National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2006

Revised: 9/2025



Yorktown Village

Colonial 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: Yorktown Village

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300085

Parent Landscape: 300085

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Colonial National Historical Park

Alpha Code: COLO

Park Organization Code: 4290

Park District: COLO

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Village of Yorktown is an approximately 130-acre site located in York County, Virginia on a peninsula located approximately 40 miles west of Norfolk. The Yorktown Unit of Colonial National Historical Park includes 4304.41 acres and is located near the park's eastern side. The town is centered along Main Street, at around 50 feet above sea level, but rises to around 70 feet to the east and then falls to sea level along the banks of the York River to the north. York River bounds the town to the north, Ballard Street to the west and southwest, Buckner Street to the northwest and Zweybrucken Road and the Old Tobacco Road to the southeast.

The Village of Yorktown today displays the influences of a lengthy period of evolution from the founding of the Village in 1691; to the American Revolution and Siege of 1781; to the Civil War encampments and harbor use, and the long period of preservation from the early post-Civil War efforts; to the Colonial influences of the preservation work of the 1930s; to the preservation efforts of the Mission 66 period. The Village of Yorktown landscape has been influenced by each of these periods of historical importance and change, and its physical character reflects that.

History Overview
Initially settled by the English as they expanded their territory out from Jamestown, the Town of York was officially established through the Port Act of 1691. The town's position along the York River situated it strategically at a deep point in the river where ships could dock easily at an inland location. This led to the early success of the commerce driven town, which was planned and platted on a bluff overlooking the active waterfront district. A grid of streets and lots were implemented, and domestic buildings built alongside a church and courthouse.
The onset of the American Revolution led town citizens to stage a tea party in protest of British rule and fortify their waterfront during the early part of the war. However, it wasn't until 1781 and nearly the end of the war, when Yorktown became occupied by British troops led by General Lord Cornwallis. Allied forces weren't far behind and they encircled the British troops' position in town. An eight-day siege ensued in the middle of October with French and American forces bombarding the British soldiers. On October 17 negotiations for the surrender of the British troops began until an agreement was reached two days later at the Moore House. This marked the end of the last major battle of the American Revolution.

Yorktown never regained its early prosperity, and nearly eighty years later served as a military post during the Civil War. Initially held by Confederate troops during the Peninsula Campaign with the mission to prevent the Union army from advancing on the Confederate capitol of Richmond, they eventually evacuated the location. Their evacuation led to the town's use by the Union army in the later years of the Civil War. A great amount of damage was inflicted on the town during this period even though no major conflicts were fought.

Memorialization of the Siege of 1781 brought attention back to Yorktown in 1881 when the Yorktown Monument to Victory and Alliance was dedicated on the siege's 100th anniversary. This led to a series of events over the following decades to preserve the American Revolutionary battle site. While private efforts began in the early 20th century, the federal government entered the picture in 1930 when Congress established the Colonial National Monument (now Colonial National Historical Park) with the goal of preserving historic buildings and archeological sites. Due to this, Yorktown became the site of some of the earliest efforts of the emerging historic preservation field including research and archeological investigations that led to restoration and reconstruction projects. These efforts were led by architect/landscape architect Charles Peterson and implemented by CCC workers of the New Deal program.

Following World War II and anticipating a rise in interest in American historic sites, the National Park Service initiated its Mission 66 program, which included a bold effort to prepare the national parks and historic sites like Yorktown for increased visitors. In addition to providing the public easy access to the historic sites, efforts at Yorktown increased to restore more of the town's historic scene. Using similar methods and more accurate research a variety of preservation projects were completed during this period.

Significance Summary
The Village of Yorktown, part of Colonial National Historical Park, was administratively listed in the National Register on October 15, 1966 with the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act. However, documentation of the property has not yet been completed.

The Village of Yorktown property is significant under Criterion A, for its association with the Revolutionary War as the location where British troops occupied the town and were held under siege by American forces, for its association with the Civil War as the location of a military post at different times for both the Confederate and Union armies, for its association with commerce, and the early historic preservation movement of the 1930s, and its association with the early efforts of the Mission 66 period to further preserve and restore the historic site. The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with Revolutionary War General George Washington who led the American forces, General Lord Cornwallis who led the British troops during the Siege of 1781, and John D. Rockefeller whose financial support and vision led to the creation of the Colonial National Historical Park in the 1930s. The property is significant under Criterion C for its association with architect /landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, a leader in the field of historic preservation. The property is also significant under Criterion C as an early example of town planning in Virginia, and for its collection of 18th and 19th century buildings. In addition, the Village of Yorktown is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information about the history of this property. Although the period of significance extends to 1960, Criteria Consideration G does not apply because the majority of properties in the district are greater than fifty years old. The period of significance for the Village of Yorktown is 1691 to 1960, with significant dates of 1781, 1861-1864, 1881, 1920-1942, and 1955-1960.

Integrity Summary
The Village of Yorktown retains integrity in location, design, setting, feeling and association to the period of significance. It also retains integrity in materials and workmanship although changes have slightly altered these aspects. Even though there have been incremental changes subsequent to the historic period, the Village of Yorktown cultural landscape does retain integrity to its 1691-1960 period of significance.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The Village of Yorktown is one of ten cultural landscapes currently identified within Colonial National Historical Park. The others include: Cape Henry, Colonial Parkway, Green Spring, Jamestown, Moore House, Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown National Cemetery, Colonial National Historical Park Landscape, and Yorktown Victory Monument.

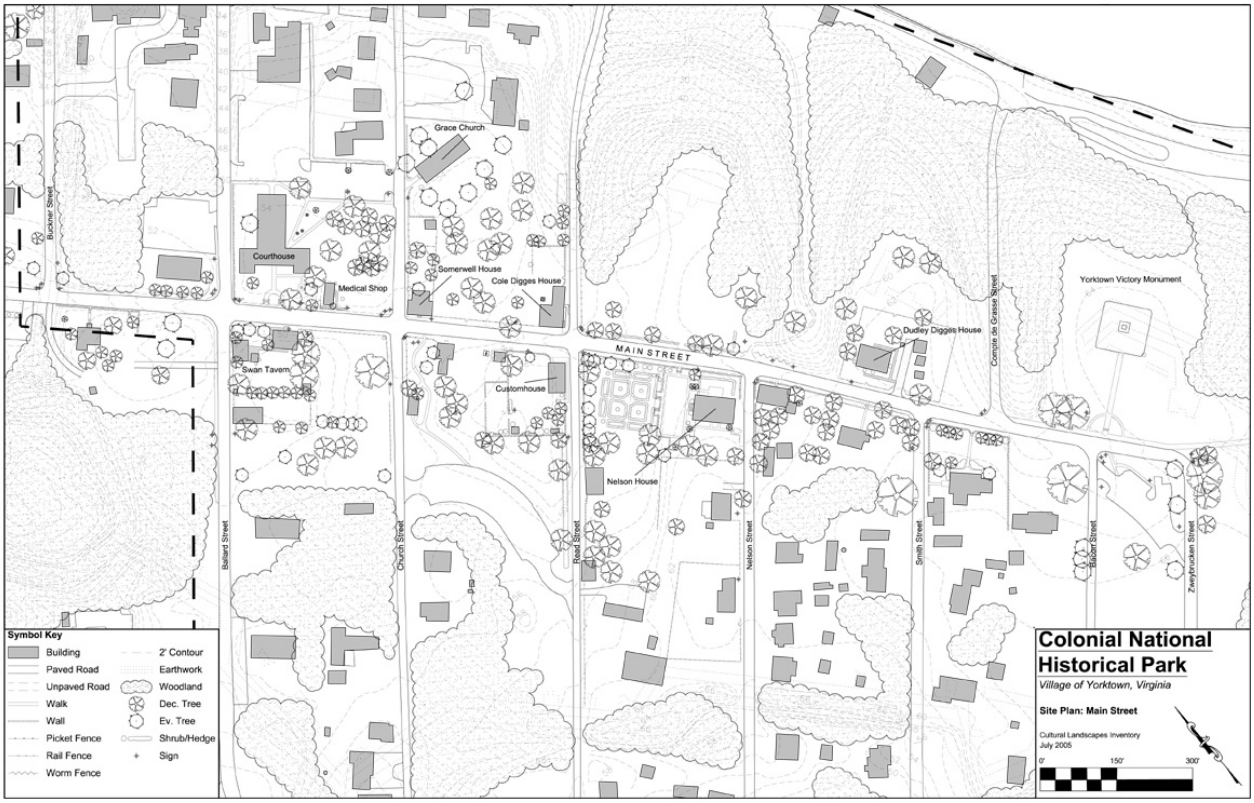
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

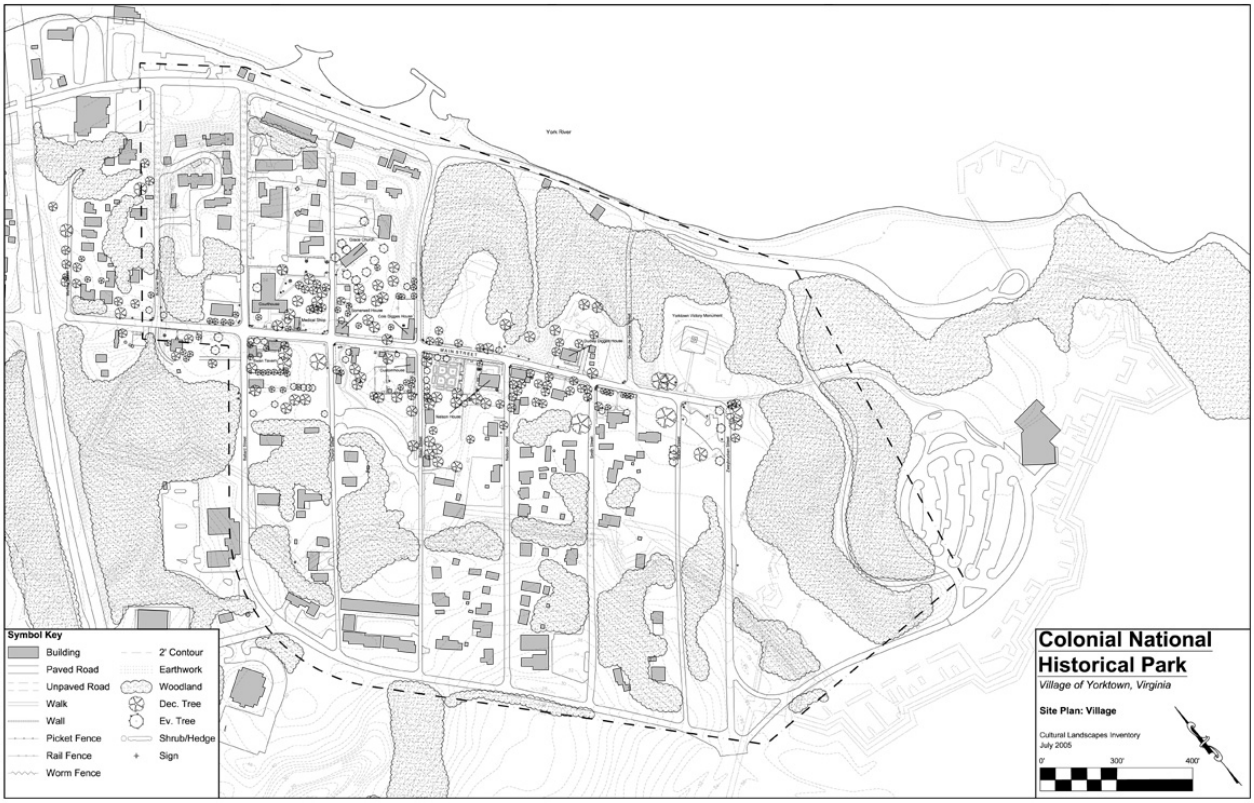
Other Names:

Other Name:	Village of Yorktown, Yorktown	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Town of York	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Detail of Main Street



Village of Yorktown

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/10/2006

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Collection of information was begun by David Sonka in Oct. 1997. This was edited and completed by Nancy J. Brown in Jan. 1999. The park contract for the cultural landscape inventory is Karen Rehm, Chief, Cultural Resources, who can be reached at 757-898-3400. Further research and documentation was completetd to meet the goals of the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) and to complete an Environmental Assessment for possible future development of areas around and within this cultural landscape. The CLI was completed by a contractor, Heritage Landscapes, according to parameters outlined in the scope of work and the CLI Professional Procedures Guide.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

Cultural Landscapes Inventory

Yorktown
Colonial National Historical Park

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Yorktown including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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 Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Yorktown is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park — Date 07/10/06

Park concurrence form, July 10, 2006.

landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Colonial National Historical Park was authorized July 3, 1930. The Village of Yorktown and Moore House, part of Colonial National Historical Park, were administratively listed in the National Register on October 15, 1966 with the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act. National Register documentation of the property is in process but has not been completed to date.

The Moore House component landscape at Colonial National Historical Park is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the Revolutionary War as the location where the terms of surrender were negotiated between representatives of the Allied Forces and the British Army; its association with the Civil War as the location of confrontations between the Union and Confederate armies; and its association with the historic preservation movement of the 1930s. Additionally, the property derives significance under Criterion B for its association with John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s financial support and vision. The property is significant under Criterion C for its association with noted architect/landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, a leader in the field of historic preservation. In addition, the Moore House is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information about the history of this property. The Moore House restoration work carried out between 1931-1936 meets Criteria Consideration E: Reconstructed Properties because it was executed as part of a restoration plan, based upon scholarly research and executed in a suitable environment. The period of significance for the Moore House is 1781–1936 and includes significant dates of 1781, 1862-1865, and 1931-36. The end date 1936 is the year the 1930s era restoration work was completed. The documented areas of significance for Moore House include architecture, landscape architecture and military. Though circulation-related features were added as part of the 1960 NPS Mission 66 plan, the significance of these resources is undetermined and will be considered when Mission 66 resources are evaluated park-wide.

