
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2001

Revised: 7/2025



Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300089

Parent Landscape: 300089

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Alpha Code: APCO

Park Organization Code: 4180

Park District: APCO

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is a rehabilitated rural 19th century Virginia courthouse town and surrounding agricultural landscape that commemorates Robert E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant there in 1865, ending the Civil War and beginning the peace. The village homes, outbuildings, and businesses surrounding the Courthouse were officially incorporated as a seat for county government in 1845. Of the 27 existing structures in the village, 14 have been reconstructed and the rest restored. Outside of the village, there are 9 historic buildings.

The greater park landscape of 1,743 acres is an agricultural matrix of pastures and woodlands, with scattered rural cabins, ruins, homestead sites, and cemeteries. There is a walking trail and a series of parking areas, markers, and monuments which reveal to visitors places associated with the events of 1865. Today the land is more wooded than it historically would have been, as additional forest has grown up on disused farmland and has been planted to screen views of 20th century development. The site maintains "an extraordinary sort of remoteness, an existence outside time...a sense of being in an elevated, remote and even hidden place...a setting quintessentially American." (Appomattox Court House: NPS Handbook 109 1980, 20)

Appomattox Court House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is noted for its association with the final battle of the Civil War and Lee's surrender to Grant, and with the lives of Lee, Grant, and other commanders who served there. The period of significance for both these criteria is 1865. In addition it is significant for the distinctive characteristics of architecture for the ensemble of restored or reconstructed buildings in the village, and the values of commemoration and conservation expressed through them. The period of significance for architecture is currently noted in the National Register documentation as 1930, and for historic preservation as 1935-1940.

The condition of the landscape is fair. While the lands of the greater landscape are in generally good condition, a number of outlying structures are in poor condition. Release to succession has also impacted the views.

The broader landscape characteristics of the park generally retain integrity, including natural systems, topography, spatial organization, land use, and circulation. The area is less intensively farmed and more wooded than it was in 1865, but still evokes the setting and feeling of the period. Some small-scale features and land uses reflect the commemoration and conservation of the early 20th century.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park consists of one individual landscape, which includes the area of the park with its fields, forest, cemeteries, and buildings outside of the village. Within that landscape, the village of Appomattox Court House is a separate component landscape.

The park is located in the Chesapeake Cluster of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.

Landscape Type:

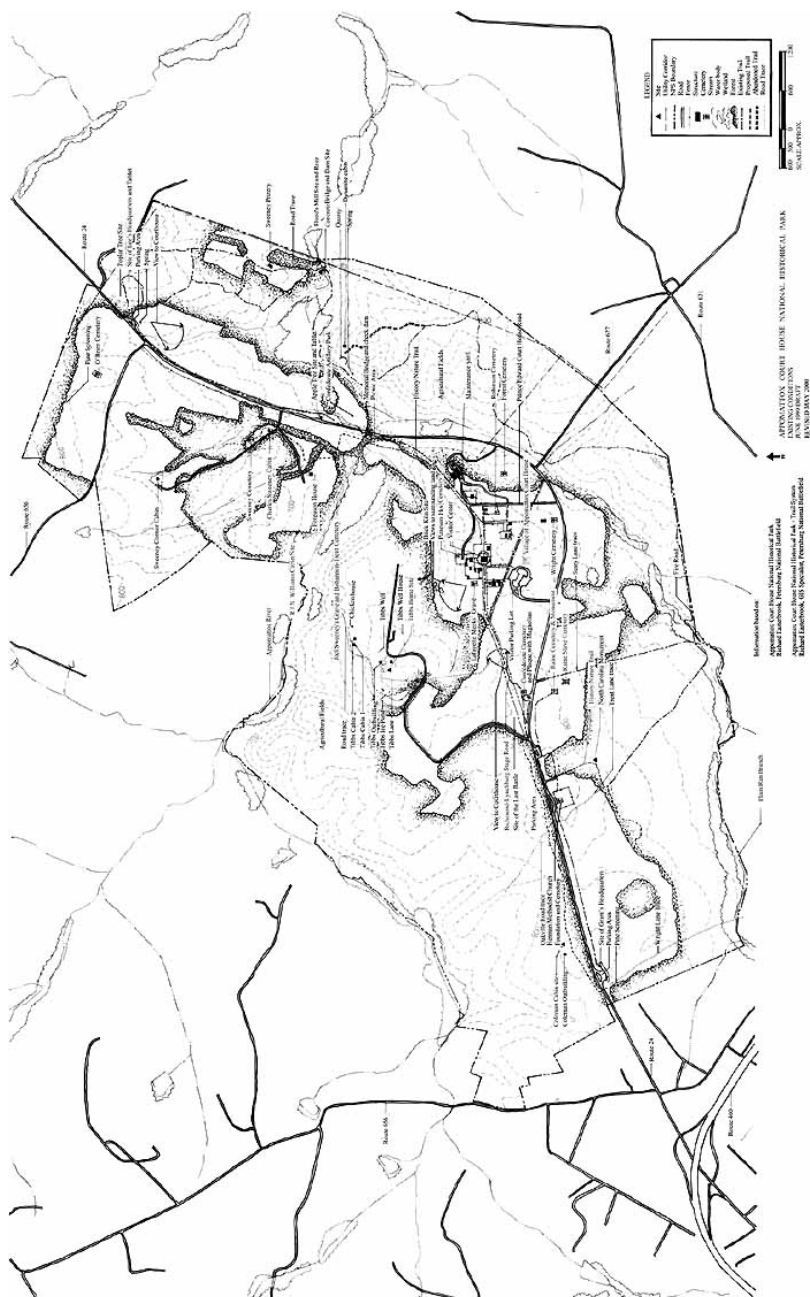
Historic Site

Historic Vernacular Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Appomattox Battlefield Site	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Appomattox Court House	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Appomattox Court House National Historical Park	Other Name Type:	Current
Other Name:	Clover Hill	Other Name Type:	Historic

Site Plan



Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	12/14/2001

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Level 0 information, initially gathered by David Sonka in June, 1997, was updated and entered in 1999. In the summer of 1999, the field survey work for Level I was done by student interns Fowler and Ong under the supervision of Brown. Brown and Fowler did the Level II field work in May and completed the report in the summer of 2000. Sams assisted with the editing of the maps.

The park Cultural Landscapes Inventory contact is Ron Wilson, Historian/Chief of Interpretation, who can be reached at 804-352-8987.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2013**

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Landscape
Village

Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessments for the Landscape and Village, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Landscape
Good – Village

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

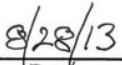
Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessments for the Landscape and Village at Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park



Date

Condition reassessment form, August 28, 2013.

Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park



MAY 29 2001

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

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Director

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May 24, 2001

Mr. Reed Johnson
Superintendent
National Park Service
Appomattox Court House
Post Office Box 218
Appomattox, Virginia 24522-0218

Re: Cultural Landscape Inventory for Appomattox Court House Landscape and Village
DHR File Number 2001-0061

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Appomattox Courthouse Landscape and Appomattox Courthouse Village. Overall, the DHR finds that the document provides a comprehensive inventory of the landscape and structures at the park. We offer the following comments with regards to our concurrence with the NPS findings:

1. The DHR concurs with the NPS that the landscape is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We also concur with the NPS determination as to the eligibility of individual resources within the landscape and village.
2. We further concur that the Civilian Conservation Corps played a significant role in the history of the park's development and that structures and landscape features relating to their activities should be considered as contributing elements to the park's eligibility.
3. We agree with the NPS that the period of conservation should be extended to include the 1893 commemorative iron tablets.
4. We concur that under architecture, previously unlisted landscape elements such as historic roadbeds and fence lines should be considered contributing to the significance of the park.
5. We concur that the period of significance should be reviewed and expanded and that further research is needed in order to determine the extent of that period.
6. We agree that the park should further research the potential significance of its agricultural context.

While the DHR generally concurs with the NPS findings, we would also like to offer the following technical comments:

1. Further historical analysis is needed. This analysis should a) provide a regional context through investigation of how the development of Appomattox Courthouse fits in to the development of the region as a whole and b) analyze how the 1865 battle played out across the Courthouse landscape. A metal detector survey may be helpful in establishing the location of the battle (if one is not already planned as part of the archaeological assessment currently underway).

Program Services Div.
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1585
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Petersburg Office
19-B Bollingbrook Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1620
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Portsmouth Office
612 Court St., 3rd Fl.
Portsmouth, VA 23704
Tel: (757) 396-6787
Fax: (757) 396-6712

Roanoke Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Winchester Office
107 N. Kent St., #203
Winchester, VA 22601
Tel: (540) 722-3427
Fax: (540) 722-7535

SHPO concurrence letter, May 24, 2001 (2 pages).

2. We recommend that you develop a treatment plan for the park if you have not already done so. This plan should specifically address a) plans for stabilization of threatened resources and b) outline how further research will help to answer outstanding questions with regard to the significance of resources such as those related to the CCC and the historic use of buildings and structures within the park. We recognize that such a plan requires funding and that such funding may not be available at this time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review the referenced project. I would like to reiterate that the DHR generally concurs with the NPS findings and found the Inventory to be both comprehensive and enlightening. We look forward to receiving a copy of the archaeological assessment once it is complete. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 367-2323 ext. 140 or lrichards@dhr.state.va.us.

Sincerely,



Lily A. Richards
Archaeologist and Historian
Division of Resource Services and Review

Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Park Concurrence

I have reviewed and hereby approve the final Cultural Landscapes Inventory reports for
Appomattox Court House Landscape and Appomattox Court House Village, dated
8/4/2000.


Reed Johnson
Park Superintendent

Date 12/14/00

Park concurrence form, December 14, 2000.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2007**

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park:
Appomattox Court House Landscape
and
Appomattox Court House Village

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessments for Appomattox Court House Landscape and Appomattox Court House Village, including:

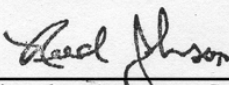
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Appomattox Court House Landscape
Good – Appomattox Court House Village

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values

The condition reassessments for Appomattox Court House Landscape and Appomattox Court House Village in Appomattox Court House National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park 8/8/07 Date

Condition reassessment form, August 8, 2007.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025**

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House Village

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park concurs with the updates for the following CLIs, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Good – Appomattox Court House Village

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI Updates at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JAMES BAILEY Digitally signed by JAMES BAILEY
Date: 2025.07.15 15:08:46 -0400

Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

07/15/25

Date

Park concurrence form, July 15, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion		08/08/2007	Condition Reassessment
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/28/2013	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	07/15/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Appomattox County

Size (Acres): 1743

Land Tract Number(s)

000001, 000002, 01-101, 01-103, 01-104, 01-110 to 01-121, and 01-123 to 01-147

Boundary Description:

All that certain tract or parcel of land known as the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, situated in Cloverhill Magisterial District, Appomattox County, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a monument, found at a point on or near the centerline, of State Route 701 (Old Mill Road) at its intersection with southerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 24; thence along the centerline of Route 701, South 57degrees 25' 12" East 106.09 feet to a point; thence, along the arc of a circle to the left with a radius of 108.00 feet, an arc length of 118.10 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 88 44' 46" East 112.30 feet to a point; thence North 59 degrees 55' 40" East 110.53 feet to a point at the intersection of the centerline of an old road scar with the centerline of the said Route 701; thence, still with the centerline of the said Route, the following bearings and distances:

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 103.57 feet, an arc length of 125.78 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 85 degrees 16' 54" East 118.19 feet to a point; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 357.41 feet, an arc length of 232.54 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 31 degrees 51' 08" East 228.46 feet to a point; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the left with a radius of 573.40 feet, an arc length of 522.00 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 39 degrees 17' 37" East 504.16 feet to a point; thence

South 65 degrees 22' 25" East 473.57 feet to a monument, found; thence, leaving said road,

South 21 degrees 09' 24" West 2562.81 feet to a monument set; thence

South 21 degrees 09' 24" West 55.00 feet to a point in the Appomattox river; thence

South 01 degrees 36' 36" East 50.00 feet to a monument, set; thence

South 01 degrees 36' 36" East 273.59 feet to a monument, found; thence

South 04 degrees 44' 00" West 140.36 feet to a monument, found; thence

South 18 degrees 02' 19" West 1962.80 feet to a monument, found; thence

South 38 degrees 48' 15" West 2131.31 feet to a monument set; thence

South 38 degrees 48' 15" West 50.00 feet to a point on the northerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 627; thence, crossing the said State highway and with the lands of the Hunting Hills Subdivision, South 51 degrees 02' 12" West 339.80 feet to a monument, found; thence South 44 degrees 43' 52" West 1136.81 feet to a concrete monument and cap, found; thence South 82 degrees 28' 25" West 2680.29 feet to a monument, set in or near Plain Run Branch; thence, in and along the said branch, the following bearings and distances:

South 63 degrees 23' 17" West 65.99 feet to a point;

South 30 degrees 53' 17" West 382.77 feet to a point;

