master plan

RICHMOND

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK / VIRGINIA

Recommended:

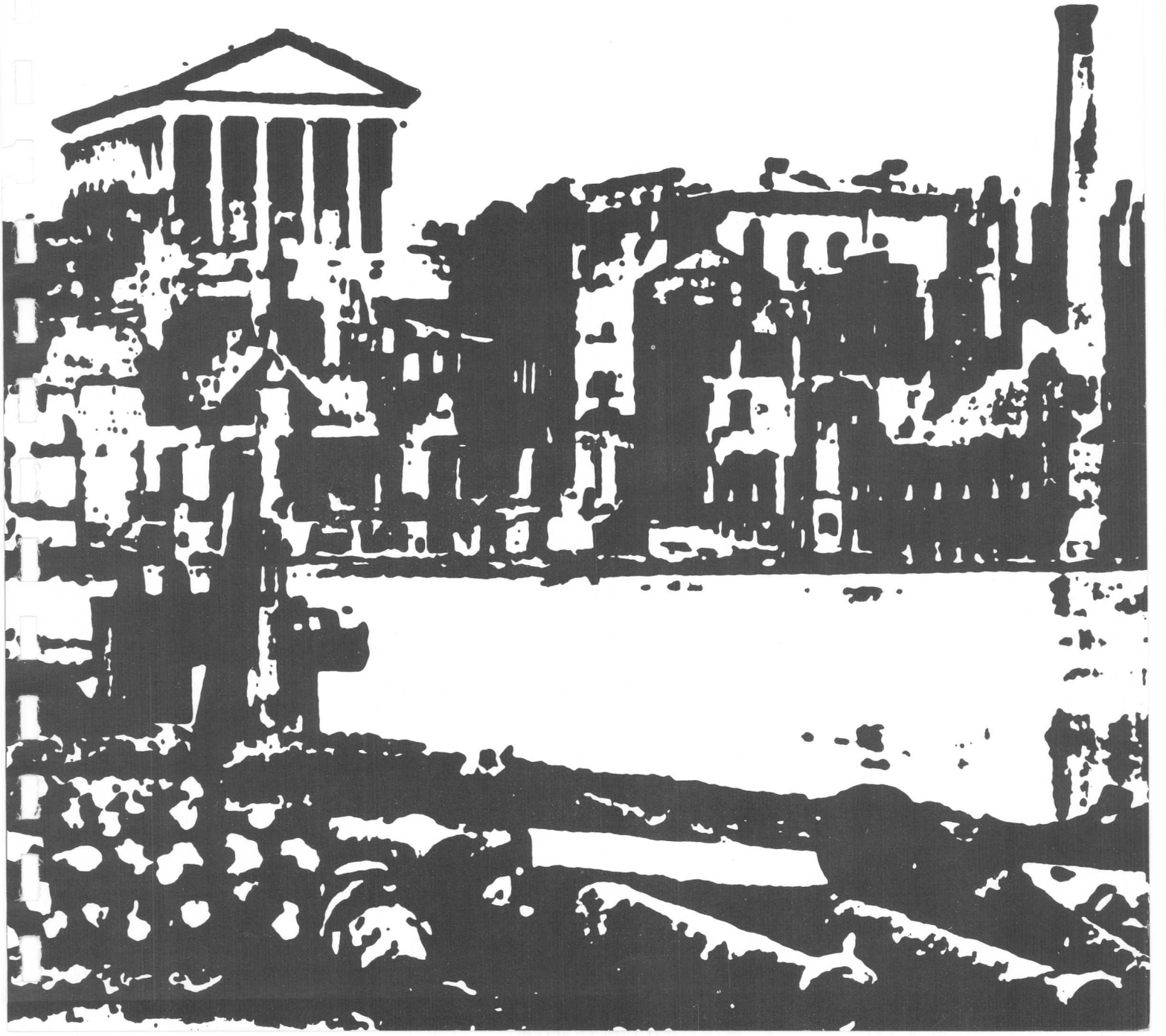
John W. Bright
Chief, Office of Environmental
Planning and Design, ESC
October 18, 1971

Approved:

George W. Fry
Acting Director, Southeast Region
October 18, 1971

Richmond

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK



THE PARK / 1
MANAGEMENT STATEMENT / 17
THE PLAN / 23
APPENDIXES / 51





THE PARK 1

INTRODUCTION / 3
HISTORY / 4
REGION / 9
THE PARK TODAY / 11
VISITATION / 14

INTRODUCTION

Even in an agricultural society, war tends to be an urban experience. While the battles may take place in fields and woods, the objective is the city, the nerve center of a culture. Symbols of strength and achievement, the cities, when taken in battle, become symbols of defeat or victory.

