National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2021



Fort Stedman

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: Fort Stedman

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300199

Parent Landscape: 300197

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Petersburg National Battlefield

Alpha Code: PETE

Park Organization Code: 4770

Park District: PETE

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Fort Stedman battlefield landscape is part of Petersburg National Battlefield (NB), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) located in south-central Virginia, in the City of Petersburg and in Prince George County. 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. Petersburg NB comprises separate geographical areas or units that form a semicircle to the east, south, and west of Petersburg, including Grant's Headquarters at City Point, the Eastern Front, the Western Front, and the Five Forks Battlefield. The 135-acre Fort Stedman battlefield is within the park's Eastern Front unit.

The Fort Stedman battlefield landscape was the site of skirmishes on June 18, 1864, the final day of the four-day Second Battle of Petersburg (the first days of the battle, June 15-17, occurred mainly on the landscape area known as the Initial Assaults battlefield, and is addressed in the Initial Assaults CLI). The Initial Assaults pitted the larger Union army against substantially smaller Confederate forces, but this disparity was made up by the Confederates strong defensive positions and poorly coordinated actions by the Union generals. By June 18, the arrival of significant reinforcements from Lee's army made further assaults impractical. The failure of the Union to defeat the Confederates in these actions resulted in the start of the ten-month Siege of Petersburg.

During the battle of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865, Confederate forces advanced on the Federal forces. Though early in the battle the Confederates were able to capture Federal Batteries X, XI, XII, and Fort Stedman, the second phase of the Confederate attack did not go as planned and the Federal forces were able to reclaim their former ground, including Fort Stedman. The battle marked the last offensive by the Army of Northern Virginia; Lee had planned to evacuate Petersburg since February but had been delayed by muddy roads. During the afternoon following the battle, the Union II and VI corps took advantage of the thinned defenses in their fronts, seizing sections of Confederate picket lines that proved valuable in launching the final attacks of the Petersburg Campaign.

Most visitors enter Fort Stedman via the park's paved one-way Tour Road (also called Siege Road) east from the Initial Assaults battlefield. The Fort Stedman battlefield includes remnants of Confederate Defensive Siege Line

including Colquitt's Salient, Gracie's Salient and Gracie's Dam, as well as remnants from the Union Siege Line including Fort Stedman, Federal Battery XI and Fort Haskell. Unnamed remnant entrenchments also extend along Tour Road between Federal Battery XI and Fort Haskell. Earthen defensive structures, including parapets, trenches, and bombproofs, are covered with vegetation ranging from managed turf to non-historic woodlands. During the battle of Fort Stedman and throughout the siege of Petersburg, the Poor Creek basin, which parallels the Harris Line along the western edge of the Fort Stedman CLI project area north to south, created an obstacle, troop cover, and concealment. Fields and meadows surrounding Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell contribute to the integrity of the battlefield, as does the woodland within the Poor Creek corridor. The battlefield includes a segment of the historic road trace, Prince George Courthouse Road, which also extends into the Initial Assaults battlefield CLI project area. Commemorative features installed between 1894 and 1912 form a layer of development over the 1864–1865 battlefield landscape, and include the First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument, the Third Division IX Corps Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker and Gracie's Salient Marker. In addition to the Tour Road, parking and pull-off areas, paved walks, and earthen trails provide access through the site.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The 2,760-acre Petersburg National Battlefield is nationally significant for its association with the ten-month-long Petersburg Campaign (June 15, 1864 to April 2, 1865), culminating in the abandonment of Petersburg and Richmond by General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The abandonment led directly to the Confederate surrender to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and the Union Army of the Potomac at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The Eastern Front Unit 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 initial assaults 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 battlefield associated with Fort Stedman is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military for the skirmish that occurred there on the last day of the four-day initial assaults on Petersburg, on June 18, 1864, and as the site of the battle of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865. It is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Black for the role of United States Colored Troops during the battle and siege. Late nineteenth and early twentieth-century efforts to commemorate and preserve Petersburg Battlefield are related to national trends in the veneration and protection of Civil War battlefields and lend the battlefield national significance under Criterion A in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation. Fort Stedman, as part of the Petersburg NB, is also nationally significant under Criterion B for its military association with General Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, and General Pierre G.T. Beauregard. Lastly, Fort Stedman is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remains of the earthen Civil War fortifications. The Fort Stedman 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 battlefield of Fort Stedman is 1864 to 1942. It begins with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the initial assaults by Federal forces on Petersburg. It ends when the NPS completed projects associated with commemorating, preserving, and developing the park landscape as directed by master planning documents.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the battlefield of Fort Stedman is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1864 to 1942, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2021. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. These include buildings and structures (Fort Stedman, Fort Haskell, Federal Battery XI, Colquitt's Salient, Gracie's Salient, and Gracie's Dam); circulation (Prince George Courthouse Road Trace); natural systems (Poor Creek); vegetation (field and meadow vegetation, woodland within stream corridor); views surrounding Fort Stedman and surrounding entrenchments, forts, and batteries; and small-scale features (First Maine Artillery Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker, Third Division, IX Corps Monument, Gracie's Salient Marker). At least one estate dating to the eighteenth century was present during the Fort Stedman battle, the New Market, or the Hare House property. The archaeological remnants of this site are documented in archaeological investigations and overviews of Petersburg NB and are beyond the scope of this cultural landscape inventory.

The Fort Stedman battlefield retains integrity to the period of significance, with six out of the seven aspects of integrity

evidenced on the grounds. Abundant successional woody vegetation and the loss of historic structures diminish the integrity of design and feeling. The cultural landscape lacks integrity of setting due to successional woody vegetation and residential and light commercial development immediately north of the park.

The overall condition of the Fort Stedman battlefield landscape is evaluated as “Fair.” Non-historic successional woody vegetation continues to obscure the open landscape and tactical viewsheds that were present during the 1864 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:

Five landscapes (and three component landscapes) comprise Petersburg National Battlefield. These include Five Forks Battlefield, Grant’s Headquarters at City Point, the Western Front, Poplar Grove National Cemetery, and the Eastern Front. Three component landscapes, including the Initial Assaults, Fort Stedman, and the Crater Battlefield, comprise the Eastern Front Landscape.

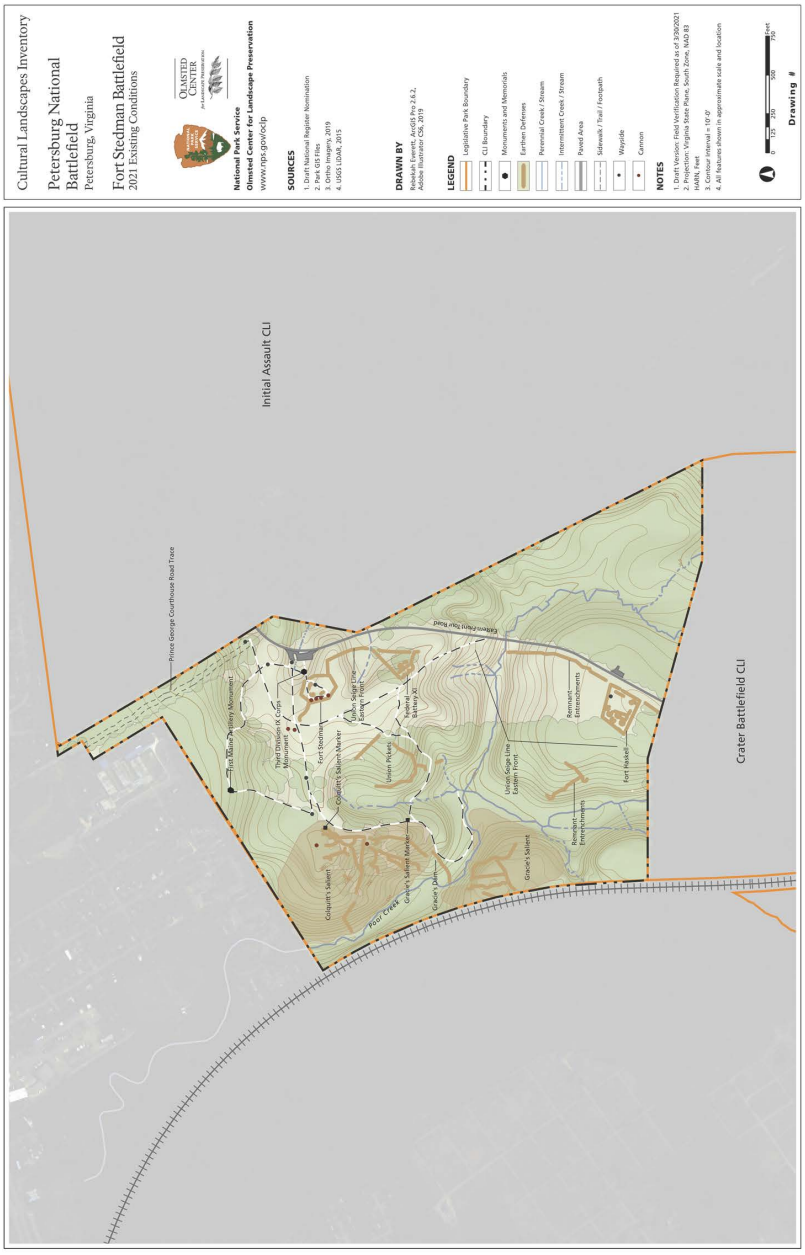
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Fort Stedman	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Hare House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Hare Hill	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	New Market	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Site plan for Fort Stedman, 2021.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/28/2021

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Jennifer Hanna, Historical Landscape Architect with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, conducted research and produced this Cultural Landscape Inventory in 2021. Site photographic documentation was completed by Stuart Hayden, Associate, and Tim Layton, Historical Landscape Architect, with the Olmsted Center. Jeff Killion, Regional Cultural Landscape Inventories Coordinator, reviewed and provided comments on the report. The cultural resource contact for the park is Emmanuel Dabney, Museum Curator, who may be reached at Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov or 804-732-3571 ext. 305.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Fort Stedman
Petersburg National Battlefield

Petersburg National Battlefield concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Stedman, 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 Fort Stedman is hereby approved and accepted.

LEWIS ROGERS Digitally signed by LEWIS ROGERS Date: 2021.09.28 17:46:13 -04'00'

Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield Date

Park Concurrence Form, 2021.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1
North Atlantic-Appalachian
1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1.A.2.(IR1-RSS)

Julie Langan
Director & State 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 the Fort Stedman Battlefield at Petersburg National Battlefield. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on 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 need further study.

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

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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 (NB) 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. The land tracts that comprise the Fort Stedman component landscape were acquired between 1929 and 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 the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although your office has not formally approved National Register documentation 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 for the Fort Stedman 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 Civil War history in Virginia. The MPDF organized historic contexts by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Fort Stedman area (March 25, 1865) was described as part of the Richmond and Petersburg Campaign of 1864-1865.

There have been several consultations with your office regarding the eligibility of resources at Petersburg NB. 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 Fort Stedman battlefield include a segment of the Auto Tour Road and a portion of the ten-stop auto tour which extends between Battery 5 and the Crater.

In March 2014, the Public Archeology Lab prepared a draft National Register documentation for the entirety of the Petersburg NB. The documentation has not been submitted to your office 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. In the documentation,

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contributing resources in the Fort Stedman area included features associated with the Union Siege Line: Eastern Front (Fort Stedman, Federal Battery XI, Fort Haskell); Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front (Colquitt's Salient, Gracie's Salient, Gracie's Dam); Eastern Front Civil War Road Network (Prince George Courthouse Road Trace); and four monuments/markers (First Maine Artillery Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker, Gracie's Salient Marker, Third Division IX Corps Monument). The segment of the Eastern Front Tour Road passing through the area was identified as non-contributing.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for Fort Stedman fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of Conservation, Engineering, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Military, and Other (Commemoration). As noted previously, none of the property's features compiled on the attached list have been described in the National Register. The CLI identifies eighteen features related to buildings and structures, circulation, natural systems and features, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property's landscape. Twenty-one features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant, and one feature has been evaluated as undetermined because additional research is needed.

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

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The battlefield associated with Fort Stedman is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military as the site of the battle of Fort Stedman on March 1865. It is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Black for the role of United States Colored Troops during the battle and siege. Late nineteenth and early twentieth-century efforts to commemorate and preserve Petersburg Battlefield are related to national trends in the veneration and protection of Civil War battlefields and lend the battlefield national significance under Criterion A in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation.
- Fort Stedman, as part of the Petersburg NB, is nationally significant under Criterion B for its military association with General Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant.
- Fort Stedman is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remains of the earthen Civil War fortifications.
- The Fort Stedman 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 battlefield of Fort Stedman is 1864 to 1942. It begins with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the initial assault by Federal forces on Petersburg. It ends when the NPS completed projects associated with

NPS letter to Virginia SHPO, page 3 of 7.

commemorating, preserving, and developing the park landscape as directed by master planning documents.
- 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 in **45 days**, if possible. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 508-455-8540 (cell).

Sincerely,

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2021.07.28 10:30:56 -04'00'

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for the Fort Stedman Battlefield, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

_____ _____
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer Date

NPS letter to Virginia SHPO, page 4 of 7.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Fort Stedman
Petersburg National Battlefield
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
July 2021

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 determined ineligible resources by in consultation with your office on April 6, 2004

Buildings and Structures
- Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Colquitt's Salient
- Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie's Salient,
- Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie's Dam
- Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Stedman
- Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Federal Battery XI
- Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Haskell
- Remnant Entrenchments along Tour Road

Circulation
- Eastern Front Civil War Road Network - Prince George Courthouse Road Trace (portion)

Natural Systems and Features
- Poor Creek

Vegetation
- Fields and Meadows
- Woodland within Stream Corridor

Views and Vistas
- Views between Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell
- Views between Fort Stedman and Gracie's Salient
- Views between Fort Stedman and Colquitt's Salient

Small-Scale Features
- First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument
- Third Division IX Corps Monument
- Colquitt's Salient Marker
- Gracie's Salient Marker

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Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation
* Eastern Front Tour Road

Vegetation
Successional Woodland

Small-Scale Features
Wilcox Tree Trail Bridge
Fort Haskell Moat Bridge
Concealment North Foot Bridge
Concealment East Foot Bridge
Concealment West Foot Bridge
Birney Trail Foot Bridge
Poor Creek Trail Foot Bridge
Friend Trail Vehicle Bridge
VA 36 Highway Overpass Bridge - RT 4770-002P
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1, Fort Stedman and Colquitt's Salient (5)
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 2, Fort Stedman and Colquitt's Salient
Wayside, Low Profile, Aluminum, Fiberglass, "Lee's Last Offensive"
Sign, Metal, Keep Off Works, Colquitt's Salient
Additional Interpretive and Directional Signage
Wooden Replica Fencing around Batteries and Forts

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation
Pedestrian Trails

NPS letter to Virginia SHPO, page 6 of 7.

bcc:
Susan Hollister, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Dennis Montagna, Region 1 History Program
Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

NPS letter to Virginia SHPO, page 7 of 7.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Matt Strickler
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

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

Julie V. Langan
Director

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September 21, 2021

Mr. Jeff Killion
National Park Service
15 State Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Fort Stedman Battlefield at Petersburg National Battlefield
Petersburg, VA
DHR File No. 2021 – 0256

Dear Mr. Killion:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received your request for review of the document referenced above. The following comments are meant to aid the NPS in meeting its responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Petersburg National Battlefield was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on October 15, 1966, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. There are currently no individual listings for the Fort Stedman battlefield. Based on the documentation provided, we offer the following comments:

1. We agree with national significance for the areas listed on pp. 23-25, and with the 1864-1942 period of significance. As "Commemoration" is an "Other" area of significance, it may be appropriate to mention that the park meets Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties as its early preservation and development (mid-1860s to 1920s) appears to have been largely for commemorative purposes (especially as relates to postwar reconciliation between Union and Confederate veterans).
2. Has local significance for the CCC work been considered? These features may lack integrity to convey their significance for association with the CCC. We also acknowledge that consideration of levels of significance other than national may be beyond the scope of work for the CLI.
3. We suggest the Eastern Front Tour Road be re-examined to see if it meets Registration Requirements set forth in the nationwide Mission 66 Multiple Property Documentation (MPD), which was completed about a decade after the 2004 evaluation when DHR concurred with NPS that the Visitor Center is not eligible for the NRHP. As the park unit's POS ends in 1942, Mission 66 resources may not contribute to the park's significance in the areas that end in 1942, but the buildings still could meet the Mission 66 MPD Registration Requirements. It's not unusual for a national park to have multiple periods of significance. In addition, pp. 51-52 explains the Mission 66 period was when the 1930s vision for a chronological park tour finally was created.
4. The trail for the blind mentioned on p.34 may be a topic for further research, as it may be an early example for expanding accessibility in a park.

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Virginia SHPO letter to NPS, page 1 of 2.

5. The CLI mentions 1960s anti-military sentiment and that NPS's response with living history displays to better engage the public, including reconstructed elements. There may be an opportunity for future research in terms of social history.
6. There is some inconsistency throughout the CLI with the spelling of "Appamattuck" and 'Appamatoc."
7. There are contradictory sentences in the "Analysis and Evaluation Summary and Condition" section, first saying that the park unit in question has six of the seven aspects of integrity, but in the next 2 sentences saying the unit in question lacks integrity of design, feeling, and setting.
8. PP. 34-38, in the discussion of land use, there's a missed opportunity to explain the transition from indentured to enslaved labor on plantations and how that influenced land use, settlement patterns, and economics. As slavery was the main cause of the Civil War, this topic might warrant some discussion. The emphasis on how transportation routes influenced antebellum land use, settlement patterns, and economics is good, and feeds nicely into the landscape discussion on p. 39.
9. Given the length of Euro-American occupation from the colonial period to the Civil War, there almost certainly were at least a few cemeteries for enslaved people on the plantations. We didn't find any mention of whether the landscapes had ever been tested for human burials. This may have been done by other means; if so, it may be appropriate to include a mention in the landscape analysis that starts on p. 57.
10. Starting on p. 60, the discussion of circulation doesn't mention if any CCC-built roads are intact and still in use. As the CCC work occurred during the period of significance, perhaps it should be included.
11. The Ethnographic Narrative referenced on p. 20 was written in 2006, a decade before the Pamunkey tribe received federal recognition. A year later, the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi, Nansemon, and Monacan all received federal recognition. The tribes should all be consulted about their cultural ties to the Petersburg NB area. We recommend that state-recognized-tribes (Cheroenhaka [Nottoway], Nottoway, and Patawomeck) be consulted as well.
12. Also regarding Virginia Indians, it's important not to imply that Virginia Indians disappeared, vanished, faded away, or otherwise don't exist anymore. For instance, this can be done by adding a sentence: "Virginia Indians persisted in the area of Petersburg thereafter, such as at the Pocahontas Island community" at the end of the first paragraph on p. 36 after the Layton 2017:58 citation. Or more substantial information can be added, such as mention of the antebellum community in Petersburg at Pocahontas Island where Virginia Indians were present starting from at least the early national period.

