National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2022



Cold Harbor Battlefield

Richmond National Battlefield Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

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

Scope of the CLI

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

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

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

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

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

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

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

Use

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

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

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Cold Harbor Battlefield

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300093

Parent Landscape: 300092

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Richmond National Battlefield Park

Alpha Code: RICH

Park Organization Code: 4800

Park District: RICH

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Cold Harbor Battlefield is in southeastern Hanover County, Virginia, between the Chickahominy River and Sandy Creek, approximately nine miles northeast of Richmond in the unincorporated town of Cold Harbor. The 439-acre battlefield is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park, which encompasses over 3,600 acres. The park commemorates thirteen American Civil War sites around Richmond, Virginia, which served as the capital of the Confederate States of America for most of the war. The park connects certain features within the city with defensive fortifications and battle sites around it. In addition to Cold Harbor Battlefield, the park's sites include Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield, Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Chickahominy Bluff, Gaines' Mill Battlefield, Chimborazo, Fort Harrison, Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill Battlefield, Drewry's Bluff, and Parker's Battery.

The Battle of Cold Harbor was fought from May 31 to June 12, 1864, with the most significant fighting occurring on June 3. It was one of the final battles of Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign, and is remembered as one of American history's bloodiest, most lopsided battles. Thousands of Union soldiers were killed or wounded in a frontal assault against the fortified positions of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's army.

The Cold Harbor Battlefield park unit today consists of 439 acres across five non-contiguous land tracts associated with the battle. Remnant earthen fortifications include innumerable hand-dug entrenchments, ramparts, and rifle pits on all parcels of the unit's rolling meadows and wooded valleys. In most locations, the adjacent landscape retains a rural character through continued agricultural and low-density residential use or woodland. A brook named "Bloody Run" stretches between the Union and Confederate battle lines across the main Cold Harbor property before flowing into Powhite Creek and the wetlands of Gaines' millpond to the west. The Garthright House, a two-story brick- and wood-clad structure built circa 1720, is located on the small Garthright House parcel sheltered by woods to the south and east with views north and west across open fields. A serpentine, paved tour road loops through the main Cold Harbor tract from the Cold Harbor Visitor Center at State Route 156/Cold Harbor Road. Modern pedestrian paths weave through the battlefield landscape, except for on the Turkey Hill and Fort Fletcher tracts, sporadically tracing the routes of wartime and post-war roads (identified on the existing conditions map).

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Richmond National Battlefield Park is nationally significant as a collection of major Civil War battlefields and other period resources associated with the Union's attempts to take the Confederate capital city of Richmond. The battlefield associated with the Cold Harbor unit of the park is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military History for the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31-June 13, 1864. The Cold Harbor Battlefield and Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield are the locations of the last two battles of the Overland Campaign (May 4-June 15, 1864), during which Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant directed the operations of the Army of the Potomac against General Robert E. Lee of the Army of Northern Virginia. The climax of what was the bloodiest campaign of the war occurred at Cold Harbor, where Grant ordered several futile charges against heavily fortified Confederate lines, an act he later said was among his greatest regrets of the war. Following Cold Harbor, Grant changed his strategy to focus on the capture of Petersburg, a major transportation and supply hub 25 miles south of Richmond. The battlefield is also nationally significant under Criterion B for associations with the careers of the principal commanders of the opposing forces during the early stages of the Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), and George B. McClellan (1826-1885).

Cold Harbor Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation for the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century efforts to memorialize and preserve the battlefield, which paralleled national trends in the veneration and protection of Civil War battle sites. Under Criterion C, the battlefield is significant at the national level in the area of Engineering for remains of the earthen fortifications, and significant at the state level in the area of Architecture for the colonial Virginia domestic architecture embodied in the Garthright House. The battlefield is also significant under Criterion D in the area of Historic (Non-Aboriginal) Archeology for above-ground and subsurface resources that have the potential to yield information about the battle and antebellum uses.

The period of significance for the Cold Harbor Battlefield aligns with the period of significance for the larger Richmond National Battlefield Park, extending from ca.1720, the earliest date associated the construction of the Garthright House, to 1944, the end of the initial park development under the guidance of the National Park Service.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the Cold Harbor Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1720 to 1944, with the existing conditions assessed in 2022. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. These include buildings and structures (Garthright House) and topographic features (Federal and Confederate earthworks at Cold Harbor, Confederate earthworks at Turkey Hill, Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor, and Fort Fletcher). Historic circulation patterns are evident through existing paths, roads, and road traces (Garthright House Drive, Anderson-Wright Drive, Turkey Hill Trail, Cold Harbor Road, Beulah Church Road, Civilian Conservation Corps-era Confederate and Federal turnouts, Cold Harbor visitor center parking lots, Fort Fletcher Road, Allison Farm Lane Wartime Road Trace, Beulah Church Wartime Road Trace, Fort Fletcher Postwar Road Trace, Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace, Bloody Run-Powhite Creek Wartime Road Trace, Postwar Railroad Trace, McGhee Farm Postwar Road Trace, and the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge Wartime Road Trace). Vegetation also contributes to the integrity of Cold Harbor, including the patterns of fields and meadows near Fort Fletcher and the wooded ravines of Powhite Creek and Bloody Run. Views between Union and Confederate earthworks at Cold Harbor, views down the drive to the Garthright House, and views of field and forest patterns near the Visitors Center along the western end of the main trail also contribute to the site's integrity. Contributing small-scale features include three Freeman Markers.

Cold Harbor Battlefield retains integrity of location, design, feeling, and association, revealing important spatial relationships between the roads and trails, historic earthworks, the historic Garthright House, and patterns of field and forest laid across the native topography. Historic feeling within the landscape is conveyed through the land's rural character and continued agricultural use, though adjacent suburban development and increased successional forest growth within the park diminishes this aspect of integrity. Visible adjacent suburban development also diminished the integrity of setting. Integrity of workmanship is preserved in the remnant earthworks, the Garthright House, and within information contained in archeological resources.

Condition:
The overall condition of the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape is evaluated as "Good." Successional woody vegetation obscures some open landscape and some tactical viewsheds that were present during the 1864 battle. Several battle-era earthworks, defensive features, and circulation features have non-historic woody vegetation growing directly on them. While these features may be at risk for damage due to the trees being thrown or toppled in a storm event, the

park monitors for hazard trees to minimize such impacts. In addition, the landscape's sandy soils are erodible, therefore grass cover would expose earthworks and other topographic features to more severe erosion.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Cold Harbor Battlefield is a component landscape within the parent landscape of Richmond National Battlefield Landscape, which comprises the entire Richmond National Battlefield Park. In addition to Cold Harbor Battlefield, there are eight park units that function as component landscapes: Beaver Dam Creek, Chickahominy Bluff, Drewry's Bluff, Fort Harrison and vicinity, Gaines' Mill, Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill Battlefield, Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield at Rural Plains, and Parker's Battery.

Landscape Type:

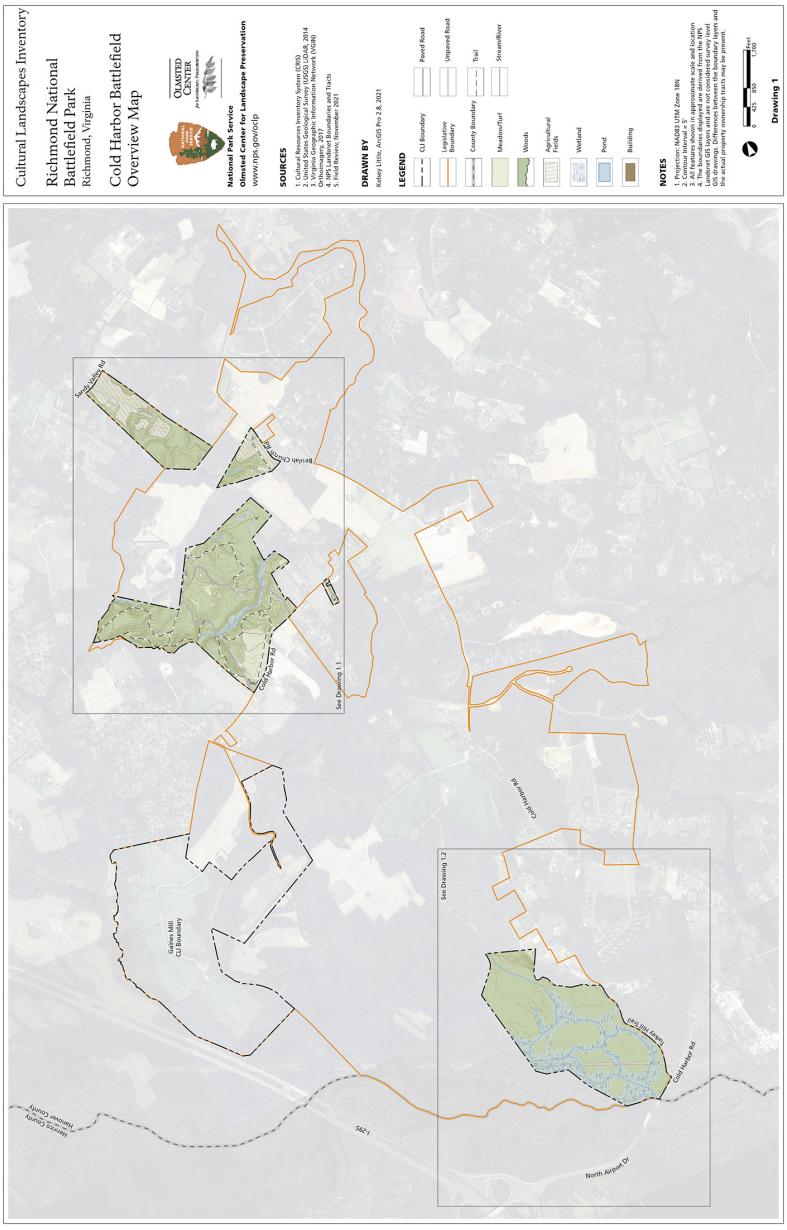
Historic Site

Historic Vernacular Landscape

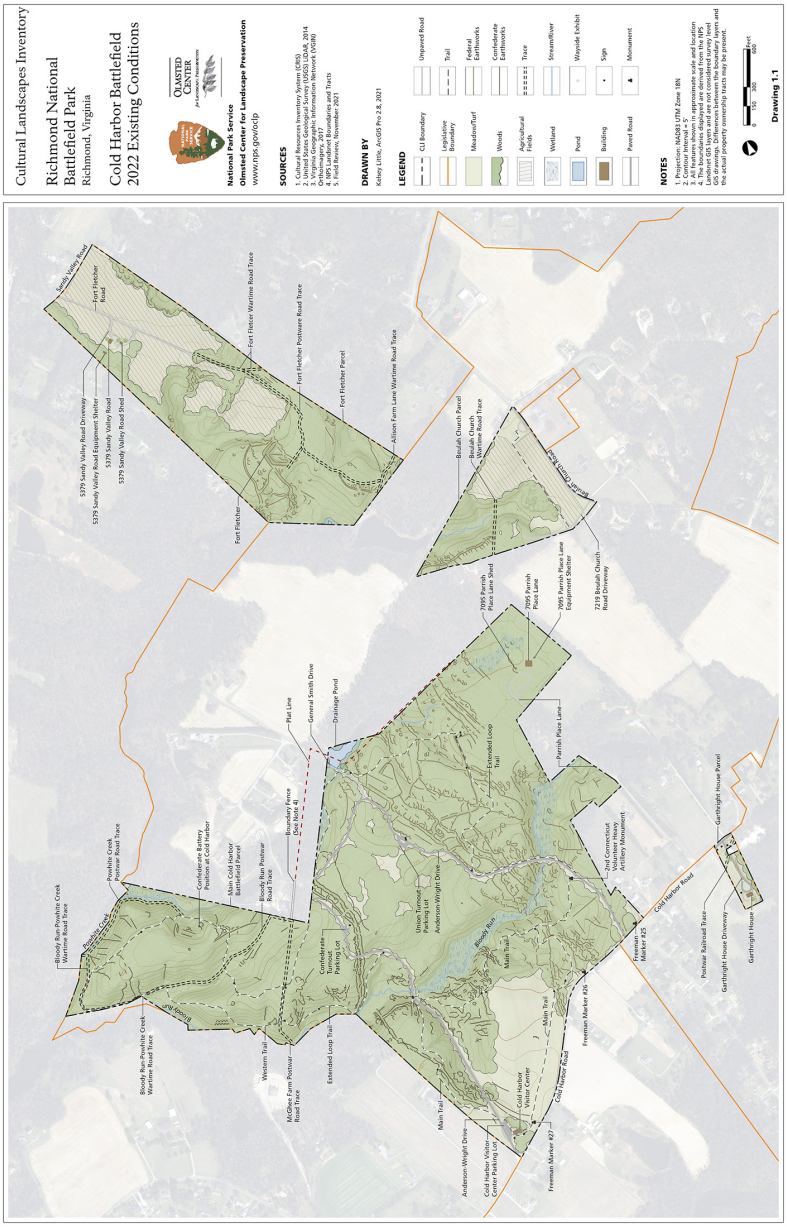
Other Names:

Other Name:	Cold Harbor Battlefield	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Garthright House	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Richmond National Battlefield Park: Cold Harbor Unit	**Other Name Type:**	Current
Other Name:	Fort Fletcher	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Fletcher Redoubt	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Second Cold Harbor Battlefield	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Battle for Richmond	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

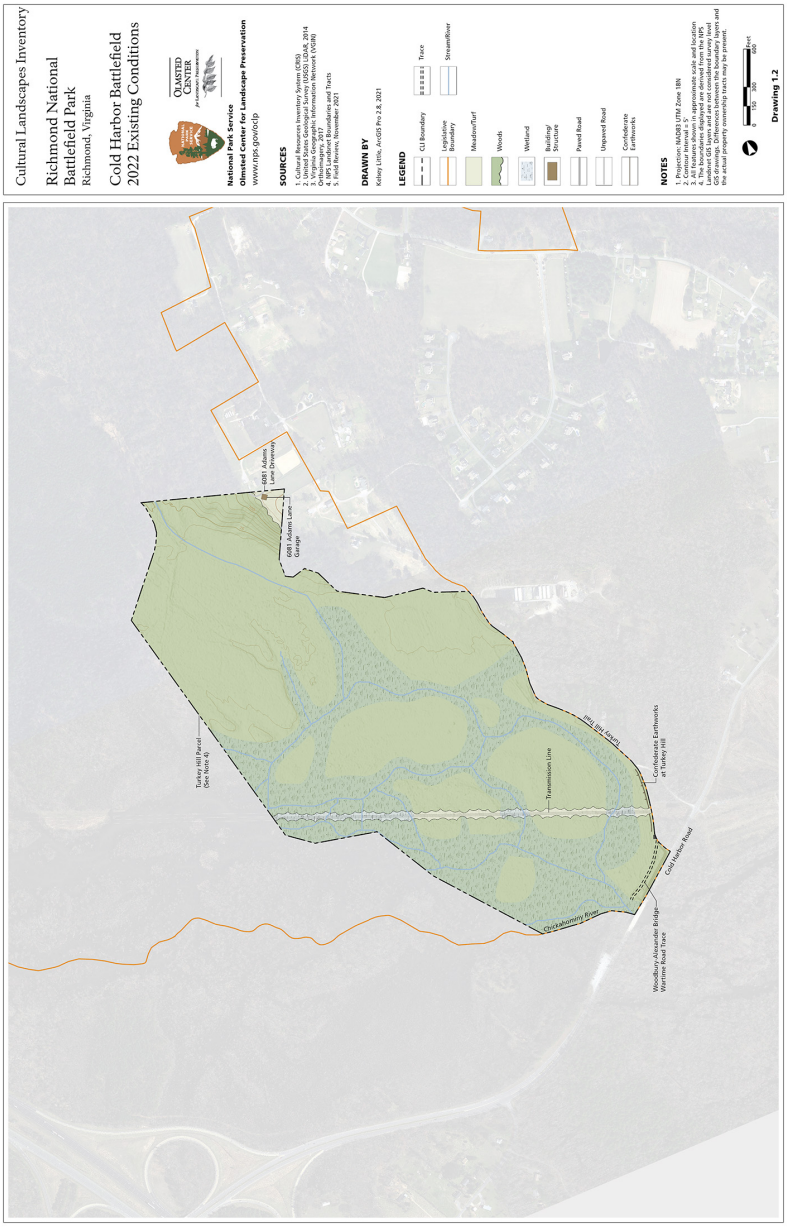
Site Plan



Site map for Cold Harbor Battlefield, 1 of 3.



Site map for Cold Harbor Battlefield, 2 of 3.



Site map for Cold Harbor Battlefield, 3 of 3.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/27/2022

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Level I field survey work was performed by N. J. Brown with summer interns A. Fowler and V. Ong in June, 1999. C. Sams completed additional research, writing and editing in March 2000 under the guidance of Brown. Sams entered the information into the CLAIMS database.

Stuart Hayden, Associate with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, conducted field photographic documentation and historical research, and drafted this CLI in summer and autumn 2021. Mapping was completed by Kelsey Little, GIS Specialist with the Olmsted Center, with contributions by Stuart Hayden and Robert Krick, Historian, Richmond NBP. The draft CLI was reviewed and revised by Pia Cano, Associate; Jennifer Hanna, Historical Landscape Architect; and Jeff Killion, Regional Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The cultural resource contact for Richmond NBP is Robert Krick, Historian, who may be reached at bob_krick@nps.gov or 804-226-1981, ext. 5021.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Cold Harbor Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Richmond National Battlefield Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Cold Harbor 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 Cold Harbor Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

MICHAEL FIASCO Digitally signed by MICHAEL FIASCO
Date: 2022.09.27 10:37:02 -04'00'

Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park Date

Park Concurrence Form, September 27, 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 Cold Harbor Battlefield and Richmon National Battlefield 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 Richmond National Battlefield 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

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

characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS 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:

Cold Harbor Battlefield is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP), which encompasses a series of non-contiguous sites authorized on March 2, 1936 "for the purpose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the resources associated with the Civil War battles in and around the City of Richmond, Virginia," and established on July 14, 1944. The National Park Service acquired the majority of the main Cold Harbor Tract and the Garthright Tract of the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit in 1944. Portions of the Beulah Church tract, the Fort Fletcher Tract, and the Turkey Hill Tract were acquired between 2000 and 2017.

Richmond NBP was administratively listed without documentation in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Initial documentation of resources occurred on January 16, 1973 when the park was listed on the Virginia Landmark Register under the name "Richmond National Battlefield Park." For this listing, a National Register form was prepared but was not approved by the Keeper of the National Register. The documentation accepted by your office indicated that the site was significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics and social/humanitarian, Criterion C in the area of architecture, and Criterion D for archeology (historic-aboriginal). The period of significance was identified as the nineteenth century, but no specific dates were given. The documentation itemized resources under four headings: earthworks (11 areas), monuments (approximately 80), Watt House, and Garthright House.

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archeological Resources" was accepted by the Keeper. 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. Richmond NHB was identified under the battlefields, earthworks, military hospitals, and military headquarters property types under Criteria A, C, and D. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along the principal transportation routes. The events at Cold Harbor Battlefield (May 31 – June 13, 1864) were described as part of the Overland Campaign.

On October 5, 2009, your office concurred with the National Park Service on the eligibility of numerous resources at the park as part of as an update to the List of Classified Structures (LCS).

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Nine features at Cold Harbor Battlefield were evaluated as contributing: Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor, Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road, Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill, Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Freeman Marker #s 26 and 27, Garthright House, and Garthright House Driveway. The 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument was evaluated as noncontributing.

On April 27, 2018 the Keeper accepted the first comprehensive park-wide National Register documentation for Richmond National Battlefield Park. According to the documentation, the district is primarily significant as the site of major Civil War battlefields and related properties associated with the Union's attempts to take the Confederate capital city of Richmond during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, the Overland Campaign of 1864, and the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign of 1864–1865. Significance for the 2879.42-acre federally owned historic district was identified under criteria A, B, C, and D at the national level in the areas of Military, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Conservation, Other (Commemoration), Science, Engineering, Architecture, Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), and Archeology-Prehistoric. Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and Ulysses S. Grant were identified as significant persons, and the district's contributing commemorative monuments were evaluated as meeting Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because they possess significance engendered from their age, design, and symbolic values. The period of significance for the district was listed as c.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House and ending when the NPS officially accepted management of the park. For archeology, the period of significance was listed as 1680-1865 for historic archeology and 8000 BCE-1600 CE for prehistoric archeology.

At Cold Harbor, the 2018 documentation identified Cold Harbor Battlefield as a contributing site, as well as eleven contributing structures and objects: Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road (Anderson-Wright Road), Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill, Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Freeman Marker #25, Freeman Marker #26, Freeman Marker #27, Garthright House, Garthright House Driveway, and Wartime Road Trace (now Beulah Church Wartime Road Trace). Noncontributing resources included: Cold Harbor Visitor Center, 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument, 6066 Cold Harbor Road (since demolished), 7095 Parrish Place Lane (house), 7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed, 7095 Parrish Place Lane Equipment Shelter, and 7219 Beulah Church Road house (demolished).

Lastly, a report, "Segregation in Virginia's National Parks, 1916-1965" was 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 Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for Cold Harbor Battlefield fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains

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

integrity to the areas of Military, Other (Commemoration), Conservation, Engineering, Architecture, and Archeology (Historic, Non-Aboriginal). As noted previously, 11 of the property's features compiled on the attached list have already been evaluated in the National Register. The CLI identifies an additional 30 resources related to natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property. An additional 18 features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant. A total of two 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:

- Cold Harbor Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31 through June 12, 1864, part of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commemoration and Other (Commemoration) for its association with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, which led to the establishment of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1936.
- 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, namely Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), and George B. McClellan (1826-1885).
- It is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remains of Union and Confederate fortifications and earthworks.
- It is significant at the state level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the Garthright House as a representative example of domestic architectural styles in Colonial Virginia adopted during the rise of the plantation farming system.
- It is nationally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archelogy (Historic-Non-Aboriginal) for both above-ground and subsurface resources that have the potential to yield information about the battle and antebellum uses of the area.
- The period of significance for the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape is c.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House and ending with the year initial national park development was completed.
- 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.