The Village of Yorktown component landscape at Colonial National Historical Park is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the Revolutionary War as the location where British troops occupied the town and were held under siege by American forces; its association with the Civil War as the location of a military post at different times for both the Confederate and Union armies; its association with the historic preservation movement of the 1930s; and its association with the NPS Mission 66 program to further preserve and restore the historic site. The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with Revolutionary War General George Washington who led the American forces, General Lord Cornwallis who led the British troops during the Siege of 1781, and John D. Rockefeller whose financial support and vision led to the creation of the Colonial National Historical Park in the 1930s. The property is significant under Criterion C for its association with architect/landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, a leader in the field of historic preservation, and as an early example of town planning in Virginia. In addition, the Village of Yorktown is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information about the history of this property. The property meets Criteria Consideration E: Reconstructed Properties because the preservation work in the 1930s was

executed as part of a restoration plan. Although the period of significance extends to 1960, Criteria Consideration G does not apply because the majority of properties in the district are greater than fifty years old. The period of significance for the Village of Yorktown is 1691 to 1960 and includes significant dates of 1781, 1861-1864, 1881, 1920-1942, and 1955-1960. The end date 1960 is the year that Mission 66 work was completed.

These CLIs fully evaluate the cultural landscapes of each component landscape, particularly their associated landscape characteristics and features and find that the overall landscape of each unit retains integrity to its period of significance. Therefore, those landscape characteristics and features that date to the periods of significance should be preserved since they contribute to the historic character of the properties (see attached lists).

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information, Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLIs.

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence on the following:

- The Moore House unit is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, D and meets Criteria Consideration E. The Village of Yorktown unit is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, D, and meets Criteria Consideration E.
- Areas of significance are architecture, landscape architecture and military for both properties.
- The period of significance for the Moore House is 1781 to 1936, with significant dates of 1781, 1862-1865, and 1931-36. The period of significance for the Village of Yorktown is 1691 to 1960, with significant dates of 1781, 1861-1864, 1881, 1920-1942, and 1955-1960.
- The cultural landscape of each property retains integrity to the period of significance.
- Both properties retain landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the sites' historic character (see attached lists).

If you concur with our evaluation for the Colonial National Historical Park landscape resources, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Laurie Matthews, CLI Coordinator (Address: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Charlestown Navy Yard, Quarters C, Boston, MA 02129) within thirty days. Thank you for your attention to these reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Matthews at 617-241-6954 ext. 266.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

cc:
Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park

I concur with the above-stated evaluations of the Moore House and Village of Yorktown component landscapes, including contributing and non-contributing landscape resources for Colonial National Historical Park.

_____ _____

Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer Date

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features
Village of Yorktown Unit
Colonial National Historical Park
July 2006

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & ASSOCIATED FEATURES

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Topography
- Confederate Earthworks In Yorktown
- British Confederate Earthwork #1

Spatial Organization
- Town plan as expressed in street pattern grid and half-acre lots

Buildings and Structures
- Swan Tavern
- Swan Tavern Kitchen
- Swan Tavern Privy
- Swan Tavern Smokehouse
- Swan Tavern Stable
- Swan Tavern Wellhead
- Medical Shop
- Somerwell House
- Somerwell Stable
- Cole Digges House
- Monument to Victory and Alliance
- Nelson House
- Nelson House Carriage House
- Nelson House Stables
- Wisteria Cottage
- Archer Cottage
- Archer Cottage Privy
- Burcher Cottage
- Dudley Digges House
- Dudley Digges Granary
- Dudley Digges Outside Kitchen
- Dudley Digges Smokehouse
- Dudley Digges Wellhead
- Ballard House

Ballard Smoke House
Edmund Smith House
Church Street Comfort Station
Cornwallis' Cave
Smith House Dairy

Circulation

Main Street
Church Street
Read Street
Nelson Street
Smith Street
Compte de Grasse Street
Ballard Street
Buckner Street
Water Street
Bacon Street
Zweybrucken Road
Great Valley Road Trace
Tobacco Road Trace
Monument to Victory and Alliance Walks
Somerwell House Walks

Vegetation

American Elms at the Monument to Victory and Alliance
Specimen Trees along Main Street
Trees, shrubs and lawns surrounding the Swan Tavern, Medical Shop, Somerwell House, Cole Digges House, Nelson House, and Dudley Digges House
Nelson House Formal Garden

Views and Vistas

View down Main Street
Views down side streets including Church, Read, Nelson, Smith and Bacon
View to Earthworks
View to York River

Small Scale Features

Archer Cottage Fences
Charles Cox House Site Fence
Colonial Revival Style Fences
Nelson House Garden Wall
Nelson House Formal Garden Walls
Nelson House Fences
Cole Digges House Wall
Somerwell House and Cole Digges House Fence
Smith House Fence

Ballard House Fence
Burcher Cottage Lot Fence
Dudley Digges House Fence
Somerwell Stable Fence
Somerwell House Yard Fence
Swan Tavern Complex Fence
Medical Shop Fence
Monument to Victory and Alliance Commemorative Plaques
Yorktown Fire Hydrant Sign Posts
Yorktown Street Signs
Lord Cornwallis Tablet

Archeological Sites

Sites 44YO100-051 and 44YO0100-055, Poor Potter Kiln Ruins and Site
Site 44YO100-019, Lot 19
Site 44YO100-025, Lot 25 Swan Tavern
Site 44YO100-026, Lot 26
Site 44YO100-030, Lot 30
Site 44YO100–031, Lot 31 Reynolds Storehouse Site
Site 44YO100-033, Lot 33
Site 44YO100-037, Lot 37 Burcher Cottage
Site 44YO100-038, Lot 38
Site 44YO100-039, Lot 39
Site 44YO100-042, Lot 42 Cole Digges House
Site 44YO100-045, Lot 45
Sites 44YO100–046, 44YO100-047, 44YO100-084, 44YO100-085, Lots 46, 47, 84, 85
William Nelson House and Nelson Stores Site
44YO100–047, portion of Lot 47 Charles Cox House Site
Site 44YO100-052, Lot 52 Nelson House
Site 44YO100-053, Lot 53 Smith House
Site 44YO100-054, Lot 54 Ballard House
Sites 44YO100-077, Lots 76. 77, 78, and 79, Dudley Digges House and dependencies
Site 44YO100-177, Lot CC
Site 44YO100-178, Lot DD
Site 44YO100-171, Lot U
Site 44YO100-172, Lot V
Yorktown Waterfront sites 44YO100 (Lots 44YO100-107, 44YO100-109, 44YO100-110, 44YO100-111, 44YO100-114, 44YO100-117, 44YO100-119, 44YO100-120, 44YO100-122, 44YO100-123, 44YO100-124, 44YO100-126, 44YO100-127 and 44YO100-128)
Site 44YO100-189 (old #44YO0767), Comte de Grasse Street and Water Street
Site 44YO100-150 (old #44YO0342), Secretary Nelson House Site
Site 44YO0766, Warehouse area, Great Valley Road
Remnant of York-Hampton Road site

Site 44YO0774, The Montgomery-Norton House Domestic Compound
Tobacco Road site

UNDETERMINED LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & ASSOCIATED FEATURES

Small Scale Features
Mission 66 Drinking Fountains
Mission 66 Interpretive and Directional Signs

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
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TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 7, 2006

Ms. Laurie Matthews
CLI Coordinator
Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation
Charlestown Navy Yard, Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129

RE: Cultural Landscape Inventories, Moore House and Village of Yorktown
Colonial National Historical Park
DHR file nos: 2006-1186 and 2006-1184

Dear Ms. Matthews:

Thank you for submitting the above referenced reports for our review pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Because the National Register nominations for both properties are either very old or non-existent, you are asking for our concurrence with Period of Significance, Areas of Significance, and Criteria of the property as a whole in addition to the contributing status of the cultural landscape. Please consider the following comments.

Moore House

- Period of Significance: Why does the period of significance not extend back to 1769 when the house was built or at least 1778 when the cemetery was established? We concur with ending the POS in 1936.
- Criteria: Depending on how much of the Moore House itself is a reconstruction, Criterion C could be expanded to include the architecture of the house itself as an example of an 18th century upper class dwelling. The argument for B as presented is weak. Based on the information provided, the association with John D. Rockefeller was brief and glancing and does not seem to rise to the level necessary for Criterion B. It is our opinion that Criteria Consideration E is not necessary because the reconstruction is historic and should be covered under both A and C. We concur that the property is nationally significant under Criteria A, C, and D.
- Areas of Significance: We concur with your assessment that the property is significant in the areas of military, architecture, and landscape architecture.
- We concur that the cultural landscape retains integrity to the period of significance.

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1624
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2807
Fax: (757) 886-2808

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

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7031
Fax: (540) 868-7033

SHPO concurrence letter, September 7, 2006 (10 pages).

- We concur that the property retains landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the sites' historic character.

Village of Yorktown

- Period of Significance: We concur with a Period of Significance from 1691-1960. However, we believe that Criteria Consideration G, for properties less than 50 years of age, is necessary because landscape features that would be considered contributing are less than 50 years old.
- Criteria: We concur that the Village of Yorktown is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D. We do not believe that Criteria Consideration E is necessary because the reconstruction of Swans Tavern appears to have taken place during the period of significance. We recommend adding Thomas Nelson to the list of important persons associated with the Village under Criterion B. In addition to town planning and the association with Charles Peterson, the Village is significant under Criterion C for its collection of 18th and 19th century buildings. The Village is also significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce. As noted above, we believe that Criteria Consideration G is necessary.
- Areas of Significance: We concur that the Village is significant in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, and military. It is also significant in the area of commerce and this should be added.
- We concur that the cultural landscape retains integrity to the period of significance.
- We concur that the Village retains landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the site's historic character.

Thank you for allowing us an opportunity to comment on these reports. If you have any questions about our comments, I can be reached at (804) 367-2323 ext. 111.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hill, Architectural Historian
Office of Review and Compliance

Cc: Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park

2006-1184

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30 (NER-RS&S OCLP)

JUL 31 2006

RECEIVED
AUG 04 2006
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Kathleen Kilpatrick, State Historic Preservation Officer
Dept of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

Enclosed you will find copies of the Cultural Landscapes Inventories (CLI) for two component landscapes located within Colonial National Historical Park: Moore House and Village of Yorktown. These reports, for which we seek your concurrence, have been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed reports continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural

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Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2012

Colonial National Historical Park
Moore House
Yorktown

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessments for the Moore House and Yorktown, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Moore House
Fair – Yorktown

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 Moore House and Yorktown at Colonial National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park — Date 08/30/12

Condition reassessment form, August 30, 2012.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025

Colonial National Historical Park
Green Spring
Moore House
Nelson House
Yorktown Village

Colonial National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for Green Spring, Moore House, Nelson House, and Yorktown Village, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:
Good – Green Spring
Fair – Moore House
Fair – Nelson House
Good –Yorktown 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 for Green Spring, Moore House, Nelson House, and Yorktown Village at Colonial National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JERRI MARR Digitally signed by JERRI MARR
Date: 2025.09.30 15:36:57 -04'00'

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, September 30, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/30/2012	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	09/30/2025	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 Yorktown Village 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	York County

Size (Acres): 129.5

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

The boundaries for the Village of Yorktown are Buckner Street to the Northwest, Ballard Street to the West and Southwest, the western edge of the Visitor Parking Lot and Tobacco Road to the southeast and Water Street to the Northeast.

Size: 129.5 acres

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.5239459197986	37.2427840888855	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.5372181705375	37.2024126416647	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.547952223074	37.2424726265746	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.5228346378611	37.1931343196714	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.5108919311318	37.1931069978341	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.4908446609297	37.2048983182036	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	-76.4844280504871	37.2224650935285	

Location Map:



Village of Yorktown Unit of Colonial National Historical Park. (U.S. Department of the Interior, c. 1981. 1:25 000 scale topographic map of Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia. Geological Survey, 1981)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This area has been at the center of several defining moments in American history including early colonial settlement, the site of a major American Revolutionary battle, a site of Civil War activity, and its development in regards to early historic preservation.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Colonial National Historical Park is located in southeastern Virginia on the Virginia Peninsula approximately 40 miles west of Norfolk. The Peninsula sits between two major waterways, the York River and the James River.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Yorktown Unit of Colonial National Historical Park contains 4,304.41 acres in York County, Virginia and 4.29 acres of scenic easements.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/10/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Management Category was determined in consultation with the park and received concurrence from the park superintendent on July 10, 2006.

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Parcels within the boundaries of Colonial National Historical Park and outside the immediate environs of the Village of Yorktown contribute to the significance of the Village of Yorktown due in large part to their link throughout the history of this region and the specific events of the American Revolution and Siege of 1781 and Civil War. Today, lands immediately adjacent to the Village of Yorktown, which are not owned by the National Park Service affect the property. Modern intrusions from these adjacent lands, including private homes and local public properties can be intrusive (either visibly or audibly) affecting the interpretive and educational mission of the historical park.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Village of Yorktown, part of Colonial National Historical Park, was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act. However, documentation of the property has not yet been completed. Draft documentation exists, but has not been submitted to the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.

Eligibility: Eligible - SHPO/THPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/07/2006

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (VA SHPO) concurred with the findings of the CLI for the Village of Yorktown on September 7, 2006. At the suggestion of the VA SHPO, further National Register documentation will include commerce as an area of significance and will investigate the possibility of adding Criterion Consideration G once Mission 66 features are further evaluated.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Village of Yorktown property is significant under Criterion A, for its association with the Revolutionary War and Civil War, the early historic preservation movement, commerce, and the early efforts of the Mission 66 period to further preserve and restore the historic site. The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with Revolutionary War General George Washington who led the American forces, General Lord Cornwallis who led the British troops during the Siege of 1781, and John D. Rockefeller whose financial support and vision led to the creation of the Colonial National Historical Park in the 1930s. The Village of Yorktown property is also significant under Criterion C as an early example of town planning in Virginia, for its collection of 18th and 19th century buildings, and for its association with architect/landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, a leader in the field of historic preservation. Criterion D applies to the property for its potential to yield additional information about the history of this property. Although the period of significance extends to 1960, Criteria Consideration G does not apply because the majority of properties in the district are greater than fifty years old. The period of significance for the Village of Yorktown is 1691 to 1960, with significant dates of 1781, 1861-1864, 1881, 1920-1942, and 1955 -1960.