So it was with Richmond, jewel of Virginia and the capital of the Confederacy. More than a symbol, Richmond was the manufacturing center of the South, and the primary supply depot for troops operating on the Confederacy's northern frontier.

The scattered fragments of land that comprise Richmond National Battlefield Park cannot be understood without reference to the city. The park occupies 745 acres of land in ten parcels within five to fifteen miles of downtown Richmond. They are linked by a tour route that was once a leisurely drive through a predominately rural setting. The National Park Service owns neither the tour road nor sufficient adjoining land to retain the rural flavor. So long as the surroundings remained agricultural, park boundaries were of relatively little importance, and visitors could gain some understanding of the principal battlefields by following a sequential tour. Today, forest and field are rapidly giving way to housing developments and shopping centers, destroying the continuity of the tour.

The headquarters, five miles from the nearest historical area of the park, once served the need for a downtown orientation facility for activities of the Civil War Centennial. The space and facilities are now inadequate, and a shift in major transportation routes leaves the building stranded in one of the least accessible parts of the city.

In addition, the park is being subjected to increasing recreational use, though inadequately developed to cope with it. Given careful planning and management to protect basic resources, historical interpretation can thrive along with other forms of outdoor recreation.

Richmond is besieged anew, this time by urban growth, just as the fields of battle can be appreciated only with reference to the struggle for the city, so must planning for their future development take cognizance of that same city's growth.

The purpose of this master plan, therefore, is to examine changing environmental conditions at Richmond National Battlefield Park, and to provide a plan for meeting these social, physical, and cultural changes, while preserving historic values.

HISTORY

Seven major drives were launched against Richmond. Two of these brought Union forces almost within sight of the city – McClellan's Peninsular Campaign of 1862, culminating in the Seven Days' Battles, and Grant's crushing campaign of 1864.

General George B. McClellan, by early 1862, had forged around the "cowering regiments" that survived the first Battle of Manassas a ponderous but disciplined 100,000-man fighting machine. With it he moved by water to invest east-central Virginia and capture Richmond.

The operation was to be assisted by an overland advance by troops under Gen. Irvin McDowell. But by May 24, when McClellan was deployed within 6 miles of the prize, President Abraham Lincoln, taking cognizance of General Thomas J. Jackson's Valley Campaign, and alarmed for Washington's safety, suspended McDowell's movement. While McClellan fretted, Confederate General Joseph Johnston struck

an inept blow at the Union forces near Fair Oaks on May 31. Johnston was seriously wounded in the battle and General Robert E. Lee succeeded to command.

McClellan, who had maintained his dangerous position astride the Chickahominy, expecting McDowell's corps to join him, hesitated too long. On June 26, Lee, reinforced by Jackson's corps, attacked and rolled up the Union right wing at Mechanicsville, then suffered heavy losses in futile attacks against the strong Union position on Beaver Dam Creek. Thus began the Seven Days' Battles, a series of side-stepping withdrawals and bitter holding actions that climaxed the Peninsular Campaign and enabled the Union Army of the Potomac to avoid disaster by circling east of Richmond to the security of Federal gunboats on the James River.

