National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2022



Wilderness Battlefield

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

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: Wilderness Battlefield

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300176

Parent Landscape: 300149

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Alpha Code: FRSP

Park Organization Code: 4370

Park District: FRSP

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Wilderness Battlefield is part of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (NMP), located in northeastern Virginia halfway between Washington D.C. and Richmond, Virginia. Covering over 7,000 acres, the park was designated by Congress in 1927 as a national military park for the purpose of preserving and commemorating the Civil War battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville. Seven distinct, noncontiguous landscape units compose the park's landholdings. Wilderness Battlefield, the westernmost and most expansive unit, stretches across more than 2,800 acres of federal land.

For more than two days, from May 5–7, 1864, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant led the Army of the Potomac through the heart of the Wilderness, marking the beginning of the Overland Campaign that led to Confederate surrender eleven months later. Union forces clashed with General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the difficult, dense, and confusing terrain of the Wilderness. The fighting was a tactical stalemate, but a strategic victory allowed the Union army to continue advancing south. After the war, the rural community rebuilt and interest slowly rose in commemorating the 1864 battle, culminating in the park's establishment, which was initially administered and developed by the U.S. War Department and then transferred in 1933 to civilian administration of the National Park Service (NPS). Preservation of narrow tracts along the key defensive lines was expanded during the second half of the twentieth century to preserve more of the battlefield and interpret the significant events of 1864. This shift in preservation strategy came in response to the encroachment of suburban housing developments which began to alter the once remote and sparsely settled character of the Wilderness.

The battlefield landscape today is characterized by fields, woods, and rolling terrain. The historic rural and wooded character remains largely intact within park boundaries, but the woods are generally more mature than they were in 1864, when dense second-growth made for especially difficult fighting conditions. Within the northern sector of the battlefield is Ellwood, once an extensive plantation that today contains the only standing antebellum building within Wilderness Battlefield. Ellwood was ringed by several smaller farm clearings, including Saunders Field, the Higgerson Farm, Jones Field, Chewning Farm, and the Tapp Farm (also known as Tapp Field). Most of the woods south and east of Ellwood were part of the 4,648-acre Catharine Furnace Company Property that extended east to Chancellorsville. Although the park preserves large areas of the battlefield, most of the core between the Confederate

and Union lines from Route 20 to south of Orange Plank Road has been lost to suburban development. Areas along Brock Road and north of the park have also been developed.

The historic designed park landscape, developed between ca. 1891 and 1940 with later additions through the mid-1960s, is an overlay on the battlefield landscape, primarily at the so-called Monument Lot along Orange Plank Road—the earliest commemorative landscape in the Wilderness—and along Hill-Ewell Drive, completed in 1935 and named to commemorate two Confederate commanders. Longstreet Drive, also completed in 1935 and named after another Confederate commander, has been incorporated into a residential subdivision. The park landscape features stone bridges and culverts, mown road shoulders, metal identification tablets, specimen trees, remnants of earthworks, and reproduction artillery. The park's eleven commemorative works (monuments, markers) are along the park drives, in the Monument Lot, at Ellwood, and along Orange Plank
Road, Brock Road, and Constitution Highway (Route 20). Trails, once named to commemorate other key figures in the battle, also contain remnants of their original rustic design completed in the 1930s.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (NMP) Historic District is significant at the national level under National Register Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Military, Commemoration, Conservation, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Archeology. The four battlefield units – Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville, and Wilderness – and three discontiguous sites – Ellwood, Jackson Shrine, and Salem Church – that constitute Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP derive their primary significance as the site of military activity during the American Civil War from 1862-1864. The park's overall period of significance is 1768-1965, with the beginning of construction of Chatham, and extending to 1965, with the Civil War Centennial and associated commemoration efforts within the park.

Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant under all four National Register criteria. Under Criterion A, it is primarily significant in the area of Military History as the site of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5–7, 1864, which was part of the larger Overland Campaign, May 4–June 24, 1864, and for its earlier role in the battles of Chancellorsville (April 30–May 6, 1863) and Mine Run (November 27–December 2, 1863); in the area of Commemoration for its association with the origin and evolution of the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement from 1891 to 1927; in the area of Conservation for its inclusion in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, one of several national military parks created during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity between the two World Wars, from 1927 to 1964; and in the area of Health and Medicine for its associations with development of Civil War-era field hospitals and the important role that women assumed in their operation in 1863. Under Criterion B, it is significant in the area of Military History for its associations with the significant commanders of US and Confederate forces, including Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, General Robert E. Lee, and Major General George G. Meade. Under Criterion C, it is significant in the area of Landscape Architecture for the designed landscape layers that the US War Department and NPS superimposed on the battlefields of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP from 1930 to 1942. Lastly it is significant in the area of Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal) for the information it has yielded and has the potential to yield about the history of the Civil War. The period of significance for the battlefield is 1863-1964, from the Battles of Chancellorsville, Mine Run, and Wilderness (1863-1864) to the completion of the Wilderness Visitor Kiosk facility in time for the centennial of the end of the Civil War.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of Wilderness Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1863 to 1964, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2021. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The historic Wilderness Battlefield landscape is composed of features related to two distinct historic periods. The landscape's Civil War-era character is conveyed by natural landforms, woods, fields, streams, defensive earthwork remnants, strategic views, circulation features, and archeological sites related to the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness and, to a limited extent, the 1863 battles of Chancellorsville and Mine Run. Complementing the Civil War-era landscape is the historic park landscape, which was developed between 1927 and 1964 by the US War Department and the National Park Service, and comprises park drives, trails, structures, monuments, signs, and other features. The historic park landscape also includes some pre-park monuments and memorials dating back to 1891. Taken together, these two layers of historic development form a unified battlefield park landscape. The most substantial changes to historic character have resulted from road expansion and realignment and suburban development, which have altered the landscape's historic rural setting. (CLR 2021: 351,358)

Condition:
The overall condition of Wilderness Battlefield is evaluated as “Good.” The battlefield’s maintained landscape, including the park drives, trails, mown areas, buildings, trees, and monuments, as well as its agricultural permit farmland, are in good physical condition. Natural succession is encroaching on the open space of Saunders Field, but the park is planning to cut this back. Erosion along streams due to runoff from residential subdivisions and increase in storms may be impacting ecological conditions. The earthworks throughout the park have eroded over time and most are covered in leaf litter and vegetation, making them difficult to perceive. However, this condition is beneficial to the long-term preservation of the earthworks as archeological resources. Residential subdivisions and strip commercial development have encroached in areas of the park, notably along VA 3, Hill-Ewell Drive, Federal Line Trail, and Orange Plank Road. A major development named Wilderness Crossing has been proposed north of the battlefield and adjacent to parkland north of Route 3. Heavy traffic along the Orange Plank Road, Brock Road, VA 20, and VA 3 often introduces noise and visual pollution into the landscape. Plans being considered by the state for expansion of VA 20 and VA 3, and the lack of federal ownership of the Lyons Farm (Ellwood) pose threats to the condition of the park landscape in the long term.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

In the Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS), the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Landscape is identified as the parent landscape for Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Wilderness Battlefield —along with Chancellorsville Battlefield, Chatham Manor, Ellwood, Fredericksburg Battlefield–Lee Drive, Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield, Stonewall Jackson Death Site, and Sunken Road—are component landscapes of the larger Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP Landscape. Fredericksburg National Cemetery is a separate landscape.

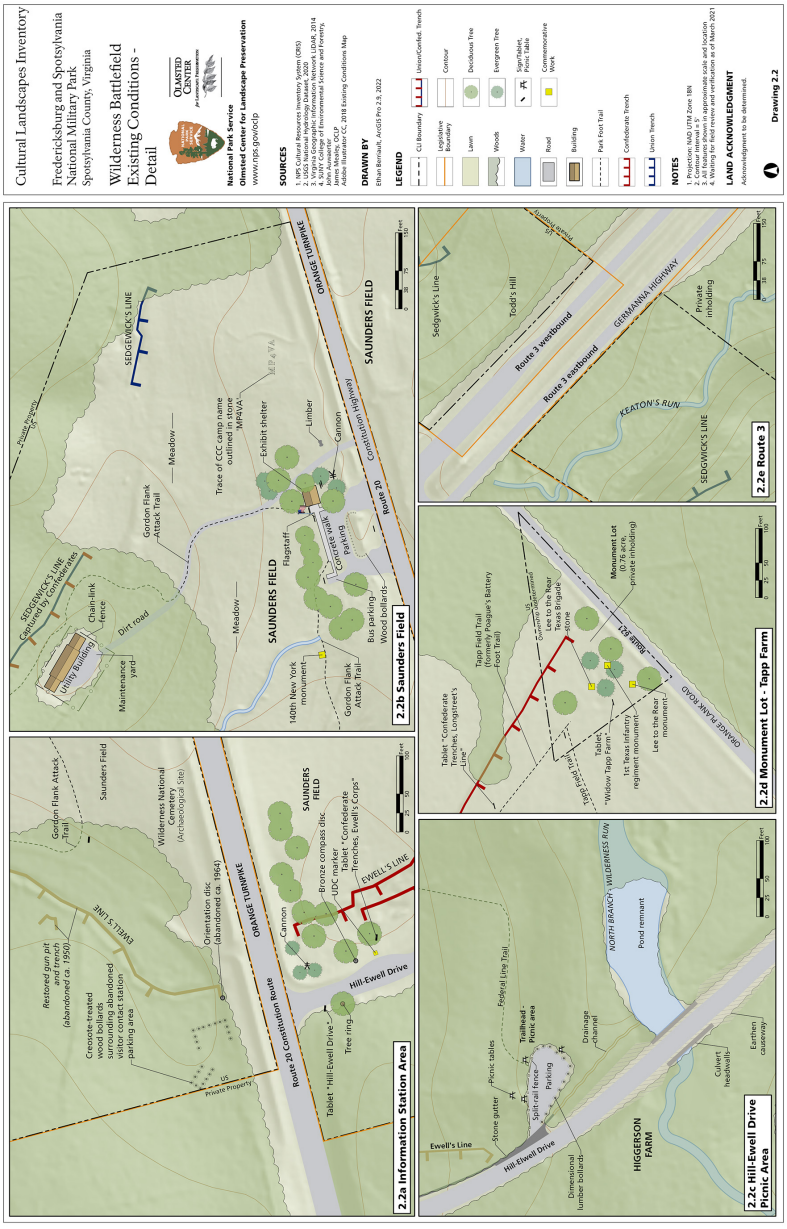
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

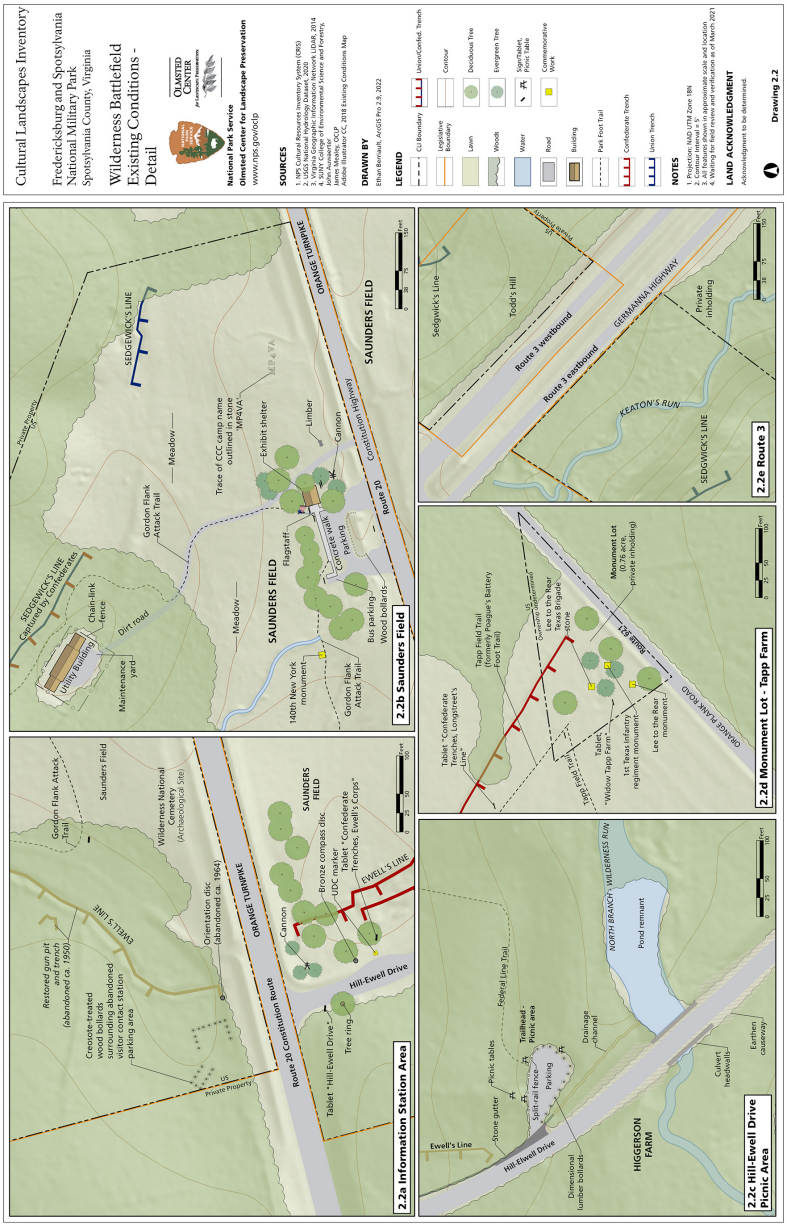
Other Names:

Other Name:	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	The Wilderness	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Wilderness Battlefield	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site map for the Wilderness Battlefield, 1 of 2.



Site map for the Wilderness Battlefield, 2 of 2.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 06/16/2022

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The contents of this Cultural Landscape Inventory are drawn primarily from the “Cultural Landscape Report for Wilderness Battlefield, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Spotsylvania and Orange Counties, Virginia,” by John Auwaerter and James Mealey, with Kyle Stillwell. The 2021 report was developed by the National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Boston, in partnership with the Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation in the Department of Landscape Architecture, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. Most of the existing condition documentation was undertaken between 2017 and 2018, with some updates in 2020. The CLI was prepared in 2022.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Wilderness Battlefield
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Wilderness Battlefield, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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

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

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

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

6-16-22

Acting Superintendent, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park Date

Park Concurrence Form, June 16, 2022.

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 Wilderness Battlefield at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. 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 and staff at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. 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 undertaking 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

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 1 of 8.

component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) 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:

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (NMP) was established by Congress on February 14, 1927 (44 Stat. 1091), under the name Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park. It was transferred from the War Department to the NPS on August 10, 1933.

The National Military Park was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. National Register documentation for the park was approved on May 23, 1978 under the name Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park and Cemetery. The documentation identified significance under Criterion A in the area of Military and Criterion C in the area of Architecture for 23 resources associated with the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. The period of significance was listed as 1700–1899, with a specific span of dates from December 1862 to May 1864. The documentation described the Wilderness Battlefield, as well as the following features within the current battlefield boundary: Confederate and Federal earthworks and the Widow Tapp Farm (Ruins) Site.

The national military park was also identified in the National Register Multiple Property Nomination, "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources" (076-5168). The documentation was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register on February 18, 2000. 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. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP was identified under the battlefields and earthworks property types under Criterion A for its association with the history of the Civil War in Virginia, Criterion B for its association with noted soldiers or civilians, Criterion C for its notable and intact examples of military engineering or architecture, and Criterion D for its potential to enhance an understanding of military events based on archaeological remains. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Battle of Wilderness was described as part of the Overland Campaign (May and June 1864).

On September 2, 2010, your office conducted a preliminary review of a February 2010 update of the park's National Register documentation and agreed with its proposed boundaries and list of

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 2 of 8.

contributing and noncontributing resources. However, in a letter dated March 9, 2011, your office provided additional comments on the draft and recommended extending the end date of the proposed overall period of significance from 1959 to 1965. Extending the end date, and also revising the historic context "Architecture and Landscape Architecture of the Middle Peninsula (1768-1959)," would recognize post-Civil War resources with architectural significance. Extending the end date would also recognize the monuments and other improvements in the park that resulted from the commemoration of the Civil War Centennial that ended in 1965. Your office suggested changing the draft's evaluation of post-Civil War buildings and sites from noncontributing to contributing throughout the nomination and re-evaluating your office's previous evaluations of post-Civil War resource ineligibility, where relevant.

On May 23, 2019, the Keeper approved an update to the park's National Register documentation, which accounted for all resources acquired through boundary changes, or that gained significance since the 1978 documentation was completed, including the Civil War centennial and Mission 66 park development. The documentation identified significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Health/Medicine, Military, and Other: Commemoration; Criterion B for Ambrose Burnside, Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph Hooker, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and George Meade; Criterion C in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and Criterion D in Archeology: Historic–Non-Aboriginal. The property also meets Criteria Considerations D (cemeteries) and F (commemorative properties). The period of significance was listed as 1768-1965, the construction date for Chatham Manor to the 50-year cutoff date for National Register significance and the 100th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Among the significant dates noted in the documentation was May 4–7, 1864, the Battle of the Wilderness.

For the Wilderness Battlefield property, the 2019 documentation identified contributing resources: buildings [Wilderness Maintenance Building]; structures [A.P. Hill's Works, Culpeper Mine Road (Flat Run Road), Early's Works, Ewell's Works, Federal Line, Federal Lunettes, Federal VI Corps Works, Germanna Plank Road Trace, Hancock's Works (Grant's Left Flank), Higgerson Farm House Lane, Hill-Ewell Drive (and bridges, tree rings, culverts, lined ditches), Jackson Trail (portion), Old Orange Turnpike Trace, Orange Plank Road Trace, Sedgwick's Works (Culpeper Mine Road Works), Wilderness Maintenance Road, Wilderness Visitor Kiosk]; sites [Chewning House Site, Higgerson Farm Ruins, Widow Tapp Ruins Site, Wilderness Battlefield, Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site]; and objects [12th New Jersey Regiment Monument, Battlefield ID Tablets, Battle of The Wilderness UDC Marker, Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument, Colonel James D. Nance Monument, Earthworks ID Tablets, General Alexander Hays Monument (and fence), House Site ID Tablets, Road ID Tablets, Lee-to-the-Rear Stone, "Lee to The Rear" Texans Monument, Texas Brigade Monument). Non contributing features included: the 140th New York Infantry Monument, Fawn Lake Subdivision Entrance Gate, Gilder Marker, Middlebrook House (and Storage Shed), Middlebrook Marker, and Vermont Brigade Monument. Note: Resources evaluated in the 2019 National Register associated with Ellwood – Barnyard Road, Cemetery, Entrance Road Trace, Equipment Shelter, Farm Office, Garage, Lacy House, and Stonewall Jackson's Arm Monument – are discussed in the Ellwood CLI.

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 3 of 8.

Finally, "Segregation in Virginia's National Parks, 1916-1965" is a study recently completed through a collaborative effort by the NPS Northeast, National Capital, Southeast Regions. This new research was not available at the time the CLI was completed. Future CLI updates will incorporate pertinent findings of this research related to the Wilderness Battlefield landscape.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for Wilderness Battlefield 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 Military, Other (Commemoration), Conservation, Health/Medicine, Landscape Architecture, and Archeology (Historic, Non-Aboriginal). As noted previously, many of the property's features compiled on the attached list have already been evaluated in the National Register. The CLI identifies an additional 13 resources related to circulation, topography, buildings and structures, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property. An additional 31 features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant. A total of eight features have been evaluated as undetermined because future research is needed to determine their significance.

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

- Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5–7, 1864, as well as its earlier role in the battles of Chancellorsville (May 1–3, 1863) and Mine Run (November 27–December 2, 1863).
- It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commemoration for its association with the origin and evolution of the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Conservation for its inclusion in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, one of several national military parks created during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity between the two World Wars.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Health and Medicine for its associations with development of Civil War-era field hospitals and the important role that women assumed in their operation.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Military History for its associations with defining moments in the military careers of the principal commanders of the opposing forces during the early stages of the Civil War and the beginning of the 1864 Overland Campaign, including Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885), Major General George G. Meade (1815–1872), General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870), and General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863).

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 4 of 8.

- It is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture for the designed landscape layers that the US War Department and NPS superimposed on the battlefields of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP from 1930 to 1942.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archelogy (Historic-Non-Aboriginal) for the information it has yielded and has the potential to yield about the history of the Civil War. The property also possesses significance at the state and local levels for sites that have or may reveal information about the agrarian and industrial economy of antebellum Virginia.
- The period of significance for the Wilderness Battlefield Landscape is 1864-1964, from the Battle of the Wilderness through completion of the visitor kiosk and other Mission 66-era features in time for the battle centennial.
- 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, Interior Region 1 CLI Coordinator, by email: jeff_killion@nps.gov. 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 (telework cell).

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2022.07.14 11:57:37 -04'00'

Enclosure/Attachment

cc:
Superintendent, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

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

Julie V. Langan

Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

9.27.22

Date

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 5 of 8.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Wilderness Battlefield
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
June 2022

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 described in National Register documentation on May 23, 1978. Features marked with a (*) were described in updated National Register documentation on May 23, 2019.

Circulation

Parker's Store Road
Automobile Tour Route Stops (Pull-Outs)
* Old Orange Turnpike Trace
* Germanna Plank Road Trace
Gordon Flank Attack Trail
* Culpeper Mine Road (Flat Run Road)
* Wilderness Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Parking Lot
* Wilderness Maintenance Road
* Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Plaza and Sidewalk
Federal Line Trail
* Hill-Ewell Drive
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Parking Lot
* Higgerson Farm House Lane
* Orange Plank Road Trace
* Jackson Trail (West)

Topography

*+ Sedgwick's Works (Culpeper Mine Roads Works)
*+ Early's Works
*+ Federal Line
*+ Federal VI Corps Works
*+ Ewell's Works
*+ A.P. Hill's Works
Longstreet's Works
*+ Hancock's Works (Grant's Left Flank)
*+ Federal Lunettes

Buildings and Structures

* Wilderness Visitor Kiosk
* Wilderness Maintenance Building
* Hill-Ewell Drive Culverts and Lined Ditches

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 6 of 8.

* Hill-Ewell Drive Tree Rings
* Hill-Ewell Drive Bridges

Small Scale Features

Cast Metal Narrative Signs (Happel Signs)
* Road Identification Tablets
* Earthworks Identification Tablets
* House Identification Tablets
* Battlefield Identification Tablets
Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Flagpole
Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Cannon and Limber
Saunders Field Orientation Compass
* Battle of The Wilderness UDC Marker
Reproduction Artillery at Intersection of Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road
* Lee-to-the-Rear Stone
* Texas Brigade Monument
* "Lee to The Rear" Texans Monument
* Colonel James D. Nance Monument
* Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument
Brock Road-Orange Plank Road Directional Compass
* New Jersey Rededication Marker
* 12th New Jersey Regiment Monument
* General Alexander Hays Monument
* Hays Monument Fence
N Marker

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

Wilderness Tavern Site Access Road/Parking Area
Wilderness Crossing Trail
Path to Grant's Headquarters
Confederate Line Walk to Earthworks
Higgerson Farm House Lane (eastern portion)
General Jenkins Drive Intersection
Lake Wilderness Lee-Grant Entrance Drive Intersection
Chewning Farm Lane
Tapp Field Trail
Intersection of Wilderness Park Drive
Longstreet Wounding Sidewalk
Vermont Monument Parking Area Sidewalk
Vermont Brigade Monument Parking Area
Vermont Brigade Trail

Buildings and Structures

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 7 of 8.

Wilderness Tavern Outbuilding Hearth Shelter
Link-Atkins Dairy Barn
Wilderness Crossing Trail Bridge
Hill-Ewell Drive, NPS Bridge over Trenches
* Middlebrook House, 35425 Constitution Highway
* Middlebrook Storage Shed, 35425 Constitution Highway
Longstreet Drive Park Culverts
Longstreet Drive Park Tree Rings
Widow Tapp House Site #2 Well Cover
NPS Residence within Lake Wilderness #1
NPS Residence within Lake Wilderness #2

Small Scale Features

Interpretive Waysides and Site Markers
NPS Identification and Wayfinding Signs
Wilderness Tavern Ruin Split Rail Fences
Cattle Grate, Wilderness Run
* 140th New York Infantry Monument
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Tables
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Split Rail Fence
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Wooden Bollards
* Gilder Marker
* Middlebrook Marker
Split Rail Fence at Tapp Farm Parking
* Vermont Brigade Monument

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

Longstreet Wounding Parking Area
Wadsworth Monument Parking Area
Hays Monument Parking Area

Buildings and Structures

Footbridge over North Branch–Wilderness Run
Footbridge over South Branch–Wilderness Run

Small-Scale Features

CCC Concrete Camp Sign
CCC Utility Building Chain Link Fence
Reproduction Artillery, Tapp Farm

SHPO concurrence letter, September 27, 2022, page 8 of 8.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Spotsylvania & Orange County

Size (Acres): 2774

Land Tract Number(s)

Hundreds of parcels comprise the Wilderness Battlefield. Please refer to the NPS LandsNet parcel maps for more information.

Boundary Description:

The limits of the Wilderness Battlefield park unit are defined by a legislated boundary authorized by Congress that contains 2,774 acres. The park contains mostly federally-owned land, with only a few remaining private inholdings. Park partners, including the Commonwealth of Virginia, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and the American Battlefield Trust, have conserved land both within and outside of the park boundary.

