
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2019



Robinson Farmstead
Manassas National Battlefield Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan	Page 2
Concurrence Status	Page 7
Geographic Information and Location Map	Page 10
Management Information	Page 12
National Register Information.....	Page 15
Chronology & Physical History.....	Page 18
Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity.....	Page 40
Condition.....	Page 84
Bibliography & Supplemental Information	Page 86

Cultural Landscape Summary & Site Plan

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

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. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI). The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant cultural landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest.

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

- Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,
- Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,
- Landscapes does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because of law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity. The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...*

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Robinson Farm cultural landscape is situated approximately 25 miles west of Washington, DC, in Prince William County, Virginia, five miles north of the city of Manassas. It is a component landscape of Manassas National Battlefield Park (MNBP) and located in the southeast section of the park. The property is currently known as the James Robinson farm cultural landscape. The Robinson Farm Cultural Landscape is characterized by open fields interspersed with forested stands atop rolling topography. The former agricultural cultural landscape is associated with rural African American customs and practices prior to the American Civil War to after the turn of the twentieth century.

The historic Warrenton Turnpike, or present day Lee Highway or Route 29, binds the cultural landscape to the north. The property is bounded on the south and west by the Henry Hill property. On the eastern side, the Robinson cultural landscape is bounded largely by Bull Run, except for the northern section that crosses Bull Run and extends along the Warrenton Turnpike. In 1936 the National Park Service acquired the 297.6-acre property in fee-simple from several descendants of James Robinson.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Robinson farm cultural landscape is representative of 19th century agricultural practices of the Piedmont Virginia. Diversified farming on manageable plots emerged as a way of life several generations after the large tracts of tobacco plantations were divided. The historical vernacular landscape of the Robinsons supported a variety of crops, as well as livestock. The farmstead included a modest home and outbuildings that enabled the subsistence farming of the Robinson family. Most of the neighboring farms operated similarly by the time James Robinson purchased his land in 1840. The boundary of the Robinson family lands varied only slightly during the next 100 years.

James Robinson's land was originally part of a large land tract called Middle Bull Run, in Virginia, patented in 1729. Over the next 100 years, the land was divided and subdivided among descendants of the original landowner. In 1840 James Robinson, a free African American, purchased a 170-acre section of the land, south of the Warrenton Turnpike and west of Bull Run. The land was composed of rolling hills, flat meadows, seasonal streams and oak forest. James established a farm and a drover's tavern and farmed the land until his death in 1875. He produced grains, raised livestock and planted an orchard. His children and grandchildren continued the farming tradition until the National Park Service purchased the lands from James' descendants in 1936 for creation of the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The boundary of the project area is based on the property associated with the Robinson farm, as it existed at the time of the First and Second Battles of Manassas, July 21, 1861 and August 28-30, 1862, respectively. In October of 1936, Edna May Robinson sold the largest tract, number 01-175, consisting of 242.22 acres to the US government. (PWC DB 97:485). Edna May (nee Ratcliffe) was the wife of James Alfred Robinson. James Alfred was the son of Bladen Robinson and the grandson of James Robinson. James Alfred grew up on the land near his grandfather's house. Bladen Robinson built a post-bellum home and established a farmstead southeast of the family home. The lands that Edna May sold to the government included Bladen's former property.

In November of 1936, McKinley Robinson, James' grandson, sold a total of 24.84 acres in three separate tracts, numbers 01-143a and b, and 01-176 (PWC DB 98:62). The tract number 01-143a contained James' home and traditional cluster of farm buildings. The 01-143b tract included a small triangular area of land at the corner of Robert V. Robinson's tract. Robert V. Robinson was McKinley's uncle. Tract 01-176 contained land bordering Youngs Branch that McKinley's father, Asbury Mansfield Robinson Jr., willed to him. This land formerly belonged to McKinley's grandfather, Tasco D. Robinson. Tasco was the son of James Robinson. McKinley's parents, Rosa and Asbury, were cousins. Also in November of 1936, Robert V. Robinson and Lorraine Robinson sold their 30.54-acre tract to the federal government (PWC DB 98:23). This land was also part of the property owned by Tasco D. Robinson, Robert V. Robinson's father.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The larger Manassas Battlefield Historic District was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. The nomination was amended in 2006, primarily to include the boundary expansions that took place in 1988 with the incorporation of the Stuart's Hill tract into Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The Manassas Battlefield Historic District is nationally significant in the areas of military, archaeology, architecture and commemoration.

The property encompasses roughly 6470 acres, of which 5073 acres are within Manassas National Battlefield Park (Trieschmann 2006:4). It has a period of significance that spans 122 years beginning with the subdivision of the Carter family estate in 1820 and ending in 1942, the year that the Visitor Center on Henry Hill was completed (Trieschmann 2006:8-41). Although the property primarily derives its historic significance from the short and bloody Civil War battles that occurred there in 1861 and 1862, the defined period of significance for the site spans roughly 40 years before and 80 years following the Civil War (Schaible 2014:1-2).

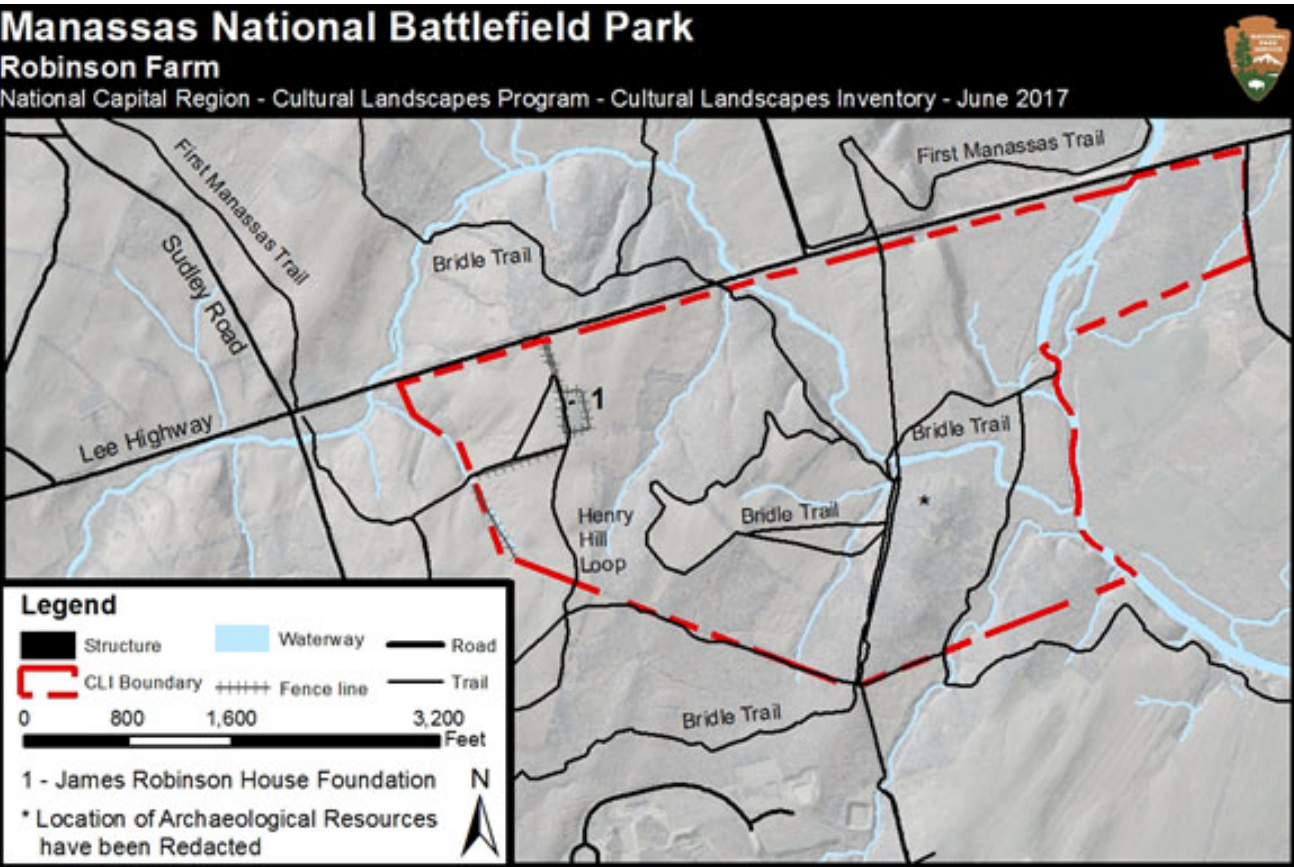
The Robinson cultural landscape is significant in three distinct areas of history. First, the Robinson land is associated with the heritage of their African American family, and their experience within the greater context of the Virginia Piedmont agricultural tradition. The Robinson farm represents a free African-American domestic site occupied for 96 years. The Robinson farmstead contained rural, vernacular buildings that were common to the area but stood in stark contrast to the large, substantial plantation houses that surrounded the property.

The agricultural landscape of the Manassas region served as the stage for what many thought would be a quick and decisive Civil War. The Robinson cultural landscape's primary significance lies in military history resulting from its role in the Battles of Manassas during the American Civil War. Union and Confederate troops met twice on this ground, once in July of 1861 and again in August of 1862. The location of the Robinson farm along a major transportation corridor, on high ground, and with open pastureland lent itself to key battleground territory during both Battles of Manassas.

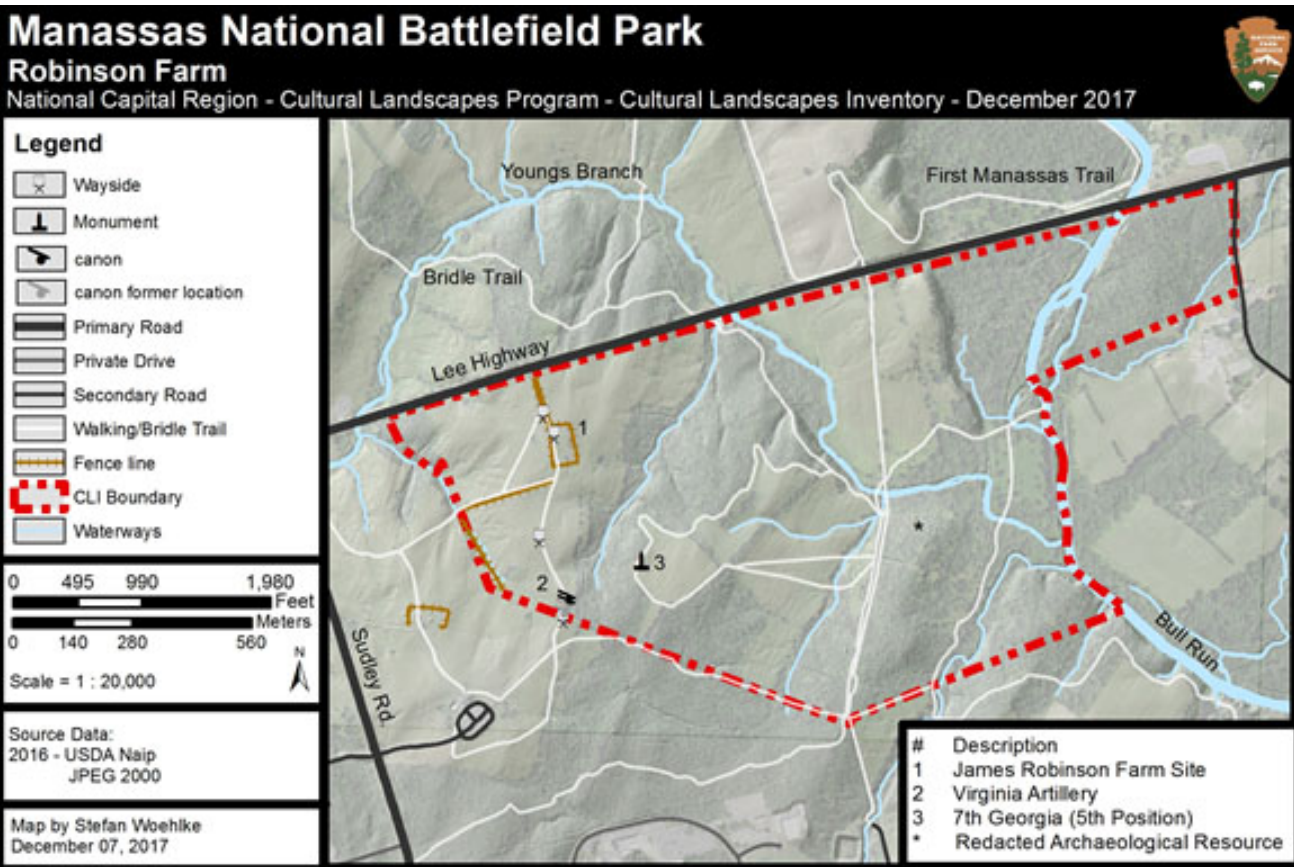
The Robinson farm was purchased by the United States of America for the purposes of creating the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The commemorative landscape honors those who fought and fell during the two Battles of Manassas. Hiking trails, bridle trails and wayside signs detailing the battles include the Robinson farm as they wind their way around the park landscape.

The Manassas Battlefield National Register nomination includes the Robinson house remains as a contributing feature, but it inadequately describes the physical landscape for the property or the cultural traditions associated with the site.

Site Plan



Overview of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape (NCR 2018)



Features found within the boundaries of the study area. A larger more legible map has been included at the end of the report and in the supplemental information section.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Robinson Farmstead
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600191
Parent Landscape:	600190

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Manassas National Battlefield Park - Robinson Farmstead - MANA
Park Organization Code:	3840
Park Administrative Unit:	Manassas National Battlefield Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Jennifer Oeschger, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. Geospatial information was prepared by Stefan Woelke, a University of Maryland research partner. Research and editorial assistance was provided by: Daniel Weldon, NCR CLI Coordinator, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Manassas National Battlefield Park Museum Specialist Jim Burgess provided invaluable support.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	02/08/2019
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	03/27/1981

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

October 3, 2018

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, Manassas National Battlefield Park
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Robinson Farm

I, Brandon Bies, Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, concur with the findings of the Robinson Farm Cultural Landscape Inventory for, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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 the Robinson Farm is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, MANA

2-8-19
Date

Superintendent Concurrence on the original findings of the CLI

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

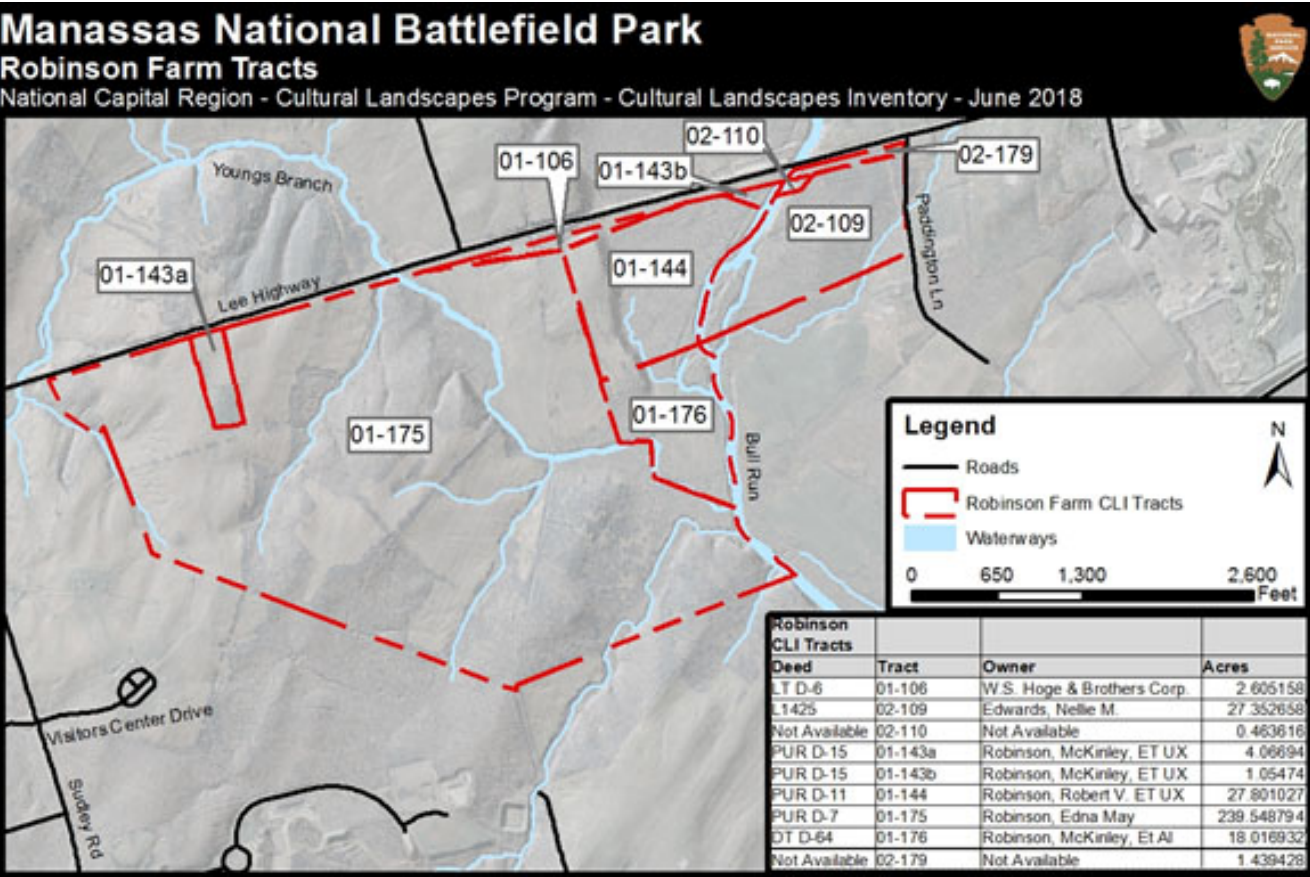
The Robinson farm cultural landscape is a former vernacular subsistence farm landscape located within the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Manassas, Virginia. The park contains a total of 6,421 acres, while the Robinson landscape occupies approximately 297 acres. It is located in the upper southeast quadrant of the intersection of the historic Warrenton Turnpike (Fauquier Alexandria Turnpike, Lee Highway, or US Hwy 29) and Sudley Road (Sudley Mills Road or VA 234). It is located primarily on the west bank of Bull Run, with some property crossing Bull Run to the east along the Warrenton Turnpike. This road defines the property to the north. To the east, Bull Run delineates the property except for where it crosses the run. To the south and west, the Robinson property is contained by the land historically associated with Isaac and Judith Henry. Only the upper east section of the property abuts non-park land. The remaining borders are within the boundary of Manassas National Battlefield Park.

State and County:

State:	Virginia
County	Prince William County

Size (Acres)

Location Map:



Land tracts that make up the study boundary of the cultural landscape (NCR CLP 2018).

Regional Context:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 02/07/2019

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

A revised National Register of Historic Places nomination from 1981 lists the Robinson house and associated property as contributing to the significance of the park. However, this listing occurred prior to the burning of the Robinson house in the early 1990s. The most recent revision of the Manassas Battlefield Historic District was approved in 2006, encompassing the entire 6,421-acre park. The management category is 'Must be Preserved and Maintained' because the site is listed in the National Register as nationally significant.

The management category is 'Must be Preserved and Maintained' as Manassas National Battlefield Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Nationally Significant. It should also be noted that Manassas National Battlefield Park is a historical unit, or a special designation, within the National Park Service and as such based on the National Park Service Management Policy (2006):

5.2 --Superintendents will ensure full consideration of the park's cultural resources and values in all proposals for operations, development, and natural resource programs, including the management of wilderness areas. When proposed undertakings may adversely affect national historic sites, national battlefields, and other predominantly cultural units of the national park system that were established in recognition of their national historical significance, superintendents will provide opportunities for the same level of review and consideration by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior that the Advisory Council's regulations require for undertakings that may adversely affect national historic landmarks (36 CFR 800.10).

Furthermore, according to Section 5.1.3.2.2. of the National Park Service Management Policies 2006:

Historic and cultural units of the national park system are nationally significant by virtue of their authorizing legislation or presidential proclamation. National historic landmark designations are appropriate for park cultural resources that meet national historic landmark criteria if the national significance of those resources is not adequately recognized in the park's authorizing legislation or presidential proclamation. Cultural parks may warrant landmark designation as parts of larger areas encompassing resources associated with their primary themes. Modified National Register forms will be prepared and submitted to nominate such resources for landmark designation by the Secretary of the Interior.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) provides heightened protection for designated NHLs through Section 110(f) and the NHPA's implementing regulations (36 CFR 800.10). Specifically, the NHPA requires that Federal agencies shall, to the maximum extent possible, undertake planning and actions necessary to minimize harm to any NHL that may be directly and adversely affected by an undertaking. The NPS Management Policies (5.1.3.2.2 and 5.2) state that all cultural resources within historical and cultural units that are directly connected to the legislative or executive mandate are nationally significant and NPS must apply the higher level of care set for in 36 CFR 800.10. As such, the special considerations dictated for designated NHLs also apply to mandate-related cultural resources within historical and cultural units

The date of the management category is the date the CLI was approved by the MANA Superintendent.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Lease

Type of Context: 05-16-2019

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Agricultural SUP- Five year agreement for hay harvesting, prevents seeding or fertilizing of the property.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Interest: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Public access to the site is unrestricted during regular park hours. Within the cultural landscape, horses are permitted on designated bridle trails. No application is necessary. The park is closed from dusk until dawn.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Land Narrative:

The Manassas National Battlefield Park surrounds the Robinson farm cultural landscape on three sides – north, south, and west. Historically, these lands served as part of the setting of the Battles of Manassas and were traditionally agricultural lands. The eastern border of the Robinson cultural landscape consists of land beyond the boundary of MNBP that was historically associated with the Robinson family. Today these lands are the private property of a family that operates an equestrian center and horse stabling facility. This 130-acre property on the east bank of Bull Run was traditionally part of the Robinson landholdings. James Robinson’s son Tasco received the land from his father’s estate when it was divided among James’ children at his death. Tasco built a home and farmstead there and lived off the land. At Tasco’s death he further divided the land among his children, and he asked that the family establish a cemetery at the location of his father’s and mother’s graves, southwest of the house (1902 Will of Tasco Robinson, MNBP Archives). A 1937 aerial of the Manassas area shows the house and farm clearly. Remarkably, fields and fence lines compared with Civil War battle maps made in the 1860s align with those today. Tasco’s house no longer stands but the graveyard continues to be active for the Robinson family. Generations of Robinsons have been laid to rest there, including James Robinson and his wife, Susan. The latest Robinson family burial at the cemetery was in 2017.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

.In the 1981 National Register nomination for Manassas National Battlefield Park, the Robinson house was extant. It was described as follows:

The Robinson house, on the northeast edge of Henry Hill, is reached from a lane off U.S. 29/211. The present two-story frame house dates from the late 1880s and the 1920s. Like the present Henry house, it occupies the site of a wartime structure, a small one-story frame house with single end chimney and shed-roofed porch extending from the eave of the principal roof. The original house, owned and occupied by a free black, James Robinson, was little damaged in the first battle but was sacked in the second battle. It was demolished in 1926 to permit construction of the larger portion of the present structure. The latter has a brick chimney within the west end, a sandstone and brick chimney outside, the east end, and a shed-roofed porch supported by four posts over the central door and two first floor windows on the north facade. Although it bears little resemblance to its historic wartime predecessor, the house is valuable as a visual landmark on the site. It is in fair condition and unoccupied.