Thank you for allowing our office the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 804-482-8097 or email chelsea.jeffries@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Jeffries, AICP
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Review and Compliance Division

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Virginia SHPO letter to NPS, page 2 of 2.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Petersburg City

Size (Acres): 135

Land Tract Number(s)

01-108 (D-11, 5.52 acres); 01-110 (D-22, 5.00); 01-111 (D-17, 66.58); 01-112 (D-41, 15.00); 01-113 (D-12, portion of 12.74); 01-114 (D-5, portion of 16.20); and 01-115 (D-62, portion of 206.00).

Boundary Description:

Petersburg National Battlefield (NB) comprises 2,659 acres that are encompasses within separate management units in a semi-circle to the east, south, and west of the City of Petersburg. In 2016, Congress expanded the park to enable the NPS to acquire 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.

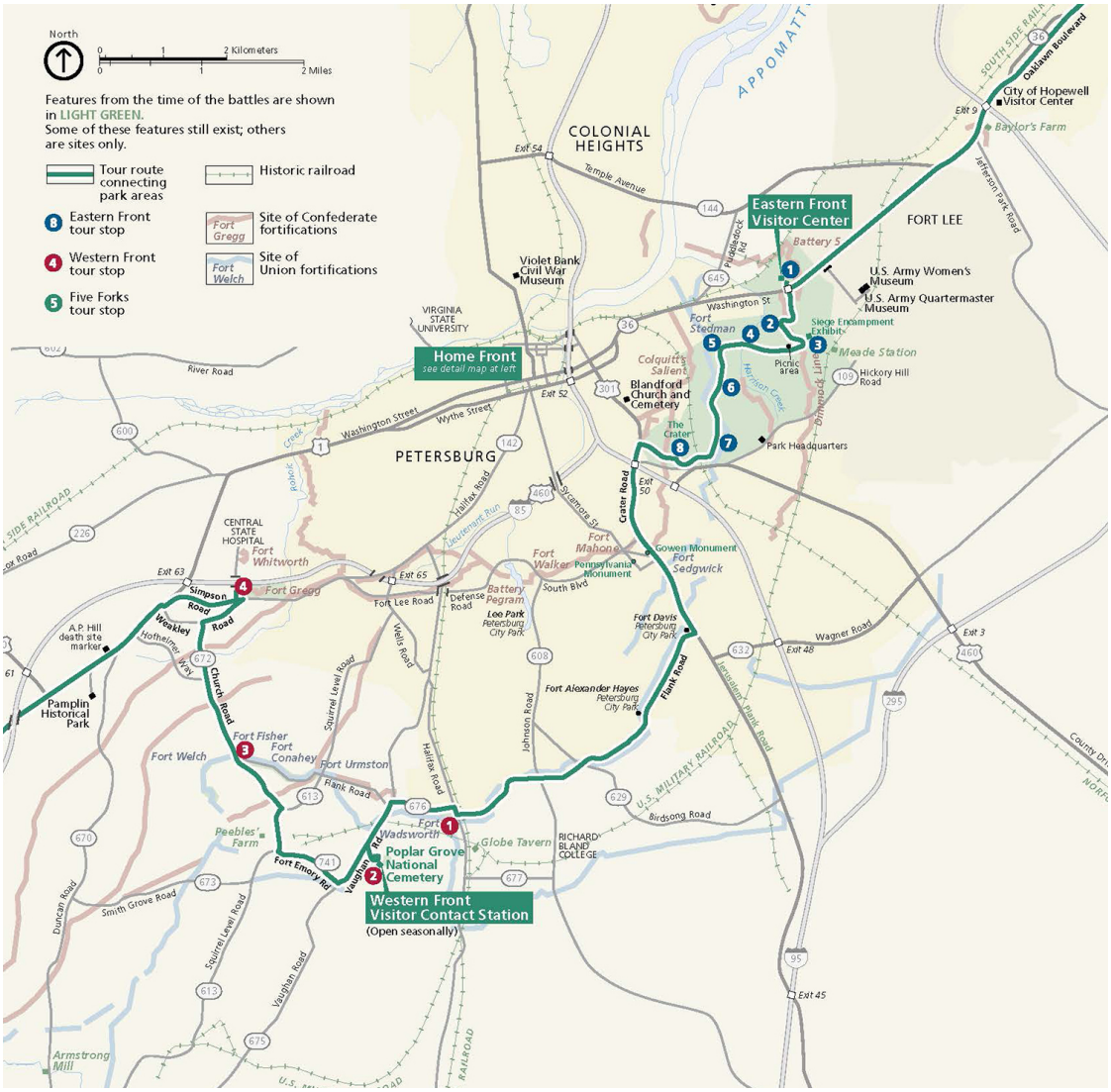
The approximately 135-acre Fort Stedman CLI project area is located in the western half of the Eastern Front Unit. This landscape was the site of numerous skirmishes on June 18, 1864, as part of the four-day Second Battle of Petersburg. The previous three days of this battle, June 15-17, occurred mainly on the landscape area known as the Initial Assaults, and is addressed in the Initial Assaults CLI.

The Fort Stedman CLI project area includes portions of land owned by the Hare family at the time of the battle. The eastern boundary of the Fort Stedman CLI project area is shared with the Initial Assaults CLI project area. This boundary corresponds to the western boundary of 333-acre Parcel 01-147, which the NPS acquired from the War Department in the first half of the twentieth century, as well as two smaller parcels, 01-139 and 01-134, acquired from private landholders at a later date. The northern boundary and western boundaries of the Fort Stedman CLI correspond to the park's boundary. The western boundary is formed by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The southern boundary is shared with the Crater Battlefield CLI project area, which 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.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.225464	-77.36744	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.236042	-77.371192	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.233249	-77.369167	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.230913	-77.364307	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.224258	-77.364307	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.225478	-77.370533	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.225426	-77.374842	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.228505	-77.374842	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.231321	-77.376271	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.234066	-77.370817	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.234957	-77.371563	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.235162	-77.371078	

Location Map:



Detail Petersburg National Battlefield Map. The Fort Stedman Battlefield is in the western and northern section of the pa Eastern Front area. (National Park Service)

rk's

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Fort Stedman 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 CLI project area is on high ground, characterized by upland elevations of approximately 100 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 Harrison Creek and Poor Creeks, tributaries that drain into the Appomattox River. The project area is located within the Eastern woodland zone, where if land managers do not mow meadows regularly, the grassland will quickly revert to shrubs and small trees. Loblolly and shortleaf pine evergreen trees and, to a lesser extent, oak, hickory, and gum trees dominate forested areas. (Opperman and Hanson 1985: np)

Acidic and relatively infertile red and yellow podzols soils characterize the region. The Fort Stedman 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 more than 80 inches deep and consist of sandy loams, then loams, followed by 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. (Layton 2017: 95)

The entire Eastern Front lies in the humid subtropical climate zone (Köppen climate classification Cfa), with hot, humid summers and mild to cool winters moderated by the Chesapeake Bay. It is also located within the US Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zone 7b, where vegetation is hardy to between five- and ten-degrees Fahrenheit.

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. First navigable rivers, then railroads, and most recently, the interstate highway system facilitated transportation and trade. 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. Blandford Cemetery, just west of the Petersburg NB, has been used as a burial ground since the early eighteenth century. Thirty thousand Confederates who died during the Petersburg Campaign or from wounds received on other battlefields or diseases are buried in the cemetery. 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.

The park's Eastern Front unit is bounded on the east by Fort Lee, begun in 1917 as Camp Lee. The US Army complex, approximately eight square miles in size, is 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.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Fort Stedman CLI project area lies with the City of Petersburg, which consists of 23.1 square miles and is located in south-central Virginia, roughly twenty-three miles south of Richmond, 125 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 78 miles northwest of Norfolk. Census information from 2020 report the City of Petersburg's population to be 33,458. Zoning around the Fort Stedman battlefield is primarily residential mixed-use zones (M-1, MXD-1, MXD-2) north of the Fort Stedman battlefield.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/28/2021

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Fort Stedman battlefield meets the “Must Be Preserved and Maintained” management category because the property is related to the legislated significance of the 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….” (Public Law 69-467)

On February 25, 1929, Congress passed an act to authorize appropriations for construction at military posts, and for other purposes.” (45 Stat 1301,1305: Sec.4). The act stated that "the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to transfer to the Petersburg National Military Park such portion of the Camp Lee Military Reservation, Virginia, as in his discretion may be required in connection with the establishment of the Petersburg National Military Park, as authorized in the Act of Congress approved July 3, 1926. This act authorized the transfer of most of the land that comprises the Fort Stedman battlefield. In 1934 the War Department transferred 146 acres between Highway 36 and Fort Stedman to the NPS.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: The property within the Fort Stedman battlefield is owned in Fee Simple by the NPS. (http://landsnet.National Park Service.gov/tractsnet/documents/PETE/Segment_Maps/petesm01.pdf. Accessed April 2021)

Located in managed wilderness?: No

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. Wooded land located west 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 Petersburg Campaign. The two extant cemeteries in this area were present during the battle. Lands to the east of the Fort Stedman CLI project area are within the boundaries of Petersburg NB and are addressed in the Initial Assaults battlefield CLI. Lands to the south are located within the park as well and are addressed in the Crater Battlefield CLI.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: SHPO Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Petersburg National Battlefield (NB) 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. The land tracts that comprise the Fort Stedman component landscape were acquired between 1929 and 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 the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has not formally approved National Register documentation 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 for the Fort Stedman 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 Civil War history in Virginia. The MPDF organized historic contexts by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Fort Stedman area (March 25, 1865) was described as part of the Richmond and Petersburg Campaign of 1864-1865.

There have been several consultations with the Virginia SHPO regarding the eligibility of resources at Petersburg NB. On April 6, 2004, the 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 Fort Stedman battlefield include a segment of the Auto Tour Road and a portion of the ten-stop auto tour which extends between Battery 5 and the Crater.

In March 2014, the Public Archeology Lab prepared a draft National Register documentation for the entirety of the 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. In the documentation, contributing resources in the Fort Stedman area included features associated with the Union Siege Line: Eastern Front (Fort Stedman, Federal Battery XI, Fort Haskell); Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front (Colquitt's Salient, Gracie's Salient, Gracie's Dam); Eastern Front Civil War Road Network (Prince George Courthouse Road Trace); and four monuments/markers (First Maine Artillery Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker, Gracie's Salient Marker, Third Division IX Corps Monument). The segment of the Eastern Front Tour Road passing through the area was identified as non-contributing.

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 Fort Stedman battlefield have not been listed in the National Register, or determined eligible for listing through consultations with the Virginia SHPO. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Fort Stedman battlefield is considered "SHPO-Inadequately Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/21/2021

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia SHPO provided review comments on the draft Fort Stedman CLI. Comment #s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 will be addressed in a future revision of the CLI, pending completion and approval of the park-wide National Register documentation project. Comment #s 6, 7, 8, and 10 have been addressed in this version of the CLI. The SHPO had no direct comments regarding the CLI's areas and periods of significance, or the evaluation of landscape features. The exception is the Eastern Front Tour Road, which will remain evaluated as a non-contributing feature until the significance of the Mission 66 period is researched in the National Register project.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

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, that 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 Fort Stedman battlefield). The Eastern Front encompasses extensive systems of preserved Confederate and Federal earthworks associated with the Petersburg Campaign and the sites associated with several important battles, including the initial assaults 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 Fort Stedman battlefield is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Military History, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Other (Commemoration), Conservation; under Criterion B for its association with General Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, and General Pierre G. T. Beauregard; and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering. 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 indigenous settlement. However, evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this CLI.

The period of significance for the Fort Stedman battlefield is 1864 to 1942. The period begins with the construction of Union and Confederate defenses and the battle of the Initial Assaults on Petersburg, which included the lands within the Fort Stedman CLI project area, 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 battlefield of Fort Stedman is nationally significant in the area of Military History as the site of the military action that took place on June 18, 1864 and March 25, 1865, in association with the ten-month long Petersburg Campaign (June 15, 1864 – April 2, 1865). This landscape first witnessed military action at the end of the Initial Assaults on Petersburg that occurred June 15-17, 1864 (see Initial Assaults CLI). Until June 17, Confederate General Robert E. Lee remained unsure of the Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's intentions and, therefore, had not yet fully committed to the defense of Petersburg. Lee spent most of that day in the field with General Robert Anderson restoring the Howlett Line to keep Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler bottled up at Bermuda Hundred. Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard's reports of the arrival of more Federal units, including Major General Gouverneur K. Warren's V Corps, finally convinced Lee of Grant's plans, and he ordered the bulk of his army at Richmond to march for Petersburg. Beauregard had become convinced that his position likely would not withstand a more concerted attack and, during the day of June 17, worked with his Chief Engineer David B. Harris to select a new, shorter line to the rear along Poor Creek. The line was staked during the day, and during the early

morning hours of June 18 Beauregard ordered his officers to pull back to and begin entrenching the new line. Called the Harris Line, it roughly followed the course of Poor Creek and extended from the Appomattox River to Battery 25 of the Dimmock Line. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 72, citing Bearss and Suderow 2012: 99, and Hess 2009: 28-29)

By the following morning, the Federal force on the field consisted of 80,000 troops, outnumbering the Confederates by almost 4 to 1. When the attack resumed at dawn, it devolved quickly into confusion as the advancing units found the trenches of the Hagood Line empty. After reorganizing, Union Major General George C. Meade ordered a general attack on the new Confederate line, which he had been led to believe was not well-fortified. Once more, however, the attacks were uncoordinated, allowing the outnumbered defenders to counter them by concentrating their forces to meet each in turn. The Federal assaults produced far more casualties and failed to result in even the limited gains that had been realized during the fighting of the previous days. As the day wore on, Confederate strength increased from reinforcements sent by Lee. Faced with increasing fire from the Confederates entrenched behind the stronger than expected earthworks of the Harris Line, many fatigued and demoralized Union troops refused to answer orders to attack. Those who continued to fight found the effort futile. In one of the final actions of the day, the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery, which was actually an infantry regiment consisting of about 900 men, was ordered to advance up Prince George Courthouse Road toward a heavily defended portion of the Confederate lines near Hare House Hill. Two Massachusetts regiments were supposed to support the attack but fell back shortly after the firing started. Crossing over an open field, the 1st Maine, the only regiment to make the attack, sustained 632 casualties in less than 15 minutes, giving it the sad distinction of suffering the highest percentage loss (67 percent) of any regiment in a single day's battle during the Civil War. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 72-73, citing Hess 2009: 29-35; Trudeau 1995: n.p.; and Trudeau 1993: 54)

The Second Battle of Petersburg ended with nightfall on June 18, as the Union high command realized the folly of further direct assaults. During each of the battle's four days, the Federals had the opportunity to break the thinly held Confederate lines but failed to bring their overwhelming superiority in numbers to bear through coordinated attacks. Tactically, the battle was a Union defeat because Beauregard could claim victory for preventing Meade from seizing Petersburg. The total casualties numbered about 10,000 on the Union side and 4,000 for the Confederates. Strategically, however, the battle had the significant effect of forcing Lee to move the bulk of his army to the Petersburg defenses where it was effectively pinned down with limited ability to resume the operational initiative. Grant determined to keep up the pressure by building his own system of opposing fortifications to fix Lee in place. In addition, he turned the focus of the Union operations to cutting the Confederate supply lines so that Lee's army would have to emerge from their defenses. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 73, citing Hess 2009: 37; Trudeau 1995: n.p.)

The Union's Fort Stedman began as a collection of Ninth Corps artillery guns and mortars, and was named for Griffin A. Stedman, a Union colonel from Connecticut who had been killed in the vicinity in August 1864. It was one of the closest spots to the Confederate works, there were fewer wooden chevaux de frise obstructions protecting it, and a supply depot on the U.S. Military Railroad was less than a mile behind the fort. In time the fort became a major artillery concentration between Batteries X and XI and was the focal point of the last offensive of the Army of Northern Virginia in March 1865.

During the battle of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865, the Confederate forces attacked the Union lines and entrenchments in an attempt to take the Union stronghold. The Confederate goal, according to Major General Gordon who helped plan and led the attack "was the disintegration of the whole left wing of the Federal army [technically the Union right flank], or at least the dealing of such a staggering blow upon it as would disable it temporarily, enabling us to withdraw from Petersburg in safety and join Johnston [in North Carolina against Union General Sherman]…" (NR draft 2014: Sec.8: 92, citing Wyrick 2008: 20-21 and Roth et.al. 2008: 51)

Early in the battle, the Confederate forces were successful in capturing the Union's Fort Stedman, but they held it for less than a day, before falling to the greater strength of the Union army. Confederate Major General Gordon later blamed the defeat at the Battle of Fort Stedman on the failure of the guides to lead his men to Union forts in the rear and to a faulty Confederate rail system that prevented General Pickett from reaching the field. Confederate casualties included about 1,950 officers and men taken prisoner and an unknown number of dead and wounded. The official count of Federal losses was 1,017. The battle

marked the last offensive by the Army of Northern Virginia; Lee had planned to evacuate Petersburg since February but had been delayed by muddy roads. During the late morning and afternoon following the battle, the Union II and VI corps took advantage of the thinned defenses in their fronts, seizing sections of Confederate picket lines that proved valuable in launching the final attacks of the Petersburg Campaign a week later, including the Confederate defeat at Five Forks on April 1. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91, citing Trudeau 1991: 352-354 and Wyrick 2008: 48)

Ethnic Heritage – Black:
The battlefield of the Fort Stedman has national significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage- Black as part of the landscape of the Siege of Petersburg, the location of the most extensive deployment of United States Colored Troops (USCT) in battle during the Civil War. Though the most significant USCT combat events occurred during the battle of the Initial Assaults on Petersburg (June 15-18,, 1864) and the Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864), USCT troops also fought at the battle of Fort Stedman and the landscape of within the Fort Stedman CLI was a setting for action that occurred during the battle of the Initial Assault.

