



Enjoy the View — Visual Resources Inventory Report

Monocacy National Battlefield

Natural Resource Report NPS/MONO/NRR—2016/1232



ON THE COVER

View of Brooks Hill from Four Corners/Thomas Farm at Monocacy National Battlefield
Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service

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Abstract

Each unit of the national park system has special visual characteristics that are often a central component to the unit's management and visitors typically rank scenic views as one of the top five reasons for visiting a park. At Monocacy National Battlefield views are important ways to better understand the connection between natural and cultural resources and many views are in, and/or have views of, the location where the 1864 Battle of Monocacy occurred. As part of Enjoy the View, Call to Action, Monocacy National Battlefield completed a visual resource inventory that identified key facts about a selection of views throughout the battlefield. Most of the views inventoried were determined to have relatively high Scenic Quality ratings and high View Importance ratings. The Scenic Inventory Values at Monocacy National Battlefield derived from the combination of Scenic Quality and View Importance ratings range from Very Low to Very High. Despite some visible elements that are out of character with the battlefield setting, the rolling topography and screening offered by wooded areas helps retain a setting similar to its historic context and allows visitors to imagine battlefield movements across the open fields.

Acknowledgments

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Keywords

Visual resources, scenic resources, scenery, viewsheds, scenic inventory, Monocacy National Battlefield

1. Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act identifies the purpose of the NPS: “...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” With this central mission the NPS has been entrusted with some of the most spectacular and historically significant landscapes throughout the country.

Each unit of the national park system has special visual characteristics that are often a central component of the unit’s management and visitor experience. Visitors typically rank scenic views as one of the top five reasons for visiting a park (Kulesza, 2013). Inspiring vistas can lift the human spirit, expand our sense of place, and provide connections to the natural world and our history as a country.

From a cultural and historical perspective, views are not just about the scenery, but an important way to better understand the connection between natural and cultural resources. This is especially true at Monocacy National Battlefield where many views are in, and/or have views of, the location where the 1864 Battle of Monocacy occurred. Many of these views of the landscape remain similar to the historic setting. Visualizing the historic landscape in the context of the battle is a critical part of the Monocacy National Battlefield visitor experience.

NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis issued a 5-year “Call to Action” plan for moving the NPS toward its second century. The purpose of the Enjoy the View, Call to Action item #38, is to ensure that by protecting visual resources and air quality the NPS can actively preserve both stunning and historically significant views for future generations. Many significant views extend beyond park boundaries and can be affected by actions outside parks that impact air quality and adjoining land use. As part of Enjoy the View, Call to Action #38, Monocacy National Battlefield has undertaken a visual resource inventory.

The specific objectives of the visual resources inventory were to:

- 1) Conduct a visual resource inventory and assessment that establishes a baseline crucial for park planning and internal and external decisions that may impact scenic, cultural, and natural resources.
- 2) Identify, describe, and map scenic resources at Monocacy National Battlefield.
- 3) Develop an understanding of the value of clean air and scenic views to inform collaboration efforts with a variety of stakeholders.

Methods

Visual Resource Inventory Overview

The visual resource inventory focused on identifying key facts about the scenic views at Monocacy National Battlefield. The inventory was completed according to the methodology of the Visual Resource Inventory process developed by NPS for assessing visual resources. The unit of inventory in the NPS VRI is “a view” consisting of the viewpoint, the viewed landscape, and potential viewers, i.e., park visitors. The inventory system consists of both fieldwork associated with view description and scenic quality ratings, and an office-based process for assigning importance values to the views. See Appendix A for more details on the inventory methods.

For each view, the inventory fieldwork process included the collection of descriptive data, as well as a standardized assessment of scenic quality. Assessments were conducted in the field on September 10, 2014. The process included photo documentation, written descriptive information about the viewpoint and viewed landscape, and the Scenic Quality rating for each view. The Scenic Quality ratings are determined with objective criteria and through group discussions resulting in a single scenic quality value for the view. The rating was based on scores from three scenic quality factors: landscape character integrity, vividness, and visual harmony. Scenic Quality ratings fall into five classes: from A to E based on how high they score. Class A views have the highest scenic quality and Class E the lowest.

The View Importance rating identifies NPS and visitor values for the view and also identifies key descriptive information about the viewpoint and viewed landscape that helps inform the rating process. The view importance evaluation for each viewpoint was conducted by Monocacy National Battlefield staff on September 29, 2014. The importance of a view involves assessments of the following factors: viewpoint importance, viewed landscape importance, and viewer concern. Each factor was assessed by a team of NPS staff and resulted in a single View Importance rating for the view. View importance ratings fall into five classes: from 1 to 5 based on how high they score. Class 1 views have the highest view importance and Class 5 the lowest.

