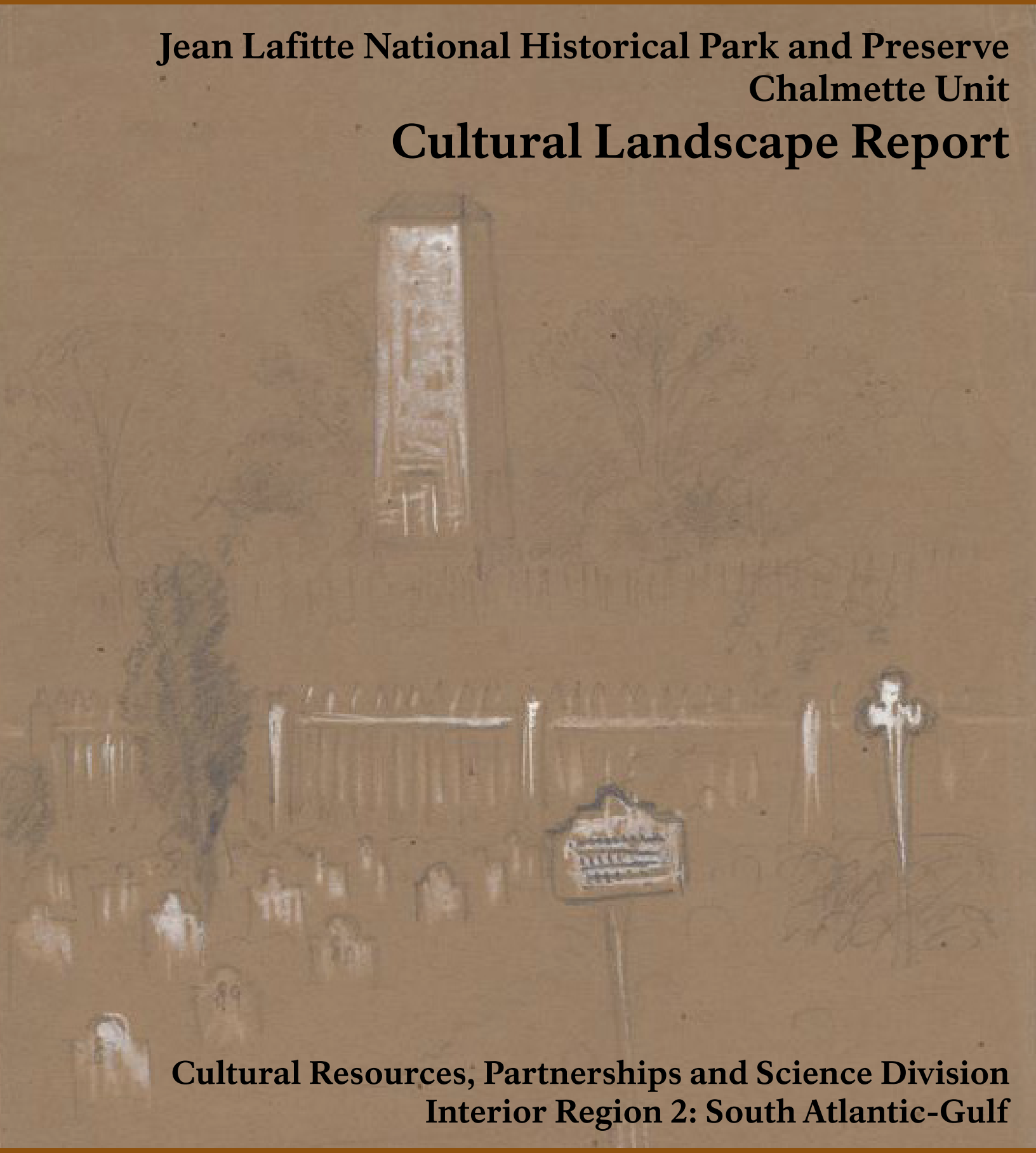
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
Louisiana

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
Chalmette Unit
Cultural Landscape Report



Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Division
Interior Region 2: South Atlantic-Gulf

Chalmette Unit

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Cultural Landscape Report

May 2023

Prepared by
WLA Studio

Under the direction of
National Park Service
Interior Region 2: South Atlantic – Gulf
Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Division



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About the cover: Alfred Rudolph Waud, "In the cemetery at Chalmette, Louisiana," (The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Chalmette Unit
Cultural Landscape Report

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Foreword

We are pleased to make available this cultural landscape report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the landscapes and historic structures of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. A number of individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. We would particularly like to thank the staff at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve for their assistance throughout the process. We hope this study will be a useful tool for park management in continuing efforts to preserve the cultural landscape and to others interested in the significance of the park's many cultural resources.

Barbara Judy,

Program Manager, Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Division

Interior Region 2: South Atlantic – Gulf

May 2023

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Introduction

Management Summary

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is for the Chalmette Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The Chalmette Unit is a commemorative and interpretive site located in Chalmette, Louisiana, approximately six miles southeast of downtown New Orleans, in a highly industrialized corridor along the east bank of the Mississippi River. The unit contains two spatially distinct cultural landscapes: Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery. The Chalmette Battlefield is a 125.6-acre site that includes the open field upon which the Battle of New Orleans was fought, the Chalmette Monument, the former village of Fazendeville, and the Malus-Beauregard House. Chalmette National Cemetery is a 17.3-acre designed landscape which is set apart from the Chalmette Battlefield by a brick wall along its eastern edge (Figure 1.1).

In December 1814 and January 1815, the Battles of New Orleans were fought on two plantations downriver from New Orleans—the Chalmette Plantation and the Rodriguez Plantation. (The spelling of Chalmette changed through time. Originally called "Chalmet," which is how the Chalmet family spelled the name, it has more recently become known as "Chalmette." This report will use the term Chalmette for consistency except when referencing the family.) The Rodriguez Plantation, on which the Chalmette Monument and the property west of the Rodriguez Canal presently are located, and the Chalmette Plantation, the present location of land east of the canal up to and including the Chalmette National Cemetery, comprise the land within the boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. The NPS assumed management of the Chalmette Monument and the surrounding 15.92 acres in August 1933 as part of the Chalmette National Historical Park. They assumed management of the Chalmette National Cemetery in October 1933.

The NPS approved a revised boundary for the park in 1958. This new boundary contained the land around the monument, including the Malus-Beauregard House, the national cemetery, and two tracts of land lying in between these two, including the village of Fazendeville, which the NPS acquired and removed in the 1960s.

Today, the Chalmette Unit is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) as part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625) created Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA). The legislation stated that the park's purpose was "to preserve… significant examples of natural and historical resources of the Mississippi Delta region and to provide for their interpretation in such a manner as to portray the development of cultural diversity in the region."[1]

Historical Overview

During late December 1814 and early January 1815, several battles between American militia and British forces took place in the fallow fields among a series of plantations along the Mississippi River downriver from New Orleans, Louisiana, in St. Bernard Parish.

Though the fighting was spread over a number of plantations below New Orleans, including the Villere, Lacoste, LaRonde, Bienvenu, and the Macarty plantations, the batteries and ramparts built by both American and British forces were concentrated on two plantations-- Rodriguez and Chalmette. The conclusive battle occurred on the morning of January 8, 1815. In two assaults, 8,000 British soldiers attacked the American line ensconced behind a hastily constructed rampart along an abandoned millrace and manned by 5,700 troops under Andrew Jackson's command. The Americans had the superior position on the battlefield, protected by a long defensive earthwork from which they poured shot onto the British as they advanced. In approximately thirty minutes, 2,000 British soldiers were killed, wounded, or fled the field. The Americans suffered only thirteen killed and thirty wounded.

1. Robert W. Blythe, *Administrative History of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (Atlanta, Georgia: Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 2012), 104.

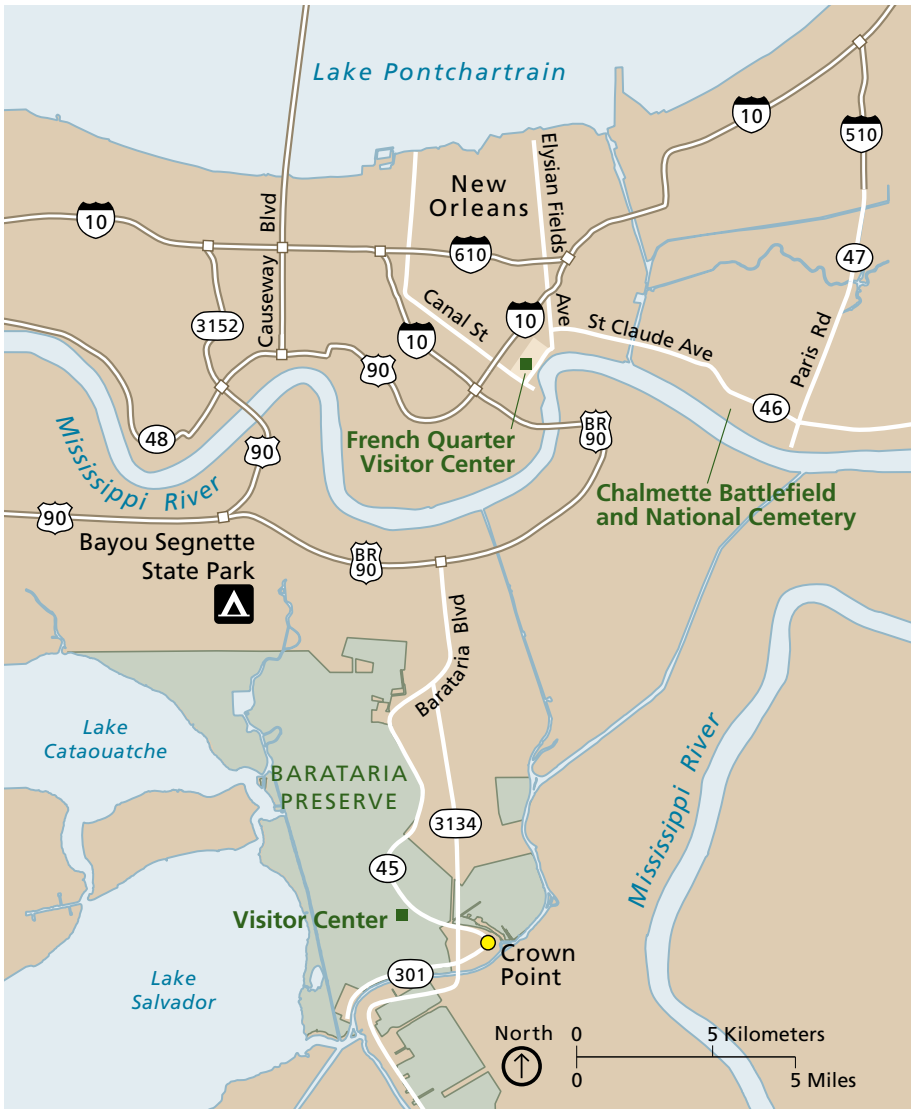


Figure 1.1: JELA map showing Barataria Preserve, French Quarter VC, and Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery (NPS, Harpers Ferry Center).

The Battle of New Orleans was significant on multiple levels. Led by Andrew Jackson, the American militia prevented a well-trained and highly-experienced British force from taking New Orleans. If the city had fallen, it would have complicated the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent, the peace treaty which representatives of the two nations signed on December 24, 1814. News of the signing did not reach New Orleans in time to prevent the battles for New Orleans. New Orleans had strategic significance for the invading British. Control of New Orleans would have allowed the British to gain entry to the Mississippi River and its tributaries, giving the British free rein over the central part of the United States. Secondly, the British would have gained control of the lucrative transportation and shipping markets dependent on access to the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, Chalmette Battlefield exists as the last place in the United States to be invaded by a European army. Finally, the victory elevated the reputation of Andrew Jackson, setting him on a path that led to two terms as President of the United States.

During the years following the Battle of New Orleans, the land was subdivided, sold and resold, thus beginning the gradual transformation of the landscape from an agricultural one to one that included domestic structures such as the Malus-Beauregard House and, after the Civil War, the African American settlement called Fazendeville.

The State of Louisiana purchased the former Rodriguez parcel in 1855 and began construction of the Chalmette Monument that same year.

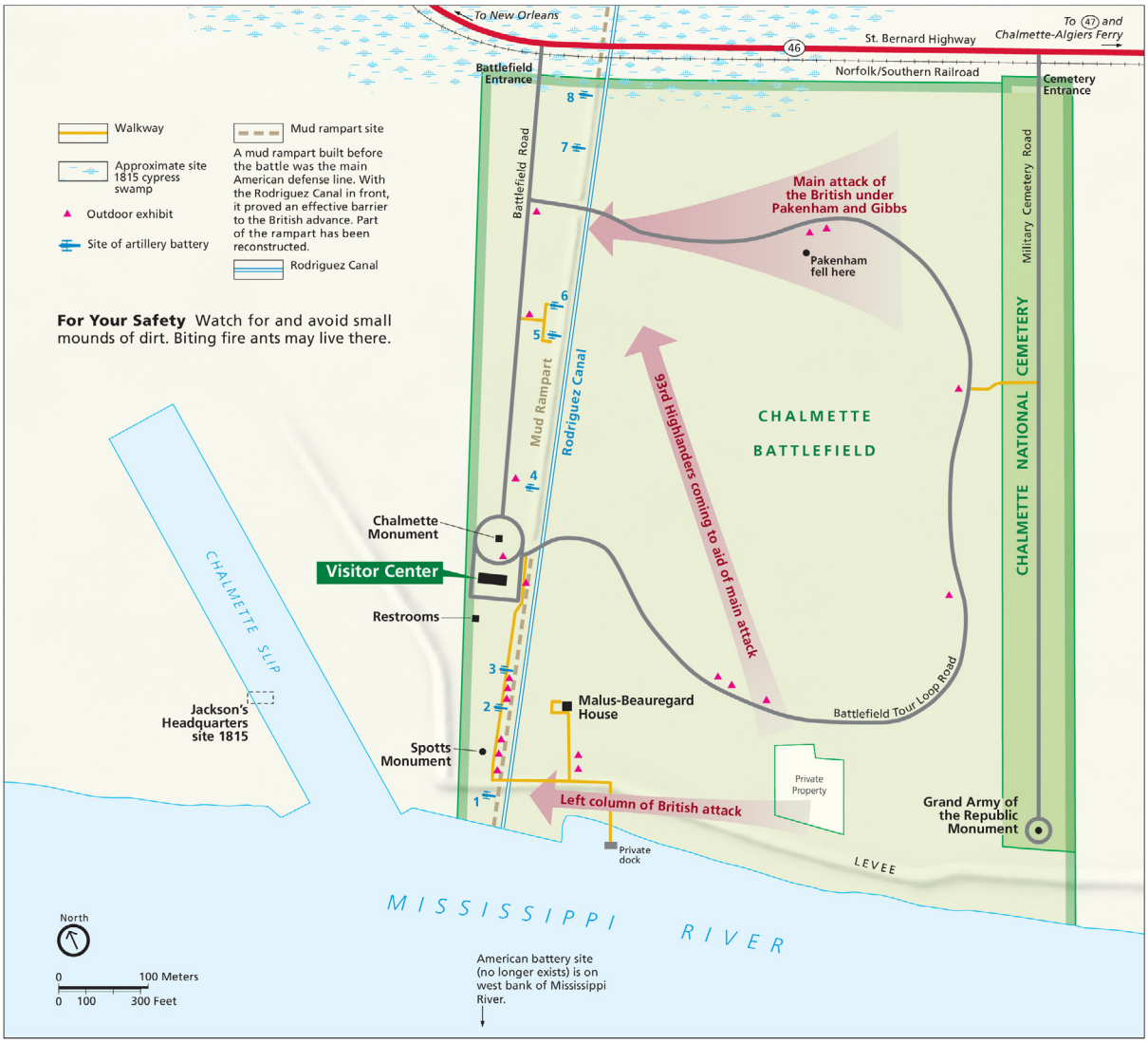


Figure 1.2: Detail of Chalmette Battlefield Park Map (NPS, Harpers Ferry Center).

Money ran out prior to finishing the monument, and it sat unfinished until 1908 when the United States Army Corps of Engineers oversaw the completion of the marble-clad obelisk.

The Chalmette National Cemetery was approved in 1864 on land then being used by Union forces occupying New Orleans during the Civil War. In 1867, cemetery officials discontinued civilian burials at the cemetery and local officials established a Freedmen's Cemetery on land adjacent to the cemetery. The Freedmen's Cemetery ceased operations in 1872. The national cemetery grew in size during subsequent decades, adding acres to its southern and northern ends. The entrance into the cemetery was for five decades on the southern end, but it moved to the northern end of the national cemetery in 1928.

The land between Chalmette Monument and Chalmette National Cemetery became the site of many homes and several commercial operations, including a sawmill and several stores. Most of the parcels had homes with various kinds of outbuildings. An owner of one of the parcels subdivided his land to create a linear neighborhood that crossed the middle of the battlefield. This neighborhood, known as Fazendeville, survived until 1964-1965 when the NPS acquired the property and removed the homes.

The NPS manages the property as a historic site to interpret the history of the Battle of New Orleans, to preserve the Malus-Beauregard House, and to serve as caretakers of the national cemetery. The NPS installed interpretive features in the landscape, including a reconstruction of the

American rampart, an interpretive tour loop road, and interpretive waysides (Figure 1.2).

Scope of Work and Methodology

As stated in the Project Statement, the CLR will (1) describe the historical development of the area; (2) document the existing site conditions; (3) provide analysis of the landscape's potential National Register significance; (4) identify character-defining features; (5) determine appropriate treatment strategies, and (6) develop treatment recommendations that facilitate preservation of these resources, address park management concerns, and inform ongoing and proposed management decisions.

Primary and secondary sources serve as the basis of the developmental history of the Chalmette Unit's cultural landscape in the site history section and informs the analysis of the historical significance of landscape features found on site today. Of particular assistance was Jerome Greene's 1985 *Historic Resource Study* and Ted Birkedal's 2005 *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*. These two reports provide much of the information found in the following document. Additionally, descriptions of the battle rely upon Robert Remini's 1999 book *The Battle of New Orleans*.

The site history section of this report organizes the evolution of the landscape into periods of development. These periods reflect changes in ownership and use of the site.

These periods are:

Period 1: American Indian prior to circa 1600

Period 2: Colonial Period (1543 – 1803)

Period 3: Early American Period and War of 1812 (1803-1815)

Period 4: Development after the Battle (1815-1933)

Period 5: Early National Park Service Period—Chalmette Battlefield Park and Chalmette National Cemetery (1933-1964)

Period 6: Mission 66 and the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans (1965-1978)

Period 7: The Chalmette Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (1978-2021)

Using information gathered during site documentation field work, this CLR identifies landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. This CLR compares the historic condition of a particular resource with its current condition to evaluate its historic integrity.

Description of Study Boundaries

The study boundary for this report is within the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. The Chalmette Unit contains two spatially distinct cultural landscapes: Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery. Chalmette Battlefield is the larger of the two contiguous landscapes, covering 125.6 acres; the Chalmette National Cemetery covers 17.3 acres. The Chalmette Battlefield landscape character area is also complex and varied, containing several areas with their own distinct character. These areas include the Chalmette Monument, the Chalmette Visitor Center complex, the Malus-Beauregard House, the battlefield, surrounding woods, the former site of Fazendeville in the middle of the battlefield, the Freedmen's Cemetery, and the former St. Bernard Waste Water Treatment Plant in the woods south of the battlefield.

The Chalmette Unit is surrounded by mixture of industrial and residential land uses, resulting in a contextual setting very different from the historic period. The Chalmette Unit occupies relatively flat terrain on the north side of a constructed levee embankment alongside the Mississippi River downstream from New Orleans, Louisiana. To the north, a railroad line and St. Bernard Highway (LA Highway 46) form its other boundary. To the east, the former Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation plant, with its huge smokestacks, loom over the canopy of trees growing in the national cemetery. This adjacent parcel is currently owned by the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District, who also owns the property adjacent to the park on the west. This parcel to the west is a

ship docking and storage facility commonly known as the Chalmette Slip

Summary of Findings

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states: "The Chalmette Unit contains features associated with the social development of southern Louisiana and with the military history of the nation." Like most cultural landscapes, the Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery did not remain static in the years after the events that have given the landscape its historic significance. In the decades following the Battles for New Orleans, the site of the battle evolved, becoming the location of many homes, industrial buildings, a national cemetery, and a commemorative landscape centered around the Chalmette Monument. The landscape continues to evolve, as rising sea levels and the subsidence of the landmass in this area of Louisiana are creating new environmental conditions at the site. Additionally, recent opinion is that much of the site is jurisdictional wetland.

Today, the NPS owns and manages a small portion of the entire battlefield, but the site does include most of the area where the most intense fighting occurred along the American line. Recent scholarship questions the accuracy of the Battlefield Rampart, the most visible interpretive feature of the site. The NPS has an opportunity to improve the accuracy of this feature in the future. The NPS has also added several features that conflict with the historic setting of the battlefield, including the tour loop road and the visitor center.

Most of buildings and structures constructed on the site in the decades after the battle would not contribute to the NPS' interpretation of the battle, so it is understandable that the NPS removed most buildings not associated with the battle, keeping only the Malus-Beauregard House and the buildings in the national cemetery. There is an opportunity, however, for the NPS to embrace this layer of history in future interpretation, marking, when appropriate, the location of missing buildings. This would be particularly interesting in the case of Fazendeville, the African American neighborhood the NPS removed from the site in the 1960s. Another provocative resource now under interpreted is the Freedmen's Cemetery. While its general location is known, a more accurate understanding of its extents and location requires additional study.

Treatment Recommendations

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment for Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery because rehabilitation allows for the protection of the site's historic character while accommodating limited changes to facilitate contemporary use. These changes would include improvements for visitor services, interpretation, and circulation. The primary goal of these treatment recommendations is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the setting at the time of the battle.

Another factor to consider is the present-day use of the site, which make necessary non-historic features like visitor amenities. Other considerations include maintenance requirements and issues related to the natural environment, particularly the current opinion that much of the battlefield could be classified as a wetland. These considerations impact future vegetation management of the site. There are other impacts to the cultural landscape that are outside the control of the NPS, including surrounding land uses and their effect on the viewshed.

Historic Images

This CLR reproduces several images from various archival collections in Louisiana. We would like to thank Charlene Bonnette with the State Library of Louisiana, Germain Bienvenue with the Louisiana State University Library, and Rebecca Smith with the Historic New Orleans Collection for assisting with locating and providing permission to reproduce images.

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Site History

Native American prior to circa 1600

Early Inhabitants

Although there is no archeological evidence of human occupation in the Chalmette Unit area of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve prior to the Tchula period (500 BCE–CE 0), humans have long occupied the lower Mississippi Delta region. The earliest inhabitants of the region were nomadic peoples who occupied the delta for at least 3,000 years prior to the arrival of Europeans and enslaved Africans. The archeological record for St. Bernard Parish has yielded sites dating back to 1740 BCE.[2] Between about 1650 and 700 BCE, a large settlement of Native Americans, now known as the Poverty Point site, arose in northeastern Louisiana on Bayou Macon.

When the French began to settle southern Louisiana around 1700, the native population had already suffered devastating population losses, largely due to diseases introduced by earlier European explorers. It is estimated that about 15,000 Native Americans lived within the borders of present-day Louisiana as of 1700.[3] In southern Louisiana, three linguistic groups were present: the Atakapan group in the west; the Chitimachan around the Atchafalaya River, Bayou Teche, and Bayou Lafourche; and the Muskogean on the left (east) bank of the Mississippi River. The Atakapan and linguistically-related Opelousa peoples were spread thinly over the southwestern prairies. The Chitimacha may have numbered as many as 4,000 in the late 17th century; the related Washa and Chawasha were less numerous. In the Muskogean-speaking area east and north of the Mississippi River were several tribes who spoke Choctaw dialects but did not belong to the Choctaw Confederacy. These included the Houma, the Okelousa, the Bayougoula, the Quinapisa, and the Tangipahoa. In general, these tribes lived in villages ranging in size from a few to several dozen houses. These peoples cultivated corn, beans, and squash, supplementing their diet with hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild nuts, fruits, and berries. During the 1700s, the growing pressure of European settlement caused major migrations among many of these tribes.[4]

Colonial Period (1543 – 1803)

Spanish and French Exploration and Settlement

Members of Spaniard Hernando de Soto's expedition reached the mouth of the Mississippi River in 1543, claiming the Lower Mississippi region for Spain. Over the next century, French trappers and explorers from Canada penetrated southward into the Mississippi Valley. In 1682, Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, a French explorer and fur trader, claimed the entire Mississippi watershed for France and named the vast territory Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV. The French established an early presence near the mouth of the Mississippi River to take advantage of its strategic location for commercial activity and defense of the territory.[5]

New Orleans was established in 1718 according to a plan envisioned by Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, at a location between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. Under the supervision of Adrien de Pauger, a French military engineer, the French laid the city out in a grid upon the elevated ground lying just to the north of a protected crescent-shaped bend in the river. Levees were constructed along either side of the Mississippi River for some distance above and

2. Kevin Risk, *Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery: Cultural Landscape Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 1999), 9.
3. Charles Robert Goins and John Michael Caldwell, *Historical Atlas of Louisiana* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), 16; Fred B. Kniffen, Hiram F. Gregory, and George A. Stokes, *The Historic Indian Tribes of Louisiana: from 1542 to the Present* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987), 28-34.
4. Robert W. Blythe, *Administrative History of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Interior, 2012), 8.
5. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 8.

below the city to offer protection against seasonal flooding.[6]

New Orleans quickly became the region's primary commercial center and, in 1721, its colonial capital. The French government conveyed land grants for property along the Mississippi River to new settlers in the region, and residents developed plantations along the river by the first few decades of the 1700s. The French system of survey and land division was based on the arpent, measuring 3,420 square meters, approximately .85 an acre. A typical French land grant included river frontage of 25 or fewer arpents (approximately 4,800 feet) along the natural levee and extended to a standard depth of 40 arpents (7,680 feet) towards the backswamp. Grants occasionally stretched to a depth of 80 arpents, or, if the levee's backslope was sufficiently wide, a second range of less-desirable lots was created behind the riverfront parcels.[7] Early maps of the Mississippi River show the characteristic wedge-shaped or linear parcels of land with their shortest dimension fronting the waterway. These parcels were laid out to maximize the number of lots with river frontage, productive levee soils, and access to the backswamp.[8]

According to archeologist Ted Birkedal, France encouraged the production of indigo during the early decades of the Louisiana colony. Indigo, whose extract was used for dying textiles, was a labor efficient crop; it was claimed that one enslaved person could plant and tend two acres of indigo. Each plantation generally had its own indigo processing facility since the manufacture of dye from indigo was relatively easy and required no expensive machinery.[9]

By 1730, due largely to the indigo industry, African slavery was firmly entrenched in the colony.[10] As plantations prospered, many of the larger land grants were subdivided into smaller properties. As the population grew, farmers reinforced the natural levees along the river and dug agricultural ditches between the river and backswamp to drain the frequently flooded soils to increase arable land. The cypress swamp that covered the low-lying areas provided a source of building material for structures and other features. Farmers and planters constructed roads to connect their plantations, often developing routes along the high, dry ground on top of or along the backside of the levees.[11]

By the 1790s, indigo was becoming less profitable because Louisiana-produced indigo could not compete in the world market with India-produced indigo, which was less expensive. Indigo also was susceptible to insect blights and unpredictable weather in Louisiana. Consequently, crop losses could be severe. Furthermore, the crop exhausted the soil. An increase in the price of slaves in Louisiana made it difficult to obtain the labor necessary for indigo production on the plantations. Finally, the terrible smell of indigo production attracted disease-carrying insects and the production of indigo polluted local streams.[12]

Chalmette and Rodriguez Plantations

In the early 1800s, two plantations were established downriver from New Orleans, on which the Battle of New Orleans would be fought-- the Chalmette Plantation and the Rodriguez Plantation.[13] The former Rodriguez Plantation now features the Chalmette Monument and the property west of the Rodriguez Canal. The former Chalmette Plantation contains the land east of the canal up to and including the Chalmette National Cemetery.

Both properties were actively farmed, so, except for scattered trees in the fields and plantings around the houses, the landscapes on the Rodriguez and Chalmette properties were mostly open between the riverfront and the backswamp. Maps and descriptions of the properties along the Mississippi River at the time of the battle suggest ornamental plantings around many of the homes along this

6. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 10.
7. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 9.
8. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 10.
9. Ted Birkedal, ed., *The Search for the Lost Riverfront: Historical and Archeological Investigations at the Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve*, (New Orleans, Louisiana: National Park Service, 2009), 224.
10. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 224.
11. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 10.
12. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 225.
13. As mentioned in the introduction, the spelling of Chalmette changed through time. Originally called "Chalmet," it has more recently become known as "Chalmette." This report will use the term Chalmette for consistency. Because the family name is Chalmet, this report will use that spelling when referencing the family or family members.

stretch of the river. The houses were typically near the river; the agricultural fields filled the space between the houses and the backswamp.[14]

The Chalmette Plantation

The plantation that became known as "Chalmette Plantation," located approximately 5 miles below the city of New Orleans, measured slightly over 22 arpents on the Mississippi River.[15] As Kevin Risk, author of the 1999 Cultural Landscape Report, notes, Chalmette occupied a roughly rectangular property with approximately 1,000 yards of river frontage. The eastern and western property lines extended approximately 1,000 and 1,500 yards inland. The Rodriguez Plantation, which was much smaller, was separated from the Chalmette Plantation by an old millrace that ran from the river to the swamp. The buildings on both plantations were clustered together near the river. Because of the natural curve of the Mississippi River, views from the houses included other plantations along the river.[16]

Birkedal's report "The Search for the Lost Riverfront" recounts the complex history of ownership of both the Chalmette and Rodriguez landholdings; much of this complexity appears due to the frequent parceling of the original land grants. According to Birkedal, ownership of the land that became the Chalmette Plantation can be traced directly to the early French Colonial Period. Francois Phillipe de Marigny purchased or received a grant for 10 arpents of land prior to 1728. After Marigny's death, the land passed to his widow, Marie Madeleine Le Maire, who married the Chief Engineer of the Louisiana colony, Captain Ignace Francois Broutin. Ownership of the land eventually passed to Marigny's son, Antoine Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville. The census of 1770 recorded that Antoine Philippe owned 10 arpents of land, fifty slaves, sixty head of cattle, fourteen horses, one hundred sheep, twelve hogs, and two muskets.[17]

In 1805, Ignace François Martin de Lino de Chalmet purchased 6 arpents of this 10 arpent parcel. The property was bounded on the downriver side by property owned by Antoine Bienvenu and on the upper side by land owned by Laurent Sigur.[18]

Sigur, a captain in the Spanish militia, had acquired a 16 arpent parcel on February 10, 1798, from Marigny de Mandeville.[19] During this period, Sigur converted the property to the cultivation of sugar cane. Sugar was the new cash crop in the region, its popularity fueled by the development in New Orleans of new techniques to convert the cane juice into granulated sugar. Sugar, along with cotton, rapidly became Louisiana's two major money crops. When Sigur sold his property in 1805 to Jean Baptiste Prevost it was a fully functioning sugar plantation, complete with a great house, a sugar house, a refinery, a storehouse, slave cabins, and a variety of outbuildings.[20]

Three years later, Prevost sold the land to William Brown, the collector of customs for the port of New Orleans. During his ownership of the property, Brown registered his claim to the land with the United States government:

> William Brown claims a tract of land, situated on the east side of the Mississippi in the County of Orleans, containing sixteen arpents, eleven toises, and three feet in front with a depth extending back as far as Lake Borgne and bounded on the upper side by land of J.M. Pintard and on the lower by land of Chalmet Delino….[21]

After Brown failed in running the plantation, the United States government acquired the property. On March 15, 1811, Phillip Grymes, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, sold the property to Thomas H. Williams for $1.00, "for use and benefit of the United States." On June 11, 1811, Grymes arranged for Williams to sell the land for $44,000 to Charles Mynn Thruston and to Henry Daingerfield, Thruston's son-in-law. Thruston occupied the property on April 24, 1811, weeks before the sale was notarized.[22]

14. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 11.
15. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 223.
16. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.
17. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 223.
18. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 224.
19. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 225.
20. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 225.
21. Walter Lowrie, and Walter S. Franklin, eds., *American State Papers, Class VIII, Public Lands* (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 281, as quoted in Birkedal, 226.
22. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 227.

Thruston died in 1812. After his death, the plantation was advertised for sale:

> There is on this land, the following buildings: to wit, a very pretty house with a story, American construction style, and very livable; another house located near the first, very livable and in good condition. Moreover, there are kitchens with ovens, a chicken yard, negro cabins, latrines, wells, stables and a good carriage house for two carriages. None of these buildings suffered from the last hurricane.[23]

On June 14, 1813, Henry Daingerfield and the Thruston family sold the plantation to Ignace de Lino de Chalmet for $65,000.[24] Chalmet added these 16 arpents to the 6 arpents he had acquired eight years prior.

By December 1814, at least one of Chalmette Plantation's fields had been planted in sugarcane, which had only recently been harvested at the time of the numerous battles that would soon be called the Battle of New Orleans. First-hand accounts mention the stubble-covered terrain that the British soldiers encountered during their advance across the fields of Chalmette.[25]

The Chalmette Plantation fields were crossed by several wet ditches. A double ditch and fence ran perpendicular from Rodriguez Canal, heading east for 550 yards parallel to the swamp at which point the fence turned northward and continued into the woods. Approximately 400 yards east of the Rodriguez Canal another drainage ditch ran diagonally from the swamp to the river; 150 yards farther east another ditch paralleled the course of this ditch. Wetland plants, including tall sedge grass and some shrubs, reportedly grew along the edges of these drainage ditches. Soldiers used these for protection during the battles.[26]

A dirt wagon road, referred to in battle-era accounts as Center Road, crossed the fields of Chalmette Plantation, running approximately parallel to the river. During the Battles of New Orleans, British troops used this road to move artillery and constructed an advance artillery battery astride it.[27]

Rodriguez Plantation

The Rodriguez Plantation was immediately west and upriver from the Chalmette Plantation. Due to a series of subdivisions of the original land grant, the Rodriguez Plantation was an unusually small, wedge-shaped piece of land (only half an arpent wide on the riverfront). The Rodriguez Plantation widened as it extended approximately 5,000 yards inland, a depth of 80 arpents.

Espiritus Liotaud and Augustus Faure owned the property in 1790. They sold it to Pierre Denis de La Ronde. In 1800, Laurent (or Lorenzo) Sigur bought the tract from Pierre Denis de La Ronde.[28] Sigur was the same person that had purchased the adjacent tract that became part of the Chalmette Plantation. In March 1802, Sigur sold the land that became the Rodriguez Plantation to Nicholas Roche. Three years later, Roche sold the property to Jean Baptiste Drouillard. At this time, according to a description accompanying the act of sale, the property had 3.5 arpents fronting on the river and included a residence, a mill, and other unspecified structures.[29]

Birkedal's research indicates that the mill referenced in this act of sale was built around 1800, during Sigur's ownership of the property. The mill is recorded on the 1808 Lafon plat. Drouillard held the property for just over one year, when he sold the lowermost 1.5 arpent, riverfront portion to Jean Baptiste Prevost. Prevost, who also owned the adjacent property, sold the parcel four months later to Dame Eliza M. Pintard, who was acting as agent for her husband, J.M. Pintard.[30] Evidence suggests that Pintard operated the mill, and a map of the property shows a canal along the property's eastern boundary labeled "canal du moulin" or mill canal.[31]

23. Jerome A. Greene, *Historic Resource Study: Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (Denver, Colorado: National Park Service, 1985), 184.
24. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 229.
25. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.
26. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 5.
27. National Park Service, *Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve – Chalmette Unit (Washington, D.C.:* National Park Service, 1998), 30.
28. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 217.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 11.



Figure 2.1: Jean Hyacinthe de Laclotte's map of the Battle of New Orleans (Library of Congress).

The property exchanged hands again in quick succession. John Lynd purchased the parcel only to sell it two days later to Daniel Clark, the Louisiana Territory's representative to Congress. Clark speculated in land during this period, and he sold the property to Jean Rodriguez, a New Orleans attorney, on September 29, 1808. The act of sale described the property as:

> One half arpent of land fronting the river with all its buildings and dependencies situated at four miles from this city, below and shown on one side of the residence of Mr. Guillermo Brown and on the other side that of Mr. Edouard Macarty, with a depth of eighty-one and in conformity with the act of sale of Mr. Pierre Denis de la Ronde to Mr. Laurent Sigur, the said half arpent of land forming an angle opening and always following the canal . . .[32]

By the time Rodriguez acquired the property, it had many of the landscape features commonly found on plantations along this area of the Mississippi River. The buildings were oriented towards the river, clustered on the backslope of the levee. The rear of property was organized into rectilinear fields with agricultural canals that drained water towards the swamp. The ubiquity of these features were remnants of French laws which required landowners keep approximately 600 feet of the levee clear, maintain a footpath and a 48-foot- wide wagon road along the levee, and to maintain the drainage system where the ditches crossed the road.[33]

The property may not have been a working plantation at the time of the battle, but instead a country home for its owner, Jean Rodriguez, who reportedly had another residence on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. The Rodriguez house at the battlefield appears in Laclotte's print, "The Defeat of the British Army 12,000 Strong" (Figure 2.1). The house appears again on Engineer Arsene Latour's "Plan of the Attack and Defence of the American Lines below New Orleans on the 8th of January 1815."[34]

The War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans

The United States declared war on Great Britain in June 1812 in response to Great Britain's impressment of American sailors, its seizure of American ships on the high seas, and suspected British encouragement of Native American opposition to further American settlement on the western frontier.[35] After Napoleon's defeat in 1814, Britain sent a large force to North America,

32. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 11.

33. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 11.
34. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 218.
35. Joseph F. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812: The Gulf Theater*, 1813-1815 (Washington, D.C.: United States Army, 2014), 6.

launching a three-prong attack on the United States. American troops repulsed the northern attack near Niagara Falls and won a major naval victory on Lake Champlain. The second prong, from the east, resulted in the burning of Washington D.C., but failed to capture Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor, which Francis Scott Key memorialized in the poem "Defence of Fort M'Henry," a poem that became the national anthem of the United States.[36]

Britain's third prong was directed against the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Mississippi River was an important strategic asset and whoever controlled the river controlled the primary means of transportation and communication into the central and western portions of the continent.[37] Most Canadian and American commerce down the Mississippi River passed the city of New Orleans.[38]

A British fleet, carrying 14,000 veteran troops, left Jamaica on November 26, 1814, and sailed towards Louisiana. Using the Mississippi River to make a direct assault on New Orleans involved passing two American forts and negotiating several bends in the river that exposed ships to artillery mounted on shore. These included Fort St. Philip at Plaquemines Bend, about sixty-five miles downriver, and Fort St. Leon, an artillery redoubt defending a sharp bend in the Mississippi River called the English Turn. Here, British ships would be especially exposed to artillery fire. Ships had to pause, waiting for the wind to shift directions, to navigate the S-shaped bend.[39] The British decided to bypass the mouth of the river and the forts along the river, sailing instead to Lake Borgne. Once across this shallow body of water, soldiers would march through the swamp and use local waterways to reach a point on the Mississippi only a few miles south of New Orleans.[40]

When President James Madison learned that British forces were advancing towards Louisiana, he appointed forty-six-year-old Andrew Jackson to command all the United State forces in the South (Figure 2.2). Jackson, a native of Tennessee,



Figure 2.2: Charles Severin's painting of General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans (Library of Congress).

had served in the Revolutionary War, joining a militia when only thirteen-years old. British troops captured Jackson during the war and punished him so severely that he bore scars on his hands and head from the abuse. While in captivity, Jackson nearly starved, contracted smallpox, and developed a deep-seated hatred for the British Army. After the war, he became a successful lawyer, planter, and land speculator.[41]

Jackson led about 2,000 men towards New Orleans in late November 1814. Jackson arrived in New Orleans on December 1. At the same time, volunteers from Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Mississippi Territory began arriving in the city. Jackson surveyed the defenses around New Orleans, and though unsure of the British plan, he ordered the reinforcement of forts on the river south of New Orleans.[42]

The Battle of Lake Borgne, December 14, 1814

The British forces arriving by ship from Negril Bay, Jamaica, included soldiers in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Their commander, Admiral

36. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 14.
37. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812*, 7.
38. Ibid.
39. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812*, 19.
40. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 15.
41. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812*, 10.
42. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 15.

Alexander Inglis Cochrane, expected to sail victoriously into New Orleans.[43] In a letter Betsy Swanson references in her "A Study of the Military Topography and Sites Associated with the 1814–1815 New Orleans Campaign," Cochrane writes to Secretary of War Lord Bathurst regarding the expedition and states: "I have it much at heart to give them (the Americans) a complete drubbing before peace is made, when I trust their northern limits will be circumscribed and the command of the Mississippi wrested from them."[44]

Cochran's fleet numbered sixty ships, carrying some of the best and most experienced soldiers in the world. Many had fought in the Napoleonic Wars alongside Lord Nelson. As a result, they had abundant confidence and "the mood on the ships was lighthearted and merry. Music, dramatic entertainments, and dancing livened the time spent crossing the Gulf, thanks to the efforts of the officers' wives who accompanied the expedition."[45]

The first battle between British and American forces occurred on Lake Borgne on December 14, 1814. The British sent forty-two heavily armed launches and three unarmed gigs carrying nearly one thousand troops into Lake Borgne. Lieutenant Thomas ap Catesby Jones led the American force, which numbered approximately one hundred and eighty-five sailors. Jones first spotted the British fleet on December 10, 1814. On December 14, heavily outgunned and outmanned, Jones and the Americans put up a spirited fight, but after a few hours of exchanging fire with the British, all the American boats were captured, and Jones was severely wounded.[46]

The superior British forces crossed Lake Borgne towards its western bank near the bayous they planned to use to access the Mississippi River. Over the next few days, British troops slogged through the swamp, following Bayou Bienvenue to the shore of the Mississippi River. There they camped in the fields of the Villere Plantation, approximately 12 miles below New Orleans. At the Villere Plantation, the soldiers found that the "sugarcane had been harvested months before, and what remained was stubble.…"[47]

The First Battle: The Night Attack, December 23, 1814

Around 1:30 p.m. on December 23, General Jackson learned of the presence of British forces camping at Villere Plantation, just a few miles downriver from the Macarty Plantation where he had established his own headquarters.[48] Jackson chose to rendezvous for a night attack on the British and had his troops gather near the canal that separated the Rodriguez Plantation and Chalmette Plantation.

Jackson ordered the *USS Louisiana* and *USS Carolina* to sail downriver to the Villere Plantation, but only the schooner *Carolina* completed the journey. At 7:30 p.m. the *Carolina*, with fourteen mounted guns, fired upon on the British camp. Meanwhile, Jackson's artillery marched to the Villere Plantation using a road along the levee. Jackson found the British in disarray, surprised by the *Carolina*'s bombardment, and attacked.[49]

A fierce two-hour engagement followed. The short engagement stopped the British advance. The Americans' performance during the night attack illustrated to both the underdog Americans and overconfident British troops that American forces were up to the task.[50] As historian Robert Remini points out, "Jackson now had an army of veterans. They had sustained their first real action and sustained it magnificently. They had been under fire and had not flinched or turned and ran…More important, they were eager and anxious to renew the fight."[51]

With more British troops massing at Villere Plantation, Jackson announced that the following day, December 24, Christmas Eve, he would pull his army back two miles, behind the Rodriguez Canal, the millrace that separated the Chalmette and Rodriguez plantations.

The canal was a ditch 4 feet deep and 10 feet wide that ran at almost a right angle from the east bank of the Mississippi into a "thick, and almost

43. Robert V. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson and America's First Military Victory* (New York, New York: Penguin Books, 1999), 53.
44. Betsy Swanson, "A Study of the Military Topography and Sites Associated with the 1814–1815 New Orleans Campaign" (draft, 1985), 21.
45. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 53.
46. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 25.
47. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 66.
48. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 15.
49. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 73.
50. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 15.
51. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 79.

impenetrable" cypress swamp about three-quarters of a mile inland.[52] Because the line of the swamp swooped south at this location, this place offered the narrowest front to defend between the river and swamp. The canal also offered Jackson with a physical feature to use to construct a defensive earthwork. Swanson, in her study of the military topography of the battlefield, explains that troops reported that the canal was silted-in and that Jackson "ordered the river end excavated so that water might fill the canal."[53]

Jackson asked engineer Arsene Latour, a recent arrival from Saint-Domingue (Haiti), to lay out a breastwork on the western bank of the Rodriguez Canal, and within hours "(s)hovels, pickaxes, saws, spades, hoes, carts, wagons, and slaves were brought from the city and the work begun of widening and deepening the canal and building a rampart along the northern rim (closest to the city) from the mud and debris dredged out of the grass-grown bottom of the ditch."[54] Additionally, "cypress logs from the nearby swamp were cut and laid crib-fashion within the rampart to give it solidity."[55] According to Swanson's research, a few outbuildings on Jean Rodriguez's property were also dismantled and the lumber used to undergird the rampart.[56]

On top of the rampart, the Americans erected a parapet that was, in places, seven to eight feet above the ditch. They placed artillery pieces at intervals along the rampart, making up what the American forces hoped would be an impenetrable wall between the British forces and the city of New Orleans.[57]

Jackson enlisted some four to five hundred free men of color from New Orleans, including Latour. Jackson offered to pay them the same wage and offered them the same privileges as enjoyed by his white troops. Ten to fifteen percent of Jackson's troops were free men of color, most commanded by Major Jean Daquin. Additionally, Choctaw Chief Pushmataha had formed an alliance with the United States, and a contingent of Choctaw warriors under Pierre Jugeant joined Jackson's army.[58]

Jackson found another ally in the Lafitte brothers, the pirates and privateers of Barataria Bay. The brothers owned ships that captured goods on the high seas and acted as selling agents for other captains. Jean Lafitte served as the leader of the band of smugglers and privateers, who became known as the Baratarians because of their use of the swamps and bayous of the Barataria area south of New Orleans. They traded in a wide range of goods, including slaves, which had become illegal to import to the United States in the early 1800s. The Baratarians, however, built warehouses and slave pens in the woods where they auctioned off illegal goods to merchants and planters willing to skirt the law.[59] When the British tried to buy Jean Lafitte's loyalty, he saw an opportunity to gain an advantage with United State authorities, who considered the brothers "outlaws—violators of customs laws at best, and outright pirates at worst."[60] Lafitte used the offer from America's enemy to strike a bargain with General Jackson. Lafitte forwarded the British offer to Louisiana Governor William Claiborne and volunteered his assistance to General Jackson. Jackson's first response was that he would have nothing to do with the "hellish banditti," but after learning that the Lafittes owned 7,500 musket flints, Jackson relented.[61] Additionally, the Lafittes claimed to have enough ordnance for an army of 30,000, giving Jackson another reason to enlist their aid. Although it is virtually certain that Jean Lafitte was not at the Battle of New Orleans, Pierre Lafitte had a role in laying out the American line. Skilled Barataria gunners, trained during their stint as pirates on the high seas, manned the line. Their expertise played a significant role in the outcome of the Battle of New Orleans. In return for their services, the Lafitte brothers obtained full pardons from the United States Government.[62]

52. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 80.
53. Swanson, "A Study of the Military Topography," 11.
54. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 83.
55. Ibid.
56. Swanson, "A Study of the Military Topography," 5.
57. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 83.
58. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 15.
59. NPS, "Jean Lafitte: History and Mystery," *Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve*, accessed March 12, 2020. https://www.nps.gov/jela/learn/historyculture/jean-lafitte-history-mystery.htm.
60. Ibid.
61. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 47.
62. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 17.

The Second Battle: December 28-31, 1814

Two days following the night battle of December 23, on Christmas Day, General Sir Edward Michael Pakenham arrived at Villere Plantation to take command of the British forces. Pakenham was the hero of the Battle of Salamanca during the Peninsular War (1807-1814).[63] With the arrival of their celebrated commander, British troops' confidence returned, and they assumed they would soon march into New Orleans and plunder the city.

Upon surveying the scene at Chalmette, Pakenham noted that the British position was not ideal and that Jackson's intuition that allowed him to see the strategic value of the Rodriguez Canal was, in fact, correct. The plantation fields between the British forces and Jackson Line at the canal offered no means of escape. The British were in danger of being drawn into a cul-de-sac: on the left, the Mississippi River, with the *USS Carolina* still patrolling; on the right, an impassable cypress swamp; and ahead, the fields of a few plantations, including Chalmette, beyond which lay the Americans ensconced behind an unbroken earthwork along the Rodriguez Canal.[64]

Pakenham's arrival did bring some good fortune. On the 27th, British artillery sunk the *USS Carolina*, and now, free of *Carolina*'s bombardment from the river, British forces moved forward, taking plantations Bienvenu and Chalmette with ease and setting up positions in the fields of Chalmette Plantation to prepare for their attack. Earlier, Jackson had ordered his artillery to destroy the buildings at Chalmette Plantation.

The morning of December 28th dawned "a bright, crisp, clear day" as Pakenham commanded the British Army to begin their advance toward the American forces gathered at Rodriguez Canal.[65] He ordered one column to attack the side of the American rampart closest to the river, while a second column marched towards the opposite side of the rampart closest to the swamp. Jackson viewed the action from the Macarty house, well behind the fortified line, when Congreve rockets, fired from the British side, signaled the beginning of the battle.

Though British forces had sunk the *USS Carolina*, the *USS Louisiana* remained operational, and soon after the Congreve rockets signaled the beginning of the battle, she began raking the British column closest to the river with cannon fire. Pakenham had succeeded in avoiding the cul-de-sac in the middle of open field in front of Jackson's line but had not accounted for the *Louisiana*. British forces soon found themselves besieged; the artillery pouring shot onto them from Jackson's line in front and from the flank by the *Louisiana*.

The Chalmette Plantation was subdivided into several rectilinear fields by a series of drainage ditches that ran from the river towards the backswamp. During the battle, these ditches, of which there were approximately five, were used by the British troops for protective cover and for refuge during retreats in the otherwise open landscape. A double ditch skirted the southern edge of the forested cypress swamp, collecting the water from the lateral ditches. According to Risk, "The double ditch was bordered to the south by a fence, roughly demarcating a transitional zone of low swampy growth that extended to within 600 yards of the riverbank near the American line."[66]

The vegetation did not offer the British forces enough cover, and the battle of December 28th did not last long. Jackson's troops again repulsed the powerful and well-trained British force.[67]

Pakenham and his high command met and agreed that the only way to penetrate Jackson's line was to treat the fortified canal as a well-defended city under siege. That meant more heavy artillery; so, in the coming days British forces hauled artillery from the flotilla of ships still anchored at the mouth of Lake Borgne through the bayous and to Chalmette. Remini writes, "Over a period of three days the British sailors succeeded in landing ten eighteen-pounders and four twenty-four-pound carronades, and hauling them into position under the cover of night—these in addition to those guns already stationed in the field." [68]

Jackson, noting the increase in British artillery, set up eight batteries along the American rampart. Remini writes:

63. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 89.
64. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 89.
65. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 94.
66. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.
67. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 97.
68. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 100.

> Battery No. 1 was stationed about seventy feet from the bank of the river and was commanded by Captain Enoch Humphrey of the U.S. artillery. It consisted of two brass twelve-pounders and a six-inch field howitzer, all on field carriages. . .. Battery No. 2 was commanded by Lieutenant Otto Norris of the navy and stationed ninety yards from No. 1. It was elevated and consisted of a twenty-four pounder manned by part of the Baratarian crew of the Carolina. No. 3, commanded by Dominique You and Renato Beluche, consisted of two twenty-four-pounders manned by the Baratarians. It was positioned fifty yards from No. 2. Battery No. 4, commanded by Lt Charles Crawley of the navy, had a thirty-two-pounder and was located another twenty yards from No. 3. Battery No. 5, commanded by Colonel Perry and Lt William Kerr of the artillery, had two six-pounders and stood 190 yards from No. 4. No. 6, commanded by General Garrigues Flaujeac, who was one of the four members of the legislature at the front lines, consisted of a brass twelve-pounder was placed thirty-six yards from No. 5. It was served by a company of Creoles under Lt Etienne Bertel. No. 7 boasted a long brass eighteen-pound culverine and a six-pounder manned by gunners of the U.S. artillery under the direction of Lts Samuel Spotts and Louis Chaveau. It was located 190 yards from the No. 6 battery. The eighth and final battery consisted of a small brass carronade whose undercarriage was in such bad condition that it provided little service. Located on the edge of the woods, it was commanded by a corporal of artillery and served by militia men of General Carroll's army. It was positioned some sixty yards from No. 7.[69]

The British, in turn, responded by fortifying up their own defense, and by nightfall of New Year's Eve, American sentinels could see the British building a series of batteries approximately five hundred yards in front of Jackson's line. Overnight, the British constructed six batteries in three separate crescent-shaped formations across Chalmette's fields. These batteries would be manned by experienced gunners, veterans of the Napoleonic wars and part of the most advanced naval artillery in the world. The officers of the British artillery told Pakenham that the American line at Rodriguez Canal would be broken within three hours.[70]

At dawn, Jackson saw that the field was hidden beneath a thick layer of fog and assumed that no battle would be fought until it lifted. In order to keep the American militia's spirits high, Jackson asked for a ceremonial review of the entire army to celebrate the arrival of the new year of 1815. As the American forces changed into clean clothing and uniforms, and as they raised regimental flags and unfurled standards, officers rode back and forth among the men. Private citizens were even allowed to enter the camp and visit with friends and family.[71]

Then, without warning, without the usual sending up of a single Congreve rocket to signal the start of battle, from the wall of fog came an enormous volley of cannon fire, followed by a shower of Congreves. The festive scene behind the American line dissolved in chaos. "The ranks were broken," George Robert Gleig, a junior officer in the British forces joyfully reported in his account of the battle, referred to in Remini's book. "Oh, that we had charged at that instant!"[72]

One British battery concentrated its fire at the guns on the road along the levee on the American right, while another, in order to counter the flank attack that had been so successful in the previous battle, fired from behind the Chalmette house at the *USS Louisiana*, still moored in the river. Additionally, a battery of light field guns positioned near the levee road provided support.[73]

Jackson made his way from the Macarty house to the rampart overlooking the field in front of the Rodriguez Canal. He ordered his artillery to open fire, beginning the counterattack. Joined by naval batteries from across the river, the American artillery on the well-protected rampart destroyed a great number of British weapons in advanced positions on the field. Evidence suggests that most British rounds overshot the American positions and landed harmlessly in the fields between the canal and the Macarty house. Additionally, those rounds that struck the parapet tended to bounce

69. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 100-101.

70. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 105-106.
71. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 107.
72. Ibid.
73. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 30.

harmlessly off the fortified earthwork. Meanwhile, British witnesses claimed that the United States artillery were crack shots, hitting their targets with alarming frequency.[74]

Many fires blazed on the American line, the result of cotton bales, used for parts of the ramparts, catching fire. It would be the last time the Americans used cotton bales to bolster the rampart. On the British side, the damage wrought by using locally sourced objects to bolster the embrasures was equally destructive. The British used barrels of sugar to build some of their emplacements, and when the sugar barrels were hit by American fire, they exploded and sent molten sugar spraying over the cannon, which rendered them useless.[75]

After three hours, when the smoke cleared, the Americans could see that all three British emplacements had been ruined, many artillerists killed, and most of the British guns had been dismounted or otherwise damaged. The soft, wet ground of the recently harvested sugar cane fields did not offer much resistance for the weight and force of the firing cannon.[76]

By three o'clock, the battle ended. The British retreated to positions near the de la Ronde house, leaving behind ammunition and artillery because moving the damaged cannon from the wet ground proved too difficult. Much of this abandoned artillery was captured by American patrols. The loss convinced British commanders that the frontal attack on the Rodriguez Canal would not be successful without a flanking operation from the opposite bank of the Mississippi. Though they had lost two battles, the British still had thousands more well-drilled and veteran troops than the ragtag Americans, and they remained optimistic that the American forces would soon collapse.

British losses for the day numbered thirty killed and forty wounded. The Americans suffered eleven killed and thirty-three wounded. Still, Jackson knew that odds favored the British. As Remini notes, "The desperate need for men and ammunition preyed upon the commander's mind, for he knew that one day soon the British would launch the major assault, and if they broke through his lines and forced him to retreat he would be obliged to burn New Orleans."[77]

The Final Battle: The Battle of New Orleans, Jan 8, 1814

Stunned at having been unsuccessful in breaking the American militia's line at the Rodriguez Canal and after waiting for more troops to arrive from the British fleet 60 miles away, Pakenham decided on January 8th as the day the British would mount a major assault that he hoped would finally result in the capture of New Orleans (See Illustration 2.1).[78]

As the Americans wielded picks and shovels to repair and further improve their earthworks, Pakenham again reorganized his command. Pakenham gambled that a simultaneous attack from both the front and the river-side flank of Jackson's line would force Jackson to abandon his position. Getting Thornton's Light Brigade across the Mississippi (to the opposite shore) required moving boats through bayous and canals, over land, and then to the river. After landing on the opposite bank, Thornton's seven-hundred-man brigade—comprised of his 85th Regiment of Foot, a composite Royal Marine battalion, a detachment of Royal Navy seamen, and some supporting artillery—would attack the American batteries along the river. Officer Thornton would then turn the captured guns to enfilade the Americans to provide cover for the main assault.[79]

Pakenham's other strategy was to have his men construct fascines, which were bundles of large sticks that would be flung into Rodriguez Canal by advancing troops, serving as temporary bridges to allow the British foot soldiers to cross the approximately 4- to 6-foot-deep ditch. Secondly, they constructed ladders, which would also be carried to the rampart by advancing troops, allowing the solders to mount the rampart and gain access to behind the line after crossing the fascines.[80]

Historian Joseph Stoltz describes the British plan in his history of the battle:

74. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 108.
75. Ibid.
76. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 113.
77. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 118.
78. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 17.
79. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 32.
80. Ibid.

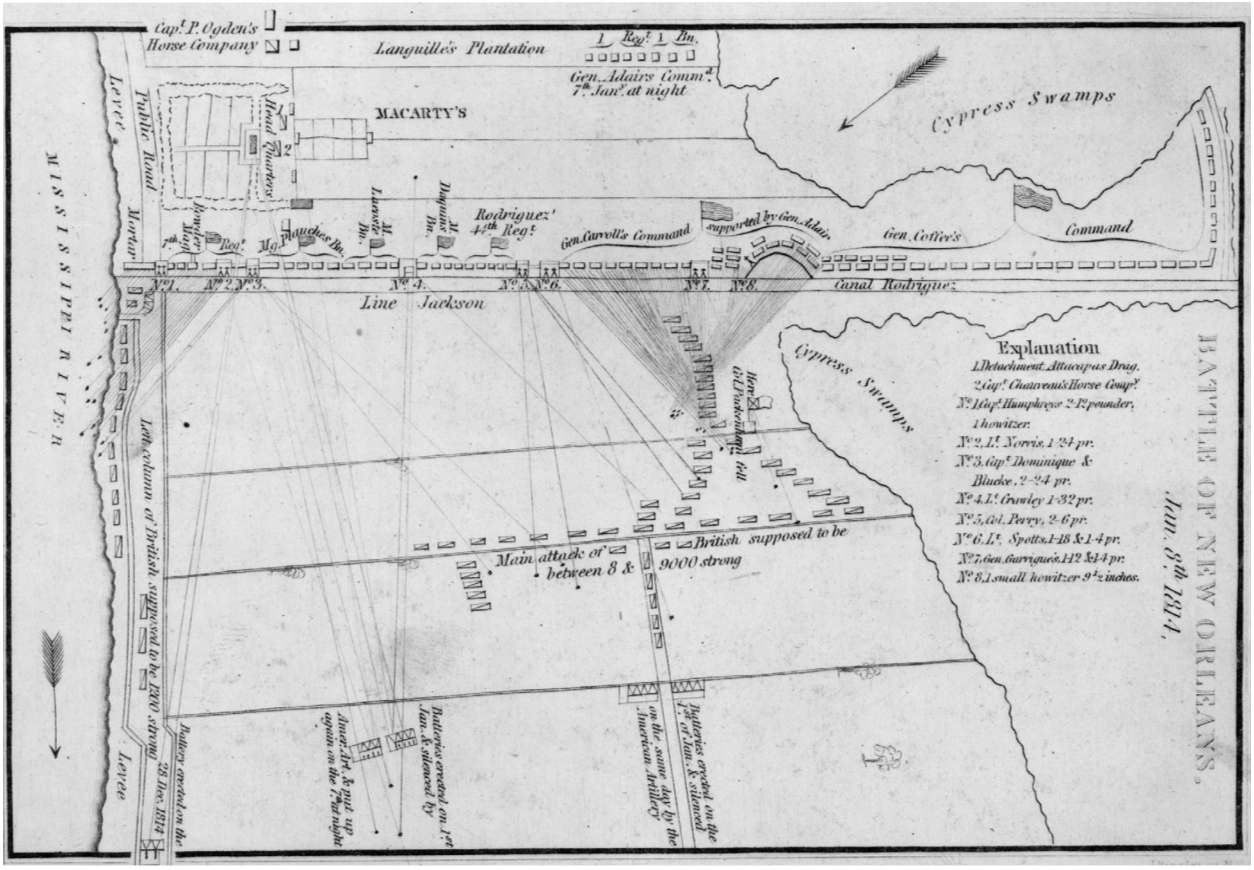


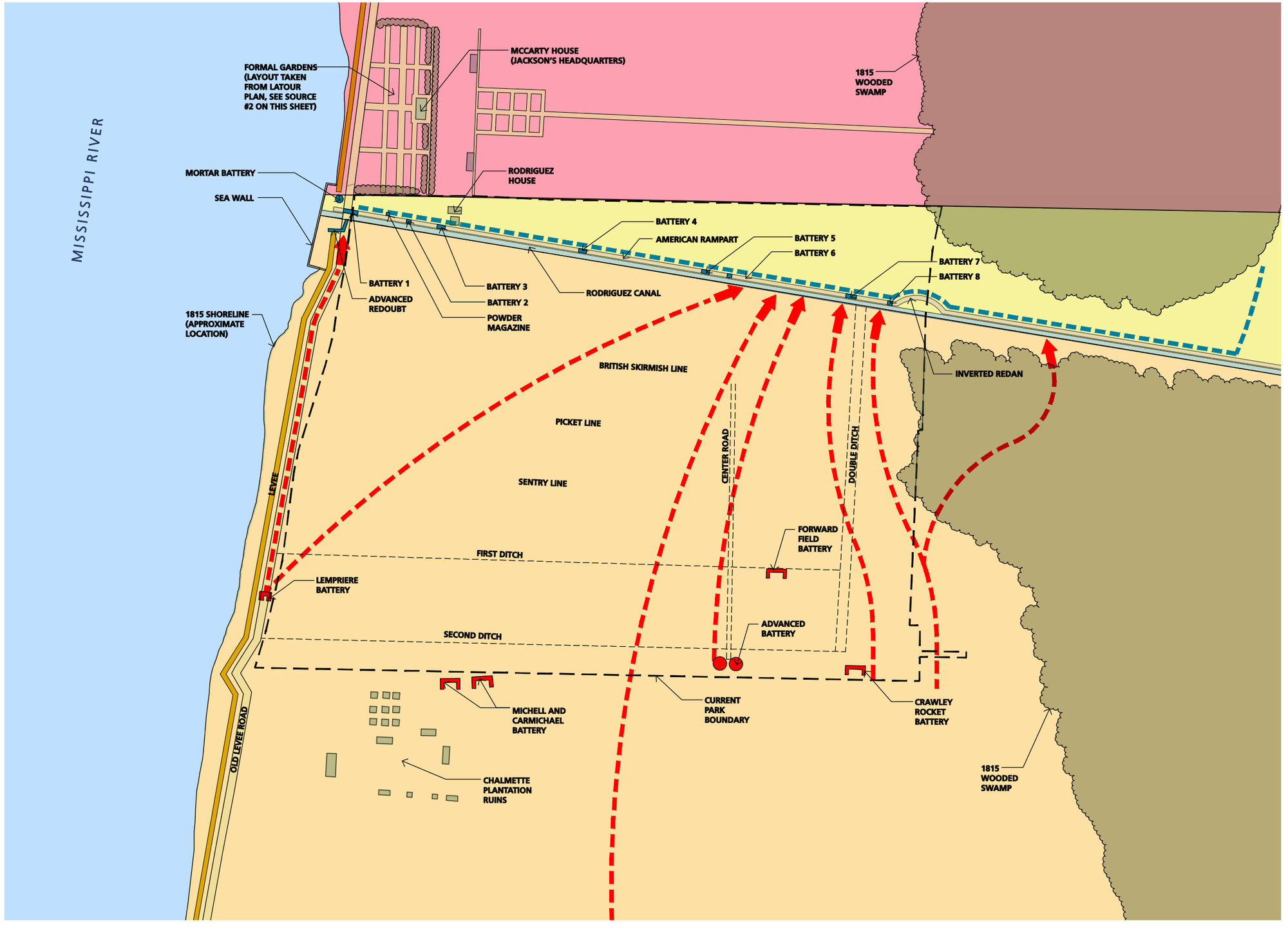
Figure 2.3: A map of the Battle of New Orleans showing troop positions on January 8, 1815, by an unknown artist (Library of Congress).

> Once again, the twenty-one hundred men of Gibbs' 2d Brigade, or Right Column, would conduct the primary effort against the American left. The 4th, 21st, and 44th Regiments of Foot would advance in column, close to the edge of the swamp, where the irregular wood line would obscure the Americans' view for much of the distance. Advancing under cover of darkness, it was imperative that the assaulting regiments reached the ditch at first light. Using the fascines, to bridge the ditch and ladders to scale the earthwork, the British would then assault the apparently weaker U.S. left flank.[81]

By January 7, about five thousand American troops defended their line. The fortification and its eight batteries filled with artillery stretched from the Mississippi River across the open fields and into the cypress swamp (Figure 2.3). American engineers had constructed a redoubt, or "demi-bastion," on their right at a point where the canal intersected the road along the river. Maj. Howell Tatum, the topographic engineer on Jackson's staff, noted, "Two embrasures were constructed in its base to rake the Canal and plane in front of the line, and two others in its face for the purpose of raking the Levey & road. It was encircled by a [moat]." Stoltz writes:

> At designated Battery One, the Americans placed two brass 12-pounders and a 5.-inch howitzer—manned by regular artillerymen and supported by a company of the 7th U.S. Infantry—in the strongpoint. A bridge over the Rodriguez Canal connected the small outwork to the main line. Battery Two rested ninety feet from the redoubt on the main line. It consisted of a 24-pounder manned by U.S. sailors.
>
> Baratarian privateers served two 24-pounders at Battery Three, fifty yards down the line. Next, only twenty yards away, U.S. sailors manned a 32-pounder at Battery Four. Regular artillerymen manned two 6-pounders at Battery Five. Over two hundred yards separated Batteries Four and Five, but the range of the naval ordnance on the right enabled them to engage troops assaulting on the left with enfilade fire. Just thirty-six yards

81. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 34.



Sources:
The locations of buildings, troop movements, and other landscape features are approximate. The information shown is based on the following sources:

1. Risk, "Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery Cultural Landscape Report," (1999)
2. Birkedal, "Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009)
   - Figure 1-3: Latour, "Plan of The Attack and the Defense of the American Lines Below New Orleans...," Page 67.
   - Map I-7 "Engagement of January 8, 1815," Page 123.
   - Map III-5 "Revised Geography of the Battle of New Orleans," Page 480.

Illustration 2.1
(1815)
Chalmette Battlefield
Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report
January 2023

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Figure 2.4: Peter Duval's lithograph based on Laclotte's drawing of the Battle of New Orleans showing troop positions and American line on January 8, 1815 (Library of Congress).

from Battery Five, a 12-pounder, crewed by militiamen that counted a number of veterans of Napoleon's army among its French immigrant members, constituted Battery Six.

Just before Jackson's line entered the cypress swamp, regular artillerists and Tennesseans manned Batteries Seven and Eight. Battery Seven consisted of an 18-pounder and a 6-pounder field gun, and Battery Eight had a small brass carronade loaded with grapeshot and canister (or case shot), which contained hundreds of small musket-ball-size projectiles. Thus, the British would face heavy cannon fire as they crossed the two thousand yards of open ground that lay before Jackson's earthwork.[82]

Growing impatient, Pakenham signaled the main attack to begin before dawn, at approximately 5 am (Figure 2.4). The British attack went awry almost from the start. When boats were launched, the Mississippi's strong current carried them about 1,000 yards below the intended landing site.[83] It was a dispiriting start. Still, as Remini writes, "bone tired and utterly miserable, they nonetheless formed their ranks on the soft, mushy ground and moved through the sugarcane stubble into position, expecting to win a great victory within a matter of a few hours." [84] Stoltz describes this moment in the battle:

82. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 36-37.

83. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 36.

84. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 138.



Figure 2.5: James David Smillie's engraving of the Battle of New Orleans showing British troops attacking the American line (Library of Congress).

> All was silent…. Suddenly cannonballs came tearing through the ground, crisscrossing each other "and bounding along like so many cricket-balls through the air." Then, wrote Gleig, the Americans "opened up upon us from right to left, a fire of musketry, grape, round-shot and canister, than which I have certainly never witnessed any more murderous." The final great action in the Battle of New Orleans, which had been anticipated for over a month, had finally begun.[85]

The green-clad British riflemen rushed the canal, hoping to find the fascines and ladders, which were supposed to be carried to the Rodriguez Canal by the 44th regiment. The equipment was not there. So, they scrambled into the ditch but could not climb their way up the rampart (Figure 2.5). Although they were supposed to follow closely behind the initial rush toward the rampart, the next column halted when officers discovered that the fascines and ladders had not been brought forward as planned.[86]

The 44th regiment, that regiment responsible for moving the fascines and ladders to the frontlines, were nowhere to be found.[87] As a result, British troops were left to struggle through the deep ditch at the base of the line, serving as easy targets for American sharpshooters and artillerymen positioned above them on the rampart. In addition to the failure of the river crossing, Pakenham's second part of his battle plan, the use of fascines and ladders to breach the American line, had also failed.

The slaughter had begun. "It seemed as if the earth was cracking or the heavens had been rent asunder," according to British Captain Cooke. He added, "It was the most awful and the grandest mixture of sounds to be conceived."[88]

The British tried to advance once more, but only about four hundred soldiers reached the American line. A few managed to claw their way up the embankment, but without the fascines and ladders, the British could not get enough men over the top to turn the tide of the battle in their direction.[89] Pakenham rode out on a charger, hat in hand,

85. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 141.
86. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 36.
87. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 140.
88. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 145.
89. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 38.

encouraging the troops. As he reached a point at the head of the column near the woods, his horse was shot, and he was wounded. Mounting another horse, he was struck immediately by a round of grapeshot and was carried to the back lines. The spot where Pakenham fell was probably between 20 and 40 yards from the American line, based upon knowledge of how close the British advance reached before withdrawing. Contemporary reports stated that the British did not proceed much farther after Pakenham was shot. In any event, the attack now collapsed.[90]

Mortally wounded, Pakenham rode forward once more and sent orders for another regiment to follow him. General Major John Keane complied, and to minimize the damage from American guns on the opposite riverbank, he led most of his men diagonally across the field in front of the American right to assault the center. When they came within range, the American infantry opened fire. The guns of Battery Four fired at point-blank range. The British attack ground to a halt, and they withdrew leaving behind many dead and wounded.[91]

Remini writes of the conclusion of the final battle, "The open plain from the river to the wood had become a killing field. Whole regiments had been shattered, broken and dispersed. Order in the ranks vanished. Men were running in all directions so that it was impossible to know whether they were British or Americans."[92] For 200 yards in front of the American line, the ground was covered by the dead and dying. "It was like a sea of red, remembered one Kentucky militiaman, not because of the blood but because of the number of red coats lying side by side. One could walk on the bodies of the dead without touching ground."[93]

Jackson himself stood transfixed when he surveyed the battlefield. "I never had so grand and awful an idea of the resurrection as on that day," he later confessed. "After the smoke of the battle had cleared off somewhat, I saw in the distance more than five hundred Britons emerging from the heaps of their dead comrades, all over the plain, rising up, and still more distinctly visible as the field became clearer, coming forward and surrendering as prisoners of war to our soldiers." [94]

The battle was over.

Lambert asked Jackson for a truce to gather the dead and to treat the wounded. The two sides agreed to a 300-yard-wide zone extending from the American line into the field from which the Americans would recover and care for the British casualties that remained. British casualties in the battle amounted to 285 killed, 1,265 wounded, and 484 captured or missing. The Americans suffered 13 dead, 30 wounded, and 19 captured or missing in the main battle. Since 23 December, the land battles had cost a total of 333 American and 2,459 British casualties. [95]

"The 'morning of the 8th of January,' Jackson wrote, '…will be ever remembered by the British nation, and always hailed by every true american [*sic*]."[96]

Development After the Battle

British American architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe visited the "famous Battle Ground" at Chalmette in February 1819, four years after General Jackson's victory.[97] Latrobe wrote:

> (T)he retreat of General (Jackson) to the Lines at which the battle of the 8th was fought was a most judicious measure & worthy of Hannibal. These lines, or rather *this Line*, is now visible only as the somewhat elevated bank of a narrow canal from the Mississippi to the swamp…This ditch & something of a bank extending from the river road to the swamp will probably remain for many years, because the ditch serves as a plantation drain. But the soluble quality of the earth & the exceedingly heavy rains of the climate would otherwise, in a few years, destroy every vestige of work which saved the city & the whole country of the delta from conquest. The field of battle is itself an uninterrupted plain without cover or defence of any kind, immediately in front of the Line, on which it was necessary to sacrifice

90. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 123.
91. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 38.
92. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 148.
93. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 155.
94. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 156.
95. Stoltz, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812,* 40.
96. Remini, *The Battle of New Orleans,* 168.
97. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 5.

> a great number of men before the Line could be approached. The event is known, & will live as long as the American history shall be read.[98]

Latrobe's remarks suggest that the fields on which the battle had occurred were returning to what they had been before the battle: part of a larger working plantation landscape. The canal, which had served as the first layer of defense on the American line, had reassumed its function as a "plantation drain," eroded by climate and agricultural use.[99]

A set of pencil and watercolor studies made by Latrobe during his visit detail the structures and field patterns of the former battlefield.[100] The only apparent reminders of the battle are the linear mounds of bare earth along a distant fence line, marking the canal and constructed embankment that provided Jackson his line of defense.[101] Neither sketch depicts any trees near the Rodriguez house. Latrobe shows the rest of the landscape between the river and the wooded swamp as open land divided into fields by fencerows.[102]

Moreover, during the years following the Battle of New Orleans, the land on which the battle had been fought was subdivided, sold and resold, thus beginning the gradual transformation of the landscape from an agricultural one to one that included domestic structures such as the Malus-Beauregard House and, after the Civil War, the African American settlement called Fazendeville. The site also became a place of commemoration, eventually featuring the Chalmette Monument and the Chalmette National Cemetery (See Illustration 2.2).

Rodriguez Plantation

After the war, Jean Rodriguez made a claim to the United States Government for losses sustained during the Battles of New Orleans.[103] This claim states that the stable, coach house, four slave cabins, a hen house, a pigeon house and the kitchen were "entirely destroyed," while the residence and "an adjoining building" were only damaged.[104] In addition, Rodriguez placed a claim for the damage or loss of movables, including books.

In 1817, Rodriguez sold the property to Dame Marguerite Verret for $7,500.00. After Madame Verret's death, the property passed to her son, Edouard Prevost.[105] On January 8, 1840, a ceremony commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans was held at the site of the American victory.[106] Andrew Jackson, hero of the battle and by this time a former President of the United States, was scheduled to speak at the celebration, but was delayed in arriving. Jackson did visit the battlefield two days after the ceremony. Popular legend holds that the cornerstone for a battlefield monument was laid during the ceremony or during Jackson's visit on the 10th, but no evidence of a cornerstone has ever been found.[107] Official efforts to erect a memorial began in 1851, at which time the Jackson Monument Commission was established to solicit public and legislative support for a battlefield monument. The following year, the State Legislature appropriated $10,000 for an equestrian statue in Jackson Square and $5,000 for a battlefield monument.[108]

Edouard Prevost, then owner of the Rodriguez Plantation, died in 1849. Etienne Villavosa, owner of the adjoining downriver parcel, purchased the property from the Prevost family. He sold it to Pierre Bachelot in 1852.[109] On March 18, 1852, the Louisiana legislature authorized the purchase of "a tract one arpent square on the line of intrenchments occupied by Jackson's men on January 2, 1815."[110] Three years later, in 1855, Batchelot sold the property to the State of Louisiana. At that time, the property was described as:

> A certain portion of land with all and singular improvements thereon . . . situated in the Parish of St. Bernard about four miles below the city, and on the left bank of the River Mississippi, having in French measure ninety-one feet ten

98. Ibid.
99. Ibid.
100. Ibid.
101. Ibid.
102. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 15.
103. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 174.
104. Ibid.
105. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 175.
106. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 19.
107. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 222.
108. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 223.
109. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 175.
110. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 224.

> inches front on said river and running back between side lines opening in such manner as to give a width of two and a half arpents at the distance of fifteen arpents from the said River and from this point running back between two side lines, one of which closes seven feet eight inches so as to give a width of 443 feet on the rear line at the distance of eighty arpents from the said river, the whole bounded on the upper side by the property of Madam Widow Lombard, and on the lower side by that of Mr. Martin M. Villavaso and in conformity with a plan drawn by A. d'Hemecourt on the twenty-eighth day of December 1851.[111]

The residence of the Rodriguez Plantation was still standing at the time the property was sold by Batchelot to the State of Louisiana. However, during the late 1800s it fell into what the *Illustrated Visitor's Guide to New Orleans* claimed was "the shabbiest of ruins."[112] It was not depicted on the 1874 Mississippi River Commission map, possibly due to its dilapidation. Based on a contemporary woodcut, Wilson, author of *Plantation Houses*, as quoted in Birkedal, described the structure at the end of the nineteenth century as:

> . . . a small, raised structure erected on a fairly low brick basement. A gallery with chamfered wood columns extended downriver to the east. The western end of the front gallery was protected by louvered jalousies. The house was only one room in width with two semi-circular fan light French doors opening onto the front gallery. A single dormer overlooked the river from the double pitched, hipped shingle roof. It was a typical small plantation house of the period.[113]

The Rodriguez house was torn down before the end of the 1800s.

Chalmette Monument

Construction of the Chalmette Monument commenced in 1855, the year the state acquired the property. The Jackson Monument Association solicited design ideas, finally accepting one proposed by local stone dealers Newton Richards and John Stroud and Company. The monument was to be a stately Egyptian-style obelisk of marble, 150 feet tall with steps at the base and an ornamental door on each side. The only bidder, Richards and Stroud, were awarded the construction contract on August 30, 1855.[114] The cost estimate for the project was $57,000, but by early 1856, once the foundation had been completed, the Jackson Memorial Association only had $12,000, too little to complete the envisioned monument. The state legislature contributed another $15,000 to the project in 1857, but it was quickly spent. In 1859 work on the monument was suspended and capped off at 56 feet with a makeshift wooden roof.[115]

A photograph of the monument taken around 1864 shows several buildings standing in the area south of the monument. A fence follows what is presumably the eastern property boundary. West of the fence, within the monument parcel, there are at least three frame structures. None appear to be residential structures, but they look more like accessory buildings—sheds and barns. Another frame building in the image stands on the parcel immediately east of the monument parcel. It may be a simple residential building because of its centrally located brick chimney (Figure 2.6).

Descriptions of the monument and its surroundings paint a pitiful picture of its condition in the decades after its erection. During the Civil War, a soldier, Private Elisha Stockwell, recorded his impressions of the unfinished monument in his diary:

> We went into camp a little below New Orleans on General Jackson's old battlefield where the Battle of New Orleans was fought in the War of 1812. It had been used for truck gardening. It was a dead-level piece of land with ditches every few rods square for the water to settle away. It was, I should guess, fourteen feet lower than the Mississippi River. It rained several days while we were here, and the ditches were full of water for a week. We had our pup tents staked to the ground so to had to lay on the ground. . . .
>
> There was a monument a little way from camp to commemorate the battle. It was built of brick. It was round, about twelve feet across at the ground and I don't remember how high, but it

111. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 220.
112. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 221.
113. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 221.
114. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 226.
115. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 228.



Figure 2.6: Photograph of the "Jackson Monument at Chalmette" by the S.T. Blessing Studio dated approximately 1864; buildings believed to be associated with the Rodriguez Plantation in the left foreground of the image (Marshall Dunham Photograph Album (Mss. 3241), Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries).

> was over one hundred feet. An iron stair inside wound to the top. It was a sightly place at the top. The monument wasn't finished, and there were a lot of brick around there.[116]

Two decades later, another visitor to the site described the site, recalling "[a] general air of decay prevails about the structure."[117] In August 1890, a writer to the editors of a local New Orleans newspaper, the *Times-Democrat*, commented upon their impressions of a visit to the site:

> I cannot refrain from an expression of disgust as a result of the trip. The approach from the river is through a narrow lane, so grown up in weeds and underbrush that even the narrow footpath is almost impassible for ladies by reason of this growth, reaching to eight or ten feet in height. The cultivated field, which formerly left a reasonable open space about the base of the monument, has been extended until its fences are now within twenty-five feet of the same and the entire inclosure surrounding the monument is filled with weeds and rank vegetation eight or ten feet high, and without even footpaths by which the structure can be approached.[118]

Supported by Louisiana State Senator, Albert Estopinal, the legislature approved a bill in 1894 placing custodianship of the monument into the hands of the recently formed Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 (Daughters), whose members were distressed about the neglected condition of the monument. The state legislature also approved two appropriations of $1,000 for the Daughters to use at the monument site. A historian of the group, Mrs. deVercus, recalled,

> With this [money] and the meager revenue derived from the sale of pecans, wood and the rental of pastures [the Society] built a keepers lodge, cleared and drained the grounds, placed an iron fence and gate across the front, repaired old fences and put up new ones as necessary, built a mound for the monument, replaced twenty-one iron steps inside and placed a temporary top until such time as they could complete the Chalmette Monument.[119]

116. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 229.
117. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 230.
118. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 231.
119. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 233.



Figure 2.7: Photograph of Chalmette Monument, dated approximately 1900, showing unfinished monument, caretaker's house, path, and other landscape features. A fence on left side of image follows the property boundary that appears consistent with the current boundary (Library of Congress).

The caretaker house mentioned by Mrs. deVercus stood southeast of the monument. This structure remained until 1958, at which time the NPS demolished it.[120] Other projects undertaken by the Daughters included the addition of a shell path from the monument to the road along the river, often called River Road. The United States Army Quartermaster Corps constructed the "shell road" in 1887 between Jackson Barracks and the national cemetery, passing along the river past the monument site.[121] In the first few years of their involvement with the monument site, the Daughters erected the Spotts Marker, a stone loving cup-shaped memorial honoring a veteran of the New Orleans campaign, near the entrance path from River Road to the monument.

A photograph dated 1900 shows the landscape after the work of the Daughters. The shell path is visible leading directly to the base of the mound around the monument and then up the steep slope to the entrance door. The mound otherwise is covered in grass. The shell path appears to be edged with a material, likely wood, to keep the aggregate in place. It appears that the site required grading, because there is a prominent terrace along the east side of the walkway. It is also possible that this abrupt grade change predated the construction of the walkway. The caretaker's house stands to the right (east) edge of the photograph. Its porch is on the south façade, further evidence that visitors to the site were expected to approach from this direction. There is a fence visible along the west side of the parcel. It is not clear, but there may be a fence along the east property line as well. Another structure, probably a shed, is visible at the property

120. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 222.
121. The Quartermaster Corps was called the Quartermaster Department at this time. According to a congressional report, the federal government received a 40-foot-wide rights-of-way from St. Bernard County for the road in 1886. See the Office of the Judge Advocate-General, Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in *House of Representatives Documents, 59th Congress, 1st Session* (1905-1906), 3.

line east of the monument. Five wooden benches appear in the photograph, set close to the walkway for visitors (Figure 2.7).

The Daughters also led the effort to raise money to finish the monument. By 1896, they began soliciting plans from local architects for the project. Then, in 1907, upon repeated request from the Daughters, the United States Congress appropriated $25,000 for the completion of Chalmette Monument. According to Greene, a report by a local structural engineer, Alfred F. Theard, swayed legislators' opinion about the project. Theard, recalling his role in the campaign for the monument, commented that he had "sympathy with those who were striving to make this monument a fitting tribute to the memories of the heroes of 1815, and I felt honored to have been called upon to help along this good cause."[122]

The United States Army Corps of Engineers supervised the project and hired Theard to be the project engineer. In July 1907, Theard completed a survey of the monument. In his report he described its condition at that time:

> The shaft was 56 ft. 10 in. above the line at which, the top of the step would meet it; this step or base being, if completed, about 12 ft. 6 in. above the natural surface. From the natural level to this point, a mound extended around the base of the monument, with a diameter of about 185 ft. At the foot of the mound was a ditch which drained the entire plot. At the top of the shaft the very crude wooden cover and ordinary flooring on five pieces of 4 in. by 12 in. laid crosswise) showed conclusively that neither the designer nor the Jackson Monument Association ever intended to leave the work at this point. The large mound which covered the entire base had been placed there, a few years before 1906, not to form part of the ultimate structure, but to serve as a protection for the uncompleted base, and no doubt accomplished its purpose.
>
> I was pleased to find the foundations in a perfect condition. The timbers were in a remarkable state of preservation….
>
> The first two or three courses of brick had been exposed to the weather for a long time before the mound was placed over them and the mortar was either entirely removed from the joints or crumpled into soft powder, but when these three outside courses were removed the brickwork was in a perfect condition. The marble facing of the shaft was very much soiled from its long exposure to dust and rain. The visitors to the Chalmette Monument, perhaps through a desire of becoming famous by their close, very close, association with this monument, or probably through their craving for the slow destruction of all monuments, -- these visitors, numbering hundreds of thousands, were responsible for the miserable condition of the interior of this historic shaft.[123]

The construction project was awarded to Captain Milton P. Doullut and began in January 1908. Based on Theard's recommendations, the monument was not raised to its originally designed height of 150 feet. Theard recommended a maximum height of 100 feet. (Its final height is 100 feet 2.5 inches). The shaft was to be entirely sheathed in Tuckahoe marble, which was the stone already used on the unfinished section. The Tuckahoe, New York, quarry had closed by 1908, but the stone subcontractor, Victor Huber, salvaged enough stone from buildings in the New Orleans area to complete the job. White Georgia marble was used for the steps around the base and to line the interior of the observatory at the top.[124] The project was completed near the end of the year.

Theard estimated that the total cost to build the monument, beginning in the 1850s, was $61,314. The documented costs included:

$9,161 Paid to contractors in 1856 (mostly foundation work)
$12,153 Jackson Memorial Association money spent
$15,000 State appropriation in 1857
$25,000 Federal appropriation in 1907[125]

Upon completion, the Secretary of War, Luke Wright, wrote to the Daughters reminding them that the appropriations bill for the monument required that "when said monument is completed

122. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 235.

123. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 238.
124. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 239.
125. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 241.



Figure 2.8: Photograph of Chalmette Monument soon after completion in late 1908. Caretaker's house visible on right side of image (Library of Congress).

the responsibility for maintaining the same and the grounds surrounding it shall remain with the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1815, free of any expense or responsibility on the part of the Government of the United States."[126] A photograph dated 1905 but likely taken soon after the monument's completion shows several changes to the landscape. The mound around the monument is gone, replaced by the white Georgia marble steps. The walkway to the monument appears to have been filled with dirt to be level with the rest of the site. It is possible that the dirt from the mound was used to regrade this area. A slight swale is visible along the east edge of the walkway, presumably to drain water. A few shrubs grow along the walkway to the caretaker's cottage (Figure 2.8).

During the early decades of the 1900s, numerous changes were occurring on the land surrounding the monument property. Birkedal points out that industrialization along the river was rapidly altering the patterns of land use and transportation. Business boosters encouraged the changes, arguing that development of industries and related infrastructure would improve the local economy. An article in the *Times-Democrat* on July 16, 1903 went so far as to recommend moving the Chalmette Monument "from its present site near the river and just above Port Chalmette to a point near the Delaronde ruins, and preservation of the ruins as in itself a monument commemorative of the victory of the American riflery and patriotism over old world doggedness and discipline."[127]

Another article in the *Times-Democrat* on October 16, 1905 depicted the battlefield as the site of a new "field for grim industrial struggle."[128] The writer

126. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 242.

127. "St. Bernard Progress," *The Times-Democrat,* July 16, 1903, 7.

128. "Spot Where Louisiana Was Saved Is Forgot," *The Times-Democrat*, October 16, 1905, 10.

suggests that "Chalmette is not the Chalmette of a few years ago. The corroding and corrupting hand of man and mechanism has stripped it of much of its beauty and significance. Still, there is much left which one wishes might be retained."[129]

Around 1905, construction began on the Chalmette Slip, a ship docking and storage facility located on the former Macarty property, to the west of the monument tract. The Chalmette Slip cut through River Road, which had been the primary way for people to access the monument and national cemetery site for several decades. According to congressional reports, the decision to close the River Road was made in 1904, when St. Bernard Parish repealed the ordinance providing the federal government the rights-of-way for the road in order to allow the New Orleans Terminal Company to build the shipping slip.[130]

A visitor to the monument in 1911 commented that whoever visits the monument "does so at the cost of much walking and inconvenience…. With difficulty the pedestrian has to make his way around the slip in order to reach his objective point on the lower side. He is compelled to walk on top of massive concrete walls, about two and a half feet in width, making a circular detour, which brings him the distance of several squares out of the way before he strikes the river front again."[131] Because the public road along the river was closed, the writer suggested that "[t]he best access from New Orleans to the Chalmette monument by vehicle at the present time is the rear shell road, which one must take and travel down as far as Fazendeville Lane. Chance proceed in the direction of the river, leaving only, a short run up to the monument."[132]

Another writer to the *Picayune* relayed an unflattering portrait of the monument in 1911. He wrote:

> Instead of a broad, level and well-kept road leading direct to the monument, he found that after he left the street railway he had yet two miles to walk over a very indifferent road…. Arrived at the grounds, the pilgrim is confronted by sign-boards warning him not to trespass at his peril; but leaving him doubt as what may be regarded as trespass. Once at the foot of the monument one finds it shapely, well constructed and of good material, but otherwise the most profoundly ignorant monument one has ever encountered. It knows nothing of the tremendous tragedy enacted under its shadow; it gives no excuse for its being. If the exterior remains anything it is only to him who has the key in the iron door that churlishly keeps out the inquirer not so provided. It is said that the monument stands on the spot where was planted our flag on the red day in history. But where was the battle line? Is yon shallow ditch all that remains of the famous Rodriguez Canal, or did it follow the line framed by those willows? … Why does not this tall, voiceless statue, with its four faces for inscriptions, telling the story afresh upon the very spot where it was dramatized? Why are there no markers to show where the different bodies of riflemen and batterymen stood that day?... Why is there not a good, broad road leading straight to the ground where the battle was fought, and where may stand the monument inscribed on all its sides with story that cannot be better taught here. Is it the state or city government that is at fault?

The leadership of the Daughters responded to the letter, defending their custodianship and recounting their accomplishments at the site. They described the poor condition of the site prior to their taking over care of the monument, recalling that cattle had trampled the ground right to the base of the monument. They had no control over the construction of the Chalmette Slip, they argued; and they "cannot undertake to instruct all the ignoramuses who may find their way to the monument."[133]

The Daughters presumably put the monument into its best possible condition for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans in 1915. In addition to events in New Orleans, there was a celebration at the monument. Soldiers marched, children read the poem "America" accompanied by an orchestra, the American and British flags were raised. The event ended with a one-hundred-gun salute.[134]

129. Ibid.
130. Judge Advocate-General, Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in *House of Representatives Documents, 59th Congress, 1st Session (1905-1906)*, 2.
131. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 243.
132. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 244.
133. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 248.
134. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 253-254.

A shell road was constructed along the north side of the property in the early 1900s. In the late 1920s, the St. Bernard Highway was completed, just to the north of the Mexican Gulf (later, Norfolk Southern) Railroad line. At some point, the northern portion of the monument property (north of the present St. Bernard Highway) was sold, leaving that portion south of the railroad and public highway in the state's possession.[135]

In November 1929, fifteen years after the centennial celebration, the Daughters informed the Secretary of War they could no longer afford to care for the monument. The reasons for their decision are unknown, but, as Greene speculates, the United States had just entered into one of the worst economic downturns in the nation's history. The Daughters, who had to constantly fight for funds, probably recognized circumstances had turned against them.[136]

Congress approved an amendment to the Act of 1907, which had appropriated money for the monument's completion, which read:

> To provide that hereafter the responsibility for maintaining the monument and keeping the grounds surrounding it shall rest with the government of the United States; and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated from time to time, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for such expenses.[137]

Responsibility for the monument would soon be placed into the hands of the War Department. The War Department administration and the subsequent administration of the site by the National Park service is described below beginning on page 39.

Years later, the Daughters petitioned to have a plaque installed on the obelisk, recognizing their role in erecting the monument. The NPS finally approved and installed the plaque in 1947.[138]

The Chalmette Property

Only two years after the War of 1812 had ended, and two years before architect Latrobe's visit to the property, two brothers, Hilaire and Louis St. Amand, who were wealthy free men of color, bought property known as Chalmette.[139] This transaction took place in 1817, two years after the death of Lino de Chalmet.

Free families of color such as the St. Amands were not uncommon in antebellum Louisiana. Throughout this period, Louisiana benefited economically from a relatively large population of free people of color.[140] With some exceptions, free people of color enjoyed the same economic privileges as whites. However, free men of color could be reduced to slavery for aiding runaway slaves, whereas whites were merely fined for such activities.[141]

The beginning of the American period in Louisiana coincided with slave insurrections in Haiti. From 1804 to 1809, Louisiana's free colored population more than doubled as free Blacks fled the violence in Haiti.[142] The census of 1852 listed 242 free people of color as large, medium, or small planters. A few owned large sugar and cotton plantations where enslaved Africans supplied the labor. In 1830, there were 212 slave-owning free men of color in the rural parishes of Louisiana, and twenty-five of those owned twenty to seventy-five slaves.[143] Most owned three to five slaves.