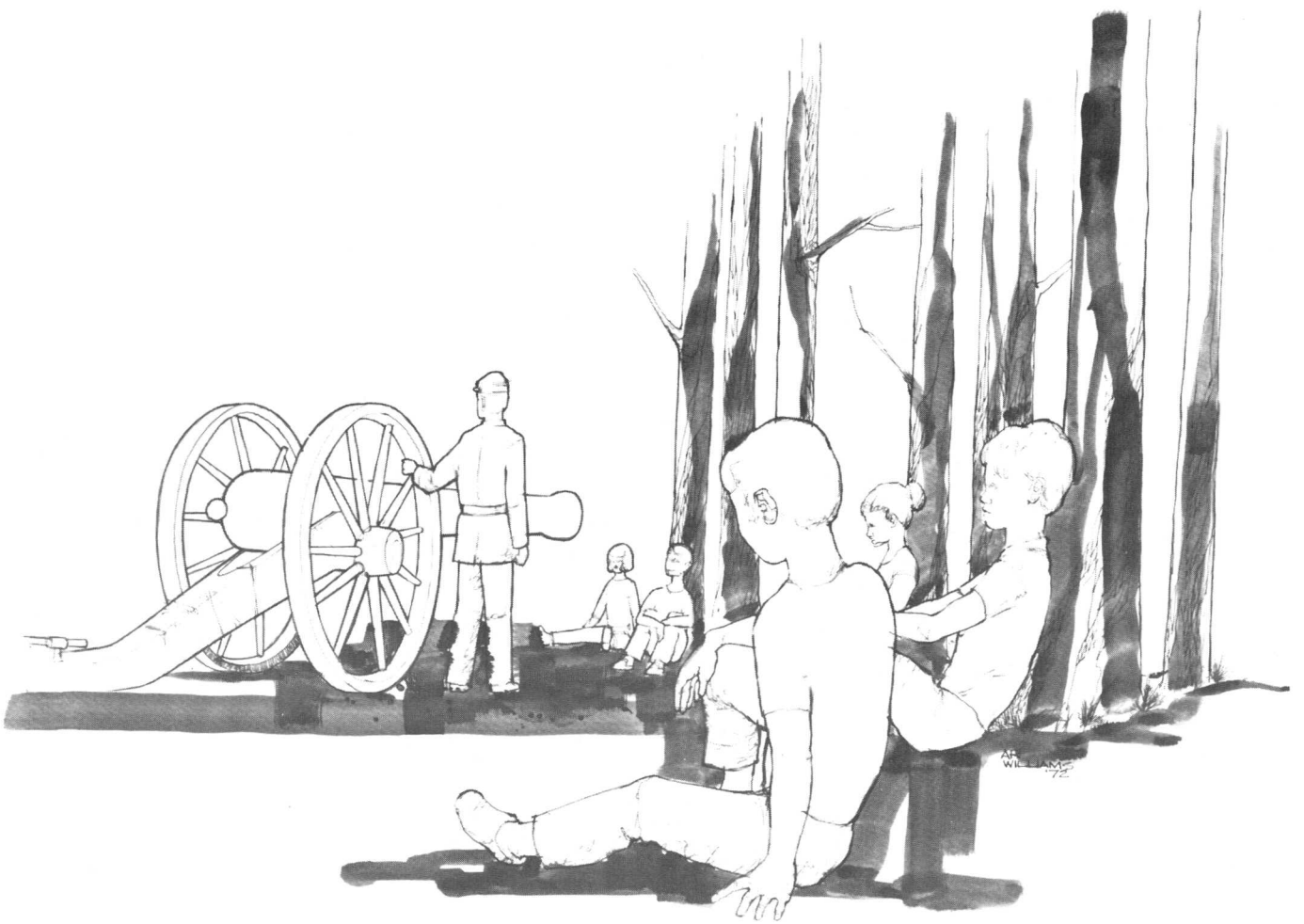
Richmond entrenched and applauded Lee's unbroken successes in keeping northern armies at bay. For 2 years the armies fought indecisively in northern Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. General Ulysses S. Grant, who had won a number of victories in the West, was called to Washington and in March 1864, placed in command of all Union armies in the field.

Grant, attaching himself to the Army of the Potomac, embarked on an unyielding campaign against the Army of Northern Virginia. Said Lee: "We must stop this army of Grant's before he gets to the James River. If he gets there it will become a siege, and then it will be a mere question of time."

A series of flanking movements, designed to cut Lee off from the Confederate capital, enabled the Union Army of the Potomac to slip past the Southerners at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, although it suffered heavy casualties. At Cold Harbor, Grant's massive frontal assaults by the Army of the Potomac, reinforced by units of the

Army of the James, against the strongly entrenched Confederate line failed dismally with appalling losses. The badly bruised Federals and starving Confederates broiled in the trenches for 10 days. Grant finally withdrew, crossed the James, and drove toward the important rail center of Petersburg.

