1. **What type of study is the National Park Service undertaking?**
The National Park Service (NPS) has commissioned a one-year study of an eleven-mile stretch of the Great River Road — along the west bank of the Mississippi River in west St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana — for possible consideration as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) District, following a letter of inquiry received in 2022. The final NPS report will evaluate the area’s historic context, suitability and value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States.

2. **Why is the National Park Service undertaking this study?**
The National Park Service (NPS) received a letter of inquiry requesting the Great River Road area be considered as a National Historic Landmark. The letter of inquiry is the first step of the National Historic Landmark process, upon receipt of a letter of inquiry the NPS staff conduct initial research to evaluate the potential of the property to be successfully nominated as a National Historic Landmark. Due to the complexity and geographic scope of the Great River Road area, the NPS has commissioned HHM & Associates to assist with the study.

3. **What will be the result of the National Park Service’s Study?**
National Park Service (NPS) staff will use the research and analysis of the study to decide if the Great River Road area is a good candidate for nomination as a National Historic Landmark. If the result is positive, NPS will work with the proponent to prepare an NHL nomination. If the result is negative, NPS will prepare a detailed response explaining why we have determined that the property is not eligible for further consideration.

4. **What is the process of becoming a National Historic Landmark?**
   - A State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), a Federal Preservation Officer (FPO), a scholar, a private owner, or an interested member of the general public, writes a letter of inquiry to the National Park Service.
   - NHL Program staff review the letter to determine if the property appears to meet the criteria for NHL designation. If the property has the potential to be considered for designation, the staff provides the preparer with detailed guidance as the nomination is written.
   - Working with the preparer, staff from the National Historic Landmarks Program review and edit the nomination.
   - Subject matter experts and scholars from across the nation review the nomination. Their suggestions and assessments are incorporated into the nomination.
   - The Landmarks Committee reviews the nomination before making a recommendation to the National Park System Advisory Board.
   - The National Park System Advisory Board reviews the nomination before making a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior.
   - The nomination is submitted to the Secretary of the Interior.
The Secretary considers the recommendations and decides whether or not to designate the property as a National Historic Landmark.

5. What is the National Historic Landmarks Program?
The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The agency works with preservation officials, private property owners, and other partners interested in nominating properties for National Historic Landmark designation. Completed nominations are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, which makes recommendations for designation to the Secretary of the Interior. If selected, property ownership remains the same, but each site receives a designation letter, and is eligible for technical preservation advice.
The National Historic Landmarks Program is one of more than a dozen programs administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve our nation’s shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

6. What is the difference between the National Register of Historic Places listing and designation as a National Historic Landmark?
The National Park Service oversees two Federal designation programs, the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program. There are more than 90,000 properties listed in the National Register, which is the official list of the nation’s historic properties deemed worthy of preservation. These properties tell stories that are important to a local community, the residents of a specific state, or to all Americans. Properties must possess good historic integrity. As with NHLs, listing a property on the National Register of Historic Places does not change its ownership. Properties are owned by private individuals, universities, non-profit organizations, corporations, tribal entities, local and state governments, or, in some cases, the Federal government. The National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and Federal Preservation Officers. The over 2,500 properties designated as National Historic Landmarks tell stories that are of importance to the history of the entire nation, not just local communities or states. These properties possess a high, not simply good, level of historic integrity. All properties designated as NHLs are automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places, if not previously listed.

7. What are the benefits of National Historic Landmark designation?
Designation of NHLs helps recognize, preserve, and protect important locations in American history. Designating a property as an NHL may provide it with additional protections from development and may also make the property eligible for preservation grants and technical preservation assistance. Most NHLs are privately-owned and are governed by local preservation laws. For more information about benefits please see the National Historic Landmark Programs benefits page: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/benefits.htm
8. **Does becoming a National Historic Landmark mean the federal government will acquire my property?**
No, Landmark designation implies no commitment on the part of the Federal government to acquire the property.

9. **Does National Historic Landmark Designation restrict property owners wishing to make changes to their property?**
Designation of non-federal properties as a National Historic Landmark or listing in the National Register does not prohibit under Federal law or regulations any actions which may otherwise be taken by the property owner with respect to the property. The National Park Service may recommend to owners various preservation actions but owners are not obligated to carry out these recommendations. Property owners are free to make whatever changes they wish if Federal funding, licensing, or permits are not involved.

**Owners should keep in mind that state laws or local ordinances may apply to properties wishing to make changes; however, these actions are not required of the National Historic Landmarks program for review and approval under federal regulations.**