It is significant that the St. Amands bought the large St. Bernard parish property at a time when sugar production was increasing rapidly in south Louisiana; and under the Amand brothers' ownership, the property returned to sugarcane production.[144] In order to sustain sugarcane agriculture, the brothers used enslaved laborers and constructed sugar production facilities. As Ted Birkedal writes, "By all accounts the farm flourished. . . ."[145]

135. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 222.
136. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 254.
137. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 255.
138. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 65.
139. Joyce Marie Jackson, *Life in the Village: A Cultural Memory of the Fazendeville Community Phase I* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Historic Park, 2003).
140. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 187.
141. Ibid.
142. Ibid.
143. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 188.
144. Jackson, *Life in the Village,* 25.
145. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 248.

In 1822, the St. Amands contracted to have a canal built to Bayou Bienvenu.[146] The contract for this work was specific and detailed:

> ... to be ten feet wide and four feet deep in all its length to begin from the back fence which now stands near the wood and to run down as far back as to reach Bayou Bienvenu in a straight direction, each side of the canal to be parallel and at an equal distance from both the side lines of said plantation . . . the parties will throw two feet of earth coming out . . . digging on side of the canal nearer the city and make therewith a causeway or levee to be two feet wide all along the canal, the other eight feet of earth on the other side of the canal as to have on that side of the canal a space at least two feet clear and free of said earth. Also, the mechanics will build a small house near the said back fence where the canal is to begin for them to live in during all the time they shall be working on the canal ... everyone [of the workmen] shall keep off from the dwelling house, outhouses, yard and negro camp [of the St. Amands] and shall not meddle, nor have any intercourse or communication with the slaves and the workmen. . ..[147]

According to Greene, "[i]t is not unlikely that the St. Amands utilized the foundations of the Chalmette plantation structures; such reuse of structural remains is common in the New Orleans area."[148] Greene writes that Louis and Hilaire borrowed more than $22,000.00 for construction projects on their property from their sister Marie Manette St. Amand. They also borrowed a similar amount from another sister, Genevieve. These debts were capitalized by mortgages on the St. Amand brothers' land, described as "a plantation made into a sugar refinery."[149]

By 1832, the St. Amands were deeply in debt, owing more than $70,000.00, and were forced to sell much of their land.[150] The sale was advertised in the *Louisiana Courier* on March 7, 1832:

> Ten arpents of the Plantation of Messrs. Hilaire and Louis St. Amand five miles below New Orleans, and known by the name of Battle Ground. Of these ten arpents, six are situated at the upper limit of the plantation on the side of the city- -the two first arpents contiguous to the boundary of Mr. Edward Prevost's property, reach only fifteen arpents more or less in depth; and the four other arpents go to 80 arpents in depth. The four arpents at the lower limit are contiguous to the plantation of Antoine Bienvenu. They are entitled to the double concession of eighty arpents and conformably to the act of sale of Mr. Denis de la Ronde, reach as far as Lake Borgne. The sellers do not warrant this prolongation. On the six arpents of the upper part is found the line of defense of the American Army in 1815, and on the four arpents of the lower part are the four majestic oaks, where all those who come to visit the field of battle generally end their walk.[151]

On March 23, 1832, several the St. Amand's parcels went to public auction. Those who purchased the lots and the amount of the purchase were:

Lot 1 Theophile Wiltz $3,700

Lot 2 Alexander Baron $3,700

Lot 3 Michel Bernard Cantrell $7,300

Lot 4 Michel Bernard Cantrell $7,900

Lot 5 Pierre Oscar Peyrous $6,900

Lot 6 Joseph Sauvinet $6,200

Lot 7 Jacques Chalaron $6,100

Lot 8 Marie Manette St. Amand $5,900

Lot 9 Auguste Veavant & Pierre Forestier $7,600

Lot 10 Pierre Denis de la Ronde $6,200

Lot 12 Joseph Sauvinet $6,000

Lot 14 Albert Pierna $6,100[152]

The *Louisiana Courier* advertisement, quoted above, for the sale of property referred to it as "Battle Ground," reflecting that the land was

146. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 190.
147. Ibid.
148. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 191.
149. Ibid.
150. Ibid.
151. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 192.
152. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 194.

already recognized as an important historic landmark by residents and visitors to the New Orleans area.[153] One such visitor to the battlefield was Harriet Martineau, who came to the site around 1838:

> We were taken to the Battle ground, the native soil of General Jackson's political growth. Seeing the Battle ground was all very well; but my delight was in the drive to it, with the Mississippi on the right hand, and on the left gardens of roses which bewildered the imagination. . .. One villa, built by an Englishman, was obstinately inappropriate to the scene and climate; red brick, without gallery, or even eaves or porch, the mere sight of it was scorching. All the rest were an entertainment to the eye as they stood, white and cool, amidst their flowering magnolias, and their blossoming alleys, hedges, and thickets of roses. In returning, we alighted at one of these delicious retreats, and wandered about, losing each other among the thorns, the ceringas, and the wilderness of shrubs. We met in a grotto, under the summer-house, cool with a greenish light, and veiled at its entrance with a tracery of creepers. . .. The canes in the sugar grounds were showing themselves above the soil; young sprouts that one might almost see grow. . .. The Battle-ground is rather more than four miles from the city. We were shown the ditch and the swamp by which the field of action was bounded on two sides, and some remains of the breast-work of earth which was thrown up.[154]

The subdivision and sale of the St. Amand holdings brought Louis and Hilaire a total of $73,600.00.[155] This allowed them to pay off most of their debts. Nevertheless, Louis and Hilaire continued to owe their sister Manette over $18,000.00. Clearly, even after the sale, the St. Amands still were having financial difficulties.[156] Over the next few decades, subsequent owners developed most of the parcels; the majority became residential properties, and one became a residential neighborhood (See Illustration 2.3). Commercial enterprises included a sawmill and a store. Most of the buildings were clustered along the south ends of the parcels, set back off the public road that paralleled the levee along the river, as seen on a United States Coast Survey of the Mississippi River from 1874-1875 (Figure 2.9).

153. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 239.
154. Ibid.
155. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 193.
156. Ibid.

The Malus-Beauregard House

One of the lots developed into a residential property was the site of the Malus-Beauregard House.[157] A 2021 Historic Structure Report by Joseph K. Opperman provides additional information on this house.[158]

In 1832, Alexandre Baron purchased Lot 2, a 15-acre parcel the St. Amand brothers carved out from the former Chalmette Plantation.[159] This tract had a frontage of about 200 feet on the Mississippi River. Baron had a house built on the property for his mother-in-law, Madeleine Pannetier Malus, a widow. About the house, Risk writes:

> The house was 62 feet wide by 20 feet deep with galleries on the north and south (riverfront) sides. There were just three rooms on each floor. In 1856 Caroline Fabre Cantrelle, widow of Michel Bernard Cantrelle, purchased the house from the Malus family and remodeled it in the then-fashionable Greek Revival style. Caroline Cantrelle sold the house in 1866 to Jos. Antonio Fernandez y Lineros, who named it "Bueno Retiro." Fernandez added a two-story brick wing on the west side of the house. In 1880, the house was purchased from Fernandez's wife by René Toutant Beauregard, son of Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard. Rene Beauregard placed a two-story frame addition on the east side of the house around 1900.[160]

Caroline Fabre Cantrelle purchased the house in 1856.[161] When Madame Cantrell sold the 15-acre property in 1866 the notice of sale described it as a "Splendid Summer Retreat Five Miles Below New

157. In 1995, the NPS began to refer to this house as the Malus-Beauregard House, recognizing the original owner and the twenty-four-year ownership by René Beauregard. Previously the house had generally been known as the Beauregard House. The following section uses Malus-Beauregard House to be consistent with current interpretation of the site.
158. Joseph K. Opperman—Architect, *Malus-Beauregard House Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve: Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta: Interior Region 2: South Atlantic-Gulf, National Park Service, 2021).
159. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 16.
160. Ibid.
161. Opperman, *Malus-Beauregard House*, 13.

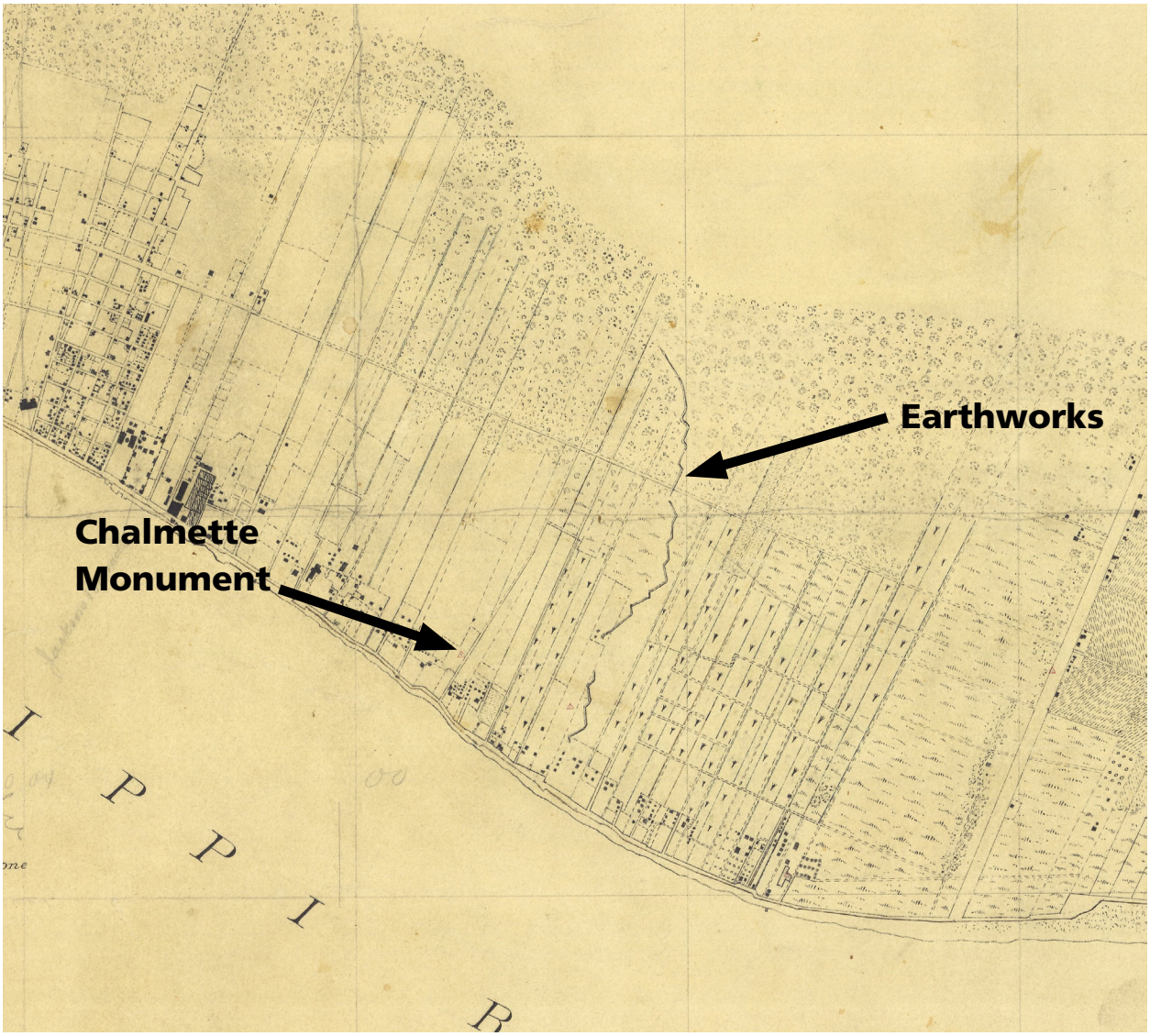


Figure 2.9: Detail from "U.S. Coast Survey Mississippi River New Orleans and Vicinity," from 1874-1875 showing the riverfront, Chalmette Monument, Chalmette National Cemetery, and remnants of Civil War-era earthworks (NOAA).

Orleans, fronting the Mississippi River and one mile from Dauphine Street cars." The property "consists of a beautiful two-story brick building, slate roofed, containing three rooms on the ground floor, and three on the first story, gallery front and rear, pantry cabinets, etc., brick kitchen, stables for six horses, carriage house, hayloft, negro quarters, etc., also a splendid orchard, containing every variety of rare fruit trees and vegetables, a beautiful flower garden, containing the choicest plants to be found."[162]

The new owner of the property, Jose Antonio Fernandez de Trava y Lineros, also purchased Lot 1, the adjacent, upriver, 5-acre parcel. He sold this lot a few years later in 1873. His wife, Carmen, successfully petitioned to have the remaining property, Lot 2 with the house on it, to be sold at auction. She purchased the house for $5,000 on July 1.[163] She soon put the property up for sale, describing it as "A delightful Suburban Residence, and Orangery."[164] The notice of sale describe the parcel as having a "Brick Mansion, and other dependencies, such as stabling and poultry houses, laborers' quarters, shaded by a magnificent lawn of magnolia and oak trees. The land is exceedingly rich and productive, and under cultivation for vegetables and flowers. The Orchard Contains a fine assortment of fruit trees, comprising Orange,

162. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 285.

163. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report,* 6.

164. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 286.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LEVEE

LEVEE ROAD

RODRIGUEZ HOUSE

RODRIGUEZ / PREVOST PROPERTY (1817)

LOUISIANA SOUTHERN RAILROAD

VILLAVOSA PROPERTY (1833)

MALUS PROPERTY

MALUS-
BEAUREGARD
HOUSE

CANTARELLE / VILLAVOSA / BATTLE GROUND / SAW MILL TRACT

PEYROUX PROPERTY

DELERY / ST. AMAND PROPERTY

DOMINGUEZ ESTATE

BERTRAND TRACT

ST. AMAND

CURRENT NPS
PARK BOUNDARY

0′ 130′ 260′ North

Key

Structures 1800-1840

Sources:

The locations of property lines and buildings are approximate. The information is based on the following sources:

1. Birkedal,"The Search for the Lost Riverfront,"(2009)
   - •Figure 11-8: "Redrawn Detail of Allou D'Hemecourts 1867" "Plat of the Battlegrounds Plantations," Page 237
   - •Figure 11-10 and Figure 11-11: "Redrawn Detail of Allou D'Hemecourts 1841" "Plan of the St. Louis St. Amand Plantation," Page 238, 240
   - • Map III-7: "Civilian and Post Battle Features," Page 538

Illustration 2.2 (1840)

Chalmette Battlefield

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Mespilus, imported Pears and Pecan Trees, besides a large variety of Figs, Grapes, etc."[165]

René Toutant Beauregard, son of Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, purchased the property in June 1880. During his ownership, the surrounding area became increasing industrialized. Redevelopment of the levee along the Mississippi apparently forced the removal of several cypress trees planted in the front (south) yard of the home. The earliest known photographs of the house and surrounding landscape date from the 1890s during the Beauregard's ownership of the property. The 2021 Historic Structures Report describes the setting as "a lush landscape with barn, fences" and other buildings, which included a detached brick kitchen.[166]

In November 1904, Beauregard sold the house and grounds to the New Orleans Terminal Company, which eventually became part of the Southern Railway System. The terminal company occasionally had an employee or tenant living in the house but did little to maintain it. By World War I, the building was vacant and slowly deteriorated after decades of decline.[167] In 1948, the railroad company transferred the property to the State of Louisiana, and in 1949, they donated it to the National Park Service for incorporation into Chalmette National Historical Park (Figure 2.10).

165. Ibid. The "Mespilus" mentioned in the description of the property may be a loquat tree or medlar tree. The loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica*, was previously classified in the Mespilus genus. See https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/eriobotrya-japonica/. The medlar, *Mespilus germanica*, was also grown in America by the early 1800s. See Southern Garden History Society, *Southern Plant Lists*, (Williamsburg, VA: n.p., 2000), 129.
166. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report*, 16.



Figure 2.10: Malus-Beauregard House (on right) and Bonner House (on left) circa 1938 (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress).

Fazendeville

Of Fazendeville, an African American community that grew on Lot 6 of the former Chalmette property in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, historian Joyce Marie Jackson writes,

> [T]he land that the people of Fazendeville owned and inhabited has multiple histories and lineages.…Post-Civil War anthropological studies of African American rural communities are few, and have occupied a peripheral position. The marginalizing of African American rural communities has rendered them, using W.E.B. Dubois's insightful metaphor, *veiled* or hidden within the larger canon of narrative texts and discourses.[168]

Of a need for closer study into the development and survival of Fazendeville and African American communities like Fazendeville, Jackson continues,

> There is great need for cultural history of the black experience that focuses on the interrelationships of ordinary blacks and their communities. It has become clear that the lives of the exceptional few cannot alone bring a full understanding and appreciation of the richness of the African American communal experience.[169]

During its almost 100 years of existence, Fazendeville evolved an identity and an inner life of its own, becoming a nearly self-contained river settlement, with sociocultural dynamics very akin to a traditional African or Caribbean village.[170] It featured a one-room school which educated children through grade eight, at least three churches, two benevolent society halls, two barrooms, and three grocery stores of different sizes.[171]

167. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report*, 17.
168. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 18.
169. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 3.
170. Ibid.
171. Ibid.

A man named Jacques Fazende arrived in Louisiana with the first wave of French settlers, and he was a member of the Superior Council, the governing body of the colony when it was under French control. His term began four years after the founding of New Orleans in 1722.[172] Eventually, the Fazende family would own four properties not far from each other on the west bank of the Mississippi River near New Orleans. The first African American with the name Fazende is mentioned in the 1870 census of St. Bernard Parish.[173] It indicates that Pierre (age 60 years) and Pauline (age 40 years) live in "Dwelling House #88."[174] There is no additional information on the location of the house.

According to historian Ron Chapman, Ralph Cager, whose family grew up in Fazendeville, claims that the village was named for Jean Pierre Fazende, who moved to the area from Plaquemine Parish.[175] The 1880 census records a cluster of seventeen Black families living in houses 138-155 in St. Bernard Parish.[176] While the exact location of the houses is not clear, many of the names listed are family names associated with Fazendeville, so it would not be inconsistent to infer that Fazendeville was established prior to 1880.

The history of Fazendeville can be traced back to the sale of the St. Amand holdings in 1832 that were formerly part of the Chalmette Plantation. Fazendeville occupied Lot 6, created during the St. Amand brothers' subdivision of the property. Ted Birkedal's research follows the convoluted chains of ownership of this plot of land. Birkedal writes:

> The chain of title for Lot 6 is unclear for the first half of the nineteenth century. It was numbered Lot 6 and sold to Joseph Sauvinet in 1832 by the St. Amand brothers, but it almost immediately was returned to Hilaire St. Amand. The latter died in 1833; as Zimpel's 1834 map indicates, the tract was sold to Louis Bartholemy Chauvin Delery soon after. At that time, a new house stood on the property. It had six apartments, five of them with fireplaces. The property passed to Celeste Destrehan, wife of Prosper Marigny, and it was repurchased by Louis St. Amand in 1834. The property devolved to the possession of Felicite Orsol, the widow of Antoine Paillet, in 1841, at the partition of Louis St. Amand's estate among his three sisters and heirs. However, Felicite only received two-thirds of the property at this date, while the other third was adjudicated to Manette St. Amand. The latter undoubtedly had control of the property, since, as noted previously, she was attorney-in-fact for Felicite, who resided in St. Landry Parish. The next indication of ownership dates from 1854, when the entire one-arpent tract, including the parcels of both Felicite and Manette, is listed as part of the succession of Jean Pierre Fazende, a free man of color who was a resident of New Orleans and who died in Plaquemines Parish. Fazende's wife predeceased him; she was Catiche Paillet, Felicite's daughter. In the absence of positive documentation, Catiche Paillet appears to have received two-thirds of the property from her mother, and the other or lowermost third either through purchase or from her mother's prior inheritance of the parcel from her Aunt Manette. Fazende's succession provides every indication that an inventory of his estate was taken, but it is not included in the probate record. His son, Jean Pierre Fazende, a New Orleans grocer, received the parcel as part of his inheritance when the estate was settled ca. 1857. There is no indication that the younger Fazende took any interest in the property prior to the late 1860s, when he had that portion of his property nearest to the river subdivided. He began selling the lots in the 1870s.[177]

The following year he sold the back portion of his property to Joseph Altamar Fazende, a New Orleans baker, for $1,200.96. This latter tract was turned over rapidly during the next few years. J. A. Fazende sold it in March 1887, to Henry Thoele, a New Orleans grocer, for $350.00. The following year, Thoele made a profit of $150.00 when he sold the land to Jayme Frigola. Frigola then sold the property to Jean Marie Couget in 1894. Couget held the property until 1904 when she sold it to the New Orleans Terminal Company. The property was described as improved and its location was specified:

> At about three arpents above the U.S. Military Chalmette Cemetery, and forming part of the

172. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 29.
173. Ibid.
174. Ibid.
175. Ibid.
176. Ibid.
177. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 248.



Figure 2.11: Photograph of Fazendeville in the early 1960s showing homes and church (JELA/National Park Service).

> property known as "Fazende's property" and which Fazende's property is designated by the letter B on a plan drawn by A. J. d'Hemecourt (see Figure II-15, shaded section) . . . on 20th March 1878, now in the possession of P.A. d' Hemecourt . . . said tract of land measures 191′10″ front on a line parallel with the public road, said line being at a distance of 2031′10″ from the fence at the public road and having a depth of 13315′ 2″. . . [178]

The village of small houses and lots stood on a narrow parcel of land between the Beauregard property and the Chalmette National Cemetery property on the former Chalmette battlefield (Figure 2.11). The linear layout of Fazendeville was typical of settlements in the region. A single road, which ran perpendicular to the river, serviced the community. Houses stood on the east side of the road, while across from them a large pecan grove grew in the yard around the Malus-Beauregard House. An open pasture behind the houses was used for a baseball field.[179]

The village lacked any formal legal and political organization of its own.[180] According to Jackson, Fazendeville reflected the culture seen in slave quarter societies on plantations that lined the Mississippi River. Residents of Fazendeville constituted a mixture of African, diasporic, and European cultural elements. This community, complete with its own folklore and social institutions, was predominantly oral/aural in its communication. Jackson writes, "The health of the community was dependent on the informal network of social relations surrounding kin, marriage, and friendship, the interlocking relationships associated with the activities of churches and the benevolent associations, and the face-to-face contact of large numbers of community members at church anniversaries, revivals, baptisms and funerals."[181]

In Fazendeville, Battle Ground Baptist Church was a central part of this community. It was used as a place of worship, school, forum venue, political arena, social club, dramatic theater,

178. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 249.
179. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 3.
180. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 105.
181. Ibid.

conservatory of music and ritual space for other celebrations and life cycle rites, including christenings, marriages, and funerals.[182] Historically and traditionally, religion was an organizing principle of the life structure of the community, and Battle Ground Baptist was no exception. Jackson writes, "Black churches have been the most significant, conservative and dominant institutional phenomenon in African American communities."[183]

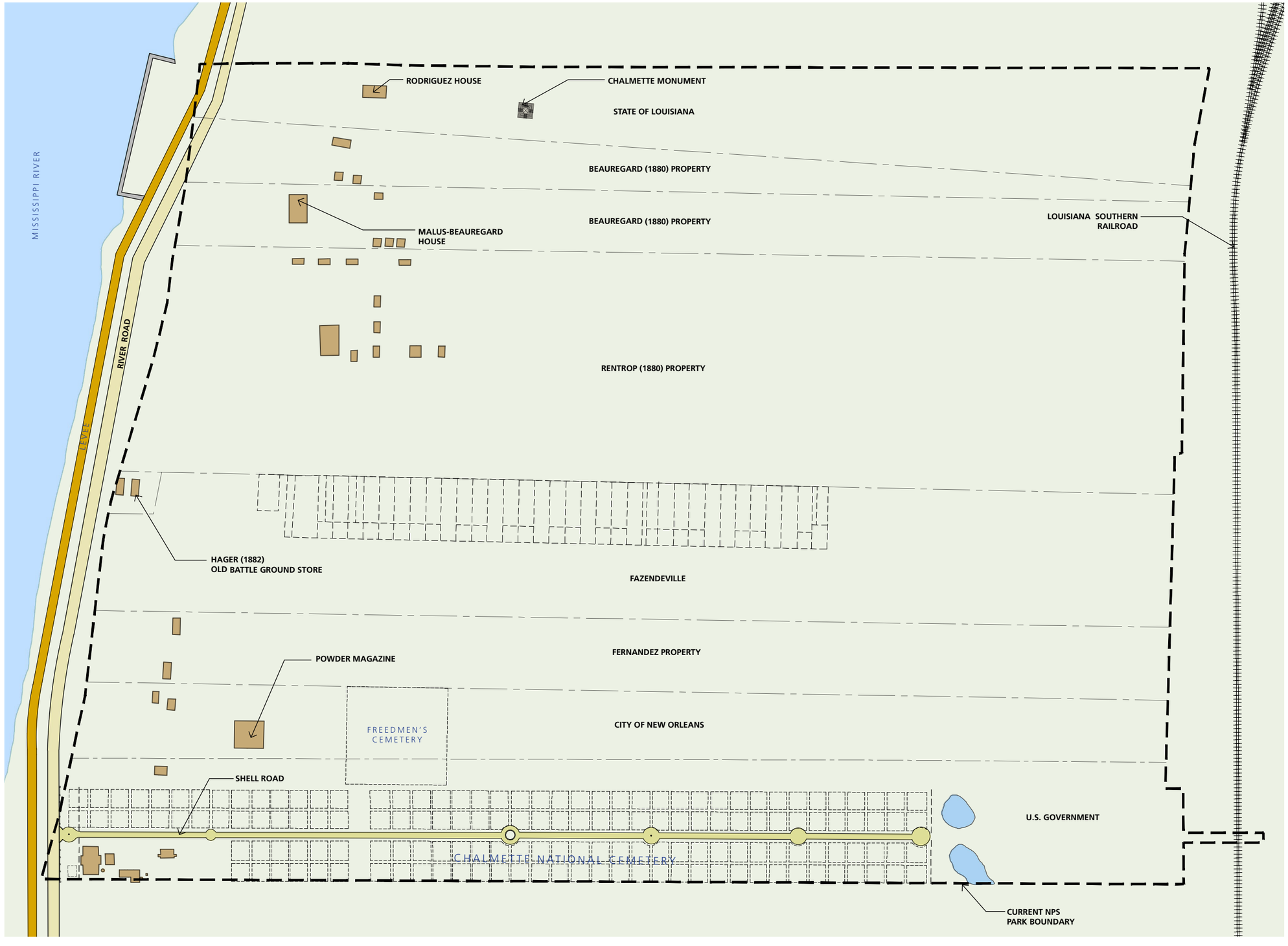
The Fazendeville church history, reconstructed by elderly members and written by Mrs. Doretha Thomas, was printed in the 1992 program book for the church's 124th year anniversary.[184] According to Ms. Thomas, Battle Ground Baptist Church was founded in 1868 on Godchaux Plantation in Chalmette, Louisiana. The first worship service was held in Morais Sugar Mill, and the site where the Battle of New Orleans was fought inspired the few members to give that same name to the church. Rev. John Anderson served as the first pastor from 1868 to 1872. This same year the church was moved to a settlement known as Oak Alley, which was destroyed by fire in 1892. Afterwards the church was relocated again. The location of its third church was in Fazendeville. A committee of women who referred to themselves as "The Willing Workers" raised the $400.00 to purchase the property, and this time, it remained in the same community for 49 years. In January 1927, the edifice was again destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt in 1928. After the National Park Service purchased the property, the congregation relocated the church to Flood Street in the lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans in 1964.

A prominent feature of the Fazendeville landscape was a ditch that residents used as the main drain for Fazendeville.[185] Fazendeville ditch can be directly traced back to 1834 when Zimpel illustrated it in his map of New Orleans as the boundary between the Peyroux and Delery estates. The Delery tract later became the property of J.P. Fazende who subdivided it into small plots to create Fazendeville.[186] According to Birkedal, it was most likely maintained as an active drainage long after the other ditches on the battlefield had been abandoned.

There is also reason to believe that this same ditch was in existence at the time of the Battle of New Orleans. In his plan of the battle, Latour shows a ditch line that nearly matches the Fazendeville ditch alignment. Birkedal writes:

> This ditch line is the one nearest the rampart on Latour's map, and it intersects with 1815 levee road 340.4 yd (311.3 m) east of Battery 1; a distance which falls within 20 yd (18.3 m) of the same measurement to the present day Fazendeville Ditch. The alignment of Latour's forward ditch varies slightly from the Fazendeville ditch, but as pointed out previously, all of Latour's ditch lines tend to angle several degrees more to the east of north than they should. That they, nevertheless, represent the very same ditch is supported by the absence of any other ditch remnants in the immediate vicinity that could possibly mark an alternative location for Latour's ditch. The closest neighboring ditch remnant to the Fazendeville Ditch is 80.5 m (264 ft) distant; too far to be a likely candidate. Thus, there is good reason to conclude that the American picket line was arrayed along a north-south ditch that eventually became known in the late nineteenth century as the Fazendeville Ditch. Today, the Fazendeville is the largest ditch remnant, other than the Rodriguez Canal, in the park unit. It averages 5 m (16.4 ft) in width and achieves a maximum depth of 60 cm (2 ft).[187]

182. Jackson, *Life in the Village*, 32.
183. Ibid.
184. Ibid.
185. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 511.
186. Ibid.
187. Ibid.



Key

Structures 1840-1880

Sources:

The locations of property lines and buildings are approximate. The information is based on the following sources:

1. Birkedal, "The Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009)
   - Map III-7: "Civilian and Post Battle Features," Page 538
   - List of Fazendeville Property Owners (ETIC 467-30000)
   - "Plan of the Monument Cemetery," Circa 1867 (NPS, JELA Archives)

Illustration 2.3
(1880)
Chalmette Battlefield

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Chalmette National Cemetery

President Abraham Lincoln approved the legislation establishing the national cemetery system on July 17, 1862. These national cemeteries were provided for service members that had fought for the United States. As described below, the cemetery that eventually became the Chalmette National Cemetery was begun in May of 1864. It expanded and evolved over the next several decades (See Illustrations 2.4 - 2.8).

The property on which the Chalmette National Cemetery was begun in 1864 was also part of Louis St. Amand's property in the 1830s.[188] The parcel on which the cemetery now stands, which measured slightly less than 3 arpents at that time, remained in the possession of the St. Amands after the 1832 sale. It included the land on which a residence, several slave quarters, and "possibly a sugar house" stood."[189] In 1833, Hilaire St. Amand died. It was probably at the time of the settling of Hilaire's estate that the three, approximately 1-arpent parcels that later became the location the military cemetery were created and acquired by different individuals. One parcel came into the possession of Etienne Villavosa, one of the owners of the nearby Battle Ground Saw Mill. Louis St. Amand acquired another of the parcels; and Manette St. Amand acquired the third parcel, which included the Amand slave cabins and possibly the sugar house. In 1841, both Villavosa and Manette St. Amand still held their respective lots. Louis St. Amand subdivided his 1-arpent tract, giving the two lots to his sisters Genevieve Quelquejue and Manette. It is likely that Manette continued to farm the property, since she is listed as a "gardener" in the 1842 New Orleans City Directory.[190] (Ted Birkedal suggests that the sites of several St. Amand slave quarters, the overseers' house, and industrial complex, lie within the present boundaries of the Chalmette Unit west of the national cemetery wall; the majority of the slave cabins and the possible "sugar house" are within the present site of the national cemetery.[191])

In 1859, Charles Rixner purchased three of the parcels. Two years later, on November 11, 1861, Rixner sold the lots, measuring a total of about 2 and 2/3 arpents, to the City of New Orleans for $11,520.[192] Because of its strategic riverfront location, the property was used to build a defensive earthwork to protect New Orleans against attack from downriver during the Civil War.[193] The ground was low, flat, and protected by a levee on the Mississippi River. During the Civil War the area also served as a bivouac ground for Confederate and Union troops and later as a refugee camp for slaves freed by the advancing Union forces.[194] During this period it also became a burial ground for former slaves, Black hospital patients, and Union and Confederate troops. According to Robert Blythe, members of this refugee camp may have formed the first group of settlers who purchased lots in what became Fazendeville.[195]

On May 2, 1864, the City of New Orleans passed an ordinance transferring slightly more than 8 acres of the property to the United States Government to be used as a cemetery.[196]

Ordinance No. 6210, authorizing the transfer, reads in part:

> That a portion of the lands belonging to the City of New Orleans, located in the parish of St. Bernard, about one mile below the U. S. Barracks, on the left bank of the Mississippi River, known as Camp Chalmette, of the following dimensions, viz, two hundred and fifty feet by a depth of fifteen hundred feet, between parallel lines, containing eight 16/100 acres marked "A" upon a plan made by J. A. d'Hermécourt, dated April 28th, 1864, and hereunto annexed, be, and the same is hereby donated and especially appropriated and set apart for the use and benefit of the U. S. Government, for the burial of deceased soldiers and sailors of the U. S. army and navy.[197]

The May 3, 1864 issue of the *Daily Picayne* mentions dedication ceremonies to be held at the cemetery that day. The paper states "A portion of ground, near the battlefield of Chalmette, has been selected for the interment of deceased soldiers of the Union army and navy. The site

188. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 261,
189. Ibid.
190. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 213.
191. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 254.
192. Ibid.
193. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 18.
194. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 262.
195. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 36.
196. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 261.
197. Henry J. Leovy, *General Ordinances of the City of New Orleans*, (New Orleans: Bloomfield and Steel, 1866), 134.

has been named Monument Cemetery, and the ceremonies of dedication take place this afternoon at 5 o'clock."[198] When this happened, the Ladies' Benevolent Association of New Orleans asked that the remains of Confederate soldiers buried at Chalmette be moved to Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans.

The *Times-Picayune* newspaper mentions discussions in the state government about the donation of additional land to the cemetery in an article published on January 10, 1867. It reads in part:

> A resolution providing for the donation to the United States from the city of a tract of land for a cemetery, comprising 250 feet front on the river, in the parish of St. Bernard, with 80 arpents in depth, was, after some discussion, referred back to the Finance Committee for further information.[199]

The City of New Orleans passed Resolution No. 433 later that month, on January 28. This added an additional 5 acres to the 8 acres donated for the cemetery in 1864. The following year, on September 23, 1868, The *New Orleans Republican* carried an article about a resolution regarding the national cemetery passing through the State of Louisiana legislature. The article provides detail measurements of the cemetery at that time and reads in part:

> Also, all that certain other tract of land, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being at Chalmette, in the parish of St. Bernard and State of Louisiana, about four miles below the city of New Orleans, and on the easterly bank of the Mississippi river. And designated by the letters A, B, C, D, E and F on a map or plan drawn by Louis H. Pilié, late City Surveyor, dated January 29, 1867, and deposited in the office of the city notary as plan number twenty (20), according to which plan said tract measures as follows, to whit:
>
> Two hundred and fifty (250) feet front, fifteen hundred (1500) feet in depth from A to B, and the same depth from C to D, eight hundred and thirty-eight (838) feet ten (10) inches in depth from A to E, and nine hundred and twenty-one (921) feet eight (8) inches in depth from D to F, equal in the aggregate to about 13 60-100 acres being a portion of the same property which was acquired by the said city of New Orleans by purchase from Charles Rixner, by an act passed before Charles E. Fortier, late a notary of the city of New Orleans, on the eleventh day of November 1861.[200]

These are the same measurements that appear in the "Schedule" of the 1867 Pilié map (Figure 2.12). The schedule describes the north section of the cemetery, marked by the letters A, B, C, and D on the map, as "Tract of 250 ft: front by 1500 ft: in depth equal to 8 60/100 Acres donated to the U. S. Govt by the City Council of N.O. as per Ord: No. 6210, dated May 2nd, 1864 being the actual Cemetery." The section bounded by A, E, F, and D is described as a "prolongation of the above tract towards the River, containing about 5 Acres, being part of a donation made to the U.S. by the City of N.O. as per Resolution No. 433 dated January 28th, 1867". So, by 1867, the cemetery encompassed approximately 13.6 acres.

By the time of the cemetery's expansion in 1867 and the drafting of the Pilié map, the federal government had begun developing the property. Captain Nathaniel S. Constable became responsible in 1864 for landscaping the grounds. This included leveling part of the Confederate fortifications, demolishing buildings on the land, and laying out the cemetery.

The US Congress passed "An Act to establish and to protect National Cemeteries on February 22, 1867. The legislation provides relatively specific instruction for the managers of the national cemeteries. The act directs the Secretary of War to enclose the cemeteries with a fence and mark each grave with a small headstone or block, which was numbered so as to record the identity of the person buried. It also required that a register be kept. The legislation instructed to have a lodge constructed at the principal entrance. The army was to annually inspect the cemeteries and provide sufficient funding to provide for sodding graves, grading walks and avenues, and generally

198. *The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans, LA) May 3, 1864, 1.
199. *The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans, LA) January 10, 1867, 2.
200. *New Orleans Republican* (New Orleans, LA) September 23, 1868, 2.

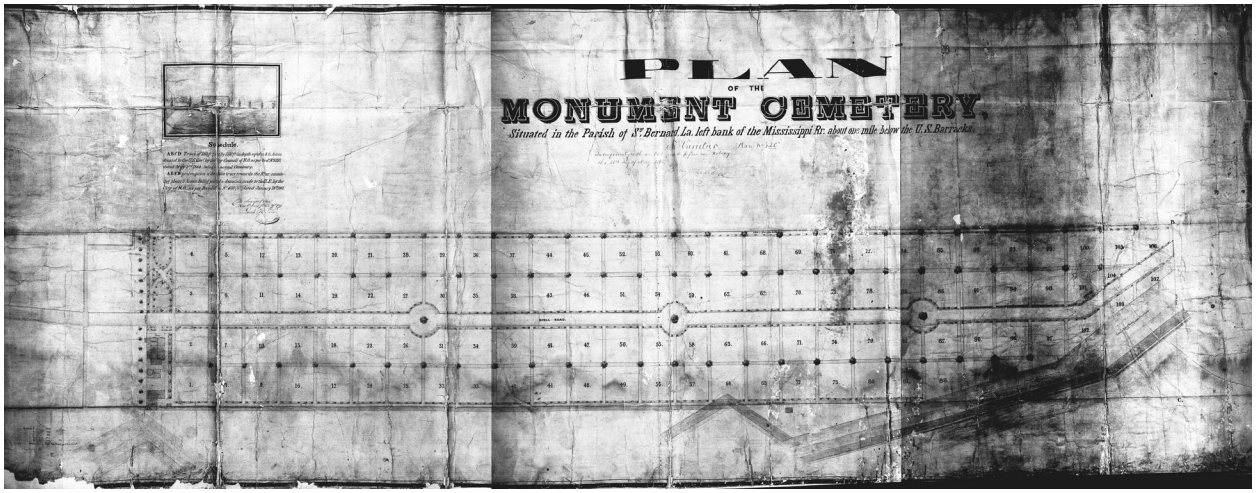


Figure 2.12: The circa 1867 "Plan of the Monument Cemetery" drawn by Louis Pilié, New Orleans surveyor (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

maintaining the grounds.[201] Administration of the national cemeteries fell under the US Army Quartermaster's Department. Under the leadership of Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, the department oversaw the establishment of the national cemetery in Chalmette, including the eventual development of the site including the construction of enclosure walls, roads, flagstaffs, superintendent's lodges, rostrums, and the marking of burials with headstones.[202]

By 1867 the cemetery was organized into 107 burial sections (Figure 2.12 and Illustration 2.4). It featured a central drive with drains to convey water from the road and from between the burial sections. The central drive was paved with shells and the walkways between the burial sections remained turf. The cemetery formed a rectangle extending back from the river. The older section, the 8 acres acquired in 1864, sat behind and north of the 5 acres added in 1867. A picket fence surrounded the older 8-acre section and the main entrance into the cemetery was located where the central drive bisected the fence along the southern edge of this older section. In 1867, the "prolongation" or newer 5-acre section closer to the river remained unfenced.[203] Burials of Union soldiers began in the first four squares closest to the southern end of the older section, starting near the fence along its south edge. Other burials, including civilians and freed people, were located at the rear of the cemetery on its northern end.[204]

It should be noted that the numbering of the national cemetery's sections changed over time as land was added to it. In the early years of the national cemetery, according to the 1867 Pilié map, Section 1 is at the southeast corner of the older section-- the original 8 acres acquired in 1864. Sections 1 and 2 are shown on the Pilié map being next to the cemetery superintendent's lodge. Sections 3 and 4 are on the opposite (west) side of the road going down the middle of the national cemetery. The section numbers in this first column, therefore, ascend in number from east to west. The next column, containing Sections 5 through 8 then ascend in number from the opposite direction, from west to east. This organization, with the numbers ascending in a zig-zag pattern, continues to the north end of the national cemetery. As will be discussed later, the section numbering changed when 5 additional acres were incorporated into the cemetery. Section 1 moved to a location closer to the new southern boundary of the national cemetery, and the original Section 1 became Section 47 when the sections were renumbered. Early burials in the cemetery included the dead from local hospitals up until 1866. During 1867 and

201. The act is reprinted on a NPS website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/legal/upload/Proclamations_and_Orders/Proclamations_and_Orders_Vol_II/15_Appendix_I_VI_National_Cemeteries.pdf.
202. Michael Harrison, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Cemeteries, Superintendent's Lodges, HALS No. DC-46, 2013, 2
203. Ibid. The dimensions of the national cemetery are based on Captain Barnard's description, which is quoted below and can be found in Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264.
204. Carl Gaines, Jr. *Chalmette National Cemetery: An Administrative History, Part Two of Three in a Series, A Freedman's Cemetery in New Orleans: Its Establishment and Disappearance, 1967-1876*. (Unpublished Manuscript, 1987), 7.

1868, some 7,000 re-interments were made from cemeteries at Cypress Grove No. 2, Camp Parapet, Algiers, and Metairie Ridge, Louisiana, as well as from Ship Island, Mississippi.[205]

In 1868, in a Report of the Secretary of War, an inspector described the national cemetery as "beautifully laid out" and appropriately situated.[206] The report states,

> The associations and memories connected with this spot render it the most fitting location that could have been selected in the vicinity of New Orleans for a national cemetery; the ashes of our gallant dead, who fell in the late rebellion, mingling with those of the brave defenders of 1815; the same ground thus becoming the receptacle of the dust of two generations of heroes.[207]

Jerome Greene's *Historic Resource Study* notes that Captain Charles W. Folsom, in an 1867 inspection of the cemetery, "recommended that more shrubs and trees be obtained, a flagstaff be erected, and that the interment of civilians on the cemetery ground cease. He discovered that among the 12,500 interments were a number of civilian burials and he feared that Chalmette National Cemetery would become a pauper's graveyard."[208] It fell to Captain Charles Barnard, in charge of operations at Chalmette, to implement Folsom's recommendations for embellishing the landscape, and he did so with the help of Christopher Larigan, in charge of landscaping at Chalmette, who requested permission to purchase the following trees and shrubs:

2 Tallow Trees
2 Pittosporum
2 Viburnum
2 Spiraea
1 Magnolia fuscata
2 Magnolia purpusa
2 Olea fragrant
2 Laurus mundi
2 Deodara (in pots)
24 Assorted Roses (in pots)
2 Hibiscus (1 single-1 double).[209]

205. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 262.
206. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 262.
207. Ibid.
208. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 263.
209. Ibid.

Larigan hoped that these plants would "relieve the barren and monotonous appearance of the ground."[210]

On April 29, 1867, civilian burials at Chalmette National Cemetery were officially discontinued.[211] This same year, the City of New Orleans and the Freedmen's Bureau established a Freedmen's Cemetery on property adjacent to the national cemetery to deal with the number of former enslaved persons dying of "disease or other causes brought on by crowded federal refugee camps."[212] Early on, as an emergency measure, many of these people had been buried in the national cemetery. According to Dayna Bowker Lee's report on the African American experience at Chalmette, "in 1868, between four and seven thousand African Americans were exhumed from the National Cemetery and reburied in a new cemetery…."[213] The cemetery, which was approximately 250 feet square, was laid out in a grid pattern. From 1867 to the early 1870s, the Freedmen's Bureau maintained the cemetery and new burials happened in addition to the re-interments. Most of the new burials were those who died at the Freedmen's Hospital in New Orleans.[214] On January 1, 1869, the Freedmen's Hospital closed its operations, and, by May 1869, new burials ceased at the Freedmen's Cemetery.[215] When the Freedmen's Bureau ended operations in Louisiana in 1872, the cemetery was abandoned, and its ownership and management reverted to the City of New Orleans. Louisiana State and Agricultural and Mechanical College purchased the property in 1876 and requested that the bodies be removed, but there is no evidence that this happened.[216] It should be noted that many African American soldiers are buried in the national cemetery, including several that were buried in 1864 and 1865 during the war. According to NPS records, some were members of the Louisiana Guard, a volunteer regiment made up of free men of color that originally supported the Confederacy. After Federal forces occupied New Orleans in

210. Ibid.
211. Gaines, *Chalmette National Cemetery*.
212. Gaines, *Chalmette National Cemetery*, 1.
213. Dayna Bowker Lee, et al., *The African American Experience, Colonial Era Through The Civil War: Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (New Orleans: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 2016), 29.
214. Gaines, *Chalmette National Cemetery*, 11.
215. Ibid.
216. Lee, *The African American Experience*, 29.

1862, some of the soldiers attached themselves to Federal regiments, not as soldiers but in support roles. In September 1862, the 1st Regiment of the Native Guards was mustered into service in the US Army, becoming the first regiment of black soldiers.[217] There were eventually four regiments that later became part of the US Colored Infantry in 1864.

The city of New Orleans formally donated the cemetery land to the United States on May 26, 1868.[218] That same year Captain Barnard summarized the appearance and condition of the cemetery:

> [It is] laid out in the shape of a rectangle, or right angles parallelogram, having a frontage of 250 feet on the Mississippi River, and is 2,317 feet in depth. An avenue 16 feet wide and 2.317 feet long, with six (6) circles forty (40) feet in diameter at regular intervals, divides the Cemetery into two equal parts. This avenue is shelled and is perfectly smooth and hard; a neat brick drain running the entire length of the Cemetery has been built on each side. The ground is laid out in squares and walks, the latter are four (4) feet wide and are shelled; the squares are each 54 by 48 feet and are made to contain 96 graves. In the centre of the Cemetery and within the third circle from the entrance a terraced mound has been raised and a handsome flag staff erected. The graves are all marked with suitable headboards properly numbered. Young Cedar, Arbor vitae, and Magnolia trees have been planted on each side the main avenue for half its length; a weeping willow will be placed on each side the entrance. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of trees and shrubs, but it is hoped that enough can be procured to form a continuous row on each side the avenue for the entire length, if this can be accomplished it will present a beautiful vista. If practicable the whole Cemetery will be surrounded with trees, a space of six (6) feet having been set off between the outermost row of graves and the line of the fence, for that purpose. At the Entrance of the Cemetery a plot of ground has been set apart as a flower garden it is handsomely laid out in walks and beds and planted with ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers of choice variety, which blossom luxuriantly and present a most beautiful and pleasing appearance. At the second Circle of the main avenue another flower garden of similar design and equal beauty extends across the entire width of the grounds; rose trees are also planted at intervals on each side of the main avenue for a portion of the distance.[219]

In 1868 the cemetery contained the remains of 11,309 United States soldiers. Additionally, construction began on a new "receiving tomb" and other buildings, structures, and landscape features. They developed plans for a new superintendent's lodge to replace the existing building that was poor condition.[220] They raised a flagstaff and installed wooden headboards painted with black lettering to mark approximately two-thirds of the graves. Cemetery staff marked the remaining graves with numbered wooden stakes.[221] An NPS brochure on the national cemetery mentions that an inspection report from 1868 stated that the cemetery had at that time 169 burial sections. This suggests that the expansion of the burial sections into the southern addition of the cemetery had occurred by this time.[222]

In November, the military placed an advertisement in the New Orleans Republican requesting proposals "for the construction of a PICKET FENCE on two (2) sides of the National Cemetery at Chalmette, Louisiana, consisting of about 18,000 linear feet, more or less."[223]

217. William A Dobak, Freedom by the Sword: The U.S. Colored Troops 1862-1867 (Alexandria, VA: St. John's Press, 2016), 10, 91-95. See also: James G. Hollandsworth, Jr., *Louisiana Native Guards: The Black Military Experience During the Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998).
218. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264.
219. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264. Note that Barnard's dimensions differ from the Pilié map. Barnard measures the length/depth of the cemetery as 2317 feet; the Pilié map and newspaper articles have the west side measuring 2338 feet and 10 inches in length and the south side as 2421 feet and 8 inches in length. It may be that Barnard was mistaken or that he was measuring the length of the fence that may not have extended all the way to the property line. Also note that the dimensions on the Pilié match the dimensions on a US Army survey of the cemetery done in 1892.
220. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 265.
221. Ibid.
222. There is an undated brochure in the JELA archives called "Chalmette National Cemetery."
223. New Orleans Republican (New Orleans, LA) November 21, 1868, 3.

Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas completed an inspection tour of Chalmette National Cemetery on December 12, 1868 and reported the following details:

> Sufficient space has been reserved in the rear of the [cemetery] ground for future interments from the garrison of New Orleans. A permanent lodge of brick has been erected near the front gate, and a place secured for ornamentation. The old fences around three sides of the ground have been replaced by a strong paling fence, and a neat iron railing with gate, on the front line, was in course of construction. In the spaces on the front within the gate are mounds on which small cannon are mounted and balls arranged around them giving a very pleasing effect. One-third of the walks are covered with shells; shells for the remainder can readily be obtained, and I judge at no great cost. The graves are all sodded. ... At first the drainage was indifferent, but by leveling the old line of fortification, and using the earth, the ground in the rear has been raised considerably, and the water is drained off to the east in the swamp. In ordinary stages of water in the Mississippi River, the graves are perfectly dry. The grounds are greatly beautified with an abundance of flowers and shrubbery.[224]

Previous histories of the national cemetery suggest that the "permanent lodge of brick" mentioned by Thomas in the above quotation was in the same location as the first.[225] This does not appear correct and it seems likely that the second lodge was constructed further south, closer to the levee road and the southern property line of the cemetery after the addition of the 5 acres in 1867. The new superintendent's lodge appears to be constructed based on a standard designed developed by the Quartermaster's Department during this period. Edward Clark is credited as having come up with the design, which called for a one-story, three-room, gabled building measuring 45 feet long by 18 feet wide. The plans allowed for wide, overhanging eaves to cover 6-foot-deep porches on the front and rear sides of the building. The building contained three, equally sized rooms, including a kitchen, living room, and office.[226]

A photograph in the Louisiana State Museum collection shows this building at the southern entrance into the national cemetery. The building, entrance gate, and fence line are set back approximately 50 feet from the public road along the levee that is also visible in the photograph. In a few years, the fence line was moved southward to enclose the greenspace seen in the photograph between the front entrance and the levee road; this occurred sometime after 1874 because an inspector noted that year that "the front fence is place[d] several feet inside the Government boundary."[227]

A flagpole, mentioned in the above description, is visible near the lodge and gate into the cemetery. There may be a second flagpole in the central drive, which would conform with the conditions prior to 1874 when staff removed one from the drive. The trees growing along the entrance drive are small, less than 10 feet tall, suggesting this photograph could be from the early 1870s. There are ornamental plantings including several evergreens close to the building and more shrubs, including yucca, planted at the intersection of the cemetery drive and the public road. Small trees are also visible in the background, lining the cemetery drive and western property line (Figure 2.13). In addition to the lodge building, there was also a privy and a stable. The stable was originally outside and south of the cemetery fence. After the stable burned down, the War Department constructed a new, brick stable north of the cemetery lodge and inside the fence.

Superintendent P.P. Carroll's annual report for 1873 described the superintendent's lodge as having three rooms of equal size. It also records the construction of brick walls along the long sides of the national cemetery.[228] According to Greene, the report stated that:

> At each end of this structure was built ground galleys six feet wide and twenty feet long with balustrades placed around them. The back part of the lodge was enclosed with a six-and-one-

224. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 266.
225. For example, Green writes in his *Historic Resource Study*: "The brick lodge noted by Thomas was likely built to replace an old frame structure near that location." Green, *Historic Resource Study*, 266.
226. Michael Harrison, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Cemeteries, Superintendent's Lodges, HALS No. DC-46, 2013, 22-23.
227. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 270.
228. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 269.



Figure 2.13: Stereograph of "Battle Ground of N.O. and National Cemetery" by Theodore Lilienthal. The image is dated 1882 but it appears to have been taken earlier and is likely from the 1870s. River Road is in the foreground. The Powder Magazine is visible on left side of the image; the second cemetery lodge is visible on the right (Louisiana State Museum).

half-foot-high lattice fence. Also during the year lightning struck the flagstaff, necessitating its replacement.[229] The major construction project during this period was enclosing the cemetery with two brick walls on the sides and adding iron fences and gates at the front and back. A contract was let to Edward H. Burton and William Seymour on August 26, 1873, for completing this work at a cost of $3.35 per linear foot.[230] Civil Engineer James Gall staked out the line of the brick wall in September and Burton and Seymour began construction work.[231] The brick walls were completed in December, but the Chalmette superintendent complained that the iron gate did not meet government specifications.[232] The contract was finally approved in May, 1874.[233]

Another photograph from approximately the same time as the previous figure provides additional documentation of landscape features described in previously quoted inspection reports. A photograph looking south shows brick-lined gutters along both sides of the central drive and newly planted trees (Figure 2.14). The trees are planted relatively close to each other, approximately 10 feet on center. They appear to include both deciduous hardwoods (likely oak or maple) and evergreens (likely Eastern red cedar).

229. Ibid.
230. Ibid.
231. Ibid.
232. Ibid.
233. Ibid.



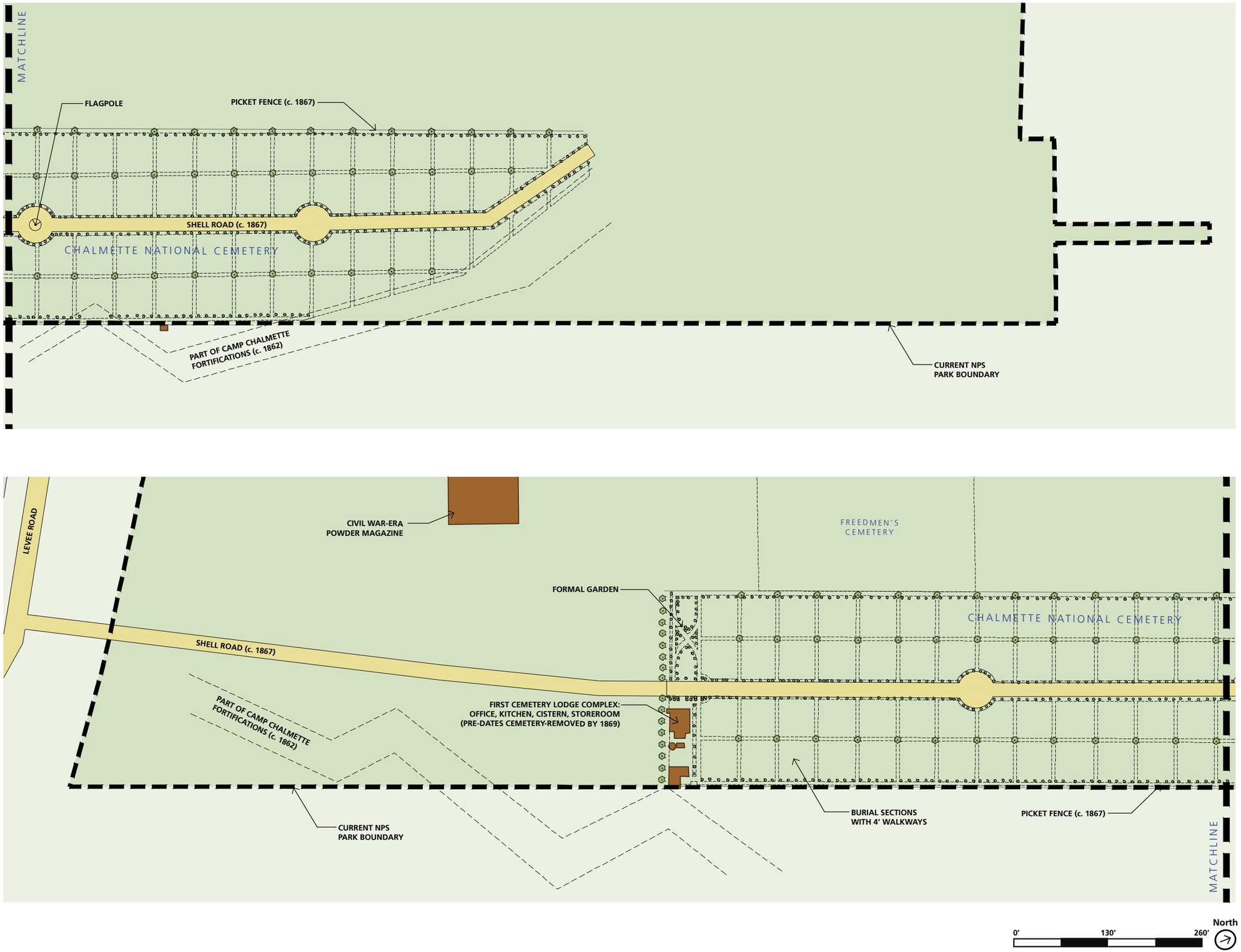
Figure 2. 14: Stereograph of "Battleground of New Orleans towards river," looking down cemetery's central drive by Theodore Lilienthal. The image is dated 1880 but it appears to have been taken earlier and is likely from the 1870s (Louisiana State Museum).

On February 1, 1869, the Deputy Quartermaster General notified Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Tompkins that "the old building recently occupied by the Super of the National Cemetery at Chalmette" would be sold at public auction; in April "the old frame building in front of the National Cemetery" was turned over to one Abraham Boster for the sum of sixty dollars.[234] Later that year, the September 24, 1869 edition of the *New Orleans Republican* published an advertisement that read in part: "Sealed proposals are invited . . . for the furnishing and construction of an iron fence around the National Cemetery at Chalmette. . .. Said fence will be 5124 feet long; foundation blocks for the railing to be concrete embedded two feet in the earth, dimension 24 by 18 by 18.[235]:

The cemetery became the site for annual celebrations, in particular Decoration Day in May. Several newspaper articles from this period provide details about the cemetery's layout and use. An article in the *New Orleans Republican* on May 31, 1870 reported: "The grounds at Chalmette are tastefully and even elegantly laid out. In the front four heavy guns have been raised on bases of masonry as monuments to the memory of those who sleep in the thousands of silent graves stretching back far in the rear. The pathways are strewed with rare flowers, and the whole cemetery shows evidences of tender and intelligent care."[236]

Other articles described both boats and "ambulances" used to carry people from New Orleans or the military post at Jackson Barracks to the cemetery. An article in the *New Orleans Republican* on June 3, 1870 made this observation: "It is cheering to see the growing interest taken in the ceremony of decorating the soldier's graves, but we would strongly suggest that anther year, some better arrangement be made for reaching

234. Ibid.
235. New Orleans Republican (New Orleans, LA) September 24, 1868, 3.
236. New Orleans Republican (New Orleans, LA) May 31, 1870, 5.



Credits

The following sources were used to create this period illustration:

1. "Plan of the Monument Cemetery," circa 1867 (NPS, JELA Archives)
2. 1872 Survey, reprinted in Greene, Historic Resource Study, 1985

Illustration 2.4
(1867)
Chalmette National Cemetery

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

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the cemetery…. It was stated that ambulances would run from the barracks, to carry those who preferred to go by land, but on reaching the barracks no ambulances were there, and the only alternative was to return home, or walk a distance of a mile and a half through blinding dust, beneath a burning sun to the cemetery."[237]

A military inspector recorded his overview of the cemetery in February 1871:

> Head-boards, or stakes, have been placed at all the graves, but most of them are in very bad condition. Many have rotted off and fallen down. The stakes were never dressed or painted, and most of the head-boards are now free from paint and look badly.
>
> The whole number of burials is 12,262, as follows:
>
> | | Known | Unknown |
> |---|---|---|
> | White | 5,156 | 5,307 |
> | Colored | 1,622 | 187 |
> | Total | 6,778 | 5,484 |
>
> The lot is inclosed by an iron fence in front and rear, and by a wooden picket fence on the sides, in good order. An Osage-orange hedge was planted last fall just inside the fence. The mock-orange of the South (Lauro cerasus) would have been better in this locality, I think.
>
> The drive is bordered on each side by a row of trees, arbor vitae and magnolia (Grandiflora) alternating. Two handsome flower-gardens, one on each side of the drive and opposite each other, divide the lot into two parts. These gardens were formerly the front of the cemetery, before it was enlarged.
>
> A flag-staff stands on a small mound near the center of the old part, the drive dividing and passing around it. Formerly there were three other similar mounds, but they have been removed, though the circular drives around them remain unchanged.
>
> The lodge is a new brick structure containing three rooms, having projecting roof and piazza all around. There is a cistern attached to it. The privy and out-houses are arranged with better taste than usual at the cemeteries. The stable is outside of the fence, in front of the southeast corner of the cemetery.
>
> There are some handsome ornamental plants about the lodge, and evince great care and good taste by those in charge.
>
> Four guns are planted vertically on their bases, in handsome masonry, at equal distances along the front, a few feet inside the fence. At the opposite (west) end is a tomb, or vault, for receiving the remains of such as it may be desirable to bury elsewhere.
>
> The drive divides and passes around this tomb.
>
> Three laborers are employed all the time, at 840 dollars per month. Two mules and two carts are also employed constantly.[238]

A survey drawn in 1872 by New Orleans surveyor W.H. Bell shows a powder magazine situated approximately 600 feet back from the Mississippi River and just west of the cemetery (Figure 2.15).[239] The Freedmen's Cemetery is shown approximately 600 feet north of the powder magazine.[240] The powder magazine is mentioned an article that appeared in the *Times-Picayune* on March 24, 1869.The article reported that, "Mr. Wynne favored the establishment of a powder magazine, near Chalmette Cemetery, for the reason that, if the powder exploded, it would do no harm since everybody around there was dead anyway."[241]

As noted above, by 1873 the Freedmen's Cemetery had been abandoned and it became overgrown.[242]

237. New Orleans Republican (New Orleans) June 3, 1870, 5.
238. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 267-268.
239. This map may be inaccurate or misdated. The map appears to be based on the 1867 Pilié map. But, this 1872 map shows additional information, including the powder magazine and Freedmen's Cemetery, suggesting that its drafting may be related to deliberations regarding these features or the attempt to clarify the boundaries of the cemetery during the development of plans to enclose the cemetery with a brick wall.
240. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 268.
241. The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA) March 24, 1969, 2.
242. Ibid.

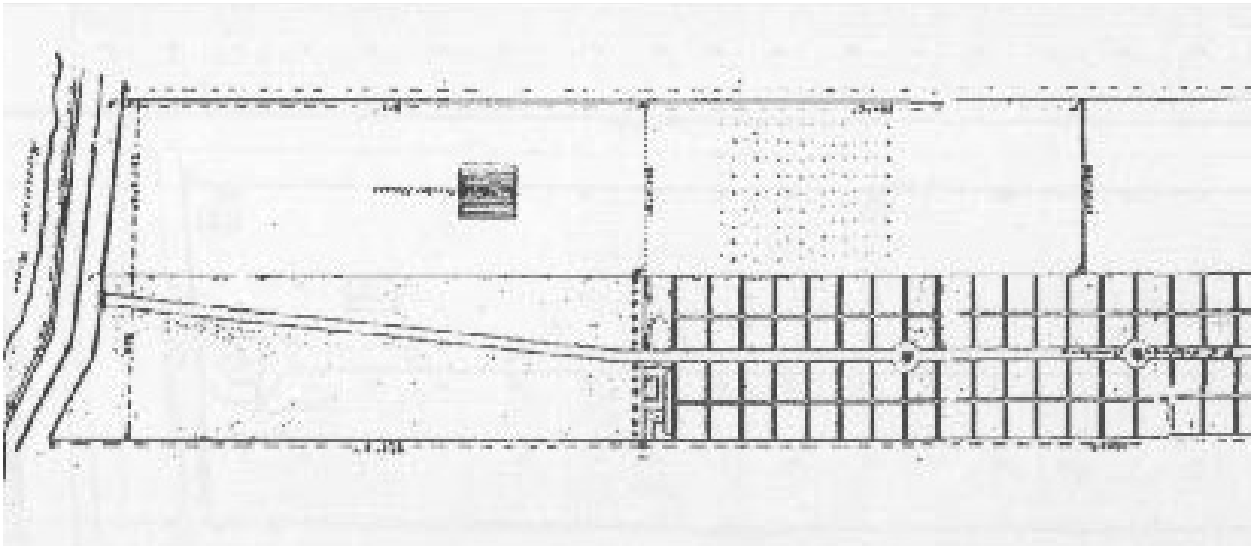


Figure 2.15: "Plat of Chalmette National Cemetery" drawn in circa 1872 by surveyor W. H. Bell shows the location of the powder magazine and Freedmen's Cemetery. This drawing appears very similar to the 1867 Pilié map. Reproduced in the 2006 *Superintendent's Lodge Historic Structure Report* (National Park Service).

Louisiana State Agricultural and Mechanical College purchased the lot in 1876 and requested that federal officials remove the remains of all Union soldiers and freed people from the abandoned cemetery.[243] The Quartermaster General sent Second Lieutenant Isaac O. Shelby to investigate the cemetery. Shelby reported that most of the burials were of freed people and that," [t}here may be some Union soldiers buried there, and there probably are, but there is nothing to indicate [which are] their graves and it would be impossible to find them in the large mass of graves. "[244] Prior to developing plans for enclosing the cemetery with a brick wall in the 1870s, the City Attorney of the City of New Orleans, A. C. Lewis, contacted the Quartermaster General to attempt to clarify the ownership of the cemetery property and adjacent parcels. Lewis successfully argued that the property adjacent to the national cemetery, the Freedmen's Cemetery site, belonged to the city. Otherwise, it is possible that the cemetery boundary may have been drawn and the wall constructed to include this adjacent site.[245]

The fence was apparently under construction by 1873. An article in the *Times-Picayune* reported that the army was "soliciting permission from the city to cut down two trees on a piece of property belonging to the city situated on the west side of and immediately adjoining the Chalmette Cemetery. The trees interfere with the construction of a wall around the cemetery, now in course of erection, and likely hereafter to ruin the foundation."[246] The brick wall replaced the picket fence erected along the cemetery's sides several years earlier. An advertisement in the New Orleans Republican stated: "For Sale at Public Action, At The Chalmette National Cemetery… on April 10, 1874—About 4500 running feet of Picket Fence; pickets 1 ¼ x 3 x 5; posts 6 x 6 x 7 ½ rails 2 x 6 x 15…and fence is to be removd [*sic*] by the purchaser."[247]

The inspection report of the cemetery recorded in 1874 commented:

> It is inclosed by a new brick wall on the sides and by a light iron fence on the ends. The main entrance is in the center of the river front. A drive 16 feet wide extends from it to the center of the opposite end, where there is a gate-way, but no outlet. A receiving- vault is placed in the roadway at this end, and the return drive passes around it. This drive is covered with shells, and has a good ditch on each side, revetted with brick set in cement.

Superintendent P. P. Carroll's annual report for 1873 provides additional information about the wall.[248] According to Greene,

243. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 268.
244. Ibid.
245. Gaines, *Chalmette National Cemetery,* 11-12.
246. Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA) October 9, 1873, 8.
247. New Orleans Republican (New Orleans, LA) March 11, 1874, 5.
248. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 269.



Figure 2.16: Stereograph of the S. T. Blessing, "Entrance to Chalmette Cemetery," by S. T. Blessing is dated approximately 1875 but appears to have been taken approximately a decade later. The centrally located flagpole is visible down the central drive. (Louisiana State Museum).

> The major construction project during this period was enclosing the cemetery with two brick walls on the sides and adding iron fences and gates at the front and back. A contract was let to Edward H. Burton and William Seymour on August 26, 1873, for completing this work at a cost of $3.35 per linear foot.[249] Civil Engineer James Gall staked out the line of the brick wall in September and Burton and Seymour began construction work.[250] The brick walls were completed in December, but the Chalmette superintendent complained that the iron gate did not meet government specifications.[251] The contract was finally approved in May, 1874.[252]

A photograph from probably the 1870s shows the entrance gate, southern fence, and cannon tubes buried just outside the gate. Two masonry pillars with pyramidal tops support the gate. The flagpole installed in the center of the drive is barely visible in the background. The allée of trees growing along the side of the road limits views into the burial sections of the cemetery (Figure 2.16).

The 1874 report continued:

> The drive is also bordered by a row of trees on each side. The new flag-staff stands on a very small mound in front of the main entrance. Formerly the flag-staff stood on a small circular mound in the central avenue, and there were also three other similar mounds in this drive, but they have all been leveled, though the circular plats remain, the drive dividing and inclosing them. Formerly the front of the cemetery was about two hundred yards in the rear of the present front, and the flower-gardens then established still remain, and divide the cemetery into two parts, the portion between these gardens and the river being the addition.
>
> The lodge is situated near the main entrance. It is a one-story brick building, 51 by 21 feet, containing three rooms, with a piazza on the east and west sides, the roof projecting over the piazzas. The lodge is not convenient nor ornamental, and is rendered more unsightly by having a kitchen partitioned off on the back piazza. One of the new style of lodges would be much more appropriate here. There are some handsome flower-beds about the lodge; also four gun-monuments set in masonry.
>
> More trees and shrubbery are needed in this cemetery. The magnolias have mostly died. The evergreens (cedars and arbor-vitae) are doing very well. The Osage-orange hedge is poor. The front fence is place [d] several feet inside the Government boundary and formerly a stable was placed outside, almost in front of the lodge; but it was burnt down accidentally. A new one has been erected inside the inclosure; and it and the wood yard and out-buildings are screened from the drive by a lattice-fence, which is to be covered with honeysuckle. This is a great improvement. The grounds are so badly proportioned that they cannot be laid out with any variety of forms. Most of the ground on each side of the drive is divided into uniform

249. Ibid.
250. Ibid.
251. Ibid.
252. Ibid.

rectangular plats, 54 by 48 feet, by paths 4 feet wide.[253]

In February 1874, the Joseph A. Mower Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in New Orleans approached the army to request permission to install a monument honoring Union soldiers in the cemetery. It was approved and cemetery superintendent Carroll recorded a description of the proposed monument:

> The column or shaft of the monument now erected in the Cemetery is eight feet six inches high (or long), and three feet six inches in diameter. It is N[ew] H[ampshire] granite, fine grain and dark gray. This shaft rests on a piece of the same material, six inches thick, and three feet ten inches in diameter. The projection of this latter piece is not sufficient, so it is to be taken out and replaced by one to give a projection of six or eight inches, so that it will hold a row of shot. The base or foundation is made of artificial stone work and raises [*sic*] three feet above the level of the drive so that the whole stands twelve feet above the level of the drive. The column or shaft is to be surmounted with a drum presenting the sticks crossed and held in the cords denoting silence, with the snares loosen [*sic*] as a sign that it has finished its last tatoo. The surroundings at base of the shaft is in the form of a triangle (equilateral). Each point of the angle stands out 10 feet from the shaft. The triangle is formed of coping made of artificial stone and stands about twelve inches above the drive.
>
> From the top of this coping [to] the base of the shaft the space is filled in, graded and sodded, with an octagon shaped cap of artificial stone surrounding the base of the granite. Resting on the points of the angles and pointing out from the column will be located twelve pound cannon, which will be spiked and muzzled, with a shot resting on each side. All the artificial stonework is to be removed and replaced with granite. The column is to be raised up six feet above the level of the drive, and the foundation made of brick and cement.[254]

A photograph from the late 1800s or early 1900s shows the monument in its original location in one of the circles of the central drive (Figure 2.17). The photograph shows some deviations from the above description. The "surroundings at the base" is not triangular but circular, perhaps a modification to make the monument better fit into its location. As described, the monument sits on a slight mound, which is covered in grass and an evergreen, broad-leaf groundcover. It has a tall curb around the base of the mound, on which a few cannon balls are balanced. A stack of balls is also visible on the drive next to the curb. Balls are also visible on a self at the base of the monument shaft. Three furled flags and three rifles have been added to the drum at the top of the monument. (Interestingly, the rifles are missing from the monument today.) Another photograph from the same period shows the landscape surrounding the monument. In addition to hardwood trees, including live oaks, several evergreen trees, including Eastern red cedars,

253. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 270-271. This quotation suggests that the second lodge was in fact at the "main entrance," which had moved south by 1874. As previously noted, it is possible that the 1872 "survey" of the national cemetery is inaccurate, misdated, or reused information from the 1867 plan of "Monument Cemetery."

254. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 271-272.

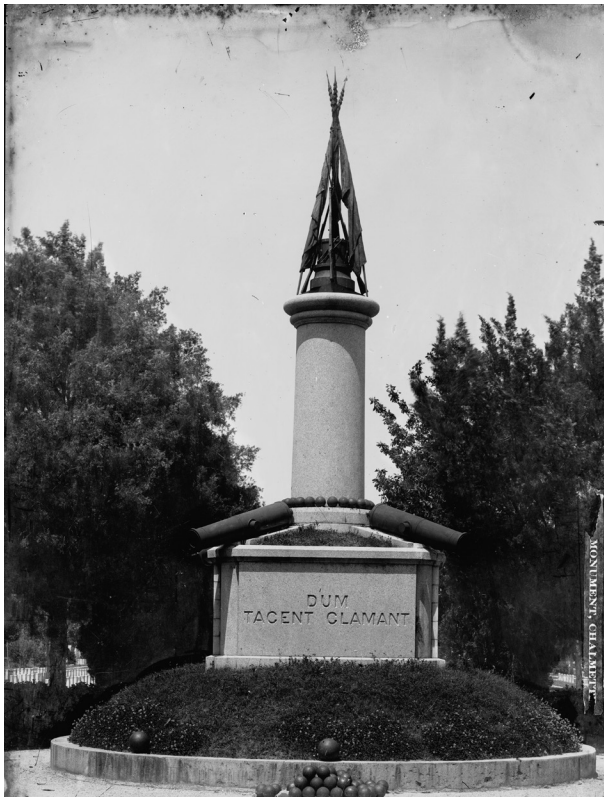


Figure 2.17: A photograph by George Francois Mugnier of the "Battle of New Orleans monument." This early image, circa 1890, of the GAR Monument shows it in its original location with decorations that were not kept when the monument moved (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 2.18: Another photograph of the G. A. R. Monument by George François Mugnier. Likely taken around the same time as the previous image, circa 1890, this image provides a view into the cemetery landscape around the monument (Louisiana State Museum).

surround the circle in which the monument stands (Figure 2.18).

The War Department constructed the third superintendent's lodge in the southeast corner of the cemetery in 1880, in the same location as the previous one. Cemetery staff had criticized the previous lodge as "damp and unfit for habitation."[255] This lodge did not follow a standardized plan being used at other national cemeteries. According to an 1880 Quartermaster General Report, "The Chalmette lodge was constructed after a design prepared especially for that cemetery, and is well suited to that climate." [256] General Meigs reportedly sketched a design that referenced an ancient Greek temple, which resulted in the construction of a building unlike any other constructed by the Quartermaster Department during this period. It was two stories, with a 10-foot-wide porch around the entire building. It had twenty-eight cast iron Corinthian columns. (These columns were reused when constructing the existing Superintendent's Lodge in the 1920s.) New Orleans architect James Freret is credited with having constructed the building.[257]

As shown on an 1892 map of the cemetery, the new lodge area featured a complex of buildings and an elaborate landscape with several monuments and ornamental plantings (Figure 2.19). Two gun monuments flanked the gate at the southern entrance and two more gun monuments marked the southeast and southwest corners of the cemetery. The lodge was just north of the entrance, sited on the east side of the road. A photograph taken from just outside the cemetery entrance shows the south façade of the brick building. The trees along the drive, which include both cedar trees and magnolia trees, frame the view up the drive. Other vegetation includes palm trees and pruned-evergreen shrubs planted in the yard on the south side of the building. A flagpole in the middle of the drive is visible, as are two types of gun monuments—two buried tubes outside the gate and one upright tube in the side yard of the lodge (Figure 2.20). A second photograph shows more detail of the landscape around the building.

255. NPS, *Historic Structures Report*, 11.
256. US Army Quartermaster Corps, *Report of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army to the Secretary of War for the Year Ending 1880*, Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1880, 454.
257. Harrison, *HALS, Superintendent's Lodges*, 38

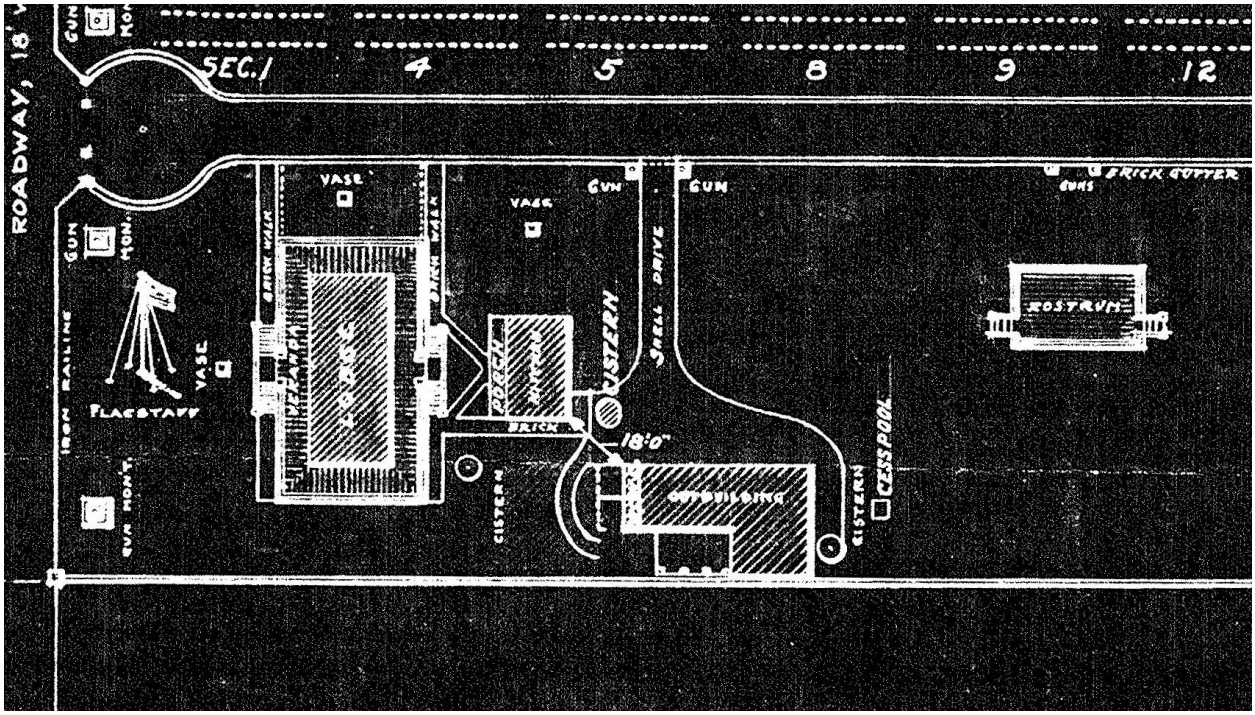


Figure 2.19: Detail from U.S. Army Quartermaster General's map of the "National Cemetery Chalmette, LA." The map was originally drawn in 1892 and contains revisions up to 1925 that document the expansion of the cemetery to its north (National Park Service, JELA Archives).



Figure 2.20: George François Mugnier's photograph of "Entrance, Chalmette" shows the third superintendent's lodge that was constructed in 1880, suggesting this photograph was taken sometime between then and 1927 when the superintendents lodge was demolished (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 2.21: This George François Mugnier photograph, "Lodge, Chalmette," provides a later view of the third superintendent's lodge than the previous image. Note how the tree, seen in the earlier image, is pruned in a way suggesting its being removed. Also note the different paint scheme on the building (Louisiana State Museum).

One of the brick walkways to the house is visible; it includes a set of steps down to the drive. A pipe protrudes out of the curb that appears to be a drain, but no downspouts on visible on the building and its purpose is unclear. The yard has neatly clipped grass. There are ornamental and flowering shrubs planted in the yard. There is one sago palm visible. A hedge of young, newly planted shrubs lines the edge of the yard at the back of curb. More shrubs, which are in bloom, grow along the foundation of the west façade. The detached kitchen is visible as is the veranda that completely encircled the main building (Figure 2.21). Greene describes the Superintendent's Lodge:

> The building, 52 feet 1 inch long by 20 feet 7 inches wide, to be of brick, two stories in height; each story to be subdivided into two rooms and a central hall, and each to be 11 feet 7 inches clear in height; the whole to be surrounded by a porch 10 feet wide and one story in height.[258]

Two brick walkways led from the central drive to the south and north sides of the lodge. A brick walk led north from the lodge to a detached kitchen and to a stable/carriage house set slightly behind (northeast) of the kitchen. There was a driveway to the stable/carriage house. There were vases in the yard around the lodge. Two additional guns flanked the entrance to this driveway. Other features in the landscape included a flagstaff in the yard south of the lodge. The cemetery rostrum stood a short distance north of the lodge along the central drive.

The rostrum was constructed in 1879. According to a Historic American Landscapes Survey of rostrums in National Cemeteries, General Meigs

258. NPS, *Historic Structure Report*, 12.



Figure 2.22: This stereograph image by the Davis Brothers shows the "Driveway Chalmette Cemetery." It appears to date from the same approximate time as the previous three images, approximately 1880-1927. The third superintendent's lodge is visible on the right (Louisiana State Museum).

promoted the idea of adding rostrums in national cemeteries in the mid-1870s. Meigs designed a rostrum and amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery; the rostrum design became the model for a standardized design that was added to several national cemeteries, including Chalmette National Cemetery, in the late 1870s. The designed called for a 5-foot-tall platform with twelve Doric piers. The standard size was about 38 feet long by 23 feet wide. Charles Hense, from Washington, D.C., won the contract to build the rostrum in Chalmette. According to the Historic American Landscape Survey:

> [Hense] travelled to Louisiana in early February to hire workers and secure building materials. He had difficulty finding bricks of sufficient quality to meet the Quartermaster's standards, but, in consultation with James Gall Jr., the civil engineer superintending the work for the department, he was allowed to use the best he could find and to compensate for their lack of smoothness and uniformity by painting them and "penciling" in the mortar joints…. Hense

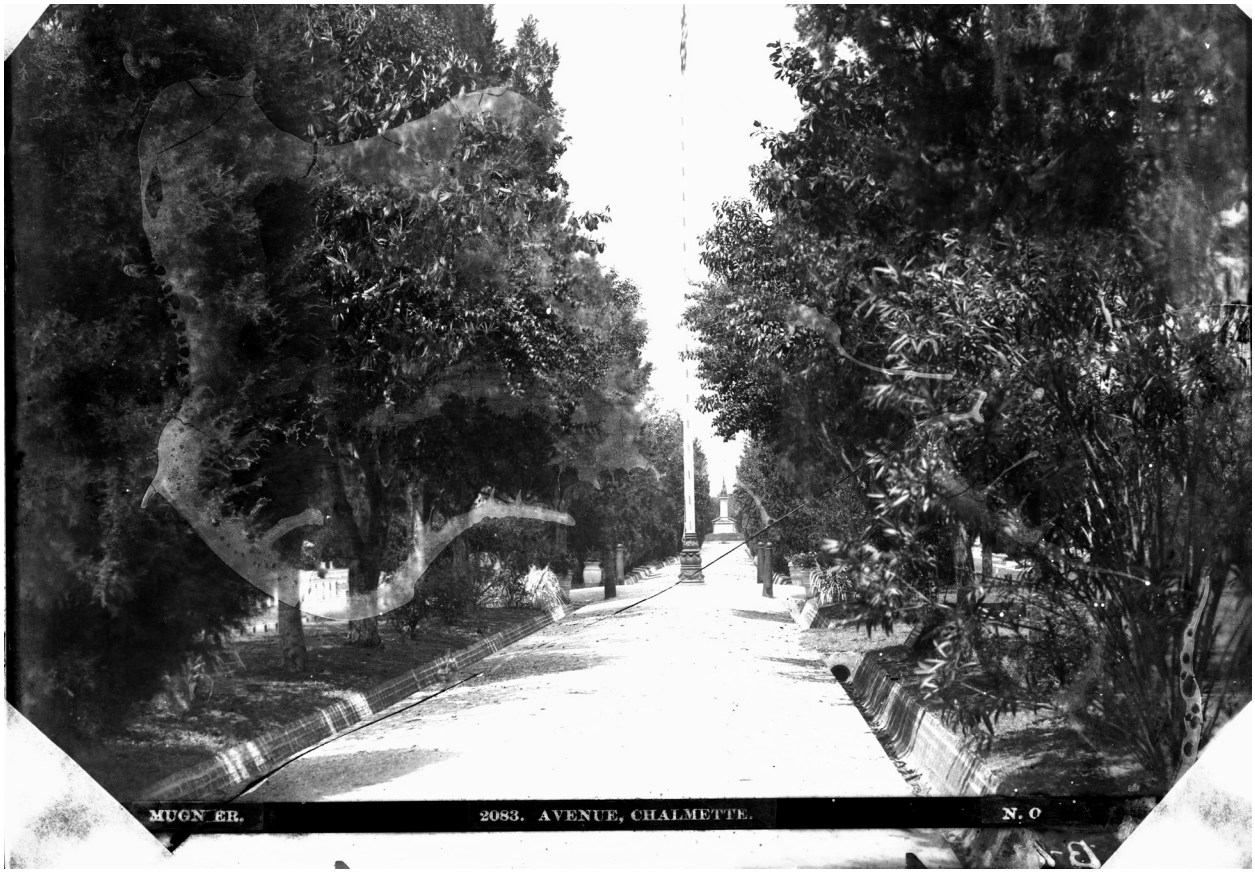


Figure 2.23: George François Mugnier photograph "Avenue, Chalmette Cemetery" provides a good view of the flagstaff and GAR Monument in the middle of the central drive. Also visible is the drainage system along the drive (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 2.24: The full extent of the U.S. Army Quartermaster General's plan of "National Cemetery Chalmette, LA." That documents the cemetery between 1892 and 1925 (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

had the rostrum completed by the middle of April.[259]

Hense proposed several modifications to the rostrum's design, including features to prevent water penetration through the rostrum walls. Meigs ordered that the other rostrums being constructed at the time to incorporate the changes Hense made at Chalmette.[260]

The driveway and brick gutters appear in a photograph from the late 1880s or 1890s. The road is covered in shell, with a slight crown. The gutters are deep, with brick walls visible on the exterior slopes that appear to be between 1 to 2 feet tall. The Superintendent's Lodge, constructed in 1880, is visible on the right side of the image. Several sago palms grow in between the trees, probably live oaks, and other, large shrubs grow within the burial sections and in front of the superintendent's lodge (Figure 2.22). Another photograph from this period shows the flagstaff mounted in one of the circles in the central drive. Four partially buried gun tubes flank the flagstaff. The GAR monument is in the

259. Michael Harrison, Historic American Landscapes Survey, National Cemeteries, Rostrums, HALS No. DC-47, 2013, 23
260. Harrison, HALS National Cemeteries, Rostrums, 24.

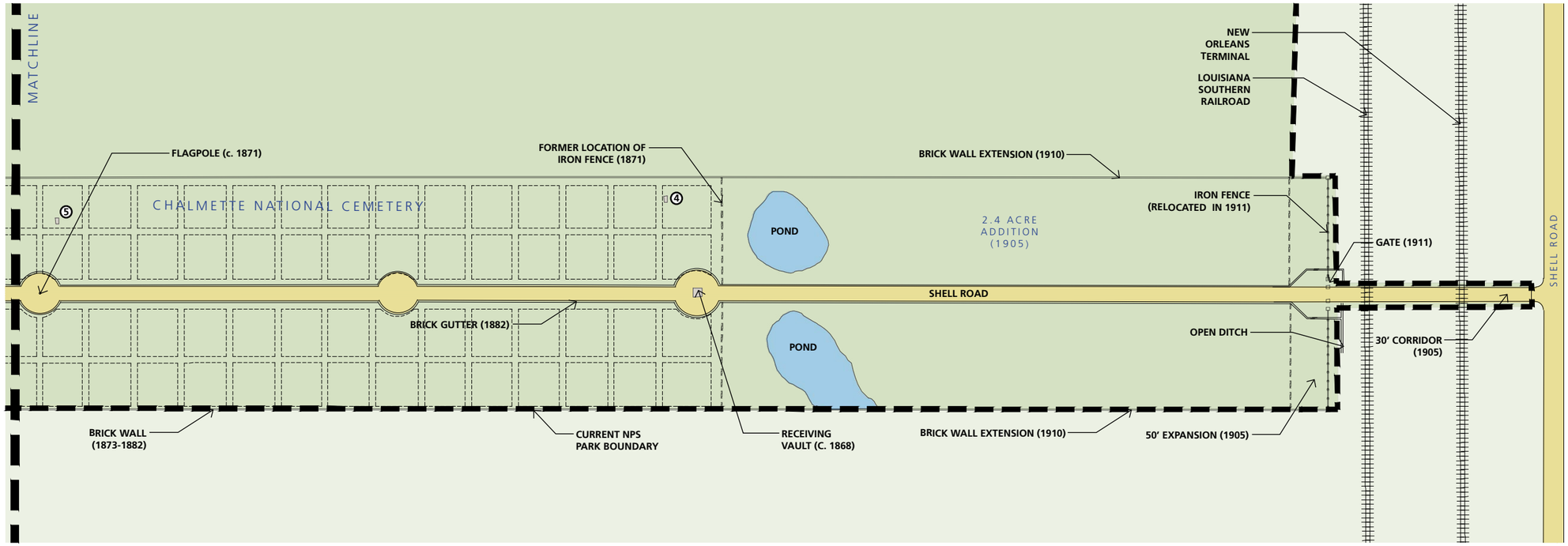


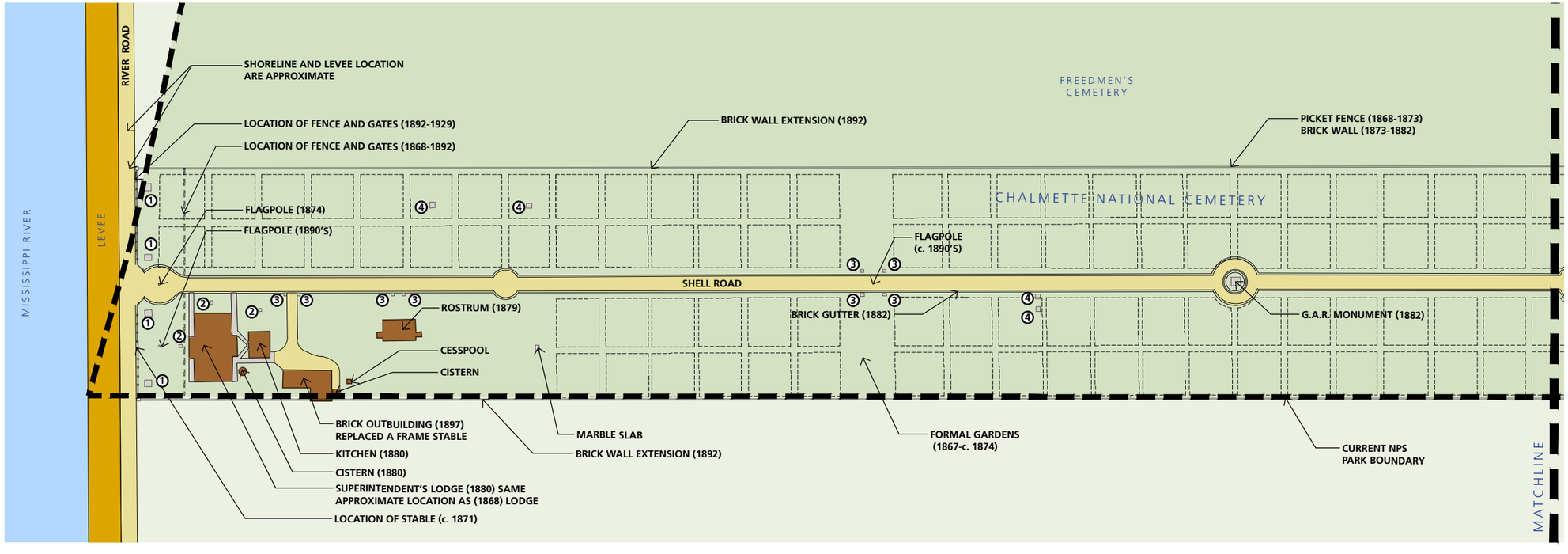
Figure 2.25: An undated Louisiana Works Progress Administration photograph from circa 1930s by H.J. Harvey and entitled "Chalmette National Cemetery in St. Bernard Parish." The image shows the GAR Monument in its original location. Fewer trees surround the site and new features, including tablets and benches have been introduced (State Library of Louisiana).

background. The deep, steep-sided brick gutters are visible alongside the central drive (Figure 2.23).

The Office of the US Army Quarter Master General's office prepared a map of the cemetery in 1892, which includes additions and revisions until 1925 (Figure 2.24). The map labels the drive through the middle of the cemetery as "Shell Drive" and shows five full circles and a partial circle at the cemetery entrance. The plan also shows a gap in the burial sections near the center of the cemetery. This space corresponds with the location of the original lodge and gardens developed during the first decade of the national cemetery. The map also shows two ponds in an undeveloped section in the north end of the national cemetery. These were likely related to drainage. The map also shows that the numbering of burial sections had changed by this time; as mentioned previously, evidence suggests that burial sections were expanded into the southern section of the national cemetery as early as 1868. Sections 1 and 2 are now in the southwest corner of the national cemetery. (The 1867 Pilié map shows Sections 1 and 2 in the southeast corner of the original 8-acre section of the garden, approximately a 1/3rd of the way into the national cemetery shown on the 1892 map.) The first twelve sections are all west of the central "Shell Drive" crossing through the center of the national cemetery. Space for Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, and 22 is provided for but these sections do not have burials. Beginning with Section 23 the zig-zag numbering system continues to the north end of the cemetery. At the time of this map in 1892, there were 158 burial sections. (As of 2022, there are 182 burial sections.)