In the 1981 nomination, no mention is made of the landscape associated with the Robinson family. It was not until the 2006 Manassas National Battlefield Park Historic District Amendment and Boundary Expansion that the Bladen Robinson house site was identified. In the 2006 nomination, both the James Robinson house and Bladen Robinson house sites are listed as contributing to the overall significance of Manassas National Battlefield Park. Discussion of the significance of the cultural landscape was limited.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Manassas National Battlefield Park
NRIS Number:	66000039
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Archeology
Area of Significance Category:	Ethnic Heritage
Area of Significance Sub Category:	Black
Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Category:	Other
Explanatory Narrative:	Commemoration

Statement of Significance:

The Robinson farm cultural landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and D. Under Criterion A, the property derives local significance in the area of ethnic heritage for the development of a

rural farmstead owned and operated by a free African American and his family before, during, and after the Civil War. It is also eligible under Criterion A in national significance, for its association with the American Civil War First and Second Battles of Manassas. Additionally, under Criterion A, the Robinson cultural landscape is nationally significant for the preservation and commemoration of this hallowed ground after the Civil War. Finally, the Robinson cultural landscape is nationally significant under National Register Criterion D for its potential to provide information on the Archaic and Late Woodland Periods, agricultural practices of 19th-century Virginia, and the Battles of First and Second Manassas.

CRITERION A

Local

The area of local significance for the Robinson farm cultural landscape is associated with the ethnic heritage of African Americans. Born a free man, African American James Robinson first occupied the land in 1840 when he purchased the property from John Lee. At a time when the Virginia African American population was mostly enslaved, James established a livelihood on his own merit. Commonly known as "Gentleman Jim," he conducted amicable and fair business dealings with his European-American neighbors. He operated a successful drover's tavern and managed a sizeable farm. His family continued to own and operate the farm until it was sold to the federal government in 1936. His legacy survives on the land in the form of the foundation ruins of the family home, the fences and field patterns, and the tradition of family members reuniting at the site.

National

The period of significance for military history spans the years of 1861-1862. The Robinson farm cultural landscape is associated with two major engagements of the Civil War - the First Battle of Manassas (July 21, 1861) and the Second Battle of Manassas (August 28 - August 30, 1862). The Robinson home featured significantly in both battles due to its location on high ground and proximity to the Warrenton Turnpike. In the first battle, the Union objective was to take possession of Manassas Junction, which was a first step toward Richmond. In the second battle, the Union army occupied Manassas Junction, with an objective to seek and destroy the Confederate forces under General Stonewall Jackson that had intruded behind Union lines. During both battles, the Confederate forces repulsed the Union army. The Robinson house was used as a field hospital in the aftermath of the second conflict. The battles heavily impacted the landscape, as did the occupation of troops before and after the battles. Recovery from the loss of crops, fences, and livestock consumed the people of Manassas for many years.

The period of significance for commemoration and memorialization is 1904-1940. Commemoration officially launched at the Manassas Battlefield with the placement of numerous historical markers, military cemeteries, and memorializing monuments, one of which was placed before the conclusion of the war. In 1904 the Army conducted peaceful maneuvers on the former battlefield. Couched as an exercise, the participants and the people of Manassas saw the army maneuvers as an effort towards reconciliation of the North and South on the renowned battlefield. A few years later, George Carr Round, a local lawyer and advocate of preserving the battlefield, organized the 1911 Manassas National Jubilee of Peace. The Peace Jubilee was held in Manassas as a semi-centennial celebration of the First Battle of Manassas. The reconciliation between veterans was designed to demonstrate America's united resolve to prevent war of any kind. Amid tense international affairs worldwide, President William Howard Taft travelled to Manassas and used the opportunity to announce that the U.S. would be signing a treaty with other nations in a promise of world peace.

In 1922, the Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park was created and incorporated by the Sons of the Confederacy after the organization purchased the 128-acre historic Henry farm. As stated in their charter, the purpose of the park was to establish a memorial and promote impartial education. Strapped financially, the Sons of the Confederacy sold the park to the Federal Government on the condition that a museum would be built on Henry Hill. After purchasing other land tracts pertinent to the First and Second Battles of Manassas, including the Robinson cultural landscape, the Manassas National Battlefield Park came to fruition in 1940.

CRITERION D

The Robinson cultural landscape is also significant under Criterion D for yielding information and for the potential to yield information important to history and pre-history. Beginning with a broad archaeological survey of the park in 1982, the Robinson home site was further investigated in the years 1995-1996. The archeological surveys and investigations have revealed evidence of the Robinson farm's associated outbuildings, farming practices, and the life of a free African-American family. Investigations have also yielded

evidence of the fighting associated with the Battles of First and Second Manassas on the Robinson property. Furthermore, this work has documented prehistoric artifacts of the Archaic and Woodland Periods.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Outdoor Recreation

Primary Current Use:

Other Use/Function

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Other Type of Use or Function

Current, Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type Of Name
Tasco Robinson farm	Historic
Bladden Robinson farm	Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1729	Land Transfer	Acting as a land agent for Thomas Lord Fairfax, Robert "King" Carter patents the Middle Bull Run tract, 2,823 acres, for his son Landon Carter (I) of Sabine Hall
CE 1778	Land Transfer	Landon Carter (I) of Sabine Hall to Landon Carter (II) of Pittsylvania.
CE 1801	Land Transfer	Landon Carter II leaves all his landholdings in Prince William and Loudon Counties to his sons Wormeley Carter and John Fauntleroy Carte
CE 1801	Purchased/Sold	Elizabeth Carter, an unmarried daughter of Landon Carter II, purchases a portion of land of the Middle Bull Run tract from her brothers or their heirs as identified in her father's will. She likely used monies that she was granted by her father's estate.

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1822	Purchased/Sold	Isaac Henry purchases 330 acres of land from the estate of Elizabeth Carter, deceased, his wife's sister. He issues a deed of trust (mortgage) to Elizabeth's executors, Robert H. Hooe, Robert Hamilton, Edmund Brooke, and Steuart G. Thornton.
CE 1829	Maintained	James Robinson, a born free African American, is contracted to work as a waiter in Thomas R. Hampton's tavern in Brentsville (now Manassas) for \$75/year with a certain amount of days off per year to visit his wi
CE 1831	Maintained	Thomas R. Hampton writes a letter of recommendation for James' work in the tavern, calling his character "unexceptionable."
CE 1836	Purchased/Sold	John Lee purchases 230 acres from John Bruce, a portion of Elizabeth Carter's former property east of Young's Branch.
CE 1840	Established	James Robinson is recorded in the Federal Census as a Free Colored Person, male and living alone, aged between 34-55 years. He was 41.
CE 1840	Purchased/Sold	John Lee sells 170 acres to James Robinson. He is believed to have purchased the land with is earnings from working in Thomas Hampton's tavern.
CE 1844	Settled	James Robinson is listed as a tenant of the neighboring plantation of Hazel Plain at this time, as mentioned in the Alexandria Gazette when Hazel Plain and another plantation, Bradley, are offered for sale.
CE 1846	Exploited	James signs contract to hire "servant boy" Tasco (actually James' own son), from John Lee.
CE 1847	Inhabited	In his will, John Lee frees Jemima to live with James Robinson, her father. Her two children, Dinah and Pendleton, were included. He also left Sucky (likely Susan) and her daughter Hennie (likely Henrietta) to James Robinson.
CE 1847	Maintained	James signs a contract with Alfred Ball and John Dogan to have his daughter Jemima "bound out" jointly to them.
CE 1848	Maintained	James purchases equipment for the farm and wagon from Lt Howison.
CE 1849	Built	With the income from selling 20.5 acres to Thomas Otway Clarke, Robinson constructs a one and ½ story log house on the land.

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1849	Maintained	James signs a contract with Landon Carter (III) to cultivate Carter's "West or Barn Fields" in any grain other than wheat and further haul his crops off the land at the end of the growing season. James agrees to pay \$20 rent for the land.
CE 1849	Purchased/Sold	James Robinson sells 20.5 acres to Thomas Otway Clarke for \$100. Robinson's tract is reduced to 150.5 acres.
CE 1850	Maintained	James Robinson (51) is recorded in the Federal Census as living with his wife Susan (age 45), Myma [Jemima] (age 26), Hennie [Henrietta] (age 11), Tasco (age 16), Dinah [child of Jemima] (age 6), Pendleton [child of Jemima] (age 2), Annah Robinson (age 75), and Bladen (age 6), all mulatto except Annah, who is indicated as black.
CE 1850	Maintained	James's real estate is valued at \$1000.
CE 1854	Purchased/Sold	James Robinson purchases 26 acres from Alfred Ball. Deed records suggest the land was not delivered until 1876.
CE 1860	Maintained	James Robinson (57) [60], mulatto, is recorded as living with only his wife, Susan (55). James' real estate is valued at \$1650 and his personal property at \$2500. Neither he nor his wife was able to read or write.
CE 1861	Military Operation	First Battle of Manassas
CE 1862	Military Operation	Second Battle of Manassas
CE 1870	Maintained	Bladen Robinson I purchases 129 acres of Van Pelt property south of the turnpike after the larger property was divided in thirds. James (70) and Susan (65) are recorded as mulatto, living with their children Bladen and Henrietta. Agricultural census records the size and nature of farming practices on the land.
CE 1871	Maintained	Tax records indicate that the value of structures goes from \$100 to \$800, suggesting the 2-story addition to the house was built at this time.
CE 1871	Purchased/Sold	James Robinson purchases 4 and 1/8 acres from Van Pelt and Cummings. –
CE 1872	Damaged	James Robinson files claim for \$2,608.00 against Union Army for damages sustained during the second Battle of Manassas. He receives \$1,249.00.
CE 1875	Inhabited	James Robinson dies on October 15th of heart disease but does not leave a will. The division of his lands and property is left to the Prince William County Court.

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1881	Land Transfer	The court files a deed describing the division of James' property to his wife and children. 243 total acres were distributed.
CE 1888	Built	A shed addition was made to the west side of the home.
CE 1905	Memorialized	The 7th Georgia regiment erects six marble markers approximately eighteen inches by twelve inches in size around the battlefield. One is placed on the Robinson Farm - 7th Georgia Marker, 5th position.
CE 1926	Altered	The original 1849 log home and adjoining shed are deconstructed to make way for a larger, west end portion of the two story structure. The 1871 section was incorporated into the new structure.
CE 1936	Purchased/Sold	USA purchases in fee simple 242.22-acre land tract 01-175 from Edna May Robinson. Edna Mae was the wife of James Alfred Robinson, James' grandson of Bladen I.
CE 1936	Purchased/Sold	USA purchases in fee simple 30.54-acre land tract 01-144 from Robert and Lorraine Robinson. Robert is James Robinson's grandson of Tasco I.
CE 1936	Purchased/Sold	USA purchases in fee simple 6.69-acre land tract 01-143 from McKinley Robinson and his wife. McKinley is the great-grandson of James Robinson, the grandson of Tasco I, and the son of Rosa and Asbury Robinson.
CE 1940	Established	Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes designates the Manassas battlefield as a National Historic Site.
CE 1974	Altered	An outbuilding shed is altered to remove rotted sill, a 20th century barn is removed from the site.
CE 1980	Altered	Gutters are installed on Robinson house and the porch stoop is repointed.
CE 1982	Explored	Archeological Survey of Manassas National Battlefield Park is conducted by Thomas McGarry.
CE 1993	Destroyed	The 1926 Robinson house is damaged by fire. Arson is suspected.
CE 1994	Demolished	The remains of the James' house are systematically dismantled and recorded by the Williamsport Preservation Training Center. The chimney is left standing.
CE 1998	Demolished	Chimney is dismantled due to instability.

Physical History:

Colonial Virginia 1607-1776

Before European contact, Native Americans lived on the land in Manassas for thousands of years. Located in the Virginia Piedmont, the land that would encompass James Robinson's farm and the future Manassas National Battlefield Park would be deforested and cultivated for agriculture by European settlers beginning in the early 1700s. Tobacco was the driving force behind the settlers' move inland.

A century before, the Tidewater of Virginia developed as the center of tobacco cultivation in the North American colonies. There, tobacco became a staple commodity around which Virginia's economic and political system formed creating a tobacco culture. The crop served as a cash currency, with harvests used to payment for imports, debts, and land acquisitions. Tobacco was shipped from the Chesapeake to the ports of Glasgow and Liverpool where commercial goods were returned to the colonies. Tobacco lords accumulated vast amounts of land and built great estates on the York, James, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers. However, the prosperity of tobacco cultivation in the Tidewater could not be sustained. By the 1800s, more than a century of tobacco cultivation caused soil erosion and nutrient depletion that led to exhausted acres of land incapable of producing the crop. Tobacco grown in the Bull Run Drainage was shipped to Dumfries, Virginia.

Leaving the Virginia Tidewater, early settlers in search of virgin, fertile land for tobacco cultivation settled in the interior Piedmont region west of the Chesapeake (Schaible 2013:11). The abundance of land outside of the Tidewater and the use of enslaved laborers were factors that promoted the agricultural shift to the Virginia Piedmont; for as soon as old lands were exhausted and old slaves died, newer lands and more slaves could be readily obtained elsewhere. The Virginia Piedmont took the shape of the Tidewater of an earlier day (Low 1951:125).

The first European family to claim the land that would become James Robinson's farm was the Carters. The boundaries of James' farmland were included in the Middle Bull Run tract, a 2,823-acre area that was granted by Thomas Lord Fairfax to Robert "King" Carter's son, Landon Carter of Sabine Hall. From his home plantation of Sabine Hall, Robert "King" Carter operated his vast land holdings as an absentee landowner. The Middle Bull Run Tract was situated "on Bull Run & Licking Run being branches of the Occoquan," between the Great Bull Run Tract and the Lower Bull Run Tract (Northern Neck Grants A, 1722-1726, p. 184, Folio (reel 290)). As Lord Fairfax's land agent, Robert "King" Carter patented land on Fairfax's behalf to his own children and grandchildren instead of naming himself a grantee. In this way "King" Carter amassed 300,000 acres of land, 750 slaves, and large sums of money invested in Virginia and England for his heirs during his lifetime (The Diary Correspondence and Papers of Robert "King" Carter of Virginia 1701-1732, accessed 3/10/2017, <http://carter.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>) and how he earned his moniker.

At the Bull Run Tracts, the Carter family maintained their landholdings as large 1000 acres plantations. On the main plantation tracts, large Georgian style houses were built on hills surrounded by fields of mainly tobacco and corn. The placement afforded a position of dominance over the surrounding fields (and workers) and allowed for wealth to be displayed in a conspicuous manner. The tobacco was grown as a cash crop, financing the lifestyle of the Virginia gentry, and the corn served as the main food source for the enslaved labor force that cared for the tobacco. Scattered throughout the fields of tobacco were structures associated with harvest crop, including drying barns. Slave quarters were often constructed along the edges of the fields in clusters and along farm lanes. Farm lanes were constructed between fields and larger roads to provide access between properties and to move tobacco to port. The Robinson Farm cultural landscape was associated with the Pittsylvania plantation. Additional research is needed to determine how the Robinson Farm tracts were used during this period. It should be noted that at this time the Carter family largely behaved as absentee landholders, settling elsewhere in Virginia, relying on overseers to maintain the daily functions of the property. The larger plantation landholdings were subdivided into smaller 200 acres

units and leased to tenant farmers. The tenant farmers were expected to make improvements to the land, including the construction of structures, clearing wooded land, maintaining nominal land as woodlots, and cultivating fields of either tobacco or other crops. The tenant farmers were required to either pay rent or a portion of the crop to the Carter family. Livestock was allowed to roam free throughout the landscape, requiring sufficient fencing to be constructed that would separate crops from cattle, pigs, and horses. This condition created a denuded understory and lessened the need to grow separate fields for hay (NR update 2005; 8, 46; Parker & Hernigle 1990: 10; Clemens 1975; 523).

The Middle Bull Run tract passed from Landon Carter of Sabine Hall at his death to two of his sons, John Fauntleroy Carter and Landon Carter II. The latter built a sizeable plantation named Pittsylvania which includes the study area. Landon Carter II is recorded as producing grain crops on his Middle Bull Run tracts. This is indicative of the late 18th century switch from an economy based on tobacco to a diverse crop economy. Grain crops proved to be less taxing on the soil, less arduous on the labor force, and allowed greater freedom to the landowner (Sudley Post Office Regional History Chapter Two). At Landon Carter II's death, he divided his lands, including the Middle Bull Run tract, between his four sons. Their sister, Elizabeth Carter, purchased the Robinson section of the Middle Bull Run tract from one of these sons.

Landscape Character Summary

It remains uncertain at this time as to the exact composition of the cultural landscape during the colonial period. It is assumed that the cultural landscape conformed to the documented patterns of behavior associated with other Carter plantations in the region and the tobacco culture in general. The future Robinson Farm was likely divided into a series of fields that supported the cultivation of tobacco. Fences likely divided the fields and drying barns dotted the cultural landscape. However, as tobacco fell out of favor and took its toll on the land, the character of the cultural landscape likely shifted to accommodate grain cultivation. Additional research will be necessary to support these assumptions.

Early Republic 1780-1830

As in the Tidewater, tobacco in the Piedmont eventually became nonviable in the exhausted soils. As early as the 1780s, many of Piedmont Virginia's wealthiest planters believed that switching to wheat would not only raise profits but would result in better agricultural practices. In particular, the switch would allow them to abandon the soil-exhausting planting methods associated with tobacco. Farmers discovered that grains flourished in depleted soils left by tobacco production. George Washington was an early promoter of this idea (Crothers 2001:140; Low 1951:125). Subsequent farmers in the Virginia Piedmont grew tobacco for cash, but they established more diverse farms with smaller landholdings. Large plantations were divided and subdivided among heirs. The proprietors of new, smaller farms began to experiment with other crops, including corn, wheat, oats, and rye; and they became heavily engaged in animal husbandry (Schaible 2013:29).

Changes in the agricultural practices weakened the strength of the gentry and created a yeomen farming class. This group of individuals were characterized as landowners with farms between 50 and 350 acres. A limited slave labor force was used, with the farmers actively engaging in land management. Cash crops continued to be grown with subsistence farming occurring as well. The fields were lined with fences that were constructed from the timber found in the woodlots of the property. Following the example of the gentry, the yeomen farmers settled on the higher topographies, but in much more modest vernacular buildings. The buildings were variants on the one room, hall and parlor, and expanded configurations of the buildings topologies, typically one or one and half stories (NR Update 2005: 8, 48). Plantings of the yeoman farmer farmscapes were utilitarian in nature. Plantings were pushed away from buildings. Kitchen gardens were planted in separate defined areas often outlined by fences. The kitchen gardens consisted of a mixture of herbs, vegetables, and medicinal plants (Adams Bunchfield 2013: 58).

Recent research into the will of Landon Carter II reveals that Elizabeth Carter indeed purchased her portion of the Middle Bull Run tract instead of inherited it. Her father's will specifically addressed only the four sons as heirs of the land. She was likely able to purchase the land with money that she received from her father's estate. Elizabeth died in 1822 without marrying. Her lands were sold at auction. Isaac Henry, Elizabeth's brother-in-law by her sister Judith, purchased 330 acres of Elizabeth's property. John Bruce, another of Elizabeth's brothers-in-law, also purchased some of her lands. In 1836, John Bruce sold 230 acres to a planter named John Lee. In 1840, John Lee sold 170 acres to James Robinson, a free African American.

Landscape Character Summary

The character and exact configuration of the cultural landscape during the Early Republic period is unknown at this time. It is known that during this period that the larger tracts of Bull Run were subdivided into much smaller parcels. The practices of the landed gentry gave way to the yeoman farmer class. Cultivation of the lands was either overseen directly by the owners of the property or were leased to tenant farmers. It is likely that the land associated with the Robinson farm was cultivated during the various ownerships. It can be assumed that the crops grown were likely grain or cereal crops and followed the pattern of other lands in the Bull Run Tracts. Livestock likely grazed in the fields while woodlots created a canopy with little understory. Fences likely divided the fields. Ancillary structures, such as sheds and barns, associated with crop harvest could have been constructed in the fields. Additional research will be needed to determine with any certainty.

Antebellum Virginia 1840-1861

The economy of Antebellum Virginia flourished under the system of landowners and enslaved laborers. At this time, African Americans made up the large majority of laborers. The history of African Americans in Virginia is almost as long as the history the colony itself. Africans were first brought to the Colony of Virginia in 1619. While some gained their freedom, many more lived a life of slavery. When the first federal census was taken in 1790, 12,766 free African Americans represented about 4% of the African-American population in Virginia. During the 19th century the number of free African Americans in Virginia almost tripled, from about 20,000 in the early 19th

century to near 60,000 in 1860. In the years before the Civil War, one out of ten African Americans was free (Morgan 1986:33 in Parsons 2001:6).

Several avenues existed for African Americans to become free. When Africans were first brought to the Colonies, they were put to work alongside other European-Americans and Native American servants and slaves. The terms “servant” and “slave” in early Virginia were used loosely to identify a class of people rather than their racial heritage (Breen and Innes 1980:20 in Parsons 2001:5). They also intermarried. Many in that class were able to earn their freedom in the manner of an indentured servant, freed after the terms of their indenture.