The Scenic Quality and View Importance ratings are combined to determine a Scenic Inventory Value (SIV) for each view. The SIV is determined using a matrix that consolidates the 25 potential combinations of Scenic Quality and View Importance into five values ranging from Very Low to Very High (Figure 1). The SIV and all other data collected during the scenic quality and view importance evaluations are stored in a geospatial database.

Scenic Inventory Value Matrix						
		View Importance Rating				
		1	2	3	4	5
Scenic Quality	A	VH	VH	VH	H	M
	B	VH	VH	H	M	L
	C	H	H	M	L	L
	D	H	M	L	VL	VL
	E	M	L	VL	VL	VL

Figure 1. Scenic Inventory Value Matrix

Inventory Team

The scenic quality fieldwork for the visual resource inventory at Monocacy National Battlefield was conducted as a joint effort with Catoclin Mountain Park. After a two day training workshop, including a field training exercise, staff and volunteers from the parks conducted the field inventory for both units. The field teams at Monocacy included park management, park staff from natural and cultural resources, interpretation, facilities, and law enforcement, as well as cultural landscape staff from the National Capital Regional office, and volunteers. The volunteers who participated are long-time volunteers who assist the park with interpretation and visitor services. The training workshop and field inventory efforts were led by staff from the NPS Air Resources Division.

View Selection

Monocacy National Battlefield selected 24 views for the visual resource inventory to inform internal view management objectives and external view conservation goals (Table 1, Figure 2). The selection process was based on the following general criteria:

- 1) Critical inventory priorities (Priority a) include views that are considered most important to the visitor experience or where there an immediate threat to the view from a proposed project or land management or development decisions.
- 2) Moderate inventory priorities (Priority b) include views that are less important to the visitor experience or where there is limited potential for land management or development to affect the view.
- 3) Low inventory priorities (Priority c) include views that are somewhat protected from intrusions; views that may already have visual intrusions; or views that are unimportant to the visitor experience.

Table 1. Identified and Prioritized View at Monocacy National Battlefield

ID	Name	Rationale	Priority
1	Brooks Hill – east side 180 degrees	Contributing view noted in Monocacy National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) (2007). One of best views in the park for visitor	a
2	Hill behind Gambrill Mill and House	Contributing view noted in Monocacy National Battlefield CLI (2007). Along access road. 90 degree view. Possibly see proposed incinerator stack	a
3	Bluffs above railroad crossing	Contributing view noted in Monocacy National Battlefield CLI (2007). Historic camp Hooker area. Can see Junction. Limited visitor access, planned future trail	c
4	Outside park – I-270 Scenic Overlook to the Frederick Valley and Battlefield	Contributing view noted in Monocacy National Battlefield CLI (2007). Field is growing up in trees (state ROW)	b
5	From Thomas House toward Georgetown Pike	Contributing view noted in Thomas Farm (Araby) CLI (2009). Looking down driveway	c
6	From Thomas Farm complex to Worthington Farm complex	Contributing view noted in Thomas Farm (Araby) CLI (2009). Front side of barn, can see trail and Brooks Hill. 270 degree view (similar to 11, which is 360 degree)	a
7	From Brooks Hill toward the Worthington Farm complex	Contributing view noted in Worthington Farm CLI (2013). Leaf off only. Could view proposed incinerator	c
8	From Worthington Farm toward the Thomas Farm complex	Contributing view noted in Worthington Farm CLI (2013). Historically was an important view but not currently. Place where 1930's photo was taken in Baltimore Sun (similar to 9)	a
9	360 view from Worthington Farm complex	Preserve historic rural character of interpretive node noted in Thomas and Worthington Farm CLR (2013). North of house by apple tree	a
10	360 view from Best Farm complex	Preserve historic rural character of interpretive node noted in Best Farm CLR (2005). Wayside area to north of house. Could view proposed public safety communications tower	a
11	360 view from Thomas Farm complex	Preserve historic rural character of interpretive node noted in Thomas and Worthington Farm CLR (2013)	a
12	View south, southwest from Visitor Center	Preserve historic rural character of interpretive node noted in Best Farm CLR (2005). From observation area in VC. Could view proposed public safety communications tower	a
13	View from Georgetown Pike road trace towards Ferry landing	Observation of NPS staff. Looking north toward witness tree-sycamore. High point. 180 view	b
14	View from Ferry Landing site across the river	Observation of NPS staff. Actual ferry landing site	c
15	Four Corners – Thomas Farm	Westerly view of Brooks Hill toward Worthington, 1890's photo from this point shows Worthington, shows connection between Thomas and Worthington (similar to 13). Viewpoint from gap in treeline	a
16	Lewis West	High Point. No visitor access. Good view of Baker Farm	b
17	Brooks Hill Cliffs	Can see South Mountain, 340 water tower. Good strategic view from battle. Minimal visitor access	b
18	River Access	View of Railroad and Monocacy River and 355 overpass	c
19	NJ Monument	Looking past monument with river on left, treeline in distance. Incinerator site visible, possible development outside boundary	b
20	Araby Pulloff	West View of Thomas Farm from Georgetown Pike	c
21	Thomas Farm Parking Lot	Potential threats exist. Could view proposed public safety communications tower.	a

