207. Tribal provisions; planning and studies.

Subtitle D—Copper Salmon Wilderness, Oregon

- Sec. 1301. Designation of the Copper Salmon Wilderness.
- Sec. 1302. Wild and Scenic River Designations, Elk River, Oregon.
- Sec. 1303. Protection of tribal rights.

Subtitle E—Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon

- Sec. 1401. Definitions.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using any assistance made available under this subsection shall be 50 percent.

(B) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES.—Matching grants for historic preservation specific to the network may be made available through State historic preservation offices.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

**SEC. 7112. MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.**

New York  
16 USC 461 note.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site” means the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in the State of New York established by Public Law 93-486 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) on October 26, 1974.

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site”, numbered “460/80801”, and dated January 2005.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC SITE.—

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the historic site is adjusted to include approximately 261 acres of land identified as the “PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY”, as generally depicted on the map.

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire the land and any interests in the land described in paragraph (1) from willing sellers by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Land acquired for the historic site under this section shall be administered as part of the historic site in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

**SEC. 7113. PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

Texas

(a) DESIGNATION OF PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the “Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park”.

16 USC 410nnn  
note

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the historic site referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

16 USC 410nnn  
note

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 102-304) is amended—

(A) by striking “National Historic Site” each place it appears and inserting “National Historical Park”;



(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

## TITLE XV—SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION

20 USC 50 note.

### SEC. 15101. LABORATORY AND SUPPORT SPACE, EDGEWATER, MARYLAND.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to design and construct laboratory and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$41,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 through 2011. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

20 USC 50 note.

### SEC. 15102. LABORATORY SPACE, GAMBOA, PANAMA.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian tropical research institute in Gamboa, Panama.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$14,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

Maryland.  
20 USC 50 note.

### SEC. 15103. CONSTRUCTION OF GREENHOUSE FACILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, to maintain the horticultural operations of, and preserve the orchid collection held in trust by, the Smithsonian Institution.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$12,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

Approved March 30, 2009.

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#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 146:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 155 (2009):

Mar. 2, 3, considered and passed House.

Mar. 17–19, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Mar. 25, House concurred in Senate amendments.

DAILY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS (2009):

Mar. 30, Presidential remarks and statement.

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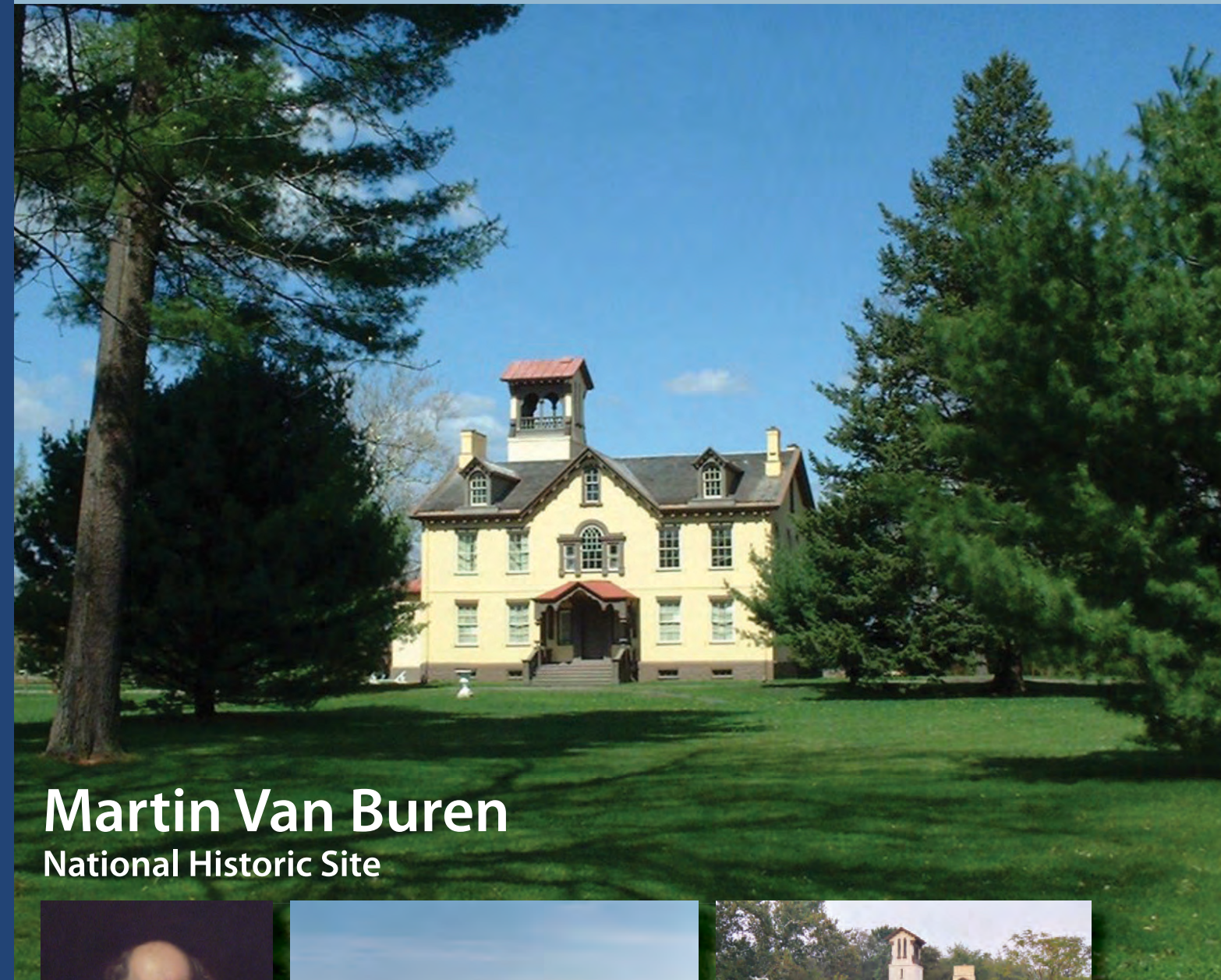








General Management Plan  
Environmental Assessment  
2015



# Martin Van Buren National Historic Site



Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment

For a calendar of events, maps and  
information, visit the Martin Van Buren  
National Historic Site online:

[www.nps.gov/mava](http://www.nps.gov/mava)