Another photograph of the GAR Monument, this one dated approximately 1930s, shows some of the changes occurring in the national cemetery





Key

1	Gun Monument
2	Vase
3	Gun
4	Monument
5	Tomb

Credits

The following sources were used to create this period illustration:

1. US Army Map of National Cemetery, Chalmette, LA 1892, Rev. 1925 (NPS, JELA Archives)

Illustration 2.5
(1927)
Chalmette National Cemetery

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Figure 2.26: A photograph of the (southern) entrance gate to the national cemetery by Charles L. Franck Photographers dated circa 1930s but certainly dates earlier because the superintendent's lodge was demolished during the levee setback project beginning in 1927. The image, entitled "United States National Cemetery," shows the circle behind the entrance that appears on the 1892 map of the cemetery and the third superintendent's lodge on the right (The Charles L. Franck Studio Collection at The Historic New Orleans Collection).

during the first decades of the 1900s. While some things remained consistent—the road remains covered in shell and brick drainage ditches still line the drive—there are signs that the site's managers were actively accommodating the needs of visitors. A pedestrian ramp is visible bridging the deep gutter to allow visitors access to the burial sections. There are benches, made from thin metal frames with narrow slates, placed around the perimeter of the circle. There are also signs visible. These are "Bivouac of the Dead" tablets which appeared in many national cemeteries in the late 1800s. Trees are visible throughout the cemetery, including along the edge of the drive and along the inner edge of the enclosure wall (Figure 2.25). The bench seen in the photograph of the GAR Monument photograph appears again in another photograph from the same time period. This photograph is of the entrance gate to the cemetery. Two shield medallions appear on the gate pillars identifying the "U.S. National Cemetery." By this time, the managers of the national cemetery had added a pedestrian gate next to the main, vehicular gate. It hangs on the outside face of one of the pillars. Otherwise, the features of the gate—the pillars, gate, and fence—look to be the same as those that appear in photographs from the 1870s (Figure 2.26).

The River (or Levee) Road served as the main access to both the cemetery and Chalmette Monument until construction of the Chalmette Slip severed this access in 1908. The War Department issued a report to congress in January 1905 regarding River Road and access to the national cemetery. The report states that in 1904 St. Bernard Parish repealed the ordinance passed in 1886 providing the federal government a rights-of-way for the road between Jackson Barracks and the national cemetery. The road, according to the Judge Advocate General for the War Department, was constructed by the government in 1887, "at an approximate cost of $25,000," with the understanding that the parish agreed to provide a forty foot right of way. Then, the St. Bernard Police Jury gave the New Orleans Terminal Company permission to cut through the road to create a docking facility. Fortunately, a new road north of the cemetery was already under construction; and, according to the report, "The effect of these improvements and of the consequent closing of the Government road will be to entirely shut off the national cemetery unless steps are taken to acquire a right of way in rear of the cemetery leading to the new road, which is to be completed by December 15, 1905."[261]

As a result, an Act of Congress passed in March 1909 authorizing the Secretary of War to acquire land from the New Orleans Terminal Company from the north boundary of the cemetery to a line 50 feet south of the railroad company's rights-of-way. Additionally, the New Orleans Terminal Company, who owned the land, was to convey an "easement or servitude for right of way 30 feet wide", from new northern boundary line to the "new shell road."[262] This road, known during the first decades of the 1900s as the "shell road" follows the approximate alignment of the current St. Bernard Highway (See Illustration 2.5).

In 1910, the army constructed 650 feet of wall to enclose the northern portion of the cemetery, and, around 1911, they added a decorative entrance gate. In 1928, a levee setback claimed the cemetery's riverfront entrance, River Road, and

261. Judge Advocate-General, Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in *House of Representatives Documents, 59th Congress, 1st Session (1905-1906)*, 3.
262. Judge Advocate-General, Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in *House of Representatives Documents, 59th Congress, 1st Session (1905-1906)*, 3.



Figure 2.27: A photograph from around 1930 showing the new entrance gate on the north side of the cemetery and the new Superintendent's Lodge (National Park Service).



Figure 2.29: Another photograph of the national cemetery from around 1930 showing the newly constructed Carriage House (National Park Service).



Figure 2.28: A view of the newly completed Superintendent's Lodge from around 1930 (National Park Service).



Figure 2.30: A photograph of a bandstand that stood in the most northern of the circles in the cemetery's central drive. The image is from approximately 1930, as it appears to be from the same time as the two previous figures. The bandstand appears to have been recently completed (National Park Service).

the caretaker's house. (A brick stable was outside the setback line and remained in the cemetery until the 1960s.) The War Department built a new brick cemetery lodge and garage in the northwestern portion of the cemetery in 1929. A photograph taken during this period shows the new cemetery entrance at the north end of the national cemetery. The central gate, supported by ornamental cast iron pillars, is flanked by smaller pedestrian gates. The central drive is covered with shell. There are two plaques mounted just outside the gate, which are probably two of the "Bivouac of the Dead" tablets. A small bandstand/rostrum is on axis with the center of the drive in the middle of the most northern circle (Figure 2.27). According to a Historic American Landscape Survey of National Cemetery Rostrums, this bandstand/rostrum was constructed in 1931 by an unknown builder. This rostrum was one of six rostrums constructed in national cemeteries that year. The Quartermaster Corps prepared a design for these rostrums that featured an octagonal base, metal superstructure, and pyramidal roof.[263]

A photograph taken of the Superintendent's Lodge not long after its completion shows that cemetery staff planted ornamental vegetation, including sago palms, annual flowers, and dwarf arborvitae, around the building. A trellis supporting a climbing vine is visible on the southwest corner of the building. A narrow concrete walkway leads to the building's main entrance on its east façade (Figure 2.28). Another photograph, which appears to

263. Harrison, HALS National Cemeteries, Rostrums, 41.

have been taken at the same time as the previous image, shows the maintenance building/garage. It has a shell-covered driveway and parking area around its three visible elevations. There are a few shrubs and trees growing in the grass lawn between the building and the central drive. Two trees in the foreground have large leaves consistent with sycamore or southern red oak. Other plants visible in the image include sago palm and dwarf arborvitae. The central drive remains paved with compacted shell and the brick curb is covered in concrete stucco (Figure 2.29). The building at the most northern circle was a bandstand, which is shown in a photograph from the same period, but of which little documentation was discovered during research (Figure 2.30).

On August 10, 1933, the cemetery was transferred from the War Department's jurisdiction to the National Park Service. The national cemetery was incorporated into Chalmette National Historical Park on August 10, 1939.[264]

The War Department and Chalmette Monument

The United States Congress authorized the creation of four battlefield parks between 1890 and 1899: Chickamauga and Chattanooga in 1890, Shiloh in 1894, Gettysburg in 1895, and Vicksburg in 1899. According to the National Park Service's history of their establishment, Congress designed these parks "both to preserve the major battlefields for historical and professional study and also to serve as lasting memorials to the great armies of the war on both sides." [265] Development of these early parks shared certain features, including the marking of positions of different units who participated in the battles and the development of carriage roads to allow for visitor access.

Beginning around 1900, people in the New Orleans area began requesting that Chalmette Monument and the surrounding battlefield receive similar treatment.[266] The Louisiana legislature joined the campaign to create a national military park at Chalmette during the early decades of the 1900s. In 1908, the legislature passed a resolution asking the United States Congress to "establish and maintain a national park at the scene of the Battle of New Orleans."[267] Congressmen Albert Estopinal introduced multiple, unsuccessful pieces of legislation between 1915 and 1919 that would have resulted in the War Department performing a feasibility study for a military park at Chalmette. In November 1921, H.R. 2232 did pass. This authorized a War Department study, which was to include park development plans and cost estimates. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) organized a meeting in New Orleans to hear from local officials and residents. Opinions varied among participants. Some favored a large, thousand-acre park; others wanted a smaller park that allowed industrial development to continue in the vicinity of the park, which they argued was vitally important to the local economy. Based on the USACE report, the Secretary of War concluded that, because of the costs associated with land acquisition, "it is not feasible to establish the proposed park."[268]

In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law "An Act to provide for the study and investigation of battlefields for commemorative purposes." The Army War College led the study, which resulted in a system to rate the historic significance of battlefields across the nation. Battlefields were ranked, according to their importance, as Class 1, Class IIa, and Class IIb. Chalmette received a IIa classification, the second highest designation, meaning that it was "of such great military and historic interest as to warrant locating and indicating the battle lines of the forces engaged by a series of markers or tablets."[269] In a 1931 report to Congress, the War Department recommended the acquisition of 136 acres to create a park at the Chalmette battlefield. The envisioned boundaries of the park would have included the national cemetery, the tract around the Chalmette Monument, and the land in between these two tracts. It also included a 15-acre parcel west of the monument tract and a detached 23 acres around the ruins of the De la Ronde Plantation.

The War Department had, just a few years prior to this report, became directly involved in the Chalmette Monument site. (As discussed previously, they also had been administering

264. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 25.
265. Ronald F. Lee, "The First Battlefield Parks, 1890-1899," in *The Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1973).
266. Blythe, *Administrative History,* 38.
267. Ibid.
268. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 39.
269. Ibid.

the national cemetery since its creation in the 1860s). After the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 (Daughters) informed the Secretary of War in November 1929 of their inability to continue caring for Chalmette Monument, the United States Congress authorized the War Department to take over maintenance of Chalmette on June 2, 1930.[270]

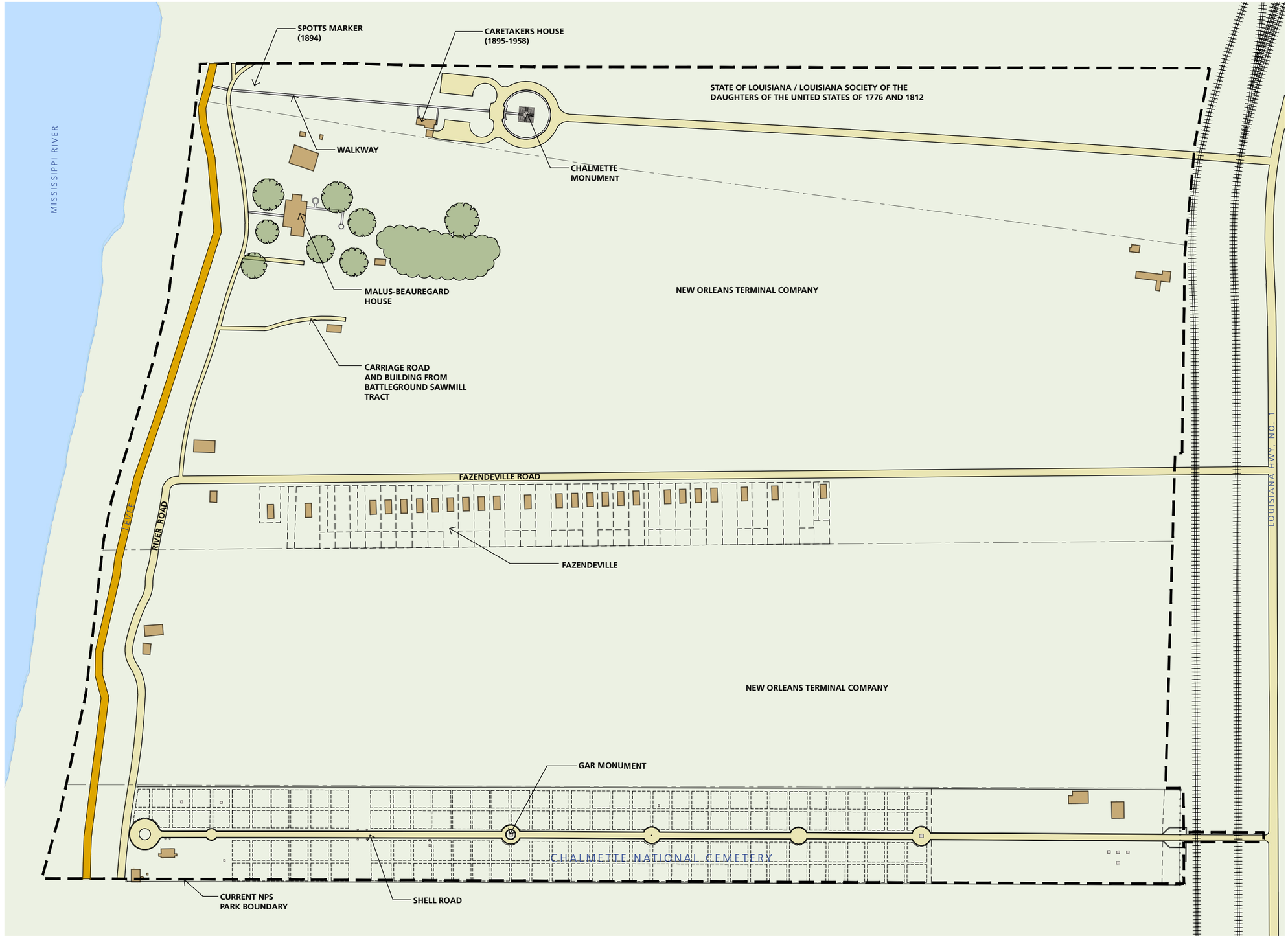
US Army Corps of Engineers prepared several drawings in the early 1900s that record changes to the circulation and landscape around the monument. A plan dated 1907 records "general conditions" of the site at that time. A 5-foot-wide walkway on axis with the Chalmette Monument approached the monument from the south. A 17-foot wide "lane" traveled the length of the property from the railroad and public road on the north to the road along the levee on the south. This road follows the eastern property line, passing just east of the caretaker's cottage located southeast of the monument. A circular ditch surrounds the monument and appears to drain towards the north. The drawing was done by Alfred Theard, the civil engineer who was instrumental in the completion of the monument.[271]

Two years later, in 1909, the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared a plan and section for a "Proposed Shell Road at Chalmette Monument Ground." The road follows the eastern edge of the lot, in the same alignment of the lane shown on the 1907 map described above. The 16-foot-wide road was offset 4 feet from the fence on the east property line. Rather than continuing all the way to the levee road, this drawing shows the road turning west at the monument and encircling the monument. This is the first document showing a road going around the base of the monument. The section graphic shows a ditch on the other side of the fence, presumably the Rodriguez canal. Another ditch was on the other side (west) of the road. This ditch connected to a ditch that follows the outside of the circle road around the monument. Interestingly, this map shows another drainage feature, an irregularly shaped depression north of the monument. (This depression may have been present in 1907; the 1907 shows a ditch going that direction but does not show the depression.)[272]

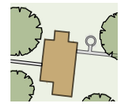
In 1916, the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared another proposal for a shell road, this time showing the road running through the center of the parcel on axis with the monument. Several of the features shown on earlier maps reappear on this plan, including the drainage depression and ditch along the inside of the east property line. The road on this plan originates at the highway to the north, travels on axis with the monument, and encircles the monument, establishing for the first time this entrance sequence at the site. The plan also shows that the walkway from the monument towards the river remained in place. The 1916 plan also has a typical section of the road, which was crowned and shed water into two deep ditches that paralleled the road. The plan also proposed a 4-foot-wide walkway along the side of the new shell road, though this does not appear to have been constructed.[273]

It is unclear what other changes the War Department made to the Chalmette Monument site between 1929, when they began managing the site, and 1933 when they turned the property over to the National Park Service. A 1934 photograph referenced in Risk's *Cultural Landscape Report* shows several site improvements that may have been implemented in the few years the War Department managed the site, including an iron entrance gate on the north end and plantings along the path from the monument to River Road.

270. Ronald F. Lee, "Later Evolution of the National Military Park Idea, 1900-1933," in *The Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1973).
271. Alfred F. Theard, "M*onument to Memory of American Soldiers, Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette, Louisiana,"* 1907 (ETIC 427-9001).
272. US Engineers' Office, "Plan and Section of Proposed Shell Road at Chalmette Monument Ground," 1909 (ETIC 467-60005).
273. US Engineers' Office, "Chalmette Monument Ground showing Proposed Road and Walkway," 1916 (ETIC 467-60005A).



Key



Structures 1880-1937

Credits

The locations of property lines, buildings, and other landscape features are approximate. The information is based on the following sources:

1. Birkedal, "The Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009)
   - Map III-71 "Civilian and Post Battle Features," Page 538
2. US Army Quartermaster General, "National Cemetery Chalmette, LA," revised 1925 (NPS, JELA Archives)
3. List of Fazendeville Property Owners (ETIC 467-30000)
4. US Army Map of National Cemetery, Chalmette, LA 1892, Rev. 1925
5. General Development Plan, NPS 1934 (ETIC 467-1003-A)
6. Monument Area Details-Chalmette, NPS 1934 (ETIC 467-1058)
7. Rene Beauregard House-HABS, NPS 1934 (ETIC 467-2005)

Illustration 2.6
(1937)
Chalmette Battlefield

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Early National Park Service Period—Chalmette Battlefield Park and Chalmette National Cemetery (1933-1964)

NPS and the Chalmette National Historical Park

President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act on August 25, 1916 creating the National Park Service (NPS), a new federal bureau within the Department of the Interior. On June 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6166 that reorganized the National Park Service and dramatically increased the number of sites under its jurisdiction. This was followed on July 28, 1933 by Executive Order 6228 that specified the sites, parks, monuments, and memorials to be placed under National Park Service administration. These two executive orders transferred to the NPS the "functions of administration" for these sites then being managed by other federal agencies, including the Forest Service and the War Department. According to executive order No. 6166, the "Chalmette Monument and Grounds" transferred from the War Department to the NPS.

The NPS assumed management of the Chalmette Monument and surrounding 15.92 acres in August 1933. A proposed general development plan dated October 4, 1934 captures some of the existing conditions at the time the NPS inherited the property from the War Department (Figure 2.31). There was a shell road leading from the state highway to the monument. It crossed over two railroad tracks before passing through a gate and entering the site. The road was less than 20 feet wide. It led directly to and then encircled the monument. A service road led from the "Monument Circle" to the caretaker's house and garage located southeast of the monument. A few trees grew along the northern boundary of the site. More trees grew along the western and eastern boundary lines; several large oak and pecan trees grew around an open area on the south end of the parcel. Two of the oaks measure 60 inches in diameter. The Southern Railway had buildings on the adjacent parcel to the east. One of the buildings stood near the north entrance to the site. Another building, the Bonner House, stood approximately between the monument and the Malus-Beauregard House.

Between 1933 and 1943, the Vicksburg National Military Park administered the property. Vicksburg's superintendent, L.G. Heider, served as the coordinating superintendent for Chalmette. Meetings between NPS Chief Historian Vern Chatelain, Superintendent Heider, and NPS Director Arno Cammerer resulted in a plan for the NPS to pursue acquisition of the land between the monument and the national cemetery. They agreed

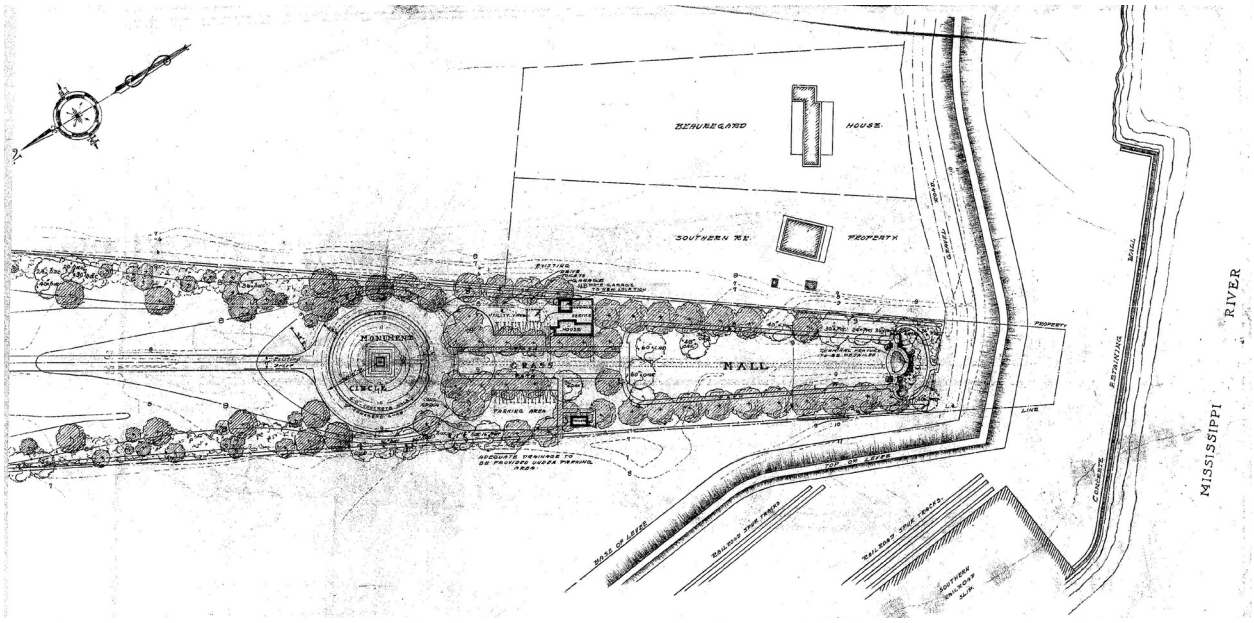


Figure 2.31: Detail of the 1934 General Development Plan by the National Park Service for Chalmette Monument (National Park Service, ETIC 467-1003).



Figure 2.32: Erol Barkemeyer's photograph entitled "Chalmette Monument commemorating the Battle of New Orleans on the Chalmette Battle in Saint Bernard Parish." The image shows the newly completed parking area near the monument (State Library of Louisiana).

that the Malus-Beauregard House possessed historic significance and would be a valuable addition to a larger park. They also agreed to plant trees along the western boundary of the park to screen views of Chalmette Slip next door.[274]

A map from December 1933 shows the outlines of a "Proposed National Military Park."[275] The park encompasses hundreds of acres. South of St. Bernard Highway, the park would include the Monument tract (Parcel A including 13 acres) and the land between the monument and Fazendeville (Parcel A-1 including 37.4 acres). It also included several parcels north of St. Bernard Highway, totaling 684.18 acres. The acreage north of the highway extended far enough east to include the ruins of the Civil War earthworks that apparently were still visible at that time.[276]

The NPS Eastern Division of the Branch of Plans and Designs' development plans called for widening the entrance road and making it concrete with a concrete curb (Figure 2.31). The plans proposed replacing the existing entrance gate, relocating the caretaker's garage, and creating two parking areas south of the monument flanking a grass lawn panel that led south to an open grass mall with walkways and trees planted around its perimeter. The parking area on the east was a utility court; the parking area on the west was for visitors and was to have a comfort station at its southern end. The entrance road, called "Driveway" on the drawing, was to be widened to 20 feet. The drawing shows the existing road to be widened, confirming that the road shown on a 1916 US Army Corps of Engineers proposal for the site was in fact constructed. The circle around the monument, called "Monument Circle" on the plan, was 24 feet wide and had a 4-foot-wide concrete walkway at the back of the interior curb. The NPS also at this time constructed a pedestrian connection to the Malus-Beauregard House. The Public Works Administration oversaw the road improvement projects, hiring local contractor H. Pratt Farnsworth, who "poured concrete over the War Department-era shell road to and around the monument, built culverts under the two railroad tracks, and substantially regraded much of the site."[277] Plans for a comfort station were not realized because bids came in over budget; but two sets of plans exist, including one with segregated facilities.[278] A photograph shows a portion of the site soon after completion (Figure 2.32). The visitor parking area is visible in the foreground of the photograph. The concrete parking pad has a stack of cannon balls placed in the corner and single balls, mounted on rectangular bases outlining the edge of the parking area. The road around the monument has a curb and a concrete walkway is visible at the back of curb. Another walkway leads from the walkway to the base of the monument's steps on its south façade. A flagpole is mounted

274. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 42.
275. NPS, "Map Proposed National Military Park," 1933 (ETIC 467-60046).
276. Swanson, *Map of Proposed National Military Park Showing Rodriguez Canal and Jackson* Breastworks, in "A Study of the Military Topography and Sites Associated with the 1814–1815 New Orleans Campaign" (draft, 1985).
277. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 43.
278. Ibid.

in the grass lawn on the southwest side of the monument within the circle. Large evergreen trees grow along the east property line, following the approximate location of the Rodriguez Canal.

On May 11, 1937, lightning struck and damaged the monument. The NPS repaired the monument and installed a lightning rod.[279] Other than the above-described improvements to the infrastructure on the site, the NPS decided to forgo major development of the site until they acquired more land. The campaign for a larger park had already begun.

Buoyed by the War Department study and the NPS taking over the management of Chalmette Monument, local residents and Louisiana governmental officials resumed their campaign on behalf of the battlefield, now proposing that the National Park Service create a national park that included the battlefield between the Chalmette Monument and the national cemetery. The Louisiana Legislature passed a resolution in support of a national park in 1934. United States Congressman from Louisiana Joachim O. Fernández introduced H.R. 5368 for that purpose in 1935. The act passed both houses of congress but was rejected by President Franklin Roosevelt, who expressed concern about the costs associated with acquiring the land. Advocates for the park at Chalmette moved to get state assistance with land acquisition. In 1938, Governor Richard W. Leche signed Act No. 163 which appropriated $300,000 to purchase the land for the purpose of establishing a park on the site. In March 1939, Congressman Fernández introduced another bill, H.R. 4742, for a 500-acre park at Chalmette. This bill stipulated that the land for the park would come only from donation. The bill passed and was signed into law by President Roosevelt on August 10, 1939.

Chalmette became the third national historical park created in the National Park system. According to Blythe, this designation was used to mark historic events and memorialize more than a single building or event.[280] However, tumult in Louisiana politics forestalled immediate progress towards acquiring the land for the approved park; financial set-backs, largely the result of local politics, became a common feature along the road to the creation of the national park. Governor Leche resigned and his successor, Earl K. Long, refused to release the $300,000 in funds approved in 1938. Long's successor, Sam Houston Jones, shifted the money to the state school fund.[281]

After the NPS received indications that the State of Louisiana was looking favorably at another $300,000 appropriations bill to fund land acquisition, they resumed planning for physical improvements to the site. NPS employees who visited the site during this period reported that NPS had completed little to improve the site except for the road paving project. Acting Regional Historian Roy Appleman filed a report in 1938 saying as much. He observed, "I think it likely that no material change or improvement has been made in the Chalmette National Battlefield Site in the years since it was transferred to the Department of the Interior."[282]

Blythe provides an overview of Appleman's report, writing:

> Appleman reiterated the need for "suitable narrative markers" and noted the complete lack of any identifying signage on the St. Bernard Highway. He was especially eager to acquire the Rodriguez Canal, which was on Southern Railroad property, separated from the monument tract by a wire fence. He noted that the canal was "the only remain [*sic*]… that exists today associated with that historic event [the Battle of New Orleans." Appleman considered the Malus-Beauregard House "a most interesting structure" that could be "renovated at a relatively small cost."

Appleman also noted the presence of four painted signs marking the Jackson Line. These were "old, dilapidated… and scarcely readable."[283] These markers likely predated the War Department period. Appleman recommended that the NPS install new interpretive markers, develop interpretative brochures, and establish a temporary visitor contact station. The NPS, Appleman also reported, was in the process of developing preliminary studies for a master plan for the entire site. Regional Landscape Architect V.R. Ludgate led this effort. It was the desire of the NPS for the

279. Ibid.
280. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 41.
281. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 41–42.
282. Blythe, *Administrative History,* 44.
283. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 63.

State of Louisiana to prioritize the purchase of the one hundred acres between the monument and the national cemetery; this was, in their opinion, the most historically significant area. The state, however, wanted to prioritize the section of Jackson's Line lying on a tract north of St. Bernard Highway. The NPS also wanted to acquire land west of the monument, which contained a portion of the American camp in 1814-1815 and because it was their preferred location upon which to construct administrative facilities. As it would turn out, almost predictably, the funds from Louisiana were rescinded in July 1940. Nevertheless, the NPS drew up plans in 1941-1942 showing their vision for the national historical park.[284] The park included the parcel west of the monument and extended to the east to include the national cemetery. A road connected the two sites, crossing the southern portion of the site between the circle at the monument and second circle at the southern end of the national cemetery. The plan shows a parking lot added next to the Malus-Beauregard House. It shows Fazendeville to be "obliterated." The NPS shelved its plans for a larger park at Chalmette, and as the nation entered into the Second World War, the entire NPS experienced a reduction in park funding that limited "land acquisition or developments other than routine maintenance, protection, and planning."[285]

Blythe also addresses other challenges confronting the NPS during these early years regarding the racial political realities in the United States during this period. Blythe observes that "Having recently assumed responsibility for War Department battlefields and historic forts, many of them in the South, the NPS was faced for the first time with the question of designing visitor support facilities in states with legally mandated segregation. The existence of two sets of plans for the Chalmette comfort station suggests some uncertainty over the appropriate agency stance vis-a-vis Jim Crow."[286]

The United States Military used the grounds of Chalmette during the war and helped with routine maintenance. The NPS did make minor improvements to the park during this period, including the installation of nine wooden



Figure 2.33: A photograph by Charles L. Franck Photographers entitled "Chalmette Battlefield, Walkway" from 1949. The image looks north towards the monument. The Spotts Marker is visible in the foreground (The Charles L. Franck Studio Collection at The Historic New Orleans Collection).

interpretive signs in the summer of 1941, just months before the United States entered the war. The NPS also printed a brochure on the Battle of New Orleans in 1944.[287]

In the mid-1940s, as the NPS was developing plans for the park, they debated the fate of the Malus-Beauregard House. An NPS development plan for the property from 1945 actually showed the house removed. Some NPS officials, including historian Roy Appleman argued for its preservation, suggesting it become a museum or administrative offices. Regional Director Thomas J. Allen disagreed, believing that a circa 1833 house in the middle of a 1814-1815 battlefield would be a confusing anachronism in the landscape and complicate interpretation. Director Newton Drury decided in October 1946 that the NPS would preserve and use the building.[288] The parcel, then owned by the Southern Railway and which also contained the railroad employee house known as the Bonner House, was conveyed to the NPS in 1950.[289]

Another NPS development plan, dated February 1946, called for a new entrance road leading through the property west of the monument and ending at an administrative and museum complex located on the adjacent parcel. The plan shows a battlefield tour road entering the site just west

284. NPS, "General Development Plan Park and Cemetery Area Chalmette National Historical Park," 1942 (ETIC 467/2100).
285. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 45.
286. Blythe, Administrative History, 43.
287. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 63.
288. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 61.
289. Ibid.

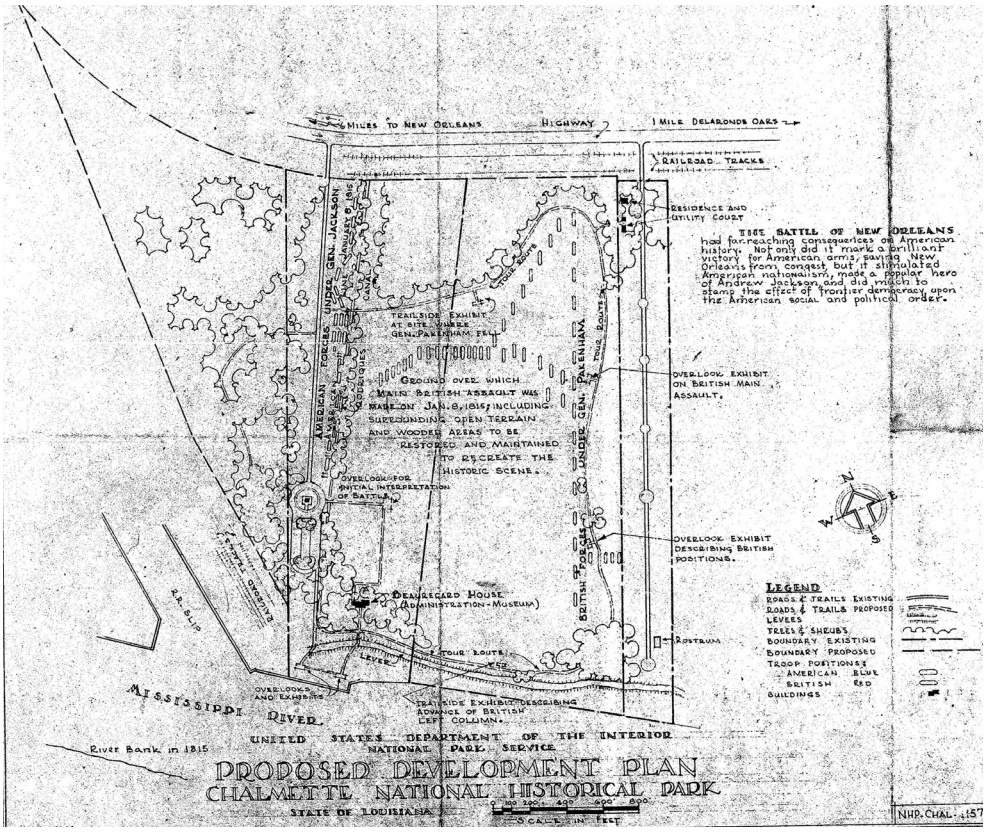


Figure 2.34: Detail of the National Park Service's 1955 "Proposed Development Plan" showing early version of tour route around the battlefield (National Park Service, ETIC 467-1157).

of the monument, looping south of the Malus-Beauregard House, following the levee before turning north near the west wall of the cemetery. The road circumnavigates the battlefield, passing through the woods north of the open field, then returning to the monument. This loop road would allow visitors to visit different important locations around the battlefield. They envisioned pull-offs with wayside exhibits interpreting key events in the battle. The woods on the north side of the property are labeled "proposed planting and regeneration." The proposed woods along the north side of the battlefield are labeled "limit of cypress swamp in 1815."[290] In February 1946, Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman approved a new, tentative boundary for Chalmette National Historical Park. The boundary included the land between the monument and the national cemetery, a forty-acre tract west of the monument, and an "L-shaped tract of 72 acres lying east of the cemetery reaching as far as the site of the Bienvenu House…making a total of 242 acres."[291]

The development plan, however, depended upon acquiring 200 acres, and the enabling legislation of the park specified that the NPS could only receive donated land; they could not use federal funds. The New Orleans Association of Commerce, which had been a constant supporter of the park, led a campaign to secure state funding, sending promotional material to legislators and prominent businesspeople. On July 15, 1946, Louisiana Governor James Houston Davis signed legislation appropriating $100,000 to the cause. The Louisiana State Parks Commission soon began negotiations with the Southern Railway Company to acquire fifty acres between the monument and Fazendeville. As mentioned previously, this was the tract that contained the remains of the Rodriguez Canal, the Malus-Beauregard House, and a railroad employees quarters known as the Bonner House. After negotiating on the value of the property, the railroad company finally accepted a price of $2,750 per acre for 36.25 acres. It also agreed to a one-year option on an additional fourteen acres closer to Fazendeville. The Parks Commission approved the purchase in February 1949 and the NPS accepted the acreage in May 1950. The NPS removed the Bonner House in February 1955 after the death

290. NPS, "Proposed Development Plan Chalmette National Historical Park," 1946 (ETIC 467-1157).
291. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 45.

of Mrs. Bonner, the widow of the last railroad employee.[292]

A photograph from 1949 shows the appearance of the Chalmette Monument landscape during this period (Figure 2.33). The photograph looks north along the walkway towards the monument. The walkway is concrete, approximately 4 feet wide. It is on axis with the monument. (The NPS will move the walkway to the east in the next decade.) A mown strip of grass, approximately 5 feet wide, lines both sides of the walkway. Two rows of shrubs are visible on either side behind the grass strips. The Spotts Monument is placed only a few feet west of the walkway. Large evergreen trees, presumably live oaks, are scattered across the space between the monument and the foreground of the photograph. A structure is barely visible standing in a grove of trees on the right side of the photograph. This could be the caretakers' house built by the Daughters in the late 1800s.

In 1951, the NPS installed an outdoor kiosk for notices and exhibits. The kiosk offered visitors a free brochure and directed visitors to the superintendent's lodge in the national cemetery if they wanted to purchase a 16-page information booklet on the battle.[293] In 1951, Vicksburg Historian Francis F. Wilshin inspected the park and prepared a report recommending improvements to Chalmette's interpretive program. He suggested cast aluminum markers with maps illustrating the main events of the battle. In March 1953, the park hired a historian, Fred Roush, to oversee research and interpretation. He oversaw installation of three interpretive markers in October 1953, six more in July 1955, and one more at the Malus-Beauregard House in 1957.[294] Roush also prepared a park handbook for visitors, which the NPS published in 1958.[295]

When the state donated the parcel that included the Malus-Beauregard, the NPS made plans to restore the house and use it for offices and a museum. Plans to convert the Malus-Beauregard House into an administrative building appear on a proposed development plan that the NPS



Figure 2.35: A 1969 photograph showing the Malus-Beauregard House and the Battlefield Rampart (State Library of Louisiana).

developed during negotiations with Kaiser Corporation. Dated 1955, the plan shows the "Beauregard House" to be used as an administration and museum (Figure 2.34). The 1955 plan continued from earlier development plans the intent to develop a tour road around the perimeter of the site. The proposed route was similar to earlier plans, leading south from the parking lot, passing in front (south) of the Malus-Beauregard House, then looping around the battlefield. The landscape, according to the plan, "including surrounding open terrain and wooded areas to be restored and maintained to recreate the historic scene."

As noted in the 2021 Historic Structure Report, the NPS was at this time most interested in restoring the appearance of the battlefield. According to the Historic Structure Report, "The focus on the battlefield also damaged the historic landscape around" the Malus-Beauregard House.[296] The NPS removed an allée of pecan trees extending north of the house through the battlefield towards St. Bernard Highway.

The building was in poor condition. A brick addition on the house had collapsed. Blythe notes that the NPS was aware that over time owners of the house made extensive changes to its interior and exterior, but it is unclear how they considered these changes when doing the

292. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 61.
293. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 65.
294. Ibid.
295. This publication is available online: https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug.30112079548357&view=1up&seq=3.
296. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report*, 20.



Figure 2.36: A 1969 photograph showing the visitor route from the parking area at the monument to the visitor center in the Malus-Beauregard House. Note plantings on both sides of the walkway beyond the bridge over the canal (State Library of Louisiana).

restoration.[297] Between 1956 and 1958, the NPS spent $90,000 to restore the exterior and convert the second floor to a museum space. In addition to clearing the collapsed addition, the NPS removed a circa-1905 addition. While the NPS worked on the building, they opened a temporary museum in the caretaker's cottage close to the monument. In March 1958, once the restoration was completed, the NPS relocated the exhibits in the caretaker's cottage into the Malus-Beauregard House and opened it to the public as the visitor center on May 18, 1958. After the opening of the visitor center at the Malus-Beauregard House, the NPS demolished the caretaker's house southeast of the Chalmette Monument.

According to Blythe, during the early years of their management of the park, the NPS struggled with the fact that few historic resources remained at Chalmette. He writes that the loss of historic plantation homes and the visual intrusion of recent industrial development around the park "made it difficult to convey to visitors the conditions that prevailed in January 1815."[298] The ruins of the Rodriguez Canal were essentially the remaining legible landscape feature with a direct connection to the battle.

297. Blythe, *Administrative History, 66.*
298. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 67.

The NPS began studying the feasibility of reconstructing "Line Jackson," the mud rampart Jackson built in preparation for battle against the British. Some NPS officials, including Chalmette Superintendent Lyle Linch, doubted there was sufficient information to accurately recreate the structure, but he decided to build a small section of a rampart using soil dredged from the Mississippi River. This occurred between 1955 and 1957. The NPS extended the rampart another 400 feet in 1958.[299] Under pressure from local supporters of the park and from Louisiana's two senators, the NPS agreed to extend the line even further, eventually reconstructing approximately 1,400 feet of the rampart. According to a 1962 construction document, the contractor extending the rampart to the north had to "remove twenty trees" for the project.[300] The NPS also constructed 200 replicas of cotton bales, made of concrete, to represent the bales Jackson used at the embrasures at the cannon batteries.[301] Most of the rampart had cypress planks holding up the earth bank; the remaining 100 feet on the north end of the reconstructed line had parallel rows of logs held in place with stakes to support the earthwork.[302] The rampart and cannon installed at Battery Four appear in a photograph taken approximately a decade after the rampart's construction (Figure 2.35).

Afterward, Superintendent Linch was skeptical of the reconstructed line's historical accuracy. According to Blythe, Linch "believed that the reconstructed line was far more elaborate and uniform that what the Americans would have thrown up in the course of a couple of weeks of intermittent labor. [The rampart] would no doubt shock sincere historians and Andy Jackson."[303] Hurricane Betsy scattered the concrete hay bales in September 1965 and the NPS did not replace them.

In the mid-1950s, the Eastern Office of the NPS Division of Design and Construction developed preliminary plans for an expanded parking area and comfort station. One plan proposed extending the parking areas to the south and adding a loop road to connect the lots. This road would have passed to the south of the large live oak trees

299. Ibid.
300. NPS, "Reconstruction of Mud Rampart," 1962 (ETIC 467-3015).
301. NPS, "American Line," 1964 (ETIC 467-3021).
302. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 68.
303. Ibid.

currently growing at the site near the former location of the Rodriguez buildings.[304]

As-built drawings from 1957 show the NPS scaled back the project and changed the configuration and orientation of the parking lots. Rather than have two lots oriented north to south, this new plan has a single lot extending east to west. The lot is set approximately 60 feet south of Monument Circle to create a greenspace between the lot and the monument. This establishes the general configuration of the circulation that survives today. This greenspace will become the location of two iterations of visitor centers, including the current one. This project also established the location of the comfort station to the southwest of the monument.[305] This configuration of the parking lot, walkways, and comfort station appears on another plan completed two years later, in 1959, as the NPS began developing scenarios for a "Oneway Tour Road" through the battlefield.[306]

For many decades, the southern path to the monument was on axis with the monument. The 1957 drawing shows that the NPS moved the path east behind the Rodriguez Canal at this time. The path, called the "Jackson Battle Line Path," continued north, past the monument and paralleled the canal. A new walkway connected the parking area at the monument to the Malus-Beauregard House. This walkway appears in a photograph from approximately a decade after its construction. The walkway crossed the Rodriguez Canal on a wooden bridge. Shrubs lined both sides of the walkway near the bridge (Figure 2.36).[307] An "As Built Planting Plan" from 1959 shows that the NPS also planted azaleas around the Malus-Beauregard House, both next to the foundation on the south elevation and along the walkway as it passed through the yard north of the building. Other plantings included magnolia trees, osmanthus shrubs, and additional live oaks.[308]

Lyle Linch became superintendent of Chalmette in 1954 and served in this capacity until 1964. Robert Blythe provides a detailed review of Superintendent Lyle Linch's accomplishments in his *Administrative History*. Linch oversaw major improvements to both the infrastructure and interpretive programs at the historical park. During his tenure, Linch successfully increased public awareness of and support for the park. Linch published columns in the *St. Bernard Voice*, a weekly newspaper. He developed the Little Colonels Club, which recruited high school girls to give tours to visitors while dressed in antebellum gowns. (The Little Colonels Club remained active at Chalmette into the early 1980s, when the NPS discontinued the program and replaced it with the Volunteer in the Parks program.)[309] Events celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans had been intermittently held at Chalmette since the dedication of the monument in 1915. In 1957, Linch organized the first reenactment of the battle featuring local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts dressed in homemade uniforms. The NPS reassigned Linch, despite his objections, just before the sesquicentennial celebration in January 1965.[310]

Efforts in the 1950s to secure additional state funding for more land acquisition failed, largely due to the opposition posed by newly reelected Governor Earl Long. Pressure on the NPS to acquire the land upon which the battle was fought increased over the next few years when the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company decided to build a plant in the area.

The NPS and the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation

In February 1951, the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation (Kaiser) purchased the 273-acre tract east of the national cemetery. This land included 72 acres within the authorized boundary for the Chalmette National Park. It contained the locations of both War of 1812 resources, including British batteries, and Civil War resources, including a large earthwork originally constructed by the Confederates to defend New Orleans. The National Park Service immediately recognized the negative impact this development posed to their development plans. Regional Director Cox wrote, "If this property is developed as planned…. One unfortunate result which we can visualize would be the dwarfing of the Park by the near-by plant development."[311] Robert Blythe provides a detailed

304. NPS, "Proposed Improvements Cemetery and Monument Area," 1956 (ETIC 467-3002).
305. NPS, "As-Built Drawings," 1956 (ETIC 467-3005).
306. See for example: JELA_467_3011, JELA_467_3012F, and JELA_467_3012A.
307. NPS, "As-Built Drawings," 1956 (ETIC 467/3005).
308. NPS, "As-Built Planting Plan," 1959 (ETIC 467-3001).
309. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 71.
310. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 72.
311. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 47.

examination of the machinations behind Kaiser's decision to build a plant next to the national cemetery in his *Administrative History*. At the end of the day, dismayed NPS officials were unable to stop it. Kaiser constructed the plant in just 10 months and engaged in an effective publicity campaign advertising its positive impact on the local economy.[312] The NPS feared that the plant would also attract other secondary industries to this location.

In 1952, the NPS learned that Kaiser was attempting to purchase the land between Fazendeville and the national cemetery. The rumor was that Kaiser was going to build a rolling mill. Secretary of the Interior Chapman contacted the company's owner, Henry Kaiser, to convince him of the historic significance of the tract. Chapman emphasized that the land contained large portions of the actual battlefield, including the field across which the British made their main advance. Kaiser responded that they would consider the significance of the site as long as it did not interfere with their industrial expansion. Kaiser purchased the property in 1952, much to the chagrin of the NPS and local advocates for preservation of the battlefield. However, around the time the sale closed, the federal government denied Kaiser Aluminum's application to build a plate and coil mill "in the vicinity of Kaiser's Chalmette operations," presumably the battlefield property.[313]

The NPS now confronted two obstacles to realizing their vision for the park. The Kaiser property and the 7-acre village of Fazendeville. Numerous local and national preservation groups reached out to Kaiser on behalf of the NPS. Advocates for the park included the Louisiana Landmarks Society, the National Historical Park Association, the Louisiana Historical Society, the Society of the War of 1812 in Louisiana, the Colonial Dames of America, and the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

St. Bernard Parish businesspeople and local politicians came out in favor of the Kaiser project. The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce published an editorial touting its role in attracting Kaiser to the area and opining that "the advantages inherent in the dedication of this land to modern purposes transcend those that would accrue from an historic consecration."[314] New Orleans Mayor Chep Morrison publicly encouraged Kaiser to develop the property before preservation advocates could get organized. Despite park supporters' efforts, Kaiser officials denied their overtures to donate the land. Further complicating matters, Kaiser also claimed ownership of the land between the national cemetery and the river. The United States Attorney ruled in August 1955 that the parcel was in fact federal property.[315]

In 1956, Kaiser constructed a 500-foot smokestack that loomed over the cemetery and park.[316]

In early 1957, St. Bernard Sewerage District Number 1 announced their plans to construct a wastewater treatment plan on 1.5 acres provided to them by Kaiser. The location of the plant was just east of the Malus-Beauregard House. Blythe's Administrative History recounts the decision-making process surrounding the wastewater plant. Conceding the fact that St. Bernard's growth necessitated a wastewater facility, Blythe speculates that Kaiser wanted to locate a non-historic facility on the battleground so as "to argue that the historic scene had already been compromised if it later sought to develop the rest of the acreage."[317]

Local preservation groups advocated for an alternative site. They were, however, unsuccessful, but they were able to get the plant moved further away from the Malus-Beauregard House to a location southeast of Fazendeville. The sewerage district completed the plant in 1958 and it opened in early 1959. The NPS planted trees and shrubs to buffer views of it from the cemetery and park. [318]

The wastewater plant experience increased pressure on preservation advocates to convince Kaiser to donate their tract to the NPS. Martha Robinson, leader of the Louisiana Landmarks Society, organized a petition signed by historians, philanthropists, and members of multiple preservation and civic organizations. Kaiser was, for now, unmoved, though word spread that the board of directors were open to a land swap, but a meeting between the NPS and Kaiser

312. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 50.
313. Blythe, *Administrative History,* 51.
314. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 53.
315. Ibid.
316. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 50.
317. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 54.
318. NPS, "As-Built Planting Plan," 1959 (ETIC 467-3001).

representatives in October 1957 failed to reach a resolution on the matter.

By 1958, the NPS faced the reality of having an aluminum plant to its east and having failed to consolidate ownership of the land proscribed in its enabling legislature and subsequent boundary adjustments. In March 1958, Secretary of the Interior Frederick Seaton approved a new park boundary of 136 acres, a dramatic reduction from the original 500 acres originally approved. The revised boundary contained the 52.28-acre monument tract and Malus-Beauregard House, the 17.33-acre national cemetery tract, and 66 acres in between these two tracts, including the Kaiser property and Fazendeville.

In 1959, Congressman Edward Hébert introduced a bill authorizing the federal government spend federal funds to acquire land for the park, departing from the original legislation that the NPS could only accept land by donation. However, in April 1959, Kaiser Aluminum announced its willingness to donate their property to the NPS. In the seven years since originally purchasing the land, Kaiser had constructed other facilities, including plate and sheet mills, in other locations, perhaps making the Chalmette land less essential to their expansion plans. Having seemingly cleared this hurdle, the NPS turned their attention to preparing for the sesquicentennial celebration of the battle and acquiring the village of Fazendeville.

NPS acquisition of Fazendeville

During the mid-1960s, the National Park Service acquired, through purchase or condemnation, the individual properties that composed the Fazendeville subdivision and, after demolishing the homes, incorporated the land into the battlefield park.[319] A few years earlier, rumors spread within the community that the federal government was planning to acquire and eliminate Fazendeville. Their concept plans from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s showed as much. The residents of Fazendeville could not be optimistic because of their history of not getting much support from its public officials during other critical moments in their history, including the movement to attain voting rights and to desegregate the schools.[320]

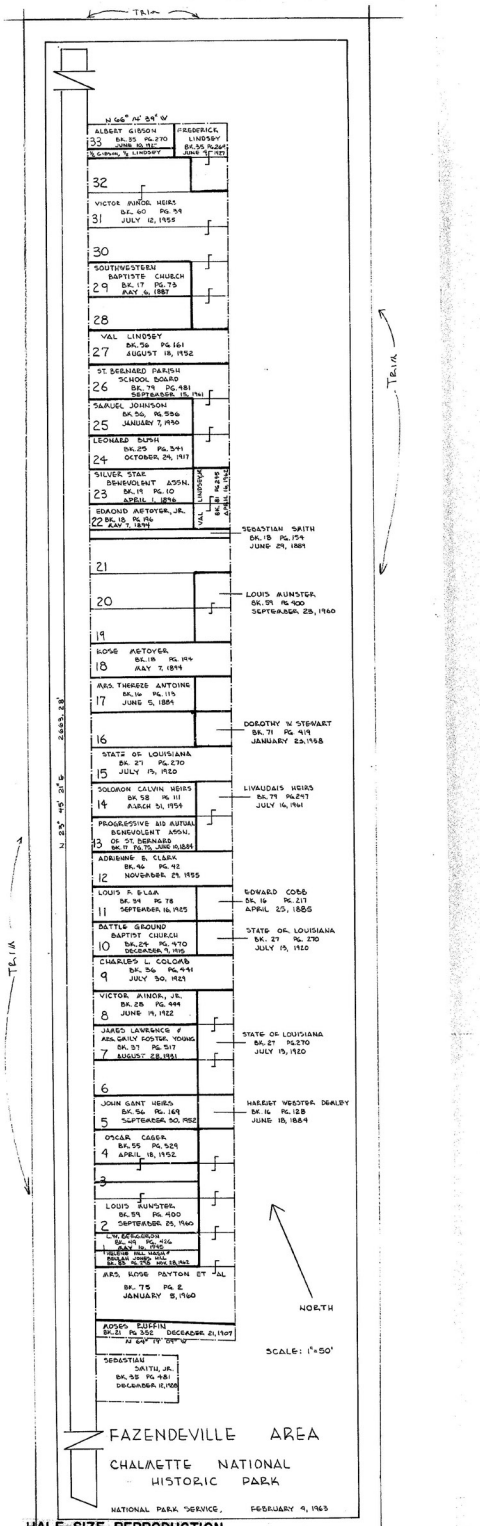


Figure 2.37: A 1963 list of Fazendeville Property Owners (National Park Service, ETIC 467-30000).

Fazendeville residents retained a lawyer in 1962 to help them acquire information from the NPS and to better understand their rights.[321] Below is an excerpt from a letter, dated September 20, 1962, that an attorney sent to United States Senator

319. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 18.
320. Jackson, *Life in the Village,* 95.
321. Ibid.

Russell Long on behalf of Mr. Eugene Cager and several other property owners in Fazendeville:

> This office has been retained by Mr. Eugene Cager and several property owners of Fazend Village, Louisiana, to represent their interest relative to establishment of a new National Park in their area. These people tell me that newspaper publications indicate that Fazend Village, which is located in Chalmette between the National Monument and the National Cemetery will be wiped out as a result of the establishment of this park.
>
> There are approximately forty families mostly negro living in this area and they are naturally anxious to know what they might expect. Since you have sponsored this bill establishing the park, would you please let me know whether the park will encompass the area of Fazend Village, and, if so, what steps are to be taken in condemning the property owned by these people. I would appreciate knowing the present stage of this bill and whether it is now in committee. Will you please send me any pertinent information pertaining to the rules and regulations by which this property will be condemned and methods of determining how much these property owners will be reimbursed.[322]

The assistant director of the NPS sent a letter on October 8, 1962 to Senator Russell Long to respond to his inquiry on the Fazendeville property. It stated, "As you know, S. J. Res. 60 has been cleared by Congress for the President's signature. The National Park Service proposes to acquire all of the inholdings within the Park described in the bill, including property known as Fazendeville……."[323]

On February 7, 1964, Frank J. Barry, National Park Service Solicitor wrote a letter to the Honorable Attorney General of the United States. His letter states:

> For use in connection with the administration, protection, and development of the Chalmette National Historical Park pursuant to the act of October 9, 1962 (76 Stat. 755), I have determined that it is necessary, advantageous, and in the interest of the United States to acquire by condemnation a parcel of land in St. Bernard Parish, State of Louisiana, consisting of 7.02 acres, more or less, and described in the exhibits to the enclosed Declaration of Taking.
>
> This 7.02-acre parcel lies in the heart of the field over which the historic Battle of New Orleans was fought in January of 1815. Its early acquisition, as an entirety is necessary in order to construct a tour road, to erect markers to interpret the Battle of New Orleans, and otherwise to prepare for the forthcoming sesquicentennial celebration of the battle.[324]



Figure 2.38: A photograph of "WPA workmen aligning headstones at the Chalmette Cemetery in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana in 1937" (State Library of Louisiana).

Even though planning for the removal of Fazendeville had been in the NPS's mind for at three decades, this was the first official federal justification. While the NPS rationalized the taking, based on the historic significance of the site, residents of Fazendeville objected to the process. Many residents, based on Jackson's research, came to resent the federal government's obliteration of their homes and community.

Jackson recounts in her report on Fazendeville the views of Rev. Theodore Sanders:

> People from Fazendeville picketed the courthouse [in Chalmette] in 1963 and protested with signs because they could not vote. They had to recite the Preamble to the Constitution or pay poll taxes. So, they were suing the parish for their right to vote. Now Kaiser Aluminum sold

322. Jackson, *Life in the Village,* 95.
323. Ibid.
324. Jackson, *Life in the Village,* 93.

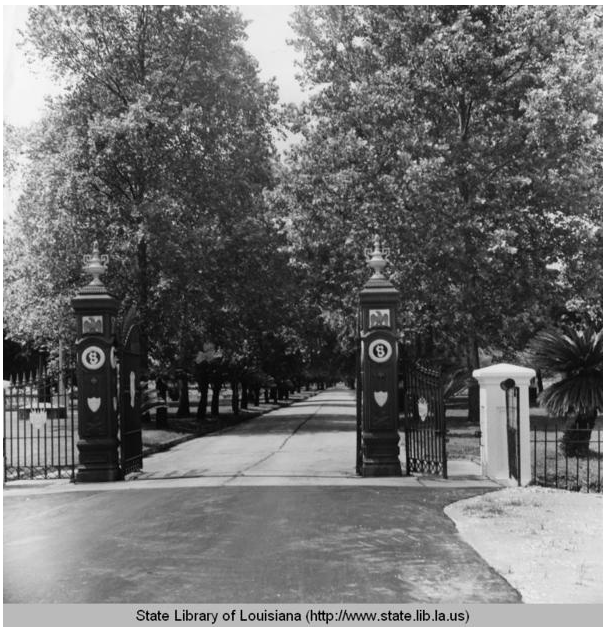


Figure 2.39: A photograph taken of the main entrance gates into the national cemetery around 1955 after the paving of the central drive (State Library of Louisiana).

> the property on both sides. So, when it came to the Village, the politicians did not defend the Village and allowed the Federal Government to move us out. Frank Cager, Morris Williams and Val Lindsey were the last ones to sell their property…. I moved out in 1953 and there was talk that the Village was going to be sold then.[325]

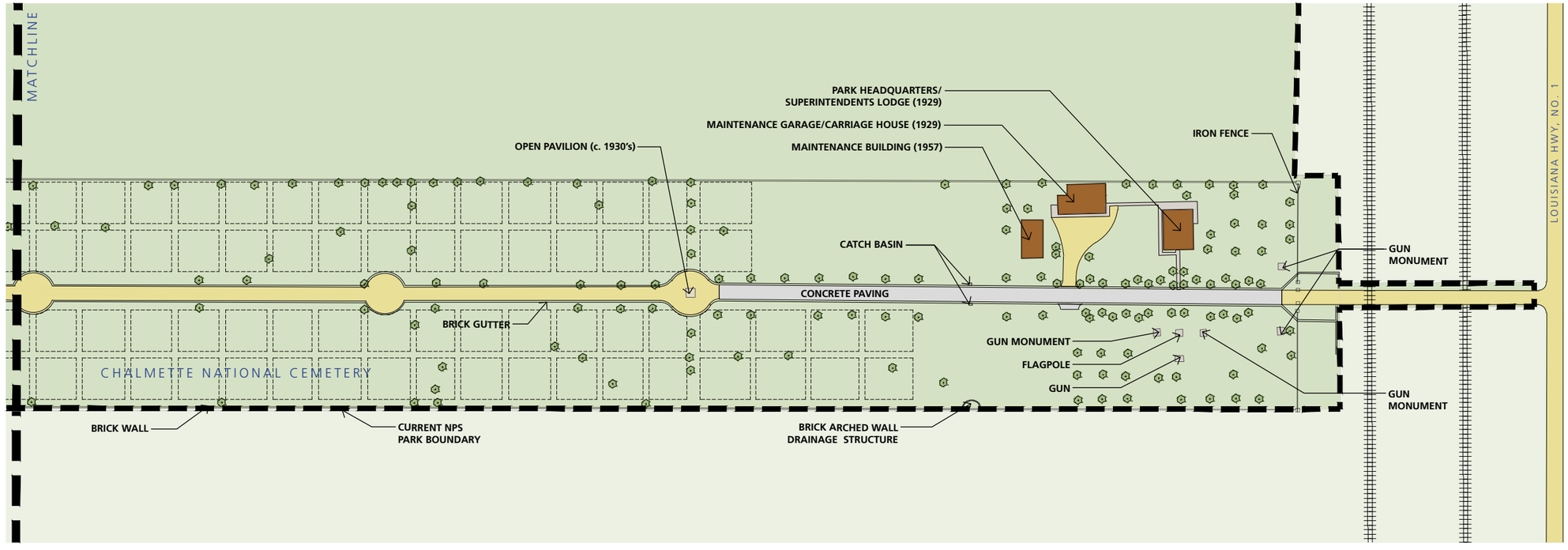
The NPS-hired appraisers completed most of their work by February 1963. The NPS entered into contracts with 41 of the 44 property owners, leaving the remaining three properties to be settled by a judge (Figure 2.37). The average purchase price was $4,256, resulting in a total expense of $191,667 for the entire village. Initially, the NPS gave residents of the village "three months to relocate and to remove their possessions."[326] However, the time was extended for individual cases. Some had to have time to acquire loans to purchase other property, others had to have time for appraisals, some moved their houses to other sites, and some wanted time to try and fight the government or to try and get a better price for their property. A few of the property owners relocated their homes to other places, but many were simply bulldozed. The NPS closed Fazendeville on November 24, 1964; and most houses had been removed by the end of the year. Two houses remained a few more months and were still on site as the NPS completed the tour loop road and celebrated the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.[327]

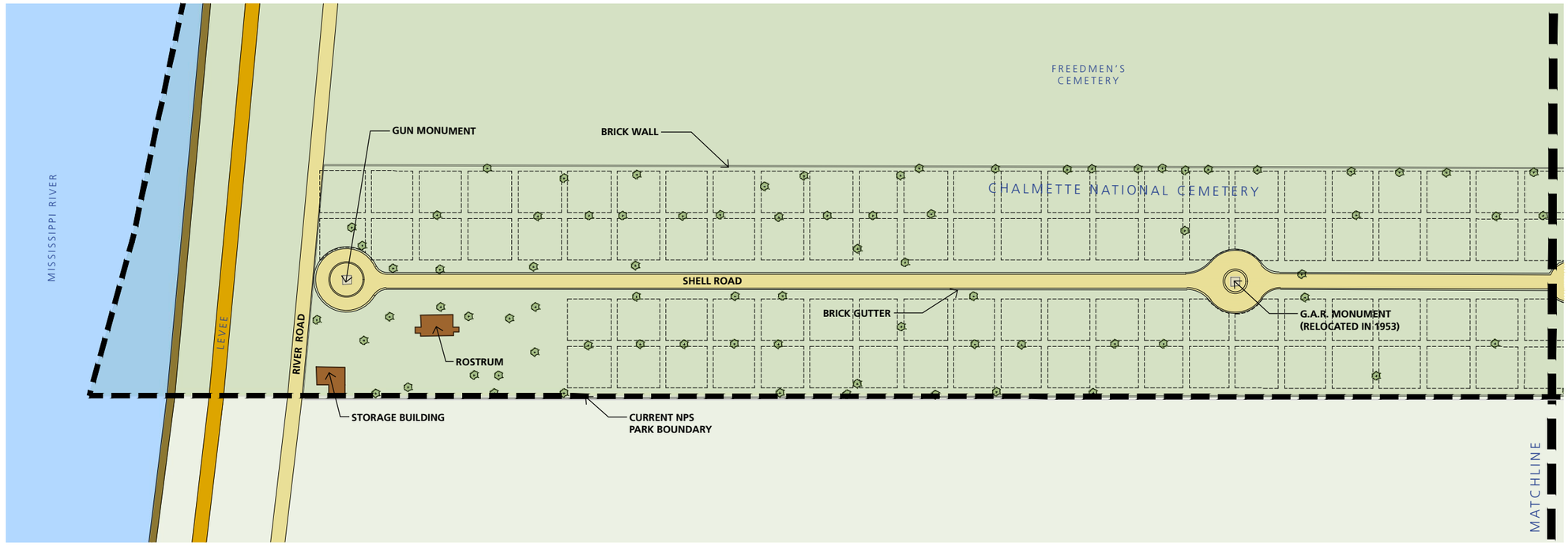
Early years of NPS and Chalmette National Cemetery

Blythe's *Administrative History* states that the national cemetery was running out of space for new burials at the time of its transfer to the NPS in October 1933 (See Illustration 2.6). The War Department had considered expanding the cemetery during their management of the site to be able to accommodate more burials. They looked at buying a noncontiguous site, the parcel immediately east of the cemetery, and also at purchasing land on the north side of St. Bernard Highway; but they never acted upon any of these scenarios. The NPS did, however, prepare in 1942 a conceptual design for the cemetery incorporating the parcel east of the existing cemetery.[328] The design appears to recommend removal of the existing central drive through the cemetery and replacing it with a larger oval road in the center of the combined parcels. The cemetery would have two entrances: a northern entrance connecting to St. Bernard Highway and a second entrance that connected to a road that led into the battlefield park. By 1944, the cemetery was essentially full and NPS Director Newton Drury approved in November the decision to close the cemetery to new burials except for those with existing reservations.[329] Residents in the New Orleans area opposed this move, but the NPS resisted pressure to expand the cemetery. They were hesitant to purchase the land on either side of the cemetery because of its historic association with the battlefield. Regardless, the opportunity to do so ended when the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation purchased several of the tracts around the cemetery in the 1950s.

From the beginning of their management of the property, the NPS struggled with how to interpret the cemetery. Blythe quotes NPS landscape architect Edward Zimmer, who stated in 1942, "The existing cemetery has no historical relationship to the battle at Chalmette and… the development of the historical park is, in a measure

325. Jackson, *Life in the Village,* 94.
326. Ibid.
327. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 60.
328. NPS, "General Development Plan," 1950 (ETIC 467-2169).
329. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 78.





0' 130' 260' North

Credits

The following sources were used to create this period illustration:

1. NPS Topographic Base Map of Chalmette National Cemetery, 1953 (ETIC 467-2016)

Illustration 2.7
(1953)
Chalmette National Cemetery

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handicapped by its existence."[330] The proximity of the cemetery to the battlefield park would presumably lead visitors to believe that the interred were associated with the Battle of New Orleans.

According to Blythe, the NPS made few significant changes to the cemetery landscape prior to the mid-1950s. They had removed a small rostrum from the north end of the cemetery in 1947, but most of the NPS's work at the cemetery involved straightening of grave markers and general maintenance.[331]

A photograph from 1937 shows workmen with the Works Progress Administration straightening the grave markers. Piles of gravel on the central drive suggests they resurfaced the road during this period (Figure 2.38). An NPS drawing dated 1955 shows plans to "Grade Drain and Surface Cemetery Road."[332] The plans show the design to repave the road in concrete and replaced the brick curb and gutters with concrete ones. The plans also record the decision to remove the five circles along the drive, create an oblong parking area in the location of one of the circles, and added a circular cul-de-sac at the southern end. According to the drawings, the road was to be 18 feet wide, and the parking areas widened to 35 feet. The cul-de-sac became the location of the GAR Monument, which the NPS relocated from its position in the center of the cemetery drive. At least two gun monuments were removed from their location at the most northern of the circles; they were presumably relocated to the open space across (east) from the Superintendent's Lodge. The NPS constructed a maintenance shed in 1957 at the southern edge of the newly expanded utility court serving the lodge building and carriage house (See Illustration 2.7).

The northern entrance into the national cemetery appears in a photograph dated circa 1955 (Figure 2.39). The central drive inside the gate and fence is concrete with a prominent score joint down its center line. The approach road outside (north) the gate is dark asphalt. The cast iron pillars of the gate are painted, where they do not appear so in earlier photographs.

Photographs of the national cemetery during the middle decades of the 1900s often show six parallel rows of trees: one row just inside both the east and west walls, one lining either side of the central drive, and one in the medial pathways approximately halfway between the central drive and the cemetery walls, where the spacing of the grave markers is deliberately wider to accommodate such planting. Records suggest that live oaks, magnolias, and cedars were among the most common trees planted, especially during the first several decades. Cemetery staff planted numerous sycamores in the national cemetery in 1927. An "As-Built Planting Plan" dated 1959 records the plants existing at that time and new trees planted in the national cemetery. The existing plant list was extensive and included: live oak, American elm, hackberry, water oak, Eastern red cedar, Southern magnolia, bay trees, crepe myrtle, Japanese plum, camphor tree, date palm, black cherry and sycamore. The trees were still at that time in six parallel rows. Some gaps existed, mostly along the central drive and along the enclosure wall.[333] The newly planted trees fill some of the gaps existing along the perimeter walls, along the central drive, and within the walkways.

During the 1960s, two major storms—Hurricane Betsy in September 1965 and Hurricane Camille in August 1969—caused significant damage. A "Storm Damage Planting Plan" prepared in 1976 suggests many trees were lost in the national cemetery. If the plan is accurate, most of the trees along the central drive, seen on the 1959 inventory described above, were now missing except for several on the north end of the national cemetery near the maintenance shed. A few trees appear along the middle row of the burial sections on both sides of the road. Only one tree appears next to the enclosure wall, near the middle of the cemetery on the west side. The plan proposes replanting trees along the walkway between the burial sections but does not propose more trees along the enclosure wall or central drive.[334] It is unclear if this plan was ever implemented.[335] Also after Hurricane Betsy, the NPS removed the 1897 stable building from the south end of the national cemetery because of damage it received in the storm.

330. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 85.
331. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 79.
332. NPS, "Grade Drain and Surface Cemetery Road," 1955 (ETIC 467-3000).
333. NPS, "As-Built Planting Plan," 1959 (ETIC 467-3001).
334. NPS, "Storm Damage Planting," 1967 (ETIC 467-3026).
335. Risk, Cultural Landscape Report, 25.



Figure 2.40: Aerial photograph taken during sesquicentennial ceremony (National Park Service).

Mission 66 and the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans (1965-1978)

Local supporters of Chalmette National Historical Park initiated the plan for a major event marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. On October 9, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed into law a resolution to create the Battle of New Orleans Sesquicentennial Celebration Commission. The commission supervised several events leading up to the event, including essay competitions, publication of multiple histories on the battle, and minting of commemorative medallions.

Planning for the sesquicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans, scheduled for January 8, 1965, coincided with the NPS system-wide effort, known as the Mission 66 Program, to update park facilities to coincide with the NPS's 50th anniversary in 1966.

Prior to the 1950s, visitors to Chalmette received minimal NPS-directed interpretation. The park custodian, living in the superintendent's lodge at the national cemetery, was available to answer questions and offered occasional programs, but, on most days, visitors essentially led themselves around the park. Interpretation of the battle was limited to a series of interpretive markers along Jackson's line. The main initiative in the months leading up to the sesquicentennial celebration was to develop the tour road. From early planning efforts in the 1940s, as the NPS began considering how to interpret the battlefield, a loop road was a central feature in the landscape. As Blythe notes in his *Administrative History*, a tour road was the "time-honored approach of the NPS at battlefields."[336] The development plan from 1945 had shown the road running along the edge of the river, south of the Malus-Beauregard House. It was moved north in subsequent development plans at the behest of local government officials in the 1950s. A general development plan from 1960 shows a service road connecting the proposed tour road to the utility court in the national cemetery. The plan also shows employee residences built on this service road.[337] These residences were not constructed as money was dedicated to finishing the tour route.

By spring 1964, months away from the sesquicentennial celebration, the tour road around the battlefield was unfinished and some expressed concern the road would not be ready

336. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 63.
337. NPS, "General Development Plan," 1961 (ETIC 467/3012).

in time. Regional Director Elbert Cox wrote that "Plans for the work are now in progress, and we hope to get the work under contract as soon as the funds become available."[338] In April 1964, NPS decided to divert $250,000 from other parks to complete projects at Chalmette. The contract for constructing the road was finally awarded on September 10, 1964.

The work was completed before the end of the year, "at a cost of $104,000."[339] The road crossed the location of the rampart and the Rodriguez Canal in two places. The park's interpretive prospectus stated, "The tour road will provide visual access to all significant parts of the battlefield that are still remaining. . .. The route of the principal [British] attack column as well as the reconstructed Mud Rampart. . .will all be visible from some part of the tour road."[340] According to Blythe, there were six interpretive stops at this time:

- Stop 1 (on the entrance drive): Pull-off with eight parking spaces. Marker showing the locations of batteries 7 and 8 and the route of the British advance.
- Stop 2 (on entrance drive): Pull-off with six parking spaces. Marker interpreting batteries 5 and 6, the British advance, and interpretation of mud rampart.
- Stop 3 (east of Malus-Beauregard near Fazendeville and Sewage Disposal Plant): Pull-off with ten parking spaces. Marker interpreting the battle on west bank of the river and 93rd Highlander's assault.
- Stop 4 (in southeast corner of open field): Pull-off with six parking spaces. Marker on British artillery barrage on January 1 and January 8.
- Stop 5 (northeast corner of open field): Pull-off with ten parking spaces. Marker with map on 3 to 5-foot-tall, elevated platform overlooking battlefield interpreting the British troops.
- Stop 6 (northwest corner of open field): Pull-off with six parking spaces. Marker on cypress swamp and Pakenham.[341]

According to an Association Press article printed in the *Monroe Morning World* on January 9, 1965, an estimated 3,000 people attended the sesquicentennial ceremony. The article suggest that it was "probably the largest crowd at Chalmette since the battle." Planes flew over the crowd's heads; troops from the United States, Britain, and Canada marched in the open field. The celebration concluded with a series of speakers, including Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Governor John J. Mckeithen, and local congressmen and senators (See Illustration 2.8).[342]

An aerial photograph taken during the sesquicentennial celebration shows throngs of people lining the Battlefield Rampart and surrounding the monument, where a stage and temporary shelter has been erected.[343] The photograph is looking southeast past the monument towards the river (Figure 2.40). At least one house in Fazendeville is visible, confirming that a few of the houses not been cleared prior to the celebration. The newly completed tour loop road is visible snaking through the battlefield, passing between a Fazendeville house and the wastewater treatment plant. The road is raised above the surrounding grade, with relatively steep slopes extending down from the roadway to the surrounding fields. The area between the Malus-Beauregard House and the wastewater treatment plant has evenly spaced deciduous trees that appear to be pecans. There are a few other smaller live oak trees growing in the yard north and east of the Malus-Beauregard House. A large live oak grows along the rampart. (The tree is still present as of 2020.) There is a large cedar tree further south along the rampart, near where the tour loop road enters Monument Circle. There are smaller cedars planted in the greenspace south of the monument.

As mentioned previously, Courtland T. Reid replaced long-serving superintendent Lyle Linch

338. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 72.
339. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 62.
340. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 68.
341. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 68–69.
342. "Peace at Chalmette Plains," *Monroe Morning World* (Monroe, LA) January 9, 1965, 2.
343. The referenced photograph was found at the website for WWNO, the New Orleans Public Radio Station. They credit the National Park Service (https://www.wwno.org/post/fazendeville-town-razed-make-way-chalmette-national-monument).

on September 20, 1964. He served through the sesquicentennial celebration, staying in the position for a few more months before he was replaced by Robert R. Jacobson on July 3, 1965. Arthur Hehr became superintendent in 1967 and served in that role until 1974, when Lionel Bienvenue became superintendent.

The Chalmette Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (1978-2023)

When the NPS created Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in 1978, the superintendent of Chalmette National Historical Park, Lionel Bienvenue, was appointed acting superintendent of the new park and preserve. In January 1979, James Isenogle became the first official superintendent for the new park and preserve. Isenogle soon appointed A. Wilson Greene to be the unit manager of the Chalmette Unit. The Chalmette Unit included the battlefield, the Chalmette Monument, the Malus-Beauregard House, and the Chalmette National Cemetery.

In the 1970s, tour boats began offering trips from New Orleans to the historical park. In the early 1980s, the USACE constructed a three-foot tall seawall and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District built a dock capable of accommodating larger boats. The *Creole Queen,* able to carry up to 1,000 passengers, began making a regular stop at the battlefield. According to Blythe, by 1993, approximately 60 percent of visitors to the park arrived on the ship.[344]

The NPS began planning for a new visitor center at Chalmette, eventually constructing a 1,200 square-feet visitor center placed on the west side of the open space between the monument and the parking lot that the NPS had added in the 1950s. The building opened to the public in April 1986. During planning for the new visitor center, the Chalmette Unit prepared several historical studies to improve the NPS's understanding of the site. Archeologist Ted Birkedal led an archeological investigation that confirmed the location of the Rodriguez House, explored the construction of the American rampart, identified the correct locations of the batteries, and contradicted a long-held belief that up to 800 feet of riverfront had been lost to erosion.[345]

After new visitor center opened, the NPS restored the Malus-Beauregard House again. By 1993, when this project began, the NPS was aware of the 1850-era remodeling but decided, due to the lack of information about the early appearance of the building, to remodel the building to its 1856-1866 appearance. During the restoration, the NPS reversed many of the alterations made during the building's conversion into a museum and exhibit space. They returned the original three-room plan on the second story and replicated period-appropriate finishes.[346]

At the national cemetery, NPS staff removed the cast iron tables, "The Bivouac of the Dead," in 1986.[347]

Kaiser's aluminum plant in Chalmette closed in 1983. The St Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District purchased the 273-acre site and made it into an industrial park. The district removed many of the Kaiser buildings but kept the 500-foot smokestack and several other buildings. In 2001, St. Bernard Parish began the process of closing the wastewater treatment plant.

Geraldine Smith became superintendent of the park and preserve in June 1996. One of her initiatives was to improve interpretation of African American history at the park. She initiated a number of programs, outlined in Blythe's *Administrative History*, to connect with local African American students and residents. At this time, the Chalmette Unit investigated the history of Fazendeville, started an oral history project on the village, and invited former residents to hold reunions at the park. In 2002, NPS authorized the creation of the Chalmette Battlefield Task Force, whose goal was to improve communication between the NPS and local community.[348]

Keven Risk prepared a cultural landscape report on the unit in 1999. In 2002 the Southeast Archeological Center completed an archeological

344. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 83

345. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 87.
346. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 67.
347. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 85.
348. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 89.

survey of the Chalmette Battlefield.[349] This project combined both shovel tests laid out on a systematic grid over the 22.1 acres of the battlefield and a ground penetrating radar survey (GPR). The GPR survey examined the edges of the rampart, to determine if the rampart was in the correct location, looked for a Civil War-era powder magazine, and attempted to locate the Freedmen's Cemetery.

In 2005, the NPS installed nine simple bronze plaques in the circular lawn around the Chalmette Monument. The nine markers honor the various components of the American military that participated in the Chalmette Battle. The markers commemorate the 7th and 44th U.S. Infantry, the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Artillery, the Louisiana Militia, the Mississippi Militia, the Choctaw Nation, the Kentucky Militia, and the Tennessee Militia.

The NPS began an effort to update the General Management Plan for the park and preserve. The document was still being prepared in August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana. The storm surge from the hurricane inundated the Chalmette National Cemetery and Battlefield. High winds uprooted trees and ripped the roofs off buildings. The flooding inside the Superintendent's Lodge at the national cemetery reached 5 feet.

NPS initiated the effort to repair the Chalmette Unit almost immediately, removing downed trees and stabilizing damaged structures. The NPS oversaw the development of construction documents to repair and replace buildings and other landscape features. The damage to the visitor center forced the NPS to raze the building and build a new one. Prior planning suggested moving the visitor center to a less conspicuous location, but it was rebuilt in the open space between the monument and the parking lot. Whereas the previous visitor center was placed to the side of the monument, the new visitor center stretches across the center of the open space. This placement blocked, for the first time, axial views of the monument from the south. This larger visitor center opened in 2010.

Hurricane Katrina also knocked out the dock on the river, which had to be rebuilt. Boat trips to Chalmette resumed in December 2009.

In the national cemetery, NPS staff worked to repair broken headstones.[350] In 2007, the architecture firm, Lord, Aeck and Sargent, prepared a PreDesign Project Program report for repairing infrastructure damaged during Hurricane Katrina. This report states that 27 percent of the brick enclosure wall had collapsed during the storm. Additionally, the firm also identified areas where the wall was in poor condition or suffered from other issues, including the presence of incompatible or poorly installed mortar.[351] They prepared construction documents to repair the brick enclosure wall and curbs in the National Cemetery in 2008. The project included rebuilding collapsed sections of wall and disassembling and rebuilding damaged sections. Approximately 803 linear feet of the east enclosure wall and 1,150 linear feet of the west enclosure wall was repaired during this project. The brick drainage structure on the east wall was also repaired at this time. It appears that the structure may have separated from the east wall, necessitating the addition of a steel strap buried below grade that is then bolted onto the wall. Lastly, the project also rebuilt several sections of the brick curb along the central drive, currently known as Military Cemetery Road, which had collapsed.[352] Efforts continued in 2016, when more than 800 people joined together to clean and repair graves covered in soot, soil and algae.[353]

349. John Cornelison Jr. and Tammy D. Cooper, *An Archeological Survey of the Chalmette Battlefield at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, 2002).

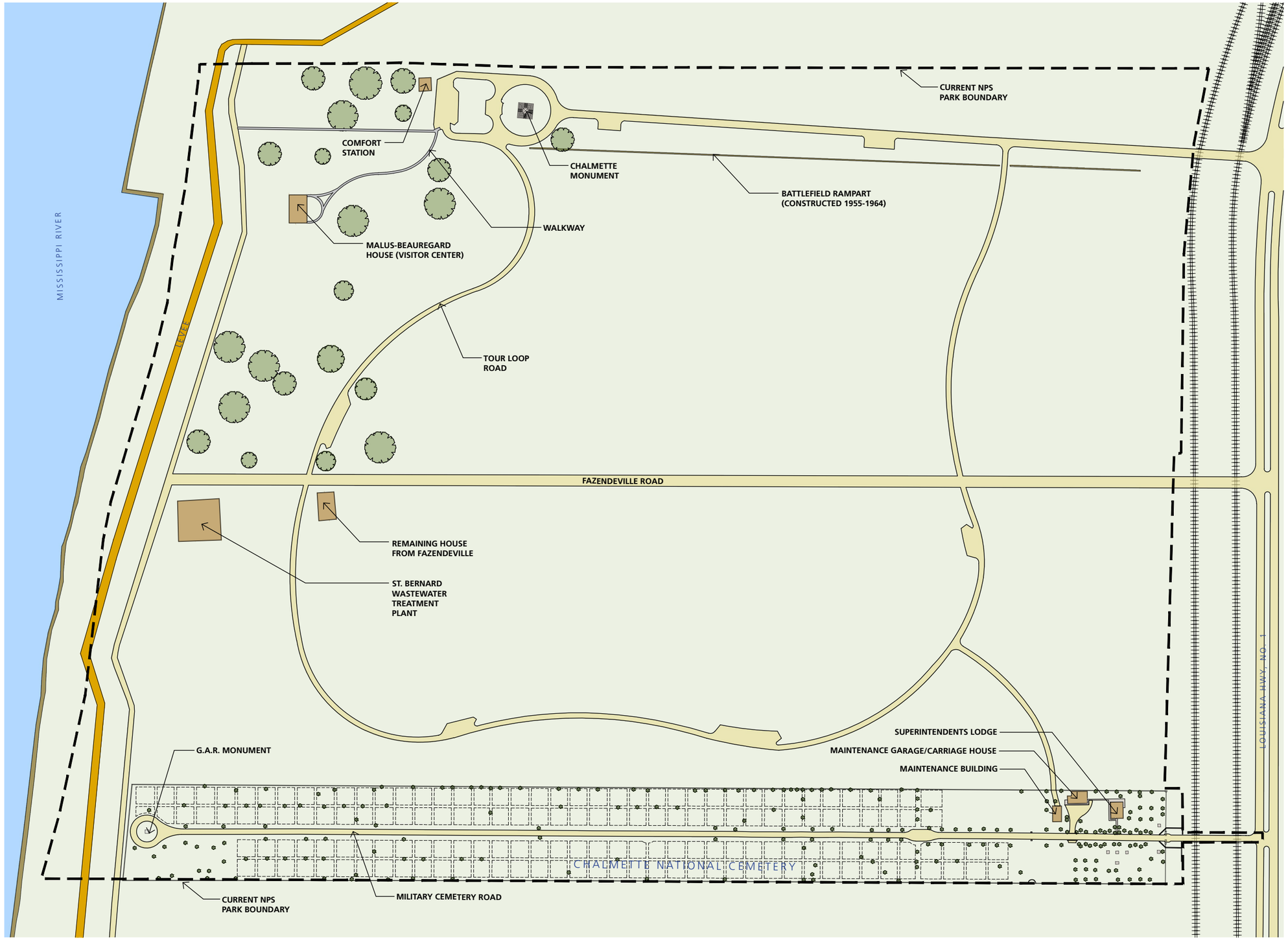
350. "Chalmette National Cemetery Being Restored," *The Times* (Shreveport, Louisiana), February 17, 2009, 6.

351. Lord Aeck Sargent, "Pre-Design Project Program JELA 119076A Katrina: Repair Historic Chalmette National Cemetery Masonry, Border Walls and Curbs," (ETIC 467-25019).

352. It is unclear when the road became known as Military Cemetery Road. This name appears on a 2003 topographic survey of the national cemetery (ETIC 467-80101). Earlier maps of the national cemetery most often describe the road's surface and do not give it a proper name. For example, the 1953 topographic survey (ETIC 467-2016) calls it "Shell Road." Current (circa 2021) maps have different names. Google Earth and the St. Bernard Parish GIS system, for example, call it "Chalmette National Cemetery Road." The existing road sign identifies it as "Cemetery Rd."

353. Janet McConnaughey, "Cemetery Custodians Do Upkeep," *The Town Talk* (Alexandria, Louisiana), April 4, 2016, A2.

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Key

Structures (1965)

Credits

The locations of buildings and other landscape features are approximate. The information is based on the following sources:

1. General Development Plan "Road and Trail System Plan" NPS 1964 (ETIC 467-3023)
2. NPS Topographic Base Map of Chalmette National Cemetery, 1953 (ETIC 467-2016)
3. Aerial Photograph, Circa 1965 (NPS, JELA Archives)

Illustration 2.8
(1965)
Chalmette Battlefield

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Existing Conditions

Please see the Illustrations 3.1-3.4 at the end of this chapter.

Introduction

The focus of this study is the Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The park is composed of land that was once part of the historic Chalmette and Rodriguez plantations that were the setting of the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815.

The Chalmette Unit contains two spatially distinct cultural landscapes: Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery. Because they have unique developmental histories and design characteristics, they are treated separately as character areas in the following existing conditions inventory when appropriate. Under those landscape characteristics where separation is merited, the inventory begins with the Chalmette Battlefield and follows with an inventory of Chalmette National Cemetery. Chalmette Battlefield is the larger of the two contiguous landscapes, covering 125.6 acres; the Chalmette National Cemetery covers 17.3 acres. The Chalmette Battlefield landscape character area is also complex and varied, containing several areas with their own distinct character. These areas include the Chalmette Monument, the Chalmette Visitor Center complex, the Malus-Beauregard House, the battlefield, surrounding woods, the former site of Fazendeville in the middle of the battlefield, and the former St. Bernard Waste Water Treatment Center in the woods south of the battlefield.

The Chalmette Unit is surrounded by mixture of industrial and residential land uses, resulting in a contextual setting very different from the historic period (Figure 3.1). The Chalmette Unit occupies relatively flat terrain on the north side of a constructed levee embankment alongside the Mississippi River downstream from New Orleans, Louisiana. To the north, a railroad rights-of-way and St. Bernard Highway (LA Highway 46) form its other boundary. To the east, the former Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation plant, with its huge smokestacks, loom over the canopy of trees growing in the national cemetery. This adjacent parcel is currently owned by the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District, who also owns the property adjacent to the park on the west. This parcel to the west is a ship docking and storage facility commonly known as the Chalmette Slip. Within the unit's boundaries, the Chalmette Monument, a 100-feet-tall obelisk, visually dominates the landscape. East of the monument, an open field, the site of most of the fighting at the concluding Battle of New Orleans, stretches from the Battlefield Rampart to the national cemetery. The former St. Bernard Waste Water Treatment Plant is located on the southern edge of the unit. It is a modern, noncontributing intrusion into the unit's landscape. The complex, which the NPS does not own, is partially screened with a vegetated buffer. The Malus-Beauregard House is an architecturally significant, contributing building, located in an open space southeast of the Chalmette Monument near where many visitors enter the site from the dock on the river. This building, while historic, post-dates the battles of December 1814 and January 1815.

According to NPS GIS information on JELA tracts, there are nine tracts making up the Chalmette Unit. The westernmost tract, Tract 105-05, measures 11 acres. This tract encompasses the area around the battlefield character area's entrance gate, entrance drive, the Chalmette Monument, the Battlefield Rampart, the visitor center, and area around the Spotts Marker. The land going to the east, including all the land between the Battlefield Rampart to the west wall of the national cemetery, include Tracts 105-01, 105-03, 105-04, 105-06, 105-07, 105-08, 105-12, and 105-13. Chalmette National Cemetery includes three tracts, going from north to south, including Tracts 105-09, 105-10, and 105-11.

According to ArcGIS data, the north property line is approximately 2,159 feet long. The east property line is approximately 3,016 feet long. The south property line measures approximately 2,193 feet. The west property line measures approximately 2,705 feet.

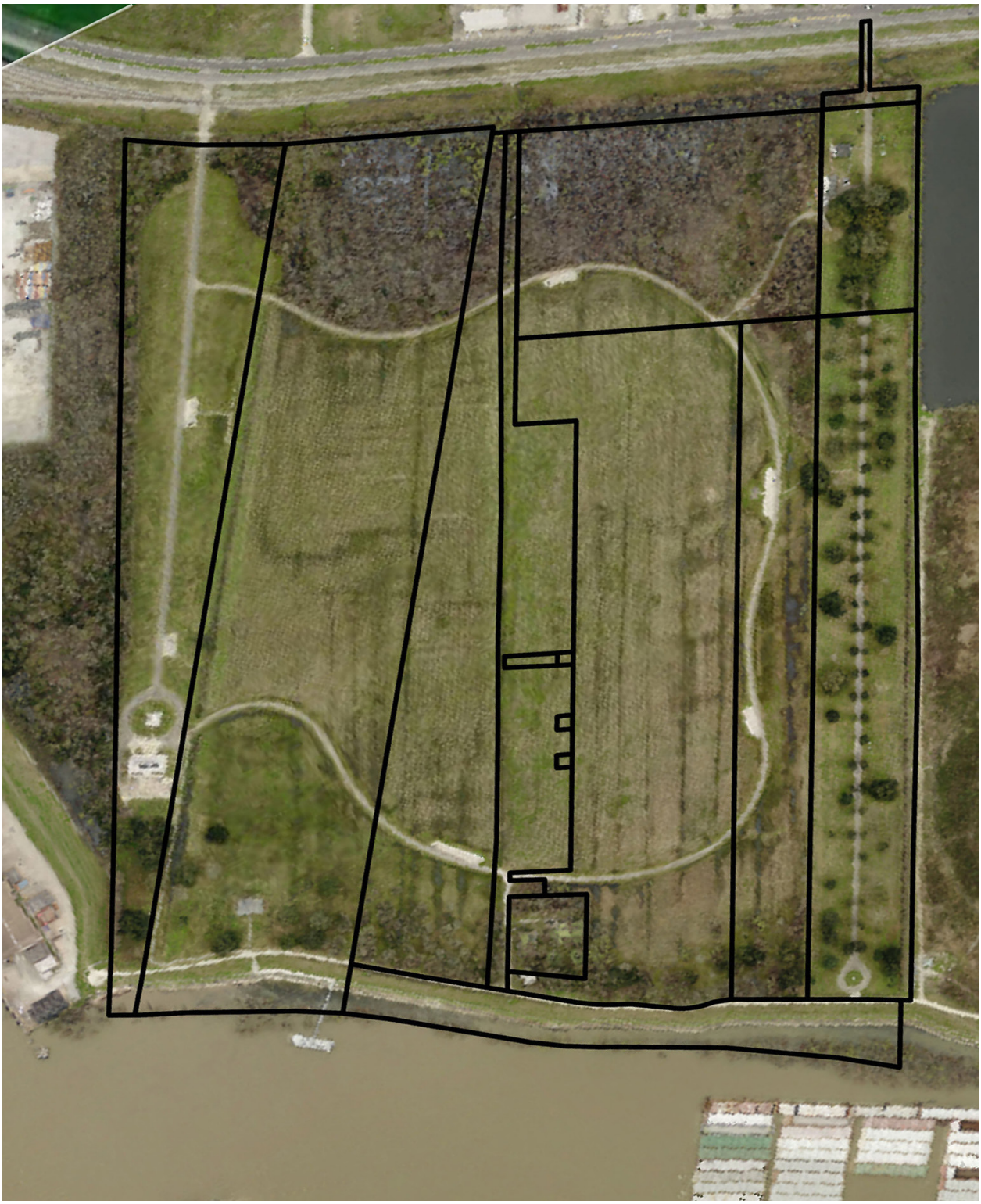


Figure 3.1: Aerial View of Chalmette Unit showing parcels (WLA Studio/ArcGIS 2020).

This section of the Cultural Landscape Report inventories the existing conditions of the site using a combination of contemporary photographs, plan view graphics, and narrative description. This inventory organizes site features by landscape characteristic, which are the "tangible and intangible aspects of an inventory unit which have either influenced the history of the development of the landscape, or are products of its development, respectively."[354] Further, "these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance."[355] The NPS identifies thirteen landscape characteristics. These landscape characteristics are defined as follows:[356]

- Natural Systems and Features: Natural aspects that often influence the development and resultant form of a landscape;
- Spatial Organization: Arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces;
- Land Use: Organization, form, and shape of the landscape in response to land use;
- Topography: Three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation;
- Cultural Traditions: Practices that influence land use, patterns of division, building forms, and the use of materials;
- Cluster Arrangement: The location of buildings and structures in the landscape;
- Circulation: Spaces, features, and materials that constitute systems of movement;
- Topography: Three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation;
- Vegetation: Indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials;
- Buildings and Structures: Three-dimensional constructs such as houses, barns, garages, stables, bridges, and memorials;
- Views and Vistas: Features that create or allow a range of vision, which can be natural or designed and controlled;
- Constructed Water Features: The built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions;
- Small-Scale Features: Elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics;
- Archeological Sites: Sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic or prehistoric land use.

While most sites contain at least several of the thirteen characteristics, "[n]ot all characteristics are always present in any one landscape."[357] The existing Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery cultural landscapes feature all thirteen landscape characteristics.

Natural Systems and Features

The entire region of southern Louisiana, including the region below the city of New Orleans and the site of the Chalmette Unit, was formed and continues to be shaped by the drainage of what has become the Mississippi River. Over the last three million years, glacial periods alternated with interglacial periods. When glacial periods ended, huge amounts of sand and gravel coursed through the Lower Mississippi Valley to the sea. Today's Lower Mississippi Valley began to form after the Wisconsin glaciation began to recede about 20,000 years ago. Around 8,000 years ago, the rising sea approached its current level.

The Mississippi River routinely overflowed its banks and changed its course. Sediments carried by the river created an alluvial valley from 30 to 90 miles wide starting near Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio River joins the Mississippi. In south Louisiana, the sediments carried to the river's outlets formed the land masses comprising the deltaic plain.