Table 1 (continued). Identified and Prioritized View at Monocacy National Battlefield

ID	Name	Rationale	Priority
22	Gambrill Mill Trail – southern tip	Gambrill House wayside, looking down historic lane toward ford	c
23	Thomas trail	Thomas trail toward Worthington House – SHA maintained view	b
24	Four Corners to Araby Church Road	Northeastern view, historically important view. Araby Church Road is visible on right side of view. Mostly crop field in foreground. This point is southeast of viewpoint 15.	-

Due to time constraints, the initial phase of the inventory focused on high priority views. All of the critical inventory priorities (priority a) were evaluated, along with a single moderate inventory priority (#19 – New Jersey Monument) (Table 2). It is anticipated that the remaining views will be inventoried in the future as time and resource permit. A supplement to this report will be prepared upon completion of the inventory.

Table 2. Views Inventoried/Assessed at Monocacy National Battlefield

#	View Name	Latitude Coordinate	Longitude Coordinate	View Direction/ Bearing	Approximate Width of View
1	Brooks Hill	39.3540617°	-077.4019783°	E	124 ⁰
2	Gambrill Hill	39.3655250°	-077.3845733°	NW	84 ⁰
6	Thomas barn west	39.3581611°	-077.3924556°	NW	160 ⁰
8	Worthington Farm to Thomas Farm	39.3648867°	-077.3928133°	NE	80 ⁰
9	Worthington Farm past house	39.3616283°	-077.3850733°	W	133 ⁰
10	Best Farm	39.3705750°	-077.3986972°	SE	230 ⁰
11	Thomas Farm Complex	39.3581666°	-077.3924861°	E	180 ⁰
12	Visitor Center	39.3770861°	-077.3956000°	S	220 ⁰
15	Four Corners to Brooks Hill	39.3645200°	-077.3926550°	SW	135 ⁰
19	New Jersey Monument	39.3708944°	-077.3922194°	SW	100 ⁰
21	Thomas Parking Lot	39.3570639°	-077.3908305°	NW	130 ⁰
24	Four Corners to Araby Church Road	39.3646050°	-077.3919350°	NE	202 ⁰