South 79 degrees 23' 17" West 171.59 feet to a point;

North 68 degrees 36' 43" West 191.38 feet to a point;

South 66 degrees 38' 17" West 349.77 feet to a point;

South 82 degrees 38' 17" West 554.35 feet to a point;

North 28 degrees 21' 43" West 270.58 feet to a point;

South 82 degrees 08' 17" West 237.58 feet to a point;

North 68 degrees 21' 43" West 191.38 feet to a point;

South 83 degrees 53' 17" West 633.55 feet to a point;

South 68 degrees 23' 17" West 699.54 feet to a point;

South 67 degrees 53' 17" West 191.38 feet to a point;

South 88 degrees 53' 17" West 237.58 feet to a point;

North 73 degrees 49' 50" West 182.05 feet to a point;

North 75 degrees 01' 21" West 151.79 feet to a point;

North 49 degrees 16' 21" West 72.59 feet to a point;

North 83 degrees 16' 21" West 263.98 feet to a point; and

South 62 degrees 43' 39" West 250.24 feet to a point; thence leaving said branch,

North 22 degrees 21' 27" West passing a monument set at a distance of 50.00 feet, a concrete monument and cap found at a distance of 1277.92 (from the last mentioned monument) and continuing in all a total distance of 1971.02 feet to concrete monument and cap, found; thence

North 21 degrees 51' 31" West 132.41 feet to a monument, found on the southerly right-of-way line of the aforementioned Highway No. 24; thence, crossing said Highway No. 24,

North 22 degrees 16' 34" West 357.31 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 63 degrees 14' 31" East 51.80 feet to a monument; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 3475.73 feet, an arc length of 836.63 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 70 degrees 08' 16" East 834.61 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 77 degrees 02' 00" East 2024.51 feet to a monument, set; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 11158.19 feet, an arc length of 692.16 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 75 degrees 15' 22" East 692.05 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 73 degrees 28' 45" East 270.47 feet to a monument, set on or near the northeasterly line of an old road scar; thence, in and along the said road and a fence line, North 44 degrees 23' 49" West 766.47 feet to a twin poplar tree; thence

North 36 degrees 35' 32" East 1845.41 feet to a monument, set on or near an old road scar; thence

South 82 degrees 41' 10" East 593.96 feet to a monument set; thence

South 87 degrees 11' 36" East 249.04 feet to a monument set; thence

South 81 degrees 17' 17" East 1816.97 feet to a monument set; thence

North 28 degrees 26' 36" West 691.24 feet to a triple hickory tree; thence

North 00 degrees 10' 19" East 625.49 feet to an oak tree; thence recrossing the Appomattox River,

North 28 degrees 11' 29" East 323.39 feet to a dead tree; thence

North 06 degrees 39' 25" East 960.44 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 39 degrees 39' 00" East 374.18 feet to a monument, set at a fence corner; thence

North 40 degrees 47' 20" West 283.40 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 41 degrees 02' 23" West 318.05 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 33 degrees 02' 22" West 828.93 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 25 degrees 43' 20" West, crossing a gravel road, 343.97 feet to a monument; thence

North 83 degrees 48' 09" East 1998.72 feet to a point on or near the centerline of State Secondary Route No. 656; thence along the centerline of said Route, North 69° 58' 02" West 117.25 feet to a point; thence along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 507.23 feet, an arc length of 310.81 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 52 degrees 24' 46" West 305.97 feet to a point; thence leaving the said Route, North 42 degrees 02' 29" East 816.20 feet to a monument, set on an old road scar; thence South 66 degrees 16' 51" East 108.37 feet to a monument, set; thence North 00 degrees 23' 18" East 280.74 feet to a gum tree; thence South 68 degrees 06' 54" East 2746.79 feet to a monument, set on the northerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 24; thence on a line recrossing the said Highway No. 24, South 36 degrees 56' 59" West 856.28 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

All bearings and distances are based on the Virginia State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone.

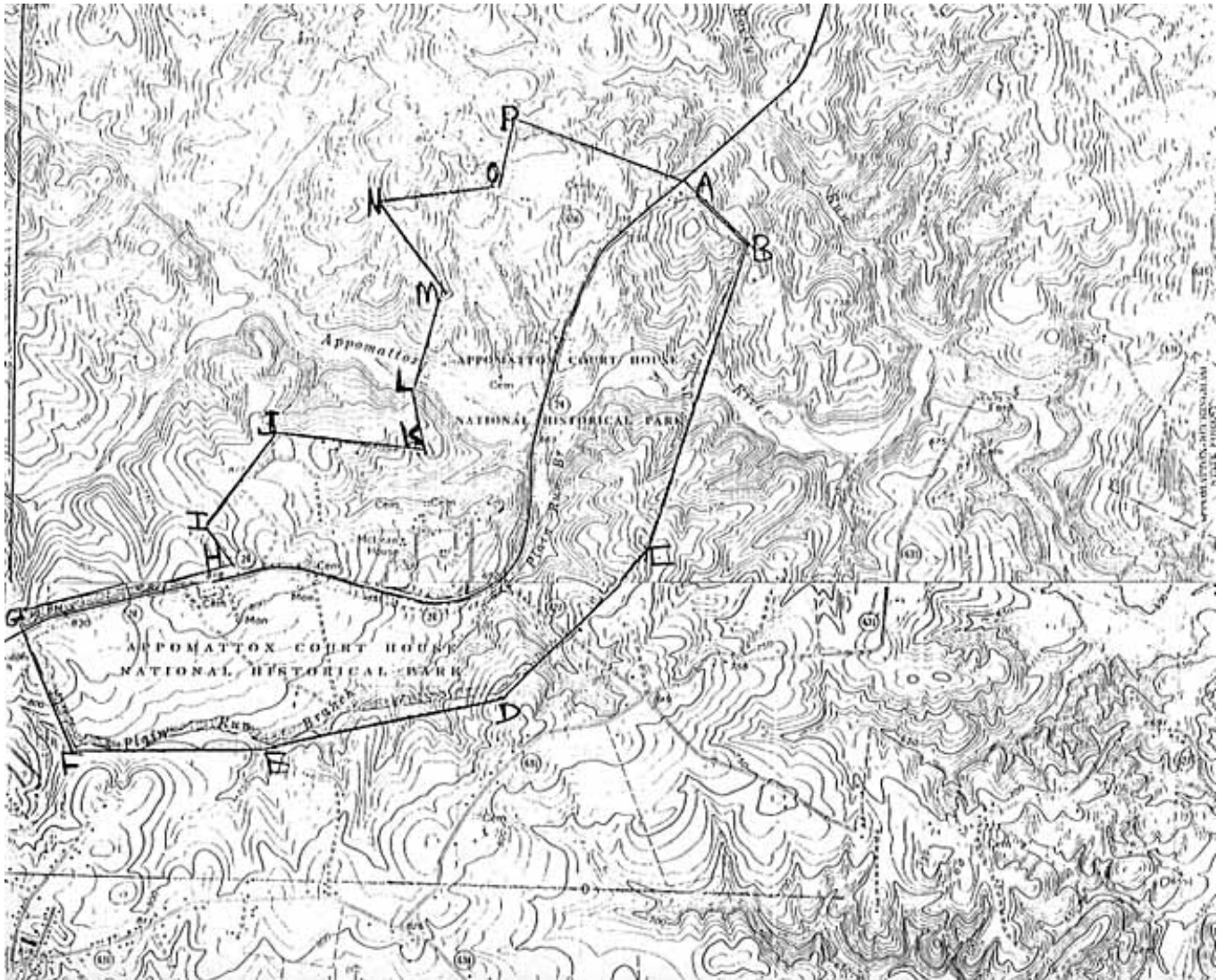
EXCEPTING THEREFROM the right-of-way for Virginia State Highway No. 24.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM that certain tract of land known as the Hermon Cemetery (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989,10: 2-6).

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.8016726647201	37.3658887436041	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.819238957981	37.371441118068	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.8157669539611	37.3743510189131	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.8072969696304	37.3743744573643	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.8086093802498	37.3758407308975	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7959759265094	37.3792106917363	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.804761388084	37.3800050206885	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7967918848033	37.3821998897778	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7950849960003	37.386493858248	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7989225300547	37.390440574547	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7921229354276	37.3912149597272	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-78.7912428279189	37.394262615293	

Location Map:



USGS map of Appomattox Court House NHP.

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Appomattox Court House NHP is a village preserved or reconstructed with much the same appearance it would have had in the late 1860s. It represents a small, rural courthouse town of the day. The homes, tavern, and other buildings are connected by a network of roads, with the main street encircling the county courthouse. Nearby railroad lines allowed for troop and supply movement during the Civil War. Around this settlement, the agricultural landscape of 19th century Virginia is represented through pastures and fields. Preservation of this village and landscape is part of the larger commemorative efforts of the Civil War that took place throughout Virginia in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Appomattox Court House NHP is located in the rolling Piedmont foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The village of Appomattox Court House is built on the crest of a ridge (elevation 770') formed by the Appomattox River and the Plain Run Branch. (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 6:1)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Appomattox Court House NHP is located in south central Virginia, 92 miles west of Richmond and 18 miles east of Lynchburg. It is located in Appomattox County, three miles northeast of the town of Appomattox. (Park brochure 1997) VA Route 24 runs from Appomattox through the length of the park.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 12/14/2000

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 12/31/2010

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

APCO has 5 year historical leasing program of approx. 480 acres for cattle grazing, hay, + small grain production; currently no small grain raised due to cost. New agreement will range from small grain to hay, + amount of pastureland will also change.

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 01/01/9999

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Park pays Town for maintenance, repair, etc. of facility from Park Service Lagoon Sewage Pump Station, sewage force main along Rt 24 for 7500' to west and 500' to southwest within park. (expiration date unknown)

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: None - Privately Owned

Narrative: There are four privately owned inholdings: 01-149 and 01-152 John Matthews, 01-151 Roy Moon, 01-153 Claudine O'Brien.

Type of Interest: None ☐ State Government Owned

Narrative: Within the park there are 1 primary and 2 secondary roads owned by Virginia, each with an easement. These are State Route 24 (55ft easement from center of highway), Route 656 (25ft easement), and Route 627 (75ft easement at Rt. 24 for .05miles, and 15ft easement for remainder).

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands contribute to a feeling of being in another time. The sweeping rural agricultural views currently reveal no visible encroaching development, despite the Park's proximity to the town of Appomattox and a major highway corridor approx. 2 miles to the west.

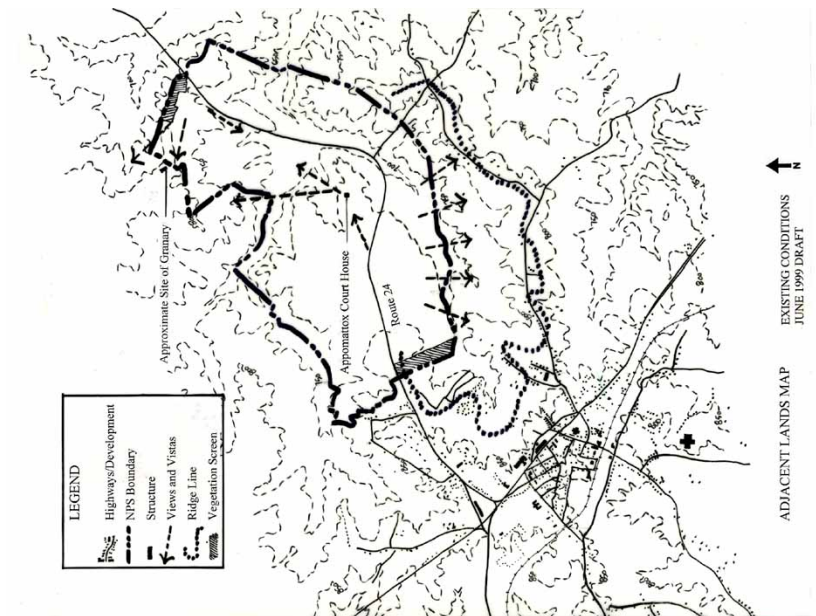
A dense planting of pines screens residential and industrial development at the western boundary along Rte. 24, which would otherwise be in view of the parking area at Grant's Headquarters.

Development less than 1/2 mile south of the park along Route 631 is currently masked by a densely wooded ridge. However, the ridgeline is outside park boundaries and any clearing or development there would be highly visible from the Route 24 corridor and contributing sites along it.

Views to the north from the Conner Cabin and O'Brien cemetery, while not currently accessible to visitors, are very scenic. They include an old granary and expansive agricultural fields which are outside park boundaries. Future development of this land could be an issue.

Within the park are several inholdings, including homes and family cemeteries, which could become problematic within the context of adjacent lands.

Adjacent Lands Graphic:



National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park was listed on the National Register in 1966 without documentation. Additional documentation of the site, completed on 6/28/1989, was used below. Future revisions of the nomination should include additional landscape information recorded in the CLI process, and consider expanding the period of significance to include early efforts of commemoration.