Commemoration:
The battlefield of Fort Stedman 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 the First Maine Artillery Monument (1894), Colquitt's Salient Marker (1911), Third Division, IX Corps Monument (1908), and Gracie's Salient Marker (c. 1912). Consistent with national developments at other battlefields, veterans' groups from the North and the South initiated commemorative activities and installed the monuments at Petersburg National Battlefield. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 115-116)

Conservation:
As a component of Petersburg NB, the battlefield of Fort Stedman 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 by 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. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 119-120)

CRITERION B
Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Pierre G. T. Beauregard:
The battlefield of Fort Stedman, in association with the Siege of Petersburg, is nationally significant under Criterion B for its association with the culmination of the military careers of the principal commanders of the opposing forces, the Union's Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885) and Confederate General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870). Following losses at the Battle of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865 and the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, Lee was forced to abandon the entrenchment lines around Petersburg leading directly to the fall of Petersburg to Union forces. Grant's successful command of the Union Army during the war contributed directly to his election as President of the United States three years later. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 113)

During the final days of the Second Battle of Petersburg in June 1862, Beauregard's reports of the arrival of more Federal units, including Major General Gouverneur K. Warren's V Corps, finally convinced Lee of Grant's plans, and he ordered the bulk of his army at Richmond to march for Petersburg. Beauregard had become convinced that his position likely would not withstand a more concerted attack and, during the day of June 17, worked with his Chief Engineer David B. Harris to select a new, shorter line to the rear along Poor Creek. The line was staked during the day, and during the early morning hours of June 18. Beauregard ordered his officers to pull back to and begin entrenching the new line. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 72)

CRITERION C
Engineering:
The Fort Stedman battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Engineering for the remains of the

earthen fortifications of both the Confederate and Union armies. 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. (Layton 2017: 42)

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

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

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: CE 1864 - CE 1942

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

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Petersburg National Battlefield
NRIS ID:	66000831
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	DHR #123-0071
Name:	Petersburg National Battlefield
Listed Date:	10/18/1993

National Historic Landmarks:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1607	Inhabited	English settlers establish Jamestown on the northeast bank of the James River about two and a half miles southwest of modern Williamsburg, Virginia.
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	The Virginia Colony constructs Fort Henry near the geographic fall-line on the south bank of the Appomattox River.
CE 1671	Established	Peter Jones, son-in-law of Fort Henry's commander, receives command of the fort and opens a station that becomes a fur trade center and threshold to western exploration.
CE 1702	Established	The Virginia General Assembly establishes Prince George County, named for Prince Consort of Queen Anne of England, George of Denmark from land in Charles City County. Prince George County includes all land south of the James River between Chippoke's Creek to the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers.
CE 1748	Established	The city of Petersburg is laid out and becomes the market center of the local agricultural economy.
CE 1752	Established	Dinwiddie County is created from lands formerly belonging to Prince George County to the east.
CE 1778	Built	Around 1778, White Hill (Friend House) is built near the future site of Battery 8.
CE 1778	Built	Around 1778, Clermont (Jordan House) is built about 700 feet north of White Hill (Friend House).
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 1782	Built	In c.1782 Richard Bate purchases property that will become the estate known as "New Market." The house is built about this time.
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.
CE 1805	Built	As shown on an insurance document, the New Market estate (on what would become the Fort Stedman battlefield) includes three buildings, a dwelling house, a kitchen, and a stable with two attached sheds.
CE 1836	Built	The Virginia House of Delegates approves a charter for the City Point Railroad and construction begins.
CE 1837	Purchased/Sold	Otway P. Hare purchases New Market property, including a house, outbuildings and about 150 acres of land.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
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 South) to the west of the Eastern Front Battlefield and the City Point Railroad to the north of the battlefield.
CE 1860	Established	Petersburg's population is over 18,000, making it the second largest city in Virginia and seventh largest in the South.
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 is removed to provide clear observation/fields of fire and to construct abates in front of line.
CE 1864	Military Operation	On June 9, the Petersburg Campaign [Siege of Petersburg] begins.
CE 1864	Military Operation	June 15-18, 1864, Battle of Initial Assaults. Most of the action from June 15-17 takes place on what is now called the Initial Assaults landscape. Most of the action on June 18 takes place on what is now called Fort Stedman.
CE 1864	Destroyed	Alfred Waud draws the Hare House, near Fort Stedman, circa July 1, 1864. The drawing shows two outbuildings, one a stable, and a house. The property, which is too close to front lines to be used as a military headquarters, is pillaged for lumber, and other building supplies, and is gone by end of July.
CE 1864	Built	In August 1864 Union soldiers construct Battery X in front of the Hare House, and the large earthen fortification Fort Stedman to its south.
CE 1864	Built	In August 1864 Union engineers shorten, connect, and strengthen their siege line and construct Fort Haskell.
CE 1864	Built	Union batteries along the Union Siege Line are strengthened and modified, in particular, Confederate batteries 8 and 11 on the Dimmock Line, at the Friend and Dunn houses respectively, became important Union batteries and played a role in the Battle of Fort Stedman.
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.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1864	Altered	Confederate Battery 5, located immediately south of the City Point Railroad, becomes Federal Battery IV. Soldiers used “The Dictator,” a massive 13-inch seacoast mortar mounted on a rail car near this battery, to lob 200-pound shells into the city of Petersburg.
CE 1864	Military Operation	June 21-24, 1864, Battle of Jerusalem Plank Road.
CE 1864	Military Operation	July 30, 1864, Battle of Crater.
CE 1865	Military Operation	March 25, 1865, Battle of Fort Stedman.
CE 1865	Military Operation	April 1, 1865, Battle of Five Forks.
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,” an early form of memorialization.
CE 1866	Purchased/Sold	Josiah Jordan’s heirs sell Clermont to Peter Batte. Jordan family retains rights to the burying ground where Josiah Jordan, his wife, and four of their children are buried.
CE 1879	Destroyed	In c.1879 the second Jordan House, which was built by the Jordan family 300 feet from the 18th century Jordan House (Clermont), burns down.
CE 1880 - 1889	Built	In the 1880s the third Jordan House is built on the foundations of the original 18th century Jordan House (Clermont). Remains of the first Jordan house are still visible a short distance east of the visitor center at Battery Five.
CE 1894	Memorialized	Survivors of the First Maine Heavy Artillery erect the First Main Heavy Artillery Monument in memory of the 632 men who died in the attack of June 18, 1864 near Colquitt’s Salient.
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.
CE 1909	Memorialized	The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and sons of Lieutenant Hugh Jones, Co. C, 209th Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Fort Stedman, erect the Third Division, Ninth Army Corps Monument on May 19.
CE 1911	Memorialized	The A. P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, erect the Colquitt’s Salient Marker in 1911 at the site of the Confederate stronghold directly west of Federal Fort Stedman.
CE 1912	Memorialized	In c.1912, the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, erect the Gracie’s Salient Marker to mark the stronghold held by the Confederates under Brigadier General Gracie.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1917	Established	The development of Camp Lee begins 24 April 1917, only 16 days after war was declared on Germany. The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce leases 450 acres for the camp area and an additional 15,000 acres for maneuvers. Acreage includes the former Clermont property [Jordan House].
CE 1920	Demolished	The third house on the former Clermont/Jordan House site is demolished.
CE 1923	Demolished	White Hall/Whitehill/Friend House is demolished by the War Department. Remnants remain visible in the park.
CE 1925	Platted	Virginia Congressman Patrick Dewery 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	Established	An Act to provide for the inspection of the battle fields of the siege of Petersburg Virginia is approved February 11, 1925 (43 Stat. 866).
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 Five Forks property.
CE 1928	Planned	In 1928, the Commission recommends the acquisition of all forts, trenches and earthworks contiguous to park roads, the Crater, portions of Camp Lee and additional lands of Battery Five and the site of the opening battle for Petersburg (the Initial Assault).
CE 1928	Land Transfer	A portion of a 16.20-acre parcel near what is currently the tour road, is transferred from the Department of Army (Landsnet: 01-114 (portion), D-5).
CE 1929	Established	An Act “to authorize appropriations for construction at military posts, and for other purposes,” approved February 25, 1929 (45 Stat 1301,1305: Sec.4). That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to transfer to the Petersburg National Military Park such portion of the Camp Lee Military Reservation, Virginia, as in his discretion may be required in connection with the establishment of the Petersburg National Military Park, as authorized in the Act of Congress approved July 3, 1926.
CE 1929	Land Transfer	Around 131 acres of land near Battery 5 (64 acres) and Fort Stedman (67 acres) are transferred from the War Department to the NPS (Landsnet: 01-101, D-17; 01-117, D-17).
CE 1929	Altered	Force of 32 laborers open and maintain a temporary road in Battery Five area, the first section to be cleared. By March, Forts Walker, Haskell and Stedman, and Confederate Batteries Four, Five and Six have been cleared.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1930	Land Transfer	A portion of a 15-acre parcel south and west of Fort Stedman, within the Fort Stedman CLI project area, is transferred to the NPS from the War Department (Landsnet: 01-113 (portion), D-12)
CE 1931	Purchased/Sold	Around 5.52 acres just west of the portion of Prince George Courthouse Road trace in the Fort Stedman CLI boundary, is transferred from the War Department (Landsnet: 01-108, D-11).
CE 1932	Built	In May 1932 construction begins on two and a half miles of roadway in the Fort Stedman area.
CE 1933	Built	The park begins construction of the first segments of the park tour road.
CE 1933	Established	Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) us established on March 31, 1933. Most of the work of clearing underbrush and the development of roads and trails in the park is done by ECW, through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).
CE 1933	Established	On August 10, 1933, stewardship of the park is transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service (NPS). At this time, Petersburg National Military Park encompasses 346 acres. Monuments, military parks, and the National Capital Parks administered by other Federal agencies are transferred to the NPS by the terms of Executive Order 6166 of June 10, 1933.
CE 1933 - 1942	Established	A CCC camp for Company 1364 is established near Fort Stedman, just west of Initial Assault. About 173 enrollees arrive from Camp Meade, Maryland, early on the morning of July 13, 1933, and establish a camp, Camp MP-2, in the Fort Stedman area of the park. The camp includes a mess hall and about 50 tents.
CE 1933 - 1942	Altered	From 1933-1942, the CCC clears underbrush, assists with road construction, plants trees, leads tours, and constructs minor buildings in the park.
CE 1934	Land Transfer	War Department transfers 146 acres between Highway 36 and Highway 109 west to Fort Stedman, in both Prince George County and the City of Petersburg, to the NPS (Landsnet: 01-107, D-14; 01-108, D-11; 01-147, D-14).
CE 1935 - 1940	Built	The Virginia Department of Highways builds US Route 460, which was planned in 1931, south of the park.
CE 1935 - 1938	Land Transfer	The State of Maine transfers 5 acres under the Maine Artillery Monument (Landsnet: 01-110, D-22).
CE 1937	Land Transfer	Around 15 acres south and west of Fort Stedman is transferred from the Bellenmile Corporation (Landsnet: 01-112, D-41).
CE 1937	Built	On July 28, 1937, the CCC constructs a field museum and guide station near Battery 5. A parking area is constructed adjacent to the building.
CE 1937	Built	The CCC constructs the park tour road from Confederate Battery 9 north to State Route 36 (Hopewell Road). The base surface is made of crushed concrete obtained from the demolition of World War I era building foundations in the Camp Lee section of the park.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1937	Built	The CCC reconstructs historic Prince George Courthouse Road connecting Siege Road east to Confederate Battery 9.
CE 1938	Built	Mortar Road, encircling Battery Five and the site of the "Dictator," is constructed between March and September 1938 by the CCC.
CE 1938	Built	The CCC Park Foreman's quarters is built on a knoll on the south side of Prince George Courthouse Road. The new building is of frame construction, clad in tar paper, and used as a park employees' residence after the disbandment of the CCC.
CE 1939	Land Transfer	The War Department transfers the "WhiteHill Tract" of 49.68 acres, near Confederate Battery 5, to the NPS on May 9, 1939 (Landsnet: 01-104, D-56). The property includes both the site of the 18th century White Hall (Friend House) and Clermont (Jordan House). Deed states 56 acres is transferred.
CE 1939	Built	The NPS constructs a new entrance to the park and bridge access from U.S. Route 36
CE 1942	Abandoned	With the country entering World War II in December 1941, the CCC program is ended. The CCC camp is soon thereafter closed.
CE 1943	Land Transfer	The NPS transfers 739 acres, east of Lee Avenue, back to the War Department for use by Camp Lee.
CE 1948	Moved	The c.1937 CCC-constructed field museum and guide station is moved to the park's utility area to serve as a storage building.
CE 1949	Land Transfer	An Act To add certain surplus land to Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia, to define the boundaries thereof, and for other purposes, approved September 7, 1949 (63 Stat 691) authorizes the transfer of two tracts of land, comprising two hundred six acres, more or less, situated on either side of Siege Road adjacent to the park from the Department of Army to the NPS. A portion of the 20- acre parcel falls within the Fort Stedman CLI and a portion is located within the Crater CLI (Landsnet: 01-115 (portion), D-62).
CE 1950	Established	Camp Lee becomes Fort Lee when the land is designated as a permanent military installation.
CE 1950	Built	The 300-property Lakemont housing development is constructed just north of Highway 36 along the northern boundary of the Initial Assaults battlefield.
CE 1955	Altered	The CCC-era Park Foreman's quarters undergoes extensive renovation to serve as a residence for the Park Superintendent.
CE 1955	Built	A 30-pounder Parrott rifle is emplaced at Battery 5, where a battery of these guns was served by the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery after the position had been rebuilt as Union Battery IV. A new platform of pressurized and creosoted oak boards is built to support the rifle.
CE 1955	Built	A new platform of pressurized and creosoted oak boards is built to support the "Dictator."

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1955	Altered	Hopewell Road (State Route 36) entrance to Siege Road is closed.
CE 1955	Demolished	The sections of hard surface of Hopewell Road at Union Battery Nine and on Hare Hill (west of Initial Assaults battlefield) are demolished.
CE 1962	Established	An Act to change the name of the Petersburg National Military Park, to provide for acquisition of a portion of the Five Forks Battlefield. and for other purposes, is approved August 24, 1962 (76 Stat 403).
CE 1962 - 1964	Altered	Twelve 12-pounder cast-iron field carriages, received from the Department of Correction at Lorton, Virginia, are mounted with Civil War-period guns and emplaced throughout the battlefield to mark battery positions at Forts Haskell, Stedman and Friend, Batteries 5 and 6, and Colquitt's Salient. Those at Colquitt's Salient are later relocated to Battery 5.
CE 1966	Established	As a historic area within the National Park System, Petersburg National Battlefield is administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15.
CE 1967	Built	Highway 36 entrance and exit roads and overpass are constructed by Malpass Construction Company of Norfolk, Virginia in July.
CE 1967	Built	A 10-stop battlefield auto tour from Battery 5 to the Crater is developed following the construction of the Highway 36 overpass.
CE 1967	Built	As part of Mission 66 park initiatives, the Eastern Front Visitor Center is constructed as an octagonal 69-foot-wide brick structure to suggest the appearance of a fortification.
CE 1967	Planted	Waynesboro Nurseries of Waynesboro, Virginia landscapes the new Eastern Front Visitor Center. In subsequent years, junipers, red maples, poplars and white pine are planted around the visitor center and to screen Highway 36.
CE 1967	Built	Maintenance buildings, designed by the NPS Eastern Office of Design and Construction, are constructed as two brick buildings facing each other 35 feet apart, one 105 feet by 36 feet and the second 78 feet by 30 feet.
CE 1969 - 1972	Built	A trail for the blind is developed at Tour Stop 3, Confederate Battery 9, using braille interpretive markers.
CE 1969 - 1972	Built	A reconstructed soldier's hut and onsite interpretation of a soldier's life is installed near Confederate Battery 9.
CE 1969 - 1972	Built	The concrete model of the "Dictator" is replaced with a Civil War period 13-inch seacoast mortar near Confederate Battery 5.
CE 1969 - 1972	Built	A small picnic area is developed on land used earlier by the park as a dump between Auto Tour stops 3 and 4, along the Tour Road.
CE 1969 - 1972	Expanded	The artillery display located midway between the Eastern Front Visitor Center and Battery 5 is expanded.
CE 1974	Moved	Trail for the Blind is relocated from near Battery 9 to near the Eastern Front Visitor Center

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1977	Built	The trail near Battery 5 is redesigned, and steps and landing platforms are built overlooking the Dictator site.
CE 2003	Damaged	On September 18 Hurricane Isabel strikes Petersburg National Battlefield and more than 1,847 trees are blown down blocking roads, trails, and landing on sensitive resources including earthworks.
CE 2003	Removed	In the spring, the park begins Phase 1 of work clearing trees off earthworks.
CE 2016	Established	Congressional legislation authorizes expansion of Petersburg National Battlefield by 7,238 acres.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods.