Savage attacks on Petersburg in mid-June were repulsed by the Confederates. Grant now issued orders to invest Petersburg. To do so, it would be necessary for the Army of the Potomac to extend its left flank to the west to cut the railroads and roads leading into Petersburg from the south and west. Each time the troops on the left advanced, those holding the positions on the right assailed the Confederate lines between the James and Chickahominy. The attack of September 29, 1864, resulted in the capture of Fort Harrison and nearby earthworks by soldiers of the Army of the James.



Despite the loss of Fort Harrison, Confederates defending the fortifications guarding the approaches to Richmond from the southeast held firm. It was only after the Union victory at Five Forks in the breakthrough at Petersburg on April 2, 1865, that the Confederates evacuated Richmond. Seven days later, at Appomattox Court House, General Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant.

After Appomattox, the battlefields around Richmond lay abandoned until the 20th century when Richmond National Battlefield Park was finally authorized by Act of Congress on May 2, 1936 (49 Stat. 1155). The property was originally acquired by a group of public-spirited Virginians who donated it to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1932.

A few Richmond citizens formed the Battlefield Markers Association to preserve the battlefields around Richmond. In 1927 the momentum for the idea led to the formation of the Richmond Battlefield Park Corporation, which started to raise money and began land acquisition. In the absence of a State agency to handle this project, and without the means to develop the properties, the members hoped to deed the park to a Federal agency. Strong opposition developed against giving the land to the Federal Government, so in 1932 the battlefield became the first State Park in Virginia. The State Conservation Commission was unable to raise funds for development and maintenance. The original proposal was again revived to place the properties in Federal ownership. Eight years of legal tangles and delays postponed acceptance by the Department of the Interior. When the property became Richmond National Battlefield Park on July 14, 1944, it was 17th in the National Park System commemorating the Civil War.



MANAGEMENT STATEMENT 2

PURPOSE OF THE PARK / 19
MANAGEMENT CATEGORY / 19
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE / 19

REGION

The City of Richmond in 1970, had a population of 263,000 and the metropolitan area, 548,900. Richmond is an important regional center for transportation, shipping, banking, wholesale distribution, and education. Surprisingly, industrial development is extensive and employs 50,000 persons. The area has the largest nylon plant in the world, and is a leading producer of synthetic fibers. It is also one of the largest producers of packaging products, including aluminum, cellophane, paper and paperboard cartons and containers. Printing and publishing houses rank fourth in the number of people employed. Tourism is not considered a major industry, but 100,000 attended conventions in 1969. All of this adds up to a viable, diversified economic atmosphere.

Initial growth thrusts into the counties surrounding Richmond followed radial routes leading out from the city. The wedges between have gradually filled in as they became more accessible. The 1950's saw a surge of development in suburban Henrico County, especially the western portion. Now Chesterfield and Hanover Counties are experiencing the same accelerated growth. At the same time that residential users have moved outward, many commercial and industrial establishments have also chosen suburban locations.

The Region's population, largely urban, will reach or surpass 600,000 persons by 1980. The significant change will undoubtedly occur in the three counties that surround the city.

The Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission in their report to the Governor and members of the General Assembly in 1965 proposed two State parks near the National Battlefield Park.

Quoting from the report, "The Chickahominy Swamp has high priority. It is a distinctive natural resource immediately accessible to the metropolitan population. A fishing lake could be developed in cooperation with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries."

The James River, between Richmond and Hopewell, also has high priority. It offers valuable water-based recreation opportunities. Pollution, now serious, is expected to be substantially decreased in the near future.

Neither the James River nor Chickahominy Swamp Potential State parks have been realized. The State operates Pocahontas State Park, about 45 minutes from center Richmond. The park is approximately 2,600 acres and provides camping, hiking, horseback riding, boating, swimming, and fishing. Pocahontas is also used by large numbers of State and out-of-State visitors. This is the only major park in the area that is in active pursuit of recreation.

The pressing need for the creation of new public open spaces is identified by HUD funded "Open Space and Recreation Plan." The plan provides for the creation of 11 new regional parks totaling 15,000 acres. The proposal would give Richmond a better ratio of population to open space, needed to fulfill the demand of 700,000 people by 1985. The defeat of public referendums on the park proposals by several of the surrounding counties leaves the proposal for new public spaces with a questionable future.