Additional preservation and reconstruction projects undertaken during the Mission 66 period continued the efforts of the NPS in the preservation of colonial sites using the Colonial style, including the restoration of the Dudley Digges House.

The Village of Yorktown property is significant under Criterion A, for its association with the Revolutionary War and Civil War. Yorktown is the site of the Siege of 1781, the last major battle of the American Revolution, where the military strategy of the allied forces, led by General George Washington, forced the surrender of the British troops occupying Yorktown, led by General Lord Cornwallis, after a 22-day stand-off and battle. The outcome of the battle led to the eventual end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed. During the Civil War Yorktown was again occupied by military forces, first by the Confederates, who abandoned Yorktown in May 1862, and then by the Union forces. Confederate troops built a series of earthworks larger than those constructed during the Revolutionary War to prevent Union troops from advancing easily up the James-York peninsula to their eventual target at the Confederate capital of Richmond. (Hatch 1976) No battles were fought in Yorktown during the Civil War.

The Village of Yorktown property is also significant under Criterion A for it association with the early historic preservation movement, commerce, and its association with the early efforts of the Mission 66 period to further preserve and restore the historic site. The Village of Yorktown's significance in this area can be traced to the first memorialization efforts related to the building of the Yorktown Monument in 1881, followed by private restoration efforts in the 1920s on the Nelson house by the Blow family. In the 1930s, historic preservation projects were administered by the National Park Service at the Village of Yorktown property and were closely associated with early preservation efforts undertaken at Colonial Williamsburg. The preservation work done at Yorktown, in conjunction with the work at Williamsburg, is considered a benchmark in the preservation of colonial sites and included important steps in the emergence of the historic preservation discipline. Additional preservation and reconstruction projects undertaken during the Mission 66 period continued the efforts of the NPS in the preservation of colonial sites using the Colonial style, including the restoration of the Dudley Digges House.

The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with Revolutionary War General George Washington who led the American forces and General Lord Cornwallis who led the British troops during the Siege of 1781. The philanthropic efforts of John D. Rockefeller on behalf of the property also make it significant under Criterion B. Rockefeller's financial support and vision associated with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, the Moore House, Yorktown Battlefield and other related properties fueled Congressional efforts to establish the Colonial National Monument in 1930 (later renamed the Colonial National Historical Park in 1936).

The property is significant under Criterion C as an early example of town planning in Virginia, and for its collection of 18th and 19th century buildings, and for its association with architect /landscape architect Charles E. Peterson, who led the historic preservation efforts at the Village of Yorktown property in the 1930s. In addition, the Village of Yorktown is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information about the history of this property. Although the period of significance extends to 1960, Criteria Consideration G does not apply because the majority of properties in the district are greater than fifty years old. The period of significance for the Village of Yorktown is 1691 to 1960, with significant dates of 1781, 1861-1864, 1881, 1920-1942, and 1955-1960.

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criteria A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criteria C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criteria D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1691 - CE 1781

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	War in the South	Siege of 1781

Time Period: CE 1861 - CE 1864

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	

Time Period: CE 1881 - CE 1930

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Other Transforming the Environment	Other Transforming the Environment	Historic Context Subtheme: Historic Preservation Historic Context Facet: Other – Private Preservation Efforts

Time Period: CE 1930 - CE 1940

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Time Period: CE 1955 - CE 1960

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Other Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Other Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Historic Context Subtheme: Landscape Architecture Historic Context Facet: NPS Mission 66

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Commerce

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Colonial National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	66000839
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 1760	Purchased/Sold	Land along the York River, just below the town bluff, is purchased by the town.
CE 1774	Established	The Yorktown Tea Party occurs when citizens, led by Thomas Nelson, Jr., throw tea into the York River in protest of British actions.
CE 1777	Built	Colonists build fortifications in and around the town at the beginning of the American Revolution and Siege of 1781 (Thompson 1976)
CE 1777	Destroyed	In the process of building fortifications, buildings and gardens are destroyed. (Thompson 1976)
CE 1781	Inhabited	Occupied around August 1, Lord Cornwallis and his troops arrive in Yorktown and continue to fortify the area, including within the boundaries of the town, for the next few weeks. (Thompson 1976)
CE 1781	Land Transfer	Ceased: On October 17 the British, under Lord Cornwallis, send a letter of surrender to the Allied forces, under General Washington, that begins a cease-fire, which lasts until the official surrender on October 19.
CE 1781	Damaged	Between October 10-16 Yorktown is damaged by the continuing battle between Allied and British forces.
CE 1781	Land Transfer	Ended: On October 19 the British forces surrender to the Allied Forces, ending the Siege at Yorktown and the last major battle of the American Revolution and Siege of 1781.
CE 1781	Inhabited	Occupied: Beginning October 24 the French occupy Yorktown, but little of the damage is repaired and the fortifications built by the British are not altered in any major ways.
CE 1781	Damaged	Around 3:00 p.m. on October 9 French Artillery on the Allied right, opposite the Fusilier's Redoubt fired the first shots of the siege. As the French bombardment proceeded, two hours later, the American Battery on the Allied left began firing upon the British defenses. (Johnson)
CE 1781	Military Operation	During the Siege the British bury their dead along the waterfront.
CE 1781	Established	On October 29, Congress authorizes construction of a monument at Yorktown in honor of the victory and alliance. It is the first monument authorized by Congress.
CE 1788	Platted	Land along the York River, purchased in 1760, is divided into small lots.
CE 1814	Destroyed	On March 3 a fire in Yorktown destroys numerous buildings including the Courthouse, and damages Grace Church.
CE 1861 - 1864	Built	The Confederate Army constructs defensive earthworks atop the remnants of the British Revolutionary War earthworks during the Peninsula Campaign.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1861 - 1864	Inhabited	Occupied: The Union Army occupies Yorktown and uses the waterfront as a major depot for supplies.
CE 1861 - 1864	Destroyed	The Swan Tavern and Courthouse were destroyed.
CE 1861 - 1864	Removed	Numerous outbuildings and fences were removed during this period.
CE 1881	Built	Construction of the Yorktown Monument begins.
CE 1884	Built	Yorktown Monument, the first monument designed and constructed in the Colonial style, is completed.
CE 1920	Restored	In the 1920s, private owners purchase and begin restoration projects on the Thomas Nelson House, Edmund Smith house, Ballard House, Cole Digges House (formerly known as the Thomas Pate House), and Customhouse (now owned by the Daughters of the Revolution).
CE 1920	Built	In the 1920s, private owners build the Wisteria Cottage, Carriage House, Stables, Formal Garden and garden wall, Leslie O'Hara House, and Masonic Lodge in the Colonial style. (Historic Preservation Context 1991)
CE 1930	Established	Legislation authorizing the establishment of Colonial National Monument is approved on July 3 (46 Stat. 855)
CE 1930 - 1942	Built	Planning and construction of the Colonial Parkway between Yorktown and Williamsburg (LANDSCAPES 1997)
CE 1931	Removed	NPS intends to restore entire town of York to 1781 appearance, which leads to the removal during the 1930s of all non-18th century structures (except Burcher Cottage) owned by NPS along Main Street (Historic Preservation Context)
CE 1931	Built	Church Street Comfort Station built, one of five built for 1931 Sesquicentennial. (Historic Preservation Context)
CE 1933	Established	Charles Peterson applies for funds through President Roosevelt's WPA program to document historic American architecture, which leads to the establishment of HABS.
CE 1933	Built	Hornsby House and Cottage are built in Colonial style.
CE 1933	Excavated	Archeological excavations underway for Reynolds Storehouse and Swan Tavern complex. (Historic Preservation Context)
CE 1934	Reconstructed	Construction of Swan Tavern complex, including the tavern, kitchen, privy, smokehouse, stable and wellhead completed in Colonial style. It is determined that not enough information exists to reconstruct Reynolds Storehouse. (Historic Preservation Context)
CE 1935	Built	Around 1935 the Medical Shop is constructed in Colonial style. The Somerwell House Stable is also constructed. Both are built in order to contribute to the historical scene of Yorktown townscape, but later determined to have been built in wrong locations.
CE 1935	Restored	Around 1935, Somerwell House restored based on archeological investigation.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1936	Altered	Colonial National Monument changes to Colonial National Historical Park.
CE 1940	Reconstructed	Lack of funds and support lead to realization that reconstruction of Yorktown at scale of Colonial Williamsburg is not possible.
CE 1955 - 1956	Built	The Yorktown Visitor Center is built during the Mission 66 era.
CE 1955	Reconstructed	Courthouse reconstructed.
CE 1957	Reconstructed	Rebuilt: Completion of the Colonial Parkway, the Yorktown end is changed from the Fusiliers Redoubt to the Yorktown Visitor Center. (LANDSCAPES 1997)
CE 1958	Land Transfer	Land Exchange: Inholdings within areas deemed historically significant are exchanged with outlying areas of the park or purchased outright so that interpretation can be developed.
CE 1960	Restored	Dudley Digges House restored.
CE 1691	Established	The Town of York was established under the Port Act of 1691.
CE 1697	Built	Grace church built.
CE 1698	Built	First courthouse built.
CE 1699 - 1734	Built	First defense batteries built along the town's waterfront in two theorized locations - first, at lot 16 and second at lots 34 and 40. British troops later build battery lines in these same places. (Thompson 1976)
CE 1720 - 1729	Built	In the 1720s the Nelson House and William Rogers (Poor Potter) Pottery are built.
CE 1738	Platted	Gwyn Read development lots are divided.
CE 1757	Planned	Part of the Gwyn Read development of 64 one-half are incorporated along the southern end of the town.

Physical History:

1691-1774

Early Exploration and Settlement:

In the 17th century as English settlements were expanding out from Jamestown, Yorktown was built upon a bluff directly across from Gloucester Point on the York River. The town's position was due to its proximity to the deepest area of the river at the furthest point inland that was necessary for it to become a successful commercial port. The waterfront area, not part of the original town plot, consisted of wharves, pubs and warehouses situated below the bluff of the main town. The Town of York was officially laid out in 1691 under the Port Act, which established the town grid. During the early to mid-18th century, Yorktown prospered as imports, such as British domestic goods, sugar, and African slaves, were brought to the colonies and exports, such as tobacco, increased. This trend led to the expansion of the town and the establishment of the Gwyn Read development. Expansion continued with the incorporation of the waterfront area into the boundaries of the town. At its height the town covered an estimated 150 acres with 1800 people, and was considered a medium-sized town. (draft National Register nomination, 1997) Development of the single-dwelling house environs transformed during this period with the construction of outbuildings for service-related functions. Once deemed appropriate for inclusion in simple one or two room houses, practical and social reasons pushed these functions into other separate structures. (Expressing Cultural Values)



Illustrative view of Yorktown from the York River, c. 18th century.



A 1950s interpretive illustration of Yorktown's waterfront area, c. 18th century, by Sidney King.

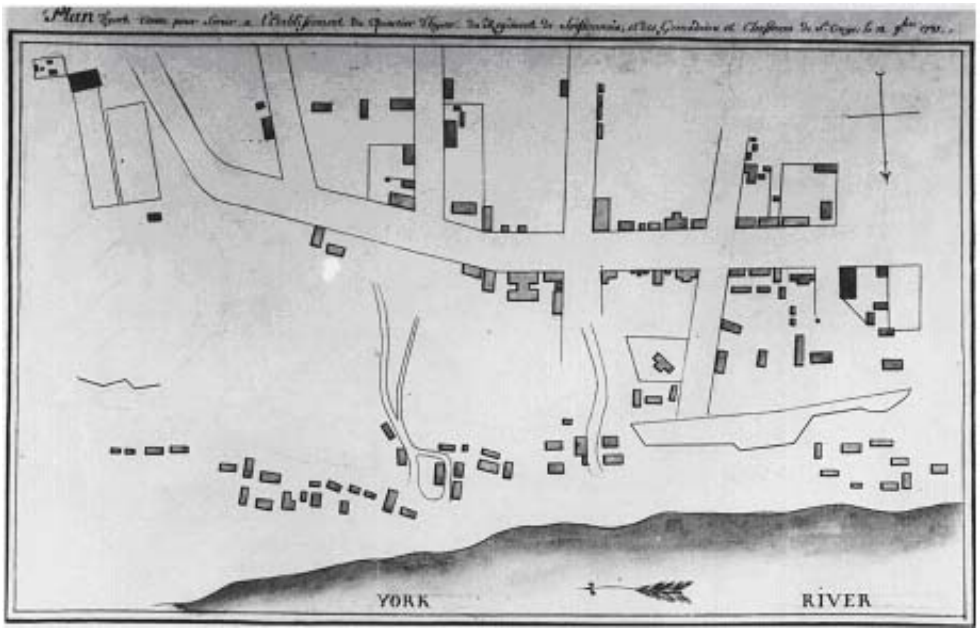


A plat of the town belonging to York County by Lawrence Smith. As it is known today, Main Street is the main east-west running street seen in the middle of this town map. The York River is located at the bottom, c. 1691.