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

We would appreciate your response in **30 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).

Sincerely,

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2022.08.17 13:49:57 -04'00'

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

Enclosure/Attachment

cc:
Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park.

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for Cold Harbor 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 – Cold Harbor Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
August 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 updated National Register documentation on April 27, 2018.

Natural Systems and Features
- Bloody Run
- Powhite Creek
- Chickahominy River
- Wetlands

Spatial Organization
- Wooded Ravines
- Mixed Field and Forest Patterns at Fort Fletcher Tract
- Open Field East of Visitors Center

Land Use
- Agricultural Land Use
- Commemorative Land Use

Topography
- * Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor
- * Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor
- * Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor
- * Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill
- Fort Fletcher

Vegetation
- Red Oak at Cold Harbor Visitors Center
- White Oak at Cold Harbor Visitors Center

Circulation
- * Garthright House Driveway
- * Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road (Anderson-Wright Drive)
- Turkey Hill Trail
- Cold Harbor Road
- Beulah Church Road
- * Confederate Turnout Parking Lot

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Union Turnout Parking Lot
Cold Harbor Visitor Center Parking Lot
(Beulah Church) Wartime Road Trace
Fort Fletcher Road
Fort Fletcher Wartime Road Trace
Fort Fletcher Postwar Road Trace
Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace
Bloody Run-Powhite Creek Wartime Road Trace
Bloody Run Postwar Road Trace
Woodbury-Alexander Bridge Wartime Road Trace
General Smith Drive

Buildings and Structures
* Garthright House

Views and Vistas
View of Garthright House from Cold Harbor Road
View West from Garthright House Driveway
View Between Confederate and Union Earthworks at Cold Harbor Near Turnout Parking Lots
Eastward View of Open Field East of Visitors Center from Western Extent of Main Trail

Small Scale Features
* Freeman Marker #25
* Freeman Marker #26
* Freeman Marker #27

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Spatial Organization
Forested Heights Near Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor
Open Field Along Beulah Church Drive

Vegetation
Red Cedars at Garthright House

Circulation
Sandy Valley Road
Parrish Place Lane
Main Trail
Western Trail
Extended Loop Trail
5379 Sandy Valley Road Driveway
7219 Beulah Church Road Driveway

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Buildings and Structures
* Cold Harbor Visitor Center
* Brick Structure at 7095 Parrish Place Lane
* 7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed
* 7095 Parrish Place Lane Equipment Shelter

Small Scale Features
* 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument
Cannons
Benches
Waysides

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation
Black Walnut at Garthright House

Small-Scale Features
Turkey Gate Pier
Interpretative Metal Signs
Flagpole

bcc:
Susan Hollister, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Jo Holt, (Acting) Region 1 History Program
Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

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

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Hanover County

Size (Acres): 437.19

Land Tract Number(s)

01B-10, 104.53 acres
01-116, 36.51 acres
01-124, 1.10 acres
01-126, 18.62 acres
01-101 (Garthright), 2.01 acres
01-101 (Cold Harbor), 142.16 acres
01-127, 54.93 acres
01-135, 6.05 acres
01-259, 3.40 acres

Boundary Description:

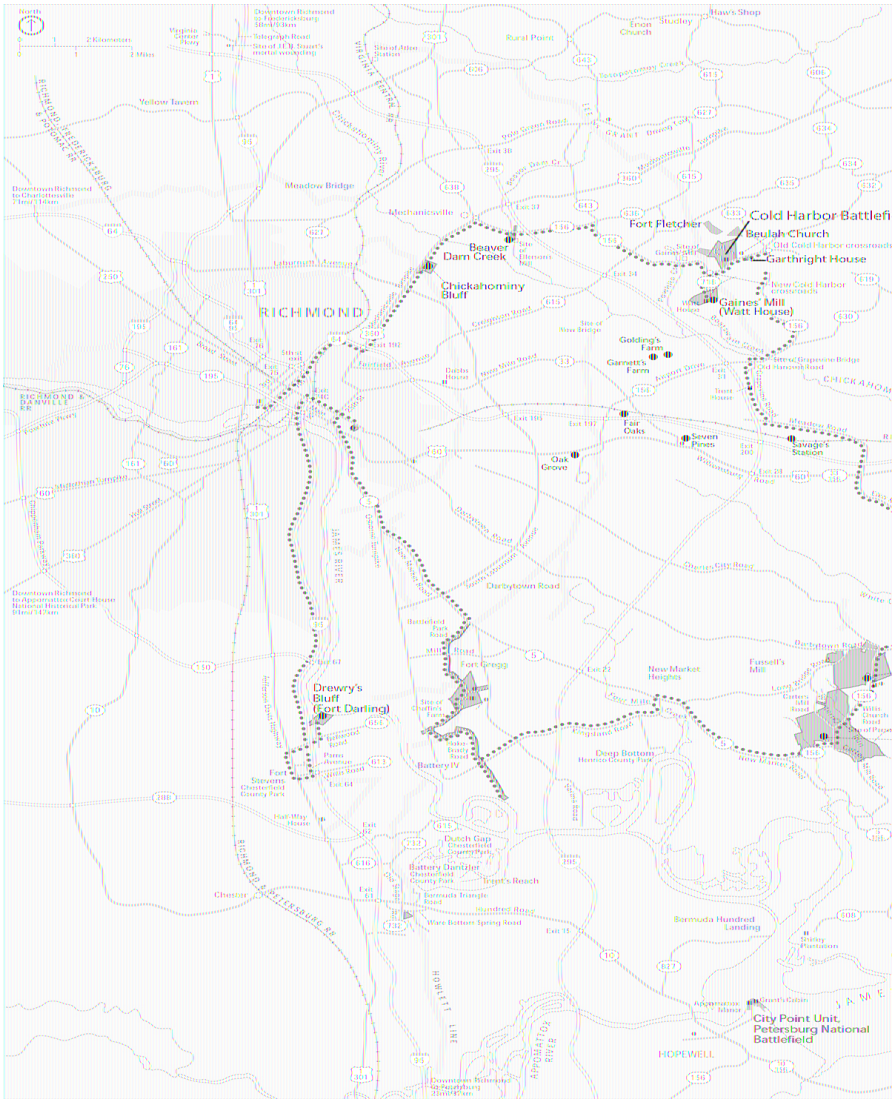
The Cold Harbor Battlefield CLI boundary corresponds to the land within the authorized boundary of the Richmond NBP Cold Harbor Unit, owned in fee simple by the federal government. The boundary encompasses a total of 439.17 acres on five noncontiguous parcels of land, as shown on the Cold Harbor Battlefield site plans. The tracts include the 2.01-acre Garthright House tract (6019 Cold Harbor Road), the 54.93-acre Fort Fletcher tract (5379 Sandy Valley Road), the 18.62-acre Beulah Church Road tract (7219 Beulah Church Road), the 104-53-acre Turkey Hill tract (0 Cold Harbor Road), and the 189.22-acre main Cold Harbor tract (5515 Anderson-Wright Drive). These five land tracts are associated with the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
GIS	Area	37.606626	-77.287807	
GIS	Area	37.60577	-77.289713	
GIS	Area	37.599565	-77.286421	
GIS	Area	37.598789	-77.284323	
GIS	Area	37.599651	-77.282405	
GIS	Area	37.599788	-77.279057	
GIS	Area	37.59723	-77.283361	
GIS	Area	37.596819	-77.278921	
GIS	Area	37.597161	-77.277999	
GIS	Area	37.59581	-77.281267	
GIS	Area	37.59443	-77.285971	
GIS	Area	37.594594	-77.287381	
GIS	Area	37.591314	-77.2898	
GIS	Area	37.593731	-77.293987	
GIS	Area	37.591546	-77.296874	
GIS	Area	37.591291	-77.294773	
GIS	Area	37.590212	-77.293982	
GIS	Area	37.588989	-77.291494	
GIS	Area	37.589079	-77.289582	
GIS	Area	37.584802	-77.287032	
GIS	Area	37.588501	-77.281399	
GIS	Area	37.59105	-77.282133	
GIS	Area	37.591288	-77.280496	
GIS	Area	37.592272	-77.281255	
GIS	Area	37.591982	-77.282275	
GIS	Area	37.593488	-77.282385	
GIS	Area	37.5943	-77.280369	
GIS	Area	37.589417	-77.278292	
GIS	Area	37.589298	-77.278859	
GIS	Area	37.587773	-77.278776	
GIS	Area	37.587786	-77.278236	
GIS	Area	37.564475	-77.278868	
GIS	Area	37.562221	-77.280318	

GIS	Area	37.556611	-77.27879	
GIS	Area	37.552407	-77.273513	
GIS	Area	37.552012	-77.270935	
GIS	Area	37.552944	-77.269392	
GIS	Area	37.554846	-77.269306	
GIS	Area	37.557167	-77.271068	
GIS	Area	37.559855	-77.271584	
GIS	Area	37.561745	-77.276003	
GIS	Area	37.563483	-77.275073	

Location Map:



Cold Harbor Battlefield is located approximately nine miles northeast of Richmond, Virginia. (NPS, annotated by Olmstea Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP--2022)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Cold Harbor is in Hanover County, with an area of 474 square miles and approximately 109,000 people. Cold Harbor Battlefield is about 110 miles south of Washington D.C. and 12 miles north of Richmond. The landscape surrounding the forest, fields, and wetlands of Cold Harbor Battlefield has retained its agricultural character throughout most of the twentieth century. However, adjacent truck farms and fields are interspersed with suburban residential development. The Garthright House is adjacent to Hanover County's Cold Harbor Battlefield Park that preserves Civil War-era earthworks within a wooded landscape south and east of the Garthright parcel.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Cold Harbor Battlefield lies near the "fall line," roughly delineating the geological and topographical boundary between the Coastal Plain to the east and the Piedmont Plateau to the west. Waterfalls, rapids, and cataracts separate the lower, navigable, tidal portions of Virginia's major waterways, including the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers, from their narrower, more swiftly flowing upper stretches to the northwest. Several small streams meander through portions of the Cold Harbor unit, draining into the nearby Chickahominy River, a tributary of the James River. The Chickahominy River's nearly one-mile floodplain includes much of the Cold Harbor Battlefield. Swampy lowlands, forested riverine areas, upland terraces of loosely consolidated sedimentary rock, diatomaceous clays and fine sands of the Calvert formation, and the glauconitic sands of the Aquia formation characterize much of the battlefield. (Clay 1975; Calver 1963) Vegetation in this area of the Atlantic coastal plain includes the Oak-Pine Forest type, with pine predominant on uplands and ridges and oak in lower-lying areas. Other major tree species include hickory, poplar, gum, beech, sycamore, maple, birch, magnolia, and dogwood. The modified continental climate of the region generally affords warm summers and mild winters with high humidity. (Clay 1975; NOAA 2021) Temperatures range from an average low of 28.8 degrees Fahrenheit in January to an average high of 89.5 degrees Fahrenheit in July, with an average annual precipitation of 45.5 inches. (NOAA 2021)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

A seven-member Board of Supervisors governs Hanover County and has oversight of local zoning regulations and land use. All land parcels within the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit are owned in fee simple by the National Park Service. The Turkey Hill parcel is zoned Rural Conservation (RC). All others are zoned, Agricultural (A-1). Lands adjacent to the Turkey Hill parcel have a variety of zoning designations including Agricultural (A-1), Agricultural Residential (AR-6), General Residential (R-1), Light Industrial (M-2), or Community Business (B-2) zoning. The more northern land tracts of Cold Harbor Battlefield are surrounded by lands zoned for General Residential (R-1), Agricultural Residential (AR-6), and Single-Family Residential (RS).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/27/2022

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Cold Harbor Battlefield meets the management category “Must be Preserved and Maintained” because the property is related to the park’s legislated significance. Most of the battlefield was part of the state park when it was transferred to the federal government. The March 2, 1936 enabling legislation for Richmond National Battlefield Park, amended in 1995, stipulates that when the United States acquired title to,
“all such lands, structures, and other property in the military battlefield area or areas in the city of Richmond, Virginia, or within five miles of the city limits of said city or within five miles of the boundary of the present Richmond Battlefield State Park…as necessary or desirable for national battlefield park purposes…provided, that such area or areas shall include, at least, the Richmond Battlefield Parks now belonging to the State of Virginia.” (Act of March 2, 1936, Chapter 113; 49 Stat. 1155, from NR 2018, Sec.8: 96)

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date: 10/31/2026

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The agricultural lease addresses the use of the fields at the Beulah Church Road Tract and the Fort Fletcher Tract.

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Richmond NBP provides Special Use Permits to local farmers for agricultural use of Cold Harbor Battlefield (maybe Agricultural Lease)

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Eastern National

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: The boundary of the Cold Harbor Battlefield cultural landscape corresponds to the federally owned parcels.

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The Cold Harbor Battlefield unit contains portions of the core area of fighting during the Battle of Cold Harbor. However, considerable portions of the fighting on May 31-June 12, 1864, occurred on lands currently outside the park boundary. The Garthright House is adjacent to Hanover County's Cold Harbor Battlefield Park, which preserves Civil War-era earthworks within a primarily wooded landscape south and east of the Garthright parcel. The battle's namesake, Old Cold Harbor crossroads, lies outside the park unit, 0.5 miles east of the Garthright House. (Shepard et.al. 2019: 105-106)

The Cold Harbor National Cemetery, established in 1866, lies within the Cold Harbor Battlefield but is separate from the park unit and not part of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The cemetery is administered by the National Cemetery Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The 1.4-acre tract contains 2,099 interments of soldiers killed during the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, the Seven Days Battles, and from other Civil War battles. The cemetery is less than 450 feet east of the main tract along the north side of Route 156. (Shepard et.al. 2019: 105-106)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Cold Harbor Battlefield is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP), which encompasses a series of non-contiguous sites authorized on March 2, 1936 “for the purpose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the resources associated with the Civil War battles in and around the City of Richmond, Virginia,” and established on July 14, 1944. The National Park Service acquired the majority of the main Cold Harbor Tract and the Garthright Tract of the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit in 1944. Portions of the Beulah Church tract, the Fort Fletcher Tract, and the Turkey Hill Tract were acquired between 2000 and 2017.

Richmond NBP was administratively listed without documentation in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Initial documentation of resources occurred on January 16, 1973 when the park was listed on the Virginia Landmark Register under the name “Richmond National Battlefield Park.” For this listing, a National Register form was prepared but was not approved by the Keeper of the National Register. The documentation accepted by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicated that the site was significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics and social/humanitarian, Criterion C in the area of architecture, and Criterion D for archeology (historic-aboriginal). The period of significance was identified as the nineteenth century, but no specific dates were given. The documentation itemized resources under four headings: earthworks (11 areas), monuments (approximately 80), Watt House, and Garthright House.

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archeological Resources” was accepted by the Keeper. 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. Richmond NHB was identified under the battlefields, earthworks, military hospitals, and military headquarters property types under Criteria A, C, and D. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along the principal transportation routes. The events at Cold Harbor Battlefield (May 31 – June 13, 1864) were described as part of the Overland Campaign.

On October 5, 2009, the Virginia SHPO concurred with the National Park Service on the eligibility of numerous resources at the park as part of as an update to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). Nine features at Cold Harbor Battlefield were evaluated as contributing: Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor, Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road, Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill, Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Freeman Marker #s 26 and 27, Garthright House, and Garthright House Driveway. The 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument was evaluated as noncontributing.

On April 27, 2018 the Keeper accepted the first comprehensive park-wide National Register documentation for Richmond National Battlefield Park. According to the documentation, the district is primarily significant as the site of major Civil War battlefields and related properties associated with the Union’s attempts to take the Confederate capital city of Richmond during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, the Overland Campaign of 1864, and the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign of 1864–1865. Significance for the 2879.42-acre federally owned historic district was identified under criteria A, B, C, and D at the national level in the areas of Military, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Conservation, Other (Commemoration), Science, Engineering, Architecture, Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), and Archeology-Prehistoric. Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and Ulysses S. Grant were identified as significant persons, and the district’s contributing

commemorative monuments were evaluated as meeting Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because they possess significance engendered from their age, design, and symbolic values. The period of significance for the district was listed as c.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House and ending when the NPS officially accepted management of the park. For archeology, the period of significance was listed as 1680-1865 for historic archeology and 8000 BCE-1600 CE for prehistoric archeology.

At Cold Harbor, the 2018 documentation identified Cold Harbor Battlefield as a contributing site, as well as eleven contributing structures and objects: Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road (Anderson-Wright Road), Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill, Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor, Freeman Marker #25, Freeman Marker #26, Freeman Marker #27, Garthright House, Garthright House Driveway, and Wartime Road Trace (now Beulah Church Wartime Road Trace). Noncontributing resources included: Cold Harbor Visitor Center, 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument, 6066 Cold Harbor Road (since demolished), 7095 Parrish Place Lane (house), 7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed, 7095 Parrish Place Lane Equipment Shelter, and 7219 Beulah Church Road house (demolished).

According to research conducted for the CLI documentation and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance at Cold Harbor Battlefield are adequately documented based on the park-wide 2018 National Register documentation. However, additional historic resources in the park unit were not addressed on the documentation. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property 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.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Richmond National Battlefield Park:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is a contributing site of the Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District. Richmond NBP comprises 13 discontiguous administrative units encompassing slightly more than 3,600 acres in and around the cities of Richmond and Mechanicsville, within Henrico, Hanover, and Chesterfield counties. The district contains six sites associated with the Peninsula Campaign, including Drewry’s Bluff, Chickahominy Bluff, Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Gaines’ Mill Battlefield, Glendale Battlefield, and Malvern Hill Battlefield. The Cold Harbor and Totopotomoy Creek battlefields are the locations of the last two battles of the Overland Campaign (May 4-June 15, 1864), during which Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant directed the operations of the Army of the Potomac against General Robert E. Lee. The climax of the Overland Campaign, the bloodiest campaign of the Civil War, occurred at Cold Harbor, where Grant ordered several futile charges against heavily fortified Confederate lines, an act he later said was among his greatest regrets of the war. Following a stalemate at Cold Harbor, Grant changed his war strategy to focus on the capture of Petersburg, a major transportation and supply hub 25 miles south of Richmond.

The district is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Military, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Conservation, Other (Commemoration), Engineering, Architecture, Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), and Archeology-Prehistoric. The district is nationally significant for its associations with Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and Ulysses S. Grant. The district's contributing commemorative monuments are evaluated as meeting Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because they possess significance from their age, design, and symbolic values. The period of significance for the district is c.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House (within the Cold Harbor unit) and ending with the year initial national park development was completed. The period of significance extends from 8000 BCE to 1600 CE in pre-contact archaeology and from 1680 to 1865 for historic archeology.

Cold Harbor Battlefield:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Military History, Commemoration, and Conservation as the site of the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31 through June 12, 1864 and for its association with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, which led to the establishment of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1936. The battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Military History for associations with the careers of the principal commanders of the opposing forces during the early stages of the Civil War, namely Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), and George B. McClellan (1826-1885). The battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for the remnants of Federal and Confederate fortifications and earthworks, and at the state level in the area of Architecture for the Garthright House and its association with architectural styles adopted during the rise of the plantation system of farming. Lastly, the battlefield is significant under Criterion D in the area of Historic (Non-Aboriginal) Archeology for both above-ground and subsurface resources that have the potential to yield information about the battle and antebellum uses of the area.

The primary period of significance for Cold Harbor Battlefield corresponds with the period of significance for Richmond Battlefield National Battlefield Park, 1720-1944, from the year the Garthright House was constructed to the end of the initial period of National Park Service development.

CRITERION A

Military History:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is significant at the national level in the area of Military History as the site of the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31 through June 12, 1864, part of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign. The campaign prescribed a three-pronged attack in Virginia to ensure General Lee's forces remained engaged as Union General William T. Sherman's forces moved across the South toward Atlanta. Grant knew the Union had more men than the Confederacy. So, though the Overland Campaign caused high levels of causalities, Grant did not change course believing his Overland strategy would save lives in the long term by hastening the war's end. In the month of the Overland Campaign, more than 80,000 men were injured or killed. Though General Lee and the Confederacy achieved partial victories at the battles of Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna River, Totopotomoy Creek, and Cold Harbor, the Union forces reduced the offensive capacity of the Confederacy's army. In the following months, the Army of Northern Virginia became pinned to defensive earthworks during Grant's siege of Petersburg. The Confederacy lost the war, and a truce was signed at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865.

Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31–June 12, 1864.
On May 31, after a draw at the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek, Union Major General Winfield Hancock attempted to cross the Totopotomoy but found the Confederates entrenched in a well-protected position along high ground overlooking the creek valley. Deciding against a frontal assault, General Grant ordered the federal army to move southeast towards Richmond. However, to pass along the designated route, the army would need control of the crossroads at the village of Old Cold Harbor. Union Major General Philip Sheridan had previously sent Brigadier General Alfred T.A. Torbert's cavalry division to capture and hold the crossroads. Fearing the loss of the vital intersection, Lee also ordered troops to leave Totopotomoy Creek and march to Old Cold Harbor. However, by the time additional Confederate forces arrived, Torbert's cavalry had gained control of the Cold Harbor crossroads. So, the Confederates took a position about one half mile west of the crossroads and began digging entrenchments along their line. (NPS 2000:

Cold Harbor; NPS 2015: The Battle of Totopotomoy Creek; Rhea 2001: 32-35, cited NR 2018, Sec.8: 89)

Grant's plan for June 1 was to send troops detached from Major General Benjamin F. Butler's Army of the James to Old Cold Harbor in the hope they could break the Confederate now entrenched line to get between the Confederate troops and Richmond. As the Federal troops were delayed, only Torbert's cavalry stood in the way of the massing Confederate infantry at the Cold Harbor crossroads. Instead of organizing a concentrated assault with Major General Robert Hoke to clear the lightly held crossroads, the Confederates sent only a single brigade. They were met with solid resistance and called off the attack quickly. (Rhea 2001: 36-37, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 59-60)

Although Grant wanted an immediate attack once Federal troops got into position, the Sixth Corps commander thought his men needed a rest after their forced 15-mile march and delayed their assault. Union Brigadier General David A. Russell's division was posted on the south side of the east-west road that connected the two villages, just east of the Garthright Farm, which included the existing farmhouse and drive. During the ensuing battle, the Garthright House served as a Union hospital. Additional Union troops were positioned north of the road and north and south of Bloody Run. Following out-of-date marching orders, Major General William F. Smith's corps initially went in the wrong direction and did not reach the field until mid-afternoon. Once the additional troops arrived, they moved into a position that extended northward in an arc to Beulah Church on the road leading north from Old Cold Harbor. The (former) property at 7219 Beulah Church Road contains a road trace present during the battle and a portion of the earthworks built by the Eighteenth Federal Corps. Smith's men attacked westward across the neighboring fields of the property at 7095 Parrish Place Lane. Other area roads, many of which exist as traces today, were also used by troops. (Rhea 2001: 37-38 cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 60)

Once the Federal troops were in position, Grant ordered an attack on the Confederate line west of Old Cold Harbor. At 6:30 p.m., the Federal corps moved in unison against the Confederates. The Union lines met with heavy fire and little success, though they moved through a gap in the Confederate line along Bloody Run. The Federals then pulled back to their lines, and the fighting ended for the day. (NPS 2000: Cold Harbor; Rhea 2001: 38-40, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 60-62)

The attack cost the Union 2,200 casualties, but its relative success encouraged General Grant. Both he and Major General George G. Meade thought a concentrated assault the following day might break the Confederate lines and put the Union army between Lee's army and Richmond. That night, Meade ordered Hancock to move his Second Corps from Totopotomoy Creek to Old Cold Harbor to add weight to the attack. However, the march was long and arduous, and Hancock failed to make it to his position on Wright's left until late morning. To give Hancock's men sufficient time to recover, Grant decided to delay the assault until the following day. (Rhea 2001: 40-41, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 61)

The delay gave Lee critical time to respond. Finding that Hancock had left his position on the Totopotomoy line, he sent Major General John C. Breckinridge southward to take up a position to Hoke's right on Turkey Hill, which offered high ground that commanded the southern part of the battlefield. Breckinridge quickly drove off the small contingent of Federal troops in the area. Lee also sent the divisions to extend the line to the south of Breckinridge and stationed Major General Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry to guard the army's right flank south of Turkey Hill. (Rhea 2001: 41-43, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 62)

On June 2, the Confederates augmented their defensive position under Lee's supervision, digging entrenchments throughout the area. Remnant segments of the Confederate lines remain in the park, including the Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill, the Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor, and the Confederate Earthworks at Gaines' Mill (to the west, outside the boundaries of the Cold Harbor park unit). These fortifications consisted of an elaborate system of three lines of interlocking trenches fronted by log barricades and connected by traverses. They took advantage of the area's steeply hilly topography and thick woods to strengthen their entrenchments while clearing the fields of fire of trees and brush. Artillery emplacements allowed for overlapping crossfire. By nightfall, the fortified Confederate line stretched unbroken for 6 miles (Rhea 2001: 41-42, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 61-62)

While the Confederates constructed elaborate earthen defenses, General Grant consolidated and shored up his lines. Warren's Fifth Corps and Burnside's Ninth Corps moved south to connect with Smith's right.

Two of Hancock's divisions under Brigadier Generals Francis Barlow and John Gibbon formed lines opposite A.P. Hill's position at Turkey Hill. Remnants of the Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor consist of several parallel lines of linear earthworks that run north to south along the eastern half of the Cold Harbor Battlefield, as well as Redoubt Fletcher, constructed between June 5 and June 8, 1864. (Rhea 2001: 41-42 , cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 62)

At 4:30 a.m. on June 3, almost 50,000 Federal troops in the Second, Sixth, and Eighteenth corps launched a massive assault against the Army of Northern Virginia. They were met by blanketing infantry and artillery fire from the well-designed Confederate lines. Many Union columns found themselves in unexpected swamps, ravines, and heavy vegetation because their commanders had not adequately scouted the fronts. As a result, the units lost contact, and the Confederates dealt with them piecemeal. Smith's corps was unfavorably funneled into two ravines and mowed down when it reached the Confederate position. The high point of the Federal attack occurred when Hancock's Second Corps seized a portion of the Confederate lines on Turkey Hill. Heavy fire from Confederate artillery infiltrated the trenches taken by the Federals and turned them into a deathtrap; this and Breckinridge's reserve quickly drove the Federals back. Warren's Fifth Corps on Smith's right did little fighting during the battle, but Major General Ambrose Burnside launched a strong attack from his lines near Bethesda Church that Major General Jubal Early's corps and Major General Henry Heth's division of A.P. Hill's corps repulsed. (NPS 2000: Cold Harbor; Rhea 2001: 42-47, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 60)

A few hours later, Grant, still hopeful of success, advised Meade to push reinforcements to any place in the line where he thought the Confederates might be vulnerable. Meade ordered Smith and Wright to move forward without regard to each other's movements and asked Hancock to make another attack on his front if he thought it practicable. Smith refused to move, denouncing another assault as a "wanton waste of life." Wright, who had not pressed his troops hard because he was leery of attacking the fortified Confederate position in his front, had them continue firing from the relative safety of their lines. Hancock advised against another attack. After taking a ride along the Federal lines to assess the situation, Grant relented and allowed Meade to order an end to the attacks about 12:30 p.m. (Rhea 2001: 47-48, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 61)

Grant later wrote in his memoirs that the orders he issued for the final assaults at Cold Harbor on June 3 ranked among his chief regrets of the war. For the next ten days, the Union and Confederate forces became deeply entrenched in the fields, swamps, and forests of the Cold Harbor Battlefield, expanding their elaborate systems of fieldworks. Fort or Redoubt Fletcher was the most significant addition to the Union line, constructed between June 5 and June 8, only 1,400 feet from the front line of the Army of Northern Virginia. Though designed as a "redoubt" or enclosed fortification, the earthwork was not fully enclosed as the troops moved away from the battlefield before they completed the back of the enclosure (Willcox 1999, 534 – 535). Today the fort includes the ruins of a powder magazine and a traverse that bisected the middle of the fort to protect the troops from incoming fire. It was named Fort Fletcher, Redoubt Fletcher, or Battery Fletcher, after a Michigan officer, Nelson Fletcher killed at the Battle of North Anna River. On June 6 and 7, Confederate General Jubal Early attacked Union troops just north of Fort Fletcher, and while Union guns fired in support of the troops to the north, there was no direct attack on the fort. In total, the Union suffered around 13,000 casualties during the two weeks at Cold Harbor, more than triple the number suffered by the Confederates. (Grant 1886: 588; Rhea 2001: 50, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 60-62; Willcox 1999, 534 – 535)

The Overland Campaign had begun only six weeks earlier with fighting in the thick forests and swamps of Wilderness Battlefield. Grant pushed southward to the crucial crossroads at Spotsylvania Court House to continue the Union advance on Richmond. After the terrible losses at Spotsylvania, Grant again pivoted south. Lee raced toward the North Anna River to cut off Grant and gathered on the high bluffs overlooking the river. Grant, realizing Lee was in a formable position with a clear line of fire, withdrew and swept southeast, pulling closer to Richmond. A battle soon erupted along a long line on either side of Totopotomoy Creek before the troops moved southeastward again to the fields and forests surrounding the crossroads at Cold Harbor Tavern. There they fought and entrenched for almost two weeks.

The Overland Campaign resulted in more than 80,000 casualties and culminated in a stalemate in the fields and forests of Cold Harbor Battlefield. By the middle of June, Grant began pulling men out of the lines at Cold Harbor and marching south towards Petersburg, refocusing his troops on cutting off the

critical supply hub from the capital city, Richmond. The initial assault on Petersburg began just two days later.

Commemoration and Conservation:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is significant at the national level in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation for its association with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, which led to the establishment of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1936. The 1862 and 1864 Civil War battlefield sites surrounding Richmond did not initially benefit from the federal battlefield preservation efforts in the 1890s that resulted in the creation of the country's first four national military parks, all at other Civil War sites, under the management of the War Department. Over the next few decades, however, numerous individuals and groups petitioned Congress for additional parks and memorials at other American battlefields. To assist in prioritizing these requests, in 1926, Congress authorized a study of all the nation's battlefields. At about the same time, Richmond journalist and historian Douglas Southall Freeman led a group of interested residents to form the Battlefield Markers Association. The group raised money for the identification and erection of 59 commemorative markers at various battlefield sites in and around Richmond. The collection of "Freeman Markers," three of which are located on the Cold Harbor Battlefield, is the country's earliest known series of non-governmental historical markers. The Freeman Markers each consist of a 2-foot by 3-foot by 3.5-foot cast iron inscription tablet set at an angle on a concrete capstone with a granite base. The cast iron tablets have raised lettering describing the portion of the battle commemorated; each has a unique identifying number at the lower left corner. The Battlefield Markers Association subsequently formed a local corporation to preserve portions of the Richmond Battlefield lands through private land acquisition. In 1932, the Commonwealth of Virginia took ownership of the lands, establishing the Richmond Battlefield Park as its first state-managed public park.

The transfer of the country's national military parks from the War Department to the National Park Service in 1933 brought about significant changes in the direction of battlefield preservation and interpretation efforts. Congress passed legislation authorizing Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP) on March 2, 1936. Virginia's government initiated the transfer of the Richmond Battlefield Park lands to the federal government in 1938. Following a lengthy legal process, the National Park Service officially accepted management responsibility for the park on July 14, 1944.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, together with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) under the supervision of the NPS, developed the battlefield park between 1927-1944 according to the prevailing principles of battlefield preservation and commemoration. Austerity measures associated with World War II curtailed NPS development at Richmond, as at most national parks, after 1944. The size and overall appearance of Richmond NBP remained relatively static for much of the second half of the twentieth century, even during the Mission 66 period (1956-1966) of Park Service infrastructure investments throughout the National Park system. The few visitor facilities constructed at Richmond NBP during the 1950s and 1960s, such as the Cold Harbor Visitor Center, were removed or substantially altered later. New development at Richmond NBP began only within the last two decades (ca.1995-2015), as the park acquired additional battlefield lands that have more than tripled the federally conserved acreage. The landscape of the Richmond NBP, established in 1936 and developed with state and federal assistance through 1944, remains an example of early NPS preservation work (NR Nom Sec 8: 78).

Specific resources reflective of the early NPS development by the CCC at Cold Harbor included a foot trail around the Confederate earthworks, a wood-frame contact station (no longer extant) at the site entrance, a parking lot/picnic area, the Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road, and other connecting roads and trails that are still in use or remain as traces. CCC funds supported repair and restoration work at the adjacent Garthright House and site grading. The CCC also erected more than 400 markers throughout the park, including the Cold Harbor unit, primarily designation markers explaining the fortification remains. (Baril ca.1995: 12-16; Willett 1956: 57-63, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 78-80)

CRITERION B

Military History:
Richmond NBP is significant at the national level 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, namely Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), and

George B. McClellan (1826-1885). Please refer to the 2018 National Register documentation for detailed information on their roles at Cold Harbor Battlefield (NR 2018, Sec.8: 75-81).

CRITERION C

Engineering:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is significant at the national level in the area of Engineering for the remains of Union and Confederate fortifications and earthworks. The earthworks that ringed the city were part of the most extensive network of fortifications constructed during the Civil War. The sophisticated systems of trenches and forts constructed by the Confederate and Union armies represent the state to which field fortification engineering advanced during the Civil War and are generally regarded as the forerunners of the static trench warfare methods used in Europe in World War I. Numerous examples of temporary field fortifications are located within the Cold Harbor Battlefield. These field fortifications represent military tactics of active defense, espoused most prominently by West Point engineering professor and military tactics author Dennis Hart Mahan (1802-1871). Military engineers scouted and selected positions based on topography and other natural advantages and hastily established lines of defense. The troops dug or otherwise constructed the fortifications as they arrived at the position. In places like Cold Harbor, where the armies faced one another for relatively long periods, the field fortifications evolved into elaborate systems. Together, the field fortifications at the park convey through their location, design, and setting the pivotal role that military engineering played in determining battlefield strategy and, ultimately, the outcome of the Seven Days Battles and Grant's Overland Campaign. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 97)

On the Cold Harbor Battlefield, a combination of semi-permanent and hasty defenses and a rare example of sets of parallel lines of trenches, rather than single lines, provided deeper defensive fields. The Confederate earthworks at Cold Harbor are part of the 6-mile-long line of defensive earthworks that Lee's men constructed to defend Richmond against the Federal advance from Fredericksburg during the Overland Campaign. They consisted of three rows of east-facing trenches and parapets. The Confederate line terminated at the Confederate earthworks at Turkey Hill. The Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor marks the rear of the Confederate line. The Federal earthworks at Cold Harbor are a combination of more planned entrenchments, such as Fort Fletcher, and the ephemeral defenses constructed in the middle of the battle by men caught in a no-man's land of crossfire using their bayonets, tin cups, and even spoons. (Grimsley 2002: 214; Hess 2005: xvii, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 99)

Architecture:
Cold Harbor Battlefield is significant at the state level in the area of Architecture for the Garthright House as a representative example of domestic architectural styles in Colonial Virginia adopted by the planter class during the rise of the plantation farming system in the area from about 1720 to 1780. During this period, small tobacco farms gave way to large plantations, resulting in the development of three distinct social classes: plantation owners wielding powerful gentry authority; tenant farmers, formerly the small, independent tobacco farmers forced to sell their land to wealthier neighbors when they were unable to meet the labor and land requirements of the new tobacco economy; and enslaved people of African descent. The middling class of small tobacco farmers, previously an integral element of the social structure, experienced a dramatic reduction in circumstance as their access to cheap labor and inexpensive land severely declined. At the same time, plantation owners had both the acreage and the capital to invest in a new labor source–enslaving people of African descent. A new cultural landscape emerged characterized by small tenant farms, slave quarters, and large plantation houses. (Kline et.al. 2012, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 106)

A constellation of smaller outbuildings and dependencies, including the kitchen, well house, smokehouse, dairy, stable, barn, and slave quarters, usually surrounded the great houses of the plantation system. The particular buildings constructed for each plantation and their physical appearance varied according to the dominant vernacular tradition in the area. Outbuilding placement varied depending on the diversity of crops and the size of the plantation; quarters for the enslaved who worked in the house may have been closer to the great house than those for field workers, who may have lived farther from the domestic core. Many of these outbuildings were ephemeral, generally built of earth-fast construction, leaving little in the way of aboveground evidence of their existence. (LCA 2000: 6,15; Vlach 1993: 11; Wells 1993: 3,15, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 102)

The Garthright House at Cold Harbor was constructed ca.1720 as a one-story, side-gable, single-pile brick dwelling on a raised basement and likely built with a side-entry plan and interior end chimney. This building organization was relatively common in Virginia during the Colonial Period (1675–1775). A ca.1800 addition converted the building into a five-bay, center-passage house with an interior end wall chimney on the east elevation and an exterior end wall chimney on the west. The original portion of the house typifies Post-Medieval construction in Virginia in plan and form, with a front-to-back symmetric single-pile plan and corbelled chimney tops. (Post-Medieval refers to the first house forms constructed by European settlers in the New World. Generally accepted to have been built between 1600 and 1700, but with examples of Post-Medieval detailing extant through the eighteenth century in the American South, Southern examples typically were one-story, single-pile, brick constructions with double end chimneys and relatively steeply pitched roofs.) The ca.1800 additions to the house are more in keeping with the Georgian style, with paired-end chimneys and symmetry between the first and second stories on the main elevation of the addition. Following a 1970 fire, the NPS rehabilitated the house in 1971-1977 for use as park employee housing. There are no extant outbuildings associated with the Garthright House. (McAlester 2014: 159–160; Glassie 1975: 91, cited in NR 2018, Sec.8: 102)

CRITERION D

Historic (Non-Aboriginal) Archaeology:
According to the 2018 National Register, the Cold Harbor Battlefield may be significant at the national level in the area of Historic (Non-Aboriginal) Archaeology. While the Malvern Hill, Glendale, and Gaines' Mill units of Richmond NBP have undergone a systematic, unit-wide archeological review or survey, only smaller-scale, primarily compliance-related projects have been conducted at Cold Harbor, Drewry's Bluff, Totopotomoy Creek, Beaver Dam, and Fort Harrison. Most such projects have resulted in the identification of low-density pre- and post-contact artifact scatters without clear temporal or cultural affiliations. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 107)

Despite the lack of unit-wide systematic survey within the park, Cold Harbor Battlefield has the potential to yield substantive information about the bloody contest for the Confederate capital of Richmond that took place during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 and the Overland Campaign of 1864. The identified archeological resources and surviving aboveground elements of the military landscape at Malvern Hill, Glendale, and Gaines' Mill illustrate the organization, operation, and experiences of the Union and Confederate armies that can be extrapolated to archeologically unexplored portions of the park. Because the war was fought on a preexisting cultural landscape shaped by an agrarian economy dependent on slave labor, the district also has the potential to yield important information about the antebellum development of that landscape and the enslaved and free people who lived on it. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 108)

The 2018 National Register documentation does not specifically identify any archeological sites at Cold Harbor. As such research and evaluation is beyond the scope of the CLI, please refer to the 2018 National Register documentation for more information and an extensive bibliography.

CRITERION CONSIDERATION F: COMMEMORATIVE PROPERTIES

Contributing commemorative monuments at Cold Harbor Battlefield meet Criteria Consideration F because they possess significance from their age, design, and symbolic values. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 44)

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 1720 - CE 1944

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expanding Science and Technology	Technology (Engineering and Invention)	Military (Fortifications, Weapons, And War Vehicles)	
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	
Developing the American Economy	Agriculture	Plantation Agriculture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Colonial (1600-1730)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Period Revivals (1870-1940)	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Historic Preservation Movement	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Richmond National Battlefield Park
NRIS ID:	66000836
Primary Certification Date:	04/27/2018
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	043 -0033
Name:	Richmond National Battlefield Park
Listed Date:	01/16/1973

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 5000 - 1000	Inhabited	Groups of people inhabit the region, occupying small, seasonal camps, and subsisting by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants.
BCE 1000 - 200	Settled	Humans increasingly inhabit the Chickahominy River valley year-round. They cultivate a variety of vegetables on a patchwork of fields and woodlands surrounding more permanent dwellings. Village populations reach several hundred.
CE 200 - 1607	Settled	Several Algonquian-speaking tribes form a political alliance lead by the Powhatan.
CE 1607 - 1612	Explored	John Smith explores several nearby rivers, including the Chickahominy River; Pocahontas, reportedly one of Chief Powhatan`s favorite children, begins visiting Jamestown with other children.
CE 1607 - 1775	Colonized	Jamestown is settled in 1607 and English settlers colonize the region.
CE 1607 - 1609	Explored	Between 1607 and 1609, explorers led by Captain Christopher Newport, including Captain John Smith, leave Jamestown on an exploratory mission. They travel up Powhatan`s River, now known as the James River, stopping at what is now Osborne Landing.
CE 1611	Established	Sir Thomas Dale establishes Henricus, or Henrico Town, the colony’s second settlement.
CE 1634	Established	Charles River Shire, one of the eight original shires (counties) of the Virginia Colony forms, and renamed York County in 1643.
CE 1654	Established	New Kent County is established with territory annexed from York County; organized and settled by William Claiborne.
CE 1720	Built	James Hooper builds what will become known as the Garthright House as a one-story, side-gable, single-pile brick dwelling on a raised basement and likely built with a side-entry plan and interior end chimney.
CE 1720	Established	Hanover County is established from the west end of New Kent County.
CE 1723	Established	Garthright family establishes second Quaker Church at White Oak Swamp.
CE 1737	Established	Richmond is established by William Byrd II.
CE 1720 - 1775	Built	Canals and roads are built to improve shipment of goods from region.
CE 1720 - 1775	Cultivated	Agriculture in area shifts from tobacco to grain production.
CE 1800 - 1860	Developed	Flourmills, sawmills, and sugar refineries expand the region’s industrial infrastructure.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1800	Altered	Wood-frame additions and a second chimney make the Garthright House a five-bay, center-passage house with an eastern, on-ridge, interior, end, brick chimney; and a western on-ridge, exterior, end, brick chimney.
CE 1862	Built	Federal troops construct Woodbury-Alexander Bridge across the Chickahominy River south of Turkey Hill.
CE 1862	Military Operation	Woodbury-Alexander Bridge facilitates crucial Federal troop movement at the Battle of Seven Pines.
CE 1862	Military Operation	Confederate troops use roads and farm lanes in and around Cold Harbor Battlefield to enter the Battle of Gaines' Mill.
CE 1862	Military Operation	Federal troops cross the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge fleeing the Battle of Gaines' Mill.
CE 1862	Destroyed	Federal troops burn down Woodbury-Alexander Bridge to prevent Confederate troop use.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Federal and Confederate cavalry skirmish for control of a strategically important crossroads at Old Cold Harbor.
CE 1864	Built	Confederate infantry take up a position about one half mile west of Old Cold Harbor and begin digging the first earthworks at Cold Harbor Battlefield.
CE 1864	Military Operation	From its position at Cold Harbor Battlefield, the Confederate infantry launches an unsuccessful attack on the Federal cavalry holding Old Cold Harbor.
CE 1864	Military Operation	The Federal infantry positions itself parallel to the Confederate line about halfway between Old and New Cold Harbor, from near the Garthright House northward toward the Allison Farm Lane Wartime Road Trace.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Federal troops attack the Confederate line, manage to temporarily breakthrough a gap along Bloody Run, the Federal troops take heavy fire and no advantage.
CE 1864	Built	The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia turn from the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek to a six-mile-long, eastward-facing defensive line, drive off a small contingent of US troops from Turkey Hill, and construct an elaborate linear fortification with additional artillery emplacements southward to the rebuilt Woodbury-Alexander Bridge.
CE 1864	Built	Federal troops build a series and several rows of intertwined and intermittent west-facing earthworks concentrated in and around Cold Harbor Battlefield.
CE 1864	Military Operation	During a major assault on the Confederate earthworks at Cold Harbor Battlefield, many Federal troops find themselves in unexpected swamps, ravines, and heavy vegetation, and lose contact with each other, dying at a high mortality rate.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Before Confederate reserves drive them back, Federal troops briefly seize a portion of the Confederate lines on Turkey Hill.
CE 1864	Built	Federal troops dig an advanced line of trenches at Cold Harbor.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1864	Altered	Stripped of its furnishings, the Garthright House serves as a US field hospital during much of the Battle of Cold Harbor.
CE 1864	Built	Confederate troops improve their fieldworks.
CE 1864	Built	Federal troops contract their defensive line and construct Fort Fletcher near its northern extent.
CE 1864	Military Operation	Federal troops leave their trenches and march toward Petersburg in preparation for the Seige of Petersburg.
CE 1866	Established	Cold Harbor National Cemetery is established, and bodies are reinterred.
CE 1896	Land Transfer	Walter C. and M. E. Garthright, George W. and M. C. Yarbrough, and Hampden F. and Alice F. Ratcliffe partition Garthright property, except for the family cemetery.
CE 1906	Land Transfer	The 125-acre Estate of William Wright is divided among his wife, Emma, and several other legatees.
CE 1925	Memorialized	The Battlefield Markers Association erects three roadside monuments (Freeman Markers) at the site of the Battle of Cold Harbor.
CE 1927	Purchased/Sold	Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation (RBPC) acquires 114.39 acres of land from George R Harwood “and wife.”
CE 1931	Purchased/Sold	RBPC acquires 28.50 acres of land from Mary E Barker “and others.”
CE 1931	Purchased/Sold	RBPC acquires 10.8 acres of land from Willie R. Hufner “and wife.”
CE 1931	Purchased/Sold	RBPC acquires 0.56 acres of land from Maggie E. McGhee “and husband.”
CE 1932	Purchased/Sold	RBPC acquires 2.10 acres of land and the Garthright House from Maggie E. McGhee “and husband.”
CE 1932	Established	The State of Virginia acquires 143.25 acres of land from RBPC, establishing Virginia's first state park, Richmond Battlefield Park.
CE 1933 - 1938	Built	From 1933-1938 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructs a roughly one-mile-long tour road around Cold Harbor Battlefield with parking lots behind the Confederate line and near the contact station.
CE 1934 - 1935	Restored	CCC “Colored Company 1375 backfills most of the railroad cut in front of the Garthright House.
CE 1935 - 1938	Memorialized	At Cold Harbor National Cemetery, CCC reinters four bodies found near the Garthright House.
CE 1935	Established	Garthright House is documented as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.
CE 1935 - 1938	Built	The CCC places a series of markers, orientation and troop movement maps, and pictorial displays throughout the battlefield.
CE 1936	Built	CCC builds a picnic area at Cold Harbor with two fireplaces, west of Confederate parking lot.
CE 1936	Established	US Congress enables the National Park Service (NPS) to establish Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP), which includes Cold Harbor Battlefield.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1937	Purchased/Sold	Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development acquires 2.10 acres of land and the Garthright House from the RBPC.
CE 1937	Planned	The NPS prepares the first Master Plan for Richmond NBP, designs a contact station for Cold Harbor Battlefield, and creates a restoration and rehabilitation plan for the Garthright House.
CE 1937	Built	The CCC constructs a NPS designed contact station near the entrance to Anderson-Wright Drive (no longer extant).
CE 1937	Restored	CCC begins restoration of Garthright House, repairing or replacing the clapboards, repointing the brickwork interior replastering, cutting new millwork, and reroofing.
CE 1938	Planned	NPS creates a landscape and planting plan for the start of Anderson-Wright Drive and the contact station.
CE 1938	Planted	CCC plants a variety of specimens at the Cold Harbor Battlefield entrance, including a red oak and white oak flanking the contact station.
CE 1939	Altered	Plumbing and electric wiring is added to the Garthright House.
CE 1941	Abandoned	The CCC leaves Richmond NBP as the program is ended due to World War II.
CE 1941 - 1945	Neglected	From 1941-1941, funding and labor shortages during World War II causes the condition of Cold Harbor Battlefield and other park sites to decline.
CE 1943	Land Transfer	Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development conveys four parcels of land to the United States of America.
CE 1944	Land Transfer	NPS takes over official ownership and management of Cold Harbor Battlefield from the State of Virginia.
CE 1947	Built	At the Garthright House, NPS repoints the brick, repairs the roof, patches plaster, mends the weatherboards, digs a concrete-encased well, and installs a 750-gallon septic tank and disposal field.
CE 1950	Built	August and Gwendolyn Wright build 780-sqft house at 5379 Sandy Valley Road.
CE 1956	Inhabited	The park permits annual special use of the Garthright House by the Pamunkey Women’s Club.
CE 1961	Removed	The original Cold Harbor contact station is removed.
CE 1965	Built	A new Cold Harbor contact station is completed, as part of Mission 66.
CE 1970	Damaged	Arson causes considerable damage at the Garthright House.
CE 1971 - 1977	Rehabilitated	In 1971-1977 the Garthright House is rehabilitated for use as staff housing.
CE 1973	Built	Douglas and Lois Foss construct a 1,828-sqft house at 7095 Parrish Place Lane.
CE 1982	Maintained	In 1982, 1984, and 1999, cyclic maintenance projects are undertaken at the Garthright House.
CE 1994	Damaged	A car destroys the granite base of Freeman Marker #27.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1994 - 1995	Moved	NPS relocates Freeman Marker #27 on to a new granite base 100 feet west of its original position.
CE 1994 - 1995	Altered	NPS encloses Cold Harbor Battlefield contact station pavilion, renaming it the Cold Harbor Battlefield Visitor Center.
CE 1996	Built	Linda Nolte constructs a house and tool shed at 7219 Beulah Church Road.
CE 1996	Land Transfer	Linda Nolte acquires about 11 acres of land and improvements at 7253 Beulah Church Road from James Nolte Sr.
CE 1999	Planted	The park plants a tree screen at the Garthright House.
CE 2000	Established	Congress expands the authorized boundary for Richmond NBP.
CE 2000	Built	John and Lynne Smith construct a 1,368-sqft garage at 6081 Adams Lane.
CE 2001	Established	Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA) is established, dedicated to the preservation of historic Civil War sites surrounding Richmond.
CE 2003	Memorialized	The NPS permits erection of five-feet-tall monument to the 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery on the east side of the main Cold Harbor Battlefield park parcel.
CE 2004	Purchased/Sold	Karen Cheatham and Robert Owens acquire about 3 acres of land, earthworks, and improvements at 7071 Parrish Place Lane from Clifton and Judy Brooks.
CE 2004	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 37 acres of land abutting the northwest side of the original park parcel.
CE 2005	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 174 acres of land, earthworks, road traces, and improvements at Cold Harbor Road/Turkey Hill Trail (may include garage at 6081 Adams Lane).
CE 2007	Rehabilitated	The park rehabilitates the Garthright House.
CE 2008	Purchased/Sold	The Estate of James Nolte acquires about 7 acres of land, a Wartime Road Trace, and improvements at 7219 Beulah Church Road from Linda Nolte
CE 2008	Purchased/Sold	The RBA acquires about 11 acres at 7253 Beulah Church Road.
CE 2009	Demolished	The RBA demolishes the house at 7253 Beulah Church Road.
CE 2010	Rehabilitated	The RBA rehabilitates 7253 Beulah Church Road site and driveway in turf.
CE 2010	Restored	The park restores the Freeman Markers in the park.
CE 2011	Purchased/Sold	Civil War Preservation Trust acquires about one acre of land, Freeman Marker #25, and improvements at 6066 Cold Harbor Rd. from Betty Wiseman.
CE 2012	Purchased/Sold	Transcontinental Gas Pipeline acquires about one acre of land, Freeman Marker #25, and improvements at 6066 Cold Harbor Rd. from the Civil War Preservation Trust.
CE 2013	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about one acre of land, Freeman Marker #25, and improvements at 6066 Cold Harbor Road.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2013	Purchased/Sold	The RBA acquires about 7 acres of land, a Wartime Road Trace, and improvements at 7219 Beulah Church Road from the Estate of James Nolte.
CE 2014	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 11 acres of land, earthworks, and the War Time Road Trace at 7253 Beulah Church Road.
CE 2014	Altered	The driveway at 7253 Beulah Church Road is reconstructed.
CE 2014	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 7 acres of land, the Wartime Road Trace, and improvements at 7219 Beulah Church Road.
CE 2014	Demolished	The park demolishes the house and tool shed at 7219 Beulah Church Road.
CE 2014	Purchased/Sold	The Civil War Preservation Trust acquires about 6 acres of land and improvements at 7095 Parrish Place Lane from Douglas and Lois Foss.
CE 2014	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 6 acres of land and improvements at 7095 Parrish Place Lane.
CE 2014	Demolished	The park demolishes the house at 6066 Cold Harbor Road.
CE 2015	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires roughly 3 acres of land, earthworks, and improvements at 7071 Parrish Place from the Civil War Preservation Trust.
CE 2015	Purchased/Sold	The Civil War Preservation Trust acquires about 3 acres of land, earthworks and improvements at 7071 Parrish Place Lane from Karen Cheatham and Robert Owens.
CE 2017	Purchased/Sold	Civil War Preservation Trust acquires about 50 acres of land and improvements at 5379 Sandy Valley Road from Augustus and Gwendolyn Wright.
CE 2017	Purchased/Sold	The NPS acquires about 50 acres of land and improvements at 5379 Sandy Valley Rd. from the Civil War Preservation Trust, including Redoubt Fletcher.
CE 2017	Demolished	The park demolishes house at 7071 Parrish Place Lane.
CE 2022	Demolished	Abandoned buildings (ca.1950) on the Fort Fletcher and Turkey Hill property are demolished.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the Cold Harbor Battlefield organized by time periods. Portions of this section are based on the "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, Richmond National Battlefield Park," prepared for the National Park Service by the Public Archaeology Lab, Inc. and approved by the Keeper of the National Register on April 27, 2018; the "Archaeological Overview and Assessment, Richmond National Battlefield, Virginia," prepared for the National Park Service by William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research in 2019; and "Cultural Landscapes Inventories for Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill, and Totopotomy Creek Battlefield at Rural Plains" prepared by the Olmsted Center For Landscape Preservation in 2017. For detailed information about battle movements and strategy during the Battle of Cold Harbor see, "Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26–June 3, 1864" by Gordon C. Rhea.

INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION AND LAND USE, 11,000 BCE to 1607 CE

Early human settlement in Virginia consisted of three periods differentiated by changes in Indigenous land-use patterns. Scholars traditionally divide this time into the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland periods, which varied in human population distribution throughout the Tidewater region. During the Paleoindian period (ca.11000 BCE to ca.8000 BCE), the Laurentide ice sheet covered much of northern North America, depressing temperatures which supported the growth of boreal forests dominated by jack pine and spruce. (Pielou 1991: 108; Anderson and Sassaman 1996: 5) Paleoindian populations likely maintained seasonal base camps along the Atlantic coast or major rivers where they could procure diverse food sources or obtain cryptocrystalline stone to make lithic tools. (Anderson and Sassaman 1996: 7)

As climate conditions changed and populations increased during the Archaic Period (8978 BCE-1200 BCE), settlements moved inland to upland and wetland locations. Later, during the Woodland Period (ca.1200 BCE-ca.1600 CE), Indigenous peoples moved to fertile inland river flood plains to maximize yields from farming and food gathering. (Anderson and Sassaman 1996: 24-25; NPS 2017: 39-40) Increased agriculture supported sedentism and nucleation of societies, and populations began to consolidate into villages near arable soil that they would clear with “slash and burn” techniques. (Anderson and Mainfort 2002: 1-2) By 1000 CE, subsistence agriculture supported a relatively large population of approximately 207 persons per 100 square miles on the Atlantic coastal plain. (Turner 1976) Several Siouan-speaking tribes lived in the Piedmont, west of the future Cold Harbor Battlefield, and Algonquian-speaking tribes occupied the Virginia coastal plain. (Rountree 1989) By 1600, roughly thirty of the Algonquian-speaking tribes formed Tsenacomoco, a chiefdom centered around the watersheds of the James and York Rivers. (Waselkov et.al. 2006: 215-216) Notably, Tsenacomoco’s political governance permitted the Chickahominy, a tribe located on its namesake river at the southernmost boundary of Cold Harbor Battlefield, to maintain an independent governing body despite its proximity to Tsenacomoco. (Waselkov et.al. 2006: 218)

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND EARLY COLONIAL VIRGINIA, 1607 to 1789

Although contact between Indigenous tribes and Europeans began in the 1500s, permanent European colonization of Virginia's coastal plain did not begin until 1607 when the English founded Jamestown on an island near the confluence of the James and Chickahominy Rivers, where they constructed cabins and a half-moon-shaped defensive barrier. (Rountree et.al. 2007). At the time, Algonquian-speaking Indigenous groups lived throughout the Maryland and Virginia tidewater and as far south as Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds in eastern North Carolina. Most were aligned under the political influence of the Powhatan chiefdom (Waselkov et.al. 2006: 215-216; OCLP 2017: 218) Although Chief Powhatan was Pamunkey, his political influence extended over all Algonquian-speaking tribes in the Tidewater Virginia area. (Waselkov et.al. 2006: 218)

As the colony's population grew, tobacco cultivation increased, and settlement expanded along the course of the James River and other waterways, which were easier to navigate for the trade than the early roads cut along Indigenous foot trails. By 1612, one principal village and five smaller settlements hugged the banks of the James River (Figure 1). As demand for tobacco increased, English colonists pushed further inland, clearing and taking already cleared Indigenous land for cultivation. Following the establishment of a representative government in 1619, the Virginia General Assembly ordered highways to be laid out "according as they might seem convenient" in 1633. One year later, the Assembly established Charles River Shire, renamed York County in 1643. As the population rose through the mid-seventeenth century, new counties formed, and churches, courthouses, ferries, and taverns became the focal points for the highways linking farm lanes. (WPA 1940: 1)

Following decades of periodic wars over territory between the English and the Powhatan, a 1646 treaty opened English settlement of the entire James-York Peninsula. The treaty initially forbade the settlers from encroaching on Powhatan territory elsewhere. Three years later, however, the Virginia Assembly modified the wording and opened virtually all of the coastal plain to English settlement, including southeastern Hanover County, which encompasses the future Cold Harbor unit. (McCartney 2004: 228-229; Shephard et.al. 2019: 116) Though colonists settled mostly east of the river Fall Line through the 1600s, the diseases that they carried had widespread effects. By the time tobacco prices plummeted in the 1680s, the entire social fabric of Tsenacomoco had nearly disappeared, and many of the Indigenous people had been pushed westward by colonists or killed by disease. (Kulikoff 1986: 80-90)

Simultaneously, under the headright land ownership system, a relatively few wealthy families of European ancestry could accumulate vast tracts of prime land along the banks of the James River. Throughout the seventeenth century, immigrants were brought over as indentured servants to farmland owned by others under the headright system. (Dunn 1894: 159) As the population of free settlers rose, feeding the demand for land, these landowners leveraged their holdings into wealth and influence. While retaining the best riverfront land for themselves, they sold off portions of land further from the river. Land was divided and bequeathed in wills, transferred through marriages, or traded. Along the winding riverbanks, small clusters of vernacular farm buildings and forts gave way to sprawling plantation seats, with grand houses overlooking the river bottoms. (JMA 2004: 37) The distance of Cold Harbor from navigable waterways made it less than ideal for early settlement. However, by the turn of the eighteenth century or possibly earlier, settlers may have established small farms there. (McCartney 2004: 228-229)

Hanover County was formed in 1720 from the western extent of New Kent County, established in 1654, between the Chickahominy and Pamunkey Rivers. (Kulikoff 1986: 95) In 1723, a prominent Quaker family, the Garthrights, helped to organize a Quaker meeting house at White Oak Swamp. About the same time, the Hooper family, likely James Hooper, built what is now called the Garthright House between Boatswain Creek and Bloody Run. The house was a one-story, side-gable, single-pile brick dwelling on a raised foundation and likely featured a side-entry plan and interior end chimney. Church parish records indicate that James Hooper owned the land by 1732. Hooper is interred in the family graveyard, located 170 feet west of the house on land that is part of Hanover County's Cold Harbor Battlefield Park. (Shepard et.al., 2019: 118, cited in Chamberlayne 1940: 278;

Leigh et.al. 1993: 7) The second story of the eastern section and the two western bays are later wood-frame additions (ca.1800), clad in white-painted clapboards and supported by brick piers.

The symmetrical plan and form of this first iteration of the Garthright House typified Virginia's Post-Medieval construction, which was relatively common between 1675 and 1775. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 102) Although more modest than the plantations lining the major rivers, this upland farm likely consisted of a couple hundred acres of cultivated fields growing a mix of tobacco and grains sustained by the labor of a dozen enslaved people. As the labor pool of indentured servants decreased with slowing European immigration, landowners' reliance on the forced labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants increased. (Walsh 1995)

During the Revolutionary War, both British and American troops traversed Hanover County. Although no known fighting occurred at the future Cold Harbor Battlefield area, in 1781 the entire British army camped in the county and occupied Richmond twice, looting stores and causing extensive damage. (Shephard 2019: 16, citing Manarin and Dowdey 1984: 140)



Figure 1. John Smith Map of 1612, annotated by OCLP to indicate the approximate location of Cold Harbor Battlefield. (Library of Congress)

POST REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THE ANTEBELLUM PERIOD, 1790 to 1860

Soil fertility in Tidewater Virginia gradually declined from agricultural processes that did not provide for long term vitality. The richest land along river margins was cleared, tilled, and planted continuously for years. After exhausting soils on the river's edge, early farmers cleared nearby slopes for agriculture. The soils on the slopes naturally contained less nutrients, and so became infertile much quicker than those along the river. If the slopes were not rich enough to grow tobacco, the land was typically planted with corn for two to three years in succession. As the productivity of the soil declined, corn was planted every other year. During the years between corn crops fields were "rested" under a crop of wheat which produced four to five bushels per acre. If the soil became too poor to produce wheat, the field was used for close grazing in between corn crops. Manure was applied to tobacco crops, but not other crops. The successive pattern of grain crop production was maintained until the field would not produce five bushels of corn to the acre. Once exhausted of its ability to produce, the land was abandoned to recover, and pines and scrub grew. After twenty to thirty years of successional growth, the field would be cleared by the farmer and put under similar tillage. However, the ability of the land to produce would decline far faster the second time. This practice led to a patchwork pattern of cultivated fields, abandoned fields, and successional vegetative growth. Some farms were abandoned all together. It is likely that the limited number of arable fields in the area surrounding Cold Harbor resulted from decreased soil fertility in combination with the prevalence of wetlands and the steepness of the stream swales. (Confederate Engineers Map of Hanover County, 1864; NPS 2017: 48)

While the size and composition of farms and plantations in the rolling landscape surrounding Richmond varied tremendously from small family farms to large plantations, most farms were modest affairs with a few, small, roughly constructed buildings. On larger estates clusters of domestic buildings typically included a dwelling, slave quarters, and a kitchen, privy, smokehouse, and dairy. Field slave quarters, barns, tobacco barns, and animal shelters usually stood farther from the main dwelling. After 1700, when grain cultivation began to gain popularity, the region's rivers and streams became dotted with mills, milldams, and millponds. (JMA 2004: 45)

Deeds and wills from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century suggest that land ownership patterns within the Cold Harbor unit were relatively stable, with property held by only a few families, including the Garthright family, but further research is necessary to determine property chains of title. (JMA 2004: 45)

Following the Revolutionary War, in the late 1700s and early 1800s, turnpike companies carried out most of these improvements, especially around Richmond and in Northern Virginia. (Pawlett 1977) For instance, the Mechanicsville Turnpike Company constructed a well-drained and straight road, connecting Richmond with the crossroads community of Mechanicsville over the Chickahominy River. (Manarin and Dowdey 1984) In the first half of the nineteenth century, the junction of five roads, approximately half a mile east of the Garthright House, became known as Old Cold Harbor to distinguish it from a crossroads two miles to the southwest along the predecessor of Route 156 that became known as New Cold Harbor. Due to the proximity of New Cold Harbor to Gaines' Mill, First Cold Harbor was used occasionally to refer to that 1862 battle of Gaines' Mill, and Second Cold Harbor is a rare alternate name for the 1864 battle of Cold Harbor. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 104-106) Though not designating a maritime site, the name "Cold Harbor" probably referred to the modesty of services provided at the Burnett family's tavern on their landlocked farm, which became a familiar landmark. (Furgurson 2000: 76-77) By the 1810s, settlers established a post office at the Cold Harbor crossroads. (McCartney 2009: 153)

In 1834 tracks were laid for the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad (RF&P) along the South Anna River. The Virginia Central connected Louisa County and western Hanover with the RF&P. The Virginia Central expanded, eventually extending west into the Shenandoah Valley and east to Richmond by the time of the Civil War. (LCA 1992) These transportation routes guided much of the settlement of Hanover County and facilitated trade. In the southern half of Hanover County, encompassing some sections of the Cold Harbor unit, light, sandy soils amended with marl were best suited to growing corn, oats, and vegetables. (McCartney 2009: 143,145) The availability of railroad transportation and the proximity of Richmond further encouraged farmers to shift from tobacco to grain, fruits, and vegetables as market crops. (Leigh et.al. 1993: 8) The prevalence of mills depicted in an 1827 Böÿe map of Virginia suggests this part of Hanover County, near the "Powhite Sw." and the Chickahominy River, had already transitioned away from tobacco to grain cultivation (Figure 2). (McCartney 2009)

Around 1800, the Garthright House was enlarged and transformed into a Georgian-style building. Wood-frame additions and a second brick chimney converted the building to a five-bay, center-passage home with an eastern, on-ridge, interior, end chimney; and a western on-ridge, exterior, end chimney. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 104-106) Sometime between 1830 and 1860, Miles and Margaret Garthright acquired their namesake house and the surrounding land from the descendants of James Hooper. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 118) Civil War era sketches illustrate the house and three outbuildings (Figures 3, 4). Detailed maps of Hanover County from the time of the Civil War, depict the surrounding landscape as a patchwork of open fields buffered by wooded hillsides and waterways. Other maps show there were few structures located on land that now comprises the Cold Harbor unit. In addition to the Garthright House, there is at least one, possibly two, structures indicated on the Confederate Engineers Map from 1864. The buildings shown on the map north of Fort Fletcher may have belonged to a H.C. Richardson or Thomson. According to the 1860 census from St. Paul Parish in Hanover County, Richardson was 46 years old and had seven children with his wife, Eliza, who was eight years his junior. In addition to decennial census, researchers consulted the agricultural census, Chancery Records, and the Virginia Slave Birth Index, though no additional information was gleaned. Note however, that the Military map illustrating the operations of the armies of the Potomac & James, May 4th, 1864 to April 9th 1865, indicates H. Richardson's land further to the west, and the name G. Williams appears within the boundary of the Fort Fletcher property (Figure 5). Additional research is required to further illuminate the property, including the chain of title.