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 05/24/2001

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The landscape at Appomattox Court House is nationally significant based on criterion A. It was the site of final battle and of General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States. Here the armies of the north and south camped while the details of the surrender were arranged, and here the beginning of peace and reunification of the nation took place. The site is also significant under criterion B for its association with the lives of Lee, Grant, who later became President of the United States, and their major subordinate commanders. Appomattox Court House is also significant under criterion C, a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and by representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 8:1-5)

Because of the events of the Civil War that took place here, Appomattox Court House has military significance. Sites where events of the surrender took place such as Lee's and Grant's Headquarters remain, along with the broader characteristics of the landscape. These include the natural systems and features, circulation system, and views. Few detailed elements of the battle and temporary encampment sites remain, but numerous archeological sites are found here.

"Conservation" is noted as an area of significance for the rehabilitation of the village that took place during this century, including reconstruction of 14 structures. NPS mounted a model collaborative research effort in 1940 that included archeology, architecture and history, which led to the reconstruction of the McLean House. A total of 14 buildings were reconstructed from 1949-1968. At least two structures, the Plunkett-Meeks Store Storage Building and the Woodson Law Office, were relocated within the property. In addition there are 9 historic cemetery sites that derive significance from their association with events represented by the park. (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 8:1,3-5) The site also has a long history of commemoration. While the National Register of Historic Places nomination notes the period of significance as 1935-1940, CLI research has revealed that the earliest manifestation of commemoration in the landscape was the siting of iron tablets in 1893, followed by the erection of the North Carolina Monument and markers in 1905. The efforts culminated in the creation of the park. Because of the evidence of earlier commemoration found at Appomattox, and the longer period of interdisciplinary study and reconstruction of buildings, the CLI recommends revisiting the years of this period of significance.

Listed for the area of significance "Architecture," the village is considered a museum because of the variety of its late 18th and early 19th century structures and sites. They represent the small southern courthouse town of the day. Landscape elements that contribute to the setting are historic roads, fencelines, hedgerows, and views. The current National Register documentation notes the period of significance as 1930. (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 7:3-5, 8:1) The park may want to reexamine this year to broaden the period of significance to include both the original period of construction and the entire period of NPS reconstruction.

The site was impacted by the presence of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1940s. Under the guidance of the National Park Service, the CCC implemented early park development, including landscape clearing. Therefore it is likely that the contexts of conservation and politics/government (New Deal initiatives) are applicable. More research is needed to clarify the significance of the CCC, especially given similar efforts at parks throughout Virginia.

Finally, it is possible that given the array of cabins, outbuildings, fields, mill site, and cemeteries, that the landscape is significant at the state or local level for its agricultural context. Again, more research is needed into this area.

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

B -- A building or structure removed from its original location

D -- A cemetery

E -- A reconstructed building, object, or structure

F -- A commemorative property

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1865 - CE 1865

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Conquest And Emancipation	

Time Period: CE 1930 - CE 1930

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Period Revivals (1870-1940)	

Time Period: CE 1935 - CE 1940

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	66000827
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1790 - 1800	Built	The frame farm building, the Sweeney Prizery, was constructed in late 18th century. (Statement for Management 1995, 4) ("about 1790" General Management Plan 1977, 5)
CE 1809	Established	Lynchburg Stage Road established. (Wilson 1999, interview)
CE 1819	Built	Clover Hill Tavern built. It became an important stop in the Richmond-Lynchburg stage line, and led to development of area.
CE 1845	Established	Virginia General Assembly established Appomattox County from parts of Prince Edward, Charlotte, Buckingham, and Campbell counties. (Moore ND, 2)
CE 1846	Built	Courthouse constructed; Appomattox Court House became county seat.
CE 1846	Built	Jacob Tibbs plantation, northwest of the village, built about 1846 by Samuel McDearmon and later sold to Tibbs. (Transcript of Appomattox County Land Books, 1997)
CE 1854	Built	South Side Railroad started service through Appomattox Station, bypassing Appomattox Court House. (Wilson 1999, interview)
CE 1860	Built	Charles Sweeney Cabin and R.J.N. Williams House constructed circa 1860. (Statement for Management 1995, 13)
CE 1863	Built	Coleman farmstead, 1 mile southwest of village, about 1863 (Price 1943, annotated plat; transcript of Appomattox County Land Books, 1997)
CE 1865	Altered	April 9-10, 1865: Battle of Appomattox Court House, the final battle of the Army of Northern Virginia, took place here on April 9 before Lee's surrender to Grant. Encampment of thousands of soldiers took place in area.
CE 1865	Altered	Federal Army troops remained camped in farms and woods around Appomattox Court House from May through November.
CE 1865	Established	Flood's Mill was in operation, south of ford on Appomattox River. The mill appeared before 1865.
CE 1866	Established	Confederate cemetery soon after the time of the Surrender (Michler map 1867).
CE 1892	Destroyed	After courthouse destroyed in a fire, county seat moved to Appomattox Station. Village no longer altered by growth. (Gurney 1955, 4)
CE 1893	Memorialized	Iron tablets erected by War Department to commemorate sites associated with the surrender at Appomattox.
CE 1893	Removed	McLean House dismantled to be reassembled in Washington D.C., but plans failed and it remained near its original site.

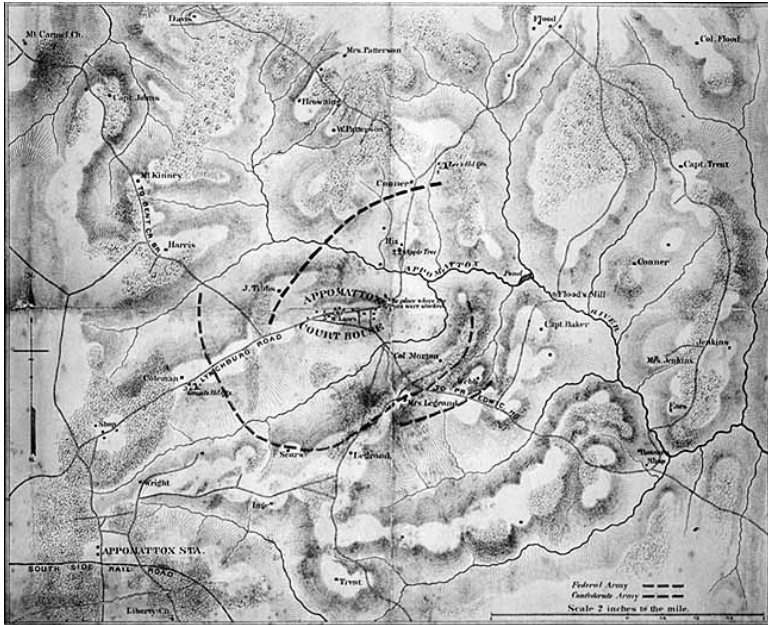
Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1905	Memorialized	North Carolina Monument erected to commemorate the state's role at the site and in the Civil War.
CE 1905 - 1926	Neglected	Some homes in village and surrounding farms abandoned; areas of farmland became overgrown in succession to forest.
CE 1920	Built	Ferguson House constructed circa 1920. ("Status of File for Each Building in Park")
CE 1926	Land Transfer	War Department authorized to purchase one acre of land to erect a monument, which was never built.
CE 1926	Memorialized	United Daughters of the Confederacy erected marker at the Courthouse.
CE 1926 - 1940	Memorialized	Efforts continued to create a park at Appomattox Court House, culminating with the creation of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument on April 10, 1940.
CE 1930	Built	Memorial Bridge built over the Appomattox River on Route 24.
CE 1933	Land Transfer	August 10, 1933: Park transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service in the Department of Interior on August 10, 1933.
CE 1940 - 1941	Altered	Black Civilian Conservation Corps company assigned; began work such as stabilization of structures, site + vista clearing, power line corridor clearing, quarrying of stone, + initial grading + construction of Route 24 bypass. (Haskett 1962, Vol III A 7)
CE 1941	Altered	U.S. Army camped and practiced maneuvers in field west of Confederate cemetery, July 23, 1941. (Happel 1941, photo neg. 705)
CE 1941 - 1954	Built	New Route 24 built to bypass village (construction paused in mid-1940s due to World War II).
CE 1942	Neglected	U.S. entry into WWII temporarily ended major efforts in park.
CE 1947	Destroyed	Only reported forest fire on park land, March 27, 1947, set accidentally. 76 acres burned, 56 within the park. (Haskett 1962, Vol III E 2)
CE 1949 - 1968	Reconstructed	Period of NPS reconstruction within the village, including the McLean House, Well, Meeks Store and Stable, Jones Well House, Courthouse, McLean Outbuildings, County Well, and Tavern.
CE 1950	Memorialized	Dedication of McLean House drew a crowd of 20,000 on April 16, 1950. (Fawcett 1950, photo; Haskett 1962, Vol III A 7)
CE 1954	Altered	New parking area, benches, sidewalks added to Confederate Cemetery around the time of completion of the new Route 24.
CE 1954	Memorialized	Designation changed from Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park on April 15, 1954. (Statement for Management 1995, 22)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1959 - 1988	Restored	Preservation of structures in general landscape: Sweeney Prizery stabilized (1959, 1978-79); R.J.N. Williams Cabin (1985); Sweeney Connor Cabin restored (1986-87); Charles Sweeney Cabin (1987-88).
CE 1963	Memorialized	Marker placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at the courthouse is moved to the Confederate Cemetery.
CE 1965	Reconstructed	Reconstructed Courthouse dedicated as visitor center, with new parking lot to the south.
CE 1981	Built	New access road to maintenance yard from Route 24 constructed.

Physical History:

1. Prehistory – 1865: Settlement and Early Development

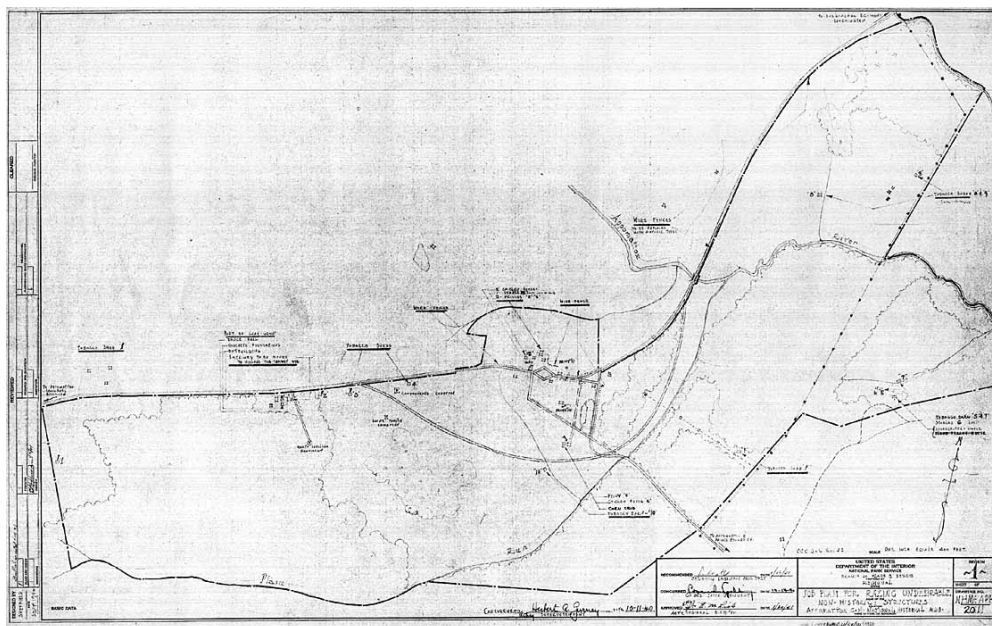
Little is known about the prehistory and Native American use of this area. In the late 18th century the Sweeney Prizery was built, so some settlement of the area had taken place by then and the land was being used for agriculture. In 1809 the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road was established, (Wilson 1999, interview) and in 1819 Alexander Patteson opened the Clover Hill Tavern as a stop on that route. When, in 1845, Appomattox County was formed from pieces of four existing counties, the tavern was used for official business until the courthouse was constructed in 1846. Once the courthouse was in use, the town, which had been known as Clover Hill, was named Appomattox Court House (General Management Plan 1977, 18) and became the busy hub of county business on court days. (For further details on early history see Lucchetti, Leigh and McCartney 1992, 4-9) Some plantations and farmsteads were built at this time, including the Tibbs plantation around 1846. Local industries before 1865 included a brick kiln and Flood's Mill. Appomattox Courthouse is unusual in that its appearance during this climax period has been preserved due to lack of additional growth after it was bypassed by the railroad in 1854. A few outlying farmsteads, including the R.J.N. Williams cabin, Coleman outbuilding, and Charles Sweeney cabin were built in the early 1860s.