The vast amounts of sediment collected along each bank of the river eventually formed high ground, known as natural levees, on either side of the river. The height of the natural levees varied, with heights

354. Robert R. Page, National *Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*, (Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, January 2009), 7-4.
355. Page, *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide,* 53.
356. Ibid.
357. Ibid.

of 10 to 15 feet being typical around what is now New Orleans. Sloping down from the levees, the land becomes increasingly inundated, eventually turning into swampland crisscrossed by bayous.

According to Birkedal, the distance between the river and the swamp in the area around Chalmette extended "for almost two miles—and sometimes farther."[358] At the site of the battle, however, this distance was only 1,000 yards, a fact that prompted Andrew Jackson to choose this location to make a stand against the British attacking New Orleans.

Hydrology

The Mississippi River is just beyond the southern boundary of the Chalmette Unit and there are no known water bodies within the boundaries of the unit. Within the boundary of the Chalmette Unit, surface water historically flowed south to north, from the backside of the river levee towards cypress-filled woods to the north. Modern development has altered the natural flow of surface water. Today, water still flows north, but is blocked by a raised Norfolk Railroad embankment. Stormwater collects in the woods on the north side of the unit, then drains into a modern drainage ditch that parallels the railroad.

Situated next to the Mississippi River, there is a high water-table at the site. According to archeologist Ted Birkedal, water is encountered approximately 1 foot below the surface at the higher places in the unit, typically on its southern end. He states that "At lower elevations, the water table may reach the level of the topsoil or rise above the surface of the ground."[359]

The terrain is relatively level between the levee on the south and woods to the north, so surface water flows very slowly. The construction of roads, in particular the tour loop road around the perimeter of the battlefield, interrupts this flow and causes water to be impounded in certain areas. There are culverts and drainage ditches in the battlefield that convey water to beyond the north boundary of the property to the large drainage ditch alongside the railroad embankment. Patches in the concrete pavement of the tour loop road appear on recent aerials, suggesting that the existing culverts were added between 2010 and 2013.

During site visits, ponded water was observed in several locations. This is likely caused by a combination of depressions in the ground, low rates of water percolation in the native clay soils, and the tour loop road blocking surface flow. In several areas, the presence of wetland plants suggest that ponding persists for long periods of time. This can be observed on the south side of the tour loop road where it turns north towards the viewing platform (Figure 3.2). A significant amount of water is also ponding in the area outside the west national cemetery wall. The wall and tour loop road are both elevated above the rest of this area, essentially trapping water in these locations. Waterlogged soil creates a maintenance issue as it allows mowers to rut the ground. These ruts potentially damage archeological resources and exacerbates the ponding issue by creating more areas for water to collect.

It should be noted that the United States Army Corps of Engineers conducted a wetlands jurisdictional determination in 2004. At that time, they identified two jurisdictional wetlands: the swampy woods on north side of the unit and the batture area on the river side of the levee. The NPS has its own wetlands classification system and, according to the 2011 draft General Management Plan (GMP), the majority of the Chalmette Unit meets the NPS's wetland criteria.[360] In March 2022, the NPS prepared a wetland delineation report that concluded that most of the site meets the condition requirements to be classified as jurisdictional wetlands.

Terrain, Geology, and Soils

This area of Louisiana represents an abandoned Mississippi River delta, where the shifting river channel deposited sediment over an ever-changing area. Sediment deposited adjacent to these courses built natural levees. The soils along the banks of the Mississippi are rich in mineral and organic content preferred for agricultural production, and

358. Birkedal, Ted, ed. *The Search for the Lost Riverfront: Historical and Archeological Investigations at the Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (N.P.: National Park Service, 2005), xxxviii-xxix.
359. Ibid.
360. NPS, "Chalmette Unit Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve General Management Plan Amendment/Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Assessment," (New Orleans: National Park Service, 2011), 108.



Figure 3.2: View of ponding water in a wetland area along tour loop road (WLA Studio 2020).

six distinct types of soil may be found in the region around the Chalmette Unit.

The soils of the battlefield are characteristic of the Schriever series, a deep, poorly drained soil. It is common on the lower parts of levees and in backswamps. The soil is classified as hydric, meaning that under periods of flooding or saturation, it can become anaerobic.

Regional Climate

The climate of South Louisiana is hot and humid, marked by long, hot summers and mild winters. The growing season is long, ranging from 250 to 300 days. Rainfall is heavy and averages around 60 inches a year. The area is also susceptible to tropical storms and hurricanes.

Regional Climate

Features:

- Hydrological System
- Geological Systems (Terrain, Geology, and Soils)
- Regional Climate

Spatial Organization

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

The Chalmette Battlefield character area landscape contains three spatial zones that are defined mostly by vegetation and buildings-- the battlefield, the Chalmette Monument and visitor center area, and the Malus-Beauregard House.

The battlefield zone is visually bounded by a line of woods on its north and south sides. The NPS maintains these as woodland buffers to screen intrusive views towards the constructed embankment of the river, the former wastewater treatment plan, and St. Bernard Highway. The cemetery wall and a row of evergreen live oak trees form the eastern boundary of this space. The boundary of the west side is formed by the Battlefield Rampart. Most of the space is open with grass growing in a wide field occupying the center of the area. The Battlefield Tour Loop Road circumnavigates the outer perimeter of the space (Figure 3.3).

The Chalmette Monument and visitor center area is a trapezoid-shaped spatial area bounded by woods on its western and northern edges. Large live oak trees fill the southern end of the space. The eastern edge is bounded by the Battlefield



Figure 3.3: View looking southwest across battlefield (WLA Studio 2020).

Rampart. Two structures-- the monument and visitor center-- visually dominate the area, especially for visitors entering the site along Battlefield Road. The axial entrance sequence, with the entrance drive aligned with the large monument, accentuates the spatial character of this area as separate from the open battlefield beyond the Battlefield Rampart.

The Malus-Beauregard House stands in the center of an open space surrounded by large live oak trees that visually bound the eastern and western sides of the area. The embankment of the river levee forms the southern boundary of the area, but it is outside of the unit's boundaries. The northern boundary is less defined, as it visually connects with the adjacent battlefield, but its solitary position away from the other areas contributes to its unique character of spatial organization.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area

The National Cemetery overall spatial organization is created by the alignment of Military Cemetery Road down the length of the cemetery, the cluster of buildings in the northwest corner of the site, the sections of burials, the brick wall around the perimeter of the property, and trees, planted in four rows on either side of Cemetery Road. Large trees growing along Military Cemetery Road create an overhead canopy, especially near the middle section of the national cemetery. The northern and southern ends of the cemetery have a more open overhead plane and more open spatial feeling, with fewer trees and less burials. The bulk of the cemetery has row upon row of grave markers, which are among the most outstanding visible characteristics of the site. The rows of grave markers, which are organized into rectilinear sections, reinforce the linear geometry of the cemetery There are a total of four rows of sections, two rows on either side of the drive, running the length of the national cemetery (Figure 3.4). The rows are set approximately 13 feet behind the curb. The sections are spaced approximately 6 feet apart. There is a wider aisle of turf running lengthwise between the two rows that measures 13 feet wide. The outermost sections are approximately 6 feet from the cemetery wall.

There are currently 175 burial sections in the national cemetery. The numbers begin at 7 and end at 182. Section 7 is at the south end of the national cemetery on the west side on the drive. Section 182 is on the east side of the drive, almost opposite the maintenance shed. The older sections are in the southern two-thirds of the national cemetery (Section 7 to Section 158). These are more square in shape and slightly smaller than the newer



Figure 3.4: National cemetery's trees, central drive, burial sections, and walls (WLA Studio 2020).

sections. Not all the sections are the same shape, but most of these older sections measure between 40 to 43 feet deep (east to west) and 45 feet wide (north to south). Irregular sections include Sections 7, 8, and 9; these were truncated by either the levee setback project or the construction of the cul-de-sac at the end of the drive. There are no headstones in Section 45A; Section 44A is approximately half the size of the other sections.

The newer sections, Section 159 to Section 182, are large and more rectangular. The sections closest to the drive measure 35 feet deep (east to west) and 55 feet wide (north to south). The outer sections measure 42 feet deep (east to west) and 55 feet wide (north to south) The walkways between these sections are similar to those in the older section, typically 6 feet wide with a 13 feet central/ lengthwise aisle.

According to NPS records, the estimated number of burials at Chalmette is close to 16,000. The numbers shown on stones are 15,228, but there is known to be mass burials of unknown numbers. Information provided by NPS indicate that 113 United States Colored Troops are buried in the national cemetery.[361] These were members of the Louisiana Native Guard, a precursor to the United States Colored Troops. An excel sheet of burials at the national cemetery lists 110 burials identified as "Buffalo Soldier," which may be a general label used to identify African American soldiers.[362]

A 5-feet-tall brick wall encloses most of the space, creating a defined visual edge to the cemetery. Additionally, a buffer of trees on the north and east side of the cemetery limit views out towards those

361. See document provided by JELA entitled "Chalmette National Cemetery information." According to the properties of the word document, Allison Pena created the document on July 7, 2010.

362. The designation Buffalo Soldier is more accurately reserved for African American soldiers who served in the Army after the Civil War, most often serving in the west fighting American Indians. Several of the soldiers listed as Buffalo Soldier in the NPS spreadsheet of burials served in the Civil War, several of whom were buried in the national cemetery in 1864 and 1865.

direction, further reinforcing the spatial edges of the cemetery. The levee embankment beyond the south wall of the cemetery rises above the ground plane, defining that edge.

Features:

- Woods surrounding site on north, south, and west sides of the battlefield
- Large evergreen canopy trees in national cemetery
- Open field occupying center of battlefield site
- Battlefield Rampart
- Spatial relationship and physical proximity of Chalmette Monument and visitor center
- Trees surrounding Malus-Beauregard House
- Battlefield Road
- Military Cemetery Road
- Allée of trees in national cemetery
- Brick national cemetery enclosure wall
- Superintendent's Lodge complex
- Rows of grave markers
- Levee embankment (outside NPS boundaries)

Land Use and Cultural Traditions

There are a variety of land uses and cultural traditions found within the Chalmette Unit. Currently, these include administration/ tourism, cemetery/memorial, commemoration, interpretation, recreation, and visitor services. The grounds of the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery are open to the public from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Administration/ Tourism/ Historical Education

The visitor center provides films, exhibits, and interactive displays about the Battle of New Orleans. Most of the property is otherwise open for self-guided tours. Offices for NPS staff are located at both the Chalmette Battlefield Visitor Center and at the Superintendent's Lodge at the national cemetery. Maintenance staff also have offices in the maintenance building/garage at the national cemetery. Tourists make use of restroom facilities located in the visitor center and in a comfort station located south of the visitor center. Other infrastructure provided for visitors include a tour loop road, pull-offs with wayside exhibits, and walkways with wayside exhibits.

Memorial

The Chalmette National Cemetery is the final resting place for over 15,000 veterans and family members.

Commemoration

Both Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery component landscapes have the characteristics of a commemorative landscape. Historic structures, monuments, and interpretive features distributed across the site convey to a visitor the historic use of the site and its historic significance.

Recreation

Visitors use the roads in the Chalmette Unit for walking and jogging.

Features:

- Administration/Tourism/Historical Education Land Use
- Memorial Land Use
- Commemorative Land Use
- Recreation Land Use

Cluster Arrangement

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

The Chalmette Battlefield Visitor Center and Chalmette Monument have the strongest spatial relationship because the visitor center is located so close to the monument (Figure 3.5). The other features providing a sense of clustering in this area are the comfort station and the Battlefield Rampart. The Malus-Beauregard House is within view but is physically separated from these other buildings and structures by several hundred feet.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area

There is a cluster of three buildings on the north end of the national cemetery. These buildings include the Superintendent's Lodge, the maintenance building/garage, and the maintenance shed (Figure 3.6).

Features:

- Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center
- Chalmette Monument
- Battlefield Rampart
- National Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge
- Cemetery maintenance building/garage
- Maintenance shed



Figure 3.5: Chalmette Monument and visitor center (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.6: Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance building/garage (WLA Studio 2020).

Circulation

The circulation features at the site facilitate pedestrian and vehicular access within the site, between the two component landscape character areas, and link to access points outside the park boundaries on the north and south sides of the landscape.

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area—Vehicular Circulation

Vehicular circulation features include roads, pull-offs, and parking lots/parking areas.

Battlefield Road (Entrance Road/Chalmette National Park Scenic Road)

NPS maps at the unit and a road sign at its intersection with St. Bernard Highway identify the entrance road into the Chalmette Battlefield character area as Battlefield Road. Some maps, including Google and the St. Bernard Parish GIS, call this road the Chalmette National Park Scenic Road. The alignment of the road dates to circa 1916.

Battlefield Road rises onto slightly elevated table as it crosses over a set of railroad tracks immediately after leaving St. Bernard Highway. Once over the tracks, the road is axially aligned with the Chalmette Monument and the visitor center. The road enters a narrow expanse of woods as it approaches the entrance gate. Once through the gate, the road parallels the Battlefield Rampart on its left (east) as it travels south through the center of a wedge-shaped open space with the monument near its center (Figure 3.7). The road ends in a circular drive around the monument (Monument Circle). A drive to the parking lot branches off to pass around the west side of the visitor center, where it enters the visitor center parking lot. The parking lot drive exits the east side of the parking lot, passes the visitor center, intersects with the Loop Tour Road, and reconnects Monument



Figure 3.7: Battlefield Road, looking south towards Chalmette Monument (WLA Studio 2020).

Circle before returning to the entrance gate and St. Bernard Highway.

The road is approximately 18 feet wide. It is slightly wider, approximately 21 feet wide as it circles around the monument. The road is concrete with visible river stone aggregate. It has an expansion joint along the centerline of the road. The road is in good condition.

Chalmette Unit Visitor Center parking lot

The visitor parking area is located on the south side of the visitor center. It is constructed of concrete, which is cracked in places, with painted parking aisles. There are 15 parking spaces plus an additional three accessible parking spaces. The parking lot is entered from the west and exited on the east. The configuration of the parking lot dates to the 1960s. It is in good condition.

Battlefield tour loop road

The tour loop road (circa 1964) is a one-way paved road that circumnavigates the perimeter of the battlefield (Figure 3.8). The road begins near the visitor center, leaving the entrance road close to the Chalmette Monument, and then travels in a counterclockwise route around the battlefield. It has a slightly curvilinear alignment as it makes its loop around the battlefield. From the visitor center, it crosses through the open space north of the Malus-Beauregard House and then parallels the line of woods along the southern boundary of the park unit. It turns north as it approaches the national cemetery, where it assumes a route that is roughly parallel to the cemetery wall. Once past the viewing platform with the British flag, the road turns back to the west, curving back to intersect the entrance road. There are four paved pull-offs that provide parking for visitors to view interpretive waysides at various points.



Figure 3.8: Battlefield Tour Loop Road, looking northeast with national cemetery in background (WLA Studio 2020).

The road is constructed of concrete with exposed aggregate. The road does not have curbs except at the pull-offs which have 6-inch-tall concrete curbs. It is approximately 12 feet wide with expansion joints every 12 feet. It has been repaired in a few locations, including where the NPS has installed new or repaired old culverts. The concrete patches have a different finish from the older pavement, but otherwise the road is in good condition.

Gravel service road (former access road to former St. Bernard Waste Water Treatment Plant)

There is a gravel service road that leaves the tour loop road near the middle of its southern leg. This road passes through the fence of the former wastewater treatment plan and continues to intersect with River Road. It is in good condition.

River Road (Levee Road)

This service road is paved with gravel and is approximately 8 feet wide. It runs along the base of the north side of the levee embankment. The road's west end terminates at a cul-de-sac at a chain link fence that aligns with the western boundary of the Chalmette Unit. It is in good condition.

Powder magazine service road

A gravel road extends from the tour loop road into the woods on the northern boundary of the site to access the powder magazine. The road is gravel, largely overgrown with grass and weeds. This road aligns with, and may be a remnant of, the historic Fazendeville Road. There is an iron fence limiting access to the road. It is in fair condition.

Informal parking spaces outside entrance gate

There are several informal, unimproved parking spaces outside of the entrance gate. These appear to have been developed by visitors who park outside the gate and enter using the pedestrian entrances either before or after park hours. They are in fair condition.



Figure 3.9: Fazendeville Road Trace, looking north (WLA Studio 2020).

Fazendeville Road trace

A slight depression is visible crossing the battlefield in a south to north direction (Figure 3.9). This is the trace of Fazendeville Road which serviced the African American community once located in this area. The road was established in the late 1800s or early 1900s. It aligns with the road to the powder magazine and the road into the former St. Bernard wastewater treatment site. A portion of the trace close to the southern section of the tour loop road was filled with water during site visit. Because it is slightly depressed and stays wetter than the surrounding field, the grass is a slightly different color making it legible in the landscape. Its condition is unknown.

Battery Four and Batteries Five, and Six parking area/pull-offs

There are two concrete parking areas along Battlefield Road for visitors to visit Battery Four and Batteries Five and Six. Both have four regular parking spaces and one accessible parking space. These were constructed circa 1965. They are in good condition.

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area—Pedestrian Circulation

Visitor center walkway to levee and Malus-Beauregard House

This concrete walkway is approximately 5 feet wide with expansion joints every 5 feet. It has a "cracked mud" finish to the surface. It runs in a straight line from the southeast corner of the visitor center parking lot towards River Road, paralleling the Rodriguez Canal. Once south of the canal, the walkway takes a serpentine path towards the front walkway of the Malus-Beauregard House. It is in good condition.

Malus-Beauregard House walkway

This concrete walkway is like the walkway from the visitor center, described above. It appears to have been constructed at the same time. It is approximately 5 feet wide, with the same "cracked mud" finish. It is aligned with the front (south) entrance into the building. It is in good condition.

Levee staircase

This concrete staircase has twenty-two steps and tubular metal handrails. This leads from the base of the levee through the levee gate to the walking path to the Creole Queen dock on the river. The staircase is off set slightly to the east from the walkway to the Malus-Beauregard House.

Entrance gate walkway

There is a new circulation system associated with the entrance gate into the Chalmette Battlefield component landscape area. Two pedestrian gates flank the main vehicular gate. Each pedestrian gate has a concrete walkway that passes through the gate and connects to the entrance drive. These walkways are constructed in concrete with a different appearance from the entrance drive. It does not have the visible aggregate as the older material. They are narrow, less than three feet wide, and have a broom finish. They are in good condition.

Batteries pull-offs sidewalks and walkways

The pull-offs were constructed in 1964. The pull-off at Battery Four has a sidewalk that wraps most of the way around the parking area. The sidewalk is concrete and approximately 5 feet wide. There is a flared curb ramp associated with the accessible parking space. The landing of this ramp does not meet current design standards. The concrete of the ramp is different from the rest of the sidewalk, suggesting it was added afterwards. There is a concrete pad, approximately 5 feet by 7 feet, in the middle of the east side of the parking area; this may have been the former location of a display or wayside. The concrete has light aggregate visible in its surface. There are cracks in the sidewalks, some large enough to be colonized by weeds and grass. They are in fair condition.

The pull-off at Batteries Five and Six has a similar sidewalk and flared curb as found at Battery Four. There is an additional walkway extending out from the pull-off towards the Battlefield Rampart. It is shaped like a "T" with the top longer than the base. The long section is approximately 168 feet long. This five-foot wide walkway is similar in construction as the walkway from the visitor center to the levee described above. It has a similar cracked mud finish, suggesting it was installed at the same time. It is in good condition.

Battlefield tour loop road pull-offs sidewalks

The pull-offs along the Battlefield Tour Loop Road feature sidewalks around the perimeter of the parking area (Figure 3.10). These have concrete sidewalks that are approximately 4 feet wide. These sidewalks are generally in good condition. They have been repaired over time and newer sections of concrete have a different finish and less exposed aggregate than the older sections.

Battlefield tour loop road walkway to Chalmette National Cemetery

A narrow, 3-foot-wide walkway connects the parking area on the loop road with an entrance on the west side of the national cemetery. This walkway is constructed from asphalt with exposed aggregate. It is broken in several places and uneven. It stops at the fence that marks the western boundary of the national cemetery. Its condition is fair.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area—Vehicular Circulation

Military Cemetery Road

NPS maps identify the main road through the center of the national cemetery as Military Cemetery Road; the road sign at the intersection with St. Bernard Highway also identifies it as Cemetery Road. It travels over a slightly elevated crossing table at the Norfolk Southern Railroad track and passes over a culvert connecting drainage features on either side of the road. There are graveled, informal parking spaces on either side of the road outside (north) of the entrance gate near the railroad embankment. The road itself is paved in asphalt until it reaches the entrance gate, where it becomes concrete. The road inside the confines of the cemetery is approximately 3,065 feet long, including the cul-de-sac on its southern terminus. The road is approximately 18 feet wide for its entire length except for a 100'-feet section, where it flares out. This widened section is approximately 690 feet south of the entrance gate. The road ends in a circular cul-de-sac around an internal island in which stands the Grand Army of the Republic Monument.



Figure 3.10: Battlefield Tour Loop Road pull off and sidewalks (WLA Studio 2020).

There are no curbs on the section of road north of the gate and outside the national cemetery. Once inside the cemetery, the road has 10-inch-tall brick curbs with 10-inch concrete gutters (Figure 3.11). The brick curbs have three exposed rows of header courses. The top course exhibits a fair amount of damage to the faces and corners of the bricks. This is likely from equipment and vehicles running into the curb. The brick curb transitions into a concrete curb just north of the widened section of the road about 690 feet from the northern entrance into the cemetery (Figure 3.12).

There are two curb cuts into the brick curb on the north end of the cemetery, approximately 275 feet south of the entrance gate. One leads into the open space east of the road, in which are several monuments. This curb cut has a concrete apron that ends where it meets the lawn. The apron also has brick curbs, which are partially covered in stucco. The concrete of the apron appears to be contemporary with the concrete of the road. The drive into the maintenance area appears more recent. It has rolled concrete curbs approximately 4 inches tall. It leads to a maintenance parking area that serves both the maintenance building/garage and the maintenance shed.

The alignment of this road was established by 1867. It was extended to the north as the national cemetery grew. The northern section and connection to St. Bernard Highway dates to around 1910. The Military Cemetery Road is generally in good condition. There is evidence of some cracks, many of which have been repaired with an asphalt caulk.

Maintenance parking area/utility court

This parking area is in the open space between the maintenance building/garage and the maintenance shed. It is irregularly shaped and wraps around the south end of the maintenance building/garage. The main, central portion of the parking area measures 60 feet by 65 feet. It connects to Cemetery Military Road to its east and a service access road to its west that leads to the battlefield. The current configuration of the parking area dates from the late 1950s; it is in good condition.

Cemetery service access road

The cemetery service access road connects the maintenance yard in the national cemetery to the tour loop road in the battlefield. It passes through a mixed stand of woods, with many relatively young bald cypress trees. It is approximately 15 feet wide



Figure 3.11: Military Cemetery Road looking south showing asphalt and concrete sections and brick curbs (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.12: Military Cemetery Road, looking south along southern section with concrete curbs (WLA Studio 2020).

and constructed of concrete. The concrete has an exposed aggregate similar to the tour loop road. It was constructed at the same time as the tour loop road in circa 1964.

River Road service access road

There is a concrete connecting road between the end of the Military Cemetery Road cul-de-sac and River Road, south of the national cemetery. This road passes through a newly added metal fence. This access road is new, constructed of concrete, and is approximately 20 feet wide. It is in good condition.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area—Pedestrian Circulation

Walkway connection to flagpole

There is a narrow, 22-inch-wide concrete walkway that leads from Military Cemetery Road to a flagpole mounted in the greenspace east of the road. The walkway is approximately 30 feet long. It is located approximately 140 feet south from the national cemetery entrance gate.

Walkway connection to Superintendent's Lodge

A 5-feet-wide concrete walkway leads west from Military Cemetery Road to the steps to the front porch of the Superintendent's Lodge. It is approximately 35 feet long and has expansion joints every 12 feet. It is in good condition.

Walkway connection between Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance area parking lot

There is a 3-feet-wide concrete walkway extending from the base of the steps at the Superintendent's Lodge's front porch to the parking area of the maintenance complex. This sidewalk has expansion joints every 12 feet and is approximately 100 feet long. It is in good condition except for grass growing in the expansion joints.

Walkway connection between Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance building/garage

There is a 4-feet-wide brick walkway extending from the rear porch area of the Superintendent's Lodge to the side of the maintenance building/ garage. It is new and in good condition.

Accessibility ramp to rear of Superintendent's Lodge

There is a concrete and metal ramp that provides universal access to the back porch of the Superintendent's Lodge. It includes a brick landing area. These are in good condition.

Walkway connection to Chalmette Battlefield

There is a narrow concrete walkway that leads from Military Cemetery Road to a gap in the west cemetery wall. This walkway is located approximately 1260 feet south of the national cemetery's entrance gate. This concrete walkway is 42 inches wide with score joints every 12 feet. It has a broom finish and troweled edges. It ends abruptly approximately 20 feet short of the wall, where it steps down and becomes a gravel and then asphalt path. The walkway is in good condition, but the abrupt end presents a safety hazard.

North entrance pedestrian gates

There are two pedestrian gates and walkways through the main entrance gate at the north end of the cemetery. The gates are cast iron, matching the vehicular gates. They are attached to the same iron pillar that supports the vehicular gates. When closed, they meet stucco-covered masonry piers that measure 2 feet by 2 feet and are 66 inches tall.

South wall pedestrian gate

There is a pedestrian gate through the brick wall on the south end of the cemetery. There is a 3-feet-wide concrete sidewalk that passes through the gate, connecting River Road to Military Cemetery Road.

Features:

- Battlefield Road
- Monument Circle
- Chalmette Unit visitor parking lot drives
- Visitor center parking lot
- Battlefield Tour Loop Road
- Gravel service road to former St. Bernard wastewater treatment plant
- River Road
- Powder magazine service road
- Informal parking spaces
- Fazendeville Road trace
- Military Cemetery Road

- Maintenance parking area/utility court
- National cemetery service/access road
- National cemetery access road to River Road
- Battery Four and Batteries Five, and Six parking area/pull-offs
- Military Cemetery Road
- Visitor center walkway to levee and Malus-Beauregard House
- Malus-Beauregard House walkway
- Entrance gate walkways
- Batteries pull-offs sidewalks and walkways
- Battlefield Tour Loop Road pull-offs sidewalks
- Walkway to Flagpole
- Walkway to Superintendent's Lodge
- Walkway between Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance area parking lot
- Walkway connection to Chalmette Battlefield
- North entrance pedestrian gates
- South wall pedestrian gate

Topography

The topography of the Chalmette Unit is relatively flat, with slight topographic changes related to land use, including agriculture and settlement (former drainage ditches), interpretation (Battlefield Rampart), and tourism (park roads). The overall topographic character of the terrain is the result of physiographic forces that deposited alluvial soil during seasonal floods of the Mississippi River. The resultant landform gently slopes downward from the south (the river side) to the north. The area along the south side of the Chalmette Unit reaches elevations of approximately 7 feet. On the north side of the unit, the elevation is only 2 feet above sea level. In the historic period, a cypress swamp occupied the northern edge of the battlefield, but this swamp would be north of the unit's current boundary. Modern development north of the Chalmette Unit has resulted in most of the natural swamp being drained and the land elevated out of the water table.

Today, the woods along the north side of the park have large areas of standing water and some stands of cypress trees, evidence that it is a relatively low point on the site. There are drainage ditches through these woods that connect to a modern drainage ditch, outside of the unit's boundaries, which is along the side of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. This railroad, along with St. Bernard Highway, form a raised terrace that borders the northern boundary of the park, disrupting the natural hydrology from the historic period. The Battlefield Tour Loop Road is slightly raised relative to the surrounding landscape. This change in elevation also blocks natural drainage patterns, resulting in areas of standing water. In several areas along the drive, there are drainage ditches that collect surface water and convey them to culverts that pass underneath the road.

There is a raised, concrete viewing platform on the east side of the Battlefield Tour Loop Road, which offers visitors an elevation position to look over the battlefield. It is raised approximately 4 feet from surrounding grade and accessed by six concrete steps on its east side.

Aerial photographs of the site reveal lines crossing the battlefield in south to north direction. These are barely perceptible on the landscape today because of the grass growing on the battlefield. They are remnants of agricultural ditches, dug to drain the fields for planting crops.

The Rodriguez Canal extends from the north side of the battlefield, near where the tour loop road bisects the Battlefield Rampart, to the south end of the battlefield, approximately midway between the southern section of the tour loop road and River Road. The northern section of the canal is on the exterior (east) side of the Battlefield Rampart. It is approximately 8 to 10 feet wide and approximately a foot deep, though it is filled with grass and its depth is difficult to ascertain. During both site visits portions of the canal were filled with water. The southern section of the canal appears to have more persistent standing water because of the presence of water-adapted plants like rush and cattails.

Features:

- Slope from levee to woods
- Drainage ditches and Rodriguez Canal
- Raised roadbeds
- Battlefield Rampart
- Raised battlefield viewing platform

Vegetation

The vegetation observed at the Chalmette Unit during site visits includes a combination of planted and naturally occurring, spontaneous vegetation.

Most of the vegetation seems relatively young. The exception are large trees growing in National Cemetery and large trees growing in the battlefield landscape, mostly near the Chalmette Monument and the Malus-Beauregard House. Most of the Chalmette Unit is open space with grass and other groundcover species. There are mixed stands of successional woods growing along the southern, western, and northern boundaries of the unit that serves as a visual screen against adjacent land uses.

Louisiana State University inventoried the vascular flora of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park in 2007/2009, issuing a report that included information on Chalmette Battlefield.[363] The report classified the successional forested area along the north portion of the battlefield unit as a Hackberry-American Elm-Green Ash Forest. The report classified the area along the banks of the Mississippi River, which is outside the boundaries of the unit, as a Batture Bottomland Hardwood Forest with species adapted to frequent inundation. The report classifies the rest of the unit as a Disturbed Habitat.

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

Turf Cover on Chalmette Battlefield

The battlefield is mostly a managed tall vegetative cover turf class with a mixture of annual and perennial grasses, forbs, and sedges. During both site visits, done in January and June, the grass was cut relatively low. The grass species include Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). The common weeds include clover (*Trifolium repens*), annual ragweed (*Ambrosia artemiisifolia*), plantain (*Plantago major*), and dollarweed (*Hydrocotyle* spp.). In areas that hold water, the vegetation includes a mixture of grasses and other plants adapted to that environment, including sedge (*Carex* spp.) and rush (*Juncus* spp.).

Lawn at visitor center, Chalmette Monument, and Battlefield Road

The visitor center landscape is mostly manicured lawn and a few trees. The visitor center landscape is contained within the curb line of the road that circumnavigates the visitor center. The turf, mostly St. Augustine grass, is growing from back of curb to the edge of the sidewalk underneath the porch of the visitor center. There are a few willow oaks growing in this same area, including one on northwest side of building and one on the southwest side of the building. Current maintenance practices include frequent mowing around the visitor center, Chalmette Monument, the area south of the visitor center, and north of the visitor center along both sides of the entrance road (Figure 3.13).

Mixed woods along northern boundary

There is a mixed stand of woods growing in the low-lying area north of the battlefield and extending along the entire northern boundary of the park except for the two entrance roads. The low-lying area holds water, resulting in a plant community like those found in cypress swamps. Classified as a Hackberry-American Elm-Green Ash Forest in the 2007/2009 vascular inventory, observed trees include cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), swamp oak (*Quercus michauxii*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) (Figure 3.14).

Woods along western boundary

There is a line of thick woods along the western boundary of the property. There is an abundance of native trees, including hackberry. There are also invasive exotics, including Chinese Tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*) and Chinese trumpet vine (*Campsis grandiflora*). There is also evidence of ornamental plantings, including a large mass of cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) growing near the entrance drive on west side of the visitor center.

363. Lowell E. Urbatsch, Diane M. Ferguson, and Stephanie M. Gunn-Zumo, Vascular Plant Inventories of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Barataria Preserve and Chalmette Battlefield (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University, 2007/revised 2009).



Figure 3.13: View looking north along rampart towards Battlefield Road showing different mow zones (WLA Studio 2020).

Grove behind visitor center

There is a grove of very large oaks, including live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and water oaks (*Quercus nigra*), south of the visitor center. There is a second, slightly discontinuous clump of trees closer to the Spotts Marker, which includes both cypress and a live oak.

Screening along southwestern boundary

There is an evenly spaced row of cypress trees near the southwest corner of the boundary, planted along the chain link fence, which screen views towards Chalmette Slip.

Hardwood trees around Malus-Beauregard House

Large mature hardwood trees grow around the Malus-Beauregard House. These include live oaks, water oaks, red oaks (*Quercus falcata*), and a pecan tree (*Carya illinoinensis*). Five of these (pecan, water oak, red oak, and two live oaks) are northwest and west of the house. Several live oaks are growing in the yard south and southeast of the building (Figure 3.15).

Lawn around Malus-Beauregard House

The NPS maintains the turf around the Malus-Beauregard House as a mown lawn. The turf includes mostly St. Augustine grass with some weeds, including dollar weed.

Turf on Battlefield Rampart and Rodriguez Canal

The turf on the Battlefield Rampart is periodically maintained to prevent weeds and to improve general appearance. It is a functional tall cover of turf to stabilize the earthwork and discourage foot traffic. At the time of one site visit, it appears that staff had sprayed herbicide to kill the grass and weeds.



Figure 3.14: View of woods on north boundary showing standing water and cypress trees (WLA Studio 2020).

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area
In general, the vegetation at the national cemetery is dominated by large, mature live oak trees. There is essentially a double row of trees on either side of Military Cemetery Road: one set approximately 8 feet from the back of the curb of Military Cemetery Road and another approximately 75 feet from the back of curb in the grass area between the grave sections. The densest canopy is close to the maintenance shed. There is a cluster of newly planted trees growing in the northwest and northeast corner of the cemetery. Most of the trees are in good to fair condition. Specific clusters of trees are described below. Otherwise, the cemetery features mown turf.

The descriptions below divide the national cemetery into different areas that are not officially recognized and are used to differentiate between areas with relatively distinct vegetation patterns. The "approach" area is north of the wall and entrance gate. The "north section" is roughly north of the driveway into the maintenance area to the front entrance gate and wall. The "main section" is the area south of the driveway into the maintenance area to the south wall and GAR monument.

Trees on approach to national cemetery entrance gate

There are four clusters of cypress trees along Military Cemetery Road as it approaches the main entrance gate from the north. Two clusters flank the road just north of the railroad embankment. These serve as a buffer between the cemetery and the busy highway. The trees also frame the view for a visitor approaching the national cemetery, creating a narrow view-corridor down the center of Military Cemetery Road. A second pair of cypress plantings flank the road just outside and north of the passage through the entrance gate. These reinforce the visual primacy of the long, axial view down the center of the cemetery (Figure 3.16).

Groves in north section of national cemetery

There are two groves of newly planted, mostly native trees, growing in the northwest and northeast corners of the national cemetery. There



Figure 3.15: View of large hardwood trees growing around Malus-Beauregard House (WLA Studio 2020).

are approximately 55 trees planted in a relatively small area in the corners. There are more trees planted in the northeast corner. Trees include crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), hackberry, oaks, red maple, bald cypress, and sourgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). There are three sago palms (*Cycas revoluta)* growing just inside the entrance gate—two are on the east side of the road and one is on the west side.

Lawn around Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance complex

Most of the area around the Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance complex is mown lawn of mostly St. Augustine grass with some weeds including clover.

Ornamental plantings around Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance complex

There are two large saw palmettos (*Serenoa repens*) on the southwest corner and southeast corner of the Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge. Other plants growing around the building include a dwarf yaupon holly on northeast corner.

There are two pomegranate shrubs (*Punica granatum*) planted next to the walkway from the maintenance building parking area to the Superintendent's Lodge. There is a planting of cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) and saw palmetto around the base of a large live oak tree between the maintenance shed and Military Cemetery Road. This is a buffer to screen the maintenance shed from the main section of the cemetery. The tree growing behind the maintenance shed is among the largest in the cemetery; it is in excess of 90 inches in diameter.

Tree allée in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery

In general, the trees in the cemetery are planted in two rows: one row set approximately 8 feet from the back of the curb of Military Cemetery Road and another approximately 75 feet from the back of curb in the grass area between the grave sections. There are numerous, very large live oak trees, mostly located in the second row down the middle



Figure 3.16: View looking south through cypress trees planted outside national cemetery entrance (WLA Studio 2020).

of the walking area between the grave section and near the maintenance shed. Some exceed 60 and 80 inches in diameter. There are several large trees growing at the back of curb on either side of Military Cemetery Road just south of the driveway to the maintenance area. The canopies of these trees touch overhead creating a tunnel-like effect. The trees become younger and smaller south of burial sections 168 and 169 (Figure 3.17). A survey of the cemetery completed in 2003 identifies these live oaks planted along the road as "young oaks." Today they are between 15 inches and 18 inches in diameter. The canopy along Military Cemetery Road south of burial sections 168 and 169 continues to create the tunnel-like effect, but there are gaps in the canopy between these smaller trees.

There are numerous more recently planted trees that are only 1 inch or 2 inches in diameter. These are more commonly found in the second row of the allée. These include other species in addition to live oaks, including pecan, red maple, and deciduous magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*). The area in the southern half of the main section of the cemetery has fewer trees than the northern half.

The trees are mostly in good condition, though some of the older trees are showing signs of decline, including branch dieback and bark sloughing (Figure 3.18). In areas, roots grow above the turf, which results in them being scalped by mowers (Figure 3.19).

There is a line of mixed vegetation growing just outside (east) of the east enclosure wall in a narrow strip of land between the wall and a chain link fence. This line of vegetation features mostly volunteer plants.

Shrubs growing in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery

There are a few saw palmettos growing near the side of the road, including three located at the widened place in the road for vehicular parking.

Turf growing in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery

The walking spaces between the grave markers are covered in manicured lawn—mostly St. Augustine



Figure 3.17: Younger oak trees growing along Military Cemetery Road (WLA Studio 2020).

Grass with some weeds including clover. Most rows of grave markers are maintained with weed trimming. Additionally, a 3-feet-wide swathe of grass around the outside perimeter of the west enclosure wall is mown (Figure 3.20).

Features:

- Chalmette Battlefield
- Lawn at visitor center, Chalmette Monument, and Battlefield Road
- Mixed woods with cypress trees along northern boundary
- Woods along western boundary
- Grove behind visitor center
- Screening along southwestern boundary
- Hardwood trees around Malus-Beauregard
- Turf on Battlefield Rampart and Rodriguez Canal
- Trees on approach to national cemetery entrance gate
- Groves in north section of national cemetery
- Lawn and plantings around Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance complex
- Allée (double row) of trees growing in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery
- Shrubs growing in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery
- Lawn growing in main section of Chalmette National Cemetery

Buildings and Structures

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

The Chalmette unit includes both historic and modern buildings and structures. The NPS constructed most of the modern buildings and structures, including the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center, comfort station, and Battlefield Rampart. Historic structures include the Malus-Beauregard House and Chalmette Monument. There are also known archeological ruins of historic structures, including those of the Rodriguez Plantation.

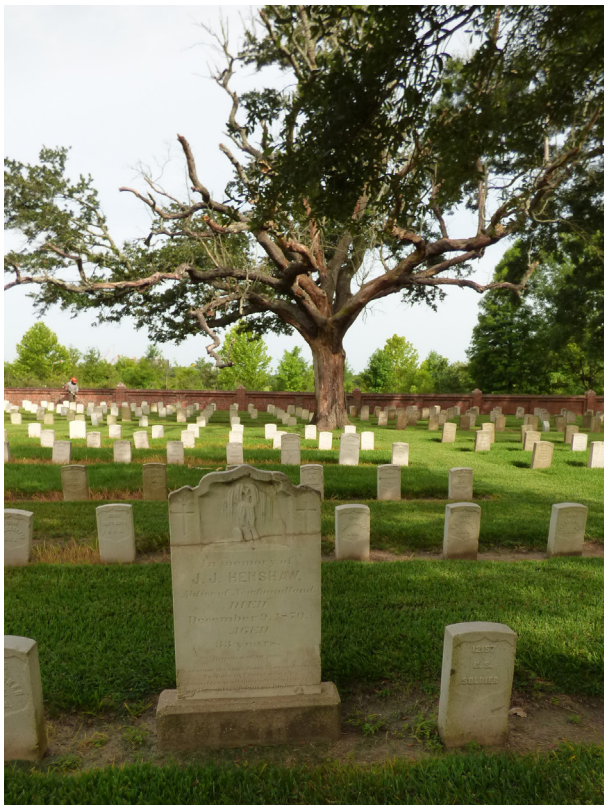


Figure 3.18: Oak tree in decline (WLA Studio 2020).

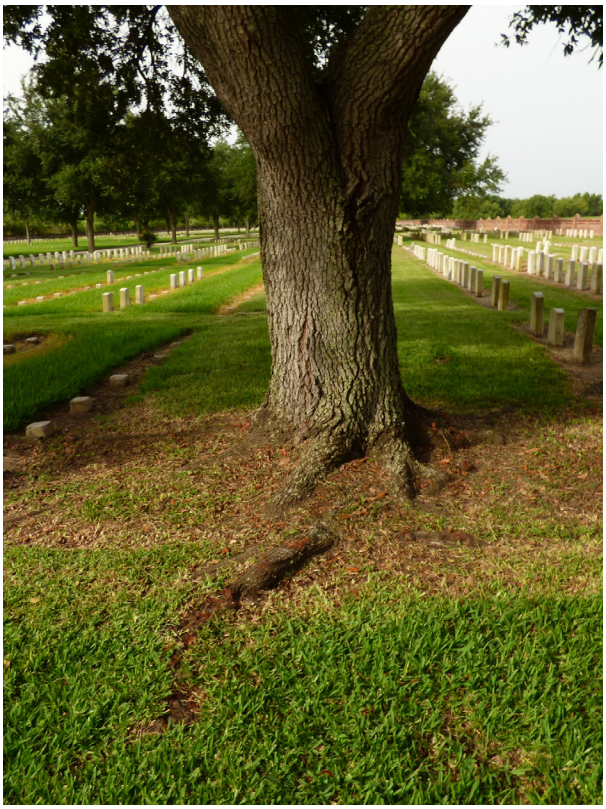


Figure 3.19: Exposed roots and mower scalps (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.20: Looking west along a walking path and dead turf around grave markers (WLA Studio 2020).

Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center

The Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center **(circa 2010)** is three-bay, side-gabled building with a wide shed roof that wraps around all four sides. There are gabled entrance porticoes on the south and north façades. It has a concrete slab. The building has solar panels mounted on the south side of the standing-seam metal roof (Figure 3.21). It is in good condition.

Chalmette Monument (CRIS #: 021368)

The Chalmette Monument (1855, completed 1908) is a marble obelisk, 100 feet 2.5 inches tall and 14 feet square at the bottom of the shaft. It sits on tiered base that is 48 feet square at its foundation. It is constructed of Tuckahoe and Georgia marble. There are 11 steps that lead to an entrance on the south side of the obelisk. Inside the monument shaft, an iron spiral staircase leads to an observation space. The interior of the monument is accessed via a door in its south façade. There are similar, faux entrances on its other facades. These have sloped surrounds and heavy pediments. A bronze plaque, honoring the Chalmette Chapter of the United Daughters of 1812, is mounted adjacent to the entranceway on the south face of the monument. The Chalmette Monument sits within a circle of manicured turf encircled by Monument Circle, a circular extension of Battlefield Road (Figure 3.22). It is in good condition.

Malus-Beauregard House (CRIS #: 021367)

This is a two-story brick building (circa 1833) containing elements of Greek Revival architectural details. The building has a hipped roof supported by columns on the north and south elevations. There are six dormers on the roof and a centrally located square brick chimney. The exterior walls are plastered, scored to simulate stone blocks. It is painted a shade of orange pink. The columns and most exterior woodwork are painted white. There is a porch with a metal railing on the second floor of the porch on the south façade. It is in good condition.

Comfort station/restroom building

The comfort station (circa 1972) is a concrete block building built on a concrete slab. The blocks are laid in a stack bond stretcher pattern. The shake-



Figure 3.21: Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center looking southwest (WLA Studio 2020).

covered hip roof covers a wrap-around porch with a wide overhang to create a sheltered walking area on its east, west, and north façades. Square posts support the porch roof. It has transom windows mounted above the block walls. The entrances into restrooms are on the east and west sides of the building. There is a temporary posting bulletin board mounted on north wall between entrances to restrooms. It is in good condition.

Battlefield Rampart (Battlefield Rampart/Line Jackson) (CRIS #: 021369)

The Battlefield Rampart (begun in 1955) extends southeast towards from the edge of the woods on the north side of the battlefield. The tour loop road crosses the rampart in two locations, at its north and south ends. The rampart generally follows the Rodriguez Canal, which appears as a shallow ditch on the exterior (east) face of the rampart (Figure 3.23).

The main section of the rampart is between the two intersections with the tour loop road. Here the rampart is an earthen mound covered in turf approximately 3 to 4 feet tall. The interior (west) and portions of the exterior (east) sides of the mound are retained by boards. The boards vary in width and height but are generally 4 to 6 inches wide and 3 feet tall. Double layers of boards are visible in some locations, suggesting that newer boards have been added as the older layer deteriorated. Several of the boards are in poor condition or have become dislodged. The palings on the exterior (east) face of the rampart are in mostly poor condition. They are shorter, approximately 2 feet tall, and are missing in several sections of the rampart.



Figure 3.22: Chalmette Monument (WLA Studio 2020).

There are gaps in the ramparts meant to interpret the embrasures at batteries four through eight. The embrasures and battery structures are constructed from a combination of cut poles (possibly recycled utility poles) and large timbers (possibly recycled railroad ties.) Several of the timbers are laid flush to the ground to simulate their original construction. A wood track is laid perpendicular to the timbers. The wood used for the tracks appear to be pressure-treated fence pickets (Figure 3.24).

There is a large live oak tree growing at the base of the rampart near its southern end.

In the section north of the tour loop road, the rampart is a raised, turf-covered mound partially retained by wood palings similar to the southern section described above on its interior (west) and exterior (east) sides. The mound tapers after approximately 40 feet to become a low, narrow mound. Along this section, the mound is retained by a series of long wooden poles (possibly recycled utility poles.) The poles have become dislodged in several places and several poles appear to be missing.

The rampart is generally in fair condition with some features, especially the wood revetment, in poor condition.

Battlefield elevated viewing platform

There is a raised, concrete platform (circa 1964) on the east side of the Battlefield Tour Loop Road, which offers visitors an elevation position to look over the battlefield. It is raised approximately 4 feet from surrounding grade and accessed by six



Figure 3.23: Exterior slope of Battlefield Rampart looking north (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.24: View of battery showing embrasure and palings on interior face of rampart (WLA Studio 2020).

concrete steps on its east side. The sides of the platform are planted in turf, which slopes away from the top of the platform to the surrounding grade. The concrete has small aggregate exposed in its surface. There is an octagonal concrete base on the south side of the platform on which is mounted a flagpole flying the national flag of the United Kingdom. There are two metal benches mounted on its northern end. It is in good condition.

Powder magazine

There is a rectangular utilitarian storage building located in the cypress swamp/woods north of the battlefield. The raised road leading to the building is likely a remnant of the historic Fazendeville Road or shares its alignment with that historic, now missing, landscape feature. The building appears to be constructed of concrete with a metal door on its south façade. It has no windows. It is surrounded by a metal, chain link fence with barbed wire along its top.

Former St. Bernard wastewater treatment facility

This complex (circa 1958) is enclosed by a chain link fence and was not inspected during the site visit. It is comprised of several structures. The largest and most visually prominent is a monolithic concrete structure that was part of the treatment facility. There are smaller ancillary and utility buildings and sheds within the confines of the fence.

Utilities

There are various utilities scattered around the site. Many of these are visually prominent and detract from the historic setting.

A 1983 topographic map shows a 4-inch water line along the east side of Battlefield Road.

Utility poles with power lines are along River Road south of the Malus-Beauregard House. There is equipment associated with the water supply mounted in the yard east of the Malus-Beauregard House. These appear related to water supply to a fire suppression system.

There is a waste/sewage pump station in the open space north of the Spotts Monument, approximately 15 feet west of the walkway from River Road to the visitor center. It is located north of the Spotts Monument. This has a manhole, a concrete above ground chamber, and an electrical panel box.

There are two fire hydrants near the Malus-Beauregard House, near the east and west ends of its fence. There is a collection of water supply-related utilities in the yard south of the Malus-Beauregard House. There is a water spigot in the north yard of Malus-Beauregard House (Figure 3.25). The Malus-Beauregard House has gutter and downspouts that convey rainwater into a system of brick collection basins on the east and west sides of the house. The 2021 Historic Structure Report on the building speculates that the water drains to the ditch on the west side of the house (the south end of the Rodriguez Canal), but the report concludes that the system is no longer functional.[364] These were added during the NPS rehabilitation of the building in the late 1950s.

There are culverts and inlets providing drainage under the roads in various locations across the Chalmette Unit (Figure 3.26). Those in the Battlefield/Chalmette Monument area include:

- 10-inch corrugated plastic pipe connecting low points on east and west side of north end of Battlefield Rampart; culvert conveying water from southside of tour loop road to north side;
- 10-inch corrugated plastic pipe conveying water from southside (interior) of tour loop road to north side in vicinity of Fazendeville Road Trace and drive to powder magazine;
- 10-inch corrugated plastic pipe conveying water from northside (interior) of tour loop road to southside, near the curve in loop road in southeast corner of battlefield.
- Three square iron grates covering drop inlets located around the Chalmette

364. Opperman, *Malus-Beauregard Historic Structure Report*, 64.



Figure 3.25: Collection of utilities southeast of Malus-Beauregard House (WLA Studio 2020).

Monument circle. These are placed in the road at the edge of the curb. The outlets were not observed during the site visits, but a 1983 topographic survey of the site shows the outlet for the drain on the northeast side of the circle in the lawn area west of the entrance drive. The outlets for the two drains on the east side of the circle are in the Rodriguez Canal north of the tour loop road.

There is an unidentified utility box near the entrance gate and a locked utility box on the edge of the woods near the entrance into the unit that has electrical service.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area
Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge (CRIS #: 064956)

The Superintendent's Lodge (circa 1929) is a two-story, brick masonry building, with a hipped roof. The brick is laid in running bond. The building's façade is symmetrical. The main (east) façade has two entrances on the first floor, which are flanked by double-hung, eight-over-one windows. The second floor is also symmetrical, with paired, double-hung, six-over-one windows. There is a small, rectangular, fixed window in between these paired windows in the center of the façade. Directly above this window, there is a hipped roof dormer on the east side of the roof. There is a rectangular brick chimney on the north side of the building. There is a full-width porch, with a hipped roof supported by six cast iron columns with Corinthian capitals on the main (east) façade. A narrow, 3-feet-wide concrete sidewalk approaches the building from Military Cemetery Road. There are three concrete steps leading onto the concrete porch (Figure 3.27).

The full-width rear porch, which has similar columns as the front porch, is two stories; the second story porch is enclosed. There is an accessible ramp leading from a brick patio in the rear yard to the rear porch. There is also a set of concrete steps, with three risers, side rails, and handrails. These do not appear to be original. The building is in good condition.



Figure 3.26: Outlet of drainage structure near tour loop road, view looking north with north end of rampart in background (WLA Studio 2020).

Cemetery maintenance building/garage (Carriage House) (CRIS # 064957)

The maintenance building/garage (circa 1929) is a one-and-a-half story tall, side gabled brick building. It has a symmetrical front (east) façade, with two carriage doors and two double-hung, six-over-six windows. There is a shed-roof addition onto the full length of the rear (west) side of the building. It has carriage doors similar to those on the east façade. There is a door on the north façade on the second level, but it does not have access stairs and may be kind of "hayloft door." All the doors on the buildings have panels on the lower halves and glazing on the upper halves. There are two metal vents on the ridge of the roof. The ridge has a terra-cotta cap. The rest of the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The fascia of the eaves has decorative scroll work. There is a concrete (or possibly stucco covered brick) water table projecting from the base of the exterior walls around the entire building (Figure 3.28). The building is in good condition.



Figure 3.27: Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge (WLA Studio 2020).

Maintenance shed

This shed roof building (circa 1957) has brick walls on three sides and a sloping roof supported on metal piers. The front (north) side of the building has a fence enclosure. It is used to store equipment. It appears to be in good condition.

Chalmette National Cemetery Walls (CRIS #: 064965)

The cemetery enclosure wall (circa 1873, extended 1892, 1911) extends around its south, west, and east sides. It is constructed of red brick laid in a variation of common bond with four courses of runners separated by a single header course. It is constructed in sections with each section supported by a 16-inch-square column. The columns are 5 feet tall with a pyramidal cap. Each section has two recessed panels separated by a flush column in the center. The tops of the wall sections have a rowlock course (Figure 3.29). The walls are in good condition.

Brick well/drainage structure

There is a drainage structure (unknown date) tied into the east cemetery wall approximately 400 feet south of the north end of the cemetery. It is a half-circle wall that protrudes from the east enclosure wall into the cemetery; the enclosure wall serves as the back wall of the structure. The structure is approximately 4-feet tall. It has a series of racked and corbeled panels along its curved wall. Whereas the main wall of the structure is laid in common bond, the cap features a bottom header course topped with a racked rowlock course. There are three inlet pipes entering the structure from the cemetery side and one pipe leading out through the cemetery enclosure wall. This feature does not appear on the circa 1955 drawing of drainage and road improvements at the national cemetery, though it is possible that it was added at that time.

Utilities

There are few visible utilities in the national cemetery. Most buildings are clustered near the north entrance and previous surveys of the property suggest underground utilities enter the cemetery from its northwest corner and extend towards the Superintendent's Lodge area.

There is a clay pipe culvert, approximately 14-inch diameter, with a brick headwall, passing under the entrance road north of the entrance gate. This conveys water from two drainage areas on the east and west side of the road. There are drain inlets located along the interior of the cemetery enclosure wall, including one behind the Superintendent's Lodge. These are covered



Figure 3.28: Cemetery maintenance building/garage (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.29: Brick enclosure wall flanking brick well/drainage structure on east side of national cemetery (WLA Studio 2020).

in bar grates. Their outlets are unknown, but it appears that they drain under the brick wall. There are four curb inlets and catch basins located along Military Cemetery Road. One set is found approximately 400 feet south of the entrance gate; the second is 2,320 feet south of the entrance. They are in pairs, located in the curb line directly opposite each other. The northern inlet ties into an 18-inch concrete pipe that connects to a brick drainage structure on the east boundary wall. It is unclear where the southern inlets drain, though presumably through the eastern boundary wall since that is shown on a 1950s construction document (ETIC 467-3000). These inlets have large, 55 x 31-inch cast iron curb tops with face-mounted grates. The Superintendent's Lodge has gutters and downspouts that lead to an underground drainage system. It is unclear where the water drains, but it is presumed to be

connected to the drainage system along the west wall behind the building.

Features:

- Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center
- Chalmette Monument
- Malus-Beauregard House
- Comfort station/restroom building
- Battlefield Rampart (Line Jackson)
- Battlefield viewing platform
- Powder magazine
- Former St. Bernard wastewater treatment facility
- Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge
- Cemetery maintenance building/garage
- Maintenance shed
- Cemetery entrance gate
- Cemetery north fence
- Brick enclosure wall
- Brick well/drainage structure
- West wall iron fence section
- Utilities

Views and Vistas

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

View of Chalmette Monument and battlefield

One of the most important views for visitors is as they enter the site on Battlefield Road. Turning off of St. Bernard Highway, the view into Chalmette Unit is of the Chalmette Monument, standing directly ahead on axis with the entrance drive. The obelisk protrudes into the sky above the canopy of trees behind the monument. The visitor center is visible as a horizontal mass extending beyond either side of the monuments base. The observer can also see the Malus-Beauregard House, which is set off to the side and behind the monument but whose visibility is enhanced by its white columns and pinkish paint color highlighted against the dark foliaged trees in the background (Figure 3.30). The view from outside the entrance gate is framed by woods that flank both sides of the road.

Once through the gates, the view opens significantly as a visitor can see beyond the line of woods filling the north side of Chalmette Unit. Once near the intersection of Battlefield Road and the north leg of the tour loop road, an observer has a panoramic view of the entire site. The primary view shifts away from the monument to the wide, open space extending east from the entrance drive. The view is over the American rampart towards the open battlefield with the dark foliage of the trees in the national cemetery providing a visual backdrop. Smokestacks of industrial sites beyond the Chalmette Unit punctuate the horizon.

Views from Malus-Beauregard House

Standing in the rear (north) side of the Malus-Beauregard, a visitor has an expansive view across the battlefield, with the Chalmette Monument and visitor center on one side and the national cemetery and industrial structures on the other side. Live oak trees scattered across the west side of the yard partially obscure the visitor center (Figure 3.31).

View from Chalmette Monument, Rodriguez Canal, and Battlefield Rampart over battlefield

Looking east from the area around the rampart, a visitor has a panoramic view across the battlefield towards National Cemetery. Smokestack and industrial facilities are visible in the background. Live oaks in cemetery partially shield industrial facilities in background, but rows of smokestacks extend into the sky. The tour loop road is visible from many locations because of its slight elevation above the surrounding grade (Figure 3.32).

View towards Chalmette Monument from battlefield viewing platform and along tour loop road

Standing on the viewing platform on the east side of the battlefield, the view contains the field in the foreground framed by woods on the north and south sides. The tour loop road is visible. The main feature of the view is the Chalmette Monument and the visitor center. Large oak trees south of the visitor center and the woods along the western boundary partially screen the bottom half of the buildings and loading cranes at the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal Complex at Chalmette Slip (Figure 3.33).



Figure 3.30: View looking south along Battlefield Road towards Chalmette Monument, visitor center, Malus-Beauregard House and the battlefield (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.31: View looking northeast from Malus-Beauregard House (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.32: View looking east towards national cemetery and across battlefield (WLA Studio 2020).

View of Malus-Beauregard House from levee

Though not in the study area, the top of the levee provides many visitors with a prominent view of the Malus-Beauregard House. Visitors approaching the park unit from the boat dock on the river get a view of the house from the top of the staircase on the levee that is almost on axis with the house.

View of Mississippi River and Malus-Beauregard House from levee

The levee creates a visual barrier between the Mississippi River and the park unit. However, the top of the levee offers visitors an opportunity to see the river. The best view of the river is at the bridge to the boat dock; otherwise, vegetation growing along the riverbank obscures most views from the levee towards the river.

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area

Entrance view into national cemetery

An important view is at the entrance into the cemetery. As a visitor approaches the entrance gate, cypress trees crowd the road focusing the view down Military Cemetery Road and through the tunnel created by the canopy of live oak trees growing along the road (Figure 3.34).



Figure 3.33: View looking west towards Chalmette Monument with visitor center and Chalmette Slip visible (WLA Studio 2020).

View from national cemetery towards Chalmette Monument

Views west towards the Chalmette Monument are available from the national cemetery once beyond the woods growing around the service access road lining the cemetery to the battlefield. This happens approximately 1,150 feet from the north entrance, near the pedestrian connection through the west wall between the national cemetery and the battlefield. The view is often through the trunks and below the canopy of the specimen trees growing in the national cemetery.

Features:

- Open field
- Chalmette Monument
- Malus-Beauregard House
- Vegetated Buffers
- Burial sections with grave markers
- Military Cemetery Road
- Allée of trees
- Viewing Platform

Constructed Water Features

Rodriguez Canal (CRIS #: 064952)

The Rodriguez Canal extends most of the length of the Battlefield Rampart and continues south of where the tour loop road intersects the southern end of the rampart. The southern section of the Rodriguez Canal appears as a shallow and wide ditch, approximately 10 feet wide and 2 feet deep, that becomes increasingly shallow on its southern end. It stops approximately halfway between the tour loop road and River Road. The northern end, which appears deeper was full of water during site visits. It is also filled with wetland species of plants, suggesting that water is persistent in this section (Figure 3.35).



Figure 3.34: View looking south down Military Cemetery Road under canopy of live oak trees (WLA Studio 2020).

The northern section of the canal is on the exterior (east) side of the Battlefield Rampart. It extends from the north side of the battlefield, near where the northern leg of the tour loop road bisects the Battlefield Rampart, to the south end of the Battlefield Rampart. It is approximately 8 to 10 feet wide and approximately a foot deep, though it is filled with grass and its depth is difficult to ascertain (Figure 3.36). During both site visits portions of the canal were filled with water. There is a 12-inch corrugated plastic culvert that is designed to drain water from the canal to the north side of the tour loop road.

Overall, the Rodriguez Canal is in fair condition.

Agricultural drainage ditches

Agricultural drainage ditches that cross the battlefield appear in aerial photographs of the site. They are not easily seen on the ground because of tall grass growing in the field. The only one that is potentially legible is the ditch that ran alongside Fazendeville Road, but even it is very difficult to discern at ground level. The ditches are more visible in the woods north of the tour loop road.

Features:

- Rodriguez Canal
- Agricultural ditches

Small-Scale Features

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

Chalmette Monument plaque

A bronze plaque providing a history of the Chalmette Monument and honoring the Chalmette Chapter of the United Daughters of 1812 is mounted adjacent to the entranceway on the south face of the monument. It was placed there by the Daughters in 1947. It is in good condition.



Figure 3.35: South end of Rodriguez Canal filled with water and wetland plants (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.36: Looking south along the northern section of Rodriguez Canal with the Battlefield Rampart (WLA Studio 2020).

Spotts Marker (CRIS #: 064955)

Spotts Marker is near the southwest corner of the property, near River Road and west of the Malus-Beauregard House. It is a stone loving cup-shaped monument placed on a stone base. The base has the following inscription: "In Memory of Major Samuel Spotts U.S.A. Who shot the first gun at the Battle of New Orleans Jan. 8, 1815. Third Regiment Seventh Battery Artillery Corp. Born Nov. 30, 1788 in Philadelphia PA. Died July 11, 1833 in New Orleans Louisiana. It is in fair condition (Figure 3.37).

Regiment commemorative markers

There are nine bronze markers mounted on marble bases evenly spaced around the perimeter of the circular lawn panel around the Chalmette Monument. The markers honor various military units that participated in the Chalmette Battle. The markers were dedicated on January 8, 2005. The markers commemorate the 7th and 44th U.S.



Figure 3.37: Looking west towards Spotts Marker (WLA Studio 2020).

Infantry, the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Artillery, the Louisiana Militia, the Mississippi Militia, the Choctaw Nation, the Kentucky Militia, and the Tennessee Militia. The bases are almost flush with the surrounding grade, with approximately 2 inches exposed above the ground. The corners of the markers exhibit damage cause most likely from mowers or weed trimmers; otherwise, they are in good condition (Figure 3.38).

Park identity sign

The park identification sign is mounted near the intersection of the park's entrance road and St. Bernard Highway. It is a standard NPS 1-line mounted format with park identification. The two metal panels are attached to rails and mounted onto steel posts. The sign panels were manufactured by UNICOR. It is in good condition.

Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center sign

A metal and concrete sign for the visitor center is located on the edge of the sidewalk on the east side of the visitor center. The dark brown sign panel features the NPS Arrowhead Symbol and reads "Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center—Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve." The horizontal sign is mounted to a vertical concrete panel and is lit by flush-



Figure 3.38: Example of regiment commemorative marker (WLA Studio 2020).

mounted lights. There is a canon mounted on a concrete pedestal and a small stack of cannon balls mounted to the side of the sign. These features are placed on a concrete base. It is in good condition.

Chalmette Battlefield facility sign

There is a metal, ground-mounted 1-line facility identification sign, with park identification, NPS identification, and the NPS Arrowhead. This sign provides the name of the facility—Chalmette Battlefield—and identifies it on the second line as the "Site of the Battle of New Orleans." The sign is suspended between two concrete pillars with decorative caps. It is in good condition.

The Kentucky Rifle marker

Mounted near the park's identification sign along St. Bernard Highway, a sign sponsored by the Kentucky Rifle Foundation commemorates the use of the rifle by American troops in the Battle of New Orleans.

Directional signs

There are a variety of directional signs distributed for motorists on site. These signs include:

- Metal park sign with directions to "Park Exit" and "Battlefield Self Guided Driving Tour." This is mounted at the intersection of the tour loop road and Battlefield Road.
- Metal sign where road passes on west side of visitor center informing motorists that "Gates Close at 4:00 PM."
- Various one-way and stop signs.

Regulatory signs

There are numerous regulatory signs distributed across the site. Examples include:

- There are area entry signs with park regulations, including information on laws protecting archeological and cultural resources. These are mounted on a composite plastic post near the entrance gate;
- There is a caution sign warning visitors about an uneven walking surface between loop road and national cemetery. This is a wooden sign mounted on wooden post.

Temporary posting bulletin board

There is a large bulletin board mounted on the north wall of the comfort station.

Low-profile interpretive waysides

There are numerous interpretive waysides distributed across the site. These are most commonly 36-inch by 24-inch low-profile wayside panels with information about the battle or other features in the park (Figure 3.39). The panels are high pressure laminate mounted on metal frames. Most are in good condition; some exhibit cracking and de-lamination, which is noted in the list of waysides below:



Figure 3.39: Example of low-profile interpretive wayside showing example of one delaminating (WLA Studio 2020).

- Rodriguez Canal—along walkway from visitor center behind the canal;
- Batteries Two and Three—approximately midway along walkway going south from visitor center;
- West Bank Assault—on walkway from visitor center closer to levee;
- Battery One and Forward Redoubt—on walkway from visitor center closer to levee;
- Attack Along the River—on walkway from visitor center closer to levee;
- The Malus-Beauregard House—on walkway to Malus-Beauregard house;
- After the Battle—on walkway to Malus-Beauregard house;
- Chalmette Monument—in lawn panel on south side of monument (laminate panel cracking);
- Battery Four—on edge of sidewalk near southernmost parking pull-off on entrance road;
- Batteries Five and Six—in greenspace near northernmost parking pull-off on entrance road (laminate panel cracking);
- Batteries Seven and Eight—in greenspace between entrance road and Battlefield Rampart, near north end of the line;
- The 93rd Oblique—on edge of pull-off parking area on tour loop road on south side of battlefield;
- Fazendeville—on edge of battlefield overlooking area where former Fazendeville Road was located and still visible as depression on landscape;
- British Batteries—on edge of pull-off parking area on tour loop road on southeast side of battlefield;

- Roads and Ditches—on edge of pull-off parking area, next to sidewalk north of the viewing platform with the British flag;
- Freedmen's Cemetery—outside opening in west wall of national cemetery;
- Soldiers Buried at Chalmette—outside opening in west wall of national cemetery;
- Chalmette National Cemetery—outside opening in west wall of national cemetery;
- Packenham's Fall—on edge of pull-off parking area on north side of loop road (panel is de-laminated);
- The Main Attack—on edge of pull-off parking area on north side of loop road (panel is de-laminated).

Upright orientation waysides

There are also upright waysides providing overview information for visitors. Examples of these include:

- A 48-inch wide and 36-inch-high wayside on the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery located at the entrance through the fence at the Malus-Beauregard House.
- A similar 48-inch wide and 36-inch-high wayside on the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery located along the entrance road just inside the entrance gate. This also has a regulatory sign that provides park hours.

Artillery

There are five pieces of artillery on display at the Battlefield Rampart. Four are fieldpieces mounted on carriages. These are located at Batteries Four, Five, and Six. A Navy gun mounted on a Marsilly carriage is on display at Battery Four.

There are also cannon tubes on display in multiple locations, including at the pull-off at Battery Four and at the visitor center facility sign. The artillery pieces on display are in good condition (Figure 3.40).

Flagpoles

There are multiple flag poles distributed across the site. The flagpoles are in good condition. These include:

- An approximately 20-feet-tall metal pole the open area west of Malus-Beauregard House;
- An approximately 40-feet-tall aluminum flagpole topped with a brass (or gold anodized aluminum) ball finial. This is in the lawn northeast of the entrance road loop around the monument, near the beginning of the Battlefield Rampart;
- An approximately 25-feet-tall wooden pole near Battery Four. This external halyard pole appears to be a varnished oak with a square buttress approximately 5 inches by 5 inches. The pole tapers into a round pole above the buttress. There is a plaque stating that the pole is "In honor of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans January 8, 2015—United States Daughters of 1812—Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Louisiana."
- An approximately 40-feet-tall aluminum flagpole, flying the national flag of the United Kingdom, on the viewing platform on the east side of the battlefield.

Benches

There are benches of different type distributed across the site. Most of the benches are in good condition, unless otherwise noted. These include:

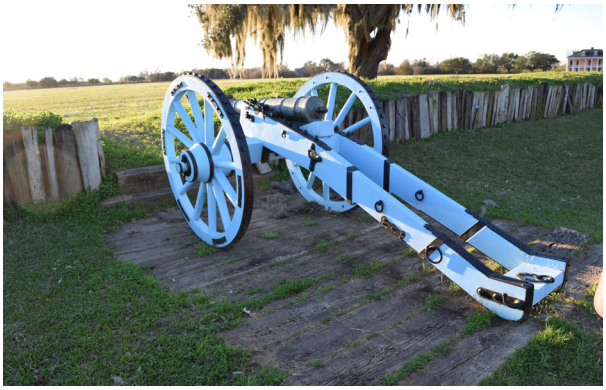


Figure 3.40: Artillery piece on display at battery on the Battlefield Rampart (WLA Studio 2020).

Plastic benches with backs. These are Comfort Park Avenue Benches manufactured by Frog Furnishings. They are constructed with seven resin-wood slats mounted on a recycled plastic base. Locations include:

- One in greenspace next to visitor center parking lot along walkway behind Rodriguez Canal;
- Approximately four under large oak grove south of visitor center;
- One in greenspace east of walkway from visitor center near intersection with River Road;
- Two in greenspace north of Malus-Beauregard House;
- One on sidewalk next to parking pull-off at Batteries Five and Six;
- One on sidewalk next to parking pull-off at Battery Four;
- One at Comfort Station.

Cast iron and wooden benches with backs. These are cast iron benches with high arching armrests and horizontal wooden slats for the seat and back. These appear to be DuMor, Inc. benches, series 165. Locations include:

- Under the cover of the porch, flanking either side of the entrance portico, on the north side of the visitor center.

Metal and wood benches with backs. These benches have square metal frames, upon which are mounted wood slats for the back and bench. Locations include:

- In greenspace between Battlefield Rampart and entrance road near Batteries Seven and Eight wayside;
- One in greenspace near entrance road next to parking pull-off at Batteries Five and Six;
- One in greenspace along walkway between visitor center and Malus-Beauregard House.

Metal and composite wood benches with backs. These benches have square metal legs and flat metal supports for the bench seat and backs. Locations include:

- Pull-off on tour loop road at Packenham's Fall wayside. The top slat of the back is broken.

Aluminum and plastic laminate slats benches with backs. These are modern designed benches with molded aluminum frames supporting plastic slats. Locations include:

- Two bolted down to the concrete viewing platform with the British flagpole on the east side of the battlefield;
- One in the greenspace outside (west) of the iron picket fence in the gap of the brick cemetery wall, south of the walking path between the cemetery and the loop road.

Picnic tables

There are approximately six picnic tables distributed in the grass area below the grove of large oak trees south of the visitor center. They feature wood tables and benches mounted on bent metal tubes. These are not fixed in place.

Entrance gate

A cast iron gate marks the vehicular entrance into the park. It is set in the woods along the north side of the park (Figure 3.41). The gate has two scalloped panels attached to ornamental piers. The scalloped-shaped swinging gate panels have pickets with finial tops. The ornamental piers have an iron base, a middle section with round iron rods, and an upper cap. The middle section features a round medallion that reads "1815." The upper cap has a medallion that reads "War of 1812." It is in good condition.

Entrance gate fence

An aluminum picket fence extends out from the either side of the pedestrian gates at the park entrance gate. These fences have panels with 14 pickets topped with fleur de les finials. The fence on the east side of gate extends 100 feet into the woods. The fence on the west side extends

approximately 25 feet into the woods. It is in good condition.

Malus-Beauregard House fence

There is a cast iron picket fence along the south boundary of the Malus-Beauregard lot. It is approximately 180 feet in length, with an opening in the midway point for the front walkway. It is constructed in panels, with two rails and 29 pickets per panel. They are attached to slightly larger posts. The pickets are square and are topped with an ornamental triad spear; the posts are also square with a variation of a similar ornamental top. The posts flanking the walkway to house are larger, square, and topped with ball ornaments. Gate hardware is present, but the gate is missing. Also, several of the triad spear caps are missing from the pickets. There are metal bars supporting sections of the fence that are unstable; there are remnants of other, non-contemporary, fence posts at either end of this fence. The fence is in poor condition (Figure 3.42).

Powder magazine gate

A tubular-steel, double swing gate blocks vehicular access to the service road to the powder magazine. It is in good condition.

Powder magazine fence

There is a chain link fence mounted on galvanized posts surrounding the powder magazine building. The fence has barbed wire mounted on arms on top of the posts. The fence also has brown privacy slats inserted into the chain links. The fence is approximately 7 feet tall and in good condition.

Visitor center utility screen

There is an aluminum screen enclosure surrounding the HVAC units for the visitor center between the north side of the building and the road to the parking lot. It is in good condition.

Other small-scale features

There are two "double-D," bollard-style steel bike racks on north side of visitor center. There is a 10-foot double-sided bike rack on the sidewalk at the pull-off for Battery Four. The steel components are exhibiting evidence of rusting. There is a water



Figure 3.41: Entrance gate with Chalmette Monument and visitor center in background (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.42: Fence at Malus-Beauregard House with house in background (WLA Studio 2020).

fountain and trash can at the visitor center's comfort station. There is a trash can at comfort station

Chalmette National Cemetery Landscape Character Area

Grave markers/headstones (CRIS #: 064953)

Burials are in sections and there are 182 sections in the national cemetery. Each section is 50 feet by 50 feet. The lower numbered sections are in the south end of the cemetery. The grave markers are set in straight linear rows aligned roughly north to south. Currently, most of the rows of headstones are found within depressed ditches, which are the result of maintenance practices which use herbicide and weed trimmers to manage/remove the turf in an approximately 2-feet-wide strip along the rows (Figure 3.43).

According to NPS documents, there are approximately 15,228 grave markers at the national



Figure 3.43: National cemetery grave markers showing examples of leaning stones and trenches (WLA Studio 2020).

cemetery. The markers include various styles and represent burials from different wars and conflicts. The headstones also display a variety of inscription styles, some including a variation of service shield. Unknown soldiers are honored with a small rectangular marble marker. Burials include at least four veterans from the War of 1812; Civil War veterans, including 113 U.S. Colored Troops soldiers, veterans for the Spanish American War, veterans from WWI, WWII, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

In addition to the traditional military regulation grave markers, there are several non-military markers in the cemetery. These are mostly found in section 56 in the southern third of the cemetery, but other examples are scattered through the cemetery. These include obelisk, cross, ledge, and upright block headstone with a rounded top.

The condition of the stone markers varies. Many exhibit evidence of damage from maintenance equipment, with chips and cracks along the corners and edges. While large sections of the cemetery have headstones in neat straight lines, another observed condition issues include shifted or leaning headstones. Leaning headstones are conspicuous among otherwise straight rows. Headstones were also observed enveloped in large trees (Figure 3.44). Park staff observed that small markers in the southwest section of the cemetery have sunken below grade.

Overall, the grave markers are in fair condition.

Chalmette National Cemetery Gates (CRIS #: 064958)

The vehicular entrance into the national cemetery passes through an elaborately decorated iron gate posted at the north end of the cemetery. The main double gate, flanked by smaller scale pedestrian gates of a similar style, consist of cast iron bars with cast spear points. They are hinged on 12-foot-tall cast iron piers. The gate panels are each 5 ½ feet wide and 9 feet tall at their highest point. The cast iron piers are topped with a decorative urn. They are decorated with American military symbology, including a bald eagle, artillery, flags, and the American stripe shield (Figure 3.45). The gate is in good condition.

Cemetery north fence

Two sections of cast iron fence span the north side of the cemetery from the entrance gate to the north corners of the east and west brick walls. Each section is approximately 120 feet long. It has ¾-inch-square, spear-pointed iron picket bars with two square rails running horizontally near the

top of the pickets. The pickets are spaced 6 inches apart. The fence is supported by 2-inch-square, spear-pointed posts. The fence is 3 feet 9 inches tall. The fence is in good condition.

West wall iron fence section

A 40-feet-long section of cast iron fence partially fills a gap in the west enclosure wall. This gap provides passage between the cemetery and the adjacent battlefield. The fence is similar to the one on the north side of the cemetery, described above.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Monument (CRIS #: 064954)

The GAR monument is a 12-foot-tall granite and bronze monument in the middle of a circular turf area created by the cul-de-sac at the southern end of Military Cemetery Road (Figure 3.46). The monument stands on a slight mound of turf, raising its base approximately 3 feet above the grade of the road. The north façade of the base has the inscription "*Dum Tacent Clamant*"-- "While They Are Silent, They Cry Out." The top of the base is sloped and has four, downward-pointing cannon mounted on top of its four corners. A circular column rises from the center of the base. The north side of the column has a bronze badge of the GAR. At the top of the column, a bronze drum is surrounded by three furled bronze flags. The rear of the base has two inscriptions. One reads: "Erected by Joseph A. Mower Post No. 1 G.A.R." The second lists the names of the "Building Committee." The monument itself is in good condition, but its brick base has many dislodged bricks.

Upright cannon monuments

There are four monuments placed in the greenspace on the north end of the cemetery. Three are on the west side of Military Cemetery Road and one on the east side. Two flank the road approximately 20 feet south of the metal fence marking the northern boundary of the cemetery. They are set 25 feet back of the curb of the road. The second pair are located approximately 20 feet north and south of the flagpole mounted in the open space east of Military Cemetery Road. Each has a cannon tube mounted upright on a concrete base. Each base is 2 feet tall and measures 72 inches by 72 inches wide. Each have a 9-foot-long cast iron cannon tube mounted in upright position from middle of the base (Figure 3.47). They are in good condition.



Figure 3.44: Example of grave marker enveloped by tree (WLA Studio 2020).

Flagpole

There is a single metal flagpole, approximately 45 feet tall and topped with ball finial, mounted about 30 feet east of Military Cemetery Road.

Park identity sign

The park identification sign for the national cemetery is mounted near the intersection of the park's entrance road and St. Bernard Highway. It is a standard NPS 2-line mounted format with park identification and the NPS Arrowhead. The two metal panels are attached to rails and mounted onto steel posts. The sign panels were manufactured by UNICOR. It is in good condition.

Chalmette Plantation sign

Mounted near the park's identification sign along St. Bernard Highway, a sign sponsored by the St. Bernard Tourist Commission, provides a brief history of the Chalmette Plantation.



Figure 3.45: View of Chalmette National Cemetery entrance gates looking south (WLA Studio 2020).



Figure 3.46: Looking south towards GAR Monument (WLA Studio 2020).

Peace Tree plaque

There is a small bronze plaque mounted in the ground at the base of a large live oak growing next to Military Cemetery Road in the southern end of the cemetery. The plaque identifies the tree as the "Peace Tree." It is in good condition.

Chalmette National Cemetery facility sign

Just outside the main gate, on the west side of Military Cemetery Road, there is a metal, ground-mounted, 2-line facility identification sign, with park identification, NPS identification, and the NPS Arrowhead. This sign provides the name of the facility—Chalmette National Cemetery. The sign is suspended between two concrete pillars with decorative caps. It is in good condition.



Figure 3.47: View looking southeast towards upright cannon, mounted cannon, and flagpole (WLA Studio 2020).

Regulatory signs

There are numerous regulatory signs distributed across the site. Examples include area entry signs with park regulations. A smaller sign has information on laws protecting archeological and cultural resources. These are mounted on a wooden post near the main cemetery gate.

Plastic benches with backs

There are two benches on the edge of the open space on the north end of the cemetery, approximately 500 feet south of the cemetery entrance and west of the Military Cemetery Road. These are Comfort Park Avenue Benches manufactured by Frog Furnishings. They are in good condition.

Aluminum and plastic laminate slats benches with backs

These are modern benches with molded aluminum frames supporting plastic slats. There is a single bench placed on a concrete pad in the walking space between the grave sections near the middle of the cemetery, approximately 1,560 feet south of the north entrance. There is also a similar bench mounted on the front porch of the Superintendent's Lodge. They are in fair condition (Figure 3.48).

Other

There is a locked metal box mounted on a 3-feet-tall pole that appears to be a traffic counter. A road tube emerges from a hole drilled in the brick curb and extends across Military Cemetery Road. There is a picnic table under a large live oak tree near the maintenance equipment shed

Features:

- Spotts Marker
- Regiment commemorative markers
- Park identity sign
- Visitor center sign
- Chalmette Battlefield facility sign
- The Kentucky Rifle marker
- Directional signs
- Regulatory signs
- Temporary posting bulletin board
- Low-profile interpretive waysides
- Upright Orientation Waysides

- Artillery
- Flagpoles
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Entrance gate
- Entrance gate fence
- Malus-Beauregard House fence
- Powder magazine gate
- Powder magazine fence
- Visitor center utility screen
- Grave markers/headstones
- The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Monument
- Upright cannon monuments
- Flagpole
- Park Identity sign
- Chalmette Plantation sign
- Peace Tree plaque
- Chalmette National Cemetery facility sign
- Regulatory signs
- Plastic benches with backs
- Aluminum and plastic laminate slats benches with backs
- Other small-scale features

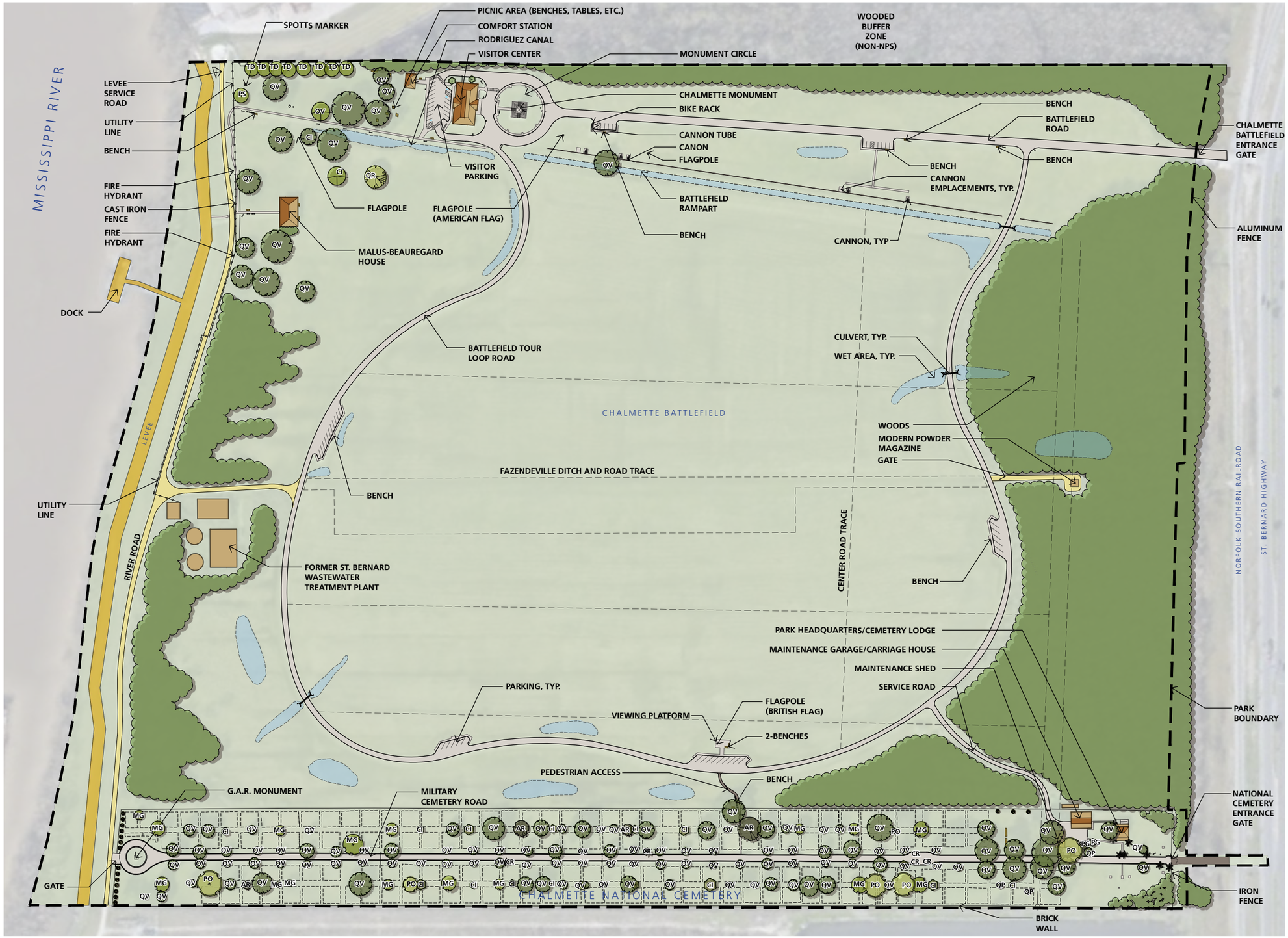


Figure 3.48: Plastic and aluminum bench in Chalmette National Cemetery (WLA Studio 2020).

Archeological Sites

This report does not strive to catalog all the archeological resources at the Chalmette Unit. Previous archeological investigations have done so, including Ted Birkedal's The Search for the Lost Riverfront: Historical and Archeological Investigations at the Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. While the entire park should be considered an archeological site, one site worth noting and currently interpreted is the Rodriguez Plantation site. The site is located south of the comfort station in a grove of live oak trees.

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Plant Key

AR	Red Maple	*Acer rubrum*
CI	Pecan	*Carya illinoinensis*
CR	Sago Palm	*Cycas revoluta*
MG	Magnolia	*Magnolia grandiflora*
PO	Sycamore	*Platanus occidentalis*
QV	Live Oak	*Quercus virginiana*
QP	Pin Oak	*Quercus palustris*
QR	Red Oak	*Quercus rubra*
PG	Pomegranate	*Punica granatum*
TD	Bald Cypress	*Taxodium distichum*

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following source was used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013

Illustration 3.1

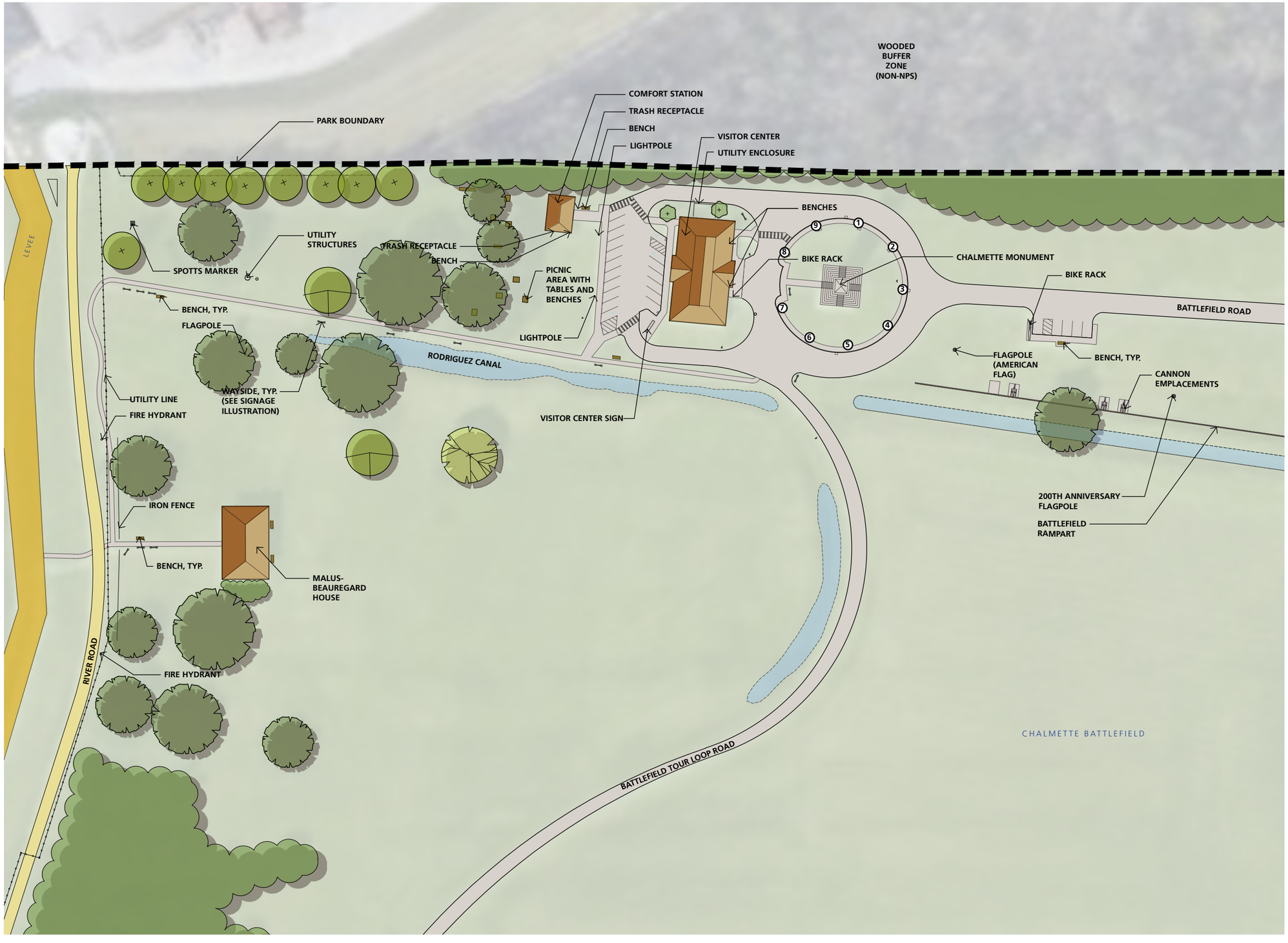
Existing Conditions (2019)

Chalmette Battlefield

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Key

1	Kentucky Militia Plaque
2	Mississippi Militia Plaque
3	U.S. Artillery Plaque
4	Louisiana Militia Plaque
5	U.S. Navy Plaque
6	U.S. Marines Plaque
7	7th U.S. Infantry and 44th U.S. Infantry Plaque
8	Choctaw Nation Plaque
9	Tennessee Militia Plaque

0′ 100′ 200′ North

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following sources were used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013

Illustration 3.2
Existing Conditions Enlargement (2019)
Chalmette Battlefield

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Plant Key

AR	Red Maple	*Acer rubrum*
CI	Pecan	*Carya illinoinensis*
CR	Sago Palm	*Cycas revoluta*
MG	Magnolia	*Magnolia grandiflora*
QV	Live Oak	*Quercus virginiana*
QP	Pin Oak	*Quercus palustris*
PG	Pomegranate	*Punica granatum*
PO	Sycamore	*Platanus occidentalis*

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following source was used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013

Illustration 3.3

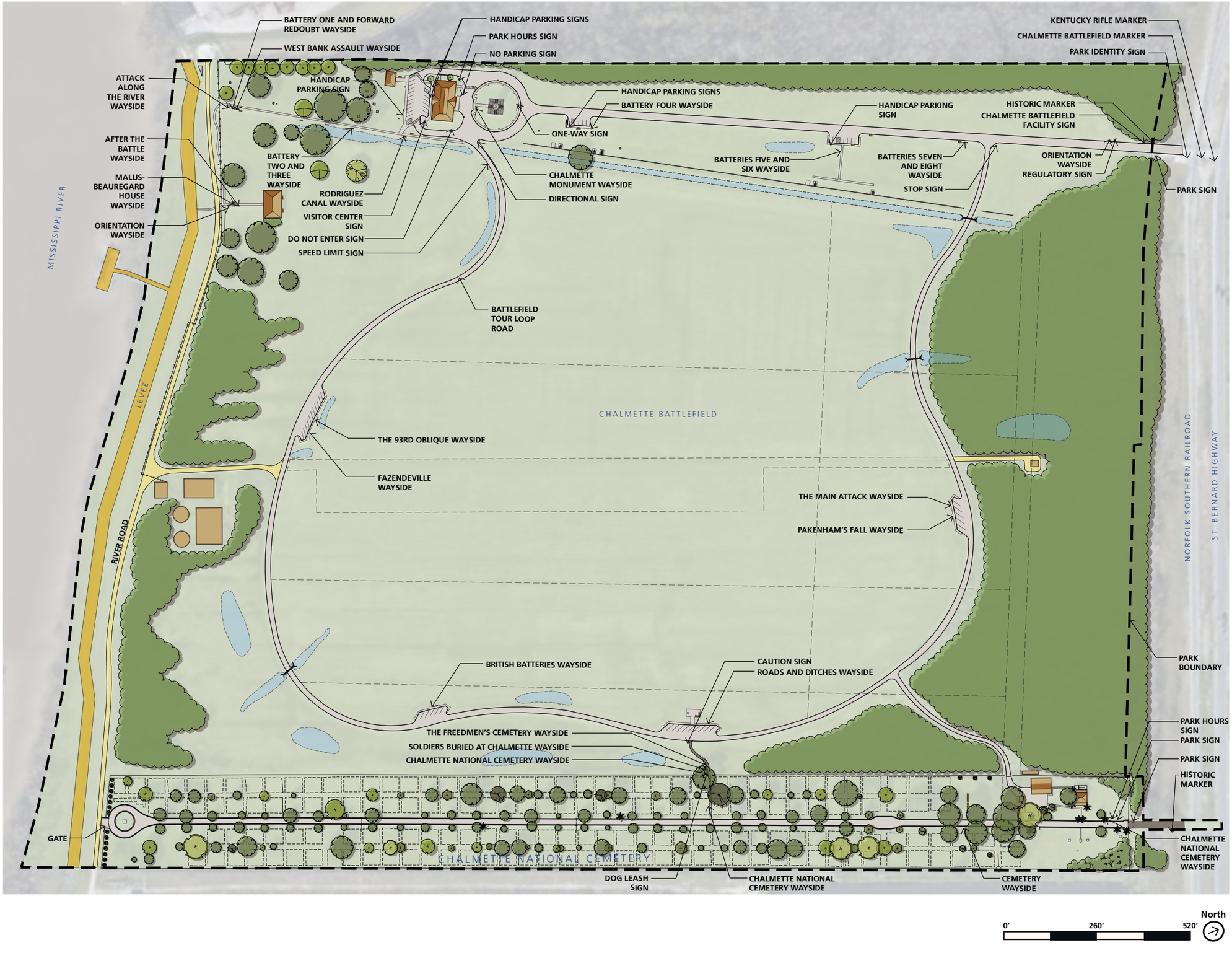
Existing Conditions Enlargement (2019)

National Cemetery

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

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Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following sources were used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013

Illustration 3.4
Existing Signage (2019)
Chalmette Battlefield

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

January 2023

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Analysis and Evaluation

Please see Illustrations 4.1-4.4 at the end of this chapter.