The boundaries are expansive and irregular, reflecting the major movements of the 1863-1864 battles, the original Antietam plan specified in the park's 1927 establishing legislation, and park expansion begun in the 1970s in response to accelerating regional suburban development. The battlefield's primary present-day landholdings are arranged like an east-facing bracket that follows the alignments of Constitution Highway (Route 20), Hill-Ewell Drive, and Orange Plank Road. Narrow strips of park land run along the Federal Line Trail, which connects Constitution Highway to Orange Plank Road approximately three-quarter miles east of Hill-Ewell Drive, and along Brock Road north of the Orange Plank Road intersection.

The antebellum Ellwood plantation is located within the Wilderness Battlefield and the subject of a separate Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.326206	-77.768839	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.332214	-77.73495	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.324371	-77.721176	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.313821	-77.708916	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.282765	-77.684331	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.276727	-77.690317	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.283202	-77.710401	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.281227	-77.742975	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.283486	-77.751884	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.296136	-77.757682	

Location Map:



Map showing location of Wilderness Battlefield between Washington and Richmond, and its relation to other park units a Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. (State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry--hereafter SUNY ESF--2021)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context describes the large scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape, such as hill, plateau, ravine, or drumlin, etc. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP is located on the boundary between two Level III ecoregions as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The park units to the east, including Fredericksburg, Chatham, and the Stonewall Jackson Death Site, sit within the western reaches of the Southeastern Coastal Plain ecoregion, which is characterized by its flat topography formed by relatively soft sediments eroded from the Appalachian Mountains over one hundred million years. The park units to the west, including Chancellorsville and Wilderness Battlefield, fall within the Piedmont ecoregion, an eastward-sloping landscape of gently rolling hills formed by hard, metamorphic rock. (CLR 2021: 298)

The low hills of the Piedmont are typically dissected by irregular, narrow streams. This is true at Wilderness Battlefield, which is primarily located within the southeastern portion of the Rapidan-Upper Rappahannock River watershed and drains to the north. Wilderness Run, which flows northeast through Wilderness Battlefield and drains most of the park unit north of Orange Plank Road, is a tributary of the Rapidan River. The area of Wilderness Battlefield south of Orange Plank Road falls immediately within the northern boundary of the Mattaponi River watershed and drains southeast toward that waterway. (CLR 2021: 298-299)

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context describes the general human overlay on the physical form on the landscape. Suburban subdivisions abut Wilderness Battlefield, and have higher population densities than the greater region. The Lake Wilderness subdivision is divided into two noncontiguous areas wedged between Brock Road and Hill-Ewell Drive. The subdivision's western area is completely surrounded by park land and has entrance roads off Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road. The eastern portion of Lake Wilderness sits immediately west of Brock Road and is bordered to the west by the private Lyons Farm. Overall, Lake Wilderness has a population density of nearly 1,400 persons per square mile. The Lake of the Woods subdivision, which sits north of the park border and southwest of Germanna Highway (Route 3), has an even greater population density. Both Lake Wilderness and Lake of the Woods are composed entirely of single-family housing units. Other adjacent suburban developments include Fawn Lake, which has incorporated as its primary entrance one of the park's former roadways – Longstreet Drive – along with its earthworks, and Forest Walk, which occupies space between the eastern section of Lake Wilderness and the Federal Line Trail. (CLR 2021: 304; Review comments, R. Brown, 12 May 2022)

Land use surrounding the park also includes agriculture. The private Lyons Farm covers approximately 350 acres of former Ellwood plantation land south of Route 3 and east of Wilderness Run (it has recently been sold and its future is uncertain). The western half of the farm's land area falls within the park's legislated boundary. This includes the farmstead, which features a complex of modern agricultural structures and is visible from the historic Ellwood fields owned by the park. Nearly ten acres of commercial land use, including a gas station and fast-food restaurants, surround the Route 20-Route 3 intersection near the battlefield's northeastern corner. There are also large tracts of conserved land along the Route 3 corridor. (CLR 2021: 306; Review comments, R. Brown, 12 May 2022)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

This context describes the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Wilderness Battlefield is located within an unincorporated community straddling the border between Orange County to the west and Spotsylvania County to the east. Positioned along the I-95 corridor approximately fifty miles south of Washington, DC, both counties have experienced substantial population growth over recent decades; over the last half century (1970 – 2020), the population of Orange has grown by approximately 163%, while Spotsylvania has grown by more than 752%. Orange County measures 340.78 square miles and has a population density of 98.2 persons per square mile, while Spotsylvania County measures 401.5 square miles has a population density of 304.9 persons per square mile. (CLR 2021: 304; Review comments, R. Brown, 12 May 2022)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/16/2022

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Wilderness Battlefield meets the criteria for the “Must be Preserved and Maintained” management category because the preservation of the property is specifically legislated. The battlefield was included within the boundaries of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park, established on February 14, 1927. Congress established the park and authorized acquisition of land and construction of roads “to commemorate the Civil War battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, including Salem Church…and to mark and preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, gun emplacements, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies in said battles.” In addition to components of battle lines, such as earthworks, the legislation directed acquisition of “other historical points as the Secretary of the Interior may deem necessary, whether shown on said index map sheet or not, and together also with such additional land as the Secretary of the Interior may deem necessary for monuments, markers, tablets, roads, highways, paths, approaches, and to carry out the general purposes of this Act.” (GMP 1986: 3,92; citing 44 Stat. 1091)

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: None - Privately Owned

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park, that contribute to the significance of the property. The Battle of the Wilderness occurred over an area larger than the property contained within the current authorized park boundary, which encompasses more than three thousand acres. Most land immediately north, south, and east of Wilderness Battlefield's boundaries has been developed as suburban residential subdivisions. Private homes are visible through thin wooded buffers in several areas of the park. This is especially true along the Federal Line Trail, which is hemmed in from the east by the Forest Walk subdivision and from the west by the Lake Wilderness subdivision. Subdivision entrance roads branch off Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road. At the entrance to the Fawn Lake subdivision on Orange Plank Road, a large, conspicuous brick wall and gate structure stands directly opposite the southern entrance of Hill-Ewell Drive. Other adjacent land uses include privately-owned farms as well as woods and fields that have been conserved by park partners or remain open for development. (CLR 2021: 304)

Adjacent Lands Graphic:



Subdivision houses in the core of the battlefield between the Confederate and Union lines, looking east from Hill-Ewell Drive. The sign in the middle ground, known as a tablet, marks the Confederate trenches (earthworks) of Hill's Corps. (SUNY ESF, 2018)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (NMP) was established by Congress on February 14, 1927 (44 Stat. 1091), under the name Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park. It was transferred from the War Department to the NPS on August 10, 1933.

The National Military Park was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. National Register documentation for the park was approved on May 23, 1978 under the name Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park and Cemetery. The documentation identified significance under Criterion A in the area of Military and Criterion C in the area of Architecture for 23 resources associated with the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. The period of significance was listed as 1700–1899, with a specific span of dates from December 1862 to May 1864. The documentation described the Wilderness Battlefield, as well as the following features within the current battlefield boundary: Confederate and Federal earthworks and the Widow Tapp Farm (Ruins) Site.

The national military park was also identified in the National Register Multiple Property Nomination, “The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources” (076-5168). The documentation was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register on February 18, 2000. 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. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP was identified under the battlefields and earthworks property types under Criterion A for its association with the history of the Civil War in Virginia, Criterion B for its association with noted soldiers or civilians, Criterion C for its notable and intact examples of military engineering or architecture, and Criterion D for its potential to enhance an understanding of military events based on archeological remains. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along principal transportation routes. The Battle of Wilderness was described as part of the Overland Campaign (May and June 1864).

On September 2, 2010, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (SHPO) conducted a preliminary review of a February 2010 update of the park’s National Register documentation and agreed with its proposed boundaries and list of contributing and noncontributing resources. However, in a letter dated March 9, 2011, the SHPO provided additional comments on the draft and recommended extending the end date of the proposed overall period of significance from 1959 to 1965. Extending the end date, and also revising the historic context “Architecture and Landscape Architecture of the Middle Peninsula (1768-1959),” would recognize post-Civil War resources with architectural significance. Extending the end date would also recognize the monuments and other improvements in the park that resulted from the commemoration of the Civil War Centennial that ended in 1965. The SHPO suggested changing the draft’s evaluation of post-Civil War buildings and sites from noncontributing to contributing throughout the nomination and re-evaluating the SHPO’s previous evaluations of post-Civil War resource ineligibility, where relevant.

On May 23, 2019 the Keeper approved an update to the park’s National Register documentation, which accounted for all resources acquired through boundary changes, or that gained significance since the 1978 documentation was completed, including the Civil War centennial and Mission 66 park development. The documentation identified significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation, Health/Medicine, Military, and Other: Commemoration; Criterion B for Ambrose Burnside, Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph Hooker, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and George Meade; Criterion C in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and Criterion D in Archeology: Historic–Non-Aboriginal. The property also meets

Criteria Considerations D (cemeteries) and F (commemorative properties). The period of significance was listed as 1768-1965, the construction date for Chatham Manor to the 50-year cutoff date for National Register significance and the 100th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Among the significant dates noted in the documentation were the April 27–May 6, 1863, the Battle of Chancellorsville, and May 5-7, 1864, the Battle of the Wilderness.

For the Wilderness Battlefield property, the 2019 documentation identified the following contributing resources: buildings [Wilderness Maintenance Building]; structures [A.P. Hill's Works, Culpeper Mine Road (Flat Run Road), Early's Works, Ewell's Works, Federal Line, Federal Lunettes, Federal VI Corps Works, Germanna Plank Road Trace, Hancock's Works (Grant's Left Flank), Higgerson Farm House Lane, Hill-Ewell Drive (and bridges, tree rings, culverts, lined ditches), Jackson Trail (portion), Old Orange Turnpike Trace, Orange Plank Road Trace, Sedgwick's Works (Culpeper Mine Road Works), Wilderness Maintenance Road, Wilderness Visitor Kiosk]; sites [Chewning House Site, Higgerson Farm Ruins, Widow Tapp Ruins Site, Wilderness Battlefield, Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site]; and objects [12th New Jersey Regiment Monument, Battlefield ID Tablets, Battle of The Wilderness UDC Marker, Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument, Colonel James D. Nance Monument, Earthworks ID Tablets, General Alexander Hays Monument (and fence), House Site ID Tablets, Road ID Tablets, Lee-to-the-Rear Stone, "Lee to The Rear" Texans Monument, Texas Brigade Monument). Non contributing features included: the 140th New York Infantry Monument, Fawn Lake Subdivision Entrance Gate, Gilder Marker, Middlebrook House (and Storage Shed), Middlebrook Marker, and Vermont Brigade Monument. Note: Resources evaluated in the 2019 National Register associated with Ellwood – Barnyard Road, Cemetery, Entrance Road Trace, Equipment Shelter, Farm Office, Garage, Lacy House, and Stonewall Jackson's Arm Monument – are discussed in the Ellwood CLI.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance for the Wilderness Battlefield landscape are consistent with the overall areas and periods of significance identified in the approved May 2019 National Register documentation. Although the documentation adequately describes the site's numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance, several important resources are not addressed. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Wilderness Battlefield is considered "Entered-Inadequately Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/27/2022

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on September 27, 2022. In the letter sent to the SHPO for concurrence, the start date of the period of significance was mistakenly reported as 1864 instead of 1863.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park:
The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park Historic District is significant at the national level under National Register Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Military, Other (Commemoration),

Conservation, Health/Medicine, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Archeology (Historic–Non-Aboriginal). The four battlefield units – Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville, and Wilderness – and three discontiguous sites – Ellwood, Jackson Death Site, and Chatham – that constitute Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park derive their primary significance as the site of military activity during the American Civil War from 1862-1864. The park's overall period of significance is 1768-1965, beginning with of construction of Chatham and ending with the Civil War Centennial and completion of associated commemoration efforts within the park.

Wilderness Battlefield:
Wilderness Battlefield is significant under all four National Register criteria in the areas of Military, Other (Commemoration), Conservation, Health/Medicine, Landscape Architecture, and Archeology (Historic, Non-Aboriginal). The period of significance for the battlefield is 1863-1964, from the Battles of Chancellorsville and Mine Run (1863) and Battle of the Wilderness (1864) to completion of the visitor kiosk in time for the battle centennial. The areas of significance are described below.

Note: "Segregation in Virginia's National Parks, 1916-1965" is a study recently completed through a collaborative effort by the NPS Northeast, National Capital, and Southeast Regions. This new research was not available at the time the CLI was completed. Future CLI updates will incorporate pertinent findings of this research related to the Wilderness Battlefield landscape.

CRITERION A

Military History (1863-1864):
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Military History as the site of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5–7, 1864, as well as its earlier role in the battles of Chancellorsville (May 1–3, 1863) and Mine Run (November 27–December 2, 1863). The densely wooded area west of Fredericksburg, called the "Wilderness," was the first battle of the larger Overland Campaign (May 4–June 24, 1864), Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's major push to defeat General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate army in the field. Both armies suffered heavy casualties, nearly 29,000 in total, a harbinger of a war of attrition by Grant against Lee's army and, eventually, the Confederate capital of Richmond. The battle was tactically inconclusive, as Grant disengaged and continued his offensive. The Wilderness Battlefield's military significance is conveyed today by earthworks, building sites, roads, a trail, and patterns of field and forest that date to the Civil War. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 86; Wikipedia: Battle of the Wilderness; CLR 2021: 353)

Grant attempted to move quickly through the dense underbrush of the Wilderness, but Lee launched two of his corps on parallel roads to intercept him. On the morning of May 5, the Union V Corps under Major General Gouverneur K. Warren attacked the Confederate Second Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell, on the Orange Turnpike. That afternoon the Third Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General A.P. Hill, encountered Brigadier General George W. Getty's division (VI Corps) and Major General Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps on the Orange Plank Road. Fighting, which ended for the evening because of darkness, was fierce but inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the dense woods. (Wikipedia: Battle of the Wilderness)

At dawn on May 6, Hancock attacked along the Plank Road, driving Hill's Corps back in confusion, but the First Corps of Lieutenant General James Longstreet arrived in time to prevent the collapse of the Confederate right flank. Longstreet followed up with a surprise flanking attack from an unfinished railroad bed that drove Hancock's men back, but the momentum was lost when Longstreet was wounded by his own men. An evening attack by Brigadier General John B. Gordon against the Union right flank caused consternation at the Union headquarters, but the lines stabilized and fighting ceased. On May 7, Grant disengaged and moved to the southeast, intending to leave the Wilderness to interpose his army between Lee and Richmond, leading to the Battle of Todd's Tavern and Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. (Wikipedia: Battle of the Wilderness)

Prior to the Battle of Wilderness, two battles touched the Wilderness in 1863. The Battle of Chancellorsville,
which was part of a campaign that included the battles at Salem Church and 2nd Fredericksburg, raged in the eastern portions of the Wilderness in early May. The Battle of Mine Run, which included the Battle of Payne's Farm, was fought near its western edge in late November and early December. (CLR 2021: 1,62)

Commemoration (1891-1927):
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Commemoration for its association with the origin and evolution of the Civil War battlefield memorialization movement. Veterans and their families were largely responsible for creating these tangible reminders of the losses endured. The collection of monuments installed during the period of significance consists of representative examples of many typical Civil War monuments: simple small stone markers, funerary-type stone, gun monuments, obelisks, and statues on pedestals. At Wilderness, five memorial features were installed between 1891 and 1927: Battle of The Wilderness UDC Marker; Colonel James D. Nance Monument; General Alexander Hays Monument; Lee-to-the-Rear Stone; and the “Lee to The Rear” Texans Monument. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 105-106)

The 1927 enabling legislation that established the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park authorized the federal government to mark historic points on the park lands but also included a provision for the continued erection of commemorative objects by others. Three memorials were installed at Wilderness between 1927 and 1965: 12th New Jersey Regiment Monument; Texas Brigade Monument; and the Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 112-114)

Conservation (1927-1964):
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Conservation for its inclusion in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, one of several national military parks created during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity between the two World Wars. Local movements to preserve portions of the battlefields through land acquisition met with little success in the years immediately following the Civil War, despite the fact that in the 1890s battlefield preservation efforts at the federal level resulted in the creation of the country’s first four national military parks, all at Civil War sites, under the management of the US War Department. These designations prompted a flood of petitions in the early 1900s requesting that Congress act to establish additional parks for other deserving American battlefields. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 116)

Revived efforts to create a national park at Fredericksburg finally came to fruition in 1927, just after Congress authorized a study of all the nation’s battlefields to assist in prioritizing the many petitions for creating national military parks and erecting memorials. The Army War College conducted the study over the next several years and devised a classification system for providing Congress with a list of battlefields ranked according to their relative importance. The Fredericksburg battlefields received national military park status while the study was underway, along with three other Civil War and two Revolutionary War sites. The subsequent development of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP, under the US War Department and later the NPS, contributed to the evolution of nationwide standards for battlefield preservation and interpretation. The War Department laid the foundation for the park through land acquisition and road construction, as well as construction of maintenance facilities. Two major periods of NPS development—the New Deal era (1933–1942) and the Mission 66 era (1956–1965)—created much of the current park landscape. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 116-124)

At Wilderness Battlefield, the New Deal’s Civilian Conservation Corps completed Hill-Ewell Drive and its bridges, culverts, lined ditches, and tree rings, as well as the Wilderness Maintenance Road. The CCC also restored trenches, removed debris and timber to restore open fields, and planted trees and shrubs to delineate the fields and screen views outside the park. The CCC installed small wood-frame visitor contact stations with interpretive features and landscaping at the park’s four battlefields in 1935–1936; the Wilderness station was built opposite the start of Hill-Ewell Drive on the Orange Turnpike. During the Mission 66 period, the contact station was removed and replaced with a visitor kiosk on Route 20 in 1963-1964, near the former entrance to the CCC camp. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 124,127,130)

Beginning in the 1940s, the NPS placed small metal plaques designed by the War Department throughout the park: Road ID Tablets identifying the military park roads, Earthworks ID Tablets identifying battle line trenches and lunettes, House Site ID Tablets marking historic house sites, and Battlefield ID Tablets marking important battlefield positions and sites of military interest. All four types of tablets are present at Wilderness Battlefield. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 116,125,128,130)

Health and Medicine (1863):

Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Health and Medicine for its associations with development of Civil War-era field hospitals and the important role that women assumed in their operation. Injured, ailing, and dying men filled innumerable field hospitals established in houses, barns, or tents near the surrounding battlefields. Troops commandeered houses for use as field hospitals, some of which remain extant. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 103)

During and after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, Wilderness Tavern (Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site) was one of the locations of a Confederate field hospital, as was nearby Ellwood (see Ellwood CLI). After being injured by friendly fire at Chancellorsville, General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was brought to a field hospital near the Wilderness Tavern, where his injured arm was amputated. The arm was later buried in Ellwood Cemetery. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 104; CLR 2021: 353)

One of the women who worked for a time at the Chatham Union field hospital in 1862 was Clara Barton (1821–1912), who with Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (1832–1919) was instrumental in expanding the role of women as nurses and doctors during the Civil War and representing civilian relief efforts. Barton returned to Fredericksburg in 1864 to attend to the wounded from the Spotsylvania Court House and Wilderness battles. Barton later founded the American Red Cross. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 104-105)

CRITERION B

Military History:
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Military History for its associations with defining moments in the military careers of the principal commanders of the opposing forces during the early stages of the Civil War and the beginning of the 1864 Overland Campaign, including Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885), Major General George G. Meade (1815–1872), General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870), and General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863).

The battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House marked the first of Grant's tenure as commander in chief of the Union armies. Grant accompanied Meade's Army of the Potomac on the Overland Campaign through Virginia in May 1864, which was designed to entice Lee into a decisive battle and take the Confederate capital at Richmond. Lee was the Confederate army commander during the series of bloody battles of Grant's Overland Campaign in 1864, where he succeeded in preventing the capture of Richmond. Jackson had his left arm amputated at a field hospital just north of the Wilderness Tavern in May 1863 after being mortally wounded by friendly fire. Jackson's amputated arm was buried in the Lacy family cemetery at Ellwood (see Ellwood CLI). (NR 2019, Sec.8: 133-138)

CRITERION C

Landscape Architecture (1930-1942):
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Landscape Architecture for the designed landscape layers that the US War Department and NPS superimposed on the battlefields of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP from 1930 to 1942. The landscape comprises representative examples of early national military and historical park design, as well as of Great Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planning and site improvement implementation. The roads designed and constructed during this period, including Hill-Ewell Drive at the Wilderness, and the numerous stone culverts, bridges, lined ditches, and tree rings associated with these roads are characterized by the curvilinear geometries, natural materials, and rustic detailing that are hallmarks of 1930s' national park design. The existing landscape continues to convey the initial design intent of the War Department and the National Park Service and reflects a successful application of the master planning process developed by the National Park Service during the 1930s and 1940s. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 156)

Park officials from the Branch of Plans and Designs worked with the Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings to develop the first master plan for Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP, approved by Director Arno B. Cammerer in 1936. Planners and designers, engineers, foresters, and historians collaborated on the placement of roads and trails and the restoration of trenches according to the established NPS concepts of naturalistic landscape design that emphasized visual and cultural harmonization. They overlaid their plans on existing circulation routes and the infrastructure foundation established by the War Department during the park's initial development, revising the designs for proposed as well as completed roadways. (NR

2019, Sec.8: 157)

In general, the War Department and Park Service planners created serpentine roadways designed to lead visitors to historical points of interest, frame scenic or important historic vistas, minimize cut and fill, and avoid steep grades and sharp turns. CCC laborers carefully landscaped the road banks in a naturalistic style and constructed stone or stone-faced culverts, bridges, and gutters from local, rough-hewn materials. Engineers also attempted to avoid large trees along the routes and incorporated stone tree rings where necessary to protect trees close to the roadway. To ensure a consistent appearance, park planners used the standard designs and detailed construction guidelines for stonework produced by the Branch of Plans and Designs. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 157-158)

The preservation of Civil War fortifications and access to them guided the landscaping plans for the park. CCC crews seeded and sodded trenches and thinned and planted trees. At the recommendation of a Park Service forester, the Eastern Division of Plans and Designs prepared planting plans intended to reverse some of the extensive tree thinning done by the War Department. Those earthworks close to roads required clearing but were covered with vegetation to prevent erosion. (NR 2019, Sec.8: 158)

CRITERION D

Archeology: Historic – Non-Aboriginal
Wilderness Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Archelogy (Historic-Non-Aboriginal) for the information it has yielded and has the potential to yield about the history of the Civil War. The property also possesses significance at the state and local levels for sites that have or may reveal information about the agrarian and industrial economy of antebellum Virginia. Evaluation of archeological resources is beyond the scope of this CLI, and as such only contributing resources that are discussed in the National Register are referenced. At Wilderness Battlefield, the contributing archeological sites include the Wilderness Tavern Site, Widow Tapp Ruins Site, Chewning House Site, and Higgerson Farm Ruins. The tavern was used as a field hospital during the war. Because of their roles in the Battle of the Wilderness, these farms survive as known archeological resources, but their value is in their potential to provide meaningful data about the material culture, architectural, and landscape profiles of lower-class farm families in the rural agricultural community of western Spotsylvania County in particular and antebellum Virginia in general. For more information on Archeology, refer to the park's 2019 National Register documentation. (NR 2019, Sec.7: 66 and Sec.8: 163,173-174)

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

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

National Register Criteria Consideration:

F -- A commemorative property

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

Time Period: CE 1863 - CE 1964

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Ways of Life	Farming Communities	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Ways of Life	Industrial Life Of The Last Half Of The 19th Century	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Colonial Revival Landscape Design	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

Area of Significance Category: Health - Medicine

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park
NRIS ID:	66000046
Primary Certification Date:	05/23/2019
NRIS Name:	Fredericksburg ansylvania County Battlefields Memorial National d SpotMilitary Park
NRIS ID:	66000046
Primary Certification Date:	05/23/1978

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	111-0147
Name:	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park
Listed Date:	01/16/1973