Enjoy the View Observation Points

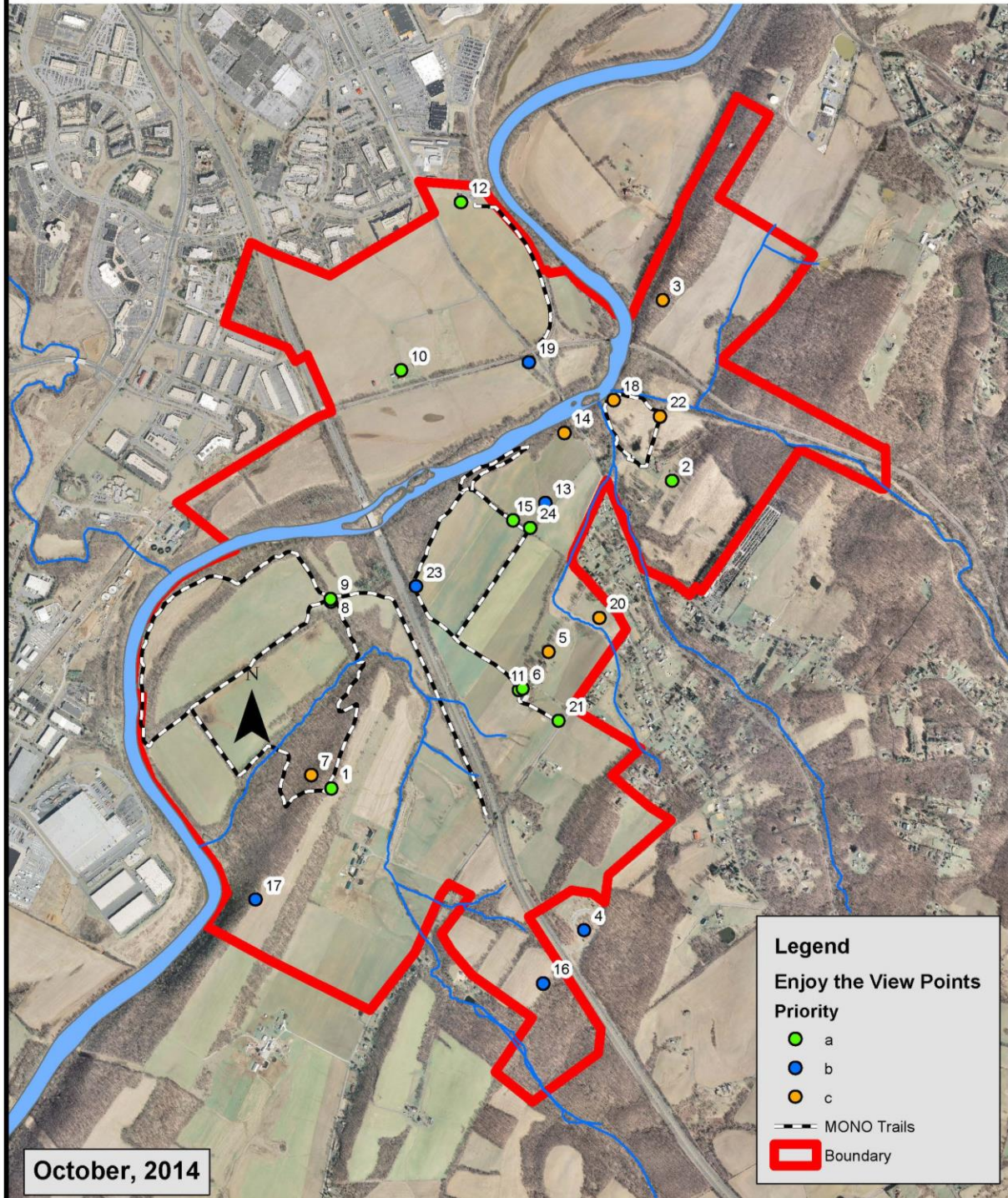


Figure 2. Map of Monocacy National Battlefield Viewpoints

Summary of Findings

Landscape Character at Monocacy National Battlefield

The landforms, geology, vegetation, and other features of the regional location of an NPS unit help define the visual characteristics of the landscape. Monocacy National Battlefield is located in western Maryland and in the Northern Piedmont ecoregion (EPA). The Northern Piedmont is a transitional region of low rounded hills, irregular plains, and open valleys in contrast to the low mountains of areas to the north and west and the flatter coastal plains region to the east. The physical landscape at Monocacy National Battlefield consists of flat to gently rolling plains with forested areas and the Monocacy River running adjacent to or through key battlefield areas.

While natural vegetation here was predominantly Appalachian oak forest, at the time of the battle floodplains were utilized as farmland and there were few areas of native plant-life along the rivers. Today, there are large forested areas along the rivers that serve as a buffer between the agricultural fields, waterways, and nearby roads and highways that traverse the battlefield. The forested areas consist mostly of mixed deciduous oak forest, common to the eastern US.

Much of the battlefield and the surrounding area have an agricultural character with farm buildings and crops surrounded by wooded areas – configured as hedgerows in some locations. Low density rural residential areas outside the park are visible from some locations. Development associated with the Frederick area has also influenced the battlefield landscape with larger buildings visible from some locations. Despite some visible elements that are out of character with the battlefield setting, the rolling topography and screening offered by wooded areas helps retain a setting similar to its historic context and allows visitors to imagine battlefield movements across the open fields.

Scenic Quality and Importance Ratings

Most of the views inventoried at Monocacy National Battlefield were assessed Scenic Quality ratings of B or C; one view was rated as having Scenic Quality D (Table 3). At most viewpoints, visitor attention is focused on elements in the immediate foreground or middleground while the distant background is free of extensive visual intrusions. This helps to create a visual setting that connects visitors to the historic past.

Importance ratings for inventoried views ranged from 1 to 4 with only two views rated 4 and two rated 3 (Table 3). The location of the inventory viewpoints are shown in Figure 1, and an overview of the scenic quality and importance ratings at each location are below. For discussion purposes the summaries are organized by general area within the battlefield rather than numerical order.