Map of the battlefield from 1865. (Henderson 1865, file 229)



View of the park landscape in 1936 looking towards Tibbs House. (APCO 1936, file 2023)



1940 CCC Job Plan for Razing Undesirable Non-Historic Structures: see attachments for enlargement. (APCO 1940, plan)



Civilian Conservation Corps quarrying stone in 1941. (Happel 1941, no file number/733)

2. April - November 1865: Civil War at Appomattox

The Civil War came to Appomattox County in April, 1865, at the end of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's retreat across Southside Virginia. On April 8, Lee's rearguard led by Lieutenant General James Longstreet built the New Hope earthworks four miles northeast of Appomattox Court House, where most of Lee's army was positioned. That evening, Union troops captured Confederate supply trains at Appomattox Station, parts of a wagon train and 25 Confederate cannons. ("Lee's Retreat" brochure 1997) On April 9, 1865, there was some last fighting before Lee's surrender to Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. Choosing a neutral site, they met at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House to agree upon the terms of surrender for the Army of Northern Virginia. Thousands of soldiers camped in the surrounding farms and woods, and by April 13 Confederate troops had surrendered their weapons and were released to return to their homes. Other Confederate commanders followed Lee's lead in surrendering, thus ending the Civil War. The village remained occupied by Union soldiers until November, 1865, when they left the area. (General Management Plan 1977, 18) In 1866 the Confederate Cemetery was created just west of the village along the Stage Road, memorializing the Confederate soldiers (and one Union soldier) who died at Appomattox and were buried there.

3. 1865-1940 Period of Decline and Early Commemorative Efforts

After the Civil War, Appomattox Court House continued as the county seat, despite the fact that the South Side railroad had bypassed it. Then in 1892 the courthouse burned and the county seat moved to Appomattox Station, now called Appomattox, on the railroad approximately 3 miles to the southwest. Appomattox Court House began a period of deterioration, with houses rented or abandoned and outbuildings allowed to collapse or used for firewood. (Gurney 1955, 4,9)

The move to commemorate the site began by the late 1880s. Land was being acquired and a private commemorative park planned by the Appomattox Land Company, under the leadership of General S. S. Burdette. The company hoped to establish a campground for reunions, put up a monument, sell lots and build a hotel. But in 1891 the centerpiece of this plan, the McLean House, was sold to another group of investors called the Appomattox Land and Improvement Company to put on display at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1893 the McLean House was dismantled, to be reassembled as a privately run Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C. This plan failed too, and the house materials rotted on piles near the original house site. (Gurney 1955, 2-10)

Despite the loss of the McLean House and county seat, Burdette continued to work for Congressional recognition of Appomattox, and in 1893 ten commemorative iron tablets were erected. He continued to work for the creation of a park, but with little support in the South, the plan languished. In 1905, the North Carolina legislature erected the North Carolina Monument to commemorate the state's role in the last battle at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, as well as other contributions to the war effort. Again little happened until the 1920s when local residents tried to secure Congressional approval to establish a park. (Gurney 1955, 2-10) In 1926, Congress authorized an inspection of the battlefields and surrender grounds, and in 1930 the War Department was authorized to acquire one acre of land and erect a monument on the site where the courthouse once stood. In 1932, the War Department announced a national competition for design of a monument. Although the winning design was never approved, \$100,000 was appropriated for its construction. (Park comments on draft Level II 2000)

4. 1933-Present: NPS Era

On August 10, 1933, jurisdiction over the site was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. (Statement for Management 1995, 6) Interest in restoring the village seems to have started with NPS acquisition of the site. It was originally placed under the superintendent of Colonial National Monument, B. Floyd Flickinger. He and others became interested in restoration and reconstruction at Appomattox, probably influenced by the Williamsburg work, and that idea gained support over the plan for a monument. (Gurney 1955, 14) A 1939 Congressional act authorized acquisition of land as necessary within one and a half miles of the courthouse to create a national historical monument. In 1939 an executive order allowed the transfer of approximately 964 acres from the Department of Agriculture. (Statement for Management 1995, 6, 21-22) This land had been acquired under a public works project to remove submarginal lands from agricultural production, thus ensuring better farm prices for products from the remaining farmland. (Gurney 1955, 19) Local efforts were made in the 1930s to preserve a tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) tree under which, according to local folklore, Lee delivered his last address to his troops. (Wilson 1999, interview)

On April 10, 1940, the park was created by the Secretary of the Interior as Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument. That designation was changed to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park on April 15, 1954. (Statement for Management 1995, 6, 21-22)

Work in the park began in 1940 when a black Civilian Conservation Corps company was assigned to Camp 28 there. (Paige 1985, 203) They began to stabilize structures and clear vegetation. They also demolished what were considered “undesirable” structures throughout the park, mostly tobacco sheds and outbuildings, although several of those structures dated to the period of significance. (Job Plan for Razing Non-Historic Structures 1940) The CCC Corps also quarried stone near Plain Run Branch for use in the construction of a bypass to take State Route 24 out of the village. (Happel 1941, no file number/733; Happel 1942, no file number/888) Plans for reconstruction of the McLean House and completion of the bypass were put on hold with the United States’ entrance into World War II. (Gurney 1955, 22-24) After the war, initial efforts in the park focused on the restoration and repair of the 12 existing buildings. From 1949 to 1968 the National Park Service reconstructed 14 buildings, including the McLean House and outbuildings. (Statement for Management 1995, 4, 13) With the reconstruction of the Courthouse and addition of its parking lot in 1964, visitor center activities that had taken place at the Clover Hill Tavern were moved to the new facility. (Wilson 1999, interview) It wasn’t until 1954 that the bypass for Route 24 was completed. (Gurney 1955, 26) Along the new Route 24 several interpretive areas with parking were provided; a new parking area and walkway reversed the orientation of the Confederate Cemetery to the road, which moved from the north side of the cemetery to the southwest side (NPS 1954, plan). Several village structures have been used for NPS administrative offices, which are currently located in the historic Isbell-Bocock House. Park maintenance facilities and an access road were added to the historic village between the 1950s and 1980s.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	Yes	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	Yes	No	No
Commerce/Trade	Professional	Professional	Yes	No	No
Commerce/Trade	Specialty Store (Shop)	Specialty Store (Shop)	Yes	No	No
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Hotel (Boarding House)	Lodge (Inn, Cabin)	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	Yes	No
Funerary	Cemetery	Cemetery	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Correctional Facility (Jail)	Correctional Facility (Jail)	Yes	No	No
Government	Courthouse	Courthouse	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	No	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Historic Furnished Interior	No	Yes	Yes
Transportation	Road-Related	Road-Related-Other	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

CLI research has found little information about the Native American use of this site. Slave cabins associated with the McLean House and Clover Hill Tavern are evidence of the role of African-American slaves in the economic and social structures of the area. Several free black artisans and shopkeepers, such as blacksmith Charles Diuguid (Marvel 1997, 115) had shops and lived in the village. Slaves, and later servants, lived in quarters behind the Clover Hill Tavern and McLean house. Slaves and free blacks together comprised more than half the population of Appomattox County in the antebellum era. (Moore ND, 11)

Another period of ethnographic interest is 1940-41, when a black Civilian Conservation Corps from Yorktown, Virginia was stationed at Appomattox Court House (Haskett 1962). These men worked under supervision of NPS to begin the large-scale efforts of restoration and cleanup. Among the projects they undertook were clearing of vegetation; removal of structures such as tobacco barns and outbuildings; grading and early construction of the Route 24 bypass road; and quarrying of stone to be used in park projects. The sites most associated with the CCC presence include the quarry and dynamite shed; and possibly two wooden two-room cabins and an adjacent chicken house just northeast of the Tibbs house site (Talbot 2000). Little is known about the CCC group's daily life, but it is possible that these cabins were occupied by the men during their two years at the park.

More research into the ethnographic history of the village and surrounding landscape, particularly in the 19th century and before, is needed.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park presents a rural courthouse village landscape from the 19th century. The landscape in and around the village is much as it might have appeared at that time, though less intensively farmed and much more wooded. There are a few historic trees remaining in the village and around outlying homesteads and gravesites. The landscape as a whole still evokes the rural character of the settlement, both within the village and at outlying cabins and sites.

The overall integrity of the park landscape is generally high. The rural 19th century feeling of the landscape has been preserved despite the fact that many original structures, roads, and views have changed over time. Historic road traces are in fair to good condition, with some integrated into current circulation routes. Natural systems and views have retained their integrity. Vegetation, overall, has good integrity. A few historic trees remain, and there are new plantings of some historic species. Some agricultural fields have been maintained. All of these are somewhat changed from their mid-19th century appearance but retain the feeling of that time period. Small scale features from the era of commemoration have good integrity, and are important to the postbellum history of the site.

Some features have not retained integrity. Historic structures in the park outside the village are in poor to fair condition generally, and many no longer exist, in contrast to the good condition of the reconstructed village. These farmsteads are an important historic feature of the landscape. Small scale features from the mid-19th century are not evident. Other features which have not retained overall integrity are constructed water features, with the mill and ice pond no longer intact; these, however, are not central to the significance of the park landscape.

Any features listed in this report without the designation of contributing or non-contributing should be assumed to be possibly contributing. Until further research is conducted into the significance of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the park, features related to the CCC are noted as possibly contributing.

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

This section identifies archeological resources that are part of the cultural landscape such as ruins, traces, or artifacts evidenced by the presence of surface and subsurface features. Those features listed below as contributing have been designated as such under Criteria A, B, or C in the current National Register of Historic Places documentation. These resources have not been evaluated under Criterion D and must be considered potentially contributing under Criterion D at this time. The list below contains resources identified in previous archeological research, the existing National Register nomination, and cultural landscape field investigations. This list will be updated upon completion of the Archeological Overview and Assessment currently underway.

Current conditions

Throughout the park are various foundations, sites, and ruins, of possible archeological or historical interest, including the Herman church foundation, the Coleman house site, and the Tibbs house site. The Flood's Mill site, with its dam, race, and mill, is visible as earthworks in the brush on the banks of the Appomattox River near the park boundary. It is adjacent to the History/Nature Trail, and there is a sign marking the site. The dam is no longer functioning, and is evident only as an approx. 6' high earthwork in two approx. 10-20 foot long segments, one on either side of the river. The mill race is visible only as a 4' deep swale adjacent to the dam and mill site. A brick kiln once existed on the north side of the creek to the north of the village, behind the Clover Hill Tavern, but little is known of its role in the building of the village's significant structures. Scattered burnt and broken brick in the dense underbrush are the only evidence of this site.

Numerous marked sites have been surveyed within the village, including the Old County Jail, various homes, stores, and outbuildings. For more information on these, please see the Appomattox Court House Village Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Significant historic road traces include Back Lane (grass surface), Tibbs Lane (grass surface) and Oakville Road (unmaintained trace located north of Rte. 24 near North Carolina Monument). Traces of Sears Lane and Trent Lane, which branched off from the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road west of the village, are visible on historic maps (not seen in field). A deep road trace, which may have been the mill access road, runs south through the woods behind the Sweeney Prizery to the Flood's Mill site, but it has not been located on historic maps. A road trace adjacent to the Tibbs Lane trace passes the site of some former farm buildings south of the Tibbs site, then circles to the west of the Tibbs house foundation and turns north just behind the two nearby cabins in the woods. This road was in use as late as the 1970s (Talbot 2000, interview) and is now largely overgrown with pines and other trees. The Wright Lane trace parallels the western park boundary south of Route 24. Some other traces in the woodlands have become part of the History/Nature Trail. The ford sites at Appomattox River and Plain Run Branch discussed in the Circulation section are important road-related features.

Historic conditions

The history of many of Appomattox Court House's potential archeological sites needs further research, because little is presently known about them. A number of archeological projects have been undertaken at Appomattox, but they were done primarily to support reconstruction of buildings in the village.

Sometime prior to 1865, the Flood's Mill was constructed to process local farmers' grain (Michler 1867, map). In the late 19th century, the mill dam formed a stretch of the Appomattox River into a mill pond. Numerous outbuildings and agricultural buildings, mostly tobacco barns, were destroyed in the 1940s as part of a site clearing program; their sites may hold archeological information. At this time it is not clear whether this site is within park boundaries; research is continuing.

Sites which may have significance related to the events of 1865, based on their appearance on an 1865 Michler map, include the Coleman house, Tibbs house, and Flood's Mill.

Summary

A systematic archeological survey of the park, which was funded for FY 2000, should provide more comprehensive information about the broader landscape. Many outlying sites about which little is known may be better understood after this survey.

