Management Summary

The Archaeological Overview and Assessment (Archaeological O&A, or simply O&A) is a Baseline Research Report within the National Park Service’s Cultural Resource Management system. This report presents basic research results intended to help support planning regarding and management of park cultural resources, as well as supporting interpretive programming. The National Park Service defines an Archaeological O&A as a report which “describes and assesses the known and potential archeological resources in a park area. The overview reviews and summarizes existing archeological data; the assessment evaluates the data. The report assesses past work and helps determine the need for and design of future studies” (U.S. Department of the Interior: 25).

As an industrial factory site with associated community, the archaeological resources of Pullman National Monument are evaluated here within the overlapping frameworks of Industrial Archaeology and Industrial Heritage. The federally owned and managed property within this monument is a single building within one part of the factory complex. The NPS is establishing collaborative relationships with other landowners within the monument’s boundaries, including the State of Illinois, The Historic Pullman Foundation, and many private residents. This study is accordingly focused on the Palace Car works at Pullman, essentially the portion of the larger factory that included the majority of the works concerned with producing Pullman’s famous sleeper cars. While the study points to how archaeological research and management at the works can connect to the larger community within the Monument, this theme will be expanded in the forthcoming Historic Resources Study and other publications and project reports.

This report includes a short introduction to the history of the Pullman Palace Car Company, then turns to a summary of the geological and environmental setting of the monument with focus on the Monument’s potential to yield sites or artifacts related to ancient land use. Since the work process is the core of analysis in Industrial Archaeology, the third chapter includes an analysis of the establishment of the works and town at Pullman with a focus on the design and construction of infrastructure for production at the palace car shops. Working from existing primary sources, the document examines what is known about the design and evolution of the
work process at the factory. Until researchers can undertake more detailed analyses of the Tenneco Papers collection or new archaeological fieldwork, this report includes the most detailed examination of the factory’s work process and its interrelated activity areas.

The report then reviews archaeological resources, including a chapter reviewing previous archaeological work within the monument’s boundaries and the research potential of known archaeological resources within the factory site (buildings #1-#8). The final section makes recommendations for research and management of the monument’s archaeological, historical, archival, and architectural resources, leading toward the Historic Resources Study that is the third phase of the collaborative interaction between the National Park Service’s MWAC, Pullman National Monument, and MTU’s Industrial Heritage and Archaeology program.