PROLOGUE: THE LANDSCAPE PRIOR TO 1865

Before the arrival of European explorers and settlers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, historians classify human habitation according to discrete periods, the Paleoindian, the Archaic, and the Woodland periods. During these periods, the changing climate within Virginia's coast plain or Tidewater region influenced Native American population levels and group distribution. In the Paleoindian period, coastal locations proved rich in resources. As the glacial ice melted and retreated during the Archaic Period, the coasts became inundated, and groups moved inland, settling uplands. The Woodland period (ca. 1200 BCE–ca. 1600 CE) is traditionally differentiated from the Archaic by the development of ceramic and pottery craft and growing reliance on rudimentary "slash and burn" cultivation of staple crops. The practice of ceramic crafts and agricultural cultivation required a corresponding reduction in cultural groups' mobility. Populations during this time thus began coalescing into sedentary villages located near rivers and floodplains where there was fertile soil, favorable terrain, and plentiful game. Crop cultivation during this period led to more stationary lifeways. Cultivation of crops favored settlement sites in the fertile inland floodplains within major rivers estuaries such as the James and Appomattox Rivers. (Layton 2017: 55)

At the time of European contact, the Algonkian-speaking "Appomattoc" tribe inhabited the area surrounding what would become the Fort Stedman area. Its principal towns were located at Bermuda Hundred Point (at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers), on Swift Creek, and on Rohoic Run. The Appomattoc lived near the Weanoc tribe. The Weanoc group shared the Algonkian dialect with the Appomattoc tribe. The Weanoc group occupied both sides of the James River, beginning near the mouth of the Appomattox River and extending down to eastern Prince George County. (Layton 2017: 55)

Contact between English settlers and Native American populations increased markedly following the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 by English settlers. Jamestown was located on the northeast bank of the James River, about two and a half miles southwest of present-day Williamsburg. Early Virginia Colony narratives document increasingly violent encounters between the colonists and the Appomattoc, including the destruction of the Appomattoc's principal town, Bermuda Hundred Point, at the order of Sir Thomas Dale during the First Powhatan War (1609–1614). Charles City County, one of Virginia's eight original "Shires," was established out of the former Bermuda Hundred "Incorporation." The newly designated Charles City County spanned the Appomattox River and was bounded on the north by Henrico County and James City County to the south. (Layton 2017: 56)

In response to continuing hostilities between the English settlers and allied forces of Chief Necotowance of the Powhatan Confederacy, the Virginia Company constructed a frontier fortress in 1645 named "Fort Henry" on the fall-line on the south bank of the Appomattox River. In time, Fort Henry became a western gateway, where settlers and members of indigenous tribes received passes to allow them to pass across the boundaries between the two territories. In 1671, Governor Berkley directed Major General Wood to commission Captain Thomas Batte, Robert Fallows, and a guide (unnamed) of the Appomattoc tribe to explore Virginia's western frontier. The same year, Major General Wood's son-in-law, Peter Jones, received command of Fort Henry. He opened a trading station nearby that became known as Peter's Point. At the threshold to the west, Fort Henry and Peter's Point grew into a fur trading center and later became known as Petersburg. Members of the local indigenous tribe established a village just west of Fort Henry. English settlers called the indigenous village Indian Town Creek and later Old Town Creek or Rohoic Creek. It came to mark the approximate western limits of present-day Petersburg. (Layton 2017: 58)

In 1702-1703, the Virginia General Assembly established Prince George County, named for Prince Consort of Queen Anne of England, George of Denmark, from the land of Charles City County. Prince George County included all land south of the James River between Chippoke's Creek to the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Petersburg and other Tidewater Virginia settlements during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries resulted from their location on the navigable rivers linking to the Chesapeake Bay. Road and turnpike construction expanded the transportation network and thus the commercial viability of agriculture through enslaved labor. Though the city of Petersburg began as a military outpost similar to many Virginia settlements, the

city would ultimately coalesce out a complex group of five independent proprietary towns separated from one another by the Appomattox River and its many tributaries. By the end of the Revolutionary War, the only unclaimed parcels in the area featured challenging topography and or wet, marshy soil. (Worsham 2014: n.p., as paraphrased in Layton 2017: 57)

Lands obtained earlier through royal patent, or subsequent purchase, became acreage for the children of those early landowners, former indentured servants, or tenants of the early land patent holders. (Kelly 1979: 190-191, 198). By the second half of the eighteenth century, the landscape features associated with these various forms of land occupancy had appeared on lands within what would become the park's Eastern Front Unit landscape. By the late eighteenth century, a string of plantation manors lay on seventeenth-century land tracts overlooking the bottomlands of the Appomattox River. Building clusters associated with "Clermont" and "White Hall" (both near present-day Fort Friend/Confederate Battery 8, within the Initial Assaults CLI project area), "New Market" (within Fort Stedman CLI project area), and the "Spring Garden" plantation (within Crater Battlefield CLI project area) were all located on the Eastern Front battlefield in 1864. The land that formed these estates was first platted into large parcels by distant land speculators in the seventeenth century. Later in the eighteenth century, many of the families that owned these plantations plantation were related through birth and marriage.

One such large speculative tract was "Spring Garden," a vast swath of land more than two miles square. It was first recorded in 1654 in the Charles City Order Book. (Boddie 1966: 25). There, William Batte (1632–1673) documented his extension of entailed rights to his brothers Thomas (1630–1690) and Henry (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." In 1721, Henry Batte's five surviving daughters received a portion of the Prince George County Spring Garden tract. By the late eighteenth century, the five former "Spring Garden" tracts had been subdivided again into many fee-simple properties held by members of the extended Batte, Peterson, Bland, Harrison, Taylor, and Thweatt families. (Smith Jr., vol 8: 34). Note: Please see the "Cultural Landscape Report for the Crater Battlefield" for information about the Taylor farm and plantation. For information about the plantations of White Hall/Whitehill/Friend House and Clermont/Jordan House see the "Cultural Landscape Inventory for Initial Assault." The development of the New Market plantation and nearby New Market Racecourse, which were located near Fort Stedman, is detailed below.

New Market Plantation and New Market Racecourse:
Like the other plantations on the Eastern Front during the siege, including the Friend House (White Hill) and the Jordan House (Clermont), the Hare House plantation, also known as New Market, was built in the eighteenth century. Richard Bate, who owned the property from 1782 to at least 1825, likely constructed the main residence of New Market that sustained major damage during the battle of the Initial Assaults and was destroyed in late July 1864. In 1805, according to an insurance document issued to Bate, the property included three buildings, a dwelling house, a kitchen, and a stable with two attached sheds (Figure 1). The "mansion house" was a two-story wood structure with a brick cellar measuring 42 by 22 feet. The separate kitchen structure was 32 feet by 18 (?) feet, ninety feet distant from the main house, and the wood stable was one story 28 by 28 feet. (Blades et.al. 2001: 5d). Bate served as mayor of Petersburg in 1791, and owned a racetrack in the early nineteenth century, called Popular Lawn or Poplar Springs Ground near the plantation Poplar Lawn. (Wyatt 1937: 484). Like New Market, the track was a mile in circumference. Further research is necessary to determine whether Bates owned the New Market Racecourse, located just to the north of the New Market plantation. The New Market Racecourse was likely established after the Revolutionary War. Otway P. Hare became proprietor of the racecourse in 1834. In the first issue of the American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine, published in 1833, it declared "This [the Newmarket Jockey Club] is the oldest and most popular club in Virginia…its races are over a course, one mile in length, of good soil for running, and commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect in every direction…" (Wyatt 1933 citing Turf Register, April 1833). In 1837, Hare purchased the New Market plantation, including the house and outbuildings along with approximately 150 acres of land (Figure 2). By the 1840s, the Hare family, who also had a property in Petersburg, had taken up residence at New Market. (Cotter and Blades, 1978)

Hare's residence at New Market was located on a hill overlooking the racetrack, just north of the future Fort Stedman. In September 1855, the Petersburg Daily Express described Otway P. Hare's "New Market" racecourse and an upcoming race, stating that "the hills around the track are covered with verdure, the gardens up near the family mansion, team with beautiful flowers, and the magnificent grove of stately oaks, never looked better, or appeared to more advantage." Later the editor continued describing the gardens at New Market with "white gravel walks, the flower garden, the many fig bushes, the kitchen garden of 40 or 50 acres, and the stables situated in a fine grove…" (Wyatt 1933: 490, citing Express, October 29, 1859). By 1860, according to Slave Census for Prince George County, the Hare family enslaved thirty people between the ages of 2 months and 50 years. Hare also had two women enslaved in Petersburg that were likely hired out in 1860. (Review comments: Dabney, 29 August 2021)

Concurrent with the development of these properties in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, road and turnpike construction, followed by railroads, expanded the earlier river transportation network and thus the commercial reach of Petersburg. The first railroad to reach Petersburg was the sixty-five-mile-long Petersburg & Weldon Railroad in 1833, connecting the city with Weldon, North Carolina, and agricultural markets further south. In 1836 the City Point Railroad was established, running from City Point to Petersburg. It was acquired by the City of Petersburg in 1847 and reorganized as the Appomattox Railroad. In 1849 the South Side Railroad was established, stretching from City Point to farm country south and west of Petersburg to Lynchburg, and completed in 1858. In 1851 the Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad was established, connecting Petersburg with the deep-water harbor on Virginia's coast, completed in 1858. In 1854 the South Side Railroad acquired Appomattox Railroad (City Point Railroad). With four railroads and six major roads converging on Petersburg from all directions, by 1860 the population in the city reached 18,000, making it the second-largest in Virginia and seventh largest in the South. (Review comments: Dabney, 29 August 2021)

By the late 1850s, plantations strung along the river bluffs, and agricultural fields cut through the forests of the lowlands on the land that would become the Eastern Front. The bluffs over Poor Creek, and many of its tributaries remained wooded, as steep slopes were challenging to cultivate. However, much of the land was cleared for crops or growing fallow with soils exhausted from tobacco culture. Frederick Law Olmsted, a young correspondent for the New York Daily Times, described the landscape surrounding Petersburg when he passed through in 1853:
"Old fields…of a course and yellow sandy soil bearing scare anything but pine trees and broom sedge. In some places, for acres the pines would not be above five feet high—that was land that had been in cultivation, used up and 'turned out' not more than six or eight years before. Then there were patches of every age, sometimes the trees were a hundred feet high. At long intervals, there were fields with pines just beginning to spring in beautiful green plumes from the ground, hardly noticeable from the dead brown grass and sassafras bushes and blackberry-vines, which nature sends to hide the nakedness of the impoverished earth." (Olmsted 1863: 65)

Farm lanes connected plantation building clusters (and the New Market Racecourse), agricultural support structures, and farm fields to each other and the county roads. Prince George Courthouse Road formed a primary east-west route through what would become the Eastern Front, connecting the estates of White Hill (Friend House) and Clermont (Jordan House) with New Market (Hare House) to the west. Prince George Courthouse Road stretched from the City Point Road east of Petersburg to the small hamlet of legal offices and the county court, known as Prince George Court House.

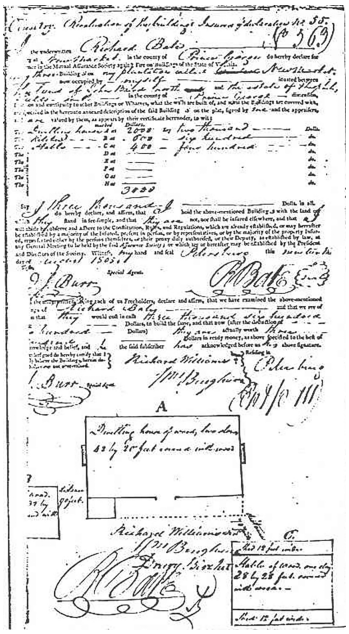


Figure 1. 1805 Insurance Survey of Richard Bate property of New Market Survey as published in An Archaeological Overview and Assessment of the Main Unit, Petersburg National Battlefield, Virginia, 2001.

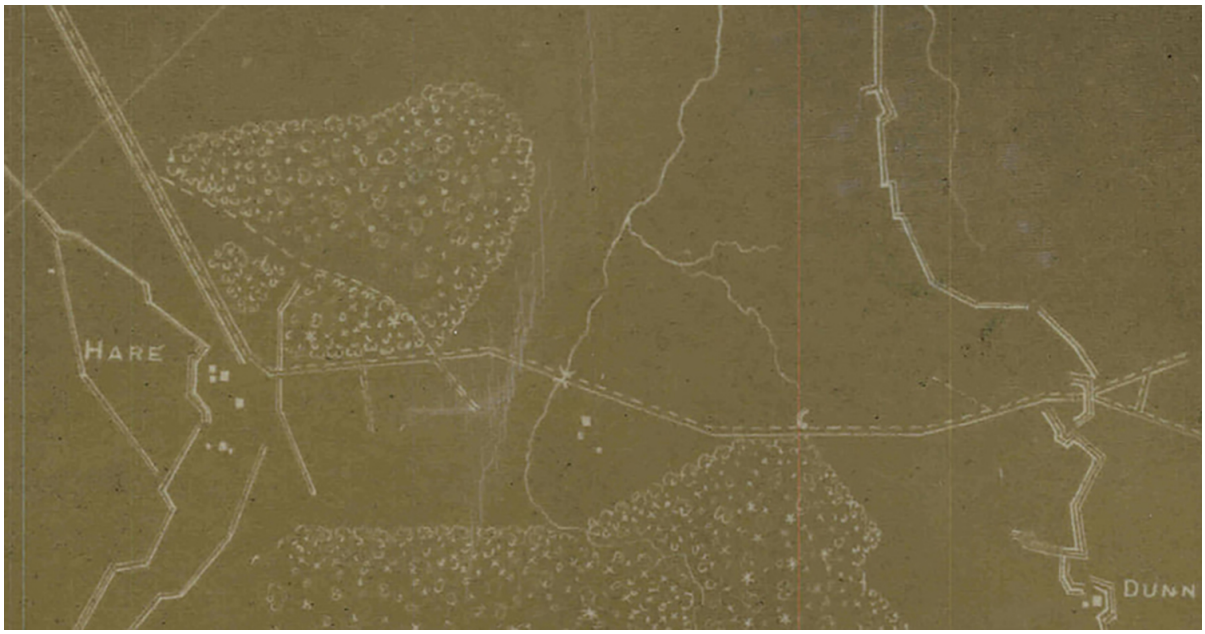


Figure 2. The Hare plantation buildings are still visible in this undated Federal Engineers Map -- Late June-Early July, 1864. (National Archives, RG 77)

THE LANDSCAPE AT THE TIME OF THE CIVIL WAR

Petersburg became one of the South's leading industrial and commercial centers during the antebellum period because of the strength of its transportation network. Tobacco, cotton, and grist mills were established along the Appomattox River to process agricultural products shipped to Petersburg. The city was also home to several iron and lead works that later proved valuable to the Confederate war effort. Commercial pursuits included more than two hundred retail operations, four banks, and a healthy merchant trade in commodities. (Greene 2006: 6–8)

When the Civil War began, the area surrounding the flourishing industrial and commercial city of Petersburg was primarily rural and agricultural, with a mixture of large eighteenth-century plantations and smaller farms developed in the 1840s and 1850s. Petersburg's settlement patterns created landscape characteristics that influenced the strategic development of battles during the Civil War. Small farms, such as the Gibbon and Dunn properties (Initial Assaults CLI), typically consisted of dwellings, open cultivated fields, fields lying fallow, orchards, and woodlots. More significant plantation properties, such as the Whitehill/Friend House and Clermont/Jordan House (Initial Assaults CLI), the Spring Hill/Taylor Plantation (Crater Battlefield CLI), and New Market/Hare House plantation had large homes and more support structures. Still, the land-use patterns were consistent with smaller properties. The fields associated with the complexes were either cultivated with crops, including cotton or tobacco or lay fallow for pasture after more intense cultivation. Woodlots, hedgerows, and orchards provided fencing, firewood, food, housing, and other items. Farm lanes, connected these areas with larger county byways, including Prince George Courthouse Road. The county roads followed the ridges, avoiding the damp, brushy ravines when possible. In contrast, some farm boundary lanes sunk into the stream swales, unable to avoid the many intermittent streams that spilled out from Harrison and Poor Creeks.

In June 1864, county roads and farm lanes became key transportation corridors during the battles of the Initial Assaults (which occurred partly on the land associated with the Fort Stedman CLI) and throughout the Petersburg Campaign. For instance, Federal troops attacked along Prince George Courthouse Road during the battle. They also used it to travel between the front lines and General Meade's Headquarters, which was east of the current boundaries of the park. (Blades et.al. 2001: 5b)

The landscape topography, including the stream valleys of Harrison and Poor Creeks, influenced the military campaign associated with the Initial Assaults battle (June 15-18, 1864), later the battle of Fort Stedman (March 25, 1865), and throughout the siege. Topographic elevations in the Eastern Front range from about 140 feet above sea level near Hickory Hill Road along the southern boundary and along the western ridge above Poor Creek to a low of 35 feet above sea level on the low terrace adjacent to Harrison Creek. These riparian corridors strongly influenced the layout and design of the 1862 Confederate Dimmock Line and later Union fortifications. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 9). When the Confederates drove the Union out of their lines on March 25, 1865, during their attack on the Union stronghold of Fort Stedman, the Federal forces used Harrison Creek as a temporary fortification to rally behind and stop the Confederate advance. They then used the protection afforded by the creek ravine to launch their counterattack, driving the Confederates back to Colquitt's Salient.

THE BATTLES OF JUNE 18, 1864 AND MARCH 25, 1865

The following description of the battles on the Fort Stedman landscape is brief and borrows from the 2014 draft National Register Nomination for Petersburg National Battlefield. For further elaboration of the battle movements, causes, and effects of the military engagement of June 25, 1865, please see, Petersburg Campaign: The Western Front Battles, September 1864-April 1865, Volume 2, by Edwin Bearss with Bryce Suderow.

Before the Union landing at City Point, the Hare House was located within the protective cordon of Confederate defenses north of Petersburg. However, on June 15, 1864, Union forces under the command of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant launched a surprise attack on the Confederate defensive line, beginning the battle of the Initial Assaults. The suddenness and proximity of the Federal attack forced the Hare family to abandon their home quickly, leaving behind nearly of all their belongings. Confederate troops withdrew from their defenses along Harrison's Creek and began digging a new line of defense in the overnight hours of June 17-18, 1864. On June 18, 1864, General Robert E. Lee finally arrived to provide assistance to General P. G. T. Beauregard, whose forces had been defending Petersburg since the first attacks. At noon, men in the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac launched an attack against the entrenched Confederate position slightly west of the Hare house hill plateau. (A. Wilson Greene, A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg: From the Crossing of the James to the Crater, vol. 1, 2018, 185-186) The attack failed within twenty minutes as Colonel Robert McAllister wrote "The Rebels poured down upon us lead and iron by musketry and cannon that cut our men down like hail cuts the grain and grass." (James I. Robertson, Jr., ed., The Civil War Letters of General Robert McAllister Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998: 443-444)

Federal troops erected their own temporary earthworks on the Hare House property (Figure 3). Meanwhile troops in other Federal corps in the Army of the Potomac and Army of the James were not having much success in defeating Beauregard and Lee's combined forces. Aboutt 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, the order to attack was issued by Colonel Daniel Chaplin, commanding the Third Brigade that day though technically the commanding officer of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery. Previous to the assault, Chaplin had placed his regiment in advance of the rest of the brigade. The 1st Maine Heavy Artillery had been guarding Washington, D.C. from 1862 until May 1864. Despite suffering heavy casualties at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, the regiment numbered about 850 men. They were organized into three battalions to attack. On Chaplin's left was the infantry brigade commanded by Colonel Henry Madill. Madill's brigade advanced but Madill quickly called off his assault with some 200 troops becoming casualties. The Maine Heavy Artillerists received intense Confederate firepower that resulted in the assault becoming a complete disaster within ten minutes of its launch. (Greene, A Campaign of Giants 201-204) The regimental historian and survivor of the assault Horace H. Shaw years later wrote "The earth was literally torn up with iron and lead. The field became a burning seething crashing hissing hell[.]" (Horace H. Shaw, The First Maine Heavy Artillery, 1862-1865, Portland, ME, 1903). In this assault, the First Maine Heavy Artillery lost 632 men, the highest casualty loss for a single regiment in a single action during the entire Civil War. (Greene, A Campaign of Giants, 204) The fighting on Hare House hill ended for the day. In this, the Initial Assaults (also known as the Second Battle of Petersburg) the Union launched an unsuccessful attempt to take Petersburg.