(Sites noted with * were not observed or included in the text.)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Brick kiln site	99035	Undetermined					No
Coleman House Site	99036	Undetermined					No
Flood's Mill dam	99037	Undetermined					No
Flood's Mill race	99038	Undetermined					No
Flood's Mill road trace	99039	Undetermined					No
Flood's Mill site	99040	Undetermined					No
Ford where Prince Edward Court House Road crossed Plain Run Branch*	99041	Undetermined					No
Ford where Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road crossed Appomattox River	99042	Undetermined					No
Herman Church foundation	99043	Undetermined					No
Oakville Road*	99044	Contributing					No
Road trace north of Tibbs site cabins	99045	Undetermined					No
Sears Lane*	99046	Contributing					No
Tibbs house site	99047	Undetermined					No
Tibbs Lane	99048	Contributing					No
Trent Lane*	99049	Contributing					No
Wright Lane trace*	99050	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



A 1936 view of Oakville Road. (APCO 1936, 2008))



Tobacco Barn near Confederate Cemetery in 1940; later razed by CCC. (Gurney 1940, file 114/962)



Tibbs House as photographed in 1942. (Happel 1942, no file number/972)



Historic photo of Flood's Mill circa 1892. (Plecker c. 1892, file 244)



Sweeney Connor Cabin. (PHSO 1999)



Charles Sweeney Cabin and adjacent non-historic house. (PHSO 1999)



Tibbs double-walled outbuilding. (PHSO 2000)



Coleman Outbuilding. (PHSO 2000)



Sweeney Prizery. (PHSO 1999)



Dynamite cabin. (PHSO 1999)



Memorial Bridge showing check dam, stone edging around pool, and tree planted on small island. (APCO n.d. file 102/2497)



Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road looking east from the picnic area. (PHSO 1999)



Route 24 and Lee Headquarters parking area. (PHSO 1999)



Prince Edward Court House Road ford over Plain Run Branch in 1941. (Happel 1941, file 153/838)



O'Brien Cemetery. (PHSO 1999)



Picnic area at Appomattox River and Route 24. (PHSO 1999)



CCC-NPS quarry on the Appomattox River in 1942. (Happel 1942, no file number/733)



Apple Tree Site sketch by Frankenstein done circa 1866. (Frankenstein n.d. file 108)



Poplar Tree Site photographed by Plecker in 1892. (Plecker 1892, file 233)



Signs at Confederate Cemetery. (PHSO 1999)



Confederate Cemetery plaque originally placed at the courthouse site in 1926, was moved to cemetery when courthouse was reconstructed in 1963. (PHSO 1999)



North Carolina Monument erected in 1905. (PHSO 1999)

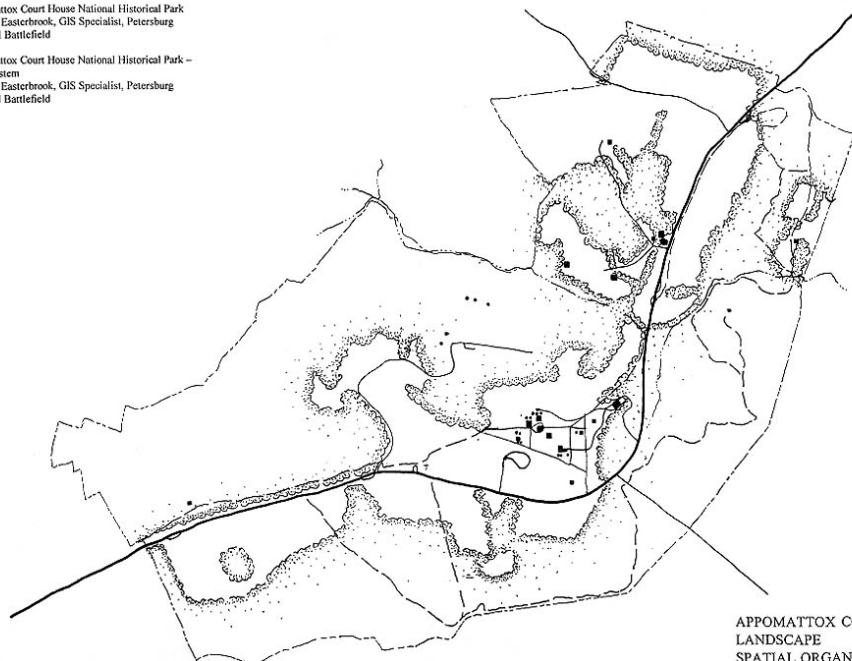


Picnic table and cannon at picnic area. (PHSO 1999)

Information based on:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Richard Easterbrook, GIS Specialist, Petersburg
National Battlefield

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park –
Trail System
Richard Easterbrook, GIS Specialist, Petersburg
National Battlefield



Spatial organization of the landscape in 2000; see attachments for enlargement. (PHSO 2000)

Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

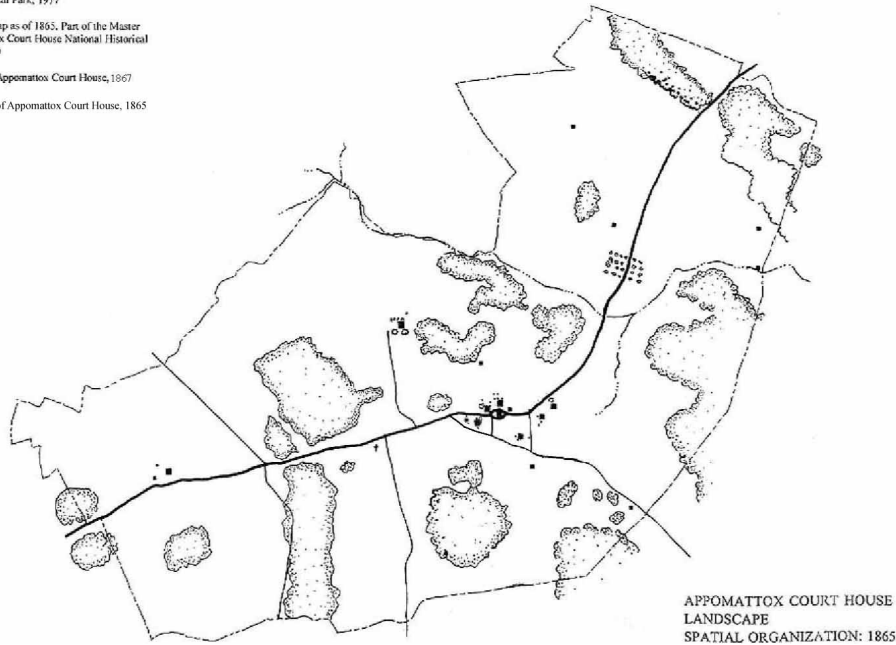
Information based on:

1855 Vegetation Lines, Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park, 1977

Historic Base Map as of 1865, Part of the Master
Plan, Appomattox Court House National Historical
Monument, 1940

Michler map of Appomattox Court House, 1867

Henderson Map of Appomattox Court House, 1865



Spatial organization of the landscape in 1865; see attachments for enlargement. (PHSO 2000)



Southern magnolias at Confederate Cemetery. (PHSO 1999)



Civilian Conservation Corps clearing vegetation for power line in 1942, noted as CCC job 33. (Happel 1942, file 152/911)



View to courthouse from east. (PHSO 1999)



View toward village from Lee's Headquarters area. (PHSO 1999)



Memorial Bridge looking east circa 1930. (APCO n.d., file 102/2500)



General view of the Appomattox valley looking north from April 10 meeting site taken by Plecker in 1892. (Plecker 1892, file 232)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Current Conditions

Most of the park's historic structures are located in the village core. Twenty-seven buildings in the village were reconstructed or rehabilitated and many are now open to the public. For more information about these structures, see the Historic Conditions section or the Appomattox Court House Village Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Outlying historic buildings are more widely dispersed than the structures in the village, and generally of a more rustic character. Most are not presently open to the public, and some, like the wooden R.J.N. Williams cabin, are not yet stabilized. Wooden cabin homesteads including Sweeney Connor cabin and Charles Sweeney Cabin are in fair condition. The Tibbs home site, now a foundation, has several associated structures including a well house (still in use), an old well or cistern (ruin), a double-walled wooden storage structure or icehouse (dilapidated), two two-room wooden cabins with tin roofs (partially collapsed), and a wooden chicken house associated with the cabins (also unstabilized). The cabins and chicken house appear to be from a later period than the other outbuildings, and may date to the CCC era. The Coleman outbuilding is a low, unchinked log structure in good condition, but overgrown. It has a tin roof over the original wooden roof. It may date from the 19th century.

There is one known historically significant agricultural building, the wooden Sweeney prizery (tobacco barn, ca. 1790), which is located on the History/Nature Trail. The prizery is currently stabilized and covered with corrugated metal. A small, wooden dynamite cabin with a metal door is associated with the CCC-NPS quarry (Talbot 2000, interview). Today it is also covered with metal.

Route 24 crosses the Appomattox River over Memorial Bridge, which is a two-lane concrete bridge with ornamentation that marks it as a structure from the era of commemoration. There are obelisks at the corners and the sculptural side walls display a Confederate-and-Union-flag motif. A second

bridge is located at the Flood's Mill site, where the old dam once stood. It is also made of concrete, but is not ornamented.

There are several outlying non-contributing buildings and associated structures, some of which are inholdings. The Ferguson House (1920s) is a ranch-style wooden residence owned by NPS. A concrete trailer pad is visible beside the Connor cabin. Non-contributing inholdings include the O'Brien home and outbuildings, a 1950s ranch beside the Sweeney cabin, and a brick house adjacent to it. The Moon and Matthews homes (both 1970s) are non-contributing inholdings which contain original materials from the Tibbs House in their construction, including wood floors, posts and beams, and doors (Moon 1999, interview; Moon House seen, Matthews not seen).

A maintenance yard behind the Peers House at the east edge of the village contains two concrete block sheds, an asphalt equipment yard surrounded by a chain link fence, and a dumping area with stumps, rocks, and scrap metal.

Historic Conditions

Some buildings and structures have existed on park land since about 1790, when the wooden Sweeney prizery was built. There were at one time more agricultural buildings, including numerous tobacco barns in the fields and agriculture-related outbuildings near homesites. Many of these either had become dilapidated or were removed by the CCC in the 1940s.

The village core has had the highest density of buildings historically. Most construction in the village originally took place between 1845-1860, the peak years at Appomattox Court House. Village buildings range from one room to three floors, and are constructed of various materials including local brick, fieldstone, and wood. The red brick Courthouse is the largest structure in the village. The New County Jail is a related building which was also associated with the county justice system. Businesses located around the Courthouse square or adjacent to it along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road included the Plunkett-Meeks general store, two lawyers' offices, blacksmith shops, a shoemaker, and the Clover Hill Tavern. Homes vary in character from the Mariah Wright House, a rustic log structure with fieldstone chimneys, to the McLean House, a spacious brick home where the surrender was signed. There were many outbuildings, including kitchens, stables, servant and slave quarters, privies, icehouses, smokehouses, and well houses. Many structures in the village were built of a combination of materials, with stone or brick foundations and brick or wood post-and-beam construction. See the Appomattox Court House Village Cultural Landscape Inventory for details.

Rural wooden cabins in the park date to the 19th century; the R.J.N. Williams cabin and Sweeney cabin were built around 1860. The Coleman cabin and associated outbuilding may have been built as early as 1863, but only the outbuilding remains.

The Tibbs homesite had structures on it as early as 1846, and the grand house with a mansard roof existed in 1865. It fell into disuse, was still standing in the 1970s, but has since decayed past the possibility of stabilization. There were many outbuildings associated with the Tibbs home in the past, including the wooden double-walled ice house or storage structure, the two wooden two-room cabins with brick central chimney, a well house, and a chicken house. It is not clear when the surviving Tibbs outbuildings were constructed, but the two cabins and chicken coop appear to have been constructed later than the other buildings.

A few non-contributing buildings, mostly residences, were constructed by private interests in the 1920s to the 1950s. The dynamite cabin is the only potentially significant industrial structure that is still standing. See Archeology section for details.

The Memorial Bridge was constructed just downstream from the historic ford in 1930 by the Virginia Department of Highways (Happel 1936, file 1992). The design, including obelisks at the four corners and the flags of the combatants as the wall motif, is commemorative in nature. At the time of the bridge construction, the park was under the jurisdiction of the War Department; more

research is needed to determine the department's involvement with the construction of the bridge and its surroundings. The Land Use section of this report includes details on the setting at the time.

Summary

While the main village structures are largely rebuilt or intact, some residences, buildings and outbuildings present in 1865 are no longer in existence. This is the result of decay over time, much of which occurred before the creation of the park. Some outbuildings were removed as part of the restoration effort in the 1940s.

Nineteenth-century structures in the larger landscape include farmsteads, agricultural buildings, and local industries. The latter two categories have almost entirely disappeared due to the factors described above. Only the Sweeney Prizery remains as an agricultural building, and the only standing structure associated with industry is the dynamite shed from the 20th century.