Introduction

For cultural landscapes such as the Chalmette unit, documenting existing conditions and analyzing and evaluating natural and human-made historic resources is critical in the development of a strategy for their management and treatment. Cultural landscape analysis involves two primary activities: evaluating historic significance and assessing historic integrity. Both use criteria determined by the National Register of Historic Places, which has developed nationally recognized methods for evaluating the significance and integrity of historic buildings and landscapes. The evaluation of historic significance identifies the important historical associations of the property, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to a discrete period of time (period of significance) in which its important contributions were made and the broader historic contexts (historic context themes) within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed.

The analysis and evaluation section considers the site's history within recognized historic contexts to determine its contribution to the broad patterns of American history. It is important to note that historic resources, particularly cultural landscapes, change over time. As a result, a cultural landscape may have several areas of historical significance and multiple periods of significance. In order to determine whether a landscape feature contributes to the historic significance of the landscape at the Chalmette unit, this chapter compares the existing conditions of landscape features to its understood historic state. The objective of this analysis is to identify the specific features associated with the historic periods and assess to what degree they continue to convey their historic significance.

To aid in this assessment, landscape features are categorized based on their contribution to our understanding of the historic character of the landscape during the period or periods of significance. These categories are:

- Contributing
- Noncontributing
- Missing
- Undetermined

Contributing landscape features survive from the periods of significance and continue to reflect their historic appearance and function. Noncontributing landscape features include those added to the site since the periods of significance or that no longer retain enough physical integrity to convey their historic appearance or function. Missing features existed during the period of significance but have been removed, destroyed, or cannot be recognized in their current condition. Undetermined include features whose age cannot be determined or whose contribution to the historic landscape is unknown. Please refer to the table at the end of this chapter for a summary of this information.

The process to identify landscape elements follows a National Park Service methodology that categorizes all landscape elements as one of thirteen landscape characteristics:

- Archeological Sites
- Buildings and Structures
- Circulation
- Arrangement of Buildings
- Constructed Water Features
- Cultural Traditions
- Land Use
- Natural Systems and Features
- Small-Scale Features
- Spatial Organization
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Views and Vistas

Landscape characteristics are the "tangible and intangible aspects of an inventory unit which have either influenced the history of the development of the landscape, or are products of its development, respectively."[365] Further, "these aspects

365. Robert R. Page, *National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide* (Washington DC: National Park Service, 2009), 7-4.

individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance."[366] Based on this understanding of the landscape, National Register of Historic Places methodology aids in establishing a site's significance.

National Register Status

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the creation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service is responsible for maintaining the list and coordinating with public and private entities to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Chalmette National Historical Park, which includes both the Chalmette National Cemetery and Chalmette Battlefield, was administratively listed as a National Register historic district in 1966. Historian Jerome Greene prepared additional documentation of the district on a nomination form dated May 30, 1985. This documentation for the Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte Historical Park Historic District was accepted by the National Register of Historic Places on July 6, 1987. The historic district encompasses 142.85 acres that "conforms to the legal boundaries of the park." The nomination form provides this physical description of the Chalmette Unit:

> The district contains approximately 143 acres, roughly forming a rectangle running from a point a short distance south of Louisiana Highway 46 to the east bank of the Mississippi River.... A 1 1/2 -acre inholding is owned by St. Bernard Parish. The primary resources in the district are those relating directly to the Battles of New Orleans, 1814-15, while the secondary resources either commemorate those battles or constitute structures or sites of early and late nineteenth century occupations and associations.[367]

The National Park Service has developed criteria for evaluating historic resources to determine their eligibility for listing on the National Register. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation examine a property's age, integrity, and significance. To be considered historic, a property typically needs to be at least fifty years old. To possess integrity, a historic landscape needs to look and feel to some degree how it did in the past. The categories of integrity used to evaluate a property include location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property must also be associated with historical events, activities, or developments that were important in the past. The National Register identifies the type of significance of a property based on the following criteria:

- Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Criterion B: Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Criterion C: Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D: Yielding or potential to yield information in history or prehistory.

A site may be significant in any or all of these four criteria. Based on these criteria, a statement of significance can be drafted for a site.

It is also noteworthy that the National Park Service published a "Clarification of Policy" regarding the eligibility of national cemeteries in 2011, after the listing of the Chalmette Unit Historic District. That statement states that "All national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant as a result

366. Page, *National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*, 53.
367. Jerome Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District)" (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, July 6, 1987), 2.

of their Congressional designation as nationally significant places of burial and commemoration."[368]

As of the 1985 nomination, the Chalmette Unit Historic District included "sixteen historically significant sites and structures."[369] The list of contributing sites and structures includes:

1. Chalmette Plain
2. Part of the Rodriguez Canal
3. Battery sites 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
4. Three British battery sites within the national cemetery
5. Cypress swamp on north end of battlefield
6. Site of Pakenham's death
7. Site of Rodriguez House and outbuildings
8. The René Beauregard House (Malus-Beauregard House)
9. Chalmette Monument
10. Spotts Marker
11. Chalmette National Cemetery
12. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Monument
13. Site of Confederate earthworks in national cemetery
14. Administrative Headquarters (Superintendent's Lodge)
15. Maintenance Building
16. Brick Carriage House[370]

Period of Significance

The National Register of Historic Places assigns the Chalmette Unit with the period of significance of 1814 to 1937. The start date corresponds with the earliest engagements of the Battle of New Orleans on December 28, 1814. The end date is not specifically justified in the statement of significance and may possibly be based on it being fifty years (the typical age to be considered historic) before the listing date of 1987. This CLR maintains that the 1937 end date is defensible based on the fact that it includes the time when the NPS took ownership of the property in 1933 and when the NPS had completed projects to facilitate the site's transition into a national park unit. By 1937, the NPS had completed its efforts to improve the parking area next to the monument, regrade the area to improve drainage, and establish a pedestrian connection with the Malus-Beauregard House.

For these reasons, this document, uses the existing period of significance and statement of significance, discussed below, when evaluating landscape features at the Chalmette Unit.

This CLR does recommend updating the National Register Nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District. That additional documentation can provide information about the cultural landscape and potentially identify additional areas of significance and explore the historic significance of now-missing resources, including, for example, Fazendeville and the features added during Mission 66.

368. National Park Service, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries – A Clarification of Policy – A Clarification of Policy (9/8/2011), 1; accessed online: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf.
369. Ibid.
370. The National Register of Historic Places mistakenly identifies the Maintenance Building/Garage as two separate structures which they call Maintenance Building and Brick Carriage House. Alternatively, the Maintenance Building may reference a brick structure on the south end of the national cemetery that was part of the 1880's Superintendent's Lodge complex which remained on site into the 1960s. The document states the building was constructed in 1929. Regardless, there is only one brick building adjacent to the existing Superintendent's Lodge, the "Brick Carriage House," which is currently known as the cemetery maintenance building/garage.

Statement of Significance

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states:

> The Chalmette Unit contains features associated with the social development of southern Louisiana and with the military history of the nation. Primarily the battles fought on this ground in late 1814 and early 1815 effectually concluded hostilities between the United States and Great Britain on a note of victory and speeded American ratification of the peace treaty ending the War of 1812 signed at Ghent, Belgium, two weeks earlier. The American success at Chalmette also fostered national pride and promoted the political, social, and economic recognition of the West as a viable region of the republic. The unit also represents in its secondary resources the commemorative aspects of the Battle of New Orleans, the military continuum associated with the Civil War earthworks and the cemetery, and facets of the economic and social life and architectural style that typified southern Louisiana before and after 1815.[371]

The National Register of Historic Places considers the historic district to be nationally significant under Criteria A, C, and D. The areas of significance include Archeology-Historic, Architecture, Military, and Social/Humanitarian.

Criterion A: Military History: Battle of New Orleans and Civil War

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states:

> The Chalmette Plain, Rodriguez Canal, and the sites of the American rampart and batteries, the cypress swamp, the British advance batteries, and the place where Major General Edward M. Packenham was mortally wounded all represent the Battles of New Orleans, 1814-1815 and the scene of one of the most lopsided military victories in American history.[372]

Additionally, the nomination states that the Rodriguez House site "also constitutes a battle-related feature as material from the complex was utilized in the construction of Jackson's intrenchments along Rodriguez Canal and the buildings were used to billet American troops during combat."

Also associated with military history is the location within the national cemetery that was the area of occupation of a Civil War-era earthwork. According to the nomination:

> The site of the Confederate, and later Union, earthworks lie just east of the national cemetery wall. The interior of the works, however, stood in the area where the cemetery is now located. This site signifies the continuum of military use of the 1814-15 battlefield terrain as well as the strategic location of the ground in 1862-64…. After the fall of New Orleans and the occupation of the Chalmette works by federal forces, the site represented a focal point of the Union presence in New Orleans and southern Louisiana for the duration of the war.

Criterion A: Political Landscape and Cultural Values

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states:

> The Battles of New Orleans—particularly the engagements of December 28, 1814, and January 1 and 8, 1815—had profound meaning. The immediate result was Congress's prompt ratification of the Treaty of Ghent ending the war. The American victory quieted European threats to close the Mississippi River and insured for American planters and farmers a continued outlet for their produce. In other respects, widespread news of Jackson's triumph generated a wave of nationalism and helped dispel sentiments for disunion then prevalent in some quarters. In Louisiana, the commonality of purpose exhibited by the disparate ethnic and social elements composing Jackson's army helped solidify the populace and obscured the regional and social distinctions that had formerly impeded state unity. Carried further, the military success coming after some humiliating losses inspired Americans with a new faith in their

371. Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District), 6.
372. Ibid.

> arms and contributed to a sense of national pride, especially giving westerners a feeling of stature and promoting their involvement in national affairs.[373]

Criterion B: Association with the lives of persons significant in our past

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states that "The related Chalmette battle field features reflect … association with a person significant in the past (Jackson)…."[374]

Criterion C: Expressing Cultural Values and Regional and National Architecture

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states that the Rodriguez House, the Malus-Beauregard, and the Chalmette National Cemetery buildings are all significant for their association with cultural values of the time and their architecture. The nomination states that "The site of the Rodriguez House and its outbuildings is significantly representative of aspects of the social life of the elite professional class of southern Louisiana early in the nineteenth century." It also says that the Malus-Beauregard House "represents the use made of the Battlefield land in the years following the Battles of New Orleans. The nomination continues, "A suburban country dwelling, the structure is architecturally significant in that it embodies the distractive characteristics of French Colonial architecture as well as that of the Greek Revival period….[The house exemplifies] the fine ante-bellum homes located along the Mississippi River during the period preceding the Civil War."[375]

Of the national cemetery buildings, the nomination states that "the brick administrative headquarters, maintenance building, and carriage house typify government buildings erected in national cemeteries during the early decades of the twentieth century."[376]

373. Ibid.
374. Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District)," 4.
375. Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District)," 8.
376. Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District)," 9.

Criterion C: Expressing Cultural Values, Architecture, and Commemoration

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District states that the Chalmette Monument, Spotts Marker, GAR Monument, and the Chalmette National Cemetery represent historically significant efforts to commemorate historical events. Of the Chalmette Monument, the nomination states:

> The Chalmette Monument represents the historical desire of Americans to memorialize historic events and constitutes a statement of how Americans commemorated their war heroes during the latter half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century…. It reflects the feelings and associates of the public for the Battles of New Orleans, events of major in United States history, and is therefore of significant symbolic value. The monument is also architecturally significant as an example of the European-inspired Egyptian obelisk type of stone memorial adopted elsewhere in the United States during the period…. [377]

The Spotts marker, according to the nomination, "represents the memorialization instincts of the American people during the latter years of the nineteenth century when it was erected. In particular, it exemplifies how one relatively minor figure in the combat at New Orleans was remembered and honored.[378]

The GAR Monument in the national cemetery, according to the nomination, "symbolizes the ubiquitous existence of that body in national affairs during the late nineteenth century. It significantly characterizes the reference for the Union war dead felt by the local GAR membership in the 1870s and 1880s when the design for the monument was conceived and executed."[379]

Of the Chalmette National Cemetery, the National Register Nomination states that it "signifies in its broadest sense the military continuum present on the battlefield terrain. It characterizes America's treatment and honor of its war dead and generates

377. Ibid.
378. Ibid.
379. Ibid.

feelings and associations among the public for those men lost in past conflicts."[380]

Criterion D: Archeology

The National Register for Historic Places states that the Rodriguez house is "significant for its archeological contribution in disclosing elements of nineteenth century country living as well as the military occupation of 1814-15."

Archeologist Ted Birkedal's 2005 report, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront: Historical and Archeological Investigations at the Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve,* provides a comprehensive review of archeological resources at the site. The report makes the case that the entire unit contains layers of archeological information from various periods of its development.

The battlefield is an archeological site (JELA-197), with multiple components identified by the National Park Service. Current sites listed in CRIS include Rodriguez (JELA-197.01); Cemetery Caretaker's House (a.k.a. Superintendent's Lodge; JELA-217).

Analysis of Landscape Characteristics

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation.

Historic Condition

The Mississippi River deposited sediments along its banks creating natural levees that sloped downward until the land became increasingly inundated in the low-lying landscape, eventually turning into swamps. The natural levees at the time of the Battles of New Orleans are estimated to have been 10 feet high, on average. The land between the natural levees and the swamps extended approximately 2 miles in many places. This land featured nutrient rich alluvial soils, including Yazoo Clay, the predominant soil type at the Chalmette Unit. This soil supported plantations that grew a variety of crops, including important early cash crops indigo and sugarcane, during the historic period. The natural levees provided some protection from seasonal flooding and provided high ground, so people often constructed their homes and other structures near the river on the backslopes of the levees. Based on Laclotte's engraving of the battle scene and descriptions of the battle events, it seems likely that the levee at Chalmette was not so high as to block views of the river.

The cypress swamp that filled much of the land area between the Mississippi River and Lakes Borgne was only approximately 1,000 yards from the river in the vicinity of the Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations.[381] General Andrew Jackson recognized this would force the advancing British troops into a narrow space, reducing the length of line for his own troops to defend (Figure 4.1).

Beginning in the early 1700s and continuing through the period of significance, humans modified the natural environment in numerous ways. Farmers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries dug ditches to drain fields to support agriculture. The extent of naturally occurring woods varied over time. As agricultural land uses declined in the mid-1800s, the open fields presumably experienced some successional reforestation. As industrial and residential land uses proliferated in the areas around Chalmette, the extent of woods was again reduced, to allow the space for development.

The combination of natural features and man-made features appear in contemporary accounts of the landscape during this time. Abraham Ellery described the landscape when recounting the British position on December 23, 1814, downriver from the eventual battlefield, when he wrote:

> Their extreme left rested on the River near which the levee not only served as a strong flanking entrenchment, but from its being also in many places double, left a convenient inter one, for pushing forward advanced parties, & laying ambuscades. Their extreme right was

380. Ibid.

381. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.

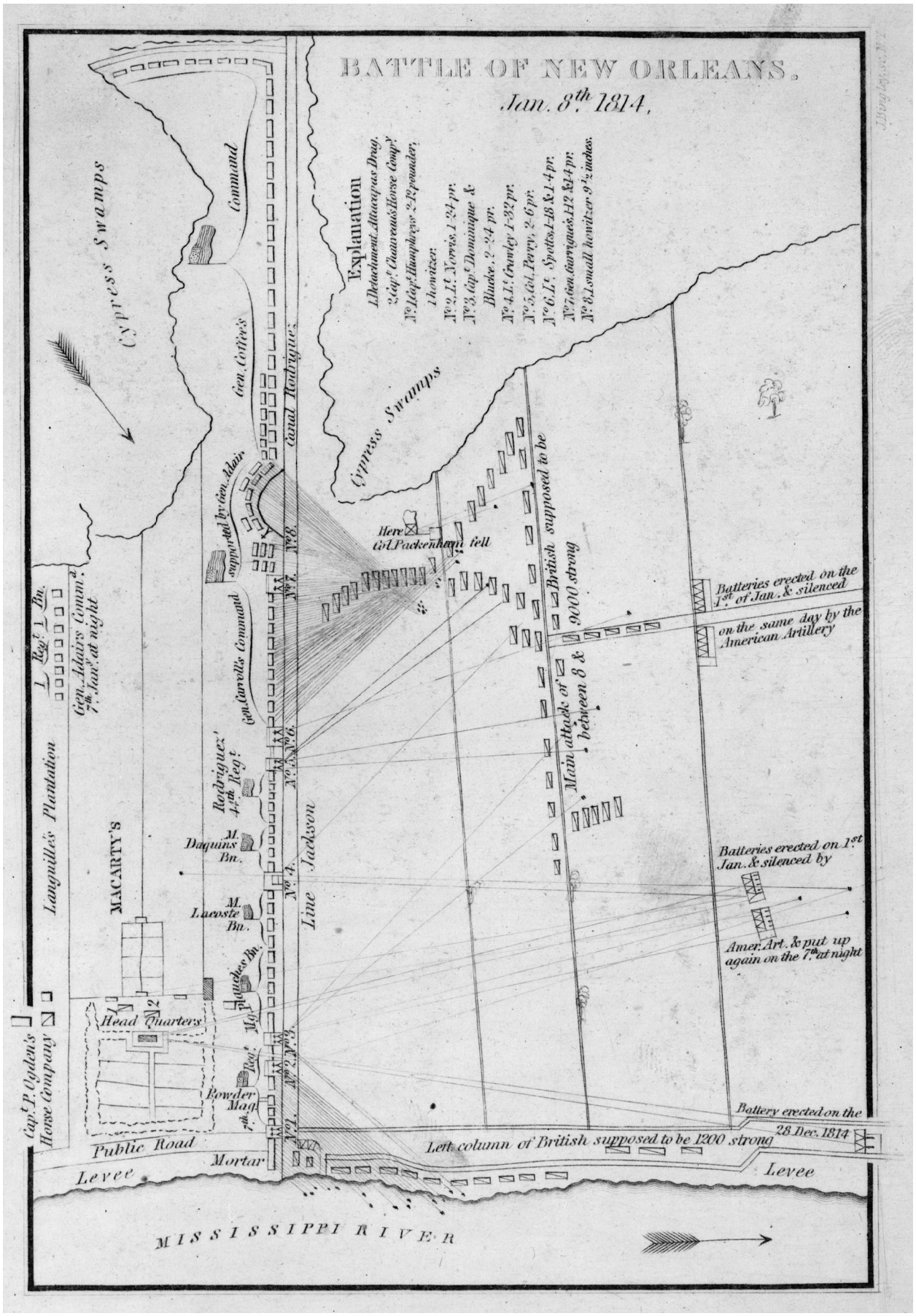


Figure 4.1: Map of the Battle of New Orleans showing troop positions (Library of Congress).

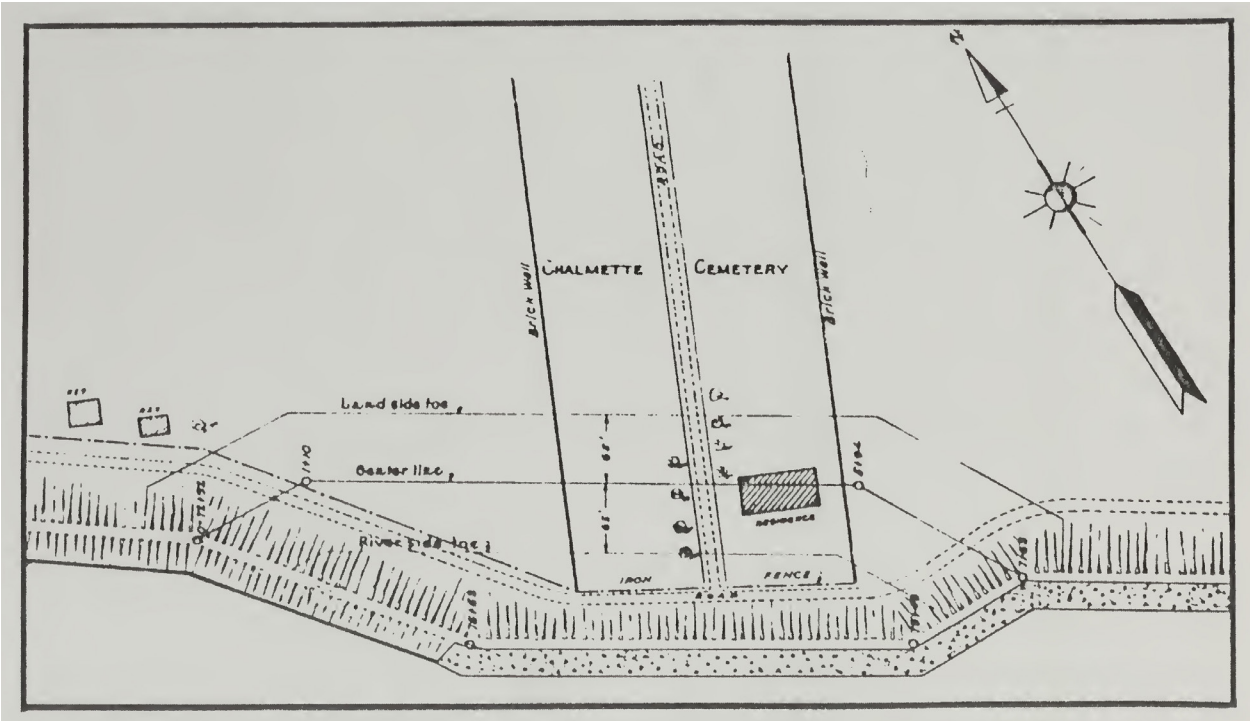


Figure 4.2: Map from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure II-18) showing levee setback (National Park Service).

> protected by the swamp, & their right partially covered by the standing cane & high herbage of the different plantations, where they could sort of conceal their riflemen & sharp shooters. Their center occupied the open field & the road. In front there was ground enough upon which to form & fight an army of twenty thousand men, presenting an area containing about two miles square intersected only by a few small ditches & open fences. There they had a fine field, upon which to form & maneuvre their troops. . . .[382]

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, federal, state, and local governmental agencies began constructing artificial levees to defend against seasonal flooding or to repair crevasses. The levee at Chalmette was rebuilt in 1893, which moved the levee line and bank of the river more northward than at the time of the battle. The levee was reconstructed again after the 1927 flood, again raising it and moving it northward (Figure 4.2).

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

In the 1900s, the ongoing development of the property as a commemorative site adversely impacted aspects of the natural systems. The installation of roads, for example, prevents the natural flow of water. Roads and drainage ditches may also impact the distribution of vegetation on the site. An aerial of the unit from around 1960 shows planted trees in the national cemetery and around the homes in Fazendeville. Most of the rest of the area is open, except for lines of trees that appear to correspond with linear features on the ground, either remnants of old roads or drainage canals (Figure 4.3).

The same aerial shows that the north section of the property that became the Chalmette Unit is almost completely devoid of vegetation. The NPS planted trees and allowed successional vegetation to become established in this area. This area has become increasingly wet because water is being trapped by the railroad embankment and St. Bernard Highway.

It is also worth noting that past historians have speculated that the river may have eroded the bank on the Chalmette side of the river. For most of the 1900s, historians postulated that an excess of 900 feet of shore had been lost since the 1815 battle, meaning that part of the American rampart was underwater. Birkedal's report, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, conclusively refutes this, arguing that archeological evidence shows that "only a small section of the American line has been lost. . ." and, in fact, the 1815 edge of the river would have been approximately 88 feet landward of the current Chalmette Seawall. So only about 180 feet of the

382. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 31-32.

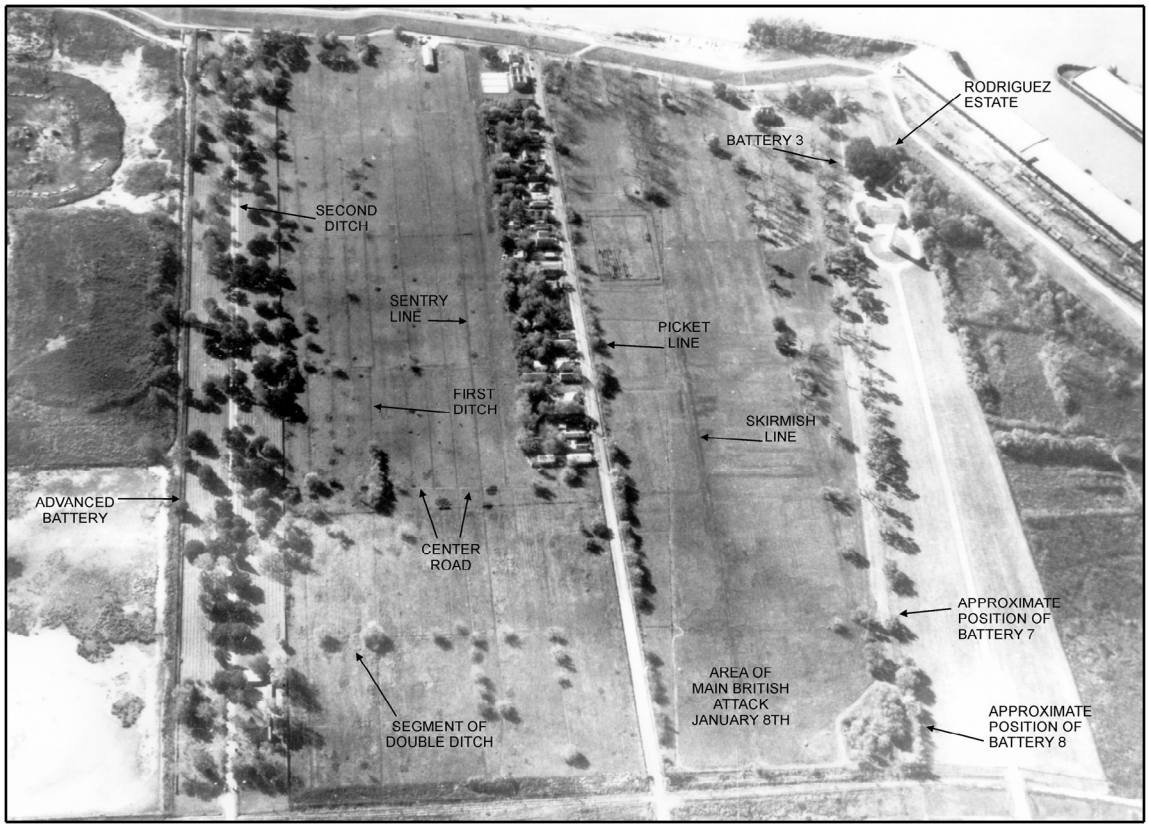


Figure 4.3: Figure from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III-66) showing historic features on a circa 1950 aerial (National Park Service).

defensive line have been lost to some erosion, but more to levee construction and road building.[383]

In March 2022, the NPS prepared a report entitled "Chalmette Battlefield Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Chalmette Battlefield Wetland Delineation Report." The report concluded that most of the Chalmette Unit were jurisdictional wetlands meeting all three wetland indicators: hydrology, hydric soils, and wetland vegetation.

Summary

During the period of historic significance, much of the land was used for agriculture, residential development, industry, and as a cemetery, meaning that the natural systems and features were impacted and altered by humans during the years between 1814 and 1937. The natural systems and features present at the time of the Battle of New Orleans include the river, the natural landforms, and the cypress swamp. Both the river and the historic location of the cypress swamp are outside the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. Changes to the natural systems and features that were present at the time of the Battle of New Orleans include drainage ditches, fields, and roads. Except for the Rodriguez Canal, none of these historic features are legible in the landscape today, though archeological evidence of them exists and the alignment of the drainage ditches appear in aerial photographs. The height of the current levee eliminates views of the river, visually disconnecting the site from that important landscape feature (Figure 4.4). The woodland on the north helps interpret the role that the cypress swamp had in the battle, but it is not in its historic location nor is it technically a swamp but a bottomland hardwood wetland. In March 2022, the NPS concluded that most of the site meets the condition requirements to be classified as jurisdictional wetland.

Because of these changes, the natural systems and features of the site do not reflect the period of significance.

383. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 479.



Figure 4.4: View of modern levee (WLA Studio 2020).

Landscape Features

- Hydrological System
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Geological Systems (Terrain, Geology, and Soils)
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Regional Climate
    - Contribution Status: Contributing

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 Condition

The spatial organization of the land that became the Chalmette Unit was influenced primarily by land use and property ownership during the period of significance (1814-1937). At the time of the battle, the landscape was organized into two plantations—the Chalmette Plantation and the Rodriguez Plantation. After the battle, owners of the Chalmette Plantation subdivided the land into multiple lots that the owners developed into residential properties. Over time the property transitioned into a more commemorative use, as a cemetery, for monuments, and for historical education and interpretation.

Prior to the period of significance, local practices of land partitioning directly influenced the spatial organization of the site at the time of the battle. French settlers introduced a pattern of land division that responded to the unique geographic conditions of southern Louisiana, conditions which featured cypress swamps, meandering bayous, and the Mississippi River. The system was based on the arpent measurement of 192 feet, and they configured parcels to maximize the number with frontage on one of the waterways. As a result, lots were often narrow and long, with their short side close to the waterway and the long sides stretching back inland. The lands that became the site of the Battles of New Orleans were part of several plantations located down river from New Orleans on the north bank of the Mississippi River. The battles of December 1814 and January 1815 stretched over several properties, including (going approximately west to east downriver) the Macarty, Rodriguez, Chalmette, Bienvenue, De La Ronda, Lacoste, and Villere plantations. The final battles, on January 1 and January 8, happened on the Rodriguez, Chalmette, and Bienvenue plantations. The land that is today part of the Chalmette Unit were historically part of the Rodriguez and Chalmette.

The overall spatial organization area at the time of the battles in 1814 and 1815 featured two clusters of plantation houses near the river, the open field between these buildings, the Mississippi River to the south, and a cypress swamp to the north. The Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations had their own internal spatial organization (Figure 4.5).

The western portion of the Chalmette Unit, which includes the Chalmette Monument, visitor center, and Battlefield Rampart, is on the former Rodriguez plantation. The Rodriguez Plantation was wedge-shaped; its narrow side, closest to the Mississippi River, measured only a half arpent. The plantation then stretched back from the river 80 arpents into a cypress swamp. As was common during the time, the main buildings and structures of the Rodriguez Plantation were clustered close to the river, which served as a primary route for travel and the transportation of goods. At the time of the battle, the cluster of buildings on the Rodriguez Plantation included two houses sited side-by-side. Behind these residential structures stood a variety of outbuildings including four slave cabins, a kitchen, and a hen house. Except for vegetation planted or preserved around this domestic cluster, most of the land was open and possibly used for farming, though the Rodriguez Plantation was undersized for a farm. It was also common for farmers and planters to dig canals to drain fields. One of the canals, which flowed along the eastern

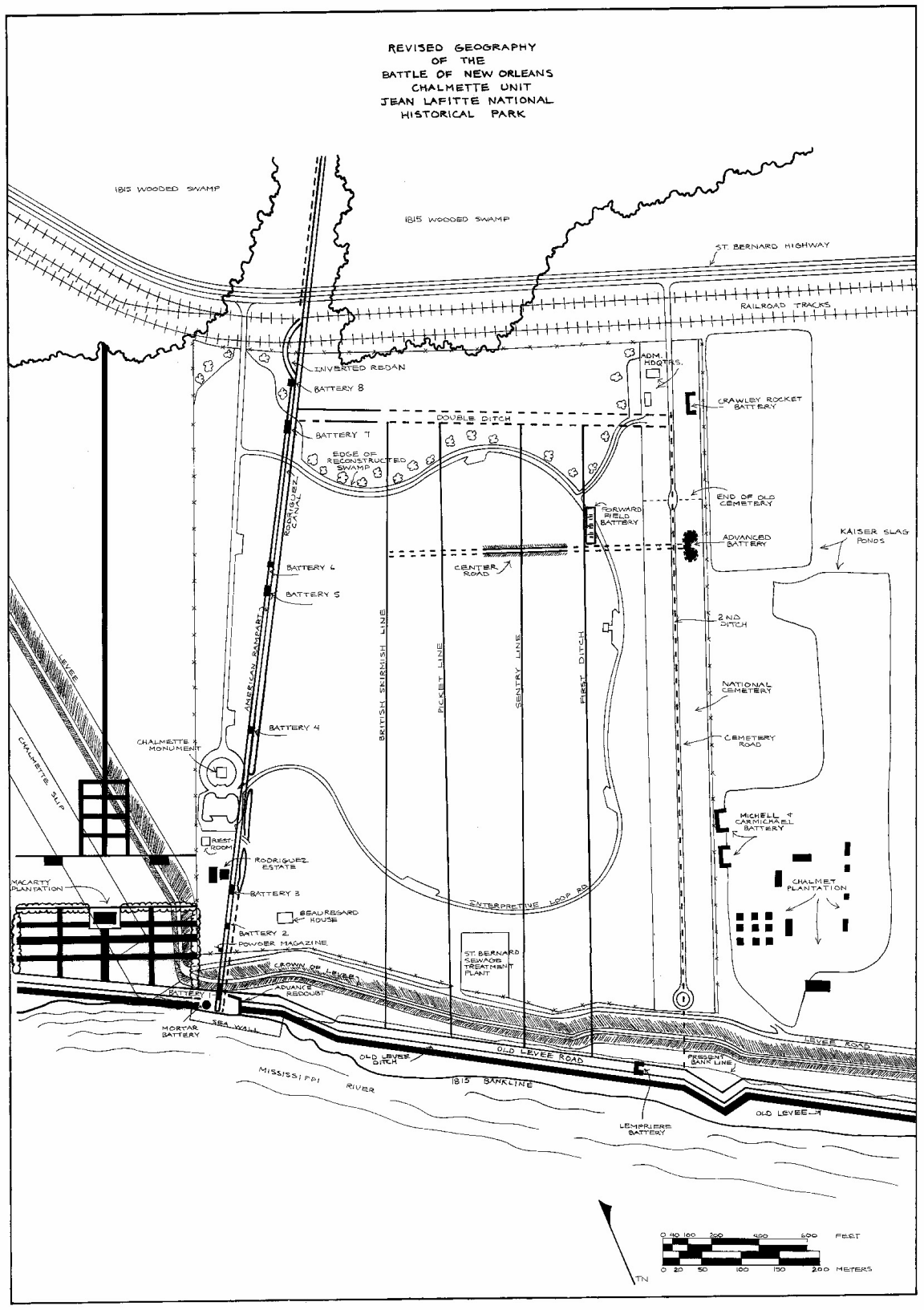


Figure 4.5: Figure from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III-55) showing location of historic features on modern landscape (National Park Service).

boundary of the Rodriguez Plantation, was used in the years prior to the battle to carry water to a sawmill located north of the Rodriguez House and closer to the cypress swamp that grew along the northern boundary of the property.

The Chalmette Monument on the former Rodriguez Plantation was started in 1856. Work stopped on the unfinished monument in 1859. The United States Army contracted to have a new shell road constructed for wagons that passed along the river below the Chalmette Monument. The Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 took over custodianship of the monument in 1893. Soon thereafter, they constructed a caretaker's house on the property and a path connecting the monument to the new road along the river (Figure 4.6).

The Chalmette Plantation, which bordered the Rodriguez Plantation to the east, was much larger than the Rodriguez Plantation. It had 22 arpents of river frontage and "stretched more than 1,000 yards along the Mississippi and ranged between 1,000 and 1,500 yards inland to the cypress swamp."[384] Like its neighbor, most of the houses were clustered on the high ground on the backslope of the natural levee along the Mississippi River. Chalmette Plantation included a main house, multiple slave cabins, and other agricultural buildings for processing sugar. The larger buildings were spread out with a rectangular open space in the middle; the slave cabins were clustered tightly together standing just outside and to the east of these larger buildings. After the British troops occupied the plantation on December 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson order his artillery to destroy the plantation's buildings. Jean H. Laclotte's "Battle of New Orleans" shows the complex ruined with only a chimney standing.

Chalmette was a sugar plantation and the land between the Chalmette buildings and the Rodriguez Plantation was open agricultural fields. At the time of the battle, one of the sugar cane fields had only been recently cut, leaving cane stubble that was often commented upon in contemporary accounts of the battle. Chalmette Plantation also featured drainage ditches, roads, and fences that subdivided the farm into multiple fields. During the battle there were at least five ditches running perpendicular to the river through the field between the British line and American line.[385] These ditches figured prominently in the battle, including providing some shelter for British troops during the fighting.

The Chalmette National Cemetery was developed on a parcel created after the subdivision of the Chalmette Plantation by the St. Amand brothers, then owners of the property. Their subdivision of the Chalmette Plantation in 1832 created multiple rectilinear lots stretching down the bank of the river. Charles Rixner acquired three of the lots in 1859 and sold them to the City of New Orleans in 1861. The Confederate Army constructed an earthwork across a portion of these parcels to defend the city during the Civil War. In 1864, and after the Union Army had possession of New Orleans, the city donated the property to the United States Government to use as a bivouac ground and cemetery. Development of the cemetery began in 1864 and was formally transferred to the War Department in 1868.

The unfinished Chalmette Monument would have been visible from the cemetery from the beginning. The spatial relationship between the cemetery and the monument created by this visual connection was a characteristic feature of the property from this time into the present.

The spatial organization of the cemetery has been relatively consistent from its initial layout. The length of the cemetery changed over time, but the width remained constant, at approximately 250 feet wide. Initially, the cemetery encompassed eight acres, donated by the City of New Orleans in 1864. The city donated another five acres in 1868, which expanded the cemetery, then called "Monument Cemetery," to the south towards the river. Together these two sections encompassed 13.6 acres. Based on an 1867 plan drawn by Louis Pilié, it appears that the original, northernmost eight acres were developed first (Figure 4.7). This plan also shows that Civil War era earthworks remained on the landscape when the cemetery was originally laid out. The north end of the cemetery, as seen on plans from 1867 and on another plan from 1872, was angled to avoid a Civil War-era earthwork that crossed the north side of the property. The earthwork also angled across the south end of the

384. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.

385. Ibid.



Figure 4.6: Circa 1900 photograph of the unfinished Chalmette Monument (Library of Congress)

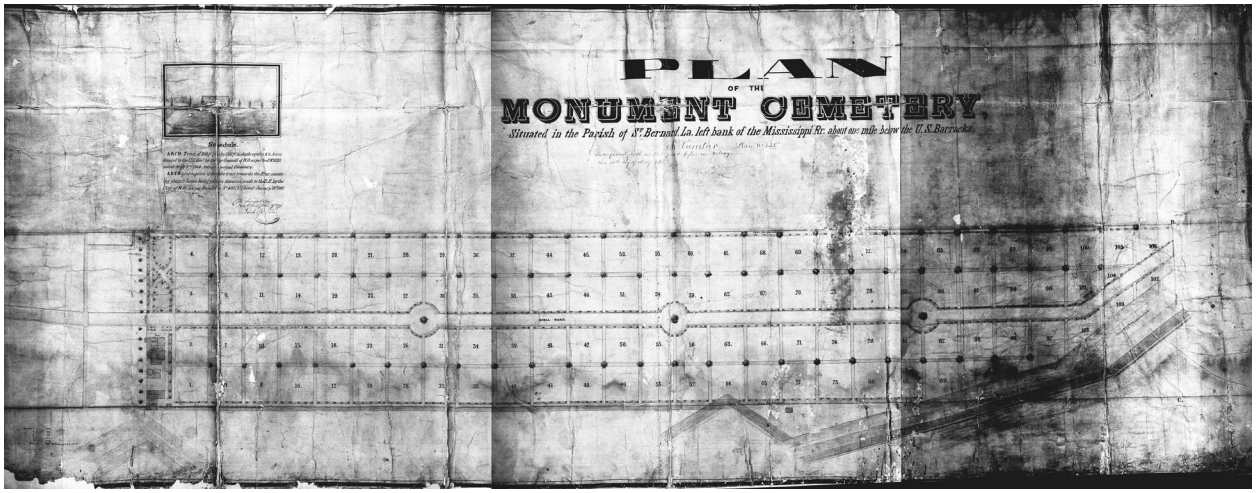


Figure 4.7: The 1867 "Plan of the Monument Cemetery" or Pilié map of the cemetery (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

parcel, which may account for why the northern, eight-acre section was developed first. Around 1868, workers demolished the earthwork within the boundaries of the national cemetery and spread the soil to raise the grade on the north end of the cemetery to improve drainage.

In the beginning and continuing into the early 1900s, the national cemetery's main entrance

was on the south end. From its initial layout, the cemetery was bisected lengthwise by a central drive and featured rectangular burial sections on either side of the drive. The drive was modified in subsequent decades, but it persisted as a main organizing feature throughout all the changes to the cemetery.

Captain Charles Barnard, who oversaw the cemetery during the early period, described it in 1868, writing:

> [It is] laid out in the shape of a rectangle, or right angles parallelogram, having a frontage of 250 feet on the Mississippi River, and is 2,317 feet in depth. an avenue 16 feet wide and 2,317 feet long, with six (6) circles forty (40) feet in diameter at regular intervals, divides the Cemetery into two equal parts. This avenue is shelled and is perfectly smooth and hard; a neat brick drain running the entire length of the Cemetery has been built on each side. The ground is laid out in squares and walks, the latter are four (4) feet wide and are shelled; the squares are each 54 ½ by 48 feet and are made to contain 96 graves. In the center of the Cemetery and within the third circle from the entrance a terraced mound has been raised and a handsome flag staff erected. The graves are all marked with suitable headboards property numbered. Young Cedar, Arbor vitae, and Magnolia trees have been planted on each side of the main avenue for half of its length; a weeping willow will be placed on each side of the entrance. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of trees and shrubs, but it is hoped that enough can be procured to form a continuous row on each side of the avenue for the entire length, if this can be accomplished it will present a beautiful vista. If practical the whole Cemetery will be surrounded with trees, a space of six (6) feet having been set off between the outermost row of graves and the lie of the fence for that purpose.
>
> At the Entrance of the Cemetery a plot of ground has been set apart as a flower garden it is handsomely laid out in walks and beds and planted with ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers of choice variety, which blossom luxuriantly and present a most beautiful and pleasing appearance. At the second Circle of the main avenue another flower garden of similar design and equal beauty extends across the entire grounds; rose trees are also planted at intervals on each side of the main avenue for a portion of the distance.[386]

It should be noted that the 1867 Pilié map of the cemetery has different measurements for the cemetery than those in Barnard's description quoted above. The cemetery was, according to the 1867 Pilié map, 250 feet wide, same as Barnard's dimension, but the map provides different lengths-- *2338'-10" along the west side and 2421'- 8"* along the east side. Coincidentally, these are the same dimensions that appear on a US Army map of the cemetery drawn in 1892.

Captain Barnard also mentioned circles in the central drive in his description of the cemetery quoted above. An 1867 drawing and an 1872 plat of the cemetery show three circles, not six, but they are equally spaced. The 1872 plat of the cemetery is potentially inaccurate, as will be described below when again discussing the sequence of cemetery buildings. It is likely, based on the written description of the cemetery quoted above, that the road and circles were constructed as described, extending from the south property line to the north property line with equally spaced circles. The War Department located different features in these circles over the years, including a flagpole, the GAR Monument, and a "receiving vault." A US Army map of the cemetery originally drawn in 1892 and amended several times until 1925 shows a total of six circles (Figure 4.8). This plan illustrates the road as described in Barnard's 1868 report.

By 1867 there were 107 burial sections, neatly divided by 4-feet-wide turf walkways.[387] Additional sections were added as the cemetery grew, but the general layout of the cemetery, including rectilinear burial sections, internal walkways between the sections, and a central drive was replicated in new areas.

The 1867 map of the national cemetery shows the original arrangement of burial sections. Section 1 was at the southeast corner of the cemetery. Sections 1 and 2 were next to (north) of the superintendent's lodge and lot. Sections 3 and 4 were on the west side of the central drive, next to

386. Barnard to Tompkins, April 28, 1868, quoted in Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264-265.
387. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 262.

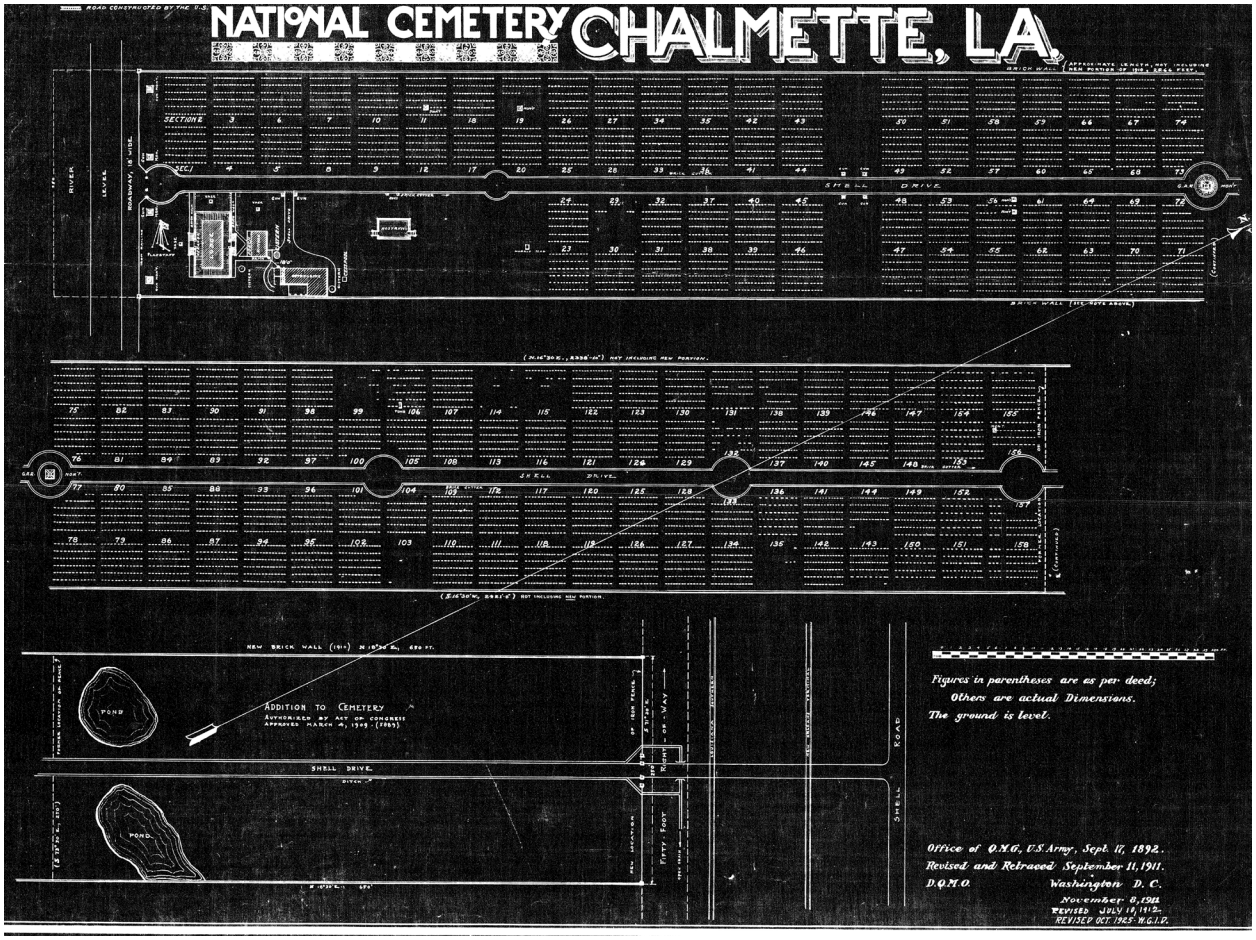


Figure 4.8: The 1892-1925 map of the national cemetery by the U.S. Army Quartermaster General (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

(north) a garden that extended from the drive to the western property line. The 1867 map shows a total of 107 sections; all are the same dimensions until the remnants of a Civil War earthwork cuts across the north end of the national cemetery, forcing the road to bend off towards the northwest and cutting off portions of several sections.

The 1892 map of the cemetery shows a total of 158 burial sections. By 1892, the 5 acres added to the south end of the cemetery in 1868 had been developed and fully incorporated into the cemetery—burial sections had been established, the fence and gate moved, and a new superintendent's lodge and complex had been constructed in the southeast corner of the enlarged site. The numbering of the section was changed because of this move. Section 1 was now much further south, close to the southern entrance and west of the central drive. Because of the presence of the superintendent's lodge and a rostrum, the sections remain on the west side of the drive until Sections 23-26. There is a gap in the sections approximately a third of the way north from the southern entrance; the section numbering skips over this open space. This space was the location of the original superintendent's lodge and the formal gardens on the west side of the drive. It appears that the original Section 1 became Section 47 after the enlargement of the national cemetery and renumbering of the burial sections. Finally, during the levee set back project around 1927, the project impacted Sections 1 through 6, forcing the relocation of the burials in those sections.

Cemetery workers planted trees and shrubs in the internal walkways among the burial sections, in the space between the burial sections and perimeter fence/wall, and along the central drive to improve the appearance of the cemetery, or, as one employee commented, to "relieve the barren and monotonous appearance of the ground."[388] The earliest photograph found during research of this report, taken prior to 1880, shows an allée of young evergreen trees on either side of the central drive.

388. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 263.

This conforms to a description of the cemetery in 1864 which notes that "Young Cedar, Arbor vitae, and Magnolia trees have been planted on each side the main avenue for half its length."[389] As these trees grew, they reinforced the axial organization of the cemetery around the central drive.

Another source of confusion regarding the spatial organization of the national cemetery is the location of the superintendent's lodges. There has been a total of four superintendent lodges. Between 1864 and 1867, a frame building, which probably predated the establishment of the cemetery, stood near the southeast corner of the first section (northern 8 acres) of the cemetery. This was the first superintendent's lodge. The 1867 Pilié map shows and various records describe ornamental gardens planted around the building and across (west) of the central drive opposite the superintendent's lodge.[390] This structure housed the cemetery superintendent until late 1868 when the War Department constructed a brick replacement lodge along with other outbuildings. It appears, despite what is shown on the 1872 plat, that the War Department constructed the 1868 cemetery building in a different location from the original building. It is more likely that they constructed the building in the southeast corner of the expanded cemetery after the addition of 5 acres in 1868. A 1874-1875 Coast Survey of the Mississippi River confirms that buildings were on southern edge of the property by that date (Figure 4.9). A photograph of this building provides additional evidence because the levee road is visible in the foreground (Figure 4.10). The third superintendent's lodge, a two-story brick building, was constructed in 1880 at the same location as the second superintendent's lodge. The fourth was built in 1929 after the flood of 1927 prompted a levee project that impacted the southern end of the national cemetery and forced the demolition of the third lodge.

The area around the south entrance was the location of several ornamental features, including monuments, and additional buildings, including a rostrum built in 1879. The older portion of the cemetery, the original eight-acre tract, was enclosed with a 6 to 8-feet tall wooden picket fence as early as 1867.[391] The fence around the cemetery was replaced in 1868; it appears likely that the War Department extended the fence in order to enclose the entire site because the new 1868 lodge is described as being near the front gate.[392] In 1869, the original frame building was removed, leaving a rectangular open space that spanned the central drive. A report written a few years later described this space in the middle of the cemetery:

> Formerly the front of the cemetery was about two hundred yards in the rear of the present front, and the flower gardens then established still remain, and divide the cemetery into two parts, the portion between these gardens and the river being the addition.[393]

By 1871, the War Department added iron fences to the front (south) and rear (north) ends of the cemetery. The wood paling fence remained on the long sides on the east and west. In 1873, the War Department replaced the paling fence with brick walls along the long sides. In 1879, they constructed a rostrum in the southern section of the cemetery.

As mentioned above, the cemetery lodge was near the main entrance at this time. The entrance and iron fence at the southern end of the cemetery was set several feet inside the property line and some distance from the road along the levee. Between 1886 and 1887, the levee road was resurfaced and improved.[394] A few years later, in 1892, the walls were extended again, and the entrance gate relocated again closer to the road.

While the War Department added buildings and moved small-scale features around during the final decades of the 1800s, the overall spatial organization of the national cemetery remained relatively unchanged until the first two decades of the 1900s. During the first decade of the 1900s, the Chalmette Slip was constructed, cutting off direct access to the national cemetery and monument tract along the levee road. In 1905 the New Orleans Terminal Company donated 2.4 acres on the north side of the cemetery to create a connection to the public road north of their railroad tracks. The War Department also negotiated for an additional 50 feet extension to the edge of the railway rights-of-way and for a 30-foot easement crossing the

389. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264.
390. Ibid.
391. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 262.
392. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 266.
393. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 270.
394. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 276.

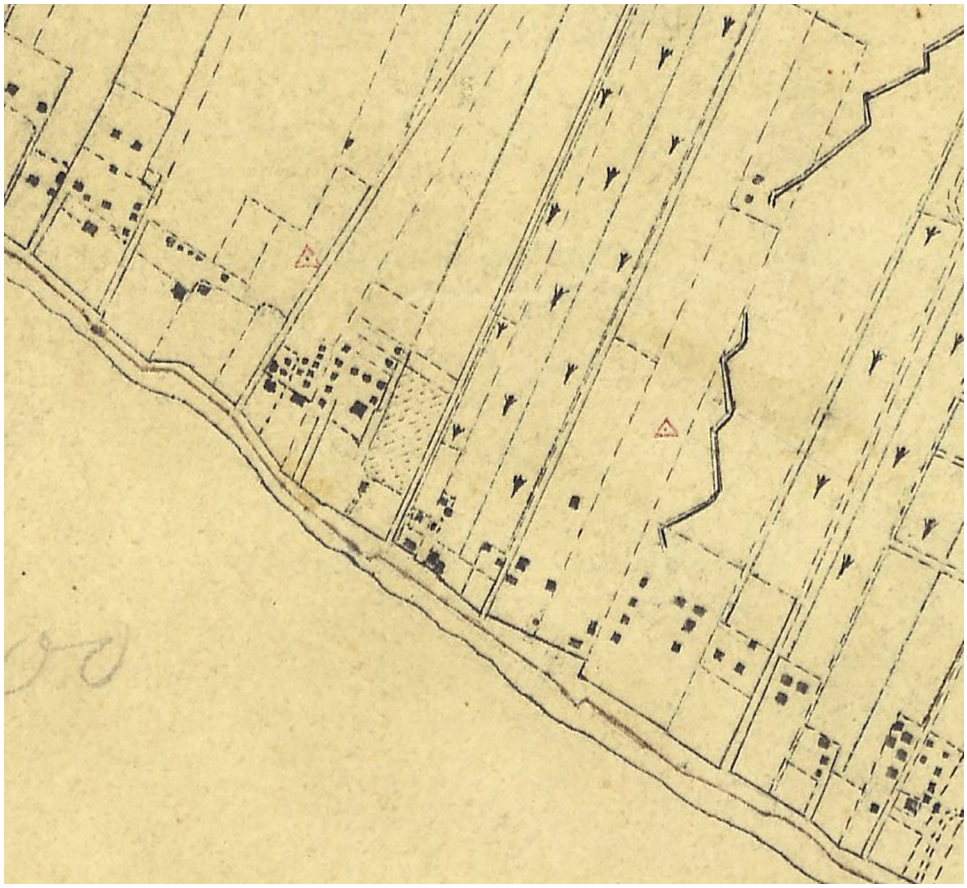


Figure 4.9: Detail from the 1874-1875 coastal survey showing the cluster of buildings along the river (NOAA).



Figure 4.10: Stereograph of "Battle Ground of N.O. and National Cemetery" by Theodore Lilienthal. The image is dated 1882 but it appears to have been taken earlier and is likely from the 1870s. The road along the levee is in the foreground. (Louisiana State Museum).

railroad. This property was officially added to the cemetery by an act of Congress in 1909. The next year, the War Department added a new brick wall around this parcel and relocated the iron fence to the new northern property line. In 1911, they constructed a new gate that became the primary entrance into the property at this time.

Between 1928 and 1929, the Lake Borgne Basin Board, the Mississippi River Commission, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers reconstructed the levee south of the national cemetery. The project impacted approximately 200 feet of the cemetery, resulting in the demolition of the cemetery lodge and relocation of approximately 572 graves.[395] The brick stable of the lodge complex was spared during the project, but it prompted the War Department to construct a new lodge and brick garage and utility building, at the north end and near the primary entrance into the national cemetery. These were completed in 1929.

Birkedal provides this overview of the change to the cemetery's southern property line in his report "The Search for the Lost Riverfront":

> In the early twentieth century, the Chalmette National Cemetery had extended south the present levee road. Today, the southern boundary of this longer cemetery is approximately marked by the toe of the levee…. The only surviving remnant of this earlier part of the cemetery is a solitary, broken section of brickwork that lies partly imbedded in the sand between the low- and high-water bank lines of the Mississippi River. This large brickwork fragment appears to represent part of the National Cemetery's original flagpole base, for one face of the broken section exhibits a sizable cylindrical socket. This flagpole base had probably stood near the entrance in the days when the road along the levee provided the main access to the levee…."[396]

As mentioned previously, the land between the national cemetery and the Chalmette Monument was originally part of the Chalmette Plantation but was subdivided into smaller tracts and sold by the St. Amand brothers between 1832 and 1841. By 1841 there were eight tracts between the parcels that became the site of the Chalmette Monument

395. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 279. Birkedal estimates that 401 soldiers were re-interred.

396. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 452.

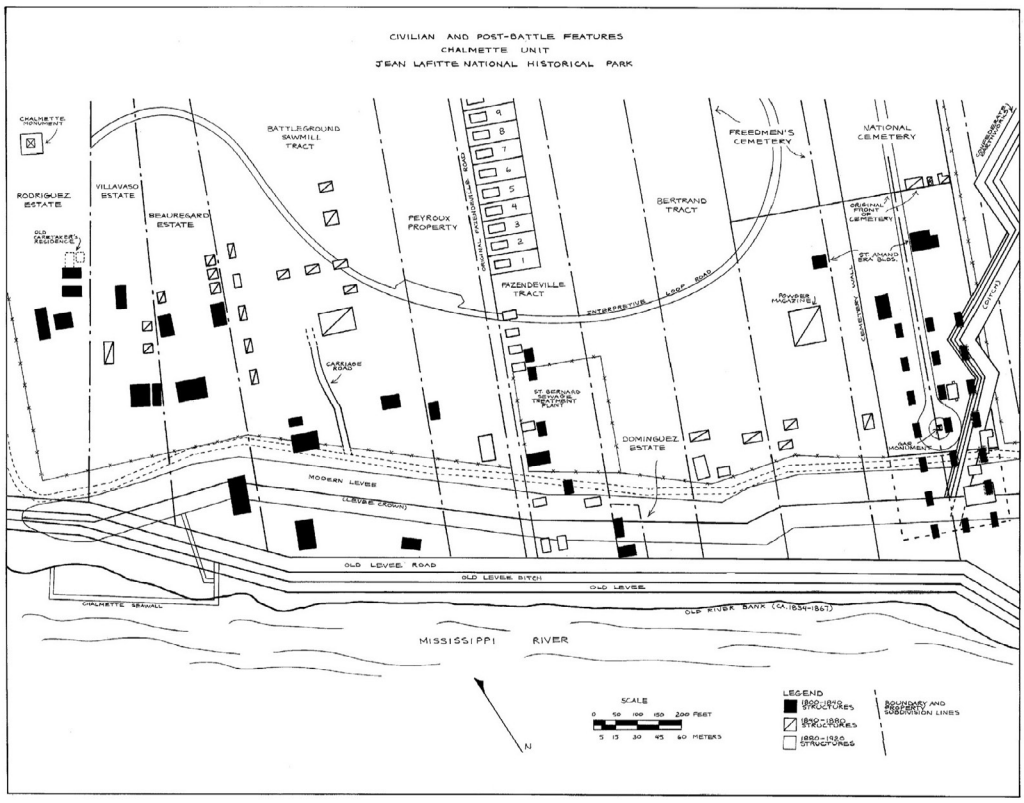


Figure 4.11: Map from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III Map 7) showing the division of the area into multiple tracts (National Park Service).

and the national cemetery. These tracts were developed mostly as residential properties (Figure 4.11).

Going roughly west to east and down river from the future monument parcel, the tracts included:

- The Villavaso Estate had a cluster of residential buildings at its southern end that survived into the early 1900s. This lot was later combined with the adjacent Beauregard property;
- The Beauregard Estate also had a cluster of residential buildings at its southern end;
- The Battleground Sawmill Tract had a cluster of manufacturing and residential buildings on its southern end;
- The Peyroux Property had a small residential building at its southern end;
- The Fazendeville Tract had residential and commercial buildings mostly located on the east side of a road that stretched north from the road along the levee; the southern end of the tract became the site of the St. Bernard Wastewater Treatment Plant in the twentieth century.
- The Dominguez Estate, with residential buildings;
- The Bertrand Tract, with residential buildings;
- Three tracts acquired by Charles Rixner in 1859, who later sold them to the City of New Orleans. The Confederate earthworks and later the national cemetery and Freedmen's Cemetery were developed on portions of this property.

In the early 1900s, the New Orleans Terminal Company, a subsidiary of the Southern Railway Company, purchased much of the property that now comprises the middle of the Chalmette Unit. They announced plans to develop a new port facility, which they eventually constructed just west of the monument tract. The construction of the Chalmette Slip initiated the transition of adjacent parcels to a more heavy-industrial use. The Chalmette Slip also impacted the spatial organization of the national cemetery and the Chalmette Monument because, by cutting through the public road along the levee, this redirected public access to the monument and national cemetery. For a while, access to the monument was down the public road north of the site. This road eventually became the St. Bernard Highway. Visitors to the monument would use Fazendeville Road to access the old road along the levee.

The federal government appropriated funds to complete the Chalmette Monument in 1908. The War Department assumed the administration of the monument tract from the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 in 1930. The NPS began its management of the property in 1933. Sometime prior to 1934, a new road off the State Highway (now St. Bernard Highway) provided access to the Chalmette Monument. It seems likely that the War Department installed this road sometime around 1916.[397] This project created the on axis approach to the monument from the north and the circular road around the monument, two character-defining features of the site. An NPS development plan for the Chalmette Monument property dated 1934 and 1935 provides information on existing conditions and proposed changes to the site, including widening the entrance road to 20 feet and building a new entrance gate. The road was rebuilt and converted from shell to concrete, but the alignment of the entrance road and circular road around the monument remained essentially unchanged (Figure 4.12).

By end of the historic period in 1937, the land that comprises the Chalmette Unit was spatially organized into three distinct spaces of development separated by two interior open spaces. On the outside, the Chalmette Monument tract and the Chalmette National Cemetery created roughly rectangular spaces extending from the railroad to the levee. The village of Fazendeville split the space between these two tracts into almost equal halves. The linear layout of Fazendeville was typical of settlements in the region. Houses stood on the east side of the road which ran perpendicular to the river. A pecan grove stood in the open field between the village and the Malus-Beauregard House. An open field between the village and the national cemetery was often used as a recreational field (Figure 4.13).

Whereas these properties were primarily oriented towards the Mississippi River and the road along

397. US Engineers' Office, "Chalmette Monument Ground showing Proposed Road and Walkway," 1916 (ETIC 467-60005A).

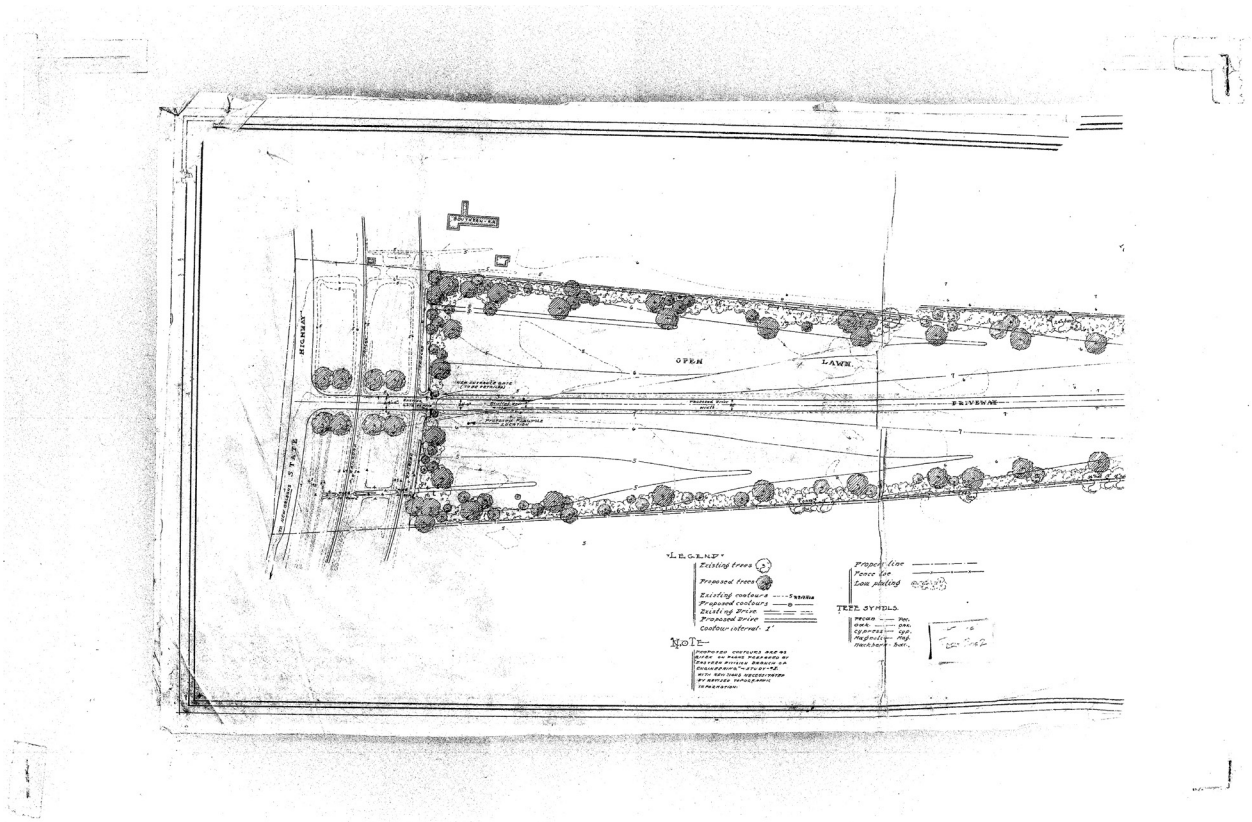


Figure 4.12: Detail of the National Park Services "General Development Plan" from 1934 showing the proposed new road flanked by two open lawn areas north of the monument (National Park Service, ETIC 467-1003).



Figure 4.13: A circa 1950s aerial view of the open areas around the Chalmette Monument, the Malus-Beauregard House, and Fazendeville (National Park Service).

the levee during most of the historic period, by 1937 and the end of the period of historic significance, the sites were accessed from the north and the State Highway.

Post-historic and Existing Condition

The spatial organization of the Chalmette Monument parcel remained relatively unchanged for first few decades following 1937, the end of the period of significance. The landscape around monument was organized around the monument itself, with the entrance road (ca. early 1930s) leading to and encircling the monument. The NPS developed a parking lot south of the monument in the later 1930s. The overall spatial organization of the site changed dramatically in the 1950s when the NPS acquired the lots adjacent to the monument, upon one of which stood the Malus-Beauregard House. By the end of the decade, the NPS had converted the Malus-Beauregard House into a visitor center, removed the old caretaker's house next to the monument, and constructed a new comfort station adjacent to a new parking lot south of the monument. The parking lot and the comfort station were set back from the monument with a landscaped greenspace between them and the monument. The NPS then reconstructed the American rampart, introducing a new landscape feature that created a visual edge to the monument tract and physically separating it from the open field to its east. They initially constructed small sections of the earthwork between 1955 and 1958, and soon extended it almost to the northern boundary (Figure 4.14). This spatial organization remained in place until 1986 when the NPS completed construction of a new visitor center, located immediately south of circle of the monument and occupying the greenspace that had previously separated the parking area from the circle.

In the 1950s, the NPS made significant changes to the central road at the national cemetery. During a project to repave the road and fix the curb and gutters, the NPS removed the circles in the drive that had been a character-defining feature of the original layout of the cemetery and replaced the historic materials, including shell pavement and brick gutters. They also relocated the GAR monument from the center of the cemetery, moving it to cemetery's southern end. During the construction of the road, the NPS also impacted

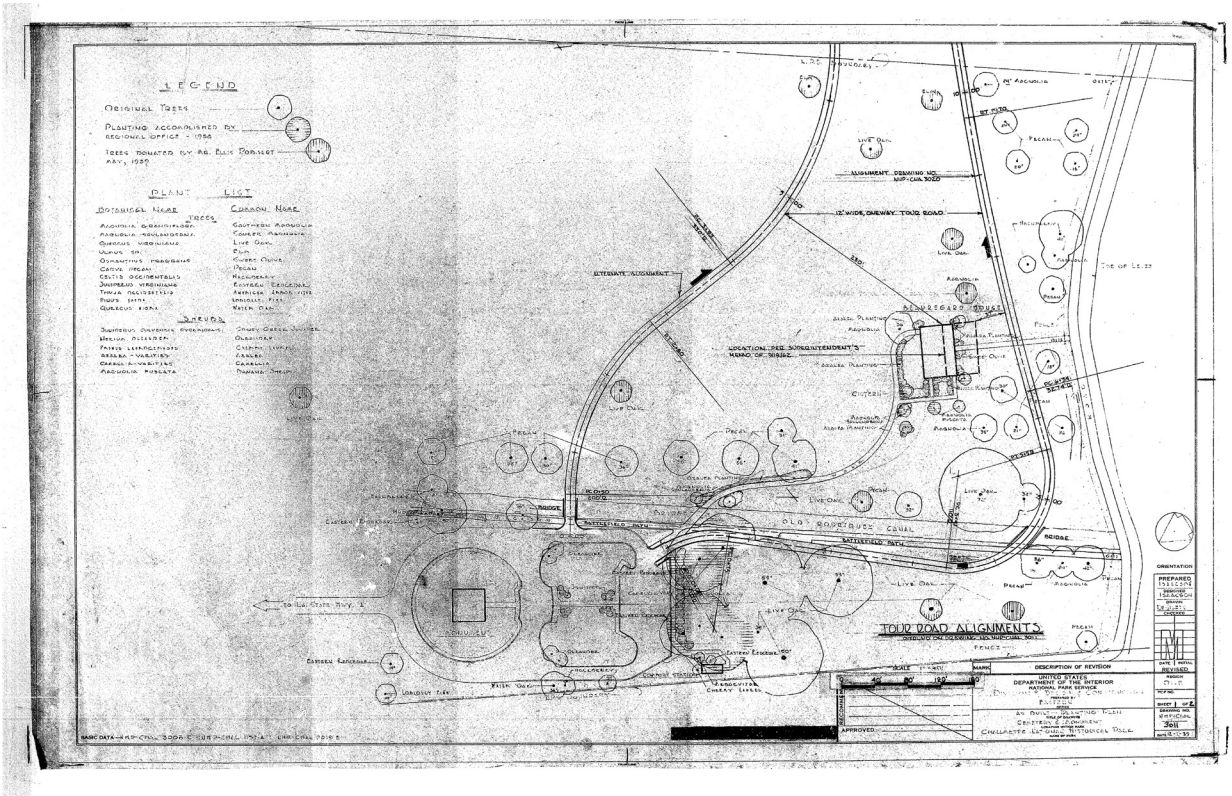


Figure 4.14: 1960s plans by the National Park Service showing improved connection between Chalmette Monument and Malus-Beauregard House (National Park Service, ETIC 467-3011).



Figure 4.15: Composite photographs of historic image of Fazendeville and current image (National Park Service and WLA Studio 2020).

the organization of the burial sections. The cul-de-sac at the end of the road cut into Sections 8 and 9.

In the 1950s, the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation purchased 273 acres east of national cemetery and publicized plans to acquire and develop portions of the battlefield west of the national cemetery. In 1958, St. Bernard Parish constructed a wastewater treatment plan on 1.5 acres provided to them by the Kaiser Corporation. In the late 1950s and into the 1960s, the NPS redoubled their efforts to acquire the remaining portions of the battlefield between the national cemetery and the monument. They acquired, through purchase or condemnation, the individual properties that composed the Fazendeville subdivision and razed the buildings in 1964. This removed the linear village that divided the battlefield into two sections and allowed the NPS to better interpret the battlefield scene. [398] Then NPS immediately constructed a tour road that looped around the battlefield, offering wayside interpretation at various locations.

From the late 1950s to 2020, the unit was spatially organized into three zones: the Chalmette Monument and visitor center, the battlefield, and the Chalmette National Cemetery. The NPS redesigned and expanded the parking area to the south of Chalmette Monument in the mid-1950s. This project also introduced a comfort station to the southwest of the monument, near the location of the existing comfort station. The NPS built a new comfort station just east of the previous one in 1972. The NPS added a visitor center to the west side of the greenspace between the parking area and monument in 1986. The visitor center was damaged during Hurricane Katrina, and the NPS constructed a larger visitor center that spans the greenspace south of the monument 2010. The spatial organization of the area around Chalmette Monument has remained essentially unchanged since 2010.

Summary

The wedge-shaped Rodriguez Plantation is still visible on the landscape today in the Chalmette Monument tract. The line of trees along the western boundary and the Battlefield Rampart reinforces the unique spatial organization of the parcel at the time of the battle. The grove of live oak trees suggests the location of the historic Rodriguez house. The spatial relationship of the house to the river is not discernible because the levee embankment blocks views of the river. The Chalmette Monument and visitor center also undermine the spatial organization of the Rodriguez Plantation at the time of the battle, since these would have been the location of small outbuildings or fields at that time.

The spatial organization of the battlefield is reminiscent of its condition at the time of the battle because of the open expanse of the field.

398. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 18.

There are trees along the north and south sides of the battlefield that would not have been there at the time of the battle. The trees screen modern intrusions into the landscape, even if they create a field that is smaller than it was at the time of the battle.

The spatial organization of the site during the decades following the battle and up to the end of the period of significance is less legible on the landscape today. After the St. Amand brothers subdivided the former Chalmette Plantation, several property owners developed their own parcels, resulting in a series of buildings stretched across the southern half of the land that became the Chalmette Unit. This includes Fazendeville, a neighborhood that essentially divided the Chalmette Unit in half until the mid-1960s (Figure 4.15). With the exception of the Malus-Beauregard House, none of the houses constructed on these parcels remain.

The spatial relationship of the Rodriguez parcel, the Battlefield Rampart, and open battlefield contribute to the historic significance of the site. These convey the historic setting to a modern visitor. The setting is not exactly how it was at the time of the battle. The field is not as large as it was, the Battlefield Rampart is inaccurately reconstructed, modern intrusions are within the viewshed, but a visitor can associate the scene with the events of the battle.

The Chalmette Monument is a highly visual feature that impacts the spatial organization of the site. Though it did not contribute to the site's spatial organization at the time of the battle, it is a significant feature that contributes to the site's commemorative period. The spatial organization of the former Rodriguez parcel became centered around the monument after its construction in 1855. The monument remained the primary organizational feature of this area for many decades. It influenced the location of circulation features and other buildings and structures added to the site during the commemorative period. The modern visitor center, however, detracts from the integrity of the spatial organization of the commemorative period because of its prominent location so close to the base of the monument. It visually competes with the monument in a way that previous buildings did not because they, including the Malus-Beauregard House or the now-missing caretaker's house, were set further away from and to the side of the monument. During the period of significance, pedestrian access from the river and vehicular access from the highway placed a visitor on axis with the monument. The intent of the design was to visually emphasize the monument and its placement in the landscape. The large modern visitor center disrupts this design.

The current spatial organization of the Chalmette National Cemetery is influenced by the subdivision of the Chalmette Plantation by the St. Amand brothers in the 1830s. Prior to then, the parcel was part of a larger piece of property, the Chalmette Plantation. The rectangular configuration of the national cemetery appeared early in its history and has stayed relatively consistent. The organization of the national cemetery into two symmetrical halves separated by a long central driveway is a character-defining feature that dates to the original layout of the national cemetery in the 1860s. The characteristic geometry of the site is further enhanced by the brick enclosure wall marking the property lines. These replaced fences that stood along the lines by 1868. The clustering of buildings in the corners of the cemetery was also repeated throughout the history of the site, though the locations have changed over time. The use of trees to provide shade and create a contemplative setting was established in the first years of the cemetery and continue to today.

The Chalmette Unit has enough contributing features to present an accurate view of the historic conditions during the period of significance; it therefore retains integrity for spatial organization.

Landscape Features

- Open interior area surrounded by woods
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Overhead canopy of large trees in national cemetery
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Physical proximity of visitor center to Chalmette Monument that interrupts axial views from north and south
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Open lawn area with large specimen trees around Malus-Beauregard House
    - Contribution Status: Contributing

- Axial alignment of Battlefield Road to Chalmette Monument
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Circular road around Chalmette Monument
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Linear grid of national cemetery created from parallel lines, with Cemetery Road in center flanked by allées of trees, grave markers, and walls
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Cluster of buildings around Superintendent's Lodge near national cemetery entrance and physically separated from burial area
    - Contribution Status: Contributing

Land Use and Cultural Traditions

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Cultural traditions are the practices that have influenced the development of the landscape in terms of land use, patterns of land division, building forms, stylistic preferences, and the use of materials.

Historic Condition

At the time of the Battles of New Orleans in December 1814 and January 1815, the site of the battle was a field of the Chalmette Plantation. The Chalmette Plantation was a sugar plantation, and the field upon which the battle was fought had recently been cut, leaving behind stubs of the sugar cane plants. The field also featured various agricultural-related features typical of farming in this area of Louisiana, including drainage canals, ditches, field roads, and fences. Both Chalmette Plantation and Rodriguez Plantation had residential areas located near the river that included houses for the owners, workers, and slaves. The Chalmette Plantation also had manufacturing buildings associated with the processing of sugar. The canal along the edge of the Rodriguez Plantation serviced a sawmill that had ceased operations by the time of the battle.

The residential land use of the site proliferated after the battle, especially after the St. Amand brothers subdivided the former Chalmette Plantation into multiple lots. Families purchased the lots and constructed private homes, which was common during this period. Residential homes built on the site of the battle include the Malus-Beauregard House, constructed around 1833; it also includes the village of Fazendeville, developed after 1860. According to Ted Birkedal, "Early in the American era these same fields were broken-up and subdivided to meet a growing demand for small, landed estates among New Orleans' increasingly prosperous merchants and professional classes."[399] Records indicate a ballfield existing in Fazendeville, though it is not known if it dates to the period of significance.

Birkedal also states that, "Following the Civil War, the land use pattern shifted again; the handsome riverfront estates of the antebellum period gave way to the effects of adjacent industrialization."[400] This process began at the battlefield even before the Civil War, as tracts created from the Chalmette Plantation developed commercial and industrial uses as early as the 1830s. One of the tracts created by the subdivision of the St. Amand property became the site of the Battle Ground Saw Mill. Prior to 1860 the site had, in addition to the mill, a warehouse, employee housing, and an office. John Hager opened a store on another of the former Amand lots in the early 1880s (Figure 4.16).

Not long after the battle, the site added a commemorative land use. A large ceremony to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle was held on January 8, 1840. Andrew Jackson, now former President, was scheduled to speak but did not arrive in time. Then in 1851, a local organization, the Jackson Monument Commission, led a movement to erect a memorial at the site. They lobbied public philanthropists and government officials. In 1855, the State of Louisiana acquired the former Rodriguez parcel and began construction of a monument designed by local stone dealers.[401]

The Chalmette National Cemetery use of another of the parcels of the former Chalmette Plantation began in 1864. In addition to its use as a place to honor American veterans, the erection of monuments on the site expanded the commemorative land use to this portion of the site. The site also features a Freedmen's Cemetery, where recently freed people and civilians were buried for a short period of time. Originally, freed

399. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 15.
400. Ibid.
401. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 19.

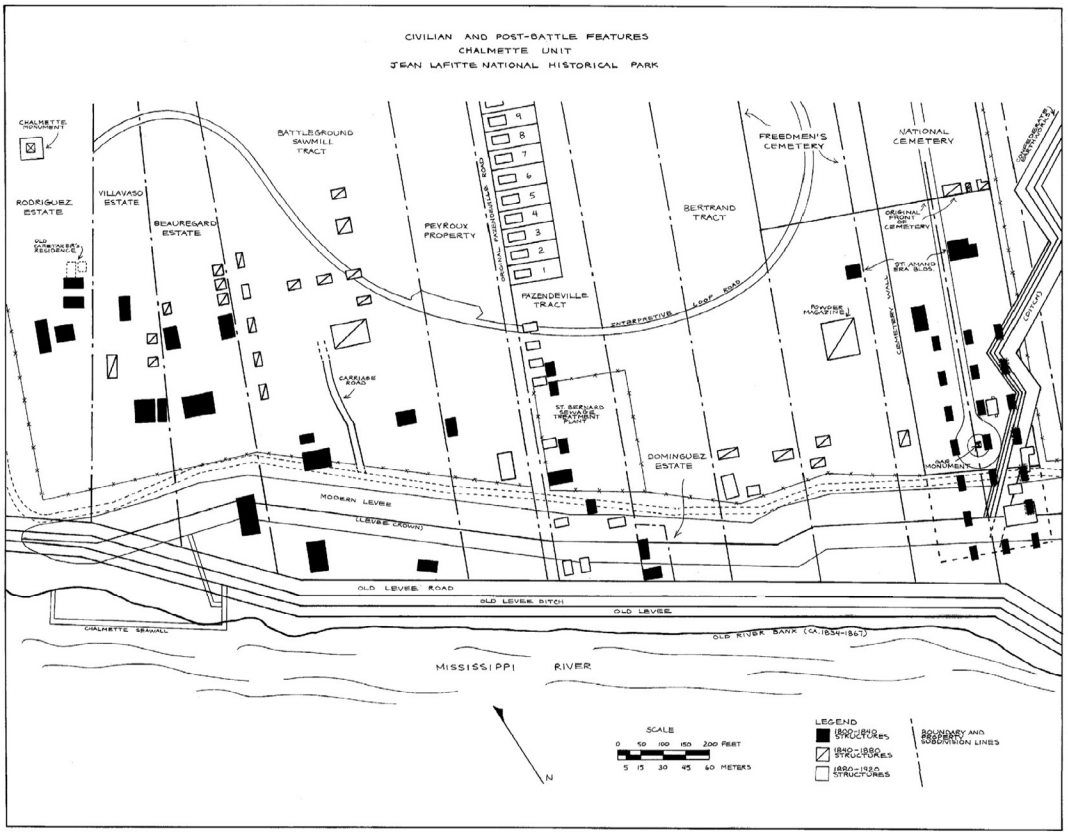


Figure 4.16: Map from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III Map 7) showing division of land in the 1800s (National Park Service).

people and civilians were buried on the north end of the cemetery, but in 1867, the Freedmen's Bureau established a Freedmen's Cemetery just west of the national cemetery and many were re-interred to this cemetery outside the borders of the national cemetery. The Freedmen's Cemetery stopped new burials in 1869. It was abandoned by 1873 and became "overgrown and ignored."[402]

The military land use of the site began with Andrew Jackson's occupation of the Rodriguez Plantation in December 1814 and subsequent development of defensive earthworks in preparation for the concluding battle with the British in January 1815. The military land use happened again during the Civil War, when the Confederate Army constructed an earthwork on land owned by the City of New Orleans. Portions of the earthwork was on land that became part of the national cemetery. Both Union and Confederate forces stationed at the earthwork during the war encamped in an area that is now the cemetery and on a portion of the battlefield.

Both the national cemetery and Chalmette Monument also had a tourism element of land use during the historic period, as they both became popular destinations for visitors from the New Orleans area, resulting in the development of walkways, drives, and eventually an improved access road along the river. A land use around heritage tourism increased after 1893, when the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 took over management of the site. They added the Spotts Marker and developed paths to facilitate visitation to the monument.[403]

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

The NPS began to manage the newly created national park at Chalmette in 1939, introducing a historical education land use to the property. They continued to develop the site for heritage tourism, installing interpretive signs in the 1940s, converting Malus-Beauregard House into a visitor center in 1958, adding new parking areas, new comfort stations, and constructing an interpretive tour loop road around the battlefield in 1964.

402. Lee, et al., "The African American Experience," 29.

403. Ibid.

In 1957, St. Bernard Parish constructed a wastewater treatment plant near River Road, south of Fazendeville. The Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation donated the property. The Kaiser Corporation had begun acquiring land around the battlefield and current Chalmette Unit in the early 1950s to construct a new plant. Despite initial plans to develop the land between Fazendeville and the national cemetery, the Kaiser Corporation eventually constructed a large manufacturing facility just east of the national cemetery in 1956.

Residential land use continued into the 1960s, up to the point when the NPS acquired the lots of the Fazendeville village. They demolished the buildings in 1964 and 1965.

Commemorative land use continued from the historic period. The NPS also added landscape features to the site related to historical education. The NPS constructed a new visitor center in 1986. They constructed a replacement in 2010 after Hurricane Katrina.

The site also has recreational land use, as local residents use the Chalmette Unit to walk and exercise.

Summary

The open field at the Chalmette Unit reflects the agricultural land use, but the land is not actively used for farming. The open field is the site of the Battle of New Orleans, and it is interpreted as such by the NPS, but military land use has discontinued. Some later events, including the construction of a defensive earthwork and management of portions of the property by the War Department, continued a military land use, but there is no evidence of it today except for interpretation of the Battle of New Orleans. The Malus-Beauregard House reflects the residential land use of the site, but it is not actively used as a residence.

The commemoration and memorial land use begun in the period of significance continues. The NPS's use of the site for administrative, tourism, and education is a continuation of land uses initiated in 1893 by the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812. Today, recreation is also a land use, which presumably was also present when residential properties filled much of the area. For this reason, while the land use does not reflect the earlier period of significance, it does reflect the commemorative period of significance after the development of the national cemetery and Chalmette Monument. For this reason, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of land use.

Landscape Features

- Residential Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Missing
- Agriculture Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Missing
- Military Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Missing
- Administration/Tourism/Historical Education Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Memorial Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Commemorative Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Recreational Land Use
    - Contribution Status: Unknown

Cluster Arrangement

Cluster arrangement is the locations and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated features in the landscape.

Historic Condition

At the time of the Battles of New Orleans in 1814 and 1815, the land that would eventually comprise the Chalmette Unit was part of two plantations—the Rodriguez Plantation and the Chalmette Plantation. Each of these featured clusters of buildings constructed near the southern ends of the parcels close to the river.

The Rodriguez Plantation had several buildings, located near each other on the south side of its wedge-shaped parcel. It included two residential buildings (Figure 4.17). The main house was a rectangular building, approximately 68 feet by 22 feet. An older cottage, measuring 40 feet by 40 feet was located approximately 17 feet east of the main building. This cottage was possibly used as an overseer's house, guest house, or office. During the battles, the American troops used these two buildings as observation posts. The outbuildings, which were damaged during the battle, included



Figure 4.17: Detail from Peter Duval's depiction of the Battle of New Orleans showing the British assault on the American line. Note the cluster of buildings to the left side of the image, which include the buildings of the Rodriguez Plantation immediately behind the American line; the Macarty Plantation house is on the far left of the image (Library of Congress).



Figure 4.18: Photograph by S.T. Blessing showing the Chalmette Monument around 1864. Buildings on left side of the image presumed to be on the former Rodriguez Plantation (Marshall Dunham Photograph Album (Mss. 3241, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries).



Figure 4.19: Detail from Peter Duval's depiction of the Battle of New Orleans showing the ruins of the Chalmette Plantation near the center of the image (Library of Congress).

a stable, coach house, four slave cabins, a kitchen, and hen house.[404]

The residence and several outbuildings of the Rodriguez Plantation remained standing for several decades, even after the construction of the Chalmette Monument, which begun in 1855 (Figure 4.18). The house was described as a ruin in the late 1800s and likely torn down before the end of the century by the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 (Daughters), who began caring for the Chalmette Monument and grounds in 1893.[405] The Daughters constructed a caretaker's house a short distance southeast of the monument in the 1890s, establishing a cluster arrangement that persisted into the 1950s when the NPS removed the caretaker's house.

East from the Rodriguez Plantation, across the open field that became the main battlefield, the Chalmette Plantation also had a cluster of buildings relatively close to the levee and river. The Chalmette Plantation included a main mouse, multiple slave cabins, and other agricultural buildings for processing sugar. The larger buildings stood around a rectangular open space; the slave cabins clustered tightly together just outside and to the east of these larger buildings. After the British troops occupied the plantation on December 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson ordered his artillery to destroy the plantation's buildings. Jean H. Laclotte's "Battle of New Orleans" shows the complex ruined with only a chimney standing (Figure 4.19). Birkedal argues that the buildings of the Chalmette Plantation were east and outside of the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. Subsequent owners of the property, the St. Amand brothers, built structures after the battle that were within the unit's current boundaries.

The St. Amand brothers subdivided the former Chalmette Plantation in 1832. A total of nine parcels were created from the St. Amand property that eventually became the Chalmette Unit. Each had their own cluster of arrangement of

404. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 534.
405. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 221.

buildings in the 1800s. On the parcel immediately east of the Rodriguez parcel, the Villavosa family constructed a house around 1834 that had two outbuildings. One was located close to and east of the main building; another was located a short distance behind the main building. Additional outbuildings appeared on the property in the latter decades of the 1800s. These were distributed in the space behind (north) of the main house. The Villavosa house was set back from the levee several feet, essentially in line with the existing Malus-Beauregard House. The Southern Railway Company purchased the property in the early 1900s and converted the Villavosa House into housing for the section foreman. The NPS removed the building in 1955.[406]

The next parcel downriver and to the east is the site of the Malus-Beauregard House. The house was constructed in 1833. By 1834 it had two outbuildings located opposite each other behind the building and close to the east and west property lines. These were likely a kitchen and carriage house. Another building, a barn or stable was in front (south) of the house, close to the river. Additional buildings appeared on the property in the late 1800s that were located north of the outbuildings and main house.[407]

The next parcel to the east became the site of the Battle Ground Saw Mill complex. Five buildings appear on the 1834 Zimpel map. Two were close to the road along the levee and three were approximately 160 feet north of the road. All of these would have been closer to the river than the existing Malus-Beauregard House. The buildings close to the levee road were likely a warehouse and office. These would have been in front of the existing levee embankment. The buildings to the rear were probably the sawmill and associated structures. These buildings were arranged approximately in the shape of a square around an interior open space. Several buildings were added in subsequent decades, which included a steam sawmill, grist and flour mill, a stable, a carriage house, a storehouse, a forge, employee housing, two pigeonnaires, a hen house, and a large residence.[408] These were located north of the earlier buildings, approximately in line with the existing visitor center.

406. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 538-539.
407. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 543-544.
408. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 545.

The Peyroux family built a building on their lot, which was east of the Battle Ground Saw Mill property. An owner of the Battle Ground Saw Mill purchased the lot in 1853, after which the two parcels were combined.

The next parcel east became the site of the village of Fazendeville. Jean Pierre Fazende acquired the parcel in 1857. He subdivided and sold individual lots creating a linear village of small houses that stretched north from the levee road, bisecting the open field that was the scene of the Battle of New Orleans. Prior to the development of Fazendeville, the parcel featured a large residence with four outbuildings. These were clustered together near the levee road, approximately where the former wastewater treatment plant is today. By the end of the 1800s, Fazendeville had twenty-eight buildings lining the east side of Fazendeville Road.[409]

The Dominguez estate was east of the Fazendeville tract. It had two buildings clustered closely together on the south end of the parcel, close to the levee road. They were close to the parcel's west property line, putting them close to the southeast corner of the former wastewater treatment plant.

As mentioned previously, the St. Amand Plantation had buildings within the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. Twenty-one slave cabins were aligned in three rows of seven cabins apiece in the south end of the property. These would have occupied much of the southern end of the current national cemetery. Three buildings existed north of the slave cabins. One of these was a sugar house and another was likely an overseer's house. The third building was outside to the west of the current national cemetery, near the tour loop road. This may have been the main house for the St. Amand Plantation.[410]

This area of the former St. Amand Plantation became the national cemetery in the late 1860s. There was a caretaker's house/superintendent's house located near the current middle of the national cemetery until 1869. This building had two other outbuildings, likely a kitchen and carriage house, located to its east near the current eastern boundary wall of the national cemetery. The War Department constructed a new superintendent's

409. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 549.
410. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 556.