Over the next several days, the Hare House property, held by Union troops, was subjected to artillery fire. Union soldiers from the 17th Maine Infantry and the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery units explored and ransacked the Hare House. If the buildings became too close to entrenchment lines, the warring armies demolished them to clear the fields of fire. Or they simply got caught in the crossfire. As one of the sharpshooters there that day later described:
"On the 19th [of June 1864] Companies E and G occupied a position in and around the house, the brigade building a line of works across the garden (Figure 4). Hare's house was evidently left by the late occupants in a hurry, as a large amount of books and papers principally referring to sporting items, furniture of different kinds, carpets, etc., were found scattered about. The walls of the building were completely perforated with bullet holes, while larger ones were being daily made by round shot and shell (Figure 5). The windows of the carpeted basement opened on one side in full view of the

rebel pits in front, and as the basement itself made a very comfortable rifle pit, with chairs of mahogany to sit on, a number of the riflemen took possession of the same for the day." (Stevens 1892: 456-58)

On August 5, 1864 Confederate forces detonated nearly 1,000 pounds of explosives about forty yards from of the Union fort at Hare Hill, across from Colquitt's Salient. During the ensuing artillery barrage, Union Colonel Griffin Stedman, Jr., commanding a brigade in the Eighteenth Corps, was mortally wounded (Figure 6). By this time the main house and outbuildings of the Hare property had been destroyed.

The Confederates were entrenched along the Harris Line (Confederate Defensive Siege Line), which they held for the remaining ten months of the campaign. The Harris Line included several powerful battery positions, including Colquitt's and Gracie's Salients, all of which were filled with dugouts and traverses. As many as 20 gun emplacements were associated with Colquitt's Salient in the upcoming Battle of Fort Stedman in March 1865. Three rows of chevaux-de-frise fronted the work, and a 20-foot-wide covered way connected it to the rear. A warren of 6-foot-wide bombproofs were placed every 50 yards along the trench line by laying fence rails from the top of the parapet back to the top of a convenient traverse (Figure 7). The line occupied elevated terrain and key terrain associated with potential avenues of approach such as road and rail line corridors. At least two artillery emplacements protected by short traverses were placed at an angle in the curtain about 200 yards east of the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad tracks. Brigadier General Archibald Gracie's troops constructed Gracie's Dam across Poor Creek to protect their flank from attack by Federal troops. The earthen dam was 215 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 15 feet high, with a parapet on top and a sluice gate on the west side. It contributed to the ponding of water and swampy conditions that created an intentional obstacle called an inundation. An extensive system of pickets, the Confederate Picket Line, extended forward of the Final Confederate Line as the first line of defense, as an observation line, and as an early warning system in case of attack. If overrun by the enemy, the soldiers stationed on the picket line could withdraw to the main line of defense. Throughout the siege, Confederate forces constantly worked on their earthworks, adapting them to the exigencies of Union pressures and strategies. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 10)

After the Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864), when it became clear Union forces could not break through to Petersburg quickly, engineers shortened, connected, and strengthened their siege line. The forward positions became the Union Picket Line. Soldiers enclosed the Union Fourteen Gun Battery, as it was known at the time of the Battle of the Crater, to become Fort Morton. Batteries 8 and 11 on the Dimmock Line, at the Friend and Dunn houses respectively (Initial Assaults CLI), became important Union batteries that played a role in the Battle of Fort Stedman. Late that summer, Union soldiers constructed Battery X in front of the Hare House. Union soldiers also constructed Fort Haskell south of Hare Hill, and they modified the hastily constructed gun emplacements on the Hare Hill near the former Hare House into the enclosed Fort Stedman (Figures 8 and 9). The approximately circular Fort Stedman measures 220 feet by 250 feet and has steeply sloped parapet walls, an exterior perimeter moat or ditch, and gun embrasures, gun emplacements, bombproofs, magazines, and traverses. Revetted trench lines extend north and south along the Federal defensive line. By 1865, much of the tree cover in the area, though not on Hare Hill, had been cleared (Figures 10 and 11).

In late winter of 1865, another lull in the action around Petersburg ensued after the Battle of Hatcher's Run (February 5-7, 1865). Grant considered several proposals from generals on the front lines for direct assaults on the dug-in Confederates but preferred to continue operations against Lee's communications and force him to stretch his lines to defend an increasingly broad front. The main action during the latter part of the winter occurred in the Shenandoah Valley. In early February, Grant ordered Sheridan to mobilize his force at Winchester to destroy the Virginia Central Railroad and James River Canal, Lee's key supply links in the valley. On March 2, 1865, Sheridan defeated the remaining forces of Early's Army of the Valley at the Battle of Waynesboro and proceeded to wreck the railroad and canal. In late March, he brought his cavalry corps to White House on the Pamunkey River east of Richmond where he awaited orders from Grant about the role he was to play in the final phases of the campaign. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91, citing Hess 2009: 245–246 and Civil War Sites Advisory Committee 2009)

While Sheridan was finishing completing his mission in the Shenandoah Valley, Lee considered the few options that remained open to his army. Already badly outnumbered by the Union forces in his immediate front, Lee feared his army would be completely trapped if Sherman, who was then moving his army northward through the Carolinas, was able to link up with Meade for coordinated attacks on Petersburg. In early March, Lee summoned Major General John B. Gordon, commander of the Second Corps, to his headquarters and asked for his views on what could be done given the deteriorated state of the army. Gordon saw three options: 1) negotiate a peace on the best terms that could be secured from the Federals, 2) abandon Richmond and unite with Joseph E. Johnston's forces in North Carolina, or 3) attack "without delay." Several days later, the generals met again. Lee informed Gordon that Jefferson Davis refused to consider negotiating with the Federals because, as Lincoln had made clear at the Hampton Roads Peace Conference, it would mean the surrender of Southern independence. The only remaining option, Lee stated, was to assume the offensive in hopes of loosening Grant's stranglehold by breaking the Federal lines east of Petersburg. This might allow Lee to take the bulk of his forces out of Petersburg to western Virginia for resupply and eventually to join up with Johnston to operate against Sherman's army in North Carolina. Once Sherman was defeated, Lee and Johnston could turn their attention back to Meade's army on a battleground of their own choosing. Lee asked Gordon to study the Union lines and provide a plan for the attack. (NR draft 2014: Sec.8, 91-94, also citing Trudeau 1991: 333-334 and Wyrick 2008: 6-7,12)

In mid-March, Gordon's corps occupied the Confederate trenches stretching south from the Appomattox River east of Petersburg. He and his staff spent the next week reconnoitering the lines to identify the most vulnerable spots in the Federal fortifications. Gordon decided to target Fort Stedman, which was only about 280 yards east of the strong Confederate works at Colquitt's Salient. Although it looked formidable, Fort Stedman was one of the weakest points on the Federal lines. It was a small, irregularly shaped fort that the Federals found difficult to perfect due to constant fire from the nearby Confederates. It was flanked by Batteries IX and X to the north and Batteries XI and XII to the south. Among other things, the fort and its associated batteries protected Meade Station, an important supply depot on the US Military Railroad, about one mile to the east. The Union IX Corps commanded by Major General John G. Parke, who took over for Burnside after his removal following the Battle of the Crater, occupied this part of the Federal line. The corps was stretched thinly to fulfill its responsibility for manning 7 miles of the line from the Appomattox River southward. (NR draft 2014: Sec.8: 91-94, citing Wyrick 2008: 7-11)

On March 22, 1865, Gordon presented to Lee an intricate three-phased plan for the attack. The first phase involved the use of small groups of men to clear paths through the Confederate and Union obstructions between the lines. Confederate pickets were to move out of their advanced positions and neutralize their counterparts in the Federal rifle pits. A column of 300 Confederates would storm Fort Stedman with unloaded guns and quietly subdue the garrison using bayonets and rifle butts. Once the fort was secure, the second phase of the operation would commence—it was designed to take three strong artillery positions in the second line of the Federal defenses. This second line would follow the old Confederate Dimmock Line. Among the targets were the former Confederate Battery 8, now Union Fort Friend, and the former Confederate Battery 11 near the Dunn House where the Union placed a battery of artillery (Initial Assaults CLI). This attack would be undertaken by columns of 100 men each guided by locals familiar with the terrain. Under cover of darkness the men would pretend to be Union soldiers fleeing the attack of the main line and infiltrate the forts by surprise. The final phase of the attack was to be a general assault on the Federal lines to expand and secure the breach. Cavalry would ride to the Federal rear and cut the Union army's communications with City Point. The "tremendous possibility" for the attack, as Gordon later wrote, "was the disintegration of the whole left wing of the Federal army [technically the Union right flank], or at least the dealing of such a staggering blow upon it as would disable it temporarily, enabling us to withdraw from Petersburg in safety and join Johnston…" (NR draft 2014: Sec.8: 91-94, citing Wyrick 2008: 20-21 and Roth et.al. 2008: 51)

After considering the plan carefully, Lee gave his approval and committed nearly half of his available forces to make the attack. The primary force consisted of about 11,500 men from Gordon's corps and two brigades from Bushrod Johnson's division. Another 1,700 men from Cadmus Wilcox's

division of A.P. Hill's corps were nearby for support. The day before the battle, Gordon requested additional help, and Lee ordered Major General George Pickett's division of about 6,500 men to move from its position northwest of Petersburg. Lee let Gordon know, however, that he was unsure whether the men would reach the field in time. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91-94, citing Trudeau 1991: 332-335)

The initial phase of Gordon's attack began at 4:00 a.m. on the morning of March 25 and was successful. The advance groups cleared the obstructions and rifle pits in front of the Federal lines. The left prong of the attacking force, consisting of the brigades from Johnson's division under Brigadier Generals Matthew Ransom and William H. Wallace, captured Union Battery X near the former Hare House and proceeded north through the trenches leading to Battery IX. They were met there with Federal fire from Battery IX to their front and flanking artillery from the Union's second defensive line about 0.5 miles to the east. They could advance no further. Gordon's two center columns, consisting of the divisions of Major General Bryan Grimes and Brigadier General James A. Walker, took Federal Fort Stedman. Brigadier General Clement Evans' division captured Batteries XI and XII and the trenches leading to Union Fort Haskell but were repulsed with heavy casualties during three attempts to take the Fort Haskell itself. However, the Confederates succeeded in creating a breach in the Federal lines that extended about 1,000 feet between Battery IX and Fort Haskell and rounded up nearly 1,000 prisoners. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91-94, citing Trudeau 1991: 337–342)

The second phase of the attack did not go as planned, however. Confederate officers at the head of the columns charged with taking the forts along the second line of the Union defenses reported to Gordon that they had become separated from their guides and were unable to find their targets. Some elements of the center columns were able to advance to Harrison's Creek along Prince George Courthouse Road but got no farther. But when morning broke, Federal gunners along the main line flanking the breach and along the Union second line were able to identify the Confederate positions and fired with increasing effectiveness. Union Brevet Major General John Hartranft, whose 3rd Division formed the reserve behind the main line of the Union IX Corps, took the lead in organizing Federal troops to block the Confederate advance. With support from other Union troops, Hartranft was able to form an arc that stretched more than a mile around the Confederate troops from Battery IX on the north to Fort Haskell on the south. By 7:00 a.m., Gordon, who had moved up to Fort Stedman after its capture, realized that his attack had stalled and received orders from Lee to withdraw. Around 7:30 a.m., Hartranft ordered a counterattack that drove the Confederates from the Federal trenches and batteries north and south of Fort Stedman. Within a half-hour, the Confederate position had been reduced to the area immediately surrounding Fort Stedman. During the final phase of the battle, the Federals assaulted and retook Fort Stedman, forcing Confederates there to surrender or attempt escape by crossing the no-man's land, through the area that included the gardens of the Hare House and the former New Market racecourse (Figure 12). Many who chose the latter were casualties of heavy Union fire. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91-94; Wyrick 2008: 44-46; Trudeau 1991: 336-350)

Gordon later blamed the defeat at the Battle of Fort Stedman on the failure of the guides to lead his men to Union forts in the rear and to a faulty Confederate rail system that prevented Pickett's forces from reaching the field. Confederate casualties included about 1,950 officers and men taken prisoner and an unknown number of dead and wounded. The official count of Federal losses was 1,017. The battle marked the last offensive by the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee had planned to evacuate Petersburg since February but had been delayed by muddy roads. In the late morning, the Federal Second Corps began attacking the thinned sections of Confederate picket lines southwest of Petersburg. During the afternoon, the Second and Sixth Corps seized sections of the picket line that proved valuable in launching the final attacks of the Petersburg Campaign a week later. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 91-94, citing Trudeau 1991: 352–354 and Wyrick 2008: 48; Review comments: Gates, 29 August 2021)

Following the battle of Fort Stedman, the siege of Petersburg entered its final days. On April 2, 1865, Federal forces began an intensive drive towards the city, destroying railroad tracks and telephone lines as they went. Union forces broke the Confederate defense line, and soldiers streamed into Petersburg on April 3. Meanwhile, General Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia fought their way

west towards Appomattox Courthouse and surrendered there on April 9, 1865.



Figure 3. Vicinity of Petersburg, Army of the Potomac. Engineer Dept., Army of the Potomac, N. Michler, August 28, 1864 shows the Hare House buildings in place, prior to construction on Fort Stedman. (Library of Congress)

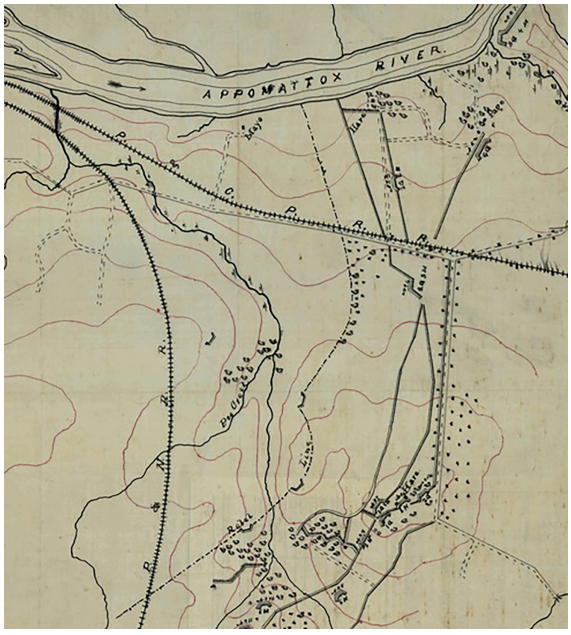


Figure 4. The 1864 XVIII Corps Lines, July 1864. (National Archives)

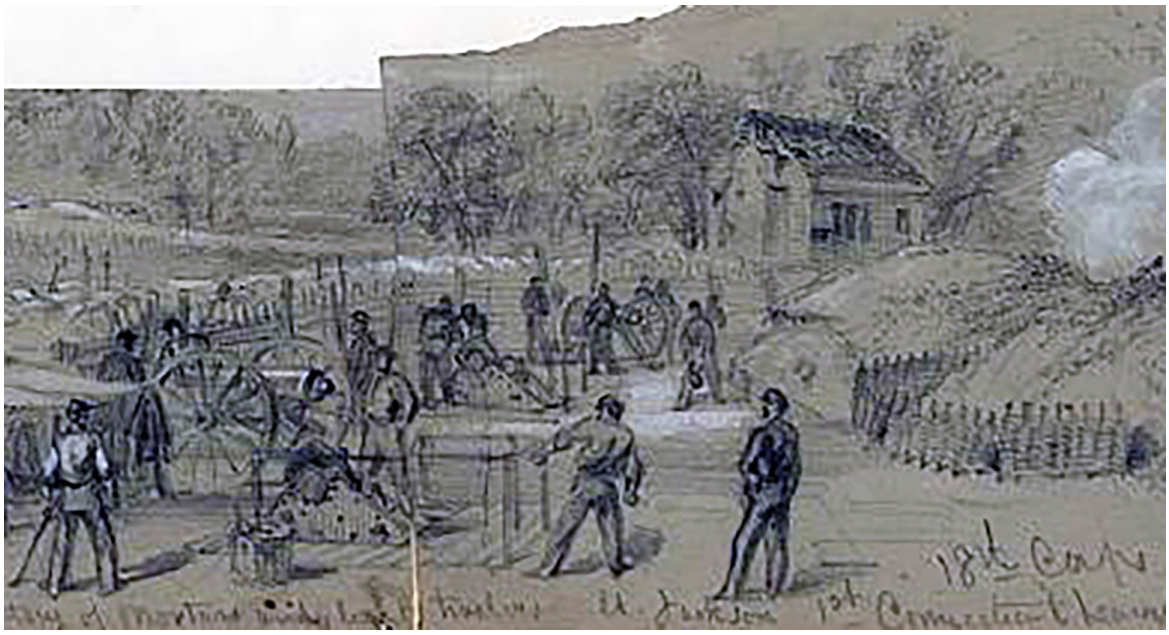


Figure 5. Detail from, "Battery of mortars and light twelves. Lt. Jackson. 1st Connecticut heavy Arty. 18th Corps," published in Harper's Weekly, August 6, 1864, pp. 504-505, A.L. Waud. (Library of Congress)



Figure 6. "Hare house near Petersburg, July 1864." (Library of Congress)



Figure 7. Detail of Map of Defenses of Petersburg, Virginia, March 25, 1865. The complicated subterranean earth works of Gracie's Salient and Dam, and Colquitt's Salient are clearly visible west of Fort Stedman. (Library of Congress)



Figure 8. View of the interior of Fort Stedman. Negative by T.H. O'Sullivan, positive by A. Gardner, May c.1865. (Library of Congress)



Figure 9. Works in front of Petersburg, Va. Fort Stedman." Battery 10 (on left), Fort Stedman (center-right) viewed from no-man's land. This grove of hardwoods on Hare House hill was an important landmark. (www.petersburgproject.org, citing National Archives NWDNS-111-B-335)

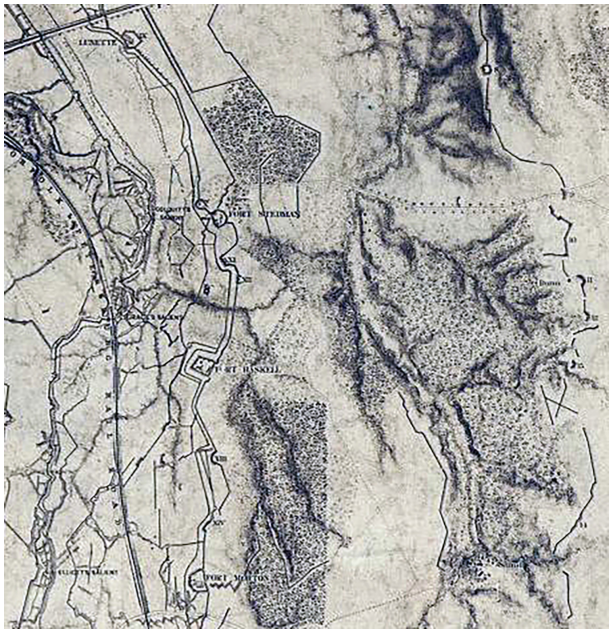


Figure 10. 1865 Michler Map detail showing vegetation in area of Fort Stedman. (Library of Congress)



Figure 11. Confederate fortifications at Gracie's Salient on the Petersburg line shows a landscape almost entirely cleared of trees. (Library of Congress)



Figure 12. Detail of Map of Defenses of Petersburg, Virginia, March 25, 1865. The map is annotated with "old race course" just north of Fort Stedman, in an area called "no mans land" between the fortifications of the Union and Confederate Forces. (Library of Congress)

POST WAR DEVELOPMENT AND BATTLEFIELD COMMEMORATION

As soon as July 4, 1865, Napoleon Hawes, a paroled Confederate soldier, advertised his "retreat" in the Petersburg Daily Index, offering lemonade to tourists visiting Petersburg's Battlefields. The retreat was near Fort Stedman, on the "grounds known as New Market, in the immediate vicinity of

the late residence of O.P. Hare, Esq." (Wallace and Conway 1983: 142, citing Petersburg Daily Index, July 4, 1865). Even before Lee's surrender, James H. Platt, a Union veteran of the siege, purchased Jarratt's Hotel in Petersburg. Over time it became a popular lodging for 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." (Layton 2017: 25, f.n. 69,70; Wallace and Conway 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 pointed out the most interesting places to see, including 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.