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 1608	Inhabited	At the time of contact with Europeans in 1608, there is a thriving Siouan-speaking population of about 10,000 people that has trade and political relationships with other nations, on lands that would one day be known as Virginia.
CE 1624	Inhabited	A 1624 map indicates numerous Manahoac villages along the banks of the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers upstream of the Fall Line, including several north of the Wilderness.
CE 1714	Established	The earliest European settlement in the Wilderness, named Germanna, is organized by Alexander Spotswood.
CE 1714 - 1716	Built	Around this time, the Germanna Road (future Route 3) is built through the future Wilderness Battlefield.
CE 1721	Established	Spotsylvania County is established.
CE 1722 - 1725	Built	Between 1722-1725, several other roads converged with the Germanna Road in the Wilderness, including Thomas Carr's Road (present Brock Road) and Baylor's Mountain Road (part of current Orange Plank Road, Route 621).
CE 1734	Land Transfer	Orange County is formed from western part of Spotsylvania County; boundary with Spotsylvania County runs through future park.
CE 1771	Inhabited	Around this time, William and Churchill Jones arrive in the Wilderness at the invitation of Alexander Spotswood, son of the Governor, and spend a year living at the future site of the Wilderness Tavern planning their future settlement.
CE 1774 - 1776	Built	In the mid-1770s William and Churchill Jones establish plantations on land associated with Spotswood, naming them Ellwood and Woodville.
CE 1775	Built	The Wilderness Tavern is built around this time.
CE 1810 - 1820	Built	In 1810-1822, Orange Turnpike is built and then improved.
CE 1852	Built	Orange Plank Road and Germanna (Culpepper) Plank Road are built.
CE 1862	Military Operation	1st Battle of Fredericksburg, December 11–15, 1862.
CE 1862	Developed	Closed since 1847, the Catherine Furnace is reopened in 1862 to provide munitions for the Confederate army.
CE 1863	Military Operation	Ellwood is vacated prior to the Battle of Chancellorsville; the house serves as a Confederate field hospital during the battle.
CE 1863	Military Operation	Battle of Chancellorsville, which is part of a campaign that includes the battles at Salem Church and 2nd Fredericksburg, April 30-May 6, 1963.
CE 1863	Memorialized	Amputated arm of Confederate General T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson is buried in the Ellwood cemetery.
CE 1863	Military Operation	Battle of Mine Run, which includes the Battle of Payne's Farm, November 27-December 2, 1863.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1864	Military Operation	Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864. Ellwood serves as the headquarters of the Federal 5th Corps; grounds are used as camps and to move troops to the battle lines south and west; the Wilderness Tavern is destroyed.
CE 1865 - 1867	Established	Two cemeteries for the temporary interment of unknown remains established at Wilderness: one along the Orange Turnpike and the other along the Orange Plank Road, corresponding to the two fronts of the battle. Interments are removed by 1867.
CE 1866	Established	Fredericksburg National Cemetery opens on Willis Hill outside Fredericksburg.
CE 1877	Built	The rail line that was unfinished at the time of the war, is completed. There are three stops in the Wilderness.
CE 1891	Memorialized	The first permanent commemorative marker on the Wilderness battlefield is erected. It is a torpedo-shaped white quartz field stone at the site of the Texas brigade gravesites.
CE 1896 - 1899	Established	In 1896 supporters of a military park at Fredericksburg convince state to create the “Fredericksburg and Adjacent National Battlefields Memorial Park Association of Virginia.” The state legislation creates a “Battlefield Park Commission” that is given authorization to acquire land by condemnation, including nearly 7,000 acres in Spotsylvania and Orange Counties. In 1899 the commission identifies 3,880 acres at Wilderness battlefield.
CE 1903	Memorialized	Lee to the Rear Monument is erected.
CE 1903	Memorialized	A stone marker is placed in the Ellwood cemetery to mark the burial site of Stonewall Jackson’s arm.
CE 1905 - 1935	Memorialized	General Alexander Hays Monument is erected. An enclosure fence is added by 1935.
CE 1912	Memorialized	Colonel James D. Nance Monument is erected.
CE 1921	Altered	Around this time, the state improves the Orange Turnpike east of the Wilderness Run and the Germanna Road to its west into Route 3.
CE 1921	Military Operation	Military exercises are held by the Marines in and around Wilderness Battlefield.
CE 1921	Memorialized	The US Marines place a brass plaque on the 1903 Stonewall Jackson arm marker.
CE 1925	Built	The state complete reconstruction of the Orange Turnpike south of Route 3 as Route 20; the improvements included a new intersection with the Germanna Road west of the Wilderness Run.
CE 1925	Planned	A battlefield inspection team legislated by Congress studies the Fredericksburg area battlefields. The commission recommends establishing a national military park based on the Antietam system, at Fredericksburg, with four non-contiguous battlefield park units

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1927 - 1928	Established	In February 1927 Congress establishes the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park under the jurisdiction of the US War Department. The park is dedicated in October 28.
CE 1927	Memorialized	The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) erects a highway marker near Ewell's works on the south side of the Orange Turnpike.
CE 1928 - 1927	Altered	In ca.1928-1935, the state improves area roads with widened travel lanes, all-weather pavement, and several realignments.
CE 1930	Built	Plans are finalized for development of the national military park lands in the Wilderness in 1930. Improvements include two main trails, two primary entrances at the trail intersections with Route 20, and a sub-primary entrance at the Federal line trail intersection with Route 3.
CE 1931 - 1937	Built	Construction of Hill-Ewell Drive at Wilderness Battlefield is begun in 1931 and completed in 1937.
CE 1933	Land Transfer	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park is transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS).
CE 1933	Built	Development in the park is supported by three Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps. The camp at Wilderness is developed along Route 20 in what had been Saunders Field.
CE 1933 - 1940	Built	At Wilderness the CCC contributes to construction of roads and trails and their associated infrastructure; ranger and comfort stations; utility building; picnic and parking areas; landscaping and forest management; and earthwork restoration and stabilization.
CE 1936	Memorialized	Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument, is erected.
CE 1941	Abandoned	With the country's entry in World War II, work in the park halts, most picnic areas are closed, and trails are not maintained. The Wilderness CCC Camp closes.
CE 1942	Memorialized	The 12th New Jersey Regiment Monument is erected.
CE 1943	Demolished	The Army razes all buildings at the Wilderness CCC camp, except for the Utility Building.
CE 1943	Built	Jackson Trail West (drive) that extends through the southeast end of Wilderness Battlefield is completed in 1943 by Army troops who are stationed in the area and use the battlefields for practice.
CE 1950	Altered	In ca.1950 a new alignment of Route 20 at the intersection of Route 3 is built.
CE 1955	Planned	The park's master plan proposes eleven automobile tour stops at Wilderness heading west from Chancellorsville on Route 3 and then turning west onto Route 20.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1963	Planned	The Mission 66-era master plan for Wilderness, known as a General Development Plan, is finalized. Major objectives of the plan include eliminating all inholdings, discourage picnicking, interpret through self-guided tours beginning with visitor center exhibits, and “recreate the historic scene.”
CE 1963	Built	A new visitor orientation area (exhibit shelter) is built, replacing the CCC-era orientation area on Route 20. Parking and landscaping are also provided.
CE 1964	Memorialized	The 12th New Jersey marker is rededicated with a plaque, and the Texas Brigade monument is erected.
CE 1965 - 1969	Built	The NPS installs orientation compass discs throughout the park, including two at Wilderness. In subsequent years reproduction artillery—cannons and limbers (shell wagons)—are added.
CE 1967	Platted	The plat for the 4,000-lot Lake of the Woods subdivision on the antebellum Orange Grove plantation north of the park is recorded.
CE 1968	Altered	By 1968, the state completes a right-of-way expansion of Route 3 through Wilderness. The project keeps the highway to two lanes, widens the pavement and shoulders, and retains the realignment to Route 20 built in ca. 1950.
CE 1968	Planned	Although the park’s 1968 master plan still focuses on acquiring narrow strips of land, it also proposes acquiring the core of Ellwood with the Lacy house, and the site of Grant’s Headquarters where the park plans to begin visitor tours of the Wilderness.
CE 1969	Platted	The 1,200-lot Lake Wilderness subdivision is platted in two separate tracts: on portions of the Ellwood property and portions of the former Catharine Furnace Company land.
CE 1969	Platted	The Forest Walk subdivision is platted near Federal Line Trail, consisting of a single unpaved road lined by ten-acre residential lots.
CE 1970 - 1979	Maintained	Beginning in the 1970s, maintenance of the Wilderness trails is helped by the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and Boy Scouts.
CE 1973	Altered	The state’s widening of Route 3 into a divided four-lane highway extends just past the Route 20 intersection, but stops short of the park land at the crossing of Sedgwick’s Line.
CE 1973	Purchased/Sold	The park acquired the Lacy house and more of the Ellwood clearing than had been planned.
CE 1974	Planned	New and expanded park boundaries are approved by Congress in 1974, which abandons the Antietam system plan and calls for acquisition of entire tracts of battlefield, rather than narrow strips.
CE 1975 - 1999	Platted	A subdivision, later named Fawn Lake, is begun in south of Orange Plank Road and west of Longstreet Drive. In the 1990s, the development is greatly expanded across 2,800 acres of the antebellum Greenfield Plantation and uses Longstreet Drive for its main access.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1976	Developed	The park reopens the picnic area along Hill-Ewell Drive.
CE 1978	Purchased/Sold	The site of Wilderness Tavern is acquired from the Link family. New development includes a small-pull off, two interpretive panels, split-rail fences, and a pavilion that shelters the ruins of the building, which was the antebellum tavern dependency (store) that burned after the park acquired the property.
CE 1982	Maintained	Beginning in 1982, the YCC helps clear brush from the earthworks.
CE 1982	Altered	The state completes its widening of Route 3 west and north to Germanna.
CE 1984	Restored	The park restores open conditions throughout much of Saunders Field.
CE 1989	Planned	Another expansion of park boundary is authorized in 1989, which incorporates about 475 acres of private land and 287 acres of already federally owned land into the park. The boundary also adds additional buffers to Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road.
CE 1989	Memorialized	The 140th New York Volunteers, a Zouave unit of Warren's 5th Corps, is erected.
CE 1998	Developed	Founding of the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield; Ellwood is opened to the public for the first time with the help of the Friends. A small, turf-covered parking lot is built and lined by Virginia worm fences.
CE 2006	Memorialized	The Vermont Brigade Monument is installed. The park builds a new ten-car parking lot along the south side of the Orange Plank Road to access a trail to it.
CE 2011	Memorialized	The Gilder Marker and the Middlebrook Marker are erected.
CE 2012	Built	The Wilderness Crossing Trail is built sometime after 2000.
CE 2021	Established	New Spotsylvania and Orange Counties boundary approved, affecting multiple properties in the Wilderness Battlefield area. The Ellwood tract is now entirely within Spotsylvania County.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. The text is extracted directly from the 2021 "Cultural Landscape Report for Wilderness Battlefield, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Spotsylvania and Orange Counties, Virginia: Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis and Evaluation," by John Auwaerter and James Mealey.

LANDSCAPE ORIGINS, TO 1800

Natural History:
The Battle of the Wilderness was fought on the Piedmont Plateau, a physiographic foothills region between the Virginia Tidewater on the east and the Blue Ridge Mountains (part of the Appalachian Mountain Range) on the west. The Piedmont was formed millions of years ago during the tectonic collisions that created the Appalachians. The force of these geologic processes resulted in a rippled expanse of metamorphic bedrock with deposits of gold and iron ore that would one day draw European prospectors into the region. About fifteen miles east of the Wilderness, the Piedmont transitioned to the Coastal Plain along a physiographic boundary known as the Fall Line. The name was derived from numerous waterfalls and rapids that occurred at the elevation change between the harder metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont and the sedimentary deposits of the Coastal Plain. (CLR 2021: 15-16)

Over hundreds of thousands of years, water flowing down from the Appalachians and across the Piedmont shaped the ground into vast networks of ravines and gullies. The Wilderness straddled two watersheds. The northern portion, mostly north of Orange Plank Road and west of Brock Road, emptied north into the Rapidan River, a main tributary of the Rappahannock River. Wilderness Run formed the main drainage through the battlefield. To the south and east, the land drained toward the York River through a network of tributaries of the Mattaponi River that included Brock Run south of Orange Plank Road. These waterways contributed to a water-rich landscape that supported diverse forest ecosystems, and also influenced later patterns of roads and farms. (CLR 2021: 16)

The Piedmont region was not scoured by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, which extended into southern Pennsylvania. At that time, Virginia was covered by a coniferous boreal forest dominated by spruce. As the glaciers retreated about 12,000 years ago, the warming climate enabled broadleaf hardwood species to dominate the Piedmont's forests. Oak and hickory thrived in the acidic soils and dominated upland plant communities, with lush understory of small trees and shrubs such as flowering dogwood, sassafras, mountain laurel, and hazelnut. This abundance of plants supported wide varieties of wildlife such as deer, bear, and turkeys. (CLR 2021: 16)

Humans were also an integral part of the Piedmont's forest ecosystem, having lived in the area for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans. They influenced the plant and animal communities by creating or using clearings in the forests for cultivating crops and attracting animals for hunting. Intentional woodland clearing techniques, along with natural fires, created savanna-like forest systems throughout the Piedmont. These landscapes were recorded in the vicinity of the Wilderness as late as the 1670s, although their exact location and extent is unknown. (CLR 2021: 17)

Manahoac People:
The Wilderness was once part of the homeland of the Siouan-speaking Manahoac Confederacy. The Manahoac, who lived primarily near the banks of the Rappahannock River, were allied with the Monacan Nation along the James River and other linguistically related tribes in the Piedmont. They developed long-standing tool-making, hunting, and agricultural traditions and established the practice of burying their dead in large mounds, which distinguished them from other groups outside of the Piedmont. (CLR 2021: 17-18)

The rivers of the Piedmont supported long-distance trade between Siouan speaking nations, including the powerful Powhatan Confederacy on the Atlantic coast. Trading was carried out in dugout canoes and on foot through networks of overland trails. Goods traded by the Siouan-speaking nations included copper mined from the western edge of the Piedmont and high quality locally abundant quartz stone. At the time of contact with Europeans in 1608, there was a thriving Siouan-speaking population of about 10,000 people that was actively engaged in complex trade and political relationships with other nations on lands that would one day be known as Virginia. (CLR 2021: 18)

During the seventeenth century, numerous Manahoac villages existed along the banks of the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers upstream of the Fall Line, including several north of the

Wilderness that were documented by English explorer John Smith (Figure 1). An agricultural people, Manahoac villagers often took advantage of the higher fertility of alluvial soil for growing traditional symbiotic crops such as corn, bean, squash, and tobacco. They used axes quarried from local stone and fire to clear patches of forest for agriculture. The forest edge created by these clearings also facilitated the domestication of wild grapes, sun flowers, and fruit trees. (CLR 2021: 18-19)

Following arrival of Europeans in the seventeenth century, the Manahoac people most likely relocated. War and disease diminished their population and forced them to join with other Siouan speaking nations to the south. By the time European explorer John Lederer traveled up the Rappahannock River in the late seventeenth century, he recorded no villages or encounters with members of the Manahoac. Instead, he noted only that savanna-like meadows punctuated the forest, suggesting sites where the Manahoac people had once lived and farmed. (CLR 2021: 19)

English Colonization and Settlement:
John Smith's 1608 expeditions along rivers and Native American trails were the start of European exploration and settlement in Virginia. Through the seventeenth century, the majority of European settlers remained near and east of the Fall Line, close to roads and navigable rivers. Settlement in the Piedmont was hampered by lack of good roads, isolation, and the threat of attack by Native Americans. The remoteness and sparsely-settled character of the portion of this frontier region south of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers probably gave rise to the area's identity as the Wilderness beginning in the early eighteenth century. (CLR 2021: 19)

The success of tobacco as an export commodity gradually encouraged territorial expansion in the Piedmont, as farmers sought out new fertile soils to grow this nutrient-depleting and labor-intensive crop. Others were drawn by the timber and mineral riches of the region. In 1714 the earliest European settlement in the Wilderness, named Germanna, was organized by Alexander Spotswood (ca.1676–1740), who capitalized on the discovery of bog iron near the Rapidan River and established a thriving iron mining and smelting industry, which required extensive timber resources. By 1722 Spotswood had amassed title to 28,000 acres east and south of the Rapidan River, including the future Wilderness Battlefield. He also built a grand Georgian-style mansion at Germanna, overlooking the Rapidan River. (CLR 2021: 19)

Between 1714 and 1716 a road was built to Germanna, which probably followed a path developed by the Manahoac people or the Germanna settlers, and led to a ford across the Rapidan River. The road generally corresponded to the alignment of present-day Route 3 (Figure 2). Its eastern terminus at the Rappahannock River below the Fall Line became the site of Fredericksburg (established in 1728). Several other roads converged with the Germanna Road in the Wilderness, including Thomas Carr's Road (present Brock Road) in ca. 1722 and Baylor's Mountain Road (part of current Orange Plank Road, Route 621) in ca. 1725. (CLR 2021: 20-21)

Settlement in the Wilderness:
The crossing of Germanna Road over Wilderness Run was known as Wilderness Bridge, a name that appeared on subsequent maps. Wilderness Bridge was within or adjacent to a clearing on property owned by Spotswood. The clearing may have been one of several agricultural operations on Spotswood's extensive land holdings, with houses, orchards, and fenced enclosures. The clearing was probably on uplands above Wilderness Run, which had productive soils compared with surrounding areas of the Wilderness that were infertile and too hilly for farming. Within the clearing on a rise north and east of the bridge, where the Wilderness Tavern would later be built, were several buildings purportedly built by Spotswood. (CLR 2021: 22)

The land outside of the Wilderness Bridge clearing within the existing limits of the future park was probably still partially forested in 1770. Large portions of the forest had probably been cleared since the early eighteenth century for tobacco farming or to supply fuel for Spotswood's iron and smelting operations, resulting in second-growth woods. By the 1770s, the iron industry would have consumed large areas of timber generally east of Wilderness Run during its more than five decades of operation in the region. (CLR 2021: 23)

Ellwood and Woodville.

The core of the Wilderness was settled in the last quarter of the eighteenth century by William and Churchill Jones, who established two plantations, Ellwood and Woodville, north and south of Wilderness Bridge near the site of the old Spotswood clearing (Figure 3). The brothers first arrived in the early 1770s and stayed in one of the aforementioned Spotswood buildings, and within a few years began leasing lands from Spotswood. By the late 1770s the brothers had built houses on each property and planted fields in timothy, oats, and probably wheat and tobacco. There were most likely cabins for enslaved people, who provide the workforce needed to improve and operate the plantation. In the late 1780s and late 1790s the brothers each built new homes at Woodville and Ellwood, respectively. (CLR 2021: 24-26)

Other Early Settlement in the Wilderness.
Although the Wilderness was a lightly-settled district through the eighteenth century, it was along two main thoroughfares to markets in Fredericksburg—Germanna Road, also known as Culpeper Road, and Baylor's Mountain Road, which became known as the Road to Orange (Orange Court House). Germanna Road was the more heavily settled road, with Germanna anchoring the north end and widely-spaced taverns, churches, and plantations along the stretch to Fredericksburg. One of the first taverns may have been the Wilderness Tavern that was opened in ca. 1775, along the south side of Germanna Road within the Spotswood clearing near Ellwood and the Wilderness Bridge (see Figure 3). (CLR 2021: 27)

The Spotswood family remained the dominant landowners along Germanna Road into the late eighteenth century. In ca. 1773, around the time the Jones brothers were establishing their plantations, John Spotswood, a grandson of the Governor, established a plantation known as Orange Grove, which was the neighbor of Ellwood to the north and Woodville to the west. The Orange Grove house was on the west side of Germanna Road and south of Flat Run near the present entrance to the Lake of the Woods subdivision (see Figure 3). At the time of Spotswood's death in 1801, Orange Grove contained about 2,500 acres and had a workforce of twenty-one enslaved people. The southern part of the plantation, including Flat Run and the northern portions of the existing Wilderness Battlefield boundary, was known as the "saw-mill tract," which contained about 1,200 acres. (CLR 2021: 28)

At the western extent of the Wilderness was Locust Grove, a 168-acre plantation that Thomas Robinson purchased from Alexander Spotswood in 1791. At the southern extent of the Wilderness in western Spotsylvania County, including part of the existing Fawn Lake subdivision, was Greenfield, the plantation of Edward and Elizabeth Herndon (see Figure 3). (CLR 2021: 28)

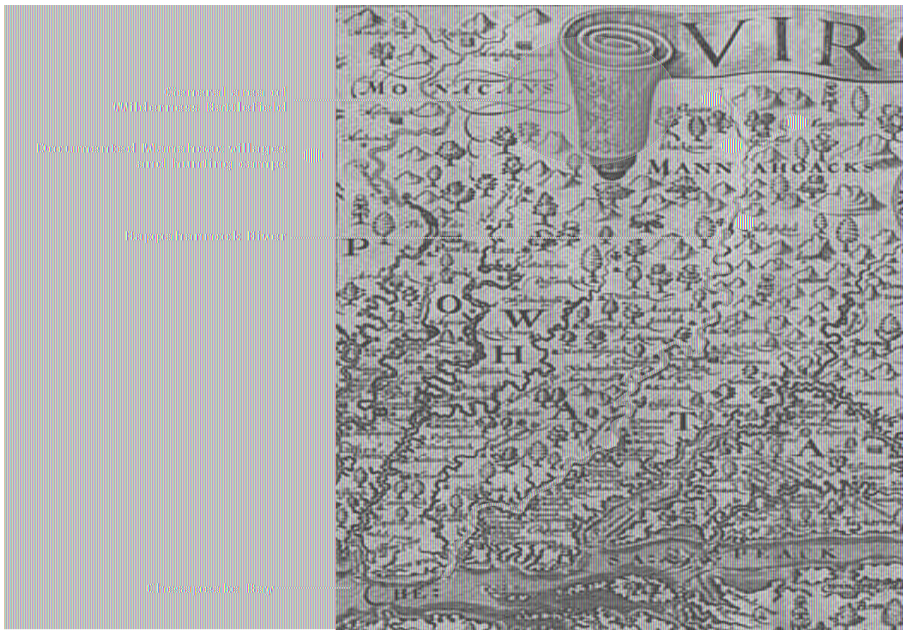


Figure 1. Detail of a 1624 map of the landscape recorded by John Smith on his expedition through Virginia showing the homeland of the Manahoac people centered north of the Wilderness battlefield. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.5)

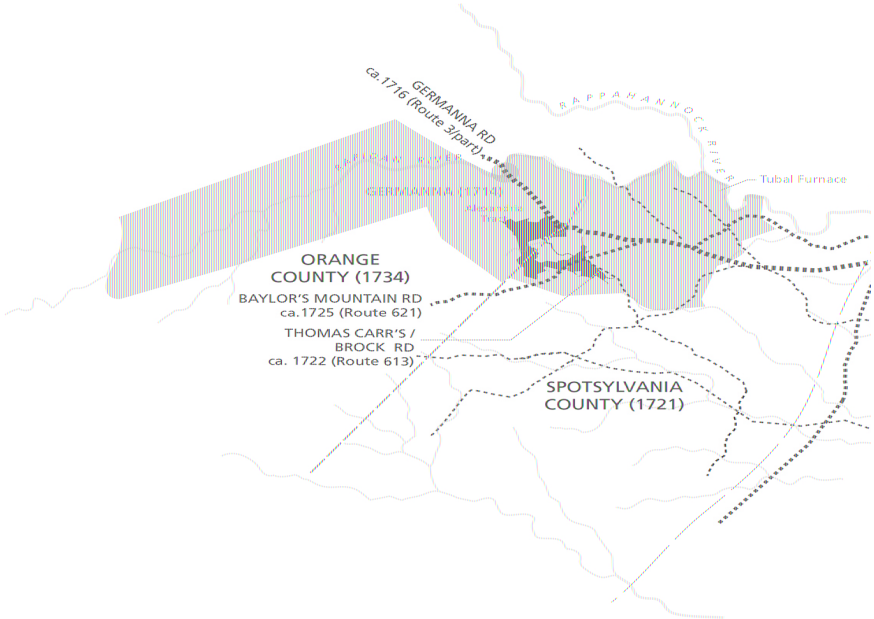


Figure 2. Map showing roads, county lines, Spotswood land holdings, and towns in the mid-eighteenth century in relation to the current site of Wilderness Battlefield. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.6)

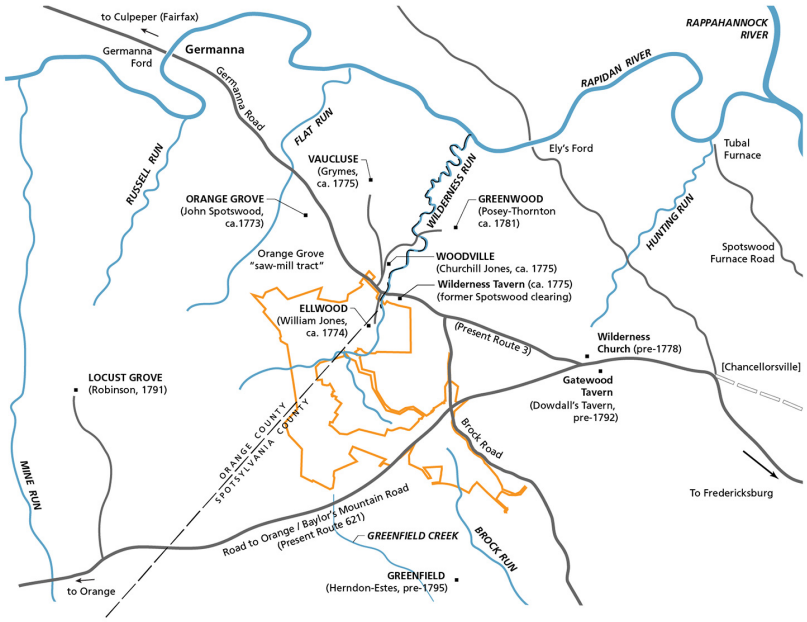


Figure 3. Map of the Wilderness showing approximate location of natural features, roads, and known settlement to ca. 1800. The orange lines indicate the existing boundaries of Wilderness Battlefield. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.9)

ANTEBELLUM PERIOD, 1800–1861

Roads:
Wilderness remained a sparsely settled region with little industry or commerce during the first half of the nineteenth century, but was crossed by roads that connected the growing and more prosperous areas of Virginia to the west with established market towns in the Tidewater to the east. The importance of these routes resulted in construction of three improved roads and the beginnings of a railroad during the antebellum decades. They included Orange Turnpike in 1810/1822, and Orange Plank Road and Germanna (Culpepper) Plank Road in 1852 (Figure 4). (CLR 2021: 32)

Plantation owners and farmers relied on the Orange Turnpike to get their products to markets in Fredericksburg and Culpeper. The turnpike company, however, was not able to maintain the entire road in good condition. With the availability of water- and steam-powered mills that could mass-produce wood planks, the practice of paving an entire road with wood became practical by the 1840s, financed by state-chartered, private companies that charged tolls to cover the cost of construction and maintenance. Known as plank roads, these roads were paved in heavy timber planks, each generally eight feet long and three or four inches thick, fastened on wood stringers. (CLR 2021: 33-34)

While plank roads remained popular prior to the Civil War, they faced increasing competition from railroads. Rails were developed nation-wide beginning in the 1830s, but construction of a route along the Orange Turnpike and Orange Plank Road corridor did not occur until the early 1850s. By 1857, eighteen miles of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Railroad had been graded through the Wilderness parallel and south of the Orange Plank Road. However, the construction company failed, leaving just the graded bed complete to a point near Parker's Store, southwest of Ellwood (see Figure 4). (CLR 2021: 35)

Antebellum Wilderness Community:
By the eve of the Civil War, the Wilderness remained a loosely-knit rural community with Ellwood and Woodville at its core. There was no social or commercial center—individual buildings such as the Wilderness Tavern served as gathering places. While there were several smaller plantations and farms established during this period in and near the future national military park, along with several

gold mines, a blacksmith, stores, and a tannery, overall the Wilderness remained lightly developed. The rolling land, dense second-growth woods, web of creeks and small secondary roads, and confusing alignment of the main roads provided little clear organization to the landscape. (CLR 2021: 35)

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the center of Orange County shifted from the Germanna Road corridor southwest toward the county seat, Orange. This was due in part to the decline of Germanna and the influence of the Spotswood family, but also to the marginal agricultural lands of the Wilderness. As improved transportation and expanded national boundaries opened new fertile lands in the West, there was little additional agricultural settlement in the Wilderness, and the size of individual farms slowly decreased across the region. The median number of enslaved people per plantation also declined. (CLR 2021: 35)

Farm buildings in the Wilderness were typically clustered along a minor road off the main roads. The typical antebellum farm house was constructed of log or milled framing and occasionally brick, with exterior end chimneys, a gable roof, and clapboard siding. Typical outbuildings included a kitchen, barns, smoke houses for curing meat, a dairy, storage buildings, and in the case of larger farms and plantations, cabins for enslaved laborers. Livestock barns were not common as farmers generally favored open log stables. Trees that provided shade and blocked winds were maintained near buildings, and most farms had an orchard. These core areas of a farm were enclosed by fences with an ornamental character, such as whitewashed picket fences. Utilitarian wood fences such as cross-and-rail, Virginia stake and rail, or Virginia snake types often enclosed the surrounding fields. Most nineteenth century farms in the area focused on grain and livestock production, with some tobacco. Mainstay crops included corn, oats, potatoes, and hay. (CLR 2021: 35-36)

The only industry that rivaled the economic importance of agriculture in the Wilderness during the first half of the nineteenth century was mining, which had spurred initial settlement and industry during the early eighteenth century, but did not emerge again as a major economic activity until the 1820s. Gold mining began in the 1820s along the gold-pyrite belt that stretched southwest to northeast across the Wilderness west of Wilderness Run. In 1826, a large gold nugget was discovered at Ellwood. By 1836, there were seven gold mines operating, plus three more north of the Rapidan River (Figure 5). The operation of gold mines in the Wilderness led to construction or use of numerous minor roads through the woods of the region. Iron mining and manufacturing also was revived, but was concentrated to the east, near Chancellorsville. The largest operation was the Wellford's Fredericksburg Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company that acquired more than 4,600 acres, stretching east from the boundary of Ellwood to south of Chancellorsville. East of Brock Road, the company built a large iron smelting and manufacturing plant in 1837, known as Catharine Furnace. The company later took on this name. (CLR 2021: 36-37)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 37-52, for details regarding the Ellwood Plantation and places along the Orange Turnpike (Wilderness Tract, Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm); the Germanna Plank Road (Orange Grove, Woodville Plantation); and the Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Catharine Furnace Company Lands, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm, Carver-Hall Farm-Ellwood Jones Field, Brock Road Farms).

