

Robert Caldwell
HR 5500: Heritage Resources Internship Summer 2010
April 26, 2010

Internship Proposal: Cane River NHA Commission

Host Information:

Cane River National Heritage Area
PO Box 1201
Natchitoches, LA 71458
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Cane River National Heritage Area is a place where many cultures - American Indian, French, Spanish, African, Creole, and later American - came together to create a way of life dependent on the land, the river, and each other. The Cane River National Heritage Area is a region known for historic agricultural landscapes, Creole architecture, and multi-cultural legacy. Historically, this region lay at the boundary of French and Spanish realms in the New World. Today, it is home to a unique blend of cultures that reflect this legacy. Cane River National Heritage Area boasts a variety of beautiful historic sites. This region includes Cane River Creole National Historical Park, seven national historic landmarks, three state historic sites, and 24 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Much of the 35-mile-long region is privately owned, yet many sites are open to the public. (nps.gov)

Commission

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission is the management entity that guides heritage area activities. The nineteen-member commission represents the wide variety of institutions, organizations, and interests that intersect in the national heritage area. As a government agency, the commission has authority to hire people, administer grant programs, develop loan programs, and set priorities, but it has no zoning or land-use powers and no power of eminent domain. (caneriverheritage.org)

Vision Statement

The Cane River National Heritage Area will be the best-preserved and interpreted example of the rich continuum of Louisiana history from frontier exploration through plantation agriculture to present day lifestyles, traditions, and celebrations. Its residents will enjoy a quality of life based on respect for privacy and traditional lifestyles and on a strong, healthy economy compatible with the historical character of the region. Economic benefits of heritage tourism will assist in the long-term preservation and enhancement of heritage resources. All of this will be accomplished through local, regional, state, and federal cooperation and partnerships with businesses, organizations, and residents. Heritage area landowners and local government will play a key role, as land-use decisions will remain, as they have historically, at the local level. (caneriverheritage.org)

Cynthia Sutton is the Executive Director of the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission. She has a MA in History (1993) and a BA in History (1989) from Western Illinois University. Before joining the CRNHA she held a position at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and was Executive Director of the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

Internship Projects

1. Historic Landmark District Survey/ Historic Standing Structures Report Digitalization Project Preservation in Your Community
2. Los Adaes Self-Guided Tour

Learning Objectives

These two projects will hone important computer & design skills, increase students' understanding of interpretation of an historical archaeological site, and deepen his experience working with the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission.

Skills- posters, digitization of historical documents; creation of self-guided tour materials.

Knowledge- more detailed knowledge of Los Adaes & its impact on the area.

Attitudes- learning flexibility and consensus building (working with multiple stakeholders).

Timeline

Anticipated Start/ End Date:

The internship will begin on Monday May 10, 2010 and end no later than August 13, 2010, with the core work weeks to be as follows:

May 10-June 11 (5 weeks)- 200 hours

July 5-July 30 (4 weeks)- 160 hours

Digitalization Project:

May 31- Complete digitalization of primary documents

June 7- Submit digitized records to the City of Natchitoches

July 9- Submit first draft of poster to Katherine Johnson

July 15- Submit print ready poster, complete with edits to Katherine Johnson

August 10- Present poster at Preservation in Your Community event

Timeline, Self-Guided Tour:

Prior to May 17- Meet with Dr. Pete Gregory and Rick Seale

May 17-22 – Field visit to archeologists performing excavation at Los Adaes

June 10- Complete survey of existing interpretation

July 8- Present first draft of self-guided tour for review and editing

July 22- Submit final Los Adaes self-guided tour. [public presentation TBD]

Event Considerations for Summer Timeline:

May 7- Spring Semester Ends

June 12-13- Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival

July 16-17- NSU Folk Festival

August 10- Preservation in Your Community

August 16- Fall Semester Begins

August 23- First Day of Fall Classes

Evaluation Strategy:

- The student intern will submit weekly (or more often, as needed) email reports and meet in-person with supervisor every 2-3 weeks.
- The student intern will submit electronic progress reports to instructor every 7-10 days.
- The instructor will remain in contact with student and supervisor, and perform a site visit at some time over the course of the internship.
- Student will submit copies of one or more project products and a written final report of the internship experience to instructor.