This landscape mosaic of large river plantation, smaller inland plantations, family farms, churches, grist and sawmills, evolved slowly during the years leading up to the Civil War. Even with the rapid growth of Richmond and its importance as an industrial and commercial center in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, limited physical change occurred in the agricultural community on the land that comprises the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit. (NPS 2017: 50, citing JMA 2004: 49)

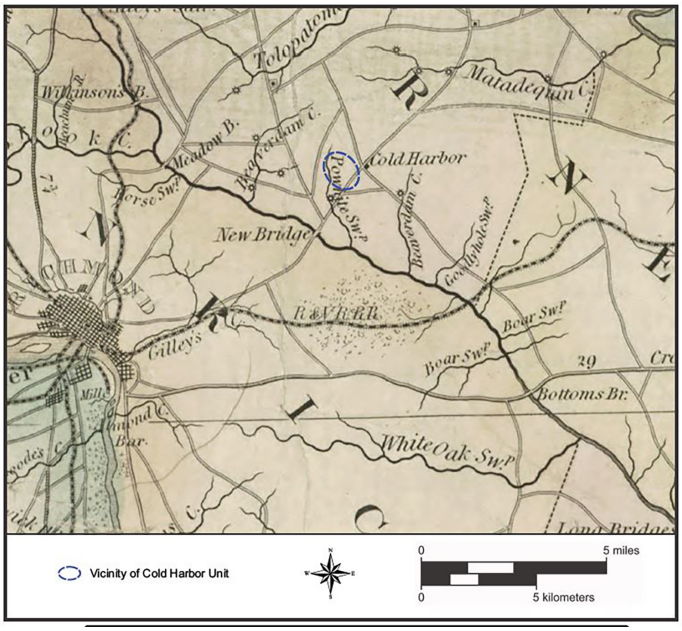


Figure 2. Detail from the 1827 Map of Virginia by Herman Boye showing mills in the vicinity of Cold Harbor. (Library of the State of Virginia, as cited in Shephard 2019: 120)



Figure 3. "June 2nd Position nr. Cold Harbor--rifle pits in the front." Hand-drawn account of the battle in 1864 at Cold Harbor by Alfred R. Waud. (Library of Congress)

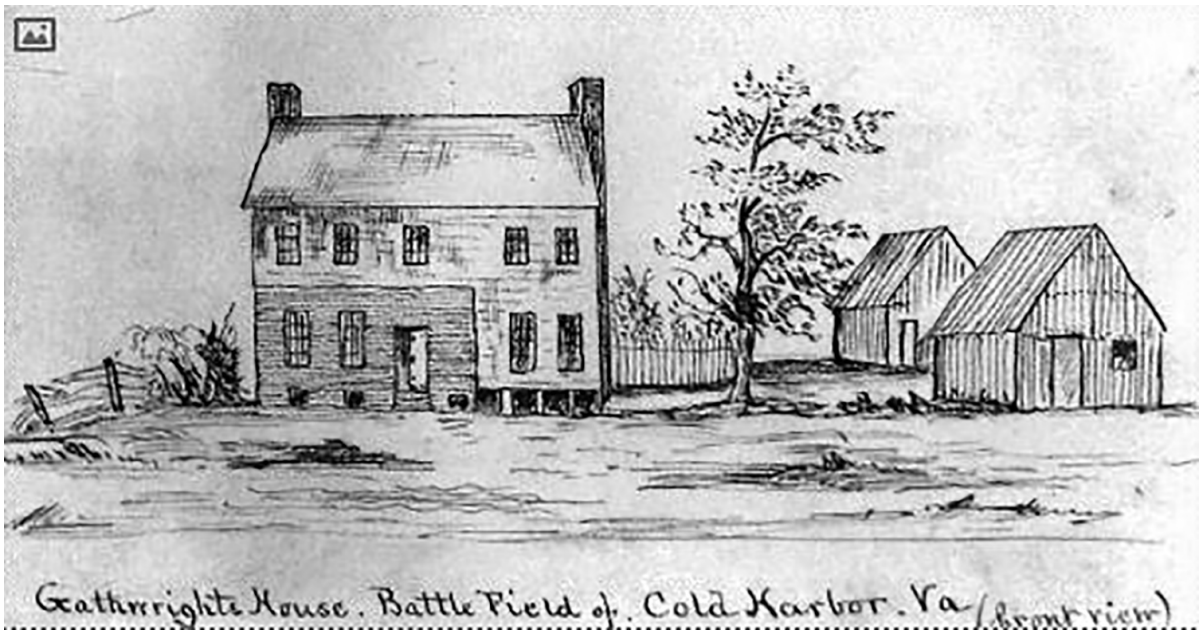


Figure 4. "Sketch of the Garthright House and outbuildings by a Union solider." (original from Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park Library)

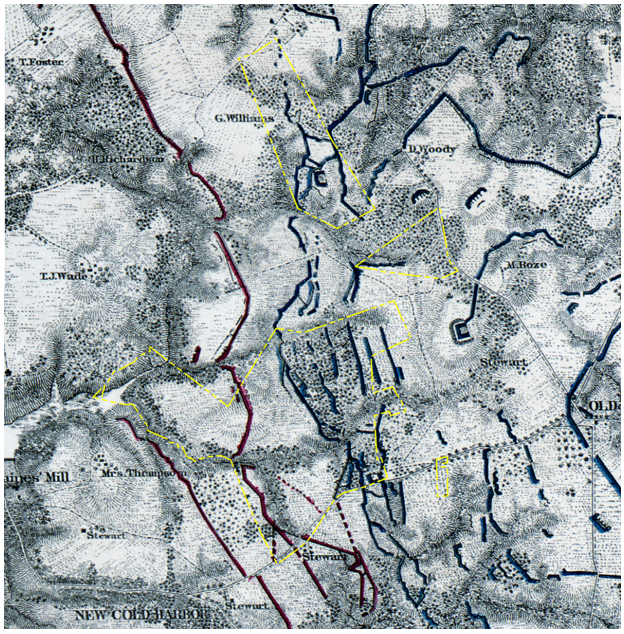


Figure 5. "Military maps illustrating the operations of the armies of the Potomac & James, May 4th 1864 to April 9th 1865" at Cold Harbor. Annotated by OCLP indicating the 2022 fee simple boundaries of the northern 4 parcels. Please note, differences between the boundary GIS layers and the actual property ownership tracts may be present. (Library of Congress)

THE CIVIL WAR, 1861 to 1865

Peninsula Campaign (August 1861-July 1, 1862):
While active fighting within the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit occurred during the Overland Campaign,

the far southern corner of the battlefield (on the Turkey Hill parcel) was the location of the wartime bridge which stood in 1862, and the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge Wartime Road Trace remains visible in the landscape. Confederate troops passed through this area marching toward Gaines' Mill as part of the Seven Days Battles. In the spring of 1862, US Major General George McClellan led the Army of the Potomac up the Virginia Peninsula with the plan of capturing Richmond. Following victories at Williamsburg and Yorktown, McClellan moved his army into position for an approach to Richmond from the east. They gained control of West Point, the terminus of the Richmond and York River Railroad at the head of the York River, and the White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. By the end of May 1862, the Federal Army of the Potomac had advanced within six miles from the Confederate capital. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 49; Sears 1992: 109-110) McClellan then rearranged his troops into two lines on either side of the Chickahominy River and constructed several military bridges to connect his corps, including the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge between Elder Swamp and Boatswain Creek at the southernmost edge of the Cold Harbor unit (Figure 6). To span the extensive river-side wetlands, the bridge included lengthy elevated corduroy approaches. (Sears 1992: 109-147) When the Army of Northern Virginia attacked federal troops on May 31, 1862, less than three miles southeast of Woodbury-Alexander Bridge, the federal reinforcements utilized the newly constructed bridge to join the fight and prevent defeat. Neither side gained ground or advantage during the two-day Battle of Seven Pines (Sears 1992: 109-147) For weeks, fighting stalled as General McClellan resumed preparations to lay siege to Richmond. While taking the time to improve the defensive line surrounding the city, the newly appointed Confederate States General, Robert E. Lee, planned an offensive. (Manarin and Dowdey 1984: 258,262; Shephard et.al. 2019: 18) On June 25, 1862, the day before General Lee's planned attack north of the Chickahominy, General McClellan launched his assault. At Oak Grove, just north of Seven Pines, the Army of the Potomac attempted to advance toward a better position from which to besiege the Confederate capital. While neither side gained the advantage, the Battle of Oak Grove marks the beginning of a series of one-day-long clashes collectively called the Seven Days Battles. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 51)

On June 26, the Army of Northern Virginia attempted to flank the northwestern-most federal position behind Beaver Dam Creek on the north side of the Chickahominy River. Although the attackers sustained heavy casualties and withdrew, their show of force unnerved McClellan, who ordered his troops to pull back to a stronger defensive position behind Boatswain's Swamp. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 52-53) Although most of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia approached this position on June 27 from the north and west, two divisions made a wide arc around Gaines' Millpond, over Powhite Creek, and through parts of Cold Harbor Battlefield to Old Cold Harbor before joining the Battle of Gaines' Mill from the northeast. Confederate artillery took a position on the heights here and near the Garthright House (see Figure 3). With the entirety of its force engaged in the battle, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia launched one of its largest assaults of the war. Several sections of the Federal line fell nearly simultaneously. As night descended on the battlefield, the Army of the Potomac scrambled toward the Chickahominy River. Retreating troops crossed the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge again and set fire to it behind them. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 272) Confederate troops pursued the withdrawing federal troops as General McClellan led south toward the James River. Elements of these armies engaged again at Gouldin's Farm on June 28, in the Battle of Savage's Station on June 29, in the Battle of Glendale on June 30, and in the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, the last of the Seven Days Battles. On July 2, 1862, federal troops reached the protection of United States gunboats at Harrison's Landing. From here, the Army of the Potomac returned to the US capital on the Potomac, concluding its Peninsula Campaign. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 58)

Overland Campaign, May 1864–June 1864:
Some two years later, the Army of the Potomac returned to the north bank of the Chickahominy River on the outskirts of Richmond. Promoted to Lieutenant General in March 1864, Ulysses Grant initiated a multi-front strategy to take Richmond. With federal troops simultaneously targeting the Shenandoah Valley, Atlanta, and Mobile, the Army of the James and the Army of the Potomac moved towards Richmond (see Figure 5). While the former approached from the south during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign (May 5-20, 1864), the latter advanced from the north during the Overland Campaign (May 4-June 15, 1864). (Salmon 1999: 92; Shephard et.al. 2019: 19)

After crossing the Rapidan River in early May 1864, the Army of the Potomac engaged the Army of Northern Virginia. The Battles of the Wilderness on May 5-7, Spotsylvania Court House on May 8-

21, and North Anna River on May 23-26 each ended with the US Army maneuvering past the Confederate Army's eastern flank, moving the front further south and east. On May 29, the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek began near Rural Plains, nine miles northeast of the Confederate capital. Even before that battle's May 31 conclusion, General Grant planned a sidestepping maneuver to control the strategically important crossroads at the village of Old Cold Harbor. On May 31, a US cavalry brigade skirmished with a detachment of a Confederate cavalry division near the Cold Harbor intersection. Before Confederate infantry troops arrived, the Federal cavalry drove the Confederate forces from their position and gained control of the crossroads. Therefore, advance units of the Confederate infantry took up a position about one-half mile west of the crossroads and began digging the first earthworks at what would become Cold Harbor Battlefield. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 61; Rhea 2001: 31-35)

On June 1, 1864, only the Federal cavalry stood in the way of the massing Confederate infantry. Instead of a concentrated assault to clear the lightly held crossroads, only a single Confederate brigade approached southeastward down Beulah Church Road. A brigade of the United States cavalry laid down a heavy volley of fire that decimated the Confederate ranks, ending their attack after about five minutes. Not long after, a corps of US infantry reached Old Cold Harbor to relieve the cavalry. (Rhea 2001: 36-37) The three divisions of this corps moved parallel to the Confederate line about halfway between Old and New Cold Harbor. From near the Garthright House, the Federal line extended northward over Bloody Run. Additional Federal infantry corps arrived mid-afternoon and extended the line northward toward what would become Fort Fletcher. (Rhea 2001: 38-40; NR 2018, Sec.8: 62) That evening, the two Federal infantry corps moved in unison against the Confederate line to their west. Although one US brigade temporarily managed to break through a gap along Bloody Run, the Federal troops took heavy fire and failed to gain the advantage. (Rhea 2001: 38-40)

This relative success encouraged the US commanders to try a more concentrated assault. When Federal reinforcements failed to arrive at Old Cold Harbor until late morning on June 2, 1864, however, General Grant postponed the planned offensive. (Rhea 2001: 40-41; NR 2018, Sec.8: 62) During the one-day delay, more of the Army of Northern Virginia turned from the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek to an eastward-facing defensive line extending southward toward the Chickahominy River. Confederate troops drove off a small contingent of Federal troops from Turkey Hill and entrenched along what is now the Turkey Hill Trail to the rebuilt Woodbury-Alexander Bridge. (Rhea 2001: 41-43; NR 2018, Sec.8: 62)

Given the growing import of field fortifications in the war, General Lee personally supervised his army's June 2 entrenchment at Cold Harbor Battlefield. The entrenchments were an elaborate linear fortification, consisting of three lines of interlocking trenches connected by traverses and fronted by log barricades. Lee located artillery emplacements to create overlapping crossfire and used the broken, fluvial geomorphology and intermittent vegetation to strengthen the Confederate position. They cleared trees and brush in front of their earthworks to provide clear fields of fire. By nightfall, the fortified Confederate line stretched unbroken for six miles. (Rhea 2001: 41-42; NR 2018, Sec.8: 63) To its east, the Federal line of entrenchments lacked similar uniformity. General Grant concentrated his forces in and around Cold Harbor Battlefield, constructing several rows of intertwined and intermittent west-facing earthworks and culminating with Fort Fletcher at the northern end. (Rhea 2001; 41-42; NR 2018, Sec.8: 63)

Early on June 3, 1864, nearly 50,000 Federal troops launched an assault from their position along the southern end of the Union line. Many of the columns of troops found themselves in unexpected swamps, ravines, and heavy vegetation, losing contact with each other, which resulted in many lost lives. One Federal corps managed to seize a portion of the Confederate lines on Turkey Hill. Heavy enfilading fire from Confederate artillery turned the trenches into a deathtrap, and the Confederate reserves drove the Federal troops back. Further north, between Old and New Cold Harbor, another corps advanced only to stop short and dig an advanced line of trenches. Between here and the Wright Property, the US corps suffered the heaviest losses. (Furguson 2000: 141,461; Shephard et.al. 2019: 130) Just after noon, Grant allowed his generals to order an end to the attacks. (Rhea 2001: 47-78; Shephard et.al. 2019: 130)

During the battle, the Garthright House, stripped of its furnishings, served as a US field hospital.

(Shephard et.al. 2019: 133). Many of the wounded died, for the armies refused to cease fire to allow retrieval of the fallen soldiers. Finally, on June 7, both sides collected bodies. (Rhea 2001; Shephard et.al. 2019: 166) Between June 5 and June 8, General Grant strategically contracted the Federal defensive line in preparation for a pivot toward Petersburg and constructed Fort Fletcher. The incomplete earthen fort built on the high ground, a mere 1,400 feet from the Confederate line, helped protect the northern flank of the Federal Army. The artillery at Fort Fletcher repelled attacks on the newly established line to its north on June 6 and 7. (Krick 2019) On the night of June 12, 1864, the last of the Federal troops slipped out of their trenches, crossed the Chickahominy River, and left Cold Harbor Battlefield behind. Such a retreat marked the end of the Overland Campaign and signified a shift in US strategy. Rather than direct his forces directly at the Confederate capital, General Grant aimed both the US Army of the Potomac and the US Army of the James at the city's supply hub to the south at Petersburg (Figures 7 and 8). (Shephard et.al. 2019: 166-180)

Nine months later at Appomattox Courthouse, Confederate General Robert Lee surrendered, but it was Assistant Adjutant General Ely Parker who formally penned the terms of surrender for Lee to sign, bringing an end to the Civil War. Parker was a member of the Seneca Nation, a tribe within the Iroquois Confederacy. He received many accolades as an engineer, military leader, sachem, and following the Civil War, the first Indigenous Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Photographic evidence from 1864 shows Grant and his staff at Cold Harbor (Figure 9). Parker, who later became Brevet Brigadier General, was considered Grant's most important staff member, which gave him powerful authority amongst Union soldiers and generals. Given his significance as the trusted appointee of Grant, Parker was responsible for extensive operational logistics and implementation planning of the Union forces' battle strategies during complicated campaigns, including Cold Harbor.



Figure 6. "Woodbury's bridge - Chickahominy River" photo from 1862 showing American troops walking over the Woodbury-Alexander Bridge." (Library of Congress)



Figure 7. "The battle of Cold Harbor (Bomb proofs)." Hand-drawn account of the battle on June 8 of 1864 by Edwin Forbes. (Library of Congress)



Figure 8. Horses at Fletchers Redoubt, June 1864. (Richmond National Battlefield Park--hereafter NBP--Archives)



Figure 9. Union General Grant and his staff at Cold Harbor in the second week of June, 1864, including Assistant Adjutant General Ely S. Parker (fourth from right), a member of the Seneca Nation. (Library of Congress)

REINTERMENT AND REMEMBRANCE, 1865 to 1911

The Civil War left Richmond, and the Cold Harbor area, irrevocably altered. Large expanses of farmland were left fallow as farmers struggled to cope with the heavily damaged infrastructure. Barns and buildings had burned down, livestock and woodlots disappeared, and cropland went fallow. (Foner 1988: 170-171) The battles created a new topography: miles of earthen fortifications and piles of human remains. To rebuild, those who survived first had to retrieve and reinter those who did not. The federal government quickly created the National Cemetery System to collect, identify, and more formally inter the otherwise scattered bodies of US troops. Many who perished on the Cold Harbor Battlefield were interred at the Cold Harbor National Cemetery that opened just northwest of the Garthright House in 1866. Responsibility for each dead Confederate soldier not collected by their family fell on the local community. Women's memorial organizations took on much of the task of burying and memorializing the dead; in the summer of 1865, the first Ladies' Memorial Association (LMA) formed in Winchester, Virginia, one of three similar associations formed in Richmond.

Twenty years after the end of the war, Virginia's southeast Hanover County consisted of a "labyrinth of battlefields…destitute of small hamlets and villages" with a "scarcity of population" and "a pervading sense of loneliness." (Bladen 1886) During reunions and remembrance events though, people gathered and "visiting veterans walked about the battleground and pointed out the spots which they best remembered." (Times Dispatch, 1909) Locals largely welcomed former Federal troops, but no known "Blue-Grey" reunions or inter-army remembrance events occurred at Cold Harbor Battlefield. Segregated or otherwise, such occasions generally engendered public support for preserving Civil War battlefields. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 78-81) Despite the national attention bestowed upon battlefield preservation and the large number of battlefields located in the Richmond area, no sites were targeted for protection during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The first proposal for a public commemorative effort was a road to link important sites associated with the 1862 Peninsula and 1864 Overland Campaigns in 1914. The proposal was not pursued due to the onset of World War I. All other Civil War commemorative efforts conducted between the 1880s and 1920s revolved around grassroots efforts and activities, such as reunions of Civil War veterans and the establishment of individual monuments and commemorative and interpretive signage on privately-owned land. (Willett 1956: 27)

DEVELOPMENT AND DEMARCATION, 1912 to 1926

Before public initiatives could preserve the battlefield, private interests sought to profit from it. In 1912, the Richmond Land & Development Corporation founded the Richmond & Rappahannock River Railway to facilitate real estate development east of Richmond. As advertised, the Corporation planned to lay seventy-five miles of track across the Virginia and Northern Peninsulas to connect Richmond and Fredericksburg to points between, including Civil War battlefield sites. (Woodson 1913; NPS 2021: 52) Northeast of the Chickahominy River, the railroad followed the north bank of Boatswain Creek through Gaines' Mill Battlefield and bisected Cold Harbor Battlefield approximately 300 feet north of the Garthright House. Construction of the new railroad demolished Civil War-era earthworks as it cut a bed across battle lines. After laying sixteen miles of track and operating for three years, the railway succumbed to low demand and the land-speculation scheme failed.

