



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mammoth Cave National Park
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Development of New Housing Units to Replace Deteriorating Facilities - Section 106 Review

Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) is developing a design solution to address deficient housing conditions within Mammoth Cave National Park (MACA). The three existing buildings are rapidly deteriorating, beyond their useful life, and have inappropriate foundation design for their location. The units do not meet Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessibility, lack automatic fire support, and do not comply with NPS quarters policy.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, approximately 550,000 visitors a year toured Mammoth Cave. Support of cave tours operations, and other Park programs, requires a dedicated group of seasonal staff, interns, and volunteers to augment the permanent personnel assigned to MACA. Without seasonal staff, interns, and volunteers, it would be impossible to meet the needs of the Park's visitors, support the Park's natural and cultural resource requirements, and to operate and maintain all the Park's assets and utilities. The ability to provide short-term housing is essential to the Park's ability to attract and retain seasonal employees. While long-term or permanent housing options are available, there is virtually no short-term housing available, in the local communities, for seasonal employees. To meet this housing need, the Park must provide housing for its seasonal employees.

The project will construct two new multi-story units in accordance with NPS Housing Prototype 7 (see attached rendering). These units will have 16 single and double occupancy apartments with a total of 24 beds for seasonal use. Additional housing amenities are proposed for the site including: a supporting indoor gathering space, outdoor pavilion and community gathering space, and options for storage and parking. This project is a one for one replacement of existing bed counts in the park.

Purpose of Notification

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101, et seq.) and its implementing regulation 36 CFR 800.3(a), this notification is for a proposed project and its ongoing review by consulting parties. The NPS has requested the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation to review the findings of a review, according to 36 CFR 800.5(c)(2). This request includes the opportunity for the public to review documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e). The purpose of this announcement is to inform the public of the proposed project and address relevant comments as they apply to the current consultations on historic properties of significance with consulting parties, including the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

The NPS is preparing an environmental assessment, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to identify and evaluate potential impacts to park resources and to incorporate public comment during a separate 30-day comment period. All comments relating to overall project plans and designs should be addressed during this upcoming NEPA comment period. We look forward to continuing the NHPA Section 106 consultation process with you as we concurrently work through our NEPA process.

If you have comments or need additional information relating to the Section 106 review, please go to parkplanning.nps.gov for sending comments and requests electronically.

Attachments:

- A - Project Maps
- B - Project Rendering
- C - Consultation Initiation Letters
- D - Cultural Resource Assessment Report
- E - Approved Cultural Site Documentation Forms
- F - Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer Review
- G - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Review
- H - Timeline of Consultation



Figure 1. Schematic design renderings of proposed Seasonal Housing Units at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky.