National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2017

Revised: 5/2026



Crater Battlefield

Petersburg National Battlefield

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

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

Scope of the CLI

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

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

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

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

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

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

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

Use

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

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

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Crater Battlefield

Resource Level: Component Landscape

CRIS-CL Resource ID: 300198

Parent Landscape: 300197

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Petersburg National Battlefield

Alpha Code: PETE

Park Organization Code: 4770

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Crater Battlefield is part of Petersburg National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) located in south central Virginia in the City of Petersburg. The 2,659-acre park was established in 1926 to commemorate the campaign, siege, and defense of Petersburg in 1864 and 1865, and to preserve the breastworks, earthworks, walls, and other defenses or shelters used by the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. The Battle of the Crater came six weeks after the initial assault (June 1864) on Petersburg. Union forces developed a plan to end the stalemate by excavating a tunnel under an entrenched Confederate position and destroy it by way of an underground mine. The explosion below Elliott's Salient detonated during the early morning of July 30 and initiated a bloody and ultimately unsuccessful Union attack. The outcome of the battle was that Confederate troops held their line and prolonged the siege. The battle captured the public imagination in the years following the war, and continues to do so today, attracting approximately 80,000 visitors annually.

Petersburg National Battlefield is comprised of separate geographical areas that form a semicircle to the east, south, and west of Petersburg: Grant's Headquarters at City Point, the Eastern Front, the Western Front, and the Five Forks Battlefield. The 301-acre Crater Battlefield is within the park's Eastern Front unit, which shares boundaries with the city and the Fort Lee army base. Most visitors enter the Eastern Front from State Route 36 and proceed on the paved one-way Tour Road. The Crater Battlefield, around four miles south on the Tour Road, includes the mine shaft entrance and the massive depression created by the explosion, earthen defensive structures such as parapets, trenches, and covered ways, as well as earthen batteries and bombproofs. Vegetative cover on these features ranges from managed turf to non-historic woodlands. Several key battle-era views across fields and meadows are maintained, but much of the site is covered by successional woodlands that have grown at varying rates. Later commemorative monuments and markers installed between 1905 and 1927 form a layer of development over the 1864–65 battlefield landscape. In addition to the Tour Road, parking and pull-off areas, paved walks, and earthen trails provide access through the site and past traces of historic circulation routes no longer used. Visitor facilities also include a comfort station, interpretive waysides, and fencing. The Norfolk Southern Railroad bisects the Crater Battlefield and presently serves as an active rail freight line. The railroad cut, along with Poor Creek that also bisect the site, were important obstacle, cover, and concealment locations, particularly during the initial assault and subsequent siege of Petersburg.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Prior to the Civil War, the Griffith and Taylor farms east of Petersburg and straddling the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad right-of-way were productive Virginia farmsteads. By mid-June of 1864, this was no longer true. Beginning early in the war, Confederate Captain Charles Dimmock fashioned a system of earthen defenses for the city, constructed using slaves and conscripted free blacks. This system of earthworks, known as the Dimmock Line, took every advantage of topography, carefully choosing the location of artillery batteries for tactical advantage. On June 9 these fortifications held against a Union force from the Army of the James in a battle known as "The Battle of Old Men and Young Boys". Less than a week later, beginning on June 15th, these impressive, but lightly manned, earthworks fell to a much larger force as ….Grant directed over 100, 000 men to move south against Petersburg... (CLR draft 2017: 2; CLI review comments, E, Dabney).

By mid-June Union and Confederate troops had fought to a stalemate, both entrenched into opposing earthen positions strung out surrounding the town. One such location was east of town and just south of Blandford, along a Confederate defensive position known as the Harris Line, which would eventually bisect the Griffith and Taylor farms. Here, Confederate Captain Richard Pegram's artillery battery located in front of Stephen Elliott's brigade of Carolinians had the misfortune to be lined up across from Union soldiers hailing from the coal fields of Pennsylvania. Union Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, a mining engineer in civilian life, related to his commander that if given adequate equipment and supplies, his men could tunnel under the Confederate salient in two weeks' time. By July 17, the Union tunnel reached underneath Elliott's Salient on the Confederate line, and work began on side galleries in which to place four thousand pounds of black powder. The powder charge was quietly placed beginning on July 27 and was ready to detonate in the early morning of July 30. (CLR draft 2017: 2-3; CLR review comments, J. Steele and C. Bryce)

At 4:44 that morning, the red Virginia clay began to quake as the muffled explosion of the powder momentarily raised a small hill under Pegram's guns. From the summit burst smoke and flame reaching two hundred feet into the air, "Earth, stones, timbers, arms, legs, guns unlimbered and bodies unlimbed…ascended in fearful confusion and havoc." Three hundred Confederate soldiers died at that instant, yet the blast created such confusion in the Union forces that when combined with inferior planning and execution of the charge that followed, the Confederate forces successfully counterattacked, trapping many of the Union soldiers in the "horrid pit" of their own creation. (CLR draft 2017: 3, from Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 40)

While the repulse of the Union offensive was a great Confederate victory, the battle itself changed nothing. The Union forces continued to occupy their pre-battle positions, as did the Confederates. As a result of the fighting at the Crater, the two armies collectively experienced an estimated 5,300 casualties, yet 72,000 would be killed, wounded, missing, and captured at the end of a siege that continued another eight months and three days. (CLR draft 2017: 3; CLI review comments, E. Dabney)

Immediately following the end of the fighting at Elliott's Salient, Confederate forces incorporated the Crater into their defensive line, beginning the transformation of the topography following the moment of the blast. Following the Union breakthrough into Petersburg on April 2, 1865, the transformation continued as local citizens pried loose timber revetments and burrowed through the soil for lead and scrap metal. Five dollars was paid for every human skull found and presented for reburial at the new Poplar Grove Cemetery. (CLR draft 2017: 3)

Soon after the Griffith family returned to their shattered farm, visitors began arriving to gawk at the Crater in the middle of their field. Sensing an opportunity, William Griffith fenced in the site, laid out gravel paths, wooden steps, and began charging admission. Trees were permitted to grow to offer some relief to visitors from the unrelenting summer sun. Having collected an impressive assortment of military goods from the soil, Griffith constructed a "relic house," to display them. In 1925 the Griffith heirs sold this real and personal property to the Crater Battlefield Association, and a year later this group constructed a golf course in an effort to finance preservation and maintenance of the Crater site. To the east, the Taylor farm, former site of the Union Fort Morton, continued to be farmed, preserving the historic setting of the battlefield. (CLR draft 2017: 3)

While the Crater golf course was being constructed in 1926, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of the Petersburg National Military Park, to be administered by the US War Department. When the new park was officially dedicated in 1932, the Crater property was still owned by the struggling private association. In 1934, amidst the Great Depression, the association declared bankruptcy and closed the golf course. After drawn out negotiations on behalf of the park, the Crater tract was finally incorporated into park holdings in 1936, and by this time, the NPS

had assumed administration of all battlefield parks from the War Department. The dedication of the Crater parcel as a park property was marked with the pageantry of a reenactment of the battle, including mock hand-to-hand combat. The contents of the Griffith “relic house” became the nucleus of the historical collections at the new park. The former golf course clubhouse became the park’s first visitor center. (CLR draft 2017: 3-4)

Planning was immediately begun to link the Crater site to the rest of the main park unit with a contiguous tour road, yet implementing this plan would not be possible until the Taylor farm laying to the east could be acquired. This was accomplished in 1942, the War Department once again stepping in to make the purchase, intending to use the property as part of its operation at neighboring Camp Lee. Following the end of World War II, the Taylor farm was transferred to the stewardship of the NPS and incorporated into the park in 1949. (CLR draft 2017: 4)

The ten-year period between 1946 and 1956 was financially austere for the NPS with post-war national park visitation skyrocketing and yet funding remaining at wartime levels. The decline of park facilities and landscapes nation-wide led the agency to pursue a ten-year, billion-dollar capital improvement program that became known as Mission 66. It was this program that funded the completion of the final segment of the park tour road in 1962, finally joining the Crater Battlefield to the main park unit. The design for this last segment placed visitor parking as close as possible to the Union mine tunnel entrance in an elongated loop. Additionally, the park converted the pre-existing tour road into a one-way route beginning at Battery V where the new park visitor center was located. The visitor center adapted from the former clubhouse at the Crater site was removed at this time. Mission 66 also funded the rebuilding of the main tunnel entrance as an exhibit and the installation of pathways and fencing surrounding the Crater. (CLR draft 2017: 4)

The 1962 design for the Crater Battlefield segment of the tour road incorporated a scenic overlook with the Taylor farm site in the foreground and the Crater site intended to be seen in the distance. Yet in the middle ground of the proposed view, successional woodland growth in the Poor Creek valley blocked the visual connection between the battle-era Union lines and the Crater. When work began to clear some of the woody vegetation in 1978, the parking lot for the Crater site loomed into view, discouraging additional clearing of the historic vista. (CLR draft 2017: 4)

The park completed projects in 2002 to remove the vehicular overlook stops at the Taylor farm site and the parking lot at the Crater, and to reroute the tour road south of the Fort Morton site in 2008-2009. In 2009-10 the park completed an ambitious clearing project to remove successional woody vegetation and open a wide area between the Fort Morton site and the Crater. More recent projects include the installation of pedestrian bridges to connect interpretive and recreational trails over Poor Creek and its tributaries. (CLR draft 2017: 4-5)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The 2,760-acre Petersburg National Battlefield is significant for its association with the ten-month long Petersburg Campaign, which culminated in the abandonment of Petersburg and Richmond by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia by April 3, 1865, and led directly to their surrender to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and the Union Army of the Potomac at Appomattox Court House. The Eastern Front portion of the park encompasses extensive systems of preserved Confederate and Federal earthworks associated with the Petersburg Campaign and the sites associated with several important battles, including the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864.

The 127-acre Crater Battlefield is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Military as the site of the Battle of the Crater, Ethnic Heritage-Black for the role of United States Colored Troops during the battle, Commemoration for the monuments associated with the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement, and Conservation as part of one of the national military parks created between the two World Wars. The battlefield is also nationally significant under Criterion B for its military association with General Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. Lastly, Crater Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remains of the earthen Civil War fortifications. Crater Battlefield may also be significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology, but evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this CLI. The period of significance for the Crater Battlefield is 1864 to 1942, which begin with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the Battle of the Crater, and ends when the NPS completed projects associated with the commemoration, preservation, and development of the park landscape as directed by master planning documents.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the Crater Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance – 1864 to 1942 – with the existing conditions as assessed in 2017. Many

landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. These include buildings and structures (the Crater, earthworks, batteries, covered ways, bombproofs, trenches, counter mines, picket lines, mine tunnel, and the Taylor kitchen ruins), circulation (Baxter Road trace and the railroad-owned Norfolk Southern line), natural systems (Poor Creek), vegetation (fields and meadows), views and vistas (view from Fort Morton site to the Crater and the USCT rally point and view from Cornfield Battery to the Crater), and small-scale features (seven monuments).

The Crater Battlefield landscape retains integrity to the period of significance with six out of the seven aspects of integrity evidenced on the grounds. Integrity of design and feeling are evidenced, but diminished by the growth and abundant presence of successional woody vegetation. The cultural landscape lacks integrity of setting due to successional woody vegetation and residential and light commercial development immediately adjacent to the park.

The overall condition of the Crater Battlefield is evaluated as “Fair.” Non-historic successional woody vegetation continues to obscure the open landscape and tactical viewsheds that were present during the 1865 battle. Several battle-era earthworks, defensive features, and circulation features have non-historic woody vegetation growing directly on them. These features are at risk for damage due to the trees being thrown or toppled in a storm event.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Petersburg National Battlefield is comprised of five landscapes (and four component landscapes): Five Forks Battlefield, Grant’s Headquarters at City Point, Eastern Front (Crater Battlefield, Fort Stedman, Initial Assault Battlefield, and Siege), Western Front, and Poplar Grove National Cemetery.

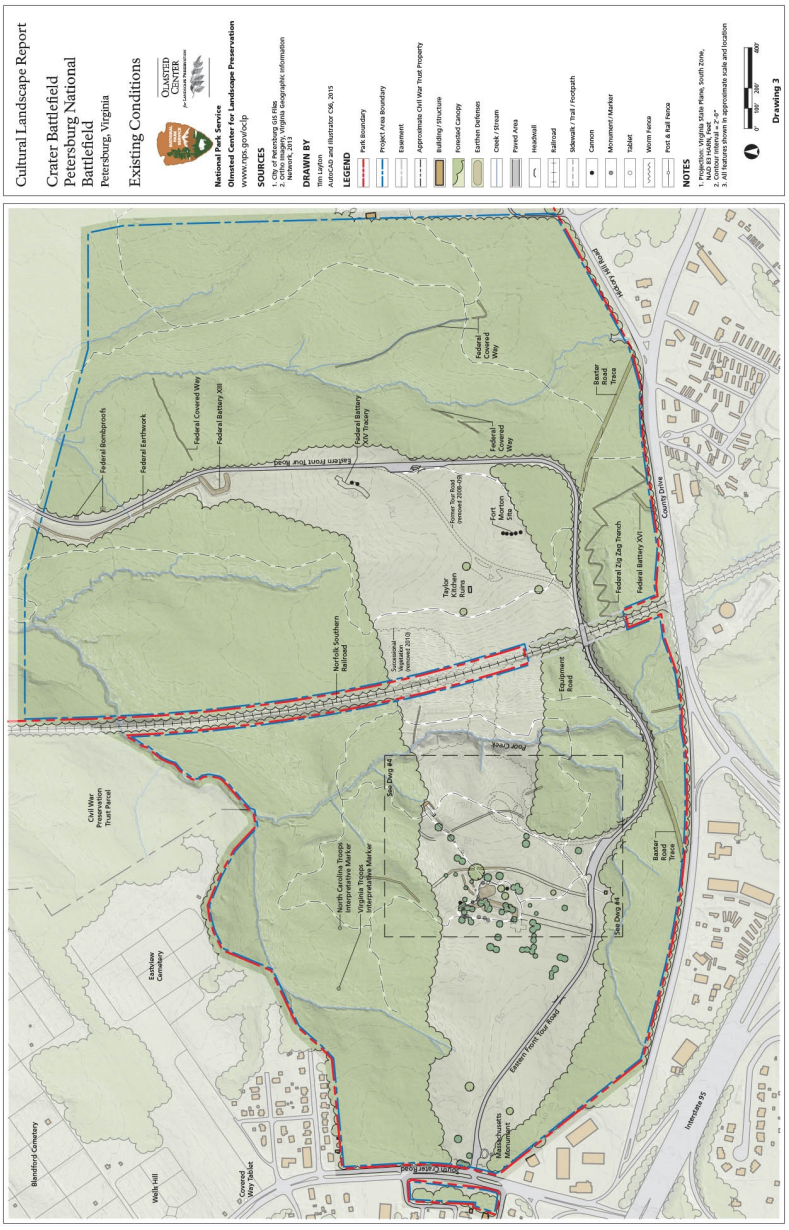
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Battle of the Crater	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Crater Battlefield	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Eastern Front	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Spring Meadow	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Griffith Farm	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Taylor Farm (Spring Garden)	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan


Cultural Landscape Report
Crater Battlefield
Petersburg National
Battlefield
Petersburg, Virginia
Existing Conditions
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
SOURCES
DRAWN BY
LEGEND
NOTES
Drawing 3
Federal Bombproofs
Federal Earthwork
Federal Covered Way
Federal Battery XIII
Federal Battery XIV Traverse
Eastern Front Star Road
Dome Tool Road (removed 2010)
Fort Morton Site
Taylor Kitchen Ruins
Norfolk Southern Railroad
Equipment Road
Federal Zig Zag Trench
Federal Battery XVI
County Drive
Baxter Road Trees
Hickory Hill Road
Civil War Preservation Trust Road
Eshelman Cemetery
Blandford Cemetery
Wells Hill
Covered Way Sallet
North Carolina Troops Interpretive Marker
Virginia Troops Interpretive Marker
Massachusetts Monument
Interstate 95


Cultural Landscape Report
Crater Battlefield
Petersburg National Battlefield
Petersburg, Virginia
Existing Conditions
Crater Detail
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/olcp/clp
SOURCES
1. City of Petersburg GIS Files
2. 2013 Commonwealth Virginia Geographic Information Network, 2013
DRAWN BY
Tim Lydon
AutoCAD and Illustrator CS6, 2015
LEGEND
Building/Structure
Forested Canopy
Earthen Defenses
Creek / Stream
Paved Area
Headwall
Sidewalk / Trail / Footpath
Cannon
Monument/Marker
Wayside
Post & Rail Fence
NOTES
1. Projection: Virginia State Plane, South Zone, NAD 1983 (feet)
2. Contour interval = 2'-0"
3. All features shown in approximate scale and location
0' 25' 50' 100'
Drawing 4
Trail
Union Picket Line Tracery
Confederate Picket Line established 1864
Surface Depression of Mine Tunnel
Mine Tunnel
Surface Depression of Mine Tunnel Entrance to the Mine Monument
Dushane's Salient
Crater Loop Trail
PA Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument Crater Monument
PA Volunteers Flank Marker
Mahone's Virginia Brigade Monument
Mahone Monument
The Crater
South Carolina Monument
Confederate Counter Mines
Crater of the Mine Monument Confederate Covered Way?
Confederate Trench Cavalier
Well House Foundation
Mine Tunnel Loop Trail
Confederate Picket Line Tracery
Former Golf Clubhouse Demolished ca. 1990s
Former Tour Road and Parking Removed 2000
Comfort Station
Bridge
Poor Creek

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 08/15/2017

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory is based on a 2017 draft “Cultural Landscape Report for Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield, Petersburg, Virginia” prepared by Historical Landscape Architects Timothy W. Layton and Eliot Foulds at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Research and field work for the CLR was initiated in 2015 and revised through 2017.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

2017-0668

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A.1.2 (NER-RSS)

JUN 2 7 2017

RECEIVED
AUG 16 2017
DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORIC RESOURCES

Julie Langan, Director
Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Langan:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield (NB). We seek to reconfirm the status of previously evaluated resources and confirm the status of previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

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

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other

SHPO concurrence letter, September 13, 2017 (7 pages).

characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Previous Historic Property Evaluation:

Petersburg National Battlefield was established on July 3, 1926 as a national military park under jurisdiction of the War Department, and then transferred to the NPS on August 10, 1933. On July 18, 1936 the NPS acquired the 128-acre Griffith Farm portion of the Crater Battlefield. On June 5, 1942, the War Department purchased the 206-acre Taylor Farm portion of the battlefield to expand wartime facilities of neighboring Camp Lee. Following the end of World War II, the Taylor Farm was transferred to the NPS on October 29, 1949. The park was redesignated as a national battlefield on August 24, 1962.

Petersburg NB was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although no National Register documentation has been formally approved for the entire park to date, several sites in the park are listed individually with documentation in the National Register. The Five Forks Battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 19, 1960, and listed on July 2, 1975. The Appomattox Manor complex at City Point was listed on October 1, 1969. Grant's Headquarters at City Point, a park management unit, is also located within the boundaries of the City Point National Register Historic District, listed on October 15, 1979. There are currently no individual listings for the Eastern Front unit or Crater Battlefield.

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archeological Resources," was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. The MPDF identified property types and historic contexts with which to evaluate historic and archeological resources related to the Civil War. The six property types were battlefields, earthworks, campsites, military hospitals, military headquarters, and military prisons. Petersburg NB was identified under the battlefields and earthworks property types under Criteria A for its association with the history of the Civil War in Virginia. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864) was described as part of the Richmond and Petersburg Campaign of 1864-65.

There have been several consultations with your office regarding the eligibility of resources in the park. On April 6, 2004, your office concurred with the NPS that the Mission 66 development program at Petersburg NB was not eligible for listing in the National Register. Mission 66 resources within the Crater Battlefield include a segment of the Auto Tour Road, portions of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) but later realigned and reengineered as part of the NPS Mission 66 program. In March 2014, the Public Archeology Lab prepared draft National Register documentation for the entirety of Petersburg NB. The documentation has not been submitted to your office for review.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for the Crater Battlefield fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features. As noted previously, none of the property's resources have been listed or determined as eligible for listing in the National Register. The CLI identifies thirty features related to buildings and structures, circulation, natural systems, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property's landscape.

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

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the July 30, 1864, Battle of the Crater. The Battle of the Crater followed the initial assault on Petersburg in June 1864, when Union forces developed a plan to excavate a tunnel under an entrenched Confederate position and destroy it by way of an underground mine. The explosion below Elliott's Salient detonated during the early morning of July 30 and initiated a bloody and ultimately unsuccessful Union attack.
- The property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Black as the site of extensive United States Colored Troops (USCT) combat during the Civil War.
- The property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Other (Commemoration) for association with the origin and evolution of the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement.
- As a component of Petersburg National Battlefield, the property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Conservation as one of several national military parks created during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity between the two World Wars.
- The property is nationally significant under Criterion B for its association with General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870) and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885).
- The property is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remains of the earthen fortifications and the Mine Tunnel.
- The overall period of significance for the Crater Battlefield is 1864 to 1942. The period begins with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the Battle of the Crater, and ends when the NPS completed master planning projects associated with the commemoration, preservation, and development of the park landscape.
- Overall, the cultural landscape retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic association with the Civil War and with the commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park landscape.
- The categorization of contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109). We would appreciate your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053 or jeff_killion@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Krumenaker
Acting Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science
National Park Service, Northeast Region

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features at Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

9/13/17
Date

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Crater Battlefield
Petersburg National Battlefield
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
June 2017

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Features marked with a (*) were identified as non-contributing resources by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office on April 6, 2004.

Buildings and Structures
- Federal Earthwork, Fort Haskell to Federal Battery XIII
- Federal Bombproofs
- Federal Battery XIII
- Federal Covered Way, East of Federal Battery XIII
- Federal Battery XIV Tracery
- Fort Morton Site
- Federal Covered Way, East of Fort Morton
- Federal Covered Way Further East of Fort Morton
- Federal Battery XVI
- Federal Zig Zag Trench
- Union Picket Line Tracery
- Confederate Picket Line
- Confederate Counter Mines
- Confederate Trench Cavalier
- Union Mine Tunnel Entrance
- The Crater
- Taylor House Site and Kitchen Ruins

Circulation
- Baxter Road Trace

Natural Systems and Features
- Poor Creek

Vegetation
- Fields and Meadows

Views and Vistas
- View from Fort Morton to The Crater
- View from Fort Morton to the USTC Rallying Point
- Tactical View from the Cornfield Battery to The Crater

Small-Scale Features

Mahone's Brigade Monument
Mahone Monument
Massachusetts Monument
Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument
South Carolina Monument
Entrance to Mine Monument
Crater of the Mine Monument

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Buildings and Structures
Crater Battlefield Association Golf Course Well House Foundation
Comfort Station

Circulation
* Eastern Front Tour Road
Equipment Road, East of Poor Creek
Elliptical Walk, Massachusetts Monument
Pedestrian Walks
Interpretive Trails
Multi-Use Trails
Hike/Bike Trails

Vegetation
Successional Woodlands
Two Mulberries near Taylor Kitchen Ruins
Sycamore south of Taylor Kitchen Ruins
Eastern Redcedars and Deciduous Tree growing over Mine Tunnel
Southern Red Oak Growing over Mine Tunnel
Eastern Redcedars around the Crater and on the Trench Cavalier

Small-Scale Features
Commemorative Crater Monument
Federal Battery XIV Cannon (2)
Fort Morton Cannon (5)
Cannon at the Crater (2)
Three-Rail Post and Rail Fence, around Crater
Worm Fence, Tour Road Exit to South Crater Road
Vehicular Gate, Tour Road Exit to South Crater Road
Wood Stake Troop Markers (in successional woods north of Crater)
Fort Morton Directional Sign
Interpretative Waysides

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Small-Scale Features
Federal Battery XVI Sign
Union Tunnel Sign

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Crater Battlefield
Petersburg National Battlefield

Petersburg National Battlefield concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Crater Battlefield, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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

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

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

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Crater Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield — Date 8/15/17

Park concurrence form, August 15, 2017.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2026

Petersburg National Battlefield
Crater Battlefield

Petersburg National Battlefield concurs with the update for the following CLI, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Crater Battlefield

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

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

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

The CLI Update for Crater Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

ANDREA DEKOTER Digitally signed by ANDREA DEKOTER Date: 2026.05.12 14:03:19 -04'00'

Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield Date

Park concurrence form, May 12, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	05/12/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Crater Battlefield CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
Virginia	Petersburg City

Area (Acres): 330.01

Land Tract Number(s)

01-113 (partial)
01-114 (partial)
01-115 (partial)
01-117
01-118 (easement)
01-119
01-120
01-121
01-122
01-128
01-129
01-130
01-131
01-132
01-140

Boundary Description:

Petersburg National Battlefield is comprised of 2,659 acres that lay in separate units in a semi-circle to the east, south, and west of the City of Petersburg (in 2016, the park boundary was expanded by Congress to enable another 7,238 acres). The current geographical management units include Grant's Headquarters at City Point, the Eastern Front, the Western Front, and the Five Forks Battlefield. The 330-acre Crater Battlefield project area is located in the western half of the park's Eastern Front unit.

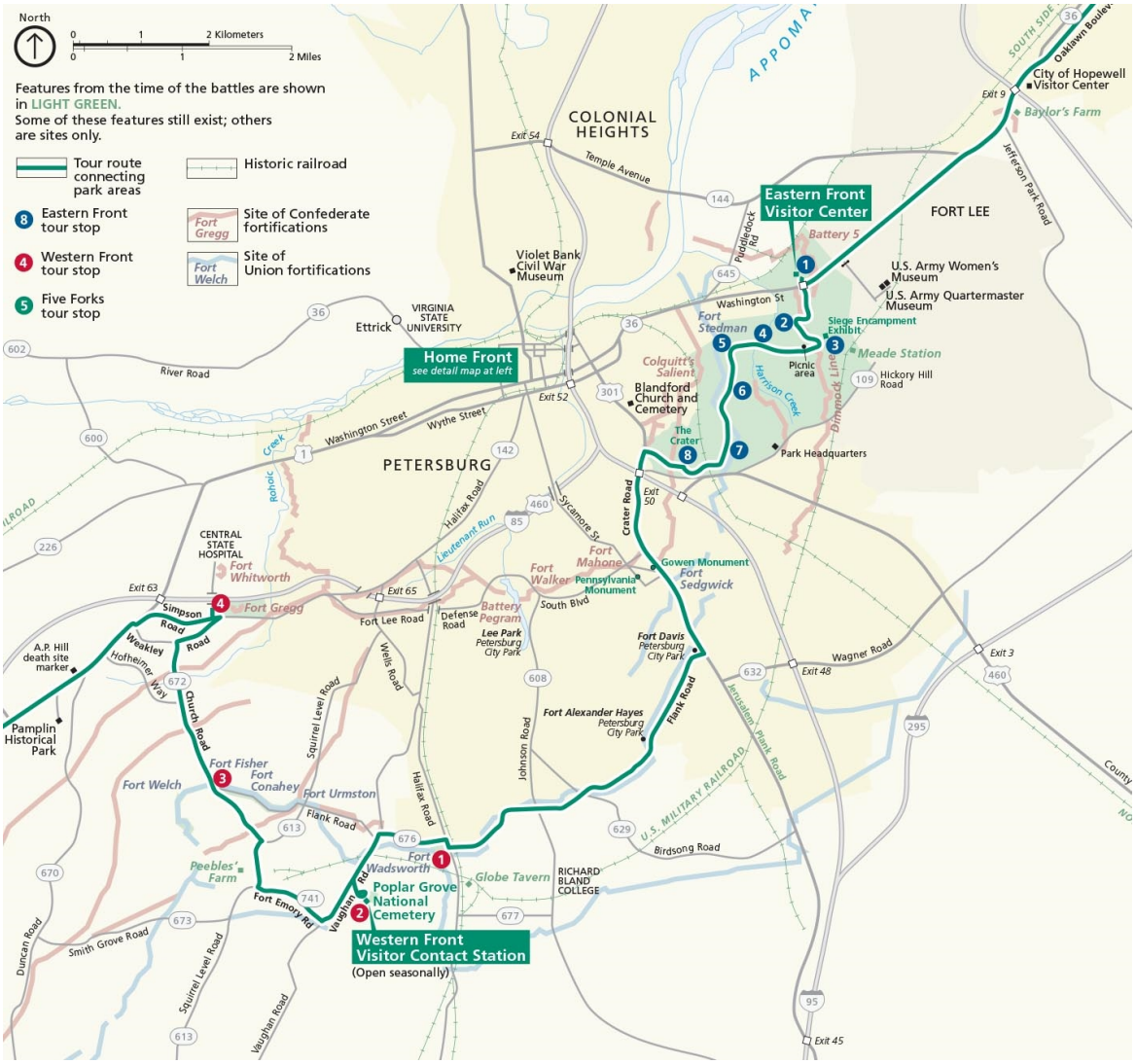
The 330-acre Crater Battlefield project area corresponds to the core of the Griffith and Taylor Farm properties present at the time of the battle. It is bounded on the south by Winfield Road and County Drive, on the west by South Crater Road, and on the north by People's Memorial Cemetery and Blandford Cemetery. The northern boundary wraps around the Norfolk Southern Railroad line and for the purposes of this report, continues to the east passing to the south of Fort Haskell. The eastern edge of the Crater Battlefield is defined by the eastern edge of Tract 01-115, a parcel that comprised part of the Taylor Farm. The acreage of this area is 328.65 acres. The park and project area also include a smaller, separate area west of South Crater Road that contained the battle-era Gee House. The acreage of this area is 1.36 acres.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Polygon	37.219746	-77.383268	
	Polygon	37.219691	-77.383211	
	Polygon	37.218546	-77.38339	
	Polygon	37.218374	-77.383451	
	Polygon	37.218342	-77.383516	
	Polygon	37.218399	-77.383903	
	Polygon	37.218751	-77.383753	
	Polygon	37.218742	-77.38369	
	Polygon	37.219732	-77.383621	
	Polygon	37.22447	-77.36498	
	Polygon	37.22393	-77.364851	
	Polygon	37.217287	-77.364715	
	Polygon	37.21618	-77.367293	
	Polygon	37.216019	-77.36807	
	Polygon	37.216022	-77.368691	
	Polygon	37.21598	-77.369311	
	Polygon	37.215781	-77.371172	
	Polygon	37.215832	-77.371874	
	Polygon	37.215811	-77.372075	
	Polygon	37.216321	-77.372331	
	Polygon	37.216263	-77.37267	
	Polygon	37.21576	-77.37242	
	Polygon	37.21571	-77.372894	
	Polygon	37.21553	-77.373555	
	Polygon	37.215461	-77.374234	
	Polygon	37.215463	-77.374568	
	Polygon	37.215416	-77.374905	
	Polygon	37.215411	-77.376449	
	Polygon	37.21554	-77.377986	
	Polygon	37.215802	-77.379487	
	Polygon	37.21613	-77.380965	
	Polygon	37.21833	-77.38311	
	Polygon	37.218392	-77.383141	

	Polygon	37.219077	-77.382958	
	Polygon	37.219778	-77.382923	
	Polygon	37.220747	-77.38298	
	Polygon	37.220886	-77.380875	
	Polygon	37.221405	-77.380255	
	Polygon	37.221802	-77.379165	
	Polygon	37.222541	-77.378765	
	Polygon	37.222673	-77.378426	
	Polygon	37.222734	-77.378165	
	Polygon	37.222759	-77.377898	
	Polygon	37.222569	-77.377341	
	Polygon	37.222348	-77.376844	
	Polygon	37.222006	-77.376397	
	Polygon	37.222047	-77.376105	
	Polygon	37.222111	-77.376076	
	Polygon	37.222516	-77.375501	
	Polygon	37.222717	-77.375422	
	Polygon	37.222894	-77.375518	
	Polygon	37.222996	-77.37547	
	Polygon	37.223151	-77.375328	
	Polygon	37.223243	-77.375189	
	Polygon	37.223449	-77.375081	
	Polygon	37.224005	-77.374626	
	Polygon	37.222439	-77.374494	
	Polygon	37.220881	-77.374242	
	Polygon	37.219337	-77.373858	
	Polygon	37.21782	-77.37334	
	Polygon	37.217878	-77.373004	
	Polygon	37.219755	-77.373622	
	Polygon	37.221666	-77.374038	
	Polygon	37.223594	-77.37426	
	Polygon	37.225528	-77.374324	
	Polygon	37.225502	-77.371614	
	Polygon	37.224491	-77.367207	

Location Map:



Location Map Information. Detail Petersburg National Battlefield Map. The Crater Battlefield is in the western half of the park's Eastern Front area. (Petersburg NB, 2011)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Crater Battlefield landscape occupies the western portion of the Inner Coastal Plain of southeastern Virginia. This area, centered on a Fall Line marking the western limits of navigation, is a twenty mile wide transitional zone between the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain. The study area is on high ground, characterized by upland elevations of approximately 140 feet above sea level, occupying an area serving as the practical easternmost boundary between the Chesapeake Bay and the Chowan River/Albemarle Sound watersheds. Drainage patterns deeply dissect the underlying stratum of the ancient “Sunderland” marine terrace via Taylor’s (Poor) Creek northwards; Bailey’s Creek to the east; and tributaries of the Blackwater Swamp to the south. Located within the Eastern woodland, the study area occupies a zone where if active mowing of grasses is not regularly accomplished, an unmanaged parcel of land will quickly revert to shrubs and small trees. Forested areas are dominated by loblolly and shortleaf pine evergreen trees and to a lesser extent by oak, hickory, and gum deciduous trees (Ft. Lee MAAR 1985). Soils of the region are characterized by red and yellow podzols, these being acidic and relatively infertile (Chas. Hunt, 132).

The Crater Battlefield is near the Fall Line, the boundary zone between softer sedimentary soils in the Tidewater Region and the harder bedrock underlying the Piedmont Region. Soil profiles in the study area extend greater than 80 inches and consist of sandy loams, loams, and then clay loams. Soil classifications include Uchee loamy sand, Emporia sandy loam, and Mattaponi sandy loam. Both the Uchee and Emporia types are identified as prime farmland soils by the US Department of Agriculture with the Mattaponi class categorized as a farmland soil of statewide importance. A band of soil within the Poor Creek valley is identified as Roanoke loam and is marked by poor drainage characteristics and greater clay content higher in the soil profile than the surrounding types. (CLR draft 2017: 95)

The Crater Battlefield lies in the humid subtropical climate zone (Köppen climate classification Cfa), with hot, humid summers and mild to cool winters that are moderated by the Chesapeake Bay. The Crater Battlefield is also located within the US Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zone 7b, where vegetation is hardy to between five and ten degrees Fahrenheit. (CLR draft 2017: 96)

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The City of Petersburg is bordered on the north by the Appomattox River and marks the furthest navigable point on the river before the Fall Line. The city's history and development is connected to transportation and trade facilitated by navigable rivers, then railroads, and most recently, the interstate highway system. The junction of I-85 and I-95 lies south of the city's historic core—the section of the city closest to the Appomattox River—and both CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company provide freight rail services. (CLR draft 2017: 96)

North of the park and project area, Blandford Cemetery has been used as a burial ground since the early eighteenth century with the oldest marked grave inscribed with the date 1702. The cemetery is the final resting place for 30,000 Confederates killed during the Petersburg Campaign and in hospitals as a result of wounds received on other battlefields or of disease. South of Blandford Cemetery, People's Memorial Cemetery began in 1840 as a cemetery for Petersburg's free African Americans. Nineteenth century names for the cemetery include Providence Cemetery and Scott Cemetery, and in 1986 trustees of the cemetery deeded the land to the City of Petersburg. (CLR draft 2017: 96)

The park's Eastern Front unit is bounded on the east by Fort Lee, begun in 1917 as Camp Lee. The US Army complex is presently home to the US Army Combined Arms Support Command and the Army Logistics University, Army Ordnance School, Army Quartermaster School, and Army Transportation School. The facility regularly hosts 26,000 people a day consisting of military service members, their families, and government civilians and contractors. (CLR draft 2017: 96)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The City of Petersburg consists of 23.1 square miles and is located in south-central Virginia, roughly 23 miles south of Richmond, 125 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 78 miles northwest of Norfolk. Census estimates from 2015 calculate the city's population to be 32,477, representing a 0.2% population increase since the 2010 decennial census. Zoning around the Crater Battlefield is primarily residential with a business zone (B-2) along South Crater Road and mixed-use zones (M-1, MXD-1, MXD-2) south of County Drive and Hickory Hill Road. (CLR draft 2017: 97)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category:	Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)
Management Category Date:	08/15/2017

Management Category Narrative:

The Crater Battlefield meets the "High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance" (formerly "Must Be Preserved and Maintained") management category because the property is related to the legislated significance of Petersburg National Battlefield. On July 3, 1926, President Coolidge signed Public Law 69-467 establishing Petersburg National Military Park. In drafting the legislation, Congress specifically established the park "…in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865 and to preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein…." (CLR draft 2017: 145, citing Public Law 69-467)

Neither the Griffith Farm property nor the Taylor Farm property was specifically identified in the 1926 legislation for acquisition. However, both properties served as the setting the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1865. Under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 7329 on March 30, 1936, to acquire the western half of the battlefield, encompassed within about 170 acres of the former Griffith Farm property. On October 29, 1949, President Harry Truman signed Public Law 81-293 authorizing the US Army to transfer the eastern half of the battlefield, comprising 206 acres of Taylor Farm property on either side of the park tour road, to the Department of the Interior. (CLR draft 2017: 145, citing Executive Order 7329; Public Law 81-293)

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tracts 01-113, 01-114, 01-115, 01-116, 01-117, 01-119, 01-120, 01-121, 01-122, 01-128, 01-129, 01-130, 01-131, 01-132, and 01-140 are fee interest tracts. (http://landsnet.nps.gov/tractsnet/documents/PETE/Segment_Maps/petesm01.PDF, accessed July 2016)

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tract 01-118 is a less than fee easement granted by the Norfolk and Western Railway Company (presently Norfolk Southern) for construction of the Eastern Front Tour Road bridge. (http://landsnet.nps.gov/tractsnet/documents/PETE/Segment_Maps/petesm01.PDF, accessed July 2016)

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Lands to the north and east of the Crater Battlefield CLI boundary are within the boundaries of Petersburg National Battlefield and will be addressed in a forthcoming CLI for Fort Stedman. Wooded land located north of the CLI/park boundary, west of the railroad, and east of the Eastview Cemetery is presently owned by the Civil War Trust and is the battle-era location of the main Confederate line during the Battle of the Crater and throughout the Petersburg Campaign. The two extant cemeteries in this area were present during the battle. Former battlefield lands south of the County Drive no longer retain integrity.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Eligible - SHPO/THPO Consensus Determination

Eligibility Date:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: Site

Documentation Narrative Description:

Petersburg National Battlefield was established on July 3, 1926 as a national military park under jurisdiction of the War Department, and then transferred to the NPS on August 10, 1933. On July 18, 1936 the NPS acquired the 128-acre Griffith Farm portion of the Crater Battlefield. On June 5, 1942, the War Department purchased the 206-acre Taylor Farm portion of the battlefield to expand wartime facilities of neighboring Camp Lee. Following the end of World War II, the Taylor Farm was transferred to the NPS on October 29, 1949. The park was redesignated as a national battlefield on August 24, 1962.

Petersburg NB was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although no National Register documentation has been formally approved for the entire park to date, several sites in the park are listed individually with documentation in the National Register. The Five Forks Battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 19, 1960, and listed on July 2, 1975. The Appomattox Manor complex at City Point was listed on October 1, 1969. Grant's Headquarters at City Point, a park management unit, is also located within the boundaries of the City Point National Register Historic District, listed on October 15, 1979. There are currently no individual listings for the Eastern Front unit or Crater Battlefield.

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archeological Resources," was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. The MPDF identified property types and historic contexts with which to evaluate historic and archeological resources related to the Civil War. The six property types were battlefields, earthworks, campsites, military hospitals, military headquarters, and military prisons. Petersburg NB was identified under the battlefields and earthworks property types under Criteria A for its association with the history of the Civil War in Virginia. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864) was described as part of the Richmond and Petersburg Campaign of 1864-65.

There have been several consultations with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the eligibility of resources in the park. On April 6, 2004, the Virginia SHPO concurred with the NPS that the Mission 66 development program at Petersburg NB was not eligible for listing in the National Register. Mission 66 resources within the Crater Battlefield include a segment of the Auto Tour Road, portions of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) but later realigned and reengineered as part of the NPS Mission 66 program.

In March 2014, the Public Archeology Lab prepared draft National Register documentation for the entirety of Petersburg NB. The documentation has not been submitted to the Virginia SHPO for review. The documentation identified significance under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of military, politics/government, conservation, ethnic heritage-black, landscape architecture, engineering, other (commemoration), architecture, and archeology. Significance was also noted under Criterion B for Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. The periods of significance were listed as 11,000 BCE–1600 CE, c.1650–1750, and 1763–present. For the Crater Battlefield area, contributing resources included the Eastern Front Civil War Road Network (Baxter Road Trace), Union Siege Line: Eastern Front (Federal Battery XIII, Federal Battery XVI, Federal Bombproofs, Federal Zig Zag Trench), Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front (Confederate Trench Cavalier Line, Elliott's Salient), Union Picket Line, The Crater (site), Confederate Picket Line (site), Confederate Counter Mines (site), Union Mine Tunnel Entrance (site), Massachusetts Monument, Mahone Monument, Mahone's Brigade Monument, Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument, South Carolina Monument, Crater of Mine Monument, and the Entrance to Mine Monument. Noncontributing resources included the Eastern Front Tour Road and the Commemorative Crater Monument.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the major resources that contribute to the significance of Crater Battlefield have not been been listed in the National Register, or determined eligible for listing through consultations with the Virginia SHPO. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Crater Battlefield is considered "SHPO-Inadequately Documented."

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: SHPO/THPO - Inadequately Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 9/13/2017 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

SHPO concurrence on the findings of this CLI was received on September 13, 2017.

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Petersburg National Battlefield is significant for its association with the ten-month long Petersburg Campaign, which culminated in the abandonment of Petersburg and Richmond by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia by April 3, 1865, and led directly to the Army's surrender to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and the Union Army of the Potomac at Appomattox Court House one week later. The 2,760-acre park consists of four management units that include Grant's Headquarters at City Point, the Five Forks Battlefield, the Western Front, and the Eastern Front (containing the Crater Battlefield). The Eastern Front encompasses extensive systems of preserved earthworks (Confederate and Federal) associated with the Petersburg Campaign and the sites associated with several important battles, including the initial assault on Petersburg in June 1864; the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864; and the Battle of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865. The Battle of the Crater occurred when Union forces exploded a mine under Confederate lines in hopes of creating a gap in the Confederate defenses of Petersburg. However, the effort failed because of faulty Union plans and a prompt counterattack by the Confederates that sealed the breach.

Crater Battlefield is significant under National Register Criteria A, B, and C in the areas of military history, ethnic heritage-black, other (commemoration), conservation, engineering, and military association with General Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. The site may be significant under Criterion D in the area of archeology for its potential to yield information about the organization, operation, and experiences of both the Union and Confederate armies, as well as pre-contact settlement. However, evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this CLI.

The primary period of significance for the Crater Battlefield is 1864 to 1942. The period begins with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the Battle of the Crater, and ends when the NPS completed master planning projects associated with the commemoration, preservation, and development of the park landscape.

CRITERION A

Military History:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Military History as the site of the July 30, 1864, Battle of the Crater. Starting on June 25, 1864, Union soldiers in the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment began excavating a mine that would extend 511 feet to a point under Elliott's Salient, located on the Confederate defensive line. At 4:44 on the morning of July 30, nearly four tons of gunpowder exploded, forming The Crater in the Confederate line. The Union infantry attack following the explosion lacked effective leadership and was stymied by Confederate artillery fire. A Confederate counterattack led by Brigadier-General William Mahone succeeded in closing the breach at the Crater. The presence of United States Colored Troops on the battlefield brought a vitriolic racial hatred to the combat, and soldiers on both sides killed unarmed or surrendering opponents.

Ethnic Heritage-Black:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Black as the site of extensive United States Colored Troops (USCT) combat during the Civil War. Major General Ambrose Burnside selected USCT units in the 4th Division of the IX Corps to lead the attack following the explosion of the mine that imitated the Battle of the Crater. Fearing political repercussions should the assault fail, Major General George Meade ordered Burnside to alter his plan shortly before the attack, forcing unprepared and battle-weary white troops to take the lead instead of the USCTs who had trained for the mission. As a result, the black troops were forced to enter the battle in a second attack wave and, after some initial

successes north and west of the Crater, retired along with white troops in disorder. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 107-108)

Commemoration:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Commemoration for association with the origin and evolution of the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement. The battlefield contains seven monuments consisting primarily of simple small stone markers with incised inscriptions. Consistent with national developments at other battlefields, veterans' groups from the North and chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy initiated the commemorative activities and installed the monuments at the Crater Battlefield. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 115-116)

Conservation:
As a component of Petersburg National Battlefield, the Crater Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Conservation as one of several national military parks created during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity between the two World Wars. The establishment of the park in 1926 and development under the War Department and later the NPS, contributed to the evolution of nationwide standards for battlefield preservation and interpretation. Between 1933, when all the country's national military parks were transferred from the War Department to the NPS, and 1942, the government completed much of the park development initially envisioned by the War Department, including the acquisition of substantial portions of the historic fortifications and the construction of several major roadways connecting the battle sites. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 119-120)

CRITERION B

General Robert E. Lee:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant for its association with General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870). After Lee held at bay Grant's attempt to seize Petersburg on June 15, the battle settled into a stalemate. Grant had learned a hard lesson at Cold Harbor about attacking Lee in a fortified position and was chafing at the inactivity to which Lee's trenches and forts had confined him.Following the mine explosion on July 30, Lee stationed himself in the basement of the Gee House, a few hundred yards from the battle and immediately west of Jerusalem Plank Road, and observed and dispatched orders from there through the remainder of the battle. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 115)

Lee displayed the same leadership qualities at Petersburg as he had exhibited during the long series of battlefield victories that earned him the reputation of being one of the greatest and most audacious field generals in history. Despite being outgunned and outmanned, he managed to prevent the Union forces from taking Petersburg for nearly ten months. Eventually, however, Grant's tactics and the Union's overwhelming superiority in terms of men and materiel forced Lee to abandon his lines. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 112)

Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant for its association with Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885). Grant commanded all U.S. forces from his headquarters at nearby City Point from March 1864. Although the Union plan to explode the mine was under the direction of Major General Ambrose A. Burnside of the IX Army Corps, who reported to Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, Grant was responsible for approving the plan, and siding with Meade who made last minute changes to Burnside's plan. Grant was present on the field at the initiation of the battle and during its initial phases.

Shortly after the explosion of the mine, Grant and staff rode to the front near the 14 Gun Battery/eventual Fort Morton looking for Burnside. Grant and his aides left their horses and went forward, "across the railroad cut and the muddy banks of Taylor's Creek to the area just behind the front line." (Slotkin 2009:206,210-11) From this vantage point, Grant had a closer view of the action than any other member of the Federal high command. Grant concluded that that the opportunity for a decisive victory had been lost by not fully exploiting the surprise of the explosion in its immediate aftermath and recommended ending the assault. Burnside disagreed with this assessment and Grant did not over-rule the chain of command and order an end to the attack. After the battle Grant wrote to Chief of Staff Henry W. Halleck, "It was the saddest affair I have witnessed in this war. Such an opportunity for carrying fortifications I have

never seen and do not expect again to have." (Slotkin 2009: 317)

From City Point, Grant plotted out the nationwide Union strategy and issued the orders that eventually led to the capture of the Confederate capital at Richmond and, shortly thereafter, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. The Union victory at Petersburg catapulted Grant to national hero status and ultimately launched his candidacy to become the 18th U.S. President.

CRITERION C

Engineering:
The Crater Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Engineering for the remains of the earthen fortifications and the Mine Tunnel. The earthworks were part of what was the most extensive network of opposing field fortifications constructed during the Civil War. Laid out by trained military engineers, they represent the most discernible feature of the battlefield and convey through their location, design, and setting the pivotal role that engineering played in determining battlefield strategy and, ultimately, the outcome of the Petersburg Campaign. The Confederate side was laid out by an engineer, while the advanced Union line was the position gained on June 18 and an example of "combat trenching." The lines that existed at the end of the siege were the result of Federal engineers redesigning the line after the Union's failure of the Crater offensive. The lines also incorporated fields of fire that engineers and artillerists of both sides designed to cover battle and siege contingencies. (CLI review comments, J. Steele)

The construction of the Federal mine that was used to create the breach in the Confederate lines in advance of the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864, was one of the most extraordinary feats of engineering performed during the war. The mine was conceived and constructed by professional coal miners and soldiers of the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment under the supervision of mining engineer Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 136-137)

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

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

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

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1864 - CE 1942

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expanding Science and Technology	Technology (Engineering and Invention)	Military (Fortifications, Weapons, And War Vehicles)	
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative: (Commemoration)

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID:	66000831
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	DHR #123-0071
Name:	Petersburg National Battlefield Park
Listed Date:	10/18/1983

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1607	Established	English settlers establish Jamestown.
CE 1634	Established	Charles City County, one of Virginia's eight original "Shires" is established out of the former Bermuda Hundred "Incorporation."
CE 1645	Established	"Fort Henry" is constructed near the geographic fall-line on the south bank of the Appomattox River.
CE 1654	Established	The future Crater Battlefield lies on a portion of lands owned by the family of Thomas Batte, recorded as "Spring Garden" at this time.
CE 1671	Established	Peter Jones, son-in-law of the Fort Henry's commander, receives command of the fort, opening a trading station. It becomes a center of fur trade, a threshold to western exploration, and later becomes known as Petersburg.
CE 1701	Established	After part of Charles City County south of the Appomattox River is subdivided to create Prince George County, rent rolls indicate 1,200 acres in possession of the "orphans of Mr. Henry Batte."
CE 1721 - 1799	Land Transfer	The Spring Garden tract is partitioned among Henry Batte's five surviving daughters. By the late eighteenth century, separate parcels making up the former extents of the "Spring Garden" tract of approximately two-square miles of land area are subdivided into several properties held by members of the extended Batte, Peterson, Bland, Harrison, Taylor, and Thweatt families.
CE 1748	Established	The city of Petersburg is laid out and becomes the market center of the local agricultural economy.
CE 1780	Established	By the end of the Revolutionary War, the area surrounding the falls of the Appomattox River is host to five separate settlements.
CE 1791	Established	Petersburg population is nearly 3,000 with early growth attributed to the tobacco trade and its position at the head of navigable waters on the Appomattox River. (Auwaerter and Curry 2009: 16)
CE 1850 - 1860	Established	Farmland at the future Crater Battlefield site is owned by William H. Griffith, around 130 acres, and William B. Taylor, around 425 acres.
CE 1853	Built	The Petersburg and Jerusalem Plank Road Company begins construction on an improved route between Petersburg and Jerusalem (presently Courtland) located roughly 45 miles southeast in Southampton County.
CE 1858	Established	By this time five railroads and six major roads converge on Petersburg from all directions, including the Norfolk and Petersburg (later Norfolk and Western and today Norfolk Southern) that generally divides the Griffith and Taylor farms.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1860	Established	Petersburg population is over 18,000 making it second largest city in Virginia and seventh largest in the South. (GMP 2004: 7)
CE 1861	Military Operation	On April 17, the Virginia Convention passes the ordinance to secede from the Union.
CE 1862	Built	By late summer, a system of fortifications named the Dimmock Line is established in a 10-mile arc south of Petersburg. Captain Charles H. Dimmock supervises construction. Nearly all timber within half mile of line removed to provide clear observation/fields of fire and to construct abates in front of line. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 9)
CE 1864	Military Operation	On June 9, the Petersburg Campaign [Siege of Petersburg] begins. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 5)
CE 1864	Military Operation	Union Lt. General Grant's force of 18,000 arrives east of Petersburg on June 15, attacking Captain Dimmock's defensive works and overtaking nearly two miles of trenches and gun positions that evening. However, Confederate defenders ultimately keep them from taking the city.
CE 1864	Military Operation	The Union's advances from June 15 through18 bring enemy lines extremely close to each other south of Blandford, in the vicinity of the Confederate Elliott's Salient.
CE 1864	Military Operation	On June 25, the enlisted Union Regiment of the 48th Pennsylvanians begins excavating a tunnel designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants that will eventually stretch 511 feet to its end below Elliott's Salient.
CE 1864	Military Operation	On July 17, the tunnel is complete; its far end lay beneath the Confederate fortifications. By July 23, crews have finished two forty-foot lateral galleries, preparing them for eight powder magazines.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Just before dawn on the morning of July 30, the Pennsylvania coal miners light the fuses in the tunnel. The explosion opens a cavernous void between 170–250 feet long, 60–80 feet wide, and 25–30 feet deep at the center. While the Union charge through the opening had been planned weeks in advance, the plan of attack is changed on the eve of the battle. It is poorly executed and Confederate counterattacks prove victorious.
CE 1864	Military Operation	A brief truce on August 1 allows soldiers on both sides of the lines to dig long pits and bury the dead.
CE 1865	Military Operation	Confederate General Lee and his army surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9.
CE 1866	Established	James H. Platt, Union veteran of the siege, creates and publishes a guide booklet entitled "A Guide to the Fortifications and Battlefields Around Petersburg." One of the stops includes the Crater.
CE 1866	Moved	A burial corps searches the Petersburg area, including the Crater, for wartime burials to be reinterred at the newly established Poplar Grove National Cemetery.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1866	Farmed/Harvested	Both William Griffith and William Taylor, the pre-war landowners at the Battle of the Crater site, return after the departure of the armies and begin reclaiming and rebuilding productive farms and homes.
CE 1866 - 1869	Built	William Griffith accommodates visitors looking at the Crater inside his field, fencing off the site, laying out graveled paths and steps, and charging admission. Within three years, he builds a saloon to serve guests and a small museum of artifacts.
CE 1873	Purchased/Sold	William Griffith dies. His son Timothy Griffith inherits the property and continues operating the Crater business.
CE 1875	Memorialized	Survivors of Mahone's brigade hold a reunion at the Crater.
CE 1898	Established	The first local movement towards a national battlefield park in Petersburg is made with the formation of the Petersburg National Battlefield Association. Despite repeated attempts, the effort fails.
CE 1901	Purchased/Sold	The Taylor farm is sold to Robert W. Travis.
CE 1903	Purchased/Sold	The heirs of Timothy Griffith, who had taken over the Crater property after his death in 1903, offer the site for sale. Virginians and veterans from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania lobby the federal government to purchase it for the proposed battlefield park, but nothing happens. (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 127)
CE 1905	Built	Veterans of the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery Regiment erect a monument at the Crater. A group of three markers identifies the regiment's advanced, right flank, and left flank positions. It is the first of seven monuments installed at the Crater Battlefield.
CE 1907	Built	The 48th Pennsylvania Regiment Veterans Association, a group of survivors from the regiment responsible for excavating the mine tunnel, dedicates the Entrance to Mine Monument southeast of the mine portal and the Crater of Mine Monument along the east rim of the Crater near the terminus of the tunnel.
CE 1910	Built	The Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy erects the Mahone's Brigade Monument to mark the position of Brigadier General William Mahone's brigade during the battle. The marker is installed west of the Crater and Trench Cavalier and dedicated on April 28, 1911.
CE 1910	Built	Members of the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, donate a parcel of land abutting Jerusalem Plank Road on the Griffith farm property for the Massachusetts Monument, dedicated to Massachusetts soldiers who served at Petersburg. It is officially dedicated on November 13, 1911.
CE 1924	Built	South Carolina Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy dedicates the South Carolina Monument on November 26, 1924 on the north rim of the Crater. The monument commemorates South Carolina soldiers who manned positions and artillery at Elliott's Salient.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1925	Platted	Virginia Congressman Patrick Drewry commissions Confederate veteran Captain Carter Bishop, Union veteran Colonel James Anderson, and Lieutenant Colonel Francis Pope of the Army Corps of Engineers, to survey the battlefield lands as part of a new strategy for establishing the park.
CE 1925	Purchased/Sold	A private organization named the Crater Battlefield Association purchases the Griffith farm from the heirs of Timothy Griffith. They continue stewardship of the Crater.
CE 1926	Established	On July 3, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signs a bill authorizing the creation of Petersburg National Military Park. At this time the park is managed by the US War Department. Starting at Battery V, north of Hopewell Road, the park boundary is intended to take in the battlefields near the Crater, and continue down Jerusalem Plank Road to fortifications south of the city. The initial acreage does not include the privately owned Crater property.
CE 1926	Built	To defray acquisition costs and ongoing preservation of the Crater and the surrounding land, the Crater Battlefield Association builds an 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse at the site. That same year, they excavate of the west end of the collapsed mine tunnel.
CE 1927 - 1928	Built	The Petersburg National Military Park Commission completes much of the preliminary surveys and land acquisition. They are also charged with creating or repairing necessary roads, clearing lands, and clearly marking all points of historical interest.
CE 1927	Built	The Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy fund and dedicate the Mahone Monument on July 30, 1927. The granite obelisk is installed west of the Crater and the Trench Cavalier.
CE 1927	Purchased/Sold	On May 24, Tract 01-114 (North of Fort Haskell and tour road) is donated to US by Union Trust and Mortgage Company. (Landsnet, D5)
CE 1928	Purchased/Sold	On June 18, the Virginia Bank of Petersburg takes ownership of the former Griffith Farm from the Crater Battlefield Association. (Landsnet, D25)
CE 1929	Established	Petersburg Battlefield Park Association is formed to assist the Petersburg National Military Park Commission. They make possible the park's opening, contribute money, supply publicity, and as a third party assist in obtaining land.
CE 1930	Purchased/Sold	On September 16, Tract 01-113 (Fort Haskell) is purchased by War Department from Hopewell Realty Company. (Landsnet, D12)
CE 1931	Moved	The remains of another twenty-nine soldiers are recovered from the grounds during extensive construction work on the golf course. The remains are reburied at Poplar Grove National Cemetery.
CE 1932	Built	The park begins construction of the first segments of a park tour road.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1932	Established	On June 20, 1932, the official dedication of the Petersburg National Military Park is held at Battery V.
CE 1933	Established	On August 10, 1933, responsibility for the park is transferred from the War Department to the NPS. At this time, Petersburg National Military Park encompasses 346 acres.
CE 1933	Purchased/Sold	On February 8, Tract 01-119 (Battery XVI) is purchased by US from Joseph Prichystal, deceased. (Landsnet, D59)
CE 1933 - 1942	Built	A camp for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1364 is established near Fort Stedman. From 1933-1942, the CCC clears underbrush, assists with road construction, plants trees, leads tours, and constructs minor buildings. CCC crews also complete field work for a topographic survey of the former Griffith and Taylor farm properties, which is published in 1935.
CE 1934	Abandoned	The Crater Battlefield Association declares bankruptcy and closes the golf course.
CE 1935 - 1940	Built	Planned in 1931, the Virginia Department of Highways builds US Route 460 south of the park.
CE 1936	Purchased/Sold	On July 18, 1936, the federal government purchases the former 170-acre Griffith farm (Tract 01-117) from Benjamin T. Kinsey, Substituted Trustee, and George B. White, Special Commissioner. The parcel extends east to the railroad tracks and includes the Crater, clubhouse, and “relic house.” Initial plans are made to connect the parcel to the rest of the park tour road. The Taylor/Travis farm to the east of the railroad tracks is still a working farm at this time. (Landsnet, D25).
CE 1937	Removed	The golf course and its supporting infrastructure are removed.
CE 1937	Built	A well and pump house are completed at the Crater clubhouse. (Wallace and Conway 1983: Part One, 97)
CE 1937	Moved	During the excavation of the mine tunnel, CCC crews discover remains of two additional Union soldiers.
CE 1937	Established	A reenactment of the Battle of the Crater takes place on April 30, 1937, celebrating the integration of the Crater property within the legal park boundary. The large turnout is estimated at 50,000 visitors, with some 3,000 participants.
CE 1937	Purchased/Sold	On April 15, Tract 01-121 (east of Old Baxter to railroad line) is purchased by the US from Ernest S. Jones. (Landsnet, D40)
CE 1937	Purchased/Sold	On May 20, Tract 01-122 (Old Baxter Road) is purchased by the US from Mary Ann Lane. (Landsnet, D43)
CE 1937	Purchased/Sold	On July 29, Tract 01-120 (west of Battery XVI) is purchased by the US from Mary Prichystal et al. for $600. (Landsnet, D44)
CE 1937 - 1938	Built	Renovations begin on the former clubhouse as a residence for the superintendent and visitor contact area. Work is completed in 1938, and includes a garage. (Wallace and Conway 1983: Part One, 97)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1938	Built	The Union’s entrance to the tunnel is rebuilt.
CE 1939	Moved	The Massachusetts Monument is relocated to a grass panel dividing the entrance and exit lanes at the road to the Crater.
CE 1942	Purchased/Sold	The War Department acquires the 206-acre Taylor property for the purpose of incorporating the farm into the expanding war-time facilities of Camp Lee.
CE 1949	Purchased/Sold	On October 29, 1949, the former Taylor/Travis property (Tract 01-115), comprising the eastern half of the Crater battlefield, is transferred to the Department of the Interior. (Landsnet, D62)
CE 1950	Removed	The park removes the post-Civil War buildings at the Taylor farm, but retains the brick foundations and chimney of what is now known as the kitchen.
CE 1952	Land Transfer	On September 10, Tract 01-140 (east of Battery XVI) is exchanged from Commonwealth of Virginia to the US. (Landsnet, D66)
CE 1955	Altered	The former clubhouse that housed the superintendent`s residence is converted into a visitor center. (Wallace and Conway 1983: Part One, 102)
CE 1962	Established	Congress enacts legislation to change the park name from ‘National Military Park’ to ‘National Battlefield’ and authorizes acquisition of land at the site of the Battle of Five Forks.
CE 1962	Moved	The NPS relocates the Massachusetts Monument to the south side of the road to the Crater.
CE 1962	Land Transfer	Norfolk and Western Railway Company grants an easement to the NPS to construct an overpass across the tracks for the Eastern Front Tour Road, at the location of the former Baxter Road railroad crossing.
CE 1963	Built	Construction of the overpass bridge is completed over the Norfolk & Western Railroad.
CE 1964	Built	The new curving route of the Tour Road continues to the new Crater parking area built near the historic location of the advanced Union lines. The tour road exits at the same point as the former entry road to the Crater. Traffic flow is changed to one-way road.
CE 1964	Built	Citizens of Petersburg erect a monument at the Crater commemorating the battle’s 100th anniversary.
CE 1967	Built	A new park visitor center is completed at Battery V as part of the Mission 66 initiative.
CE 1967 - 1970	Removed	In the years immediately after the opening of the new visitor center at Battery V, the visitor center housed in the former clubhouse is removed, as are the garage and well house.
CE 1967	Built	The park rebuilds the Crater tunnel entrance.
CE 1967	Removed	The NPS removes the Entrance to Mine Monument when it rebuilds the mine tunnel entrance.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1970	Land Transfer	On July 9, Tract 01-130 (west of Crater Road) is exchanged from Baycon Corporation to the US for $10 and other federal land. (Landsnet, D82)
CE 1970 - 1979	Altered	By the 1970s, visitors begin using the flat open field west of the Crater for picnicking and playing games. Others come to the park to maintain their cars alongside the park tour road.
CE 1977	Purchased/Sold	On May 2, Tract 01-128 (west of Crater Road) is purchased by the US from Alvin F. Morgan and his wife. (Landsnet, D93)
CE 1977	Purchased/Sold	On September 26, Tract 01-132 (west of Crater Road) is purchased by US from Hazel J. Berry. (Landsnet, D94)
CE 1978	Purchased/Sold	On September 20, Tract 01-129 and Tract 01-131 (west of Crater Road) are purchased by the US from Crater View Baptist Church. (Landsnet, D97)
CE 1978	Altered	The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) clears a wooded area between the site of Fort Morton and the Crater, which reveals the 1964 parking lot in the viewshed. (Wallace and Conway 1983: Part Two, 65)
CE 1980 - 1989	Built	The NPS resets the Entrance to Mine Monument in its original location.
CE 1982	Established	Archeological work at the Taylor house site reveals that the standing ruins are very likely to be of a related kitchen or slave dwelling.
CE 1997 - 1998	Built	State-of-the-art interpretive markers with audio-interpretation are placed at the eight driving-tour stops to enhance the self-guided tour.
CE 1997	Damaged	A December arson fire damages the Mine Tunnel, forcing the park to close it.
CE 2000	Damaged	The park experiences two wind events that cause considerable damage to Battery XIII, toppling several large trees and creating huge holes in the earthworks. (State of the Park Petersburg National Battlefield, 17 November 2000)
CE 2000	Rehabilitated	The mine tunnel is repaired after fire. Diffused lighting also installed. (PMIS 10639)
CE 2001 - 2003	Purchased/Sold	The park acquires Hickory Hill Mobile Home Park (Tract 01 -137, located west of the Crater Battlefield CLI boundary) with 19 tenants. By 2003 the area is converted to parking and a walking/jogging trailhead. (Superintendent's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001)
CE 2002	Built	A project to relocate the parking lot at the Crater out of the viewshed between Fort Morton and the Crater, and install new hard-surfaced, handicapped accessible trails in the area around the Crater, is completed. (State of the Park Petersburg National Battlefield, FY-02)
CE 2003	Removed	In the spring, the park begins Phase 1 of work clearing trees off earthworks. (State of the Park Petersburg National Battlefield, FY-03)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2003	Damaged	On September 18 Hurricane Isabel strikes the park. Over 1,847 trees are blown down blocking roads, trails, and landing on sensitive resources including earthworks and the Crater tunnel. (State of the Park Petersburg National Battlefield, FY-03)
CE 2004	Built	By the end of the fiscal year, additional work is completed to remove trees from earthen fortifications. (State of the Park Petersburg National Battlefield, FY-04)
CE 2004	Stabilized	HPTC completes a project to stabilize, preserve, and repair the brick masonry at Taylor Kitchen Ruins.
CE 2008 - 2009	Altered	The park reroutes the tour road from north and west of the Fort Morton site to the south and east.
CE 2016	Established	The park boundary is expanded by Congress to enable another 7,238 acres.

Physical History:

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. It is drawn exclusively from the Site History chapter in the 2017 draft "Cultural Landscape Report for Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield, Petersburg, Virginia." Graphics associated with this section are located at the end of this section.

PROLOGUE: PRIOR TO 1860

Human settlement in eastern Virginia may be classified according to three discrete periods before the arrival of European explorers and settlers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. During these three intervals, comprising thousands of years, American Indian settlement patterns responded to dynamic climatic conditions. Traditionally identified as the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland periods, each time span can describe findings related to population levels and distribution of native groups throughout Virginia's coastal plain or Tidewater region. Settlement patterns transitioned from resource rich coastal locations during the Paleoindian period. Coastal inundation following the retreat of glacial ice prompted settlement of interior upland and wetland locations during the Archaic Period. During the Woodland period, settlement patterns incorporated cultivation of crops leading to more stationary lifeways. Cultivation of crops favored sites characterized by fertile inland floodplains within major rivers estuaries such as the James and Appomattox Rivers. Refer to the CLR for additional information on the three time periods. (CLR draft 2017: 10-11)

During the Protohistoric and early Historic Periods, at the time of European contact, the area surrounding the Crater Battlefield was inhabited by the Algonkian-speaking "Appomattoc" tribe, its' principal towns located at Bermuda Hundred Point (at confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers), on Swift Creek, and on Rohoic Run. The Appomattoc lived in proximity with the Weanoc tribe. Sharing the Algonkian dialect, the Weanoc group occupied both sides of the James River from near the mouth of the Appomattox River to eastern Prince George County. The local presence of the watershed divide separating two vast drainage systems continued to be of importance as it had been for thousands of years. During the Woodland Period, the watershed divide appears to have marked the cultural boundary between the Algonkian-speaking peoples of the circum-Chesapeake Coastal Plain and such Iroquoian-speaking groups as the Nottoway and the Meherrin to the south. (CLR draft 2017: 11)

Widespread contact between English settlers and Native American populations increased markedly in 1607 with the settlement of Jamestown. Interactions between the two groups initially focused upon the trade of English goods for food. Paramount Chief Powhatan had been well aware of Spanish and English forays into North America prior to this, including Sir Walter Raleigh's disastrous "Lost Colony" of "Roanoke" (1587–1590). Perhaps responding to European incursions, Powhatan had successfully assembled a coalition of dozens of Algonquian-speaking tribes before 1607 when English settlers established Jamestown. (CLR draft 2017: 12)

Powhatan took part in trade with the English, and was especially keen to acquire firearms and a variety of other items that might add to his eminence and power. As John Smith and William Strachey reported of Powhatan's involvement in the alleged slaughter of the Roanoke colony, the English failed to share the chieftain's interest in establishing an arms trade. This imbalance of power, a spirit of vindictiveness toward Powhatan, and the insatiable needs of the English, all lead to increasingly violent encounters. Early narratives chronicling the progress of the Virginia Colony document numerous visits by the colonists to the area inhabited by the Appomattoc. These included the late 1611 destruction of the Appomattoc's principal town at the confluence of the James and Appomattox, so ordered by Sir Thomas Dale during the First Powhatan War (1609–1614). (CLR draft 2017: 12)

Sir Thomas Dale, who while in transit had been shipwrecked in Bermuda for a span of ten months, arrived in Virginia in the autumn of 1609. Smith's 1611 account of Dale's actions mentions the establishment of "New Bermuda." Charles City County, one of Virginia's eight original "Shires" was established out of the former Bermuda Hundred "Incorporation" in 1634 following revocation of the Virginia Company's charter. The newly designated Charles City County spanned the Appomattox River, bounded by Henrico County to the north and James City County to the south. (CLR draft 2017: 12)

English Settlement at the Appomattox Fall Line Zone:
Responding to the intractable hostility between English settlers and the allied forces of Chief Necotowance (1600–1649), a frontier fortress was constructed in 1645 near the geographic fall-line

on the south bank of the Appomattox River and named as “Fort Henry.” Garrisoned with forty-five soldiers drawn from surrounding ‘shires,’ the fort was commanded by Abraham Wood (1610–1682), a former indentured servant who had amassed thousands of acres through royal land patents. Wood administered Fort Henry as an outpost on the colonial boundary and as a western gateway, allocating passes to settlers and striped badges to Indians for passage across the boundary into either region. At the direction of Governor Berkeley, in 1671, then Major General Wood commissioned Captain Thomas Batte (1630–1690) and Robert Fallows [Fallam] and an Appomattox Indian guide to explore Virginia’s western frontier. That very year, Peter Jones, Major Wood’s son-in-law, received command of Fort Henry, opening a trading station nearby that became known as Peter’s Point. The combined trading enterprise became a center of fur trade, a threshold to western exploration, and later became known as Petersburg. Members of the local tribe established a village just west of the fort. Indian Town Creek, named for this native settlement, was also called Old Town Creek and later, Rohoic Creek marking the approximate western limits of present day Petersburg. (CLR draft 2017: 12-13)

Architect and architectural historian Gibson Worsham evaluates Petersburg’s origins as similar to other Virginia settlements of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; beginning as an informal military outpost and trading village prior to formal surveys. Yet from these beginnings, the current city, as Worsham explains, ultimately coalesced out of a complex “nest” of independent proprietary towns, separated from one another by the river and its various tributary creeks. By the end of the Revolutionary War, the area surrounding the falls of the Appomattox River was host to five separate settlements, these subdivided by narrow unclaimed parcels featuring undesirable or otherwise difficult topography, marshland, and local creeks draining to the river. (CLR draft 2017: 13)

The Blandford settlement, east of Petersburg and below the falls, was begun in 1738, established on behalf of trader Colonel William Poythress (1635–1763), the enterprising fifth son of John Poythress and Christian Peebles. The new settlement held great promise for Poythress, occupying a place in the river where vessels of considerable draft could successfully navigate, load and unload cargoes of tobacco and other wares. The practicality behind this eastward drift of local settlement was further supported by construction of a fine new parish church building atop Wells Hill, south of the new town. Blandford was serviced by a central road or avenue leading to the new church, a road that was later extended after 1783 to the distant town of Jerusalem [Courtland] in Southampton County, a place that in time would become the birthplace of Confederate Major General William Mahone (1826–1895). (CLR draft 2017: 13)

The heirs of Thomas Batte (the explorer) continued to bear close relations regarding early development of Petersburg as well as neighboring Charles City County to the south. It was a portion of the former Batte family “Spring Garden” estate that ultimately became the Crater Battlefield. The first mention of the “Spring Garden” place name for the vast tract surrounding the 1864 battlefield was recorded in 1654 in the pages of the Charles City Order Book. There, William Batte (1632–1673) documented his extension of entailed rights to his brothers Thomas (1630–1690) and Henry Batte (1635–1690) to what elder brother William referred to as his “Spring Garden” plantation. After the part of Charles City County south of the Appomattox River was subdivided creating Virginia’s Prince George County in 1701, rent rolls indicate 1,200 acres in possession of the “orphans of Mr. Henry Batte.” (CLR draft 2017: 13-14)

Twenty years later, in 1721, the Prince George County Spring Garden tract was legally partitioned among Henry Batte’s five surviving daughters. By the late eighteenth century, following the abolishment of the practice of entail, separate parcels making up the former extents of the “Spring Garden” tract of approximately two-square miles of land area had been subdivided into several fee-simple properties held by members of the extended Batte, Peterson, Bland, Harrison, Taylor, and Thweatt families. (CLR draft 2017: 14)

Just prior to the American Revolution, George Keith Taylor (1769–1815) was born to local merchant Richard F. Taylor (1739–1801) and Mary Field as their first son, the family dwelling within the former bounds of the Spring Garden tract, which appears to have become by that time a liberally applied placename for the surrounding countryside southeast of Petersburg. (The Taylor family home was destroyed during the war). (CLR draft 2017: 14)

Upon reaching his legal "majority" in 1790 at the age of twenty-one, Richard F. Taylor conveyed his "Spring Garden" lands to his son George Keith. After completing studies at the College of William and Mary, the younger Taylor began his law practice in 1795 and in 1799 wed Anna Jane Marshall (1799–1866), of Fauquier County, the sister of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801–1835) John Marshall (1755–1835). George Keith Taylor served in the Virginia House of Delegates (1795–96; 1798–99) and was later nominated by President John Adams to the US Court of Appeals Court for the 4th Circuit, and confirmed by the United States Senate in 1801. His service as a judge was brief, ending in 1802 as a result of the abolition of that court. Thereafter, Taylor pursued private law practice until his death in 1815. (CLR draft 2017: 14)

Following Judge Taylor's death, his "Spring Garden" acreage was devised to his heirs or otherwise sold in the course of settling his estate. Taylor's widow apparently returned to Fauquier County and lived a long life until her death in 1866. Three-hundred and sixty four of Taylor's Spring Garden acres north of the "Hall's Field Road" and south of the river and the "Palestine Line" [sic palustrine for wetland] were sold to Colin Alfriend whom later married Rebecca Heath. Other purchasers of Judge Taylor's lands included John Clarke (34.25 riverfront acres of wetland meadow, lot #11), Robert Prichett (five 16.25 acre lots, 81.25 acres); Belefield Starke (16.25 acres, lot #6), Drury Buage (sp?) (16.25 acres, lot #7), Daniel Vaughn (16.25 acres, lot #8), Peyton Mason (16.25 acres, lot #9), and John James Thweatt (16.25 acres, lot #10). One-hundred and eighty acres south of the referenced "Halls Field" road were identified in 1818 as yet to be sold. Judge Taylor's young daughter Elizabeth Marshall Taylor (1804–1900), is indicated in the 1818 survey documentation as the owner of adjacent lands bordering the "New Market Ditch." (CLR draft 2017: 14-15)

In 1834, a powerful storm tore through the local area, attracting the notice of the publication "Railroad Locomotives and Cars." The published account of the storm describes placenames and local inhabitants, and in the process captured the qualities of the landscape that at that time had been largely shorn of tree cover. "Hall's Field" is noted as the plantation of Wm. Baird; "Hickory Hill," the plantation of Wm. Shands, Jr.—the storm destroying the Shands cotton gin and stable. The storm was said to have been a tornado beginning its course at "Walnut Hill" the Wilcox residence (west of Crater Road), to "Preston," the residence of Mrs. Ann Thweatt (lot #10 above) "you have a vista scarcely interrupted by a solitary tree, a distance of four of five miles." (CLR draft 2017: 15)

It is likely that those lands identified in 1818 as having been devised to "Betsy" Taylor were purchased in 1848 by her widowed aunt Mary Harrison Taylor. The three-hundred and five "Spring Garden" acres purchased by the widow Taylor were nevertheless devised to her son William Byrd Taylor (1818–1875), following her death in 1851, only a short time later. William Byrd Taylor, who owned the property on the eve of the Civil War, would return to the ruined property in 1865 to begin rebuilding his livelihood. (CLR draft 2017: 15)

The development of Petersburg, and other Tidewater Virginia settlements, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries resulted from their location on the navigable reach of rivers that extended to the Chesapeake. Road or turnpike construction, followed by railroads would expand the transportation network and commercial reach of Petersburg prior to the Civil War. In 1853, the Petersburg and Jerusalem Plank Road Company was incorporated and began construction on an improved route between the city and Jerusalem (presently Courtland) roughly 45 miles southeast in Southampton County. Creating a plank or corduroy road involved laying logs side-to-side to form a wood roadbed above muddy soils and boggy ground. However, the technique required constant maintenance and the region's burgeoning commerce required more durable and consistent transportation. (CLR draft 2017: 15)

As travel began on the completed Jerusalem Plank Road, Petersburg was already served by a railroad line heading roughly south to Weldon, North Carolina, and one heading north across the Appomattox River to Richmond. Plans to connect the city to a deep-water port on the Chesapeake formalized in 1851, when the Virginia General Assembly granted authority for construction of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad. Two years later, the railroad hired William Mahone to serve as chief engineer. Mahone studied civil engineering and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1847. He worked with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and then Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road before accepting his new position with the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad. In 1858, the

Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad was completed and consisted of 85.5 miles of track and 13 stations. Two years later, Mahone was promoted to president of the railroad and on the eve of the Civil War, envisioned merging with rail lines to the west to provide service across Virginia's Southern Tier to Bristol, Tennessee. (CLR draft 2017: 15-16)

The railroad line Mahone supervised would confront him and Union forces on the battlefield in June 1864. The prominent circulation feature also served as a divider between the two farms that would become the site of the Crater Battlefield. West of the railroad, 1850 and 1860 census records indicate that William H. Griffith owned 130 acres of improved farm land. He lived with his wife, five children, likely his mother-in-law, and six slaves, one of whom he reported as a fugitive from the state in 1860. The remaining slaves included three women, a teenage boy, a two-year old girl, and a one-year old boy residing on the property in two slave houses. The agricultural census reported Griffith's farm valued at $1,300 with $100 in livestock and having produced 200 bushels of Indian corn. (CLR draft 2017: 16)

East of the railroad line, records show a more prosperous William Byrd Taylor. Taylor owned 425 acres of improved farm land and appears to be a bachelor with 21 slaves, two of whom he reported as a fugitive from the state in 1860. Taylor's remaining slaves included three women, ten men, one teenage girl, three teenage boys, a two-year old girl, and a five-year old boy all likely living among six slave houses. With this enslaved workforce, the agricultural census reported Taylor's farm valued at $6,000 with $703 in livestock and having produced 1700 bushels of winter wheat, corn, and Indian corn. (CLR draft 2017: 16)

CIVIL WAR

In 1820, a compromise was reached concerning the geographic future of slavery in the United States. Missouri was admitted to the Union as a slave state, yet enslavement was thereafter prohibited elsewhere north of the new state's southern boundary. Thomas Jefferson, aware of the implications of this Missouri Compromise to the fledgling nation, wrote from Monticello, "This momentous question, like a firebell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union." (CLR draft 2017: 16, f.n.30–quoted by Dabney n.d.: 210)

Bells did indeed peal in Richmond on April 17, 1861, when the Virginia Convention passed the ordinance to secede from the Union, becoming part of the new Confederacy of Southern states. At that moment, local industries, such as lead smelters, powder mills, iron works and foundries—all turned to aid the Confederate war efforts by producing weapons and other vital military material. Petersburg's women contributed to the new Confederacy by working long hours in the cotton mills producing sheeting and tent cloth. The railroad connecting Petersburg and Richmond became an important conduit for supplies feeding the clattering enterprise. To Ulysses S. Grant, the railroad corridor became a means to an end. (CLR draft 2017: 16-17)

Aware of the city's strategic value, the citizens of Petersburg prepared themselves for Federal attacks. As early as 1862, Petersburg had surrounded itself with a string of fifty-five batteries inscribing a ten-mile arc around the city. These batteries were connected with an extensive system of earthworks designed by the Confederate engineer, Captain Charles Dimmock. At his request, the Common Council of Petersburg compelled two hundred slaves and free blacks to construct the defenses. Later, hundreds of blacks were forced into labor from the countryside. These defensive works were designed to enable a relatively weak force to protect the city until reinforcements arrived. General William Mahone, a Confederate leader during the Siege of Petersburg, believed however that Dimmock's system of fortifications was, "far too elaborate and extensive for occupation by an army of the proportions to which General Lee's had never really reached." (CLR draft 2017: 17, f.n.34–Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 1)

Grant Flanks Lee:
Grant's defeat at Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864, led him to alter his strategy. Rather than attacking Richmond directly, he would turn to attack Petersburg, and capturing it, would sever all but one of the railroads reaching the Confederate capital. Grant's force of 18,000 arrived east of Petersburg on June 15, attacking Captain Dimmock's defensive works and overtaking nearly two miles of trenches and gun positions that evening. The following day three more Union divisions arrived, consisting of over one hundred thousand men. Unleashing a blistering attack, the combined Union forces greatly advanced their positions, yet the smaller force of Confederate defenders was able to ultimately repel them and keep them from the city. (CLR draft 2017: 17)

The Union's advances from June 15 through18 brought enemy lines extremely close to each other south of Blandford, in the vicinity of the Confederate Elliott's Salient. General Orlando Willcox reported, "June 18th… finally establishing ourselves nearer to the enemy than any portion of the army." In spite of battlefield success, the ferocity of those four days of fighting led Grant to settle in for a siege. Union troops then entrenched on the Taylor farm "Spring Garden" and occupied a unique position—directly opposite Confederate Brigadier General Stephen Elliott, Jr.'s brigade of South Carolina troops. Fewer than 100 yards separated opposing lines (Figure 1). (CLR draft 2017: 17, f.n.36–Wallace 1983: 10)

The Battle:
It was under the frustrated tedium of the early siege, that the idea for the mine explosion was hatched. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, Union commander of the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry, officially proposed the idea to the division commander, General Robert Potter, but it was a line from a casual conversation between two enlisted men that first inspired them. "We could blow that damned fort out of existence if we could run a mine shaft under it," one man remarked. Pleasants was a mining engineer from Pennsylvania, and the regiment he led was composed largely of miners from his region. As he talked with General Potter and Major General Ambrose E. Burnside, he described

the motivation of his men and the mining technology that would make the tunnel possible. Pleasants also described the ingenious method to ventilate the long mine tunnel without giving any indication on the surface. The ambitious idea was to surreptitiously dig, then detonate the mine under enemy lines. Following the surprise explosion, Union forces would attack through the gap in the Confederate lines, take the town, and continue victoriously northward to Richmond. Pleasants' mining efforts required a main tunnel over 500 feet long and to limit the tunnel's bracing and possible Confederate detection, a trapezoidal cross section roughly four feet high (Figure 2). Burnside's presentation to General George Meade and his engineer Major James Duane was met with skepticism. Yet Meade allowed work on the tunnel to proceed, if only to distract the soldiers from boredom. Grant initially expressed little interest. (CLR draft 2017: 18, f.n.37–Pleasants and Straley 1961: 48)

On June 25, the enlisted men in the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry directed by Sergeant Henry Reese, began excavating the tunnel that would eventually stretch 511 feet to its end below the Confederate position. Both the siting of the tunnel and its construction were executed in cramped quarters, without the benefit of specialized engineering equipment. Lieutenant Colonel Pleasants himself went to great trouble and danger to make accurate measurements, often drawing fire as he peered over the fortifications to survey the landscape. On July 17 the tunnel was complete; its far end lay beneath the Confederate fortifications. By July 23, crews had finished two forty-foot lateral galleries, preparing them for eight powder magazines. The careful work was interrupted when Confederate deserters reported of countermining to intercept a suspected Union tunnel. At this point all the Pennsylvania coal miners could do was to continue their work as quietly as possible and wait until the explosives arrived. (CLR draft 2017: 18)

For weeks the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment had diligently excavated the red clay, hoping to conceal the project from the enemy. After Union forces packed the red earth chambers with four tons of gunpowder, they waited for orders to detonate the explosion and attack. During this period of waiting, the Union Major General Winfield Scott Hancock attempted to lure Confederate forces towards Richmond. Hancock's attack on Richmond just prior to the mine explosion, diverted Confederate troops away from Petersburg, leaving the surrounding fortifications minimally protected. (CLR draft 2017: 18-19)

Major General Burnside's plans for the ensuing battle were rescinded at the last minute. To spearhead the assault, Burnside had chosen Brigadier General Edward Ferrero's 4th Division, the only division of US Colored Troops in the Army of the Potomac. Ferrero's troops were organized into two brigades of 4,300 men who repeatedly practiced the post-explosion maneuvers during the excavation of the tunnel. (CLR draft 2017: 19)

Burnside's choice of African American troops was questioned, yet even one of his critics recognized the limited options available, "The best men, by virtue of their greater courage, were killed first in the spring blood bath, while even the bravest of the survivors could only be driven to attack the enemy by the most fervent appeal." His first three divisions of experienced white troops from the IX Corps were shell-shocked and weary, having rarely been out of combat or range of sharpshooters since the sixth of May. Burnside considered his white troops demoralized and believing the US Colored Troops, anxious to prove their worth and undiscouraged by months of sustained combat, were the better gamble. (CLR draft 2017: 19, f.n.44–Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 17)

Yet, the day before the battle, General Burnside received word that the US Colored Troops, and their carefully orchestrated plan of attack, would not be employed. General George Meade's new orders were to lead the initial charge with a seasoned white division of the IX Corps, the very men Burnside had considered so battle-fatigued. Meade explained that he and Grant were reluctant to use "untried" regiments, and further that they feared political consequences if the first plan failed and caused heavy losses among the "Colored Regiments." As Burnside's plans were countermanded, his four commanders argued over who would lead the charge in their place—most likely agreeing amongst themselves that, in a perfect world, it should still be Ferrero's fresher black troops. Unable to reach agreement, Burnside chose the new division to lead the attack by drawing lots the night before between Brigadier Generals Robert Potter, James Ledlie, and Orlando Willcox. (CLR draft 2017: 19)

Ledlie's First Division won the draw. They were to traverse around the result of the explosion,

leading the advance toward northward to Cemetery Hill, near Blandford Church. The IX Corps' Second, Third, and Fourth Divisions under Potter, Willcox, and Ferrero respectively, were to support the First Division. Meade indicated each of the first three commanders was to be provided an additional regiment each of acting engineers, to construct or reverse fortifications during the fighting as needed. This assistance never materialized. As the regiments packed themselves into the trenches that night awaiting engagement, the heat became stifling, the soldiers squirming in place, and trying to conceal their presence. (CLR draft 2017: 20)

The above-ground Union lines stretched so close to the Confederate lines near Elliot's Salient that the Confederate artillery in this area was manned continuously by Captain Richard G. Pegram and his outfit of local artillerists. The 18th South Carolina provided infantry support both in and behind the Confederate battery. The rest of the Confederate brigade lay encamped on either side of the redoubt. The 17th and the 26th South Carolina were found on the left, and the 22nd and the 23rd on the right. (CLR draft 2017: 20)

Just before dawn on the morning of July 30, the Pennsylvania coal miners lit the three fuses in the tunnel. Most of the Southern infantry was asleep. The slow burning fuses sputtered out near the halfway point, well before reaching the powder charge. The fuses were re-lit by two brave souls who re-entered the tunnel to determine what had gone wrong. A long fourteen minutes ticked by until 4:44 a.m., when the men first felt, then heard and saw the effects of eight thousand pounds of gunpowder exploding underground. It was said to have begun as a dull rumble "like a heavy gun, far away." A Union general wrote, "Suddenly, the earth trembled beneath our feet." The Confederate fortifications were blown straight up with "sulphurous black smoke" about two hundred feet into the air, "Then everything appeared to break up and fall in a rain of earth mixed with rocks, with beams, timbers, and mangled human bodies." The explosion opened a cavernous void between 170–250 feet long, 60–80 feet wide, and 25–30 feet deep at the center (Figure 3). There were between 278 and 300 casualties as a result of the mine explosion, and many of the 22nd South Carolina's Company B, were buried in their trenches. The 17th, 18th, and 22nd South Carolinians and Pegram's battery all suffered substantial losses. (CLR draft 2017: 20, f.n.49,51–Ward with Burns and Burns n.d.: 312; f.n.50–Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 40; CLR review comments, C. Bryce)

Chaos. Five to ten minutes was consumed in gawking before the Union charge began. Ledlie's division had not drilled, and rather than traverse the rim of the crater as planned, Ledlie's men entered it. Unaccompanied by engineers or equipment to scale the loose soil and steep earthen walls, the advance forward was slow and arduous. Potter's division followed Ledlie's, bearing off to the right, then Willcox's division bearing off to the left. Major General Gouverneur K. Warren's V Corps were to support Burnside's IX Corps on the left. Major General Hancock's II Corps were to assist Major General O.C. Ord's XVIII Corps on Burnside's right, with a division from the X Corps reinforcing their efforts (Figure 4). The army's chief of artillery, Brigadier General Henry J. Hunt and his artillery troops were to orchestrate an intense fusillade concentrating fire on the main points of attack. Major General Phillip Sheridan was north of the James River at Deep Bottom to perform diversionary movements, while Brigadier General James Wilson's division was directed to sweep to the west towards the Weldon rail road in order cover the left flank of the Union Army's 5th Corps as it moved up the Jerusalem Plank Road. Amidst the tumult, the Confederates managed to rally and deflect the Union advance—trapping a great number of Union soldiers in the Crater itself, mired and floundering, unable to scale the steep slopes. While the Union charge had been planned weeks in advance, execution of this inter-racial Union assault could not have gone worse. (CLR draft 2017: 20-21; CLR park review comments, C. Bryce, referencing Hess 2011: 63-64)

About 8:45 a.m., Confederate General William Mahone arrived with additional forces, charging the enemy north of the Crater "with a wild yell." Mahone and his men had approached undetected by way of a ravine just beyond the ridge west of the Crater. Between 11:00 a.m. and about 1:00 p.m., Lieutenant Bowley, a Federal soldier, observed the demoralized Union forces that came under Mahone's counterattack. (CLR draft 2017: 21, f.n.57–Bernard 1892: 177-178)

The Confederate line was restored by 2:00 p.m., after nine hours of fighting (Figure 5). Union troops had been chased from field west of the explosion to the broken redoubt, where Confederate gunfire rained down upon them. The desperate fighting resulted in enormous casualties by day's end. The

Confederate victory left the antagonists at a stalemate, just as they had been the day before. Pairing this loss with the Union slaughter at Cold Harbor, the press referred to Grant as a "butcher." (CLR draft 2017: 21)

Truce negotiation the next day foundered as the Union troops waited for agreement from their commanders. Captured Union soldiers, both white and black alike, were taunted and abused by angry soldiers and local citizens as they were marched into Petersburg. The magnitude of the Union's loss was not immediately understood. Meanwhile the Crater, already reintegrated into the Confederate defensive line, and the surrounding area was filled with wounded soldiers, flies, and the glare of the summer sun. The dead began "to stink fearfully." By the time the response to the belated Union's request for a reprieve was answered by Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard, it was too late in the afternoon to begin a truce of sufficient length to bury the dead before nightfall. On July 31, Union forces were allowed to provide water and whiskey to the wounded. (CLR draft 2017: 22, f.n.61–Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 104; CLR review comments, E. Dabney, referencing Levin 2012)

The truce began at 5:00 a.m. the following morning, August 1. By this time, the sun had burned all the bodies black. In the intense summer heat, many bodies had begun to decompose; flesh yielding to the touch, making it difficult to carry the corpses. Soldiers on both sides of the lines dug long pits and hurriedly threw in the dead, anxious to be rid of the grim task. The planned four-hour truce had to be lengthened an additional two hours due to the numbers of dead. Official records indicate Union casualties of 504 killed, 1,881 wounded, and another 1,413 captured or missing. Somewhat fewer than 400 Confederate soldiers died in the battle, about 278 of whom perished at the moment of the explosion. More than 700 were wounded, yet only 40 were taken prisoner. The total number of casualties for the USCT's was 1,327 or 38% of the losses suffered by the 9th Corps. These numbers indicate those killed in action; failing to account for the many men who lost their lives shortly afterwards because of atrocious medical conditions. For the remaining months of the war following July 30, 1864, the Union and Confederate troops at Petersburg endured the trenches, e in exchanges of bullets and artillery shells and waiting amidst tedium, filth, danger, and weather. The occasional skirmish or battle with the enemy, including a picket line assault during November of 1864 punctuated the boredom with fear. Throughout this interval, the defensive lines and earthen fortifications of both sides were subjected to near continuous revision and embellishment. These efforts included Confederate countermining work that extended into late summer and autumn. (CLR draft 2017: 22; CLR review comments, E. Dabney, referencing Hess 2011, and C. Bryce, referencing Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 128-129; CLI review comments, E. Dabney)

On March 4, 1865 after waging a political campaign he felt he would not win, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated into his second term as president. After repeating the oath of his office, President Lincoln bowed his long frame at the waist and kissed the Bible where he had moments before held his hand. The book was open to the last page of the fifth chapter of the Book of Isaiah, which read "And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof." On April 2, 1865, roaring was heard indeed as Grant's army stretched the Confederate troops at Petersburg over an indefensible distance. The line was broken. Lee and his army fought their way west towards Appomattox Courthouse, surrendering on April 9. With this, the citizens of Petersburg began to undo the knot of earthworks binding their city. (CLR draft 2017: 22, f.n.67–Isaiah, 5:30)

POST-WAR

As early as July 4, 1865, a paroled Confederate soldier began advertising in the Petersburg Daily Index his own “retreat” for refreshments near the Petersburg battlefields. Napoleon Hawes situated himself in the vicinity of Fort Stedman, serving lemonade at the former Union stronghold. His announcement declared: “The umbrageous foliage of the grove, the verdure of the adjacent grounds, and the famous military works immediately at the spot, all form rare attractions for the visitor and the tourists.” Before Lee’s surrender, James H. Platt, a Union veteran of the siege, purchased Jarratt’s Hotel on April 8, 1865. The hotel was located in Petersburg on Washington Street, between Market and Union Streets, and became a popular place for returning Union veterans, Freedmen’s Bureau officials, and Northern tourists. In 1866, Platt published the first version of A Guide to the Fortifications and Battlefields Around Petersburg, a twenty-seven page booklet, “believed to be the first published guide to a Civil War Battlefield.” (CLR draft 2017: 25, f.n.69,70–Wallace 1983: 17-18)

Platt’s guidebook included a brief account of the siege of Petersburg, outlining an itinerary for a two-day battlefield tour. The Guide went on to direct visitors to specific fortifications and remnants, decoding the jumble of associated terms and structures—entanglements such as fraises and abatis. Platt’s Guide further cited the most interesting places to see: the Confederate Fort Gregg, the 50th New York Engineers’ log church at Poplar Grove, the signal tower at Peebles Farm, Fort Wadsworth, Fort Sedgwick, the Crater, and Fort Stedman. This early document provides a first-person account of what Civil War residue one could see soon after the war ended. (CLR draft 2017: 25)

Prior to the war, the Crater battlefield area was comprised of two separate farms. Both landowners returned after the departure of the armies and turned toward reclaiming productive farms and homes from a wasteland. Only a few years after the surrender, a visitor to Petersburg wrote about “traces everywhere of the trail of war winding about over the hills, but to define and mark with the vision a continuous line are difficult.” Union veteran John D. Billings observed the rapidly recovering landscape during his 1888 visit to Petersburg. While looking for Union Fort Morton, alternatively known as the “14- gun battery,” Billings discovered that the Union fort had been dismantled. The landowner, Richard Field Taylor, explained to Billings, “This fort took up much valuable land, so I set to work carting it away. Yonder is a small corner of it.” (CLR draft 2017: 25, f.n.73,74–Wallace 1983: 20-21)

Early during the course of the siege, all of the buildings on Taylor’s farm were destroyed, as these structures had the misfortune of occupying a location directly within the field of fire between Elliott’s Salient and the 200 artillery pieces emplaced in and around Union Fort Morton. The Taylor farm spanned the railroad tracks and Poor Creek, with the entrance to the Crater tunnel and the Union lines found just within the Taylor property line. Taylor’s neighbor, William Griffith, also returned to his farm west of the railroad shortly after the war’s end, which included the Crater. Like his neighbor to the east, Griffith found his home destroyed and built a simple cabin for himself and his sons. Like Taylor and so many other local farmers, Griffith began the process of leveling the network of trenches and other earthworks to restore his agricultural fields. (CLR draft 2017: 26)

Before the time came for spring plowing, Griffith noticed visitors gawking at the huge pit inside his field. Sensing an opportunity much like the nearby refreshment stand at Fort Stedman, Griffith fashioned his own “battlefield attraction.” He fenced off the site, laid out graveled paths and steps, and began charging admission. “Within three years, he had garnered sufficient funds through admission fees to build a saloon to serve guests.” He also assembled a small museum of artifacts that he and his family operated through the end of World War I. Griffith’s museum artifacts were later transferred in large part to Petersburg National Battlefield. The guests pictured in an1866 photograph predated Griffith’s improvements, yet clearly shows that vegetation was already returning to the once barren fields (Figure 6). (CLR draft 2017: 26, f.n.77–Cavanaugh and Marvel 1989: 112)

In April of 1866, Brevit Lieutenant Colonel James M. Moore arrived in Petersburg to survey the area and establish Poplar Grove Cemetery—a new national cemetery to be under the administration of the Quartermaster General’s Office of the US Army. Moore assembled a ninety-six-man reburial detail. These men were to disinter large numbers of Union soldiers who had been hastily buried at the front

during the Petersburg siege for reburial into the new cemetery. Moore's team found the greatest density of bodies at the site of the Crater Battle, where they removed remains from mass graves. Ironically, the burial detail re-interred the dead from the Crater site on the second anniversary of the battle and that day uncovered nearly 300 unidentified bodies. Apparently the heavy soil had excluded oxygen to such a degree that many of the corpses remained relatively intact. Moore's team recovered a total of 669 bodies from the site. (CLR draft 2017: 26)

Post-war photographs show the Crater Battlefield remained primarily barren of vegetation. Yet with the departure of the armies, it did not take long for it to become overgrown with shrubs and young trees. One early visitor described the Crater site as "in the midst of weedy fields," but was still able to discover the mouth of the Union tunnel, as well as the Confederate countermines. Artist sketches from as early as 1886 show some tree growth in and around the Crater, and even along the tunnel path. An 1891 photograph shows the Crater covered by a grove of young pine and cedar trees. (CLR draft 2017: 26-27, f.n.80–Wallace 1983: 31-32)

Numerous post-war visitors recorded their experience visiting the Crater, and of William Griffith's tourist accommodations. Two early accounts describe the place quite differently from the landscape visible today. "Several hundred yards across the field, on the brow of the hill, yawned the Crater, looking black and uninviting," wrote one tourist in 1867. A visitor in 1868, the Reverend David Macrae, remembered later in 1871, "There is a vast hollow in the earth, though the look has changed…in consequence of the falling in of the sides." Although tourists wrote graphically of bullets and shells still to be found in and around the Crater, many also described the improvements for visitors such as paths, steps, the museum, and the saloon. One sarcastic guest described a road sign that pointed "To the Crater," and remarked that Griffith planned to "preserve the Crater intact, as the war had left it…and with that view he enclosed it and added some conveniences and attractions" (Figure 7). (CLR draft 2017: 27, f.n.81,82,83–Wallace 1983: 32)

The site attracted many veterans, including reunion groups and individuals that fought during the siege. Early reunions were usually small, such as a gathering in 1875 when about thirty-five members of Mahone's brigade met. Later reunions, including an 1887 assembly gathered old soldiers together from both North and South, providing one last chance at reconciliation. A period illustration from that time shows Union and Confederate siege veterans with General Mahone himself, who had only recently lost reelection as a United States Senator from Virginia. Notably, the post war reunions omitted the role played by the USCT's in the battle. (CLR draft 2017: 27; CLR review comments, C. Bryce)

The 1880 agricultural census reported the Griffith farm, owned by Timothy R. Griffith, was valued at $1,800 with $250 in livestock. Compared to earlier census records reporting 130 acres of active farmland, the 1880 agricultural census reported 119 acres in production that yielded 400 bushels of Indian corn, 150 bushels of oats, 14 bushels of wheat, and 125 bushels of sweet potatoes. The same census records a more prosperous Taylor farm, owned by Richard Taylor, and valued at $6,000 with $125 in machinery and $600 in livestock. Earlier census records reported 425 acres of active farmland that by 1880 comprised 300 acres in production, 100 acres unimproved, and 75 acres in woodland. Yields included 300 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of oats, 300 bushels of wheat, and 500 bushels of apples harvested from 250 bearing trees. (CLR draft 2017: 27)

A series of photographs taken of the Crater Battlefield site by C. R. Rees in August 1892 appeared as illustrations published in War Talks of Confederate Veterans. The publication is an edited collection of accounts from Civil War veterans compiled and annotated by George S. Bernard. Figures from the book include photographs and a map of the Crater Battlefield, a landscape in the process of healing the marks of the recent war (Figure 8). (CLR draft 2017: 27)

Books like War Talks of Confederate Veterans were popular with siege veterans and history-minded tourists concerned with the disappearance of the physical manifestations of the war. Some places, like nearby Battery XIV, were not destroyed, but nevertheless became invisible under the cover of vines and briars. The roots of this vegetation quickly replaced the scavenged wooden revetments to protect the earthworks from erosion. Concerned community members of Petersburg, politicians, and veterans groups soon began to consider ways to preserve what remained, hoping to reap some

benefit in doing so for their community and the reconstructed nation. (CLR draft 2017: 28)

Assembling Park from Parcel:
In the 1880s, local public interests pushed for a park in Petersburg. Their efforts were not unique, as Union and Confederate veterans were increasingly holding joint reunions at many former battlegrounds. By the 1890s, battlefields like Gettysburg and Shiloh were well on their way to becoming historical parks under the stewardship of the War Department. After post-war political reconstruction was complete, aging veterans were feeling more accommodating toward their former foes, a sentiment echoed by the general public. This is reflected in popular literature in 1895, when Stephen Crane published his novel The Red Badge of Courage, a fictionalized account of the Civil War from the perspective of a common foot soldier. (CLR draft 2017: 28)

The first local movement towards a national battlefield park in Petersburg was made in 1898, with the formation of the Petersburg National Battlefield Association. General Stith Bolling, a local Confederate veteran cavalry officer, presided over the organization's efforts to create a park, organizing "sham battles," or reenactments, as a popular fundraising tool. Bolling and his group supported a bill introduced by Congressman Sydney P. Epes on January 6, 1898 to establish "Petersburg National Park." The bill languished in committee. Epes tried again in 1900, introducing a new bill to establish a national park in Petersburg. This second bill progressed through procedural changes and amendments, but it too fell short of successful passage. Yet another attempt to establish a park was made in 1906. This time, a joint resolution passed Congress, authorizing a commission to visit Petersburg in order to determine the advisability of establishing a battlefield park. This effort ultimately foundered as well. (CLR draft 2017: 28)

Despite repeated failures, Petersburg's citizens, leaders, and siege veterans remained active and vocal in their support of the park idea. Their energy and commitment is evident in a 1907 Daily Index-Appeal editorial: "While it is true that in a larger sense the proposed park is not a local matter, the country naturally expects the people of Petersburg to take the initiative in such an undertaking, and it is clearly their interest and their duty to do so." Subsequent attempts to write legislation authorizing surveys and maps of the proposed park failed, as did an initiative to build a Civil War memorial parkway from Gettysburg to Petersburg. The local park movement was further derailed upon the deaths of two of its major leaders, Congressman Francis Lassiter and Colonel Archibald Gracie. (CLR draft 2017: 28-29, f.n.89–Wallace 1983: 47-48)

The seeds of eventual success were sown in 1910, when Virginia House of Delegates member Patrick Drewry reviewed previous plans for establishing a park at Petersburg. Although Drewry's subsequent recommendation for a memorial boulevard from the Appomattox River to Fort Stedman was modified— his initiative and continual support were essential to creating the new park. In 1923, Congressman Drewry received advice from Confederate veteran Captain Carter Bishop and Union veteran Colonel James Anderson relative to a new strategy for establishing the park. Bishop and Anderson wisely speculated that Congress would be more receptive to the Petersburg battlefield park if the land was surveyed in advance, and if the accompanying bill was presented jointly by Northerners and Southerners. As a result, Anderson and Bishop, along with Lieutenant Colonel Francis Pope of the Army Corps of Engineers, were commissioned in 1925 to survey the battlefield lands under consideration. The commission's report and recommendations were based on first-hand knowledge and measurement of the lands in question, and were submitted to Congress with Drewry's bill on January 16, 1926. This particular bill survived the Congressional Committee on Military Affairs and successfully passed the House and the Senate. On July 3, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed the long sought-after bill authorizing the creation of Petersburg National Military Park. Captain Bishop was appointed to the park's commission in 1928 and served in this role until 1941. (CLR draft 2017: 29)

Typical of military parks at the time, the US War Department would administer the new park. After successful passage of park legislation, next came the task of acquiring lands and assembling a park out of dozens of privately held parcels. The size of the proposed park was initially fixed at 185 acres, to be supplemented by 200 acres owned by the US Army as part of the neighboring Camp Lee and elsewhere by way of, "The procurement by donation of all forts, trenches, and other earthworks contiguous to the roads included in the park." This amount was eventually increased upon

recommendation of the Secretary of War, to 480 acres, creating a more contiguous park. Starting at Battery V, north of Hopewell Road, the park boundary was intended to take in the battlefields near the Crater, and continue down Jerusalem Plank Road to the fortifications south of the city. The initial acreage did not include the Crater property as the parcel was then a privately owned commercial enterprise and unlikely to be donated. In a gesture of good will and partnership, however, the Crater's then owner, the Crater Battlefield Association (formed in 1925), granted the federal government a right of way, generously offering visitors access to visit the property. (CLR draft 2017: 29, f.n.92–Wallace 1983: 67-68)

During 1927 and 1928, the Petersburg National Military Park Commission completed much of the preliminary surveys and land acquisition. They were authorized to receive gifts of land from individuals, groups or the state; land could not be acquired through condemnation, and the government was not authorized to purchase it. The private commission was also responsible for creating or repairing necessary roads, clearing lands, and clearly marking all points of historical interest. This work was aided by outside groups who took on essential responsibilities. In 1929, a group of concerned citizens formed the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association. They united to make possible the park's opening, and contributed money, supplied publicity, and as a third party, assisted in obtaining land. (CLR draft 2017: 30)

The Commission executed field surveys, tracings, and descriptions of the desired tracts, then turned these materials over to the Association—which would work to acquire the land and facilitate its eventual transfer to the federal government. Land in the Battery V area was transferred early, and in 1929 was cleared of undergrowth by a temporary work force. By 1930, the scope of the Commission's preliminary establishment work was finished. A 1931 map documents parcels either acquired or desired by the government for the park (Figure 9). The Crater parcel they wished to acquire was a narrow 14.65-acre strip near the fortifications, including the "bulge" of the Crater itself. Actual procurement of the land was a complicated process, but by 1932, nearly five hundred acres were in some stage of the acquisition process. (CLR draft 2017: 30)

In addition to acquiring private land, the early years of the park witnessed development pressures to the battle-era agricultural landscape in the form of a new highway project. In 1931, the Virginia Department of Highways prepared designs to construct US Route 460. In the area south of the Crater Battlefield Association's property, Route 460 would begin as a new roadway extending perpendicular from South Crater Road (Jerusalem Plank Road). The department designed this new route south of the existing Baxter Road, which had served as an avenue of approach for both Union and Confederate forces during the battle. Route 460 would continue on a new alignment across the Norfolk & Western railroad line and rejoin the alignment of Baxter Road about a quarter-mile east of the railroad. Historic imagery from the mid- and late 1930s confirms the completed construction of the new route. (CLR draft 2017: 30)

The park initiated its own construction projects for roadways and in 1932, broke ground for the first segments of a park Tour Road. Barely a month later, on June 20, 1932, the official dedication of the Petersburg National Military Park took place at Battery V. The park's opening event attracted a crowd of several thousand, and the city declared a general holiday. The morning's program included an address by Secretary of War, Frederick Huff Payne. In his remarks, he recognized that Petersburg citizens, in a remarkable act of dedication, had labored nearly a half-century to realize the accomplishment celebrated on that day. (CLR draft 2017: 30)

Battlefield Preservation:
Timothy Griffith continued farming and operating his battlefield attraction at the Crater until his death in 1903. In 1913 his heirs offered the farm for sale. Virginians, as well as veterans from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania took this opportunity to lobby for the Federal purchase of this land as a battlefield park. Their efforts to no avail, the public will to preserve the Crater site seemed to have its own momentum, and in 1925 a private organization purchased the farm. The new owners, the Crater Battlefield Association, continued the private local stewardship of this symbolic focal point of the siege. (CLR draft 2017: 31)

In an attempt to pay for acquisition costs and ongoing preservation of the Crater and the surrounding

land, the Crater Battlefield Association built a clubhouse at the site, and in 1926 completed an 18-hole golf course (Figure 10). In 1926, the association undertook the re-excavation of the collapsed mine tunnel. A vintage postcard documents access to the excavated tunnel from the western end of the Crater, owing to the fact that the association did not own the location of its eastern entrance on the Taylor property behind Union lines. The tunnel remained open to the public for a short time before the roof began to fail. The Griffiths' former "relic house," the site's original museum, was retained until at least 1929 accommodating the display of battlefield relics, some of which were discovered during the course of the mine's recent re-excavation. In 1931, extensive construction work was being accomplished on the association's golf course when the remains of another twenty-nine soldiers were recovered from the grounds. Presumed to be the remains of Union soldiers, following a small ceremony the remains were transported and reburied at Poplar Grove Cemetery. The Crater Battlefield Association described itself as "a trustee whose rights are subordinate to the plans of the government or people in preserving all the battlefields around Petersburg and Richmond." The group enjoyed the Petersburg community's support throughits tenure, yet went bankrupt in 1934 during the the Great Depression. (CLR draft 2017: 31, f.n.100–Wallace 1983: 35)

Construction of Monuments.
Preserved earthworks, the Union tunnel, the Crater, all the other remnants of battle, such as bullets, mortars, equipment, and the many tales accumulated since the battles, each contribute significance. Not to be forgotten are the numerous memorial monuments, markers, and statuary that have been erected and dedicated on the property since the war's end. Over time, these have stood in recognition of the brave, honorable, or simply hard-working men and women who played a role at Petersburg either during the Civil War or to the establishment of the park itself. To commemorate participants and events of the Civil War, eleven monuments and memorials have been erected within and around Petersburg National Battlefield. (CLR draft 2017: 31)

Within the Crater Battlefield project area, veterans' groups and associations, such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, installed seven monuments between 1905 and 1927. The majority of these commemorative installations were located around the Crater. The first, installed in 1905, was placed by the veterans of the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery Regiment. The group attended an October reunion of Confederate veterans at the battlefield and at that time, installed the Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument on privately owned land west of the Crater and Trench Cavalier. The monument, comprised of a group of three markers, marked the regiment's advanced, right flank, and left flank positions. The same year, the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment Veterans Association, a group of survivors from the regiment responsible for excavating the mine tunnel, appointed a committee to commemorate their efforts during the Petersburg Campaign. In 1907, the association dedicated a major memorial, the Gowen Monument, on land south of the Crater Battlefield near the spot where Colonel George W. Gowen was killed during an April 1865 assault. In concert with that effort, the association unveiled two small markers at the Crater Battlefield. The first, the Entrance to Mine Monument, was installed southeast of the mine portal and the second, the Crater of Mine Monument, was installed along the east rim of the Crater near the terminus of the mine tunnel. (CLR draft 2017: 32)

The first Confederate monument at the Crater Battlefield, and the first at what would become Petersburg National Military Park, was installed in November 1910 and dedicated on April 28, 1911. The Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy funded the Mahone's Brigade Monument to mark the position of Brigadier General William Mahone's brigade during the battle and had the marker installed west of the Crater and Trench Cavalier. (CLR draft 2017: 32)

On April 18, 1910, the Massachusetts State Legislature appropriated $5,000 for the construction of a monument to the Commonwealth's soldiers who served at Petersburg. Members of the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, donated a parcel of land abutting Jerusalem Plank Road on the Griffith farm property for the monument. A trade publication from 1911 reported that John Lawler & Sons, based in Springfield, Massachusetts, executed a contract from the Commonwealth for the monument. Jones Brothers Company, from Barre, Vermont, cut locally-sourced granite and Burns & Campbell of Petersburg installed the monument. The Commonwealth officially dedicated the Massachusetts Monument on November 13, 1911. (CLR draft 2017: 32)

Two final monuments were added to the vicinity of the Crater in the 1920s. First, the South Carolina Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated the South Carolina Monument on November 26, 1924. Located on the north rim of the Crater, the monument commemorates South Carolina soldiers who manned positions and artillery at Elliott's Salient on the morning of the mine explosion. Second, the Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy funded and dedicated the Mahone Monument on July 30, 1927. As early as 1906, plans were initiated by the City of Petersburg to install a monument honoring William Mahone. The local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began their efforts in 1915 and trade magazines reference an early concept featuring a life-sized Mahone figure atop a wall. The final monument, a granite obelisk set on a stepped granite base, was crafted by Burns & Campbell of Petersburg and installed west of the Crater and Trench Cavalier. (CLR draft 2017: 32-33)

Transfer to the National Park Service:
On August 10, 1933, responsibility for the park was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service (NPS), US Department of the Interior, as were all United States monuments, military parks, and the National Capitol Parks. The administrative transfer occurred a little over a year after the official dedication of Petersburg National Military Park and occurred so early in the park's development, it is difficult to discern how the administrative change between War Department and NPS affected its evolution (Figure 11). Branch Spalding, a NPS historical technician, arrived in December 1933 to begin the park's regular superintendence. (CLR draft 2017: 33)

During the 1930s, the park was primarily open to serve individuals and groups seeking guided tours. The park was yet to be equipped with an entry station or central facilities to assist self-guided visitors. Guide stations offered visitors free services, and were often staffed by guides associated with the Works Progress Administration or Civilian Conservation Corps. The park was administered with a permanent staff of eleven, including junior and senior park historians. Seasonal ranger-historians offered the public historical and educational services on an as-needed basis. (CLR draft 2017: 33)

The Civilian Conservation Corps Company #1364 had set up their permanent camp at the park in July 1933, prior to the transfer of the park from War Department administration, beginning a crucial period of park development. CCC work crews were involved with development of much of the park's physical infrastructure between 1933 and 1942. The CCC enrollees cleared underbrush, assisted with road construction, planted trees, led tours, and constructed minor buildings. In addition, CCC crews completed field work for a topographic survey of the former Griffith and Taylor farm properties. The survey, published in 1935, is an important record that documents the battle-era earthworks and defensive features, buildings constructed for the golf course and the Taylor/Travis farming operation, circulation features, and small-scale features such as fence lines. (CLR draft 2017: 33)

Beyond the confines of the City of Petersburg, state officials noted the failure of the park to acquire the Crater property. On August 31, 1934, the Commissioner of Public Welfare for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Arthur W. James, wrote a provocative letter on behalf of the park. He was soliciting financial assistance and participation from Dr. James Weldon Johnson, Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), based in New York City. Dr. Johnson, perhaps taking into account the great price already paid, politely declined. (CLR draft 2017: 33-34)

Acquisition of park lands and development of visitor facilities would continue without the Crater property as its centerpiece. Regarding the ongoing project of park development, Historian Spalding wrote an article about the park in the October 1934 issue of the magazine The Commonwealth. Spalding described the objective of the physical development of Petersburg National Military Park as, "to render important historical events comprehensible to the people through the use of the first-hand source materials which are available in this one place—the actual terrain on which the events occurred." The main focus of study at this outdoor laboratory would be the Civil War and general nineteenth century military practice. The visitor could study this as comprehensively or as superficially as they wished. Spalding also indicated the importance of presenting Petersburg as a "chapter in Grant's campaigns in Virginia," and the park as "one unit in a chain of national historical parks." (CLR draft 2017: 34, f.n.110–Spalding 1934: 7,30-31)

To fulfill those goals, Spalding wrote that the NPS intended to construct roads parallel to the battlements, leading visitors on a chronological tour of events. The road system would also allow visitors to visually connect important places, such as the Union and Confederate lines previously obscured by dense vegetation. He made the point however, that the NPS did not want—and indeed could not maintain—a "polished city park" with obviously cleared vistas, but one with more subtle changes and natural effects. (CLR draft 2017: 34-35, f.n.111–Spalding 1934: 7,30-31)

The nation's economic hardship of the 1930s greatly affected Petersburg. In 1934, the Crater Battlefield Association fell into bankruptcy and closed the Crater golf course. However, in January 1936 the private group that had negotiated the purchase of so many other parcels for the park's acquisition obtained the 128-acre Crater property, the former Griffith Farm, at public auction for $20,000. Negotiations for the final transfer were slow moving, but on July 18, 1936, the federal government purchased the former Griffith farm for $24,720.51. (CLR draft 2017: 35)

Recognizing the Crater as the symbolic centerpiece of the park, the NPS wasted little time in making changes to accommodate visitors. The superintendent established residence in the former clubhouse, where a museum and guide services were also made available. Plans were drawn to connect the Crater parcel section to the rest of the park tour road so it could be integrated into a seamless visitor sequence. At this time, the mine tunnel was once again beginning to collapse, dramatically in places, and plans were made to restore it. (CLR draft 2017: 35)

In an aerial photograph of the Crater property taken April 1, 1937, diverse land uses can be interpreted throughout the site (Figure 12). In the southeast corner of the park (lower right), one can see the large Taylor/Travis farm was still present as a working farm. Agricultural fields had been recovered well before this time and sprawled over the former Battery XV, Fort Morton, Battery XIV, and Battery XIII. Siege Road, which is seen running north-south, cuts through the easterly side of the farm and connects with US Route 460 at the vicinity of the former Battery XVI. Apart from the tilled soil of the Taylor farm, much of the rest of the land appears to be grassy meadows interspersed with clumps of evergreen trees. The notable exceptions include the evenly regimented parallel lines of Blandford Cemetery on the western edge (center left), and the uneven grassy knolls and dips of the Crater Golf Course (lower left). The Norfolk & Western railroad tracks are seen cutting a wide north-south swath through the battlefield, just as it did in 1865. A single railroad overpass, built for US Route 460, required park visitors to exit the park boundary after visiting the Union sites. In order to travel over the railroad, visitors drove west on Route 460, heading towards US Route 301 (lower left corner), then proceeded north on Route 301 to then turn right into the Crater parcel. This circuitous route promoted confusion and discontinuity in the visitor experience of the battlefield. (CLR draft 2017: 35)

The Massachusetts Memorial is shown immediately on the north side of the entrance to Crater Road in the 1937 aerial photograph, this being dedicated to the Union soldiers from that state that fought and died at Petersburg. One sees the road travels almost due east towards the Crater void and the former golf course clubhouse. A parking lot was at the end, and the clubhouse on the right. At the far eastern edge of the golf course one sees the wide green path of Poor Creek, edged with small clumps of hardwoods and marsh along the streambed. The trees clustered on the golf course appear to be evergreens. It also appears that there was a fairly clear open vista from the golf course, across the railroad swale to the Taylor farm. (CLR draft 2017: 35-36)

Although citizens, civic organizations, and even the city council supported the concept of reopening of the golf course at some point in the future, park management did not share in this goal. In July 1937, Acting Director Arthur E. Demaray announced in a letter to the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, that retaining the golf course was not to be considered as this would "detract considerably from its historical value," and in effect, jeopardize the national interest in the site for the sake of a local interest. The summer and fall of 1937 were spent removing the golf course and its supporting infrastructure in an effort to begin "restoring the wartime scene." (CLR draft 2017: 36, f.n.114,115–Wallace 1983: 96)

In April 1937, an exploratory excavation of the Crater tunnel was begun by a CCC team, under the supervision of Fredericksburg National Battlefield's Assistant Historian Oscar Northington, Jr. Such

an excavation would have come as second nature to Petersburg's CCC enrollees who were made up of veterans from World War I. During the digging many artifacts were recovered and that November, crews discovered the remains of two additional Union soldiers. In 1938, the Union's entrance to the tunnel was rebuilt. This time, aided by the advice of Dr. Henry Pleasants (nephew of Lieutenant Colonel Pleasants, the tunnel's creator), the proportions and construction were based on that of the original. The rebuilt tunnel again became a popular part of the Crater Battlefield tour. (CLR draft 2017: 36)

Dedication and Celebration:
A reenactment of the Battle of the Crater took place on April 30, 1937, celebrating the integration of the Crater property within the legal park boundary. NPS staff planned this occasion in cooperation with local organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Gray's Armory, the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, the Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Ladies Memorial Association, Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, Masonic Orders, and others. The large turnout was estimated at 50,000 people. A period photograph documents that the sizeable crowd stood watching from the hill south of the Fort Morton site. At the reenactment Congressman Drewry, a major force in the park's creation, made the opening address, and the following events, narration, and even the "explosion" worked perfectly, on time, and without accident. (CLR draft 2017: 36)

A total of 3,000 reenactors took part in the event including Virginia Military Institute Cadets, US Marines, and National Guardsmen. Four elderly Confederate veterans of the 1864 battle attended the 1937 reenactment as spectators, but none of the invited Union veterans felt themselves up to the trip. The president of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, Franklin W. Smith, said of the event, "it was one of the greatest things ever held in Petersburg." (CLR draft 2017: 39, f.n.118–Wallace 1983: 99)

The 1941 Park Master Plan:
In 1941, as war raged in Europe, the NPS developed a Master Plan for Petersburg National Military Park, to ensure a more cohesive overall approach towards the park's development and management. Part of the Master Plan, developed by the NPS Branch of Plans and Design, included a plan of The Crater-Colquitt's Salient & Fort Morton Area (Figure 13). Issued on September 1, 1941, this drawing illustrates numerous proposed improvements and modifications to the layout of the area. Major design elements in the 1941 Master Plan included two proposed automobile overpasses, a restored pond behind Gracie's Dam and Colquitt's Salient, the removal of numerous trees to create view corridors and vistas, new or altered roads, and an increase number of overlooks. In addition, the plan documents several private properties identified for future acquisition. Most notably, while the property surrounding the Crater itself was now within park holdings, the Taylor farm located east of Poor Creek would continue to be held under private ownership until 1942. (CLR draft 2017: 39)

The last Taylor to reside at "Spring Garden" was Richard Field Taylor V (1848–1921), a nephew of William Byrd Taylor. After having been in the possession of the Taylor family for almost 150 years, the farm was sold to Robert W. Travis in April 1901. The War Department acquired the 206-acre property in May 1942, for the purpose of incorporating the farm into the expanding war-time facilities of neighboring Camp Lee. Following the end of World War II, on October 29, 1949, the former Taylor/Travis property, comprising the eastern half of the Crater battlefield, was finally transferred to the Department of the Interior. (CLR draft 2017: 39)

During United States involvement in World War II, in cooperation with neighboring Camp Lee, the park was regularly utilized by troops awaiting deployment and visited by large numbers of military personnel. Consequently, the Army arranged to maintain park roads its personnel regularly used. This interagency cooperation resulted in very good road maintenance for the park, which continued until 1947. (CLR draft 2017: 39)

In the late 1930s through the early 1940s, horseback riders were attracted to the popular trail system at the park. There were a number of riding stables nearby, which meant an increase in riders following construction of "eight miles of bridle trails, equipped with log jumps." Riders frequenting the park trails participated in horse shows held nearby, but by the mid-1950s, the limited use of park

bridle trails could no longer justify their continued maintenance. (CLR draft 2017: 39-40, f.n.121–Wallace 1983: 95)

During the 1940s the growth of the adjacent city began to conflict with various parts of the park. West of the Crater Battlefield, the park initiated plans to acquire property opposite the park Tour Road exit onto South Crater Road. This acquisition was thought necessary in order to prevent residential and retail development from encroaching visually onto the battlefield. Acquiring this property would also secure the site of the Gee House, a battle-era residence that General Robert E. Lee used to observe and dispatch orders from after the mine explosion. (CLR draft 2017: 40)

Mission 66:
The NPS embarked on a decade-long program, known as Mission 66, which had the ambitious goal to develop and improve every park in the system by the agency's 50th anniversary in 1966. For battlefield parks, this NPS development program nearly coincided with the centennial anniversary of the Civil War. During this period, the Petersburg National Battlefield underwent major planning and development changes that were generally viewed as positive. Former Superintendent Martin R. Conway felt that, "without Mission 66, Petersburg would have most likely been developed piecemeal but perhaps nowhere as boldly conceived nor as grand as under this program." (CLR draft 2017: 40, f.n.122–Conway 1983: 1)

When Mission 66 began in the mid-1950s, the Petersburg National Battlefield's visitor center remained located at the Crater property, housed within the former golf course clubhouse. A small contact station, built by CCC workers in 1937, was located at Battery V. The park had been planning since the early 1940s to begin the battlefield tour sequence at Battery V, where the initial confrontation between Union and Confederate forces began. Doing so would fulfill the interpretive goal established in the early 1930s by Branch Spalding to aid the visitors' physical understanding of the history by presenting visitors with a chronological sequence of events. (CLR draft 2017: 40)

In the Development Plan of 1960, NPS planners designed a new tour route, using much of existing park road corridor. After adding two strategically placed automobile overpasses, the park planners changed the beginning and the end of the route, and achieved an improved degree of connectivity, allowing visitors to remain inside the boundaries of the main park unit throughout their visit, and to experience a more seamless tour. The location of the new visitor center at Battery V meant the interpretive sequence would begin at the scene of the opening battle on the Petersburg front. Later in the proposed interpretive sequence, visitors could survey the Crater and surrounding battlefield landscape from a panoramic viewpoint at the Taylor farm. From this position, visitors would also view the "Peace Commission Crossing," where Confederate negotiators "crossed over from Confederate to Union lines on their way to meet with President Lincoln regarding terms for peace." (CLR draft 2017: 41, f.n.125–NB-PET 3012B, "Interpretative Tour Plan")

The park completed the new visitor center near Battery V in May 1967. The completed project included new landscaping, screening of Highway 36, and crepe myrtle planted in the middle of the visitor parking area. Conceived of as the tour route start point, the visitor center was to be accessed via new ramps exiting State Highway 36. The one-way tour route would then cross the highway over a new automobile overpasses, and travel via the park road past Battery XIII. Where the former alignment once required visitors to exit the park and continue west on Route 460, the new park road alignment bent toward a new interpretive overlook at the former Taylor property, then crossed the railroad at the location of the historic Baxter Road railroad crossing. The new overpass was constructed in 1963 on the surviving earthen abutments of the Baxter Road overpass. The new curving route continued on to the new Crater parking area located near the historic location of the advanced Union lines. The tour road would exit at the same point as the former Crater entry. The new tour road supported historic interpretation, which was clearly a major focus of the park's master planning during this period. (CLR draft 2017: 41)

After leaving their cars at the new Crater area parking lot, visitors making a walking tour of the Crater area were reoriented for greater consistency with the chronological interpretive theme taken park-wide. Superintendent Chester Brooks remarked, "I came to the conclusion interpretation [at the Crater] was carried out in reverse order; first one showed the visitor the Crater—or the result of the

explosion—and then we led the visitor to the tunnel entrance site." Superintendent Brooks proposed that the Crater parking area be placed closer to the tunnel entrance, encouraging visitors to follow the tunnel's path to the Crater void. The superintendent's reasoning, biased as it was towards the Union perspective, prevailed and in 1964 the new parking area was completed around 400 feet south of the Mine Entrance. Unaccountably, this preferred location for the new parking area stood directly in the historic "field of fire" between the site of Union Fort Morton and the Confederate Elliott's Salient. (CLR draft 2017: 41)

However, at this time the flaw in the parking lot's placement was not readily apparent. After the 1936 acquisition of the Crater property, austere NPS maintenance budgets during World War II led to the unchecked growth of young trees in the ravine that held both Poor Creek and the Norfolk & Western right of way. At the time of the parking lot construction, after the trees growing in the ravine had matured for over twenty years, the Crater was completely hidden from the Fort Morton site and the Taylor House ruins by this young woodland, along with the ill-conceived new parking lot. (CLR draft 2017: 42)

During the 1950s, the US Army expanded Camp Lee and renamed the facility Fort Lee. With the enlarged military base neighboring the park, the park Tour Road carried an increased volume of vehicular rush hour traffic. Park planning during the early 1960s converted the retained segments of the former two-way Tour Road to a one-way road with a multi-use second lane. Remaking the Tour Road as a one-way route accomplished two goals. The first benefit involved a fifty-percent reduction of local non-visitor through-traffic. The second benefit was the support it offered for the desired chronological tour sequence. The second lane of the tour road was made available for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and for short-term parking. (CLR draft 2017: 42)

The major Mission 66 projects completed at Petersburg included the long sought after visitor center at Battery V, the interpretive tour route from the visitor center to the Crater, new overpasses at Highway 36 and the Norfolk & Western railroad, and finally, a new maintenance facility near Highway 36. The real value of these projects as former superintendent Conway stated, was that they were accomplished within the framework of a comprehensive park master plan, considering present and future needs of the park. (CLR draft 2017: 42)

In 1967, the park rebuilt the Crater tunnel entrance once more. Problems with the tunnel were in fact the original reason the area was the design focus in the Mission 66 program. The main body of the tunnel had structural problems, leading to collapse during the late 1950s and the entry was severely deteriorating. The park carefully rebuilt the tunnel entrance utilizing historic records and the entrance continued to be a popular attraction. (CLR draft 2017: 42)

Within the Mission 66 program, the NPS pursued developments augmenting interpretation in the hope that the projects would deepen a visitors' understanding of the complex and lengthy military engagement at Petersburg. The developments included artillery exhibits, the reconstruction of a portion of the US Military Railroad at Meade Station, soldier's huts, and a sutler's store, as well as a self-guided tour tracing Lee's retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox. The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s further encouraged the agency to work toward a greater interpretive emphasis of the roles African American troops played in the siege. (CLR draft 2017: 42)

A SECOND CENTURY

Rediscovery and Design:
After the impressive program of park-wide site planning and construction accomplished during Mission 66, the Crater site soon became the focus of efforts to further refine the visitor experience. A fundamental shift in the treatment of the Crater took place in 1975, when the park began measures to conserve both the Crater site and nearby Fort Stedman. In its early days as a private tourist attraction on the Griffith farm, people were encouraged to enter the notorious cavity. In the early postbellum years, relic hunting and exploration drew people in, and in the 1920s prior to inclusion of the Taylor parcel, visitors entered into a rebuilt tunnel segment through the Crater. Years of heavy foot traffic and erosion suggested a new approach. A number of design solutions were considered beginning in 1963, all of which utilized two basic elements. The first element of the implemented plan led visitors to a fenced interpretive overlook of the Crater. This offered a broad view of the topography, serving as a backdrop to interpretation, while keeping the Crater itself untrodden. The second element added planting to better retain the slopes, and turfgrass cover was sown to mend the paths worn into the ground by generations of curious visitors. (CLR draft 2017: 43)

In 1978, participants in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program cleared a 440-foot by 125-foot swath in the wooded ravine between the Fort Morton site and the Taylor ruins and the Crater. However, the actual width of the historic vista could not be restored without unduly emphasizing the new Crater parking lot in the middle ground of the viewshed (Figure 14). (CLR draft 2017: 43)

Archeological Insights:
A number of archeological studies have been undertaken in and surrounding the Crater. In 1978, the Taylor property was restudied in order to determine whether the standing brick ruins were part of the antebellum Taylor dwelling. When the archeologists excavated during this effort, they found the remnants of many structures, such as a probable smokehouse and a dairy. Later studies employing ground-penetrating radar discovered a large underground anomaly in the soil strata. This anomaly was probed in 1982, and was found to be the basement of what is now considered to be the Taylor home. This structure was over twice the size of the existing above ground ruins. The study concluded that the standing ruins are very likely to be of a related kitchen or slave dwelling (see Figure 14). (CLR draft 2017: 43)

Another ground-penetrating radar study was done in search of Fort Morton. The results clearly showed the fort's location and a later probe provided verification. The final report was completed in April 1995, culminating a series of studies of the Fort Morton site begun around 1975. (CLR draft 2017: 44)

Current Park Management:
By the late 1960s, park administrators noticed changes in the way the park was being used. Cyclical interest in Civil War history was at a temporary downturn following the fervor of the Civil War centennial. Anti-military sentiment had become pervasive among young adults due to the unpopular Vietnam War. More groups of people were coming to use the park for recreation. By the 1970s, the public often used the flat open field west of the Crater for picnicking and playing games. Also, there were people who came to the park to maintain their cars alongside the park tour road. (CLR draft 2017: 44)

Park management found these uses problematic, interfering with its use as a historic battlefield and educational area. The park found itself more strictly enforcing rules prohibiting alcohol use and automobile maintenance within the park boundaries. In addition, parking on the side of the tour road west of the Crater interpretive stop was prohibited. The grass was allowed to grow tall surrounding the Crater in order to deter picnicking and public gatherings. The longer grass also reinforced the historical agricultural setting of Griffith's former farm. This combination of changes generally discouraged the recreational atmosphere that had become so prevalent in the open field. (CLR draft 2017: 44)

During 1997, the park considered sixty percent of its nearly 450,000 visitors to be there for strictly

recreational purposes. Throughout 1997, lack of security continued to be an issue. After hours one December day, someone kicked in the protective grate at the Crater tunnel entry, and went inside to build a fire. Unfortunately, the fire spread to the tunnel's supporting structure. The culprit was never discovered and no one was injured, but the combination of the fire and the powerful fire-hose water stream damaged the rebuilt tunnel entry beyond the scope of simple repairs. (CLR draft 2017: 44)

Interpretation Enhancements:
Many recent changes have been made at the park in the name of improved historical interpretation, with special emphasis placed on finding the best way to tell all the stories the park holds. Beginning in 1997, the park has been offering daily walking tours of both the Crater and Fort Stedman in the summer, once again offering the public the kind of personalized services that earlier visitors enjoyed. These programs increase the depth of visitor understanding, presenting more information than the self-guided tours can be expected to clearly convey. These ranger guided tours began to be supplemented beginning during the summers of 1997 and 1998 when interpretive markers with audio-interpretation were placed at the eight driving-tour stops, to further enhance the self-guided tour. The markers, or "interpretive waysides," are designed to provide easily accessible information, and are currently being updated and replaced to reflect the roles of all participants in the battle: Union, Confederate, white, African and Native American. The waysides also enhance the guests' experience by interpreting the most recent research available, such as the latest Taylor property and Fort Morton site studies. (CLR draft 2017: 44-45)

Implications Today:
The Crater with its grassy void, collapsed tunnels, and gruesome stories, continues to fascinate park visitors. Yet, from August 1, 1864, to the present day, this landform has been subject to continuous change. What is visible embowered amidst trees, conveys little of the horror of those last days of July 1864. Where the causes and effects of the American Civil War will continue to be debated well into the future, so too will any meaning ascribed to the Crater Battlefield. Yet the Crater's continued presence is remarkable, and a simple fact beyond dispute. Both relic and reliquary, the Crater Battlefield holds lessons much too important to be forgotten. (CLR draft 2017: 45)

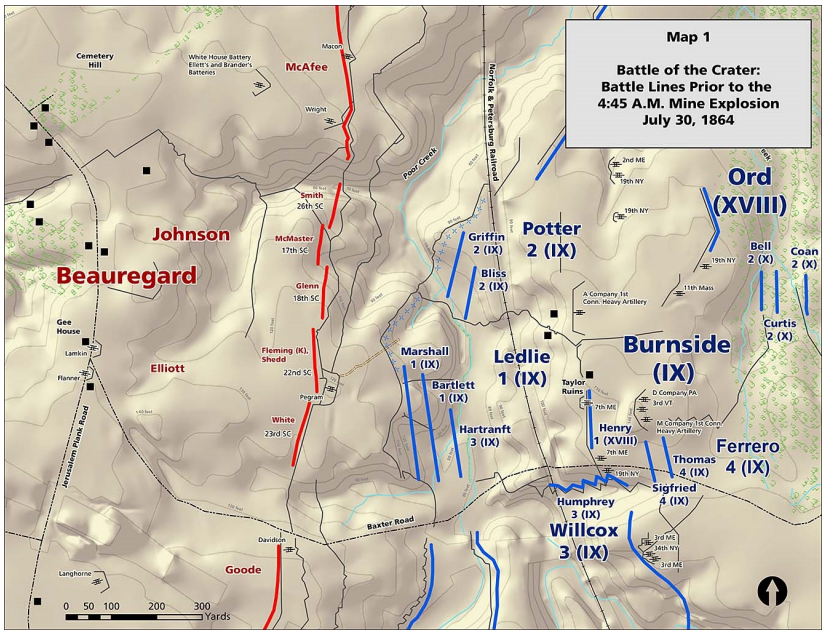


Figure 1. Approximate layout of both the Confederate and Union lines prior to the Battle of the Crater. (Petersburg National Battlefield--hereafter PETE)

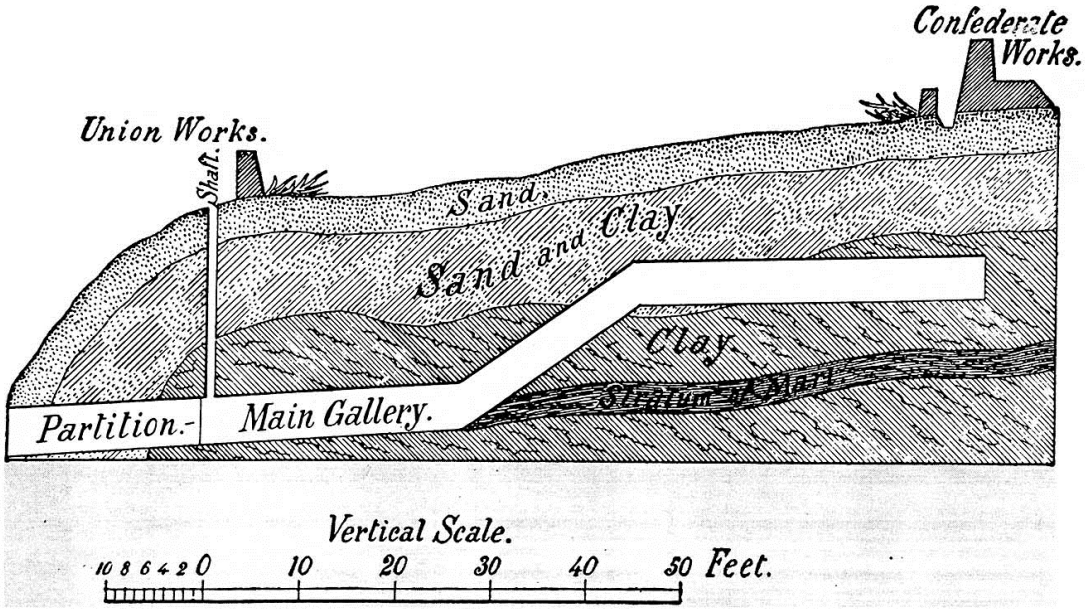


Figure 2. Longitudinal section of the Union mine tunnel, 1888. The tunnel began in the west bank of the Poor Creek valley and proceeded over 500 feet to a point below Elliott's Salient. (Powell 1888: 548)

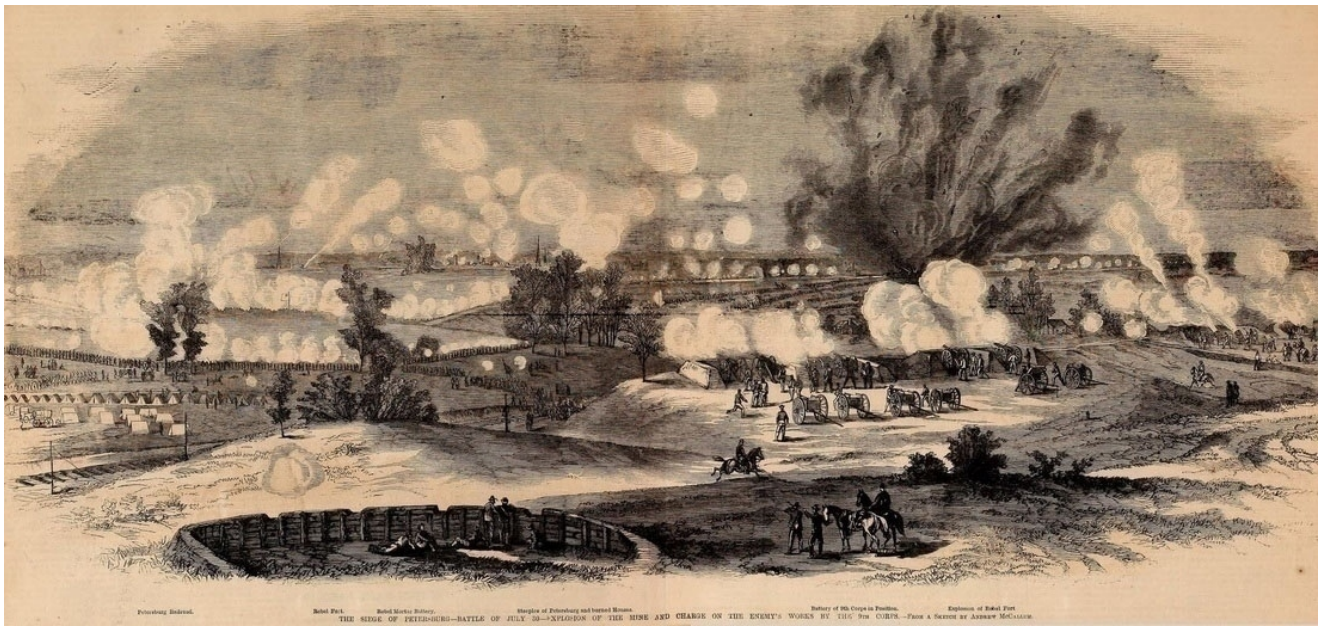


Figure 3. "Explosion of the Mine and Charge on the Enemy's Works by the 9th Corps, from a Sketch by Andrew McCallum." View northwest, Aug. 27, 1864, with Battery XVI (lower left) and Fort Morton (center right). (Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper)

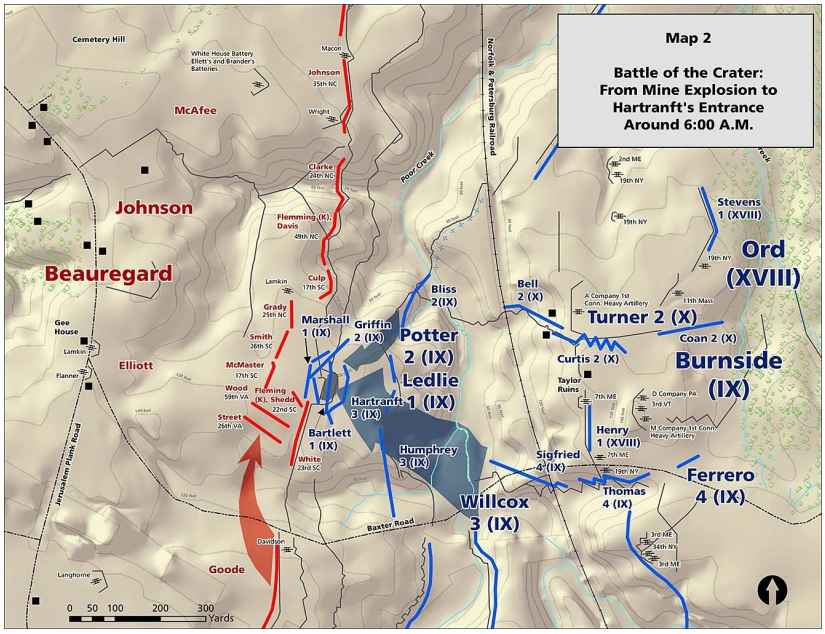


Figure 4. Approximate layout of both the Confederate and Union lines after the mine explosion. (PETE)

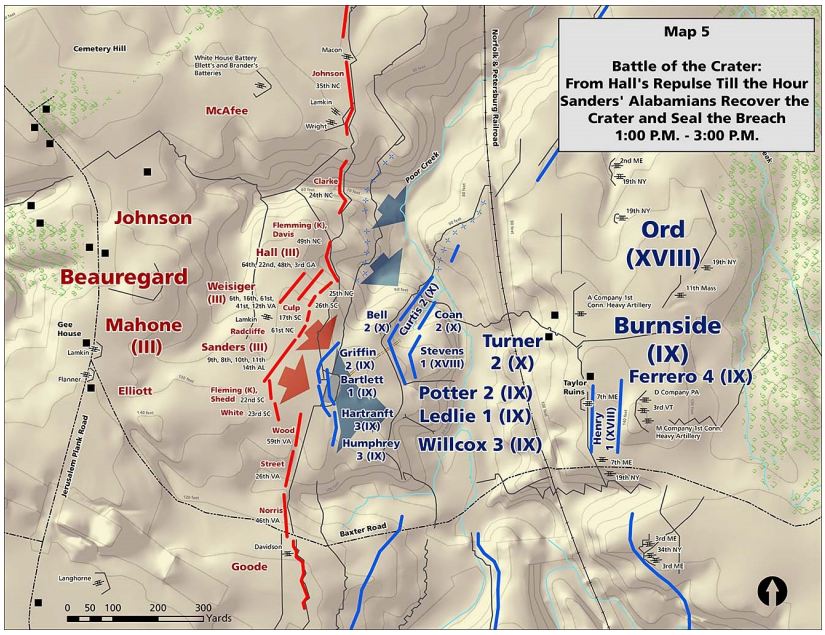


Figure 5. Approximate layout of both the Confederate and Union lines after Mahone's counterattacks. (PETE)



Figure 6. Early visitors to the Crater on the Griffith farm. Note the small trees growing immediately beyond the Crater rim and rebuilt farm buildings on the Taylor farm property. View east, 1866. (PETE)



Figure 7. Griffith's "relic house" and a line of Eastern redcedars east of the Trench Cavalier. View north, circa 1910. (PETE)



Figure 8. View from 1892 looking southwest from where the Norfolk & Western railroad crosses Poor Creek, toward the Crater at the ridge line (image upper right). Note the growth of woody vegetation in the creek valley. (Bernard 1892: View No. 4)

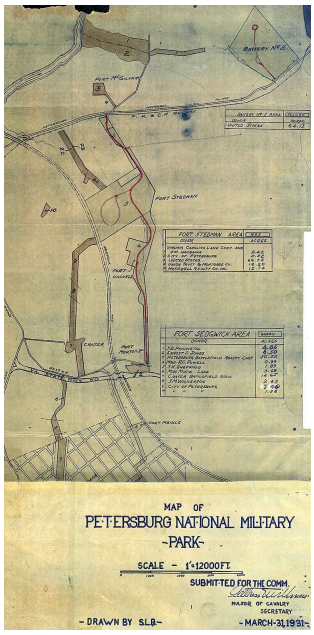


Figure 9. "Map of Petersburg National Military Park," 1931, five years after the park's enabling legislation, showing proposed land acquisitions in dark shading that include the Crater (image lower left) and the Confederate line. (PETE)



Figure 10. Crater Battlefield Association golf course clubhouse situated next to Crater site. Note open quality of landscape and concentration of Eastern redcedars and pines at Crater site (image center). Oblique view northeast, post 1927. (PETE)



Figure 11. Collapsed mine tunnel and ventilation shaft remnant (lower left). Areas left and right of mine tunnel, maintained for golf course, lack cedars and pines seen growing on tunnel and Crater site at top of hill. View southwest, 1934. (PETE)



Figure 12. Aerial photograph of Crater Battlefield, 1937. Note former Crater Battlefield Association's clubhouse and golf course to west of Norfolk & Western railroad and active agriculture on former Taylor property east of railroad. (NARA)

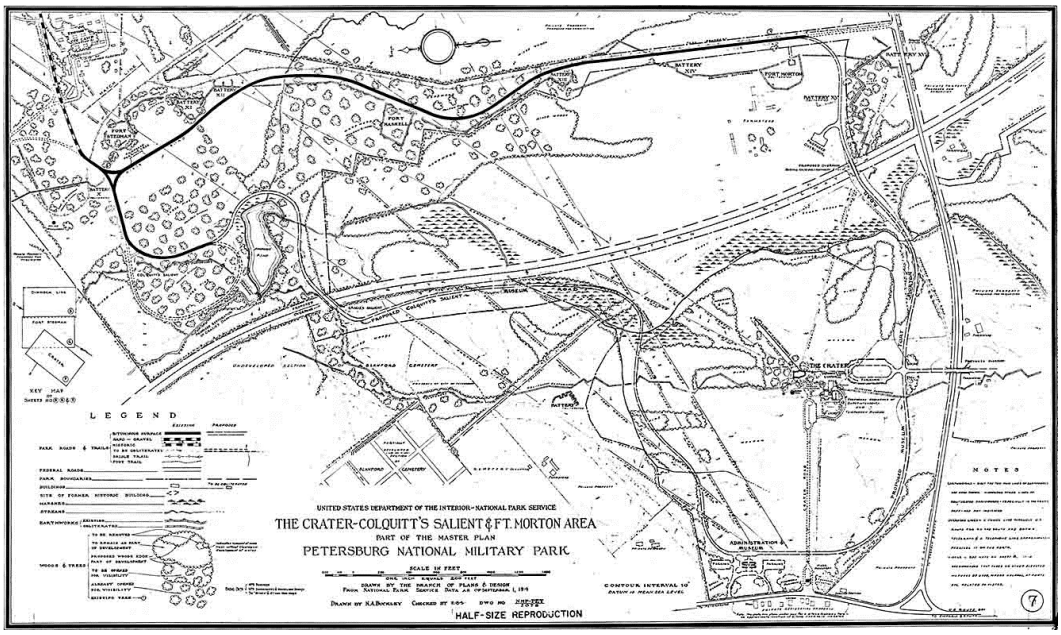


Figure 13. Proposed improvements from park's 1941 Master Plan included two vehicular overpasses, new roads, parking at overlooks, and vegetation clearing or thinning to rehabilitate battle-era views. (eTIC, Drawing PETE 325-2078_[id121185])



Figure 14. View looking southwest, 1998, of reopened view between Fort Morton site and Taylor Kitchen Ruins to the Crater (image background). The view was much more expansive and critical for observation and artillery fire during the battle. (OCLP)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Outbuilding	Agricultural Outbuilding	Yes	No	No
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The Crater Battlefield is open year-round to the public with the Tour Road and parking areas open from 9 a.m. to dusk. The park contains a 16-stop driving tour that takes visitors through all four units: Grant's Headquarters at City Point, the Eastern Front, the Western Front, and the Five Forks Battlefield. In the Crater Battlefield, the ruins of Taylor Farm are stop 7 and The Crater is stop 8. There are also interpretive and multi-use trails in the Crater Battlefield, part of a ten-mile system of trails in the Eastern Front unit. Throughout the year, park staff presents a variety of talks, tours, living history demonstrations, and special events. Visitors have an opportunity to explore the battlefield themselves with information available through educational waysides and also cell phone tours and podcasts at some locations. (CLR draft 2017: 97)

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape characteristics identified for the Crater Battlefield include buildings and structures, circulation, natural systems and features, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Many of these characteristics have associated features that contribute to the site's overall historic significance and character. The features that contribute were present during the period of significance and retain integrity.

Overall, the Crater Battlefield retains integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and association. Integrity of design and feeling is also retained, but diminished by the growth and abundant presence of successional woody vegetation. The cultural landscape lacks integrity of setting due to successional woody vegetation and residential and light commercial development immediately adjacent to the park. The cultural landscape retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic association with the Civil War and with the commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park landscape.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is defined by the National Register of Historic Places as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance, however, not all seven aspects must be present for a property to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1864–1865 period of significance for the Civil War landscape and also on the period of significance for the commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park landscape ending in 1942. (CLR draft 2017: 115)

Location:
Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or the landscape where the historic event occurred. The Crater Battlefield contains the core of this Civil War battle but does not encompass all land historically associated with the 1864 battle and subsequent siege. The battlefield retains land acquired during the period of commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park ending in 1942. In 1949, 206 acres of the Taylor Farm property officially transferred from the US Army to the park and additional land has been acquired east of Battery XVI and west of South Crater Road to buffer against contemporary development. (CLR draft 2017: 115)

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. Primarily in agricultural production before the battle, the Crater Battlefield was an open and expansive area where the placement of defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries, as well as the mine tunnel and its entrance, was determined by the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad (Norfolk Southern railroad), Poor Creek and its valley, Baxter Road, and Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road). Integrity of design has been diminished by the growth of successional woody vegetation that has resulted in a pattern of forested and open space not present at the time of the battle or at the end of the park establishment period. Complete components and partial remnants of earthworks and batteries from the battle era remain and convey the defensive purpose of their design. The design of the historic park landscape is evidenced by the Eastern Front Tour Road between Fort Haskell and the Norfolk Southern railroad that was intended and constructed to have visitors follow the Union defensive line. (CLR draft 2017: 115)

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of the cultural landscape. The setting of the Crater Battlefield within park boundaries has changed from the Civil War and park establishment periods due to the growth of successional woody vegetation. Residential and light commercial development outside the park, as well as generally heavy traffic along adjacent roads, has altered the larger cultural landscape setting. (CLR draft 2017: 116)

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the particular period(s) of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the cultural landscape. Extant above-ground built materials from

the Civil War include earthen defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries. Although wood reinforcements and bracing documented in historic photographs are missing, the earthen structures still convey their military purpose. The Eastern Front Tour Road between Fort Haskell and the Norfolk Southern railroad retains a paved asphalt surface. Contemporary materials added since the end of the historic period are limited to interpretive and directional signage, exposed aggregate concrete paving, and composite wood decking at the Mine Tunnel Entrance and on bridges along pedestrian trails. These non-historic materials are inconspicuous within the overall landscape. (CLR draft 2017: 116)

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The Crater Battlefield retains Civil War-era workmanship in the surviving earthen defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries. The Crater, now smaller than at the time of the explosion, illustrates the horrific destruction brought by detonating roughly four tons of gunpowder at the end of a 511-foot long, hand-dug, tunnel. The battlefield retains commemorative-era workmanship in the stone work, bronze tablets, and sculptures of the early-twentieth century monuments. (CLR draft 2017: 116)

Feeling:
Feeling is a cultural landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The feeling of a Civil War battlefield remains through the open fields, earthen defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries, the Mine Tunnel Entrance, and the Crater. The feeling of a commemorative and national park landscape remains through preservation early-twentieth century monuments around the Crater and at the Mine Tunnel Entrance, as well as the presence of the Eastern Front Tour Road between Fort Haskell and the Norfolk Southern railroad. The Crater Battlefield and adjacent lands are no longer open, agricultural landscapes, resulting in a diminished historic feeling. (CLR draft 2017: 117)

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a cultural landscape. The Crater Battlefield remains associated with the Civil War through the earthen defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries, the Mine Tunnel Entrance, and the Crater within its boundaries. The landscape's present management as a National Battlefield in the National Park Service preserves and strengthens the association with the July 1864 battle and subsequent siege. The landscape also retains its association with the commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park through the retention of monuments around the Crater and at the Mine Tunnel Entrance, as well as the Eastern Front Tour Road between Fort Haskell and the Norfolk Southern railroad. (CLR draft 2017: 117)

Landscape Characteristic:

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Facility Maintenance Software System (FMSS) 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 (1864-1942); is noncontributing "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape); is undetermined; or is managed as a cultural resource. Graphics associated with this section are located at the end of each characteristic description.

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering a form of human activity in a landscape. Structures, as well as engineering systems, are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Defensive earthworks and fortifications for both the Union and Confederates dominated the Crater Battlefield landscape. The configuration of these opposing defensive lines was dynamic, constantly changing during the course of the nine-months long siege. On June 18, 1864, Union forces established an advanced line west of Poor Creek on the Griffith farm. Supporting batteries were established on the Taylor farm east of Poor Creek. After the failure of the Crater offensive, Federal engineers shortened the line and established a continuous line of earthworks, forts, and batteries east of Poor Creek. The former advanced line was used as a picket line, approximately 225 feet east of the Confederate picket line, which was established after the July 30 battle. The main Confederate line in this area, also oriented in a north-south direction, ran through the Griffith farm property and included Wright's Battery, Elliott's Salient backed by a Trench Cavalier, Davidson's Battery, and a labyrinth of connecting trenches and covered ways extending east to the picket line. Behind (west) of the main line, a secondary line east of Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road) contained the Cornfield Battery. Union officers identified Elliott's Salient, containing Pegram's Battery, as a weak point in the line and excavated the mine tunnel beneath it. (CLR draft 2017: 118-120)

Residential buildings and structures at the time of the battle included the Gee House west of Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road); multiple buildings at the Griffith Farm; and the Taylor House, a separate kitchen, and likely other outbuildings supporting the property's agricultural use. (CLR draft 2017: 119; CLR review comments, J. Steele)

At the end of the Petersburg Campaign and conclusion of the Civil War, many of the earthworks and fortifications, such as Fort Morton, were plowed under and the land returned to agricultural use. The Taylor family members built a new wood-frame home on the brick ruins of the farmstead's kitchen. In 1926, the Crater Battlefield Association built a clubhouse and 18-hole golf course on the Griffith farm property. The association also constructed a well house and garage in the vicinity of the clubhouse. In the 1930s the sites of White's and Davidson's Batteries were not included in property acquired for the park. However, the park rebuilt the Mine Tunnel Entrance in 1938 and preserved the topographic depressions that marked the Crater and the Confederate Countermines. (CLR draft 2017: 119-120)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The park has preserved earthen defensive structures and batteries under its management. During this period, successional woody vegetation expanded to cover more areas of the park, including earthworks and defensive features. In some instances, specifically at Federal Battery XIII, storm events toppled large woody vegetation and resulted in damage to the earthen structures. In 1950, the park removed the post-Civil War house built on the Taylor Kitchen foundation and other outbuildings, but left the brick foundations and chimney of what is now known as the kitchen intact.

The park also removed the Crater Battlefield Association clubhouse, garage, and well house in the late 1960s. In 1967 the park rebuilt the Mine Tunnel Entrance and then completed another rebuilding project after a December 1997 fire burned 10 feet back into the tunnel. (CLR draft 2017: 118-120)

Overall, buildings and structures retain historic character. Successional woody vegetation covering historic earthen features is a major change since the end of the Civil War and the end of the park's establishment period. Contemporary structures for visitor services and remnants from the Crater Battlefield Association well house are inconspicuous. (CLR draft 2017: 119, 127-131)

--Elliott's Salient. Destroyed by mine explosion on July 30, 1864. Remnants that survive are below ground and survive as archeological resources.

--Federal Earthworks, Fort Haskell to Federal Battery XIII. Beginning in June 1864, Union forces initiated construction of batteries and trenches east of the Confederate position known as the Harris Line. South of Fort Haskell, an earthwork consisting of a forward ditch (west facing) and parapet stretched for roughly 1,050 feet to Federal Battery XIII. The parapet remained throughout the Petersburg Campaign, survived post-Civil War agricultural activities, and is present today (Figure 15).

--Federal Bombproofs. In the project area, two bombproofs are located east of the earthworks connecting Fort Haskell and Battery XIII (a third is north of the project area and northeast of Fort Haskell). The two features measure roughly 24 feet square. Both have depressions in the center where the roofs have collapsed and show signs that the entry was on the south side (Figure 16). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 15)

--Federal Battery XIII. The three-sided earthen battery open on the east side provided the Union line with artillery support for their infantry positions and fortifications. The battery is 180 by 70 feet, with seven gun emplacements and embrasure openings, one bombproof, and several traverses. Erosion, heavy visitor use, weather, and vegetative growth have impacted the earthwork (Figure 17). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 15)

--Federal Covered Way East of Federal Battery XIII. Parapet and trench feature east of Federal Battery XIII and east of the park Tour Road. The feature can be seen on a LiDAR-generated hillshade and aligns with a Federal covered way shown on the 1865 Michler Map. It is approximately 515 feet long (Figure 18).

--Federal Battery XIV Tracery. Earthen battery in place during the battle and documented on the 1865 Michler Map located south of Battery XIII and oriented northwest toward Cemetery Hill consisting of nine gun emplacements and embrasure openings. Post-Civil War farming removed the earthen structure of the battery and its location is presently marked and interpreted by a crushed shell tracery and two cannon. The Battery XIV site derives its contributing status from its archeological potential. Extensive geophysical survey and limited archeological excavation in the vicinity of Battery XIV have shown that Union trenches and other features, including extensive archeological deposits, remain extant below ground (Figure 19). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 15)

--Fort Morton Site. Union troops constructed Fort Morton south of Battery XVI between June and July 1864. Fort Morton was not enclosed at the time of the battle, but the parapet had the same configuration. The D-shaped fortification, entered from a covered way on its east side, served as the headquarters for General Burnside during the Battle of the Crater and is documented in 1865 photographs and the 1865 Michler Map. Following the war, the battery was plowed under and the area returned to farming. The full, battle-era extent of Fort Morton is presently concealed by successional woody vegetation on the southeast. The forward parapet of the battery is marked by a shell tracery and tall turf that is left unmown during the growing season. Behind the former parapet (west), the park has placed seven cannon. The Fort Morton site derives its contributing status from its archeological potential and extensive geophysical surveys have shown that Union trenches and other features, including extensive archeological deposits, remain extant below ground (Figure 20).

(National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 15)

-- Federal Covered Way, East of Fort Morton. Parapet and trench feature east of the Fort Morton site and east of the park Tour Road. The feature can be seen on a LiDAR-generated hillshade and aligns with a Federal covered way shown on the 1865 Michler Map. In the vicinity of the current Tour Road, the covered way formed a zig-zag and entered the east side of Fort Morton. The feature is approximately 267 feet long (Figure 21).

--Federal Covered Way, Further East of Fort Morton. Parapet and trench feature east of the Fort Morton site and east of the park Tour Road. The feature can be seen on a LiDAR-generated hillshade and aligns with a Federal covered way shown on the 1865 Michler Map. The covered way consists of two legs that form an acute angle near the junction of the current Encampment Trail and Hickory Trail. It is approximately 983 feet long (Figure 22).

--Federal Battery XVI. A modified earthen redan with outer moat and high walls constructed south of Fort Morton to support infantry positions along the Union line close to Elliott's Salient. Battery XVI consolidated three batteries that were in place at the time of the battle. The construction of County Drive (US Route 460) partially destroyed the battery but the remaining portion, measuring approximately 150 feet long by 100 feet wide, retains aboveground integrity (Figure 23). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 15-16)

--Federal Zig Zag Trench. Located north of Federal Battery XVI the Zig Zag Trench served as a covered way and provided an avenue of approach for Union troops to safely reach the Poor Creek valley and then the forward Union Picket Line. The deeply dug trench has steep walls approximately 5 to 6 feet high and 5 to 8 feet wide. The Zig Zag Trench ran through open agricultural land during the battle and campaign and is presently covered by successional woody growth. Dozens of large deciduous trees, greater than 24-inches diameter at breast height, are growing from the trenches side slopes (Figure 24). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 16)

--Union Picket Line Tracery. The Union picket line was the advanced Federal position on June 18 and the ground was held until the end of the siege. It was a defensive earthwork that ran in a roughly north-south orientation and marked the advanced position of infantry on the Crater Battlefield. Prior to the mine explosion, approximately 225 feet separated the Union and Confederate picket lines. After the war, much of the earthwork was lost and presently the park marks the picket line with a crushed shell tracery. A turf swath between two shell bands is not mown during the growing season and the taller turf aids in interpreting the missing feature. A portion of the picket line earthwork, roughly 60 feet in length, may be present north of the mine tunnel and mine tunnel trail (Figure 25). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 16)

--Confederate Picket Line. The Confederate picket line in front of Elliot's salient was not established until after the battle, in September 1864. After losing eastern portions of the Dimmock Line, Confederate forces fell back to positions west of Poor Creek and constructed a new defensive line oriented in a north-south direction. East and roughly paralleling this line, Confederate infantry established a picket line less than 100 yards west of the Union picket line. Presently, about 320 feet of earthen parapet stand east of the Crater and measure roughly 4 feet wide by 3 feet high. The earthen parapet is divided by the mine tunnel trail. An additional 560 feet of the picket line is marked as a tracery with an inner and outer edge defined by crushed shell and an interior portion defined by unmown turf (Figure 26). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 14-15)

--Confederate Counter Mines. Prior to the July 30, 1864 explosion, Confederates dug exploratory counter mines north of Elliott's Salient in an attempt to intercept the Union Mine Tunnel. These efforts failed to discover the Union Mine Tunnel that averaged between 16 and 20 feet below the surface. Presently, three pits roughly 8 to 10 feet in diameter exist north of the Crater and the pedestrian perimeter walk (Figure 27). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 16 and Sec.8: 79)

--Confederate Trench Cavalier. West of Elliott's Salient, Confederate forces built a Trench Cavalier as a protective fallback position should the salient be captured. Under construction as early as June 29, 1864, portions of the Trench Cavalier were destroyed in the mine explosion and rebuilt after the

Battle of the Crater. The Trench Cavalier is located along the west rim of the Crater and features steep slopes rising to form an earthwork between 8 to 10 feet high. The structure is roughly 5 feet wide, 300 feet long, and covered primarily by turf. Sixteen eastern redcedars (Juniperus virginiana) are presently growing on the earthwork (Figure 28). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7:14)

--Union Mine Tunnel Entrance. On June 25, 1864, Union troops under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants began construction of the Mine Tunnel Entrance east of the Union picket line. The entrance was started in the western slope of the Poor Creek valley to avoid digging a vertical shaft. The Mine Tunnel Entrance has been rebuilt in 1938, 1967, and most recently after a December 1997 fire burned 10 feet back into the tunnel. The present Mine Tunnel Entrance is reinforced with concrete sandbags retaining the surrounding grades and secured with a locked metal gate (Figure 29). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 16 and Sec.8: 78-79,140)

-- The Crater. On July 30, 1864, Union forces detonated explosives set in a mine dug under the Confederate line on the Griffith farm property. The explosion resulted in a crater in the approximate range of 170 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 30 feet deep. Presently, the Crater is extant as a topographic depression and measures roughly 105 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 15 feet deep. Shell-marked traceries to the south and north of the depression indicate the battle-era extent of the landform. Visitors view the Crater from a perimeter walkway that circumscribes the depression and the Trench Cavalier to the west. A contemporary split-rail fence separates the pedestrian walk from the Crater (Figure 30). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7:16)

--Taylor House Site and Kitchen Ruins. During the Petersburg Campaign, the Taylor House stood in the path of advancing Union troops and was overrun by the army on June 18, 1864. The house was burned by retreating Confederates, while associated outbuildings were pulled apart by the Federals. Remnants of the complex remained behind Union lines during the Battle of the Crater and through the end of the siege. After the war, William Byrd Taylor returned to the property and built a new house on the foundations of the former kitchen building. This wood-framed structure was demolished in 1950 with the brick foundations and chimney left intact. The park has subsequently completed several archeological investigations and in 2005, a stabilization project on the brick masonry (Figure 31). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.8: 156; CLR review comments by E. Dabney)

--Crater Battlefield Association Golf Course Well House Foundation. In 1926, the Crater Battlefield Association built a clubhouse and 18-hole golf course on the Griffith farm property. East of the clubhouse, a well house stood and is seen in a circa 1927 photograph. The park likely removed the well house after 1955 when they ceased to use the clubhouse as a visitor center.

--Comfort Station. Contemporary precast concrete structure set on 14-foot wide by 12-foot long concrete foundation. Two doors on the north facade lead to separate men and women’s room with vault toilets.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Federal Earthworks, Fort Haskell to Federal Battery XIII	181857	Contributing			Location	21995	Yes
Federal Bombproofs	181859	Contributing			Location	22793	No
Federal Battery XIII	181861	Contributing			Location	21996	Yes
Federal Covered Way, East of Federal Battery XIII	181863	Contributing					No
Federal Battery XIV Tracery	181865	Contributing			Asset	1059882	Yes
Fort Morton Site	181867	Contributing			Location	98452	Yes
Federal Covered Way, East of Fort Morton	181869	Contributing					No
Federal Covered Way Further East of Fort Morton	181871	Contributing					No
Federal Battery XVI	181873	Contributing			Location	22788	Yes
Federal Zig Zag Trench	181875	Contributing			Location	22787	Yes
Union Picket Line Tracery	181877	Contributing			Asset	1129219	Yes
Confederate Picket Line	181879	Contributing			Asset	1129225	Yes
Confederate Counter Mines	181881	Contributing			Location	22776	No
Confederate Trench Cavalier	181883	Contributing			Location	22785	Yes
Union Mine Tunnel Entrance	181885	Contributing			Location	22770	Yes
The Crater	181887	Contributing			Location	22743	Yes
Taylor House Site and Kitchen Ruins	181889	Contributing			Location	21847	Yes
Crater Battlefield Association Golf Course Well House Foundation	181891	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Comfort Station	181893	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	115551	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. View looking north at a portion of the Eastern Front Tour Road and the federal earthworks between Fort Haskell and Federal Battery XIII. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0191)



Figure 16. View looking west at one of the Federal bombproofs between Fort Haskell and Federal Battery XIII. The Eastern Front Tour Road is visible in the background. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0195)



Figure 17. View looking north at Federal Battery XIII. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0183)



Figure 18. View of the Federal covered way, east of Federal Battery XIII. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0330)



Figure 19. View looking northwest at Federal Battery XIV tracery and two cannon. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9569)



Figure 20. View looking southwest at the Fort Morton site, which is marked by five cannon and variations in mowing patterns. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0295)



Figure 21. View of the Federal covered way east of Fort Morton. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0318)



Figure 22. View of the Federal covered way, further east of Fort Morton. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0324)



Figure 23. View of Federal Battery XVI. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9468)



Figure 24. View looking north at the Federal Zig Zag Trench. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9460)



Figure 25. View looking north at the Union picket line. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9299)



Figure 26. View looking west at the Confederate picket line, which extends to image left and right from the large southern red oak. The tree also marks the location of the Union mine tunnel. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9303)



Figure 27. View looking northeast at the Confederate counter mines, beyond the fence that surrounds the Crater. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9659)



Figure 28. View looking southeast towards the Confederate Trench Cavalier and one of the flank markers of the Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9349)



Figure 29. View looking southwest at the Union mine tunnel entrance. Note the deciduous tree and eastern redcedar in the image background growing in the mine tunnel depression. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9306)



Figure 30. View looking north at the Crater. Note two of the eastern redcedars growing on the Confederate trench cavalier, at image right. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9386)



Figure 31. View of the Taylor House Site and Kitchen Ruins. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9537)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation is the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape. The placement of defensive lines, covered ways, and batteries was influenced by major battle-era circulation features, namely, the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad (Norfolk Southern railroad), Baxter Road, and Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road). Confederate forces recognized Baxter Road and Jerusalem Plank Road as possible avenues of approach for Union troops seeking to capture Petersburg, and located their defensive line and batteries to secure these routes. In an identical fashion, Union forces formed their line and batteries to secure the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad and eliminate rail access and supplies to entrenched Confederates. (CLR draft 2017: 120)

By the end of the historic period, work had begun on widening Baxter Road and the building the park tour road, which at this time existed as two separate pieces at the Crater Battlefield. The first tour road section extended from Federal Battery V to Federal Battery XVI and connected with Baxter Road (County Drive). The second section headed east from Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road) to the former Crater Battlefield Association's clubhouse just southwest of The Crater. (CLR draft 2017: 121)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
By the 1950s, the Virginia Department of Transportation had constructed a wider road south of Baxter Road and abandoned the battle-era route, presently identifiable in the landscape as a trace. In 1963, the park completed a bridge over the Norfolk & Western railroad (Norfolk Southern railroad) and connected the Tour Road from Battery V to South Crater Road. Portions of the Tour Road east of the bridge follow the historic alignment of Baxter Road. South Crater Road was expanded to a divided highway with two-lane traffic heading both north and south, and was designated as US Route 301, a major highway that runs from Florida to Delaware. The Norfolk Southern railroad continues to serve as an active rail freight line (not owned by NPS). (CLR draft 2017: 121)

Overall, circulation retains historic character for the Civil War and commemorative and park establishment contexts. Major features such as Baxter Road and Jerusalem Plank Road (South Crater Road) are widened and rerouted after 1942. Contemporary circulation features for visitor access and enjoyment do not detract from historic landscape character. (CLR draft 2017: 121,132-134)

--Eastern Front Tour Road. Construction of the Tour Road began in 1932 and continued piecemeal over the next decade as the federal government acquired land and funding. By 1942, a tour route consisted of three unconnected sections: a gravel roadway north of Route 36, a two-way road between Route 36 and County Drive, and an entrance road to the Crater site from South Crater Road (Jerusalem Plank Road). Mission 66 improvements to the park included the conversion of the two-way road to a one-way tour route and connecting the Crater site to the Route 36 entry via a bridge across the railroad line. The park made further alterations to the road, removing a parking spur near the Crater site in 2002, and rerouting the road around the south and east sides of the Fort Morton site to enhance a battle-era view in 2008-2009. Since the Tour Road in the Crater Battlefield project area differs markedly from its original alignment and lacks integrity to the early park development period, it is considered a non-contributing resource (see Figures 15, 16). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 26)

--Baxter Road Trace. This road historically branched off of Jerusalem Plank Road (presently South Crater Road) immediately south of the Gee House and headed southeast to Sussex County. On the 1863 map prepared by Jeremy Francis Gilmer, Confederate Chief of Engineers, the road was labeled Sussex Road and formed a southern boundary for the Griffith and Taylor farm properties. The route also appeared on the 1865 Michler map and provided an avenue of approach for both forces during the battle. Between the 1930s and 1950s, the Virginia Department of Transportation rerouted and widened Baxter Road south of its battle-era location adjacent to the Griffith and Taylor farm properties. The widened route is presently identified as Winfield Road and merges into County Drive, which more closely follows the battle-era alignment of Baxter Road toward Sussex County. A portion of Baxter Road's battle-era alignment survives beneath the present Tour Road. East and west of the Tour Road bridge over the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, Baxter Road is present as a trace with the former roadbed at a lower elevation than the surrounding grades. Both the east and west sections of the trace are in areas of successional woody vegetation (Figure 32).

--Equipment Road, East of Poor Creek. The park maintains the area between Poor Creek and the railroad line via an informal earthen route that begins at the Tour Road east of Poor Creek. The road travels down an earthen embankment and through successional woods finally emerging in an open field east of the creek.

--Elliptical Walk at Massachusetts Monument. The park completed an exposed aggregate concrete walk in 2010 that connects a vehicular pull-off on the Tour Road to the base of the monument (Figure 33).

--Pedestrian Walks. Several hard-surfaced pedestrian walkways provide visitor access to and from parking areas, to the Crater and Mine Tunnel entrance, and to a visitor comfort station. Relatively short walkways parallel the parking areas at Fort Morton and the Crater. At the Crater parking area, the walkway connects to the Crater perimeter walk or loop and also the Mine Tunnel loop. All the walks are finished with exposed aggregate concrete or asphalt surfacing (Figure 34).

--Interpretive Trails. Current park GIS categorizes a series of trails as Interpretive and in the project area, this includes the Concealment Trail, the Bell Trail, an unnamed trail, and the Fort Morton Access Trail. The Concealment Trail branches off of the paved Mine Tunnel Loop north of the Crater parking area. It heads east crossing Poor Creek and a tributary, proceeds north between Poor Creek and the railroad line, heads west crossing Poor Creek again, and finally heads south connecting with the Mine Tunnel Loop north of the Mine Tunnel entrance. The Bell Trail heads west from the Concealment Trail and forms a loop heading north and then south around the site of the Confederate picket line and defensive line. The Bell Trail connects with an unnamed trail that extends north from the Crater perimeter walk. The Fort Morton Access Trail begins at the Fort

Morton parking area walk and continues south and then southwest to the Fort Morton site. The park installed all three trails after the historic period to facilitate visitor access and enjoyment of the park. The trails are surfaced with a mixture of compacted earth, compacted aggregate, and compacted wood chips.

--Multi-Use Trails. Current park GIS categorizes a series of trails as Multi-Use and in the project area, this includes the Encampment Trail, Poor Creek Trail Exit, Poor Creek Trail, and Wilcox Trail. All trails are in the eastern portion of the project area east of the railroad line. The Encampment Trail begins south of the Tour Road near the Zig Zag Trench and follows the Baxter Road trace to the southeast. The trail turns to the north roughly paralleling the Tour Road and continues north beyond the project area toward Fort Stedman. The Poor Creek Trail Exit begins north of the Tour Road near the Zig Zag Trench and proceeds north staying to the west of the Fort Morton site and Taylor Kitchen Ruins. This trail joins the Poor Creek Trail at the transition between field and successional woody vegetation on the former Taylor property. The Poor Creek Trail heads east and then north, exiting the project area near Fort Haskell. A portion of the Wilcox Trail, connecting the Encampment and Taylor Creek Trails, is in the northeast section of the project area. The park installed all four trails after the historic period to facilitate visitor access and enjoyment of the park. The trails are surfaced with a mixture of compacted earth, compacted aggregate, and compacted wood chips.

--Hike/Bike Trails. Current park GIS categorizes a series of trails as Hike/Bike and in the project area, this includes the Hickory Trail. This trail is in the southeast portion of the project area and branches off of the Encampment Trail heading east towards the park's Resource Management buildings.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Eastern Front Tour Road	182105	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	22461	Yes
Baxter Road Trace	182107	Contributing			Location	22768	Yes
Equipment Road, East of Poor Creek	182109	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Elliptical Walk, Massachusetts Monument	182111	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	22463	No
Pedestrian Walks	182113	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Interpretive Trails	182115	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Multi-Use Trails	182117	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Hike/Bike Trails	182119	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 32. View looking northeast at a portion of the Baxter Road Trace. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0338)



Figure 33. View looking south at the Massachusetts Monument and a portion of the elliptical walk fronting it. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9692)



Figure 34. View looking northeast at the sidewalk passing Mahone's Brigade Monument. Fencing and interpretive wayside signage are visible in the image background. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9347)

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape. The defining natural system of the Crater Battlefield was Poor Creek, a meandering watercourse that cut a valley between the Crater and the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad line, before turning northeast and flowing under the railroad and on to the Appomattox River. Poor Creek determined the placement of the Union and Confederate defensive lines, and the valley's west slope provided a concealed location for the Union's 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment to begin the mine tunnel excavation. The creek and valley remained largely unchanged after the end of the war and through the end of the historic period. (CLR draft 2017: 121,135)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Changes associated with Poor Creek and its valley since 1942 are confined to vegetation along the creek's corridor and the side slopes of the valley. Successional woody vegetation grew unchecked in the valley and along the creek until the park completed two clearing projects to open the view between Fort Morton and the Crater. Due to steep slopes, vegetation along the creek is denser, taller, and contains many more woody species than the surrounding fields. (CLR draft 2017: 122,135)

Natural systems and features retain historic character for the Civil War and commemorative and park establishment contexts. Non-historic, successional woody vegetation in the Poor Creek valley has been removed and presently emerging woody vegetation needs to be managed to preserve historic landscape character. (CLR draft 2017: 122)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Poor Creek	182121	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Vegetation is the planted or managed deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities. Prior to the battle and throughout the Petersburg Campaign, the Crater Battlefield consisted almost entirely of open fields in agricultural production. Pioneer corps for both Union and Confederate forces removed clusters of woody vegetation and individual trees to improve fields of fire and to provide materials for defensive lines and batteries. Period photographs record the absence of woody vegetation and period maps confirm the open character of the landscape only showing masses of woody vegetation east of the Union defensive line. Post-war late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century photographs show clusters of pines and redcedars growing around the Mine Tunnel, Crater, and Trench Cavalier. These evergreen trees became more established by the end of the historic period and additional trees were planted or allowed to grow for the Crater Battlefield Association's golf course and clubhouse. (CLR draft 2017: 122)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Maintaining battle-era open, agricultural land was initially impractical for the park given the nation's personnel and budgetary focus on World War II. Successional woody vegetation grew across formerly open land, with the park maintaining the areas around the Crater, Mine Tunnel, and Taylor Kitchen site as open turf. A clearing project in the late 1970s opened a narrow corridor between the

Fort Morton site and the Crater. Additional clearing completed around 2004 removed additional successional woody vegetation in the Poor Creek valley and along the Norfolk Southern railroad line. (CLR draft 2017: 122-123)

Overall, vegetation does not retain historic character for the Civil War and commemorative and park establishment contexts. Although key areas around the Crater, Mine Tunnel, and Taylor Kitchen site have remained as open turf, a large portion of the park that was open and in agricultural production during the battle and at the end of the historic period is now covered by successional woody vegetation. (CLR draft 2017: 122-123)

--Fields and Meadows. Both the 1863 Gilmer Map and 1865 Michler Map show that agricultural fields and open, non-forested areas dominated the landscape where the battle took place. The maps are confirmed by 1865 photographs from the Library of Congress recording a landscape nearly devoid of trees and woody vegetation. Following the Civil War, agricultural practices maintained fields and meadows as open areas. Successional woody vegetation encroached on the Griffith property during the Crater Battlefield Association's tenure and continued to reduce open fields and meadows in the former battlefield after World War II. Presently, the fields and meadows in project area are bordered on the north and south by the successional woods and reflect a fraction of the area that was open during the battle (Figure 35).

--Successional Woodlands. Based on the 1865 Michler Map, approximately 20% of the Crater Battlefield project area was wooded or forested at the end of the Petersburg Campaign. The Griffith and Taylor properties in the project area were primarily farm fields and many wooded areas were removed by both armies to open fields of fire and for raw materials to construct defensive works. Successional woodlands developed after the battle growing at varying rates since the end of maintained agriculture fields and also the closing of the Crater Battlefield Association golf course in the 1930s. Successional woodland growth accelerated with the start of World War II and materials and labor being focused on the war effort. Existing conditions mapping records that approximately 74% of the project area is presently wooded (see Figure 35).

--Two Mulberries near Taylor Kitchen Ruins. The mulberries (Morus sp.) stand near the Taylor Kitchen Ruins, one to the east and the other to the west. Since Union forces burned the Taylor House around June 18, 1864, any individual trees in the vicinity of the homestead were likely removed as well to open up fields of fire. Any trees present between the conclusion of the Civil War and 1942 are associated with the residential development and use of the property and not commemorative and park development activities.

--Sycamore south of Taylor Kitchen Ruins. A 1937 aerial photograph shows an agricultural field south of the Taylor Kitchen. In this vicinity, the park completed a Mission 66 project and installed a visitor parking area off of the Tour Road. Southwest of the park area, a massing of deciduous vegetation is seen in historic imagery. The current sycamore (Platanus sp.) is likely a remnant of that massing.

--Eastern Redcedars and Deciduous Tree Growing over Mine Tunnel. Union troops excavated the mine tunnel in an area devoid of vegetation that started behind the Union picket line and extended to under Elliott's Salient. A 1934 photograph and aerial imagery from 1937 show evergreen vegetation growing on and near the tunnel with denser growth concentrated near the Crater. One deciduous tree and two Eastern redcedars (Juniperus virginiana) are presently growing directly over the tunnel, closest to the mine entrance. The trees are not associated with commemorative and park development activities and threaten the long-term protection of the mine tunnel (see Figure 29).

--Southern Red Oak Growing over Mine Tunnel. A large Southern red oak (Quercus falcata) is located south of the Crater east overlook and is growing over the mine tunnel. The oak has been nominated for "The Remarkable Trees of Virginia," a four-year crowdsourcing effort to document the states' largest, oldest, most historic, beautiful , and beloved trees. The tree is not associated with commemorative and park development activities. However, it serves as an excellent indicator in the landscape to direct visitors towards the Crater (see Figure 26).

--Eastern Redcedars around the Crater and on the Trench Cavalier. Elliott's Salient and the Trench Cavalier were components of the Confederate line that ran through the Griffith farm property. At the time of the battle and throughout the siege, the salient, subsequent Crater, and Trench Cavalier lacked woody vegetation. A post-war photograph from 1891 shows the Crater speckled with young pine and Eastern redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) trees. Evergreen trees continue to be present at and around the Crater and Trench Cavalier and are seen in a 1937 aerial and circa 1960 photograph. The Eastern redcedars are not associated with commemorative and park development activities but assist in the goal of creating a solemn setting around the Crater (see Figure 30).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Fields and Meadows	182123	Contributing					No
Successional Woodlands	182125	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
Two Mulberries near Taylor Kitchen Ruins	182127	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Location	21809	No
Sycamore south of Taylor Kitchen Ruins	182129	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Location	21809	No
Eastern Redcedars and Deciduous Tree growing over Mine Tunnel	182131	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Asset	1032103	No
Southern Red Oak Growing over Mine Tunnel	182133	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	21810	No
Eastern Redcedars around the Crater and on the Trench Cavalier	182135	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	22743	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 35. View looking west at meadows, fields, and successional woodlands. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9445)

Landscape Characteristic: **Views and Vistas**

Historic Conditions (to 1942):
Views and vistas are the prospect created by a range of vision in a landscape, conferred by the composition of other landscape characteristics and associated features. In June 1864, Union and Confederate forces established defensive lines, artillery batteries, and picket lines on the Crater Battlefield. The land had been primarily in agricultural production, lacked large areas of woody vegetation, and afforded views for observing the enemy, directing troop movements, and firing artillery. Following the end of the Civil War, agricultural uses consequently preserved some views on the Crater Battlefield, as did the development of the Crater Battlefield Association golf course. Pockets of woody vegetation developed at the Crater site, around the clubhouse, and to separate greens and tee boxes located in close proximity to each other. Overall, this resulted in the battle-era views remaining open. (CLR draft 2017: 123)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
After 1942, an accelerated growth of successional woody vegetation encroached upon or completely obscured battle-era views. The park removed a narrow corridor of successional woody vegetation in 1978 and opened a vista between the Fort Morton site and the Crater. The park cleared a larger area of successional woody vegetation, after relocating the Crater parking area in 2004, and presently maintains an open view between Fort Morton and the Crater. (CLR draft 2017: 123)

Today, the majority of tactical views and fields of fire from the Civil War period do not retain their historic character due to the growth of successional woody vegetation. Additionally, the location of important Confederate artillery positions in the battle narrative, such as Wright's Battery, are located outside the park boundary, thus complicating the preservation of historic views. (CLR draft 2017: 124,137)

--View from Fort Morton to the Crater. Fort Morton served as the headquarters for Union General Burnside during the Battle of the Crater and the fort's location on an elevated rise afforded views of the mine explosion and subsequent battle action. In 2004, the park completed successional woody vegetation clearing to reestablish the view between Fort Morton and the Crater. Presently, the view is open from the front (west) side of the fort. The rear (southeast) corner of the fort's location is in successional woody growth. Successional woody growth is present in the Poor Creek valley and along the railroad line, but currently this vegetation does not impact this view (Figure 36).

--View from Fort Morton to the USCT Rallying Point. In the second wave of the Union attack after the mine explosion, USCT forces attained a position in the Confederate trenches north of the Crater before a Confederate counterattack by pushed them back. During the battle, a view existed from the headquarters at Fort Morton to the USCT position. Presently, the view is partially obscured by successional woody vegetation north of the Crater (see Figure 36).

--Tactical View from the Cornfield Battery to the Crater. The Cornfield Battery anchored a Confederate line that paralleled South Crater Road (Jerusalem Plank Road) and turned northeast to the covered way south of Blanford Cemetery. Artillery at Cornfield Battery played a critical role in blunting the Union's attack and advance toward Cemetery Hill after the mine explosion. The Cornfield Battery site is presently obscured by successional woody vegetation and limits the full extent of the tactical view (Figure 37).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View from Fort Morton to The Crater	182137	Contributing			Asset	1059865	No
View from Fort Morton to the USTC Rallying Point	182139	Contributing			Asset	1270873	No
Tactical View from the Cornfield Battery to The Crater	182141	Contributing			Asset	1059911	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 36. View looking west from the cannon at the Fort Morton site to the Crater and the USTC rallying point. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0221)



Figure 37. Tactical view looking southeast from the Cornfield Battery to the Crater. (OCLP 2017, DSC-0339)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions (to 1942):
Small-scale features are the elements providing detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in a landscape. Small-scale features from the Civil War were likely ephemeral, supported daily life behind a defensive line or in a fortification, and did not survive long after the war's conclusion. Multiple iterations of fence lines likely traversed the landscape after the Civil War to divided distinct fields and agricultural working areas. Fencing for agricultural use remained in place the longest at the Taylor property. (CLR draft 2017: 124)

Between 1905 and 1927, veterans' groups and associations, such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, installed seven monuments at the Crater Battlefield. The majority of these commemorative installations were located around the Crater. Prior to transferring ownership to the NPS in 1933, the War Department may have installed signage at the battlefield to identify features. In 1939, the NPS relocated the Massachusetts Monument into a grass panel dividing the entrance and exit lanes at South Crater Road and eliminated a stone plaza from that location that was part of the monument's original design. (CLR draft 2017: 124)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The park has preserved commemorative monuments and markers and in 1962, as part of establishing a one-way Tour Road, relocated the Massachusetts Monument to its present location on the south side of the road. The Taylor farm property was officially transferred to the park in 1949, and after the time, the park likely removed the agricultural fencing. Contemporary small-scale features have been added to the landscape and are primarily designed to support park operations and interpretation. These include cannon at the Battery XIV site, at Fort Morton, and at the Crater, fences around the Crater and at the exit to South Crater Road, and directional and interpretive signage. (CLR draft 2017: 124)

No small-scale features that remain today from the Civil War at the Crater Battlefield. Monuments installed during the early-twentieth century retain historic character for the commemorative and park establishment context. Contemporary small-scale features introduced by the park for operations and interpretation are generally inconspicuous. (CLR draft 2017: 125, 138-142)

--Mahone's Brigade Monument. The Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy installed the Mahone's Brigade Monument on the west side of the Crater in November 1910. The rough-cut granite monolith measures 30 inches long by 20 inches wide by 43 inches high with a polished, slightly slanted top. The top face bears an inscription denoting the position of Mahone's brigade during the battle. The monument is presently along the Crater perimeter walkway (see Figure 34). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 22)

-- Mahone Monument. The Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy installed the Mahone Monument in 1927 on the west side of the Crater and south of the Mahone's Brigade Monument. The monument consists of a 4-foot-square, granite-block obelisk that rises 24 feet from a stepped granite base. The obelisk is comprised of rusticated granite blocks that taper and terminate in a smooth-cut, pyramidal top. A smooth granite panel marks each face of the obelisk's first and largest course. The panel on the west face bears an inscription honoring William Mahone. The monument is presently along the Crater perimeter walkway (Figure 38). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 22)

--Massachusetts Monument. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts installed the Massachusetts Monument east of South Crater Road in 1911 to honor all Massachusetts soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War in various battles in Virginia. The monument stood within a plaza off of the road, roughly 56-feet square, designed to resemble a star-shaped fort. In 1939, the NPS relocated the monument just to the south into a grass panel dividing the entrance and exit lanes of the Tour Road and eliminated the plaza. The Park Service moved the monument again in April 1962, this time to its present location, as part of the Mission 66 changes to the park Tour Road. The

monument consists of a granite base and two-part shaft topped by a bronze sculpture an eagle with its wings spread. The base is a stepped pedestal measuring 9 feet long by 5 feet wide by 5 feet high with MASSACHUSETTS inscribed on the north face. The 22-foot high shaft tapers slightly upward and at its base, features bronze plaques on the north and south faces with inscriptions. The monument is presently accessed via a pedestrian elliptical walk that extends from a vehicular pull-off on the Tour Road (see Figure 33).

--Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument. Survivors of the Second Regiment of the Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Heavy Artillery installed a monument group west of the Trench Cavalier in October 1905. The monument group consisted of a primary monument and right and left flank markers indicating the regiment's position during the battle. The primary monument is a rough-cut granite monolith, 24 inches square and 52 inches in high, that features a flat polished top bearing an inscription. The two flank markers are rough-cut granite with slope-cut faces measuring 12 inches square by 21 inches high. The right flank marker is north of the primary monument and the left flank marker is located to the south. The monument group is presently along the Crater perimeter walkway (Figure 38, see also Figure 28). National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 21)

--South Carolina Monument. The South Carolina Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy installed the South Carolina Monument near the north Crater rim on November 26, 1924. The rough-cut granite base measures 60 inches long, 24 inches wide, and 15 inches high. A vertical-set, rough-cut granite slab extends from the base and measures 48 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 36 inches high. A bronze plaque, 30 by 22 inches, is attached to the north side of the slab and bears an inscription in raised letters. The monument is presently along the Crater perimeter walkway (Figure 39). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 21)

--Entrance to Mine Monument. Survivors of 48th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry installed the Entrance to Mine Monument south of the mine tunnel portal in 1907. The small, rough-cut, monolithic granite block measures 12 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 15 inches high. The finished top face of the monument features an inscription. The NPS removed the monument in 1967 when it reconstructed the mine tunnel entrance. The monument was reset in the 1980s in its original position. The monument is presently along the mine tunnel loop walkway (Figure 40). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 20)

--Crater of Mine Monument. Survivors of the 48th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry installed the Crater of Mine Monument on the eastern rim of the Crater in 1907. The rough-cut monolithic shaft of granite is 30 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 51 inches high. The top of the shaft is cut on an angle and has a finished face with an incised inscription (Figure 41). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 20)

--Commemorative Crater Monument. The Citizens of Petersburg installed the Commemorative Crater Monument, also known as the 100th Anniversary Marker, along the perimeter walk west of the Trench Cavalier on July 30, 1964. The monument consists of a small granite slab with an arched top set on a granite base. The base measures 3 feet long by 1 foot wide. The arched slab is 28 inches long by 6.5 inches wide by 34.5 inches high. The sides of the slab are rough cut, while the two faces are finished. The east face features an inscription with crossed Confederate and United States flags (see Figure 38). (National Register draft 2014, Sec.7: 27)

--Federal Battery XIV Cannon. The park has placed two cannon behind the former parapet of Battery XIV (see Figure 19).

--Fort Morton Cannon. The park has placed five cannon behind the former parapet of Fort Morton (see Figures 20, 36).

--Cannon at the Crater. Elliott's Salient protected artillery emplacements from Pegram's battalion prior to the mine explosion. Presently, the park has placed one cannon northwest of the Crater near the north end of the Trench Cavalier and one cannon south of the Crater near the perimeter walk.

--Three-Rail Post and Rail Fence around Crater. This fence tracks along the inner edge of the

Crater perimeter walk in order to keep visitors out of the Crater depression and the Confederate Trench Cavalier. Presently, several posts are rotting (see Figures 27, 30, 34, 39, 41).

--Worm Fence at Tour Road exit to South Crater Road. Four-rail contemporary worm fence is installed at the Tour Road exit to South Crater Road: approximately 90 linear feet of fence is north of the exit and 43 linear feet is south of the exit.

--Vehicular Gate at Tour Road Exit to South Crater Road. Contemporary two-leaf metal gate used to close access to the Tour Road.

--Wood Stake Troop Markers (in successional woods north of Crater). Two contemporary wood markers indicate the relative positions of Virginia and North Carolina troops in the successional woods north of the Crater.

-- Fort Morton Directional Sign. Two contemporary wood directional signs are located west of the Fort Morton parking area.

--Federal Battery XVI Sign. Located near the northeast end of the battery's parapet, this sign was possibly installed prior to 1933 during the War Department's administration of the site. Further research is needed to determine the history of the sign.

--Union Tunnel Sign. Metal sign on round metal post located north of the Mine Tunnel and about 190 feet northeast of the Crater perimeter walk. It was possibly installed prior to 1933 during the War Department's administration of the site. Further research is needed to determine the history of the sign.

--Interpretative Waysides. Fifteen interpretative waysides are installed in the Crater Battlefield project area (see Figures 34, 41).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Mahone's Brigade Monument	182143	Contributing			Asset	304426	Yes
Mahone Monument	182145	Contributing			Location	22456	Yes
Massachusetts Monument	182147	Contributing			Location	22463	Yes
Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument	182149	Contributing			Asset	304396	Yes
South Carolina Monument	182151	Contributing			Location	22453	Yes
Entrance to Mine Monument	182153	Contributing			Asset	304448	Yes
Crater of the Mine Monument	182155	Contributing			Asset	304373	Yes
Commemorative Crater Monument	182157	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	304402	Yes
Federal Battery XIV Cannon (2)	182159	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Fort Morton Cannon (5)	182161	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	21809	No
Cannon at the Crater (2)	182163	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	21810	No
Three-Rail Post and Rail Fence, around Crater	182165	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	442562	Yes
Worm Fence, Tour Road Exit to South Crater Road	182167	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	22462	No
Vehicular Gate, Tour Road Exit to South Crater Road	182169	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	403046	No
Wood Stake Troop Markers (in successional woods north of Crater)	182171	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	242845	No
Fort Morton Directional Sign	182173	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	21809	No
Federal Battery XVI Sign	182175	Undetermined			Location	22788	No
Union Tunnel Sign	182177	Undetermined			Asset	442669	Yes
Interpretative Waysides	182179	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	240711	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 38. View looking northeast at the Mahone Monument (image far left), Commemorative Crater Monument (center), and the Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument (right). (OCLP 2015, DSC-9351)



Figure 39. View looking southeast at the South Carolina Monument. The depression of the Crater is visible behind the fence. (OCLP 2015, DSC-9383)



Figure 40. View of the Entrance to Mine Monument. (LCS 2003, #081687-01)



Figure 41. View looking southwest at the Crater of Mine Monument, fencing, and interpretive wayside signs on the east side of the Crater. (OCLP 2017, IMG-1115)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 3

Next Assessment Due Date: 05/12/2029

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 05/12/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The park has made progress in removing non-historic vegetation from viewsheds and earthworks, but there is still substantial work that remains.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/15/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of the Crater Battlefield is evaluated as “Fair.” The property 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 property to degrade to a poor condition.

Non-historic successional woody vegetation continues to obscure the open landscape and tactical viewsheds that were present during the 1865 battle. Several battle-era earthworks, defensive features, and circulation features have non-historic woody vegetation growing directly on them. These features are at risk for damage due to the trees being thrown or toppled in a storm event.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Commercial development at the southwest boundary of the Crater Battlefield is located next to the Tour Road exit onto South Crater Road.

Date Identified: 08/24/2017

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Future redevelopment along the highways south and west of the Crater battlefields may not be sympathetic or appropriate.

Date Identified: 08/24/2017

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The horizontal rails on the non-historic post and rail fence paralleling a portion of the Crater and Trench Cavalier perimeter walk are often uses as for climbing or sitting, and the posts are prone to rotting.

Date Identified: 05/12/2017

Resolved? Yes

Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
Other Impact:	n/a
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Narrative:	Successional woody vegetation is limiting the full ability of the landscape to convey its significance as a Civil War battlefield and earthwork preservation.
Date Identified:	08/24/2017
Resolved?	No

Type of Impact:	Visitation
Other Impact:	n/a
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Narrative:	The point USCT rallying point lacks a universally accessible route.
Date Identified:	08/24/2017
Resolved?	No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 2004-12-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Based on the findings of the 2017 draft “Cultural Landscape Report for Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield, Petersburg, Virginia, the recommended primary treatment for the Crater Battlefield landscape is rehabilitation, one of four treatments defined by the Secretary of the Interior along with preservation, restoration, and reconstruction Of the four treatments, the park’s General Management Plan identified preservation and rehabilitation as the only levels of treatment that applied to the document’s management prescriptions. For the Crater Battlefield landscape, rehabilitation is selected as a primary treatment for its capacity to accommodate repair and replacement of deteriorated and missing historic features, while simultaneously accommodating compatible alterations and new additions to the historic property to facilitate its continued use as a unit of the national park system. (CLR draft 2017: 148-149, citing GMP 2004: 45)

Given the management prescriptions of the park’s General Management Plan and the emphasis on the landscape telling the story of the ten-month-long Petersburg Campaign, the CLR recommends a treatment date of 1864–65 that will focus landscape treatment on the period of time associated with nationally significant events at the Crater Battlefield. The treatment date should also include an overlay of commemorative features, primarily monuments and plaques, which were not present during the 1864–65 period but installed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While the Crater Battlefield treatment date of 1864–65, and its commemorative overlay, will not fully reflect the conditions present during the Petersburg Campaign, it preserves and enhances the landscape’s ability to convey its significance as a battlefield. (CLR draft 2017: 150)

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	2000-07-31
Title:	Draft Cultural Landscape Report - History, Existing Conditions, Analysis And Treatment Recommendations
IRMA Link:	https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2287000
Narrative:	
Treatment Type:	See CLR
Treatment Completed:	No

Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	2017-01-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Crater Battlefield, Petersburg National Battlefield
IRMA Link:	https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2252116
Narrative:	
Treatment Type:	See CLR
Treatment Completed:	No

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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--	Review Comments on June 2017 draft “Cultural Landscape Inventory for Crater Battlefield” by Chris Bryce, Emmanuel Dabney, and Julia Steele, PETE					

--	Review Comments on 2017 draft “Cultural Landscape Report for Crater Battlefield” by Chris Bryce, Emmanuel Dabney, and Julia Steele, PETE		--			
Powell, William H.	“The Battle of the Petersburg Crater,” in Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 4, ed. Robert Underwood Johnson.	1888	New York: Century Company			
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--	Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, http://www.petersburgproject.org/andrewmccallum.html.		--			
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Aerial Photograph, 1937

Supplemental Information Narrative:

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Interpretive Tour Plan, Part of the Master Plan for Petersburg National Battlefield.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Drawing, NB-PET, 3012B, 1 April 1963. Denver Service Center Technical Information Center (eTIC).

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Map of Petersburg National Military Park.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Drawn by S.L.B., March 31, 1931.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: The Crater-Colquitt's Salient & Ft. Morton Area, Part of the Master Plan for Petersburg National Military Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Drawing PETE 325-2078, 1941. Denver Service Center Technical Information Center (eTIC).

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type	Source
PETE_Crater Battlefield CLI Update Notes_2026.pdf			