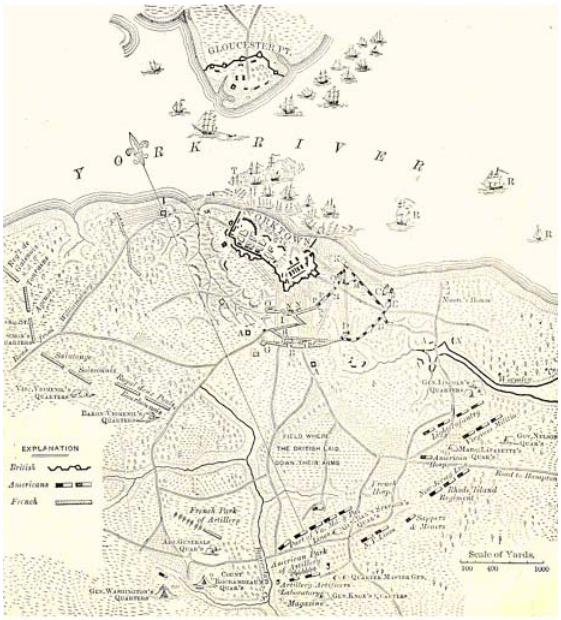
1774-1781

American Revolution and Siege of 1781:

By the time of the American Revolution and Siege of 1781, Yorktown's prosperity was beginning to wane. The town's people built fortifications along the waterfront during the early years of the American Revolution as they anticipated a threat from the water by British troops. With the arrival of the British Army under General Cornwallis approximately four years later in August 1781, most of the citizens had evacuated while those that remained were held prisoner. During their occupation, the British commandeered the home of Secretary Thomas Nelson (the uncle of Thomas Nelson, Jr.), which was located on Zweybrucken Road near the monument. Used as Cornwallis' headquarters, this house was destroyed during the siege. There is only oral history to support Cornwallis' use of the home of Thomas Nelson, Jr. (a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the governor of Virginia), which is located on Main and Nelson Streets. The British also destroyed a later expansion to the town, known as Gwyn Read, as they set out to fortify their position. A series of earthworks, including redoubts and major fortifications, soon encircled the town with outlying advance posts along the river and approach roads. The siege of Yorktown resulted in heavy concentrations of artillery fire on the town and the loss of numerous buildings. The town never regained the height of prosperity it enjoyed during the early part of the 18th century. In fact, more than 30 years after the American Revolution, the town suffered another setback when a devastating fire resulted in the loss of the Courthouse, numerous other structures, and damaged Grace Church.



Plan of Yorktown in 1781. Main Street is the main east-west running street seen here. The waterfront is located below. Some buildings, structures and the circulation of the town are the primary features illustrated here, "le 19-.bre 1781". (COLO 2250)



Military fortifications and positions of the British, American and French forces during the Siege of Yorktown during the American Revolution, c. 1781. (COLO 2212)



Interpretive painting of Main Street as it appeared in 1781. (COLO 2133)

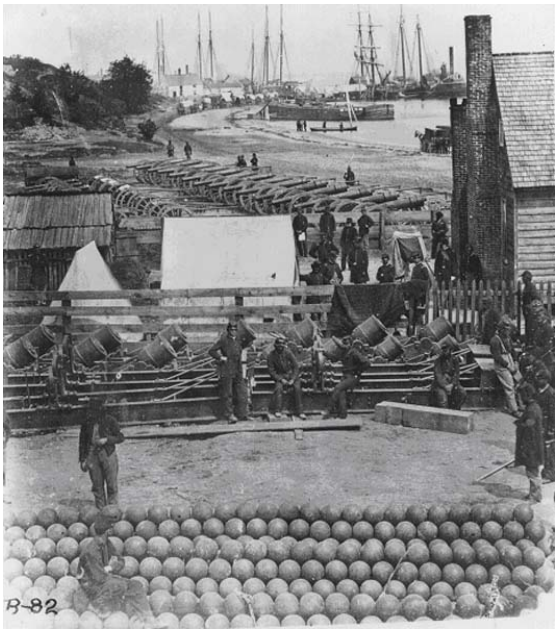
1861-1864

Civil War Occupation:

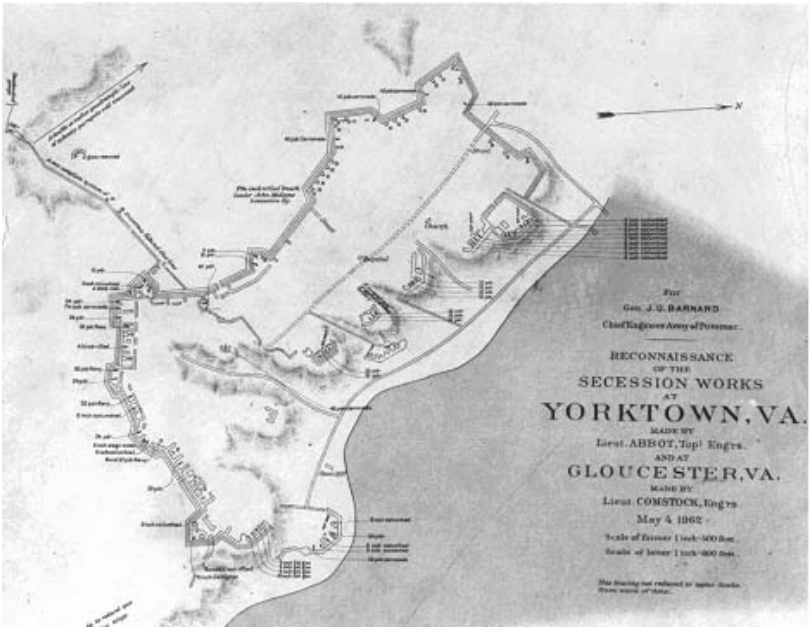
Yorktown was the site of additional military activity during the Civil War when both the Confederate Army and Union Army used it as a military post at different times during the war. Initially the Confederate Army took hold of the town during the Peninsula Campaign and used remnants of the British earthworks as a basis for the construction of new defensive fortifications. During the Union Army's occupation of the town numerous structures were destroyed and the waterfront area served as a major depot for supplies. The original Swan Tavern and a later courthouse were destroyed as the result of an explosion.



One of the earthworks built by the Confederate soldiers within the town. This view appears at the west end of Main Street, looking down its length. The first house seen through the portal is the Swan Tavern, c. July 1862 by Matthew Brady. (COLO 1874)



During the Civil War the waterfront area was used for munitions and military supplies. This view looks north with the York River to the right. The structure at the right is Archer Cottage, c. July 1862 by Matthew Brady. (COLO 1868)



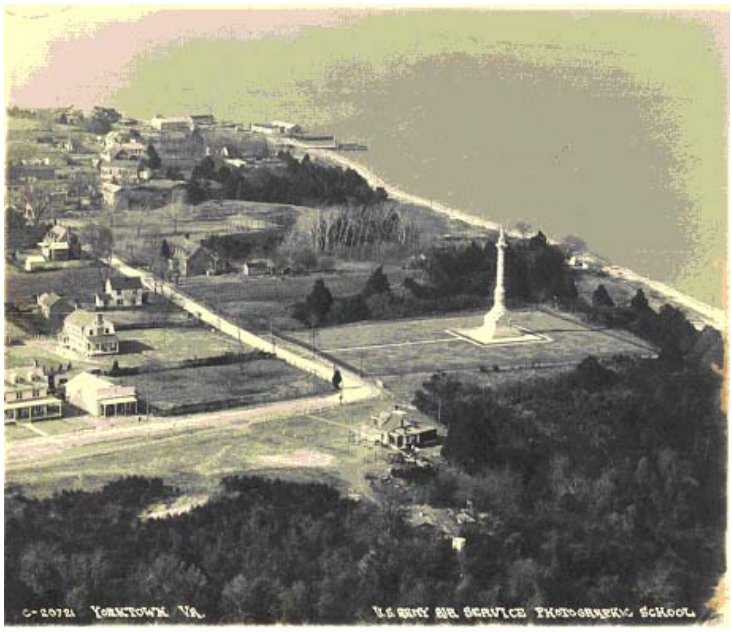
A map of earthworks constructed by the Confederate army during the Civil War that was made by the Union army, specifically the Army of the Potomac, after they claimed and occupied Yorktown, 4 May 1862. (COLO 2265)

1881-1936

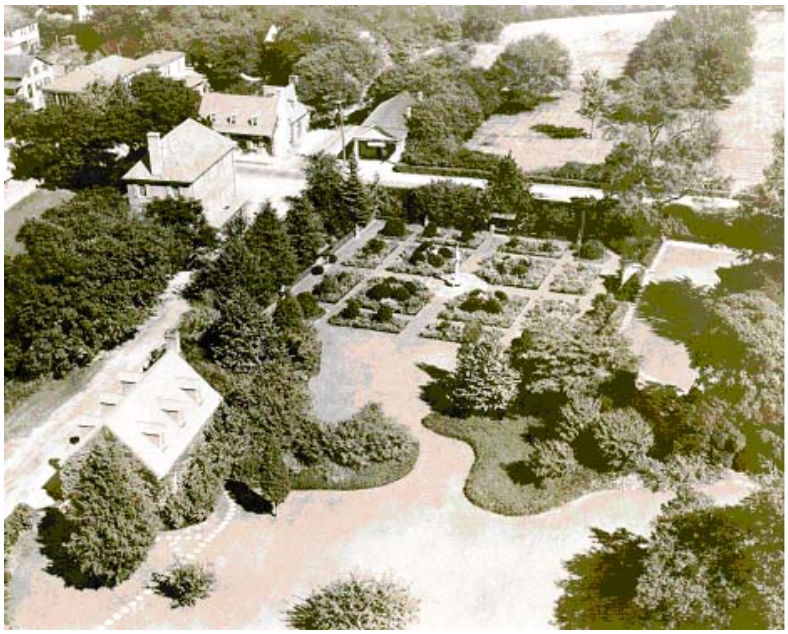
Memorialization and Preservation Efforts:

Though memorialization of the Siege of Yorktown can be traced back to nearly days after the siege ended, it was not until the 100th anniversary in 1881 that physical changes to the landscape began to reflect the desire to commemorate this Revolutionary War battle. A monument to the Siege of 1781 was authorized on October 29, 1781, just ten days after the terms of surrender were signed. It was the first congressionally authorized monument in the United States. The Monument to Victory and Alliance was dedicated on the 100th Anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown in 1881 thought it was not completed for three more years. The establishment of the monument in the 1880s followed a pattern of commemorative activities taking place throughout the eastern United States following the Civil War that included memorials at both Revolutionary and Civil War battle sites.

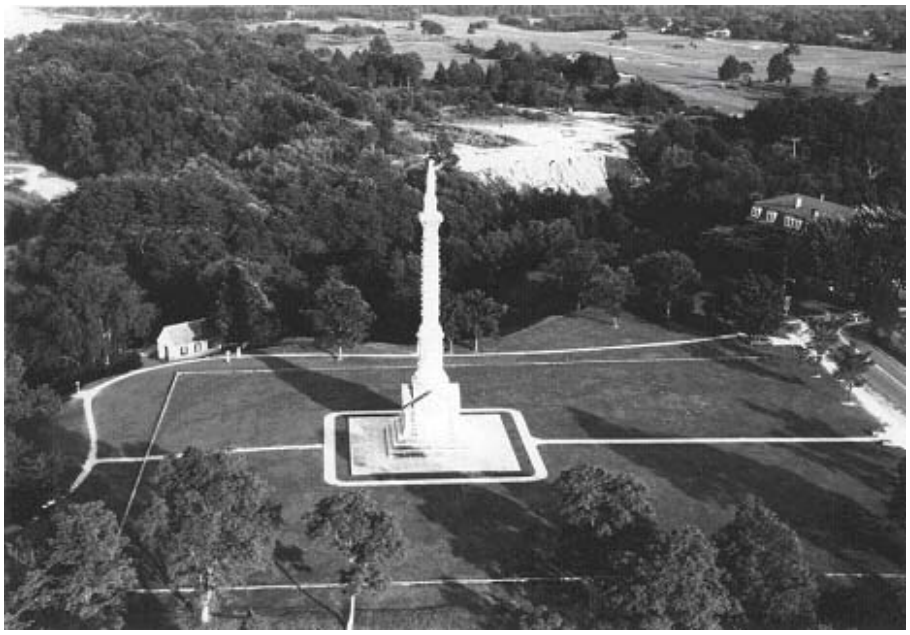
In 1930, Colonial National Monument (now Colonial National Historical Park) was established "for the preservation of historic structures and remain thereon" (46 Stat. 855 in Tolson, 311). The National Park Service initiated some of the earliest cultural resource management programs and initiatives at Yorktown, including major historical archeology, research and reconstruction of the earthworks and structures through Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. These public works programs included work in Yorktown by the skilled and unskilled workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). An interesting parallel occurs between the work being done at Yorktown under Charles Peterson, recognized as one of the leading figures in the development of the National Park Service and the historic preservation movement, and the work being done at Williamsburg under John D. Rockefeller. Both are examples of early restoration efforts and can provide interesting comparisons between private and public preservation approaches. In addition to preservation, restoration and reconstruction occurring here, many elements and structures dating from outside the 18th century were destroyed and removed.