Farmstead structures are in poor condition in general. Of most farmsteads, only the residence remains, such as at the R.J.N. Williams Cabin and the Sweeney Cabin. The Coleman outbuilding and Tibbs outbuildings are the only known remaining structures from these two farms; some of these outbuildings may be from the 19th century, and all are threatened due to age and weathering. In general, outlying structures are in need of further research to determine their significance and the need for stabilization and further work.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bridge at Flood's Mill site	99051	Noncontributing					No
Charles Sweeney Cabin	99052	Contributing	80015		Location	26883	Yes
Coleman Outbuilding	99053	Contributing	289285		Location	81711	Yes
Dynamite cabin	99054	Undetermined			Asset	1439166	Yes
Ferguson House	99055	Noncontributing					No
Maintenance yard	99348	Noncontributing					No
Memorial Bridge	99561	Contributing					No
R.J.N. Williams Cabin	99562	Contributing	80313		Location	26895	Yes
Sweeney Connor Cabin	99563	Contributing	80052		Location	26884	Yes
Sweeney Prizery	99564	Contributing	45		Location	29123	Yes
Tibbs cabin #1	99565	Undetermined					No
Tibbs cabin #2	99566	Undetermined					No
Tibbs double-walled storage structure/ice house	99567	Contributing					No
Tibbs well	99568	Contributing					No
Tibbs well house	99569	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Current Conditions

Circulation in the park is comprised of historic and modern roads, pedestrian paths and trails, auto pull-offs and associated parking areas. Route 24 forms a high-speed 2-lane highway corridor through the middle of the park, bypassing the village center. Route 24 bisects the picnic area as it crosses the Memorial Bridge. There are seven pull-offs at significant locations along the highway, including the picnic area parking. Passing trucks can be heard throughout the village. The former roadways and lanes in the center of the village are now dedicated to pedestrian use, with crushed stone surfacing. Throughout the park, there are various roads restricted to park use that are surfaced in asphalt, gravel, and dirt.

Many historic road traces are visible in the park, of which the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road (ca. 1790) is the most significant (for details on disused road traces, see Archeology section). The historic Stage Road trace roughly parallels Route 24, and is currently used as a pedestrian path, surfaced in grass except in the village center where it is light-colored crushed stone with wide grass verges on both sides.

There are several public parking areas, the largest of which is the visitor parking area just south of the village core, described further in the Appomattox Court House Village Cultural Landscape Inventory. Other parking areas for fewer than 12 cars are located at significant points along the Route 24 corridor. These include Grant's and Lee's headquarters, the Confederate Cemetery, the North Carolina Monument/Raine cemetery, and the picnic area. All but the picnic area parking are asphalt with concrete sidewalks. There is a gravel pullout at the Apple Tree Site and another at the Herman Church cemetery. The picnic area is served by two gravel lots, one on each side of the bridge. The picnic area is divided north/south by Route 24, and east/west by the Appomattox River. There are no sidewalks, graded paths, pedestrian-accessible bridges, or crosswalks, further limiting visitor access to this resource.

There are several walking trails and paths, the most notable of which is the 6-mile History/Nature Trail. It traverses the park, passing through the village, through woodland and fields, and by the Sweeney Prizery and other significant sites. There is a short woodland loop trail to the site of Lee's Headquarters from its parking area. The History/Nature Trail has a variety of surfaces throughout its length including grass, dirt, and crushed stone. Crushed stone walks from parking areas lead to a viewpoint just south of the North Carolina Monument and also to the Raine cemetery. A disused dirt road through dense woodland leads to the dynamite cabin from the current History/Nature Trail.

A fire road surrounds the park perimeter, serving as a partial firebreak, access for firefighting, and a buffer for neighboring properties (Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 7:43).

Historic Conditions

The Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road was established through this area in 1809 (Wilson 1998, interview), bringing the first recorded access route to the area of the park; settlement of the village began based on the needs of travellers along this road, namely the establishment of Clover Hill Tavern as a stopping place in 1819. As the area's population grew, a few lanes and roads spread out from the Stage Road within the village. Outside the village, along this main spine, roads to outlying farms and plantations such as Sears Lane and Tibbs Lane appeared, usually named after the farm or plantation to which they provided access. A major intersection in the village was that of the Stage Road and the Prince Edward Court House Road which went south from the east-west Stage Road. Two fords existed, one at each of these main roads: where the Stage Road crossed the Appomattox River; and where Prince Edward Court House Road crossed the Plain Run Branch. Both fords were used as main crossings during the Civil War and later, until at least 1915 (APCO 1881, file 49; Happel 1941, file 153/838). They are noted as features in the Archeology section.

The road trace roughly parallels the current highway, and was partly overlaid by the old Route 24 from approximately the Confederate Cemetery to just above the historic ford at the Appomattox River. Old Route 24, like the Stage Road before it, became the main conduit for traffic through Appomattox Court House, passing through the Courthouse square in the center of the village. After

the park was established, it became desirable to route auto traffic away from the historic center of the village. In 1940, work was begun on a bypass road which arced south away from the village center. The Civilian Conservation Corps began quarrying and crushing stone and did preliminary grading of the roadbed, but work was suspended in 1941 due to World War II and the bypass road was not completed until 1954 (Haskett 1962, Vol. III A 7). New parking areas and pull-offs were constructed along this road, although it is unclear whether any were established as part of the bypass plan or if they were all added afterward. In the center of the village, the roadway has been closed to auto traffic since 1956, and the former Stage Road/Route 24 roadbed resurfaced as a pedestrian path, surfaced in crushed stone in the village and grass outside the village.

Part of the Stage Road trace was regraded using heavy machinery in the 1940s. It is unclear how much of the historic road trace may have been altered through this action. Prince Edward Court House Road was also realigned to meet the bypass road, regraded and paved. The fords are no longer used; Plain Run Branch was culverted under Prince Edward Court House Road, and Memorial Bridge was built in 1930 for the Route 24 crossing of the Appomattox River.

Summary

Circulation within the park has changed several times in its history, first with the coming of the Stage Road, then with the arrival of the automobile, and most recently with the removal of the automobile from the historic center of the village. Auto and truck traffic is still a problem, particularly noise pollution and proximity of high-speed traffic through the picnic area. Many secondary roads have faded from use, remaining in park-only use or reverting to traces in the fields and forests. Some are still evident, even though the farmsteads to which they once led have long since fallen out of use. The History-Nature Trail follows historic road traces in some stretches. In all, the historic circulation patterns have been altered as a result of use pattern changes; the only notable problems currently are associated with Route 24 traffic.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Fire road	99570	Noncontributing					No
History/Nature Trail	99571	Noncontributing					No
Parking Lots	99572	Noncontributing					No
Prince Edward Court House Road	99573	Contributing	7793		Location	26850	Yes
Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road	99574	Contributing	47		Location	26851	Yes

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

Current Conditions

There are two existing constructed water features in the park. One is the small check dam or weir that dams the Appomattox River, creating a reflecting pool to the south of the Memorial Bridge and the picnic area. The dam creates a sound of falling water which contributes to the atmosphere of the picnic area. The other water feature is the former ice pond on the Tibbs property. It is currently a marshy area covered with vegetation. (Talbot 2000, interview)

Historic Conditions

The check dam/weir was probably constructed at the same time as the Memorial Bridge and picnic area. It appears to have been altered since the 1940s, based on photographic evidence, with a broad gap in its center. This could also be due to natural erosion or was perhaps done to prevent siltation. Even less is known about the Tibbs ice pond. More research is needed to determine information such as its original configuration and when it was established.

Summary

The small check dam is functioning but is not in the same condition it was at the time of construction. The ice pond has silted in to become more of a wetland.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Check dam	99575	Undetermined					No
Tibbs ice pond	99576	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Current Conditions

The land uses that have shaped the site are agricultural, residential, funeral, governmental, commemorative, recreational, and industrial. The village was founded as a county seat, and is unusual in that it stopped developing after it was bypassed by the railroad in the 1850s. The current restored village is still used for commemoration and government, although today that use is now recreational as the hub of activity for the national historical park.

Agricultural use of park land is evident today. Some of the agricultural fields are currently fenced for livestock pasture or hayfields as part of the historical leasing program. Numerous homesteads, cabin sites, and agricultural buildings from the Civil War period of significance are scattered across the landscape.

Funeral use is visible in the fourteen cemeteries and burial sites located in the park, some of which are inholdings. According to local tradition, burials "face east" (head to west). Footstones are common. The conditions of the sites vary from well-kept to deteriorated. The cemeteries tend to be located in pastures, with fencing and some kind of grave markers. Two of the cemeteries are associated with churches, one is for Confederate soldiers, and the rest are small individual and family plots, dating from the early 1800s to the present day. One example is the grave of Joel Sweeney, who popularized the five-string banjo; he is buried at the Bohannon-Trent cemetery.

Although this cemetery is not listed in the National Register, a state historical marker just to the south of the grave site on Route 24 describes Sweeney's contribution to American culture. The grave has a non-historic stone marker, and in 1999, showed evidence of recent visits (flowers and objects including a banjo pick).

A number of sites exist from the military use of the area and have been incorporated into the commemorative land use from the late 19th and early 20th centuries is visible today. Both Grant's and Lee's headquarters (which includes the Poplar Tree Site) are now pulloffs where heritage tourists can stop to read waysides explaining the site. Other sites in the landscape include the Apple Tree Site, Confederate Artillery Park, and Site of the Last Battle. Cast iron tablets at some surrender-related sites, the North Carolina Monument, and additions to the Confederate cemetery including a granite and bronze marker, flagpoles, and other features, reveal commemorative activity (see Small Scale Features section). Memorial Bridge at the crossing of Route 24 over the Appomattox River incorporates design elements including obelisks and the flags of the combatants, and dates to 1930. (APCO 1941, file 102/2554, 2500) (see Buildings and Structures section).

Passive recreational activity, mainly heritage tourism, is the primary use of the site today. Recreation on the site is linked directly to commemoration and celebration of the site's history. The hub of activity, as in the past, continues to be the Courthouse, which was reconstructed in the 1963-64 and is now used as a visitor center. The reconstructed village is the major attraction to visitors. The History/Nature Trail provides another opportunity for recreation. Many also stop by the picnic area. Although this is part of the Virginia Department of Transportation easement, the picnic area is maintained by park staff and functions as part of the park. It is divided north/south by Route 24, and east/west by the Appomattox River. The area includes picnic tables, trash cans and Civil War era cannons. Just below the bridge is a small check dam that augments the sound of the running water.

Another use that has not been well documented is industrial. Surviving remnants of Flood's Mill and the village brick kiln are evident, but are in poor condition and need further research. The same is true for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-NPS quarry used during early park development.

There are two 40' wide utility corridors through the park, both of which accommodate overhead cables.

(Montgomery, Engle, and Tobias 1989, 44)

Historic Conditions

The village of Appomattox Court House had passed its peak of development by the 1850s, its economy undermined due to lack of connection with the new railroad, which passed 3 miles south through Appomattox Station, now the town of Appomattox. The land was farmed for tobacco, wheat, corn, and other crops in the 18th and 19th centuries. Crop farming appears to have continued up until the 1930s, when the Resettlement Administration began acquiring "submarginal" farmlands; purchases at Appomattox Court House included tracts that were desirable as part of the national monument (Haskett 1962, Vol. III A 5-6)

Little is known about the histories of the family cemetery plots in the park. The Confederate Cemetery was established in 1866 for casualties from the last fighting at Appomattox. An iron picket fence, flagpoles, and plantings including Southern magnolia trees [*Magnolia* sp.] appear to have been added around 1926. By the late 1930s the Confederate cemetery was the site of annual Memorial Day ceremonies (APCO date unknown, no file number/240). The cemetery was aligned to the nearby Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road and later, Old Route 24, both of which passed just to its north. After the Route 24 bypass road to the cemetery's south sidwas completed in 1954, plans were made for a new parking area and signage (NPS 1956, preliminary plan).

After the events of 1865, little was done to memorialize the Civil War history of the site until the turn of the century. In the interim, the McLean House was dismantled, and in 1892 the Courthouse burned. The era of commemoration of the site's Civil War history began in the 1890s, continuing up through the 1930s when the land was acquired by the National Park Service. The placement of ten

iron markers at significant sites and North Carolina Monument drew activity and attention to Appomattox Court House's place in history. Reconstruction and restoration of the village and outlying structures was carried out during the 1940s -1960s by the NPS.

The picnic area and check dam may have been built in 1930, at the same time the Virginia Department of Transportation built the bridge. Early photographs indicate stones were laid along the edge of the river, and that the river bulged out to form a small pond on the downriver side of the bridge above the dam. There was also a small, circular planting bed containing one tree in the middle of the pond, also stabilized along the edges with stones. At one time logs created steps leading the last few feet to the dam (APCO n.d., file 102/2497). In another undated photograph, cannons and pyramids of cannonballs can be seen in two quadrants (APCO n.d., file 102/2500). Groups of four trees - a Virginia pine, sycamore, red maple and dogwood - were planted in each quadrant. In 1930 the War Department still administered the park. Further research is needed to determine the extent of the department's involvement in planning the bridge with its ornamental use of the Union and Confederate flags, as well as the picnic area and check dam.