Table 3. Scenic Quality, View Importance Ratings and Scenic Inventory Values

#	View Name	Scenic Quality Rating	View Importance Rating	Scenic Inventory Value
1	Brooks Hill	B	3	H
2	Gambrill Hill	C	4	L
6	Thomas Barn west	B	2	VH
8	Worthington Farm to Thomas Farm	C	1	H
9	Worthington Farm past house	B	1	VH
10	Best Farm	B	1	VH
11	Thomas Farm Complex	B	2	VH
12	Visitor Center	B	1	VH
15	Four Corners to Brooks Hill	B	3	H
19	New Jersey Monument	B	1	VH
21	Thomas Parking Lot	B	1	VH
24	Four Corners to Araby Church Road	D	4	VL

Brooks Hill – Viewpoint #1

This view overlooking agricultural fields and the rural settlement area east of Interstate-270 that includes Thomas Farm, received a Scenic Quality rating of *B*. The view offers a good overview of a portion of the battlefield from an elevated position and retains a strong sense of a historic agricultural landscape (Figure 3). Interstate-270 is generally not visible though one can see occasional vehicle movement. New development that is similar in character and density to existing development would not likely affect the visitor experience but highly visible elements added to the landscape that are of distinctly different character could reduce the scenic values of the view. The view was also partially screened by the full height corn crop and at a different time of year or when a shorter crop was in the foreground field more of the valley and Thomas Farm could be visible.



Figure 3. View from Brooks Hill

The landscape in the view from Brooks Hill is heavily interpreted from multiple locations especially Thomas Farm and the view received a View Importance rating of 3. The viewpoint at Brooks Hill is not as highly publicized or interpreted as other locations and access to the viewpoint is from a somewhat long and steep trail compared to other viewpoints in the park. While the lower publicity and interpretation coupled with the more difficult access results in a lower level of visitation, the location offers a rewarding view that enhances the visitor experience.

Gambrill Hill – Viewpoint #2

This viewpoint offers an expansive view toward the visitor center with the city of Frederick, Maryland in the background (Figure 4). The view received a Scenic Quality rating of C. From this location a visitor has an overview of key parts of the battlefield, though some areas are obstructed by tall trees in the foreground on the Gambrill property and along the Monocacy River. More areas might be visible during seasonal “leaf-off” conditions. The park maintenance facility in the foreground is not a major distraction as the viewer’s eye is drawn to the visitor center and battlefield area in the middle ground. The city in the background does not extensively detract from the view of the mountain ridge line which provides a strong backdrop for the view. Continued development in the city is not likely to affect the view except that large, incompatible elements could become a focal point and diminish the viewer’s experience of the battlefield.



Figure 4. View from Gambrill Hill

This viewpoint is not a major destination and received a View Importance rating of 4. There is no official trail to the location and the park does not publicize the view or location in any park literature. Visitors access the location on their own – perhaps after visiting the Gambrill Mill Trail that is in the open area below the viewpoint – and they are coming to the location specifically for the view.

Thomas Farm – Viewpoints #6, #11 and #21

The viewpoints at Thomas Farm offer multiple perspectives of a mostly intact agricultural landscape and all three received a Scenic Quality rating of *B*. The view from viewpoint #6, looking west offers a view across open agricultural fields to a wooded area. While it does not have any of the farm buildings in the view it gives viewers a strong sense of the battlefield setting with few visual intrusions. The wooded area provides screening of I-270 and the highway is likely to be more visible during “leaf-off” conditions. From viewpoint #11 the viewer has a close-up, enclosed view of the farm complex (Figure 5). The farm buildings offer color and form contrasts with the surrounding fields that one expects in an agricultural setting. There are a few residences visible on the hills in the background that are out of character with the agricultural foreground but they are not a major distraction in the view. The view from the parking lot at viewpoint #21 is also an enclosed view of the farm with the strong form of Brooks Hill in the middle ground. From this location the highway and a small power line are visible elements that are out of character but not major distractions in the view. Similar to Viewpoint #11 the farm buildings present pleasing colors and forms in the view that are appropriate to the setting.



Figure 5. View of Thomas Farm Complex

The Thomas Farm complex is one of the most highly visited and interpreted locations at Monocacy National Battlefield. It is a popular commercial auto tour stop and is publicized in internal and external materials. Viewpoint #21 received a View Importance rating of 1, while viewpoints #6 and #11 received View Importance ratings of 2. Viewpoint #21 was rated slightly higher because it has more extensive interpretive features and generally has higher visitation because some visitors never go beyond the parking area. Viewpoints #6 and #11 are used for interpretive talks but lack panels and other infrastructure. At these locations the lack of interpretive features and reduced improvements – gravel pads rather than extensive paving and trails – serve to let visitors who venture beyond the parking lot experience the historic landscape.