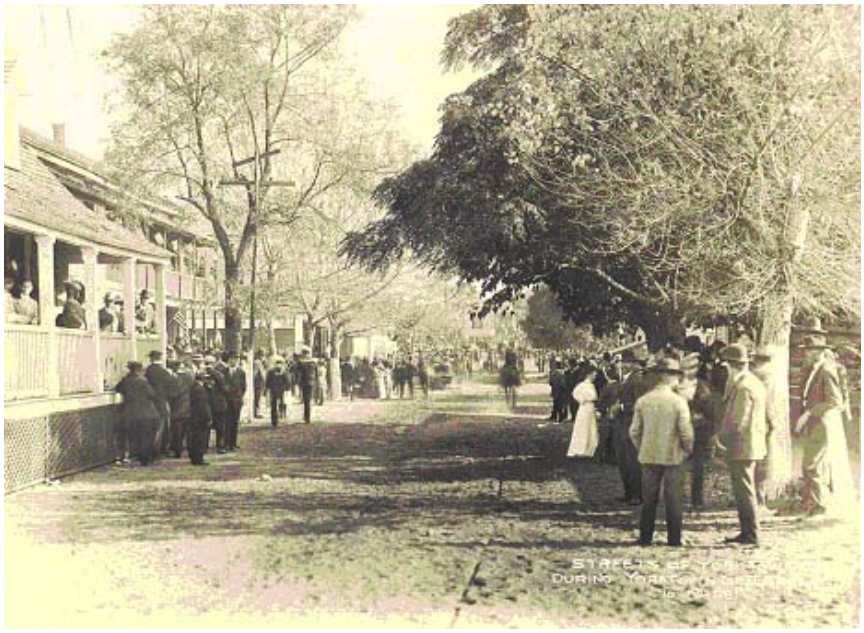
An aerial view of the Yorktown Monument with the Dudley Digges House seen in the background along with other structures of the town. c. 1922. (COLO 3623)



An aerial view of the Nelson House Gardens, early 20th century. (COLO 1623)



An aerial view of the Victory Monument, looking east. 1941 by Mr. Kieley. The elms, including the Washington Elm, appear in the foreground. (COLO 3607)



Looking down Main Street during the Yorktown Celebration, 1909. (COLO 2479)



Preservation efforts being undertaken by CCC workers. Ballard Street appears at the left with the Swan Tavern in the background, c. 1930s. (Jane Sundberg)

1956-1966

Mission 66:

As stated in the Mission 66 Prospectus Brief, “separation of old and new in reasonable measure is a necessity, particularly at Yorktown.” (Mission 66 for Colonial National Historical Park) In the 1950s, the Mission 66 efforts included the construction of a new Visitor Center, changing the eastern terminus of the Colonial Parkway to bring visitors to the new Visitor Center, the construction of the Church Street parking lot, and the modification of the beach area, added in the 1930s, to update its layout and amenities such as restrooms. All of these efforts were related to Colonial National Historical Park’s celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jamestown in 1957. In order to facilitate the interpretation goals for the events of the Revolutionary War, certain inholdings were targeted for exchange or purchase. Those exchanged were done so with lands in the outlying park areas. This allowed for the reconstruction of significant interpretive landscapes including, but not limited to the Allied Siege lines and Surrender Field. (Expressing Cultural Values)

Within the Village of Yorktown, property along Zweybrucken Road was acquired. In addition, the “heart area” along Main Street and a segment of the waterfront, from Read to Comte de Grasse Street, was the focus of an overall preservation and presentation plan. This plan set out to enhance historic buildings, sites and features while removing all modern elements including buildings, power lines, pavement, parked cars and traffic not essential for visitors. In addition to the removal of modern elements, features such as the earthworks were preserved, and interpretive signs, including paintings and exhibits reflecting the 1781 scene, were added to the town. Restoration projects included the Dudley Digges House and Archer Cottage. Rehabilitation efforts were targeted for the Somerwell House and reconstructed Swan Tavern and Medical Shop, and the Dudley Digges outbuildings exemplify the reconstruction work of this period. (Expressing Cultural Values)



View of Main Street looking east from Ballard Street with the Victory Monument in the background and the Swan Tavern complex in the right foreground, c. 1960. (COLO 1681)



View of Main Street looking east with the Victory Monument in the middle background and a partial view of the York River at the left, c. 1960 (COLO 1708)



The east end of Main Street in 1960s (COLO 2152)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	No
Commerce/Trade	Business	Concession	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Courthouse	Courthouse	Yes	Yes	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	Yes	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Historic Furnished Interior	Yes	Yes	No
Defense	Military Facility (Post)	Military Facility (Post)	Yes	No	No
Government	Post Office	Post Office	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Streetscape	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Wayside Exhibit	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status:

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Town of York (later known as the Village of Yorktown) was officially founded in 1691 and consisted of 50 acres built upon a bluff at the top of cliffs that led down towards the York River. The location of the Village provided views up and down the river for the defense of this early town settlement, and provided a critical navigable connection to Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. During the early years of its settlement, the town was surrounded by wilderness which was gradually transformed into an agricultural landscape. The Village was divided into 85 half-acre lots and a grid of streets, including a 33 foot wide Main Street that bisected the town and ran parallel to the York River. Domestic buildings, a church and courthouse made up the early Village and these buildings were mostly located along Main Street between Ballard and Smith Streets. Within the Village of Yorktown an extensive system of defensive earthworks was constructed by the British in the early Revolutionary period, and subsequently reused and altered by Confederate troops during the Civil War. The establishment of Colonial National Monument in 1930 began a period of preservation and restoration that continues today in efforts to reflect the character of the town and its landscape during the American Revolution. Preservation efforts were completed in the twentieth century including the reconstruction of the Swan Tavern complex by the CCC in the 1930s and the addition of interpretive signage during the Mission 66 era. Landscape characteristics identified for the Village of Yorktown are natural systems and features, topography, spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites.

Integrity of location is retained, as the Village has remained in place since its founding in the 17th century. Though their positions have changed over time, open spaces remain in the town and retain the characteristics typical of the colonial period. The design and configuration of existing buildings, streets and open spaces today retains sufficient integrity to convey the site's significance throughout its entire period of significance (1691-1960). The earthworks in the Village of Yorktown have been altered and rebuilt over time, but retain much of their strong topographical presence within Yorktown today. The site retains integrity of setting, especially in the core of the historic district running along Main Street between Ballard and Smith Streets. Though the quality and placement of the materials found at the site is mixed, integrity of materials is retained. There is still evidence of the quality and craft of historic workmanship from the late 18th century, the preservation work of the CCC crews, and the NPS preservation work of the Mission 66 era. The Village of Yorktown retains integrity of feeling to its early period, and also reflects subsequent periods in its landscape features. The association between Yorktown and the American Revolution is evident in many of the buildings which remain from that period. The association with the Memorialization and Preservation period is highly evident in many features associated with the early preservation efforts of the 1930s, including the Swan Tavern Complex. Association with the Mission 66 period is evident in the interpretive features that were added to improve the visitors' experience and the continued efforts to preserve and restore the village.

Location
This aspect of integrity refers to the place where the landscape was constructed. Although boundaries of the Village of Yorktown have changed over time due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to the exchange between private and public ownership and the changing shoreline, Yorktown remains in the location it was officially founded in 1691. Therefore, the site retains integrity of location.

Design
The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property fall under this category. The Village of Yorktown retains integrity of design for both the structures and the landscape when during the period of significance. Throughout the long period of significance many changes have occurred as the district was settled, occupied during two major wars, and then reconstructed and preserved for most of the 20th century. However, the configuration of existing buildings, streets and open spaces today mirrors what existed during the period of significance. The form of the town, running along the spine of Main Street and intersected by side streets remains in place since the town was platted in the late 17th century. Open spaces remain scattered through the town. Though their positions have changed over time they exhibit the character typical of the early town.

Setting

Since the setting, or physical condition, for the Village of Yorktown has remained consistent since the period of significance, the site's landscape retains integrity of setting. This is particularly true for the core of the historic district running along Main Street between Ballard and Smith Streets. However, throughout the long period of significance the surrounding setting of Yorktown has changed dramatically. During the early years of its settlement, the town was surrounded by wilderness which gradually transformed into an agricultural landscape. During the American Revolution and Civil War, troops, fortifications, trenches and military equipment inundated the town and its outlying areas. The establishment of Colonial National Monument in 1930 started a trend that has continued through today with the town and landscape's setting being preserved and restored to reflect its character during the American Revolution.

Materials

All types of materials, including those used for the construction of circulation, vegetation, and other landscape features, as well as the materials' placement in the landscape, are included under this aspect of integrity. Though the quality and placement of the materials found at the site is mixed, integrity of materials is still retained. In areas that have not been rehabilitated or reconstructed, original construction materials remain. In areas that have already been rehabilitated some of the original materials remain, but some were replaced by necessity during renovations even though great care was used. Circulation features, especially the streets, contain little or no materials original to the early part of the period of significance, though their paved surfaces match those in place at the end of the period. Pedestrian circulation occurs along paths, some of which consist of historic materials like marl and earth; along the sides of roads, which consist of a mixture of asphalt and marl; and concrete sidewalks. The concrete sidewalk that forms the southern boundary of the Monument to Victory and Alliance existed during the period of significance, but other concrete and brick sidewalks have been added, such as those along Ballard Street and the western end of Main Street. These additions minimize the integrity of materials in the Village. In addition, materials used for small-scale features such as fences are not original, but reflect the character of the early village. Conversely, street signs and light fixtures do not use historic materials and they minimize the integrity of materials in Yorktown. Vegetation species are nearly all the same, with the possible addition of non-native invasive species.

Workmanship

This aspect of integrity refers to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. Due to long period of significance, the workmanship of the features in Yorktown date to a variety of historic eras. There is still evidence of the quality of historic workmanship from the late 18th century, the preservation work of the CCC crews, and the NPS preservation work of the Mission 66 era. These examples are interspersed with features exhibiting more modern workmanship, such as the Courthouse, Hamilton Building, sidewalks and street signs. Therefore, this site maintains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

A property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period is evaluated under this aspect of integrity. The Village of Yorktown retains integrity of feeling to the historic period. The historic period in this case is the late 18th century, but even other periods are reflected in the landscape features. For example, the Swan Tavern represents the CCC era, and many of the interpretive signs reflect the Mission 66 era.

Association

This aspect refers to the direct link between the significant historic event or person and the cultural landscape. This property retains integrity of association. The association between Yorktown and the American Revolution is evident in many of the buildings which remain from that period. The association with the Memorialization and Preservation effort is highly evident, especially regarding the Monument to Victory and Alliance and Swan Tavern complex. The association with the Mission 66 period is also evident through the efforts made to improve the visitors experience by diverting traffic around Main Street and continuing the efforts to preserve and restore the village.

Integrity of the Property as a Whole

As stated above, the Village of Yorktown retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association to the period of significance. It also retains integrity in materials and workmanship. Even though there have been incremental changes subsequent to the historic period, the above analysis indicates the Village of Yorktown cultural landscape does retain integrity to its 1691-1960 period of significance.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Early Exploration and Settlement
Yorktown was built upon a bluff at the top of cliffs that led down towards the York River, which provided views up and down the river critical for the defense of this early town settlement, and provided a critical connection to Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Ravines connected the upper area of the town with the lower part along the river's edge. One ravine that bordered the east side of town, later called Tobacco Road, provided great topographic change between the bluff and the York River. Another ravine, called the Great Valley, was a steep, but navigable route to the river that provided primary access from the town's Main Street. Yorktown was also bordered by three waterways. In addition to the York River at the town's north end, two creeks form along its other edges. Yorktown Creek's headwaters begin south of the town and flow generally north to northwest towards the York River, thereby wrapping near the southern and western edges of the bluff that the town sits upon. Wormley Creek's headwaters begin south to southeast of the town and flow southeast before turning northeast and flowing into Wormley Pond. While this creek doesn't flow as close to the center of the early town as Yorktown Creek, it does wrap around the plateau's southern and far eastern edges.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
The natural systems and features of the region remained relatively unchanged, especially in regards to the rivers and creeks of the area.

Civil War Occupation
The natural systems and features of the region remained relatively unchanged, especially in regards to the rivers and creeks of the area.

Memorialization and Preservation
Again, the natural systems and features of the region, particularly the hydrologic fabric, remained relatively unchanged.

Mission 66
The natural systems and features of the region remained relatively unchanged, especially in regards to the rivers and creeks of the area, although increased development likely affected the health of the hydrologic features. Particular effects stem from the increase in pervious surfaces and their effects on a higher frequency of peak flows and erosion.

Existing Conditions
The natural systems and features of the region remain relatively unchanged, especially in regards to the rivers and creeks of the area.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

The Village of Yorktown is located in the southern portion of the Embayed Section of Virginia's Coastal Plain. This landscape is flat and terraced and slopes gently toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Coastal Plain is made up of sedimentary rocks that are easily eroded by water. Within the Village of Yorktown, most of the topographical diversity is a result of the construction of defensive earthworks by the British in the early Revolutionary period. These earthworks, though they have been altered and rebuilt over time, retain much of their strong topographical presence within Yorktown today.

Early Exploration and Settlement
There is no evidence of any human made topographic features during this period.
American Revolution and Siege of 1781

The topography of the town changed with the building and then leveling of earthworks by the British army and Allied troops surrounding the Siege of 1781. Within the town, the British inner defense line changed the topography in an arc-shaped area surrounding the southern border of the town. “The terrain (of the town) itself determined the trace of the fortifications.” (Thompson 1976) The placement of fortifications within the town were determined by topography of the upper bluff and lower section along the waterfront, the ravines that connected the upper and lower portions of the town, the position of Yorktown Creek and Wormley Creek which created an island effect for the town, and the level plateau of the town proper that included the original town plat and the Gwyn Read addition. (Thompson 1976) While General Washington ordered the removal of all of the earthworks, only the American and French entrenchments were removed, and most of the British fortifications within the town were left standing.

Civil War Occupation
Topographic changes during this period were again centered on the earthworks. The Confederate Army used the remnants of the British earthworks and roughly built a new set of earthworks along the same path as the British inner defense line. Though the line was similar the earthworks themselves were built larger in order to house and defend against improved ordinances. By the end of the Civil War the earthworks were still standing. “These works were abandoned by the Confederates when they evacuated Yorktown in the early days of May 1862, and there is little to suggest that the Union forces altered them in any appreciable manner while they occupied Yorktown.” (Hatch 1974)

Memorialization and Preservation
Although having deteriorated over time, the Civil War earthworks were still in place when reconstruction efforts began at Yorktown. It was during this period that some of the earthworks, specifically those along the siege lines and outer works, were reconstructed through public works projects. No earthworks within the town were reconstructed. Excavations during archeological investigations, specifically around the Swan Tavern complex, also affected the topography of this part of the town. Some relatively minor changes in topography likely occurred with the development and construction of the Monument to Victory and Alliance as well.