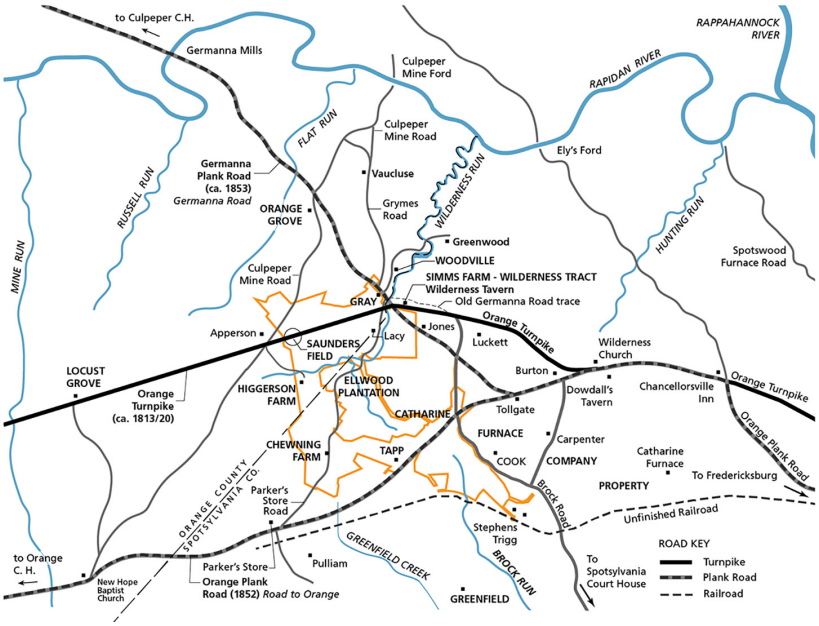


Figure 4. Map of the Wilderness showing approximate location of natural features, roads, mines, plantations, and farms to ca. 1861. Properties in bold uppercase are described in the CLR, section "Antebellum Wilderness Community." The orange lines indicate the existing boundaries of the national military park. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.13)

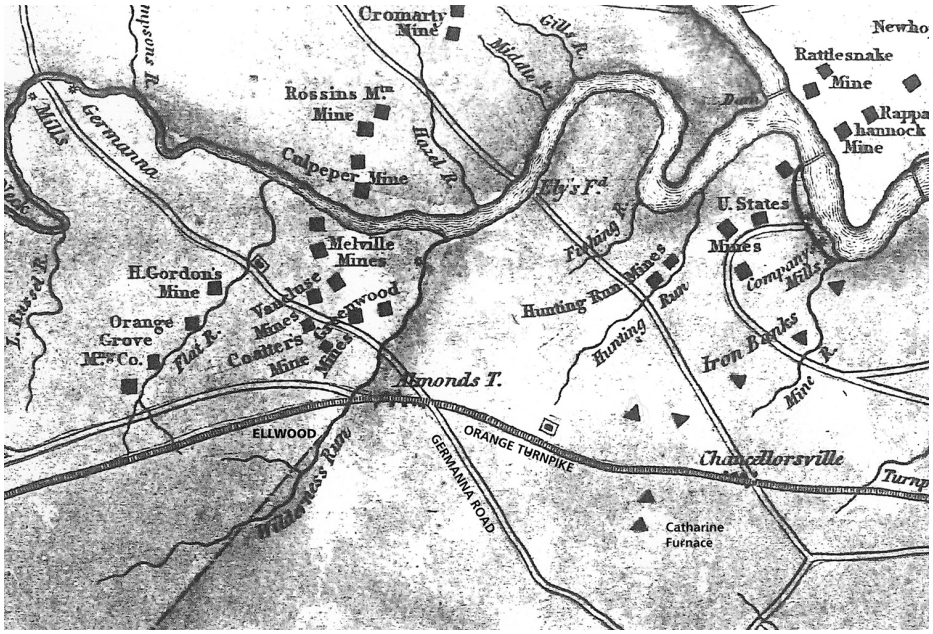


Figure 5. Map of gold (square) and iron (triangle) mines in the Wilderness and surrounding areas, 1836. "Almonds T." is Wilderness Tavern. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.16)

CIVIL WAR PERIOD, 1861–1865

Beginnings of War:
On April 12, 1861, the first fighting broke out at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor between the seceded slave-holding states of the new Confederate States of America and the US federal government. The fighting contributed to Virginians' decision to finally side with their fellow slave-based economies through a convention held on April 15 and ratified on May 23. (CLR 2021: 61)

The onset of the war caused economic upheaval in Spotsylvania and Orange counties. Most farmers left to fight for the Confederacy, leaving behind their families and their unplanted fields. Additionally, many enslaved people escaped bondage, some to fight for the Union, thus depleting the plantation economy's primary workforce. By 1863, once productive fields in the Wilderness were described as having "yielded to the jack-oak and pine-bushes." It was probably soon after the outbreak of the war that the plank road company went out of business, leaving no one to maintain its two highways—the Orange Plank Road and Germanna Plank Road. The tollgate at the intersection of the plank roads became a private residence. (CLR 2021: 61-62, citing Hadley 1898: 17)

Despite the war-time turmoil, some Wilderness farms continued on, including those headed by William Chewning, Benjamin Higgerson, and Widow Catherine Tapp. There was also one renewed economic activity in the Wilderness: the Confederate army's need for munitions created a new market for iron, which led to reopening of the Catharine Furnace east of Brock Road that had been shuttered since 1847. By January 1862, the furnace was back in production; new iron mines were being dug and the woods were again being logged to produce charcoal, perhaps into the company's lands that extended west to Ellwood. Since most enslaved people had fled, the company turned to employees and soldiers to work in the furnace as part of the war effort. (CLR 2021: 62)

Early in the war, the Union Army of the Potomac was planning for possible fighting throughout the region south of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. By November 1862, Army engineers had completed a map that documented roads and other major features on the eve of the outbreak of war in the area, which began with a Confederate victory at the first Battle of Fredericksburg, December 11–15, 1862. The map showed the Orange Turnpike (known as the "Old Turnpike" since its replacement by the Orange Plank Road in the 1850s), numerous mines, Wilderness Run, Parker's Store, the "Old Wilderness Tavern," and the nearby house of Widow Jones (Figure 6). These features would become landmarks in the fighting that enveloped the Wilderness over the next two years. (CLR 2021: 62)

Wilderness in the Campaigns of 1863 and 1864:
By the close of the Civil War, the Wilderness—halfway between the US capital at Washington, DC and the Confederate States of America capital at Richmond—had been ravaged. Between April 1863 and May 1864, the region witnessed two major battles, the Battle of Chancellorsville and the Battle of the Wilderness. Together with the Battle of Mine Run, a minor confrontation occurring in November 1863, these engagements displaced residents as farms were transformed into encampments and hospitals or destroyed in the front lines. Woods were cleared and burned, and earth was heaved up for defensive works and to bury the dead. (CLR 2021: 61)

The last of these engagements was the Wilderness's namesake battle that took place between May 5 and 7, 1864. It was the opening engagement of the Overland Campaign, headed by the new head of the US Army, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, in which the US Army of the Potomac fought a war of attrition against General Robert E. Lee's smaller CS Army of Northern Virginia. Hampered by fighting in limited open space and extensive tracts of dense woods, the Battle of the Wilderness resulted in a tactical stalemate and a strategic victory for the Union. The Union suffered 18,400 casualties, the Confederates 11,400—in total, it was the fifth costliest battle of the war. Despite this, the Battle of the Wilderness is recognized as an offensive success for Grant—he maneuvered around Lee and continued to advance south, bringing the Confederates to further battle. Just two days after fighting ceased in the Wilderness, the two armies clashed twelve miles to the southeast at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8–21, 1864. Less than a year later, Grant's strategy finally led to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. (CLR 2021: 61)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 62-82, for detailed narratives of battles in the Wilderness area.

War Effects on the Wilderness Community:
Although the overall rural and forested character of the Wilderness remained by the end of the Civil War in 1865, little of it was not impacted by the battles that raged in the region in 1863 and 1864. Perhaps one of the most telling photographs taken by visitors a year or two after the battle was from Wilderness Tavern looking out over the Ellwood clearing and crossroads of the Orange Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road: a landscape of desolation and ruin (Figure 7). In the woods that had become famous for their horrendous conditions, destruction and debris remained scattered, along with log breastworks burned or ruined from battle (Figure 8). Efforts to identify and reinter the remains in proper burial grounds did not begin until after the war. While much of the landscape was in ruins, some residents were restoring their farms by repairing buildings and fence lines, leveling defensive breastworks to return fields to cultivation, and removing detritus of war. (CLR 2021: 82)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 82-97, for details regarding the Ellwood Plantation and places along the Orange Turnpike (Wilderness Tract-Simms Farms, Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm); the Germanna Plank Road (Orange Grove, Woodville Plantation); and the Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Catharine Furnace Company Land, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm, Brock Road Farms).

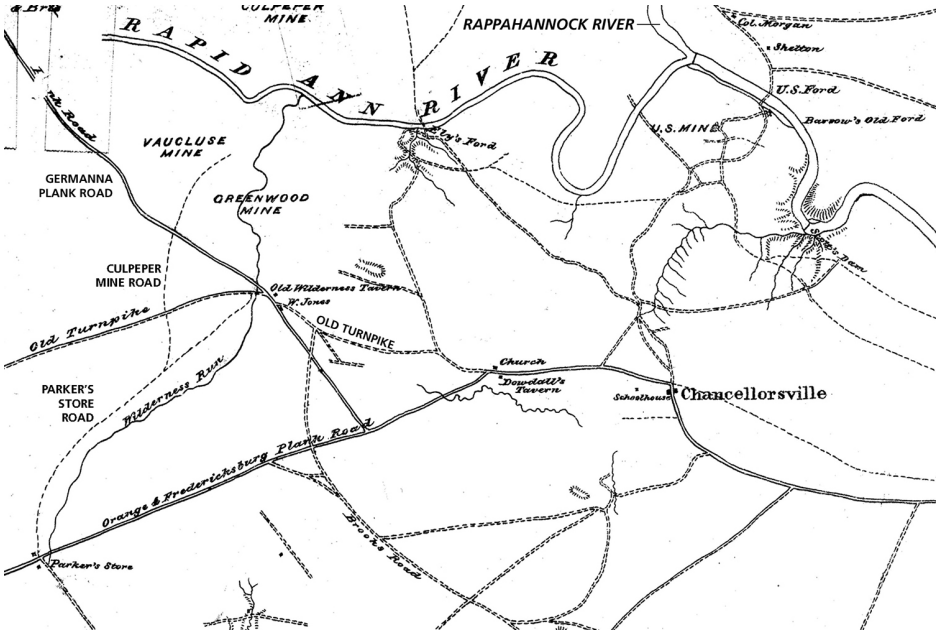


Figure 6. Detail of a Army map showing the region south of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers early in the Civil War, November 1862. (CLR 2021: fig. 1.31)



Figure 7. The ruins of Wilderness Tavern on right, looking west on the old Orange Turnpike (labeled as "27"), ca. 1866. The tavern was destroyed during or shortly after the battle. The surviving dependency across the road was part of the tavern property probably built as a store in 1855. The horizontal dark line in the middle ground is the Germanna Plank Road. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.53)



Figure 8. Woods along the Orange Plank Road showing log breastwork and extensive damage to the woods, ca. 1866. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.55)

POST-WAR PERIOD, 1865–1927

Aftermath and Interments:
After the end of the Civil War in April 1865 many areas of the Wilderness stood decimated. Growing food and repairing battle damage to buildings, roads, and fences were utmost concerns of local residents, many of whom were starving. Yet within a few years, the farms of the Wilderness were healing from the battle. (CLR 2021: 109-110)

In the process of rebuilding after the war, farmers leveled earthworks and cleared battle debris. Some soldiers' graves were also in the way of farmers' plows. For the US War Department, these graves and the thousands of skeletal remains that still lay where they had fallen presented one of the most pressing issues at the end of the war. Only a small percentage of casualties were buried and marked immediately after the battle, mainly near field hospitals such as at the Carpenter Farm on Herndon Road. However, without systematic identification protocols by either army, the vast majority of the uninterred remains could not be identified due to looting, destruction by fire, and more than a year of exposure to the elements that had destroyed clothing and personal effects. (CLR 2021: 110-111)

In June 1865, as troops were being sent home, the War Department—the federal executive department responsible for the United States military establishment—began the enormous task of recovering bodies from battlefields and temporary cemeteries across the East. The Union remains were moved to national cemeteries created as permanent places of interment and commemoration, including Fredericksburg National Cemetery built on Willis Hill outside Fredericksburg beginning in 1866. (CLR 2021: 111)

The initial federal search and interment effort in the Wilderness was underway in June 1865, supported by 500 soldiers from the 1st US Veteran Volunteers. The regiment established their camp at an abandoned gold mine at the northern part of the battlefield—presumably Woodville along Germanna Plank Road. Over the next several days, the burial regiment tramped through woods,

thickets, fields, and swamps collecting skulls and bones in their rucksacks, while burying soldiers in place where the bodies had not yet fully decomposed due to wet conditions. Those soldiers who were buried on the battlefield in the immediate aftermath were left in place and marked with a simple wood tablet as either known or unknown. Although the regiment was charged with burying Union remains, it also interred most Confederates they found. (CLR 2021: 111)

Since it would be another year before the permanent national cemetery in Fredericksburg could receive interments, the burial regiment established two cemeteries for the temporary interment of the unknown remains: one along the Orange Turnpike and the other along the Orange Plank Road, corresponding to the two fronts of the battle (Figure 9). The Orange Turnpike site, identified as "Wilderness National Cemetery No. 1," was located at the western edge of Saunders Field, on a rise just east of the line of Ewell's 2nd Corps. The Orange Plank Road site, identified as Wilderness Cemetery No. 2," was located on the south side of the road between the Tapp Farm and Brock Road. Despite their efforts that resulted in the interment of nearly 1,500 skeletons at Wilderness and other area battlefields, there remained hundreds of graves that were not marked, or were not identified due to being covered with leaves, weeds, and underbrush. (CLR 2021: 111-113)

After the federal search and burial effort, planning continued for the development of a permanent national cemetery. The Secretary of War decided upon a single national cemetery at Fredericksburg, and between 1866 and 1867, a new search and recovery effort reinterred Union remains from throughout the region's four battlefields to permanent resting places at Fredericksburg National Cemetery. All burials in the two Wilderness cemeteries and the many other graves scattered throughout the battlefield were reinterred at the national cemetery. For Confederate remains and some Union remains, the War Department returned them to families for burial in private cemeteries. Local women's groups also established two private cemeteries to inter Confederate remains. Human remains continued to be found on the Wilderness battlefield well into the twentieth century. (CLR 2021: 114-115)

Battlefield Commemoration and Preservation:
Throughout the post-battle period, the Wilderness battlefield stood little changed in overall character from the time of the battle, except for the forces of time and nature. Initially there were few efforts to permanently commemorate the battle or preserve the battlefield. This was in contrast to battlefields of Union victory such as Gettysburg, where a commemorative park was begun soon after the battle, and Chickamauga-Chattanooga and Vicksburg, where the first national military parks were established by the War Department in 1890. At these parks, land was set aside to preserve defensive works, battle lines were marked with scenic drives and often elaborate commemorative monuments, and the stories of battle action were emblazoned on bronze tablets. The Wilderness battlefield enjoyed none of these gestures, with a few minor exceptions. At the battlefields of Southern victory or stalemate in Spotsylvania and Orange counties, the War Department and Northern veteran groups that typically placed monuments, such as the Grand Army of the Republic, had little presence. The South generally did not have the means or motivation during this time to erect monuments, except to major heroes such as Stonewall Jackson. (CLR 2021: 115)

The Wilderness battlefield did not readily lend itself to creating a commemorative park. It remained almost entirely private land that had been abandoned or returned to farming. Many areas were still characterized by dense, second-growth woods that made access difficult, while one of the most important fields of battle—Saunders Field—had become overgrown and was disappearing into the surrounding woods. The two short-lived national cemeteries in the Wilderness were gone by 1867, although depressions from the emptied graves remained. (CLR 2021: 115-116)

Despite the lack of commemorative development, the Wilderness battlefield did receive some attention from veterans and tourists. Southerners paid special attention to Tapp Farm on the Orange Plank Road. In addition to being the site of the Texans' heroism in the famous "Lee to the Rear" incident, it was at the Tapp Farm where Lee had his headquarters, and where the Texas brigade arrived to save the Confederates from certain defeat on the morning of May 6. To supporters of the Confederacy, the fighting on May 6 along the Orange Plank Road illustrated how the South would have won the war had it the same number of forces and supplies as the Union. This view of the Civil War, remembered as the Lost Cause, was a key part of the growing sentiment among Southern

whites, including Confederate organizations such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), that their so-called War Between the States was a war of Northern aggression that the South had lost simply due to the North's size advantage. The Lost Cause tradition saw the Confederacy as a noble cause intended to preserve the South's way of life and promote the rights of states and individuals. Slavery was rejected as a cause of the war. Many Northerners acknowledged this tradition in the growing movement toward reconciliation of the Blue and Gray that began in the 1880s. The Lost Cause, along with the closely-related white supremacy and segregation movements, shaped commemoration by the North and South at the Fredericksburg-area battlefields during and well beyond the post-war period. (CLR 2021: 116; Zenzen 2011: 15,17)

Battlefield Tourism.
Formal commemoration on the battlefields of Orange and Spotsylvania counties was initially focused within Fredericksburg National Cemetery and the Confederate cemeteries, where headstones provided a lasting memory of the fallen, and monuments paid tribute to prominent individuals and collective sacrifices. Some returning veterans, families of the fallen, and tourists were not satisfied with just visiting the graves, but wanted to connect with the places where the battles had occurred; most did so as part of an itinerary that included Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Spotsylvania Court House battlefields. However, the Wilderness battlefield landscape had little to offer tourists unless they were already knowledgeable about the battle. There were few prominent fortifications and many traces were covered by woods, although upon closer inspection there were stark remains. (CLR 2021: 116-117)

The approach of the 25th anniversary of the battle in 1888 brought increased interest by veterans on both sides, who returned to walk the same roads and see the lonely woods where they had fought so brutally on May 5 and 6, 1864. Confederate veteran gatherings were held at Ellwood, a place that featured prominently in historical accounts of the battle. By this time a set tour route through the region's four battlefields had become established. (CLR 2021: 118)

Although not the typical tourists, 4,000 US Marines of the East Coast Expeditionary Force at Quantico, Virginia encamped at Wilderness battlefield in fall 1921. The Marines' exercises and encampment were concentrated in the fields south of the Orange Turnpike and Wilderness Tavern, within a portion of the antebellum Ellwood Plantation (Figure 10). The exercises, which were watched by thousands of visitors, included gunfire, surveillance by blimps and airplanes, and a visit by President Warren Harding. The training also commemorated the Civil War battle and was an opportunity for President Harding to support reconciliation. (CLR 2021: 119)

Monuments and Markers.
At the Wilderness and its nearby battlefields, earthworks were the primary markers of the battle, along with the damage and detritus that slowly disappeared in the decades after the war. Veterans had to rely on their memories, and tourists used guides and published accounts to recognize landmarks of the battle and sites of horror and bravery. The first permanent commemorative marker on the Wilderness battlefield was erected at the Tapp Farm, the focus of Southern commemoration, in 1891: a torpedo-shaped white quartz field stone at the site of the Texas brigade gravesites, now known as the Lee-to-the-Rear Stone (Figure 11). In 1903 privately-funded stone monuments with inscriptions were placed at sites of "lasting historic interest" at battlefields in Virginia, and two were selected at the Wilderness: the Lee to the Rear site and the burial site of Stonewall Jackson's arm at Ellwood. In 1905 a Northern monument dedicated in memory of General Alexander Hays, featuring an upright nine-foot-tall cannon tube mounted on a granite pedestal, was erected on the west side of Brock Road in the line of Union breastworks north of Orange Plank Road. In 1912 veterans of the 3rd Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, erected a gray granite marker across the Orange Plank Road and a bit east at the spot where their commander, Colonel James D. Nance, died. In 1921 the US Marines placed a brass plaque on the 1903 Stonewall Jackson arm marker. (CLR 2021: 120-123)

Battlefield Preservation and Park Proposals.
The 25th anniversary of the Civil War began a period of interest in the Wilderness and its companion Fredericksburg-area battlefields that would lead to proposals for creating a commemorative battlefield park. However, over the next four decades, there were just two small parcels at Wilderness battlefield that were set aside for commemorative purposes. These included the "Lee to the Rear"

site at the Tapp Farm, and the small plot around the Hays Memorial on Brock Road. (CLR 2021: 124)

In 1896 the Fredericksburg City Council pursued federal government acquisition of the four Fredericksburg-area battlefields for the purpose of commemoration and preservation. Supporters of this park proposal, which called for Congress to connect the four battlefields with "macadamized drive-ways," cited the need for quick action to preserve the threatened remnants of the battle. Park supporters in Fredericksburg felt that their battlefields were certainly worthy of similar recognition to Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Shiloh, and Gettysburg that the War Department had recently established as national military parks, and they soon convinced the state government to support their proposal. In 1896 Virginia passed legislation authorizing the creation of the "Fredericksburg and Adjacent National Battlefields Memorial Park Association of Virginia." (CLR 2021: 125)
"The object of this association is to mark and preserve the battlefields…together with the natural and artificial features, as far as possible, as they were at the time of said battles, by such memorial stones, tablets, or monuments as the generous people of the United States or the Government of the United States may see fit to erect to commemorate the valor displayed by the American soldiery on those bloody fields, and it may take such steps as it deems proper to induce the congress of the United States to do all the necessary work appertaining thereto." (CLR 2021: 125-126, from Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Session of 1897–98, cited in Happel 1955: 33)

The state legislation created a "Battlefield Park Commission" that was given authorization to acquire land by condemnation, including nearly 7,000 acres in Spotsylvania and Orange Counties. War Department representatives and engineers visited in June 1899 to review the boundaries of the park recommended by the park commission, which included 3,880 acres at Wilderness battlefield. The boundaries encompassed most of the Union and Confederate earthworks, from Germanna Plank Road (Route 3) on the north to Orange Plank Road and Brock Road on the south. The battle-era Higgerson and Tapp farmsteads were included in the boundaries, but not the Lacy house or Chewning farmstead. (CLR 2021: 126)

The Battlefield Park Commission proposal received support from both Union and Confederate veterans, and through World War I, successive bills for the park were introduced into Congress by Virginia's delegation. Financial considerations of developing and maintaining such a large and dispersed park ultimately defeated each of the bills. However, the Marines' training at the Wilderness in fall 1921 may have helped raise public awareness about preserving the battlefield. Beginning in 1924, bills were introduced in Congress for further studies that would eventually lead to a national military park for the Fredericksburg-area battlefields. (CLR 2021: 126-127)

Post-War Wilderness Community:
After the trauma and destruction of the battle, the Wilderness eventually returned to a quiet Piedmont farming community, unremarkable except for its battle scars. Although still heavily wooded, the region posed a bucolic scene that disappointed visitors hoping to see much more wild conditions. (CLR 2021: 127)

Agriculture, Industry, and Transportation.
During the post-war decades, there was little growth in Orange and Spotsylvania counties, but in the Wilderness, several new farms were developed from subdivisions of antebellum farms, or from new farm clearings. This was typical of the region south of the Rappahannock River, where the number of farms increased through the turn of the nineteenth century following a period of decline soon after the war. Corn, wheat, and hay remained the dominant crops, along with tobacco and livestock. Many farmers also continued to maintain orchards, a trend that probably increased after 1880 with advances in fruit growing. By the early twentieth century, production began to shift from grain and tobacco to dairy and vegetables. Farm landscapes changed with introduction of new products, such as barbed-wire fencing that became widely available in the late nineteenth century. The vast second-growth forests of the Wilderness continued to be an economic resource into the early twentieth century, primarily for low-grade wood for ties and pulp. Gold mining experienced a revival, particularly north of Woodville and Ellwood that was reactivated in the 1890s. (CLR 2021: 128)

The local timber industry benefitted from the completion of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Railroad, the unfinished railbed that had provided a key strategic route for Longstreet's attack on the

Union left flank on May 6, 1864. In 1872, the railroad laid eighteen miles of standard-gauge track from Fredericksburg west to Parker's Store in the Wilderness, where construction had stopped before the war. It was not until 1877 that the line, renamed the Potomac, Fredericksburg & Piedmont (PF&P) Railroad, was completed. The 38-mile stretch between Fredericksburg and Orange was rebuilt as a narrow gauge (three foot) line. There were three stops in the Wilderness: Brockroad, Stephens, and Parker (Parker's Store). After World War I, the PF&P struggled and was sold in 1925 to the Orange and Fredericksburg Railroad Company, which rebuilt the line in standard gauge and renamed it the Virginia Central Railway. (CLR 2021: 128)

Agriculture and timber industries in the region depended on good roads, but many were in disrepair during the post-war decades (Figure 12). With growing popularity of the automobiles in the early twentieth century, the State of Virginia began to develop a plan of improved highways. The state organized a highway department in 1906, and by 1918 major roads were designated as part of a state highway system. These included Route 37 (present Route 3, originally Route 7) between Fredericksburg and Culpeper and beyond, following portions of the old Orange Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road through the Wilderness. By 1921, the state had begun improvements to Route 3 that included a standard 18-foot width and a bypass of the old plank road-turnpike intersection that united the two antebellum roads into a continuous highway (see Figure 10). The bypass required a new bridge over Wilderness Run; the old Germanna Plank Road bridge to the south had been abandoned by this time. The old Orange Turnpike that headed west from Route 3 would not be improved into a state highway until later in the decade. (CLR 2021: 129-130)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 130-145, for details regarding the Ellwood Plantation (including Johnson-Jennings Farm, Tanner Farm) and places along the Orange Turnpike (Wilderness Tract-Payne/Link Farm, Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm); the Germanna Plank Road (Orange Grove, Woodville Plantation); and the Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Catharine Furnace Company Property, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm, Hall Farm-Former Jones Field, Brock Road Farms).