Worthington Farm – Viewpoints #8 and #9

Viewpoint #8, at the farm house porch offers an enclosed view of agricultural fields bordered by woodlands (Figure 6), while viewpoint #9 is an expansive view beyond the farm house to the wooded areas along the river and the mountains in the distant background. The view from the farm house porch is relatively intact but uninteresting and received a Scenic Quality rating of C. It is more intimate in scale than many other views and the wayside exhibit is a minor distraction because it is centered in the view in close proximity to the farm house. The woodland backdrop provides screening of I-270 which may be a distraction in “leaf-off” conditions. The view from viewpoint #9 near the wayside exhibit is more open to the west and received a Scenic Quality rating of B. The farm house in the view offers interest, scale, and perspective as the visitor views the battlefield area. A few visible elements of development and industrial features are visible but are in the background and because of the distance they are not a major distraction in the view. The vegetation at the edge of the agricultural fields and along the Monocacy River provides good screening of nearby development which is likely more visible during “leaf-off” conditions.



Figure 6. View from Porch of Worthington Farm House

Worthington Farm is a highly publicized and interpreted location at Monocacy National Battlefield and both views received View Importance ratings of *1*. The view from near the wayside exhibit (viewpoint #9) is one of the park's iconic views and is used on the park brochure. In addition to the wayside exhibits the location is used for ranger talks and as a stop for commercial tours. Visitors are also directed to the porch of the farm house to experience the historic landscape from the perspective of farm owners. There are few intrusions in either view, and visitors are expected to be highly sensitive to elements that could diminish the enjoyment of the historic setting.

Best Farm – Viewpoint #10

This location has a view of croplands and the farm building complex from an interpretive panel exhibit and received a Scenic Quality rating of *B* (Figure 7). The view is enclosed by trees that screen a railroad running through the farm as well as Interstate 270 adjacent to the park on the west. The view's agricultural elements add interest and create a landscape setting similar to that of the battle period. There are only a few minor intrusions including power lines and roads. The panel display itself is somewhat distracting in some parts of the view but they are an expected part of the visitor experience.

Best Farm is also among the most popular and highly visited sites and received a View Importance rating of *1*. The location is highly publicized and actively used for interpretation including ranger

talks and commercial tours. The landscape setting provides visitors an opportunity to experience a setting very close to the historic landscape and additional intrusions could diminish that experience.



Figure 7. View of Best Farm Complex

Visitor Center – Viewpoint #12

The view from the visitor center overlook provides an expansive view of the battlefield area near the Monocacy River (Figure 8). The view received a Scenic Quality rating of *B* with some visible farm elements that add interest to the view and vegetation that somewhat screens other potential intrusions, though some elements such as a car salvage yard are more visible with the loss of vegetation during Hurricane Sandy. The highway and a nearby office building are the most noticeable elements that are out of context while the parking lot and interpretive panels near the visitor are a minor but expected distraction.

By virtue of its location this viewpoint is the most visited location in the park and it received a View Importance rating of *1*. Visitors often spend an extended amount of time at the location because of the museum and interpretive facilities. This is also often the visitor's first view of the battlefield and they are expected to be sensitive to elements that detract from the visual experience of the historic landscape. The office building visible to the west is somewhat of a distraction but its position at the edge of the view reduces its potential effect on visitors. Future development that is substantially out of character with the historic setting could diminish the visitor experience of this view.



Figure 8. Partial View from Visitor Center Balcony

Four Corners – Viewpoints #15 and #24

These viewpoints are in the midst of agricultural fields and represent views from a battlefield area that is not located near one of the key farms. The view to the southwest toward Brooks Hill (#15) received a Scenic Quality rating of *B* and the view to the northeast toward Araby Church Road received a Scenic Quality rating of *C*. Viewpoint #15 offers an open view across agricultural fields surrounded by wooded areas (Figure 9). The key vantage point of Brooks Hill is centered in the view and there are few inconsistent elements visible. The trees at the edge of the agricultural fields provide screening of I-270 and visibility of the highway could change during “leaf-off” conditions. The view from viewpoint # 24 overlooks agricultural fields and a portion of the residential area to the east of the Four Corners area, with a small hill providing a backdrop. The view consists mostly of planted crops and generally lacks interest. A forested area to the north screens the Monocacy River and the tree row along the southeast edge of the field provides some screening of the adjacent residential area. The residential area along with visible communication towers somewhat diminish the experience of the historic setting.