Mission 66
According to the Mission 66 proposal for Colonial National Historical Park, the Confederate and British earthworks within the town environs were to be preserved by clearing and demolition. (Mission 66 for Colonial National Historical Park) To what extent this was carried out is not fully determined, although earthworks remain visible within the boundaries of the town. It is also assumed that changes associated with the grading and construction of roads and pathways affected the general topography of the town during this period. There is no evidence that new construction affected any of the earthworks located within the town.

Existing Conditions
Today, the most prominent man-made topographic features continue to be the earthworks. Although actual earthworks from the American Revolution do not remain, their alignments are still visible due to the fact that they were reused and fortified during the Civil War. Though their positions remain in place, their character has changed from their period of use during the American Revolution and Civil War. Many are covered by vegetation, both shrubs and trees, which are left to grow in order to not disturb the earthwork by the process of their removal. However, the earthworks would have stood clear during the period of their historic use. Most recently, some of the earthworks were damaged during an intense hurricane when trees and their root systems were uplifted taking portions of the earthwork with them.

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
British Confederate Earthwork #1	109010	Contributing	006857		Asset	496804	Yes
Confederate Earthworks In Yorktown	109008	Contributing	006866		Asset	496827	Yes

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Early Exploration and Settlement
In 1691, 50 acres was set aside for the original port town located on the top of the bluff. It was divided into 85 half-acre lots that measured 132 x 165 feet. The remaining land was used for streets, including the approximately 33 feet wide Main Street that bisected the town and ran parallel to the York River. The street remained straight except for one bend near the intersection at Read Street. Read Street was one of several perpendicular streets that led off Main Street, each about 28 feet wide. Of the several perpendicular streets, five crossed over both sides of Main Street and three did not. (Hatch 1974)

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
When the British troops arrived in Yorktown, the general organization of the town remained similar to the original town plat of the 1690s. The town was centered on Main Street that ran roughly east and west, and was crossed at regular intervals with streets that ran roughly north and south. The town had increased in size and density with estimated 200-250 buildings. Four of the cross streets followed ravines down to the waterfront or port called “York under the Hill”. This area of town ran along the edge of the York River and was incorporated in 1739. Not as much is known about the character of this section, but early records show that it contained tobacco warehouses, public wharves and landings, dwellings and residences, stores and storehouses, taverns, and a prison. The development along the waterfront started at the base of Buckner Street, which then grew to include an area at the base of Read Street and the Great Valley. (draft National Register nomination, 1997) In 1738, expansion along the town’s southern edge included the “suburb” development known as Gwyn Read, which was incorporated into the town in 1757. It was less dense than the original part of town and contained several large structures with outbuildings, cottages and buildings related to trade. Some of the lots were purchased to relocate stables and other undesirable activities from their town lots. (draft National Register nomination, 1997) Therefore, it likely had a more open feel and rural arrangement of buildings.

Civil War Occupation
Very little growth occurred in Yorktown following the Revolutionary War. Therefore, the town’s organization surrounding Main Street and the cross streets remained relatively intact. Connections to the waterfront, which have changed over time, likely continued to change, but little documentation of the streets during this period is available. One plan made in May 1862 shows Main Street and the street along the waterfront, but shows very little of the cross streets. Partial connections to the waterfront are shown along unmarked roads that appear in the general places of the Tobacco Road, the Great Valley Road, Read Street, Ballard Street and Buckner Street.

Memorialization and Preservation
Main Street remained intact in regards to its layout, with changes occurring to some of the intersecting side streets. Circulation around the Yorktown Monument, built in 1881, necessitated some changes to the landscape on the east end of the town in order to accommodate the monument, parking and circulation. Plus, some of the connections between Main Street and the

York River changed. The road that had existed down the Great Valley had ceased to be used as a formal road. Connections to the waterfront now existed at Comte de Grasse Street, Read Street, Ballard Street and Buckner Street. Main Street continued to run west until it intersected with Water Street at the point Yorktown Creek entered the York River. In addition, changes related to the construction of the parkway occurred at its original terminus on the west side of town near the Fusiliers Redoubt.

Mission 66
Although not directly related to changes made by the National Park Service during this period, the construction of Coleman Bridge and the rerouting of Route 17 affected major changes to the town, one by reducing traffic through the central core of the village and also by dividing the far western edge of the town from the central core of the town along Main Street.

Existing Conditions
Intact elements include the grid pattern and alignment of Main Street and its cross streets, seen in comparative plans from the historic period dating back to 1781 and today. The town's relationship to the York River and its position on the bluff remains also remains intact. The density of buildings has been lost to some degree through effects of two wars and the removal of buildings during the National Park Service's preservation and interpretation efforts.

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
Town plan as expressed in street pattern	109012	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Early Exploration and Settlement
During Yorktown's early history as a commercial port for the colonial capital of Virginia at Williamsburg, many decisions affecting land use were made in relation to commerce. For instance, commercial and domestic properties were placed in the center of town on the bluff, and the waterfront was used for activities relating more directly to shipments coming from boats on the York River. The land along the river was seen as public or common property.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
During the siege, Yorktown was used as a military base for the British and then Allied troops. Prior to the military occupation the town continued to serve as a commercial port. After the siege, the town reverted to private commercial use and served as a military base for the Allied troops until the end of the Revolutionary War.

Civil War Occupation
During the occupation by Confederate and Union armies, Yorktown was again used as a military base. After the Civil War and towards the end of the 19th century, the seeds of Yorktown as a tourist destination were planted with the celebration and commemoration of the centennial of the Siege of 1781, and construction of the Monument to Victory and Alliance. Some earthworks remain in place within the town's environs from those built during the Civil War period. Like those built during the Revolutionary War era, these were built in relation to the topography and often built on top of the earthworks put in place by the British forces prior to the Siege of 1781. In addition, the Monument to Victory and Alliance remains in place and signifies the earliest official commemoration of the allied forces victory at Yorktown.

Memorialization and Preservation
In addition to the domestic and commercial land uses which had continued since the town's founding, tourism increased as interest in the region's significant role in American history developed. The seed was planted soon after the Siege of 1781 ended when Congress authorized a monument to the victory at Yorktown. When the monument was completed for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Siege, tourism had officially begun to take hold. This was followed in 1930 by the establishment of Colonial National Monument with the intent to preserve the resources and make them accessible to the public. Tourist use of the area was enhanced with the construction of the Colonial Parkway, which provided a direct link between Yorktown, Williamsburg and Jamestown, two other prominent tourist destinations. All of these efforts focused on improvements to the historic sites in anticipation of the Sesquicentennial celebration of 1931. Other effects of this national monument designation included the use of Yorktown as a training ground for the emerging historic preservation movement including documentation of historic features and archeology. During the reconstruction efforts it was used as a project site and training ground for New Deal programs like the CCC and WPA.

Mission 66
Tourism to the area continued to increase and added some pressure to the commercial, tourist and domestic uses already in place. In addition to the residential and commercial workings of the town, the far-reaching and ambitious changes associated with Mission 66 ushered in another era of reconstruction, restoration and modern enhancements to provide a better interpretive program and more amenities for increasing numbers of tourists. The National Park Service acquired inholdings during this period which transferred portions of land from private to public ownership.

Existing Conditions
Yorktown continues its tradition of commerce related activities dating back to the town's founding. Commercial and domestic properties are concentrated on the bluff. Preservation and tourism efforts continue as well under the guidance of the National Park Service. Commercial shipping activities along the waterfront have been reduced, replaced by commercial and recreational use. Military use has also ceased in Yorktown.

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Early Exploration and Settlement
Few documentary resources provide concrete details about the buildings and structures in the early days of the town. Residential structures were undergoing changes. Service-related activities, once found in the main house, were pushed into outbuildings for practical and aesthetic reasons. These associated outbuildings included kitchens and servants quarters. (Expressing Cultural Values) Residences were primarily located on the upper plateau of Yorktown in the established town lots. Commercial structures were also located in this main area of town. It can be assumed that structures related to the transfer and storage of goods brought in from the ships anchored in the York River existed along the waterfront of the port town. Neither their character nor there numbers are known. Buildings known to have existed by 1760 include the Cole Digges House, Thomas Nelson, Jr., House, Somerwell House, Ballard House, Smith House, Customhouse, and Grace Episcopal Church, Sessions House and Dudley Digges House.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
During the building of the earthworks in Yorktown, many village buildings were torn down that were either in the direct path or outside of a defensive earthwork since they would prevent the British from defending their position effectively. British forces occupied the remaining buildings during their occupation of the town. Archeological reports conducted around the Ballard House confirm that outbuildings were leveled since evidence of a gun battery was found over the remains of small foundations. (Mattes 1989) In addition, other archeological investigations along the waterfront near the base of Great Valley Road located foundation remains of two warehouses providing some evidence of the commercial industry in place during the late 18th century. Some of the buildings left standing after this period include the Grace Episcopal Church, the Thomas Session House, the Cole Digges House (formerly known as the Thomas Pate House), the Nelson House, Somerwell House and the Customhouse (now owned by the Daughters of the Revolution), and Cornwallis' Cave. (Mattes 1989)

Civil War Occupation
Photographs of the village during this period show buildings lining streets and standing along the riverfront. In 1862, Union forces occupying Yorktown were ordered to remove outbuildings and fences. Initially the orders included the removal of all buildings, except for the Nelson House, which was being used as a hospital. Fortunately, the order for the removal of the residences was rescinded. According to archeological investigations, the pattern of outbuildings surrounding the Nelson House during the 19th century (after the Revolutionary War and prior to the Civil War) included a symmetrical arrangement of six structures located on opposite sides of a courtyard space. (Mattes 1989) This provides us with some understanding of the general arrangement of buildings on residential properties.

Memorialization and Preservation
"The Colonial Revival style in architecture, which had begun shortly after the nation's Centennial in 1876, capitalized on a growing public and architectural desire to celebrate American architectural heritage as a form of patriotic expression and cultural unity. The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg was its pinnacle, and this effort had considerable influence on the development of Colonial National Historical Park." (Expressing Cultural Values) Its first effects in the Village of Yorktown were exhibited with the construction of the Monument to Victory and Alliance in 1881. Its Colonial style, built prior to the NPS efforts during the 1930s, was the first sign in Yorktown of the coming preservation efforts.

During the 1920s, the Blow family instigated early private efforts when it undertook restoration of the Nelson House. They took significant liberties and made several non-historic changes. Later efforts by the NPS during the Bicentennial era in the 1970s corrected the earlier mistakes and restored the structure to its authentic 18th century appearance. Following the establishment of Colonial National Monument in 1930, several buildings were restored to represent the early period using a variety of documentary sources including historic maps and archaeology. Reconstructions in the town were

limited to the Swan Tavern area, the Medical Shop, and the Somerwell House Stable. Restoration efforts were focused on the Somerwell House, and new construction included one of the first NPS comfort stations which was built along the east slope of the Monument to Victory and Alliance. (Eyring and Geyer 1997) Structures standing in the town during this period included the Cole Digges House, Nelson Carriage House, Nelson Stables, and Wisteria Cottage. (Expressing Cultural Values) Along the waterfront a storm obliterated several structures, but this event was offset to some degree by the NPS building the Freight Shed and Ferry Terminal Building in the Colonial style.

Mission 66
As it has been stated the overall goal for the buildings and structures in the town was for them to reflect Yorktown during the late 18th century at the time of the Siege of 1781. According to a 1957 version of the Mission 66 prospectus, restoration work was planned for the West House (Dudley Digges House), Session House, Nelson House, Edmund Smith House, Colonial Cottage (Ballard House), Cole Digges House, Customhouse, Somerwell House, Grace Church, Archer Cottage, Medical Shop and the Swan Tavern Group. No details are given in the prospectus regarding the type and amount of work to be done. Of these structures some, including the Dudley Digges House, Cole Digges House, Customhouse, Somerwell House, Medical Shop and Swan Tavern Group, had already undergone reconstruction or restoration to some degree. And only the Dudley Digges House, Somerwell House, Medical Shop and Swan Tavern Group existed within the park's boundaries. (Mission 66 for Colonial National Historical Park) To that end one of the primary restoration and reconstruction efforts undertaken during this period took place at the Dudley Digges House. Other specific projects included the restoration of Archer Cottage and rehabilitation of the Somerwell House, the Swan Tavern, and the Medical Shop. Monuments were also targeted for repairs. Corresponding efforts included the removal of many non-18th century structures with the exception of the Burcher Antique Shop and the Nelson Smith Law Office. Finally, a scenic easement was placed on Grace Church in 1958. In addition to the focus on preservation, restoration and reconstruction, efforts were also made to provide amenities for tourists including the building of comfort stations. (Expressing Cultural Values) Under Mission 66, the terminus of the Colonial Parkway (completed in 1957) was changed, resulting in substantial alteration of the spatial organization of the east side of town.

Existing Conditions
Today, buildings are intact along Main Street and the adjacent side streets and represents decades of preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction work. Generally speaking they are 1 ½ story southern colonial style buildings with gable roofs and dormers constructed of wood and brick. However, not all the buildings and structures standing in the town today are a result of those efforts. Therefore, some buildings, mainly located along the side streets, exhibit more modern styles. One such example includes the collections storage building known as Hamilton House, which is a one-story warehouse like building. Though these contemporary buildings reflect the more dense spatial organization and patterns of the town in place during the Siege of 1781, they detract from the visual historic character. Overall, the amount of buildings and structures representing the prevailing Colonial style outweigh those that exhibit more contemporary styles.