Figure 9. Wilderness National Cemetery No. 1 in Saunders Field, looking southwest, ca. 1865–1866. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.71)



Figure 10. The US Marines exercises and encampment, looking north over the old Orange Turnpike-Germanna Plank Road intersection, September 1921. The smoke and blimp are from the Marines exercises. Also visible is the newly built Route 37 (Route 3) bypass of the old intersection. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.77)



Figure 11. Confederate markers erected at and near the Tapp Farm: the quartz field stone placed in 1891 to mark the Texas Brigade gravesites, showing its current position on the ground (left); the so-called Smith marker installed in 1903 to commemorate the "Lee to the Rear" incident, ca. 1940 (center); and the Nance marker dedicated in 1912, ca. 1940 (right). (CLR 2021, fig. 1.79)



Figure 12. The Orange Turnpike looking west across Ellwood and the Wilderness Run from just beyond the site of Wilderness Tavern, ca.1897. The distant building to the left is Wilderness Chapel, in the cemetery subdivided from Ellwood in 1883. The building to the right is part of the ca.1880 Johnson-Jennings farmstead. The turnpike in the foreground still exists and is known as Lyons Lane. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.85)

EARLY PARK PERIOD, 1927–1945

Establishment of the National Military Park:
By the mid-1920s, the Fredericksburg area battlefield park movement had gained new support and interest in Congress, and three years later, bills were introduced into Congress calling for the inspection of the Fredericksburg area battlefields to determine the feasibility of "preserving and marking [them] for historical and professional military study." That the Wilderness was an important part of the Lost Cause narrative, which celebrated Southern glory and its traditional white society, was of little consequence in the context of national attitudes toward the Civil War that focused on reconciliation and commemorating valor on both sides. Despite this fact, the Lost Cause narrative did exert substantial influence on the development of the Wilderness park landscape. (CLR 2021: 158; Zenzen 2011: 35,39-40)

The battlefield inspection legislation, which was signed into law in June 1924, created a three-person commission to undertake the study of the battlefields. In December 1925, this preliminary park commission produced a report calling for the federal government to establish a national military park based on the Antietam system, a limited and more economical model for battlefield park development named after the Maryland battlefield. This plan addressed opponents' concerns about costs amid an increasing number of national military parks proposals across the South, but retained the idea of four non-contiguous battlefield park units that had been part of proposals going back to the 1890s. The Antietam model limited acquisition of park land to narrow strips along defensive lines where park drives and markers would be placed, and relied on private owners for the preservation of the larger battlefield that could be viewed from the park drives. (CLR 2021: 158)

The 1925 report estimated that the Antietam system proposal would require approximately 535 acres. At Wilderness, the commission recommended that the government acquire 150 acres, which encompassed strips of no more than 200 feet wide along the Federal and Confederate earthworks between the Orange Turnpike and Orange Plank Road. The House Committee on Military Affairs heard testimony on the commission's report in February 1926, and concluded with unanimous support for the park proposal. (CLR 2021: 159)

On February 14, 1927, President Calvin Coolidge signed legislation into law that established the new park, named Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park. The legislation gave administrative responsibility to the Secretary of War and park development responsibility to the Battlefields Memorial Park Commission, a three-person body comprised of a Confederate veteran, and Union veteran, and a regular army officer. The legislation called for the park's development based on the 1925 preliminary park proposal but did not delineate specific lands to be acquired, or limit the overall acreage. The Secretary of War was given authority to condemn lands for park development, and to acquire additional land
as deemed necessary. The law also provided for an initial appropriation to begin surveys and land acquisition. (CLR 2021: 159)

Three months after passage of the park legislation, the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) dedicated highway markers on mortared stone bases at five battlefields in
the Fredericksburg area, including the Wilderness. Founded in 1894, the UDC celebrated the Lost Cause tradition and focused its efforts on erecting Confederate memorials. The Wilderness marker was installed near Ewell's works on the south side of the Orange Turnpike, then being rebuilt by the state as Route 20. (CLR 2021: 159-160)

War Department Administration:
After Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park received its first federal appropriation in January 1928, the commission engaged the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to undertake a new survey of all breastworks and gun positions throughout the four battlefields to inform land acquisition, layout of park drives, and installation of markers. (CLR 2021: 160)

In October 1928, President Coolidge presided over a ceremony dedicating the new park. Within four years, the four-unit battlefield park included more than 2,100 acres—ribbons of park land that extended out from and along public roads. Park development generally began with road building,

which was underway by 1930, first at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, followed by the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. The Battlefields Memorial Park Commission and the War Department were assisted in land acquisition and development by local residents who formed The Battlefield Park Association in 1928, and a special committee of the association, the Battlefields Park Citizens Committee. (CLR 2021: 160-161)

Wilderness Battlefield Property Acquisition.
As the Army War College completed its surveys of the four battlefields, the park commissioners developed reports and several iterations of maps that identified property recommended for government acquisition in 1929-1930 (Figure 13). By March 1931, the War Department had funds for purchase of property at the Wilderness, but had not yet acquired any land due to inaccuracies in the survey of property boundaries. This was soon rectified, because by October 1931, the War Department had purchased 308.11 acres, received donations of 68.57 acres, and was in the process of condemning 166.64 acres. (CLR 2021: 162-163)

The Battlefields Memorial Park Commission developed a plan of standardized improvements for all four battlefield parks that included roads, trails, relief maps, and markers (tablets). Following the designs developed at earlier national military parks such as Gettysburg and Chickamauga, drives and trails were laid out along battle lines to both mark the lines and give visitors access to the battlefield. Plans for the park drives called for use of local stone for culvert headwalls, ditches, and bridges. The design for tablets, which identified troop positions, park drives, and key historic sites on the battlefields, featured rectangular cast metal signs set on low posts, painted black with silver on raised letters. (CLR 2021: 164)

By April 1930, the Commission had finalized its proposed improvements for the Wilderness, Chancellorsville, and Spotsylvania Court House: 18-foot wide oil-graveled roads with culverts; footpaths to provide access to defensive works not reached by roads; thinning woods and grubbing, and planting grass on the same area; planting shrubs and flowering plants with transplants or nursery donations; construction of primary entrances, park shed, and flagstaff; erection of woven-wood [worm] fences where the park passed through pasture; placement of “dummy guns and carriages” to mark important gun positions; and installation of large relief maps of the battlefield, bronze historical tablets, and bronze tablets to mark positions and lines. (CLR 2021: 164-165)

At the Wilderness, the planned improvements included two main trails, two primary entrances at the trail intersections with Route 20, and a sub-primary entrance at the Federal line trail intersection with Route 3. The primary entrance at the Federal line trail intersection with Route 20, designed with a park shed and a flagstaff in addition to the relief map, was probably intended to be the core of the park. This site was most likely chosen due to its central location, rather than to a bias toward the Federal side. (CLR 2021: 165)

The 1929 and 1930 development plans for Wilderness park did not show any proposed drives, perhaps because of limited funding initially allocated to the park, or perhaps out of a desire to maintain a more rustic, wild character to the landscape. This changed in early 1931 with a substantial Congressional appropriation that was part of President Herbert Hoover’s work-relief program. The money was dedicated to road construction at the park, and began with development of Lee Drive at the Fredericksburg battlefield. The Commission planned to build five park roads with an aggregate length of 11.58 miles at Wilderness (Figure 14). (CLR 2021: 165-166)

National Park Service Administration:
A campaign to transfer the War Department’s system of national military parks to the National Park Service (NPS) began in the 1920s and was based on an idea that the park service was better equipped to interpret history to the public than the War Department—an agency perceived as focusing on military instruction and memorialization. Historical interpretation was seen as becoming increasingly important as new generations of visitors had little direct connection to the Civil War. Bills for the transfer, which enjoyed War Department support on account of financial savings, were introduced in Congress in 1928 and 1932, but both failed. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s election in 1932 and his New Deal restructuring of the federal government changed prospects for the transfer. Instead of Congressional approval, the change was achieved through an Executive Order in early

1933. Administration of the park was transferred to NPS staff in the summer and fall of 1933, administered from offices in Fredericksburg The park service designated a superintendent to take over direct administration from the Battlefield Park Commission, with support by historians, foresters, landscape architects, and other professional staff at the park and in regional offices. (CLR 2021: 168-169)

Like the War Department, the NPS suffered from fiscal constraints related to the Great Depression, but enjoyed additional resources through New Deal work-relief programs established in 1933. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) provided funding for major construction such as permanent buildings and roads. The Emergency Conservation Work program—better known by the name of its labor force, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—provided the park with the labor and funding necessary to accomplish a wide array of landscape development work. The CCC established military-like corps of unemployed young men, who were stationed in camps set up by the Army at national and state parks and other reservations across the country. The Fredericksburg-area battlefield parks were supported by three CCC camps, with one located at Wilderness along Route 20 in what had been Saunders Field (Figure 15). It was initially designated MP-4 (Military Park) and later NP-24 (National Park). (CLR 2021: 169-170)

The Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House CCC camps were established as all-white camps, and Chancellorsville was designated the Black camp. Each camp facility was designed for about 200 enrollees, and included barracks, officer quarters, mess hall, recreation hall, hospital, shops, and a utility building. Over the next six years, the CCC enrollees provided most of the labor for development of the park landscape. They planted many trees, but also built trails, graded banks, cleared brush from earthworks, built picnic tables, railings, fences, and small buildings, cleared understory to reduce the risk of forest fires, and transplanted thousands of trees and shrubs. They also fashioned signs and wood furnishings, and received work-related training, including courses in landscape architecture and forestry. Other activities were planned to improve social and physical health. (CLR 2021: 170-171)

National Park Service Landscape Design and Interpretation.
For the first decade of its administration of the four Fredericksburg-area battlefields, the NPS completed much of the War Department plans for roads, relief maps, tablets, and other infrastructure, but also adopted a new approach to landscape design and interpretation. Rather than relying on markers and monuments to commemorate the battle as referenced in the 1927 park legislation, the park service relied on the landscape to tell the story of the battle. Under this approach, monuments, markers, roads, and other commemorative park features interfered with the ability to interpret the battlefield as it existed in May 1864—what the park service referred to as the “historic scene.” (CLR 2021: 171)

Park service designers implemented this policy through use of a rustic style that emphasized local materials such as woods and stone, and vernacular building traditions that recalled pioneer settlement. At the Wilderness, the 1864 battlefield became the equivalent of the natural environment in the big national parks—a landscape to which park infrastructure and other changes had to harmonize, to restore the so-called historic scene. (CLR 2021: 171)

On the Fredericksburg-area battlefields, this design approach was illustrated by the use of worm fences and vernacular wood buildings reminiscent of the rural antebellum landscape, and park furnishings such as guide rails and signs with unmilled timbers and dark stains that receded visually against the wooded, rural landscape. The philosophy of landscape harmonization was not, however, without deviation: War Department contemporary designs for roads, bridges, culverts, and tablets were completed as planned; mown banks and plantings were used to provide a more naturalistic and park-like appearance to the landscape. (CLR 2021: 171)

Wilderness Battlefield Park Development.
Through the 1930s, the NPS refined and expanded plans for the development of Wilderness Battlefield, not only to implement its program of landscape harmonization and historic scene restoration, but also to improve interpretation and visitor services. In addition to completing War Department-era plans, development included interpretive and directional signage, earthworks

preservation and restoration, a visitor contact station, parking areas, picnic grounds, and plantings, most of which were completed by the CCC. Planning culminated in a master plan in 1942 for the entire park. Although all of the land proposed for incorporation into the Wilderness by the War Department had been acquired by the federal government prior to the administrative transfer in 1933, park service planners proposed acquisition of several additional tracts in the master plan drawings, though none were realized prior to 1945. (CLR 2021: 171,173)

At Wilderness, the initial focus of the NPS was completing the park drives begun during War Department administration, which included construction of stone culvert headwalls, tree rings, and drainage gutters, and wood bollards and guardrails built by the CCC. The primary park road through Wilderness, Hill-Ewell Drive, was completed in 1937. The CCC also built new trails with stone steps and timber bridges. In 1935, a new visitor area with a ranger station, comfort stations, interpretive materials, and parking was built at the intersection of the Confederate line and Route 20 (Figure 16). Two picnic areas were built at the Wilderness by the CCC, each with four rustic picnic tables, a stone-faced poured-concrete barbecue, a gable-roofed firewood shelter, and two comfort stations. Both were located at scenic spots along streams. Much of the CCC's work at the Wilderness was also dedicated to improving the appearance of roadsides and adjacent woods through new plantings and management of existing vegetation (Figure 17). Lastly, the NPS and CCC worked on efforts to reestablish historic landscape features of the 1864 battlefield, including earthwork stabilization and restoration, and installations of plant screens and worm fencing (Figures 18 and 19). (CLR 2021: 175 -194)

The NPS retained the four commemorative works that existed within the Wilderness boundaries at the time of the transfer in 1933. Two additional memorials were erected during this period: Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument in 1936, and the 12th New Jersey Regiment Monument in 1942. Soon after taking over administration in 1933, the NPS erected simple, large white-painted signs where the park land intersected the public roads. By the 1930s, the NPS also erected rustic directional signs and switched from temporary wood identification and narrative tablets to permanent metal identification tablets. (CLR 2021: 195-198)

The Wartime Park.
Camp NP-24 at Wilderness and the entire CCC program was a casualty of war mobilization that began in earnest following President Roosevelt's declaration of a limited National Emergency in September 1939. US entry into World War II in December 1941 brought about additional constraints. For the park, work was curtailed, most picnic areas were closed, and trails were not maintained. However, the road named Jackson Trail West that extended through the southeast end of Wilderness Battlefield was completed in 1943 by Army troops who were stationed in the area and used the battlefields for practice. (CLR 2021: 200)

Camp NP-24 closed in April 1941, and in March 1942 the CCC program at the park ended and the remaining men transferred to Army service. In accordance with the Development Plan for Wilderness Battlefield, part of the park's 1942 master plan, the Army razed all buildings at the Wilderness camp in 1943, except for the Utility Building. The camp's removal was a minor change to the park landscape compared to extensive logging operations adjacent to park lands to meet the heated war-time market for timber. In many areas, there were just narrow strips of woods left along the park drives. (CLR 2021: 200-201)

The Wilderness Community:
Acquisition and development of park land caused or coincided with a number of changes in the Wilderness community that surrounded the national military park between the late 1920s and the end of World War II. Despite this, the overall patterns of isolated farm clearings within large expanses of forest remained little changed from prior to the park's establishment in 1927 until the advent of large-scale logging during World War II. (CLR 2021: 201)

Although still lightly developed, the Wilderness became less isolated during this period, not only through development of the national military park, but also due to the state's program of highway improvements. Most of the improved roads featured widened travel lanes and hardened, all-weather pavement (oiled gravel). Route 20, originally designated Route 374, was improved by ca. 1928 to

connect the recently improved Route 3 with Orange and Charlottesville to the west. The intersection with Route 3 was realigned to avoid the battle-era crossing of Wilderness Run by curving north along the west bank of the creek, through what was then the Jennings Farm within the antebellum limits of Ellwood Plantation. In 1932, Virginia passed the Byrd Road act, which brought almost all of the local public roads under state control and maintenance. Brock Road, designated Route 210 (presently 613), and Orange Plank Road, designated Route 621, were improved in ca. 1933, although the plank road did not receive a hardened, all-weather surface. The fourth improved state road was Route 667, which was the battle-era Grymes Road that was realigned in ca. 1935 to extend through the park property along Route 3 at the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail. Like the Orange Plank Road, it did not receive an improved all-weather surface. By the early 1940s, there was still an active gold mine north of park property on the old Vaucluse Mine Tract. (CLR 2021: 201)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 202-215, for details regarding the Ellwood Plantation (and Jennings and Tanner Farms), and places along Orange Turnpike (Wilderness Tract-Payne-Link Farm, Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm); Germanna Plank Road (Orange Grove, Woodville Plantation); and Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Catharine Furnace Company Property, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm-“Mount View,” Hall Farm-Ellwood Jones Field, Brock Road Farms).

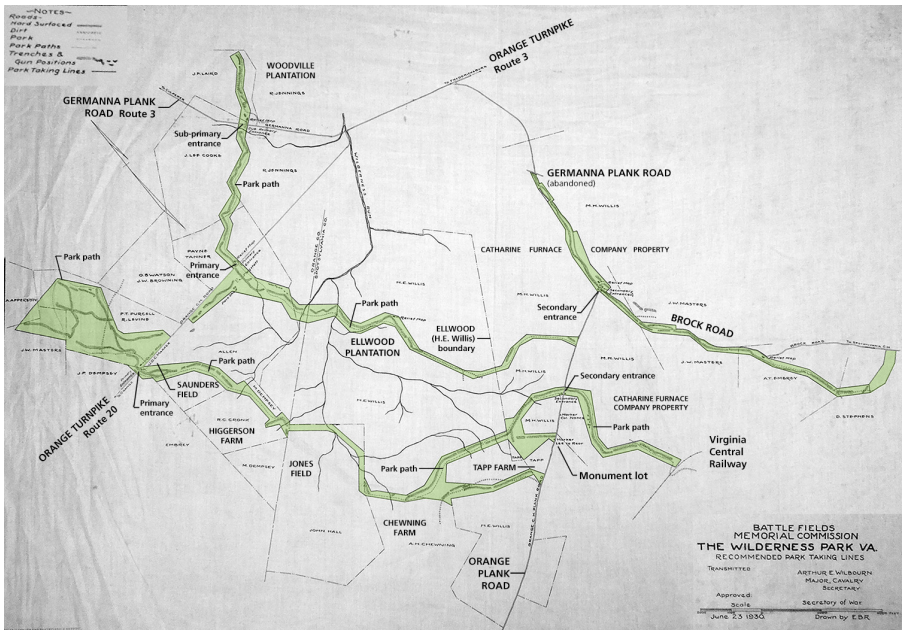


Figure 13. Park commission map of the Wilderness showing expanded park lands (shaded parcels) proposed for acquisition by the War Department, June 23, 1930. The park parcels were subdivided from the indicated private tracts (Civil War names in upper case). The map also shows park entrances and improvements. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.105)

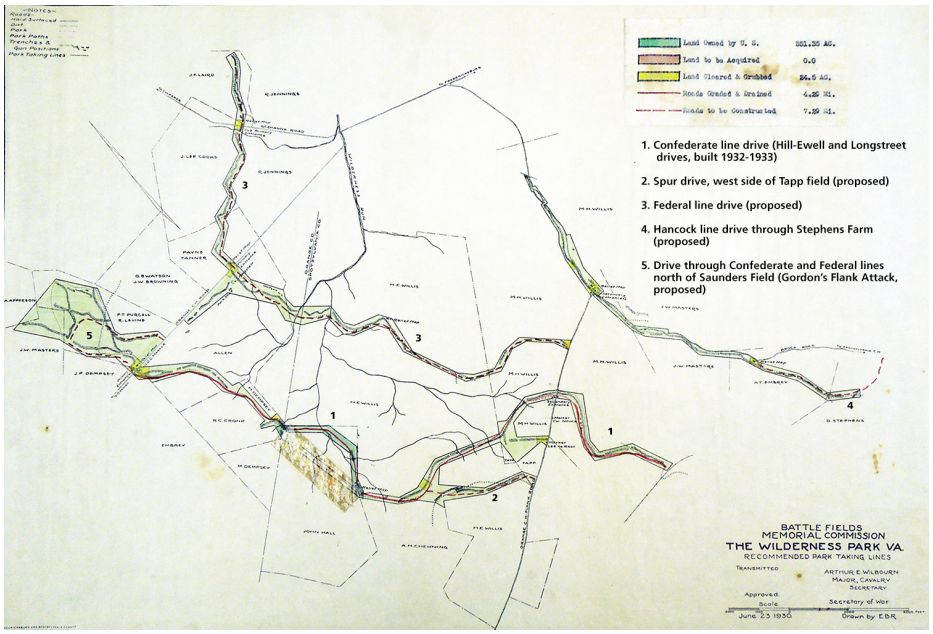


Figure 14. Subdivision houses in the core of the battlefield between the Confederate and Union lines, looking east from Hill-Ewell Drive. The sign in the middle ground, known as a tablet, marks the Confederate trenches (earthworks) of Hill's Corps. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.107)



Figure 15. Oblique aerial of the Wilderness CCC camp, looking northwest across Route 20, ca. 1938. The camp at the time was designated NP-24 and was home to Company 2329. The field south of the Route 20 was on private property, but was used by the camp as a ball field. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.115)



Figure 16. The Civilian Conservation Corps visitor contact station, looking west along Route 20, 1935. On the bank at left is the UDC marker dedicated in 1927. In front of the contact station is the state historical marker that was moved to this location when the building was completed. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.132)



Figure 17. CCC enrollees planting trees along Hill-Ewell Drive, looking south from the southern end of the Higgerson Farm following completion of the road work, December 1935. The fields in the distance are the Hall Farm partly on the battle-era Jones Field. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.143)



Figure 18. Trenches and gun pits at an unidentified location on the Wilderness battlefield showing completed clearing and sodding, May 1940. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.148)



Figure 19. A rebuilt gun pit (foreground) and breastwork (background) on Early's line near the visitor contact station, looking east, April 1936. These works were accessed from the Early Foot Trail (CLR 2021, fig. 1.149)

LATE PARK PERIOD, 1945–2022

Post-War Planning and Mission 66:
Through the 1950s, the Wilderness battlefield park retained the same boundaries and drives that had been developed prior to the war. Despite the apparent lack of change, however, the Wilderness was a different park in the early post-war years. The workforce made possible by the CCC was no longer available, so labor-intensive maintenance such as mowing turf, planting and pruning trees, and trail maintenance could not be sustained. Picnic areas that been abandoned during the war were not reopened and the trails were probably seldom used. Nonetheless, with increasing automobile ownership and wealth many more visitors were coming to the battlefield. Visitation to the entire four-unit park jumped from less than 30,000 during the war years to over 100,000 in 1947 and more than 200,000 by 1952. (CLR 2021: 232)