Richmond's prosperous post-World War I era provided a more fertile environment to lay the groundwork for modern battlefield tourism. The Richmond Rotary Club led weekly excursions to local battlefields. On Labor Day, 1921, a caravan of twenty-one cars traversed an intricate network of old turnpikes and cart paths to visit battlefields, including Cold Harbor. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 90) After drawing battlefield maps on bedsheets to aid on-site tour interpretation, the Rotary Club incorporated the Battlefield Markers Association (BMA) in 1924 to raise funds to erect commemorative battlefield monuments. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 91) The BMA designed the concrete capstones on granite-masonry bases to support two-feet-three-inch-by-three-feet-five-inch cast iron inscription tablets. The tablets were angled so that visitors need not exit their automobile to read them. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 91) Local donations supported their manufacture, and inscriptions emphasized troop movements, combat valor, and heroism, particularly of Confederate troops. Beginning in 1925, the BMA erected fifty-nine markers (colloquially called "Freeman Markers" after their leading proponent, author, and historian, Douglas S. Freeman) across the Richmond area. Three tablets were erected at Cold Harbor Battlefield, along the north side of Cold Harbor Road. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 91-93)

EARLY BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT, 1927 to 1944

Before the installation of the last Freeman Marker in 1928, the Battlefield Markers Association seized an opportunity to purchase battlefield land and reorganized as the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation (RBPC), in 1927. The organization purchased the first 114.39 acres of Cold Harbor Battlefield land from George R Harwood "and wife," in September 1927. (Willett 1956: 29; Hanover County 1943: 3) Four years later, the RBPC added 28.5 acres from Mary Barker "and others," 10.8 acres from Willie Hufner "and wife," and 0.56 acres from Maggie McGhee "and husband." By then, Hanover, Henrico, and Chesterfield counties had each contributed one year of gasoline-tax revenue to further the battlefield preservation mission and built an improved highway connecting Cold Harbor Battlefield to many of the other significant battlefields surrounding Richmond. The 38-mile-long oil-dressed, sand-and-clay highway included the road between New and Old Cold Harbor (State Route 156/Cold Harbor Road), as well the site of the former "Woodbury-Alexander Bridge" which was roughly in the location of the current crossing of the Chickahominy (Willett 1956: 37-38).

The RBPC, a relatively small, private, volunteer-led organization, however, could not afford to maintain the 684.4 total acres of land they had acquired between 1927 and 1932, nor develop park infrastructure and battlefield interpretation. Rather than turn over the battlefield land to the US War Department, as had been done in other areas of Virginia, the RBPC conveyed its battlefield properties to the Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development in January 1932. (Willett 1956: 42) At the time, Virginia's State Historian, H.J. Eckenrode, was sharply critical of the War Department's work at the Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg battlefields, believing that the War Department was deeply invested in the "traditions of the Union Army" and would not fairly represent the position of the Confederacy. Therefore, Eckenrode strongly encouraged state ownership and management. (Devlin 2022: 24) A few months later, Margaret "Maggie" Elizabeth (Yarbrough) McGhee, the granddaughter of Miles Edward Garthright, "and husband" deeded 2.10 acres of land and the Garthright House. (Hanover County 1943: 6-7; Leigh et.al. 1993: 12) The deed stipulated that the house "not be moved off the property, but will remain on the present site," and reflected an 1896 deed of partition in which Maggie McGhee's mother, Margaret Elizabeth (Garthright) Yarbrough; her mother's siblings, Walter C. Garthright and Alice F. (Garthright) Ratcliffe; and their respective spouses "reserved as a family burying ground" a nearby cemetery. (Hanover County 1943: 7; Leigh et.al. 1993: 12; Willett 1956: 42)

CCC Work:
The Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development was responsible for park maintenance and development. By 1933, however, it was clear that the state would be unable to raise the funds to support the individual parks and the wider park system. State officials, including Eckenrode, turned to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) – one of the work programs associated with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal – to accomplish basic park maintenance and development. State officials then began to lobby the Federal government and the National Park Service (NPS) to accept ownership of the Richmond Battlefield land. (Devlin 2022: 31) As discussions regarding ownership continued, CCC work was initiated under the supervision of the NPS between 1933 and 1940. On March 2, 1936, enabling legislation was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt establishing Richmond National Battlefield Park "to set [the lands] apart as a public park for the benefit and inspiration of the people," and to protect the Civil War battlefield resources associated with the struggle for the capital of the Confederacy and to interpret these resources so as to foster an understanding of their larger significance." Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP) became the seventeenth unit of the national park system to commemorate the events of the Civil War. After eight years of legal issues regarding the transfer of land titles, back taxes, right-of-way easements, and other issues, the park was officially accepted by the NPS on July 14, 1944. (JMA 2004: 154)

In the interim, CCC workers based at camp NP-13 near Fort Harrison, established the infrastructure that laid the groundwork for opening Cold Harbor Battlefield to visitors. Two hundred men of CCC Junior Colored Company 1375, of whom 185 were African American, provided the labor to develop the Cold Harbor Unit and the other park areas. Work began by clearing of brush and small trees from wooded areas in 1933. For the next five years, CCC workers rehabilitated the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape, as they did at Fredericksburg and Petersburg. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 90) At Cold Harbor, they

constructed a roughly one-mile-long, automobile-tour road loop ("Anderson-Wright Drive") around, between, and through earthworks north of State Route 156/Cold Harbor Road. The CCC erected the site's first contact station at the park's entrance, a Colonial-Revival style, one-room, wood-framed shelter with a side-gable roof and a brick exterior-end chimney. (NPS 1937a) Plantings, pathways, and a parking lot were added around the building, but the Commonwealth kept the meadow/field east of the building open, as it had appeared in 1864. (NPS 1938) The CCC also placed a series of markers, orientation and troop movement maps, and pictorial displays throughout the battlefield. (Willetts 1956: 63) Behind the Confederate lines, they built a parking lot to serve a picnic area, where they erected two fireplaces. A bridle trail was established here, curving throughout the site and linking Cold Harbor Battlefield to Gaines' Mill Battlefield (Figures 10, 11, 12, 13). (NPS 1937b)

The CCC also worked on restoring the Garthright House and landscape. The early twentieth century railroad cut across the front yard was backfilled "to a point as near as possible to complete elimination with the dirt available," but the work nonetheless left a subtle depressed trace as the earth settled. (Baril 1995: 13) Atop it, the Garthright House driveway was improved with a loop and stone-lined drainage ditches. By the time the CCC finished the sitework, they had contributed to the park's growing collection of artifacts and exhumed the bodies of four Federal soldiers buried near the house. The bodies were reinterred in the National Cemetery located on the other side of Cold Harbor Road. (Garner 1936b; Shephard et.al. 2019: 137; Willett 1956: 80) In 1935, the NPS Branch of Plans and Design made a complete set of measured drawings of the Garthright House through the Historic American Building Survey. (HABS 1935) In 1937 the CCC began repairs on the house, replacing clapboard siding, repointing brickwork, replastering the interiors, cutting new millwork, and replacing the roof. Plumbing and electrical wiring was added in 1939 to make the building habitable by modern standards. (NPS 2000; Willett 1956: 70)

As the economy improved, the NPS struggled to recruit new CCC members. Additionally, some local administrators thought the men of Colored Company 1375 did not make suitable interpretive guides for a Civil War battlefield site. In 1938 the federal government acquiesced to local segregation laws and reassigned the Black men to Virginia Beach to make way for 25 to 40 white World War I veterans. The smaller CCC company added a few cannons to the landscape and took care of general park maintenance through 1941. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 95; Willett 1956: 66-67)

Between the time when the park was established in 1936 and management was transferred to the NPS in 1944, the NPS produced a master plan for the development of each park unit. Within the Cold Harbor unit, the plan mapped existing Civil War earthworks and foot and horse trails and proposed new roads (Figure 14). The Garthright House was designated as housing for a ranger and caretaker, with a museum in the basement. (JMA 2004: 154)



Figure 10. Men from the CCC building the foundation of the Contact Station, ca. 1935, with farm structures visible in the distance, across Cold Harbor Road. (Richmond NBP Archives)



Figure 11. CCC era sign at the beginning of the new loop drive, ca.1935, with hay sheaves in the distance. (Richmond NBP Archives)



Figure 12. Earthworks with trail and tree growth during the CCC development, circa 1935. (Richmond NBP Archives)



Figure 13. CCC rustic fireplace, unknown location, ca.1935. (Richmond NBP Archives)



Figure 14. Map from Master Plan, 1937, annotated by OCLP with hillshade from 2019 and the northern four parcel boundaries of the Cold Harbor Unit. Note, the boundaries displayed are derived from the Landsnet GIS layers and are not considered survey level GIS drawings. Differences between the boundary GIS layers and the actual property ownership tracts may be present. (eTIC, Denver Service Center)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, 1944 to 2022

World War II dominated national attention when the NPS officially assumed management. Funding for the NPS disappeared and jobs went unfilled, leaving the Cold Harbor Battlefield and other park areas to decline in condition. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 96; Willett 1956: 85) After the war, restoration maintenance of the Garthright House occurred in 1947, including repointing the brick, repairing the roof, patching plaster, and mending the weatherboards. Nearby the park dug a concrete-encased well and installed a 750-gallon septic tank and disposal field. (CLI 2000) Such maintenance and improvement projects made the Garthright House marketable for third-party use. In 1956, for example, the Pamunkey Women's Club paid an annual special-use fee to hold its meetings in the house. (Willett 1956: 74)

Wartime austerity, nevertheless, lingered through the early 1950s. Vegetative growth overwhelmed abandoned bridle paths and the contact station, which had been closed since 1940 due to the lack of staff. Beginning in 1956, the NPS undertook a series of improvements to visitor services in response to the post–World War II prosperity boom and its attendant surge in tourism to national parks. Park officials proposed several improvements as part of their prospectus for Mission 66, an ambitious ten-year NPS program aimed at improving visitor facilities in time for the agency's 50th anniversary. (Willett 1956: 68,80,85) As part of this effort, the park constructed a new visitor contact station in 1965. The structure featured a rectangular pavilion on a concrete pad with a hipped roof and no walls, one hundred feet from where the Colonial Revival comfort station once stood. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 12). Mission 66 era development also added interpretive elements, including gun emplacements and wayside exhibits throughout the park. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 96)

Although the Garthright House was used only occasionally and by special use permit throughout the 1960s, the 1961 installation of a central heating system facilitated its year-round availability. (Jones 1971: 6) In May 1970, a fire set by arsonists consumed the roof of the house and much of the second-floor ceiling, resulting in extensive smoke and water damage. (Jones 1971: 7-11) Hoping consistent occupancy would deter vandalism, the NPS rehabilitated the Garthright House to serve as housing for park employees. This work occurred in several phases between 1971 and 1977, and was followed by cyclical maintenance projects in 1982, 1984, 1999, and 2006. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 10)

The NPS enclosed the contact station/pavilion at the entrance to Cold Harbor Battlefield in 1994-1995. (OCLP 2000) The resulting rectangular, one-story, brick building with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof has since provided year-round battlefield interpretation as a staffed visitor center. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 24) In 1994 Freeman Marker #27 alongside the visitor center required reconstruction after a car destroyed its granite-masonry base. The park relocated the marker about 100 feet west to its current location behind the visitor center for better protected from the increasingly busy Route 156/Cold Harbor Road. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 7)

Since the 1990s, the Cold Harbor Unit has had few major infrastructure changes. In 1999 the park planted a tree screen at the Garthright House and in 2007 rehabilitated the building. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 9) In 2003 the NPS permitted a reenactment group to erect a stepped granite monument – the 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument – near Bloody Run toward the eastern end of Anderson-Wright Drive. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 11) In 2010, the Richmond Battlefields Association rehabilitated the 7253 Beulah Church Road site and driveway with turf, while the park cleaned, repointed, repainted, and otherwise repaired its Freeman Markers, including Freeman Marker #27. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 11).

Park Expansion:
In 2000 Congress revised the authorized boundary for Richmond National Battlefield Park. (Public Law 106-511, 114 Stat. 2373; NR 2018, Sec.8: 92) Since that time, the park has expanded its acreage to the southwest and northeast. In 2004 the NPS acquired about 37 acres of land abutting the northwest side of the original park parcel. (Hanover County, 2021) In 2005 the NPS acquired the Turkey Hill tract, soon after Dominion Energy constructed a utility corridor and destroyed part of the southernmost portion of the 6-mile-long Confederate earthworks associated with the Battle of Cold Harbor. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 11) In 2008 Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA) purchased about 11 acres of land, earthworks, and improvements at 7253 Beulah Church Road from Linda Nolte, and demolished the house there in 2009. In 2013 the RBA acquired about 7 acres of land including a trace of a road used during the Civil War and improvements at 7219 Beulah Church Road from the Estate of James Nolte. In 2014 the NPS acquired about 18 acres of land, a Wartime Road Trace, and improvements at 7219 and 7253 Beulah Church Road from the Richmond Battlefields Association. The house and tool shed at 7219 Beulah Church Road were demolished and the driveway at 7253 Beulah Church Road was reconstructed. That same year, the park also demolished a house at 6066 Cold Harbor Road. In 2014, the NPS also acquired about 6 acres of land and improvements at 7095 Parrish Place Lane, and in 2015 acquired roughly 3 acres of land, earthworks, and improvements at 7071 Parrish Place from the Civil War Preservation Trust. The Trust transferred about 50 acres of land, earthworks, road traces, and buildings at 5379 Sandy Valley Road to the NPS in 2017. That same year, the park demolished a noncontributing building at 7071 Parrish Place Lane and in 2018 a noncontributing building at 6066 Cold Harbor Road. (NPS Landsnet, 2021)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site		Yes	No	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Institutional Housing	Institutional Housing	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)		No	Yes	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)		No	Yes	No
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)		Yes	No	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Forest	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape		Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation-Other	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Wetland	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

All units of Richmond National Battlefield Park are closed from sunset to sunrise daily and all day on Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1, but there are no gates, fences, or admission fees restricting public access to public roads, parking lots, and the trail system.

Public Access: With Permission

Public Access Narrative:

With permission, the public may access the Beulah Church Tract and the Turkey Hill Tract, which are areas of the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape lacking the infrastructure necessary to support unrestricted public use.

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The park currently restricts all public access to the tract containing Fort Fletcher.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Authors of this CLI consulted with David Goldstein, Ph.D., Tribal and Cultural Affairs Lead, National Park Service, DOI-Region 1. No ethnographic study of the Cold Harbor Battlefield, nor the Richmond National Battlefield Park, has been conducted. The Park currently consults with following Federally Recognized tribes: Delaware Nation, Catawba, Chickahominy East, and Pamunkey.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Battle of Cold Harbor represents an integral component of the Overland Campaign marking General Grant's pivot from the capture of Richmond to the siege of Petersburg. The historic integrity of Cold Harbor Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1720-1944, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2022. Today, Cold Harbor's landscape characteristics and features continue to evoke the Civil War period and early efforts to preserve it. The battlefield's intact natural features, earthworks and fortifications, topography, historic road traces, field and forest patterns, and views and vistas, overall effectively communicate how the landscape contributed to the military outcomes.

Patterns of natural systems and features that guided settlement and land use and influenced the course of the battle remain evident today, including the natural topography of the level uplands, steep ravines, and swampy drainage bottoms, and the dense forest and wetland vegetation present along Bloody Run, Powhite Creek, and the Chickahominy River. Extant historic circulation features, which were crucial for troop and equipment movement during the battle, organize the landscape and include numerous "Wartime Road Traces." These circulation features, together with the farm-and-field patterns, extensive entrenchments, Fort Fletcher, and the Garthright House, foster an understanding of the battle's events. Historical markers, including three Freeman markers and the Civilian Conservation Corps -constructed tour road illustrate early twentieth-century efforts to commemorate and interpret the events of the Civil War in Virginia. Finally, the overall rural character, relative lack of modern development, and the continued agricultural use within and around the battlefield contribute to the landscape's historic character.

Notable changes since the end of the historic period in 1944 that have altered the character of the landscape include the reduction in agricultural land and subsequent reforesting of farm fields, and development on adjacent parcels. These changes somewhat restrict and alter the views through the landscape, impacting the visual record of the 1864 landscape. Despite these changes, the landscape retains enough of its historic characteristics and features to convey its significance for both the Civil War period and the commemoration period.

While adjacent modern suburban development encroaches on the battlefield, forest screens and carefully planned circulation routes provide a buffer between battlefield visitors and the surrounding houses, power lines, and automobile traffic. On the battlefield, the removal of the Colonial Revival visitor center, the growth of successional vegetation on once open land, the loss of earthworks on the Turkey Hill parcel due to the Dominion Energy utility corridor, the removal of historic structures (prior to NPS ownership) on the Fort Fletcher parcel, has diminished integrity. Nevertheless, Cold Harbor Battlefield retains integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association while integrity of setting and workmanship has diminished.

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 1720-1944 period of significance for Cold Harbor Battlefield.

Cold Harbor Battlefield retains integrity of location, design, feeling, and association, revealing important spatial relationships between the roads and trails, historic earthworks, the historic Garthright House, and patterns of field and forest laid across the native topography. Historic feeling within the landscape is conveyed through the land's rural character and continued agricultural use, though adjacent suburban development and increased successional forest growth within the park diminishes this aspect of integrity. Visible adjacent suburban development also diminished the integrity of setting. Integrity of workmanship is preserved in the remnant earthworks, the Garthright House, and within information contained in archeological resources.

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and

corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the period of significance, 1720-1944, 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).

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. This report includes only sites identified and described in approved National Register documentation. There is no existing archaeological survey of the Cold Harbor Battlefield unit, and no sites are identified in the 2018 National Register documentation for the unit. However, Richmond National Battlefield Park is, as a whole, nationally significant under National Register Criterion D for prehistoric and historic archaeology.

The long period of occupation and use of the Cold Harbor area has left a layered archaeological record reflecting prehistoric, early settlement and agriculture, the Civil War period, and post-war use. Above-ground ruins, artifacts, road traces, topographical features, and sub-surface resources reveal this record. Several discrete archaeological sites have been identified within Richmond National Battlefield Park but are outside of the boundaries of the Cold Harbor unit.

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
Brick border to drive	97514	Undetermined					No
Small foundations	97515	Undetermined					No

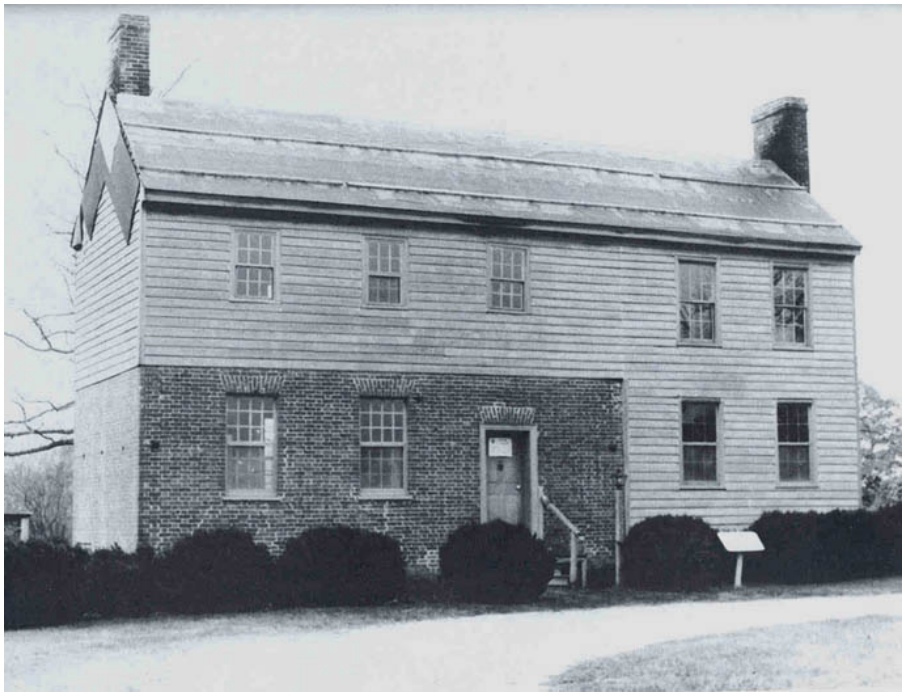
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Foundation of possible outbuildings on Garthright property.



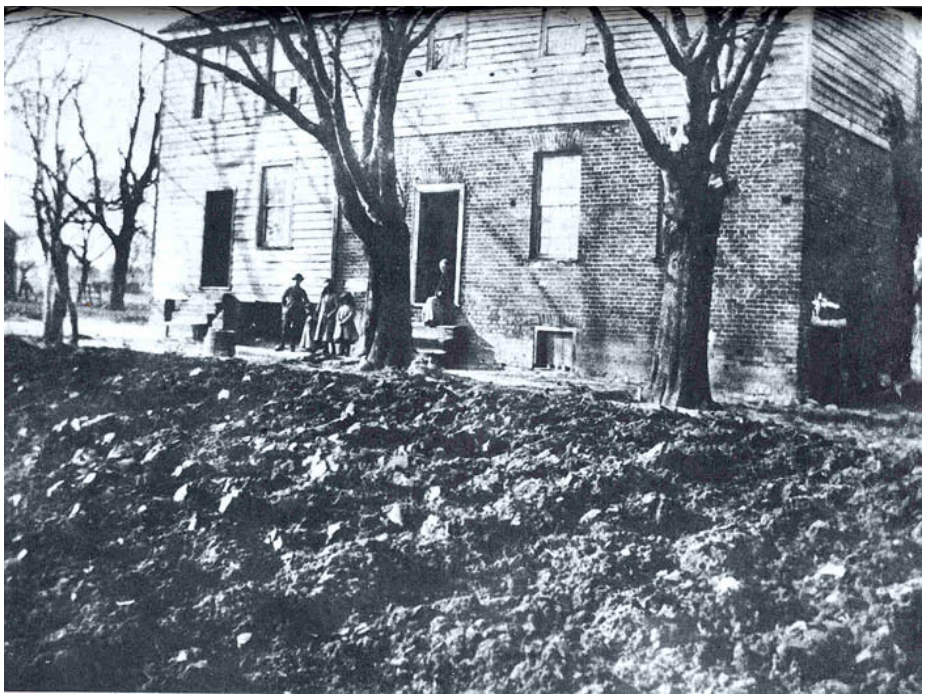
Visitor center at Cold Harbor.