Neither of the Four Corners viewpoints are as highly publicized or visited as some of the farm areas and more accessible viewpoints. Viewpoint #15 received a View Importance rating of 3. It is located on the Thomas Farm Loop Trail which some visitors do use when visiting the farm. The viewpoint does not have a wayside exhibit or other interpretive elements to indicate a location for a view of Brooks Hill, but rather the trail experience gives visitors a sense of being within the historic landscape. A small interpretive element pointing out the view and significance of Brooks Hill could be an opportunity to enhance the visitor experience. Viewpoint #24 is located off of the trail and received a View Importance rating of 4. The location represents a typical location where visitors might go if exploring off the trail to experience the historic landscape. Viewpoints such as this would have very low visitation as most visitors stay on the trails. Though there are more visible intrusions

than Viewpoint #15, the view is still somewhat undisturbed and presents an opportunity to enhance the visitor experience through the development of interpretive facilities.



Figure 9. View of Brooks Hill from Four Corners

New Jersey Monument – Viewpoint #19

The view at New Jersey Monument received a Scenic Quality rating of *B*. The monument is the central focal point of the view and the surrounding agricultural fields provide a simple and undisturbed backdrop (Figure 10). Much of the land beyond the fields is within the park boundary so there is a reduced risk of potential intrusions though large scale development in the background could be a noticeable distraction and diminish the visitor experience.

The New Jersey Monument is a highly visited location and received a View Importance rating of *1*. It is a popular auto stop and in addition to the wayside exhibit, ranger led talks are held at the location as part of the park's interpretive program. The view of the monument is the reason for the visitor's stop and intrusions that distract from the visual setting could diminish the visitor experience.



Figure 10. View of New Jersey Monument

Scenic Inventory Values

The Scenic Inventory Values at Monocacy National Battlefield derived from the combination of Scenic Quality and View Importance ratings range from Very Low to Very High. Though no views were rated as having a Scenic Quality Rating of A, the importance of the historic landscape setting as part of the visitor experience resulted in high ratings at the farm complexes, which are a primary visitor attraction. The Low and Very Low Scenic Inventory Values identified are at locations where visitors could find themselves when exploring in the park and seeking alternative visual experiences at Monocacy National Battlefield. These viewpoints are not identified locations where park staff send visitors, however, as visitors are encouraged to explore the historic landscape some will find the views from these and other locations a valuable part of their experience.

Conclusions

Monocacy National Battlefield offers visitors an opportunity to experience the historic landscape of the battlefield from multiple vantage points. Beyond the visitor center, most visitors stop at the historic farms where there are interpretive facilities and designated stops on commercial and self-directed auto tours. The farms and agricultural landscapes are keys to connecting visitors to the context of the battle, and the visual setting at most of the locations is relatively undisturbed. The intrusions, or out of context elements, that are visible tend to be minor and somewhat expected in the rural and agricultural setting of the battlefield and surrounding area. Despite the proximity to the urban and industrial development of Frederick to the north and west of the battlefield, it is generally not visible enough to diminish the visitor's experience. The wooded areas in and around the battlefield, while most are not a historic part of the landscape from the time of the battle, currently provide screening of roads and development that might otherwise be visible and detract from the sense of being within the historic landscape. However, the views from several locations could be quite different during the parts of the year when the deciduous trees are in their "leaf-off" condition. There is potential for future construction outside of the park boundary to negatively impact several of the assessed viewsheds. Overall, the visual setting at Monocacy National Battlefield allows visitors to enjoy the experience of a historic setting that enhances their understanding of the battle and visualize how it played out across the landscape.

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Appendix A: Scenic Quality and View Importance Rating Methods

Scenic Quality

Assessing scenic quality involves field-based assessments of: Landscape Character Integrity, Vividness and Visual Harmony.

Each component is assessed in the field while viewing the landscape from the viewpoint, and the assessments requires that the group evaluate three factors for each component. All factors are equally weighted.

Landscape Character Integrity

Scenic integrity indicates the degree of intactness and wholeness visual aspect of the landscape character identified in the landscape description section. It is not an assessment of cultural or historic integrity of the landscape. The highest scenic integrity ratings are given to those landscapes which have little or no deviation from the character valued for its aesthetic appeal.

The rating process assumes that in order to have the highest degree of integrity, i.e. a high quality example of the identified landscape character the view must:

- Have most or all of the key elements of landscape character present;
- Have elements that are of high quality and in the appropriate condition for the landscape character, i.e. well built, well cared for, or, for historic/rustic landscapes, appropriately worn/aged; and
- Be relatively free of elements that are inconsistent with the landscape character.