Industrial land use has historically been minimal in this agricultural landscape, with a very local focus. The water power of the Appomattox River was harnessed for use by Flood's Mill before 1865 (Michler 1865, map). The mill ground local farmers' corn and wheat into meal and flour until around the turn of the century. A brick kiln existed just across the creek at the bottom of the sloping meadow to the north of the Clover Hill Tavern. The bricks produced here may have been used throughout the village for construction (Talbot 2000, interview). A later industrial site is the CCC-NPS stone quarry, a small quarry where rock was dynamited and crushed for use as a base for the Route 24 bypass road and other projects (Happel 1941, no file number/733; Happel 1942, no file number/888; Haskett 1962, Vol. III A 7). A dynamite cabin on the hill above the quarry cut was associated with this site.

Summary

Today, land use is less diverse than in the past, when this was an active community. Heritage tourism does not appear to have significant negative impacts on the landscape, and continues the century-old tradition of commemoration visible in the many monuments, markers, and reconstructions in the park. Past land uses, including agricultural, residential, governmental, and funeral are visible within the existing landscape and retain their essential character. The rural, undeveloped appearance of the parkland carries the spirit of its earlier history. Historic industrial activity in the park, although small, remains hidden and needs further investigation. (Sites noted with * were not observed or included in the text.)

Characteristic/Feature:

CCC-NPS Quarry - Possibly Contributing
Apple Tree Site - Contributing
Forest Cemetery* - Contributing
Confederate Cemetery - Contributing
Confederate Artillery Park - Contributing
Grant's Headquarters Site - Contributing
Joel Sweeney's Grave and Bohannon-Trent Cemetery - Contributing
Lee's Headquarters Site - Contributing
O'Brien Cemetery - Contributing
Herman Methodist Church Cemetery - Contributing
Picnic Area - Contributing
Poplar Tree Site - Contributing
Raine Cemetery - Contributing
Raine Slave Cemetery* - Contributing
Site of the Last Battle - Contributing
Sweeney Cemetery - Contributing

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
CCC-NPS Quarry	99578	Undetermined					No
Apple Tree Site	99577	Contributing					No
Forest Cemetery*	99581	Contributing					No
Confederate Cemetery	99580	Contributing					No
Confederate Artillery Park	99579	Contributing					No
Grant's Headquarters Site	99582	Contributing					No
Joel Sweeney's Grave and Bohannon-Trent Cemetery	99584	Contributing	671476		Location	115144	Yes
Lee's Headquarters Site	99585	Contributing			Asset	1438989	No
O'Brien Cemetery	99586	Contributing					No
Herman Methodist Church Cemetery	99583	Contributing					No
Picnic Area	99587	Contributing					No
Poplar Tree Site	99588	Contributing					No
Raine Cemetery	99589	Contributing			Asset	1438988	No
Raine Slave Cemetery*	99590	Contributing					No
Site of the Last Battle	99591	Contributing					No
Sweeney Cemetery	99592	Contributing			Asset	1488059	No

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

This section covers some of the natural aspects that have influenced the development of the physical form of the landscape. It may include geomorphology, geology, hydrology, ecology, climate and/or native vegetation.

Current Conditions

The village sits atop the crest of a ridge, at elevation 770', formed by the Appomattox River and its tributary, the Plain Run Branch. Six ephemeral or seasonal creeks, three of which appear to originate within the park, also feed this hydrologic system (visible on USGS maps, 1980 and 1984). There is a spring west of Lee's Headquarters near the paved wayside pull-off. A second spring is located on the south side of Plain Run Branch within the park, just west of the CCC-NPS quarry site. The greater landscape of the park is comprised of gently rolling hills of pasture and woodland, classic Virginia Piedmont topography.

The hilly terrain to the north and east rises from the river at approx. 600 feet above sea level up to wooded high ground at about 820 feet. To the west, the land slopes more gently, forming a ridge with a maximum elevation of about 830 feet in the park. To the south, a thickly wooded ridge rises along the park boundary. Thus the village on its knoll is in a sort of bowl, with higher land surrounding it.

There are riparian wetlands along the streams within the park. One wooded wetland area along the Appomattox River is just within the park's southern boundary in the area of a former mill pond. A former ice pond beside the Tibbs home site also has developed into a wooded wetland area. Plain Run appears to have shifted course where it comes closest to the current Route 24; this may have been the result of construction and re-grading for the road (Talbot 2000, interview).

The soil is generally Cullen clay loam, with an occurrence of Mecklenburg and Iredell loams, over igneous and metamorphic rock loams (General Management Plan 1977, 18). In wooded areas a fair amount of organic matter (leaf litter) is present on the surface.

Historic Conditions

The topography and natural systems in the park appear to have changed little since 1865. Erosion has not been a significant problem, as open land became more forested over time rather than being cleared. The rolling topography has not changed appreciably, and development within the park and its viewshed is minimal. Manipulation of the topography is evident in past grading of roads and former roads within the park, most notably the old and new Route 24 and the trace of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road.

The spring near Lee's Headquarters likely served the Conner House, no longer extant, which was used by the Confederates as a field hospital. It was probably used by Lee and his men at the time of the surrender.

Summary

Little has changed in the park topographically; its natural systems appear intact. The natural hydrologic systems retain a historic, undeveloped appearance, while most man-made historic alterations to them have changed more over time, including the mill pond and ice pond.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
	99593	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Current conditions

Signage exists at a number of locations, including large standing wooden signs for the village entrance and at the park boundaries along Route 24 indicating when visitors are entering and leaving the park. The parking lots at Grant's and Lee's headquarters, the Confederate Cemetery, and the North Carolina Monument/Raine cemetery are each marked with a hanging painted wooden sign and metal enameled waysides. War Department tablets of cast iron remain at two sites in the landscape outside of the village: at Lee's Headquarters and the Apple Tree Site. (See the Village CLI for the two remaining War Department tablets.) (Montgomery, Engle and Tobias 1989, 7:41) The Confederate Cemetery is marked additionally with a bronze and granite memorial plaque. Various sites are marked by Virginia Historical Markers, including the Confederate Cemetery, the grave of Joel Sweeney, and the Lee Retreat Route.(see Land Use).

The picnic area features one concrete picnic table in each of the four quadrants formed by Route 24 and the Appomattox River. The tables appear to originate from the era of commemoration. There are also trash cans located here, and cannon dating to the Civil War period. Fences in the village are not historic, but possibly based on historic fencelines and fence types. Various types are evident today, including picket, board and "worm" rail fences. Outside the village, fences are board or barbed wire, and do not appear to follow historic fencelines. They function primarily to keep livestock from roaming. Wood livestock pens and loading ramps are visible in several pastures.

There are several monuments in the park landscape. The North Carolina Monument is a crenellated granite block with engraved tablets. It is in good condition and significant to the period of commemoration. At the same time as the monument, North Carolina also placed two smaller granite markers along Stage Road between the Confederate Cemetery and the village. There is a plaque at the Confederate Cemetery, which was originally placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at the courthouse site in 1926, and moved to the Confederate Cemetery in 1964. Nearby, the Raine cemetery is marked by a large white granite obelisk, approx. 25' tall, which is visible from Route 24. (Refer to LCS for details on fencing in general.)

A variety of other non-contributing small signs are visible throughout the park, including standard metal road signs and brown metal signs on wooden posts marking the History/Nature Trail.

Historic conditions

Fences are visible in old photographs and drawings dating back as far as 1865, showing a variety of fencing types in place within the village. Little is known about small scale features before the 1890s because there are few photographs or reports on small scale features. Among the oldest small scale features are the four remaining iron tablets installed in 1893 to commemorate sites significant to the events of 1865. These tablets, free-standing cast-iron with raised lettering, painted blue and grey, are in good condition. Two are in the village and two at outlying sites. The North Carolina Monument and two plaques, erected in 1905, are also small scale features and the only markers erected at Appomattox Court House by a state.

The obelisk at the Raine family cemetery was erected circa 1910. John Raine, who originally built the McLean house, is buried here, and the family contributed to the growth of the village. More research is needed to determine if the obelisk is a contributing feature.

Most existing small-scale features that appear historic date from the era of commemoration and the NPS restorations of the 1940s-1960s. The date of construction for the picnic area is unknown, as is the date of the fence and other features at the Confederate cemetery, but both appear to be from the 1920s-1940s. More research is needed.

Summary

Small scale features that are meant to look historical, most notably fences, have been based on those visible in photographs and drawings circa 1865. These contribute greatly to the landscape of the village and park. Most existing historical small-scale features are from the era of commemoration; for some of these features, such as the picnic area, specific dates of construction, designers, and other information are not known. Colors and formats for many signs and waysides are based on the original blue and grey iron tablet markers from 1893, which gives a sense of historical continuity in interpretation. Some recent non-contributing small-scale features such as trash cans and benches appear in many forms.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Lee's Headquarters Tablet	177515	Contributing	80306		Asset	1438989	No
Apple Tree Tablet	177517	Contributing	80307		Asset	1438990	Yes
North Carolina Monument	177521	Contributing	7792		Location	26879	Yes
Raine Cemetery Grave Markers	177523	Contributing	288878		Location	26880	Yes
	99594	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Spatial Organization**

Current Conditions

The village precinct is in the center of the park, on a knoll surrounded on all sides by pasture and woodland. The village core forms a distinctive cluster in the center of the park. Buildings are crowded most densely around the Courthouse, and spread along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, becoming more scattered at the periphery. Outlying historic sites and structures such as cabins, foundations, home sites, agricultural buildings, and cemeteries, are widely dispersed. They are generally adjacent to current or former agricultural fields and roads. There is no particular trend as to their elevation, except that none appear on bottomlands or directly adjacent to creeks or rivers.

From the village, the land slopes down to the Appomattox River and its tributaries including Plain Run Branch, then back up to wooded ridgelines. Route 24 forms a conduit for auto traffic through the length of the park, passing just south of the village. The road slopes gently down from the western end of the park at the Grant's Headquarters site to its crossing of the Appomattox River at the Memorial Bridge, then rises again as it curves to the northeast. Remnants of historic industries are located along river and creeks, but no other structures are evident at low elevations. Some structures are beside Route 24; others are accessible by restricted roads, or by the History/Nature Trail; and others are virtually inaccessible in back areas. The park is crossed by historic road traces including a 1-mile segment of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, the region's main thoroughfare at the time of the Civil War.

Historic Conditions

The village precinct was a hub for the county, and was comprised of a cluster of businesses, homes, and outbuildings along the Stage Road and adjacent lanes. The cluster of buildings and trees on the knoll stood out in marked contrast against the surrounding, relatively open farmland, crop fields, pastures, and woodlots. An 1892 drawing caption describes how the village "lies silently half-hidden in its groves and gardens." (Champney 1892, file 113) A few wagon tracks and corduroy roads crossed the landscape, stemming from the Stage Road and winding to plantations and farmsteads set back in the fields and on high ground, many of which appear to have had reciprocal views with the village, such as the Tibbs and Conner homes (Happel 1941, file 169/695; Michler 1867 map; APCO 1936, no file number/2023). Tobacco sheds (prizeries) dotted the agricultural landscape at regular intervals, located in fields used for tobacco cultivation and often adjacent to a road. The Civilian Conservation Corps removed many of these in the early restoration efforts of 1940-41.

Summary

The current relationship of the village to the surrounding land is spatially similar to the way it was in 1865, and perhaps earlier. Changes have occurred to elements within this system: fields have grown into forest, agricultural structures have decayed or been removed, outlying farmsteads and industries have been abandoned and grown over, losing their visual relationship to the village. Old roads have receded from importance within the circulation system; Route 24 is the primary corridor through the park, and former roads have become park-only access or pedestrian-only. With the exception of Route 24, these modifications have not significantly altered the historic spatial organization.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
	99595	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Current Conditions

There is a variety of vegetative types at the site. Native forest and hedgerows grow here, and there is pasture for livestock. There are also ornamental plantings at house and grave sites, ranging from mature trees to flowers and herbs.

Agricultural land has been maintained, and several large fields are currently in livestock pasture with grasses. Approximately 85% of the agricultural land is currently maintained as pasture, and 14% is in hay (Park comments on draft, 2000). There are numerous old fencelines and hedgerows of mature red cedar [*Juniperus virginiana*] and other trees and shrubs, that help define the spatial organization of the fields. Other former agricultural land has succeeded into mature Virginia pine and hardwood forests (25-75 years old). Hardwood forest is dominated by native oaks [*Quercus alba*, *Q. marilandica* and others], hickory [*Carya* sp.] and tulip poplar [*Liriodendron tulipifera*], with a dense understory including eastern redbud [*Cercis canadensis*], sassafras [*Sassafras albidum*], flowering dogwood [*Cornus florida*], red maple [*Acer rubrum*], and black gum [*Nyssa sylvatica*]. In pastures around the village, scattered mature red cedars appear to represent a stage of initial succession which began during the period when the fields were no longer actively farmed, and the trees remained when they returned to pasture under park ownership.