Increasingly toward the end of the 17th century, slavery as an institution began to usurp indentured servitude. As the colonies’ economy grew, it became more difficult for African Americans to become free because it depended so heavily on slave labor. In 1662 the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a law including the principle of *partus sequitur ventrum* to prevent slaves with European-American parentage from claiming freedom. It stated, “all children borne in this country shall be held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother” (Kolchin 1993:17). Some slaveholders saw this as a legal mechanism to increase their workforce without having to purchase new enslaved workers. Other legislation attempted to stem the African slave trade by banning the direct importation of Africans to Virginia. In 1778, a Virginia Commonwealth statute stated, “no slave or slaves shall hereafter be imported into this commonwealth by sea or land, nor shall any slaves so imported be sold or bought by any person whatsoever” (Heming 1809:9:471). As a result of these developments, the African American population in Virginia grew by primarily by reproduction.

James Robinson was born free in 1799. A man of mixed parentage, it is possible that his mother was an enslaved African American and manumitted by a European-American planter just before she gave birth to their son. As he was born free, his mother would have had to be free at his birth. Oral history and Robinson family tradition claim that James was the son of Landon Carter of Pittsylvania (B. O. Robinson, 1982), but primary source evidence of this is scant. The Prince William County Death Records 1853-1896 state that James was the son of Philip and Susan Robinson. This information was provided at James’ death by his son Bladen (Virginia Deaths and Burials Index, 1853-1917, Ancestry.com). In light of the fact that the rest of James’ family was enslaved by planter John Lee and James eventually purchased land from John Lee, it appears more likely that James’ father may have come from the Lee family. During the research for this Cultural Landscape Inventory, nothing more was found in the records relating to Philip and Susan Robinson, except that such a pair was named directly in Landon Carter of Pittsylvania’s will. In it, “Peter, Sukey, his wife with all their children, also negro Jenny” (PWC WB H 55:451-456) are identified. This is the closest evidence that James Robinson might have come from Peter and Sukey (a derivative of Susan) of the Carter plantation. Peter is the closest name to Philip, but one of the other of these two would have to be of European-American ancestry. Another possible scenario is that James Robinson’s mother was European-American and his father was African-American.

James Robinson’s situation was unique in Prince William County. He was a landowner in a southern state where enslaved people had for generations labored on tobacco plantations to bolster the mercantile-agrarian economy. An understanding of the ideologies concerning race in the nineteenth century illuminates James Robinsons’ identity as a free African-American. In censuses and other legal documents of his time, James is identified as “mulatto.” A 1705 Virginia statute defined a mulatto as “the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a negro” with corresponding proportion of European-American blood (Madden 1992:xxviii in Parsons 2001:16). But during the nineteenth century, racial lines became blurred, and the term mulatto had been collapsed into the category of free Negro for legal purposes. The legal categories continued to be manipulated and changed as the circumstances of the times changed. People were not necessarily categorized as the same ethnicity from year to year in legal documents. This underscores the ambiguity of racial designations during this period and contributed to the racist attitudes of the day.

Although dominant European-American groups treated many mulattos with hostility during his lifetime, family papers reveal that James Robinson was a respected member of his community (Robinson Papers, MANA Archives). Taken at face value, these documents might give the impression that Robinson was treated as an equal to his European-American counterparts. It is

unknown whether there were underlying tensions between Robinson and his European-American neighbors. James was admirably referred to as “Gentleman Jim” in the community. Many receipts, account statements and contracts recovered from the Robinson House attic reveal that James had a productive working relationship with the surrounding European-American men and civic leaders. European-American neighbor Albert Flagler described James as a “good deal of a public man, who does more business than most people,” (Case No. 241, Commissioners of Claims, James Robinson v. United States, 1872).

Despite being born free, James was not part of the privileged Virginia gentry. He was not educated. Free African Americans as well the underprivileged of other races were “bound out” (apprenticed) until they were 21 years of age. Some worked as unpaid field hands and others learned a trade. This common practice is the manner in which James Robinson acquired enough income to purchase land and go into business for himself. As a young man he apprenticed with Thomas R. Hampton, who operated a “house of entertainment” (Robinson Papers, MANA Archives). James’ proprietor Hampton wrote a favorable recommendation for him as a waiter, calling his character “unexceptionable” (Robinson Papers, MANA Archives). James put his tavern experience to good use by opening his own establishment as soon as he purchased his property.

In 1840, John Lee sold 170 acres to James Robinson for \$484.94 (PWCVC DB 16 1842:223). In 1846 James paid John Lee for his son Tasco to come to the farm.

At the time, Tasco was only about 7 years old. In 1948, planter John Lee died and freed James’ wife, daughters, and two grandchildren in his will. They were named specifically.

- Item 8. I give and bequeath to James Robinson a negro woman named Lucky [Sukey or Susan] and her daughter Henny [Henrietta] forever.
- Item 9. It is my will and desire that my negro woman Henny [Henrietta] wife of Nathaniel Harris, shall at the end of twelve months after my death be free, and set at liberty by my executors hereafter named.
- Item 10. Jemima, the negro woman who has been my constant waiter, attendant, and servant, in consideration of the extraordinary services by her rendered in my service, is at liberty, to live with James Robinson, her father or to go to Washington, and also her two children, Dianer [Diannah], and Pendleton if she the said Jemima thinks proper so to do without molestation by my executors hereinafter appointed. (PWC WB P:377)

The following year, these family members, plus sons Tasco and Bladen, lived with James on the farm (1850 Federal Census). He was not able to reach his two other sons before they were sold one after the other to a slave trade merchant who shipped them to Louisiana in 1851 and 1852 (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Slave Manifests of Coastwise Vessels Filed at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1807-1860; Microfilm Serial: M1895; Microfilm Roll: 13).

At this time, Alfred and James Jr. were ages 24 and 20. Two young men in their prime represented a greater economic opportunity to their owner. Family tradition holds that James Jr. and Alfred were skilled stonemasons, but documentary evidence lists them as farmers. James Robinson’s sons James Jr. and Alfred likely didn’t see each other after they were sold out of Virginia in 1851 and 1852. In 1855, Alfred is listed as a crew member on Prometheus, a ship bound for San Juan, Nicaragua. Family lore tells that he worked on a sugar plantation.

Without his eldest sons to assist on the farm, James Robinson provided another source of income for his family. On his property he operated a drover’s tavern for men moving groups of sheep or cattle to market in Alexandria or Washington. However, little evidence for a habitable structure that might accommodate overnight visitors has been discovered. Instead, several theories exist as to how James’ drover’s tavern operated. Traditionally a drover’s tavern housed the drovers while an outdoor or covered pen corralled the animals. Based on accounts of James Robinson’s grandchildren, the tavern and a series of holding pens were located between the turnpike and the farm house, in what later became a corn field (Parsons 2001: 103). An archeological investigation found only scant nails and no foundation indicative of construction, but did uncover plenty of horse hardware. This would suggest that either there was no building, only animal pens, or if there had been a building, it was dismantled and the wood repurposed in the cultural landscape as a different structure (Parsons

2001:109). Another possibility is that in fact James's business simply penned the animals being transported to market, and the drovers themselves overnighted at the nearby Stone House tavern. Another intriguing alternative is that the animals were penned at the indicated location while James accommodated the drovers in his own home. The enclosed room on the porch may have served this purpose. Indeed, it had only one exterior door and did not gain access to the main house.

James Robinson built a one and one half-story log home for his family in 1849 in a simple vernacular style. James constructed the house south of the Warrenton Turnpike on a hilltop, affording views of the road and his surrounding fields. Between the years 1849 and 1850, Prince William County tax records show that the assessed value of James' property increased by \$100.00. This is consistent with improvement on the land of a small home. James' home was built of logs with weatherboard siding and a shingled roof. The archeological record suggests it was approximately 18' square. The entrance to the home appeared on the east gable end, through an offset single board and batten door. Only a small window faced the Warrenton Turnpike on the home's north elevation. The south elevation featured only a door, centrally located and directly opposite the north elevation window. An exterior chimney was located on the west gable end elevation. Originally built of stone, the chimney chase above the neck was later rebuilt with handmade brick. Only two sides of the original structure have been captured by photographs, the south and east elevations.

With his family accommodated in a home on the property, James Robinson's concentrated efforts yielded a productive farm. According to the 1850 Prince William County Agricultural Census, James Robinson owned 100 acres of improved land and 30 acres of unimproved land. His livestock included 4 horses, 3 milk cows, and 6 swine, with a total of 200 pounds of butter produced in 1849. Fifty bushels of potatoes were harvested. Ten bushels of buckwheat were recorded in the census. It is unusual that no cereal crops, i.e. rye, oats, wheat, or corn, were noted in the census. It remains uncertain as to why the family did not grow these standard crops in the manner of their adjacent neighbors. It is possible that revenue from the tavern/drover business allowed for the bartering and purchasing of necessary corn.

James secured supplies for his farming and tavern operations, and comforts for his young family. Receipts in James' personal financial files show that he purchased shoes, yards of fabric for clothing, farm tools, repairs for his wagon, and whiskey.

Landscape Character Summary

During the Antebellum Period, James Robinson purchased the property from John Lee and began to make improvements. James constructed a simple one and half story house and a drover's tavern south of the Warrenton Turnpike. It is likely that ancillary structures necessary for daily needs, such as barns and sheds were constructed during this period as well. The crops were likely processed in one of the mills lining Bull Run and stored in the ancillary structures. Vegetable gardens were likely located near the farm house. A fence likely surrounded the space. Livestock were allowed to graze freely in pastures and woodlots were separated from the crops by fencing. The exact configuration of the fields remains unknown at this time. The farm created by the Robinsons is comparable to that of the other white yeoman farmers of the Bull Run Drainage during this period.

"On or before the first day of January next we promise and bind our selves our heirs or assigns &c to pay or cause to be paid unto John Lee his heirs or assigns the Just sum of thirty dollars for the hire of a servant boy named tasco and and we further bind our selves to furnish said tasco with the custommery clothing and [?] taxes this first Febuary eighttenhundred and forty six
Tested
John Sudduth
his
James X Roberson (seal)
mark (seal)"

Robinson Papers, Catalog MANA #21465.

MANIFEST OF SLAVES intended to be transported on board the *Barque Virginian*
is Master, of the burthen *Three Hundred & Nine* tons, and bound from the Port of Richmond,
this *Sixteenth* day of *May* 18*67*

NAMES.	SEX.	AGE	STATURE Feet Inches.	COMPLEXION	SHIPPER'S NAME	RESIDENCE.
1 Jacob Masely	Male	20	5 10	Black	David Carmie	Richmon
2 George Thomas	"	20	5 8 1/2	Copper		
3 Henry Thomas	"	24	5 8	Black		
4 Alch Marshall	"	22	5 8	do		
5 Opus Anderson	"	26	5 6 1/2	Copper		
6 Moses Walker	"	21	5 7	Black		
7 Tom Whiter	"	20	5 6 1/2	Copper		
8 Ruben Masely	"	16	5 4	do		
9 Mary Jane	female	17	5 4 1/2	Black		
10 Jane Milore	"	16	5 3	do		
11 Cherry Filton	"	16	5 2	do		
12 Matilda Ford	"	18	5 0 1/2	do		
13 Liana Cartrell	"	15	4 11 1/2	do		
14 Lucy Jane	"	14	4 11 1/2	Copper		
15 Cornelia Filton	"	12	4 9	Black		
16 Peter Baynor	Male	24	5 10	do		
17 Thomas Richards	"	24	5 11	do		
18 James Robinson	"	20	5 8	do		
19 Sam Scott	"	21	5 8	do		
20 George Washington	"	21	5 2	do		
21 Miles Barnett	"	21	5 9	do		
22 Lucinda Maxwell	female	16	5 0 1/2	do		

Slave Manifests of Coastwise Vessels Filed at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1807-1860. National Archives and Records Administration.

		<u>Mr Jas Robison</u>		To Wm H D[eming]	
1850					
March	26	[1 gall] Whiskey	50	1/2 gall	[?]
"		4 N N Copper	[?]		
April	13	1 gall whiskey	50		
Sept	28	2 pair Shoes	1.2	[?] 1 ball S thread	6
"		2 tin pan	[?]		
"		4 N Copper			
Oct	12	1 wood bushell	2	[?]	
	19	4-3/8 yds pilut Cloth	[?]		
	28	1 gall whiskey	50		
Nov	4	[?] gall Whiskey	75		
	5	[?] gall Whiskey	45	1-1/2 full	[?]
	13	1/2 gall Old Whiskey			
	22	2 bunches Cotton	[?]		
"		1-1/4	[?]		
[?]	[?]	[?]			
Nov					
	13	2 yds chech	13-1/2	10 yds cotton	10
	21	1 pr pants	2.00		
	30	1 pr pants	2.00	1 Coat	5.00
"		[?] yds bed tick	10	1 hat	1.25
"		[?]			
1/2 bal Due on asse in 1849					
1 year Int on \$ 8.72					
any	29	1851 Cr By Note To close at Ten days			<u>\$42.60</u>
					W H Deming"

Catalog MANA #21482

Civil War 1861-1865

On the eve of the Civil War, James Robinson was a free born African American and landowner surrounded by the slave-holding plantations of Hazel Plain (later named Chinn Ridge), Liberia, Ben Lomond, Pittsylvania and Portici, the latter two adjacent to his land. In testimony supplied during his Civil War damages claim, James Robinson stated that he feared that if the Confederates were to succeed, he and his family would be broken up and reduced to slavery once again (Case No. 241, Commissioners of Claims, James Robinson v. United States, 1872). While this fear may have been extreme, it demonstrates the uncertain climate that African Americans faced while war loomed.

Turnpikes, road intersections, railroads, and rail junctions comprised key objectives for both the North and South during the Civil War. Manassas Junction, the location where the Orange and Alexandria Railroad met the Virginia Central Railroad, served a critical purpose. As described in *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865*, by John S. Salmon, "If the Confederates held Manassas Junction, they could deny the Federals access to the Shenandoah Valley and central Virginia while protecting the approaches to Richmond and retain the option to attack Washington via the valley and western Maryland. Conversely, if the Union army seized the junction, it could more easily protect its capital, march on Richmond, and ride the rails westward" (Salmon 1999:E:4). Considering the geographical stakes involved, Manassas proved a logical starting point for the land battles of the Civil War and the Robinson farm stood in the way.

On the morning of July 21, 1861, Confederates were on constant watch from neighboring Van Pelt's property, keenly eyeing the Warrenton Turnpike and Stone Bridge and eagerly awaiting the advance of Union General Irvin McDowell's army from Washington DC. McDowell's strategy involved securing

the Manassas Junction railroad on his way to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond and succinctly ending the war. As McDowell approached Manassas, the Confederate Army under General Pierre G. T. Beauregard was waiting for him.

The battle erupted just after 10 a.m. on the Matthews farm. Federals flooded onto the field not from Stone Bridge but from Sudley Ford some distance north of the Robinson House. The opposing forces swept back and forth over the intersection of Sudley Road and the Warrenton Turnpike. Robinson family tradition holds that amid the melee, James sent his young children to safety at the basement of the Van Pelt's. He grabbed the silver that the Lewises had entrusted to him and tucked himself under the turnpike bridge over Youngs Branch.

At one point during the battle, nearly 600 South Carolinians of Hampton's Legion took position behind the fence along James Robinson's lane in a vain effort to stem the Union attack. Finding themselves too exposed to Union artillery, they formed a new line in the Warrenton Turnpike east of James' front gate. A Confederate soldier described the landscape as he remembered it years later. "Standing where I did just on the edge of the woods, and then advancing as our line had advanced in 1861, I noted the thin, wiry grass barely covering the slate-y, poor land; the washing on the hillside; the occasional little pine bushes; the tops of the Henry and Robertson [Robinson] houses" (Barton 1900:481-485 in Schaible 2014:14). Another account of the condition of the roads indicated that they were "worn enough to afford shelter" (Schaible 2014:14).

During the waning hours of the afternoon, the Union army retreated from neighboring Henry Hill and a battalion of U.S. Regulars formed a line on the opposite heights on Buck and Matthew's hills to cover their rear. As the Union right crumbled, the Confederates launched a pursuit of the Union brigades. The Union troops retreated in a disorderly fashion toward Sudley Ford and the Stone Bridge, the same routes used to reach the battlefield about twelve hours earlier (Parsons 1996:3-12).

When James returned to his farmstead after the battle, the former agricultural fields of Manassas were littered with an abundance of military equipment and artillery as well as dead and wounded soldiers. James "found thirteen dead rebels" in his yard, according to an eyewitness who penned an article for the Corcoran's Irish Legion Newspaper titled, "A Visit to the Bull Run Battle-Field" shortly after the battles (Irish-American, NYC, Saturday, August 1, 1863 page 2 column 6, MNBP Archives). During the 1995-1996 archeological investigation of the Robinson home site, evidence of a shallow grave was discovered in the south yard. It was common for soldiers to be temporarily interred where they fell until more permanent arrangements could be made.

Despite the heavy fighting, the original Robinson house survived the battle with little damage (WPTC 1995:7). As frequently happened during the war, any building not destroyed by intensive fighting or fire was available for use as a field hospital, in some cases nursing men from both sides of the battle lines (Trieschmann 2006:8. 60). There is no documentation of James' house being used for this purpose after the First Battle of Manassas, although it could be possible. The losses for both sides amounted to nearly 4,700 (killed, wounded, captured, or missing) out of about 37,000 soldiers who fought in the First Battle of Manassas, also known as the Battle of Bull Run (Parsons 1996:3.12). The First Battle of Manassas was a sound victory for the Confederates.

Following the action of First Manassas, W.G. Atkinson recorded the character of the setting of the battle. According to the Atkinson map, the James Robinson farmstead was located on a small ridge. Pastures were located to the west of the farmstead, whereas the land east of the house and west of Young's Branch consisted of a dense oak forest. A small field south of Young's Branch was planted in corn. The remainder of the cultural landscape was rendered as open pasture used for the grazing of livestock. Rock Road, which had a north south orientation, bisected the property. A secondary set of farm lanes connected the Robinson Farm to the Henry Hill property and Sudley Road to the west (Atkins: 1861).

For the farmers at Manassas, the battle action and the resulting occupation were devastating. Crops were destroyed in the fields, reserves consumed, fences removed for fuel, and livestock brazenly commandeered to feed the troops. The hallowed ground of the battlefield remained largely uncultivated. This was primarily due to the abandonment of fields by landowners and tenants

engaged in fighting the war. Able-bodied men, including James's son Tasco, included. The shortages of labor, material resources, and food caused desperation in the community.

In August of 1862, James had just brought in the hay harvest and had wheat stacked in the barn ready to go to market when the scene of war would repeat itself on the same ground. The opposing sides met again in Manassas as the Union army continued to vie for control of Richmond. In March of 1862, General George B. McClellan moved his troops by water from Washington, DC, to Fort Monroe, Virginia, less than 100 miles from the Confederate capital. Anticipating this, the Confederates departed Manassas and marched southward to counter the Union threat. In late June, Confederate General Robert E. Lee pushed McClellan back from Richmond. Lee's strategy involved attacking Union General John Pope before he could be reinforced by McClellan's army. When Confederate General Stonewall Jackson seized Pope's supply depot at Manassas on August 27, 1862, they plundered and then burned the remaining supplies. Incensed, Pope abandoned his positions along the upper Rappahannock River and headed back towards Manassas to confront Jackson. Hidden in the woods north of Groveton, Jackson attacked a column of Pope's passing troops on the evening of August 28th, 1862. The Second Battle of Manassas had begun.

Convinced that Jackson was isolated, Pope thought that he could destroy Jackson before Lee and Longstreet could arrive from the south and bolster the Confederate lines. For the next two days the battle raged over some of the same ground that had witnessed the First Battle of Manassas. On the afternoon of August 30th, 1862, Pope ordered wave after wave of attacks on Jackson, unaware that Lee and Longstreet were already on the field. Longstreet, with a wing nearly 30,000 strong, took advantage of the rapidly diminishing Union lines to push his massive columns forward over Chinn Ridge and push Union forces back to Henry Hill. In the area west of Chinn Ridge, near Groveton, the 5th and 10th New York regiments held defensive positions as long as they could before retreating over Young's Branch south of the Warrenton Turnpike. The Union forces made a heroic stand both on Chinn Ridge and Henry Hill, but as darkness fell on August 30th, the defeated Union army withdrew once again over Bull Run towards Washington. During the confrontation, the Robinson house was used as a landmark for troops of both Union and Confederate soldiers. More specifically, it served as a field hospital for Union troops.

Union troops staged on the Robinson farmstead and in the house. Soldiers significantly damaged the crops just by the nature of their occupation and their blatant disregard for the farm, plundering whatever resources they could get their hands on. They were led by two Union officers, General Sigel and General Stahl. James described them as Dutchmen who did not speak English, but as General Sigel was born in Germany, he and the troops were no doubt speaking German. James filed a claim with the U.S. Government for the losses he incurred while General Sigel's men were about his property. He was not alone. For years afterward, the landscape of pastures, fields of corn and wheat, gardens and woods would bear the scars of the two conflicts. When the Union forces finally left Manassas in the fall of 1862, they burned the grand plantation houses of Pittsylvania, Portici, and Rosefield. An observer noted on the approach to Blackburn's Ford, "We can see traces of the conflict in shattered trees and broken trunks, limbs and boughs. The grass is long, the ground is uneven and marshy, and in some places traversed by streams of water," (Moore 1862:289). The trauma of being at the heart of two major engagements during the Civil War probably haunted James and his neighbors for many years.

Although the buildings of the farmstead were saved from catastrophe, Union soldiers lay waste to his crops, livestock, and stores of food. The following information regarding the cultural landscape was pulled from James Robinson's 1872 Civil War damages claim. In all, James noted the following agricultural produces were consumed or carried off by the Union soldiers during the three days that they occupied his farm:

Fowls,
wheat from the barn,
20 tons of cut Timothy hay in 6 stacks,
60 bushels of clean wheat,
20 bushels of corn just purchased from a neighbor,
1 acre of potatoes,
12 acres of corn in the field,

3 barrels salted Potomac herring,
7 of 8 fat hogs,
100lbs of bacon from the meat house,
cabbage and vegetables from the garden,
2 cattle,
2 fit horses,
bedsteads and linens,
and 2 miles of fence rails.

During the Civil War, one of James Robinson's sons was in the South and the other resided in the North. In 1863 Alfred is recorded as having registered for military duty with the 5th Congressional District of Michigan. Alfred was the only African-American of 20 men listed on the page where his name appears. In Louisiana, James Jr. registered with the Lafourche Parish (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group: 110, Records of the Provost Marshal). No evidence that either men were engaged in battle during the war or received pensions has been recovered.

According to surviving records, James Jr. died in Louisiana, but Alfred eventually made his way back to Virginia to be reunited with his family (Louisiana Statewide Death Index 1819-1964). In 1870 Alfred was living with a white family in Centerville, VA, as a farm hand (1870 Federal Census). He eventually moved back into his father's house with his wife, to live with his mother, sister, and a grandson (1900 Federal Census).

Landscape Character Summary

A review of James Robinson's 1872 war claim for damages incurred in 1862 suggests that the Robinsons continued to operate a subsistence farm consistent with the practices of the Virginia Piedmont. Crops were varied, with no predominate cash crop indicated in the damages. The family and their livestock likely consumed corn and other grains. During the time of the battle, the house was likely surrounded by tall stalks of corn, as Robinson indicated that the corn was not yet harvested, but in the field. The potatoes grown were likely consumed during the winter months. The timothy hay provided fodder for the livestock during the winter. The livestock, the few cattle, horses, and several pigs, indicated suggests a working farm with pork forming the staple of the family's meat intake. The loss of two miles of fence suggests a well delineated property, with fences dedicated to separating fields, property boundaries, or farm lanes.

1866-1876: Reconstruction Era

Members of the Manassas community suffered greatly in the aftermath of the war. The traditional farm economy faltered as many rural families commenced raising less labor-intensive crops, such as vegetables and fruit that could be sold in nearby urban markets. James began to grow peaches and apples. Evidence of two remnant orchards is visible south of the house site and bordering Youngs Branch on the west bank. The abandonment of the agricultural fields and the loss of dwellings and farms within the battlefield forced the subdivision of historically vast tracts into smaller parcels, as demonstrated by Robinson's surrounding neighbors at Pittsylvania and the John Dogan farm. The land was divided into manageable lots and sold individually. The division of the land in turn prompted the construction of modest vernacular dwellings and outbuildings as individual farmers and tenants moved in. According to the Agricultural Census Records of 1870 and 1880, the typical farmer owned or leased a small amount of land that was substantial enough to support his family and a few hired laborers (Trieschmann 2006:8:65).

As before the war, James Robinson continued to cultivate wheat, corn, oats, and hay, and raise livestock including cattle and hogs. By continuing agricultural production, the hallowed grounds of the Manassas Battlefield remained rural in nature, largely preserving their pre-war appearance (Trieschmann 2006:8:64). According to the agricultural census of 1870, James Robinson specifically

owned 3 horses, 3 milk cows, 2 oxen, 3 other cows, and 4 swine. The products of the livestock (i.e. milk, butter, or pounds of ham) were not noted in this particular census. In addition to the animal husbandry, James Robinson's farm produced 60 bushels of winter wheat, and 25 bushels of oats. However, the most prolific of the agricultural product was Indian Corn, which 400 bushels were produced (1870 Agricultural Census Prince William County).

In addition to personal losses, the battles forever physically scarred the landscape. In an unfavorable depiction of James' home and hospitality by a northern journeyer after the war, James' home is described as having numerous bullet-holes in the weatherboarding. The author added that some of the trees in the yard still bore the scars of battle (Johnson 1904:240). James was deposed in February of 1872 by the Commissioners of Claims for his claim of \$2,608.00 to the U.S. Government. He described the nature of his losses, which are corroborated by information from the agricultural censuses and by neighbors who testified on his behalf. Many times James was asked to clarify that he was in favor of the Union Army and he did not offer any provisions to the Confederate Army.

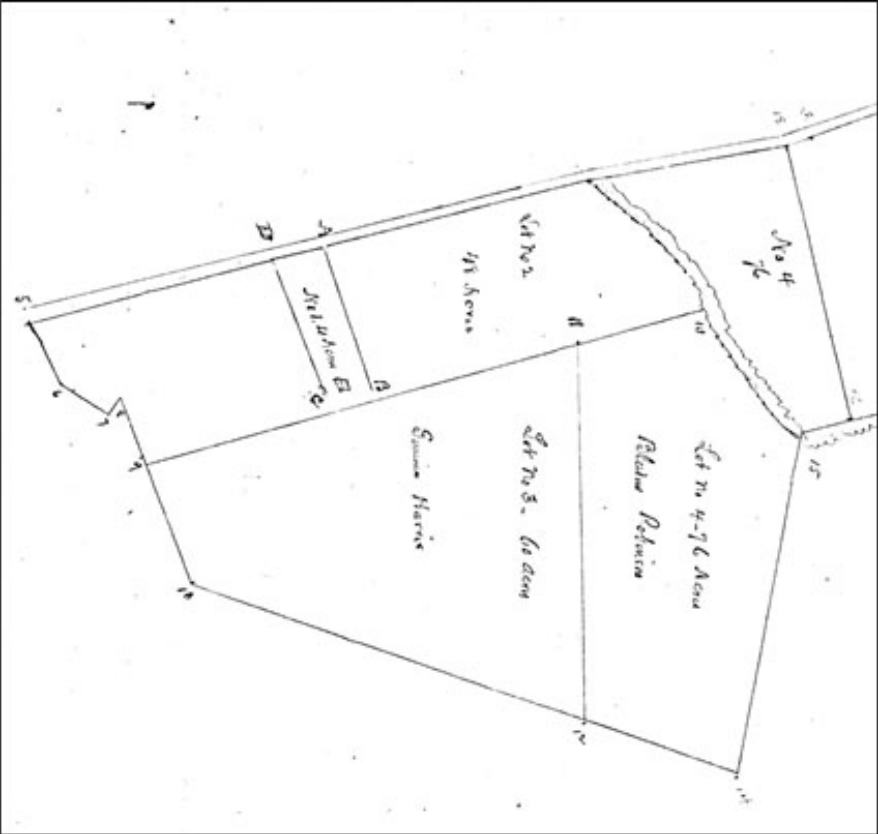
James was awarded \$1,249.00 of his claim in 1872. He may have used this reward to help build a two story extension onto the original log home. Before the Civil War, a full-width porch with a shingled shed roof was added to the south side of the house (away from the turnpike) and the porch later partially enclosed. By 1872, the reparations payment and James' growing family facilitated the two-story addition. It was made to the east side of the house, and evidenced by an increase in value of the Robinson property from \$100 to \$800 (Prince William County tax records). This large increase in taxable property may also indicate that other outbuildings were constructed at the same time. James' farmstead also featured a barn, meat house, smoke house, ice house, and animal pens south of the house. The new frame-constructed two-story portion accommodated more family members with two additional rooms on each floor. Like the original log portion, it was clad with weatherboard, and shingled. It featured an end gable exterior chimney with a stone base, brick chase, and terra cotta flue pipe. This chimney served two fireplaces, one on each floor.

The configuration of the home, barns, outbuildings and animal pens created a central yard that served as an additional living space for the family. Although it was outdoors it was considered an extension of the house. This arrangement captures a form that expresses a close communality derived from Africa. Even in the case of enslaved African Americans, the placement of the quarters they inhabited often created a central yard space. The yard between the buildings "was the common meeting ground for chatting, cooking, washing, child-minding, storytelling, music and dance" (Isaac 2004:6). Enslaved African Americans and free men alike built small dwellings as a result, because so much daily activity took place outside. Due to the large amount of time spent there, occupants often swept their yards. Decades of this behavior created a cement-like floor of the dirt, and excess refuse was easily swept away (Parsons 2001:32). At James' house, the archeological investigation in 1995-1996 found almost no artifacts in the central yard immediately south of the house and porch, suggesting a maintained swept space.

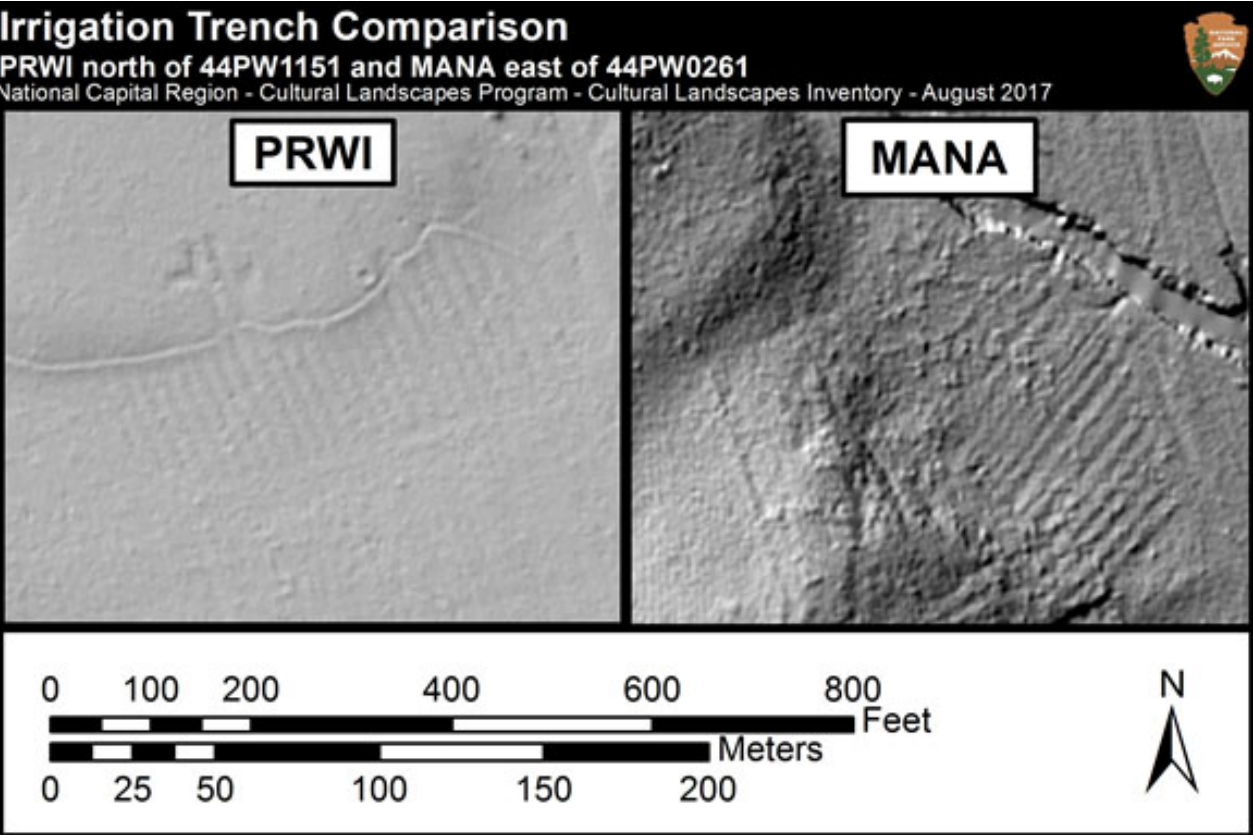
James Robinson died in 1875. He and his wife Susan are buried on private property in the Robinson Family Cemetery located just east of Bull Run. The cemetery is active today and contains the final resting places of many descendants.

Landscape Character Summary

During the Reconstruction Period, the Robinson family strove for a semblance of normalcy, by returning to the pre-war agricultural behavior of subsistence farming. The crops grown and the livestock raised were similar in varieties and types to the antebellum period. However, changes to the landscape did occur. The farmhouse was expanded with a two story addition connected to the original structure. The barn, meat house, and smoke house were documented in surviving tax records and verified as extant. With the funds of the war claim, it is possible that the family was able to construct additional ancillary structures such as an ice house and animal pens. The structures were arranged around a swept yard that served as a living space for the family.



Prince William County Court division of James Robinson property, RELIC library.



Irrigation trench comparison

1876-1903: Subdivision of the Farmstead

After James Robinson's death in 1875, the property was subdivided. Each of James' children and his wife received portions of James' land when the Prince William County Court divided the property in 1881. The lots varied in size but the value of land and structures was equal, at \$492.00.

James Robinson's youngest son Bladen received 76 acres to the southeast of James' house where he established a home site and farm. This area of the cultural landscape was identified as open pasture in 1861 and likely retained this character at the time of Bladen's acquisition of the property. His sister Jemima received 60 acres west of Bladen's property, south of the original farmstead. She immediately sold her portion back to Bladen and their mother Susan. Including an 1881 land purchase Bladen made from the neighboring Van Pelts, Bladen Robinson's land holdings totaled 265 acres.

Bladen's farm yield is recorded in the 1880 Prince William County Agricultural Census, including livestock, grains and fruit. According to the 1880s Prince William county Agricultural Census, Bladen Robinson's property consisted of 50 acres of improved land in crops, 30 acres of wood lots, and 50 acres of unimproved fields that were fallow or "old." The improved acreage of the property was cultivated in 50 acres of corn, which yielded 500 bushels of Indian corn, 10 acres of oats, which yielded 75 bushels, and 10 acres of wheat, which yielded 100 bushels. Ten bushels of potatoes were also recorded. Bladen Robinson maintained 15 acres of his property in an apple orchard which had 70 fruiting trees that produced 50 bushels per year. An additional five acres of the property were cultivated in peach orchard. Fifty trees produced 50 bushels of fruit.

The existence of fruit on the farm first appears in the 1880 agricultural census. The location of Bladen's orchard is indicated in aerial photos and current LIDAR maps. The LIDAR mapping model is a derived hill shade evaluation model that depicts elevation changes on the surface of the earth. Evidence of an additional orchard area was found on James Robinson's property, bordering Youngs Branch. These orchards are delineated by rows of parallel mounds. The peaks of the mounds are approximately 20 feet apart, indicating that the arrangement supported something that would grow to be very large. Nearly 11 rows of mounds are separated by ditches between them, which may have served to irrigate the trees with water from the run. A similar irrigation pattern was documented at Prince William Forest Park, where parallel ditches running towards a creek were interpreted as "early 20th-century attempts to grow vegetables or other crops" (Bedell 2004:59). James' orchard on Youngs Branch measures approximately 1.3 acres, and the Prince William Forest Park orchard measures approximately two acres.

Bladen Robinson owned 2 oxen, 5 milk cows, and 5 other bovine. His cattle were responsible for producing 150 pounds of butter the preceding year. Other livestock on the property included eight swine and 30 chickens. Unlike surrounding neighbors, no sheep were indicated on the property (1880 Agricultural Census).

A later aerial photograph indicates that Bladen Robinson constructed a farm cluster of buildings on the property, similar in nature to that of James Robinson. Bladen Robinson constructed a farmhouse on the western edge of the cluster. Directly to the east of the house, a group of pens were constructed to contain livestock. North and south of the pens, ancillary structures, including what appears to be a large barn and sheds were constructed (1937 NPS aerial photo).

Bladen's home is indicated in a map made for an Army maneuver exercise in 1904, as is the home of another of James' sons, Tasco Robinson. Tasco's property is located east of the cultural landscape boundary and outside the park boundary.



Veterans shaking hands at the Peace Jubilee on the Manassas Battlefield in 1911. Library of Congress.



1930s Manassas Land Purchase Plan, ETIC. (Bladen's home site is incorrectly labeled as Lewis.)

1903–1940: Memorialization/Commemoration

Memorialization on the Manassas battlefield began even before the conclusion of the Civil War. Six weeks after the First Battle of Manassas in 1861, soldiers from Confederate COL Francis Bartow's brigade placed a marble column on Henry Hill to mark the location where Bartow was mortally wounded and to honor his memory (Zenzen 1998:2). By the end of the war in 1865, the Bull Run monument and the Groveton monument were already established. Private actions involved the regular pilgrimage of Northerners and Southerners to the site. Battlefield tours led by a couple named Starbuck, owners of the Stone House from 1866-1879, included their own interpretation of the battlefield and surely indicated the Robinson House and its role in the events of the First and Second Battles of Manassas. Gideon and Mary Starbuck hoped to create an economic opportunity for themselves by offering their land around the Stone House be purchased for a federally designated national cemetery of Civil War soldiers (Reeves 2001:2.21). The rolling hills of General Lee's home at Arlington were chosen instead. The efforts by local Manassas residents to capitalize on the historic events show that the area was recognized as a commemorative landscape even before it was officially set aside as a national park.

In the 1890s the federal government began to establish National Military Parks around the sites of large Civil War campaigns. The lands of the future Manassas National Battlefield Park were considered but not included in this early effort, possibly because "Manassas represented two stunning Confederate victories" (Zenzen 1998:1) and the government was still heavily supportive of the Union's efforts. Union veteran George Carr Round settled in Manassas after the war and began a 50-year preservation struggle at Manassas to keep the memory alive for future generations (Zenzen 1998:4).

The erection of durable markers on the battlefield represented overtly public statements about the Civil War and its memory. In 1905, veterans of the 7th GA Infantry erected at seven markers on the Manassas battlefield. One of them identified their battle position on August 30, 1861 during the First Battle of Manassas. This marker on the Robinson property and another on Henry Hill are the only two that survive.

With commemoration foremost in the minds of veterans, the sixty-five thousand acres of sparsely populated farmland in Prince William County extending from Bull Run to Thoroughfare Gap proved to be the logical choice for staging the first peacetime maneuvers on American soil in 1904. The training exercises focused on the inadequacies of the military's logistical and subsistence departments. The event was not a reenactment, nor was it a formal reconciliation. It involved 5,000 regular troops and twelve thousand militiamen from the North and South (Trieschmann 2005 8:67-68). The Alexandria Gazette reported in 1904 that local farmers agreed to lease 65,000 acres at \$.20 an acre to the government for the use of the land. Farmers were reimbursed for any resulting damage to their structures, crops and livestock (The Alexandria Gazette, 9 August 1904, p.2). The documentation of this event in photographs provides a distant view of the farmsteads of James, Bladen, and Tasco, photos of which are scarce.

The year 1911 marked the 50th anniversary of the first major Civil War battle. George Carr Round organized a formal and well-publicized event called the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace to celebrate. The day brought together 350 Confederate and 125 Union veterans, as a demonstration of peace and reconciliation between the North and South. The veterans of the First Battle of Manassas greeted each other near the site of the original Henry House on Henry Hill, and walked the battlefield together. The reunion of veterans was designed to demonstrate America's united resolve to prevent war of any kind. Amid tense international affairs worldwide, President William Howard Taft travelled to Manassas and used the opportunity to announce that the U.S. would be signing a treaty with other nations in a promise of world peace. The first commemorative event of its kind, the Peace Jubilee became the inspiration for a number of 50th anniversary reunions culminating in the reuniting of 52,000 veterans at Gettysburg two years later (Trieschmann 2006:8:68).

In 1921, the Sons of Confederate Veterans purchased the 128-acre Henry Farm, located adjacent to Robinson on the west. The following year, they created and incorporated the Manassas Battlefield Corporation, led by E.W.R. Ewing (Trieschmann 2006:8:68). As stated in their charter, the objective of the Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park was “that particularly the children of the South may the better understand such important results of the war between the Confederacy and the Federal Government, the Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park is planned both as a memorial and in the interest of impartial education” (The Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park (Incorporated), Internet Archive, accessed 7/10/2017).

In 1926, the War Department launched a project to survey and classify all American battlefields. The Manassas Battlefield was identified as worthy of a national monument with markers to show battle lines. Despite this recognition, the privately owned park was not included among parks added to the War Department’s holdings over the next eight years (Trieschmann 2006:8:68). It was not until 1933 that President Roosevelt reorganized the nascent National Park Service to include Manassas. In 1940 Manassas battlefield finally became a federal park.

Part of Roosevelt’s New Deal, the Recreational Demonstration Area program served to convert sub-marginal agricultural lands into recreational areas. In 1935 the Roosevelt administration designated 1,476 acres of the Manassas battlefields as the Bull Run Recreational Demonstration Area. The effort included a purchase plan for the properties surrounding the Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park, including the Robinson farm, Chinn Ridge, the Van Pelt’s property, and the John Dogan property. The National Park Service emphasized stabilization, restoration and interpretation of the resources within the proposed park boundary. By late 1937, over 1,400 acres of the battleground had been acquired, including the Robinson property, Chinn Ridge, the Van Pelt’s property, and the John Dogan farm (Trieschmann 2006:8:70).

Bladen Robinson died in 1923, leaving his two adult children. Neither of the children appears to have lived in Bladen’s home as adults. However, a portion of the land that Bladen had amassed was inherited by Edna Mae (Radcliffe) Robinson, Bladen’s daughter-in-law through his son James Alfred Robinson.

Edna Mae Robinson was the last landholder before the government purchase in 1936. Even so, she did not live in Manassas. She moved to New Jersey, near the town of Trenton, after her husband died the year before. By this time, farming in rural Manassas had become a meager existence. The land was considered sub-marginal at the time of federal acquisition.

Using funding available from other New Deal programs, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the National Park Service researched war records to reconstruct the landscape to its appearance at the time of the battles (Zenzen 1998:18-21). The Robinson landscape looked much as it had at the time of the battles. The farm was still cultivated in crops when it was purchased for the park in 1936. Fields and fence lines remained in place. Some structures were extant at the time of the land purchase.

Having recognized its historic significance, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes created the 1,600 acre Manassas National Battlefield Park out of the former Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park and the Bull Run Recreational Demonstration Area. It was officially established on May 10, 1940. Four years before, on July 21, the 75th anniversary of the first battle was commemorated with a huge reenactment by Army and Marine troops. The event was also meant to celebrate the opening of the new national park. However, the Sons of Confederate Veterans were initially divided on whether to donate their 128-acre park property to the federal government. Deciding to do so just before the July 21, 1936 event, the group placed a contingency on the gift that the National Park Service place a monument to Thomas J. Jackson and build a museum on the landscape. It was not until 1940 that Congress appropriated the funds specifically for the construction of the museum, and the deal was complete (Trieschmann 2006:8:71).

1940-2017: National Battlefield Park

By the time the National Park Service acquired the Robinson farm cultural landscape, the house it had been transformed from its configuration at the time of the Battles of Manassas to a completely new one. National Park Service Architect Frederick Fairweather inspected the existing Robinson house, took photos, and made preliminary recommendations for treatment in a cursory Historic Structure Report. He facilitated the installation of electricity and replacement windows and doors. Although the current building was not true to its pre-Civil War appearance, it nevertheless represented a home site continually occupied by a free African-American family for nearly 100 years.

In 1961, a Centennial celebration on the battlefield led to chaos and injury as reenactors without any real understanding of the events they were representing fired muskets with blanks at other participants. Cannons fired and simulated artillery ground pyrotechnics burst into crowds of people. According to one article, battlefield participants and spectators alike became quickly confused and alarmed. As a result of this event, the National Park Service decided that for safety reasons and to avoid the glorification of war, they would ban all violent reenactments from national battlefields which were viewed as “trashily theatrical” (Bodnar 1992:15).

Interpretation of the battles and educating visitors about Manassas during the Civil War became a personal passion for Superintendent Francis Wilshin during his tenure from 1955-1969. Wilshin recommended the addition of markers on the landscape to identify where battle action took place and to identify the homes and landscapes of families who witnessed the conflagration. The Robinson house was included, as were Hampton’s Legion’s position in the lane, and the agricultural landscape south of the home.

Over the next decade, recreation surfaced as having a detrimental effect on the hallowed ground of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Wilshin’s successor, Superintendent Russell W. Berry, Jr., noted in 1969 that the entire park was saturated with recreational use. On Henry Hill, it was “solid cars and picnic blankets and Frisbees and dogs running.” The Robinson house area served as a softball park in the daytime, while other spots became “evening social havens” for local area high school students (Zenzen 1998:82). He adopted a series of gates to reduce unauthorized recreational use, established horse trails, and restricted picnicking to designated areas. Berry’s approach fully supported the park’s mission to preserve and protect the Manassas battlefields (Zenzen 1998:83). Berry proposed a trail system in the early 1960s that included seven audio stations throughout the park. Only four remain today, but none are extant in the Robinson farm cultural landscape.

Part of interpreting the historic battles involved the placement of heavy guns, or cannon, from Jackson’s Confederate artillery during the First Battle of Manassas. It was important to show how the Confederates fired in the direction of Captain Rickett’s battery, and ultimately destroyed the Henry House on Henry Hill. The cannon had been incorrectly installed only yards behind the memorial statue of Confederate General Thomas Jackson south of the Robinson house site. This was a very misleading location misrepresenting the Confederate position on Henry Hill. In the late 1970s, Jackson’s artillery was realigned on the landscape. The line faced the northeast across the Robinson/Henry property line. A minor adjustment was made in the 1980s by Jim Burgess, Manassas National Battlefield Park Museum Specialist, when two cannon were brought back from a forward position on the Robinson farm to conform with the rest of Jackson’s line. Four of these cannon are represented on the Robinson cultural landscape today. The cannon themselves were historically used during the Civil War, but are not original to the Battles of Manassas. The park acquired them through transfers and exchanges with other military parks in the National Park Service.

Also in the 1980s, great concern for the integrity of Manassas battlefields surfaced when relic hunters discovered artillery friction primers and an unmarked grave on a tract called Brawner farm (Zenzen 1998:115). Authorized archeological surveys of existing park resources began around the same time. In 1981, Thomas McGarry conducted a ground survey in which he located known or obvious features on the Robinson property. The 1926 configuration of the Robinson house was still standing. McGarry identified and documented the well, the ice house, and stone foundations associated with unknown structures that were excavated in the next decade.

In 1993, the Robinson house was severely damaged by fire. Arson was suspected but the culprits

were never identified or apprehended. The National Park Service faced the decision of whether to rebuild the house to its 1926 configuration or remove the house entirely. Limited funding and little knowledge of the original structure at the time precluded any serious thought of building a replica of the original house on the site. After consulting with members of the Robinson family in 1995, the Williamsport Historic Preservation Training Center architecturally dismantled and documented the house (WPTC 1995:4). The discovery of James Robinson's personal papers in the attic of the home was of huge value to the interpretation of the family and their life in the Manassas community.

The most recent commemoration event was the Manassas Sesquicentennial Celebration held on the battlefield on July 21, 2011. The event revealed current views of the battle and its lasting effects on both the federal government and the Manassas community. The National Park Service portrayed the First Battle of Manassas as a turning point that caused the nation to realize the commitment and sacrifice required for the Civil War. Various living histories and home tours were included. The Robinson farm cultural landscape tour was one highlight of the event, titled "An African American family caught in the crossfire" (Roberts 2011 Interview with Jim Burgess).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Robinson farm cultural landscape, a component landscape of Manassas National Battlefield Park, by comparing the landscape characteristics and features that existed during the period of significance (1840-1940) with their current condition. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and unique value. Each characteristic or feature receives a classification as either contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape features help to comprise landscape characteristics, and classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, by virtue of their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date.

Landscape characteristics and features, individually and as a whole, together express the integrity and historic character of the cultural landscape, and contribute to the property's historic significance. This section also includes an evaluation of the Robinson farm cultural landscape's integrity in accordance with the National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the historic period identified for the site. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property must not only be shown to have significance under one of the four NR criteria, but also must retain integrity to the historic period of significance.

INTEGRITY

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location is the place where the cultural landscape and its features were constructed. The Robinson farm occupies its historic location. The home site, fields and fence lines, monuments, and interpretive areas have

remained in their original locations in the rolling hills of the Virginia Piedmont. The cultural landscape therefore retains integrity of location to its period of significance.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The cultural landscape of the Robinson farm is a vernacular landscape, emerging in its current configuration through agricultural practices and memorialization efforts. Design of the landscape is retained due to the unchanged circulation patterns, building remains, and field patterns.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The physical character of the Robinson farm has experienced changes since the First and Second Battles of Manassas with the loss of buildings and structures, and the successional forest growth that has obscured the views and vistas. The landscape does not retain the integrity regarding setting, due to these impacts.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, plants and other landscape features, and at the Robinson farm cultural landscape very little of these remain. There are no extant buildings or structures. The majority of plant materials and crops that grew historically are no longer represented on the cultural landscape. Only a few small scale features are composed of their original materials. Therefore there has been a loss of integrity for materials.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the craft of a particular period. The remaining materials of the house foundation and constructed water features have been heavily impacted by deterioration. They do not demonstrate integrity of workmanship.

6. Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. The Robinson farm cultural landscape evokes the feelings of the Virginia Piedmont rural agricultural environment, the battles of the Civil War, and later commemoration and interpretation. However, the issue of vegetative encroachment and the loss of buildings have greatly impaired the integrity of feeling within the cultural landscape.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Robinson farm has a strong association with James "Gentleman Jim" Robinson, and to the crucial events of the First and Second Battles of Manassas. This strong association with such a historic event gives the property integrity.

Conclusions

This CLI finds that the Robinson farm cultural landscape retains integrity for the period of significance, 1840 to 1940. The landscape has been altered slightly due to the loss of certain landscape features. Despite these losses, the property still adequately represents the historic battlefield landscape.

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the Robinson farm cultural landscape are archeological sites, circulation, constructed water features, land use, small-scale features, spatial organization, natural systems and features, and topography.

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1840-1940), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is non-contributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

Landscape Characteristic:

James Robinson Home Site:

Historic Condition: The James Robinson home site is a 7-acre character area of the larger James Robinson farm. Historically, the location contained a cluster of buildings including a home, barn, animal pens, privy, meat house, smoke house, ice house, and drover's tavern, located on a hill south of the Warrenton Turnpike. The farmhouse was first constructed in 1849 with ancillary structures erected during a contemporary period. The site existed as a working farm until the government purchased the property in 1936. According to Associate Architect Fredrick Fairweather, at the time of the purchase, only the post-1926 home, a 20th century barn, a shed, and privy remained on the land.

Of these structures, the 20th century barn was dismantled in 1973 due to deterioration. The home was dismantled in 1995 due to fire damage. The location of the privy may have been under an extant concrete pad. Its exact location has not been confirmed archeologically. It is difficult to determine exactly when the other structures were built or removed. National Park Service archeologist Thomas McGarry surveyed the property in 1982 and a team of NPS archeologists further investigated it in 1995 and 1996.

Existing Condition: Several features are legible on the landscape today. These include the foundations of the 1926 home and front porch stoop. They consist of locally quarried red sandstone blocks. A depression where the ice house was located can be discerned. The stone floor of a meat house or smoke house is also evident, as are some of the foundation stones of several other outbuildings, and a small, square concrete pad.

A team of archeologists consisting of Mia Parsons (Harper's Ferry National Historical Park), Erika Martin Seibert and Paul A. Shackle (University of Maryland), and Dr. Stephen R. Potter (National Capital Region, National Park Service) investigated the home site in 1995 and 1996. Features and artifacts discovered during the season were detailed in the report *Archeological Investigation of the Robinson House Site* (2003.) The findings included:

- The base and portion of a hearth from the 1840s house chimney - A
- Northwest and southwest corners and possible footers for the west elevation 1840s house - B
- Foundation stones for the west kitchen/shed addition - C
- A pipe well - D
- Temporary shallow grave from the Civil War era (south yard) - E
- Portions of Civil War era barn (south yard) - F
- A possible root cellar - G
- An icehouse that was later used as a trash pit for approx. 60 years (Parsons 2001:90) - H
- Foundation corner and posthole of a 20th century barn- I
- Foundations of unidentified outbuilding - J
- Evidence of the drover's tavern - K
- Prehistoric projectile points
- Artifacts = glass, ceramics, metal dating from the full span of the occupational period

Analysis: The archeological site is contributing to the Robinson Farm cultural landscape. The site has revealed and has the potential to reveal more information important in history and prehistory. The archeological sites have integrity.

Bladen Robinson Home Site:

Historic Condition: Bladen Robinson was James' youngest son. Early maps and photographs show that he established a home and farm on a hill one half mile southeast of James' house. The home site is reached by turning from the Warrenton Turnpike towards the south onto historic Rock Road. North-south running Rock Road then crosses Youngs Branch. Shortly after the ford, the Bladen house site appears uphill towards the east. The Bladen Robinson house site was not on the landscape during the Civil War, but was likely built in the 1880s after James' death.

Bladen Robinson began to acquire property in 1870 with the purchase of 129 acres of the Van Pelt property. The Van Pelts lived northeast of the Robinsons and of the Warrenton Turnpike. The Van Pelt property was also east of Youngs Branch. The Van Pelt property was derived of the historic 1720s Great Bull Run tract, while the Robinson property was derived of the Middle Bull Run tract. The tracts were divided by the waterway of Youngs Branch. When the east-west running Warrenton Turnpike was built in 1828, it became a much clearer dividing line between the Robinsons and the

Van Pelts. A portion of the Van Pelt's property was cut off south of the Warrenton Turnpike. This land, adjacent to James Robinson's land south of the turnpike, is the 129 acres that Bladen purchased in 1870.

Ten years later, in 1880, federal censuses show that Bladen Robinson was married with two children of his own, and continued to live with his mother, sister Henrietta, and her son Howson Smith. He may have been living in his father's home or his own home with these family members.

In 1875 James Robinson died without a will to settle his legal affairs. His land and personal property was divided by the Prince William County Court in 1881. The Court left a portion of the land to each of James' children, and to his wife. James' son Bladen received 76 acres to the southeast of James' house including property associated with his home site. His sister Jemima received 60 acres west of Bladen's property. She immediately sold her portion back to Bladen and their mother Susan. By 1881, Bladen Robinson's land holdings totaled 265 acres, including the Van Pelt property. Bladen's farm yield is recorded in the 1880 Prince William County Agricultural Census, including livestock, grains and fruit. He is recorded as having 10 acres of orchard. His home is indicated in a map made for an Army maneuver exercise in 1904, as is the home of another of James' sons, Tasco. The Army maneuver operation also used photographs to record the views of the battlefield. Some of the photos purport to show Bladen's and Tasco's homes, but the structures are difficult to discern in the far distance. Bladen's wife Bettie Landon Robinson died in 1907. He died in 1923, leaving his two adult children. Neither of the children appears to have lived in Bladen's home as adults. However, a portion of the land that Bladen had amassed was inherited by Edna Mae (Radcliffe) Robinson, Bladen's daughter-in-law through his son James Alfred Robinson. Edna Mae Robinson was the last landholder before the government purchase in 1936.

Bladen's farm cluster contained a home, large barn, two mid-sized outbuildings and several animal pens. Bladen's home is present in a 1937 aerial photo, and in several later maps. By this time, the orchard that produced 100 bushels of fruit in 1880 was reduced to a few trees. In 1949 aerial photos, the Bladen Robinson house and farmstead appear to be greatly diminished, if not missing entirely.

Existing Condition: The location of this site is not publically acknowledged in order to protect the resource. Further archeological investigation could reveal a great deal about the Bladen Robinson home site. The 1937 aerial photo captures the home, a large barn, and several outbuildings. The orchard is clearly delineated in the photo and the division of fields can be seen. In 1982, an archeological survey of Manassas National Battlefield Park by Thomas McGarry recorded an extant barn and a house foundation. Today the site is overgrown and only a few features are readily identified. No structures are present. The remains of a red sandstone-lined well can be seen. An earthen embankment at the end of the farm lane corresponds with a small outbuilding seen in the 1937 photo. The land today appears terraced as it might have been historically, with a large flat area that corresponds with the location of the barn. The farm lane that heads east from Rock Road continues through the landscape due east to Holkums Branch.

Analysis: As an archeological site, the Bladen Robinson home site is contributing to the Robinson cultural landscape due to its association with the Robinson family. The home site has a great potential to yield information about the surviving Robinson family after James' death. It has integrity within the period of significance, from construction likely around 1880s to demolition in the 1940s.

Heaton's Battery

Located on a north slope of a bluff at the confluence of Holkums Branch, Youngs Branch, and Bull Run, Heaton's Battery is associated with the First Battle of Manassas and was a Confederate defensive work. The site was associated with Heaton's section of the Loudon Artillery. At the time of the battle, the battery contained two 6- pounder guns and was responsible for the defense of Lewis Ford. A small mound, 30 feet above Bull Run indicates, the location of the feature. In order to construct the feature, a small portion of the slope was removed with the slope forming the rear of the battery. According to the original survey, the guns at Lewis Ford engaged in a duel with Federal forces at the Stone Bridge. The site was surveyed in 1982 by Thomas E. McGarry and was observed as being covered in trees (McGarry 1982: 11). Additional survey work is necessary to ascertain the condition of the site presently.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: James Robinson Home Site
Feature Identification Number: 186215
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bladen Robinson Home Site
Feature Identification Number: 186216
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Heaton's Battery
Feature Identification Number: 186217
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Foundation remains of the Robinson house.



Remains of the front stoop at the Robinson house.



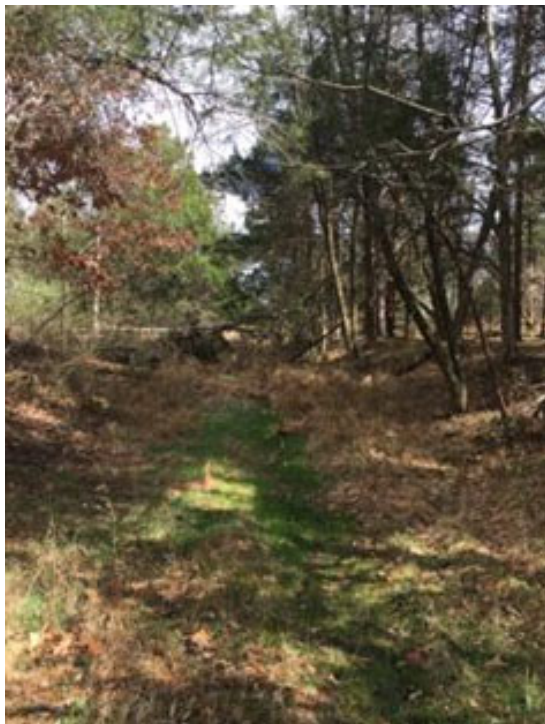
1937 Aerial photo, NPS Archives.



Bladen home site looking south from the farm lane.



Remains of stone well



Farm lane to Bladen's home site from Rock Road, view east.

Historic Condition: The James Robinson and Bladen Robinson farmsteads were once active farming clusters that contained both domestic and agricultural buildings and structures. Documentary evidence supports the fact that the home sites contained a number of buildings for different purposes, but it is difficult to discern what exactly was on the land in which locations and at what time.

James' original home was constructed in approximately 1849. Between the years 1849 and 1850, Prince William County tax records show that the assessed value of James' property increased by \$100.00. This is consistent with improvement on the land of a small home. James' home was built of logs with weatherboard siding and a shingled roof. The archeological record suggests it was approximately 18' square. The entrance to the home appears to have been on the east gable end, through an offset single board and batten door, or on the south side of the house, under the porch. Only a small window faced the Warrenton Turnpike on the home's north elevation. The south elevation featured only a door, centrally located and directly opposite the north elevation window. An exterior chimney was located on the west gable end elevation. Originally built of stone, the chimney chase above the neck was later rebuilt with handmade brick. Only two sides of the original structure have been captured by photographs, the south and east elevations.

Over the next 100 years, Robinson's original one and one-half story log home morphed into several configurations. The partially enclosed, full-width porch with a shingled shed roof appeared before the Civil War. Whether the porch was part of the original design or added later is not known. The layout of the interior of this version of the home was described for Superintendent Francis F. Wilshin in 1948 by McKinley Robinson, James' great-grandson. He was the last family member to live in the house.

In 1871 a two-story addition was made to the east side of the house, as evidenced by an increase in value of the Robinson property from \$100 to \$800 (Prince William County tax records). This large increase in taxable property may also indicate that other outbuildings were constructed at the same time. Sometime after the two-story addition, a shed addition was attached to the west side of the house (WPTC 1995:47). The west-end chimney was likely rebuilt at the same time the shed addition was constructed, as the shed enclosed the exterior of the chimney and partially obscured an attic

window. The chimney stack material changed from stone to brick. The addition may have served as a new kitchen, as the former kitchen in the enclosed porch was removed. The shed was sided with clapboard and had a standing seam metal roof. In an 1880s photo of the shed addition, the original part of the home also had a standing seam metal roof and the two-story portion was shingled. The two-story portion featured an end gable exterior chimney with a stone base, brick chase, and terra cotta flue pipe. This chimney served two fireplaces, one on each floor. In 1926, the shed addition and the original house were dismantled and materials were reused to extend the two-story portion. In the extended portion to the west, a new interior end chimney was constructed to vent a stove located on the ground floor.

The Robinson house, as of 1926, had a balanced three bay north-facing facade with overall dimensions of 36' 6" wide and 16' deep. The building had a pitched roof with end gables. A shed roof front porch spanned from the windows of each outside bay. The porch was also divided equally in three bays with turned posts. The home was two stories with one room deep and three rooms wide. The first floor interior included one room on the east (parlor), a central hall with a staircase and closet beneath, and one room (kitchen) to the west. The second floor plan matched the first with a bedroom in the east and west rooms, a central hall and stairwell, and a small room partitioned off on the northern third of the hall. The attic space was divided into two areas by a stud wall partition with siding on its west face (WPTC 1995:21). The house was without water or electricity.

Immediately after the 1993 fire, the National Park Service faced the decision of whether to rebuild the house to its 1926 configuration or remove the house entirely. Limited funding and little knowledge of the original structure at the time precluded any serious thought of building a replica of the original 1849 house on the site. After consultation with members of the Robinson family, the Park Service decided to dismantle the house and conduct an archeological survey to learn more about the site (WPTC 1995:4).

Throughout the Robinson tenure on the property, a number of other outbuildings came and went. At various times, the James Robinson home site included a Civil War-era barn, a 20th century barn, a meat house, a smoke house, privy, and ice-house. The site also included animal pens that housed pigs and other livestock, and the drover's tavern. The most informative source for the types and uses of buildings on his farm was James Robinson himself. During his deposition under oath for a claim against the US Government for damages he incurred during the Second Battle of Manassas, James described a number of structures that appeared on the landscape during the battle in 1862. He mentions specifically a meat house, barn, hog pen, smoke house, and the home. Based on the evidence available, the best and clearest representation of James' farmstead is a sketch made of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape on August 29, 1862 by Robert Knox Sneden. (Sneden volume 1:166) The sketch correlates nicely with an early but out of focus photograph taken in 1884 (WPTC 1995:11). Both appear to be a view from the east or southeast, looking west or northwest.

In Sneden's drawing, the one and ½ story home can be seen, as well as four other buildings. The two on the outer sides of the cluster appear to be unpainted log structures, the left side one with a completely open gable. This building was likely the Civil War-era barn, and the other an animal pen or fowl house. In an account of the Manassas battlefield written in 1904 by Clifton Johnson, barns are described as "small and unsubstantial... rude sheds, eight or ten feet high, with sides of rails and poles, and the top piled over with straw," (Johnson 1904:229). He adds that there was no pretense that the roof would keep out the rain.

James reported during his deposition that Union troops helped themselves to 100 pounds of bacon from the smokehouse, and three barrels of fish, plus meat from the meat house. His interviewed descendants all agreed on the location of the smokehouse and meat house, south of the home and to the east of the barn. In Sneden's drawing, these two buildings are shown with pitched roofs, doors, windows, and chimneys. The illustrator may have taken liberty with the chimneys, as chimneys are missing or obscured in the 1884 photo. If one of these buildings is a smokehouse, it does not subscribe to the typical 19th century smokehouse in the Mid-Atlantic region. These are documented as generally small, cubical structures of wood, tightly constructed with a steep pyramidal roof for holding in the smoke, and plenty of room for collar beams from which to hang meat. They were typically without windows or a flue (Olmert 2009:76). One of these two buildings is captured in an

1861 stereograph of the eastern side of the Robinson house. The building in question is very near the house, constructed of logs, with a pitched roof and the gable enclosed with weatherboard. The construction appears to be without chinking. The building has a single door and no windows on the elevations which face the camera. These features point to the probability that this building served as the meat house. The remnants of a stone floor have been found in this location and the approximate size was 28 by 24 feet (Parsons 2003:73).

The other painted building in the sketch may have been the icehouse or smokehouse. Archeological investigation revealed that south of the house; three buildings were generally aligned in a north-south oriented row. The first one was the supposed meat house or antebellum barn, the second one the icehouse, and the third one the smoke house or other unknown-use building. Evidence suggests that the meat house/barn measured 28' by 24' east-west, the icehouse measured 5' by 12' north-south, and the remaining one 12' by 29' east-west. The unusual size of the third building, long in length and shallow in depth, does not necessarily indicate its use. To complicate matters, the author of *Back of the Big House; the Architecture of Plantation Slavery*, John Michael Vlach, suggests that "Virginia planters might refer to almost any storage structure from a twelve-foot square corncrib to a sizable stable, as a "barn," suggesting that they had only an approximate definition for this building type (Vlach 1993:107).

The drover's tavern or animal enclosure that James Robinson was known for was located between the house and the Warrenton Turnpike at the northernmost part of the property. It was extant at the time of the Civil War but it is not known when or if it was removed. Most of James' descendants interviewed only remembered its interpreted location as a field of corn.

A later, larger barn was constructed south of the house on the west of the farm lane, adjacent to the garden. This was the barn removed in 1974. It was approximately 20' by 30' feet in size. A post hole and foundation corners of this barn were discovered in 1995-1996 by the archeological team.

Buildings and structures present at the Bladen Robinson home site included a two-story home, a large barn, two other outbuildings, and animal pens. NPS archeologist Thomas McGarry surveyed the site in 1982 and found the barn intact and the house foundation remains visible (ASMIS Site Report 44PW0282).

Existing Condition: No buildings or structures survive at either the Bladen or James Robinson's home sites. At James' home site, the dilapidated 20th century barn was removed in 1974. Also at this time a small existing shed in the south yard was altered by slicing off the lower, rotted portion of wood and placing it on a concrete pad (LCS management text). The concrete pad survives although the shed itself does not. The concrete pad is the present location of a wayside. The shed's use was unknown, but it may have been the location of the privy. During the 1995-1996 archeological investigation of the Robinson home site, several of James Robinson's descendants were interviewed about their memories of James' homestead. Most of the interviewees lived in the home at one time or another before 1936. Their recollections of life on the farm were substantiated by archeological and documentary evidence. Robinson descendants remembered the location of the privy as south of the house. No evidence of a privy was discovered during the archeological investigation in 1995-1996. Due to the existing concrete pad, this location was not investigated.

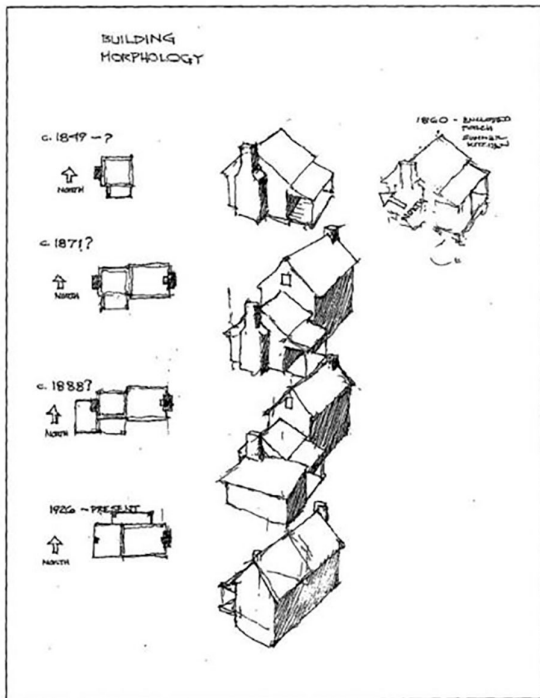
In 2009, the park identified the need to stabilize the James Robinson house foundation. The Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) conducted an evaluation of material needs, analyzed mortar samples, documented existing conditions and identified replacement materials. The destabilized sections of the stone foundation walls were dismantled and reset accordingly and used in-kind materials (PEPC 2009: 27307). A similar project was proposed in 2016 to repoint portions of the loose foundation and the remains of the front porch steps (PEPC 2016: 58946).

Analysis: The 1926 foundation of the Robinson house survives and is considered contributing. It is recorded in the List of Classified Structures as a ruin, #010790. It is also FMSS #90766. Because there are no extant buildings, the feature characteristic of buildings and structures cannot have integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Robinson House Foundation
Feature Identification Number:	186218
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



James Robinson house building morphology as documented by the Architectural Fabric Investigation Report, 1995.



Sneden's record of the Robinson farm in his Army Diary of the War of the Rebellion 1861-5, Virginia Historical Society.



1861 Stereograph of the east side of the Robinson house and outbuilding located to the south, Library of Congress. The building on the left side of the image is the possible barn or meat house.



Detail of circa 1884 photograph of Robinson farmstead, WPTC 1995.



James Robinson house, south and east facades, 1862, by George Barnard. Note two ladies on the porch. Library of Congress.



James Robinson house, south and east facades, with 2-story addition on east side, 1880s.



James Robinson house, west and south facades, with shed addition on west side, 1880s.



James Robinson house, south façade, 1991

Historic Condition: Both James' and Bladen's homes were accessed by dirt farm lanes from historic roads that exist today. James' lane turned south from the east-west running Warrenton Turnpike, a major conduit of travel to markets at Alexandria and Washington. The turnpike was constructed in 1828 and surfaced with macadam. According to Clifton Johnson, the author of *Highways and Byways of the South*, the turnpike was in desperate shape by the end of the 19th century. He describes the rough and deeply rutted road as the worst he'd experienced in the region. The native soil was red clay, and the small stones on the road bed had become mixed with the clay, producing a gummy mud in the rain. Johnson quotes a Manassas native claiming that the mud "sticks closer than a brother; and it's so deep your horse can't hardly get along even without a load," (Johnson 1904:230). The Warrenton Turnpike played a major role in both First and Second Manassas, providing a strategic transportation route and important cover. The opening shots at First Manassas were fired from Union artillery in the vicinity of the heavily guarded Stone Bridge Bull Run crossing on the Warrenton Turnpike (Schaible 2014:42). Both the worn roadbed of the turnpike and Robinson's fence-lined farm lane served as Confederate defensive positions during the First Battle of Manassas.

Bladen's farm lane entered his home site from historic Rock Road. Rock Road south of the turnpike was used by Confederate troops during the First Battle when they retreated from their post defending the Stone Bridge and proceeded to Henry Hill (Schaible 2013:14). In the 1930s the Works Progress Administration improved the road with rocks and this farm lane gained the moniker Rock Road. In a 1940s National Park Service map of proposed roads in the park, Rock Road is noted as historic. It runs south from the Warrenton Turnpike until it intersects with Balls Ford Road. Over its course it crosses Youngs Branch and Holkums Branch. On the 1940 map, the upper half of Rock Road is named Robinson Park Road. The lower half is named F.L. Henry Park Road. Both Bladen Robinson and Fannie Lee Henry had homes that were accessed by the road, so this naming appears logical. However, no further reference to these park road names has been found.

The 1861 Harris-Beauregard Topographical Map shows Sudley Road, the Warrenton Turnpike, and Rock Road as they relate to James' farmstead. The Bladen house is not present on the landscape.

A map created for a 1904 Army maneuvers exercise shows three homes and the roads within the Robinson property. Today the T. Robinson (Tasco) home is not extant.

Existing Condition: The James Robinson lane is a 200 yard-long dirt access lined with fences and trees on the west shoulder. The Warrenton Turnpike is known today as Lee Hwy, or U.S. Hwy. 29. Sudley Road is called Route 234. Rock Road is an unpaved trail and incorporated into the First Manassas Hiking Trail, beginning at the Visitor Center. It is also a fire road. Another road trace that exists between the Robinson and Henry land tracts is today incorporated into the First Manassas Hiking Trail. This road connected the Henry House to Rock Road near Bladen's house. A footpath called the Henry Hill Loop Trail currently serves as a hiking trail from the Visitor Center to James Robinson's home site and back. Part of this trail may have been used by the Robinsons to collect water from a spring to the southwest of the Robinson house before a pipe well was dug in the yard in the early 20th century. The park contains over 40 miles of hiking trails. The trails in the Robinson Farm cultural landscape are composed of compacted dirt and show signs of erosion in select areas. The trails are maintained by the park and are used for education and recreation by local Virginians and tourists alike.

The main bridle trail is approximately 10 miles long and meanders throughout the park. The bridle trails were established by Superintendent Russel W. Berry during his tenure at Manassas National Battlefield Park (1969-1973) in order to keep horses from damaging the park's cultural and natural resources (Burgess, personal communication 5/25/2017). The Battlefield Equestrian Society, a support organization for equestrian recreation, was formed in 1985. Since then the group has been integral to the promotion and maintenance of the bridle trails.

Analysis: The existing roads and trails are considered contributing to the Robinson cultural landscape due to their historical significance and their continued use today. The historic roads and trails of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape are used today for pedestrian and equestrian recreation. The dirt trails trace former paths to and from neighboring farms and roads. These features are found to be both contributing and to have integrity to the periods of significance. They contribute to the overall character of the landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Rock Road
Feature Identification Number:	186219
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Henry Hill Loop Trail
Feature Identification Number:	186220
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	First Manassas Hiking Trail
Feature Identification Number:	186221
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Bridle Path
Feature Identification Number:	186222
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Rock Road looking south from Bladen's farm lane intersection.



Sign for First Manassas Trail located east of the Visitor Center, view east.

Historic Condition: Both the James Robinson home site and the Bladen Robinson home site contained a cluster of buildings including a home, barns, and other outbuildings associated with subsistence and commercial farming practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Based on an aerial photograph from 1937, Bladen's cluster included a home at the highest elevation of the farmstead site, which sloped down gently in both the east and west directions. Northeast of the house were two outbuildings. One of these appears to be banked into the hillside. The large barn was located east of the house on a slightly lower terrace. Fenced fields were located between the house and barn. Animal pens may have bordered the southern edge of these fields. West of the house was a large open field. This arrangement created a central yard space accessible by all the structures.

The cluster arrangement of James' home and buildings created a somewhat enclosed yard that is significant. Based on archeological and documentary evidence and the family's recollections, it is clear that the home was the northernmost building of the cluster with the open porch facing the south, and outbuildings existed to the southeast, south, and southwest of the house. The nature and function of each of the outbuildings varies slightly between the historic sources.

Generally it appears that a small animal pen and the privy were located to the southeast. The well, ice house, and another outbuilding were located to the south. The barn, meat house and smokehouse were located to the southwest. This circular composition caused the yard south of the house to serve as an additional living space for the family. Although it was outdoors it was considered an extension of the house. This arrangement captures a form that expresses a close communality derived from Africa. Even in the case of enslaved African Americans, the placement of the quarters they inhabited often created a central yard space. The yard between the buildings "was the common meeting ground for chatting, cooking, washing, child-minding, storytelling, music and dance" (Isaac 2004:6). Enslaved African Americans and free men alike built small dwellings as a result, because so much daily activity took place outside. Due to the large amount of time spent there, occupants often swept their yards. Decades of this behavior created a cement-like floor of the dirt, and excess refuse was easily swept away. This tradition continues even today, and is supported by the archeological and ethnographic record (Parsons 2001:32). The archeological investigation in 1995-1996 found almost no artifacts in James' yard immediately south of the house and porch. In this way, James and his family exercised the traditional African and African-American use of space.

The recollections of the cluster arrangement by Robinson family members in 1995-1996 show variations in the names and purposes of the structures, but in general a yard space can be discerned in the immediate area of the well.

Edna Althea Chloe (Robinson) was born in 1911 and lived for 100 years. She was the daughter of Asbury and Susan Robinson, the granddaughter of Tasco and Lettice Robinson, and the great granddaughter of James and Susan Robinson. In her recollection, the house was located at the end of the farm lane, which was lined with lilacs, and roses. The well was directly south of the house, in the center of the yard. Clockwise from the well appeared a woodpile, the outhouse, a garden, the meat house, smoke house, horse's house and cow's house. Further to the west was a turkey house. A pasture was located west of the house, and a cornfield to the north.

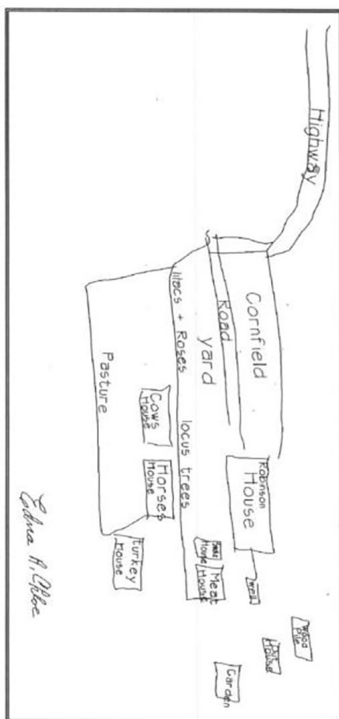
Romaine Elvera Lewis (Robinson) was born in 1922 and may still be living. She was the daughter of McKinley and Mary Robinson, the granddaughter of Asbury and Rosa Robinson, the great granddaughter of Tasco and his second wife Lattice, and the great-great granddaughter of James and Susan Robinson. The other interviewee, Edna Althea Chloe (Robinson) was her aunt. Her recollection of the home site was similar to Edna's recollection. With the house at the end of the farm lane, the south yard, or backyard, was encircled by outbuildings. The well was in the center of the yard. Like Edna, Romaine identifies the outhouse as east of the well, with fowl houses to the south and the meat house and smoke house to the west. Beyond the smokehouse on the west was the barn and garden. Romaine carefully identified the locust, oak, and cherry trees, as well as the orchard. The location of the orchard is corroborated by a 1937 aerial photo.

Beverly Horton Robinson was the son of James Alfred and Edna Mae Robinson, the grandson of Bladen and Bettie L. Robinson, and the great grandson of James and Susan Robinson. He was born in 1911 and passed away in 2007. His recollections of the family homestead were not as detailed as his cousin Edna Althea Chloe or second cousin Romaine Elvera Lewis. In his drawing the house is shown in the configuration before the 1926 remodel. The well is located due south of the house, in the exact position as his relatives remembered. The meat house is located to the southwest of the house, and beyond that the barns and garden. Interestingly, Beverly Robinson included the drover's tavern in his drawing although it probably didn't exist during his lifetime. During the oral interviews, the Robinson descendants only remembered that the older generations had told them where it was located.

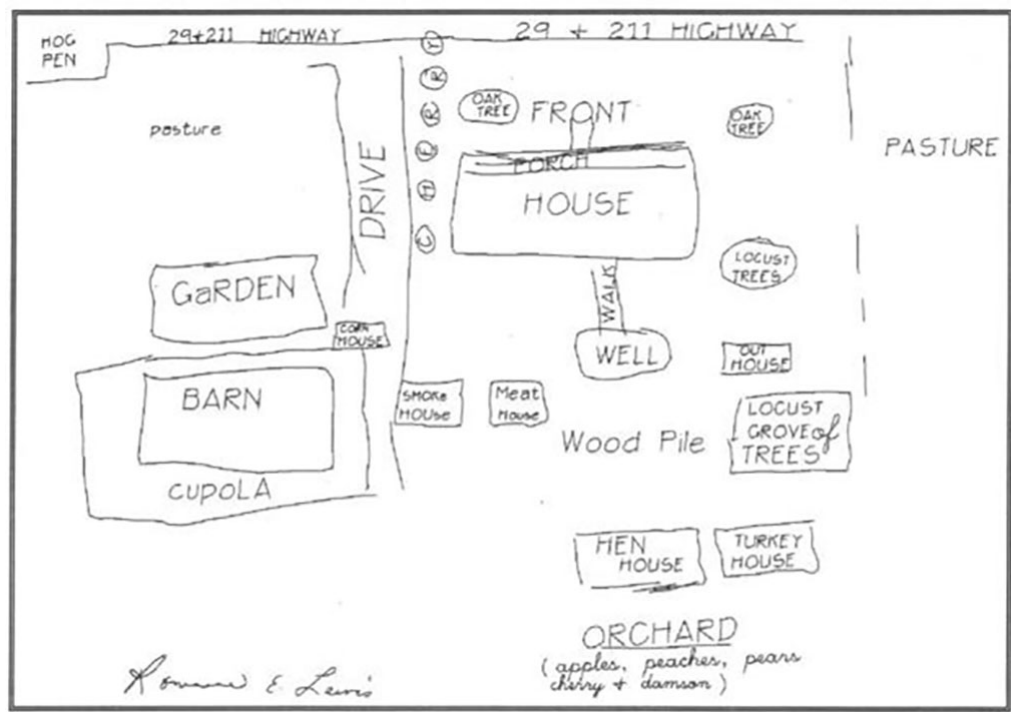
Existing Condition: No above ground evidence of the historic cluster of buildings remains either at the James Robinson or Bladen Robinson home sites. The Bladen Robinson home site has not been archeologically investigated and has the potential to yield a great amount of information about the family.

Analysis: No resources remain. Therefore, the former clusters are not contributing nor do they have integrity.

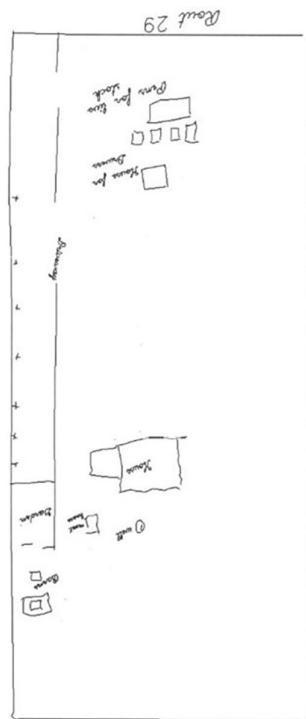
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Drawing of the James Robinson home site per the memories of Edna A. Chloe in 1995, in Parsons 2001. The yellow circle indicates the south yard space. Edna was 85 at the time of this interview. The drawing was made with north oriented to the left. The drawing has been rotated for the purposes of this report.



Drawing of the James Robinson home site per the memories of Romaine E. Lewis in 1995, in Parsons 2001.



Drawing of the James Robinson home site per the memories of Beverly Robinson in 1995, in Parsons 2001.

Historic Condition: The Robinson family collected rain water in barrels located at the corners of their home and outbuildings. These can be clearly seen in the photographs of the Robinson farmstead as early as the Civil War. Robinson descendant Edna Chloe remembered that her mother preferred to wash clothes with soap in rainwater because it was considered softer. Rainwater was without the minerals that were present in drawn water from the ground (Parsons 2001:VII-14). The Robinson family also drew water from a spring located southwest of the house before a pipe well was dug in the early 20th century. According to a completed archeology report, Bladen Oswald Robinson, who was born in 1910, witnessed the installation of the pipe well as a young boy (Parsons 2001:VII-13). It was located directly south of the house, in the center of the cluster of outbuildings. During the 1995-1996 archeological investigation of the Robinson home site, the well was discovered covered by 1" wide wood planks. It contained a terra cotta pipe but the depth was not investigated. Today the well has been filled in for safety.

Existing Condition: Today the James Robinson home site does not contain constructed water features. Evidence of the well was discovered in 1995-1996 based on previous records. It was .55 feet in diameter with a terra cotta lining. The depth of the well was not determined. Two decaying wooden boards were covering the opening just below grade level. The well was filled for safety after 1976 (Parsons 2001:75). The Bladen Robinson home site includes the ruins of a red-sandstone well. The Bladen site also contains a mortared sandstone culvert that daylights to Rock Road. The dates of these features are unknown.

Two stone-faced pipe culverts also exist that are not associated with the Robinson occupation. These are located at the trail crossings of a spring-fed stream that parallels Rock Road and contributes to Youngs Branch. These were likely installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s for the benefit of the bridle trails and hiking trails. Additional research is needed to determine the vintage of the features. Concrete pipe culverts also exist along the bridle trails in the fields north of Youngs Branch along Rock Road. They are constructed of concrete, shallowly placed, and measure approximately one foot in diameter and four feet long. This area serves as a drainage field for the surrounding hills. It tends to be marsh-like. The Battlefield Equestrian Society was formed in 1985 and since that time has contributed significantly to improving and maintaining the bridle trails, including the installation of culverts to protect the trails.

Analysis: The sandstone culvert and well at the Bladen Robinson home site are considered contributing to the cultural landscape. They are in their original locations and the well demonstrates the use of the property as a home site and farmstead. Even without archeological evidence of a home, a well is an excellent indicator that the area supported human occupation. These features are found to have integrity. The more recent culverts along the trail that parallels Rock Road and the bridle trail near Youngs Branch are not contributing to the integrity of the constructed water features.

Character-defining Features:

- Feature:** Sandstone Culvert

Feature Identification Number: 186223

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature:** Sandstone Well

Feature Identification Number: 186224

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature:** Stone face culverts along trail

Feature Identification Number: 186225

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
- Feature:** Concrete pipe culverts along bridge trail

Feature Identification Number: 186226

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Red sandstone culvert at the base of Bladen's farm lane.

Historic Condition: The tradition celebrated on the Robinson cultural landscape is the history of the Robinson family itself, as the home of a free African-American family before, during, and after the Civil War. The Robinson family owned the property for almost 100 years, from 1840 to 1936. James and Susan Robinson descendants recognize that their story is unique, and today the former house site serves as a reunion location for the very large progeny. Reunions of the Robinson family were held in 1987 and in 2015 with notification to park staff. Jim Burgess, Manassas National Battlefield Park Museum Specialist participated by giving a small presentation about the family and the history of the site. In 2015 he also shared a carved stone from the east chimney. This stone is kept in the museum collection since the demise of the east chimney in 1995. Other less formal gatherings may have occurred or occur presently without an official notification to the park.

The extended Robinson family includes descendants with the surnames Naylor, Harris, Gaskins, and others, of neighboring antebellum families who married James and Susan's children. This familial group meets regularly in various cities where Robinsons continue to reside. A 2013 reunion was held in Philadelphia, and an upcoming reunion is scheduled for August of 2017 in New York City. The family maintains a reunion planning committee that promotes the family motto and image.

Existing Condition: The Robinson family organized a large reunion of Robinson-Naylor-Harris descendants in 1987. It was the first formal event of its kind on the Robinson property since the NPS acquired the land in 1936. The reunion drew more than 70 people. In planning for the event the descendants created a family tree. It was an accurate representation of the information that was known at the time. Since then genealogical websites like ancestry.com have facilitated a broader understanding of the family relations. Great progress has been made in the Robinson family genealogy based on primary sources available digitally.

The Robinson family cemetery is located east of the present park boundary on land that formerly belonged to James Robinson and his son Tasco Robinson. Burials occur there regularly, and it would be fair to suggest that a visit to the patriarchal home site might be included. Robinson descendants continue to live in the direct environs of the park.

Analysis: The cultural tradition present at the Robinson cultural landscape is considered contributing to the overall integrity of the site. The family must feel a strong sense of association with the land.

Historic Condition: In the very earliest time of settlement in the Virginia Piedmont, the land that would become James Robinson's property was planted in tobacco as part of the vast land tract of Landon Carter of Pittsylvania. Landon Carter worked his lands in the Middle Bull Run tract while he owned the property, from 1778 to 1801 (PWCWB H 1792-1803:451-456). By the turn of the 19th century, tobacco had fallen out of production in favor of more profitable and sustainable grains. Large land tracts were divided and land owners turned to diversified farming. After Landon Carter, his daughter Elizabeth Carter, then Isaac Henry, and finally John Lee were all successive owners of Robinson's future land. By the time James began to work his land in the 1840s, it was likely already cultivated for grains and did not produce any tobacco.

For James Robinson, agriculture was the primary source of income and contributed to the subsistence of his family through their occupation of the site, from the late 1840s until 1936. James' farm first appears in the agricultural census in 1850. At the time he owned 100 acres of improved land and 30 acres unimproved. Improved land was under cultivation, and unimproved land could refer to pasturelands, woodlots, or areas with scrub.

The value of his livestock was recorded at \$175.00, and included four horses, three milk cows, and

six swine. Animal husbandry was a core part of operations of many southern farms, including the Robinson's. James utilized his open space with free range of livestock. Livestock were also valuable for their fertilizing manure. In several Civil War maps made by witnesses of the Battles of Manassas, James' fields to the east of his home are marked as pasture.

In 1850, James' farm produced one ton of hay, 12 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 100 pounds of butter. Interestingly, 60 pounds of wool were also recorded, but there is little other evidence that James' kept sheep on his farm. This is considered to be an error by the census taker. In 1850 the Stone House, neighboring James to the west, was owned by Henry Matthews. The Matthews raised sheep and produced wool. It is probable that the census taker confused these two properties with regards to wool.

The collection of agricultural products that the farms produced at this time demonstrates the variety of crops and livestock that were cultivated. Maintaining various crops shows that the practice of stripping the soil with consecutive years of tobacco had been fully abandoned.

James' farm appeared to be in the height of production when it was badly damaged by Union troops during the Second Battle of Manassas. James submitted a claim against the Union army for the destruction of his property. During his deposition, James gives an illuminating account of the products and practices of his farm during the years of 1861 and 1862. He grew wheat, Timothy hay, corn, potatoes, cabbage and garden vegetables. He also raised fowls and hogs, and kept oxen and horses to work the farm. Cows provided milk that could be made into butter (US Claim, 1872). The yield of his farm fed his family as well as provided income by being sold commercially.

In the 1870 agricultural census, James Robinson is listed as having 200 acres, 50 improved, 20 unimproved, and 130 acres classified as "other." The present cash value was \$3,050.00. On the land he had a number of horses, milking cows, working oxen, other cattle, and swine. He was growing wheat, Indian corn and oats, in addition to a hearty garden for vegetables and an orchard for fruit. While 60 bushels of wheat and 25 bushels of oats were produced, 400 bushels were produced of Indian corn (1870 Agricultural Census).

Bladen Robinson's farm yield is first recorded in 1880. Bladen conducted similar farming practices as his father, who had died 5 years earlier. Bladen was likely working his own land in addition to his father's land. The agricultural census for Bladen enumerates 50 acres improved, 30 of woodland, and 55 unimproved for a total of 135 acres. The present cash value was \$2,332.00. Bladen had oxen, milk cows, and swine but no horses. He had 30 barnyard poultry. The farm produced 150 pounds of butter, five tons of hay, 100 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of oats, and 500 bushels of Indian corn. Bladen also produced 10 bushels of Irish potatoes. These numbers are higher than the quantities recorded for James' larger (200 acre) farm 10 years earlier, and theoretically only a portion of James' former land (135 acres). This discrepancy is explained by the likelihood that the 1880 census agricultural products reflect a combination of yields for the two Robinson farms. Bladen may have been living in his father's home, or considered the head of household despite also having a home of his own close by (1880 Agricultural Census).

Further supporting evidence for this supposition is that the 1880 agricultural census also records 15 acres of apple orchard and 5 acres of peach orchard that produced 100 bushels of fruit. A 1937 aerial photo shows the remnants of James' orchard located southeast of the house, which appears to be smaller than 15 acres. Considering these numbers, the farms must have been combined for enumeration.

The 1880 agricultural census also notes that zero wages were paid for farm labor. That means that Bladen and perhaps members of his extended family were working the land. When asked specifically about how the land was farmed, James Robinson's descendant Edna Chloe said that workhorses and plows were used; nothing was mechanized in the early 20th century. Romaine Lewis recalled that in the 1930s, her father, McKinley Robinson, used a tractor on the farm. McKinley was James' great-grandson by his mother and father Rosa Susin Robinson and Asbury Mansfield Robinson Jr. and his grandmother Lettice Beverly Robinson and grandfather Tasco Robinson. This information is relevant to some of the material culture excavated on the site in 1995-1996. Not only were various

manually-operated farm tools recovered, so too were the horseshoes of draft horses and workhorses.

All of the family members interviewed during the 1995-1996 archeological investigation recalled that a variety of livestock was raised on the farm. Several early maps show pastures defined by fences for this use. The type of animals raised included horses, cows, chickens, turkeys, guineas, geese, ducks, and hogs. The horses and cows took shelter in the barn while the hogs were kept in pens closer to the turnpike, near Youngs Branch. 2017 LIDAR evidence and the 1861 Atkinson map appear to corroborate a fence-enclosed building located adjacent to Youngs Branch on the west bank. In theory, this area could be the location of the hog pen. Romaine Lewis explained that the reason the hogs were kept at such a distance was to keep the smell away from the house. Animal pens were included in Beverly Robinson's recollection drawing of the farm cluster. He placed the pens in the cornfield between the house and Warrenton Turnpike. Oswald Robinson explained that the horses were shod with nails in the toes and heels, serving as cleats to keep the animals from slipping on snow and ice during the winter (Parsons 2001:87).

After the United States government purchased James Robinson's property in 1936, the cultural landscape more formally became commemorative landscape for the battles of the Civil War as the Manassas National Battlefield Park and was used for interpretation. The land was used to memorialize the individuals and opposing forces that fought in the First and Second Battles of Manassas. It was impractical for the National Park Service to sustain the farms as productive agricultural lands. The pastoral nature of the landscape was maintained by offering hay leases to area farmers.

Memorialization of individuals and the vicious engagement between North and South took place even before the end of the Civil War. Six weeks after the First Battle of Manassas in 1861, soldiers from Confederate COL Francis Bartow's brigade placed a marble column on Henry Hill to mark the location where he was mortally wounded and to honor his memory (Zenzen 1998:2). By the end of the war in 1865, the Bull Run monument, Groveton monument and others were already established. In subsequent years, many other monuments followed, both to individuals, units, and "patriots" in general. Erection of durable markers on the battlefield represented overtly public statements about the Civil War and its memory. Private actions involved the regular pilgrimage of Northerners and Southerners to the site. Union veteran George Carr Round settled in Manassas after the war and began a 50-year preservation struggle at Manassas to keep the memory alive for future generations (Zenzen 1998:4).

Battlefield tours led by a couple named Starbuck, owners of the Stone House from 1866-1879, included their own interpretation of the battlefield and surely indicated the Robinson House and its role in the events of the First and Second Battles of Manassas. Gideon and Mary Starbuck hoped to create an economic opportunity for themselves by offering their land around the Stone House be purchased for a federally designated national cemetery of Civil War soldiers (Reeves 2001:2.21). The rolling hills of General Lee's home at Arlington were chosen instead. The efforts by local Manassas residents to capitalize on the historic events show that the area was recognized as a commemorative landscape even before it was officially set aside as a national park.

Existing Condition: The James Robinson cultural landscape is no longer a working farm. A hay lease exists for the production of hay, one of the crops that grew on the land since the beginning of the 19th century. Commemoration and memorialization continue to be practiced on the battlegrounds. The tradition of commemorating the First and Second Battles of Manassas is practiced by living history interpretive programs, ranger-led tours, and self-guided tours. In addition, the Manassas National Battlefield Park writ large exists as a traditional landscape for the education and memorialization of the Civil War. Memorialization of the event is the singular reason that the park was created. Recreation also plays a significant role in today's use of the land.

Analysis: The land use of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape is found to be contributing for commemoration and memorialization. However, the integrity regarding farming is greatly impacted due to a switch in the nature of farming and loss of the character of the once open fields. While the land is generally cleared as it was during the period of significance, agriculture on the property is not

evident today. Land use has integrity within the period of significance, from 1861-1940.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Commemoration
Feature Identification Number:	186227
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Agriculture
Feature Identification Number:	186228
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



1941 View of the Robinson house and uncultivated landscape from the Visitor Center. MANA Archives.

Historic Condition: The area of the Virginia Piedmont extends from the fall line on the eastern side of the state to the Blue Ridge Mountains in the center of the state. It is characterized by hills, ridges, and deep, narrow stream valleys. The land located within the boundaries of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape typifies the rolling hills and relatively low relief of the eastern Piedmont physiographic province. The ridges were formed in areas where stronger, more erosion-resistant igneous and metamorphic rocks are located below the surface. The valley along Bull Run was formed by underlying rock that is less resistant to erosion (<http://www.radford.edu/jtso/GeologyofVirginia/Physiography/PhysioIntro-4.html>). The elevation of the highest ridge in the park is approximately 290 feet, while the lowest point in the Bull Run valley is approximately 150 feet above sea level. These variant elevations determined historic land use. The upland surfaces were primarily used for agricultural purposes or remained open land, while the slopes and hills were retained for wood lots and forest (Parsons 1996:4.9).

The water features of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape include Youngs Branch, Bull Run, several springs, and intermittent streams. Youngs Branch is fed by intermittent streams in the northwest section of Manassas National Battlefield Park on land known as the Brawner Farm and flows east to Bull Run. It served as a boundary marker in many of the earliest land tracts granted to the children of Robert “King” Carter. A small stream runs parallel to Rock Road opposite Bladen Robinson’s home site. These water systems all contribute to the greater Bull Run, a 32.8 mile-long free-flowing tributary stream of the Occoquan River which flows into the Potomac River. The entire geographic area is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. One spring is located southwest of the James Robinson home site, and another east of the home site in the woodland between the 7th GA marker and the former house.

Bull Run served early occupants of the Virginia Piedmont as a resource for water, power in the case of mills, and recreation. Robinson descendant Bladen Oswald Robinson remembers ice-skating on Bull Run in the winter, and swimming in the summer with his siblings, cousins, and larger family. An ice skate blade was discovered during the archeological investigation during 1995-1996.

During the Battles of Manassas, Bull Run was an obstacle for the Union forces. The steep banks prevented any casual crossing. The established fords and the stone bridge provided key strategic points where Confederates could focus their attention for a possible Union advance.

Existing Conditions: The natural systems and features of the Robinson Farm cultural landscape have not undergone any significant changes that would affect the integrity of the features since the era of significance. They are found to be contributing to the cultural landscape.

Analysis: Both the waterways of Youngs Branch and Bull Run, and the seasonal streams pass through the Robinson property as they have historically. The springs are present in their original location. There has been little change to the natural systems of the cultural landscape since James Robinson established a homestead here in the 1840s. These natural systems are both compatible and contributing to the overall character of the cultural landscape. The natural systems retain integrity to all periods of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Youngs Branch
Feature Identification Number:	186229
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Bull Run
Feature Identification Number:	186230
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Seasonal Streams
Feature Identification Number:	186231
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Springs
Feature Identification Number:	186232
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Historic Condition:

CANNON: Union artillery at First Manassas deployed about 300 yards to the west of the Robinson House, near the Henry House. Confederate artillery fired at both the batteries of Union Captain Ricketts and Captain Griffin south and north of the Henry House. Confederate General Jackson brought thirteen cannon to his artillery line. They included the Rockbridge Artillery, Loudon Artillery, Wise Artillery, and Thomas Artillery. The park's documentation suggests that the Wise Artillery (Alburtis's Battery) commanded by Lt. John Pelham, occupied the extreme right (north) end of Jackson's line with one gun of the Rockbridge Artillery. Most of these were 6-pounder smooth-bore (not rifled). The cannon representing Jackson's artillery on the landscape today are a mix of 6-pounder smooth-bores, 12-pounder howitzers (also smooth-bore) and James rifles. The James rifles are included only because they are similar in profile to the 6-pounders, and the park does not have enough 6-pounders to represent the entire line. There may have been more guns on the Robinson property historically than the four that are represented today.

FENCES: Historically there were a number of fence variations on the Robinson cultural landscape. In two of the earliest known photos of the James Robinson home, taken by George Barnard, three types can be seen, a post and beam fence, a picket fence, and a worm fence. The post and beam fence lines the drive and the picket fence gate is located in the north yard. The worm fence defines the farm cluster from the fields, as well as James' property from neighboring Henry Hill. In an 1880s photo of Robinson's cultivated fields, the worm fence continues to divide the fields. Worm fences were used traditionally as property boundaries and at the edges of fields.

This collection of fence types represents a chronology of the fence in early America. While the post

and beam, picket and many other fence types were imported from Europe with early settlers, the Virginia rail, or worm fence, was unique to America and prolific in Virginia. The worm fence is based upon a structural system of stacked, self-supporting split or tree rails. The construction resembles a log building in that the rails are placed with the ends on top of each other. Instead of being notched they are piled loosely.

Many early travelers remarked about the interesting worm fence. Englishman Thomas Anburey recorded the construction of a worm fence in Virginia in his publication *Travels Through the Interior Parts of America* (New York: org. 1789, vol. 2, p. 323) as follows:

The fences and enclosures in this province are different from the others, for those to the northward are made either of stone or rails let into posts, about a foot asunder; here they are composed of what is termed fence rail which are made out of trees cut or sawed into lengths of about 12 feet, that are round or split into rails 4" to 6" diameter. Cedar and chestnut were the preferred woods, though locust, oak, and heart pine also were transformed into worm fences. A worm fence might have contained as few as five or as many as twelve rails, with an average of six to nine rails, or five to eight feet. Rails remained unpainted. The basic zig-zag of rails, no matter how carefully angled or placed, was easily knocked down by unruly livestock or turbulent weather. By the mid-eighteenth century, if not earlier, crossed stakes of about eight feet in length, set in either the acute or obtuse angles, and the heavy rider resting on top had become recognized features of the best-built worm fence. One rider improved the stability of the worm fence; two riders heightened its effectiveness (Patrick 1990:32).

Though the worm fence was easy to construct and required no hardware, it presented various disadvantages. Worm fences consumed a vast amount of wood and occupied a wide swath of property. The width of a typical worm fence was about ten feet with stakes and riders. For each mile of fence, two-tenths of an acre was occupied, land that could otherwise be cultivated. In addition, the construction of one mile of a ten rail high worm fence required over five thousand rails (Patrick 1990:35). During the early years of settlement in the Virginia Piedmont, the forest provided plenty of wood.

Evidence suggests that the post and rail fence was actually more common in Virginia at the time of the Civil War than the worm fence (Patrick 1990: 25). Post and rail fences grew in popularity in the early years of the 19th century, as less wood and labor were required for their construction. They were favored for property lines bordering roadways and as a means to enclose domestic yards, cultivated fields, pastures and gardens.

The typical Virginia post and rail fence was composed of five rails per eight foot panel and stood about five feet high. Decay-resistant woods were preferred for posts: locust, chestnut, cedar and cypress. The rails were more commonly made of oak, poplar, chestnut, or pine. Posts might be split or sawn; rails were sometimes sawn or riven and then mortised into the post. The boring machine invention in 1810 eliminated the need to hand cut mortises. This may have contributed to the increased application of the post and rail fence (Henning 1967:8).

Another fence type discernable in the photo of James' Civil War homestead is the picket fence. Also known as a paled fence, this configuration was generally four and one half or five feet in height and reserved for defining gardens and parks. It was constructed with posts in the ground, two or three mortised rails, and pales or pickets that required sawn or riven pieces one inch thick, two to five inches wide, and three to six feet long. Posts were placed generally eight to nine feet apart. The tops of the pickets were pointed or cut on a slant to encourage run off, and they were fastened to the rails with nails. Oftentimes, picket fences were painted white (Patrick 1990:18). James claimed during his deposition in 1872 that the Union army destroyed approximately two miles of fencing during the Second Battle of Manassas (Case No. 241, Commissioners of Claims, James Robinson v. United States, 1872US). Eventually all of this fencing would be replaced.

On Bladen's property, fences of barbed wire may have served as the property lines between his home site and the remaining Robinson landscape. Barbed wire remnants are visible on either side of the lane that enters the property from Rock Road. Documentation of the Bladen Robinson home site has not been established, likely because the home was not present on the landscape during the Civil War. Because the Manassas National Battlefield Park serves as a commemoration of the battles that

took place there, Bladen's late 19th century home was seen as not contributing to the period of significance. It is recommended that further evaluation of the significance of the Bladen Robinson home site be pursued.

MARKERS: Around the year 1903, veterans of the 7th GA Infantry erected seven markers on the Manassas battlefield to locate battle positions during the first battle. Colonel Frances S. Bartow was killed while leading the 7th GA against James B. Ricketts' battery on Henry Hill. Over the course of the battle, the 7th GA suffered 153 casualties out of 580 men present (MANA Archives). The movement of the 7th Georgia regiment during the battle was documented by Warder and Catlett and published on a map in 1862. Evidence exists showing that a marker was placed on Chinn Farm to honor the 7th Georgia's position during the Second Battle of Manassas. The marker on the Robinson property is a 1'6" tall marble marker with a semicircular-arched top. It is 1' in width and 2" in depth. The inscription engraved on the east elevation reads: 5TH POSITION / 7TH GA REGT. / JULY 21, 1861. It is worthy to note that at least two other Georgia markers were situated on the Robinson Farm but they have since disappeared. One was midway along the farm lane leading to the house, and another was in a ravine east of the house. The bottom portion of the latter stone is preserved in the MNBP museum collection.

Existing Condition:

CANNON: Four of Jackson's 13 cannon are represented on the Robinson cultural landscape. The four complete the northern most end of the line that continues onto the Henry Hill cultural landscape. Eight cannon of the line exist on the Henry property. Historic documents suggest that Jackson deployed 13 cannon of various batteries to this position, but only 12 exist today.

The cannon are a mix of 6-pounder smooth-bores, James rifles, and 12-pounder howitzers smooth-bores. The gun tubes are original but the carriages are reproductions. In the 1980s, Jackson's battery line was represented directly behind the memorial statue of Confederate General Thomas Jackson to give the impression that they were Jackson's guns. Based on research of the First Battle of Manassas by Jim Burgess, Manassas National Battlefield Park Museum Specialist, the cannon were moved to their current position near the tree line to more accurately represent their wartime location. These cannon themselves were historically used during the Civil War, but are not original to the Battles of Manassas. The park acquired these landscape features through an exchange with other military parks in the National Park Service. They were placed on the landscape in the late 1970s. As the carriages undergo restoration, they are removed from the battlefield for the period of time and subsequently returned.

FENCES: There are no remaining historic wood fences on the site owing to their temporary nature. This is the case for the Virginia rail or worm fence, an important small scale feature that symbolized Manassas Battlefield and the rural Piedmont landscape. This fence type is synonymous with Manassas Battlefield and is represented in historic photographs from the 1860s. The National Park Service has rebuilt many Virginia rail fences within the park. The recreated fences are constructed with split rails, which is not an entirely authentic technique. Period photographic evidence indicates that local fences in Manassas were more often made with cut saplings, and the cross members were only slightly taller than the height of the fence. Using cut saplings made worm fence construction far less labor intensive.

Remnants of Bladen's property line barbed wire fence exist today astride his farm lane that enters from Rock Road. Barbed wire exists in many styles that can be dated specifically to their patent years. However, it is impossible to determine when Bladen Robinson might have erected his barbed wire fence. In general, the barbed wire fence was invented in the 1870s, so it must date from that period forward. Two types of barbed wire are presently wrapped around a cedar tree at the base of Bladen's farm lane. The first type is identified as Glidden's Barb, Modern Alloy Variation. It consists of two twisted aluminum alloy wires with two-point barbs. It is a variation of the patent 157124, recorded on November 24, 1874 (Clifton 1970:104). The second type of barbed wire is identified as Curtis' Cross Lock, Hook Variety. It is a two strand wire with four-point barbs. This is a variation of patent 494326, recorded on March 28, 1893 (Clifton 1970:158).

MARKERS: Only two of the seven original 7th GA markers remain on the MNBP landscape presently. One is located on the Robinson property and one is located on Henry Hill. The others

have been broken, stolen, or otherwise lost.

The current location of the 7th Georgia Marker, 5th position, is consistent with a park map surveyed by Joseph Mills Hanson in 1943 and confirmed by the Warder and Catlett map of 1862 documenting troop movements during the First Battle of Manassas. Therefore, the marker is assumed to be in its original location. The marker is located under an isolated stand of trees at the very western edge of a large field, 1/3 mile northeast of the Manassas Visitor Center. It is accessed by walking northeast from the Visitor Center on the First Manassas Trail. After walking through the forest and continuing along the trail into a large field, the marker can be seen under the trees at the western edge of the clearing. Its location is south of the Robinson house ruins.

WAYSIDES: There are three modern wayside interpretive signs in the Robinson Cultural Landscape, located along the trails and at the house. Two date from the early 1980s and the third was installed in 2016. The wayside located south of the house features the 1861 George Barnard photo of the south porch, taken from the view point of the sign. This wayside was formerly located in the north yard, facing the north elevation of the house. It was previously thought that the porch on the Robinson antebellum house was on its north elevation, facing Warrenton Turnpike. In the 1990s, research revealed that the porch was located on the south elevation, and the wayside was moved to its current location. The signs require little maintenance, including only occasional surface cleaning.

The signs feature colored graphics and black and white photos with text that describes the scene to the viewer. The signs are made of metal and supported by metal posts in the ground. Although they are important to the interpretation of the historic scene, they do not contribute to the cultural landscape. In most cases the information and images contained on the signs are related to the battle actions of the First Battle of Manassas.

Analysis: Of the small-scale features on the Robinson cultural landscape, only the 7th GA marker and the barbed wire fence are considered contributing. The non-contributing but compatible features are the cannon, fences, and waysides signs. The small scale features are found to have integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: 7th Georgia Marker

Feature Identification Number: 186233

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 4 Cannons

Feature Identification Number: 186234

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Reconstructed Worm Fences

Feature Identification Number: 186235

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Barbed Wire Fence

Feature Identification Number: 186236

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wayside Signs

Feature Identification Number: 186237

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Line of cannon that spans the Robinson and Henry properties, looking south.