The park had difficulty meeting the needs of its new visitors due to deferred maintenance and infrastructure that had been developed for less use and personal ranger-led interpretation. Park planners also considered the rustic infrastructure built by the CCC to be quaint and outdated in an age of Modernist design. These issues affected parks through the National Park System, but most had to remain in a holding pattern for years after World War II due to meager and uncertain annual Congressional appropriations. In response, the NPS launched a ten-year improvement program in 1955 dubbed "MISSION 66," a reference to its planned completion in time for the National Park Service's 50th anniversary in 1966. The plan aimed to modernize parks to meet the needs of mid-twentieth century visitors through capital improvements, enhanced interpretation, and streamlined operations. The plan focused on new visitor centers, which would serve as a one-stop self-service facility that could easily handle masses of visitors arriving by private automobile, without individual contact with a park ranger. Across the system, capital improvements were designed in Modernist styles that abandoned historical references, and favored design based on articulation of space and structure, and simplicity of form and detail. (CLR 2021: 232-233)

To implement Mission 66, each park prepared a "prospectus" of its planned improvements. Park planning at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park began around 1955. The Wilderness park unit was treated as an extension of Chancellorsville, which was the site of the park's new visitor center in addition to the 1935 museum-administration building at Fredericksburg. Park planners felt Chancellorsville offered a central location along Route 3 that allowed visitors a starting point to

explore the Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Court House, and Wilderness battlefields. The CCC-built visitor contact stations at each of the units would be removed and be replaced with modern facilities that served as a satellite to the main visitor center. A new park maintenance facility and employee housing complex was also developed at Chancellorsville. In addition to visitor facilities, the Mission 66-era planning proposed substantial land acquisition that departed from the original Antietam system plan in response to growing suburban development pressure. New interpretive signage was developed, but picnic areas and privies that were shut down during World War II remain closed, as did many trails in response to the public's preference for driving. Another early component of the park's Mission 66 master planning was the designation of an automobile tour route with set stops through all four park units. Eleven stops were designated for Wilderness. (CLR 2021: 233-234; Review comments, R. Brown, 12 May 2022)

By 1963, the park had finalized its Mission 66-era master plan for Wilderness, known as a General Development Plan, along with a master plan report for the entire park (Figure 20). Major objectives of the plan were to eliminate all inholdings (private property surrounded by park land), discourage picnicking, interpret through self-guided tours beginning with visitor center exhibits, and "recreate the historic scene by reestablishment of selected areas of historic ground cover." (CLR 2021: 234, citing Master Plan, 1963: 8)

Aside from the location of a new visitor center/exhibit shelter, the plan and report recommended only a few changes to the existing park infrastructure at Wilderness. The most substantial was acquisition of hundreds of acres to provide buffers along the existing narrow strips of park land, close the gap between the Federal and Confederate lines from Route 20 south to Orange Plank Road, and acquire the property surrounded by park land at and near the Tapp Farm (see Figure 20). Most of this property was part of Ellwood. No buffer acquisitions were proposed along Longstreet Drive or the portion of Brock Road south of Orange Plank Road. The land between the park lands north of Route 20 was also excluded, as was the Ellwood clearing and site of the Wilderness Tavern. (CLR 2021: 234-235)

Mission 66-Era Park Development.
During the park's ten-year Mission 66-era, park planning at Wilderness was influenced by local conditions, notably the state's plans for upgrading the public roads as well as increasing suburban development. By the early 1960s, a number of suburban (non-farm) houses had been built along Route 3 from Brock Road east, a few along Route 20 near Ellwood, and several others along Brock Road near the Cooke Farm. To improve automobile access and encourage development, the state began work in 1961 on widening Route 3 into a four-lane divided highway from Fredericksburg to Culpeper. By 1966, the project had been completed from Fredericksburg to Chancellorsville. The widening was spurred in part by construction of Interstate 95, which was completed to Route 3 outside Fredericksburg in 1964. Despite the highway and residential development in the region, the larger area of Wilderness battlefield remained little changed since World War II, except for a new alignment of Route 20 at the intersection of Route 3 built ca. 1950. This new alignment extended through the Jennings Farm that was part of the antebellum Ellwood Plantation, away from the banks of Wilderness Creek. (CLR 2021: 235-236)

The only developed area planned for Wilderness was the new visitor orientation area (exhibit shelter), which was to replace the CCC-era orientation area on Route 20. It was located along Route 20 near the site of the CCC camp and south of the 1937 Utility Building (see Figure 20). Designed in a Modernist style with very low gable roofs, steel frames, and brick walls, the open-air shelter was completed in October 1963, well in advance of the centennial of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1964. Although the site was within the battle-era clearing of Saunders Field, park designers kept the surrounding woods, and planted small trees and groundcovers (Figure 21). Elsewhere at Wilderness, the old CCC trails were maintained, and some park roads were paved in asphalt, although the CCC guardrails were likely removed at this time. Except for the Tapp Farm, battlefield landscape restoration was limited because the park's land ownership remained confined to narrow tracts. However, the NPS did acquire several parcels in the early 1960s, some through the one of the park's cooperating associations, the Eastern National Park & Monument Association. (CLR 2021: 237-242)

Prior to Mission 66, the park had installed a new type of marker to identify positions held by military units on the four battlefields, usually along trench lines. At least fourteen of these so called "N markers," were erected at Wilderness, but they were removed in the Mission 66 years. The park removed or modified the various styles of wood signs made by the CCC, but kept the metal identification tablets designed by the War Department. The park also modernized the overall design of the large narrative signs introduced in 1938 and installed signs designed by park historian Ralph Happel that marked the newly instituted auto tour stops. In 1965, the NPS installed orientation compass discs throughout the park, including two at Wilderness. Larger than the older CCC-era ground-level disks, they were set on raised stone pedestals. The park also introduced reproduction artillery—cannons and limbers (shell wagons)—to reinforce the identity of the disparate parts of the national military park. (CLR 2021: 242-245)

The park maintained its philosophy through the Mission 66 years that the battlefield landscape provided the primary interpretive resource, and it therefore continued to discourage addition of commemorative works. Just two were installed at Wilderness during this time, both during the centennial year of the battle in 1964: the Texas Brigade monument, and a plaque recognizing the rededication of the 12th New Jersey marker. (CLR 2021: 245-246)

Post-Mission 66 Park Expansion:
The centennial of the Battle of the Wilderness in 1964 and completion of the Mission 66 program in 1966 marked the beginning of the end of the rural, remote character of the Wilderness that had remained largely intact since the Civil War. Large-scale suburban subdivisions pushed the NPS to retire the Antietam system and instead pursue a policy aimed at preserving large tracts of the battlefield. After 1966, the park made few changes to the designed park landscape, and instead focused almost solely on battlefield acquisition, preservation, and interpretation. (CLR 2021: 246-247)

At Wilderness, the change in the setting came through several sprawling residential subdivisions that were platted in quick succession in the late 1960s, although the full build-out took decades. Most of these subdivisions occurred on land that witnessed fighting on May 5-6, 1864. The first was the plat for the 2,652-acre Lake of the Woods subdivision in 1967, on the antebellum Orange Grove plantation north of the park. The development encompassed more than 4,000 residential lots, which along the south side were laid out directly adjacent to park boundaries near the Early Foot Trail and Ewell's Confederate works, and the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail that followed Sedgwick's Union works. Extremities of these earthworks fell within the subdivision and portions were probably obliterated as part of the development. In 1969, the 1,200-lot Lake Wilderness subdivision was platted in two separate tracts: on the Ellwood property between the Confederate works along Hill-Ewell Drive and Federal works along the Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail, and on the former Catharine Furnace Company land west of Brock Road where General Hays received his mortal wounds. House lots were laid out directly adjacent to park boundaries, within view of the foot trail, Hill-Ewell Drive, and Brock Road. A smaller subdivision, Forest Walk, was platted in ca. 1969 near Federal Line Trail, consisting of a single unpaved road lined by ten-acre residential lots. For a good deal of its length, the rustic Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail became hemmed in by development on both sides. Another subdivision, later named Fawn Lake, was begun in ca.1975 south of Orange Plank Road and west of Longstreet Drive. In the 1990s, the development was greatly expanded across 2,800 acres of the antebellum Greenfield Plantation and used Longstreet Drive for its main access, but the development avoided most the woods immediately south of Orange Plank Road and west of Brock Road that saw the heaviest fighting. (CLR 2021: 247-248)

Highway expansion accompanied this development. In winter 1966, the state was negotiating with the park about widening its Route 20 right-of-way through Wilderness. The project at this time kept the highway to two lanes and retained the realignment to Route 20 built in ca. 1950, but widened the pavement and shoulders and required taking of park land at the crossing of the Confederate and Federal lines. The project also added turning lanes at the exhibit shelter and Hill-Ewell Drive, and created a pull-off for the park's tour stop #24 along the north side of the road near Route 3. The Route 20 improvements were completed in 1968. In 1973, the state's widening of Route 3 into a divided four-lane highway had extended just past the Route 20 intersection, but stopped short of the park land at the crossing of Sedgwick's Line. Not until a decade later in ca. 1982 did the state complete its widening of Route 3 west and north to Germanna. The project took park land at the

crossing of Sedgwick's Line to build the westbound lanes, and realigned Vaucluse Road (Route 667), which was built in ca. 1935 to provide access to the northern segments of Sedgwick's Line and the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail. Due to the road cut into the rise of park land known as Todd's Hill, Vaucluse Road was realigned off park land and intersected Route 3 to the west. (CLR 2021: 248-249)

Battlefield Preservation.
The park's new master plan adopted in 1968 only made modest proposals for land acquisition. These efforts did little to save the most critical battlefield land between the Confederate and Federal lines, which was being platted for the Lake Wilderness subdivision as the master plan was being finalized. The master plan still focused on acquiring narrow strips of land, mostly to buffer existing park property and protect the wooded setting along Route 20 and Orange Plank Road, as well as accept land acquired by Eastern National Park and Monument Association near the Tapp Farm in 1971. For the first time, the park also proposed acquiring the core of Ellwood with the Lacy house, and the site of Grant's Headquarters where the park planned to begin visitors' tour of the Wilderness. Within five years of the 1968 master plan, the park had acquired the Lacy house and more of the Ellwood clearing than had been planned, but the Tanner-Lyons Farm on the eastern half remained in private ownership. (CLR 2021: 249-250)

Because of the shortcomings of the 1968 master plan in terms of land protection, the NPS began work on an expansion study that resulted in new boundaries for the national military park approved by Congress in 1974. For the first time, the park abandoned the Antietam system plan and called for acquisition of entire tracts of battlefield, rather than narrow strips. The legislation established a park boundary within which the park was authorized to acquire land. During the decade following the 1974 boundary expansion, the park acquired land within its authorized boundary and planned additional boundary expansions that were addressed in a General Management Plan adopted in 1986, and a related Land Protection Plan first adopted in 1986. By this time, the park had acquired or was planning to acquire title or interest in the Tanner-Lyons Farm in the Ellwood clearing, Saunders Field, the Chewning and Higgerson farms, land north of Route 20 between the exhibit shelter and Federal line, and buffers along Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Figure 22). Most of these lands came within another park boundary expansion authorized in 1989, which incorporated about 475 acres of private land and 287 acres of already federally owned land into the park. The 1989 boundary also added additional buffers to Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road by expanding the park boundary to the adjacent outer string of residential lots within the Lake Wilderness subdivision (east and west sections), most of which were still undeveloped. (CLR 2021: 250-251)

The suburban development of the former Catharine Furnace and Greenfield Plantation lands south of Orange Plank Road, called Fawn Lake, reflected the difficult process that the NPS had to follow to preserve threatened areas of the battlefield. In 1991, the park adopted a revised Land Protection Plan that emphasized the use of partnerships with local governments and not-for-profit organizations to achieve land conservation, both within the park's authorized boundary and outside in so-called related lands. In an era of rampant development and pressures for a smaller federal government, these partnerships provided an important tool for conservation of historic battlefield land. (CLR 2021: 251-254)

Post-1966 Park Development.
In 1976 the park reopened the picnic area along Hill-Ewell Drive, probably in conjunction with the need for parking at the head of the recently extended Federal Line Trail. Ellwood, acquired in the early 1970s, was closed to the public until 1998, when it was opened on a limited basis. The only park development at Ellwood, which remained off the official automobile tour route, was the creation of a small, turf-covered parking lot lined by Virginia worm fences. Another major landmark that came into the park was the site of Wilderness Tavern acquired from the Link family in 1978. Development at the site included a small-pull off, two interpretive panels, split-rail fences, and a pavilion that sheltered the ruins of the building, which was the antebellum tavern dependency (store) that burned after the park acquired the property. The Brock Road-Plank Road intersection, with two New Jersey markers and a Mission 66-era directional compass, was the only developed area expanded after 1966. In 2006, the park built a new ten-car parking lot along the south side of the Orange Plank

Road, which provided access to a trail that led to the newly-installed Vermont Brigade monument well south of the road. At the same time, the park obliterated remains of the CCC-era parking for the Federal Line Trail (Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail) on the north side of Orange Plank Road, and enlarged a pull-off for the Longstreet Wounding site across the road. (CLR 2021: 255)

With acquisition of the most important battlefield properties by the 1980s, the park revised its automobile tour to include eight stops that began at Grant's Headquarters along Route 20 and ended at the Brock Road-Plank Road intersection. With development of the gated Fawn Lake subdivision beginning in 1989, Longstreet Drive was removed from the tour route. The park still maintained an interest in the preservation of the earthworks that bordered the drive through its easement on the property. The system of trails at Wilderness, which were built by the CCC and remained largely intact through the Mission 66 era, underwent a number of changes after 1966, as well as loss of their original commemorative names. Wilderness kept up about half of its CCC-era system, in part due to the aid of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a summer youth employment program associated with federal lands that was begun in 1971, as well as the Boy Scouts. Changes to trails coincided with various road widening projects. Unlike the original park trails, two trails built after 2000—Vermont Brigade Trail and Wilderness Crossing Trail—did not follow earthworks. (CLR 2021: 256-258)

In 1972, the park decided to stop regular mowing of most of the large field and meadow areas of the park, which at Wilderness included the Tapp Farm and probably areas at the entrances to the drives and trails. As the park acquired more land through the 1980s, it was able to reestablish some of the 1864 field patterns and remove intrusions into the historic scene, primarily post-battle buildings. Selectively returning fields to cultivation also contributed to scene restoration efforts. Faced with the need to retain many acres of historic agricultural land, the park entered into special use permits with area farmers to lease farmland at Ellwood and the Chewning, Hall-Carver (battle-era Jones Field), and Tapp farms. One of the park's most visible landscape restoration projects of the post-1966 period was at Saunders Field. Completed in 1984, the project restored most of the historic open field, except for a grove retained around the Mission 66-era exhibit shelter and other woods that screened unwanted views or private property (Figure 23). Another part of the park's scene restoration was the miles of earthworks, some of which had been lost to highway widenings. By this time, most of the remaining earthworks were concealed by brush that had probably grown up since the CCC ceased maintenance of the sodded earthworks in ca. 1941. Beginning in 1982, the park used its summer YCC enrollees to clear brush from two miles of earthworks. In subsequent years, the park allowed the vegetation to grow back on most of the earthworks and did not return to the grass cover of the CCC-era. (CLR 2021: 260-261)

After Mission 66, the park continued to modify interpretive, identification, and directional signage at its Fredericksburg-area parks. It retained most of the War Department-designed identification tablets, but did not add new ones. New signage was generally simple and designed to harmonize with the natural setting through use of dark bronze metal and brown signboards. NPS-standard interpretive waysides with illustrated panels and text were added at tour stops and other significant sites, sometimes in place of the Mission 66-era Happel signs. Smaller and less conspicuous interpretive signs of anodized metal, known as Site Markers, were added at secondary interpretive sites, such as the ruins of the Wilderness Tavern dependency. Wood signs with incised text were added along the trails, and the Mission 66-era large wood signs at the entrances to the battlefield were replaced by NPS-standard highway signs. (CLR 2021: 261)

Two commemorative works were added to the Wilderness during this period, both by state units that fought in the battle: the 140th New York Volunteers, a Zouave unit of Warren's 5th Corps, in 1989; and the Vermont Brigade of General George Getty's division of the 6th Corps, in 2006. Two other monuments erected in 2011 acknowledged acquisition of the Middlebrook property to the Civil War Trust: the Gilder Marker, which thanks Richard Gilder, and the Middlebrook Marker, which thanks Warren and Shirley Middlebrook. (CLR 2021: 261; NR 2019, Sec.7: 44)

The Wilderness Community:
The decades after World War II into the twenty-first century witnessed the disappearance of the Wilderness as a rural community, and its replacement with a series of large gated suburban

residential communities and strip commercial development amid large tracts of conserved park land. Only one active farm remained in or immediately adjacent to park boundaries, although fields within the park were leased to area farmers. The Lacy house was the only standing Civil War-era building, but there were a number of post-battle farm buildings that predated the suburban transformation. Commercial development near the national military park was limited to Route 3 at the Route 20 intersection. (CLR 2021: 262-263; Review comments, R. Brown, 12 May 2022)

Note: Please refer to the CLR, pages 263-277, for details regarding the Ellwood Plantation (and Jennings Farm, Tanner-Lyons Farm) and places along Orange Turnpike (Wilderness Tract-Payne-Link Farm, Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm); Germanna Plank Road (Orange Grove, Woodville Plantation); Orange Plank Road and Brock Road (Catharine Furnace Company Property and Parker School Lot, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm, Carver-Hall Farm-Ellwood Jones Field, Brock Road Farms).

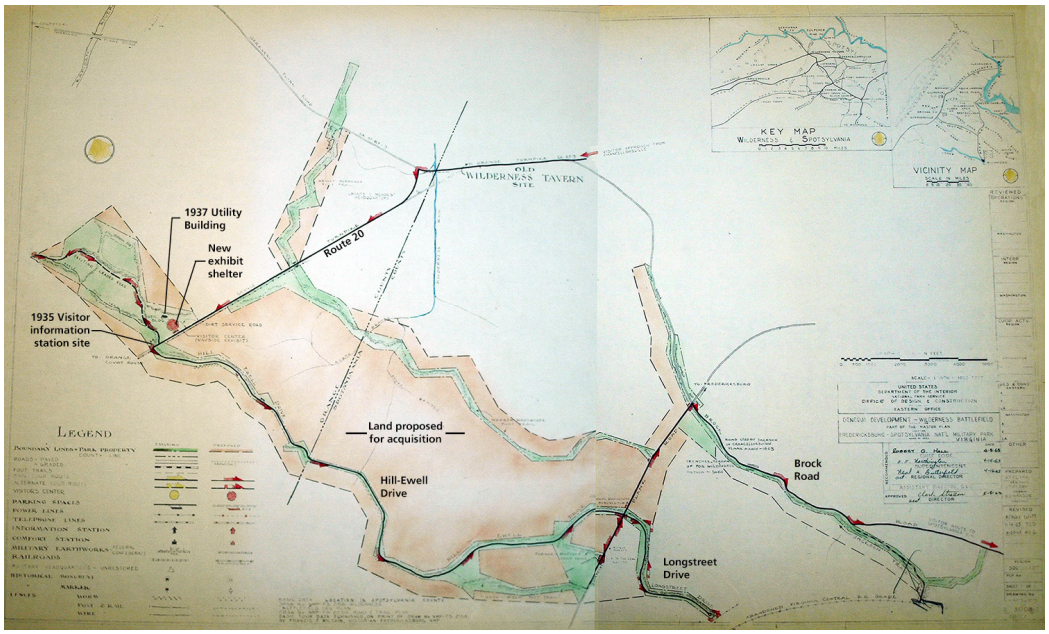


Figure 20. The Mission 66-era General Development Plan for Wilderness Battlefield showing existing park land (green) and land proposed for acquisition (red-brown), 1963. The plan also shows the final proposed site for the visitor center (exhibit shelter) along Route 20. The red arrows indicate the automobile tour route that was substantially the same as the one proposed in 1955. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.176)



Figure 21. The 1963 Wilderness exhibit shelter and its contemporary site features, looking east across the parking lot showing as-built conditions with later repairs, ca. 2000. The clearing visible in the right background was made in 1987. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.181)

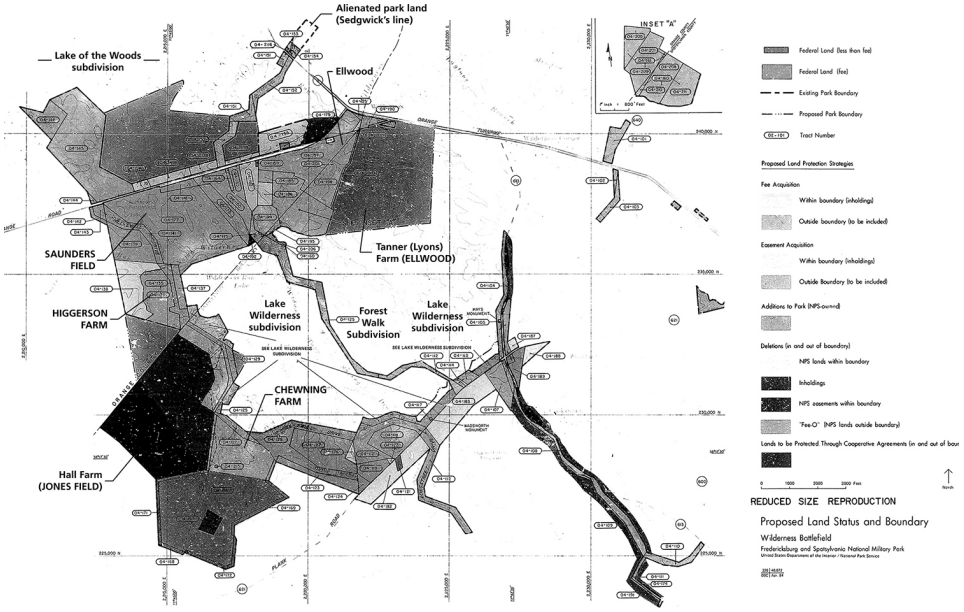


Figure 22. Map produced in 1984 showing park land within the authorized boundary as expanded since 1974. Some of these additions were not authorized until 1989. The darker areas indicated private inholdings or park parcels with less than fee ownership (scenic easements). (CLR 2021, fig. 1.194)



Figure 23. The restored open space of Saunders Field in 1987, looking northeast toward the exhibit shelter three years after logging operations were completed. (CLR 2021, fig. 1.203)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	Yes	No	No
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office	Maintenance Facility	Yes	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Wayside Exhibit	No	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Park headquarters and the main visitor center and museum are in Fredericksburg, but Wilderness Battlefield has an exhibit shelter on Orange Turnpike-Constitution Highway (Route 20). At the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center, exhibits cover not only the battle of Chancellorsville, but also the 1864 Overland engagements at Wilderness and Spotsylvania.