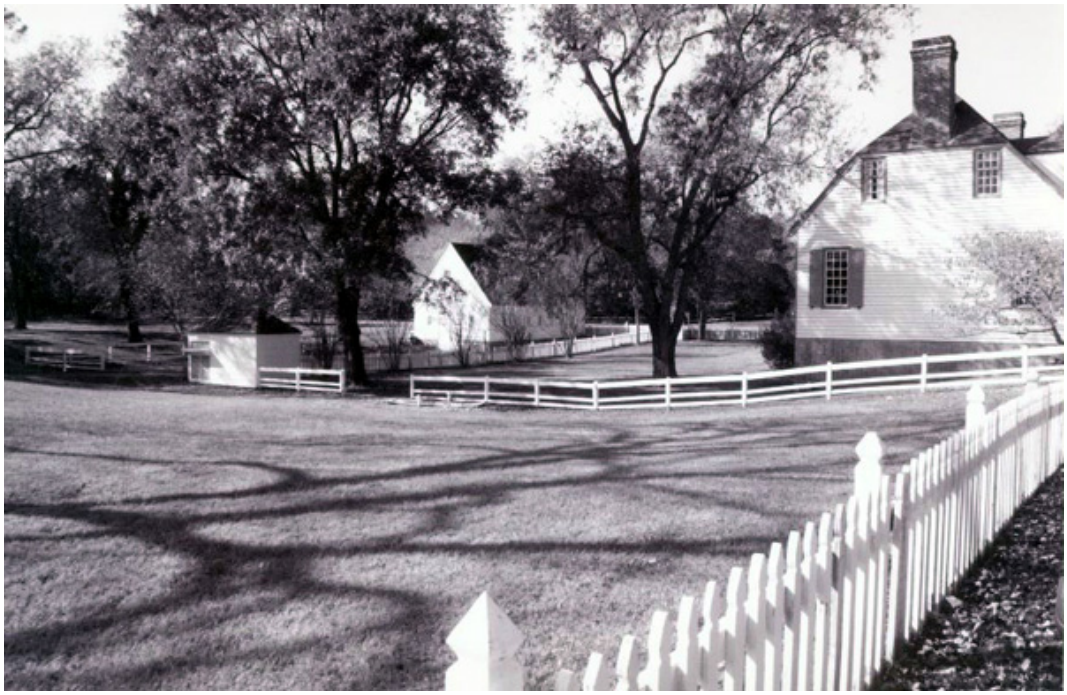
Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cornwallis' Cave	109068	Contributing	081752		Asset	496828	Yes
Smith House Dairy	109070	Contributing	081736		Location	54939	Yes
Swan Tavern	109014	Contributing	000212		Location	54809	Yes
Swan Tavern Kitchen	109016	Contributing	006870		Location	54812	Yes
Swan Tavern Privy	109018	Contributing	006871		Location	54814	Yes
Swan Tavern Smokehouse	109020	Contributing	006872		Location	54815	Yes
Swan Tavern Stable	109022	Contributing	006873		Location	54819	Yes
Swan Tavern Wellhead	109024	Contributing	006874		Location	54821	Yes
Medical Shop	109026	Contributing	000221		Location	54754	Yes
Somerwell House	109028	Contributing	000225		Location	54744	Yes
Somerwell Stable	109030	Contributing	081756		Location	54747	Yes
Cole Digges House	109032	Contributing	000217		Location	54737	Yes
Monument to Victory and Alliance	109034	Contributing	000213		Location	54829	Yes
Nelson House	109036	Contributing	000223		Location	54762	Yes
Nelson House Carriage House	109038	Contributing	006883		Location	54764	Yes
Nelson House Stables	109040	Contributing	006882		Location	54765	Yes
Wisteria Cottage	109042	Contributing	006881		Location	54766	Yes
Archer Cottage	109044	Contributing	000206		Location	54948	Yes
Archer Cottage Privy	109046	Contributing	017264		Location	54952	Yes
Burcher Cottage	109048	Contributing	006885		Location	54825	Yes
Dudley Digges House	109050	Contributing	000224		Location	54728	Yes
Dudley Digges Granary	109052	Contributing	006876		Location	54729	Yes
Dudley Digges Outside Kitchen	109054	Contributing	006877		Location	54730	Yes
Dudley Digges Smokehouse	109056	Contributing	006875		Location	54732	Yes
Dudley Digges Wellhead	109058	Contributing	006878				No
Ballard House	109060	Contributing	000218		Location	54810	Yes
Ballard Smoke House	109062	Contributing	006884		Location	54811	Yes
Edmund Smith House	109064	Contributing	000222		Location	54938	Yes
Church Street Comfort Station	109066	Contributing	081942		Location	54648	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Looking west down Main Street with the Somerwell House on the right, 2001 (Heritage Landscapes)



Looking west at the Swan Tavern complex, including outbuildings at the left and the Tavern at the right. Two types of colonial revival style fencing, specimen trees and lawn complete the scene, 2001. (Heritage Landscapes)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Early Exploration and Settlement
The original town plan created a 33 feet wide and roughly 2500 feet long Main Street, with the side streets being surveyed at 28 feet wide. For the purposes of this section, the contemporary names will be used for ease in reference since many were not given formal names during this period. Of the eight cross streets existing within Yorktown, five had direct crossings across Main Street. (Hatch 1974) These included Nelson Street, Read Street, Church Street, Ballard Street and Buckner Street. Not all the cross streets extended down towards the waterfront. In particular neither Comte de Grasse nor Ballard Street was open to the water. Read Street, the Great Valley and Buckner Street were used to access the waterfront. (Hatch 1974) No documentation exists to determine whether Church Street did or did not extend to the waterfront. The condition of the roads leading between the core of the town and the waterfront was important enough to select a town surveyor who was instructed with the care and maintenance of the roadways. (Hatch 1974) There were no additional cross streets west of Buckner Street or east of Bacon Street, and Main Street was the only east-west running road through town. Circulation along the waterfront generally bordered the edge of the York River. The roads through town and connecting the town to the waterfront were seen as vitally important so many improvements had been made over the years before 1781. During the 18th century measures were taken to “widen and support” the roads when the town hired people in 1757 and again in 1760 to repair the streets and prevent them from being damaged by storm events. However, no mention is made of using any sort of pavement, sidewalks, curbs or gutters in the repairs. (Hatch 1974)

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
The configuration of primary circulation remained the same during this period. The main use occurred within the center of town, behind the earthworks, and between the town and waterfront.

Civil War Occupation
Civil War views show earthen town streets bordered by fences, tent camps and typical wartime supplies. The streets are wide, dotted with trees, and lined with wagon ruts exhibiting the heavy movement patterns through the village. An image of the waterfront shows how circulation between ships in the harbor and supply stations located along the banks of the York River were used. The shoreline is clear to allow easy access and movement of military equipment and munitions.

Memorialization and Preservation
Circulation was added in some places including the design of a path that led visitors from the north end of the Monument to Victory and Alliance to the waterfront. (Eyring and Geyer 1997) The remaining main circulation systems remained in place.

Mission 66
One of the overriding goals of the Mission 66 period was to improve circulation systems including roads, trails and parking facilities. One of the outcomes included the paving of trails to popular destinations, which was implemented at Colonial National Historical Park and Yorktown in particular. (Expressing Cultural Values) For example, the reconstruction efforts surrounding the Dudley Digges house included the addition of marl paths that connected a courtyard near the main house with the reconstructed outbuildings. (Mattes 1989) Parking lots were also built, like the one in 1950 near the Victory Monument, (Eyring and Geyer 1997) and another near the Grace Church. However, the major change to circulation during this period occurred with the building of the Yorktown Visitor Center. The scale of the visitor center and its associated parking lot, built to accommodate the increased visitation that was occurring throughout the country at this time, changed the character of the eastern edge of the Village of Yorktown. In addition, this new building necessitated a major change in visitor circulation and the eastern terminus of the Colonial Parkway was moved to lead visitors to the new visitor center. Under Mission 66, the changing of the terminus of the Colonial Parkway substantially altered the spatial organization of the east side of town. The Parkway created what is now known as five-points. The Old York-Hampton Road (Cook Road) was rerouted so it did not go through the British hornwork and connect with what is now Zweybrucken

(also Monument Road) on the north side of the earthworks. The abandoned section of the 18th century road is now the overflow parking lot located adjacent to the Secretary Nelson site. The rerouted road connected to town on the south side of the earthworks and to an extended Zweybrucken. Also, the building of the Coleman Bridge rerouted Rt. 17, which used to go down Main Street to Cook Road. These changes significantly reduced the amount of through traffic in the town and probably contributed to the demise of some services in town.

Existing Conditions
Today, the basic structure of circulation in the Village of Yorktown remains the same. The main street remains the spine of the town, which is intersected by several side streets leading north and south. While the western end of town officially ends at Route 17, Ballard Street marks the apparent edge of the historic town. On the eastern edge, Main Street turns south and becomes Zeybrucken Street. A footpath leading to the Yorktown Visitor Center begins at this point near the Monument to Victory and Alliance. Additional pedestrian circulation occurs on the sides of the streets, which are surfaced with gravel, marl or earth. Sidewalks are built along the southern edge of the Monument to Victory and Alliance, along Ballard Street and on Main Street near the courthouse.

The main changes to circulation since the period of significance include the increase in paved surfaces, sidewalks and curbs, including those around the courthouse and on Ballard Street. These modern intrusions may seem slight, but combined with modern lighting fixtures and signs are contributing to the erosion of the historic character of the town. Balance between the needs and desires of the residents and citizens of contemporary Yorktown and the goals for a quality experience for visitors to the historic village is important. However, the extent of pavement and accommodations for cars is intrusive and if left to proliferate detracts from the historic scene. Recent street upgrade projects have brought curbs and handicapped sidewalk ramps around corners into the Main Street view.

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
Main Street	109072	Contributing					No
Church Street	109074	Contributing					No
Read Street	109076	Contributing					No
Nelson Street	109078	Contributing					No
Smith Street	109080	Contributing					No
Compte de Grasse Street	109082	Contributing					No
Ballard Street	109084	Contributing					No
Buckner Street	109086	Contributing					No
Water Street	109088	Contributing					No
Bacon Street	109090	Contributing					No
Zweybrucken Road	109092	Contributing					No
Monument to Victory and Alliance Walks	109098	Contributing					No
Somerwell House Walks	109100	Contributing	081757		Asset	496903	Yes
Great Valley Road Trace	109094	Contributing	000228		Asset	319713	Yes
Tobacco Road Trace	109096	Contributing	081762		Asset	529828	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Curb cuts, sidewalks, contemporary signs and light fixtures near the courthouse at the intersection of Ballard Street on the left and Main Street in the foreground. The York River is in the distant view at the end of Ballard Street. (Heritage Landscapes)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Early Exploration and Settlement
Trees and vegetation were likely cleared as the town was settled. Although it is likely some areas were already cleared by the American Indians who had previously lived in the area. As was a common practice at this time, colonial settlers used the old fields previously cleared by the American Indians to plant and grow agricultural crops. (Cronon 1983) Domestic animals played a smaller role in agricultural practices at this early date.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
Foraging occurred on a daily basis between Yorktown and Williamsburg in order to provide for the British troops occupying Yorktown. (Thompson 1976) This likely affected types of vegetation that could provide food or shelter materials. Trees were also affected by the British troops when, according to the diary of Private Dohla, many trees were removed by the British troops during the fortification of their position, including the cutting down of “all the trees in front of our line.” These felled trees were used to block roads and strengthen battlements. (Thompson 1976)

Civil War Occupation
Photographic documentation of Main Street during the era of the Civil War shows some trees in existence along the edge of the street and within the yards of the homes. The trees are not planted with any overriding organization in mind, but are dotted throughout the landscape. It is likely that trees obstructing sight lines from the military earthworks toward the surrounding landscape were cleared, just as the British had done 80 years earlier.

Memorialization and Preservation
Vegetation continued to grow and was planted as the town developed over the years since the last war tore through its center. One photograph of Main Street around 1909 shows considerably more street trees occurring at more regular intervals. Herbaceous and woody plant materials also appear along the street and at the edges of properties. Some lawn areas also exist along the sides of Main Street both separated and in conjunction with the planted edge. Many areas that were cleared of non-18th century structures became an “open green”. (Robinson 1933) The vegetation management for the town fortifications dictated that they “be kept cleaned of underbrush and weeds so they may be readily accessible to the visitor.” (Robinson 1933) Vegetation management around the Monument to Victory and Alliance was park-like in its setting with specimen trees and lawn. Four American elms (Ulmus Americana), which symmetrically flanked the path, were originally planted near the monument in 1931. In addition, the Daughters of the Revolution planted a Washington Elm on the south side of the monument. (Eyring and Geyer, 1997) Gardens, some of which were open to the public for tours during the summer, existed on the Blow Estate, which encompassed many lots surrounding the Nelson House. The Blows privately restored these gardens in the 1920s to resemble a 17th century garden at Groombridge Place in Kent, England. (Mattes 1989) Within the Outline of Development for Colonial National Historical Park there are references to gardens associated directly with the Nelson House and Blow Estate. (Robinson 1933)

Mission 66
Although not specifically stated as affecting vegetation, the need for buffer zones between the park and the adjacent areas of increasing urbanization was a critical part of the Mission 66 program. Restoration and rehabilitation efforts planned for the West House, Archer Cottage, Swan Tavern, Medical Shop and Somerwell House also may have affected the vegetation on and around these sites. More specifically the reconstruction efforts focused on the Dudley Digges house restored some of the hedges and gardens to reflect a typical 18th century property of this type. (Mattes 1989)

Existing Conditions
Today, the vegetation along Main Street includes specimen trees, shrubs and hedges, lawn areas, and a formal garden that are maintained to complement the early character of the village scene in place during the period of significance. Due to the ever-changing character of the vegetation throughout the long period of significance, not all the periods can be accurately reflected. In particular, it’s not practical to represent the character of the vegetation during war times when most of it was cleared for defensive and supply purposes or damaged by battle.

While most of the vegetation along Main Street complements the historic scene, some features are missing or vary in character. In particular, the density of street trees and hedges has decreased, and some of the American elms planted around the Monument to Victory and Alliance have been lost. This affects the cohesiveness of the Main Street historic scene. In addition to vegetative elements that have been lost are those that have been added, such as trees and shrubs around the courthouse that are distinctively modern in their character.