Modern profile of worm fencing with split rails and long cross members. View from southwest corner of Robinson home site looking west.



GA 7th Marker.



Modern wayside sign.



Barbed wire fencing anchored around a cedar tree at the base of Bladen's farm lane.

Historic Condition: Following the Georgian tradition of ordered layout familiar to 18th century planters, homes were built on high ground, with large tracts of agricultural fields and organized gardens surrounding (Vlach 1993:13). Over the generations, land was divided among heirs and farming tracts became smaller. Orchards were situated on sloping terrain where the cultivation of other crops would be difficult. Neither James' or Bladen's home sites were formal Georgian landscapes, but both homes occupied the high ground. Both their orchards were located on gently sloping terrain. James' orchard was located to the southeast of his house, and Bladen's orchard was located to the northwest of his home. There is another possible orchard site north of Bladen's house and east of James' house along Youngs Branch. The grade of Bladen's orchard was steeper than his father's. Fences existed to corral livestock and keep them out of cultivated fields. Fences also denoted property lines and field patterns.

Both homes had easy access to woodlots, roads, and water ways. James' house was located only 200 yards south of a major thoroughfare; Warrenton Turnpike. This was very convenient for moving farm goods to market, and also the reason that the drover's tavern was ideally located there. Bladen's farm was set some distance from the Warrenton Turnpike, but was accessible via Rock Road. The waterways of Youngs Branch, Bull Run, and Holkums Branch were nearby, but not close enough to be a threat in the event of flooding.

Existing Condition: The home site, fences, and field patterns are discernable on the Robinson cultural landscape today. Many worm fences have been reconstructed to facilitate interpretation of the battles and the agricultural practices. Comparing field patterns scribed on maps of the Civil War to current aerial photos, it is clear that the traditional fence lines and field patterns of the Robinson cultural landscape have been preserved. Another historic fence trace at the Robinson home site is today marked by a tree row of red cedars. It is located just south of the home site and runs east-west. This line of cedars has recently been thinned out and the fence reconstructed. Cedar trees typically grow in fence lines because the seedlings, dropped by birds, are allowed to mature with protection of the fence. Cedars are also aggressive and may dominate other seedlings. Eventually the fence breaks down and the tree survives.

Analysis: The spatial organization of the fields within the Robinson property is considered contributing to the integrity of the site. Although the reconstructed fences themselves are not contributing, the areas that they define are as they were historically. The woodlots survive as natural forest and the waterways have not migrated from their original paths.

Historic Condition: The topography of the Robinson cultural landscape, like that of the adjacent landscapes of the Manassas National Battlefield Park consists of rolling hills, ridges and steep valleys. The topography dictated the land's prehistoric use, European settlement, troop movements during the Civil War, and the development, interpretation, and use of the battlefield grounds by the National Park Service. In prehistoric times, the topography would have been ideal for both hunting and gathering groups, as well as for sedentary communities. Ridges were ideal for camp, while lower valleys provided hunting grounds and protective cover. In the early 18th century, settlers utilized ridges and hills for house sites, while the low-lying areas were set apart for cultivated fields, pasture land, or woodlots (Parsons 1996:4.9). The locations of the neighboring Henry House, Portici, Hazel Plain (Chinn House), Avon (Van Pelt House) and even Pittsylvania demonstrate this point.

During the battles, the topography of Manassas served the opposing sides well. Ridges and hills were ideal for the placement of artillery batteries and also as strategic points from which to view the battlefield. Confederate General Jackson took advantage of the height of the hill south of the Robinson house to unlimber the artillery to form a battery of cannon. His artillery line spanned between the Henry and Robinson properties on a northeast to southwest axis. Located on a ridge, the Robinson home site provided a vantage point for the Confederate army during the First Battle of Manassas, and the Union army during the Second Battle of Manassas. James' farm served as the headquarters for Union General Sigel during the second battle. Despite his protests, Union soldiers absconded with James' own bed from his home, claiming that it was being reserved for the General in case he was injured in battle (US Claim 1872).

Existing Condition: The topography at Manassas has changed very little since the Civil War era. The Warrenton Turnpike at the northern boundary of the Robinson property experienced minor grade changes and realignment in the 1920s, and erosion has altered the terrain in some areas. Otherwise, the topography remains unchanged.

Analysis: The topography of the cultural landscape, including the hills, Youngs Branch and Bull Run valleys, is contributing and compatible with the historic character of the landscape. The topography informs the integrity of the cultural landscape's location, setting, feeling, and association.

Historic Condition: Vegetation on the Robinson Farm cultural landscape consisted of both native Virginia Piedmont forest communities and cultivated crops. Natural terrain was considered "unimproved" land. In the agricultural censuses of 1850, 1870, and 1880, the acreage of James' unimproved land measured 55, 20, and 30 acres. James himself admitted that he had "but little woodland," as most of his land was cleared (US Claim 1872).

Woodlots were typically located along streams and in rocky areas that were not ideal for croplands. They provided materials for a variety of uses, including hard wood for fuel, soft, smooth wood for lumber and construction, and rot-resistant wood for fence posts and rails. Wood could also be sold commercially. Through active clearing and livestock grazing, a woodlot floor was groomed of underbrush and downed timber, which made it appear more orderly than natural woodland. Woodlots were used for protective cover against the enemy during the Civil War. With a large forest canopy and cleared understory, they were strategically valuable in both First and Second Manassas. In addition to concealing armies from view, they provided a place of rest and shade for the soldiers, and, in some cases, they presented obstacles for the rapid movement of troops (Schaible 2014: 34). The woods southeast of the Robinson house masked the 7th GA as they prepared their assault on Ricketts' battery during the Battle of First Manassas.

James claimed during his deposition in 1872 that the Union army destroyed approximately two miles of fencing during the Second Battle of Manassas (US Claim 1872). James would have depleted his

small store of woodlots to replace this amount of wood. The loss of fences was devastating to the surrounding farms. Immediately after the battles the people of Manassas faced a shortage of wood for fences, fuel, and repairs to their damaged homes. Nearly 20 years later, however, the woodlots may have been reestablished. The 1880 agricultural census records 20 cords of wood were provided that year from Bladen's property (1880 Agricultural Census). In addition, Robinson family wills that divided property among heirs were careful to assign each a plot that had access to woods (MANA Archives).

A detailed map of the 1861 battlefield recorded by William G. Atkinson shows that the Robinson property included oak woods and dense tickets of pines. In the same map, the area of Bladen Robinson's future farmstead is noted as cultivated in corn. Several period photographs of the fields around James Robinson's house show corn in the area south of the home site, directly south of the orchard and bordered by a Virginia worm fence. Robinson descendants also described the field between the house and turnpike as planted in corn.

Cultivated crops and vegetation patterns on the Robinson cultural landscape are documented through agricultural censuses and supplemented by oral histories. The primary agricultural products of James' farm were corn, wheat, hay, and oats. Information about the types and locations of trees, flowers, shrubs, fruits, and vegetables in the early 20th century was gained from the Robinson family members interviewed during the background research phase of the Robinson house archeological investigation in 1995-1996.

James' descendants remembered that the farm lane was lined with cherry trees and an apple orchard was planted to the southeast of the house and outbuildings. Early aerial photography corroborates trees in these locations.

Romaine Lewis, James' great-great granddaughter, especially remembered the family's vegetable garden. The gardens were located to the west of the house. According to Romaine, potatoes, cabbage, corn, tomatoes, string beans, lima beans, greens, lettuce, and squash were some of the foods that were grown. Romaine further explained that the potatoes were grown in a separate large patch. During his deposition in 1872 for the claim against the Union Army's damage to his property, both James and his son Tasco mentioned that one acre was planted in potatoes. "Potatoes were a main staple of the family's diet," claimed Romaine Robinson. "They were served with every meal" (Parsons 2001:VII). The majority of the vegetables were not only consumed fresh in season, but also canned in glass jars for use during the off-season. Along with canning vegetables, Bladen Oswald Robinson, James' great-grandson, recalled that the family made pickles, fruit preserves, and wine. The varieties of wine included dandelion, grape, and blackberry. The preparation of fruit preserves is indicative of a fruit supply. A review of LIDAR and aerial photographs indicates that an orchard was likely located north of the Bladen Robinson House. Remnants of glass canning jars were some of the glass artifacts recovered during the 1995-1996 archeological investigation of the ice house that later served as a trash pit (Parsons 2001:96-97).

Existing Condition: Manassas National Battlefield Park's current vegetation is a patchwork of open fields and forest communities representing various historic land uses, successional stages, and ecological conditions. The open fields are maintained through agricultural hay leases and mowing by park personnel. Many of these grasslands contain native grass communities, particularly Indian grass/little bluestem. Grasslands cover about 35 percent of the park. The forest communities, which cover approximately 50 percent of the park, are primarily deciduous stands of oak-hickory, pine/cedar forest, mixed pine/hardwood stands, and bottomland hardwood stands (Schaible 2014: 28).

The vegetation on the James Robison cultural landscape has changed dramatically since the family's occupation of the land. No longer are there orchards, cherry tree-lined drives, or vegetable gardens with cabbage and potatoes. Corn, wheat, and oats are not sown in the fields. Despite that, the fields are still open. In comparison with other Civil War properties now represented in Manassas National Battlefield Park, little of James' cultural landscape has been reforested. The area of Bladen Robinson's former cultivated corn fields shows the most successional growth. His lands east of Rock Road, south of Youngs Branch, and west of Holkums Branch were once completely cleared. These fields have been released to succession and are today completely forested. The successions of forest

growth on the property include dogwood, red maple, sumac, woody vines, pine, cedar, oak, ash, and hickory (Trieschmann 2006:7:11).

Analysis: The vegetation on the James Robinson cultural landscape is found to be non-contributing because it does not reflect what was present historically. The orchards and subsistence agricultural plantings are no longer present. The integrity of the fields has been impacted due to successional growth.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Field Patterns and Fence Line Vegetation
Feature Identification Number: 186238
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Woody Vegetation
Feature Identification Number: 186239
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Historic Condition: The views and vistas afforded by the rolling hills of Manassas made it an ideal location for the First and Second Battles of Manassas. The character of the landscape comprised a pastoral setting with expansive views interrupted only by discrete pockets of forests. The high ridges served as excellent vantage points for planning and equally good locations to observe the battle in action. At that time, the homes of Abram Van Pelt, the Matthews, John Dogan, Judith Henry, and Benjamin Chinn, as well as Pittsylvania, Portici, and the Stone House, could be seen from the Robinson house. Descriptions of the battles from those who participated and sketches of the battlefield substantiate this fact.

Views and vistas of the Manassas battlefield were also captured during the 1904 Army maneuver exercises. Photographs show the view from, to, and across the Robinson property in several directions.

Existing Condition: The practices of vegetation management and cultivation that created unencumbered views and vistas shifted from active agriculture to a more passive land management as the battlefield farms became part of Manassas National Battlefield Park. Successional tree growth occupies once open pastures and cultivated fields on portions of the neighboring farms as well as on the Robinson Farm cultural landscape. Aerial photography between 1937 and today shows that about 2.5 times more forest exists on the Robinson property than did in 1937. Most notably is the area of Bladen's former cornfields, orchard and cropland. Bladen's lands east of Rock Road, south of Youngs Branch, and west of Holkums Branch were once completely cleared. These fields have been released to succession and are today completely forested. The successions of forest growth on the property include dogwood, red maple, sumac, woody vines, pine, cedar, oak, ash, and hickory (Trieschmann 2006:7:11).

The successional forest growth has obstructed most historic vistas associated with the First and Second Battles of Manassas. Two of the views and vistas from the Robinson home site have been preserved. Views to the Stone House and John Dogan's exist, as does the view to Henry Hill and the home that was built there after the antebellum house was destroyed during the First Battle of Manassas.

Analysis: Unfortunately the successional growth of forest has made the views and vistas non-contributing to the James Robinson cultural landscape today. Although the views are clear to the east and southeast, the forests obscure the views in every other direction. The integrity has been impacted.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	View to Henry House
Feature Identification Number:	186240
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	View to Dogan House
Feature Identification Number:	186241
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

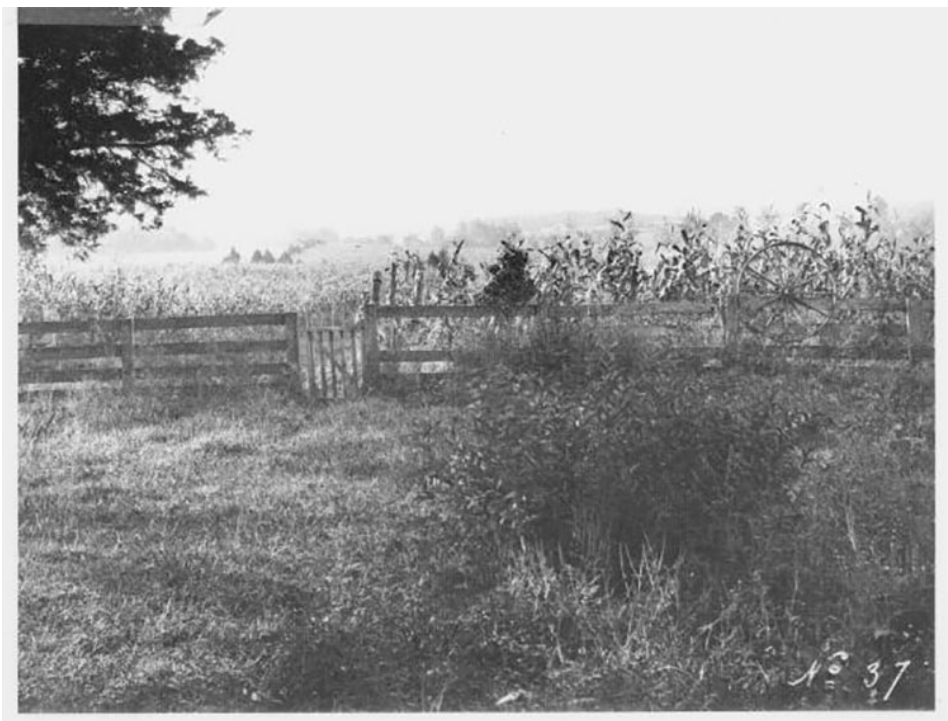
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



1904 View from Lewis farm (Portici) looking northeast; Tasco Robinson's house in the center, and woods along Bull Run. RELIC.



1904 View from Henry property looking north; Robinson house and cornfield on left, Huntley's house in center right, countryside around Youngs Branch. RELIC.



1904 View from Huntley's house looking south; (over James' farm) Bladen's farm and house in center, Lewis farm (Portici) on right. RELIC.



View from Robinson home site looking southeast towards Henry Hill.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/11/2019

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

A Condition Assessment of '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.

Stabilization Measures:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Due to the quality and character of the soil, rainfall has created rivulets and crevices in the compacted earth adjacent to the site's circulation networks.

While conducting the site visit to document the cultural landscape, the streambanks of Young's Branch exhibited signs of erosion and undermining due to the flow of water at the site.

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The allowance of this practice has altered the feeling of the landscape and the views and vistas that were essential to the battlefield. Eastern Red Cedars are prolifically colonizing the fields and fence lines in a manner that is not in keeping with the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Type of Impact: Neglect

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Neglect of the constructed water features at the Bladen Robinson home has contributed to the deterioration of the resources. A similar pattern of behavior is evident for some of the historic culverts which line the trails in this portion of the battlefield.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: While conducting the site visit, invasive plants were identified within the study boundaries and along the fence lines. This includes privet, wineberry vine, and stilt grass.

Type of Impact: Visitation

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Increased visitation has impacted the landscape and the needs of the visitor must be addressed in order to provide a better experience. Circulation routes are unclear due to the failure of consistently maintaining the pathways and the lack of signs directing visitors. However, in places associated with interpretation, soil compaction was noted.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Mowing practices on site have allowed woody vegetation to grow along the fence lines. This is due in part to the use of worm fences.

Stabilization Costs

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Barton, Randolph
Citation Title:	Stonewall Brigade at Louisville
Year of Publication:	1900
Citation Publisher:	Confederate Veteran VIII, November 1900
Citation Author:	Bedell, John
Citation Title:	Few Know That Such a Place Exists; Land and People in the Prince William Forest Park, Vol. 2: Archeological Data
Year of Publication:	2004
Citation Publisher:	National Park Service
Citation Author:	Bodnar, John
Citation Title:	Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century
Year of Publication:	1992
Citation Publisher:	Princeton University Press
Citation Author:	Clifton, Robert
Citation Title:	Barbs, Prongs, Points, Prickers, and Stickers; A Complete and Illustrated Catalogue of Antique Barbed Wire
Year of Publication:	1970
Citation Publisher:	University of Oklahoma Press
Citation Author:	Crothers, A. Glenn
Citation Title:	Agricultural Improvement and Technological Innovation in a Slave Society; The Case of Early National Northern Virginia
Year of Publication:	2001
Citation Publisher:	Agricultural History, Vol. 75, No. 2 (Spring 2001).

Citation Author: Fairweather, Frederick
Citation Title: Architectural Investigation of the Robinson House
Year of Publication: 1941
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: Farish, Hunter Dickinson
Citation Title: Journal and Letters of Phillip Vickers Fithian, 1773-1774: a Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion
Year of Publication: 1965
Citation Publisher: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Citation Author: Greene, Jack P.
Citation Title: The Diary of Colonel Landon Carter of Sabine Hall, 1752-1778, Vol. 1
Year of Publication: 1965
Citation Publisher: University Press of Virginia

Citation Author: Heming, William Walter
Citation Title: The statutes at large; being a collection of all the laws of Virginia, from the first session of the legislature, in the year 1619
Year of Publication: 1809
Citation Publisher: Samuel Pleasants Jr., Printer to the Commonwealth

Citation Author: Henning, Darrell
Citation Title: Common Farm Fences of Long Island
Year of Publication: 1967
Citation Publisher: Friends of the Nassau county Historical Museum
Bulletin 2, Spring

Citation Author: Isaac, Rhys
Citation Title: Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom; Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation
Year of Publication: 2004
Citation Publisher: Oxford University Press

Citation Author:	Johnson, Clifton
Citation Title:	Highways and Byways of the South
Year of Publication:	1904
Citation Publisher:	The Macmillan Company
Citation Author:	Kolchin, Peter
Citation Title:	American Slavery, 1619-1877
Year of Publication:	1993
Citation Publisher:	Hill and Wang
Citation Author:	Mackintosh, Barry
Citation Title:	Manassas National Battlefield Park National Register Nomination
Year of Publication:	1981
Citation Publisher:	National Park Service
Citation Author:	McGarry, Thomas
Citation Title:	Manassas Historic Sites Survey
Year of Publication:	1982
Citation Publisher:	National Park Service
Citation Author:	McGarry, Thomas and Bohannon, Charles
Citation Title:	An Archeological Survey of Selected Portions of Manassas National Battlefield Park, Prince William County, Virginia
Year of Publication:	1986
Citation Publisher:	National Park Service
Citation Author:	Moore, Frank
Citation Title:	The Battle-field of Bull Run
Year of Publication:	1862
Citation Publisher:	The Rebellion Record, a Diary of American Events, Vol. 4, Centerville, VA

Citation Author: Olmert, Michael
Citation Title: Kitchens, Smokehouses, and Privies: Outbuildings and the Architecture of Daily Life in the Eighteenth-Century Mid-Atlantic
Year of Publication: 2009
Citation Publisher: Cornell University

Citation Author: Parsons, Mia
Citation Title: Archeological Investigation of the Robinson House Site 44PW288: A Free African-American Domestic Site Occupied From the 1840s to 1936
Year of Publication: 2001
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: Parsons, Mia
Citation Title: Southern Portion Manassas National Battlefield Park Cultural Landscape Inventory
Year of Publication: 1996
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: Patrick, Vanessa E.
Citation Title: Partitioning the Landscape: The Fence in Eighteenth-Century Virginia
Year of Publication: 1990
Citation Publisher: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library Research Report Series

Citation Author: Peters, Joan W. (transcribed by)
Citation Title: Prince William County General Index to Wills 1734-1951
Year of Publication: 2001
Citation Publisher: Prince William County Library Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC)

Citation Author: Peters, Joan W. (transcribed by)
Citation Title: Prince William County Slave and Free Negro Records
Year of Publication:
Citation Publisher: Prince William County Library Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC)

Citation Author: Reeves, Matthew
Citation Title: Reinterpreting Manassas; The African American Community
Year of Publication: 2003
Citation Publisher: Historical Archeology, Vol. 37, No. 3.

Citation Author: Salmon, John
Citation Title: National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form; The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: VA Department of Historic Resources

Citation Author: Salmon, John
Citation Title: The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865, Historical and Archaeological Resources
Year of Publication: 2000
Citation Publisher: VA Department of Historic Resources

Citation Author: Schaible, Danny
Citation Title: Fence Lines, Fields, and Forests; Manassas National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report
Year of Publication: 2013
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author:	Sneden, Robert Knox
Citation Title:	Army Diary of the War of the Rebellion, 1861-5. By R.K. Sneden of the 40th N.Y. Vols. (Mozart Regt.) and Topographical Engineer of the 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac
Year of Publication:	1862
Citation Publisher:	Volume 1, 1861 April 12 – 1862 May 5. Collection Number Mss5:1 Sn237:1 v. 1 Virginia Historical Society. vahistorical.org
Citation Author:	Low, W. A.
Citation Title:	The Farmer in Post-Revolutionary Virginia
Year of Publication:	1951
Citation Publisher:	Agricultural History, Vol. 25, No. 3.
Citation Author:	Trieschmann, Laura
Citation Title:	Manassas Battlefield Historic District (Amended and Boundary Expansion) National Register Registration Form
Year of Publication:	2006
Citation Publisher:	EHT Traceries
Citation Author:	Vlach, John Michael
Citation Title:	Vlach, John Michael Back of the Big House; The Architecture of Plantation Slavery
Year of Publication:	1993
Citation Publisher:	University of North Carolina Press
Citation Author:	Zenzen, Joan
Citation Title:	Battling for Manassas; The 50-Year Preservation Struggle at Manassas National Battlefield Park
Year of Publication:	1995
Citation Publisher:	National Park Service