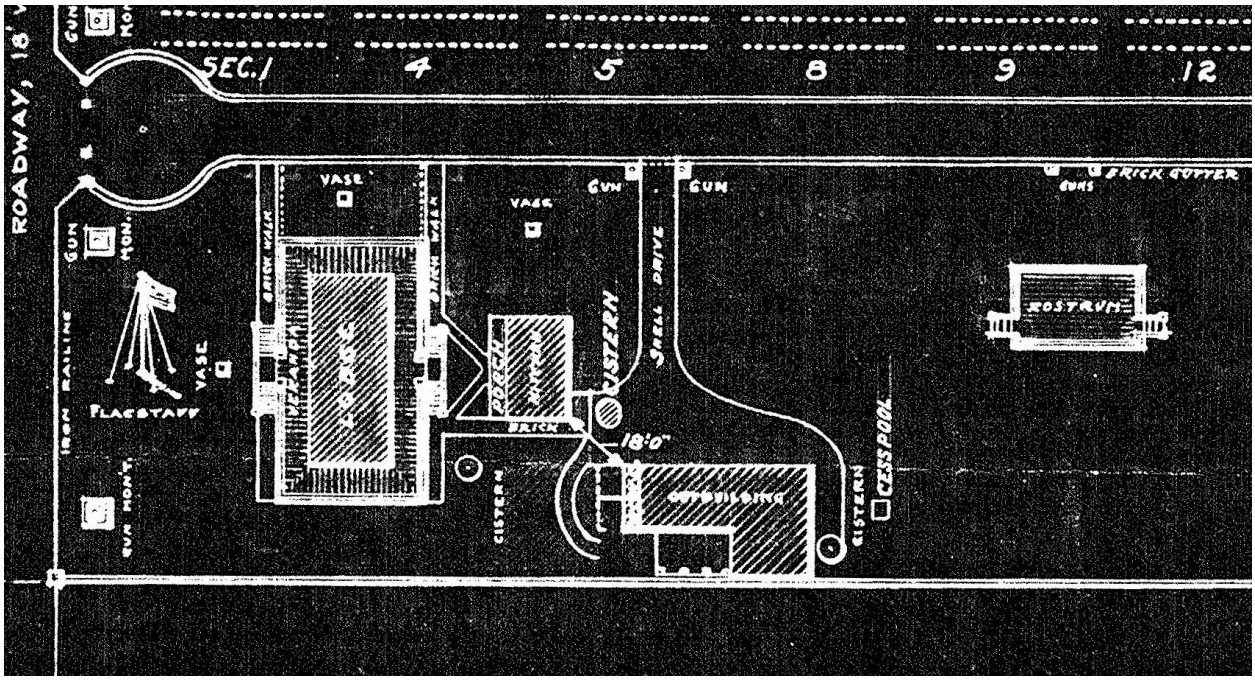


Figure 4.20: Detail from U.S. Army Quartermaster General's map of the national cemetery showing the cluster of buildings associated with the superintendent's lodge (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

lodge in 1868, close to the southern boundary of the national cemetery, which had by this time moved closer to the road along the levee. This building had a cluster of outbuildings including a privy and stable. In 1880, the War Department constructed the third superintendent's lodge in the same general area as the second lodge. It and its outbuildings were clustered in the southeast corner of the national cemetery. In addition to the lodge, which was approximately 52 feet long by 20 feet wide, there was a kitchen and stable/carriage house set a close distance away in the north yard. During this time, a rostrum was located a few dozen feet north of these buildings (Figure 4.20).

There was a cluster of landscape features around the national cemetery in the mid-1800s that are no longer present or no longer visible in the landscape. A Freedmen's Cemetery existed from approximately 1867 to 1870 west of the national cemetery; it appears on the 1872 map of the national cemetery. This same map shows a powder magazine situated approximately 600 feet south of the Freedmen's Cemetery. Archeologists with the Southeast Archeological Center searched unsuccessfully for both of these features in 2002.[411]

411. John E. Cornelison, Jr. and Tammy Cooper, An Archeological Survey of the Chalmette Battlefield at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (Tallahassee, FL: NPS SEAC, 2002), 49-50.

A levee reconstruction project in 1928 forced the demolition of the third superintendent's lodge and construction of a new complex in the northeast corner of the national cemetery. This new complex featured the existing Superintendent's Lodge and the existing Maintenance Building/Garage. This arrangement persists to today, except for the addition of another building, a maintenance equipment shed, in 1957.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

The NPS added a maintenance equipment shed to the area around the Superintendent's Lodge complex in 1957 creating the cluster arrangement that exists today. They removed the stable from the third superintendent's lodge complex and the rostrum from the south end of the national cemetery in the late 1950s and early 1960s, eliminating a cluster arrangement that dated from 1880.

The NPS removed the Villavosa House/Bonner House after 1948. They reconstructed the American rampart near the Chalmette Monument in the late 1950s. The NPS removed the Chalmette Monument caretaker's house around 1958 during a project where the NPS reconfigured the visitor parking area. They developed a loop parking lot with an internal greenspace south of the Chalmette Monument. Most of these features appear on an

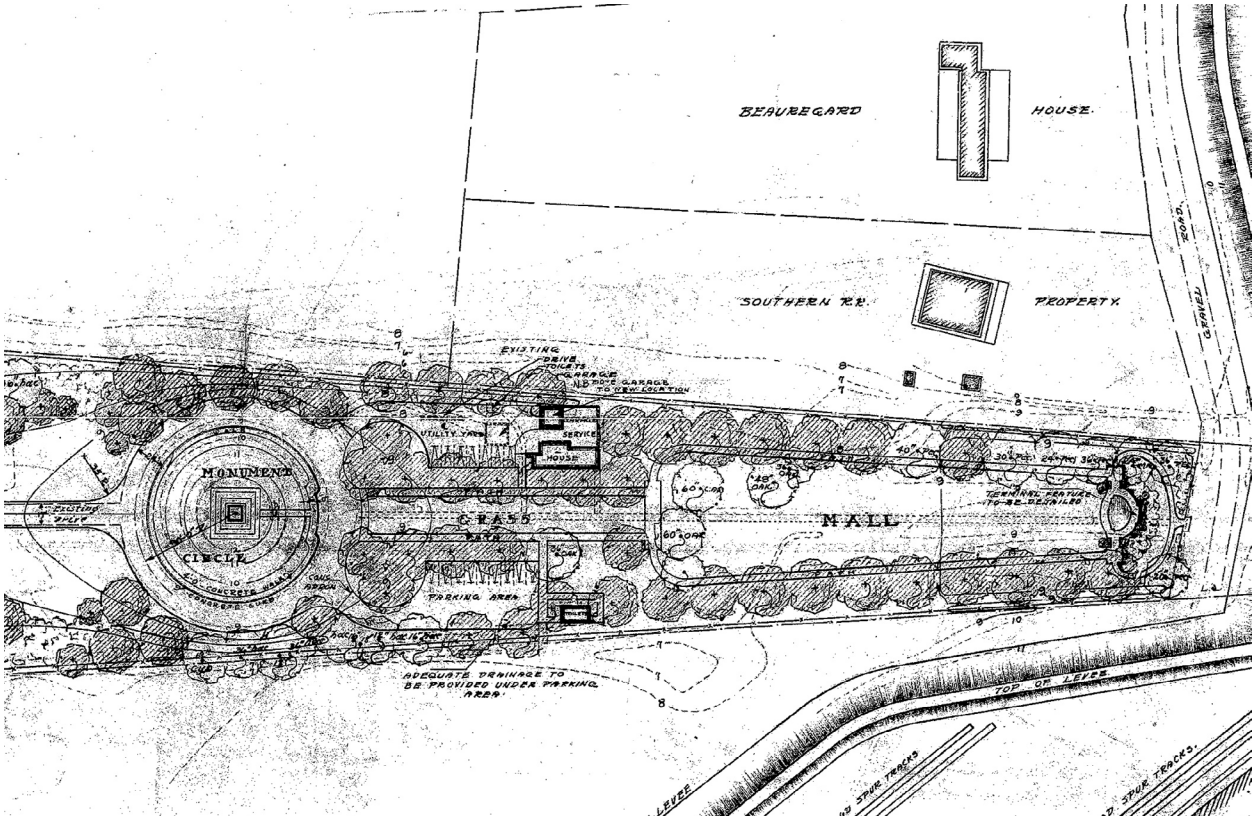


Figure 4.21: NPS "General Development Plan" from1934 showing the arrangement of landscape features around the monument (National Park Service, ETIC 467-1003).

NPS development plan from 1934 (Figure 4.21). After the removal of the caretaker's house, the only building adjacent to the monument was a comfort station located southwest of the monument. The NPS replaced this building with a larger comfort station in 1972. Then they constructed a visitor center in a greenspace southwest of the monument in 1986 and a larger visitor center in 2010 following Hurricane Katrina. This is the current arrangement of buildings today. The addition of the visitor center so close to the monument created a cluster arrangement that did not exist in the historic period and that has a major visual impact on the site because the visitor center interrupts views of the monument and detracts from its visual prominence at the site.

Summary

The majority of cluster arrangements present during the historic period of significance have been lost. The cluster arrangement present within the national cemetery includes the buildings around the Superintendent's Lodge. Two of these buildings date from the historic period. The cluster arrangement at the Chalmette Monument area includes the monument, visitor center, and Battlefield Rampart. These three features never coexisted next to each other during the period of significance. Additionally, the large visitor center, placed so close to the monument, undermines the design intent of pedestrian and vehicular circulation and the views available from these features towards the monument.

Because the National Register statement of significance includes "facets of the economic and social life and architectural style that typified southern Louisiana before and after 1815" and because the majority of buildings and structures present during this early part of the historic period are missing, the Chalmette Unit cultural landscape does not retain integrity of cluster arrangement for this early period of the historic period.

The landscape does, however, retain integrity of cluster arrangement for the commemorative features that existed on the property towards the end of the period of significance (1937). By this time, all of the features listed as contributing to the district's historic significance were in place and all remain in the landscape today with the exception

of a brick maintenance building in the national cemetery.

Landscape Features

- Spatial relationship of modern visitor center, Battlefield Rampart, and Chalmette Monument
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- National Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge, maintenance building/garage, and maintenance shed
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Various residential and commercial buildings constructed on individual parcels during the period of significance
    - Contribution Status: Missing

Circulation

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

Historic Condition

Two roads that existed in 1815 featured prominently in the Battle of New Orleans. The primary road paralleled the river. Jackson located Battery One on the road, protecting his right flank. The British used the road during their attack on Jackson's line (Figure 4.22). Alternatively known as the "Levee Road" or "River Road," it was also called "the public road" by 1841 and used in property descriptions during the subdivision and sale of the former Chalmette Plantation. (This document uses River Road for consistency.) Records describe the road being in poor condition in the 1880s. It was repaved in 1886-1887. By the early 1900s, the road was the primary route for people visiting Chalmette Monument or the national cemetery. Construction of the Chalmette Slip around 1908 severed this road and travel was rerouted along another public road developed around this time north of the battlefield.

A secondary wagon road, known as the Center Road, crossed the Chalmette Plantation fields between the Mississippi River and the cypress swamp. The British constructed their advance artillery battery at the road and the road was used by British troops during their attacks. According to Birkedal, the road was narrow, probably no wider than approximately 16.4 feet wide and was unpaved.[412]

Beginning in 1864, the United States military began development of a national cemetery on a parcel the federal government received from the City of New Orleans. A central drive appears on the earliest drawn map of the cemetery from 1867. The central drive was paved with shells and was 16-feet-wide. In 1868, an inspection report described the central drive as having six circles that were 40 feet in diameter. Over the years the War Department placed features in these circles, including flagstaffs, monuments, and small buildings (Figure 4.23). As the War Department expanded the length of the national cemetery, they also lengthened the road. Originally, the main entrance was on the south end of the cemetery as most people accessed the site off River Road.

According to a War Department report submitted to Congress in 1905, River Road was constructed in 1887. The report states that "in 1887 the Quartermaster's Department… constructed a

412. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 514.

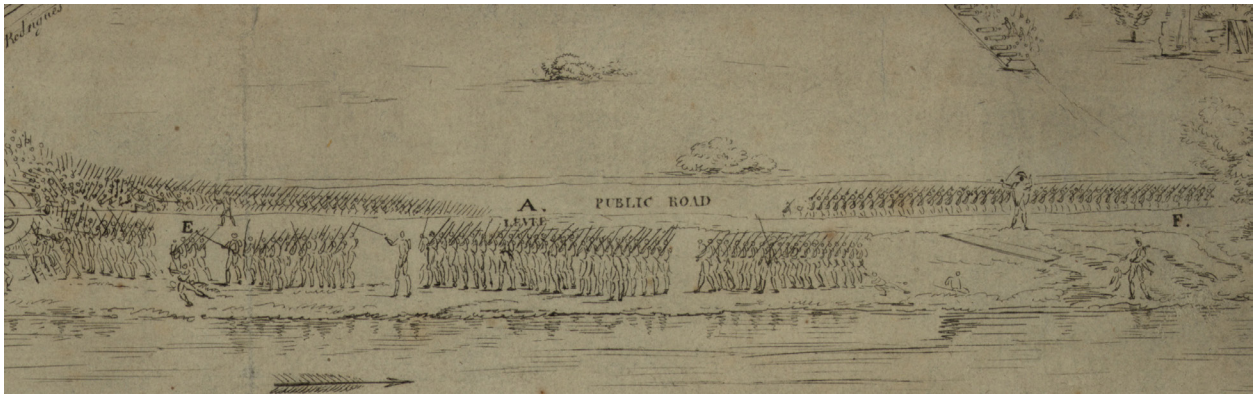


Figure 4.22: Detail from Laclotte's sketch of the Battle of New Orleans showing British troops marching on the road along the river (Library of Congress).



Figure 4.23: George Francois Mugnier's photograph "Avenue, Chalmette Cemetery" from the late 1800s showing the central drive and deep brick gutters in the national cemetery (Louisiana State Museum).

shell road between [Jackson] barracks and the cemetery."[413] For most of the second half of the 1800s, visitors entered the cemetery on the southern end, traveled through the cemetery on the central drive, looped around the last circle, and exited the same place they entered. Spaces between the burial sections were designed for pedestrian circulation. Some records suggest portions of these may have been covered in shell, but most accounts describe them as covered in turf.

There were circulation features present at the different Superintendent's Lodges in the national cemetery. Features include drives to carriage houses and walkways to the residence and outbuildings. When the Superintendent's Lodge complex was relocated to the north end of the national cemetery in 1929, the War Department constructed a walkway from the central drive to the lodge and around the lodge. A second walkway led from the lodge to the adjacent carriage house.



Figure 4.24: Photograph of Chalmette Monument showing shell covered walkway installed in 1908 (Source unknown).

413. War Department Office of the Judge-Advocate-General, "Roadway to Chalmette, LA., National Cemetery," Congressional Series Set House of Representatives 59th Congress 1st Session; accessed online: https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=CNknAAAAYAAJ&pg=GBS.PA9-IA26.

There was a small, paved area around the carriage house.

Sometime between 1874 and 1894, Fazendeville Road was constructed. Fazendeville Road intersected River Road and traveled north through the middle of the battlefield. After Chalmette Slip severed the road around 1908, public access to the Chalmette Monument and national cemetery was down Fazendeville Road.

Beginning in 1893, the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 managed the Chalmette Monument site. A plan dated 1907 records "general conditions" of the site at that time.[414] A 5-foot-wide walkway on axis with the Chalmette Monument approached the from the south. A 17-foot wide "lane" traveled the length of the property from the railroad and public road on the north to the road along the levee to the south. This road follows the eastern property line, passing just east of the caretaker's cottage located southeast of the monument. A circular ditch surrounds the monument and appears to drain towards the north. The drawing was done under the direction of the War Department by Alfred Theard, the civil engineer who was instrumental in the completion of the monument (Figure 4.24).

In the first few decades of the 1900s, public access to both the Chalmette Monument and the national cemetery shifted to a newly constructed shell-paved road that became St. Bernard Highway. In 1905, the War Department negotiated for a 30-feet corridor passing over the railroad tracks north of the national cemetery. The War Department then extended the central drive in the cemetery to the north, creating a connection to this public road. This is also the time when they erected the decorative entrance gate and made the north end of the national cemetery the primary entrance.

In 1909, the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared a plan and section for a "Proposed Shell Road at Chalmette Monument Ground."[415] The road follows the eastern edge of the lot, in the same apparent location of the lane shown on the 1907 map described above. The 16-foot-wide road was offset 4 feet from the fence on the east property

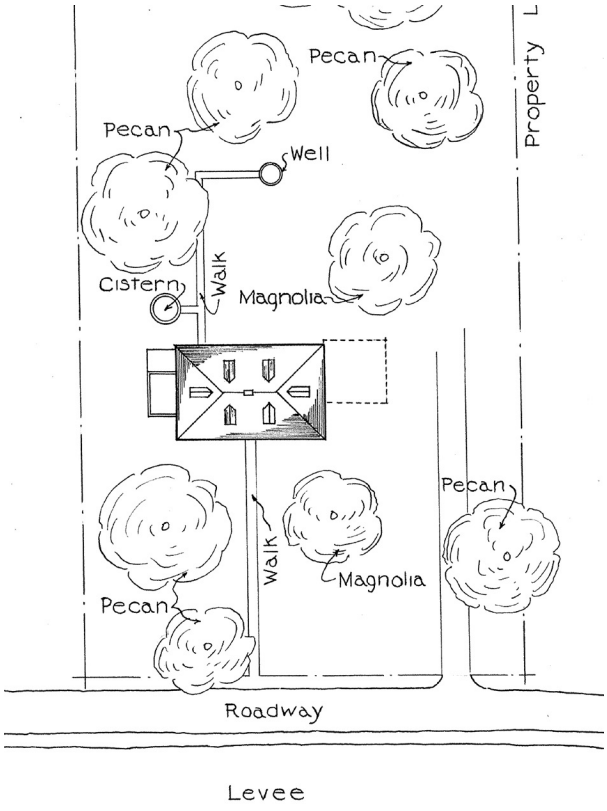


Figure 4.25: Detail from HABS documentation of Malus-Beauregard House showing layout of the landscape around the building in 1933 (Library of Congress).

line. Rather than continuing all the way to the levee road, this road turns west at the monument and circles the monument. The section shows a ditch on the other side of the fence, presumably the Rodriguez canal. Another ditch was on the other side (west) of the road. This ditch connected to a ditch that follows the outside of the circle road around the monument. Interestingly, this map shows a drainage feature, an irregularly shaped depression north of the monument, where a drainage ditch on axis with the monument drains. (This depression may have been present in 1907; the 1907 shows a ditch going that direction but does not show the depression.)

In 1916, the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared another proposal for a shell road, this time showing the road running through the center of the parcel on axis with the monument.[416] Several of the features shown on earlier maps reappear on this plan, including the drainage depression and ditch along the inside of the east property line. This road leads from the north and encircles

414. See: "Monument to Memory of American Soldiers," 1902 (ETIC 467_9001).

415. See: "Plan and Section of Proposed Shell Road," 1907, (ETIC 467_60005).

416. See: "Plan and Section of Proposed Shell Road," 1909 (ETIC 467_60005A).



Figure 4.26: Photograph of concrete walkway to Chalmette Monument in the 1940s by Charles L. Franck Photographers (The Charles L. Franck Studio Collection at The Historic New Orleans Collection).

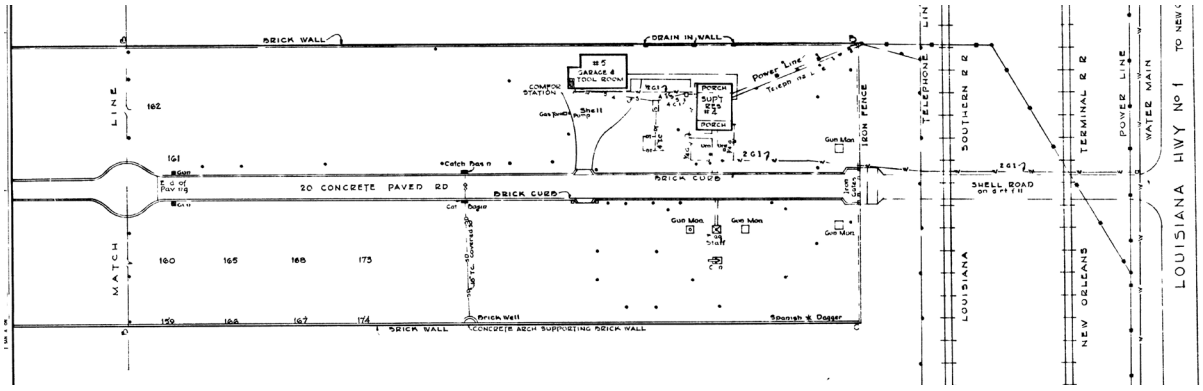


Figure 4.27: Detail from a 1953 NPS map of the national cemetery showing the paving of the entrance road and central drive (National Park Service, ETIC 467-2016).

the monument, establishing for the first time this entrance sequence at the site. It is unclear if the road along the property line or the road around the monument were constructed as shown on the 1909 plan. This 1916 plan appears to use dashed lines for proposed features and solid lines for existing features. The entry road and circle road around the monument are shown as dashed. It does show the walkway from the monument towards the river remained in place. The 1916 plan also has a typical section of the road, which was crowned and shed water into two deep ditches that paralleled

the road. The plan also proposed a 4-foot-wide walkway along the side of the new shell road.

In 1933, administration of the monument property transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service. In the early years of the NPS management of the site, prior to 1937 and the end of the National Register period of significance, the NPS made various site improvements to the monument tract. In 1934-1935, the NPS widened and repaved the entrance road and road encircling the monument. The drawings call these features the "Driveway" and "Monument Circle." During this period, the NPS also constructed two parking areas south of the Chalmette Monument, introducing vehicular parking to this area. A 1937 photograph of WPA workers in the national cemetery suggest they may have resurfaced the central drive in the national cemetery at that time, but it was not paved in concrete like the one leading to the monument.

As mentioned previously, the St. Amand brothers subdivided the former Chalmette Plantation in 1832. Numerous residential and commercial properties were developed on the parcels. Each parcel presumably had their own internal circulation features. The Malus-Beauregard House, for example, had a carriage house and kitchen building set behind the main house possibly as early as 1834. There certainly would have been informal paths between the buildings and possibly more formalized ones. According to Birkedal, a photograph of the building from 1890 shows a carriage road along the east side of the house at that time. This road also appears in HABS photographs and maps of the property made in 1934. The HABS site plan shows a road to the east of the house, a walkway leading from River Road to the front (south) elevation, and a rear walkway leading to a cistern and well (Figure 4.25).

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

In 1949, the walkway leading from River Road to the south side of Chalmette Monument remained in the same location, on axis with the monument, but either the NPS or War Department had paved it with concrete (Figure 4.26). In 1949, the NPS acquired two adjacent tracts: the Beauregard and Villavosa properties. In the next decade, the NPS removed the Villavosa House and restored the Malus-Beauregard House. The NPS converted the Malus-Beauregard into a visitor center in the late 1950s and installed a walkway from the visitor parking area south of the Chalmette Monument to the house.

In the mid-1950s, the Eastern Office of the NPS Division of Design and Construction developed preliminary plans for an expanded parking area and comfort station. One plan proposed extending the parking areas to the south and adding a loop road to connect the lots. This road would have passed to the south of the large live oak trees currently growing at the site near the former location of the Rodriguez buildings.[417] As-built drawings from 1957 show the NPS scaled back the project and changed the configuration and orientation of the parking lots.[418] Rather than have two lots oriented north to south, this new plan has a single lot extending east to west. The lot is set back approximately 60 feet south of Monument Circle to create a greenspace between the lot and the monument. This establishes the general configuration of the circulation that survives today. This greenspace will become the location of two iterations of visitor centers, including the current one. This project also established the location of the comfort station to the southwest of the monument. This project also moved the walkway from on axis with the monument to just behind (west) of Rodriguez Canal. This configuration of the parking lot, walkways, and comfort station appears on another plan completed two years later, in 1959, as the NPS began developing scenarios for a "Oneway Tour Road" through the battlefield.[419]

A map of the national cemetery from 1953 shows the northern section of the central drive, from the entrance gate to the first, most northern circle, was paved in concrete by that time. It was 20 feet wide and had brick curbs (Figure 4.27). The rest of the central drive, including the section outside the gate, were shell roads. In 1955, the NPS began a project to repave the entire central drive in the national cemetery. During this project, they removed the five circles along the drive. They added one widened parking area about a third of the way in from the northern entrance; they also added a cul-de-sac at the southern end, in which they placed the GAR Monument. Also in the 1950s, the NPS

417. See: NPS, "Proposed improvements Cemetery and Monument Area," 1956 (ETIC 467_3002).
418. See: NPS, "Monument parking expansion," 1957 (ETIC 467_3005C).
419. See: NPS, "General Development Plan," 1961 (ETIC 467_3012).

added a maintenance shed and created a utility court around the maintenance buildings, which they paved in concrete.

Between 1960 and 1965, the NPS acquired the properties comprising the village of Fazendeville. They closed Fazendeville Road in November 1964 and removed most of the buildings prior to the sesquicentennial celebration the following January. The trace of the road is still visible in the battlefield. They began construction of the battlefield interpretation tour loop road in 1964. The road followed a serpentine path around the edge of the battlefield and featured several pull-offs with interpretive waysides. The road was also slightly raised above the surrounding grade, likely as a strategy to keep the road dry since the area has a high water-table and is prone to standing water (Figure 4.28). Around this time, the NPS also added pull-offs along the entrance road to provide interpretation of the batteries on the reconstructed American line.

More recently, after Hurricane Katrina, the NPS restored the Superintendent's Lodge. During this project, the NPS installed a brick walkway and brick patio on the rear (west) side of the lodge.

Summary

Circulation features present at the time of the battle include the River Road and Center Road. The alignment of River Road has changed over time as the levee along the Mississippi River was rebuilt. The current alignment was in place by around 1928 after the reconstruction of the levee that year. Archeologist Ted Birkedal provides evidence that a remnant of Center Road continues to cross a portion of the battlefield. According to Birkedal, the road is "visible just beyond the Interpretive Loop Road at a distance of 95 m (311.8 ft) from the east cemetery wall. This alignment of raised earth follows a straight path towards the American line of defence. . . ."[420] Like the Fazendeville Road, this feature is not legible to a visitor because of the tall grass growing in the battlefield.

Many of the historic circulation features added to the National Cemetery during the commemorative period remain in place today. The central drive at Chalmette National Cemetery is in the same alignment as it was during the historic period of significance. However, the NPS removed original design features and changed its materials. Much of the pedestrian circulation is also in the same

420. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 519.



Figure 4.28: Aerial photograph taken during sesquicentennial ceremony showing newly finished tour loop road (National Park Service).

alignments as the historic walkways around the Superintendent's Lodge.

The entrance drive to the Chalmette Monument remains in its original alignment and has the same width and materials present at the end of the period of significance. The War Department constructed the entrance drive on axis with the Chalmette Monument around 1916. At this time, they also added the road encircling the monument. The NPS widened the road around 1935 but kept the alignment of the road. The NPS added new vehicular and pedestrian circulation features after the historic period. These include a parking lot south of the monument, added in 1957, and the tour loop road, added in the 1960s.

Circulation features added during the period of significance that are associated with the development of the site are potentially contributing features under the existing National Register nomination of the district under Criterion A for commemoration. The nomination states that the commemorative significance of the site is related to how Americans honored its war heroes in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This would potentially include the circulation features added to facilitate visitation of the site.

Under this reasoning, the entrance drive and circle around Chalmette Monument are contributing features, because their alignments were established during the period of significance. The central drive and turf walkway paths between the burial sections of the national cemetery, and walkway to the Superintendent's Lodge are also contributing features. Despite the NPS adding several new circulation features, the contributing features retain aspects of location, design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. For this reason, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of circulation.

The tour loop road is potentially a contributing feature if the period of significance of the historic district is expanded through additional documentation to include the Mission 66 period. But, since it is not within the current period of significance, this report considers it noncontributing. The National Register of Historic Places has recognized the historic significance of Mission 66 landscape features, including park roads. The National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources states that "Mission 66 roads represent the most visible, expensive, and often controversial aspects of the Mission 66 program."[421] Mission 66 roads reflect, according to the authors, the National Park Service's attempt to modernize park units to address "higher traffic volumes and changing patterns of park visitation in the postwar era."[422] In most cases, roads constructed in the Mission 66 period replaced or enlarged older roads, "where the main function often was to bypass congested areas."[423] Alternatively, new roads were also designed to provide "a more direct route from cities and eliminated single points of entry into a park."[424] New roads and new parking areas were also often associated with new visitor center construction. The tour loop road does not neatly fit into any of these categories. It was constructed to facilitate touring the battlefield in an automobile. It does feature interpretive turnouts at strategic locations, something the multiple property documentation form mentions in its guidelines for determining national register eligibility. Otherwise, the tour road does not meet the other standards set forth by the guidelines—there was not a pre-existing road, it was not associated with a visitor center, it does not have additional features (bridges, guardrails, etc.) that reflect period engineering practices.

Landscape Features

- Battlefield Road
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Monument Circle
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Visitor center parking lot and drives
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Battlefield Tour Loop Road
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- NPS-installed service roads
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- River Road
    - Contribution Status: Contributing

421. Ethan Carr, et al., National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Boulder, CO: National Park Service, 2015), 90.
422. Carr, et al., NPS Mission 66 Era Resources, 90.
423. Carr, et al., NPS Mission 66 Era Resources, 91.
424. Carr, et al., NPS Mission 66 Era Resources, 91.

- Fazendeville Road Trace
    - Contribution Status: Potentially-contributing
- Center Road Trace
    - Contribution Status: Potentially-contributing
- Military Cemetery Road
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- National cemetery vehicular and pedestrian entrance gates
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- National Cemetery south wall pedestrian gate
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Walkway between Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance area parking lot
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Maintenance parking area/utility court
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Batteries parking areas
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Walkways from visitor center towards river and Malus-Beauregard House
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Walkway to flagpole
    - Contribution Status: Undetermined

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

Occupying the natural levee along the bank of the Mississippi River, the land upon which the Battles of New Orleans were fought was essentially flat farmland. Contemporary descriptions of the area at the time of the battle consistently describe the Chalmette field as level with unobstructed views down the river to adjacent plantations. A Union soldier camped at the site during the Civil War wrote that the battlefield was a "dead-level piece of land with ditches every few rods square."[425] The land did slope gently downward away from the levee alongside the river, as evidenced by agricultural ditches that drained water from the fields to the north towards low-lying swampland. These artificial topographic features played a role in the battle, as when one British soldier recalled hiding in a ditch during his advance across the field. Another commented that "they were hurried into a wet ditch, of sufficient depth to cover the knees, where, leaning forward, they concealed themselves behind some high rushes which grew upon its brink."[426] In summation, three of the drainage ditches crossed the battlefield within the boundaries of the current Chalmette Unit. The ditches affected the routes that soldiers took across the field. Additionally, General Andrew Jackson's troops constructed their defensive earthwork behind another canal, which became known as the Rodriguez Canal because it paralleled the eastern property line of the Rodriguez Plantation.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe, when he visited the battlefield in February 1819, described it as:

> These lines, or rather *this Line*, is now visible only as the somewhat elevated bank of a narrow canal from the Mississippi to the swamp…. This ditch & something of a bank extending from the river road to the swamp will probably remain for many years, because the ditch serves as a plantation drain. But the soluble quality of the earth & the exceeding heavy rains of the climate would otherwise, in a few years, destroy every vestige of a work which saved the city & the whole country of the delta from conquest.
>
> The field of battle is itself a level uninterrupted plain without cover or defense of any kind, immediately in front of the line…[427]

Several of these ditches persisted into the late 1800s and 1900s, though after the land ceased to be used for agriculture, they silted in. One exception is a ditch that drained water along the Fazendeville Road, which was maintained and kept active into the mid-1900s. Birkedal suggests that this ditch may have been one described in contemporary accounts of the battle.

Other historically significant topographic features, also man-made, present during the battle include

425. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 153.

426. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 72-23.

427. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 5.



Figure 4.29: Detail from 1874-1875 survey of Mississippi River showing Civil War-era earthworks (NOAA).

earthworks constructed by British and American troops during 1814 and 1815. Then, during the Civil War, Confederate troops constructed an earthwork on a portion of the land that became the national cemetery. These are discussed in the buildings and structures section below. The Confederate earthwork was removed during the construction of the National Cemetery in the 1860s, though remnants of the earthwork outside of the Chalmette Unit remained visible into the mid-1900s. The extent of the earthwork is shown on a United States Coast Survey map from 1874-1875 (Figure 4.29). According to cemetery records, workers spread soil from the earthwork to improve drainage in the northern section of the national cemetery in 1868. The national cemetery also had small, turf-covered ornamental mounds on its grounds, including inside four of the circles along the central drive. An inspection report of the cemetery in 1868 commented that, "In the spaces on the front within the gate are mounds on which small cannon are mounted and balls arranged around them giving a very pleasing effect."[428] Of the mounds inside the central drive's circles, it was recorded in 1871 that "A flag-staff stands on a small mound near the center of the old part, the drive dividing and passing around it. Formerly there were three other similar mounds, but they have been removed, though the circular drives around them remain unchanged."[429] The GAR Monument was placed on a similar mound in the national cemetery in the 1880s (Figure 4.30). The national cemetery also had very deep, brick-lined gutters on both sides of the central drive.

While outside of the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit, the levee along the Mississippi River changed during the historic period. In 1893 and again in 1928, the levee along the Mississippi was reconstructed, eventually creating a raised embankment much higher than the levee that existed at the time of the battle.

When construction of the Chalmette Monument stopped in 1859, it left the brick foundation exposed. Soon after the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 took over maintenance of the Chalmette Monument property, they constructed an earthen mound over the foundation of the monument (Figure 4.31). Several years later, the engineer in charge of overseeing the completion of the monument, Alfred Theard wrote, "The large mound which covered the entire base had been placed there, a few years before 1906, not to form part of the ultimate structure, but to serve as a protection for the uncompleted base, and no doubt accomplished its purpose."[430]

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

Most of the Chalmette Unit remains relatively flat. The Battlefield Rampart and a raised viewing platform provide the only significant topographic relief at the park. The NPS began constructing an interpretation of the American rampart in 1955. They did it in sections, completing it prior to the sesquicentennial celebration in 1865. It measures approximately 1,300 feet length and reaches approximately 5 feet in height. The Rodriguez Canal is in front (east) of the rampart. It is approximately 8 to 10 feet wide and approximately a foot deep. It passes under the southern portion of the tour loop road and continues towards the river, where it widens and becomes increasingly shallow, eventually transitioning back to grade.

The NPS began construction of a tour loop around the battlefield in the spring of 1964, which they completed before the end of the year. The tour

428. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 265.

429. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 267-268.

430. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 235.

loop road was slightly raised on a leveled terrace. A General Development Plan from 1964 comments about the poor drainage in the field, stating "Due to the fact that the Battlefield becomes flooded during rainy periods, special consideration of this should be given in future road development."[431]

431. See NPS, "General Development Plan Map," 1964 (ETIC 467-3012).



Figure 4.30: George Francois Mugnier's photograph, "Battle of New Orleans monument," showing the elevated mound of the GAR Monument around 1880 (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 4.31: Detail from a circa 1900 photograph of the Chalmette Monument showing the earthen mound around its base (Library of Congress).

During the development of the tour loop road, the NPS also installed a raised, concrete platform on the east side of the road, which offers visitors an elevation position to look over the battlefield. It is raised approximately 4 feet from surrounding grade and accessed by six concrete steps on its east side.

Because it is practically level, the slightest change in topography has significant impact on drainage at the Chalmette Unit. The addition of park roads has altered the natural drainage of the site, resulting in areas of ponding and saturated soils. This ponding occurs in several places near the edges of the tour loop road and between the tour loop road and the western cemetery enclosure wall. The railroad embankment north of the Chalmette Unit's boundary creates another impediment to water drainage, resulting in trapped water in the wooded area on the north side of the unit. Water trapped in the drainage ditches in the north woods prevents water from draining out from within the tour loop road. Today, water is conveyed under modern roads through culverts, which often have drainage ditches leading to the inlet and away from the outlet. Drainage in the national cemetery is accomplished through drop inlets set in the curbs of the drive. The NPS eliminated the historic gutters in the 1950s.

Summary

In general, the existing topography reflects historic conditions. The land appears level, though there is a slight slope as the land descends as it moves away from the river. Most of the artificial topographic features present during the historic period are illegible on the landscape, though aerial photographs show faint evidence of lines crossing the battlefield that Birkedal argues are remains of historic drainage canals. The Rodriguez Canal was rehabilitated during the reconstruction of the American rampart. It generally reflects its appearance at the time of the battle, thought it was deeper and more defined at that time compared to today. Modern topographic features, including roadbeds and viewing platforms, do not detract from the overall character of the landscape. The most glaring departure from historic conditions is the current levee embankment, which completely blocks views of the river from within the Chalmette Unit. The levee is, however, outside the boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. For these reasons, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of topography.

Landscape Features

- Slope from levee to woods
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Historic drainage ditches and Rodriguez Canal
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Raised roadbeds
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Battlefield Rampart
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Raised battlefield viewing platform
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing

Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Historic Condition

Vegetation played a role in the Battles of New Orleans in December 1814 and January 1815 by influencing where General Andrew Jackson drew his line to confront the British Army. The cypress swamp that filled much of the land area between the Mississippi River and Lake Borgne was only approximately 1,000 yards from the river in the vicinity of the Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations.[432] General Andrew Jackson recognized that the woods offered cover for his left flank and would force the advancing British troops into a narrow space between the woods and the river. This allowed him to concentrate his forces along a shorter defensive line. According to contemporary accounts of the battle, the swamp had two parts. A "brushy" transition forest of low shrubs and grass began approximately 600 yards from the river on the Chalmette Plantation. A "thick swamp" grew behind this transitional forest. The thick swamp featured dense stands of cypress trees described as "almost impenetrable." In addition to cypress trees, other plants in the forest would have included sycamore, poplar, sweet gum, black willow, hackberry, tupelo, persimmon, pumpkin ash, red maple, box elder, American elm, winged elm, walnut, willow oak, and overcup oak.[433] The line of the swamp curved northeast extending away from the American line, providing the Americans a better view of the British positions across the field.[434]

The Chalmette Plantation grew sugar cane, and at the time of the battle one of the fields featured the rough stubble of recently cut cane. Other vegetation mentioned by soldiers include rush, sedge, and bushes growing along the edges of drainage canals that crisscrossed the fields. [435]

The arrangement of the landscape and types of plants growing around the Chalmette Plantation house and Rodriguez Plantation house is unclear. Laclotte's "Defeat of the British Army" shows an elaborate formal garden between the river and the Macarty House, which was just west of the Rodriguez Plantation. His drawing shows a hedge along the property line between the two properties. A few trees appear to the rear of the Rodriguez house. It is likely that the American troops removed large trees that would have interrupted their view of the battlefield. Birkedal suggests that the Rodriguez "grounds contained a parterre, a formal eighteenth century style garden that most likely contained herbs, flowers, fruit trees and hedges."[436]

The Chalmette Plantation featured an ornamental garden similar to the Macarty garden, but it was destroyed by the American artillery bombardment of the plantation. Laclotte's drawing shows a few tree stumps standing among the building ruins.[437] In addition to sugar cane, the plantation probably cultivated other common crops during this period, including lettuce, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes, turnips, and cabbage.[438]

Following the battle, Rodriguez sold his property to Dame Marguerite Verret in 1817. While there is not a description of the property during this sale, it is possible that Rodriguez had repaired the structures and landscape damaged a few years earlier in an effort to improve the value of the property. Some speculate that Rodriguez planted the live oak trees currently growing in the area between the visitor center and the river.[439]

432. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.
433. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 11.
434. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 498.
435. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 72-73.
436. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 535.
437. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 7-8.
438. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 11.
439. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 15.



Figure 4.32: A circa 1900 photograph of the Chalmette Monument showing the condition of the landscape (Library of Congress).

Construction of the Chalmette Monument on the grounds of the former Rodriguez Plantation began in 1855 and stopped prior to its completion in 1859. There is little information about the vegetation at the Chalmette Monument site for the first few decades of its existence. One visitor to the site in 1890 commented on "weeds and rank vegetation eight or ten feet high" growing around the monument.[440] In 1894, the Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 (Daughters) took over responsibility for maintaining the property. They apparently "cleared and drained the grounds."[441] A photograph dated 1900 shows a landscape virtually devoid of vegetation other than a rough cover of grass (Figure 4.32). There was also at this time a mound constructed around the base of the monument which was also covered in grass. There are trees visible in the photograph, which appear to be live oaks. In the first few decades of the 1900s, shrubs were added around the monument's caretaker's cottage.

The Malus-Beauregard House had a garden between the house and the river for the second half of the 1800s.[442] A notice of sale from 1880 described the property as "exceedingly rich and productive, and under cultivation for vegetables and flowers. The Orchard contains a fine assortment of fruit trees, comprising Orange, Mespilus, imported Pears and Pecan Trees, besides a large variety of Figs, Grapes, etc."[443]

There are a few descriptions of the landscapes developed on the parcels created after the subdivision of the property in 1832. An advertisement for the sale of the Old Battle Ground Store in 1896 described the property:

440. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 231.
441. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 233.
442. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 544.
443. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report,* 17.

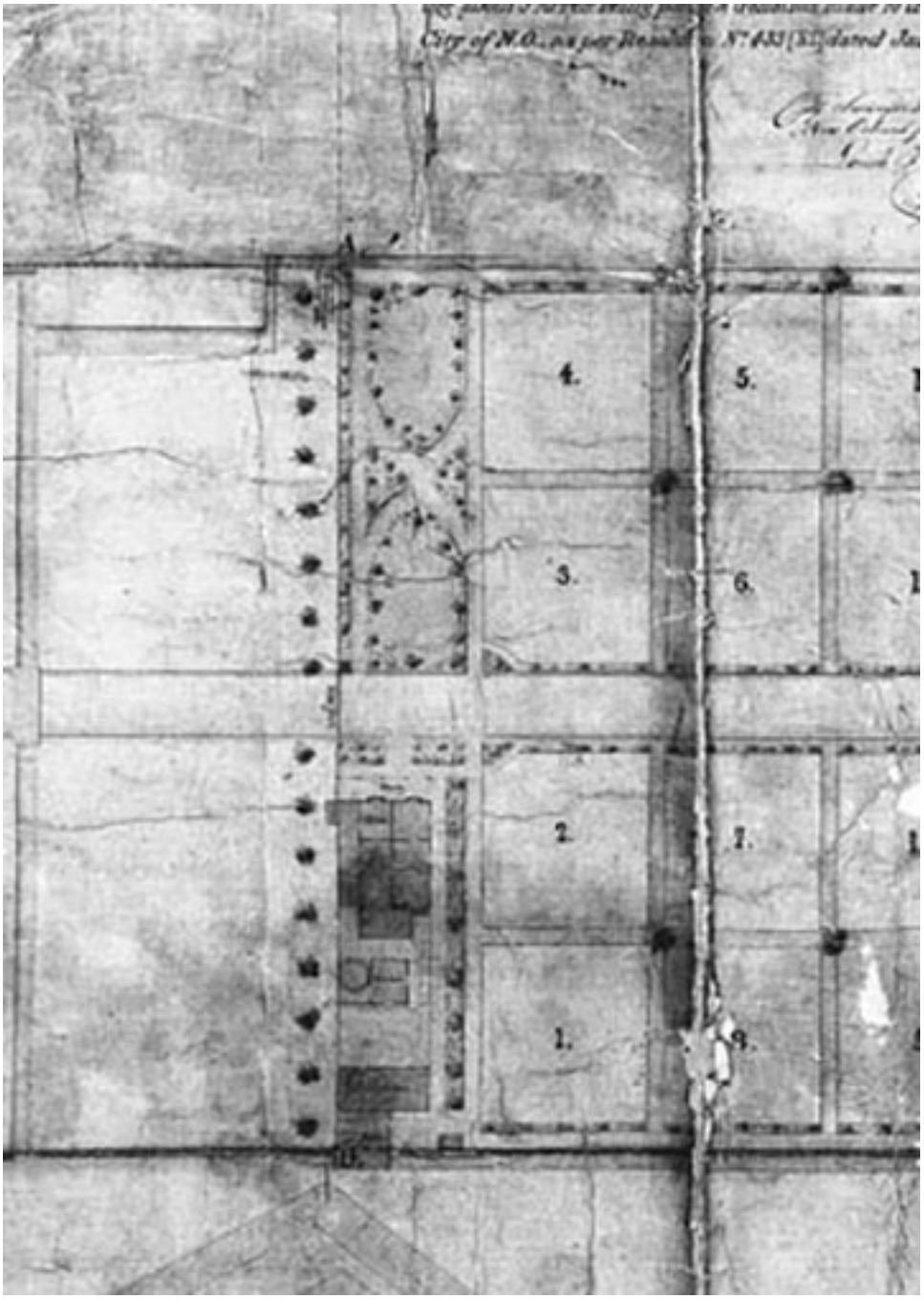


Figure 4.33: Detail from the 1867 "Plan of the Monument Cemetery," showing formal gardens planted around the superintendent's lodge and on opposite side of the central drive (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

> Twenty-eight acres are clear, and twelve under cultivation; the balance finely timbered with maple and cypress. There are about three acres of standing corn, okra, and young sweet potatoes. The property is further enhanced by five fig trees, fifteen pecans, peach, orange, plum, and grapes.[444]

The Chalmette National Cemetery was consciously landscaped from its beginning. In 1867, Captain Charles Folsom inspected the national cemetery and recommended planting more trees. Christopher Larigan, an early custodian of the national cemetery, felt that adding trees would "relieve the barren and monotonous appearance of the ground."[445] He requested permission to purchase trees and shrubs that included: tallow

444. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 251.

445. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 263.

trees (possibly *Triadica sebifera*), viburnums, magnolia (including one listed that is probably *Michelia figo* or banana shrub), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*), pittosporum (likely *Pittosporum tobria*), spiraea, bay trees (probably *Laurus nobilis*), roses, and hibiscus (possibly *Hibiscus syriacus* or rose of Sharon). Captain Charles Barnard recorded a description of the national cemetery in 1868, writing:

> Young Cedar, Arbor vitae, and Magnolia trees have been planted on each side the main avenue for half its length; a weeping willow will be placed on each side of the entrance. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of trees and shrubs, but it is hoped that enough can be procured to form a continuous row on each side of the avenue for the entire length, if this can be accomplished it will present a beautiful vista. If practical the whole Cemetery will be surrounded with trees, a space of six (6) feet having been set off between the outermost row of graves and the line of the fence, for that purpose.[446]

During this time, the entrance into the cemetery was located farther north; the entrance moved south in the next few years. Cemetery staff planted a garden inside the fence along this original southern line (Figure 4.33). Captain Barnes described it as flower garden, "handsomely laid out in walks and beds and planted with ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers of choice variety."[447] The garden remained for several years, according to an inspection report from 1874, which recorded that "Formerly, the front of the cemetery was about two hundred yards in the rear of the present front, and the flower-gardens then established still remain, and divide the cemetery into two parts, the portion between these gardens and the river being the addition.[448] The 1874 report also recommends planting more trees and shrubs. According to the report, several magnolia trees had died, Osage orange trees (*Maclura pomifera*) were doing poorly, but cedar trees and arborvitae trees were doing well. Records from this time also record that the graves were covered in turf.[449]

446. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 264.
447. Ibid.
448. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 270.
449. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 266.



Figure 4.34: A circa 1870s photograph showing small evergreen trees growing along both sides of the central drive in the national cemetery (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 4.35: Theodore Lilienthal's photograph taken likely in the 1870s or early 1880s showing newly planted trees along the central drive (Louisiana State Museum).

Two early photographs of the national cemetery show lines of trees planted along the central drive and between burial rows. The view looks north towards the entrance into the national cemetery. It was probably taken in the 1870s (Figure 4.34). The trees along the central drive are small and apparently evergreen. There are also



Figure 4.36: H.J. Harvey's photograph of the national cemetery showing landscape in the vicinity of the GAR monument in the 1930s (State Library of Louisiana).



Figure 4.37: George François Mugnier's photograph from early 1900s showing shrubs planted around the Superintendent's Lodge (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 4.38: Landscape around Superintendent's Lodge around 1930 (National Park Service).

evergreen shrubs planted around the cemetery superintendent's lodge. Another photograph, dated approximately 1880 but likely earlier, again shows trees along the central drive. They appear to be planted approximately 10 feet on center (Figure 4.35). The trees look to be oaks and Eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*). More trees are visible in the path running down the middle of the burial sections. By the early 1900s, these trees had grown quite large, creating an overhead canopy along the central drive. Photographs of the national cemetery from the 1930s show six parallel rows of trees—rows lining both sides of the central drive, rows along the inside of the west and east boundary walls, and a row in the walkway approximately halfway between the drive and the walls (Figure 4.36). The trees included live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), cedars, and sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*).[450]

The third Superintendent's Lodge also had ornamental plants. A photograph of the third lodge, removed around 1928-1929, shows flowering plants planted in neat rows along the central drive, a foundation planting of a flowering shrub, and sago palms (*Cycas revoluta*) planted in a turf lawn. The hedge planted at the back of the curb may be boxwood (*Buxus* sp.*)* (Figure 4.37).

When the War Department constructed a new Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance building on the north end of the national cemetery, they planted an ornamental landscape around the buildings. An early photograph of the building shows the yard covered in closely mown grass (Figure 4.38). There are many of the same types of plants seen at the previous lodge building, including sago palm and dwarf arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*). There is also an unidentified low-growing, flowering shrub planted along the building's foundation. Sago and arborvitae also appear in the yard of the maintenance building/garage, but they are joined by several small trees, one of which appears to be a Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*) or sycamore.

An NPS general development plan from 1934 records the condition of the vegetation at the Chalmette Monument site in the early decades of the 1900s.[451] Seven large pecan trees, most over 30 inches in diameter, grew along the perimeter of the south end of the parcel. Six large oak trees grew in

450. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 27.

451. See: NPS, "General Development Plan," 1934/1935 (ETIC 467_1003A).

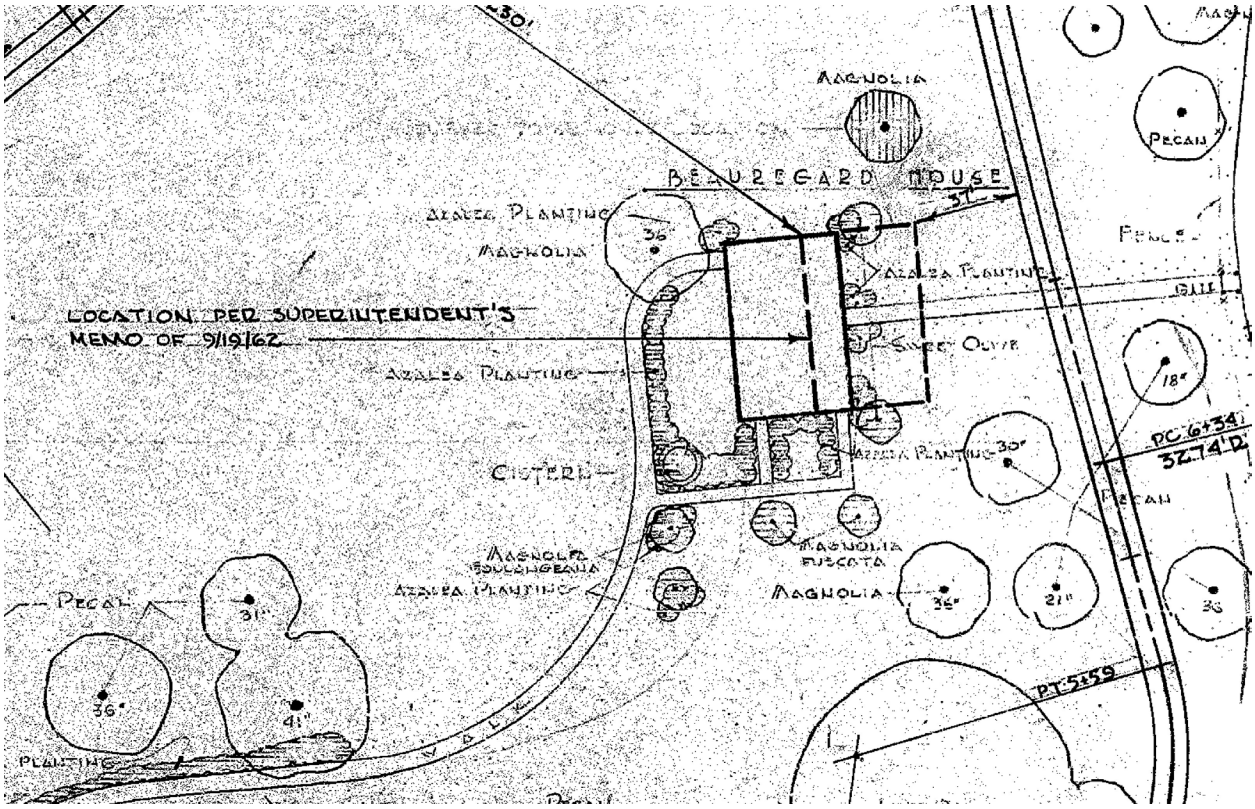


Figure 4.39: Detail from NPS, "As-Built Planting Plans," 1939 (National Park Service, ETIC 467-3011).

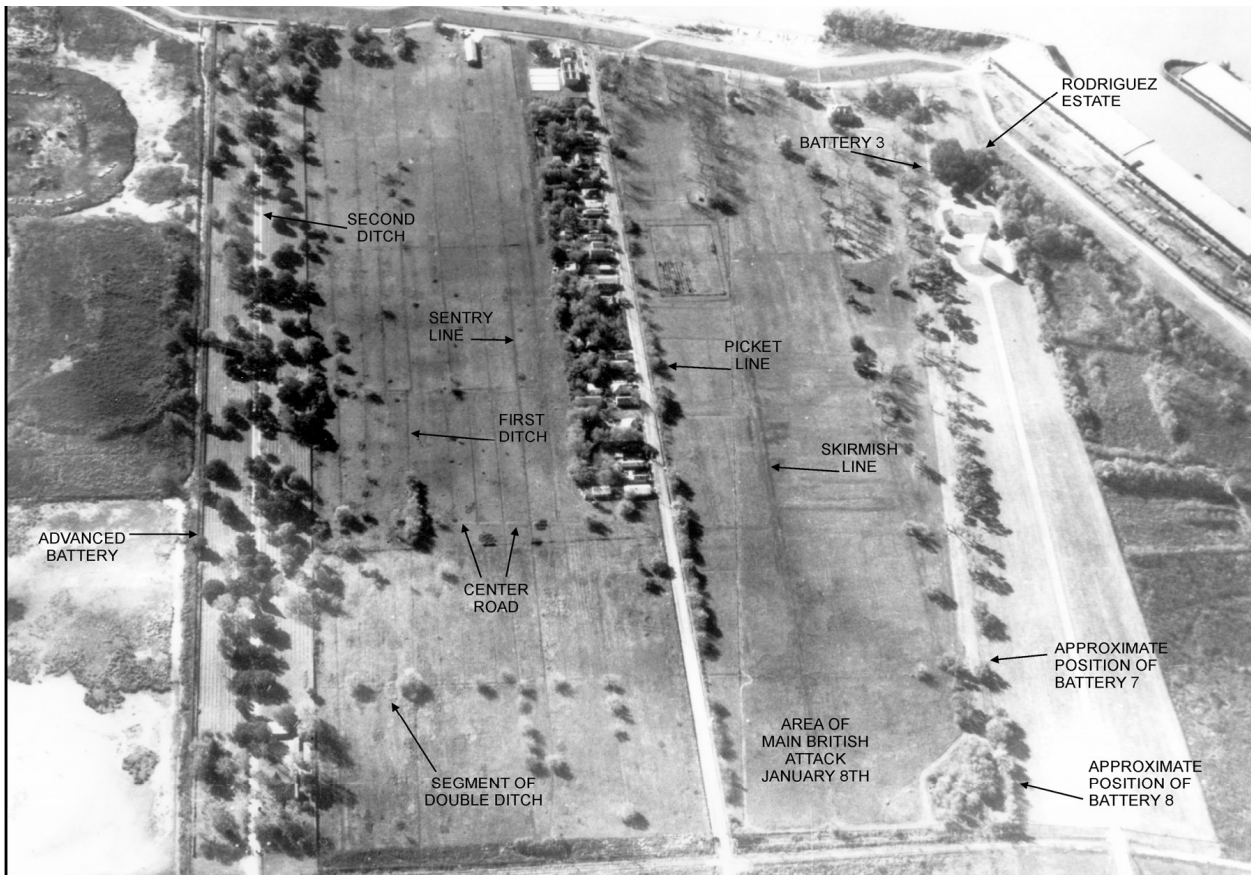


Figure 4.40: Circa 1950s aerial showing condition of landscape during early period of NPS management. Image from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III-66) (National Park Service).

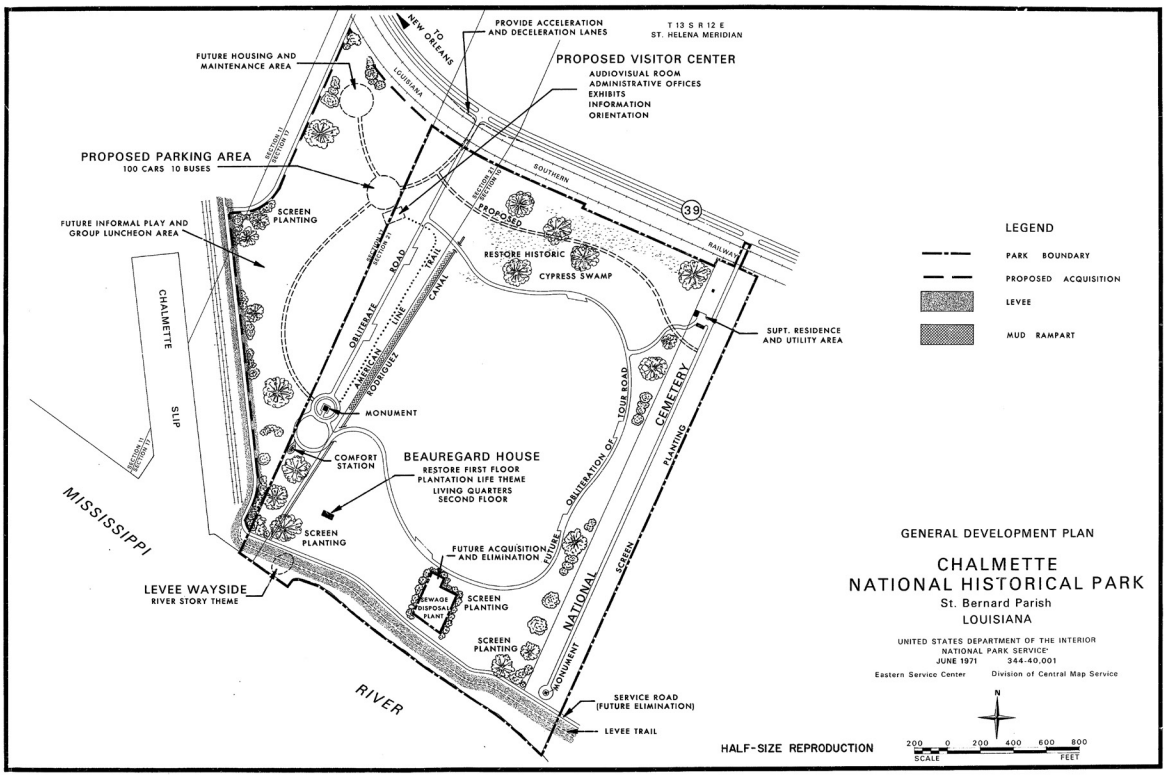


Figure 4.41: The NPS "General Development Plan," from 1971 showing plans to revegetate the swamp and plant vegetative screens around the site (National Park Service, ETIC 467-40001).

a space in between these pecans and the Chalmette Monument. These appear to be the oaks that exist today. The type of vegetation growing along the property lines of the parcel on its east and west edges is not specified, but the plan shows a mostly continuous line of vegetation along these sides. The north end of the parcel was more sparsely vegetated. The interior of the site, including along the edges of the entrance drive and around the monument is covered in grass. The plan does not show a line of shrubs planted on either side of the walkway connecting Chalmette Monument to River Road, but this hedge appears in a photograph from 1934.[452]

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

The NPS began managing the newly created Chalmette National Historical Park in 1939. The enabling legislation allowed for a 500-acre park, but during the first several years, the NPS only had direct control over the parcel around the Chalmette Monument. (They had previously assumed management of the Chalmette National Cemetery in 1933). An early development plan dated 1946 shows the NPS intending to revegetate the perimeter of the proposed historical park in an attempt to recreate the setting of the battlefield with a cypress swamp encroaching on its north side. They label the north boundary on this map as "proposed planting and regeneration."[453] This did not immediately happen because it took the NPS several years to acquire the land between Chalmette Monument and the national cemetery.

In 1949, the NPS acquired the two tracts east of the monument property. These were the sites of the Villavosa House and the Malus-Beauregard House. The NPS cleared vegetation from around the houses and on the north sides of the parcels to recreate the open character of the battlefield.[454] In the late 1950s, when the NPS restored the Malus-Beauregard House, they planted a variety of shrubs and trees around the house and along visitor walkways. The plants included osmanthus (likely *Osmanthus fragrans*), saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*), boxwood, and azaleas.[455] Several large trees survived in the yard northwest and northeast of the house. These included several

452. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 19.

453. NPS, 1946 Proposed Development Plan Chalmette National Historical Park" (ETIC 467/1157).
454. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 21.
455. Ibid.

large pecans and a 72-inch caliper live oak (Figure 4.39).

The current woods on the north side of the Chalmette Unit were not there in the 1960s, as seen on an aerial photograph that shows a sparse scattering of trees. At that time, the majority of the trees on the site are within the confines of the national cemetery, along the back (west) side of Rodriguez Canal, and spread throughout the Fazendeville subdivision. Otherwise, most of the area is open[456] (Figure 4.40). In preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Battle of New Orleans and in conjunction with the construction of the tour loop road, the NPS cleared the trees growing in and around Fazendeville.[457] During this period, the NPS also reconfigured the parking areas, creating a grass panel south of Chalmette Monument. This eventually became the site of two visitor centers, including the current one.

Another photograph, dated circa 1970, shows the view from St. Bernard Highway to Chalmette Monument.[458] The view looks down the entrance drive. There are small evergreen shrubs planted near the park sign and along the drive outside of the gate into the property, but the current woods on the north property line are still not present. A general development plan drawing from 1971 shows the north side of the Chalmette Unit labeled as "restore historic cypress swamp," resurrecting an NPS desire that dated from at least the 1940s (Figure 4.41).[459]

The 1960 aerial also shows the distribution of trees in the national cemetery at that time. Six rows of trees are visible, but there are significant gaps.[460] An "As Built Planting Plan" for the national cemetery from 1958 shows the NPS's attempt to fill the gaps (Figure 4.42). (The newly planted trees are probably not visible in the aerial photograph.) The plan shows new trees planted along the drive, along the east and west walls, and in the space between the burial sections, continuing the practice of three rows of trees. The plant list includes live oak, American elm, water oak, Eastern red cedar, Southern magnolia, French bay, crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), Japanese plum (*Prunus salicina*), date palm, (*Phoenix dactylifera*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and sycamore. Of note is the large number of trees planted around the Superintendent's Lodge. The plan shows eighteen trees planted around the building.[461]

Two hurricanes damaged the mature trees growing in the national cemetery in the 1960s-- Hurricane Betsy in September 1965 and Hurricane Camille in August 1969. The hurricanes toppled many trees across the site. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 uprooted many more trees both in the cemetery and on the battlefield. The NPS began replanting live oak trees along the central drive in 2007. They also planted cypress trees along the service drive to create a buffer between the battlefield and the Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance buildings. More recently, the NPS planted a mixture of trees, including many natives, in the northeast and northwest corners of the cemetery.

Today, the vegetation of the battlefield landscape is mostly open grass cover with woods on its north, south, and west borders. The northern woods are classified as Riverine Bottomland Hardwood wetlands. The EPA defines these as "seasonally flooded (or wetter) bottomland hardwood wetlands within the first or second bottoms of the floodplains of river systems."

The NPS maintains the turf with frequent mowing along the edges of the entrance road, along the tour loop road, around the Malus-Beauregard House, in the picnic area south of the visitor center, and in the national cemetery. Most of the battlefield area is mown less often. There are areas in the battlefield and on the south end of the Rodriguez Canal where persistent standing water promotes the growth of wetland species.

Summary

The battlefield featured cut stubble of sugar cane and small woody vegetation along the drainage ditches. Little is known about ornamental vegetation growing around the Rodriguez house, but what was there was damaged when Jackson's troops occupied the property. After the battle, some historians suggest that Rodriguez may have planted live oaks around his house to increase the value of the property, which he subsequently

456. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 22.
457. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 23.
458. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 21.
459. NPS, "General Development Plan," 1971 (ETIC 467-40001).
460. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 22.
461. NPS, "As-Built Planting Plan," 1959 (ETIC 467-3011).

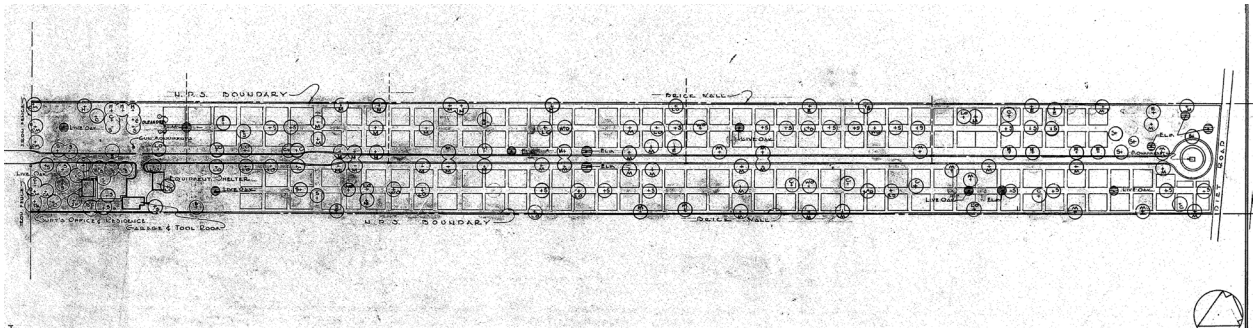


Figure 4.42: NPS "As-Built Planting Plans" from 1958 showing attempt to replace missing trees in national cemetery (National Park Service, ETIC 467-3011).

sold. As adjacent parcels were developed into residential properties in the 1800s, the owners installed residential landscapes. This may account for the large live oak trees growing near the Malus-Beauregard House. The NPS removed much of the vegetation during their development of the battlefield parcel and monument parcel to recreate the feeling of an open field, the condition of the property at the time of the battle. The NPS also promoted and planted vegetation around the perimeter of the site to visually screen views out of the property and to recreate the cypress swamp that formed the northern edge of the battlefield.

The open field of the battlefield conveys the historic conditions of the battlefield, despite not being the same vegetation that was there at the time of the battle. The woods on the north end of the site also conveys the role that the cypress swamp played in the battle, though the swamp did not extend into the current boundaries of the park. These features contribute to the historic significance of the site.

The live oak trees around the Rodriguez house site may date from immediately after the battle. They and the oak trees growing around the Malus-Beauregard reflect traditions of landscape plantings in the early to mid-1800s and are contributing features to the site. Most of the other vegetation is either naturally occurring successional growth or planted as a visual buffer.

The trees planted in the national cemetery are important design features. The linear rows were a design feature started in the 1860s. They contribute to the overall feeling and setting of the national cemetery.

As is common in historic landscapes, most of the vegetation growing during the historic period is gone. There are several large trees that were living prior to 1937 and some that may date from the early 1800s. But overall, the open field, woods, and specimen trees accurately convey the character of the vegetation at the time of the battle, during the residential period, and during the development of the national cemetery. For this reason, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of vegetation.

Landscape Features

- Grass in open field (Chalmette Battlefield)
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Lawn at visitor center, Chalmette Monument, and Battlefield Road
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Mixed woods with cypress trees along northern boundary
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Live oak tree grove around Rodriguez house site and Malus-Beauregard
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Woods on north side of battlefield
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Vegetated buffer around west and south side of site
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Rows of trees in Chalmette National Cemetery
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Lawn and plantings around Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance complex
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing

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

At the time of the Battles of New Orleans in December 1814 and January 1815, two clusters of buildings existed on the Rodriguez Plantation and the Chalmette Plantation. The Rodriguez Plantation had several buildings located near each other on the south side of the wedge-shaped parcel. It included two residential buildings. The main house was rectangular, approximately 58 feet by 22 feet. It had a brick basement, was raised on plaster-covered brick piers and was covered in horizontally laid weatherboards. An older cottage, measuring 40 feet by 40 feet, was east of the main house. This brick cottage was possibly an overseer's house, guest house, or office.[462] Jean H. Laclotte's "Battle of New Orleans" shows the building just behind the American line (Figure 4.43). During the battles, American troops used these two buildings as observation posts. The

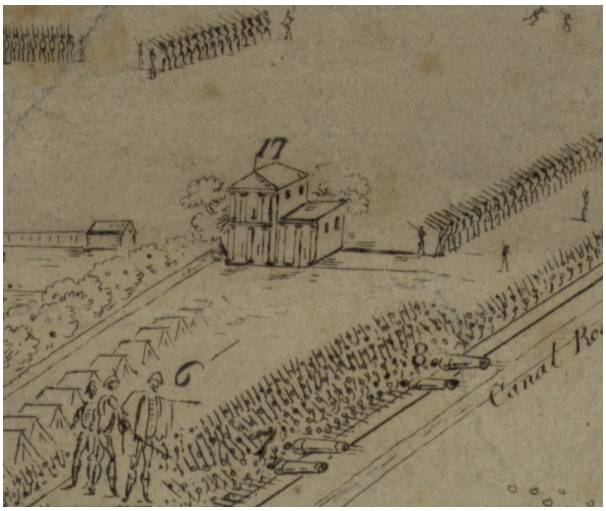


Figure 4.43: Laclotte's sketch of the battlefield showing Rodriguez Plantation (Library of Congress).

outbuildings, which were damaged during the battle, included a stable, coach house, four slave cabins, a kitchen, and hen house.[463] The residence of the Rodriguez Plantation remained standing for several decades. It was in poor condition in the late 1800s and was likely torn down before the end of the century by the Louisiana Society of the United

462. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 67-68.

463. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 67.

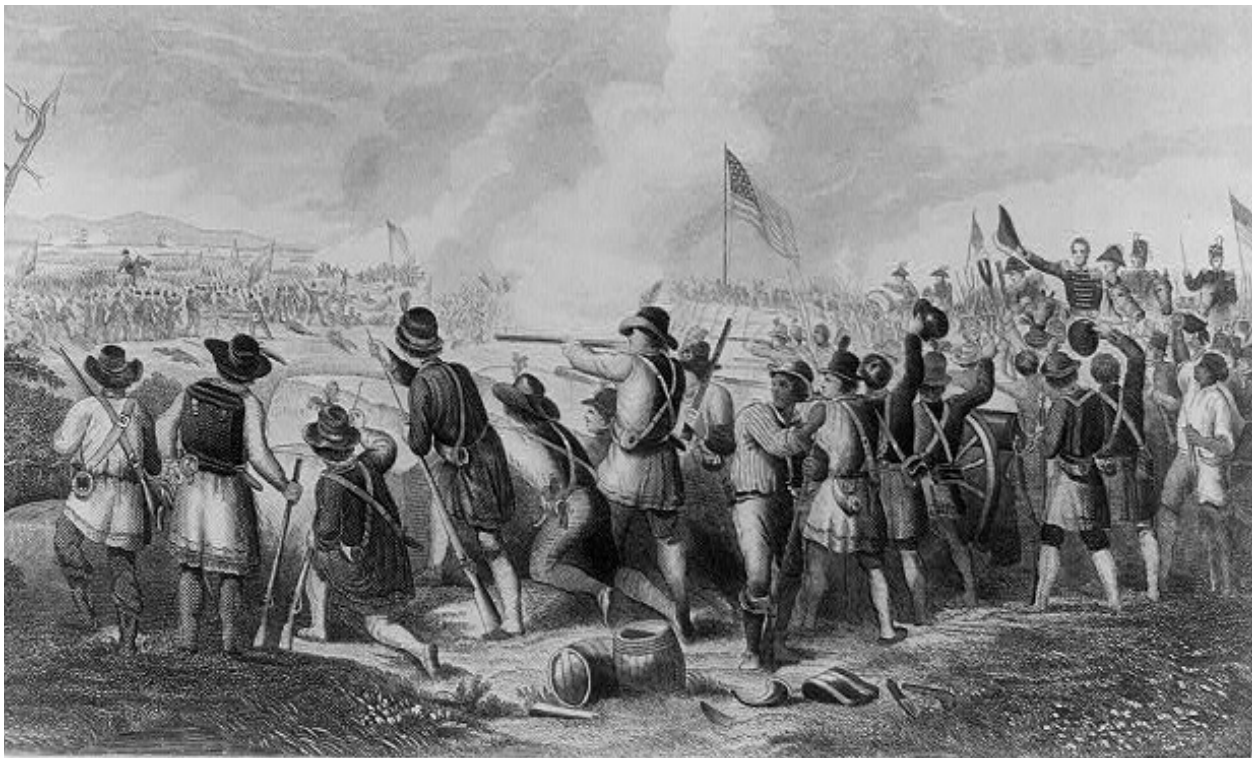


Figure 4.44: Hammatt Billings' engraving of "The Battle of New Orleans" showing the American line (Library of Congress).

States Daughters of 1776 and 1812, who began caring for the Chalmette Monument and grounds in 1893.[464]

East of the Rodriguez Plantation, across an open plain that became the main battlefield, the Chalmette Plantation also had a cluster of buildings relatively close to the levee and river. The Chalmette Plantation included a main house, multiple slave cabins, and other agricultural buildings for processing sugar. The larger buildings were spread out around a rectangular open space; the slave cabins were clustered tightly together standing just outside and to the east of this group of larger buildings. After British troops occupied the plantation on December 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson ordered his artillery to destroy the plantation's buildings. Jean H. Laclotte's "Battle of New Orleans" shows the complex ruined with only a chimney standing. Birkedal argues that the buildings of the Chalmette Plantation were east of the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. Later owners of the property, the St. Amand brothers, built structures on the property after the battle, which were within the unit's boundaries.

The Macarty House, which served as General Andrew Jackson's headquarters during the battles, was on the adjacent property west of the Rodriguez Plantation. This area is outside of the current Chalmette Unit boundaries and underneath the current Chalmette Slip.

On December 24, 1814, General Andrew Jackson instructed his troops to begin construction of a defensive earthwork behind (west) of a millrace canal along the boundary of the Rodriguez Plantation (Figure 4.44). Responding to a request Jackson made for tools, the Mayor of New Orleans, Nicholas Girod, supplied "fifty spades and some mattocks."[465] Latour described the ditch, which formerly conveyed water to a mill in the years prior to the battle, writing that "The canal on which Jackson's lines were formed, had long been abandoned, having no longer any mill to turn, so that its banks had fallen in and raised its bottom, which was covered with grass, presenting rather the appearance of an old draining ditch than of a canal."[466] American troops dug soil from the ditch, piling it up to create a raised earthwork. Latour described its construction:

> Earth was fetched from the rear of the line and thrown carelessly on the left bank, where the earth had been thrown when the canal was originally dug. All the pales of the fences in the vicinity were taken to line the parapet, and prevent the earth from falling into the canal. All this was done at various intervals, and by different corps.... This circumstance… rendered it impossible to observe any regularity as to the thickness and height of the parapet, which in some places was as much as twenty feet thick at the top, though hardly five feet high; whist in other places the enemy's balls went through it at the base.[467]

As Latour described, the rampart featured a row of pickets driven into the ground, behind which the soldiers piled soil dug from the canal and upon which they added more soil brought in by wagons. Greene, in his *Historic Resource Study,* recounts reports from British soldiers that describe the resultant ditch in front of the American rampart as 10 to 12 feet wide and 3 to 4 feet deep. Water filled the ditch in places and American troops piled thorn bushes in other places along the ditch. The rampart stretched approximately 1,700 yards from the river to the cypress swamp. It was a straight line, until approximately 150 yards south of the swamp, where the Americans constructed an inverted redan. Beyond this unusual feature, likely constructed to provide additional lines of fire on the north end, the rampart made an L-shaped turn to the west for another 300 yards.[468] There were eight batteries constructed along the line. Each battery had additional structures to support the weight of artillery pieces. A typical battery, as described by Birkedal, had a wooden platform constructed from heavy planks nailed onto sleepers laid on the ground.[469]

American troops also constructed a rectangular powder magazine in preparation for the battle. It was located behind the rampart approximately midway between Battery 1 and Battery 2, approximately 73 yards north of the river.[470] There was also a mortar battery located to the rear and to

464. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 221.
465. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 53.
466. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 54.
467. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 56-57.
468. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 60.
469. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 67.
470. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 68.

the right of Battery 1, though it may not have been completed by the time of the battle. The Americans also constructed an advanced redoubt on the far right of their line, in front of the Rodriguez Canal. This would have been a low earthwork with a ditch in front.

In the report, *Search of the Lost Riverfront,* Birkedal provides approximate locations for each of the structures present at the time of the battle, describing where they would be on the ground today:[471]

Battery 1 was 173 feet north of the existing Chalmette Seawall, just south of the present levee;

The Mortar Battery was roughly 113 feet north of the seawall and just south of the levee;

The Advanced Redoubt was 88 feet north of the current seawall;

The Powder Magazine was approximately 20 feet north of the current southern boundary line of the Chalmette Unit;

Battery 2 was approximately 439 feet north from current seawall, near the present septic tank facility;

Battery 3 was about 268 feet north of the southern boundary line;

Battery 4 was approximately 126 feet north of the seawall, just south of the large live oak tree growing near the current interpretive reconstruction of Battery 4;

Battery 5 was 570 feet north of Battery 4 and approximately 64 feet south of the current interpretive reconstruction of Battery 5;

Battery 6 was 108 feet north of Battery 5, approximately 44 feet north of the current interpretive reconstruction of Battery 6;

Battery 7 was 570 feet north of Battery 6, approximately 112 feet north of the where the tour loop road passes through the reconstructed battery;

Battery 8 was 180 feet north of Battery 7, approximately 130 feet south of Chalmette Unit's northern boundary near where the most northern section of the Battlefield Rampart enters the woods;

The inverted redan, the unusual 200-feet-long concavity in the American line was roughly 40 feet north of Battery 8. Its northern end extended to the current railroad tracks. The center of the redan was approximately where the fence along the northern boundary of the Chalmette Unit is today. Beyond the redan, the American line was a low breastwork of logs that made a L-shape to protect the left flank.

Several years after the battle, a visitor to the battlefield recorded this description of the rampart:

> The rampart of earth upon which we stood presented very little the appearance of having ever been a defense for three thousands breasts; resembling rather one of the numerous dikes constructed on the plantations near the river, to drain the very marshy soil which abounds in this region, than the military defenses of a field of battle. It was a grassy embankment, extending, with the exception of an angle near the forest—about a mile in a straight line from the river to the cypress swamps in the rear; four feet high, and five or six feet broad… [The canal is] now nearly filled with earth and could easily be leaped over at any point.[472]

Other structures constructed on the battlefield, within the confines of the current Chalmette Unit, include two British batteries—the Advanced Battery and the Crawley Rocket Battery.[473] A third battery, known as the Forward Field Battery, did not have a structure constructed for protection but was simply a location where movable field pieces were placed to fire towards the American line. It would have been near the intersection of the tour loop road and the service road to the maintenance area of the national cemetery. The Michell and Carmichael Battery was located just east and

471. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 487- 495.

472. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 149.

473. There were other batteries established during preparations for the battle and during the assault. Some of these, like the Forward Field Battery, did not include a structure, but were simply a line of guns that were removed after firing their rounds. Others did have structures associated with them, but they are outside of the Chalmette Unit's boundaries.

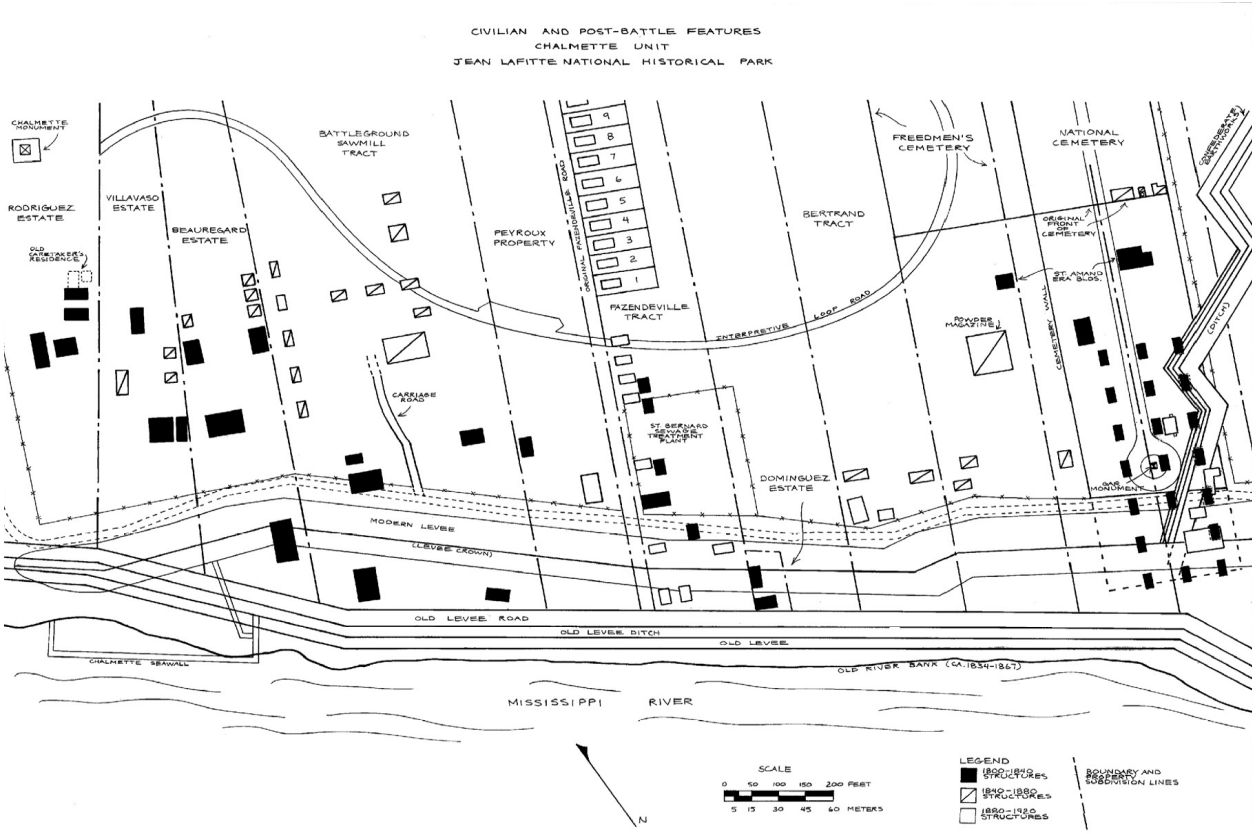


Figure 4.45: Map from Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III Map 7) showing location of buildings during the 1800s (National Park Service).

outside the boundaries of the Chalmette National Cemetery.

The Advanced Battery was built astride a road known as Center Road that crossed the battlefield. It figured prominently in the battle, as it was from here that the British soldiers was supposed to retrieve the fascines and ladders that did not get into place as planned by British commanders.[474] The Advanced Battery was constructed from earth-filled sugar casks covered with rammed earth. It was approximately 6 to 7 feet high measured from the ground.[475]

Crawley's Rocket Battery was north of the Advanced Battery. Birkedal suggests it featured similar construction techniques as the Advanced Battery with earth-filled casks covered with more earth.[476]

The Advance Battery would have been on the west side of current Military Cemetery Road between burial sections 136 and 152. The Crawley Rocket Battery would have been in the open lawn area on the west side of Military Cemetery Road opposite the maintenance building/garage in the national cemetery.

In the decades after the battle, many buildings and structures were constructed on the land that is today part of the Chalmette Unit. The proliferation of buildings was a direct result of the subdivision of the Chalmette Plantation in the 1830s, when then owners, the St. Amand brothers, carved out several tracts from the original farm. Most of these tracts were too small for farming and were used to construct residential buildings (Figure 4.45).

Brothers Hilaire and Louis St. Amand purchased the Chalmette Plantation in 1817. They continued to grow sugar cane on the property until 1832 when they subdivided the property and sold the smaller tracts to pay off debts. Most of the parcels subsequently became residential lots and a few included a commercial use.[477] The Malus-Beauregard House is the only remaining example of the many residential building constructed on

474. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 514.
475. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 515.
476. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 531.
477. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 16.

one of the former Chalmette Plantation parcels between 1832 and the end of the historic period of significance 1937.

The Villavosa House occupied the parcel created immediately east of the Rodriguez Plantation. The house survived on this lot into the 1930s. Alexander Baron constructed a two-story house, currently known as the Malus-Beauregard House, on the next parcel in 1833. The house measures 62 feet wide by 20 feet deep with galleries on the north and south facades. According to an 1880s description of the property, the lot featured several buildings and structures. The description states that "The property is improved by a substantial two-story Brick Mansion, and other dependencies, such as stabling and poultry houses, laborers' quarters. . ."[478] The Villavosa and Malus-Beauregard lots were combined in 1888. Around 1900, the owner, Rene Toutant Beauregard, added a two-story frame addition on the east side of the house. In 1904 the New Orleans Terminal Company acquired both lots. At that time one small house remained on the first parcel and the Malus-Beauregard and various outbuildings remained on the second lot.

The Battle Ground Saw Mill owned the next three lots. In the 1830s the property featured a sawmill, warehouse, and various smaller structures, including what was likely an office. By 1860 the property is described as having a "steam-driven saw mill, which also had a grist and flour mill and a lathe. There was a storehouse for corn, a forge, a house for the engineer, a house for the clerks, and housing for the mill's employees. There was a large hospital on the site and a substantial residential complex that included a very large great house, a kitchen, two pigeonnaires, servants quarters, a washhouse, a coach house, a hen house, and privies."[479] The Louisiana Agriculture and Mechanical College purchased the land in 1875. They sought proposals to construct buildings at this time, suggesting the earlier buildings had fallen into disrepair or were no longer standing. The land subsequently passed through several owners. By the 1890s, a house with two dependencies and five smaller houses stood on the property.[480] The New Orleans Terminal Company purchased the property in 1903.

The next parcel, lot 6 of the former St. Amand brothers land, became the site of the village of Fazendeville. By 1857, when Jean Pierre Fazende inherited the land, the lot had a house with six apartments.[481] Fazende subdivided the south end of the parcel and began selling residential lots in the 1870s. By 1900, there were twenty-eight houses lining the middle and northern portion of Fazendeville Road. Most of the houses were on the east side of the road; there was one house on the west side of the road by 1927. There was a store at the south end of the property, near the public road along the levee. This area was eventually reused in the 1950s and became the site of the St. Bernard Wastewater Treatment Plant. The north part of the property was not developed, and New Orleans Terminal Company purchased it in 1904.

The Old Battleground Store occupied the adjacent parcel. John Hager Sr. opened a store on the property around 1882, but Greene notes that two buildings were on the lot as early as 1833 because they appear on the 1834 Zimpel map.[482] The larger building was probably a residence, and the smaller building was probably a kitchen. The property was described as having a "Small store. . .a fine stable, chicken house and all other building. The property fronts on the Mississippi River for 197 feet and runs back to a depth of eighty arpents. Twenty-eight acres are clear, and twelve under cultivation; the balance finely timbered with maple and cypress. There are about three acres of standing corn, okra, and young sweet potatoes. The property is further enhanced by five fig trees, fifteen pecans, peach orange, plum, and grapes." [483] The store did not survive into the 1900s and would have been under the footprint of the current levee embankment.

The next parcel, known as the Bertrant Tract, had two buildings in the late 1800s. Birkedal references historical aerials to suggest that the buildings may have survived into the mid-1900s. They were close to River Road and the modern levee, approximately in line with the former sewage treatment plant.

The St. Amand brothers temporarily retained ownership of the three remaining parcels created during the 1830s subdivision of the Chalmette

478. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 17.
479. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 202.
480. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 203.
481. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 205.
482. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 218.
483. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 210.



Figure 4.46: Photograph of the unfinished Chalmette Monument (Source unknown).



Figure 4.47: Photograph by the Detroit Publishing Co. from around 1910 of the newly completed Chalmette Monument (Library of Congress).

Plantation. These parcels had houses, several slave cabins and possibly a sugar house. The western portion of this property is within the boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. Several buildings, including an overseer's cabin, twelve to fifteen slave cabins, a sugar house, and possibly the main St. Amand house were in the current boundaries of the national cemetery.[484]

Charles Rixner acquired these three lots in 1859 and sold them to the City of New Orleans in 1861. The Confederate Army constructed an earthwork across a portion of these parcels to defend the city during the Civil War. The multi-salient earthwork snaked across the landscape perpendicular to the river approximately 2,250 yards. It featured an 8-feet-tall parapet and a water filled ditch in front.[485]

In 1864 and after the Union Army had possession of New Orleans, the city donated the property to the United States to use as a bivouac and cemetery. Development of the cemetery began in 1864 and was formally transferred to the War Department in 1868. During the development of the national cemetery, the sally port of the earthwork nearest the river was demolished. Portions of the earthwork remained into the 1880s in the northern section of the area within the current boundaries of the national cemetery. Remnants of the earthwork persisted into the 1940s and 1950s on land outside of the current Chalmette Unit boundaries. In addition to the earthwork, a powder magazine stood just outside the current west wall of the national cemetery. An 1872 survey of the cemetery shows it approximately 300 feet south of the Freedmen's Cemetery.[486]

Construction of the Chalmette Monument began in 1856. The monument was unfinished when work stopped in 1859 and the monument stood as an "unfinished stump" for five decades (Figure 4.46).[487] The monument, erected to commemorate the Battle of New Orleans, featured Tuckahoe and Georgia marble over a brick foundation. Designed by New Orleans stone dealer Newton Richards, the monument was supposed to be 150 feet tall. The Louisiana Society of the United

484. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 556.
485. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 157.
486. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront,* 557-559.
487. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 229.



Figure 4.48: George François Mugnier's photograph of the Superintendent's Lodge from around 1900 (Louisiana State Museum).

States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 covered the unfinished foundation with an earthen mound in the 1890s. The United States Army Corps of Engineers replaced the mound with a set of marble steps when they finished the monument around 1908 (Figure 4.47). They developed construction documents and awarded the project to Milton P. Doullut, who started work in January 1908.[488] Under the contract, Doullut hired a subcontractor Victor Huber to face the entire structure with Tuckahoe marble. They used Georgia marble to create the tiered base around the monument.[489] The monument reached a few inches taller than 100 feet upon completion.

Around 1894, the Daughters reported that they had built a house for the caretaker of the site southeast of the monument.[490] This building remained on the site until 1958. By this time, the building also had a small, detached garage, which the NPS relocated during the 1930 to allow room to install a parking lot next to the monument.[491]

The War Department constructed three cemetery lodges with various outbuildings in the national cemetery between 1869 and 1929. There was an existing frame structure at the cemetery, which the War Department used for a few years. It was located near the middle of the current cemetery. The War Department built a brick building to replace the old frame building 1869. The new building was located near the south boundary of the cemetery, relatively close to the road along the levee. In addition to the lodge building, there was also a privy and a stable. The stable was originally outside and south of the cemetery fence. After the stable burned down, the War Department constructed a new, brick stable inside the fence north of the cemetery lodge.

In 1878, the Quartermaster Department completed designs for a rostrum in the national cemetery. They hired Charles Hense to construct the building, which he completed in 1879. The building was 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. It was raised 5 feet above the ground and had staircases on both ends. It was constructed from brick and its steps were constructed from cut stone. The raised platform had 8-feet-tall ionic columns that supported a lattice shade structure.[492]

488. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 239.
489. Ibid.
490. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 19.
491. Birkedal, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 221.
492. Michael Harrison, Historic American Landscapes Survey, National Cemeteries, Rostrums, HALS No. DC-47, 2013, 23.

There was also a burial vault in the national cemetery during this period. Cemetery staff built this "receiving tomb" to store exhumed bodies prior to sending them to another cemetery.[493] The brick building was in the most northern of the circles of the central drive.

In 1880, the War Department replaced the 1869 lodge with a two-story building in the same location at the southeast corner of the national cemetery. The building was brick, measured 20 feet by 52 feet and had a 10-feet-wide porch that wrapped around the entire building. Outbuildings included a brick kitchen/dining room, a wooden water tank, and a wooden stable/tool house (Figure 4.48). An inspection report from 1882 provides a description of the complex:

> A few feet north of this lodge is a brick building containing a dining room and kitchen. Outside of the kitchen is a wooden water tank. These buildings are in good order except slight repairs are needed on the windows of the lodge.
>
> East of the kitchen is a wooden building containing stables, tool house, and shed. A wooden tank is near this shed. These tanks receive drainage of the roofs.
>
> A lattice work fence runs from the kitchen to the stable, cutting off the view of the stable yard.

The War Department replaced the wooden stable in 1890. They added another building to the complex in 1897, when they constructed a L-shaped stable and carriage house.[494]

Though outside the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit, the War Department did construct a 132-foot-long wharf for boats to dock near the national cemetery in 1883.[495]

Between 1928 and 1929, the Lake Borgne Basin Board, the Mississippi River Commission, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers reconstructed the levee south of the national cemetery. Approximately 200 feet of the cemetery was affected, resulting in the demolition of the cemetery lodge.[496] The northern portion of the brick stable /carriage house of the lodge complex was spared during the project.

The project prompted the War Department to construct a new lodge and brick garage and utility building in the northwest corner of the national cemetery. This building, the fourth, and present, lodge was completed in 1929. The War Department's Quartermaster Corps in Jeffersonville, Indiana prepared the plans and specifications for the building. The Superintendent's Lodge (called the Administrative Headquarters in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination) has a detached maintenance building/garage that was built at the same time. Both buildings are brick. The Superintendent's Lodge is a variation of the American Four-Square plan that was popular in the first decades of the 1900s. The War Department made several changes to the buildings between its original construction and the end of the period of significance (1937). Changes include screening the front porch in 1931 and adding a sleeping porch to the building's rear in 1934.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

In 1947, the NPS removed a small rostrum that stood in the middle of the central drive on the north end of the national cemetery. In the 1955, the NPS also removed the Villavosa House/ Bonner House, between the monument and the Malus-Beauregard House. Between 1956 and 1958, the NPS rehabilitated the Malus-Beauregard House, removing wings added to the building in the late 1800s-early 1900s and converting it into a museum and visitor center. The NPS constructed a maintenance shed southeast of the cemetery maintenance building/garage in 1957. Around this time, the NPS also demolished the historic brick stable on the south end of the national cemetery.

In 1957, the NPS constructed a comfort station southwest of the Chalmette Monument near a newly installed parking area. Once the Malus-Beauregard House opened to the public in 1958, the NPS demolished the old caretaker's house near Chalmette Monument. In 1958, St. Bernard Parish constructed a wastewater treatment plant south of Fazendeville in the open space along the river between Chalmette Monument and the national cemetery.

493. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 265.
494. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 277.
495. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 274-275.
496. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 279.

The NPS began reconstructing sections of the American rampart in 1955. The NPS completed the first 100 feet of the rampart around 1957 and added another 400 feet in 1958. The NPS decided to reconstruct the entire line and based their reconstruction on a map prepared by Colonel Edward S. Bres and D. W. G. Ricketts in 1935. Bres reportedly oversaw this reconstruction project and. NPS historian James Holland provided additional historical research to document features of the rampart. Unfortunately, as Birkedal persuasively argues in his report *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, Bres made major errors when preparing his map of the site. As a result, the locations of reconstructed batteries were significantly off from their historic locations. In addition, archeological evidence and historical documentation suggest that the overall construction method and dimensions are wrong. Today, for example, the rampart stops at the southern leg of the battlefield tour loop road; at the time of the battle, it extended all the way to the levee. While Birkedal provides a compelling argument and comprehensive list of the inaccuracies of the reconstruction, he concludes that "many questions remain."[497]

By 1964, the NPS had acquired title on the 44 individual properties in Fazendeville. They removed most of the buildings that November. Only a few of the Fazendeville houses were standing at the time of January 1965 sesquicentennial celebration.

The NPS replaced the comfort station located southwest of Chalmette Monument in 1972. The NPS constructed a 1,200 square-feet visitor center south of Chalmette Monument in 1986. It was located in the greenspace created in the 1950s when the NPS reconfigured the parking area. The rectangular building had its long side oriented north south and it sat on the west side of the greenspace and west of the walkway on axis with the monument from the parking lot. When the visitor center opened, the NPS restored the Malus-Beauregard House again, removing many of the modifications made in the 1950s.[498]

The NPS completed a major rehabilitation of the Superintendent's Lodge in the national cemetery in 1965.[499] After Hurricane Katrina, the NPS again rehabilitated the Superintendent's Lodge and constructed a new visitor center south of Chalmette Monument in 2010.[500] This building was much larger than its predecessor; its long edge was rotated 90 degrees extending almost across the entire greenspace south of the monument, blocking the axis on the south side that had existed since the original construction of the monument.

Summary

While the buildings located on the Rodriguez Plantation had been partially ransacked for building supplies, the buildings still stood in a prominent location on the battlefield and are conspicuous on multiple maps and representations of the battlefield produced soon after the event. Today they are completely missing. Same is true for the dozens of buildings and structures on the Chalmette Plantation at the time of the battle. There were also dozens of buildings constructed on individual parcels after the subdivision of the St. Amand property in 1832, which included residential buildings, commercial buildings, and industrial buildings. These would have also included the residences in Fazendeville. All evidence of these buildings is gone today.

The buildings that are on site today all post-date the battle. None of these contribute to the significance of the property based on its association with the Battles of New Orleans. They do contribute to other areas of significance included in the National Register of Historic Places nomination. The Malus-Beauregard House contributes to our understanding of nineteenth-century residential development patterns in the New Orleans area. The brick enclosure wall reflects early development practices of the national cemetery system. The Superintendent's Lodge and maintenance building/garage contribute to our understanding of architectural styles prevalent during the early twentieth century, in particular the development of buildings in the national cemetery system. The Chalmette Monument reflects American efforts to commemorate historically significant events in its history. The Battlefield Rampart may also be evaluated by this criterion, but its proven inaccuracies make it a noncontributing feature. It should be noted that while the National Register of Historic Places considers the rampart to be noncontributing, the

497. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 382-413.
498. Risk, *Cultural Landscape Report,* 23.
499. NPS, *Historic Structures Report*, 21-22.
500. NPS, *Historic Structures Report,* 24-24.

NPS's CRIS HS data on the rampart (HS#021369) lists it as contributing.

The other buildings, which include NPS-added buildings and the former St. Bernard wastewater treatment plant, are noncontributing features of the landscape. This also includes the modern visitor center. The 2010 visitor center contains approximately 3,500 square feet, at least twice the size of the one damaged by Hurricane Katrina. It occupies a larger footprint than the previous building and makes a significant visual impact on the landscape. As mentioned previously, pedestrian and vehicular access during the historic period was placed on axis with the Chalmette Monument. The visitor center's placement so close to the monument interrupts views of the monument from the north and south.

As discussed above, scores of buildings that existed during the period of significance are missing, including all the buildings, except for the few buildings listed above, that existed on the site from 1815 to 1937. Most of these were probably not architecturally significant; however, they would contribute to the historic significance of the site as established in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Expressing Cultural Values and Regional and National Architecture. The remaining buildings and structures, including the monument, the Malus-Beauregard House, the walls in the national cemetery, and the buildings of the national cemetery do retain integrity and contribute to the commemorative period of significance.

Landscape Features

- Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery Visitor Center
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Chalmette Monument
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Malus-Beauregard House
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Comfort station/restroom building
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Battlefield Rampart (Line Jackson)
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Structures associated with historic American rampart, including batteries, redoubts, redan, and magazines
- Contribution Status: missing
- Modern battlefield viewing platform
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Civil War-era powder magazine building
    - Contribution Status: Missing
- Modern powder magazine building
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Former St. Bernard wastewater treatment facility
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Cemetery maintenance building/garage
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Maintenance shed
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Brick enclosure wall
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Brick well/drainage structure
    - Contribution Status: Unknown
- Utilities
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Buildings constructed on the St. Amand property after its subdivision in 1832
    - Contribution Status: Missing

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 Condition

The view from Jackson's line behind the hastily constructed rampart was across an open field towards a landscape dotted with plantation buildings along the river. In the distance, Jackson's men could see the ruined buildings of the Chalmette Plantation, which the British used to conceal their left flank. In the foreground, the stubble of cut sugar cane filled the field between them and their adversaries. To their right, the American troops could see the Mississippi River, bending slightly to the north as it moved away from

them. To their left, a swamp, thickly forested with dark cypress trees, protected their own left flank.

Following the battle, the scene was grisly, with one American soldier commenting:

> When we first got a fair view of the field in our front, individuals could be seen in every possible attitude. Some laying quite dead, others mortally wounded, pitching and tumbling about in the agonies of death. Some had their heads shot off, some their legs, some their arms. Some were laughing, some crying, some groaning, and some screaming. There was every variety of sight and sound. Among those that were on the ground, however, there were some that were neither dead nor wounded. A great many had thrown themselves down behind piles of slain, for protection.[501]

Benjamin Latrobe visited the site in February 1819, drawing a few sketches of the scene. His sketch looking north across the battlefield shows an uninterrupted view across a field with a distant forest lining the horizon. His sketch captures the cluster of buildings of the Macarty and Rodriguez plantations, the two-story buildings prominently elevated from their flat surroundings. In the 1830s a visitor to the battlefield described the field as a "peaceful plain. . .spread out like a carpet, it was so very level—till it terminated in the distant forests, by which and the river it was nearly enclosed."[502] Another visitor to the battlefield described it as "an unbroken level, usually when not in cane, covered with a luxuriant growth of stubble or weeds, and cut into numerous small ditches. Solitary live oaks, reverently spared by the plowman, loom out grandly at long distances apart from the grey or brown plain."[503]

Views across the battlefield changed over time. After the St. Amand brothers subdivided the land that had been the battlefield, individual property owners constructed buildings on their lots, cluttering the view from the field towards the river. The levee was raised several times, including as early as 1849, which over time completely severed the view to the river.

Several owners planted orchards and cultivated ornamental landscapes around their houses, introducing new features into the viewshed. Construction of Chalmette Monument began in 1855 and prematurely stopped in 1859 when the unfinished monument was approximately 56 feet tall. Subsequent views across the battlefield would contain this structure. After the Civil War, the development of the national cemetery established a new geometry into the viewshed, forever drawing a line across what was open fields during the battle. Managers of the national cemetery planted trees throughout the cemetery, eventually creating a heavy mass of foliage that truncated the previously long views across downriver plantations. This view was again halved when the village of Fazendeville developed in the late 1800s. The view from the former American line was then towards a small residential subdivision.

By the end of the historic period of significance, most of the long views were disrupted by developments that post-date the battle.

Additionally, sections of the property developed important internal views. The design of the national cemetery organized the interior space around a central drive that extended the full length of the national cemetery. Cemetery managers placed a succession of flagpoles, monuments, and buildings in circles on the drive. The most southern circle, for example, had a flagpole, which would have figured prominently in the view from the main southern entrance into the national cemetery. Other internal views in the cemetery would have been across burial sections with their rows of burial markers. During the first decades of the national cemetery, staff planted a variety of shrubs and trees in a relatively haphazard fashion among the burial sections, but as the landscape matured, smaller plants were phased out within the burial sections and larger-growing trees planted in rows became more common. This allowed views for visitors along the full length of the cemetery from multiple vantage points.

Views at the Chalmette Monument parcel were focused on the monument. Early roads and paths were placed on axis to accentuate the view of the monument. The Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 began maintaining the grounds in 1894. Around this time a walkway led from the road along the

501. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 131.
502. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 148.
503. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 152.

levee straight to the door on the south side of the monument. The War Department is responsible for constructing the entrance driveway from the public road north of the monument. This road was also aligned to be on axis with the monument. The NPS preserved the axial view of the monument from this road when they widened the road around 1935.

Visual intrusions into the viewshed began in the mid-1800s, as described above, but they accumulated at rapid pace in the early 1900s. Mexican Gulf and later Norfolk Southern built railroad lines along the northern border of the property. In the 1920s, a state highway was constructed adjacent to the railroad lines. In 1905, construction of Chalmette Slip on the parcel west of the monument introduced industrial facilities into the viewshed.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

The NPS removed several historic buildings in an effort to recreate the scene of the battlefield. A development plan from 1963 recognized the adverse impact of non-historic landscape features on the setting, stating:

> The portion of the Battlefield to be interpreted is split in the middle by the Fazendeville Road, a sewage disposal plant, a rundown private group of houses, and other private inholdings. These intrusions upon the Battlefield, with the exception of the sewage disposal plant, will be obliterated as the land they are located on is acquired.[504]

This plan shows "screen planting" around the perimeter of the unit, including between the Chalmette Monument and Chalmette Slip, around the wastewater treatment facility, and a sweeping woodland extending across the north side of the property. This northern woodland appears on earlier development plans that called for recreating the cypress swamp that existed at the time of the battle."[505] In addition to representing the historic cypress swamp, the woods also screen views towards the highway.

Screening became even more necessary, and more difficult, in 1956, when the Kaiser Corporation began construction of a massive manufacturing complex, including a 500-foot smokestack, adjacent to the national cemetery.

The NPS also considered views in planning the infrastructure for visitors to the site. The 1946 development plan referenced above shows an observation terrace around the monument and several overlooks around the battlefield. The 1963 development plan shows an "overlook exhibits" in the general location where the battlefield viewing platform was eventually constructed.

Internal views within the national cemetery changed when the NPS removed the circles from the central drive and relocated the GAR Monument to the south end in the 1950s. Internal views within the Chalmette Monument area changed significantly in the 1980s with the construction of the visitor center southwest of the monument. When the NPS reconstructed the visitor center in 2010, they increased the visual impact of the building on historic views of the monument. The new visitor center was much larger than its predecessor; its long edge was rotated 90 degrees compared to the earlier building and extended almost across the entire greenspace south of the monument. This new alignment blocks axial views from the south that had existed since the original construction of the monument.

Summary

In summary, the view from the Battlefield Rampart is reminiscent of the view during the early years of the period of significance. Views of the river are completely obscured by both trees and the levee embankment. Views of visual intrusions are buffered by vegetation, but the scale of the industrial complexes to the east and west of the unit make is practically impossible to completely screen them from view. Views to the Chalmette Monument from various places around the unit are still possible, including the character-defining view offered along the entrance road. However, the visitor center, placed in a prominent location near the monument, negatively impacts the intended views of the Chalmette Monument from practically all vantage points, particularly the important axial view along the entrance road and continuing down to the levee and river. Internal views inside the cemetery are similar to those in the historic period,

504. NPS, "General Development Plan Map," 1963 (ETIC 467-3012).
505. NPS, "Proposed Development Plan Map," 1946 (ETIC 467-1157).

with view corridors framed by rows of canopy trees.

For these reasons, the Chalmette Monument retains integrity of views and vistas.

Landscape Features

- Open field
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Chalmette Monument
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Malus-Beauregard House
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Vegetated Buffers
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Burial sections with grave markers
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Military Cemetery Road
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Allée of trees
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Viewing Platform
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing

Constructed Water Features

Constructed water features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape.

Historic Condition

Several ditches were present on the land that became the Chalmette Unit at the time of the Battle of New Orleans. The most historically significant of these is the Rodriguez Canal, because it was incorporated into General Andrew Jackson's defensive line that stopped the British invasion.

The Rodriguez Canal was not an agricultural ditch but conveyed water to power a sawmill that once stood next to the canal. Birkedal records that previous NPS archeologists speculated that the southern section of the canal, south of the tour loop road, may have been part of the old mill pond.[506] The canal had been unused for several years prior to the battles in 1814 and 1815; it had filled with sediment and its banks had eroded. Latour described the canal as "covered with grass, presenting rather the appearance of an old draining ditch than of a canal."[507] A British officer recorded that the canal was about 15 feet wide and 8 feet deep on the southern end; it was only 10 feet wide and 4 feet deep on its north end near the swamp. American troops dug soil from the ditch, piling it up behind the ditch to create a raised earthwork. Apparently, the spoil bank from the canal's construction was higher on the west side of the canal, supplying a starting point for the rampart.[508]

After the battle, the Rodriguez Canal began silting up again. The adjacent rampart likely eroded into the canal to the point that it looked like a broad, shallow swale in the early 1900s.[509]

In addition to the Rodriguez Canal, several agricultural drainage ditches crossed the field that was the scene of the battle. Birkedal suggests that five major drainage ditches crossed the field between the British and American lines. These drains were likely 2 to 3 feet deep and 4 to 5 feet wide.[510] British soldiers used the ditches to screen their movements from the Americans and to seek cover from American artillery fire. One British soldier recalled hiding in a ditch during his advance across the field. Another commented that "they were hurried into a wet ditch, of sufficient depth to cover the knees, where, leaning forward, they concealed themselves behind some high rushes which grew upon its brink."[511]

Three ditches crossed the part of the battlefield within the boundaries of the Chalmette Unit. The First Ditch and Second Ditch ran approximately south to north, perpendicular to the river. The Double Ditch ran perpendicular to these, approximately east to west (Figure 4.49).

The First Ditch angled across the field; it was approximately 400 yards east of the American line opposite Battery 7 on the north end and was approximately 520 yards from the American line on the south end. It was from the First Ditch that the British Army launched its major attack on January 8. During the battle, British sharpshooters fired from the ditch to provide cover for wounded soldiers in the field. It became the "truce line between the Americans and British" after the

506. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 499.

507. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 54.
508. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 500.
509. Ibid.
510. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 501.
511. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 72-23.

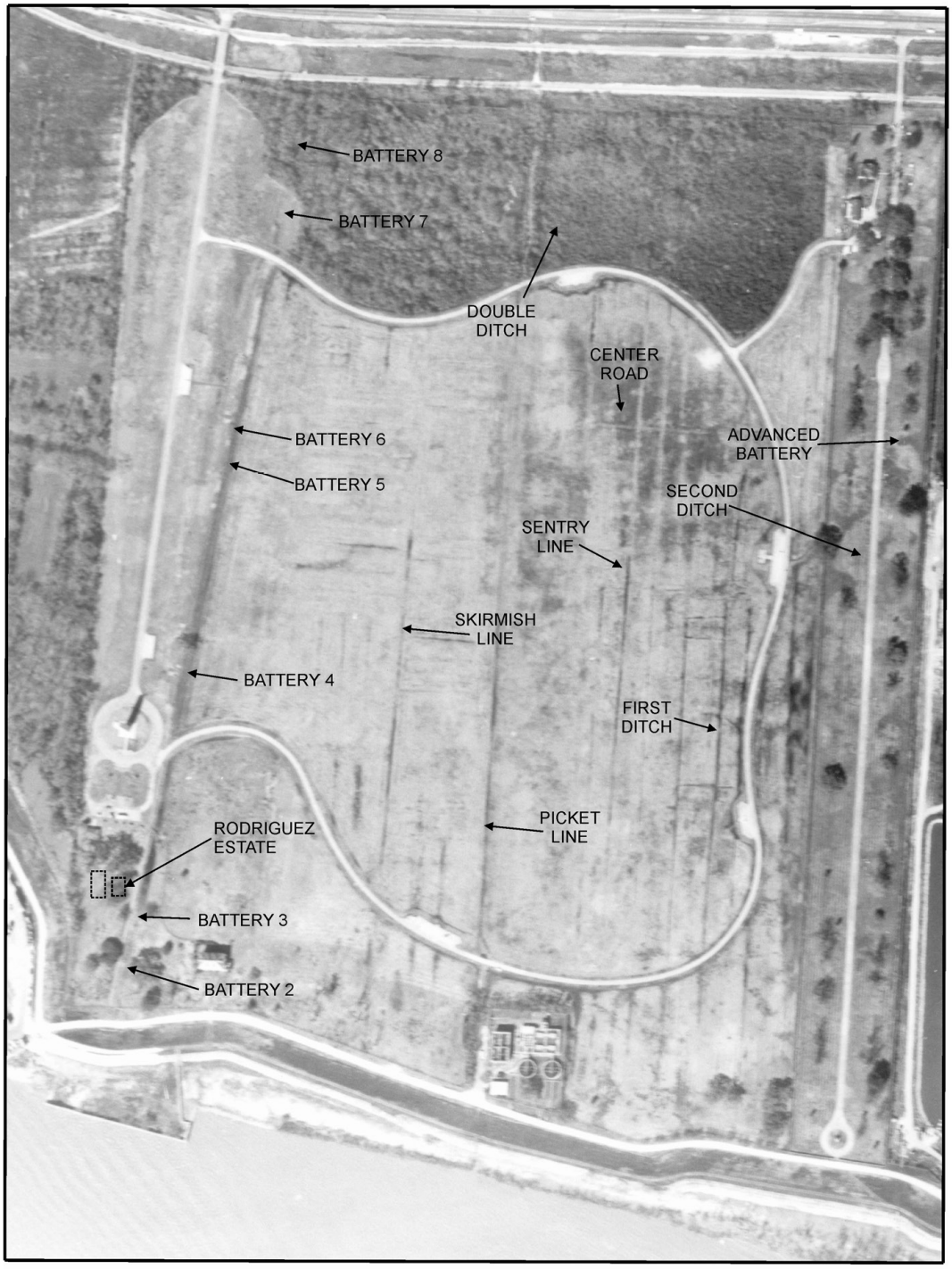


Figure 4.49: Aerial used in Birkedal's *Search for the Lost Riverfront* (Figure III-81) showing remnants of drainage features crossing the battlefield (National Park Service).

battle where emissaries from the two armies met to negotiate the burial of the dead.[512]

Today, the remnant of the First Ditch is several yards west of the current observation platform off the tour loop road.

The Second Ditch was over 100 yards east of the First Ditch. It ran from the road along the levee to the cypress swamp. British forces placed two artillery and two rocket batteries along this ditch. British troops gathered along the ditch prior to the main assault on January 8. It was also used as refuge during the retreat after the failed attack.

512. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 504.

Birkedal suggests that British descriptions of the ditch's location "fall almost exactly on the alignment of the paved road that now runs through the National Cemetery."[513]

The Double Ditch was two parallel ditches. The First Ditch and Second Ditch emptied into the Double Ditch. It had a post and rail fence along its south side, which the British used to cover their movements on December 28.[514] The Double Ditch would have been in the current woods on the north side of the Chalmette Unit. It would have passed the south side of the current maintenance building/ garage in the national cemetery.

Birkedal suggests that the American picket line may have used another drainage ditch approximately midway between the American line and the First Ditch. Contemporary accounts of the location of the ditch place it in a location of a feature that became known as the Fazendeville Ditch. The Fazendeville Ditch ran along the side of the Fazendeville Road. According to Birkedal "it was most likely maintained as an active drainage long after the other ditches on the battlefield had been abandoned." Today it is visible as a slight linear depression in aerials.

For several years after the battle, the St. Amand brothers continued farming the fields of the former Chalmette Plantation. During this time, the agricultural ditches present at the time of the battle were used and presumably maintained. After the plantation was subdivided, agricultural use of the property declined, and the ditches were neglected. According to Birkedal, "Because more recent owners did little to further disturb the surface pattering of the land, most of the old ditch lines are still clearly visible on the ground and on aerial photographs of the Chalmette Unit."[515] Birkedal attempted to verify if other ditches present in the current battlefield could be matched with landscape features mentioned in contemporary accounts of the battle—the American Sentry Line and the British Skirmish Line. While he found potential candidates on the ground, he could not make a "hard identification."[516]



Figure 4.50: S. T Blessing's photograph of the "Entrance to Chalmette Cemetery" from the 1870s showing the entrance gate, fence, buried gun tubes, and flagpole (Louisiana State Museum).

The 1892 map of the national cemetery, with revisions going into 1925, shows two ponds on the north end of the cemetery in the approximate location of current burial sections 160 and 161. The purpose of the ponds is unknown, though early records of the national cemetery mention issues with drainage.

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

In the 1950s, the NPS raised the west bank of the Rodriguez Canal south of Chalmette Monument to accommodate a pedestrian walkway they installed alongside the canal. The Rodriguez Canal was rehabilitated during the reconstruction of the American rampart. The NPS installed ditches and drains to convey stormwater out of the site, most notably around roads through the unit.

It is important to note that in March 2022, the NPS prepared wetland delineation report that concluded that most of the Chalmette Battlefield site meets the condition requirements to be classified as jurisdictional wetlands. Therefore, many of these constructed water features, built for utilitarian functions in the landscape, are now wetlands.

513. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 505.
514. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 506.
515. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 503.
516. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 506.

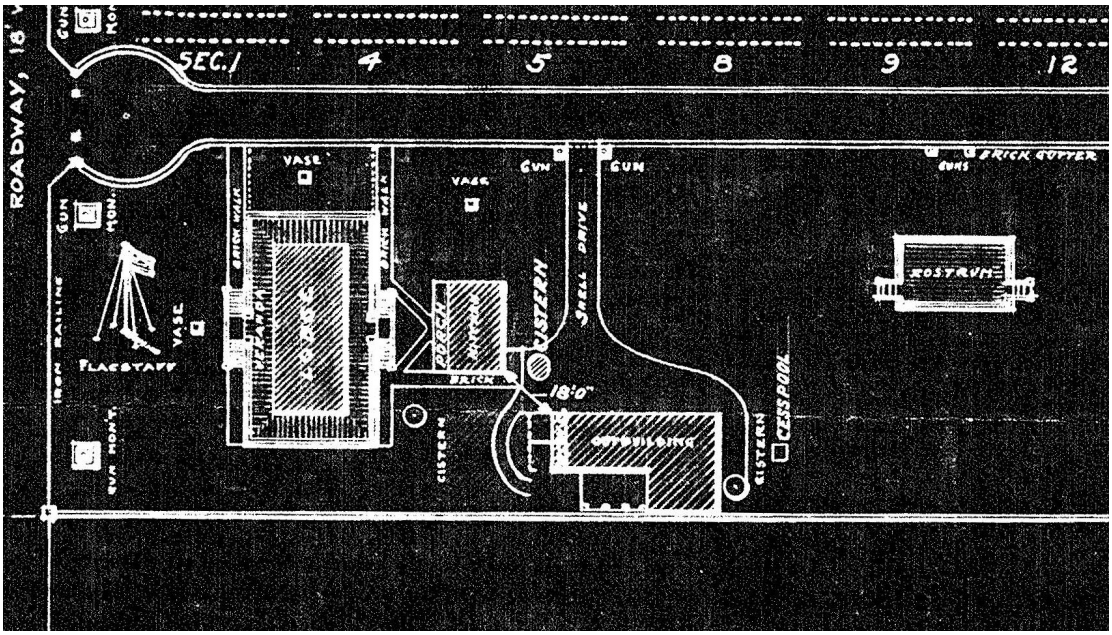


Figure 4.51: Detail from U.S. Army Quartermaster General's map of "National Cemetery Chalmette, LA," from 1892-1925 showing the location of various small-scale features (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

Summary

In summary, the most historically significant constructed water feature, the Rodriguez Canal, is still on the current landscape. At the time of the battle, it would have been a recently excavated ditch, wider and deeper than the current feature; but it continues to convey to a modern visitor its role in the battle as a component of the American defensive earthwork. As Birkedal suggests, several of the agricultural ditches appear to remain on the battlefield, though they require additional study to verify their identification. The ditches appear on modern aerials, but they are not legible to a visitor touring the site. The ponds at the national cemetery are missing but were likely removed prior to the end of the period of significance. For these reasons, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of this landscape characteristic.

Landscape Features

- Rodriguez Canal
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- First Ditch
    - Contribution Status: Potentially-contributing
- Second Ditch
    - Contribution Status: Missing
- Double Ditch
    - Contribution Status: Unknown
- Fazendeville Ditch
    - Contribution Status: Potentially-contributing
- National Cemetery Ponds
    - Contribution Status: Missing

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

Prior to and during the preparations for the Battles of New Orleans, the landscape likely featured small-scale features expected to be found on agricultural properties at this time. These would have included agricultural implements and domestic articles related to everyday life. Documented small-scale features during the battle include fences that lined farm roads through the Chalmette Plantation fields, including a post and rail fence along the Second Ditch. American troops employed a variety of tools to construct the rampart and it would seem likely that at least some of the tools remained scattered around the landscape during the battle. These included "spades, shovels, earth-rammers, mallets, pickaxes,

saws, hatches, and bill hooks."[517]The soldiers mounted artillery within their batteries; British troops constructed batteries along their line and moved artillery into the field during the battle. American troops also raised flag poles behind their line, including one to the left of the inverted redan that flew the United States flag.[518]

In the decades after the battles, the land that currently comprises the Chalmette Unit was developed into residential properties and a few commercial operations. The small-scale features present during this period are largely unknown. Benjamin Henry Latrobe's sketches of the battlefield from 1819 shows fences along the property line between the Macarty property and the Rodriguez Plantation.

A photograph from circa 1900 of the Malus-Beauregard House shows a picket fence crossing the rear yard east of the house. When HABS documented the building in 1934, they recorded other small-scale features including a cistern and a well north of the house.

The 1867 map of "Monument Cemetery" does not show any small-scale features, though a photograph of the southern entrance of the national cemetery that was probably taken in the 1870s shows an entrance gate, fence, bollards, and flagpole. Various inspection reports from the first few decades of the national cemetery's existence also document small-scale features. A "strong paling fence, and a neat iron railing with gate" stood on the south end of the cemetery by 1868.[519] The same report notes "mounds on which small cannon are mounted, and balls arranged around them."[520] A report from 1871 mentions a "flag staff" in the drive and that there previously had been three more. There were "four guns. . . planted vertically on their bases," fences, and cisterns.[521]

In 1873 and 1874, the national cemetery contracted Edward H. Burton and William Seymour to construct two brick walls along the long sides (east and west) of the cemetery. They also added an iron fence with iron gate at the south entrance at this time.[522] A photograph from the 1880s of the south entrance shows the fence, entrance gate, two buried cannon tubes, and a flagpole in the central drive (Figure 4.50).

The GAR Monument was erected in the middle of the national cemetery in 1882. It had cannon balls stacked at its base and at the base of the monument's vertical shaft. An inspection report from 1882 describes the area around the superintendent's lodge as having a "latticework fence," sheds, and a wooden water tank.[523]

A map of the national cemetery from 1892 records the locations of several small-scale features (Figure 4.51). There were several "guns" mounted in the national cemetery. These included four gun monuments spaced along the iron fence on the south side of the cemetery and eight more along the central drive. Two types of gun monuments appear in a photograph of the superintendent's lodge from around 1900. These include guns mounted vertically on concrete bases. (These move to the northeast corner of the national cemetery in the 1920s). Two partially buried gun tubes flank the entrance gate. Another photograph shows vases and cannon balls along the brick sidewalk to south side of the lodge building. The 1892 map of the national cemetery also shows three vases placed in the yard around the superintendent's lodge.

In 1892, the War Department extended the brick walls south towards the levee road and the iron

517. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 61.
518. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 61.
519. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 266.
520. Ibid.
521. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 267.
522. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 269.
523. Greene, *Historic Resource Study*, 274.



Figure 4.52: H.J. Harvey's photograph of "Chalmette National Cemetery in St. Bernard Parish" from the 1930s showing small-scale features located around the GAR Monument (State Library of Louisiana).



Figure 4.53: A photograph of the Chalmette Monument from around 1900 showing benches, fences, and the walkway to the monument (Library of Congress).

gate was moved to this new southern boundary. The walls were extended to the north boundary line by 1911, when they also added a new gate creating a northern entrance into the national cemetery.

A photograph of the GAR Monument from around 1930 shows wood and metal benches placed around the perimeter of the circle around the monument. There are also "Bivouac of the Dead" tablets mounted around the outside of the circle (Figure 4.52).

Construction of the Chalmette Monument began in 1856 and temporarily ended in 1859. Descriptions of the monument during the first few decades of its existence mention fences around the property. A person who visited the site in 1890 commented that "the cultivated field, which formerly left a reasonable open space about the base of the monument, has been extended until its fences are now within twenty-five feet of" the monument.[524] The Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 took over management of the site in 1894. The added new iron fence and repaired existing fences during the early years of their involvement with the site. They also installed benches prior to 1908 that appear in a photograph from the early 1900s (Figure 4.53). The photograph also shows wood paling fences along the east and west property lines. A photograph of the Chalmette Monument site taken in circa 1934 shows a fence, which may be the one installed by the Daughters, marking the southern property line. They were also responsible for installing a stone loving cup monument honoring Samuel Spotts. The War Department took over management of the Chalmette Monument in 1929. Sometime prior to 1934, they constructed a road north of the monument and installed gates near the railroad tracts that bordered the property. They may have installed four painted signs that marked Jackson's

524. Greene, *Historic Resource Study,* 231.

line, which an NPS historian described in the late 1930s as "old, dilapidated… and scarcely readable."[525]

Post-Historic and Existing Condition

During a project in 1956 to reconfigure the central drive in the national cemetery, the NPS moved the GAR Monument from its original location in the middle of the cemetery to a cul-de-sac they created on the south end. The also removed a flagpole from another of the circles during this project. The flagpole had been a feature of the central drive since the very beginning of the cemetery.

The Daughters group mounted a plaque near the entrance door of Chalmette Monument in 1947. The NPS installed an outdoor kiosk near Chalmette Monument in 1951 and installed several interpretive waysides beginning in 1953. Between 1950 and 1958, the NPS constructed a bridge over Rodriguez Canal to create a pedestrian connection between the parking lot and the Malus-Beauregard House, which served as the visitor center beginning in 1958. During this same period, the NPS began reconstruction of the American rampart, where they installed artillery guns at a few of the batteries.

The NPS installed at least two flagpoles in the greenspace northeast of Chalmette Monument, between Monument Circle and the Battlefield Rampart. The flagpoles appear in a photograph of the sesquicentennial celebration.

More recently, the NPS has installed site furnishings across the site to serve visitors. These include benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, signs, light poles, and interpretive waysides. Around 2010, the NPS constructed a new entrance gate into the battlefield section of the unit.

Summary

During the earliest decades of the period of significance, most of the small-scale features within the Chalmette cultural landscape pertained to residential land use. However, most of these features are undocumented. Historic small-scale features are better documented in the national cemetery. They included ornamental features added to embellish the landscape, like flagpoles and monuments, but they also included utilitarian features like fences and cisterns. The current fence along the north side of the national cemetery, moved to this location during the period of significance, appears to be the original fence.

After the period of significance, the NPS removed or relocated several small features from the national cemetery, including flagpoles and the GAR Monument. They also introduced most of the small-scale features present on the site today, which mostly relate to interpretation, visitor orientation, and visitor services. As such, the small-scale features present today do not reflect the period of significance. Therefore, the Chalmette Unit does not retain integrity for this landscape characteristic.

Landscape Features

- Spotts Marker
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Regiment commemorative markers
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Modern NPS signs (park identity sign, visitor center sign, facility sign, directional signs, regulatory signs, interpretive waysides)
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Modern NPS waysides and bulletin boards
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Artillery
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Flagpoles
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Benches and picnic tables
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Chalmette Battlefield Entrance gate
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Entrance gate fence
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Malus-Beauregard House fence
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Powder magazine gate
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing

525. Blythe, *Administrative History*, 63

- Powder magazine fence
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Visitor center utility screen
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing
- Grave markers/headstones
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Monument
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Upright cannon monuments
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- National cemetery flagpoles
    - Contribution Status: Contributing
- Identity sign
    - Contribution Status: Noncontributing

Archeological Sites

It is not the intent of this report to analyze the integrity of archaeological sites. Birkedal's report, *The Search for the Lost Riverfront*, not only provides an overview of previously archeological investigations, but provides additional evidence found during archeological efforts in the 1980s. His report concludes that "the park potentially includes a variety of archeological remains" related to multiple time periods. In particular, the Chalmette Unit may include resources that would elucidate information on the material culture of Louisiana's free people of color and enslaved peoples. It would also contain information pertaining to the lives of the people who developed houses and businesses on the property after the battle.

Evaluation of Landscape Integrity

Landscape integrity refers to a cultural landscape's ability to convey its historic significance. *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 16A* defines historic integrity as "the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period." In *National Register Bulletin 15*, the National Register defines seven aspects of integrity to use when evaluating a historic property:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;

Setting is the physical environment within and surrounding a property;

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property;

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

In order to retain historic integrity, a property must possess several, and usually most, of these seven aspects. Evaluating historic integrity involves first determining the historic significance of a property and then identifying the existing features that contribute to our ability to recognize and understand this significance. Character-defining features are those distinctive features or qualities that make a property unique. They are the individual parts that make the whole place special and worthy of our recognition as a historic property.

Additionally, the National Register of Historic Places has provided additional guidance on evaluating the historic significance of battlefields. According to National Register Bulletin 40 *Guidelines of Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*, "Generally, the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are location, setting, feeling, and association." The bulletin states, "A basic test of integrity for a battlefield… is whether a participant

in the battle would recognize the property as it exists today."[526]

The National Register of Historic Places has also provided guidance on evaluating the integrity of cemeteries and burial places. In National Register Bulletin 41 Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places, the authors write:

> In essence, the researcher should ask the following questions in evaluating integrity: 1) To what degree does the burial place and its overall setting convey the most important period(s) of use? 2) To what degree have the original design and materials of construction, decoration, and landscape been retained? 3) Has the property's potential to yield significant information in American culture been compromised by ground-disturbance or previous investigation?[527]

When discussing the kinds of features that contribute to a cemetery's significance, the bulletin goes on to state: "For a cemetery, such features would include gravesites, gravemarkers, boundary enclosures, walkways, gateways, road systems, natural and planted vegetation, buildings, structures, and the spatial relationship among all of these."[528]

As stated above, the Chalmette Unit Historic District has a long period of significance (1814-1937) and several different areas of historic significance-- Archeology-Historic, Architecture, Military, and Social/Humanitarian.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, the historic significance of the Chalmette Unit is linked to its association "with the social development of southern Louisiana and with the military history of the nation," primarily the Battles of New Orleans in late 1814 and early 1815. As the nomination states, "The unit also represents in its secondary resources the commemorative aspects of the Battle of New Orleans, the military continuum associated with the Civil War earthworks and the cemetery, and facets of the economic and social life and architectural style that typified southern Louisiana before and after 1815."[529]

Location

The battles of New Orleans in December 1814 and January 1815 happened over an area larger than the current Chalmette Unit. The British Army organized and bivouacked on the east side of Chalmette Plantation, much of which is outside the unit's boundaries. Similarly, Andrew Jackson's headquarters and much of the American encampment site is west of the current boundaries of the Chalmette Unit.

The Chalmette Unit does, however, contain most of the primary battlefield, where most of the fighting occurred during the conclusive battle on January 8, 1815. British troops advanced across the fields of the Chalmette Plantation, attacking American troops concentrated behind the rampart built along the canal bordering the Rodriguez Plantation. Much of the area is within the boundaries of the Chalmette Battlefield Unit. About half of the area of Pakenham's main attack is either hidden in the revegetated area along the north side of the unit or is under the area currently occupied by the railroad line and St. Bernard Highway. The American line also probably extends to the opposite (north) side of the highway.[530]

The Rodriguez Canal is the most legible feature that survived from the time of the battle and archeology has confirmed that it is in its original location. Archeology has also confirmed the location of intense fighting by examining the concentration of artifacts. Archeology has also confirmed the location of the Rodriguez House. Archeology has also found evidence of British Batteries and possibly agricultural ditches that survive from the time of the battle.

Contributing features added during the period of significance but after the battle include the

526. Patrick W. Andrus, National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992), 10.
527. Elizabeth W. Potter and Beth M. Boland, National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992), 18.
528. Potter and Boland, Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places, 18.
529. Greene, "Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District), 6.
530. John E. Cornelison, Jr. and Tammy D. Cooper, *An Archeological Survey of Chalmette Battlefield and the Battle of New Orleans at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve* (Tallahassee: Southeast Archeological Center, 2012), 70.

Chalmette Monument, Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge and Maintenance Building, many burial markers, the GAR Monument, the Spotts Marker, and the Malus-Beauregard. These are in their original location, except for the GAR Monument which was moved to its current location in the 1950s.

Many historic features are missing that if present would contribute to the historic significance of the site. These include features in existence at the time of the battle, including the Rodriguez House, agricultural ditches, roads, fences, and British defensive works. It also includes many structures and their associated landscapes that reflect the social development of southern Louisiana. Ted Birkedal's report, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, suggests that archeological evidence can potentially locate many of these features in the future.

Despite changes to the landscape and missing features from the period of significance, the Chalmette Unit retains integrity of location.

Setting

The setting of the Chalmette Unit at the time of the Battles of New Orleans would have been a vernacular, agricultural landscape. The site of the battles was part of the Chalmette's field network and the rampart constructed along the boundary of the Rodriguez Plantation. Plantation homes and outbuildings were present on the Rodriguez Plantation within the unit's current boundaries. The buildings and fields of the Chalmette Plantation and Macarty Plantation were in view from the battlefield, as were adjacent farms along the Mississippi River. The wide Mississippi River stretched along the entire southern side of the scene. A cypress swamp pushed into the northern edge of the site.

The setting changed in the historic period following the battle when later owners subdivided the site and individual property owners developed residential homes and commercial enterprises. The setting established in this period, created by the development of multiple parcels within the current boundaries of the site, is largely missing. This includes the setting of Fazendeville, which is significant in its own right and is now completely missing from the landscape.

By the mid-1800s, the east and west sides of the property became commemorative sites that featured a large monument and a national cemetery. In the early 1900s, the land around the battlefield transitioned into an industrial use, resulting in the construction of large manufacturing and shipping facilities within view of the battlefield.

The NPS, which consolidated ownership of the land between the Chalmette Monument and national cemetery in the mid-1960s, removed most of the post-battle features on the site, including Fazendeville, an African American neighborhood, to recreate the open battlefield. The NPS revegetated the north side of the property to represent the swamp present during the battle and reconstructed the American rampart. They have also cultivated vegetated buffers on the west and south sides of the property to screen outward views. The NPS did also introduce many noncontributing features into the landscape, including infrastructure for touring the site. The NPS also chose to keep the Malus-Beauregard House, which does not contribute to the historic significance associated with the battle but does contribute to the site's post-battle significance.

The setting of the Chalmette National Cemetery parcel and the Chalmette Monument parcel are reflective of their organization and appearance during the period of significance. The spatial organization, parts of the circulation, and general vegetation patterns are consistent with the setting during the period of significance. The open field between the Battlefield Rampart and national cemetery evokes the stubble-filled fields upon which the battle occurred.

The industrial facilities next to the Chalmette Unit detract from the historic setting, however, the general appearance of the site provides a visitor with a relatively accurate picture of the historic conditions. Overall, the property retains integrity of setting to the period of significance.

Design

During the historic period, the Chalmette cultural landscape featured two designed landscapes—Chalmette Monument and Chalmette National Cemetery, both which date from the mid-1800s. Otherwise, the landscape during the period

of significance was primarily a vernacular one that reflected patterns of land use—agricultural during the early period and either commercial or residential during the later parts of the period of significance. This would also have included the design and layout of the village of Fazendeville, which stretched out across the battlefield with a row of houses lining a central road. The design of this village and other residential and commercial properties developed in the 1800s during the period of significance are missing except for the Malus-Beauregard House.

The Chalmette Monument stood unfinished at 56 feet tall in the middle of field with a few, scattered oak trees from 1855 to 1908. There were a few buildings located south of the monument, including structures from the Rodriguez Plantation and a caretaker's cottage constructed in the 1890s. By the end of the period of significance, an entrance road entered the property from the north and encircled the monument. The NPS added a parking lot south of the monument prior to the end of the period of significance. The general organization of the site remains similar today.

The earliest known plan of Chalmette National Cemetery is from 1867. The national cemetery changed over time but many of the design features shown on this plan persist to today. The overall geometry of the cemetery is rectilinear. The space is rectangular with a central drive dividing the cemetery into two equal halves. The burials are organized into square sections with turf walkways. Other contributing features reflecting the historic design of the national cemetery include buildings and small-scale features, including the Superintendent's Lodge, the GAR Monument, and entry gate and fence. These existed during the period of significance. Except for the GAR monument, they are in the same location as they were at the end of the historic period.

Because the site's primary built feature still reflects the design of the period of significance, the site retains integrity of design.

Materials

Most of the materials used to construct the contributing built features of the site remain intact. These include the marble used for the Chalmette Monument, the material used to build the Malus-Beauregard House, and the material used to build the historic buildings in the national cemetery. The materials of the circulation features of the site are mostly modern except for some of the brick curbs and sections of concrete walkways in the national cemetery. Several of the trees growing in the national cemetery, around the Malus-Beauregard House, and south of the visitor center date from the historic period. Enough material from the historic period of significance remains for the property to retain integrity of materials.

Workmanship

The workmanship evident during the period of significance remains evident in historic buildings and structures, the grave markers, the brick enclosure walls, the cemetery entrance gate and fence, and in the GAR Monument and the Spotts Marker. Enough workmanship from the historic period remains for the Chalmette Unit to retain integrity to the period of significance.

Feeling

At the time of the Battles of New Orleans, the site was part of two farmsteads, with fields filling the space between the swamp to the north and the Mississippi River to the south. The conclusive battle on January 8, 1815 resulted in a tremendous victory for General Jackson, but it was also a miserable scene, with hundreds of British soldiers lying dead or wounded in the field before the American line. The open space in the middle of the unit evokes the feeling of the stubble-filled fields upon which the battle was fought. The presence of the tour loop road is an anachronistic feature that detracts from the feeling otherwise available to visitors to the battlefield.

The presence of the national cemetery, even though it mostly contains the remains of soldiers not at the Battle of New Orleans, reinforces the solemnity of the site and reminds visitors of the tragic human cost of war. On the other hand, the Chalmette Monument embodies the most positive attributes of the American victory. Its scale and simplicity evoke respect for the American soldiers and a faith in America's destiny. The modern visitor center detracts from the design intent of the monument area, diminishing the feeling of solemnity and respect intended in the monument's design.

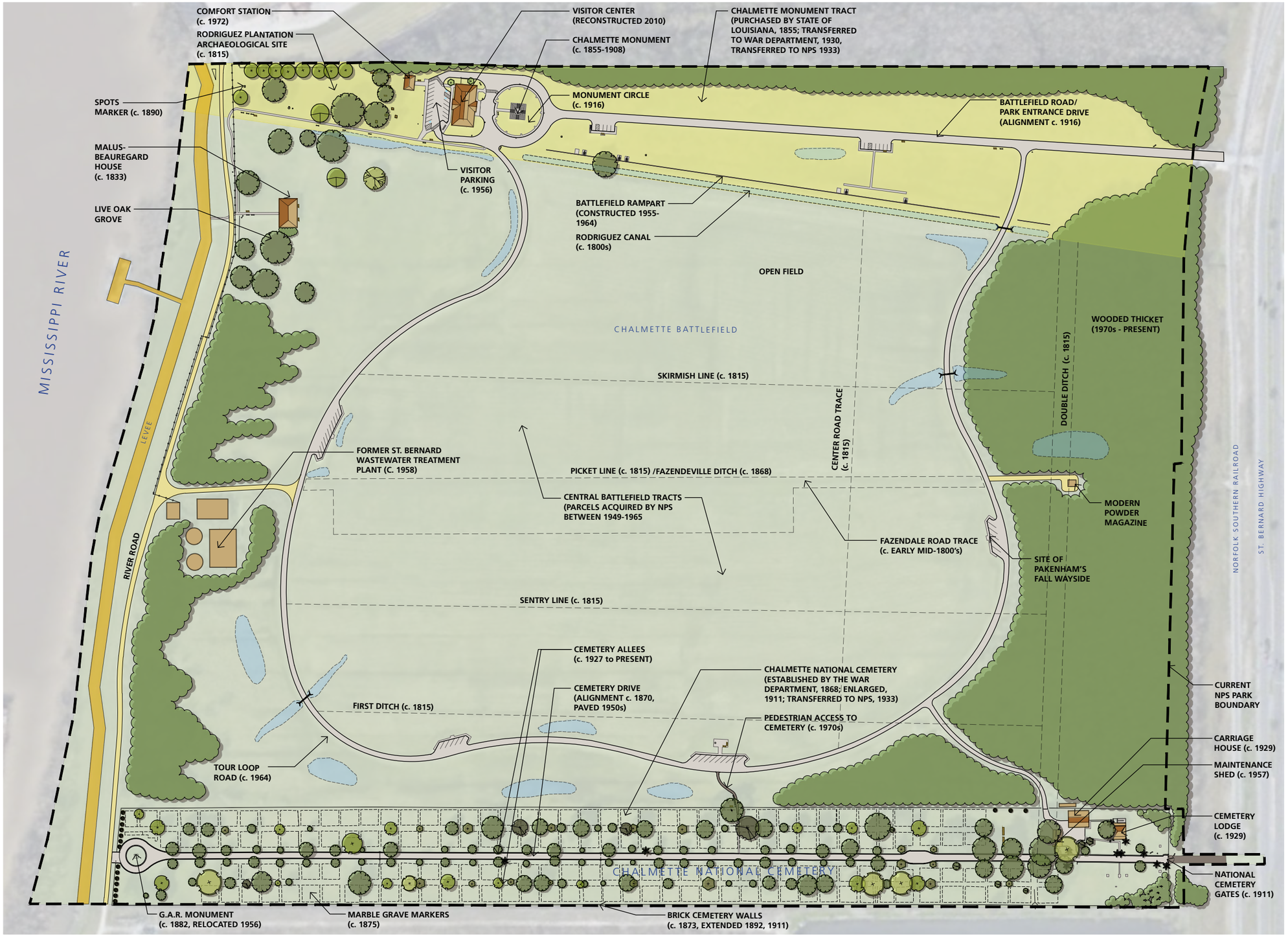
Much of the other uses of the property during the historic period are not legible on the site today. Except for the Malus-Beauregard House, there is no evidence of the many residential homes and landscapes that filled the site for all of the 1800s and most of the 1900s. The village of Fazendeville, for example, is missing from the current landscape, depriving the site from the feeling associated the community of people who lived in the village. Industrial and transportation development that surrounds the Chalmette Unit today also detract from the historic feeling.

Despite these changes, the property retains integrity of feeling.

Association

The Chalmette Unit cultural landscape conveys its historic significance through existing landscape features. The open field and the reconstructed American rampart provide visitors with a setting reminiscent of the one experienced by American and British soldiers in 1814 and 1815. The monuments and national cemetery reinforce this connection to the events surrounding the Battles of New Orleans. The monuments and national cemetery also reflect American traditions of commemoration, which is also an area of significance of the site. Evidence of the community of people who occupied the site, including the residents of the village of Fazendeville, is missing from the current landscape. The site does not currently convey its association with this community or the other people who lived there after the battle. Despite this, the Chalmette Unit does retain integrity of association to the period of significance, in particular for its association with the battle and the commemoration of the battle.

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Rodriguez Tract (c. 1808-1817)

Chalmette Tract (c. 1813-1817)

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following sources were used to create the historic base map illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013
2. Historic Base Map, Cultural Landscape Report, Risk, 1999
3. **Birkedal, "Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009) Map III-5 "Revised Geography of the Battle of New Orleans," Page 480.**

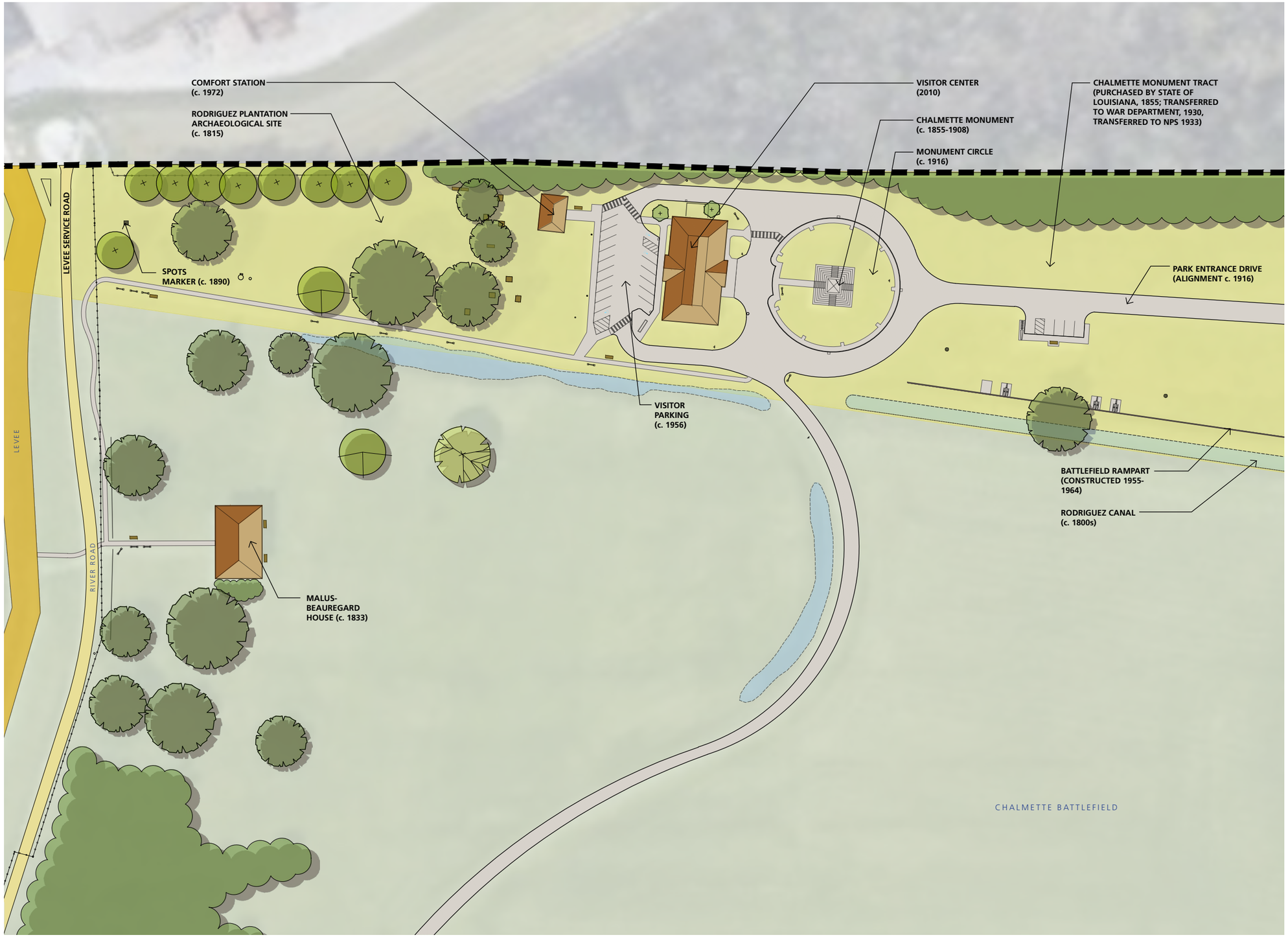
Illustration 4.1

Historic Base Map Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery

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Rodriguez Tract (c. 1808-1817)

Chalmette Tract (c. 1813-1817)

0′ 100′ 200′ North

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following sources were used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013
2. Historic Base Map, Cultural Landscape Report, Risk, 1999
3. Birkedal, "Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009)
   Map III-5 "Revised Geography of the Battle of New Orleans," Page 480

Illustration 4.2

Historic Base Map Enlargement

Chalmette Battlefield

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Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following source was used to create the existing conditions illustrations:

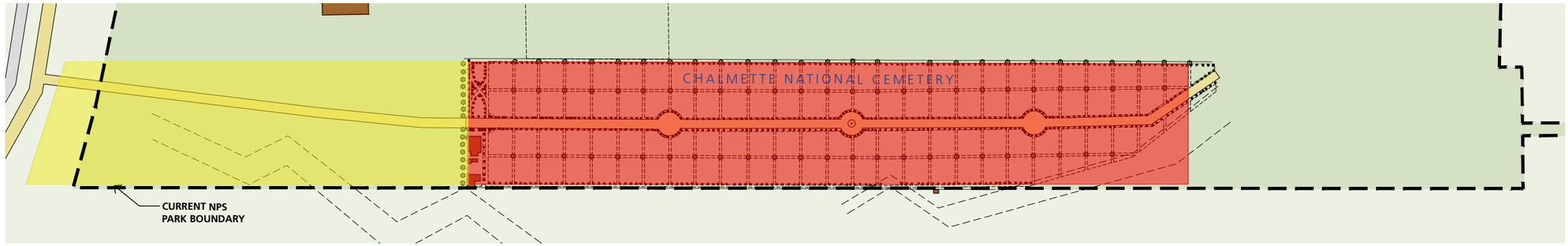
1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013
2. Historic Base Map, Cultural Landscape Report, Risk, 1999
3. Birkedal, "Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009) Map III-5 "Revised Geography of the Battle of New Orleans," Page 480

Illustration 4.3
Historic Dates Map Enlargement
National Cemetery

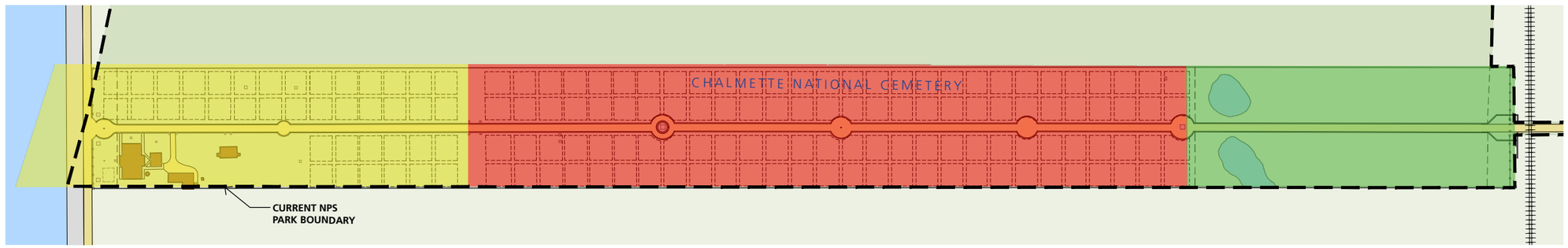
Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

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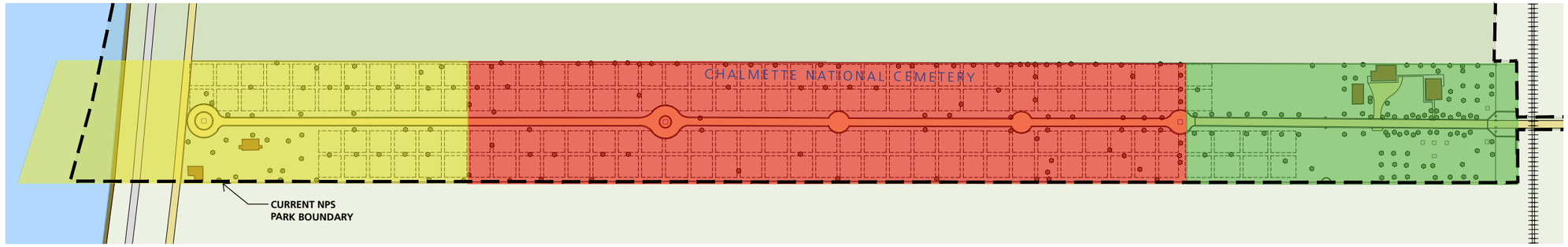
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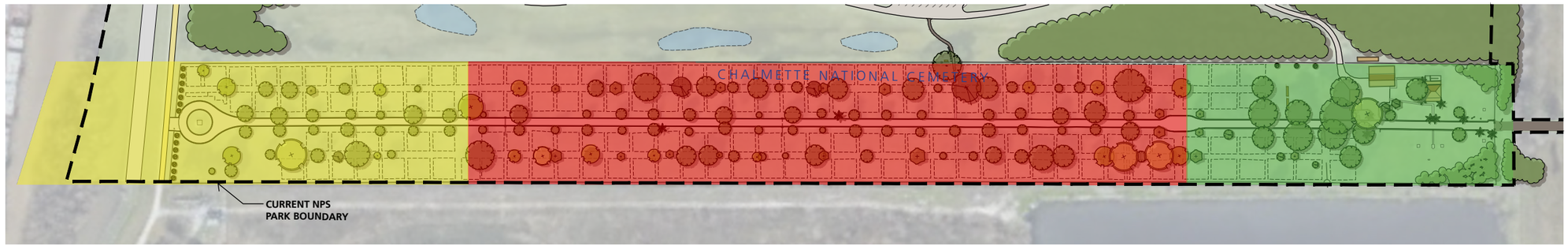
1867



1927



1953



Existing Conditions

Key

- 8 acres donated by the City of New Orleans in 1864
- 5 acres donated by the City of New Orleans in 1867
- 250 foot by 650 foot area transferred to the US Government by State of Louisiana in 1909

0′ 250′ 500′

North

Credits

The following sources were used to create this period evolution illustration:

1. NPS Topographic Base Map of Chalmette National Cemetery, 1953 (ETIC 467-2016)
2. U.S. Army Map of National Cemetery, Chalmette, LA 1892, Rev. 1925 (ETIC 467-60900)
3. "Plan of the Monument Cemetery," circa 1867 (NPS, JELA Archives)
4. 1872 Survey, reprinted in Greene Historic Resource Study, 1985

Illustration 4.4

Period Evolution Map Chalmette National Cemetery

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Treatment

Please see Illustrations 5.1-5.3 at the end of this chapter.

Introduction

The treatment recommendations for this Cultural Landscape Report propose a preservation strategy for long-term management of the cultural landscape based on research, inventory, and analysis. The appropriate preservation approach considers the evolution of the landscape alongside historic significance, existing conditions, current use, and methods to improve overall sustainability of the landscape. The CLR combines the site history and analysis with input from the current site managers to formulate an appropriate treatment and management philosophy.

Recommendations follow National Park Service policy directives, including the Director's Orders No. 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. These documents identify four types of treatment: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each treatment ranges by level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards.

As defined by the National Park Service, the purpose of a landscape treatment plan is to set forth guidelines for preserving and enhancing historic landscape characteristics and features within the context of contemporary park uses.[531] Treatment describes the future appearance of the landscape at the planning level with preliminary design recommendations.

Management Summary

General Management Plans

Treatment recommendations of this CLR are to comply with Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA) General Management Plan (GMP). JELA adopted a GMP in 1982 and amended the GMP in 1995 and again in 2011.[532] Therefore, treatment recommendations for this CLR consider existing management goals expressed in the 1982 GMP and amendments or provide recommendations to be considered in the next round of GMP planning."[533] Those alternative treatment options that deviate from the approved GMP require a "crosswalk" to comply with existing management policies.

The 1982 GMP states that "[t]he historical significance of the Battle of New Orleans will be stressed. There will be mention of the diverse groups of the region involved in the battle." The 2011 GMP Amendment continues this emphasis on the significance of the battle, but it does recognize the historic significance of other resources omitted by the National Register, including the community of Fazendeville. It states that the battlefield contains some significant features not associated with the battle, including the Malus-Beauregard House and remnants of Fazendeville. It remarks that "the interpretation of these later non-battle-related features has proven problematic to the park's primary mission of interpreting the historic battlefield landscape, yet they represent features of historical and cultural significance in their own right."[534]

531. Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, "A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques" (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, 1998), 81.

532. NPS, "General Management Plan/General Development Concept Plan Jean Lafitte National Historical Park," (New Orleans: National Park Service, 1982); NPS, "Amendment to the General Management Plan Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve," (New Orleans: National Park Service, 1995); NPS "General Management Plan Amendment/Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Assessment," (New Orleans: National Park Service, 2011).

533. NPS, GMP 1982, 24.

534. NPS, GMP Amendment 2011, 13.

Management Zones

The 1982 GMP divided the park into three management zones. The 2011 GMP Amendment slightly altered this organization, dividing the park into four management zones:

- Historic Interaction Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- Visitor Services Zone
- Park Services Zone

Historic Interaction Zone

The 2011 GMP Amendment describes the Historic Interaction Zone as the primary area of interpretation. It states that "The historic landscape would be managed to represent the period of significance. The presence of appropriately sited interpretive waysides and trail-side site amenities like benches and trash receptacles would be evident."[535]

The management of the property to represent the period of significance while accommodating visitor services would align with Rehabilitation.

The Historic Interaction Zone included most of the land outside of the tour loop road, including the national cemetery, the Battlefield Rampart, and the area along either side of Battlefield Road.

Cultural Landscape Zone

This zone would provide visitors with a "historic scene similar to the period of significance," but the NPS would not encourage public access or provide trails or facilities to visitors. The NPS would "maintain and preserve [this area] to reflect the historic character of the landscape."[536]

The management of the property to represent the period of significance while not accommodating visitor services would align with Preservation.

The Cultural Landscape Zone includes the area to the interior of the tour loop road, a strip along the west wall of the national cemetery, the river front, and the woods along the north side of the property.

Visitor Services Zone

The NPS would add non-historic visitor facilities in a way that are sensitive to and "complimentary to the historical context of the areas in which they occur."[537] The kinds of visitor facilities envisioned appropriate for this area include contact stations, parking areas, comfort stations, benches, sidewalks, walking trails, etc.

The management of the property to facilitate visitor access and interpretation align with Rehabilitation.

The Visitor Services Zone included the northwest corner of the site near the entrance gate at Battlefield Road, the area around the current visitor center and Chalmette Monument, the area around the Malus-Beauregard House, an area extending east from the Malus-Beauregard House, the tour boat dock, and an area in the southeast corner of the battlefield, south of the tour loop road.

Park Services Zone

The 2011 GMP Amendment describes this zone as a place where visitors are not "routinely" expected to enter. It was to be for NPS maintenance and resources could be "modified for park operational needs and non-historic additions to the landscape are expected."

The management of the property to facilitate NPS operations align with Rehabilitation.

The Park Service Zone included the area around the former "STP" or St. Bernard Wastewater Treatment plant, a portion of River Road, and the area around the Superintendent's Lodge.

2011 GMP Amendment Preferred Alternative

The 2011 GMP Amendment describes the preferred alternative, Alternative B (See Figure 5.1):

> Alternative B seeks to improve park operations and enhance visitor opportunities with changes to most current unit facilities. The changes would be designed to provide for greater opportunities for interpretation and visitor education. The tour road would be converted to a pedestrian only path for visitors, though it would continue to serve as a service road for NPS and emergency operations. A large (500 square feet) unstaffed Visitor Information Station would be added

535. NPS, GMP Amendment 2011, 46.
536. NPS, GMP Amendment 2011, 47.
537. NPS, GMP Amendment 2011, 47.



Figure 5.1: Map showing the management zones from the 2011 GMP Amendment (NPS).

adjacent to a rerouted tour boat pedestrian entrance. Traffic would be rerouted for safer pedestrian access from the Visitor Center (VC) to the restrooms, Malus-Beauregard House, and Rodriguez site. A new road would connect Monument Road with River Road, and parking would be added along the new road for access to the VC and Malus-Beauregard (M-B) House. Special event staging areas would be added. The Maintenance areas would be moved to the Fazendeville Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) site, and the Carriage House would be converted to interpretive use for the Cemetery visitor, with adjacent parking.

The preferred alternative makes these specific recommendations about these areas or resources:

Battlefield

No changes would be made.

(The preferred alternative in the 2011 GMP Amendment recommended no change to the management of the battlefield; however, the 2011 GMP Amendment described the status quo in the "No-Action Alternative." It states: "Historic ditches and roads would remain obscured, and no pedestrian trails would provide access to historic features. The site of the main British attack where hundreds of British soldiers fell or died, including the commander General Pakenham, would continue to be obscured by trees.")

Woodland Buffer Between Battlefield and NPS Fence

About twenty-five percent of the woodland buffer would be removed and the forest converted to open field. The area to be removed would be concentrated in front of the rampart where the main British charge faltered and the majority of British officers and men fell. Also removed would be the wooded area on the left flank of the rampart near the Chalmette Monument entrance.

Repaired Rampart and Rodriguez Canal Interpretive Display

The rampart and canal would be extended to the property line or beyond if an agreement could be reached with the landowner. The purpose of the extension into the railroad and utility right-of-way between the NPS fence and the highway would be to make it visible from the St. Bernard Highway and enhance the entrance experience.

The rampart and canal would continue to be bisected by the Tour Road. They would be repaired to historically accurate design and dimensions. Research indicates that the canal was wider, deeper, and contained open water at the time of the battle…. Similarly, the historic rampart was higher, wider, and armored on its front face. Behind it was a raced banquette. Beyond the canal was a glacis, an armored, low linear figure, designed to deflect incoming ordinance. All these features would be represented in the new interpretive display. In addition, the new display would contain the batteries in their accurate positions built to accurate specifications.

Tour Road

The section of tour road between the monument circle and the Fazendeville Road would be maintained and improved with a second lane and a pedestrian lane. At the Fazendeville Road the traffic would turn toward the river and a new parking area. The remainder of the tour road would remain in place as a one way loop redesigned for pedestrians, with no public access for vehicles. Vehicular parking bays at waysides would be removed….

Chalmette Monument and Battlefield Entrance, Monument Road, Rodriguez Site

Improvements to the entrance common to all the action alternatives would be implemented. Visitor pulloffs are indicated on the drawings; locations of these may change during design if necessary for visitor safety. In addition, a 20-space parking area would be added inside the NPS fence line. This would accommodate visitors who now park in an unsafe manner along the entrance road outside the gate after hours and provide additional parking for those wishing to access only the north part of the battlefield walking loop and British Memorial…. A short trial linking the new parking area and the rampart exhibit would be

added. A new interpretive trail from the VC to River Road would be built through the oaks to the Rodriguez House site.

River Road and River Approach

In all alternatives, the River Road would be paved. Utilities would be buried or removed. It would be used only as a utility road for NPS and for the Port Authority.

Fazendeville Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Site

The maintenance facility would be moved to the Fazendeville STP site. The road would be paved, and serve as the connector between the River Road and the Tour Road for maintenance access to the cemetery and other facilities…. A vegetative screen would be maintained between River Road and the battlefield in the stretch running from the connector road to the cemetery, and would surround the maintenance area.

New Battlefield Parking

A twenty space overflow and special event bus turnaround with automobile parking area would be built near the Fazendeville STP site…. It would be linked to the Tour Road, Monument Road and the River Road via a new road connector along the Fazendeville Road trace…. A walking path between the staging area and the Malus-Beauregard House would be added. This path would also link the tour road path with the VC via the Malus-Beauregard House. Another walking path would link to the Tour Road Pedestrian Lane and to a walking path along the River Road to the unstaffed Visitor Information Station, the Malus-Beauregard House and the Rodriguez Site.

Special Event Staging Area

Programs and special events staging areas would be added between the new parking area near the Malus-Beauregard House and in the southeast corner of the battlefield. These areas, now soggy fields much of the year, would be made suitable for use with improved drainage, turf re-enforcement, and maintenance, and the judicious use of fill if necessary. Historic ditch traces would be left undisturbed….

Unstaffed Visitor Information Station

A new 500 square foot Visitor Information Station would be built to provide interpretive displays for visitors arriving via the river boat dock….

Malus-Beauregard House

Where archeological documentation exists, path outlines for gardens can be replaced on site. Otherwise no changes to the buildings and gardens except those common to all action alternatives would be made.

Chalmette National Cemetery

The entrance from River Road to the cemetery would be modified to facilitate access by NPS staff from the maintenance and VC areas.

The Carriage House, the former maintenance building, would be converted to use as a passive interactive interpretive and education facility for visitors to the cemetery. The modern equipment shed would be demolished and additional visitor parking added.

Note that information provided above was edited for clarity; and edits are indicated with an ellipsis. See pages 61-64 of the 2011 GMP Amendment for the entire list.

It should also be noted that before implementing any of the GMP recommendations presented above or any of this CLR's recommendations, NPS should ensure they consult with current environmental regulations and NPS policies.

Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations

The following laws, executive orders, and regulations apply to the treatment of the Chalmette Battlefield Unit and Chalmette National Cemetery cultural landscape.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) mandates that federal agencies such as the National Park Service consider the effects of their actions on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and allows the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment.[538]

Section 110 of the NHPA clarifies the broad historic preservation responsibilities of federal agencies with the intention of ensuring that historic preservation is fully integrated into the ongoing programs of all federal agencies by identifying, protecting, and avoiding unnecessary damage to historic properties. Additionally, each agency is required to use historic properties available to it and when managing these properties and must consider preservation of their historic, archeological, architectural, and cultural values.[539]

Executive Order 11593

Executive Order 11593: Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (1971) mandates that "the Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation."[540] Responsibilities of federal agencies include:

- Nominating "...to the Secretary of the Interior all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction of the control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places."
- Exert caution "…during the interim period until inventories and evaluation…are completed to assure that any federally owned property that might qualify for nomination is not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished, or substantially altered."
- "Initiate measures to assure that where as a result of Federal action or assistance a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places is to be substantially altered or demolished, timely steps be taken to make or have made records, including measured drawings, photographs, and maps, of the property, and that copy of such records then be deposited in the Library of Congress as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey or Historic American Engineering Record for future use and reference."
- "Initiate measures and procedures to provide for the maintenance, through preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration, of federally owned and registered sites professional standards prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior."[541]

Executive Order 13006

Executive Order 13006: Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties (1996) mandates that "the Federal Government shall utilize and maintain, wherever operationally appropriate and economically prudent, historic properties and districts." Furthermore, "any rehabilitation or construction that is undertaken pursuant to this order must be architecturally compatible with the character of the surrounding historic district or properties."[542]

Executive Order 11990

Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands was issued by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 in order "…to avoid the adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new

538. The NHPA of 1966 was last amended in 2006. A downloadable copy is located at http://www.achp.gov/nhpa.html.

539. More information on Section 110 can be found on the NPS's website at http://www.nps.gov/hps/fapa_110.htm.

540. A copy of this E.O. can be found in the National Archives at https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11593.html.

541. "Federal Register, Executive Orders," National Archives, May 13, 1971, https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11593.html.1971, appear at 36 FR 8921, 3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 559, unless otherwise noted. By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and in furtherance of the purposes and policies of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.

542. A copy of this agreement is located on the ACHP's website at http://www.achp.gov/EO13006.html.

construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative…"

Executive Order 11990 directs federal agencies, such as the National Park Service, 1) to provide leadership and to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands; 2) to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands; and 3) to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands unless there are no practicable alternatives to such construction and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands.[543]

Director's Order #77-1 and Procedural Manual #77-1

The purpose of this order is to establish the National Park Service's policies, requirements, and standards for implementing Executive Order 11990. The National Park Service released Procedural Manual #77-1: Wetland Protection in 2016 (reissued) which details provisions by which the NPS will implement Director's Order #77-1.

Migratory Bird Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is a series of subsequent international treaties between the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia intended to ensure the sustainability of populations of all protected migratory bird species. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the act makes it unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg or any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. Some regulatory exceptions apply. Take is defined in regulations as: 'pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect."[544]

Director's Order #61: National Cemetery Operations

Director's Order 61: National Cemetery Operations (July 2010) and Reference Manual 61: National Cemetery Operations (November 2011) provide guidance for staff maintaining national cemeteries within the National Park System. These documents outline a variety of management issues; its eleven requirements and instructions include operations and maintenance of National Cemeteries as cultural resources, visitor use, internment eligibility and limitations, internment facilities and services provided, pre-internment actions and related matters, internment, cremated remains and group burials, disinterments and direct exhumations, headstones, markers, and commemorative monuments, ceremonies and special events, and flags. The instructions state, for example, that "[h]istoric headstones will be preserved whenever feasible. Repair and re-inscription of historic headstones will be considered before replacement. Replacement of historic headstones, whether private or government-furnished, is the least preferred alternative (see RM-61). *Park managers will choose methods of cemetery maintenance which will reduce the adverse effects of maintenance activities on headstones*" (emphasis added).[545]

36 CFR Part 12-National Cemetery Regulations

Chalmette National Cemetery is also subject to NPS regulations regarding national cemetery operations. 36 CFR Part 12-National Cemetery states, "[a]ll national cemeteries administered by the National Park Service will be managed as historically significant resources, and as integral parts of larger historical parks."[546]

National Register of Historic Places

The Analysis and Evaluation section of this CLR provides an overview of the 1987 National Register of Historic Places listing for the "Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Historic District," as it was then known. The following

543. A copy of this agreement is located on the EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/protection-wetlands-executive-order-11990.

544. More information on the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 can be found on USFWS's website https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/about-us.

545. National Park Service, "Director's Order #61: National Cemetery Operations," Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 2010. A copy of this order is available at https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_61.pdf.

546. A section of the Code of Federal Regulations is available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2012-title36-vol1/pdf/CFR-2012-title36-vol1-part12.pdf.

summary highlights issues that may influence decisions about treatment recommendations.

According to the listing, the historic district includes "sixteen historically significant sites and structures." The list of contributing sites and structures includes:

1. Chalmette Plain
2. Part of the Rodriguez Canal
3. Battery sites 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
4. Three British battery sites within the national cemetery
5. Cypress swamp on north end of battlefield
6. Site of Pakenham's death
7. Site of Rodriguez House and outbuildings
8. The René Beauregard House (Malus-Beauregard House)
9. Chalmette Monument
10. Spotts Marker
11. Chalmette National Cemetery
12. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Monument
13. Site of Confederate earthworks in national cemetery
14. Administrative Headquarters (Superintendent's Lodge)
15. Maintenance Building
16. Brick Carriage House

According to the nomination form, only a part of the Rodriguez Canal is contributing, stating that "The present partial reconstruction of the rampart by the National Park Service is largely inaccurate, based on archeological findings in 1983-1984, and thus represents a noncontributing element." However, the National Register found the battery sites along the rampart to be contributing, but Archeologist Ted Birkedal also questions the accuracy of their locations and construction in his report *Search for the Lost Riverfront*.

The National Register of Historic Places considers the "site of a small portion of the cypress swamp" on the north side of the park to be a contributing resource. Again, Birkedal's report suggests that the swamp present at the time of the battle barely touched the north property line of the current park. Today, NPS staff consider this area to be a forested wetland, which they describe as a ruderal bottomland hardwood community dominated by fast-growing species including red maple (*Acer rubrum*), the invasive species Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), and mulberry (*Morus* spp.). Additionally, this area should be distinguished from a stand of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) planted around 2000 between the service road to the national cemetery and the tour loop road.

Also, according to a 2002 archeological report prepared by John Cornelison et al. with the Southeast Archeological Center, the northern section of the battlefield, which was the location of Pakenham's attack, is within the woods.

Three of the British artillery batteries constructed for the battle are within the boundaries of the national cemetery. The National Register of Historic Places considers these to be contributing resources.

The site of the Rodriguez House and outbuildings are contributing features.

Several features that post-date the battle are also contributing features. The Malus-Beauregard House is contributing based on its architecture and association with "facets of the economic and social life and architectural style that typified southern Louisiana before and after 1815."

The site of the Confederate occupation during the Civil War is considered a contributing feature. The Confederate earthwork fort, which crossed portions of the national cemetery but was mostly east of the national cemetery, has been completely obliterated. Evidence of the earthwork was gone by the time of the district's listing, but the National Register determined that "the site of the area of occupation was within the present park unit boundary."

The Chalmette National Cemetery is included as a contributing feature. While not individually listed as contributing features, the nomination does mention several landscape features within the national cemetery, including the headstones, artillery tubes, and iron gate. National cemetery features individually recognized by the listing include the GAR Monument, the Superintendent's Lodge, a brick maintenance building, and brick carriage house.

Commemorative features added after the battle that are recognized by the National Register of Historic Places include the Spotts Marker and the Chalmette Monument.

Period of Significance

The National Register of Historic Places assigns the Chalmette Unit with the period of significance of 1814 to 1937. The start date corresponds with the earliest engagements of the Battle of New Orleans on December 28, 1814. The end date is not specifically justified in the statement of significance and may possibly be based on it being fifty years (the typical age to be considered historic) before the listing date of 1987. This CLR maintains that the 1937 end date is defensible based on the fact that it includes the time when the NPS took ownership of the property in 1933 and when the NPS had completed projects to facilitate the site's transition into a national park unit. By 1937, the NPS had completed its efforts to improve the parking area next to the monument, regrade the area to improve drainage, and establish a pedestrian connection with the Malus-Beauregard House.

This CLR does recommend updating the National Register Nomination for the Chalmette Unit Historic District. That additional documentation can provide information about the cultural landscape and potentially identify additional areas of significance and explore the historic significance of now missing resources, including, for example, Fazendeville and the changes made at the park under the Mission 66 Program. As discussed in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter, the authors of this report doubt that the Mission 66 resources meet National Register eligibility requirements. This could be evaluated during a future update of the National Register documentation.

Given the long period of significance for the site (1814-1937) and the presence of historically significant commemorative features, it is not feasible for the NPS to restore the battlefield to a specific time period—e.g., the time of the Battle of New Orleans. Therefore, it recommended that the NPS protect and preserve historic features from the time of the battle, preserve as much of the historic setting as possible and preserve the features and overall design intent from the commemorative period.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment

The following treatment recommendations follow National Park Service policy, including the Director's Orders No. 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* and *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. These documents identify four types of treatment: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

Each treatment ranges by level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards.

> Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the on-going maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.
>
> Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use of a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
>
> Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and

plumbing systems and other code-required work to make the property functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, or objects for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time in its historic location.[547]

Standards for Preservation:

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Standards for Rehabilitation:

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be supported by documentary and physical evidence.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

547. Charles A. Birnbaum, ed. *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes,* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1996, 9, 18, 48, 90, 128.)

- Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
- New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Standards for Restoration:

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that reflects the property's restoration period.
- Materials and features from the restoration period will be retained and preserved. The removal of materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the period will not be undertaken.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve materials and features from the restoration period will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
- Materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other historical periods will be documented prior to their alteration or removal.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the restoration period will be preserved.
- Deteriorated features from the restoration period will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials.
- Replacement of missing features from the restoration period will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features, features from other properties, or by combining features that never existed together historically.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archeological resources affected by a project will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

Standards for Reconstruction:

- Reconstruction will be used to depict vanished or non-surviving portions of a property when sufficient documentary and physical evidence is available to permit accurate reconstruction with minimal conjecture and when such reconstruction is essential to the public understanding of the property.
- Reconstruction of a landscape, building, structure, or object in its historic location will be preceded by a thorough archeological investigation to identify and evaluate those features and artifacts which are essential to an accurate reconstruction. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- Reconstruction will include measures to preserve any remaining historic materials, features, and spatial relationships.
- Reconstruction will be based on the accurate duplication of historic features and elements supported by documentary or physical evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different features from other historic properties. A reconstructed property will re-create the appearance of the non-surviving historic property in materials, design, color, and texture.

- A reconstruction is clearly identified as a contemporary re-creation. Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

Park Management Goals, Issues, and Concerns

The management goals, issues, and concerns addressed by the treatment chapter of this CLR were identified in several ways. Many were established by the scope of work issued by Interior Region 2 for this project, from field investigations, from conversations with NPS Staff, from the 1999 CLR, and from the 2011 GMP Amendment. Issues identified in the scope of work include:

- Evaluate and expand upon the 1999 treatment recommendations;
- Incorporate site recommendations from the Malus-Beauregard House HSR;
- Vegetation recommendations;
- Management responses to climate change;
- Managing exotic vegetation;
- Management of Rodriguez Canal;
- Viewshed management;
- Drainage at Cemetery and Battlefield;
- Cemetery Preservation including headstone preservation and replacement;
- Preserving and interpreting spaces that have changed over time;
- Placement of signage.

Treatment Recommendations

Recommended Overall Treatment Approach

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment for Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery because rehabilitation allows for the protection of the site's historic character while accommodating limited changes to facilitate contemporary use. These changes would include improvements for visitor services, interpretation, and circulation.

Rehabilitation is preferable to the other treatment alternatives because it provides for the preservation of historic and natural resources even when limited changes are made. Preservation would not allow for the introduction of new landscape features designed to improve the visitor experience. Restoration requires a high degree of documentation to ensure historical accuracy. The existing period of significance, extensive commemorative layer, and insufficient documentation of the historic landscape makes site wide restoration unfeasible. There are individual features within the Chalmette Unit's landscape that may be considered for restoration—e.g., the missing rostrums in the national cemetery. Restoration of these features would require additional research.

Chapter Organization: Landscape Character Areas

The treatment recommendations provided below divide the Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve into two landscape character areas: Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery. This organization follows the one used in the previous chapters of this CLR. The following treatment recommendations section provides both general treatment recommendations for each landscape character area and specific recommendations for distinct areas within each landscape character area.

These character areas are complex and contain several areas with their own unique characteristics. The Chalmette Battlefield Character Area features the open field of the main battlefield, and it also includes the Battlefield Rampart, the woods along the north property line, the former site of the Fazendeville community, and the area along the west side of the national cemetery wall, which contains the Freedmen's Cemetery and a mid-nineteenth century Powder Magazine. The Chalmette Battlefield Character Area also includes, along its southern side, the Malus-Beauregard House, the former St. Bernard wastewater treatment facility, the Mississippi levee (a part of the greater New Orleans region Hurricane Storm Risk Reduction System), and the road along the levee.

The other area within the Chalmette Battlefield Character Area is the Chalmette Monument area, which extends from north to south along the western side of the site and includes Battlefield Road, the Chalmette Monument, the visitor center,

and the open space between the visitor center and the levee.

Extant historic resources related to the Battle of New Orleans period include Rodriguez Canal and other, essentially illegible landscape features previously identified by archeologists. These include drainage ditches in the battlefield and Center Road, which cross the battlefield in an east to west direction. Aerial photographs suggest that these features remain on the battlefield, but they are not easily identified on the ground. Archeological resources would include the Rodriguez House and outbuildings and different features associated with the historic American rampart. Interpretive features currently on site include the Battlefield Rampart and the mixed woods/forested wetland along the northern boundary. The NPS began constructing the rampart in 1955 and added sections to it in the early 1960s. Aerial photographs show the northern area of the battlefield mostly open and treeless into the 1960s; but the NPS allowed this area to become forested to recreate the appearance of the swamp that existed north of the current park boundaries. This condition was envisioned on the Proposed Development Plan for the park that the NPS drafted in 1955.

Historic, contributing landscape features added after the battle include the Malus-Beauregard House, the Fazendeville community, the Chalmette Monument, and Battlefield Road. More modern additions to the site include the visitor center, former wastewater treatment facility, the tour loop road, pull-offs, and elevated viewing platform.

The National Cemetery character area includes the area around the Superintendent's Lodge complex and the burial grounds.

The following section begins with treatment recommendations for the main battlefield area. This section separates the Malus-Beauregard House out from the rest of the character area so all the recommendations for the Malus-Beauregard House are together; they begin on page 256.

Treatment recommendations for the Chalmette Monument area, including the visitor center, begin on page 258.

Treatment recommendations for the Chalmette National Cemetery begin on page 262.

National Register of Historic Places Recommendations

- Update National Register of Historic Places documentation for the Chalmette Historic District, using recent historic resource planning documents and archeological reports as a basis for developing more complete and comprehensive history of the site. Expand the examination of cultural landscape features associated with the post-battle period and commemorative period. For example, consider the historic significance of the circulation design for both the national cemetery and the Chalmette Monument and consider the historic significance of their original design. Also consider the historic significance of the Fazendeville community and changes made to the park during Mission 66.

- Based on new documentation of the site, consider changing the period of significance of the site. The existing period of significance 1814-1937 may be changed based on new research. The Mission 66 additions to the site, for example, should be evaluated for their eligibility to be listed in the National Register. (It is the opinion of the author of this report that Mission 66 changes to the historic district do not meet National Register eligibility requirements, but this should be explored during a National Register update.)

Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area-wide recommendations

The primary goal of these treatment recommendations for the Chalmette Battlefield Character Area is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the setting at the time of the battle.

Another factor to consider is the present-day use of the site, which makes necessary non-historic features like visitor amenities. Other considerations include maintenance requirements and issues related to the natural environment, particularly the current assessment that much of the battlefield is a wetland and that depth and duration of surface flooding will increase with ongoing relative sea level rise. These considerations impact future vegetation management of the site. There are other impacts to the cultural landscape that are outside the control of the NPS, including surrounding land uses and their effect on the viewshed.

General objectives for the treatment of the Chalmette Battlefield Landscape Character Area

- Preserve the open character of the current extents of the battlefield, managing the property in such a way that does not damage the natural resources of the site but keeps the field open and legible to modern visitors.

- Enhance a visitor's experience by providing interpretation of existing and missing historic features known to have present at the time of the battle. Examples of features to be highlighted include the canals and road through the battlefield and the Rodriguez House and outbuildings.

- Preserve and maintain historic features that contribute to the historic significance of the site, including both commemorative features like the Chalmette Monument and historic resources that post-date the battle but were constructed during the period of significance, including, for example, the Malus-Beauregard House.

Main Battlefield Area

The landscape area associated with the main battlefield area includes the Battlefield Rampart and the land between the Battlefield Rampart and the national cemetery.

The goal of the treatment of the battlefield area is to maintain as closely as possible the character of the battlefield as it appeared in 1814-1815. This includes managing the vegetation so the battlefield remains open and legible to visitors. Secondary recommendations include 1) making more legible or interpreting missing features associated with the battle and its setting; 2) preserving historic, contributing resources that post-date the battle; 3) improving interpretation of the entire area by providing adequate visitor amenities that do not compromise the historic character of the site.

Natural Systems and Features

CB NSF-1: Develop a wetlands management plan

Develop a wetlands management plan for the battlefield area because of the March 2022 conclusion in "Chalmette Battlefield Wetland Delineation Report" that most of the park unit meets the criteria of jurisdictional wetlands. The report also recommends that the park unit develop a wetlands management plan. This CLR recommends that ongoing maintenance finds a balance between preserving the current ecological conditions of the site and preserving the open character of the landscape. This CLR emphasizes the importance of maintaining the battlefield in such a way that tall, woody vegetation is not allowed to become established because it will detract from the historic character of the site and undermine its ability to convey its historic significance to a modern visitor.

Methods to accomplish this include:

- Establish a mowing regime that prevents woody vegetation from becoming established. (See vegetation section below for additional information). Generally, mowing should be done during dry periods to avoid rutting, to avoid adverse

impacts to wetlands, and to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act. Grass clippings should not be disposed of in ruts or puddles.
- Establish a mowing regime that protects and promotes the growth of legacy plants and protected plant species, including the giant blue iris (*Iris giganticaerulea*) and historic, cultivated species such as the *Iris vinicolor* and *Crinum* spp. growing at the site. (See vegetation section below for additional information).
- Develop a mowing regime that protects migratory and nesting birds in the battlefield area. (See vegetation section below for additional information).
- Engage an engineer to inspect the drainage features on park property and adjacent to park property to ensure that existing culverts and drains work properly while ensuring that the park is in compliance with the Clean Water Act and NPS Wetlands policies.

Spatial Organization

CB SO-1: Maintain vegetative buffers around park unit

Maintain and enhance the existing vegetation along the perimeter of the site to visually screen adjacent land uses. Design planting to allow views of the battlefield from designated areas, including the proposed levee overlook. (See vegetation section below for additional information).

CB SO-2: Maintain open battlefield

Maintain the open character of the battlefield through periodic mowing. (See vegetation section below for additional information).

CB SO-3: Interpret historic spatial organization (including Fazendeville and the Freedmen's Cemetery)

Consider ways to interpret the spatial character of now-missing landscape features from both the battle period and commemorative period. The preferred method would employ interpretation techniques that do not create visual clutter in the cultural landscape and do not become maintenance burdens. As discussed below in the small-scale features section, the park should consider alternative interpretation strategies that employ digital technology, including making historic images and maps available through mobile apps or creating Augmented Reality tours of the historic landscape over time.

In conjunction with developing new interpretation strategies, the park should consider archeological investigations to locate historically significant features that contributed to the historic spatial organization of the site, in particular the Freedmen's Cemetery and Fazendeville.

It should be a goal to better understand and better interpret the Freedmen's Cemetery, a very unique and historically significant feature withing the Chalmette cultural landscape. The location of the Freedmen's cemetery could be marked in an unobtrusive way that does not create a maintenance burden on staff or marked by using different mowing patterns. Additionally, this feature could be interpreted using digital technology. Past attempts to locate the Freedmen's Cemetery using ground penetrating radar were inconclusive. Consult with an local archeologist about the proper conditions needed to improve the accuracy of the ground penetrating radar investigation or other resource detecting strategies. Other avenues exist for gathering information on this important resource. Prior to archeological research, develop a Special History Study for the cemetery. The purpose of the study would be to explore the role of the Freedmen's Bureau, hospital, local churches, and other Parish organizations in the development of the cemetery. Local church, hospital, and parish records may yield valuable information on the Freedmen's Cemetery location and its development history. Additionally, an ethnohistory could facilitate outreach and consultation with associated communities. With the additional information from these phased research efforts, develop a more comprehensive interpretation of the Freedmen's Cemetery.



Figure 5.2: Concept for Maintenance Facility and Parking Area at former wastewater treatment facility (WLA Studio).

Land Use

CB LU-1: Use former wastewater treatment site for maintenance operations

Continue negotiations with St. Bernard Parish about the removal of the former wastewater treatment plant. Convert this area to a maintenance area and overflow parking for special events (See Figure 5.2). This recommendation was also included in the 2011 GMP. Alternatively, this area could feasibly be the location of a visitor center and parking area.

Circulation

CB C-1: Improve accessibility

Park staff identified improving accessibility as an ongoing goal for its operations. Because the site is generally level, universal access is a realistic goal. Challenges do exist at buildings, the levee, and the elevated platform on the tour loop road. This CLR did not include a detailed assessment of individual buildings and structures; however, it does recommend that universally accessible ramps and paths be created in conjunction with future development. Overall, the park should adhere to methods per the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) and Director's Order #42: Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services to the greatest extent while not damaging historic resources. The park should be evaluated as a whole and a site-wide accessibility plan should be developed in conjunction with a long-term interpretation plan.

Additionally, Preservation Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible states that the following steps be taken when planning for universal accessibility at historic sites.

- Review the Historical Significance of the property and Identify character-defining features;
- Assess the property's existing and required level of accessibility; and
- Evaluate the accessibility options within a preservation context.

Federal agencies are required to comply with accessibility standards enacted by congress in 1968 with the Architectural Barriers Act. The current standard for federal agencies is the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS). The park should also adhere to universal design

standards per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Director's Order #42: Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services to the greatest extent possible while not damaging historic resources. Options exist for creating accessible paths and trails without introducing additional hardscape. These would be appropriate for areas where an accessible path may be desired near a historic feature or within the viewshed of the battlefield. To comply with accessibility standards, the surface must be firm and non-slip. Examples of materials commonly used to create accessible paths include stabilized turf or stabilized gravel.

An accessible, non-hardscape walkway can be constructed using natural crushed stone bound with a binding agent. The binding agent holds the natural aggregate in place. The best results are achieved using an edge restraint and a hard aggregate like crushed stone or decomposed granite. The stabilizer is sprayed onto or mixed into loosened soil or the aggregate, saturating approximately 2-3 inches. There are several products on the market, including a natural binder produced by Stabilizer Solutions, Inc.

An alternative is to install soil stabilizing grids under turf to create an accessible path that blends in with the surrounding landscape. Soil stabilizing grids are plastic modules that protect root zones in areas that receive heavy traffic. These are designed to as a permeable alternative to pavement. The plastic grid holds the soil in place and distributes the point load of foot traffic or vehicles to prevent soil compaction. New sod would lie on top of nutrient-balanced topsoil that fills the soil-stabilizing grid. Grasspave by Invisible Structures, Inc. and EZ Roll Grass Paver are two examples of widely used products for this application.

CB C-2: Develop overflow parking area

Develop new overflow parking area at site of former sewage treatment facility. Use existing southern leg of tour loop road to access new parking area.

CB C-3: Develop new trail system

Develop a pedestrian trail that would complete a loop around the perimeter of the entire park. The proposed trail can skirt the edge of the woods along west property line, linking to a trail along the top of the levee to the national cemetery. The trail can follow Military Cemetery Road to a trail or sidewalk parallel to the railroad tracks or St. Bernard Highway which ever is more feasible.

Vegetation

CB V-1: Develop a Landscape Management Plan and environmental assessment

Considering the recent determination that most of the Chalmette Battlefield Unit is a wetlands, it is advisable for the park to develop a Landscape Management Plan and environmental assessment. A Landscape Management Plan and environmental assessment would update the resource management portions of the existing JELA GMP. An environmental assessment of different landscape management approaches would address compliance with various federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508), NPS Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making, and the NPS NEPA Handbook (2015).

According to the Louisiana State Wetland Program, "Palustrine wetlands, which include swamps, scrub-shrub, wetlands, nontidal and tidal fresh marshes, and ponds, are the most common wetlands in Louisiana. The most common palustrine wetlands are swamps (forested wetlands), which contribute about 59 percent of the State's wetlands." The Louisiana State Wetland Program should be consulted periodically for the most up-to-date information on best practices of wetland management in the state.

CB V-2: Maintain the landscape to protect the cultural and environmental resources of the site

This CLR attempts to provide general guidance meant to protect the historic character of the battlefield that employ best practices for the protection of environmental resources.