Front of Garthright House in 1971 (Jones 1971, 32).



Front entry of Garthright House with NPS signage in 1999.



Back of Garthright House in 1880s (Jones 1971, 20).



Back of Garthright House in 1999.



Battlefield tour road with earthworks along its edge.



Parking area at Union trenches along "open woods".



Pedestrian bridge over earthworks along interpretive walking trail.



Interpretive walking trail with waterbars to slow erosion.



Deeply cut General Smith Drive provides access off the tour road to private residences.



Freeman marker #26 just off Route 156.



Row of concrete markers along tour road near Federal earthworks' parking area.



Large culvert carries the Bloody Run under the tour road.



Example of NPS signage along interpretive trail.



Rifle pit with interpretive sign.



Open stand of pines showing evidence of prescribed burning.



Visitor center with some ornamental plantings and pines separating it form open field.



Red cedars along entry drive to Garthright House.



Lawn at rear of Garthright House with mature black walnut.

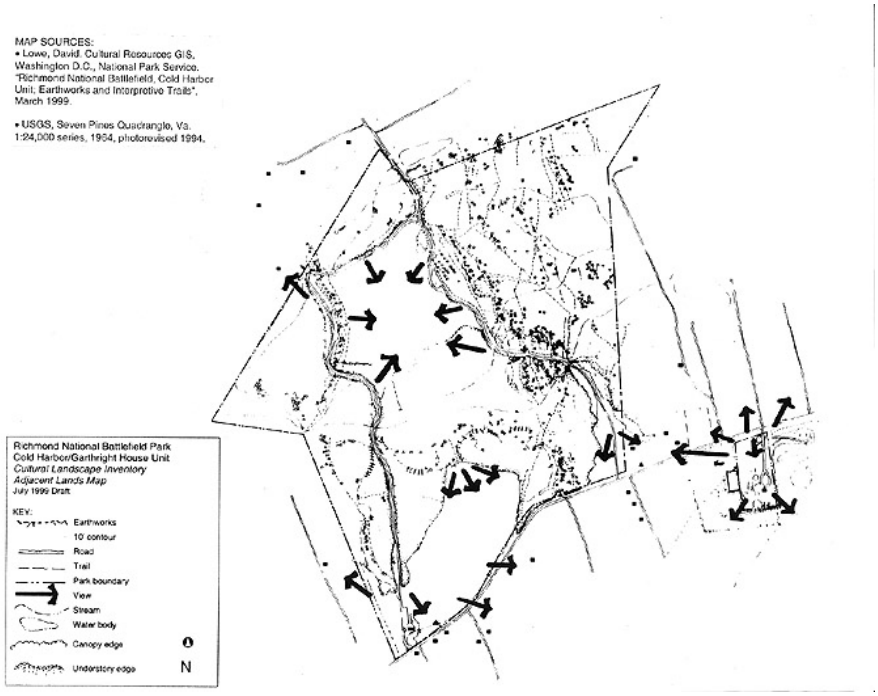


Diagram of views and vistas at Cold Harbor unit.



View across "open woods" from Federal position.



View from Garthright House north across Route 156.



View of Garthright family cemetery.



View to private home from interpretive walking tour.

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

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.

Historic Condition:
The Garthright House is the only building known to have existed on the land within the Cold Harbor unit during the Civil War. The eighteenth-century farmhouse stands about 580 feet from the south side of Route 156 at the end of a straight gravel driveway that terminates in a turnaround. Settlers constructed the building about 1720 as a one-story, side-gable, single-pile brick dwelling on a raised basement with a side-entry plan and an interior end chimney. This design was relatively common in Virginia during the Colonial Period (1675–1775). A circa 1800 addition converted the building into a five-bay, center-passage house with an interior end wall chimney on the east elevation and an exterior end wall chimney on the west. The original portion of the house typifies Post-Medieval construction in Virginia in plan and form, with a front-to-back symmetric single-pile plan and corbelled chimney tops. A sketch made by Alfred Waud during the battle includes the Garthright House in the background. The sketch shows three outbuildings, including what appears to be a hipped roof log building, and two small, gable-roof wooden, clapboard sided buildings (see Figures 3 and 4).

The circa 1800 additions to the house are more in keeping with the Georgian style, with paired-end chimneys and symmetry between the first and second stories on the principal elevation of the addition. Following a 1970 fire, the National Park Service rehabilitated the house in 1971–1977 for use as park employee housing. (Glassie 1975: 91) During the Civil War, Margaret E. (Yarbrough) and Miles Edward Garthright owned the Garthright House. Margaret had inherited the property upon the death of Joseph Hooper in 1856. Hooper, a descendent of the house's original builder, served as guardian of Margaret and her two siblings after their father, Elisha Yarbrough, Jr., died in 1827. The Garthrights married in 1849 and by the start of the Civil War had four children. The eldest died less than a month after the Battle of Gaines' Mill. The other three outlived their father, who died in 1891, and their mother, who died in 1896 while living in the Garthright House. Despite Margaret E. Garthright's interment in Oakwood Cemetery, her children reserved a graveyard near the Garthright House as a family burying ground in a deed of partition recorded a couple of months later. Margaret's daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Elizabeth Yarbrough McGhee, deeded the property to the Richmond Battlefield Corporation in 1932; therefore, Maggie likely acquired the house and surrounding acreage after her mother's death in 1921. (Hanover County, 1943: 7; Times-Dispatch 1907: 5; Leigh et.al. 1993: 12; Willett 1956: 42)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In addition to the contributing Garthright House, the Cold Harbor unit has one noncontributing building on the main Cold Harbor parcel, including three buildings at 7095 Parrish Place Lane, and the Cold Harbor Visitor Center. The house at 7095 Parrish Place Lane (noncontributing building) was built in 1973 and acquired by the National Park Service in 2014. It is located in a clearing at the end of Parrish Place Lane, a one-lane dirt road that runs north along the east edge of the Cold Harbor National Cemetery to terminate in a driveway loop. The multi-story brick house with multiple additions faces southwest. The main block consists of a one-story side-gabled eastern section and a two-story front-gabled western section. A one-story addition extends perpendicular to the western section, and end-gabled wings clad in clapboard siding project from the rear (northeast) elevations of both sections. Fenestration consists of large single-pane windows and a one-over-one aluminum sash. The property also includes two small outbuildings: the 7095 Parrish Place Lane Equipment Shelter (noncontributing structure) north of the driveway loop, an open-sided, wood-frame structure with a corrugated metal roof supported by four wood corner posts covering a terracotta tile floor; and the 7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed (noncontributing structure) northeast of the house, a wood-frame structure built of red-painted plywood with an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof with a shed-roof overhang that shelters a pair of wood doors in the west elevation.

The visitor center was initially constructed in 1937 by Colored Corps 1375 of the CCC as a Colonial Revival-style open-sided pavilion. The building went through several additions and changes before it was replaced by the National Park Service in 1965 as part of the Mission 66 initiative. Originally constructed as an open, hip-roofed pavilion, the National Park Service enlarged and enclosed the pavilion between 1994 and 1995 to create a year-round visitor contact station. The one-story,

rectangular brick building is oriented perpendicular to the Tour Road on a poured concrete pad south of the parking area and faces west. The hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and the soffits are enclosed with 2-inch boards running perpendicular to the eaves. Metal gutters feed into downspouts located at each corner of the building. The west elevation features a glass door surrounded by wide glass sidelights and a large single-pane window. A second glass entry door in the west end of the south elevation also opens into the exhibit and bookstore located in the front half of the building. Steel doors in the north and south elevations access men's and women's restrooms in the rear of the building. Two small clerestory windows in the east elevation provide light to the restrooms. (NR 2018, Sec. 7: 11)

The Fort Fletcher Tract has three noncontributing structures – a house, a shed, and an equipment shelter – at 5379 Sandy Valley Road. The Beulah Church Tract has no buildings or structures, while the Turkey Hill Tract has one noncontributing structure, a garage at 6081 Adams Lane (Figures 31, 32).

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
Garthright House	196572	Contributing	001231		Location	15918	Yes
Cold Harbor Visitor Center	196573	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	15086	Yes
Brick Structure at 7095 Parrish Place Lane	196574	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Location	245850	No
7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed	196575	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Location	245850	No
7095 Parrish Place Lane Equipment Shelter	196576	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Location	245850	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 31. Garthright House composite, ca.1935 top, 2021 bottom. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 32. Southeastward view of building at 7095 Parrish Place Lane, from 7095 Parrish Place Lane Shed. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Historic, Post Historic, and Existing Conditions:
The Battle of Cold Harbor centered on the Old Cold Harbor crossroads, which lies outside the park unit approximately one-half mile east of the Garthright House. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 105-106) Civil War era road traces, post-Civil war road traces, and modern roads and traces traverse the unit (Figures 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

Main Cold Harbor Unit.
The main Cold Harbor unit includes roads present during the Civil War and roads constructed by the CCC and others during the commemorative period. In addition, some modern roads and trails postdate the period of significance, including General Smith Drive which connects between the park tour road at the northern end of the park to a residential area beyond the park boundaries. One historic road trace follows the route of nineteenth-century roads present during the battle, the Bloody-Run Powhite Creek Wartime Road Trace, at the western edge of the main Cold Harbor tract. The Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace and the McGhee Farm Postwar Road Trace, which ran eastward between the McGhee Farm (beyond the boundaries of the park) onto park property, postdate the Civil War period but were constructed before the end of the commemorative period.

Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road (Anderson-Wright Drive) is the only internal motor vehicle road within the parcel. Built from 1935 to 1937 by the CCC, the road begins at the southern end of the tract along Route 156. From along Route 156, the paved roadway opens into a small parking area 250 feet to the north. The road then curves uphill along the western side of the unit through the Confederate earthworks. From the parking area at the earthworks, the tour road passes into an open, mixed forest with little undergrowth and runs along the east side of the forward Confederate fortifications. The road extends approximately 56 feet beyond the northwest-facing park boundary and then turns to the northeast, crossing the area that lay between the opposing armies during the 1864 battle. The road then loops sharply southward at the forward Union entrenchments. The road continues in a south-southeast course along the front of the Union line for approximately 1,200 feet before veering southwest through multiple lines of earthworks. The road ends at Route 156, approximately 1,000 feet east of the visitor parking lot. The approximately 20-foot wide road is surfaced with asphalt embedded with tan gravel and follows a sinuous path for low-speed driving. There are no road shoulders.

There are three parking areas within the Cold Harbor unit. The main visitor center parking lot, just off Route 156, has about 20 spaces. The Confederate and Federal lines have one small parking area each along the tour road. The Main Trail, a noncontributing 4-foot wide interpretative trail, winds along the swale of Bloody Run. It is mown through tall grass fields and surfaced with sand and crushed stone through the forest. The trail, containing 13 wayside exhibits built between 1997 and 1999, partially follows the path previously laid out by the CCC in 1937. The noncontributing Loop Trail passes through the Union earthworks on the northern side of the tract. The Western Trail tracks the parcel's southern boundary through the Confederate earthworks.

Beulah Church Parcel.
The contributing Beulah Church Road forms the eastern boundary of the Beulah Church parcel. The parcel also includes the contributing Beulah Church Wartime Road Trace (present at the time of the Civil War), a noncontributing trail leading to the parking area for Beulah Church, and the noncontributing driveway to the former house at 7219 Beulah Church Road.

Fort Fletcher Parcel.
The Fort Fletcher parcel includes the contributing Allison Farm Lane Wartime Road Trace and contributing Fort Fletcher Road; both existed during the Civil War. The Allison Farm Lane Wartime Road Trace is part of a road that connected Beulah Church Road to the Allison House at the time of

the Civil War. The ruins of Allison House still exist outside the boundaries of the park. Fort Fletcher Road passes through the northern section of the property from the northwest to the southeast. It also includes a Postwar Road Trace. This road was likely constructed after the Civil War to support private use of the property.

Garthright House Parcel.
A narrow entry drive in light-colored crushed stone leads to and loops in front of the Garthright House. In the first half of the twentieth century, the CCC improved the existing drive, which is in the location of the entrance drive present during the Civil War. A small gravel parking area is located behind the house.

Turkey Hill Parcel.
The Turkey Hill parcel, comprised almost entirely of wetlands, contains the contributing Woodbury-Alexander Bridge Wartime Road Trace, which dates to the Cold Harbor Battle. The contributing Cold Harbor Road forms the southernmost boundary of the parcel.

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
Garthright House Driveway	196551	Contributing	653374				No
Cold Harbor Battlefield Tour Road (Anderson-Wright Drive)	196552	Contributing	081633		Location	0015098	Yes
Turkey Hill Trail	196553	Contributing					No
Confederate Turnout Parking Lot	196554	Contributing	081633		Location	0102662	Yes
Union Turnout Parking Lot	196555	Contributing	081633				No
Cold Harbor Visitor Center Parking Lot	196556	Contributing	081633		Location	0015465	Yes
(Beulah Church) Wartime Road Trace	196557	Contributing	1168712		Location	1738605	Yes
Fort Fletcher Road	196558	Contributing					No
(Allison Farm Lane) Wartime Road Trace	196559	Contributing					No
Fort Fletcher Postwar Road Trace	196560	Contributing					No
Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace	196561	Contributing					No
Bloody Run-Powhite Creek Wartime Road Trace	196562	Contributing					No
McGhee Farm Postwar Road Trace	196563	Contributing					No
Woodbury-Alexander Bridge Wartime Road Trace	196564	Contributing					No
Cold Harbor Road	196565	Contributing					No
General Smith Drive	196566	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Main Trail	196567	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	0015199	No
Western Trail	196568	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	0015199	No
Extended Loop Trail	196569	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	0015199	No
5379 Sandy Valley Road Driveway	196570	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
7219 Beulah Church Road Driveway	196571	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Northward view of cedar trees at Garthright House Driveway and Postwar Railroad Trace, from near Garthright House. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 23. Northwestward view of Anderson-Wright Drive from near Freeman Marker #25. (OCLP 2021)



Figure 24. Northeastward view of Confederate Turnout Parking Lot from Anderson-Wright Drive. (OCLP 2021)



Figure 25. Westward view of Fort Fletcher Wartime Road Trace, near Fort Fletcher Postwar Road Trace. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 26. Northwestward view of fluvial geomorphology from Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace. (OCLP, 2021).



Figure 27. Northwestward view of Bloody Run-Powhite Creek Wartime Road Trace, Western Trail, and wooded ravines. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 28. Northeastward view of Bloody Run Postwar Road Trace from Western Trail near Extended Loop Trail. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 29. Southeastward view of General Smith Drive and Extended Loop Trail, from near drainage ditch. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 30. Southeastward view of Western Trail, near Powhite Creek Postwar Road Trace. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

Historic Condition:
The primary historic land use throughout the Cold Harbor area was for agriculture, including crops and livestock, and held in woodlots timber harvest. Land cultivation for food began before the seventeenth century and continued through the Civil War to the end of the historic period. The historic agricultural use of lands within the unit is demonstrated by the Garthright House parcel, which was initially part of a large plantation property. The house was a residence; however, there were no records of farm buildings or homes in the central battlefield area before or after the war. (Krick 1999) Federal and Confederate earthworks at the battlefield at Cold Harbor between June 1-8, 1864, include rough rifle pits dug with spoons and the more elaborate Fort or Redoubt Fletcher. The opposing armies occupied the entrenchments until Grant ordered his army to move toward Petersburg on the night of June 12. The Garthright House was used by Federal and then Confederate troops as a hospital from 1864 to 1865. The Garthright property was used for funerary purposes, as soldiers who died on the battlefield or at the field hospital were initially buried there by others. Federal soldiers were exhumed after the war in 1866 for burial in the National Cemetery north of Route 156, and the Garthright House reverted to a residential property. Much of the battlefield land remained as undeveloped ravines and wetland, unsuitable for agriculture. Finally, the Cold Harbor Unit served commemorative, educational, and recreational uses for its role in Civil War commemoration and the creation of Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Limited agricultural land use continues today in the fields on the Beulah Church and Fort Fletcher tracts. While the Fort Fletcher tract is not open to the public, the remaining four parcels provide public access. Continued agricultural and commemorative uses are contributing land use characteristics of the Cold Harbor Battlefield cultural landscape.

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
Agricultural Land Use	196540	Contributing			Asset	1443139	Yes
Commemorative Land Use	196541	Contributing					No
	97527	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape.

Historic Condition:
The Cold Harbor Battlefield is situated within the Virginia Tidewater region, characterized by flat to gently sloping land deeply cut by dendritic stream corridors. The two stream corridors within Cold Harbor follow linear ravines with steep, often heavily wooded slopes. Bloody Run, named after the devastating losses during the early June battle, bisects the park in a narrow, heavily wooded path. A narrow branch of the Powhite Creek is at the northwestern edge of the park. Both streams originate to the east of the park and flow west to feed the millpond at Gaines' Mill, which drains into

the Chickahominy River. The river forms a portion of the southern boundary of the Turkey Hill Tract of the Cold Harbor Battlefield. (USGS 1994,1:24,000 scale, Seven Pines Quadrangle). Soils in the Cold Harbor unit range from well-drained, dry upland sandy loam to poorly drained silt and clay bottomland in the creek drainage ways. (GMP-EIS 1996: 113-118)

Old Cold Harbor, one half mile east of the Garthright House and not within the park unit, occupies a plateau between the Chickahominy River (3 miles southwest of the park unit) and tributaries of the Pamunkey River (nine miles to the northeast). From this high ground in the vicinity of the park unit, finger ridges separated by Powhite Creek, Boatswain's Creek, and tributary streams extend to the southwest and west and drain toward the Chickahominy. The ridge farthest to the south extends from the crossroads for approximately one mile to the southwest. At the southwestern tip of the ridge, the ground slopes down sharply to the head of Boatswain's Creek. Tributaries flowing down from sources on the east and northeast mark the limits of the triangular Old Cold Harbor plateau. The 2-acre Garthright Tract overlooks the head of the northeastern tributary. (Shephard et.al. 2019: 106)

Before European settlement of coastal Virginia, the Cold Harbor area was likely forested with a mature mix of hardwoods and pine, with wetland vegetation in the stream drainages. Indigenous people may have cleared portions of forested land to facilitate travel, improve game habitat or cultivate food. By the early eighteenth century, Europeans practiced intensive commercial tobacco cultivation, supported by the region's comparatively mild winters and abundant rainfall. Tobacco cultivation without proper crop rotation practices quickly depleted the soil of essential nutrients. By the late eighteenth century, an unstable tobacco market and infertile soils caused many farmers to diversify their crops as they responded to Richmond's burgeoning urban markets. Farmers later cleared the forest for agriculture and timber for building materials and fuel. By the time of the battle, about half of the Cold Harbor Battlefield land was forested (1865 Michler Map).

On June 1, Federal troops moved just west of Old Cold Harbor. The Confederate lines crossed three swampy ravines north of Cold Harbor Road. In early evening Federal troops overpowered Confederate troops to the north and south of the southmost ravine. As the light faded, the Federal breakthrough of the Confederate line resulted in confused, hand-to-hand fighting so fierce that this southern-most ravine became known as Bloody Run. (Patrick Brady, personal communication 2000)

Terrain and drainage patterns also contributed to the Federal defeat on June 3, when 50,000 Federal troops attacked well-entrenched Confederate positions south and north of Cold Harbor Road. Within an hour, more than six thousand Union soldiers were killed or injured, for they had little knowledge of the swampy ground and ravines. (Baltz 1994). Just south of Cold Harbor Road, elements of the Federal II Corps division encountered swampy land in the headwaters of Boatswain Creek, which caused the attacking units to be divided and to diverge during the assault, exposing them to withering flanking fire. North of Cold Harbor Road, swampy ground and ravines influenced the movements of the XVIII Corps. Union troops used the center of the three ravines that flow into Gaines' Mill Pond to approach the Confederate lines. The ravine was narrow, however, and they became bogged down in the marshy ground in front of the newly reinforced Confederate line. The Confederate musketry and artillery trapped them with cruel effect, virtually mowing them down. (Baltz 1994)

Post Historic and Existing Conditions:
Forest cover on the Cold Harbor Battlefield has fluctuated over the years since the battle but has generally been more abundant than it was in 1864. At the time of the battle, about half of the land was cleared of forest. Today, only a small portion of the battlefield is open and unforested. Historically, most of the forested areas were within the ravines along creeks and in wetlands, which have remained relatively unchanged since the historic period.

Evaluation:
The primary contributing components of the natural systems and features of Cold Harbor Battlefield unit, include the wooded ravines along Bloody Run and Powhite Creek, and the wetlands in the watershed of the Chickahominy River (Figure 15).

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
Bloody Run	196532	Contributing					No
Powhite Creek	196533	Contributing					No
Chickahominy River	196531	Contributing					No
Wetlands	196534	Contributing					No
	97528	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. Eastward view of Powhite Creek from Western Trail and Bloody Run. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

Historic Condition:
Little is known about the specific location of small-scale features on the landscape of what became the Cold Harbor Battlefield prior to the Civil War. Agricultural and domestic development here was limited, but where farming did occur, such as in the vicinity of the Garthright House, fencing would have enclosed fields and lined roadways.