The Wilderness Battlefield exhibit shelter contains interpretive panels, including historical maps, and is one of eight stops on a self-guided driving tour that brings visitors to important sites of the 1863-1864 battles. The tour route follows portions of Constitution Highway and Orange Plank Road (Route 621), both public roads which run through the park. Four of the eight tour stops are located along Hill-Ewell Drive, the primary park drive at Wilderness Battlefield. Park lands are open to visitors from dawn to dusk, with ranger-led tours offered on special occasions. Public access to park lands is enhanced by five pedestrian trails. The trails wind through areas of woods and open fields and often run along sections of historic US and Confederate earthworks.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

According to the NPS Region 1 Ethnography Program, tribes at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park are: Catawba Indian Nation, Delaware Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Monacan Nation, and Upper Mattaponi.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape characteristics identified for Wilderness Battlefield include natural systems and features, land use, spatial organization, circulation, topography, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. 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 Wilderness Battlefield landscape retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, but has lost integrity of setting. The landscape retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic association with the Civil War and its commemoration, and with the development of the national military park through the Mission 66 era. Loss of integrity is largely due to extensive suburban development and traffic in areas adjacent to park boundaries. Additionally, alienation of park land along the former Longstreet Drive and Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail has diminished the historic overall design of the national military park.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1863-1964 period of significance for Wilderness Battlefield.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Although the Wilderness Battlefield landscape does not encompass all land and other resources historically associated with the 1863-1864 battle, the park property forms the core of the historic battlefield and retains most of the historic park lands. Exceptions include alienated park land east of Route 3 along the former course of the abandoned Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail and south of Orange Plank Road along the former Longstreet Drive, which was transferred to the private developer of Fawn Lake in 1989.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of location.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The Wilderness Battlefield landscape retains the overall vernacular structure of the landscape from the time of the 1863-1864 battles through the patterns of forested and open space, and existing public roads. The defensive earthworks thrown up by both armies during the battle remain as traces in the landscape. However, the overall historic landscape structure has been modified by realignment of the former Orange Turnpike (Route 20) and abandonment of Germanna Plank Road. Farm clearings have also changed in extent and shape. Details of the 1864 landscape formed by buildings, fences, and orchards have largely been lost. The design of the historic park landscape retains a high level of integrity to the end of the period of significance in 1964. Hill-Ewell Drive, the visitor kiosk and surrounding landscape, and trails, among other features, continue to reflect their historic character. Some integrity of historic design has been lost from the early period of National Park Service management, which was characterized by a rustic style typical of large national parks in the western part of the country. Changes to the historic designed landscape have resulted in some part from the widening of Route 20, including modifications to the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive, the demolition of trailhead parking areas, the removal of some cast-metal narrative "Happel signs," and the abandonment of the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail. The alienation of Longstreet Drive to the Fawn Lake residential subdivision has diminished the historic overall design of the battlefield park. Additionally, non-historic trails and commemorative features have been added to the landscape in recent decades.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of design.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a property and the overall character of its location. While the setting within park boundaries at Wilderness Battlefield retains integrity to the Civil War and historic park periods,

extensive suburban development of adjacent land, the widening of Routes 3 and 20, and the regular presence of heavy traffic have significantly altered the historically rural and remote character of the landscape's setting.
Evaluation: Does not retain integrity of setting.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that give form to a historic property. At Wilderness Battlefield, extant above-ground built materials from the Civil War era are limited to the Ellwood house (see Ellwood CLI) and the ruins at the Wilderness Tavern and Higgerson Farm sites. The landscape retains high integrity of materials related to historic park development. Infrastructure such as bridges and culverts along Hill-Ewell Drive, which is paved with asphalt, are constructed from mortared stone and cast concrete. The visitor kiosk features a steel frame and brick walls while the CCC Utility Building consists of wood walls and a stone foundation. The kiosk sidewalk and plaza are made of concrete and the parking area is paved with asphalt. War Department identification tablets consist of cast iron. Historic commemorative features primarily contain mortared and sculpted stone, concrete, and metal. Plant material consists mostly of native species that existed during the Civil War era and remain today. Ornamental plantings near the kiosk include Japanese holly and flowering dogwood, which were historically maintained in the planting beds. Some loss of material integrity has resulted from the removal of several cast-metal narrative "Happel signs," although many remain in the landscape. Additionally, materials related to the rustic-style features of the early period of National Park Service management have been lost. Non-historic materials added since the end of the historic period are limited and include brick paving at the Longstreet Wounding site and Vermont Brigade Monument parking areas and rubber-mulch paths on sections of some trails. These non-historic materials are relatively inconspicuous within the larger landscape.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of materials.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the historic period. The Wilderness Battlefield landscape retains integrity of workmanship evident in the stone work of historic commemorative features. Additionally, the masonry exhibited by infrastructure along Hill-Ewell Drive and the carpentry of the Utility Building reflect the workmanship of CCC enrollees, although there has been some loss of workmanship related to the rustic building methods of the early period of National Park Service management. The visitor kiosk reflects the workmanship typical of mid-twentieth century machined and mass-produced construction materials. Civil War-era workmanship is limited to the Ellwood house and the stone hearth ruins at the Wilderness Tavern site. The hasty workmanship of US and Confederate soldiers in erecting defensive earthworks during the battle were eroded or became obscured during the historic period.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling:
Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time resulting from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. At Wilderness Battlefield, the feeling of a Civil War landscape remains through the open fields, woods, and earthworks that characterized the battlefield in May 1864. The feeling of a historic National Military Park designed by the War Department also remains through the presence of standard identification tablets, Hill-Ewell Drive and the infrastructure surrounding it, and pre-park commemorative monuments. At the visitor kiosk, the feeling of the Modernist Mission 66-era remains in the landscape and building. The cultural landscape has lost some historic feeling associated with the rustic aesthetic of the early years of National Park Service management. Many features associated with this period, such as the original Wilderness Battlefield visitor contact station and small-scale features like split-rail fences, signs, and bollards, were removed during the historic period or in the decades following its end. Existing historic stone abutments supporting footbridges along the Federal Line Trail continue to reflect this period of development. Additionally, loss of historic feeling has occurred where suburban residential development and heavy traffic have encroached on the historic rural setting.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of feeling.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Wilderness Battlefield remains closely associated with the Civil War through the battlefield landscape, archeological sites, and earthworks within its boundaries. The landscape also retains its historic association with the development of national military parks under the War Department and National Park Service through retention of standard

features including iron identification tablets. Association with the Mission 66 era is evident in the visitor kiosk. Civil War association has been partially diminished through alienation of park property that was part of the historic battlefield, notably along the former Longstreet Drive and Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail.
Evaluation: Retains integrity of association.

The following section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) and 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 (1863-1964) contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape). Graphics associated with this section are located at the end of the report.

In the feature tables below, features found across the entire landscape are listed first, followed by the three focus areas within the landscape as described in the 2021 CLR: Orange Turnpike-Constitution Highway (Route 20) and Hill-Ewell Drive (North); Hill-Ewell Drive (South) and Orange Plank Road; and the Brock Road-Orange Plank Road intersection.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation (built or manipulated landforms are described under the Topography characteristic and managed flora is described under Vegetation). During the Civil War era, natural systems and features were a dominant
characteristic of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape. Centuries of human activity, especially agriculture, timber harvesting, mining, and transportation had shaped the landscape's natural features. Dense, second-growth deciduous and coniferous coppice woods, which played a major role in the 1864 battle, covered approximately eighty percent of the area within the present-day park boundaries, interrupted occasionally by farm clearings and road corridors. The largest farm clearing was shared between the Woodville and Ellwood plantations, north and south of the Orange Turnpike-Germanna Plank Road intersection. Smaller clearings existed at Saunders Field, Higgerson Farm, Jones Field, Chewning Farm, Tapp Farm, and around other isolated farmsteads. The Virginia Piedmont topography of rolling hills that underlaid these features was reticulated by numerous meandering streams, most notably Wilderness Run and its north and south branches. (CLR 2021: 359)

During the Battle of the Wilderness, large areas of woods were heavily damaged or destroyed by the fighting and related fires that swept through large areas, especially around Saunders Field and along Orange Plank Road. Some preexisting farm clearings were expanded by the armies and other, new clearings were created to make way for defensive earthworks. In the decades following the battle, successional forest growth colonized many of these clearings, obscuring earthworks and enclosing historic battle sites, including Saunders Field. Most historic farm clearings were maintained but changed in shape and extent over time. (CLR 2021: 359-360)

During the period of historic park development between 1927 and 1964, natural systems and features were altered for the construction of new park drives that required the clearing of forest, grading of corridors, and alterations to streams. New clearings were created along park drives and other features. (CLR 2021: 360)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Natural vegetation growth continued after 1964, resulting in large areas of mature forest distinct from the dense, coppice woods of the Civil War era. In 1983, the park undertook a historic scene restoration project at Saunders Field, which resulted in clearing the site to approximate its historic limits. Outside of park boundaries, natural systems were extensively altered for the construction of adjacent suburban housing developments. Woods were cleared to make room for house lots and miles of asphalt roads. Wilderness Run and other streams were dammed to create lakes for recreational and aesthetic purposes. Some of these alterations have affected the historic character of the battlefield park where development is visible from park land, especially along Hill-Ewell Drive, Orange Plank Road, and the Federal Line Trail. (CLR 2021: 360)

Evaluation:
Natural systems and features within the boundaries of Wilderness Battlefield underwent few major changes after 1964 and remain a defining aspect of the Civil War and historic park-era character of the landscape. The park has managed natural features, such as the clearing at Saunders Field, to enhance historic landscape character. The woods, streams, and landforms that characterize the landscape are part of the same systems that existed during the Civil War, although natural forest growth and adjacent suburban development have altered their character (Figure 24). (CLR 2021: 360)

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
SITE-WIDE FEATURES	196100	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Run (NSF-1)	196101	Contributing					No
Widow Tapp Spring Drain (NSF-2)	196102	Contributing					No
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196103	Undetermined					No
Keaton's Run (NSF-3)	196104	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24. Wilderness Run (NSF-1) remains a defining feature of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape. (SUNY ESF 2017, P7103799)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1964):

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. During the Civil War era, the overall spatial organization of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape was characterized by several farm clearings of varying extents within the dense, second-growth woods that defined the region. These included the large clearing shared by the Ellwood and Woodville plantations around the Orange Turnpike-Germanna Plank Road intersection, the Tapp Farm and Jones Field in outlying areas of Ellwood, Higgerson Farm, and Saunders Field. There was also a small, unattributed farm clearing in the woods north of the Orange Turnpike. Within larger clearings, especially at Ellwood and Woodville, the landscape was divided by fences and vegetation into distinct fields and other working spaces, such as yards around buildings and structures. The Orange Turnpike, Germanna Plank Road, Brock Road, and Orange Plank Road cut linear
clearings through the wooded landscape. South of Orange Plank Road ran the unfinished corridor of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Railroad. (CLR 2021: 360-361)

During the Battle of the Wilderness, US and Confederate armies occupied clearings and broke down fences and other barriers. They also created new clearings to build defensive earthworks and expanded pre-existing clearings for tactical advantage, most notably at the Tapp Farm. Over the decades following the Civil War, most battle-era clearings were maintained and returned to agricultural use. However, many were reduced in size due to the encroachment of surrounding woods, including the Ellwood-Woodville clearing and Tapp Farm. Saunders Field was entirely abandoned and grew up in woods. One notable exception was between Jones Field and Chewning Farm, where the antebellum clearings were connected to cover a larger area. (CLR 2021: 361-362)

At the end of the nineteenth century, new spatial features began to be introduced as part of early commemoration efforts at Wilderness Battlefield. At the Monument Lot along Orange Plank Road, understory growth was cleared to create an open area beneath a grove of mature deciduous trees. Small clearings were also created for the Hays Memorial along Brock Road and the Nance Monument along Orange Plank Road. (CLR 2021: 362)

During the period of historic park development between 1927 and 1964, changes to the spatial organization of the landscape included clearing of corridors for park drives and trails and removal of vegetation along certain sections of battle earthworks, especially at the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive. The establishment of CCC Camp NP-24 in the northern portion of Saunders Field resulted in the clearing of sections of the historic field for the building of barracks and other structures, including the Utility Building, which was complemented by a work yard. These clearings, aside from the area around the Utility Building, grew up again in woods following closure of the camp in 1941. The Mission 66 era of park development brought relatively few changes to the park's spatial organization, primarily concentrated around the exhibit shelter along Route 20, which was accompanied by a parking area and small concrete plaza shaded beneath a grove of mature trees. (CLR 2021: 362)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Saunders Field and Tapp Farm were both cleared by the park in the 1980s to approximate their historic extents. The abandonment of the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail in ca. 1968 resulted in the enclosure of the trail corridor. Widening of Route 3 and Route 20 in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in the clearing of wider road corridors. Immediately outside park boundaries, the development of suburban subdivisions resulted in a diminishment of the historic enclosed, wooded character of the landscape that is perceivable from park property, especially along Hill-Ewell Drive and the Federal Line Trail. (CLR 2021: 362)

Evaluation:
Patterns of woods and fields within park boundaries have remained largely unchanged since 1964, with the notable exceptions of the reestablished historic clearings at Saunders Field and Tapp Farm, which have enhanced Civil War-era landscape character. Spatial organization defined by patterns of woods and fields remains a defining characteristic of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape (Figures 25-26). Modifications to spatial organization from the Civil War era include the loss of corridors along battle earthworks, decreased size of historic farm clearings, and the loss of

spatial definition provided by fences and structures within clearings, which has diminished the landscape's historic character related to the system of antebellum plantation agriculture. Major changes to spatial organization since the historic park era include substantial clearing at Saunders Field and Tapp Farm to restore Civil War-era character and the development of residential subdivisions immediately outside park boundaries, which have diminished the historic overall enclosed character of the landscape. (CLR 2021: 362-363)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196105	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Tavern Site Field (SO-2)	196106	Contributing					No
Link-Atkins Fields (SO-3)	196107	Contributing					No
Saunders Field (SO-17)	196108	Contributing					No
CCC Utility Building Yard (SO-18)	196109	Contributing					No
Higgerson Farm Fields (SO-19)	196110	Contributing					No
Grant's Headquarters Clearing (SO-16)	196111	Noncontributing					No
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD 8	196112	Undetermined					No
Jones Field (SO-20)	196113	Contributing					No
Chewning Farm Fields (SO-21)	196114	Contributing					No
Tapp Farm (SO-22)	196115	Contributing			Asset	116202	Yes
Orange Plank Road Intersection Clearing (SO-23)	196116	Contributing					No
AREA: BROCK ROAD-ORANGE PLANK ROAD INTERSECTION	196117	Undetermined					No
Orange Plank Road-Brock Road Clearing (SO-25)	196118	Contributing					No
General Alexander Hays Monument Clearing (SO-26)	196119	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. Today, the field at the Wilderness Tavern site (S0-2) contributes to the historic landscape character of Wilderness Battlefield. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103777)



Figure 26. The Chewning Farm Field (SO-21) reflects the landscape's historic Civil War-era character. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103942)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. During the Civil War, land use within the Wilderness Battlefield landscape primarily consisted of agriculture (farms and plantations, including cultivated fields, pasture, and orchards), transportation (roads), residential, and mining and mineral processing. Additionally, commercial uses existed at the Wilderness Tavern and the Ellwood shops along the Orange Turnpike. (CLR 2021: 364)

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, agriculture remained the most widespread land use at Wilderness Battlefield. Cemeterial use was briefly introduced in the immediate aftermath of the battle but all remains were
reinterred at Fredericksburg National Cemetery and Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery by ca.1867. The Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Railroad was completed by 1876, introducing a new mode of transportation to the landscape. Formal battle commemoration and tourism were introduced beginning in the late nineteenth century, supported by the installation of memorials and monuments beginning in 1891. (CLR 2021: 364)

During the period of historic park development between 1927 and 1964, agricultural, transportation, and commemorative uses continued. Tourism expanded significantly upon completion of the national military park in the 1930s. Use of the park prior to World War II included automobile touring, picnicking, and hiking. The park unit's picnic areas along Hill-Ewell Drive and the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail were closed in 1942. During the period following the end of the war in 1945, picnicking and hiking usage decreased. (CLR 2021: 364)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
After the end of the historic period, agricultural uses remained prevalent at Wilderness Battlefield on private inholdings and through lease agreements on park land. Tourism and commemoration also remained dominant land uses within park boundaries. The Hill-Ewell Drive picnic area was reopened in 1976. Hiking increased in popularity since the end of the historic period, partially related to the development of residential subdivisions adjacent to the park. New foot trails, including the Vermont Brigade Trail and the Wilderness Crossing Trail, were established by the park. However, automobile touring remained dominant. Residential use within park boundaries was reduced to two buildings at the Lake Wilderness subdivision which are used as staff housing and several residential structures on inholdings throughout the unit. (CLR 2021: 364)

Evaluation:
Existing park land uses contribute to the historic character of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape as a commemorative battlefield park, while agricultural uses contribute to both the Civil War and historic park-era character of the landscape (Figure 27). Transportation remains a prominent land use through and around the
historic battlefield landscape, although transportation modes and volume have changed substantially since both the Civil War and historic park eras. Automobile tourism has remained a dominant land use within park boundaries, although hiking has increased somewhat in popularity since the end of the historic period. Residents of adjacent residential subdivisions contribute substantially to hiking use at the park. (CLR 2021: 365)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196120	Undetermined					No
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area (LU-13)	196121	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 27. The Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area (LU-13) reflects historic NPS planning of the early period of park development. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103908)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. During the Civil War, circulation through the Wilderness Battlefield landscape consisted of four major roads: the Orange Turnpike, Germanna Plank Road, Orange Plank Road, and Brock Road. The road network also consisted of narrower secondary roads, which included Parker's Store Road and Culpeper Mine Road. Major crossings existed at the intersection

of the Orange Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road, near the center of the Ellwood-Woodville clearing, and Brock Road and Orange Plank Road. Unimproved farm and mining roads also crisscrossed the landscape, providing access to farmsteads and mining operations. The Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Railroad remained unfinished and was not a major circulation feature during this period. (CLR 2021: 366)

During the Battle of the Wilderness, the Orange Turnpike west of Ellwood and the Orange Plank Road became the backbones of the two major battle fronts. Confederate forces attempted to push US troops east along the two corridors in order to capture the major crossings. The unfinished railroad corridor played a major role in the battle as the conduit for Confederate General Longstreet's flank attack. After the Civil War, the condition of most of the major roads through Wilderness Battlefield deteriorated and the southern segment of Germanna Plank Road was abandoned. It was not until the 1920s that the Commonwealth of Virginia began to improve the roads as state highways. These efforts also resulted in several realignments, especially around the present-day intersection of Route 3 and Route 20. (CLR 2021: 366)

During the period of historic park development between 1927 and 1964, circulation at Wilderness Battlefield underwent substantial changes with the construction of park drives and trails. Hill-Ewell Drive was completed along Confederate earthworks between Route 20 and Orange Plank Road while Longstreet Drive extended south from Orange Plank Road to a turnaround just north of the railroad corridor. Both park drives were completed by 1937. The Jackson Trail, the northern segment of which falls within the Wilderness Battlefield unit, was completed west of Brock Road in 1943. Small parking areas were built along the park drives to accommodate visitors stopping along the park's self-guided automobile tour. Five rustic foot trails were built through fields and woods at Wilderness Battlefield during the 1930s. These included the Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail (present-day Federal Line Trail) that was originally planned by the War Department as a park drive but built by the National Park Service as a foot trail. Following World War II, hiking declined in popularity
at the park and many trails deteriorated due to lack of use and maintenance. Road alignments at the Route 3-Route 20 intersection were modified again in ca.1950, bypassing sections of the old Orange Turnpike south of the present-day intersection. During the Mission 66 era, new circulation features were introduced around the exhibit shelter in Saunders Field. (CLR 2021: 366-367)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Circulation at Wilderness Battlefield remained largely consistent following the end of the historic period in 1964. Some substantial changes included the abandonment of the Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail in 1968 and the ca.1976 extension of the Federal Line Trail (formerly the Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail) to meet Hill-Ewell Drive. Both of these changes were related to the widening of Route 20 in 1968, which resulted in the removal of trailhead parking areas on both sides of the road. The course of the Gordon Flank Attack Trail (formerly the Early Foot Trail) was also modified to pass the exhibit shelter in Saunders Field. New trails were also created, including the Tapp Field Trail in 1985, the Vermont Brigade Trail in 2006, and the Wilderness Crossing Trail in 2016. The addition of these new trails accompanied a modest rebound in the popularity of hiking at the park, partially related to adjacent residential subdivisions. (CLR 2021: 367)

Hill-Ewell Drive and Jackson Trail both retained their historic character. However, Longstreet Drive was alienated from the park in 1989 as part of a land transfer with the developer of Fawn Lake, a private subdivision immediately south of the park. While the major public roads passing through Wilderness Battlefield mostly continued to follow their historic alignments, most were widened, and all modernized to carry the increased traffic related to the suburban development that proliferated around the park. (CLR 2021: 366-367)

Evaluation:
Circulation is a defining characteristic of the Wilderness Battlefield landscape, reflecting the Civil War-era road network and the systems of park drives and trails developed between 1927 and 1964 (Figures 28, 29, 30). Overall, circulation patterns have remained consistent since the end of the historic period, despite widening and realignment of public roads, the alienation of Longstreet Drive, and the abandonment and extension of foot trails. (CLR 2021: 367)

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
SITE-WIDE FEATURES	196122	Undetermined					No
Parker's Store Road (C-1)	196123	Contributing					No
Automobile Tour Route Stops (Pull-Outs) (C-2)	196124	Contributing					No
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196125	Undetermined					No
Old Orange Turnpike Trace (C-4)	196126	Contributing	007941		Asset	1328819	Yes
Germanna Plank Road Trace (C-5)	196127	Contributing			Location	24067	Yes
Gordon Flank Attack Trail (C-15)	196128	Contributing					No
Culpeper Mine Road (Flat Run Road) (C-16)	196129	Contributing	082148		Asset	178570	Yes
Wilderness Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Parking Lot (C-17)	196130	Contributing			Location	24026	Yes
Wilderness Maintenance Road (C-18)	196131	Contributing	082107		Location	24015	Yes
Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Plaza and Sidewalk (C-19)	196132	Contributing					No
Federal Line Trail (C-20)	196133	Contributing					No
Hill-Ewell Drive (C-21)	196134	Contributing	082114		Location	24016	Yes
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Parking Lot (C-23)	196136	Contributing			Location	36543	Yes
Higgerson Farm House Lane (C-24)	196138	Contributing	082106		Location	24072	Yes
Wilderness Tavern Site Access Road/Parking Area (C-6)	196140	Noncontributing			Location	240220	Yes
Wilderness Crossing Trail (C-7)	196141	Noncontributing			Location	241714	Yes
Path to Grant's Headquarters (C-14)	196142	Noncontributing					No
Confederate Line Walk to Earthworks (C-22)	196143	Noncontributing					No

Higgerson Farm House Lane (eastern portion) (C-24)	196144	Noncontributing					No
General Jenkins Drive Intersection (C-25)	196145	Noncontributing					No
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD	196146	Undetermined					No
Orange Plank Road Trace (C-34)	196147	Contributing	007942				No
Lake Wilderness Lee-Grant Entrance Drive Intersection (C-26)	196148	Noncontributing					No
Chewning Farm Lane (C-27)	196149	Noncontributing			Location	24073	Yes
Tapp Field Trail (C-28)	196150	Noncontributing			Location	24070	Yes
Intersection of Wilderness Park Drive (C-35)	196151	Noncontributing					No
Longstreet Wounding Sidewalk (C-37)	196152	Noncontributing					No
Longstreet Wounding Parking Area (C-36)	196153	Undetermined			Location	241587	Yes
Wadsworth Monument Parking Area (C-33)	196154	Undetermined			Location	241587	Yes
AREA: BROCK ROAD-ORANGE PLANK ROAD INTERSECTION	196155	Undetermined					No
Jackson Trail (West) (C-44)	196156	Contributing	007897				No
Vermont Monument Parking Area Sidewalk (C-41)	196157	Noncontributing					No
Vermont Brigade Monument Parking Area (C-40)	196158	Noncontributing					No
Vermont Brigade Trail (C-42)	196163	Noncontributing			Asset	107237	Yes
Hays Monument Parking Area (C-43)	196167	Undetermined			Location	241584	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 28. View of Hill-Ewell Drive (C-21), a prominent park automobile circulation feature. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103897)



Figure 29. View of the Higgerson Farm House Lane (C-24). (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103916)



Figure 30. The Orange Plank Road (Rte. 621) (C-31) continues to generally follow its antebellum alignment and reflects the historic Civil War-era landscape character of Wilderness Battlefield. The State maintains a right of way. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7114048)

Landscape Characteristic: **Topography**

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). The activities of the US and Confederate armies during the Battle of the Wilderness resulted in the creation of extensive topographic features in the form of defensive earthworks. These included miles of earthen trenches and breastworks as well as crescent-shaped gun pits (lunettes) in fields and woods. After the Civil War, the earthworks were abandoned and most became covered in successional forest vegetation or were destroyed by farmers as they returned their fields to cultivation. Over time, surviving earthworks diminished in height due to erosion and decomposition of organic material that was sometimes used as supporting or core material. (CLR 2021: 368)

During the period of historic park development between 1927 and 1964, earthworks formed the organizational structure of the park, within initial land acquisitions intended to conserve strips of land along major battle lines, according to the Antietam system. During the early period of park development, earthworks were often cleared and vegetation was managed to maintain visibility for visitors. Some sections of earthworks, particularly near the CCC-era visitor contact station west of Saunders Field, were reconstructed as interpretive features. During and after World War II, earthwork maintenance diminished, and most earthworks again became obscured by vegetation. However, a section of Confederate earthworks near the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive, along the western edge of Saunders Field, was maintained in an area of mown grass. (CLR 2021: 368-369)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Following the end of the historic period, some sections of earthworks, particularly along the former Wright-Humphreys Foot Trail east of Route 3 and the former Longstreet Drive south of Orange Plank Road, were alienated by the park. The park retained a conservation easement over the earthworks along Longstreet Drive, which was repurposed as an exit road for the Fawn Lake subdivision in 1989. The most visible section of earthworks remained in the mown clearing at the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive. (CLR 2021: 369)

Evaluation:
Since the end of the historic period in 1964, the character of topographic features of Wilderness Battlefield, embodied primarily by battle-era earthworks, has remained largely consistent. Today, most sections of earthworks remain in wooded areas covered by leaf litter and vegetation, which provides some protection against erosion. The remnants are substantially reduced from their Civil War-era condition (Figure 31). (CLR 2021: 369)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196172	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Federal Earthworks: Sedgwick's Works (Culpeper Mine Roads Works) (T-2)	196173	Contributing	007939		Asset	17562	Yes
Wilderness Confederate Earthworks: Early's Works (T-3)	196174	Contributing	007937		Asset	17566	Yes
Wilderness Federal Earthworks: Federal Line (T-5)	196175	Contributing	007940		Asset	17563	Yes
Wilderness Federal Earthworks: Federal VI Corps Works (no #)	196176	Contributing	082149		Asset	17568	Yes
Wilderness Confederate Earthworks: Ewell's Works (T-6)	196177	Contributing	007935		Asset	17564	Yes
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD	196178	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Confederate Earthworks: A.P. Hill's Works (T-7)	196179	Contributing	007936		Asset	17565	Yes
Wilderness Confederate Earthworks: Longstreet's Works (T-8)	196180	Contributing					No
AREA: BROCK ROAD-ORANGE PLANK ROAD INTERSECTION	196181	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Federal Earthworks: Hancock's Works (Grant's Left Flank) (T-9)	196182	Contributing	007938		Asset	17567	Yes
Wilderness Federal Earthworks: Federal Lunettes (T-10)	196183	Contributing	082072		Asset	17569	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 31. Sections of Confederate earthworks are visible from the north end of Hill-Ewell Drive in clearings to the east. (SUNY-ESF 2020, Ewells Works from HE Drive)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. During the Civil War, historic vegetation at Wilderness Battlefield consisted of agricultural crops, orchards, groves, specimen trees, and turf. Crops included wheat, corn, oats, tobacco, and potatoes. Orchards are known to have existed at Ellwood, Tapp Farm, Chewning Farm, and Higgerson Farm. During the 1864 battle, crops, orchards, and specimen trees were damaged or destroyed. After the end of the Civil War, fields were slowly returned to cultivation and orchards were likely reestablished. Agricultural crops and orchards were maintained within present-day park boundaries through the end of the historic period. At the Monument Lot, established in 1891, understory vegetation was cleared and a grove of mature trees was preserved to shade the area, which was maintained as mown grass. (CLR 2021: 369-370)