The Hare House property was never reoccupied after the war. In 1869, Hare transferred the title for the property to a trustee, who sold the land to William Gibbons in 1873. According to research conducted by the Petersburg Project, William H. Gibbons was the "wealthy scion of a family with deep roots in American racing." He also owned property east of the Hare House, within the boundaries of the Initial Assaults CLI project area. (The Petersburg Project, accessed 21 May 2021)

In the 1880s, Union and Confederate veterans held join reunions at many former battlefields, including the battlefields surrounding Petersburg. Local public interest groups and officials pushed for a park to preserve and commemorate the war in Petersburg. By the 1890s, the War Department was stewarding the preservation of prominent battlefields, including Gettysburg and Shiloh, as historical parks. In the Jim Crow era that followed Reconstruction, aging white Civil War veterans grew more accommodating toward their former battle foes, a sentiment echoed generally by the white public. Locally, the formation of the Petersburg National Battlefield Association was the first movement towards a national battlefield park in Petersburg. General Stith Bolling, a Confederate veteran cavalry officer who presided over the organization's efforts to create a park, organized reenactments as a popular fundraising tool. In 1898, Bolling and the Petersburg National Battlefield Association supported a bill introduced by Congressman Sydney P. Epes to establish "Petersburg National Park," but the bill languished in committee. Congressman Epes tried again in 1900, introducing a new bill to establish a national park in Petersburg, but it too did not pass. In 1906 a joint resolution passed Congress authorizing a commission to visit Petersburg to determine the advisability of establishing a battlefield park. But this effort, and others, failed too. (Layton 2017: 28). A few years later, in 1910, the Virginia House of Delegates member Patrick Drewry, after reviewing the many previous failed attempts, took on the mission of creating the park; over the next ten years, he would promote the park effort.

In the meantime, veterans and patriotic groups continued to place monuments upon the hallowed ground of the battlefields to recognize the contributions of soldiers and officers during individual battles and the campaign. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, veterans erected fifteen monuments to honor the war's fallen soldiers on the landscape of what is now Petersburg National Battlefield. Four were located in the vicinity of Fort Stedman. In the early 1890s, surviving members of the First Maine Heavy Artillery formed an association to maintain communication with each other, create a Regimental History, and establish a memorial for those who had died. Captain Horace H. Shaw of Portland, Maine, purchased a five-acre tract of land in Petersburg, about 200 yards northwest of Fort Stedman, from Francis Lathrop on October 13, 1893, and transferred it to a trust for the association. The following year, on the 30th anniversary of the June 18 battle that killed or wounded more than 600 of the regiment's men, the association erected the First Maine Artillery Monument at the center of the southwestern acre of the parcel (Figure 13). At the time, the monument was surrounded by fields and meadows. (www.cwoodcock.com/firstmaine/, accessed 30 June 2021). Badger and Brothers of Quincy, Massachusetts, designed and produced the stone monolith of granite from Hallowell, Maine. The association initially deeded the monument and associated land to the State of Maine to be held as a cemetery; in 1933, Maine gave the parcel to the Petersburg National Park Commission (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 117).

Survivors of the 3rd Division, IX Corps of the Army of the Potomac, meeting at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 24, 1906, for their seventh and final reunion, asked for the Pennsylvania state legislature for legislation to erect a monument on one of the Petersburg battlefields to commemorate

the services of the six regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers that constituted the division. The Pennsylvania Monument was erected at Fort Mahone along Jerusalem Plank Road. As part of the commission of the Pennsylvania Monument, the commission also secured the right for the same Boston company to erect, at its own expense, a smaller marker honoring the division at Fort Stedman, the Third Division, IX Corps Monument near the earthworks of Fort Stedman. (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 119). Lastly, in 1911 and 1912, the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, placed several markers near important Petersburg battlefield sites, including the Colquitt's Salient Marker and the Gracie's Salient Marker.

Camp Lee:
The development of Camp Lee began on April 24, 1917, only sixteen days after the United States Congress declared war on Germany. The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce leased 450 acres, including land that would become Petersburg National Battlefield, for the camp area and an additional 15,000 acres for maneuvers between Petersburg and Hopewell. The military cantonment, or camp, was named for Confederate general Robert E. Lee and was soon designated a division training center. Construction happened quickly, and within the next few months, the facility had more than 1,500 buildings and began receiving members of the 80th Division for training. More than sixty thousand soldiers passed through the facility on their way to fight in World War I. The young soldiers prepared for warfare on the Western Front by building trenches through the fields and forests of the eastern portion of the Eastern Front battlefields. They dug more than 1.5 miles of training trenches in 1917 and 1918. The running lines of traversing trenches with squared U-shaped offsets remain visible in the woods to the east of the Tour Road between the Rote 36 entrance and Battery 9 (Initial Assaults CLI). After the war, the former camp land was used as a wildlife preserve until the War Department re-established the camp in the build-up to World War II. (Radcliffe, accessed 12 May 2021)

Park Establishment:
In 1923 Confederate veteran Captain Carter Bishop and Union veteran Colonel James Anderson approached Congressman Drewry with an idea. They told Drewry that he might find Congress more receptive to establishing a battlefield park in Petersburg if the land was surveyed in advance and Northern and Southern Congressmen presented the accompanying bill together. Drewry agreed, and Anderson and Bishop, along with Lieutenant Colonel Francis Pope of the Army Corps of Engineers, were commissioned in 1925 to survey battlefield lands under consideration for acquisition. The Commission based its report on firsthand knowledge of the landscape and detailed measurements. Congressman Drewry submitted a copy of the report with his bill to Congress in early 1926. Finally, after passing the House and Senate, on July 3, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed the bill authorizing Petersburg National Military Park. (Layton 2017: 29)

As was typical, Congress tasked the War Department with managing the new Petersburg National Military Park. The War Department's first objective was to acquire and assemble the parkland out of dozens of privately held parcels. The size of the proposed park was initially fixed at 185 acres but grew to 480 acres with the addition of more than 200 acres of Camp Lee owned by the Army, as well as lands elsewhere. (45 Stat 1301,1305: Sec.4). Starting at Battery 5, north of Hopewell Road, the park boundary was to include battlefields as far south and west as the Crater Battlefield before continuing down Jerusalem Plank Road to the fortifications south of the city. Over the next couple of years, the Commission completed preliminary surveys and land acquisitions, including numerous parcels from private citizens. However, the majority of the initial acreage of the battlefield park came from the military post, Camp Lee.



Figure 13. View around the Maine Monument, 1898. (Woodcock Family Records, www.cwoodcock.com)

EARLY PLANNING AT PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

During 1927 and 1928, the Petersburg National Military Park Commission, led by Virginia Congressman Patrick Drewry, commissioned 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 the new strategy for establishing the park. In 1928 the Commission recommended acquiring all forts, trenches, and earthworks contiguous to park roads and the Crater battlefield, portions of Camp Lee and lands at Battery Five, and the site of the opening battle for Petersburg. In 1929 an act to "authorize appropriations for construction at military posts, and for other purposes" was approved February 25, 1929. (45 Stat 1301,1305: Sec.4). Further, "the Secretary of War be, and he is, hereby, authorized to transfer to the Petersburg National Military Park such portion of the Camp Lee Military Reservation, Virginia, as in his discretion may be required in connection with the establishment of the Petersburg National Military Park." The Commission was also authorized to receive gifts of land from individuals, groups, or the state. The government could not acquire land through condemnation, nor were they authorized to purchase land. Following the act, the War Department transferred 131 Acres of land near Battery 5 (64 acres) and Fort Stedman (67 acres) for use as parkland. (Landsnet: 01-101, D-17; 01-111, D-17).

The private Commission was also responsible for creating or repairing necessary roads, clearing lands, and marking all points of historical interest. In January 1929, thirty-two laborers cleared vegetation and maintained a temporary road near Battery Five. By March, the men had removed the trees and shrubs from Forts Walker, Haskell, and Stedman, as well as Confederate Batteries 4, 5, and 6. As Louise Aaron, a reporter in for the local Petersburg Progress-Index, pointed out, "Building the park was not merely a matter of erecting monuments and tablets, of constructing fine roads, and publicity. One would hardly have guessed that great stretches of breastworks and other fortifications lay within the tangled undergrowth and dense trees that cover the greater part of the park area." (Wallace and Conway 1983: 83). In 1929, local concerned citizens formed the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association through which they contributed money, supplied publicity, and assisted in obtaining land through third-party transactions. (Layton 2017: 30). The Commission executed field surveys and identified the desired tracts. The Association then acquired the land and facilitated the transfer of the parcels to the federal government . Some of the earliest road construction began with approximately two and a half miles of roadway in the Fort Stedman area, accomplished at a cost of about four and a half thousand dollars. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 84)

On August 10, 1933, responsibility for Peterburg National Military Park was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service (NPS), along with other monuments, military parks, and the National Capital Parks through Executive Order 6166. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 81). At the time of the transfer, Petersburg National Military Park encompassed 346 acres, which included the 131-acre transfer from Camp Lee and land acquired through private donations.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

After the National Park Service assumed management of the park, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cleared underbrush and developed roads and trails. The CCC was created by the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act of 1933. At the time, the CCC was instrumental in developing visitor services and managing resources at most national parks, including Petersburg. The NPS employed the CCC, composed mainly of unskilled laborers, to perform clearing, grading, and other activities at many of the historical parks where planning was underway. Most of the funding for CCC construction projects came through the Public Works Administration (PWA). (NR draft 2014, Sec.8: 131, citing McClelland 1993 and Unrau and Williss 1983). About 173 enrollees of CCC Company 1364 arrived from Camp Meade, Maryland, early on July 13, 1933. They established a camp, Camp MP-2, just east of Fort Stedman in the area of the former Hare House plantation (Figure 14). The CCC camp included a mess hall and about fifty tents for its enrollees, World War I veterans. A ceremony celebrating the first roadway built in the park, about two-and-a-half miles of roadway in the Fort Stedman area, was held in 1932. Between 1933 and 1942, the CCC cleared underbrush, assisted with road construction, planted trees, led tours, and constructed minor buildings. After the closing of the camp, the CCC equipment was transferred to Camp Lee, and until the end of the war the buildings were put to use by the army.

In 1934, the War Department transferred the western portion of Camp Lee, 1,128 acres between Highway 36 and 109 west to Fort Stedman, to the NPS for inclusion into Petersburg National Battlefield. (Wallace and Conway 1983, 42). During summer 1937, the CCC constructed a small colonial revival style building near Crater Battlefield, used as a field museum and guide station. CCC crews also completed fieldwork for a topographic survey of the former Griffith and Taylor farm properties, part of the Crater Battlefield. The same year, park management opened the road from Confederate Battery 9 to the Hopewell Road (State Route 36). CCC labor and funds supported the construction of the road, which used crushed concrete obtained from the demolition of foundations of World War I buildings in the Camp Lee section of the park as a road base. The portion of the eighteenth-century Prince George Courthouse Road was reconstructed from Siege Road to Confederate Battery 9 in 1937 by the CCC as a segment of the park's tour road. In March 1938, CCC funds and labor supported the construction of Mortar Road, encircling Battery 5 and the site of "The Dictator," and a public opening was held in September 1938. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 93-117). The same year, the CCC built the Foremen's Quarters on a knoll near the CCC camp on the southern side of the former Prince George Courthouse Road. The new simple frame building had tar paper covering and provided accommodations for the CCC foremen on patrol duty and official visitors. After the disbandment of the CCC, park management used the building for an employee's residence. It was later renovated as a residence for the park superintendent. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 82)

In 1939 the War Department transferred the "Whitehill Tract" of 49.68 acres, near Confederate Battery 5, to the NPS. (Landsnet: 01-104, D-56). The property (within the Initial Assaults CLI project area) included the eighteenth-century White Hall (Friend House) and Clermont (Jordan House). In October 1940, War Department officials announced that the military would construct three training centers capable of accommodating more than 20,000 troops at Camp Lee in the event of compulsory service in World War II. All of the WWI wooden barracks and other buildings had been removed by this time, and only the concrete foundations and roadways remained. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12 October 1940)

Meanwhile, in 1941 with war raging in Europe and the military busy again at Camp Lee, the NPS engaged in master planning to establish a cohesive approach to the development in the park. The Master Plan for Petersburg National Battlefield, developed by the NPS Branch of Plans and Design, focused on improving circulation in the park and on restoring vegetation to suggest its condition during the siege (Figure 15). The plans included two proposed automobile overpasses, one at the northern end of the park over Route 36 and one at the southern end. Plans also proposed restoring a pond behind a restored Gracie's Dam and Colquitt's Salient, removing hundreds of trees to recreate historic views through new roadside overlooks, and constructing new roads through the park. The plans also identified historic roads, including the segment of Prince George Courthouse Road north of

Fort Stedman, proposed bridle trails on other historic road cuts, and documented several private properties identified for future acquisition (see Figure 15). At the time of the Master Plan, Siege Road, the primary tour road through the park, passed west of Fort Stedman and Batteries XI and XII before crossing the line of entrenchments and passing east of Fort Haskell.

In November 1946, the army withdrew from its use of the CCC camp and several of its training areas on park property. During 1948 the buildings were sold, with the park retaining some which were located beyond Fort Stedman, and others were removed from the view of Fort Stedman. Not until the fall of 1948 were the last vestiges of the camp on Hare Hill removed and the area restored to its original appearance after 15 years of use by the CCC and the army. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 89). Shortly thereafter, the NPS transferred 739 acres east of Lee Avenue back to Camp Lee for military use. Following World War II, Congress passed an act stating that, “the Department of the Army is hereby authorized and directed to transfer to the Department of the Interior, without reimbursement, two tracts of land, comprising two hundred six acres, more or less, situated on either side of Siege Road adjacent to Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia.” (63 Stat 691). The land included Fort Haskell and Fort Morton. In 1950, Camp Lee was made a permanent military installation and renamed Fort Lee.

Throughout the 1950s, NPS management continued to make additions and alterations to the park. In 1955, the NPS altered the park road system by closing the Hopewell Road entrance (State Route 36) to Siege Road and removing the hard road surface at Union Battery Nine as well as the road encircling Colquitt’s Salient, as initially proposed in the 1941 Master Plan. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 94)

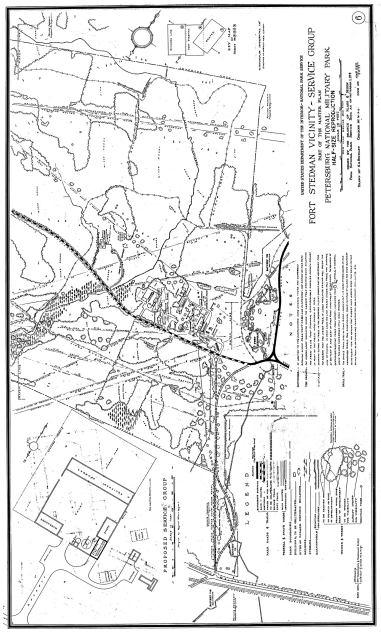


Figure 15. Master Plan for Petersburg National Battlefield. Note CCC camp west of Fort Stedman. (National Park Service, eTIC)

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 development program nearly coincided with the centennial anniversary of the Civil War. During this period, the public was generally positive about the significant physical change at Petersburg NB. Former Superintendent Martin R. Conway believed that without Mission 66, the NPS would have likely developed Petersburg piecemeal "…perhaps nowhere as boldly conceived nor as grand as under this program. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 1)

When Mission 66 began in the mid-1950s, Petersburg NB's visitor center was in the former golf course clubhouse at the Crater Battlefield property. A small public contact station, built by CCC workers in 1937, was located at Battery 5. The park had been planning since the early 1940s to begin the battlefield tour sequence at Battery 5, where the initial confrontation between Union and Confederate forces began. Doing so would fulfill the interpretive goal first established in the early 1930s to aid the visitors' physical understanding of the history by presenting visitors with a chronological sequence of events. (Layton 2017: 40)

In the Development Plan of 1960, NPS planners designed a new tour route, using much of the existing park road corridor. After adding two strategically placed automobile overpasses (one over Route 36 and one over the Norfolk and Western Railroad), the new road design allowed visitors to remain inside the boundaries of the central park unit throughout their visit and thus experience a more seamless tour. The location of a new visitor center at Battery 5 meant the interpretive sequence would begin at the scene of the opening June 15, 1864 battle, the Initial Assault. The Development Plan also outlined the park's need for a new maintenance area and additional employee housing. During this period, major projects completed at Petersburg NB included a new visitor center at Battery 5, the interpretive tour route from the visitor center southwest to the Crater, new overpasses at Highway 36 and the Norfolk & Western railroad, and finally, a new maintenance facility near Highway 36. However, the NPS did not construct any new employee housing.