In the 1920s, several commemorative markers were erected in and around the battlefield to interpret the Battles of Cold Harbor. In 1925, the Battlefield Markers Association erected historical markers, also known as Freeman markers. Each marker was comprised of a concrete and granite base with an inscribed iron plaque that briefly described the location's association with the Civil War. There were three at Cold Harbor along the north side of Route 156, Cold Harbor Road.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The three Freeman Markers originally erected at Cold Harbor remain and stand along the north side of Route 156: Marker #25 is near the southeast corner of the main Cold Harbor tract, Marker #26 is approximately 700 feet to the southwest, and Marker #27 is immediately northeast of the trees surrounding the visitor center. In addition, a stone monument honoring men in the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery was erected in 2003. This noncontributing monument stands at the juncture of the Main Trail and the southeastern end of Anderson Wright Drive, about 400 feet north of the tour road's terminus. The top face of the upper section slopes down from west to east and is fitted with a bronze plaque that lists the names of the 140 Connecticut soldiers killed or wounded at the Battle of Cold Harbor. The west face of the top section is inscribed with a pair of crossed cannons and "2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery / Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright – Sixth Corps / Brig. Gen. David A. Russell – First Division / Col. Emory Upton – Second Brigade." A description of the action is inscribed on the east face. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 11)

Additional small-scale features include a flagpole at the visitor center. Research did not ascertain whether it was installed with the original CCC-era contact station or more recently. Numerous non-historic interpretative signs are also located in the park, including NPS metal and Plexiglas waysides; small, painted metal interpretive markers; wood and recycled plastic boardwalks; an overlook; power lines; and benches along the main trail through the park (Figures 35, 36, 37, 38).

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
Freeman Marker #25	196581	Contributing	1168713				No
Freeman Marker #26	196582	Contributing	0081631		Asset	0019652	Yes
Freeman Marker #27	196583	Contributing	0081632		Asset	0045767	Yes
Turkey Gate Pier	196584	Undetermined					No
2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument	196585	Noncontributing – Compatible	0651861		Asset	1442970	Yes
Interpretative Metal Signs	196586	Undetermined					No
Cannons	196587	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Benches	196588	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Waysides	196589	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Flagpole	196590	Undetermined					No
Power Transmission Lines	196591	Noncontributing – Incompatible			Asset	1678931	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 35. Westward view of power transmission poles and corridor at Turkey Hill, from Turkey Hill Trail. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 36. Freeman Marker #26. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 37. Westward view of 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Monument and interpretive wayside, from Extended Loop Trail near Anderson-Wright Drive. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 38. Example of metal interpretative sign. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

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.

Historic and Existing Conditions:
The natural topography of the rolling hills, cut with stream corridors and ravines, overlaid with the facing lines of Confederate and Federal earthworks (described in Topography), defines Cold Harbor Battlefield's spatial organization.

Main Cold Harbor Parcel.
The site can be divided roughly in half. The west side of the site contains Confederate defenses, while earthworks in the eastern half of the site are largely Federal. Between the two is an area of high canopy trees with a clear understory that divides the opposing lines (though the openness of this forested area varies with cyclical maintenance levels). Bloody Run carves a deep, narrow forested stream valley through the central Cold Harbor unit. It runs from east to west, cutting through earthworks before descending to the Gaines' Millpond. The visitor center, southwest of Bloody Run, is located west of an open field but screened from the core of the battlefield by a tall stand of pines. This battlefield section was open during the battle, as it is today. Historically a large portion of the Union line was located within the woods. These woods remain east of the Union Turnout Parking Lot. Historically the Confederate heights along Powhite Creek were forested during the battle. This area remains forested today.

Garthright House Parcel.
Located about a quarter mile east of the Cold Harbor unit entrance, the Garthright House stands on a relatively flat, small rectangular lot. Originally it was surrounded by a much larger agricultural parcel. The house is about 200 feet south of Route 156 at the end of an entry drive.

Beulah Church Parcel.
The northern end of the small Beulah Church parcel is forested, while the southern end is open. A Wartime Road Trace cuts through the property, and a line of Union earthworks runs along the sloping topography at the northern end of the parcel. In 1864, forest extended eastward all the way to Beulah Church Road.

Fort Fletcher Parcel.
During the battle, soldiers cleared many trees near the earthworks, though forested areas remained. The northeastern portion of the property remains open today. Numerous Civil War era road traces, "wartime road traces," and postwar road traces cut through the landscape.

Turkey Hill Parcel.
This property is primarily wooded, low-lying, flat, and swampy as it was during the battle. The Old Dominion electrical transmission line crosses it (described in Buildings and Structures).

Evaluation:
The overall spatial organization of the Cold Harbor unit landscape is conveyed through the field-and-forest patterns, the cuts of the circulation features, the earthwork entrenchments (described under Topography), and the wooded ravines of Bloody Run and Powhite Creek (Figures 16, 17).

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
Wooded Ravines	196535	Contributing					No
Mixed Field and Forest Patterns at Fort Fletcher Tract	196536	Contributing					No
Open Field East of Visitors Center	196537	Contributing					No
Open Field Along Beulah Church Drive	196538	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Forested Heights Near Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor	196539	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
	99810	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 16. Southeastward view of Freeman Marker #27 and open field east of the visitor center, from western extent of Main Trail with Confederate Earthworks. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 17. View of open field along Beulah Church Drive. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

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).

Historic Condition:
The gently sloping land of the Cold Harbor Battlefield ranges from approximately 70 feet above sea level in the lowest elevations of the wetlands of the Turkey Hill tract to about 150 feet above sea level on the Fort Fletcher tract. It gradually rises from the park's southeastern edge in the field adjacent to Route 156 to the northeastern corner. A 200-foot ridge runs northwest to the southeast just beyond the park boundary. Bloody Run, which bisects the park, descends to an elevation of 130 feet within the park boundary. The Powhite Creek branch briefly crosses the park unit at the northwestern corner at an elevation of 140 feet. Both streams continue to the Gaines' Millpond (elevation 110 feet) west of the Cold Harbor unit. However, on this relatively flat landscape cut by relatively shallow ravines, the most distinctive topographic elements are the earthworks from the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864.

Confederate and Federal lines, facing each other across the woodland with limited undergrowth, are primarily visible from the circuit road. The Confederate fortifications consisted of an elaborate system of three lines of interlocking trenches fronted by log barricades and connected by traverses. The armies used the undulating topography and thick woodland vegetation to strengthen their positions. The area in front of the trenches was cleared of trees and brush to provide clear fields of fire. The armies also located artillery emplacements to allow for overlapping crossfire. For example, a trace of an artillery lunette is visible in the field east of the Cold Harbor Visitor Center. Federal soldiers dug entrenchments to the east of the Confederate line within the main Cold Harbor Tract, running roughly southwest to northeast and culminating in the Fort Fletcher or Redoubt Fletcher. Elaborate earthworks continue to define the topography of the Cold Harbor unit, linked together by the swampy swale of Bloody Run.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Much of the Cold Harbor Battlefield is representative of the landform patterns characteristic of the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province: large, relatively level alluvial terraces divided by the steeply sloped banks of perennial and intermittent drainages. Historic road cut profiles run through the site, and the remnant military earthworks, including entrenchments, batteries, the redoubt, and rifle pits, ripple through the landscape's topography.

The natural topography of the Cold Harbor Battlefield, including the level areas, rolling terrain, northern ridges, and swampy ravines, contribute to the integrity of the cultural landscape. Contributing cultural topographical features include the remnants of the earthworks throughout the five tracts of the Cold Harbor Battlefield (Figures 18, 19, 20).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor	196542	Contributing	006740		Location	0496511	Yes
Confederate Earthworks at Cold Harbor	196543	Contributing	006739		Location	0496162	Yes
Confederate Battery Position at Cold Harbor	196544	Contributing	651809		Location	1737504	Yes
Confederate Earthworks at Turkey Hill	196545	Contributing	651497		Location	113336	Yes
Fort Fletcher	196546	Contributing			Location	1615913	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. Northwestward view of Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor and the Extended Loop Trail. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 19. View of Confederate Battery Positions at Cold Harbor. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 20. Northward view of Fort Fletcher from Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor, near Fort Fletcher Postwar Road Trace. (OCLP 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, herbaceous

plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Historic Condition:
Before European settlement, Cold Harbor Battlefield was almost entirely forested with mixed deciduous and coniferous species. Dominant tree species included numerous species of oak, including white (Quercus alba), red (Quercus rubra), black (Quercus nigra), willow (Quercus phellos), scarlet (Quercus coccinea), pin (Quercus palustris), and blackjack (Quercus marilandica). Other common trees were the American chestnut (Castanea dentata), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), American beech (Fagus grandifolia), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and hickory (Carya spp.). Red maple (Acer rubrum), American holly (Ilex opaca), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), ash (Fraxinus spp.), and sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) would have also been significant components of local woodland cover. Conifers were represented by various pine species, including loblolly (Pinus taeda) and Virginia (Pinus virginiana). (NPS 2017: 101)

Settlers began clearing forests in the seventeenth century for lumber, fuel, and crop production. Initially, tobacco was the predominant crop grown in Tidewater, Virginia. However, the nutrient-intensive crop quickly depleted soils, and after a few growing seasons, farmers had to clear additional land to maintain production, accelerating the rate of deforestation. Once tobacco cultivation had depleted land, farmers planted it with grains, which required less fertile soil, or left the fields fallow. Gradually wheat and corn replaced tobacco, along with, to a lesser degree, oats, potatoes, and peas. By the Civil War, likely, tobacco was not grown in the Cold Harbor area in significant quantity. Indeed, much of the Cold Harbor unit's landscape was wooded or swampy at the time of the battle.

Within the unit, except for the area of the Garthright House and on land north of Fort Fletcher, land remained largely uncultivated due to poor, sandy soils best suited to pine forest. Although soils well suited to cultivation exist within the forested portions of the park, they tend to be restricted in extent by a landscape bisected by steeply sloped stream valleys. (Campbell and Henderson 1865; Dickinson 1988)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Most of the unit is forested with stands of mature pines mixed with deciduous trees. According to a vegetation study of the Cold Harbor Unit conducted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in 2008, and updated in 2015 and 2022, together the northern three parcels in the Cold Harbor Unit, including Fort Fletcher, the main Cold Harbor parcel, and Beulah Church, contain thirteen different vegetation classes. The Garthright House parcel is primarily cultural meadow and land defined as "other urban or built-up land", while the southern Turkey Hill parcel contains a rare vegetation community classed as the Coastal Plain Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest. The only open areas occur across 24 acres at the southern end of the main tract along the north side of Route 156, approximately 14 acres in the eastern half of the Beulah Church Tract, approximately half of the Fort Fletcher tract, and the entire Garthright tract. Unlike the upland areas to the north, most of the vegetation at Turkey Hill consists of wetland forest. Current vegetation patterns in the unit largely reflect conditions at the time of the battle, as is evident from period maps prepared by military cartographers. (Campbell and Henderson 1865; Dickinson 1988) At the extreme south of the unit (and the terminus of the Cold Harbor front), the Turkey Hill parcel lies mainly in the Chickahominy River floodplain. (Shephard et.al., 2019: 107)

For more detailed information about the existing vegetative communities, please see "Vegetation Classification and Mapping, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Technical Report," 2008, updated 2015 and 2022.

Fort Fletcher: Much of the northern section of the Fort Fletcher tract is comprised of cultural meadow surrounded by stands of Loblolly Pine. The designation cultural meadow represents all mowed or maintained fields in the park, including those used for farming. The southern half of the tract is Coastal Plain Mixed Oak/Heath Forest. This upland forest type is common throughout its range, and is associated with well-drained, low fertility, acidic soils. A small pocket of Beaver Wetland vegetation complex grows in the southwestern corner of the parcel. The Beaver Wetland Complex is dominated by wetland vegetation of shrubs and small trees, with herbaceous openings

and often with standing dead trees; typical species include red maple (Acer rubrum), hazel alder (Alnus serrulate), common buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), and black willow (Salix nigra). Other trees can include river birch (Betula nigra), sweetgum (Liquidambar sytraciflua), and American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) (Taverna 2022, 12 – 20).

Beulah Church: Much like the Fort Fletcher tract, the Beulah Church property is comprised primarily of cultural meadow and Coastal Plain Mixed Oak/Heath Forest (Taverna 2022, 12 – 20).

Cold Harbor: Most of the vegetation on the main Cold Harbor tract belongs to the Coastal Plain Mixed Oak/Heath Forest class. In the far eastern section of the park is a relatively small area of successional Tuliptree forest. The northwestern section of the parcel contains upland forest community defined as the Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest class. This forest class is common throughout its range, and like the other upland forest communities found here, it is associated with well-drained, low fertility, acidic soils. A stand of Loblolly Pine hardwood forest grows along the western parcel boundary south of Bloody Run. Vegetation defined as cultural meadow grows at the southern end of the parcel. Vegetation characterized as Coastal Plain/Piedmont Acidic Seepage Swamp grows within the stream corridor of Bloody Run (Taverna 2015, 3 – 10).

Turkey Hill: The Coastal Plain Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest is an upland forest type and is mapped as 3 stands covering a total of 11 hectares on slightly elevated areas within the large swamp complex at Turkey Hill on the Chickahominy River. The vegetation abruptly changes to Coastal Plain / Piedmont Floodplain Swamp Forest in the wet areas surrounding this forest. Coastal Plain Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest can be distinguished from Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest (growing in the northern part of the main Cold Harbor tract) by its location on the upland “islands” within a larger swamp complex and the presence of Quercus michauxii (swamp chestnut oak) and Clethra alnifolia (sweet pepperbush) in the stands. This community is largely restricted to the Embayed region of the Mid-Atlantic and there are few protected occurrences giving it a global conservation rank G31 (state rank S2S3). The overall extent of the community is declining. The example at Turkey Hill meets the criteria of size, condition, and landscape context to be considered a Natural Heritage exemplary natural community occurrence and is the northernmost known occurrence of its type throughout its range (Taverna 2015, 28). The Turkey Hill parcel is also dominated by the Coastal Plain/Piedmont Floodplain Swamp Forest (both the Green Ash-Red Maple and the Mixed Oak-Red Maple types). This type of forest occurs in backswamps and topographic depressions within alluvial floodplains of large streams and small rivers. Along smaller headwater streams, it may occur in low, poorly drained floodplains with braided channels and depressions. The overstory is dominated by variable mixtures of willow oak (Quercus phellos), pin oak (Quercus palustris), swamp chestnut oak (Quercus michauxii), red maple (Acer rubrum), and ash (Fraxus spp.). Within the slightly less damp Small-Stream Floodplain forest, sweetgum, (Liquidambar styraciflua), and tulip popular (Liriodendron tulipifera) are more common. The understory of both forest types is commonly quite open and contains young red maple (Acer rubrum), several climbing vines, American hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana), American holly (Ilex opaca var. opaca), pawpaw (Asimina triloba), southern arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum), common winterberry (Ilex verticillata), and other species. The herb layer is usually well-developed, with a prominent graminoid component. Common herbaceous patch-dominants include sweet woodreed (Cinna arundinacea), white edge sedge (Carex debilis var. debilis), greater bladder sedge (Carex intumescens), fowl mannagrass (Glyceria striata), and blunt broom sedge (Carex tribuloides) (Taverna 2015: 3 – 10).

Contributing Specimens.
Two trees at the entrance of Anderson-Wright Drive, between the current Visitor Center and Route 156/Cold Harbor Road, date to the Civilian Conservation Corps period and thus are contributing features. As evidenced by a circa 1939 photograph, these two trees flanked Cold Harbor Battlefield’s original visitor contact station. They were part of the 1937 landscape plan implemented soon after the construction of the comfort station. A “Plan for Development About Contact Station” by the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design reveals their intent to plant red and white oak trees at this location.

Management Practices.

Wooded areas have been maintained at an earlier successional stage through prescribed burning, as evidenced by scorched trunks and limited undergrowth. These burned areas contain mostly pines, a few oaks, and a low understory of small shrubs, including blueberries (Vaccinium spp.). The National Park Service maintains this area within the forest at the center of the battlefield by limiting understory growth. Preservation maintenance allows tall loblolly pines and a few oaks to grow and frame the view between the two lines of earthworks. The ground in this area is covered with rough turf. A large grassy field is also located at the southern edge of the park along Route 156. Plantings are evident around the park unit's two primary structures. Tall loblolly pines form an arc around the Cold Harbor Visitor Center, partly shielding it from Route 156. Dogwoods and hedges are planted closer to the building and post-date the period of significance. The Garthright House parcel is a relatively flat lot almost entirely covered by mown turf. A mature black walnut (Juglans nigra) directly behind the Garthright House, however, may contribute. The red cedars at the Garthright House post-date the period of significance.

Evaluation:
The vegetation patterns in the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape continue to convey the essential characteristics present during the historic period, which help convey the landscape's significance. The vegetation's primary contributing characteristic is the broad field and forest pattern. The walnut tree growing on the Garthright property may date to the period of significance and thus is managed as a cultural resource. The white oak and red oak near the former comfort station date to the CCC-era and thus contribute to the significance of the commemoration landscape (Figure 21).

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
Red Oak at Cold Harbor Visitors Center	196547	Contributing					No
White Oak at Cold Harbor Visitors Center	196548	Contributing					No
Black Walnut at Garthright House	196549	Undetermined			Asset	1669939	No
Red Cedars at Garthright House	196550	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1669939	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 21. Northeastward view of a red oak near Cold Harbor visitor center, from Cold Harbor Road. (OCLP, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

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.

Historic, Post-Historic, and Existing Conditions:
Limited undergrowth in the woods at the center of the battlefield allows for view which evoke views of the “no-mans-land” between the opposing lines of earthworks during the Battle of Cold Harbor. During the Civil War, Cold Harbor Battlefield was a patchwork of fields interspersed with extensive forested land cut by creek swales. Agricultural fields would have offered open views, but overall, the views in the Cold Harbor area would have been more restricted due to the extensive wooded wetlands and stream valleys. In some places, such as in parts of the main Cold Harbor Tract and the Fort Fletcher Tract, views would have been restricted to road corridors. The character of views throughout the historic period was rural and agricultural. While the landscape would have been more open during the post-war and commemorative periods, views were likely still not extensive. However, the views between the opposing Union and Confederate entrenchments within the main Cold Harbor unit were, and are, a significant feature of the landscape. The view of the Garthright House from the entrance on Route 156 closely resembles historical sketches of the house at the time of the battle. These sketches show the house framed by trees and fields at the end of a long driveway.

Today, the National Park Service manages the woodland between the Union and Confederate defensive lines so that only tall loblolly pines (Pinus taeda) and oaks (Quercus spp.) are allowed to grow. This preservation maintenance approach creates an enclosed space with open reciprocal views of each side’s line of defense. Historically views of the landscape outside the core Cold Harbor battlefield would have encompassed surrounding farmland and forest. Currently, the area around Cold Harbor, though somewhat developed, evokes its historic character in many areas (Figures 33, 34). Thick vegetation in the creek valley at the northern boundary screens some private homes at the park’s boundary. From the open field and visitor center at the park’s southern edge, views encompass cornfields, small farm plots, and suburban homes across Route 156. A few homes are visible from other locations in the park, such as from the end of the interpretive trail, the eastern end of the battlefield tour road, and a bend in the tour road just north of the Confederate lines.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View of Garthright House from Cold Harbor Road	196577	Contributing					No
View West from Garthright House Driveway	196578	Contributing					No
View Between Confederate and Union Earthworks at Cold Harbor Near Turnout Parking Lots	196579	Contributing					No
Eastward View of Open Field East of Visitors Center from Western Extent of Main Trail	196580	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 33. Southeastward view of Garthright House, from Cold Harbor Road. (OCLP, 2021)



Figure 34. Westward view between Confederate and Federal Earthworks near turnout parking lots, from near Anderson-Wright Drive and Federal Earthworks at Cold Harbor Battlefield. (OCLP, 2021)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 8

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/27/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/27/2022

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall Cold Harbor landscape is in good condition, with established vegetation patterns maintained by mowing and/or agricultural use, and selective clearing in the “open woodland” area. Historic park roads, trails, monuments, and facilities are well maintained.

A condition assessment of “Good” means that the overall cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate actions corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Federally controlled or otherwise protected land of Cold Harbor comprises the core of the battlefield, including the primary Union and Confederate lines. Much of the battlefield, however, remains in private ownership and adjacent development continues to threaten the integrity of views and vistas.

Date Identified: 09/27/2022

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Portions of the battlefield that were historically open, most notably the area between the opposing lines in the main Cold Harbor parcel, are reverting to forest, diminishing the capacity of the landscape to convey important aspects of the battle. However, it should be noted, that the sandy soils of the Cold Harbor Battlefield, once open and grass covered, expose topographic features to greater erosion impacts.

Date Identified: 09/27/2022

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Treatment Completed: No

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

There is no approved treatment for Cold Harbor Battlefield as no approved Cultural Landscape Report exists for the park unit. The General Management Plan (GMP) for Richmond National Battlefield Park, published in 1996, recommended a resource-based interpretation at the park that would explain the military action during the major campaigns, relate the military action to the significance of the Confederate capital to both sides, and place the battles for Richmond in the context of the rest of the Civil War. The GMP proposed an evaluation of the existing cultural landscape's significance and integrity be prepared through a research based cultural landscape assessment that would prescribe a program of cultural and natural landscape treatments according to the Secretary of Interior Standards. The Cold Harbor landscape was highlighted as a battlefield requiring such study, affirming the National Park Service's commitment to battlefield resource protection.

The Richmond National Battlefield Park, Foundation Document, reaffirmed that the Cold Harbor Battlefield landscape is a fundamental resource that merits primary consideration during planning and management processes. A project statement is entered into PMIS for a Cultural Landscape Report, Parts 1 and 2, for FY 2025 and FY 2026 respectively.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

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