Perhaps, less obvious is the volunteer vegetative cover on the remaining earthworks. The historic scene was likely to have been relatively open in both the Revolutionary War and Civil War period. Some of these woodlots however, provide screening for non-historic elements that exist today. The vegetation also provides some protection from weathering elements for the remaining earthworks. A separate, but integrally related issue pertains to the woodlots. Some of the existing woodlots provide the screening necessary to shield discordant modern elements, such as houses, from the historic scene along Main Street. In other places they prevent, or could prevent if allowed to spread, important historic views to the earthworks and the York River. Over time, the increase in invasive vegetative species, if not managed, will affect the character of both the earthworks and the woodlots.

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
American Elms at the Monument to Victory	109102	Contributing					No
Specimen Trees along Main Street	109104	Contributing					No
Trees, shrubs and lawns	109106	Contributing					No
Nelson House Formal Garden	109108	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Groves of vegetation, such as this one at the top of Great Valley Road, run along Main Street and provide a different character than the more manicured lawns, specimen trees and shrubs found around the Swan Tavern complex, 2001 (Heritage Landscapes)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Early Exploration and Settlement
During this period, views occurred down Main Street in both directions, with the angle at Read Street providing a gently curving view in the eastern direction. The view towards the west likely included a view of the York River where Yorktown Creek met up with it. Other views occurred down the side streets in both the southern and northern directions. To the north, the views would likely include the York River as the grade fell down the bluff towards the waterfront. To the south, the views likely included domestic and commercial street scenes with an agricultural landscape in the far distance.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
As Main Street remained in its original location the views from within the town center likely remained the same. As one ventured further east or west, the British army's earthworks likely obstructed views. This obstruction occurred to the south of the town as well, as the earthworks formed a border along the edge of the original town plat. Views toward the north and to the York River likely remained intact since the elevation change between the bluff and the York River would allow views over any earthworks or defenses.

Civil War Occupation
As the military defenses were built in similar locations to those of the Siege of 1781, the viewsheds within the village likely remained similar to those found in 1781. The one variable was the difference in height between the Confederate and British earthworks. The earthworks built by the Confederate forces were built larger and higher than the original British earthworks. Within the middle of Main Street its character was determined in large part by the density of domestic and merchant structures along it. A few street trees and small fences existed though many seemed to be falling over and in disrepair.

Memorialization and Preservation
Views down Main Street were enhanced with the construction of fences and other details of the reconstruction effort. The character of Main Street changed with the restoration of historic properties and structures including the Swan Tavern and the Medical Shop. According to one photograph taken in 1931 of the Burcher Spinning Wheel Antique Shop, a few street trees were in place along with a few fences. The street ran up to the edges of the buildings with no delineation between areas for pedestrians and vehicles. Telephone poles also begin to appear along the street edges. Views down the side streets were likely restored once portions of the earthworks that crossed these streets were removed following the Civil War.

Mission 66
Views down Main Street consisted of a paved road with a yellow stripe running down the middle. Both sides of the street include a combination of gravel and lawn type vegetation. The views also opened up, dramatically in some areas, where the removal of non-18th century buildings was undertaken. A mixture of specimen trees, formal hedges and shrub masses completed the picture.

Existing Conditions
Today, the views along Main Street remain similar to those in place during the period of significance. Main Street is paved and bordered by gravel and lawn areas. The character of the early village remains due to the proliferation of buildings, outbuildings and fences exhibiting that style. However, due to the increase in modern intrusions especially at the end of Main Street near Ballard Street the historic view has been compromised in some areas. In addition, some views in place during the Siege of 1781 have changed. Views towards the river have decreased due to the increase in vegetated areas. Conversely, some of these woodlots and areas of screening vegetation have preserved the historic scene within the core of the town by preventing views of modern features. Where possible, views from the core of the town should include views of the earthworks in order to interpret the relationship between these areas that existed historically, and regular efforts should be taken to maintain the integrity of historic viewsheds.

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
View to Earthworks	109110	Contributing					No
View down Main Street	109112	Contributing					No
Views down side streets	109114	Contributing					No
View to York River	109116	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Small Scale Features**

Early Exploration and Settlement
Although not specifically documented it is likely that small-scale features such as fences were used around domestic houses, both as a definition between public and private land and also to delineate domestic and work landscapes within individual family properties.

American Revolution and Siege of 1781
Fences and walls along streets and those used for dividing and defining outdoor work spaces likely occurred during this period, but no documentation exists. Given the amount of damage sustained during the siege to many of the more permanent structures it is likely that the damage was even more extensive to small-scale features in the town. They were likely cleared during early occupation by the British troops and then damaged or destroyed by the constant military bombardment of the town by Allied forces. Small-scale features indicative of a military occupation also likely existed.

Civil War Occupation
Photographic views of the Civil War period show fences along the streets and in some yards. Other features distinctive to this period include the military equipment and munitions being stored along the waterfront and Main Street, particularly near the old courthouse.

Memorialization and Preservation
Fences and concrete posts associated with the fences were built during this period, specifically around the reconstructed Medical Shop. Designs for cast iron markers, street signs, roadside signs and trailside exhibits were drafted during this period, all of which followed the prevalent Colonial style in place. The cast iron markers were riveted to posts and contained text such as, “Climbing upon or defacing this monument in any way is prohibited by law.” One sketch for a street sign included such details as a pointed triangular shaped finial with reveals, with a simple sign set atop a post with partially chamfered corners. Finally, the drawing for the trailside exhibit included a rectangular space in the center for text. It was framed by two posts on both sides and top and bottom members to keep it in place. The posts both had triangular shaped finials at the top and a carved reveal just underneath. A slightly curved top board was complemented on the bottom of the sign with a straight version. Most of the brick walls within Yorktown date to this period, though the Blow family built one of the first walls along the front façade of the Nelson House in the late 19th century. A commemorative plaque to British General Lord Cornwallis was sculpted in 1926 and placed on the Nelson House. The plaque was moved to its current location on the Nelson House garden wall in 1976.

Mission 66
This program set out to establish standards throughout the park system, which included “a uniform entrance marker listing park resources.” (Expressing Cultural Values) This followed the goals outlined in the Mission 66 prospectus brief that stated, “Intangible presentation too often leaves a

disastrous void in the experiences of many Americans. The result is that tangible interpretive aids of an educational nature at various points are a necessity." (Mission 66 for Colonial National Historical Park) It also led to further use of interpretive signage installed throughout the town, mainly along Main Street. The styling of these interpretive signs is exhibited in the one placed near the Monument to Victory and Alliance in 1958. (Eyring and Geyer 1997) A drawing dated 1958 also shows the various street sign styles under consideration. Each included chamfered corners on the main posts and had decorative tops, although each was slightly different in its style. One was rounded, another was pointed and the third was asymmetrically sloped. All differed from the one dating from the Memorialization and Preservation era. The street signs themselves also differed in style, although each included hand lettering and a diagonal bracket, some carved and others more simple wood members. Other aspects of the overriding goals included the elimination of modern features such as utility poles, and the inclusion of interpretive signs focused on the information and paintings depicting the conditions in 1781. Additional visitor amenities proposed during this era included the establishment of drinking fountains.

Existing Conditions

Today, the fences and walls built during the decades of preservation efforts remain and exhibit the early character of the village. In addition, signage developed during the early years of the NPS preservation efforts and the later years remain in place. Though these signs exhibit subtle variations, they all reflect the effort to instill a Colonial character in the Village of Yorktown. As mentioned previously, the character of the village today is altered, to a degree, by various modern intrusions like curbs, lighting and modern signs. Most recently York County has replaced individual street signs and lights with a fixture that combines both. This change does not reflect historic conditions. Speed and directional signs, mainly along Ballard Street, are also modern intrusions.

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
Nelson House Formal Garden Walls	109156	Contributing	006880				No
Charles Cox House Site Fence	109128	Contributing					No
Cole Digges House Wall	109160	Contributing	081969				No
Smith House Fence	109164	Contributing					No
Ballard House Fence	109166	Contributing					No
Burcher Cottage Lot Fence	109168	Contributing					No
Dudley Digges House Fence	109172	Contributing					No
Medical Shop Fence	109188	Contributing					No
Monument to Victory and Plaques	109190	Contributing					No
Yorktown Fire Hydrant Sign Posts	109202	Contributing	081763				No
Yorktown Street Signs	109212	Contributing	081764				No
Somerwell House Yard Fence	109176	Contributing	081755				No
Swan Tavern Complex Fence	109186	Contributing	081968		Asset	493987	Yes
Lord Cornwallis Tablet	109214	Contributing	081949		Asset	496603	Yes
Somerwell Stable Fence	109174	Contributing	081934		Asset	493971	Yes
Somerwell House and Cole Digges Hs Fence	109162	Contributing	081970		Asset	493971	Yes
Nelson House Garden Wall	109146	Contributing	006879		Asset	494911	Yes
Nelson House Fences	109158	Contributing	081951		Asset	496609	Yes
Archer Cottage Fences	109122	Contributing	017264		Location	54952	Yes
Colonial Style Fences	109148	Contributing					No
Mission 66 Drinking Fountains	109150	Undetermined					No
Mission 66 Interpretive and Directional	109152	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Directional Signs at the corner of Church and Main, including street signs installed by York County, 2002 (Heritage Landscapes)



An interpretive sign along Main Street, 2001 (Heritage Landscapes)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Memorialization and Preservation
Archeology was an important part of the research and development of the early preservation efforts at Yorktown that led to the eventual reconstruction and restoration of many structures, pathways, fences and other features. In addition to providing knowledge about architectural and landscape elements, archeological investigations also contributed to the knowledge of pre-history and the historical development of social and economic factors. Archeological resources include pre-European contact sites, European exploration, 17th century English settlement, 18th through 20th century Yorktown development and events, 18th and 19th century military activity, and 20th century park development. (draft National Register nomination 1997) Some archeological investigations undertaken during this period took place at the Swan Tavern Complex and Medical Shop.

Mission 66
Archeology continued to inform and influence the continuing development of preservation efforts in Yorktown. It also continued to provide additional layers of knowledge regarding the social and natural history of the town. Some archeological investigations undertaken during this period include the Dudley Digges outbuildings and Archer Cottage dependencies.

Existing Conditions
Since the Mission 66 era, archeological studies have continued to occur within the Village of Yorktown as projects necessitate the gathering of knowledge about below-ground resources.

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
Sites 44YO100-051 and 44YO0100-055, Poor	109218	Contributing	006886	COLO0008 8	Asset	496847	Yes
Site 44YO100-019, Lot 19	109220	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-025, Lot 25 Swan Tavern	109222	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-026, Lot 26	109228	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-030, Lot 30	109230	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100–031, Lot 31 Reynolds Storeh	109232	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-033, Lot 33	109238	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-037, Lot 37 Burcher Cottage	109242	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-038, Lot 38	109246	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-039, Lot 39	109250	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-042, Lot 42 Cole Digges Hou	109254	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-045, Lot 45	109258	Undetermined					No
Sites 44YO100–046, 44YO100-047, 44YO1...	109260	Undetermined					No

William Nelson House and Nelson Stores	109262	Undetermined					No
44YO100–047, part Lot 47 Charles Cox Hs	109264	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-052, Lot 52 Nelson House	109266	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-053, Lot 53 Smith House	109268	Undetermined		COLO00086			No
Site 44YO100-054, Lot 54 Ballard House	109272	Undetermined		COLO00087			No
Sites 44YO100-077, Lots 76, 77, 78, and	109276	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-177, Lot CC	109280	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-178, Lot DD	109282	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-171, Lot U	109284	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-172, Lot V	109286	Undetermined					No
Yorktown Waterfront sites 44YO100	109290	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-054, Lot 54 Ballard House	109292	Undetermined		COLO00087			No
Site 44YO100-150 (old #44YO0342), Secret	109296	Undetermined		COLO00109			No
Site 44YO0766, Warehouse area, Great Val	109298	Undetermined					No
Remnant of York-Hampton Road site	109300	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO0774, The Montgomery-Norton Hs	109302	Undetermined					No
Tobacco Road site	109304	Undetermined					No
Site 44YO100-189, Comte de Grasse Stree	113316	Undetermined					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 8

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/30/2033

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/30/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

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: 08/30/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with Karen Rehm, Chief of Interpretation, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Yorktown landscape is currently 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.”

Extensive tree pruning was completed at Yorktown in 2008 as part of a larger project to address the lingering effects of Hurricane Isabel and several years of drought. Funding has also been requested to address invasive vegetation. Other future projects primarily relate to repaving roads. The park continues to make improvements in fencing, walks, and walls, but vegetation has been affected by other major storms in the recent years. Also, some residential construction issues have affected the surrounding views.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/10/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Overall, the condition of the Village of Yorktown is fair. While most of the buildings and structures are in good condition, minor repairs and maintenance are needed on features such as fences, walks, and walls. Vegetation throughout the village is in a similar condition. While overall the specimen trees, shrubs and gardens are in good condition, some attention must be given to pruning practices to ensure the longevity and character of historic vegetation. Some attention should also be paid to areas whose vegetation is being released to succession. While this is appropriate in some areas, it is not appropriate in all, especially where historic views occur, and where maintaining open views would not adversely affect the historic resources. In addition, attention should continue to focus on adjacent lands and private development to ensure that additional encroachments on the historic scene do not occur.

This condition assessment was determined in consultation with the park and received concurrence from the park superintendent on 7/10/06.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 03/01/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Overall, the condition of the Village of Yorktown is fair.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 11/01/2001

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Overall, the condition of the Village of Yorktown is fair.

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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	Historic Preservation Context					
	Expressing Cultural Values: Yorktown and Colonial Architecture, Yorktown and the Colonial Revival, Yorktown and Mission 66, post 1989	1989				

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
COLO_GreenSp-Moore-Nelson-Village_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source