Vividness

Vividness is the degree to which landscape elements are distinctive or striking enough to make a view memorable. The rating assumes that to have a high degree of vividness, the view must:

- Contain one or more dominant visual features or focal points;
- Contain striking forms and/or lines; and
- Contain striking colors, textures, or visible motion.

Visual Harmony

Visual harmony is the extent to which there is a pleasing array of visual elements in a landscape, usually as a result of a sense of visual order, compatibility, and completeness between and among the land forms, water forms, vegetation, or built elements visible in the landscape. The approach assumes that a high degree of visual harmony is achieved when:

- There is a clearly recognizable structure, pattern, or order to the spatial relationships of the landscape elements;
- The landscape elements display pleasing scale relationships; and
- The landscape displays pleasing color relationships.

Scenic quality ratings fall into five classes from A to E. Class A views have the highest scenic quality and Class E the lowest.

Importance Values

The View Importance rating identifies NPS and visitor values for the viewpoint, the viewed landscape and the viewers. This rating is an office-based exercise. Each component is assessed by a team of NPS staff. In the same manner as Scenic Quality, the process requires that the group evaluate three factors for each component and all factors are equally weighted.

Viewpoint Importance

Viewpoint importance assesses the extent to which the viewpoint is publicized and managed for visitors. The rating system assumes that to have the highest importance rating the viewpoint must:

- Be extensively publicized, especially for its scenic views, in NPS or external communications and media (e.g. hiking guides, web sites, movies);
- Have facilities that have been added or are planned for the viewpoint area to enhance the visitor experience; and
- Have a high level of interpretive services that contribute to the visitors' enjoyment of scenic, historical, cultural scientific or other NPS values of the unit.

Viewed Landscape Importance

Viewed landscape importance assesses the extent to which the elements in the viewed landscape are publicized and used for interpretation. The assessment also evaluates how important special designations such as Wilderness or historic sites are within the view. The viewed rating system assumes that to have the highest level of importance the viewed landscape must:

- Be extensively publicized, especially for its scenic views, in NPS or in external communications or media (e.g. hiking guides, web sites);
- Consist of all or mostly specially designated areas, or nationally/regionally significant scenic, historic, cultural, or scientific features or landmarks (e.g. wilderness areas, cultural landscapes); and
- Strongly illustrate the NPS unit's scenic character or important interpretive themes and/or be connected to the unit's goal for visitor experience

Viewer Concern

The evaluation of viewer concern relies primarily on the knowledge and professional judgment of NPS staff, and the rating system assumes that to have the highest level of viewer concern:

- The viewpoint must have a high level of visitation in relation to other viewpoints in the park;
- Viewers generally spend an extended period of time at the viewpoint; and
- Most visitors would be unusually sensitive to potential changes in a view because they are seeking views of natural character or historic significance.

View importance ratings fall into five classes from 1 to 5. Class 1 views have the highest view importance and Class 5 the lowest.

Appendix B: Viewpoint Panoramas



Viewpoint 1: View from Brooks Hill; View Direction: East; Approximate Width of View: 124 degrees



Viewpoint 2: View from Gambrill Hill; View Direction: Northwest; Approximate Width of View: 84 degrees



Viewpoint 6: View from Thomas Barn to West; View Direction: Northwest; Approximate Width of View: 160 degrees



Viewpoint 11: View of Thomas Farm Complex; View Direction: East; Approximate Width of View: 180 degrees



Viewpoint 21: View from Thomas Farm Parking Area;

View Direction: Northwest;

Approximate Width of View: 130 degrees



Viewpoint 8: View from Worthington Farmhouse Porch;

View Direction: NE;

Approximate Width of View: 80 degrees



Viewpoint 9: View of Worthington Farm Looking Past House;

View Direction: West;

Approximate Width of View: 133 degrees



Viewpoint 10: View of Best Farm;

View Direction: Southeast;

Approximate Width of View: 230 degrees



Viewpoint 12: View from Visitor Center Balcony; View Direction: South; Approximate Width of View: 220 degrees



Viewpoint 15: View of Brooks Hill from Four Corners; View Direction: Southwest; Approximate Width of View: 135 degrees



Viewpoint 24: View from Four Corners to Araby Church Road; View Direction: Northeast; Approximate Width of View: 200 degrees



Viewpoint 19: View of New Jersey Monument; View Direction: Southwest; Approximate Width of View: 100 degrees

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

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