The recommended landscape maintenance strategies include the following:

Turf management strategies:

Continue to maintain the area along Battlefield Road as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short (height 3-6 inches). Maintain a 5-foot strip alongside the Tour Loop Road as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short for pedestrian safety (height 3-6 inches). Maintain the area south of the parking lot, where people congregate and where picnic tables are located as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short for pedestrian safety (height 3-6 inches). Excepting the battlefield, which is discussed below, these closely mowed areas can transition to NPS Turf Class B2 Functional Tall (4-18 inches) at non-visitor-use areas and where NPS wants to discourage pedestrian traffic. (See Figure 5.4 and Illustration 5.3).

Allow vegetation in the battlefield area to grow tall-- NPS Turf Class S4 Managed Tall Vegetative Cover (6-60 inches) -- which will discourage foot traffic and will require only semi-annual mowing. Mowing height should be between 7 and 12 inches. Consider mowing the former location of Fazendeville village, Fazendeville Road, and the Freedmen's Cemetery at a lower height or more frequently to increase its legibility on the landscape. It could be maintained as NPS Turf Class B2 Functional Tall (4-18 inches). An equally effective alternative, proposed by JELA staff is to do the inverse, allowing the grass to grow taller so as to mark the location of missing features.

Turf management strategies for the Malus-Beauregard House and Chalmette National Cemetery are discussed in following sections.

Based on a number of factors, to be discussed below, it is recommended that mowing of the battlefield take place in mid- to late- July and again in late October to mid-November. Mowing should only occur when the battlefield is dry enough to mow without causing ruts or compacting the soil. Mowing should be done in a low gear and at a low speed to allow wildlife to avoid mower.

Additionally, periodic mowing should also be employed to prevent the growth of woody plant material so as to maintain the open character of the battlefield. Over time, grasslands in eastern North America will eventually succeed into wooded communities. Mowing to control the growth of woody plant material in the battlefield can occur annually and coincide with the schedule proposed for the battlefield. It may also be necessary to mechanically remove limited numbers of woody plants or use an appropriate herbicide for treatment. (See additional information on controlling woody vegetation and invasives below.)

NPS Turf Classes

See the National Park Service Turf Classes document for full descriptions of all the turf classes. Information on the turf classes recommended for the Chalmette Unit is provided below:

NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short is best for foot traffic areas, vegetative cover, and passive recreation. This class requires a medium level of maintenance effort. The growing habit features variable texture and seasonally appropriate color. Typical grasses include Bermuda and zoysia in the warm season, and bluegrass, ryegrass, turf-type tall fescue, and fine fescues in the cold season. Tolerated weeds include character compatible/ common, noninvasive, weedy species found in turf. Typical needs include frequent mow/brush hog/ sickle bar/ flail aeration, overseeding, soil ecosystem management, irrigation optional, and fertilization. The NPS typically uses B1 for Visitor Use Areas.

NPS Turf Class B2 Functional Tall is best for taller vegetative cover, visual access, and no foot traffic. The typical height ranges from 4-18 inches. The maintenance effort is low. The growing habit is somewhat irregular and nubby. Typical grasses include any warm and or cool season grass. Tolerated weeds include common, noninvasive, weedy species found in turf. Typical needs include cyclic mow, brush hog/sickle bar/flail, and spot treat with approved herbicide. Type NPS use includes non-visitor areas, parking areas, road



Figure 5.3: Concept of mown path and mown footprints of missing Fazendeville buildings (WLA Studio).

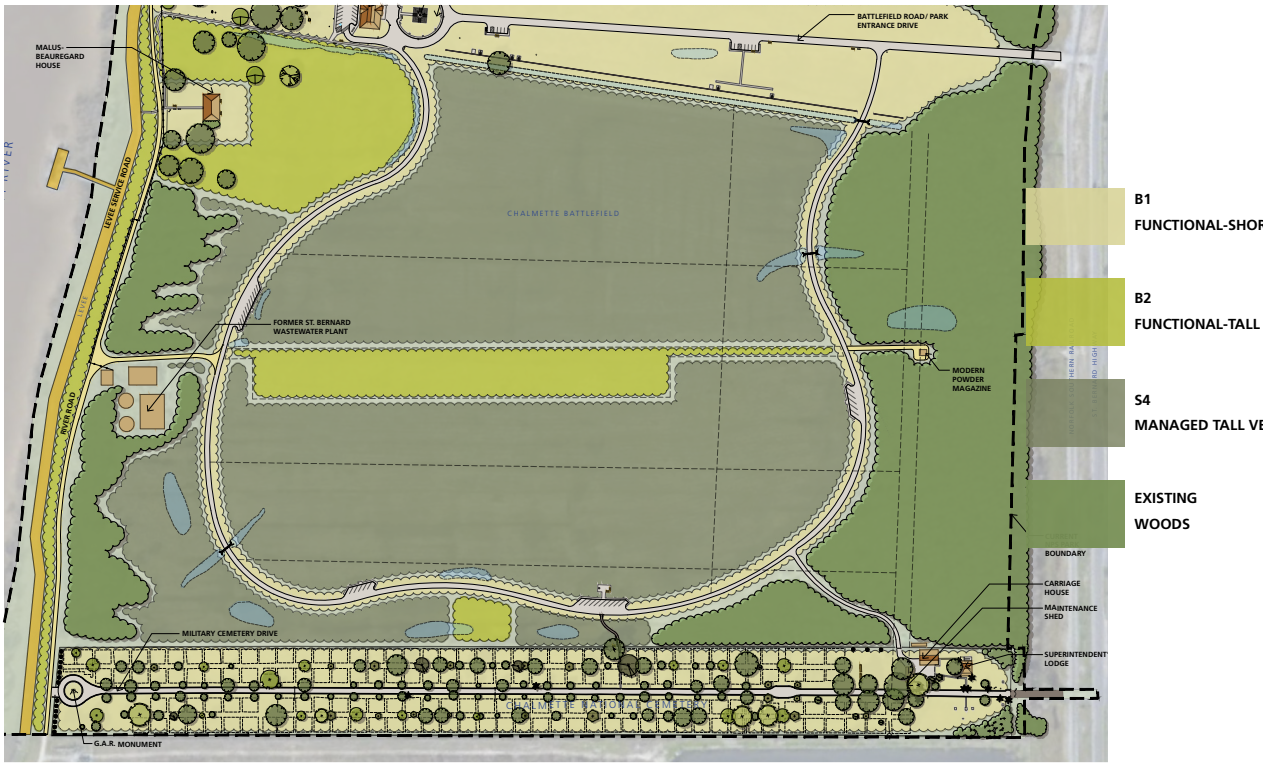


Figure 5.4: Proposed Turf Classes for different areas of JELA (WLA Studio); See also Illustration 5.3.

shoulders, parkway medians, low fields, and orchards.

NPS Turf Class S4 Managed Tall Vegetative Cover is taller vegetation managed for cultural resources or educational purposes, visual access, and little to no foot traffic. The height can range from 6-60". These systems require a medium to high level of effort. The growing habitat is irregular and variable. Typical grasses include a variety of native or non-native (compatible) grasses and forbs, and native pollinators. Tolerated weeds include character compatible/ common, noninvasive, weedy species found in turf, and no woody plants. Typical needs include burn programs, mow/bush hog, spot treat with herbicide, soil ecosystem enhancement, overseed, supplemental irrigation, planting specimens, and aggressive removal of invasive species. The Park Service typically uses S4 for pastures, monocultures, crops, earth works, pollinator meadows, native plant gardens, and pollinator plantings

The issues impacting the mowing schedule include wetlands designation, legacy plants, and nesting birds.

Wetland issues pertaining to mowing

Because the battlefield is a designated wetland, mowing procedures should be followed that protect the environmental resources of the site.

Below are suggestions adapted from "The restoration & management of Small Wetlands of the Mountains & Piedmont in the Southeast" on best management practices for mowing and heavy equipment use:[548]

- Use the least impact method possible.
- Minimize ruts and compaction of soils and vegetation.
- If using heavy equipment, disturb only one patch of the site at a time. Assess the impact before continuing.
- Plan to minimize and mitigate fuel, oil, and grease contamination in the site.
- When mowing, don't cut closer than 6".
- Don't mow more than once a year if possible. Unmown grassy and weedy areas provide important refuges and foraging areas for many forms of wildlife, including various game species, songbirds, and butterflies.
- Avoid working during known bird breeding times and in suspected breeding places.

Mowing and management strategies to protect desired species and control unwanted exotic species

Inventory plants that are protected species or that appear to be associated with the Fazendeville community, including *Iris* spp. and *Crinum* spp.; establish a mowing regimen that protects these legacy plants. Mowing after *Iris* and *Crinum* bloom (around late April) and again in late fall (October-November) will sustain existing plants. Delaying spring mowing to July would allow for seed set and promote the potential spread of these species. Delaying the mowing to late July would also protect nesting birds. In general, mowing in summer will benefit the plants by exposing them to more sun during the active growing season.

Consider dividing, propagating, and relocating these legacy plants to more visible locations (i.e., near the Fazendeville interpretive wayside) or to mark the locations of now-missing homes from Fazendeville. Control of invasive plants, described below, may be implemented in advance of planting to improve growing conditions.

Mowing strategies to protect migratory and nesting birds

According to park staff migratory birds nest on the battlefield, therefore caution must be taken when managing the battlefield. Mowing poses serious threats to the birds, their young, and their nests. Staff should periodically inspect the field to determine if birds are nesting, and mowing should be timed to minimize harm to nesting birds. Even a week's variation in mowing can have detrimental effects on the birds' reproductive success for a year.

548. Somers, "The Restoration & Management of Small Wetlands of the Mountains & Piedmont in the Southeast: A Manual Emphasizing Endangered & Threatened Species Habitat with a Focus on Bog Turtles," 53.

Below is a non-comprehensive list of birds commonly found in the park:

- Anhinga: fairly common all year, lay eggs in March to May
- Great Blue Heron: common all year, lay eggs between March to May
- Great Egret: common all year, lay eggs in mid-April to June
- Snowy Egret: common all year, lay eggs in late March/ early April to June/July
- Little Blue Heron: common all year, lay eggs in April to June
- Tricolored Heron: fairly common all year, lay eggs in mid-March to May
- Reddish Egret: occasional, lay eggs in early March to late July
- Cattle Egret: common in spring, fall, winter, lay eggs in April to June
- Green Heron: common in spring, simmer, fall, rare in winter, lay eggs in March to July
- White Ibis: common all year, lay eggs in March to July
- Painted Bunting: fairly common in spring, summer, and fall, rare in winter, lay eggs in March to July
- Yellow-Headed Blackbird: very rare all year long, lay eggs in early March to late July[549]

Based on this list of birds above, mowing actions should be avoided during the spring and early summer months (March to July). The park should continue to consult with local biologists and wildlife specialists on updated nesting information of birds in the area.

Invasive plant species control:

Exotic and invasive plant species are often found in cultural landscapes. These should be monitored and controlled to avoid spreading and disrupting adjacent native plant communities found in the wetland and forested areas. There are alternative methods for controlling invasive species, and control methods will vary depending upon site conditions, habitat present, available labor and resources, and level of threat. Mechanical removal (hand removal) is suitable for many small woody and annual weed species and relatively small infestations, but it is labor intensive and likely impractical on a large scale. Cultivating a thick cover of desirable species deprives invasive species of light and air; this is a long-term best practice. Alternatively, chemical herbicides can be part of an integrated management approach but must be used with care to avoid damage to the natural environment.

The park should control invasive plants that compete with native plant communities and that threaten the legacy plants growing in the battlefield through a combination of monitoring, mowing, hand removal, and herbicide control.

Species known to compete with legacy plants include, for example, torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*). According to the LSU Ag Center website, torpedo grass and other undesirable weeds can be controlled using the herbicide glyphosate (i.e., Roundup and other brands). While labor intensive, desired plants should be protected-- shielded or covered with plastic--to avoid accidentally spraying.[550]

Refer to the LSU Ag Center's guide to the effectiveness of different preemergent and postemergent herbicides for the control of common weeds in Louisiana.[551] Also consult with local agencies to determine allowable treatment actions before using any method of control.

General recommendations for controlling invasive species are outlined below:

- Identify and map invasive species in the park and determine how much of

549. National Park Service, "Animals," accessed December 20, 2022, https://www.nps.gov/jela/learn/nature/animals.htm.

550. See: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2013/july/get_it_growing/torpedograss--one-of-the-most-difficult-weeds-to-control.

551. See: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~/media/system/5/a/5/a/5a5a4859be1523755f9c1a4780609fb8/20p_nurseryandlandscape%20strahan%20editupdated%20ada%20kp_correctedpdf.pdf.

a threat they pose to native or desired species. Refer to existing programs and resources that identify existing and emerging threats in similar landscapes. For example, refer to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) invasive species website or the LSU Ag Center website on common weeds in Louisiana.[552]

- Develop response/control plans to treat invasives when found; see additional information on Best Management Practices (BMPs) below.
- Educate visitors to the park about invasive species, their impacts, and ways to prevent their introduction and spread.
- Require all property users and contractors to follow BMPs practices.
- In planning for activities on the property, limit the potential introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, and plant parts found during inspection and maintenance activities.
- Consider potential responses of invasive species to land management activities that result in disturbances.
- Use construction and maintenance materials (mulch, gravel, topsoil, etc.) that are free of invasive species.

Recommended use of herbicides to control invasive species are outlined below:

The use of herbicides in wetland areas should be done with great care and only after considering the balance between benefit and risk. The use of herbicides has inherent risks to the environment because of their potential toxicity and impact on non-target species. Best practices to minimize the risk of herbicide use include:

- It is generally recommended to use the herbicide that is most effective, so as to reduce the volume of herbicide required and reduce the number of applications required to control unwanted plants. Select herbicide with low toxicity to birds, mammals, aquatic species, and other non-target species.
- Apply herbicide according to the recommended rate.
- Consider site conditions, including presence of desirable species and communities, presence of wind (less than 5 mph), soil types and moisture levels, presence of surface water, depth to groundwater, and site's susceptibility to rutting or trampling when applying herbicide.
- Spray when surface water levels are low.
- Spray when rainfall not expected in first few days after application to avoid leaching or run-off.

Methods of herbaceous plant control with herbicide

Spot spraying is the preferred method because it focuses on one area and minimizes overspray to adjacent plants. This is method is most feasible when treating a few plants.

Foliar spraying of intact green leaves is typically accomplished using a broadcast sprayer but can also be performed using a wick applicator. Foliar treatment should be employed only after determining that no threatened, endangered, or desired species are in the target area. This method poses a risk to other non-target species because of accidental spraying or drift.

Hand wicking can be used on individual plants that may be distributed across the site. While this method provides the most targeted application, it is labor and time consuming.

Methods of woody plant control

Cut surface treatment involves the application of herbicide on a freshly cut stems of thick-barked species. Herbicide can be applied using a wick applicator, compression sprayer, or spray bottle. Insure that bark, cambium, and sapwood are treated.

552. BTNEP Invasive Species, accessed October 1, 2022, https://invasivespecies.btnep.org/; LSU AgCenter Weeds, accessed October 1, 2022, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/crops/cotton/weed-control.

Basal Bark application can be used to selectively treat undesirable woody species. Done typically during the dormant season, this application involves applying a bark-penetrating herbicide around the basal parts of trees and shrubs.

CB V-3: Maintain woodland buffers around park unit

Maintain and enhance the existing vegetation along the perimeter of the site to visually screen adjacent land uses. All of the wooded areas help screen visually intrusive, non-historic features off site, including the residential land uses to the north of St. Bernard Highway, industrial facilities on the east and west, and the former wastewater treatment plant on the south. Additionally, the woods on the north are an interpretive feature that represents the edge of the swamp that created a pinch point in this area and influenced General Andrew Jackson's decision to form his line of battle in this location. The management goals and approaches are similar for all the wooded areas, but site-specific conditions--i.e., in designated wetland areas-- must be considered when working in wooded areas.

Overall, the maintenance recommendation is to protect the health of the woods to continue to screen off-site land uses that detract from the historic character of the site. Promoting the health of the forested areas will also protect and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat on the site.

Maintenance of the wooded areas include protecting the health of existing trees, discouraging or removing non-desirable invasive species, and planting to promote the long-term health of the woods. Invasive woody species common in Louisiana include Chinese tallow trees (*Triadica sebifera*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*), and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*).

Best Management Practices for managing woody vegetation in areas that are or are near wetlands include:[553]

- Protect water quality and ecosystem health by minimizing soil compaction, maintaining the natural flow of water, avoiding permanent changes in water levels, and minimizing sediment flow into water bodies.
- Tree removal should be done during dry periods to minimize rutting. Rutting will impede, restrict, or change natural flows and drainage.
- Use the least impact method possible when working in wooded areas, including, for example, using equipment with low pressure or wide tracks to minimize damage and keeping loads light to avoid rutting.
- If tree removal is to occur, proper precautions should be taken when working near a wetland or stream. Slash left in these areas uses oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic animals. Slash can also limit access for certain species to wetlands. Felling trees into water bodies can cause habitat damage and disturb breeding and spawning areas of aquatic species such as amphibians.
- When removing trees, limit canopy removal in an area to 25 percent in any single year.
- Develop a plan to use or manage the cuttings.
- Avoid stepping on hummocks and other areas where hatchlings or eggs could be disturbed.

553. BMPs adapted from the American Forest Foundation, "My Land Plan," accessed October 1, 2020, https://mylandplan.org/content/what-are-forest-best-management-practices and Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, "Managing Wetland Vegetation," accessed October 1, 2020 https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_010672.pdf; Penn State Extension, "Best Management Practices for Silvicultural Activities in Forest Wetlands," accessed October 1, 2020, https://extension.psu.edu/best-management-practices-for-silvicultural-activities-in-forest-wetlands and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, "Forested Wetlands BMP Guide," accessed October 1, 2022, http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/coastal/interagencyaff/nonpoint/forestry/page_30-44.pdf.

- Disturb only one patch of the site at a time. Assess the impact before continuing.

The northern portion of the site, commonly referred to in park documents as a "swamp" because it is intended to represent conditions at the time of the Battle of New Orleans, is a Riverine Bottomland Hardwood wetlands. The EPA defines these as "seasonally flooded (or wetter) bottomland hardwood wetlands within the first or second bottoms of the floodplains of river systems."

Before initiating any project in the forested wetlands, the park should consult with the most up-to-date permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977 to ensure that the planned activities are allowed. The park should consult with relevant agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and local extension offices, on updated best management practices.

Enhancing the wooded areas through planting

The park should consider planting desirable species to maintain the vegetative buffers protecting views within the park. This may be necessary if views open because of tree removal, tree mortality, or growth of trees that allow views through the understory. When considering species to plant, select trees native to the region that are adapted to site conditions. Consider also that soil water moisture levels at the park are expected to increase due to subsidence and rising sea levels. Additionally, consider site specific conditions-- topography, sun exposure, proximity to water-- when selecting a species.

Trees and shrubs can be planted as either seeds or seedlings. Either would work at the Chalmette Battlefield Unit, but planting seeds is more commonly done on a larger scale. More limited and strategic planting-- to fill a gap in the forest-- is more effectively accomplished using seedlings or small trees.

When choosing tree and shrub species for the forested wetlands consider that these areas are, according to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, hardwood dominated (no less than 75%).[554] Additional guidance on plant selection may be found at the Land Conservation Assistance Network of Louisiana or in the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's "Louisiana Bottomland Hardwood Resources."[555] Because of expected subsidence and increased soil moisture levels, the hardwoods wetland on the north side of the battlefield is best suited for species resilient to flooding, including for example bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum)*.

Other recommended species to plant within the forested areas around the park include: nuttall oak (*Quercus texana*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyata*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*), planer tree (*Planera aquatica*), water hickory (*Carya aquatica*), hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*), and dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*). This is an incomplete list of native plants growing in bottomland forest communities in Louisiana. Consult, for example, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website on the Natural Communities of Louisiana for additional selections.[556]

CB V-4 Monitor and promote health of historic trees on site

Park staff should be familiar with common threats to the historic trees on site and develop plans to address health and safety issues. For the purpose of this CLR, historic trees are those known to be 50 years old or older. Trees are perishable resources susceptible to environmental conditions, including pests, drought, and disease. Trees also decline in health and die because of age. Preservation, care, and ongoing maintenance is essential for the survival of historic trees at the park unit.

554. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, "Forested Wetlands BMP Guide," accessed October 1, 2022, http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/coastal/interagencyaff/nonpoint/forestry/page_30-44.pdf, 41.
555. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, "Louisiana Bottomland Hardwood Resources, accessed October 2, 2022, https://www.landcan.org/pdfs/LouisianaBottomlandHardwoods.pdf.
556. Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, "Bottomland Hardwood Forest," accessed October 3, 2020, https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Natural_Communities_Fact_Sheets/Bottomland_Hardwood_Forest.pdf.

The trees on site perform a diversity of functions, including both ecological and cultural. Some trees, for example, help screen intrusive views of off-site features associated with adjacent land uses or frame views within the site. Other trees are associated with historic landscape features, like the large live oak trees growing near the location of the former Rodriguez House and outbuildings. These general recommendations for monitoring and protecting trees should be followed, including those more specific to live oak trees.

Consult with a certified arborist to consistently evaluate the health of historic trees. These professionals can identify potential safety risks or threats to the trees and determine the best course of action.

Maintain historic trees unless they are dead, dying, or pose a risk to people or other historic features. Attempt to correct an issue and stabilize a tree prior to removing the entire tree. Examples of stabilization include removing damaged limbs or cabling limbs to prevent breakage.

Pruning trees is an important maintenance activity. Hazardous branches, limbs, and dead wood should be removed as soon as identified. Corrective pruning of mature trees should occur every five years to address structural or safety issues.

Protect critical root zones of existing trees from compaction, trenching, or excavation.

Maintain an annual maintenance program that inspects all historic trees. Annual inspections should look for evidence of decline, damage, and disease.

Care of live oak trees[557]

Do not cover the roots of live oak trees within a 15-foot radius of trunk.

Do not park vehicles or allow for activities that will compact the soil under the drip line of the tree.

Consult with a certified arborist about the need to open the canopy to increase light and air flow. If moss growth becomes too thick, consider trimming.

If drainage patterns change or ponding water increases in frequency, consider improving drainage around the trees.

Use caution when using herbicides around the tree.

Annually inspect the trees for structural issues or signs of disease. Learn to identify common oak diseases and plan for their control. Consult with local extension agents or a certified arborist. See for example the Texas Cooperative Extension's fact sheet on major oak diseases and their control.[558]

CB V-5: Replant historically significant trees

Upon the death of a historically significant tree, including for example the live oak trees marking the location of the Rodriguez House and outbuildings, replant with the same species unless environmental conditions merit a substitution. Replacing a mature tree involves multiple steps and considerations. These are outlined below. Refer to the NPS article on replacing trees in the cultural landscape in its "Clippings" publication.[559]

Stump removal considerations:

Consider the stump location and if it poses a safety hazard which would require it to be removed quickly or allow for a slower removal process like natural decay.

Consider how long after stump removal will a replacement tree be planted.

Consider if stump removal will adversely affect or impede other site activities.

Consider if there are archeological resources that need to studied or documented during stump removal.

557. Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. "Basic Care of Live Oaks," accessed online October 1, 2022, file:///M:/Projects/Jobs/18021_NPS_JELA%20Barataria%20and%20Chalmette%20CLR/Research/Megan%20Research/Live%20Oaks%20Recs/Basic%20Care%20of%20Live%20Oaks%20-%20Louisiana%20Garden%20Club%20Federation,%20Inc..html.

558. Texas Cooperative Extension, "Major Oak Diseases and their Control," accessed online October 2, 2022, https://counties.agrilife.org/wise/files/2020/05/Oak-Tree-Diseases-and-Their-Control-8-5-16.pdf.

559. NPS, "Replacing Trees in the Cultural Landscape," accessed online October 9, 2022, http://npshistory.com/publications/landscapes/clippings-replacing-trees.pdf.

Consider the stump's proximity to other cultural resources and how they will be protected during removal.

Stump removal techniques:

Stump decaying is the least invasive approach because it causes minimal disturbance to surrounding ground. It is slow and can take between one to three years.

Stump grinding causes limited disturbance to surrounding resources if done with care. Stump grinding is recommended when a tree is planned to be planted in the location of the stump and when there are no cultural resources directly adjacent to the site.

Stump extraction can be done with a tree spade or backhoe. These are invasive techniques that cause more significant disturbance to the ground surrounding the stump. These should be considered when no archeological resources are adjacent to the worksite.

Tree replanting considerations:

Consider if current planning and preservation objectives support the replanting of the tree.

Consider if a replanted tree supports contemporary use of the site or interpretation of the site.

Consider the mature size of the tree and if it fits in the proposed location.

Consider if there have been environmental changes to the site that would adversely affect the viability of the replanted tree.

Tree replanting techniques:

Root sprouting allows for a sprout growing from the original tree's roots to replace the original tree. This technique retains the tree's genetic authenticity.

Stump planting replants into the decayed stump. This causes minimal site disturbance. A small root ball tree is planted directly into a hole prepared in the middle of the decayed stump with additional soil used to stabilize the tree and provide growing medium.

Mound planting minimizes ground disturbance by placing the root ball on top of the ground and mounding growing medium to cover the root ball.

Reduced tree pit planting uses the smallest acceptable root ball in the smallest necessary hole to minimize ground disturbance.

Buildings and Structures

CB BS-1 Interpret missing buildings and structures

Provide interpretation to explain the history of missing buildings; use historic images and maps to convey to a visitor the character of the historic landscape. As discussed in the history chapter and analysis chapter, the property that is today within the park's boundary was site of a multitude of buildings over time. These include various residential homes, including those in Fazendeville, commercial, and industrial buildings. Interpretation of these buildings can be accomplished using traditional waysides showing historic photographs or maps of the site. It could also incorporate digital technology that would allow visitors to better visualize missing historic features like Fazendeville.

- Alternative: based on recommended mowing strategies consider using a lower mowing height to delineate the outlines of missing buildings. The best candidate for this treatment would be the areas within the footprints of missing Fazendeville homes. Mowing the Fazendeville Road and home sites at 7 inches while mowing the adjacent areas at 10 inches would provide visitors with a legible, albeit very temporary, reflection of historic spatial patterns. This may be timed to coincide with a special event to interpret the now-missing community. See also vegetation recommendations about protecting existing legacy plants and potentially using these plants to mark locations of missing homes (Figure 5.3 and Figure 5.5).



Figure 5.5: An undated photograph of houses in Fazendeville probably from the 1950s or early 1960s (National Park Service).

CB BS-2 Reconstruct Battlefield Rampart

Consider rebuilding the Battlefield Rampart and associated structures based on best available archeological evidence and recent scholarship. The Battlefield Rampart is the primary interpretive feature of the battlefield; and as discussed above, the 2011 GMP Amendment recommended reconstructing it. Because the National Register considers it a noncontributing resource but the NPS's CRIS HS data base lists it as contributing, the CRIS HS entry should be updated prior to making any changes to the rampart.

- Alternative: until funding can be secured to rebuild the rampart, repair the wood revetment on the interior of the rampart and the other deteriorated wooden features of the batteries.
- Alternative: select a well-documented battery along the Battlefield Rampart to restore to its historic appearance using archeological evidence and recent scholarship.

CB BS-3 Bury overhead utilities

Bury overhead utilities within the park, including those along the levee and around the former wastewater treatment plant. This is in compliance with NPS Policy (RM53B) which states: "All parks with existing overhead utility lines should attempt to have those lines placed underground when the opportunity occurs." The 2011 GMP makes a similar recommendation. A review of St. Bernard Parish's Code of Ordinances did not reveal any limitations on burying utilities, but the park should consult up-to-date state and local regulations.

CB BS-4 Move elevated viewing platform

Consider removing existing viewing platform on the east side of the tour loop road and constructing a less visually obtrusive viewing platform in the location of a known British position. One potential location is where the British forward field battery was at the time of the battle. According to Ted Birkedal's "The Search for the Lost Riverfront," the forward field battery was near the intersection of the tour loop road and the service road leading towards the national cemetery. See Birkedal's discussion of its location beginning on page 513. Attempt to locate the feature through archeological investigation.

- Alternative: remove viewing platform and mark British troop movements using regimental flags.

Constructed Water Features

CB CWF-1: Reconstruct Rodriguez Canal

The Rodriguez Canal, like the Battlefield Rampart, is an important landscape feature that conveys to a modern visitor the military strategy employed by General Andrew Jackson during the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson directed his troops to construct a rampart on the west side of the canal, using its original spoil bank as a starting point. Ted Birkedal provides an overview of the canal's history and changing dimensions in his report "The Search for the Lost Riverfront."[560] Reconstruct the Rodriguez Canal to historic dimensions using archeological evidence; extend canal to the south towards the levee. Any work on the canal must be done in compliance with the Clean Water Act and NPS wetlands policies.

Small-Scale Features

Interpretation of the Chalmette Battlefield understandably focuses on the battles for New Orleans in December 1814 and January 1815. Interpretation of the cultural landscape presents a challenge to site management because of the multiple layers of tangible and intangible history reflected in the site. This history includes the development of the site after the battle and extends to adjacent landscapes, including the Mississippi River and industrialized parcels flanking the site.

As mentioned previously, the 1982 GMP states that "[t]he historical significance of the Battle of New Orleans will be stressed. There will be mention of the diverse groups of the region involved in the battle." The 2011 GMP Amendment continues this emphasis on the significance of the battle, but it does recognize the historic significance of other resources omitted by the National Register, including Fazendeville. It states that the battlefield contains some significant features not associated with the battle, including the Malus-Beauregard House and remnants of Fazendeville. It remarks that "the interpretation of these later non-battle-

560. Birkedal, *Search for the Lost Riverfront*, 500-501.

related features has proven problematic to the park's primary mission of interpreting the historic battlefield landscape, yet they represent features of historical and cultural significance in their own right."[561] This CLR recommends the park continue with its interpretive focus on the military history of the site, but include more discussion of social history, to include interpretation of the use of the site before the battle and what happened to the site after the battle, including the many homes, businesses, and the Fazendeville neighborhood developed on the site.

One challenge to increasing interpretation and expanding the number of subjects interpreted is doing so without cluttering the landscape with an excessive number of waysides. To accomplish the proposed expansion of interpretation, the park should consider employing digital technology. Opportunities exist, for example, to make available historic photographs of the site to visitors through a mobile app or through QR code placed on brochures or on waysides. Also, Augmented Reality can be used to interpret documented features and areas now missing from the landscape, including, for example, Fazendeville village. This technology would immerse a visitor in an AR experience without them having to actually access the area.

Specific cultural landscape interpretation recommendations include:

CB SSF-1: Interpret missing historic landscape features

Install waysides or employ digital interpretation technology to improve interpretation of significant missing historic features, including the Freedmen's Cemetery and 1860s Powder Magazine. Consider the use of bollards or posts to mark their locations. While GPR has been unsuccessful in past efforts to locate the Freedmen's Cemetery, it is recommended to try again or consider other archeological methods. Without archeological evidence of their location, consider marking the general location of these missing features based on historic maps. Use interpretation to explain how the locations were determined.

CB SSF-2: Expand interpretation to the evolution of the cultural landscape

Install waysides or employ digital interpretation technologies to expand interpretation of agricultural land use prior to and at the time of the battle.

Install waysides to expand interpretation of land use after the battle, including the parceling of the land by the St. Amand brothers and later development by property owners.

561. NPS, GMP Amendment 2011, 13.

Malus-Beauregard House

The National Register of Historic Places considers the Malus-Beauregard House a contributing resource to the historic significance of the site. This significance is associated with its architecture and with it being an example of the use of the battlefield land in the years after the battle. The 2021 HSR for the house identified the site's high water table as a potential threat to the building, as it makes the house susceptible to rising damp and complicates moving rainwater away from the building's immediate perimeter. The HSR does recommend creating a functional subsurface drainage system and consideration of the addition of swales or other stormwater features to direct water away from the building during heavy rain events.

Vegetation

MB V-1: Plant trees to screen views of house

Plant mix of specimen trees north of the Malus-Beauregard House to create a visual buffer from the battlefield area. HABS photographs and site plans document Southern magnolia and pecans growing around the building and a "pecan grove" north of the building (See Figure 4.25). Maintain existing trees and replace with appropriate species when existing trees decline. The planting of live oaks is also encouraged because of their long life. Because soil conditions are expected to become wetter because of rising water table and subsidence, the park should continue to consider trees with similar growing habits better suited to this environment. Possibilities include live oak, nutal oak, beech, ash, red maple, sweetbay magnolia, sycamore, tulip poplar, cottonwood, tupelo, and pin oak (See Figure 5.6 and Figure 5.7).

MB V-2: Mow turf to outline historic dimensions of yard

HABS documentation of the building from 1934 has a scaled map of the property which could be used to dimension the extents of the property (See Figure 4.25). This could guide the mowing regimen. Maintain the area within the historic property boundary as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short and the turf outside the parcel boundary as NPS Turf Class B2 Functional Tall.

Buildings and Structures

MB BS-1: Provide subsurface and surface drainage away from house

The HSR recommends repairing or replacing the gutters. Stormwater would be directed from gutters to a subsurface drain and led away from the building. Because of the site's topography, if an outlet cannot be located with adequate fall, consider connecting the drain to the stormwater drainage system in the vicinity of the visitor center.

Regrade area around Malus-Beauregard House to provide positive drainage away from the building. The site potentially could be slope towards the west to direct stormwater into the Rodriguez Canal.



Figure 5.6: Current conditions showing view of Malus -Beauregard House from Battlefield Road (WLA Studio, 2020).



Figure 5.7: Concept showing trees screening Malus-Beauregard House and visitor center removed (WLA Studio).

Small-Scale Features

MB SSF-1 Locate and interpret missing structures and small-scale features

Perform archeology to locate ancillary structures and small-scale features shown in historic photographs and maps of the Malus-Beauregard House, including structures and fence lines. The 2011 GMP Amendment does not recommend reconstructing documented small-scale features at Malus-Beauregard House. It may be possible to at least interpret these missing features in an interpretive wayside. Small-scale features and structures documented in historic maps and photographs include the cistern and well behind the house seen on the 1934 HABS map (See Figure 4.25 and ETIC 467-27000). These features also are visible in a collection of photographs compiled in an ETIC document 467_C10. The historic photographs show various styles of fences and arbors that existed on the site in the late 1800s and early 1900s (See for example Figure 5.8).



Figure 5.8: Undated photograph of Malus-Beauregard showing fences and buildings in sides and rear yards (National Park Service, JELA Archives).

Chalmette Monument Area

Another area within the Chalmette Battlefield Character Area is the Chalmette Monument area, which extends from north to south along the western side of the site and includes Battlefield Road, the Chalmette Monument, the visitor center, and the open space between the visitor center and the levee.

The Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 initially developed pedestrian circulation around the Chalmette Monument in the 1890s. The War Department added the road from present-day St. Bernard Highway to the monument around 1916. The NPS added two parking areas and widened the entrance road around 1935. These features essentially remained in place until the 1950s, when the NPS redesigned the parking lot and moved the walkway from the levee road to the monument. While the National Register of Historic Places does not consider Battlefield Road to be a contributing feature, it is a historic, designed feature of the cultural landscape that should be considered as contributing to the commemorative period.

The NPS constructed a visitor center southwest of the Chalmette Monument in 1986; they replaced it with a much larger building on the south side of the monument in 2010. There have been recommendations made, for example in the 1999 CLR, to move the visitor center away from the Chalmette Monument. The existing visitor center makes a major visual impact on the setting of both the monument and the battlefield. It also blocks views of the monument from the river which were an important feature of the historic landscape. See Figure 5.9 that shows the setting prior to the addition of the visitor center. It should be a long-term goal for the NPS to reduce adverse visual impacts on the battlefield and monument; therefore, this CLR suggests moving the visitor center at a future date. In the meantime, the NPS should consider ways to restore well-documented historic landscape features that improve the legibility and interpretation of the historic landscape, including both the battlefield and the historically significant commemorative features like the Chalmette Monument. Because the visitor center will likely remain in this location for the near future, the NPS should take measures to ensure that it accommodates visitors' needs and provides orientation to the site.

Natural Systems and Features

CM NSF-1: Improve stormwater management

Manage stormwater run-off from existing paved parking areas. Consider using vegetated swales and bio-infiltration facilities to reduce run-off and improve water quality. Consider reducing the amount of impervious surface on the site by removing excess pavement or transitioning to a permeable material for parking areas.

CM NSF-2: Manage woods to screen adjacent land uses

Maintain the woods along the western edge of the property to screen adjacent land uses. Plant native trees and shrubs to develop a diverse plant community. Remove and discourage the spread of invasive exotics. (See vegetation management suggestions in above section on the battlefield.)

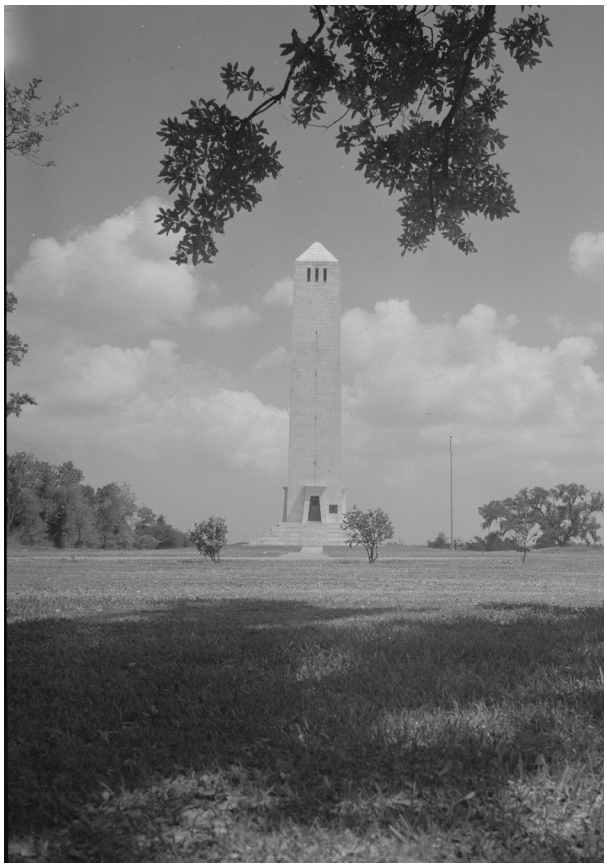


Figure 5.9: Photograph dated 1967 of the Chalmette Monument unobscured by modern visitor center (National Park Service, JELA Archives).



Figure 5.10: Concept showing river overlook building and view corridors to battlefield and Chalmette Monument (WLA Studio).

Spatial Organization

CM SO-1: Relocate visitor center

Relocate visitor center and vehicular parking to a less visually prominent location. (See buildings and structures section below for additional information.)

Land Use

CM LU-1: Acquire buffer along west property line

Negotiate with owner of the adjacent St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and Terminal to acquire a buffer of land to protect against future development.

Circulation

CM C-1: Preserve Battlefield Road

Preserve historic Battlefield Road's material and alignment; repair as necessary; if replacement is required use concrete mix that matches as closely as possible the existing pavement. The War Department originally established the road alignment around 1916 and during the period of significance. It appears on an early NPS map dated 1934, when the NPS proposed widening and regrading the road.[562] Its material appears to be original except for occasional spots that have been repaired. It is listed as a contributing feature in NPS's CRIS database (CRIS_CL #550111). Additionally, the CLI for the Chalmette Battlefield identified it as a contributing feature. While not listed as a contributing feature in the existing National Register of Historic Places historic district, it is recommended that it be considered a contributing feature in an update to the existing National Register of Historic Places documentation.

CM C-2: Develop riverfront overlook

As also called for in the 2011 GMP, explore the possibility of developing a riverfront overlook on top of the levee that provides views of the battlefield to better interpret the spatial relationship of the river and the battlefield. This proposal will require coordination with the United States Corps of Engineers, the local municipality, and potentially other agencies involved in managing the regional Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (levee). Placing the overlook on axis with the Chalmette Monument would provide an advantageous viewpoint to orient visitors arriving from the tour boat dock on the river. View corridors towards the battlefield can be maintained while also visually screening the Malus-Beauregard House (see Figure 5.10).

562. See the 1934 General Development Plan (JELA 467_1003A.

The riverfront overlook can be a simple, leveled area or may potentially incorporate a structure/pavilion to provide shade for visitors entering the site from the boat tour dock on the Mississippi River (see Figure 5.11). The overlook should provide orientation of the battle and provide an overview of the post-battle evolution of the landscape. The overlook can potentially be linked to a levee-top trail that would provide access to both the national cemetery and battlefield. As part of this project, remove the staircase leading to the Malus-Beauregard House. This proposed entrance sequence from the river would help direct a visitor towards the current visitor center and emphasize the battle and the battlefield. The current entrance into the site from the river emphasizes the Malus-Beauregard House.

CM C-3: Develop levee trail

Create a trail along the top of the levee from the proposed riverfront overlook site east towards the national cemetery. Provide universally accessible ramps at both ends.

CM C-4: Minimize impervious pavement

Minimize the amount of impervious pavement used for vehicular circulation. Where feasible, consider transitioning non-historic paving materials to pervious paving material that allows for the infiltration of stormwater.

CM C-5: Remove non-historic features around Battlefield Rampart

Reduce non-historic circulation infrastructure around the Battlefield Rampart by removing pull-offs from Battlefield Road. Develop a visually unobtrusive pedestrian route from visitor center to the Battlefield Rampart. Consider a tinted concrete, reinforced turf, or stabilized gravel. The reinforced turf and/or gravel paths would both be porous yet remain compliant with Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS).

CM C-6: Restore historic circulation configuration

If visitor center is relocated, restore historic configuration of parking lot at the end of the period of significance (1937) to provide limited parking. This configuration is visible both in historic construction documents and photographs. See for example the 1934/1935 General Development Plan (ETIC 467_1003A).



Figure 5.11: Concept for river overlook (WLA Studio).

Vegetation

CM V-1: Plant and/or allow for revegetation to screen non-historic features

Release to succession and supplement with tree plantings to encourage vegetation to extend west across Battlefield Road to effectively screen proposed visitor center location and visual intrusions from across highway (see buildings and structures section below).

Until the visitor center can be relocated, consider planting a small evergreen tree (i.e., myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*) or wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera)* in the planting islands on the north side of the visitor center. This will help reduce the visual impact of the building on the setting around the monument. The planting areas around the visitor center are small; if trees are planted here, they could be relocated if they outgrow the site or moved if the visitor center is torn down at a future date.

CM V-2: Continue current turf management

Continue current turf management practices of maintaining the area around the visitor center, under the live oak trees, and along Battlefield Road as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short. Other areas can be managed as NPS Turf Class B2 Functional Tall.

Buildings and Structures

CM BS-1: Relocate Visitor Center

Relocate visitor center to area west of entrance and Battlefield Road. Plant vegetation to extend northern woods across Battlefield Road to effectively screen new visitor center location (Figure 5.12). Because it is a long-term goal and the visitor center will likely remain in the near term, consider repainting the visitor center in a muted color of green. See for example the shades of sage green paints by Benjamin Moore (i.e., Galapagos Green #475 or Rushing River #1574) which would help the building blend into the dark green background around it.

- Alternative: relocate visitor center to the site of the former St. Bernard wastewater treatment facility.

Small-Scale Features

CM SSF-1: Minimize site furnishings

Relocate site furnishings at the wayside pull-offs on Battlefield Road to reduce visual clutter. Relocate trash receptacles and picnic area out of significant viewsheds.

CM SSF-2: Install park identity sign

Install park identity signage and wayfinding signage at the riverfront/tour boat dock entrance.



Figure 5.12: Concept showing visitor center and parking area moved to location closer to entrance (WLA Studio).

Chalmette National Cemetery Character Area-wide recommendations

The primary goal of these treatment recommendations for the Chalmette National Cemetery Character Area is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the historic design and setting of the national cemetery. The spatial organization and design of the national cemetery was established during the first decade of the cemetery's existence, as seen in the 1867 Pilié map. The national cemetery grew with the addition of lands, but the essential design of the space, with a central road with equally spaced circles running through its center and with rows of trees growing among the burial sections, remained in place for almost a century. The Superintendent's Lodge was built in its present location in 1929 when a levee construction project impacted the southern end of the national cemetery. The NPS made significant changes to the central road, now called Military Cemetery Road, in the mid-1950s when they paved the road, removed the circles and brick gutters, and relocated the GAR Monument to a cul-de-sac they built at the southern end of the national cemetery. The NPS also added the maintenance shed near the Superintendent's Lodge at this time. Over time, because of age, environmental conditions, and severe storms, the number of trees growing in the national cemetery slowly decreased. The NPS has replanted trees, particularly the allée along Military Cemetery Road, but gaps in the trees remain. The turf and specimen trees are character-defining elements of the national cemetery that have been part of its design and management since its establishment in the 1860s. Maintaining the health of the trees and turf presents a challenge for staff.

Other considerations include maintenance requirements and issues related to changes to the natural environment, particularly the fact that subsidence and rising sea levels will lead towards wetter soil conditions in the future. Another concern is ongoing maintenance of small-scale features, in particular the grave markers and monuments in the burial grounds. Other considerations include accommodating visitors and maintaining the national cemetery in keeping with Director's Order #61: National Cemetery Operations (DO 61). Park staff should also seek guidance from Reference Manual 61: National Cemetery Operations (RM-61), which supplements DO 61 and provides guidance on the operation of NPS-administered national cemeteries.

National cemetery staff should also periodically consult with the National Center for Preservation and Training (NCPTT) for training and up-to-date information on best practices. NCPTT staff provide technical training in several areas relevant to cemetery preservation, including training on general care and maintenance, monument conservation, and ironwork preservation. For more information see the NCPTT training services website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/ncptt/training-services.htm.

General objectives for the treatment of the Chalmette National Cemetery Character Area are as follows:

- Balance the high degree of care recommended by DO 61 and RM-61with appropriate preservation of historic resources.

- Maintain landscape features in good condition and protect historic landscape features to avoid damage that will result in repair or replacement.

- Establish cyclical condition assessments as part of a maintenance plan. Refer to Preservation Brief 48 for the development of a condition assessment survey form. An example of an NCPTT cemetery survey form is available on their website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/ncptt/upload/NCPTT-CEMETERY-SURVEY-FORM.pdf.

- Refer to Preservation Brief 48 for guidance on cleaning grave markers and other historic small-scale features. Use reversible techniques during maintenance of features whenever possible. Engage a conservator as needed. (See additional recommendations in the small-scale features section below.)

- Document all changes made to historic landscape features and landscape.

- Consider reconstructing missing landscape features if they are well documented and the park concludes that they would improve park operations or interpretation. While this CLR does not recommend restoring the landscape to a specific period of time, it does recognize that the character-defining landscape characteristics of the national cemetery, including design and organization, was established early and survived into the 1950s before being altered by the NPS.

Land Use

NC LU-1-Relocate Maintenance and Facilities

Move maintenance operations and facilities to a new site out of the national cemetery. Possible locations include the former location of the St. Bernard wastewater treatment plant or to a currently unidentified site on land not currently owned by the NPS that may become available in the future (See Figure 5.2). Remove maintenance shed and reduce footprint of parking area at maintenance building/garage or convert the footprint of equipment shed to porous pavement for visitor parking.

Cluster Arrangement

NC CA-1 Preserve existing cluster arrangement of monuments

Preserve and maintain the cluster of monuments and flagpole at the north entrance into the cemetery.

NC CA-2: Restore missing monuments and small-scale features

If the park possesses or can locate historic small-scale features that were removed from the national cemetery, including the Bivouac of the Dead tablets or additional gun tube monuments, consider returning them to their historic locations.

Circulation

NC C-1: Construct replacement walkway into national cemetery

Replace the existing walkway between the battlefield and the national cemetery because it is in poor condition and poses a safety risk to pedestrians. Replace with universally accessible walkway using a permeable material such as porous concrete, permeable pavers, or stabilized aggregate.

NC C-2: Construct visitor parking

If maintenance operations move to a new location, consider converting the footprint of the existing maintenance shed into a visitor parking area. Use permeable material such as porous concrete, permeable pavers, or stabilized aggregate.

NC C-3: Restore Superintendent's Lodge walkways

Consider restoring historic configuration of walkways around the Superintendent's Lodge; remove walkway between lodge and parking lot.

Vegetation

NC V-1: Maintain the landscape to protect the cultural and environmental resources of the site

This CLR attempts to provide general guidance meant to protect the historic character of the national cemetery that employ best practices for the protection of cultural and environmental resources. According to RM-61, "Landscapes in national cemeteries should be maintained to preserve the historic character and dignity of the cemetery and meet the high standards that the public expects."[563]

General turf management strategies:

Continue to maintain the national cemetery as NPS Turf Class B1 Functional Short (height 3-6 inches). See Illustration 5.3 for proposed mowing plan.

Employ a turf management regimen that follows best practices to protect both environmental and cultural resources. Periodically consult

563. National Park Service, *Reference Manual 61: National Cemetery Operations,* accessed online October 1, 2022. https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/RM-61.pdf, 8.

with local extension office for up-to-date information on best practices and refer to the LSU Ag Center's guide "Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices" found on their website: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~/media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawnsmarch2008.pdf.

Mowing is potentially the most damaging maintenance activity threatening the grave markers and other historic, small-scale features. Preservation Brief 48 cautions that use of mowing equipment, weed-eaters, and herbicides can damage stone grave markers. Considering the current maintenance requirements, these are general recommendations for turf management in the national cemetery with strategies to protect historic features:

- Conduct soil tests on regular schedule, every two or three years, to monitor fertility and pH. Follow the test's recommendations to address nutrient deficiencies. Warm season turf-- i.e., Bermuda and St. Augustine-- are typically fertilized during the active growing season between April and August. Avoid broadcasting fertilizer onto historic resources, including grave markers and the brick wall.
- Mowing frequency depends upon rate of growth and desired height of grass. A general rule is to cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade a time. For common Bermuda, the recommended cut height is between 1.5 and 2 inches.
- It is recommended that power mowers are not used within 12 inches of a grave marker or other historic features. Push mowers are preferable to riding mowers, but they are likely unfeasible at a site the size of the national cemetery. Smaller mow decks are preferable to larger ones. Mowers should be equipped with bumper guards to protect historic small-scale features against accidental damage.
- Weed-eaters (rotating filament trimmers) should be used to trim closer to the grave markers and historic small-scale features. The nylon filament should be the lightest gauge possible; for example, .065-inch line is commonly available.
- If inspections show excessive thatch (more than 3/4 of an inch) aerate the turf areas using a core aerator. This should be done during the active growth period between May and September.
- Core aeration can also be used to improve areas compacted by pedestrian traffic. Aerate in spring or fall to improve root development.

General tree management strategies:

As mentioned previously, the specimen trees growing in the national cemetery are character-defining features of the cultural landscape. Existing trees should be regularly inspected to evaluate their health. The general recommendation is to replace existing trees in-kind should they die or develop issues leading to their removal. Otherwise, as noted below, plant to restore the general condition of the historic landscape which featured allée of large specimen trees creating an overhead canopy (see specific maintenance and planting recommendations below). Consult with NCPTT staff for up-to-date best practices, including the "Tree Planting Strategies for Historic Landscapes" available online at: https://ncptt.nps.gov/blog/returning-the-forest-to-forest-lawn-tree-planting-strategies-for-historic-landscapes/.

- Maintain an annual maintenance program that inspects all historic trees. Annual inspections should look for evidence of decline, damage, and disease. Consult with a certified arborist to evaluate the health of historic trees. These professionals can identify potential safety risks or threats to the trees and determine the best course of action.
- Make a reasonable effort to treat or stabilize a historic tree that is damaged prior to its removal. Avoid removing a historic tree unless it poses a safety risk to visitors, is deemed unsafe by an arborist, or presents a risk to other historic resources.
- When a historic tree is removed, replant as close to that location unless it poses a risk to other historic resources or compromises visitor safety.
- Protect the root zone of historic trees and newer planting from compaction and/or underground utilities. During tree pruning

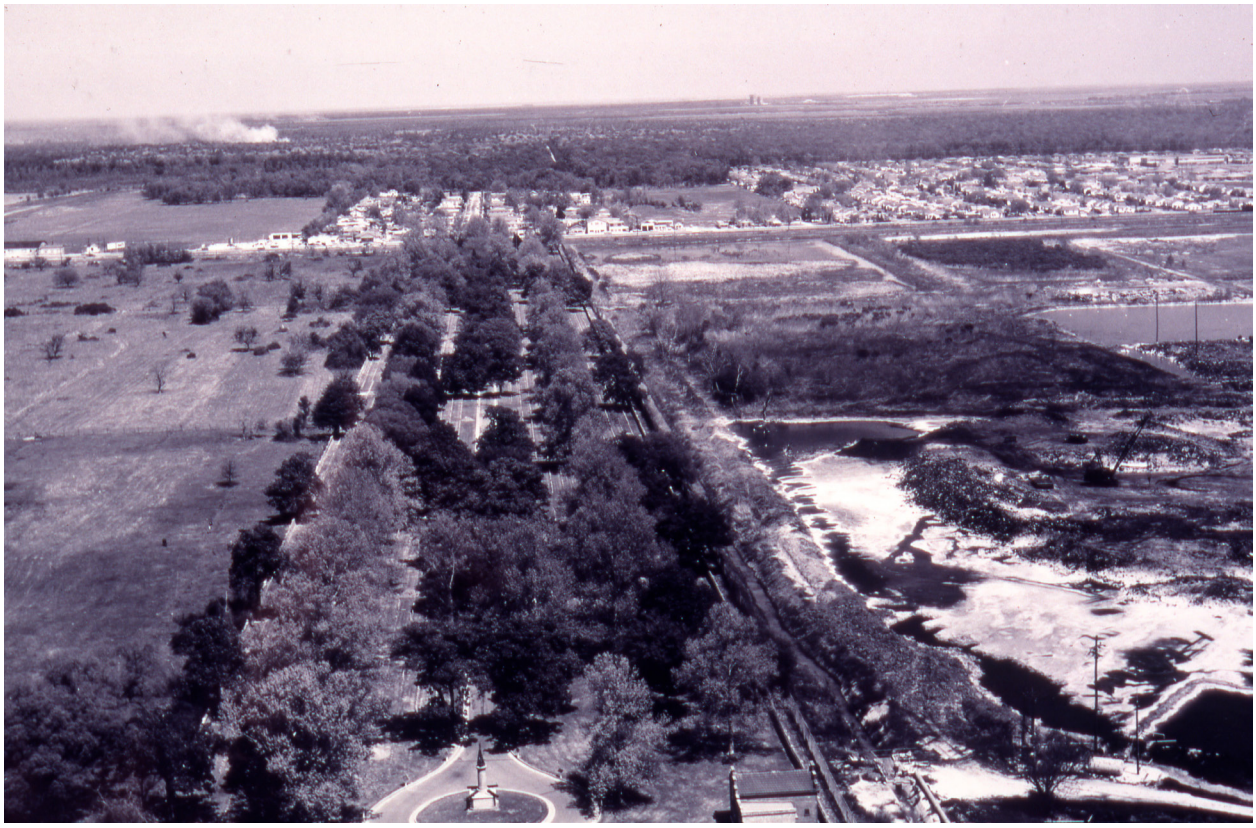


Figure 5.13: Aerial photograph of the national cemetery looking north; photograph is dated 1960; note the different species of trees visible by the different colors of their foliage (National Park Service).



Figure 5.14: Aerial photograph of the national cemetery looking south; photograph is dated 1960; note the different species of trees visible by the different colors of their foliage. The trees in front of the Superintendent's Lodge were sycamores (National Park Service).

or other construction activities protect root zones of historic trees with fencing to avoid soil compaction by heavy equipment
- Pruning trees is an important maintenance activity. Hazardous branches, limbs, and dead wood should be removed as soon as identified. Corrective pruning of mature trees should occur every five years to address structural or safety issues.
- When planting a tree in the national cemetery, locate the tree where it will not pose future risk to below ground or above ground resources.
- Consider the viability of species shown on historic planting plans and seen in historic photographs before using them in the future. As mentioned previously, the subsidence of the landscape in this region is expected to cause increased soil moisture and a higher water table. Use species adaptable to wet soils to promote long viability of future plantings. While it is preferable to only plant species documented in the historic landscapes, substitutions are acceptable to ensure plant vitality. Strive to plant vigorous, well-adapted plants that have similar habit or ornamental qualities as historic species. Consult with a LSU AgCenter urban forester about the performance of trees in soils that are frequently saturated. An incomplete list of native trees tolerant of wet soils include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), pond cypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. imbricarium), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), sycamore (*Plantanus occidentali*s, or a cultivar selected for anthracnose and bacterial leaf scorch resistance), and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*).
- Exotic species with the potential to disrupt native plant communities should be eradicated and not used in future plantings.

Specific treatment recommendations for future plantings include:

NC V-2: Replant national cemetery allées

Reestablish four of the six allées shown in historic photographs and maps. It is not recommended to plant the outer tree line so as to protect the historic wall from damage. Replant with same species when existing trees die. Where trees are missing, plant trees approximately 70 feet apart in the inner tree line and central tree line. Fill existing gaps along the inner tree line with live oak trees (*Quercus virginiana*). Plant existing gaps in the central tree line using sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis),* southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and live oaks. Aerials from the 1950s and 1960s, which show a mature tree canopy, suggest mostly live oak trees growing along Military Cemetery Road (inner tree line) and a mixture of trees, including sycamore and live oak trees, growing along the central tree line (See Figure 5.13 and Figure 5.14).

NC V-3: Replant Superintendent's Lodge

If the park has the ability to maintain additional landscape areas, consider replanting the area around the Superintendent's Lodge based on historic documentation (see Figure 5. 20). Replanting trees and shrubs should take priority since they will convey the historic character of the site with minimal additional maintenance.

Preserve and replace in-kind the sago palms; plant more sago palms along edge of Military Cemetery Road in front of the Superintendent's Lodge. These plants appear in photographs taken in the 1930s; see for example Figure 5.15 and Figure 5.16.

During the preparation of this report, the park planted several Southern magnolia and live oak trees in the vicinity of the Superintendent's Lodge as part of the Jubilee celebration marking Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne.

NC V-4: Develop vegetative buffer along eastern edge of national cemetery

Coordinate with adjacent landowners to the east to develop a visual screen of tall-growing trees along eastern edge of national cemetery placed far enough away to not physically impact the brick wall or adversely impact existing drainage. Directing tree roots away from the wall is a challenge. One strategy would be to provide a linear trench filled with a structured soil to encourage root growth in a specified area. This can be done in conjunction with installing a root barrier that blocks roots from growing in a particular direction. Information on the benefits of structural soil can be found in



Figure 5.15: Photograph of Superintendent's Lodge from early 1930s showing boxwood shrubs, sago palms, a foundation flower bed, and newly planted sycamore tree (National Park Service).

Cornell University's bulletin "Using CU-Structural Soil in the Urban Environment" found online at: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/pdfs/custructuralsoilwebpdf.pdf.

Texas A&M University has an overview of root barriers online: https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2002/mar02/art3mar.html#:~:text=A%20root%20barrier%20is%20usually,of%20concern%20(figure%201). One example of an available product is the root barrier manufactured by Deeproot. Product information is available online at: https://www.deeproot.com/products/root-barrier/.



Figure 5.16: A photograph of the national cemetery entrance dated 1979 that shows the mature sycamores along Military Cemetery Road and mature sago palms also growing alongside the road (National Park Service).

Buildings and Structures

NC BS-1: Reconstruct missing rostrums

Consider reconstructing missing historic structures if adequate records and documentation are discovered to meet the Secretary of Interior Standards and if their reconstruction supports the operational and interpretive mission of the park. These buildings include the 1879 rostrum on east side of Military Cemetery Road and the 1931 octagonal rostrum located towards the north end of the national cemetery. Both buildings were constructed using standardized plans that exist in the National Archives. (See Figure 5.17 that shows the rostrum at Antietam National Cemetery built at the same time using the same plan; see Figure 5.18 that shows the octagonal rostrum at Chalmette National Cemetery).

NC BS-2: Remove maintenance shed

Remove maintenance shed if maintenance operations move to a different location.



Figure 5.17: The rostrum at Antietam National Cemetery built at the same time from same plans as the Chalmette National Cemetery rostrum. Photograph dated 2009 (Library of Congress).

Views and Vistas

NC VV-1: Screen adjacent land uses

Buffer views out of the national cemetery by working with adjacent landowner to establish vegetation that will buffer industrial buildings to the east of the national cemetery. Maintain and replant as necessary the woods north of the site to screen adjacent land uses.

Consult with an LSU AgCenter urban forester about the performance of trees in soils that are frequently saturated. An incomplete list of native trees tolerant of wet soils include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), pond cypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. imbricarium), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), sycamore (*Plantanus occidentali*s, or a cultivar selected for anthracnose and bacterial leaf scorch resistance), and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*).

Small-Scale Features

The Chalmette National Cemetery has a number of historic, character-defining, small-scale features. Because routine maintenance activities, like mowing, pose a threat to small-scale features, it is important that maintenance staff be trained to recognize the fragility of historic resources and to identify potential threats to them. As mentioned previously, NCPTT provides training sessions on cemetery maintenance and care of historic small-scale features.

Specific small-scale feature recommendations include:

NC SSF-1: Preserve monuments and flagpole

Preserve and maintain the cluster of monuments and flagpole at the north entrance into the cemetery. The gun monuments and flagpole set in the lawn opposite from the Superintendent's Lodge were in place possibly as early as 1938 based on a note on a 1952 map of the national cemetery (See ETIC 467-2016.)

NC SSF-2: Return Bivouac of the Dead tablets and other missing monuments

If the park possesses or can locate historic small-scale features that were removed from the national cemetery, including the Bivouac of the Dead tablets

or additional gun tube monuments, consider returning them to their historic locations.

NC SSF-3: Follow best practices in the maintenance of historic small-scale features

The national cemetery grave markers and monuments are character-defining features. Repair and maintenance protocols are needed to address condition issues, including marker resetting, surface wear, tree encroachment, chipping, cracking, soiling, and biological growth. Develop cyclical inspections standards and maintenance standards for grave markers. Follow the guidelines presented in Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries. It is also advisable to consult periodically with NCPTT staff regarding up-to-date best practices. A partial list of relevant NCPTT and NPS publications on cemetery preservation practices include:

Best Practice Recommendations for Cleaning Government-Issued Headstones. Mary F. Striegel, 2011.

Identification of Unmarked Graves. Rinita A Dalan, Steven L. DeVore, and Earl Clay. 2008.

A Glossary of Historic Mason Deterioration Problems and Preservation Treatments. Anne E. Grimmer. 1984.

Preservation Brief 1: Cleaning and Water-Repellent Treatments for Historic Masonry Buildings. Robert C. Mack and Anne E. Grimmer. 2000.

NPS preservation briefs can be found at: https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm.

NCPTT online resources can be found: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/ncptt/online-resources.htm.

With limited funding available, it is advisable to establish priorities for the preservation and conservation of the national cemeteries character-

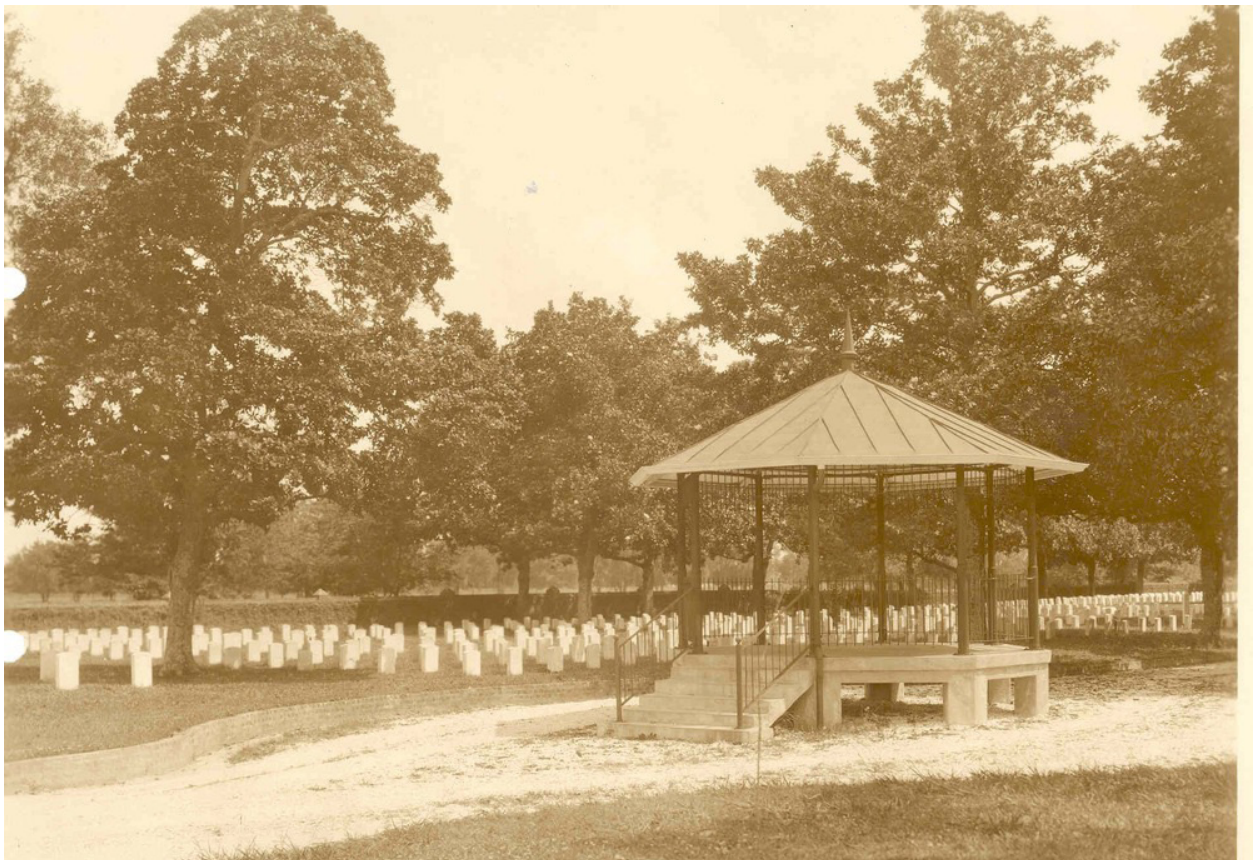


Figure 5.18: An undated photograph of the rostrum built in Chalmette National Cemetery in 1931 (National Park Service). Photograph is likely from 1930s or 1940s.

defining grave markers and other small-scale features. Elements of the plan should include:

Develop standardized condition assessments for regularly scheduled inspections. Inspections can be performed rapidly by simply walking the national cemetery grounds and looking out for negative conditions. Inspections can be done by park staff or volunteers with a minimal amount of training. Consult Preservation Brief 48.

Identify grave markers and section markers in need of repair, cleaning, or resetting. Prioritize maintenance and repair based on a feature's condition:

First-tier priority are those that should be addressed immediately; examples include monuments and markers that are loose, cracked, or unstable to the point where they are at risk of falling and harming visitors and/or nearby historic features.

Second-tier priority include features that are actively deteriorating and, if left untreated, will require more severe conservations in the future; examples include: broken or fragmented grave markers in danger of further damage or loss; grave markers with illegible inscriptions and/or experiencing active weathering; grave markers being enveloped by tree roots; grave markers and monuments that are leaning or becoming detached from their bases.

Once a feature's condition is identified, each individual feature should be assessed in terms of the appropriate stabilization and/or treatment option using Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries as a guide and/or consult with NCPTT researchers on best methods.

Establish cyclical program of resetting and cleaning grave markers. Document inspections and document any work performed. General maintenance recommendations include:

Cleaning grave markers

It is not necessary to clean grave markers to create a "like-new" appearance because needless cleaning introduces unwanted moisture and chemicals into porous stone and masonry features. However regular cleaning by national cemetery staff can avoid the buildup of soiling that later requires more aggressive cleaning procedures.

Cleaning should be undertaken with the mildest, least abrasive method. The use of abrasive cleaning techniques is not acceptable. This includes the use of high-power pressure washers and sand blasters. Acidic cleaners (e.g., muriatic acid) and alkaline cleaners (e.g., bleach) can damage stone and/or result in staining.

The frequency in which cleaning is required depends on the environmental conditions present at each individual feature in the landscape. The regular maintenance plan should allow for cyclical assessments to prioritize cleaning efforts and avoid unnecessary cleaning.

Refer to *Best Practice Recommendations for Cleaning Government-Issued Headstones* available online at: https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/best-practice-recommendations-for-cleaning-government-issued-headstones.htm.

Recommended cleaning techniques include:

- Select mildest cleaner and follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. Biocidal cleaners should be used to address biological growth-- algae, mildew, lichen.
- Consult with NCPTT and/or their 2011 report "Best Practice Recommendations for Cleaning Government Issued Headstones" to select appropriate cleaner. Based on NCPTT recent studies, effective cleaners include D/2 Biological Solution and Marble & Granite Cleaner by World Environmental Group, Inc.
- Pre-wet grave marker. Pre-wetting stone will allow cleaner to remain on the surface and not be absorbed into the stone. Cleaners should be diluted according to manufacturer's directions. Apply to grave marker surface and follow manufacturer's recommendations on amount of time cleaner should be left on

stone. Do not allow cleaner to dry on the stone.

- Agitate the surface of the stone with a soft bristle brush. Work from the bottom to the top of the stone brushing in a circular pattern. Brushing will loosen soil and biological growth from the surface.
- Rinse the stone thoroughly to remove any residual cleaner.

Resetting grave markers

It is generally recommended to reset leaning grave markers. Resetting is generally a preventative or aesthetic treatment option; but care should be taken to avoid causing damage by using the right tools by trained staff. Evaluate the risk of damaging the grave marker and consult with NCPTT or a professional conservator if in doubt.

Recommended resetting techniques include:

- Determine the desired height of the grave marker after being reset.
- Loosen soil from around the grave marker to decrease stress on the stone before it is lifted. Avoid hitting the stone with a shovel when removing soil.
- Remove the stone using a tripod, pulley, or other mechanism designed to carefully lift heavy objects.
- Set the alignment using a string along the row to guide the alignment and height of the reset grave markers.
- Re-dig the hole keeping the edges and sides of the hole straight.
- Partially fill the bottom of the hole with gravel to provide a solid base for the grave marker.
- Replace the grave marker and use a level to ensure that it is straight.
- Fill the hole with mixture of sterile dirt or sand and gravel; use a wooden two-by-four to tamp the dirt as it is being filled. Leave a few inches towards the top of the hole to add sand, soil, and original sod around the base of the grave marker.

Trees and grave markers

Identify graves impacted by tree roots. Maintain records so if the tree is removed in the future, people are aware that a stone is lodged in the trunk. Evaluate options for grave markers that are impacted by roots but can still be extracted without hurting the grave marker or tree. Factors to weigh include the significance of the tree and marker, the degree to which the roots have enveloped the marker, and the damage to tree or marker that would occur during the process of extraction

Metals and other features

Develop a cyclical inspection standard and maintenance guide for metalwork and other small-scale features. These would include historic gun tubes and the historic fence. Follow the guidelines presented in Preservation Brief 27: The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron. See also a NCPTT presentation on best practices of iron fence repair at: https://ncptt.nps.gov/blog/iron-fence-repair-video-2007-03/.

Follow similar procedure as described above for grave markers:

- Regularly assess and document existing conditions.
- Determine the priority need for treatment.
- Review the Secretary of the Interior Standards and relevant Preservation Brief to determine appropriate treatment.
- General steps include:
- Clean surface to prepare for new protective coating. Cleaning methods depend upon the type and severity of corrosion or existing paint. Recommended cleaning methods include wire brushing, grit blasting, flame cleaning, and chemical paint and rust removers.

- After removing old paint and rust, paint cleaned surface with a corrosion-inhibiting primer.
- Paint surface with new protective coating following manufacturer's specifications.
- Utilize the appropriate in house staff or outside professionals required to perform the work.

NC SSF-4: Provide interpretive waysides in national cemetery

Install interpretive wayside near the entrance gates or in the visitor parking area near the proposed Superintendent's Lodge to provide information about the evolution of the national cemetery. Another potential location for interpretation would be outside the south wall near that entrance into the national cemetery. This location is also appropriate to interpret the changing dimensions and layouts of the national cemetery. Ensure that a single or unified style of wayside exhibit is used for all signage.

Recommendations for Future Study

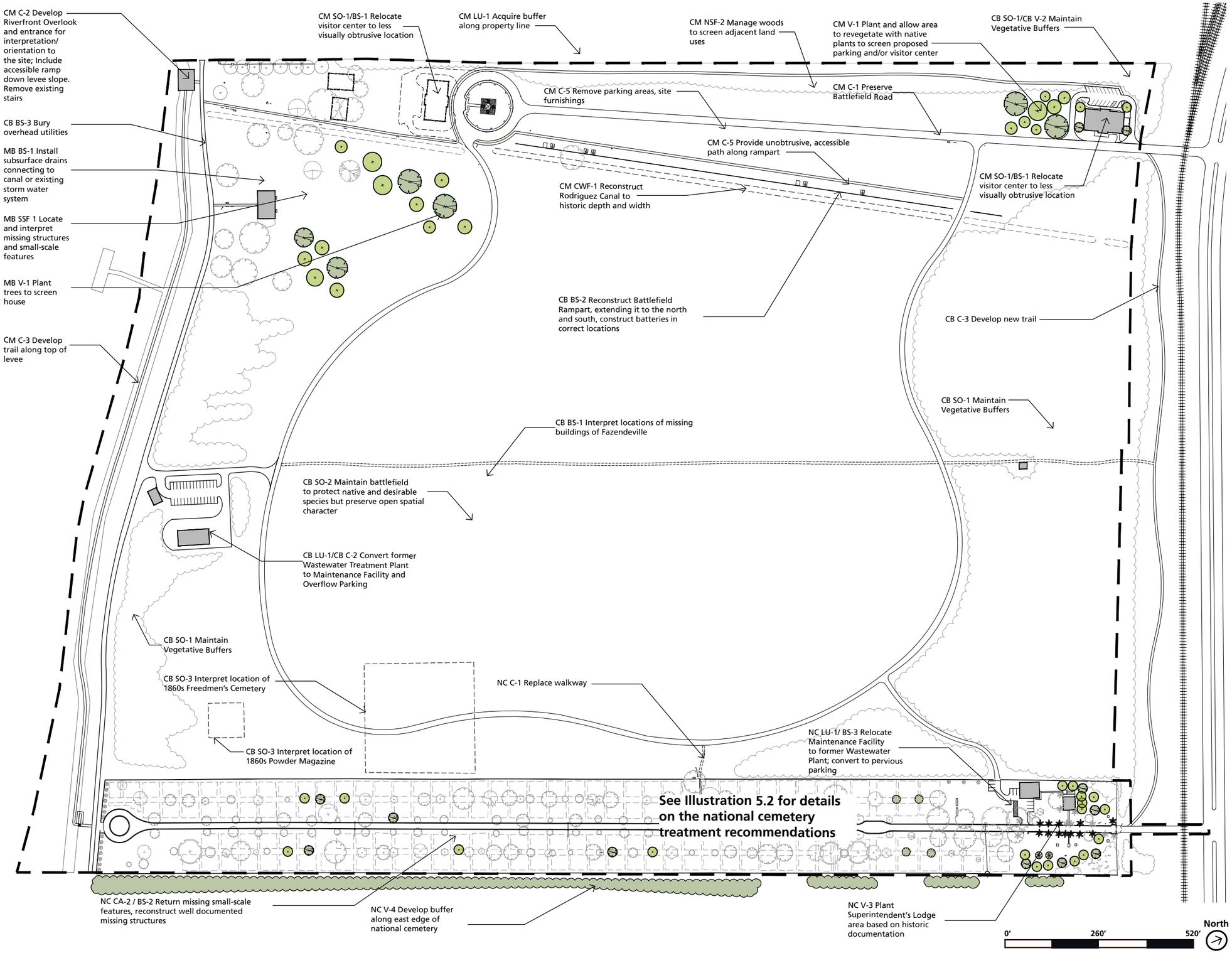
As mentioned previously, the park should consider updating documentation for the National Register of Historic Places.

Update National Register of Historic Places documentation for the Chalmette Historic District, using recent historic resource planning documents and archeological reports as a basis for developing more complete and comprehensive history of the site. Expand the examination of cultural landscape features associated with the post-battle period and commemorative period. For example, consider the historic significance of the circulation design for both the national cemetery and the Chalmette Monument and consider the historic significance of their original design. Also consider the historic significance of the Fazendeville community and changes made to the park during Mission 66.

Considering the recent determination that most of the Chalmette Battlefield Unit is a wetland, it is advisable for the park to develop a Landscape Management Plan and environmental assessment. A Landscape Management Plan and environmental assessment would update the resource management portions of the existing JELA GMP. An environmental assessment of different landscape management approaches would address compliance with various federal regulations. Similarly, this CLR recommends the development of a Wetlands Management Plan in coordination with the Landscape Management Plan.

The park should engage an archeologist to locate missing significant features, in particular the Freedmen's Cemetery. Additional prepare a Special History Study for the cemetery to better understand its development history and the roles that local organizations had in its creation.

The park should pursue further research into missing buildings and structures. Consider research into the two rostrums that stood in the national cemetery into the 1950s.



Notes

1. **See CLR text for full list and explanation of treatment recommendations.**
2. **Basemap based on Google Earth imagery and field observations made in 2019 and 2020.**
3. **Dimensions and locations are approximate.**

Recommended Overall Treatment

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment for Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery because rehabilitation allows for the protection of the site's historic character while accommodating limited changes to facilitate contemporary use. These changes would include improvements for visitor services, interpretation, and circulation.

General Treatment Recommendations

The primary goal of these treatment recommendations for the Chalmette Battlefield Character Area is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the setting at the time of the battle. The primary goal of these treatment recommendations for the Chalmette National Cemetery Character Area is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the historic design and setting of the national cemetery.

General Treatment Objectives

Preserve the open character of the current extents of the battlefield, managing the property in such a way that does not damage the natural resources of the site but keeps the field open and legible to modern visitors. Enhance a visitor's experience by providing interpretation of existing and missing historic features known to have present at the time of the battle. Examples of features to be highlighted include the canals and road through the battlefield and the Rodriguez House and outbuildings. Preserve and maintain historic features that contribute to the historic significance of the site, including both commemorative features like the Chalmette Monument and historic resources that post-date the battle but were constructed during the period of significance, including, for example, the Malus-Beauregard House.

Illustration 5.1

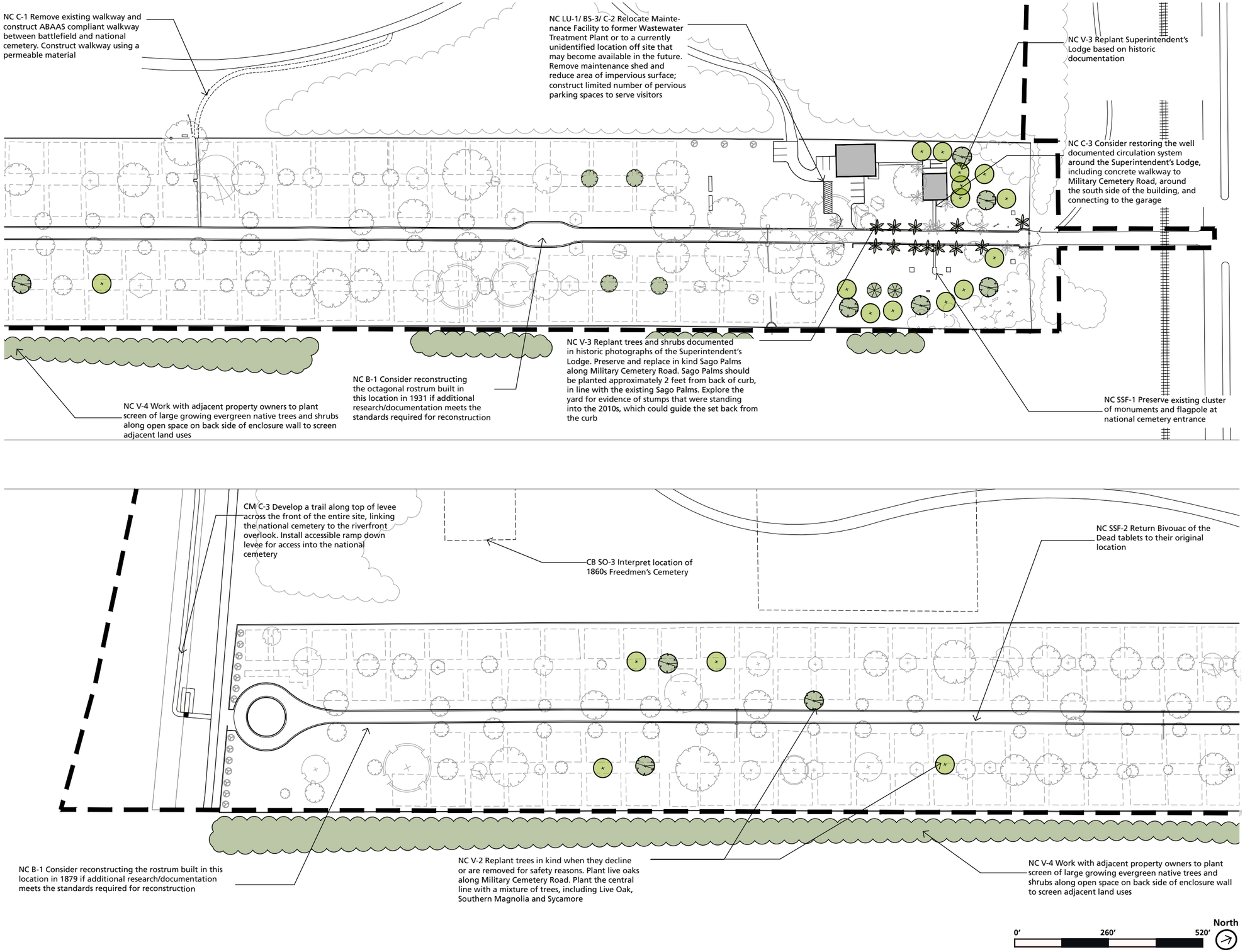
Overall Site Treatment

Chalmette Unit

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Notes

1. **See CLR text for full list and explanation of treatment recommendations.**
2. **Basemap based on Google Earth imagery and field observations made in 2019 and 2020.**
3. **Dimensions and locations are approximate.**

Recommended Overall Treatment

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment for Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery because rehabilitation allows for the protection of the site's historic character while accommodating limited changes to facilitate contemporary use. These changes would include improvements for visitor services, interpretation, and circulation.

General Treatment Recommendations

The primary goal of these treatment recommendations for the Chalmette National Cemetery Character Area is to provide for the long-term preservation of the landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site and that convey to a modern visitor the historic design and setting of the national cemetery.

General Treatment Objectives

Balance the high degree of care recommended by DO 61 and RM-61with appropriate preservation of historic resources. Maintain landscape features in good condition and protect historic landscape features to avoid damage that will result in repair or replacement.

Establish cyclical condition assessments as part of a maintenance plan. Follow best preservation practices when maintaining grave markers and other historic small-scale features. Use reversible techniques during maintenance of features whenever possible. Engage a conservator as needed.

Illustration 5.2

Treatment

Chalmette National Cemetery

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

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B1
FUNCTIONAL-SHORT

B2
FUNCTIONAL-TALL

S4
MANAGED TALL VEGETATIVE COVER

EXISTING
WOODS

0′ 260′ 520′

North

Credits

In addition to field observations conducted between June of 2019 and January of 2020, the following sources were used to create the historic base map illustrations:

1. Google Earth, aerial dated March, 2013
2. Historic Base Map, Cultural Landscape Report, Risk, 1999
3. **Birkedal, "Search for the Lost Riverfront," (2009) Map III-5 "Revised Geography of the Battle of New Orleans," Page 480**

Illustration 5.3
Mowing Plan
Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Cultural Landscape Report

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JELA_467_1155_[174388]	1943 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NM
JELA_467_1156_[174862]	1944 LAND ACQUISITION MAP-CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_1157_[175888]	1946 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_1157A_[190740]	1955 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_1157B_[196126]	1957 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_1157C_[204459]	1961 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_2011_[164325]	UNDATED OVERLOOK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER/CHALMETTE MONUMENT AREA
JELA_467_2100_[171615]	1942 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN / CHALMETTE PARK AND CEMETERY AREA
JELA_467_2169A_[183864]	1950 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT-CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_2169B_[183940]	1950 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT-CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_2170_[168244]	1942 HISTORICAL BASE MAP - CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_2258_[172961]	1942 PROPOSED EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR CHALMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY
JELA_467_3000_[191470]	1955 GRADE, DRAIN AND SURFACE CEMETERY ROAD/ CHALMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY
JELA_467_3002_[192378]	1956 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS-CEMETERY AND MONUMENT AREA/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_3003_[193733]	1956 COMFORT STATION/MONUMENT AREA/CHALMETTE NHP
JELA_467_3003A_[193868]	1956 COMFORT STATION/MONUMENT AREA/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3005A_[194070] 1957 MONUMENT PARKING EXPANSION & WALK CONSTRUCTION / CEMETERY & MONUMENT/ CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3005C_[194687] 1957 MONUMENT PARKING EXPANSION & WALK CONSTRUCTION / CEMETERY & MONUMENT/ CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3011_[201587] 1959 PLANTING PLAN/CEMETERY & MONUMENT/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012_[205592] 1961 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012A_[206563] 1961 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012B_[216390] 1964 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012CZ1_[222013] 1965 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012D_[205593] 1961 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012E_[209539] 1962 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3012F_[215695] 1964 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3014A_[208707] 1962 TAKING LINE-TOUR ROAD EASEMENT/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3015_[209785] 1962 RECONSTRUCTION OF MUD RAMPART/WEST BANK OF RODRIGUEZ CANAL/CHALMETTE

JELA_467_3015A_[210015] 1962 RECONSTRUCTION OF MUD RAMPART/WEST BANK OF RODRIGUEZ CANAL/CHALMETTE

JELA_467_3017_[216391] 1964 LAND ACQUISITION PLAN-CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3018_[214567] 1964 MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3021A_[216043] 1964 AMERICAN LINE-RODRIGUEZ CANAL/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3023_[219351] 1965 ROAD & TRAIL SYSTEM-CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3026_[226900] 1967 STORM DAMAGE PLANTING / CEMETERY AND MONUMENT / CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_3070_[206738] 1961 PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE LOOP ROAD/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_7008_[197020] 1958 BOUNDARIES-CHALMETTE N.H.P.

JELA_467_9001_[56495] 1902 MONUMENT TO MEMORY OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS, BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

JELA_467_25000_[19152] 1981 HISTORICAL BASE MAP / PRINCIPAL MISSISSIPPI DELTA AREA DEFENSES

JELA_467_25001_[210641] 1963 TEST EXCAVATIONS - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_25002_[131782] 1939 HISTORICAL VICINITY MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_25003_[130309] 1939 HISTORICAL MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_25004_[38633] 1983 RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY WALLS / CHALMETTE

JELA_467_25005_[49486] 1984 NIGHT BATTLE OF DECEMBER 23, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25005A_[56856] 1985 NIGHT BATTLE OF DECEMBER 23, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25005B_[61317] 1986 NIGHT BATTLE OF DECEMBER 23, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25006_[49487] 1984 ENCOUNTER OF DECEMBER 28, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25006A_[56857 1985 ENCOUNTER OF DECEMBER 28, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25006B_[61318] 1986 ENCOUNTER OF DECEMBER 28, 1814 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25007_[49488] 1984 ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT OF JANUARY 1, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25007A_[56858] 1985 ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT OF JANUARY 1, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25007B_[61319] 1986 ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT OF JANUARY 1, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25008_[49490] 1984 ENGAGEMENT OF JANUARY 8, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25009_[49495] 1984 BRITISH ATTACK ON THE WEST BANK, JANUARY 8, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25009A_[56861] 1985 BRITISH ATTACK ON THE WEST BANK, JANUARY 8, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25011_[50901] 1985 REGIONAL OVERVIEW - NEW ORLEANS CAMPAIGN 1814-1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25012_[50902] 1985 HISTORICAL BASE MAP - CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25012A_[56864] 1985 HISTORICAL BASE MAP - CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25012B_[65489] 1987 HISTORICAL BASE MAP - CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25012C_[80623] 1990 HISTORICAL BASE MAP - CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25014_[50904 1985 BOMBARDMENT OF FORT ST. PHILIP, JANUARY 9-17, 1815 / CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25017_[151498] 2008 CEMETERY MARKER REPAIR, CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25019_[152153] 2008 MASONRY WALL AND CURB REPAIR, CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25019A_[156022] 2010 MASONRY WALL AND CURB REPAIR, CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25020_[152177] 2008 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MONUMENT, FENCING AND GATES, CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_25901_[169772] UNDATED RELATIONSHIP OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN GUN PLATFORMS AT CHALMETTE

JELA_467_25902_[169775] UNDATED SURVEY MAP - BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

JELA_467_25903_[103538] 1907 MONUMENT TO MEMORY OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS/ BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS/

JELA_467_30000_[210953] 1963 LAND OWNERSHIP MAP - FAZENDEVILLE/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_35000_[235829] 1971 LAND OWNERSHIP MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_35000A_[241680] 1973 LAND OWNERSHIP MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40000_[235830] 1971 BOUNDARY MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40000A_[241681] 1973 BOUNDARY MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40001_[235831] 1971 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40001A_[241682] 1973 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40002_[235832] 1971 VICINITY MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_40002A_[241683] 1973 VICINITY MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41001_[229429] 1968 RECONSTRUCT CEMETERY ROAD/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41001A_[230166 1968 RECONSTRUCT CEMETERY ROAD/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41001B_[231565] 1969 RECONSTRUCT CEMETERY ROAD/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41003_[237819] 1972 COMFORT STATION - MONUMENT PARKING AREA - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41003A_[238285] 1972 COMFORT STATION - MONUMENT PARKING AREA - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41003B_[240885] 1973 1972 COMFORT STATION - MONUMENT PARKING AREA - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_41007_[32951] 1983 TOPOGRAPHY-CHALMETTE UNIT

JELA_467_41025_[76129] 1989 REHABILITATION OF CHALMETTE MONUMENT

JELA_467_41025A_[82470] 1990 REHABILITATION OF CHALMETTE MONUMENT

JELA_467_41901_[169817] UNDATED ELEVATIONS AT CHALMETTE MONUMENT

JELA_467_60001_[100243] 1938 SKETCH OF THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN FORCES NEAR NEW ORLEANS, FROM THE 23RD OF DECEMBER TO THE 8TH OF JANUARY, 1815

JELA_467_60004_[109714] 1908 MONUMENT TO MEMORY OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS, BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS AT

JELA_467_60005_[133440] 1909 PLAN & SECTION OF PROPOSED SHELL ROAD AT CHALMETTE MONUMENT GROUND

JELA_467_60007_[169823] UNDATED MAP OF RIVER MISSISSIPPI AND TERRITORY ADJACENT TO NEW ORLEANS ILLUSTRATING THE MILITARY POSITION AND CAMP AT TERRE AUBOEUF.

JELA_467_60010_[130312] 1939 HISTORICAL MAP - CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_60017_[217636] 1808 SURVEY-LANDS OF MR.PREVOT

JELA_467_60019_[183980] 1860 MILITARY MAP OF THE U.S.

JELA_467_60021_[229900] 1815 ATTACK ON AMERICAN LINES NEAR NEW ORLEANS DEC. 1814 AND JAN. 1815

JELA_467_60022_[225806] 1815 PLAN OF THE ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF THE AMERICAN LINES BELOW NEW ORLEANS ON THE 8TH OF JANUARY, 1815

JELA_467_60023_[12424] 1935 BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS 1815

JELA_467_60024_[226772] 1815 PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS / DEC. 23, 1814 TO JAN. 8, 1815

JELA_467_60025_[169833] UNDATED PLAN OF THE ATTACK MADE BY MAJOR GEN. JACKSON ON A DIVISION OF THE BRITISH ARMY COMMANDED BY MAJOR GEN. J. KEANE ON 23RD DECEMBER 1814

JELA_467_60028_[227845] 1815 LANDING OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JELA_467_60033_[169856] UNDATED ENGAGEMENT OF JANUARY 8, 1815

JELA_467_60035_[225080] 1966 MAINTENANCE & PROTECTION PLAN/CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_60039_[228868] 1815 PLAN OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE BRITISH & AMERICAN FORCES BELOW NEW ORLEANS ON THE 8TH OF JANUARY, 1815

JELA_467_60040_[173515] 1915 SURVEY MAP - THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS / DEC. 23, 1814 & JAN. 8, 1815

JELA_467_60042_[102515] 1938 BRITISH & AMERICAN FORCES DURING THE OPERATIONS AGAINST NEW ORLEANS FROM 23TH DEC. TO 8TH JAN. 1815

JELA_467_60043_[169861] UNDATED LAND OWNERSHIP MAP

JELA_467_60046_[239884] 1933 PROPOSED NATIONAL MILITARY PARK SHOWING RODRIGUES CANAL & JACKSON BREASTWORKS / CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD

JELA_467_60049_[197397] 1958 ELEVATIONS-BEAUREGARD HOUSE AREA/CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD

JELA_467_60900_[192013] 1925 NATIONAL CEMETERY - CHALMETTE , LA

JELA_467_80000_[238444] 1972 ENTRANCE SIGNS-BATTLEFIELD & CEMETERY/ CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_80004_[169871] UNDATED PROPOSED SEWER LINE-CHALMETTE NHP

JELA_467_80021_[169878] UNDATED PROPOSED PLANTING AND LIGHTING SYSTEM - MONUMENT - CHALMETTE

JELA_467_80022_[222126] 1965 MONUMENT COMMEMORATING BATTLE OF 1815

JELA_467_80023_[215869] 1964 MONUMENT TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN DEAD INTERPRETIVE SITE NOUMBER 6 CHALMETTE

JELA_467_80024_[169879 UNDATED CEMETERY CHALMETTE

JELA_467_80900_[39850] 1984 CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD LEVEE SETBACK, I-WALL AND CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT, ITEM M-90.5 TO 89.5-L RIGHT OF WAY

JELA_467_120112_[4812] 2010 CHINESE TALLOW TREE REMOVAL AND WETLAND RESTORATION IN BARATARIA PRESERVE

JELA_467_60900 1925 NATIONAL CEMETERY - CHALMETTE , LA

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Chalmette Unit

Cultural Landscape Report

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

May 2023

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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