During the early part of the historic period of park development, the CCC engaged in extensive "landscape planting" throughout Wilderness Battlefield, which involved transplanting native trees and shrubs from wooded areas to the shoulders of Hill-Ewell Drive and Longstreet Drive. Planting plans were developed by National Park Service landscape architects to create ornamental areas and naturalize forest edges with oak, tulip-tree, maple, dogwood, redbud, huckleberry, azalea, and laurel. CCC enrollees cleared understory vegetation and maintained mown grass along public roads adjacent to park lands. A grove of oaks was preserved at the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive, where Confederate earthworks run through an area of mown grass. Later during the Mission 66 era, ornamental plantings of flowering dogwood, Japanese holly, and periwinkle were installed in beds surrounding the exhibit shelter. (CLR 2021: 370-371)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Following the end of the historic period in 1964, there were no major changes to managed vegetation at Wilderness Battlefield. CCC-era plantings along Hill-Ewell Drive became naturalized along the wooded edges on both sides of the drive. The park continued to maintain historic clearings along park drives and public roads, particularly at both ends of Hill-Ewell Drive and on all four sides of the Brock Road-Orange Plank Road intersection. The Monument Lot and the mown clearing at the northern end of Hill-Ewell Drive continued to be shaded by historic groves of mature trees. The ornamental plantings surrounding the exhibit shelter retained their historic character. (CLR 2021: 371)

Evaluation:
Managed vegetation at Wilderness Battlefield has remained consistent in overall character since 1964. The park continues to maintain historic mown clearings along park drives and public roads adjacent to park lands. The character of Civil War-era managed vegetation continues to exist within the park unit's cultivated fields, although the variety of crops is not as great as historically. The park does not currently manage any orchards at Wilderness Battlefield. (CLR 2021: 372)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196184	Undetermined					No
Exhibit Shelter Plantings (V-7)	196185	Contributing					No
Exhibit Shelter Grove (V-8)	196186	Contributing					No
Saunders Field South Oak Grove (V-9)	196187	Noncontributing					No
Higgerson Farm Lane Cedar Allée (V-10)	196188	Noncontributing					No
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD	196189	Undetermined					No
Widow Tapp House Site #2 Grove (V-12)	196190	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1964):
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. During the Civil War period, buildings and structures at Wilderness Battlefield were primarily located within farmsteads, where they were used as residences, outbuildings, housing for enslaved people, and agricultural structures such as barns. There were also two bridges which carried the Orange Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road across Wilderness Run within the Ellwood-Woodville clearing. (CLR 2021: 372)

Significant residences within present-day park boundaries included the Ellwood house, the Higgerson Farm house, the Chewning Farm house, and the Tapp house, which all played roles in the 1864 battle. The Wilderness Tavern complex, which comprised the central tavern building and a few dependencies on both sides of the Orange Turnpike, was located near the eastern edge of the Ellwood-Woodville clearing. Other buildings and structures within the large clearing included the Ellwood shops and the Widow Jones house, both along the clearing's eastern edge. A tannery and the Gray house were located at the western edge of the clearing, along Germanna Plank Road. During the battle, most buildings and structures sustained damage. The central Wilderness Tavern building was destroyed during or soon after the battle, but its dependencies survived. (CLR 2021: 372)

In the decades following the battle, most antebellum houses at Wilderness Battlefield remained in place with few changes, such as the 1891 enlargement of the Chewning House. However, several were lost, including the antebellum Tapp house, the Widow Jones house, the Ellwood shops, the Gray house, and the tannery. There is no reliable record of surviving antebellum barns and other

outbuildings, including the former residences of enslaved people. New farmsteads were developed at the Tapp Farm, the Payne-Link Farm on the antebellum Wilderness Tract, and within the boundaries of Ellwood at the Jennings, Tanner, and Hall farms. The two antebellum bridges over Wilderness Run were replaced in ca. 1921 by a single concrete bridge to accompany the realignment of the Orange Turnpike and Germanna Plank Road. (CLR 2021: 372-373)

During the historic period of park development between 1927 and 1964, few buildings and structures were constructed at Wilderness Battlefield. Only two permanent buildings were constructed by 1945: a rustic visitor contact station in the woods west of Saunders Field and the CCC Utility Building in the woods north of the historic clearing. Six rustic-style pit-toilet latrines were also built. Nineteen temporary buildings and structures associated with CCC camp NP-24 were removed following the camp's closing in 1941. (CLR 2021: 373)

Along Hill-Ewell Drive, the park built a stone-faced concrete-arch bridge over the south branch of Wilderness Run and a stone-faced concrete box-culvert over the north branch. Elsewhere along the drive, smaller culverts were installed as well as drainage ditches and tree rings, all faced with stone. Two wooden footbridges were also built to carry the Warren-Wadsworth Foot Trail (later the Federal Line Trail) across the branches of Wilderness Run. During the Mission 66 era of park development, the exhibit shelter was the only park building added to the landscape. The CCC-era visitor contact station was removed, but all other earlier park buildings and structures were retained. (CLR 2021: 373)

Several antebellum buildings, including the Ellwood house, Chewning Farm house, and the Wilderness Tavern dependency were visible to visitors but did not fall within park boundaries during the historic period. The Higgerson House and the Chewning House were destroyed by fire in ca. 1936 and 1947, respectively. (CLR 2021: 373)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
After 1964, the footbridges along the Federal Line Trail were rebuilt. Otherwise, the exhibit shelter, CCC Utility Building, and structures along Hill-Ewell Drive were all maintained. (CLR 2021: 373)

Ellwood was acquired by the park in 1971 and the antebellum Wilderness Tavern dependency on the south side of Route 3 was acquired in 1978. Soon after acquisition, the tavern dependency was destroyed by fire. During this period, the park also removed numerous post-battle buildings on newly acquired land, including at Higgerson Farm, Jones Field, Chewning Farm, and Tapp Farm. The Tanner Farm (later Lyons Farm) remained as a private inholding within the park's legislated boundary and the non-historic buildings and structures on the tract were visible from park land at Ellwood. (CLR 2021: 373)

Evaluation:
Since the end of historic park development in 1964, the exteriors of park designed and built buildings and structures have largely remained consistent (Figures 32 to 35). Non-park buildings and structures have undergone substantial change due to the removal of non-historic buildings and the loss of the Wilderness Tavern dependency to fire. Several non-historic buildings remain on private inholdings or on park property under a right-to-life estate. The only standing building or structure dating to the Civil War is the Ellwood house. The loss of other antebellum residences and outbuildings since 1864, including residences of enslaved people, has diminished the landscape's historic character related to the antebellum system of plantation agriculture. (CLR 2021: 374)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196191	Undetermined					No
Wilderness Visitor Kiosk (BS-9)	196192	Contributing			Location	24005	Yes
Wilderness Maintenance Building (BS-10)	196193	Contributing	082112		Location	24001	Yes
Hill-Ewell Drive Culverts and Lined Ditches (BS-14)	196194	Contributing	082115		Location	24016	Yes
Hill-Ewell Drive Tree Rings (BS-15)	196195	Contributing	082119		Asset	17561	Yes
Wilderness Tavern Outbuilding Hearth Shelter (BS-1)	196196	Noncontributing					No
Link-Atkins Dairy Barn (BS-2)	196197	Noncontributing					No
Wilderness Crossing Trail Bridge (BS-4)	196198	Noncontributing			Asset	1267592	Yes
Hill-Ewell Drive, NPS Bridge over Trenches (BS-11)	196199	Noncontributing					No
Middlebrook House, 35425 Constitution Highway (no #)	196200	Noncontributing					No
Middlebrook Storage Shed, 35425 Constitution Highway (no #)	196201	Noncontributing					No
Footbridge over North Branch– Wilderness Run (BS-12)	196202	Undetermined					No
Footbridge over South Branch– Wilderness Run (BS-13)	196203	Undetermined					No
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD	196204	Undetermined					No
Hill-Ewell Drive Bridges (BS-16)	196205	Contributing	082116		Location	24018	Yes
Longstreet Drive Park Culverts (BS-19)	196206	Noncontributing					No
Longstreet Drive Park Tree Rings (BS-20)	196207	Noncontributing					No
Widow Tapp House Site #2 Well Cover (BS-22)	196208	Noncontributing					No

NPS Residence within Lake Wilderness #1 (BS-23)	196209	Noncontributing					No
NPS Residence within Lake Wilderness #2 (BS-24)	196210	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 32. The Wilderness Battlefield Exhibit Shelter (BS-9) continues to serve visitors to Wilderness Battlefield and retains its historic Mission 66-era character. (SUNY-ESF 2020, exhibit shelter)



Figure 33. The Utility Building (BS-10) continues to serve as a park maintenance facility, and despite some changes reflects the historic rustic style of the early period of park development. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103847)



Figure 34. Today, 23 stone-lined tree rings (BS-15) built in the 1930s are located along Hill-Ewell Drive, mostly near the drive's north end, and reflect the historic landscape character of the early period of park development. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103891)



Figure 35. The 1930s stone arch Hill-Ewell Drive Bridge (BS-16) carries the road over the South Branch – Wilderness Run and reflects the historic landscape character of the early period of park development. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103932)

Landscape Characteristic: **Views and Vistas**

Historic Condition (to 1964):
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. During the Civil War era, views and vistas within the Wilderness Battlefield landscape were characterized by broad prospects across open agricultural land and narrow views along road corridors. Long, wide views were available to the north from Ellwood. The low canopy of second-growth woods allowed for distant views toward the Blue Ridge Mountains from the Tapp and Chewning Farms. The straight road corridors of the Orange Turnpike and Orange Plank Road created narrow vistas through dense woods. (CLR 2021: 375)

During the Battle of the Wilderness, new vistas and views were created by the burning of woods and the clearing of new corridors for earthworks. Views across clearings such as Saunders Field were major elements in the battle. In the decades following the battle, the new prospects were lost due to the encroachment of successional vegetation. This was also true of the views across Saunders Field, which grew up in woods. During the historic period of park development between 1927 and 1964, new views were opened up at the heads of trails and drives and vistas along trails that followed historic earthworks. Views of historic farms were created by selective clearing along Hill-Ewell Drive. At the southern end of Longstreet Drive, a view of the historic railroad corridor was maintained from a Turnaround. (CLR 2021: 375)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
After the end of the historic period, historic views related to park development were maintained and some historic views were enhanced. These include the views across Saunders Field and Tapp Farm, which were both restored by extensive clearing in the 1980s. Views along major road corridors were also maintained. Other significant views were lost or altered. The view of the historic railroad corridor was lost with the alienation of Longstreet Drive in 1989. Historic views to the north from Ellwood were lost due to the growth of woods outside of park boundaries. Views from park drives and trails were also altered by the development of residential subdivisions, which are sometimes visible through woods. (CLR 2021: 375)

Evaluation:
Overall, the historic character of views and vistas at Wilderness Battlefield has been maintained since the end of the historic period. Vistas along the Orange Turnpike and Orange Plank Road were important in the 1864 battle and continue to exist today (Figure 36). Significant views at Saunders Field and Tapp Farm have been restored, while others, such as the view north from Ellwood, have been lost. (CLR 2021: 376)

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
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH)	196211	Undetermined					No
Firing Line from Ewell's Works (VV-3)	196212	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 36. As part of historic scene restoration in Saunders Field, trees were removed from Ewell's works west of the historic clearing in ca. 1983 (VV-3). (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103883)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1964):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. During the Civil War era, small-scale features within the Wilderness Battlefield landscape consisted primarily of fences and other utilitarian objects within agricultural clearings. Typical fences included cross and rail (stacked rails supported by diagonal stakes), Virginia stake and rail (vertical stakes supporting stacked rails), Virginia snake (stacked rails in zig-zag pattern), and wattle (interwoven branches). Yards around farmsteads were typically enclosed by a more ornamental style of fence, such as whitewashed planks or pickets. During the Battle of the Wilderness, fences were generally destroyed by both armies. The armies also temporarily introduced many other small-scale features to the landscape in the form of supplies and equipment, including artillery. After the battle, debris littered the landscape. (CLR 2021: 377)

Many fences were reconstructed after the end of the Civil War as farms returned to production. Other types of small-scale features, such as telephone poles, began to be introduced as the decades progressed. This was especially true of commemorative features, which began to proliferate across the landscape, beginning with the Lee-to-the-Rear Stone at the Monument Lot in 1891. By 1927, five monuments and memorials were introduced to Wilderness Battlefield. (CLR 2021: 377)

During the historic period of park development between 1927 and 1964, the number of small-scale features within the landscape grew substantially. These included signs, commemorative markers, historical fences, and picnic facilities, most of which were created in a rustic style meant to harmonize with the landscape. During the Mission 66 era, many of the earlier small-scale features, including wooden bollards and rustic signs, were removed. New features, such as reproduction artillery, were introduced. War Department-designed identification tablets and National Park Service “Happel signs” were some of the few early features retained. (CLR 2021: 377)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Following the end of the historic period, two new monuments were added to the Wilderness Battlefield landscape. The 140th New York Infantry Monument was installed in Saunders Field in 1989 and the Vermont Brigade Monument was placed in woods south of the Brock Road-Orange Plank Road intersection in 2006. The park also introduced new NPS-standard signage and illustrated interpretive waysides throughout Wilderness Battlefield. Several historic “Happel signs” were removed in recent decades. Otherwise, most historic small-scale features were retained. (CLR 2021: 377)

Evaluation:
Since the end of the historic period of park development in 1964, the character of small-scale features at Wilderness Battlefield has changed through the introduction of contemporary NPS-standard signage and two new monuments. Additionally, several historic “Happel signs” have been removed. No small-scale features remain from 1864, but the reproduction artillery introduced during Mission 66 recall military action. Historic park commemoration features have been retained. Overall, small-scale features are today a minor characteristic within the Wilderness Battlefield landscape (Figures 37 to 40, see also Cover). (CLR 2021: 378)

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
SITE-WIDE FEATURES	196217	Undetermined					No
Cast Metal Narrative Signs (Happel Signs) (SS-1)	196218	Contributing					No
Road Identification Tablets (SS-3)	196219	Contributing	082132		Location	22936	Yes

Earthworks Identification Tablets (SS-3)	196220	Contributing	082133		Location	44079	Yes
House Identification Tablets (SS-3)	196221	Contributing	082134		Location	24007	Yes
Battlefield Identification Tablets (SS-3)	196222	Contributing	082135		Location	22927	Yes
Interpretive Waysides and Site Markers (SS-2)	196223	Noncontributing					No
NPS Identification and Wayfinding Signs (SS-4)	196224	Noncontributing					No
AREA: ORANGE TURNPIKE-CONSTITUTION HIGHWAY (ROUTE 20) AND HILL-EWELL DRIVE (NORTH) 9	196225	Undetermined					No
Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Flagpole (SS-11)	196226	Contributing			Asset	1332731	Yes
Visitor Kiosk (Exhibit Shelter) Cannon and Limber (SS-14)	196227	Contributing			Location	22936	Yes
Saunders Field Orientation Compass (SS-16)	196228	Contributing			Location	44327	Yes
Battle of The Wilderness UDC Marker (SS-17)	196229	Contributing	082120		Location	24049	Yes
Wilderness Tavern Ruin Split Rail Fences (SS-5)	196230	Noncontributing					No
Cattle Grate, Wilderness Run (SS-6)	196231	Noncontributing					No
140th New York Infantry Monument (SS-12)	196232	Noncontributing	082113		Location	24047	Yes
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Tables (SS-18)	196233	Noncontributing					No
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Split Rail Fence (SS-19)	196234	Noncontributing					No
Hill-Ewell Drive Picnic Area Wooden Bollards (SS-20)	196235	Noncontributing					No
Gilder Marker (no #)	196236	Noncontributing					No
Middlebrook Marker (no #)	196237	Noncontributing					No
CCC Concrete Camp Sign (no #	196238	Undetermined					No
CCC Utility Building Chain Link Fence (SS-13)	196239	Undetermined					No
AREA: HILL-EWELL DRIVE (SOUTH) AND ORANGE PLANK ROAD	196240	Undetermined					No
Reproduction Artillery at Intersection of Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road (SS-21)	196241	Contributing			Location	22936	Yes

Lee-to-the-Rear Stone (no #) [Texas Brigade Stone]	196242	Contributing					No
Texas Brigade Monument (SS-25) [Texas Monument]	196243	Contributing	007946		Location	24039	Yes
“Lee to The Rear” Texans Monument (SS-26) [Lee to The Rear Marker]	196245	Contributing	007945		Location	24038	Yes
Colonel James D. Nance Monument (SS-27)	196246	Contributing	007950		Location	24043	Yes
Brigadier General Wadsworth, USV Monument (SS-28)	196247	Contributing	007949		Location	24042	Yes
Split Rail Fence at Tapp Farm Parking (SS-22)	196248	Noncontributing					No
Reproduction Artillery, Tapp Farm (SS-23)	196249	Undetermined			Location	22936	Yes
AREA: BROCK ROAD-ORANGE PLANK ROAD INTERSECTION	196250	Undetermined					No
Brock Road-Orange Plank Road Directional Compass (SS-31)	196251	Contributing			Location	4328	Yes
New Jersey Rededication Marker (SS-32)	196252	Contributing					No
12th New Jersey Regiment Monument (SS-33)	196253	Contributing	007947		Location	24051	Yes
General Alexander Hays Monument (SS-34)	196254	Contributing	007948		Location	24040	Yes
Hays Monument Fence (SS-35)	196255	Contributing	082108				No
N Marker (SS-36)	196256	Contributing					No
Vermont Brigade Monument (SS-30)	196257	Noncontributing			Asset	107236	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 37. Happel Signs (SS-1) have been maintained as standard through ca.1990. Most since removed, there are 5 remaining along Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103924)



Figure 38. The Saunders Field orientation compass (SS-16) remains in its historic location along the eastern edge of Hill-Ewell Drive near the intersection with the Orange Turnpike (Route 20). (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7103888)



Figure 39. The Reproduction Artillery at the intersection of Hill-Ewell Drive and Orange Plank Road (SS-21) was installed as part of the Mission 66-era improvements. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7113973)



Figure 40. The General Alexander Hays Monument and Fence (SS-34, SS-35), on the west side of Brock Road in line of Union breastworks, slightly east of the site of Hays's death, date to 1905. (SUNY-ESF 2017, P7114109)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. At Wilderness Battlefield, there are four sites identified as contributing resources in the park's approved National Register documentation: Chewning House Site, Higgerson Farm Ruins, Widow Tapp Ruins Site, and Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site.

The Chewning House Site is located on the apex of a high weathered upland lobe at the head of a north-trending ravine that enters South Wilderness Run. The house, built in 1836 as a one-and-one-half-story structure with a shed addition and used briefly as a Confederate headquarters during the Battle of the Wilderness, stood until 1947 when it was destroyed by fire. No structural or archeological evidence of the house has been identified. (NR 2019, Sec.7: 49)

The Higgerson Farm Ruins consist of a pile of rubble and a brick chimney that constitute the remains of a house that dated to the early 1800s and was destroyed in the 1930s. The house was a one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame building located on a road that connected Orange Plank Road with the Orange Turnpike. The Higgerson Farm was the site of some of the heaviest and most confused fighting during the Battle of the Wilderness. On May 5, 1864, Union soldiers of Brigadier General James Wadsworth's division battled Confederate brigades under Brigadier Generals John Gordon and Junius Daniel in the fields and adjacent woods of the Higgerson Farm. (NR 2019, Sec.7: 49)

The Widow Tapp Ruins Site is located on a low, weathered upland ridge above and east of a north-trending ravine. The one-and-one-half-story log home with at least two outbuildings and a small orchard survived the war but was destroyed sometime after 1865. No physical evidence of the house or associated outbuildings has been identified. (NR 2019, Sec.7: 49)

The Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site lies on a weathered, west-trending ridge east of Wilderness Run Valley and overlooks the Plank Road Bridge. The landform is separated from the historic trace of the Germanna Plank Road by a west-trending ravine. In 1860, the site was the home of the Simms family and a group of ten enslaved people. The tavern, described as a two-story wood building, was destroyed during the war; any surviving archeological remains likely lie under the eastbound lanes of Route 3. The site currently consists of a network of terraced landscapes, road traces, and a 12′-x-30′ stone foundation believed to be the remains of one of the tavern's former dependencies. (NR 2019, Sec.7: 49-50)

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
Chewning House Site	196213	Contributing		FRSP00124.000			No
Higgerson Farm Ruins	196214	Contributing	082121	FRSP00122.000			No
Widow Tapp Ruins Site	196215	Contributing		FRSP00125.000			No
Wilderness Tavern Ruins Site	196216	Contributing	082109	FRSP00105.000			No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 7

Next Assessment Due Date: 06/16/2029

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/16/2022

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of Wilderness Battlefield is evaluated as “Good.” 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.

Overall, Wilderness Battlefield's maintained landscape, including the park drives, trails, mown areas, buildings, trees, and monuments, as well as its agricultural permit farmland, are in good physical condition. Natural succession is encroaching on the open space of Saunders Field, but the park is planning to cut this back. Erosion along streams due to runoff from residential subdivisions and increase in storms may be impacting ecological conditions. The earthworks throughout the park have eroded over time and most are covered in leaf litter and vegetation, making them difficult to perceive. However, this condition is beneficial to the long-term preservation of the earthworks as archeological resources. Residential subdivisions and strip commercial development have encroached in areas of the park, notably along VA 3, Hill-Ewell Drive, Federal Line Trail, and Orange Plank Road. A major development named Wilderness Crossing has been proposed north of the battlefield and adjacent to parkland north of Route 3. Heavy traffic along the Orange Plank Road, Brock Road, VA 20, and VA 3 often introduces noise and visual pollution into the landscape. Plans being considered by the state for expansion of VA 20 and VA 3, and the lack of federal ownership of the Lyons Farm (Ellwood) pose threats to the condition of the park landscape in the long term.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: Although the park maintains wooded buffers where possible, homes located near the edges of subdivisions can be seen from park land, especially along Orange Plank Road, Brock Road, Hill-Ewell Drive, and the Federal Line Trail. In addition, several undeveloped parts of the battlefield remain outside of park ownership.

Date Identified: 06/16/2022

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Some defensive earthworks are hidden beneath vegetation or are undergoing erosion.

Date Identified: 06/16/2022

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: While waterways on park land continue to follow their historic channels, streams were dammed to create small lakes as recreational and aesthetic features during the development of some adjacent subdivisions.

Date Identified: 06/16/2022

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Traffic

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: High traffic volumes on park drives and public roads surrounding the battlefield is a major impact that effects the visitor experience at park sites, where traffic noise and visual interference are often present.

Date Identified: 06/16/2022

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Secondary vegetation is reducing the size of Saunders Field.

Date Identified: 06/16/2022

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type:	Undetermined
Treatment Completed:	No
Document Type:	Other Document
Title:	
IRMA Link:	
Narrative:	

The park's 1986 General Management Plan (GMP) classified all park property into three management zones: historic, park development, and special use. Wilderness Battlefield was classified as part of all three zones, and several associated subzones. (GMP 1986: 39-54)
Historic Zone.
"The prime historic resources of the park are the battlefields, buildings, earthworks, and walls that comprise the historic scene where the four major battles were fought."

Park Development Zone.
"Modern buildings and other facilities in this zone, including those for visitor use and administrative and maintenance functions, have substantially altered the historic environment. Management emphasis is on the provision of necessary facilities with minimum intrusion on the historic surroundings.

Special Use Zone.
"This zone includes lands inside the park boundaries that are not owned by the National Park Service or over which it has limited control."

The GMP articulated several resource management goals pertaining to the Wilderness Battlefield landscape. (GMP 1986: 55,65)
Earthwork Preservation.
"Trenches with a high level of visibility and interpretive value (approximately 22 miles) will be considered for preservation treatment: A.P. Hill's Works, Ewell's Works, Federal Line, Culpeper Mine Road Works, Grant's Left Flank."

Historic Scene Restoration.
"The dense ground cover which gave the name to this battlefield was broken by only a few fields of relatively small scope, but those few fields became crucial points for rallying--and in due course for fighting. The fields that are now grown over but are proposed for reopening to their historical appearance include the Widow Tapp Field, 22 acres, tour stop 11, where the renowned Lee-to-the-rear episode took place; the north edge of Orange Turnpike, 4 acres, near tour stop 10; and the Higgerson Farm, 13 acres west of the park tour road and 8 acres east of the park tour road. The Higgerson Farm is not currently used as a major visitation point, but it will become an interpretive feature when the Wilderness battlefield is further developed for visitation. Elsewhere on the battlefield, two fields of 75 acres will be reforested. The four areas to be opened total 47 acres, so the net change at Wilderness will be a decrease in open space of 28 acres and a like increase in wooded ground. Six tracts on the Wilderness (totaling 79 acres) that are now wooded but were open in 1864 will remain wooded."

The park's 2015 Foundation Document identified nine fundamental resources and values in the park. The Wilderness Battlefield landscape possesses association with eight of them: Battlefield Landscapes; Battlefield Archeology; Civil War Historic Structures and Landscapes; Earthen Fortifications; Historic Roads, Traces, and Trails; Commemorative Landscapes; Natural Quiet, Light, and the Lack of Modern Visual Intrusions; and Park Setting. (FD 2015: 7-8,12,26,35-36)

Preserving and enhancing these fundamental resources and values, for example, through vegetation management, while maintaining contemporary, compatible changes for visitor use, aligns with a rehabilitation treatment approach. Specific treatment implementation details will be developed in a Cultural Landscape Report.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type:	Bulk Import TBD
Treatment Completed:	No
Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	2021-06-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Wilderness Battlefield, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
IRMA Link:	https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2293380
Narrative:	

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

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