As part of the Mission 66 improvement efforts, between 1962 and 1964, twelve l2-pounder cast-iron field carriages ordered earlier by the Service for $11,500 were received from the Department of Correction at Lorton, Virginia. They were mounted with Civil War-period guns and emplaced throughout the battlefield to mark battery positions at Forts Haskell, Stedman and Friend, Batteries 5 and 6, and Colquitt's Salient. The park later relocated the guns and emplacements at Colquitt's Salient to Battery 5. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 13)

Petersburg National Military Park was redesignated as Petersburg National Battlefield on August 24, 1962. With major visitor infrastructure projects complete, underway, or proposed, the NPS also focused on improving battlefield interpretation to deepen visitor understanding of the complex military engagement at Petersburg. As noted earlier, before Mission 66 the park's interpretive program consisted of a small visitor center at the Crater. There were also two homemade audio stations, one at the Crater, the other at Fort Stedman, and seven exhibit cases installed at major points of interest throughout the park. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 6). Developments included artillery exhibits, the reconstruction of a portion of the US Military Railroad at Meade Station, soldier's huts and a sutler'' store, as well as a self-guided tour tracing Lee's retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox. The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s encouraged the agency to emphasize the roles African American troops played in the siege. (Layton 2017: 70, citing Wallace and Conway 1983: 4)

The largest project was the development of a ten-stop tour route completed in 1967. Following World War II, the US Army expanded Fort Lee. As a result, the park Tour Road carried an increased volume of vehicular rush hour traffic. Park planning during the early 1960s converted the remaining segments of the former two-way Tour Road to a one-way road with a multi-use second lane. The revised route resulted in a fifty-percent reduction of local non-visitor through traffic. In addition, visitors could now experience the battlefield chronologically. Finally, the nonvehicular lane was available to bicyclists, pedestrians, and for short-term parking. (Layton 2017: 70). The NPS also installed interpretative signage at all ten stops (Figure 16).

By the late 1960s, park administrators noticed changes in the way visitors were using the park landscape. Public interest in Civil War history was down following the fervor of the Civil War centennial. Many young adults held anti-military views due to the unpopular Vietnam War. More visitors were playing ball and picnicking in the open fields in the park's open fields instead of engaging in the interpretation of the battle itself. Indeed, some visitors even used the park tour road as a place to regularly make car repairs (Layton 2017: 78). To better engage the public, park management developed a series of living history interpretative displays in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including a reconstructed soldier's hut and a permanent interpretation of a soldier's life near Confederate Battery 9. From the 1960s-2000 several park areas were used for Confederate artillery demonstrations and a pasture was maintained for the park's horses used for the artillery programs. Park management installed a trail for the blind near Confederate Battery 9, using braille interpretive markers, and later relocated it near the visitor center. They also replaced a concrete model of the "Dictator" with a Civil War period 13-inch seacoast mortar near Confederate Battery 5 and expanded the artillery display near the Visitor Center. Along Siege Drive between tour stops 3 and 4, park management developed a small picnic area on land formerly used as a dump. (Wallace and Conway 1983: 6-7,16). This picnic area is no longer in use. In 1977, the Battery 5 trail was redesigned, with steps and landing platforms overlooking the Dictator site. Also during the 1970s, park management acquired land parcels in the southern area of the park along Hickory Hill Road, driven in part by the threat of external development. (Review comments: Schreiner, 29 August 2021)

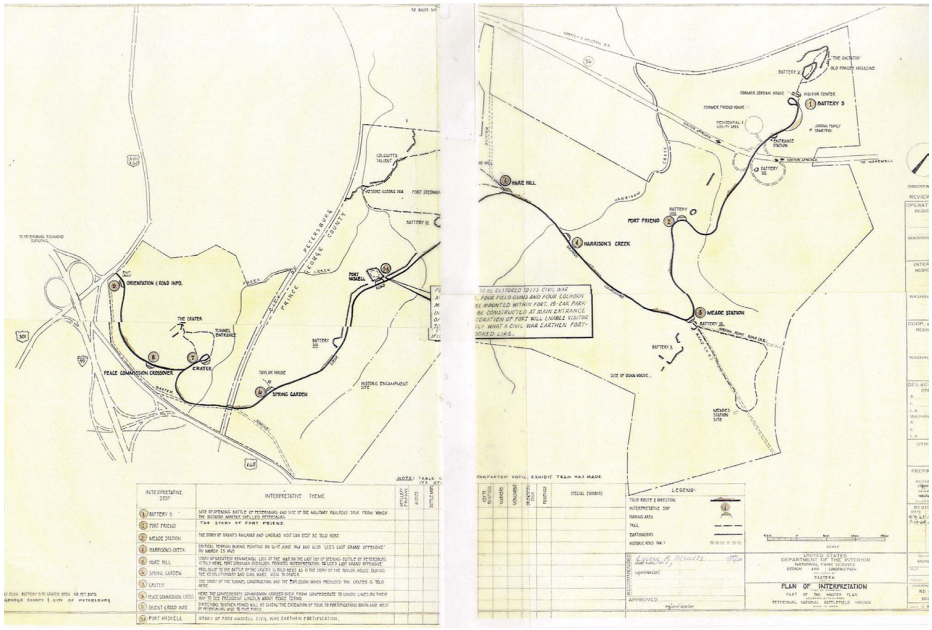


Figure 16. Plan of Interpretation, 1961. (National Park Service, eTIC)

RECENT PARK DEVELOPMENTS

In the 1990s, the park began offering public walking tours in the park, at Crater Battlefield and Fort Stedman. Park management placed markers with audio interpretation at the tour stops to further enhance the self-guided tour. Also, in the 1990s, the NPS acquired 1,116 additional acres for the establishment of the Five Forks Unit. More recently, management has updated waysides to better reflect the experiences of all participants on the battlefield, men and women, Union, Confederate, white, Black, and Native American. In 2004, the NPS approved a General Management Plan for Petersburg NB, identifying the cultural landscape of the battlefield as the mechanism by which Civil War stories are told, and recommended a boundary expansion to preserve additional historic landscapes and resources. In 2016, Congressional legislation authorized the expansion of Petersburg National Battlefield by 7,238 acres. Ongoing archaeological investigation within the Eastern Front battlefield is contributing additional knowledge and understanding of the nationally-significant cultural landscape.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

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

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

The Fort Stedman 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. Tour stops within the Fort Stedman battlefield include stops five, six and seven. There are also interpretive and multi-use trails, part of a ten-mile trail system in the Eastern Front unit. Throughout the year, park staff presents various talks, tours, living history demonstrations, and special events. Visitors may explore the battlefield learning from waysides, cell phone tours, and podcasts at some locations.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

The report, Native American Associations with Petersburg National Battlefield, Virginia, was written by Neal L. Trubowitz, PhD, RPA, Anthropologist with the NPS Region 1 Ethnography Program in 2006. The objective of the study was to identify Federally-recognized Indian tribes that may attach cultural or religious significance to historic properties within Petersburg NB. According to the study, the archeological record indicated that since at least 6000 BCE. there had been an in-situ development of Virginia Indian cultures that led to the tribes of the Powhatan paramount chiefdom in the Virginia Tidewater at the beginning of the seventeenth century. There were no cultural intrusions from outside the region into Appamatuck (Appomattoc) tribal territory in the Petersburg area until the arrival of the English in 1607. The Appamatuck (Appomattoc) tribe lived in the vicinity of Petersburg NB through the early 18th century, after which they disappeared as a tribal group. (Trubowitz 2006: 5)

In 2016 the Pamunkey tribe gained Federal recognition. In 2018, six additional tribes in Virginia were Federally recognized and the park's superintendent is currently working on initial consultation with the Pamunkey, Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy. Additionally, there may be historical connections with the park and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Catawba, and Delaware Nation, and initial consultation letters have also been sent to them. These tribes will determine the degree to which they wish to be involved with consultation regarding NPS management of resources. (Review comments: Schreiner, Dabney, and Morris, 29 August 2021)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape characteristics identified for the battlefield of Fort Stedman include earthen 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 Fort Stedman battlefield retains integrity of location, materials, workmanship, and association. Integrity of design and feeling is also retained but diminished by the 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 the commemoration, preservation, and development of the park landscape. (Layton 2017: 115)

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. There are 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 to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1864-1865 period of significance for the Civil War landscape and the period of significance for commemorating, preserving, and developing the park landscape ending in 1942.

Location:
Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or the landscape where the historic event occurred. The Fort Stedman 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 through 1942 during the period of commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park. The initial land acquired for the park in 1929 included sixty-seven acres around Fort Stedman. (Landsnet: 01-111, D-17)

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 battlefield of Fort Stedman was an open and expansive area with occasional woodlots. The placement of defensive lines and batteries, including the Union Siege Line, and Colquitt and Gracie's Salients, were determined by the proximity of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad to the west (Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the location of the swampy forested corridor of Poor Creek. Integrity of design has been diminished by the growth of successional woody vegetation that has resulted in a pattern of forest and open space not present at the time of the battle nor 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, evidenced by the Eastern Front Tour Road between the park entrance station near the Seacoast Mortar at the Dictator Site west to Fort Stedman, was constructed so that visitors would follow the Union defensive line, south to Fort Haskell and Crater battlefield.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of the cultural landscape. The setting of the Fort Stedman 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 to the north of the park, have altered the larger cultural landscape setting. (Layton 2017: 106)

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a 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 and batteries. Although wood reinforcements and bracing documented in historic photographs are missing, the earthen structures still convey their military purpose. New

materials added since the end of the historic period are limited to interpretive and directional signage, exposed aggregate concrete paving, and composite wood decking on bridges along pedestrian trails. These non-historic materials are inconspicuous within the overall landscape.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The Fort Stedman battlefield retains Civil War-era workmanship in the surviving earthen defensive lines and batteries. These earthen structures illustrate the military-technical skills and design used by soldiers in the battle of Fort Stedman. The battlefield retains commemorative-era workmanship in the construction of nineteenth-century weapons and early-twentieth-century monuments.

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, and batteries. The feeling of a commemorative and national park landscape remains through preservation of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century commemorative monuments including the First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument, the Third Division IX Corps Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker, and Gracie's Salient Marker. The battlefield of Fort Stedman and adjacent lands are no longer open, agricultural landscapes, resulting in a diminished historic feeling.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a cultural landscape. The Fort Stedman battlefield remains associated with the Civil War through the earthen defensive lines and batteries within its boundaries. The landscape's present management as a National Battlefield in the NPS preserves and strengthens the association with the June 1864 battle and subsequent siege. The landscape also retains its association with the commemoration, preservation, and establishment of the park through the retention of the preservation of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century commemorative monuments including the First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument, the Third Division IX Corps Monument, Colquitt's Salient Marker, and Gracie's Salient Marker.

The next 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.

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Colonists settled major river valleys, including the James and Appomattox Rivers, first. By the late eighteenth century, a string of plantation manors stood on the plateau overlooking the Appomattox River: The “New Market” plantation, likely built by Richard Bates about 1782, was partially located on land that would become the Fort Stedman battlefield. An insurance document dating to 1805 indicates that as of that date the New Market plantation included a dwelling house, kitchen, and stable with two attached sheds. The “mansion house” was a two-story wood structure with a brick cellar measuring 42 by 22 feet. During the Civil War, defensive earthworks and fortifications for both the Union and Confederates dominated the Fort Stedman battlefield landscape. The configuration of these opposing defensive lines was dynamic during the nine-month-long siege. After the Civil War, many of the earthworks and fortifications were altered by agricultural plows and/or by military use during the world wars. In 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established just west of Fort Stedman. About 173 enrollees of CCC Company 1364 arrived from Camp Meade, Maryland, on July 13 and established Camp MP-2. The camp included a mess hall and about fifty tents.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Since the end of the period of significance, the park has preserved earthen defensive structures and batteries under its management within the landscape of Fort Stedman. The remnants or sites of the Union Siege Line, including Fort Stedman, Federal Battery XI, and Fort Haskell are clearly visible on the landscape. Elements of the Confederate defensive line, or Harris Line, including Gracie’s Salient, Gracie’s Dam, and Colquitt’s Salient, are also visible. Though Fort Haskell, and Fort Stedman are clear of woody vegetation, during this period, successional woody vegetation has expanded to cover more areas of the park, including earthworks and defensive features within the boundaries of this Cultural Landscape Inventory. The following features contribute to the cultural landscape of the Fort Stedman battlefield, and include descriptions from the 2014 draft, National Register Nomination for Petersburg National Battlefield, by the Public Archaeology Lab.
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Colquitt’s Salient.
The main Confederate defense line, also known as the Harris Line, was anchored by a series of concentrated artillery positions known as salients. Colquitt’s Salient was a complex of earthen trenches and artillery positions just east of Poor Creek. The Confederate attack on Fort Stedman commenced from this position (Figure 17). The earthworks are eroded, due in part to the attention of visitors during the early part of the twentieth century when a NPS tour road looped around the salient earthworks. Large deciduous trees currently surround the site. Colquitt’s Salient are accessible via a paved trail leading west from Fort Stedman. (NR draft 2014: Sec.7: 15)

Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front- Colquitt’s Salient Countermine.
In response to the Federal mining operation at Elliott’s Salient, Confederate troops began countermining at Colquitt’s Salient on July 10, 1864. The mine never located any Federal mining activity which was the purpose of this mine as the Union troops had not constructed such a mine in this vicinity. The mine remains well preserved despite the tour road loop around Colquitt’s Salient. (Review comments: Dabney, 23 September 2021)

Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie’s Salient.
The Confederate artillery position known as Gracie’s Salient, also part of the Harris Line, was emplaced on a bluff between Poor Creek and the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad. Gracie’s Salient is located in a wooded area south of, or to the right of, Colquitt’s Salient. It consists of two defensive entrenchments, 80 and 70 feet long respectively with a current height of 4 feet and width of 5 feet, and an adjacent 250-foot-long salient providing artillery emplacements for cross-fire protection. Several bombproofs behind the line and communication trenches extending from the main line out to the picket line to the front are no longer in evidence. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 15). The location is wooded at present and the works are more well preserved than those associated with Colquitt’s Salient. Rifle pit trenches extend southward from Gracie’s Salient and cross the western boundary of the park. (Blades et.al. 2001: 5b)

Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front- Gracie's Salient Countermine and Confederate explosion site.
In response to the Federal mining operation at Elliott's Salient, Confederate troops began countermining at Gracie's Salient on July 22, 1864. The mine never located any Federal mining activity which was the purpose of this mine as the Union troops had not constructed such a mine in this vicinity. On August 5, 1864, Confederate troops exploded gunpowder within the mine that resulted in two impact sites scarring the landscape. Heavy skirmishing occurred though no major engagement happened. The Federal line located on the western side of Poor Creek was no harmed in the explosion. The mine has collapsed in numerous places in front of Gracie's Salient making it easily discernable in the dense woods. The two craters remain well preserved in dense woods. (Review comments: Dabney, 23 September 2021)

Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie's Dam.
Confederate Brigadier General Archibald Gracie's troops constructed Gracie's Dam across Poor Creek to protect their flank from attack by Federal troops during the siege of Petersburg. The earthen dam measured 215 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 15 feet high, with a parapet on top and a sluice gate on the west side. It contributed to the ponding of water and swampy conditions that created an intentional obstacle called an inundation during the siege. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 10). Gracie's Dam is represented by a 10- to 15-foot-tall embankment in the woods along Poor Creek (Figure 18).

Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Stedman.
Union Fort Stedman began as a collection of Ninth Corps artillery guns and mortars, as shown on the Engineer map of July 1864. By late in the siege, the fort had become a major artillery concentration between Batteries X and XI and was the focal point of the last offensive of the Army of Northern Virginia in March 1865. The approximately circular Fort Stedman measures 220 feet by 250 feet and has steeply sloped parapet walls, an exterior perimeter moat or ditch, and the remains of four-gun embrasures, gun emplacements, bombproofs, magazines, and traverses (Figure 19). Revetted trench lines extend north and south along the Federal defensive line. The curtain wall south of Fort Stedman is well preserved. (Blades et.al. 2001: 5b)

Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Federal Battery XI.
A clump of large trees marks Federal Battery XI, a 100- by 150-foot redan with six-gun emplacements and embrasure openings, a traverse, and two magazines. The frontal moat and outer earthworks survive on the north and west sides of the battery.

Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Haskell.
Union Fort Haskell was initially a modest position with 2 mortars and 1 field gun in July 1864. The fort was created as a major artillery position between Batteries XII and XIII, slightly to the south of and opposite the Confederate position at Gracie's Salient. The parapets and ditches are more well preserved than those at Fort Stedman. Earthworks extend southward toward Battery XIII; south of Battery XIII these works cross the tour road and continue in the woods until disappearing above ground north of the site of Fort Morton. (Blades et.al. 2001: 5b; Review comments: Dabney, 29 August 2021)

Fort Haskell is a trapezoidal fort, 250 feet by 280 feet in size, with four gun emplacements and embrasure openings, six barbettes, three magazines, and several traverses and bombproofs. A large traverse inside the fort connects to the parapet on the left but not on the right to allow movement from one side of the work to the other. A well-preserved curtain extends south of Fort Haskell, skirting the head of several ravines that drain toward the Confederate position at Gracie's Salient. Erosion, heavy visitor use, and weather have impacted the earthwork. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 16; Review comments: Dabney, 29 August 2021)

Remnant Entrenchments along Tour Road / Union Siege Line along Tour Road.
The northernmost earthwork that has been identified within District boundaries, referred to on Civil War-era maps as Battery X, is no longer extant above ground. Named and numbered batteries within the District boundaries continue in a southerly direction, ending with Battery XVI. The Tour

Road crosses the line at various points. Many sections of the entrenchments between the batteries and forts survive. These are generally 8 feet wide and 4 feet high, with an outer moat and a rear ditch, and follow the topography. Some are now wooded. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 16)

Federal Siege Works: Eastern Front- Advanced Picket Line.
The Federal troops maintained a line of earthworks on the western side of Poor Creek less than 100 yards from Gracie's Salient. On November 5, 1864 Confederate troops attacked Federal pickets and captured this area. The eroded fortifications are in woods at present. (Review comments: Dabney, 23 September 2021)

Federal Covered Ways south of Remnant Earthworks and Mortar Batteries.
This covered way was constructed by Federal troops to facilitate the safe movement of troops from the advanced Federal works fronting Fort Haskell to the Federal picket line west of Taylor's branch of Poor Creek. The covered way is in good condition and is in woods at present. (Review comments: Dabney, 23 September 2021)

Dam along Poor Creek-Taylor's Branch.
This dam is likely related to Taylor's Mill, an eighteenth century mill site in which British troops pushed aside American troops during the April 25, 1781 battle of Petersburg. The dam is in dense woods at present though well preserved. (Review comments: Dabney, 23 September 2021)

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
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Colquitt's Salient	194299	Contributing	006772		Location	21909	Yes
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie's Salient	194300	Contributing	006774		Location	21915	Yes
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front - Gracie's Dam	194301	Contributing	006773		Location	21912	Yes
Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Stedman	194302	Contributing	006770			21905	Yes
Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Federal Battery XI	194303	Contributing	006776			21991	Yes
Union Siege Line: Eastern Front - Fort Haskell	194304	Contributing	006778			21995	No
Remnant Entrenchments along Tour Road	194305	Contributing				22859	No
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front- Colquitt's Salient Countermine	194306	Undetermined					No
Confederate Defensive Siege Line: Eastern Front- Gracie's Salient Countermine and Confederate Explosion Site	194307	Undetermined					No
Federal Siege Works: Eastern Front- Advanced Picket Line.	194308	Undetermined					No
Federal Covered Ways south of Remnant Earthworks and Mortar Batteries	194309	Undetermined					No
Dam along Poor Creek- Taylor's Branch	194310	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 17. Federal Battery X, Colquitt's Salient, Old Tour Road Trace, and interpretive pathway, looking west from Federal Battery X. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 18. Gracie's Dam. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 19. Fort Stedman, Third Division IX Corps Monument, and interpretive pathways looking south from near Prince George Courthouse Road Trace. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. The placement of defensive lines and batteries was influenced by the railroads, county roads, and farm lanes that crossed the battlefield landscape. During the siege, these included the Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad immediately west of the Fort Stedman battlefield landscape, the Petersburg and City Point Rail Road to the north, Prince George Courthouse Road to the east, and farm lanes connecting farms and plantations, including the Hare property, to more major transportation routes. During the commemorative and park establishment periods, the War Department, NPS, and CCC built numerous circulation features.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Overall, circulation retains historic character for the Civil War and commemorative and park establishment contexts. Major historic circulation features, such as the traces of Prince George Courthouse Road Trace have been incorporated into the existing circulation system. Contemporary circulation features for visitor access and enjoyment do not detract from historic landscape character.