THE PARK TODAY

Richmond metropolitan population is increasing at the rate of 10,000 per year. The park is in a crisis as a result of the impact of population explosion on vulnerable, diminutive kernels of land.

When the battle sites were reserved in 1927, only the core historic resources were set aside, with some token space to accommodate recreational use. Little buffering was needed as long as battlefield lands outside the boundaries retained their pastoral character. Intensive urban development is rapidly consuming non-reserved battlefield lands. Besides creating a need for buffer zones, urban sprawl has diminished the supply of open space and recreational land, while augmenting the need for it. As a result, parklands increasingly function as neighborhood and community parks.

A related factor is the shift in transportation flow – the Chimborazo headquarters is already rendered obsolete by increased use of Interstates 95 and 64, and circumferential Laburnum Avenue, all two or more miles from the building. The strongest single determinant that will accelerate land evolution from rural to urban will be the construction of the six-lane beltway I-295, as it bores through Henrico, Chesterfield, and Hanover Counties. The direct path of this major arterial lines in the zone of 7 out of 10 Richmond Battlefield holdings.

The obvious conclusion is that a once pleasant, leisurely drive is being replaced by busy, high speed tour roads through subdivisions and shopping centers, to isolated green fragments which will soon be completely ringed by urbanization.

Because Richmond NBP is in ten widely separated units, it becomes necessary to proceed to an individual evaluation of each unit in order to understand

what opportunities may present themselves when the park is afterward viewed as a management unit and interpretive whole.

Chimborazo Park • Park Headquarters and the primary visitor center are located in an early 20th century building. The 5.6-acre tract is all in lawn and includes part of the site of the famous Confederate Chimborazo Hospital.

Chickahominy Bluff • The 39.2 acres are mostly forests, and include considerable earthwork fortifications. An interpretive shelter overlooks the Chickahominy Valley and it was from this vicinity that Lee watched his army launch the Seven Days' Battle.

Beaver Dam Creek • This is an 11.95-acre creek bottom, where Confederates unsuccessfully attacked a well-fortified Union command. An old millrace and a few faint traces of field fortifications are all that remains. Wayside exhibits tell the story.

Watt House • The battle of Gaines' Mill, the bloodiest of the Seven Days' Battles, was fought here. The 60-acre tract is mostly forested. The Watt House itself is an exterior restoration. The interior is used as an employee residence. Interpretive facilities included wayside exhibits and a trail to the "breakthrough point."

Cold Harbor Area • A 1.8-mile loop drive provides access through this 154.25-acre woodland. Numerous field fortifications mark the battle lines. A secondary visitor center is located near the entrance.

Garthright House • This house was used as a field hospital during the battle of Cold Harbor. The exterior has been restored and the interior will be used as an employee residence. This 2.10-acre parcel is across Va. 156 from the Cold Harbor National Cemetery.

Malvern Hill • A wayside interpretive shelter overlooks a scene that appears much as it did in 1862. Approximately a third of the 130.60 acres is devoted to this scene. The remainder is woodland.

Fort Harrison • The 7-mile-park drive begins at New Market Road (Va. Route 5) and follows a series of earthworks to Fort Brady on the James River. Parking areas and wayside exhibits exist at Forts Gilmer, Gregg, Johnson, and Hoke. There is a self-guiding trail through Fort Brady. In the immediate vicinity of Fort Harrison is a secondary visitor center, self-guiding trails, picnic area, maintenance area, and two residences. The total area of this tract is more than 310 acres.

Drewry's Bluff • The 15.95-acre parcel contains a large earthen fort located atop a 90-foot bluff, overlooking the James River. An eroding bluff and an adjacent county landfill create sizeable problems here.

Parker's Battery • This forested tract of 9,182 acres was located on a Richmond defense line and includes one remaining earthwork. A wayside marker is at the site, but since it is off the beaten path the area receives very little use.

The last two sites listed above are surrounded by industrial developments; others are being enveloped by residential subdivisions.

Further details on each of these sites can be found in the appendix.