Foundations, homesites and gravesites have some mature and possibly historic plantings of *Vinca minor*, rose [*Rosa* sp.], southern magnolia [*Magnolia grandiflora*], daylilies, lilac [*Syringa vulgaris*], privet [*Ligustrum ovalifolium*], crape myrtle [*Lagerstroemia indica*], and flowering dogwood. Plantings of yucca, probably more recent, are also evident. Significant plantings on these sites include a white oak and a hickory at the Tibbs homesite which appear to be well over 100 years old, with trunk diameters of 4 to 5 feet. Mature willow oaks [*Quercus phellos*] at the Raine family grave plot appear to have been planted and may be historic.

Plantings from the era of commemoration are also evident. At the Confederate cemetery, Southern magnolias appear to have been planted in an allee along the east and west sides of the site. Four remain, although it appears that two others may have existed at one time. One may have been replaced by a now mature southern catalpa [*Catalpa bignonioides*]. Groups of mature trees, planted in a symmetrical pattern, cast dappled shade over each of the quadrants of the picnic area by the Memorial Bridge. These trees include Virginia pine [*Pinus virginiana*], American sycamore [*Platanus occidentalis*], red maple, and flowering dogwood (only 1 dogwood surviving). They may date to the construction of the picnic area.

Outlying sites including the brick kiln site, Coleman cabin site, Tibbs home site and outbuildings, R.J.N. Williams Cabin, and other non-stabilized ruins are overgrown with plants such as Virginia creeper [*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*], tree-of-heaven [*Ailanthus altissima*], Japanese honeysuckle [*Lonicera japonica*], greenbrier [add latin name], poison ivy [*Rhus radicans*] and multiflora rose [*Rosa multiflora*]. Dense young hardwood forest on some of these sites includes a thick shrub layer of coralberry [*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*] with some raspberry [*Rubus* sp.] and other species at field edges.

Dense, 100 to 200 foot wide belts of pines have been planted on two areas at the park boundary to screen views of adjacent development: one at the Grant Headquarters at the western edge of the park and one at the northeastern boundary near the O'Brien cemetery.

Historic Conditions

A map from 1867 shows that much of the land around the village of Appomattox Court House was cleared and farmed at the time of the Surrender (Michler 1867, map). Crop farming included tobacco, wheat, corn, and other cash crops. Some land was also in pasture for livestock (Marvel

2000, 115). Crop and livestock farming continued for many years, evidenced by fields of corn, field peas, and what appears to be a vineyard, visible in photographs from the 1890s to the 1940s (Photo files 74, 159, 241, and others). Historically there would have probably been more hedgerows, because more of the land was cleared and it was divided into smaller fields.

There appear to have been several orchards in the park during the period of significance, including the "Apple Tree Site," and a large orchard adjacent to the McLean House, but they have entirely vanished.

One historic tree which was the subject of preservation activity in the 1930s was the tulip poplar at the "Poplar Tree Site," which according to tradition was the tree under which General Lee gave his farewell address to the Army of Northern Virginia. It is now known that this legend is not historically correct.

Over the past century, overgrowth of fields and historic structures was a major factor in the vegetation patterns of the park. Outlying tracts acquired after the park's establishment by NPS appear to have suffered neglect starting in the years before acquisition, with disturbed-site vegetation and succession adversely affecting the fabric of historic structures and their historic settings. Prior to 1940, the center of the village was also overgrown in this manner. In 1940, efforts to remove "undesirable thickets" from historic building sites was begun (Haskett 1962, Vol. III E 4). Some clearing was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of a plan to restore the 1865 appearance of the park land and re-establish vistas (NPS 1940, Field Clearing: Vista and Selective Cutting plan). It is not clear how much of the planned work was actually accomplished before it ended abruptly in 1941 (Haskett 1962, Vol. III A 7) or 1942 (Happel 1942, file 152/911). In March 1947, an accidentally set fire burned 56 acres of park land.

Summary

Vegetative cover in the greater landscape has changed since 1865 due to the decline of farming and the growth of forest on former farmland. Most of these changes appear to have taken place in the period 1905-1940. Secondary succession hardwood forests on some homesites such as Coleman and Tibbs appear to be less than 50 years old, probably having taken hold during periods of neglect before the acquisition of these tracts by NPS in the 1970s-1990s.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Agricultural fields	99596	Contributing			Asset	1438999	Yes
Hardwood forests	99597	Contributing			Asset	1438996	No
Hedgerows	99598	Contributing					No
Magnolias at Confederate Cemetery	99599	Contributing			Asset	1176531	No
Oak and hickory at Tibbs site	99600	Contributing			Asset	1438996	No
Pine screening	99601				Asset	1438996	No
Trees at picnic area	99602	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Current Conditions

Views and vistas are particularly significant at Appomattox Court House, because of the village's position on top of a ridge. There are uninterrupted scenic views of surrounding land from the village. Parking areas along Route 24 take advantage of locations with sweeping vistas. The Courthouse provides a focal point for views from some places along the highway, such as from the wayside at Lee's Headquarters and from the Confederate cemetery. Views along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road frame the entrances of the Courthouse. There are also views from the top of the Courthouse exterior stairs to the east and west, looking over the village and out the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road.

The traffic and pavement of Route 24 have an adverse visual impact on the park landscape. However, undesirable views of development along Route 24 at the east and west boundaries of the park, most notably from the wayside at Grant Headquarters, are blocked by dense plantings of pines. See the Adjacent Lands section for a diagram showing these locations; not all views are shown on the existing conditions map.

Historic Conditions

Historically, the land was less forested and views were broader. Reciprocal views existed between the village and some outlying farms and plantations. A picture of the 1936 view to the Tibbs House is included in the History section. (Happel 1941, photo file 169/694 and 695; APCO 1936, photo file 2023).

As long as crop and pasture agriculture was active, these vistas remained, but as homes and lands became abandoned and fields grew into forests, many of the vistas were compromised by the time restoration efforts by NPS and the Civilian Conservation Corps came under way in 1940. A plan existed at this time to clear large areas to re-establish the historic views (NPS 1940, clearing plan).

Summary

Existing vistas within the park lend an essential rural character to the site. However, the growth of forests on former farmland has changed these views somewhat since the 19th century. In effect, the village at its peak in the 1850s was more visually connected to surrounding rural homes than it is today. The existing woodlands may be beneficial in that they, in conjunction with the topography, thoroughly screen potential views of encroaching development around the park at the current time. Unfortunately they cannot screen the views of Route 24 and its traffic.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views to the courthouse	99603	Contributing					No
Views to the surrounding land	99604	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 2

Next Assessment Due Date: 07/15/2027

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/15/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Concerns remain regarding adjacent land development, growth of successional woods, and deferred maintenance of several outlying structures.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/28/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with Patrick Schroeder, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Appomattox Courthouse Landscape is in fair condition. The definition of "fair" is as follows: "The inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition."

According to project statements in PMIS, the park has addressed the March 2009 ice storm damage to trees and fences, and recently completed a major vegetation management project in the village that brought conditions of the trees there to a generally good condition (PMIS 154291, 170022). The c.1960 Richard and Dorothy Sweeney house has been demolished, restoring the site to its 1865 appearance (152687), and work is underway on rehabilitating the McLean complex exteriors (180317) and stabilizing the Sweeney Prizery (192102). Future projects include demolishing the Claudine O'Brien House and outbuildings to restore the historic view (158413), and stabilizing the exteriors of the Charles Sweeney cabin (193494) and Sweeney-Conner cabin (193828). There is also a project to research and document the Mt. Comfort cemetery (124828), and preparing a Cultural Landscape Preservation Maintenance and Treatment Implementation Plan for the village (189947). It should be noted that the project, "Restore Native Grasses for Cultural Landscape, Improve Wildlife Habitat and Control Exotic Plants (80619)" completed in 2006, has been a great success.

Park staff noted some negative impacts to monitor, including the increase in traffic, development adjacent to the park boundaries, and the visual impact of the radio tower projects. They also noted that the Civil War Trust has secured several easements along the south ridge.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/08/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Appomattox Court House Landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Projects have been completed to control invasive vegetation and native grasses have been planted in some fields. However, successional vegetation growth and damage to some of the historic structures due to deferred maintenance remain ongoing issues. Additionally, recent ice storms have damaged other vegetation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 12/14/2000

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

This condition reassessment was completed in consultation with the park superintendent.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1999

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Vistas of adjacent lands are important to the rural character of Appomattox Court House. Currently, the adjacent lands within view of the village are undeveloped. Development in any of these areas, particularly on the ridge to the south of the park boundary, would have a negative impact on the park. Additionally, the loss of large sweeps of pines planted along boundaries through the pine bark beetle or other cause could expose development on adjacent lands.

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Some historic structures in the park landscape have been damaged over time due to deferred maintenance. These include the Coleman outbuilding, the R.J.N. Williams cabin, and the Tibbs outbuildings, cabins, and chicken house. These structures have become damaged due to unchecked roof decay and overgrowth by plants such as poison ivy [*Rhus radicans*], Virginia creeper [*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*] and tree-of-heaven [*Ailanthus altissima*].

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: Former farmland within the park has gone into forest succession, with a large amount currently in maturing hardwood forest. While this contrasts greatly with the historic views and land use, it could be considered a positive impact as it blocks views of potential development areas and existing non-contributing structures.

Date Identified: 07/29/2005

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2004-10-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report - Volume One, 100% Draft

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2286851>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2009-12-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report: Appomattox Court House

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2286869>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2018-01-01

Title: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park:
Cultural Landscape Report, Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park, Volume II, Treatment
Implementation Plan, National Park Service

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2257499>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Haskett, James N	Historic Structures Report, Part I, Administrative and Historical Data, Field Fences, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park	1962			U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service; 0400	001469
Engle, Reed L.	Historic Structures Report: Physical Fabric Section, The Charles Sweeney Cabin, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Virginia	1988			U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service; 0400	014052
Cauble, Frank P	Historical Data on the Richmond - Lynchburg Stage Road in the Vicinity of Appomattox Court House, 1860 - 1865	1962			0400	001470
Carroll, Orville W.	Historic Structure Report, Part III, Stabilization of the Sweeney Prizery	1961				001467

Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Unrau, Harlan D.	Historic Structure Report, Historical Data Section, the 'Sweeney Prizery', Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Virginia, Package No. 103 (Project type 35)	1981			U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service; 0400	010737
Cauble, Frank P., Dr.	Documentation of the 1867 Michler Map of Appomattox Court House, Virginia	1962			0400	010049
Paige, John C.	The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942	1985				
Gurney, Hubert A.	A Brief History of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park	1955			Park Archives	
Cooper, Allen H.	Archeological Testing for Proposed Road and Parking Improvements	1998			Park Archives	
Federal Highway Administration	Engineering Study	1997			Park Archives	
	Appomattox County Land Books	1845			Transcribed in 1997 from originals held at Appomattox County Courthouse for years 1845-1881	
Lucchetti, Leigh, and McCartney	Archeological Survey for Sewer Force Main Construction	1992				

Appomattox Court House NHP Landscape
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Montgomery, Jon B., Reed Engle, Clifford Tobias	National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Appomattox Court House	1989		Both Graphic And Narrative		
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: APCO Photograph Archives

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Historic images are all from the Park photograph archives. Where the authors are known, they have been credited in the reference; others are designated as APCO property. Photographs originating at other sites are also noted in the reference. Where known, the photograph file number is listed, followed by the number of the negative.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map of Appomattox Court House 1865

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Henderson, APCO photo file 229

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Michler Map of Appomattox Court House

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1867

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Land Acquisition Division: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Tract and Boundary Map

Supplemental Information Narrative:

January 1981, from APCO Park Files

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: 1865 Vegetation Lines, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1977

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Richard Easterbrook, GIS Specialist, Petersburg, 1999(?)

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park - Trail System

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Richard Easterbrook, GIS Specialist, Petersburg, 1999(?)

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Field Clearing - Vista and Selective Cutting, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Designer: Sheffield, NHM:APP/2008, September 1940, from APCO Park Maintenance Files

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Historic Base Map as of 1865, Part of Master Plan, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1940

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Historical Base, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1962

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS Plan: Job Plan for Razing Undesirable Non-Historic Structures, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Designer: Sheffield, NHM:APP/2011, July 1940, from APCO Park Maintenance Files

Note on drawing: CCC job No. 23

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS: Proposed Cemetery Development, Preliminary Sketch

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Nov. 14, 1956, from APCO Park Maintenance Files

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: NPS: Proposed Road to Maintenance Area, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Designer: Leslie Fugedy, July 1981, from APCO Park Maintenance Files

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Oral Interview with Bill Talbot, APCO Maintenance Division

Supplemental Information Narrative:

May 16-17, 2000

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Oral Interview with Ron Wilson, Park Historian/Chief of Interpretation

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1999; notes in PHSO CLI Files

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
CL-FMSS_crosswalk-APCO-Landscape.xlsx		Other Report
APCO_NHP Landscape-Appomattox Village_CLI Update Notes_2025.pdf		

Source