Eastern Front Civil War Road Network – Prince George Courthouse Road Trace.
Prince George Courthouse Road (labeled Old Norfolk and Petersburg State Road on the 1863 Campbell Map) was constructed between the City Point Road east of Petersburg and the small hamlet of legal offices and the county court, known as Prince George Court House, likely in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Near the point where Confederate Dimmock Battery 9 was constructed during the Civil War, Prince George Courthouse Road divided into two forks. The south fork led to the courthouse, while the north fork, called Jordan's Point Road, led east to Jordan's Point on the James River. Both Jordan's Point Road and Prince George Courthouse Road are shown on the 1797 boundary survey. (Prince George County Surveyor's Record 1797: 22). Prince George Courthouse Road is bordered by a single line or allee of trees on either side of the road, on

the 1864-1865 Map of the Siege of Petersburg between land of the former Hare House plantation and the intersection with Jordan's Point Road.

Prince George Courthouse Road was retained when Camp Lee was created and currently extends through Fort Lee. However, the 1941 Park Master Plan identified a section of the tour road east of the park's boundary for removal as an active road. From the eastern park boundary to Battery 9, the trace of the former road is preserved as part of the park trail system and can be identified as a road trace by the trail's width (in the Initial Assaults CLI). At the same time, the modern park tour road overlies the trace of Prince George Courthouse Road from Battery 9 across Harrison Creek to the Hare House site, near Fort Stedman. At the site of the former Hare House, the trace of Prince George Courthouse Road, which visitors use for hiking, turns northwestward to intersect with City Point Road (Route 645) (Figure 20).

Eastern Front Tour Road.
The present-day Eastern Front Tour Road (also known as Siege Road) is a one-way paved auto route through the Eastern Front site. It begins at the park entrance at Hopewell Road (Route 36), where it crosses over the highway from the Eastern Front Visitor Center, continues south to Confederate Battery 9, then curves west along the reconstructed Civil War-era Prince George Courthouse Road before turning south again in the Fort Stedman area to follow the Union Siege Line to the southern edge of the unit. Before reaching Route 460, the road curves again to the west, crosses the Norfolk Southern railroad line, and continues to the park exit at Crater Road (Route 301).

Construction of the road began in 1932 and continued piecemeal by the War Department, NPS, and CCC over the next decade as the federal government acquired land and funding. By 1942, the tour route consisted of three discontinuous sections. Mission 66 improvements to the park included the conversion of the two-way road to a one-way tour route and its extension north to the newly constructed Eastern Front Visitor Center and west via a bridge across the railroad line to Crater Road (Route 301), as well as the removal of several spur connections to other nearby public road corridors. Prior to the Mission 66 alterations, Siege Road (then the main route through the park) went west of Fort Steadman and Battery XI. A spur from Siege Road then looped around Colquitt's Salient and back to Siege Road. Remnants of this road as a trace remain in the landscape. The park uses abandoned portions of the original tour road system as previously disturbed areas suitable for staging areas and burn piles, as well as for interpretive and recreational trails (Figure 21). Because the Eastern Front Tour Road in this part of the district differs markedly from its original alignment and lacks integrity to the early park development period, it is considered a non-contributing resource. (NR draft 2014: Sec.7: 26)

Pedestrian Trails.
The trail system in Petersburg NB separates uses into three categories: multi-use trail, including horses; hiking-biking trails; and interpretive trails. The majority of the trails through the Fort Stedman battlefield are multi-use trails. Some segments, like the trail to the west of Fort Stedman, leading south toward Federal Battery XI, fall within the alignment of former roads. Further research, beyond the scope of this Cultural Landscape Inventory, is necessary to determine the history of each trail segment.

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 Civil War Road Network - Prince George Courthouse Road Trace (portion)	192024	Contributing	006796		Location	22444	Yes
Eastern Front Tour Road (portion)	192025	Noncontributing – Compatible	081728		Location	22461	No
Pedestrian Trails	192026	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 20. Prince George Courthouse Road Trace, Old Tour Road Trace, Vehicular Gate; Tour Road, looking southeast. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 21. Eastern Front Tour Road (Siege Road) with Fort Haskell of the Union Siege Line and the parking lot, looking southeast. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: **Natural Systems and Features**

Historic Condition (to 1942):
Natural systems and features are the aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation.
The defining natural system of the Fort Stedman battlefield is Poor Creek (also called Taylor's Creek and Poo Creek) and the valley cut by this watercourse, as well as the many small seasonal streams that meandered through the agricultural landscape during the time of the siege. Poor Creek flows between Fort Stedman backing the Confederate line's salients. The creek influenced the placement of the Union and Confederate defensive lines and was dammed by Confederate forces to protect their flank from attack by Federal troops through the inundation through the construction of Gracie's Dam. Though over time the dam degraded, the creek and accompanying swampy bottomlands remained largely unchanged after the end of the war and through the end of the historic period.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Since the end of the historic period, additional successional vegetation has grown within the Poor Creek corridor, primarily across Gracie's and Colquitt's Salients. Unlike the stream corridor of Harrison Creek, which was quite wooded, Poor Creek flowed primarily through open fields and meadows (Figure 22).

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	192027	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Poor Creek Corridor with Gracie's Salient looking southeast from near Gracie's Dam. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Before the battle and throughout the Petersburg Campaign, the Fort Stedman battlefield consisted of open fields and with some larger trees on the hillsides, including stands of oak and pine around the Hare House, and later Fort Stedman. Historic maps and photographs reveal that most trees in the area cleared to improve the fields of fire and provide materials for defensive lines and batteries, save for a tree lot northeast of Fort Stedman.

By late in the period of historic significance, the CCC had cleared woody vegetation around Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell. In the 1941 Master Plan, the NPS identified extensive areas for clearing, or selective tree removal. to restore historic viewsheds between the sites of historic farms and plantations, batteries, and forts within the battlefield. With the onset of World War II, however, park management did not have the capacity to clear many of these viewsheds.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Though the Master Plan prescribed extensive vegetation clearing, even maintaining battle-era open, agricultural land was difficult for park management given the nation's personnel and budgetary focus on World War II. Successional woody vegetation continued to fill formerly open land, while the park focused its maintenance around Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell and along interest points on the Mission 66 auto tour route stops.

Overall, vegetation does not retain historic character for the Civil War and commemorative and park establishment contexts. Although key areas around Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell have been maintained in open turf, portions of the park that were open in agricultural production during the siege through the end of the historic period are now covered by successional woody vegetation.

Fields and Meadows.
Both the 1863 Gilmer Map and 1865 Michler Map show that agricultural fields and open, non-forested areas (though with copses of larger trees) dominated the landscape surrounding Fort Stedman. Following the Civil War, continued cultivation maintained fields and meadows as open areas, while woods continued to grow in the swampy stream corridors. Over time, as agriculture practice was reduced, successional woody vegetation encroached and reduced the size of open fields and meadows in the former battlefield after World War II. Presently, the fields and meadows in the project area on the salient and west of the Union Defense Line reflect just a portion of the open area during the battle (Figure 23).

Woodland within Stream Corridor.
Historic maps from the siege period reveal woodlands growing within the corridors associated with Poor Creek and its tributaries. This woodland provided both cover for and concealment of forces during the battle and siege.

Successional Woodlands.
Based on the 1865 Michler Map, approximately half of the Fort Stedman battlefield landscape was wooded or forested at the end of the Petersburg Campaign, primarily in the swales and valleys of Poor Creek and its small seasonal tributaries, and in a woodlot northeast of Fort Stedman and in the hilly landscape southeast of Fort Haskell. Successional woodlands developed after the battle and grew at varying rates as farmers no longer cultivated agricultural fields. Successional woodland growth accelerated with World War II as the war effort limited available materials and labor. Existing conditions mapping records that approximately 60% of the CLI project area is presently wooded.

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	192028	Contributing					No
Woodland within Stream Corridor	192029	Contributing					No
Successional Woodland	192030	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. Meadows of the Fort Stedman CLI project area, including Federal Battery XI, Fort Haskell looking south from Fort Stedman. (OCLP, 2021)

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 Fort Stedman battlefield (prior to the construction of Fort Stedman). The land had been primarily in agricultural production, with some larger woodlots, and afforded views for observing the enemy, directing troop movements, and firing artillery. Following the end of the Civil War, cultivation of open fields kept the trees from growing, preserving some siege-related views on the Fort Stedman battlefield landscape. By the time the NPS produced the 1941 Master Plan, successional vegetation had grown within previously open viewsheds. Indeed, the Master Plan identified numerous historic views recommended for restoration through the removal of successional vegetation. These views included primarily views between battlefield features such as Fort Stedman, the batteries and monuments, and proposed overlooks on Siege Road.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
After 1942, while the park maintained cleared areas around some of the batteries, accelerated growth of successional woody vegetation encroached upon or completely obscured the key battle-era views. The park presently maintains essential views east from Fort Stedman into the Initial Assaults battlefield to help define the spatial relationships between the Union and Confederate forces during the battle (Figure 24). However, most 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.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views between Fort Stedman and Fort Haskell	192031	Contributing					No
Views between Fort Stedman and Gracie's Salient	192032	Contributing					No
Views between Fort Stedman and Colquitt's Salient	192033	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24. The view to Colquitt's Salient, looking northwest from Fort Stedman. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the 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 fence lines likely traversed the landscape after the Civil War to divided distinct fields and agricultural working areas. Beginning in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, survivors of the battle erected monuments commemorating the battle. Four of these monuments remain. Before transferring ownership to the NPS in 1933, the War Department may have installed signage at the battlefield to identify features, but this signage no longer remains.

First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument.
Survivors of the First Maine Heavy Artillery erected the large stone slab atop a stepped stone base on June 18, 1894, in memory of the men who were wounded, killed, and missing after the Federal attack on the Confederate salient on June 18, 1864. The 2-foot-high base and three sides of the 6 foot, 10 inch-high stone slab are rough cut, and the peak is gabled. Two arched bronze plaques on the east face of the slab bear the corps insignia and lists of the unit members who were mortally wounded or killed here (Figure 25). The polished west face of the slab bears the state seal of Maine and the inscription:
MAINE.
FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY
IN MEMORY OF
604 BRAVE MEMBERS WHO FELL

CHARGING HERE
JUNE 18, 1864
UNION
MAINE---------VIRGINIA
PEACE

The First Maine Artillery Monument is located near the edge of the park boundary along the "Colquitt's Salient Path," now a trail, that leads from Fort Stedman, down a small hill, into a wooded area. A residential development lies less than 50 yards from the monument. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 20)

Third Division IX Corps Monument.
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sons of Lieutenant Hugh Jones, Co. C, 209th Pennsylvania Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Fort Stedman, erected the Third Division, IX Corps Monument to commemorate the division's role in the recapture of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865. The monument is located just to the east of Fort Stedman (Figure 26). Dedicated along with the Pennsylvania Monument on May 19, 1909, the monument is composed of a large granite block that is rough-cut on three sides but polished on the north side, where a bronze plaque is affixed. The monument measures 52 inches by 24 inches by 70 inches. The plaque is 45 inches by 55 inches and has raised lettering. (NR draft 2014, Sec.7: 19). The plaque bears the IX Corps badge with the following narrative text:
FORT STEDMAN
IN THE LAST GRAND OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT OF LEE'S
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, FORT STEDMAN, WITH ADJACENT
WORKS, WAS CAPTURED AT 4:30 A.M., MARCH 25, 1865, BY
A WELL SELECTED BODY OF CONFEDERATES, UNDER THE
COMMAND OF GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON.
AN ADVANCE WAS MADE WITH GREAT DETERMINATION OVER
THE BROKEN UNION LINES, THEN THROUGH THE RAVINE AND UP
THE RISING GROUND TO THE EASTWARD, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CUTTING THE U.S. MILITARY R.R. AND THUS MAKE SUCCESSFUL
THE CONFEDERATE PLAN OF SEVERING THE ARMY OF THE POTO-
MAC AND DESTROYING ITS BASE OF SUPPLIES AT CITY POINT.
THIS MOVEMENT WAS CHECKED, AND THE DIRECT ASSAULT
IN THE RECAPTURE OF THESE EMBATTLEMENTS, WAS MADE BY
THE THIRD DIVISION NINTH CORPS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IN
WHOSE MEMORY THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE COMMON-
WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Colquitt's Salient Marker.
The A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, erected the Colquitt's Salient Marker in 1911 at the site of the Confederate stronghold directly west of Federal Fort Stedman. The rough-cut granite shaft measures 20 by 14 by 35 inches (Figure 27). The polished face of the monument is cut at a 45-degree angle and has incised lettering bearing the following inscription:
COLQUITT'S SALIENT
ON JUNE 18 1864 THE
CONFEDERATES ON THIS
HILL REPULSED THE
CHARGE OF THE FIRST
MAINE REGIMENT
ON MARCH 25 1865 FROM
THIS SALIENT GENERAL
JOHN B. GORDON LED A
BODY OF PICKED MEN
TO SURPRISE AND
CAPTURE FORT STEADMAN [sic]

Gracie's Salient Marker.

The A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, also erected the Gracie's Salient Marker circa 1912 to mark the stronghold held by the Confederates under Brigadier General Gracie. The marker is located east of the creek near Colquitt's Salient, although Gracie's Salient is actually located west of the creek. Like the Colquitt's Salient Marker, the rough-cut shaft of granite measures 20 by 14 by 35 inches and has a polished, sloped face (Figure 28). The inscription on the face is:
GRACIE'S SALIENT
THIS SALIENT, NAMED FOR
BRIG. GENL. ARCHIBALD
GRACIE OF ALABAMA,
FACED THE FEDERAL FORTS
STEDMAN AND HASKELL
AND WAS SUCCESSFULLY
HELD BY THE CONFEDERATES
DURING THE ENTIRE SIEGE
OF PETERSBURG.

Fencing, Signage, Cannons, Pedestrian Bridges.
Reproduction fencing, interpretative and directional signage, and cannons are located near the visitor center and near many of the Confederate and Union earthworks on the Eastern Front battlefields. These small-scale features were installed after the period of significance, and while compatible with the battlefield landscape, are thus non-contributing (Figures 29 and 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
First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument	194311	Contributing	006800		Location	22449	Yes
Third Division IX Corps Monument	194312	Contributing	006799		Location	22448	Yes
Colquitt's Salient Marker	194313	Contributing	006801		Asset	304366	Yes
Gracie's Salient Marker	194314	Contributing	006802		Asset	304369	Yes
Wilcox Tree Trail Bridge	194315	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Fort Haskell Moat Bridge	194316	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	101119	Yes
Concealment North Foot Bridge Noncontributing - Compatible7 n/a n/a Location 242846 Yes	194317	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	242846	Yes
Concealment East Foot Bridge	194318	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	242847	Yes
Concealment West Foot Bridge Noncontributing - Compatible9 n/a n/a Location 242848 Yes	194319	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	242848	Yes
Birney Trail Foot Bridge	194320	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	45776	Yes
Poor Creek Trail Foot Bridge	194321	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	45777	Yes
Friend Trail Vehicle Bridge	194322	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	45778	Yes

VA 36 Highway Overpass Bridge - RT 4770-002P	194323	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	51265	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1., 5.72 FT, 7.25 FT, Fort Stedman and Colquitt’s Salient	194324	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1484869	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1., 5.72 FT, 7.25 FT, Fort Stedman and Colquitt’s Salient	194325	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1484870	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1., 5.72 FT, 7.25 FT, Fort Stedman and Colquitt’s Salient	194326	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1463439	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1., 5.72 FT, 7.25 FT,	194327	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1463440	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 1., 5.72 FT, 7.25 FT, Fort Stedman and Colquitt’s Salient	194328	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1463442	Yes
Fixed Artillery, Carriage, Steel, Type 2., 5.58 FT, 8.16 FT, Fort Stedman and Colquitt’s Salient	194329	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1463394	Yes
Wayside, Low Profile, Aluminum, Fiberglass, “Lee's Last Offensive”	194330	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1256170	Yes
Sign, Metal, Keep Off Works, Colquitt’s Salient	194331	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	443006	Yes
Additional Interpretive and Directional Signage	194332	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Wooden Replica Fencing around Batteries and Forts	194333	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. First Maine Artillery Monument, Interpretive Pathway, looking southwest. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 26. Third Division IX Corps Monument, interpretive pathways, parking lot, and tour road. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 27. Colquitt's Salient Marker in front of Colquitt's Salient along the Poor Creek Trail, looking southwest. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 28. Gracie's Salient Marker including Colquitt's Salient, looking west from Poor Creek Trail. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 29. Wayside exhibit, Federal Battery X, Old Tour Road Trace, looking west from near Prince George Courthouse Road Trace. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 30. Willcox Trail Tree Bridge, non-contributing, compatible, small scale feature, looking southeast from the Wilcox Trail, 2021. (OCLP)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 8

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/28/2029

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/28/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of the Fort Stedman 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:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Future redevelopment proximate to the Fort Stedman battlefield may not be sympathetic or appropriate.

Date Identified: 09/22/2021

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

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: 09/22/2021

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Though the Final General Management Plan, Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement for Petersburg published 12/01/2004 emphasizes the importance of the landscape in telling the story of the ten-month-long Petersburg Campaign, and prescribes preservation and rehabilitation as the only levels of treatment for Petersburg National Battlefield as a whole, no Cultural Landscape Report or other management document addresses the Fort Stedman battlefield specifically. Therefore, there is no approved landscape treatment for the Fort Stedman CLI project area.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

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