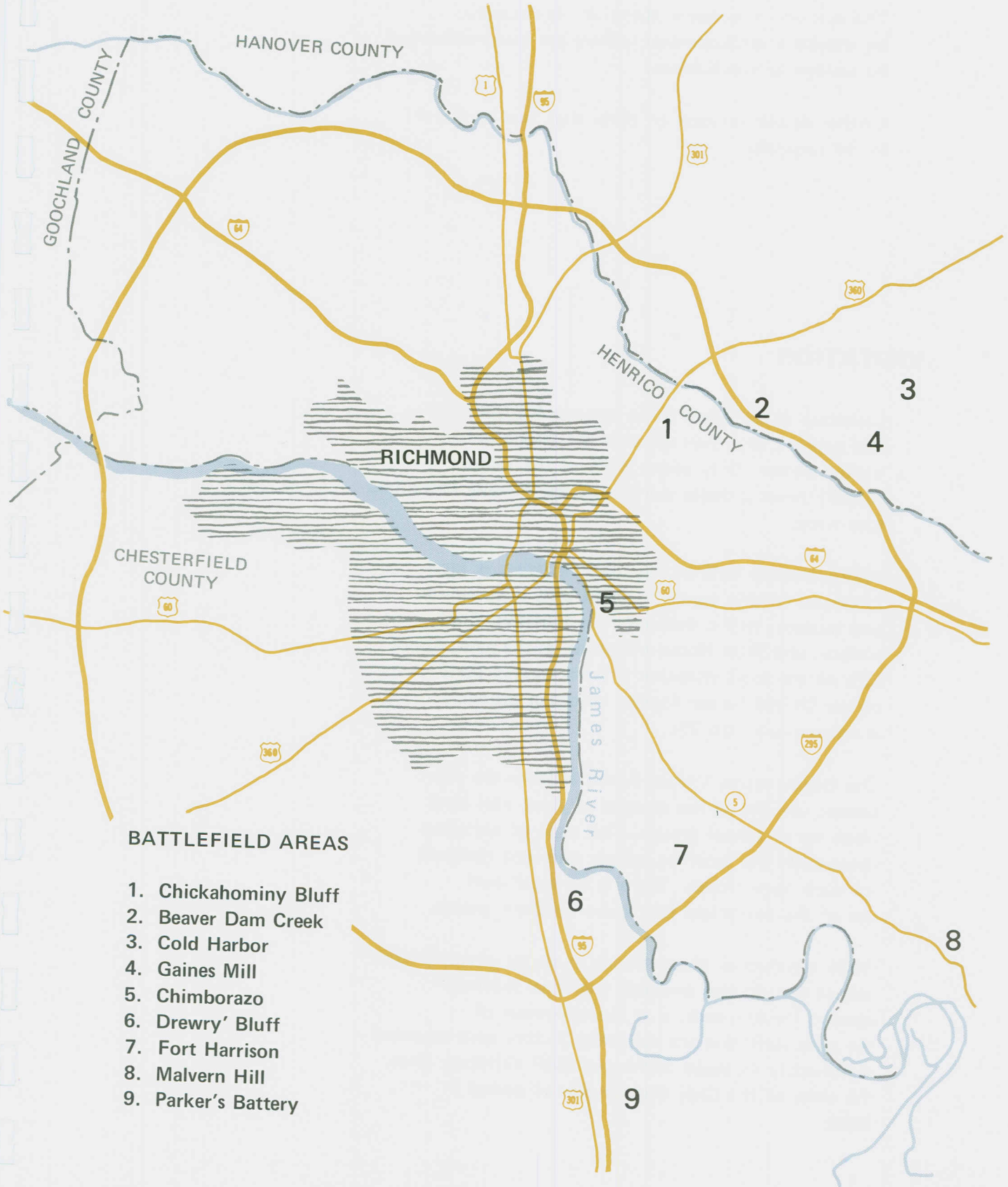
VISITATION

Visitation is estimated to be around 400,000. Of this number, less than 6% visit the Headquarters Visitor Center. Only about 3.5% of the visitors actually cover a major portion of the 96-mile battlefield tour route.

Approximately 45% of the total visitation is local in origin. Of this segment, about 30% is commuter and business traffic through Fort Harrison, Cold Harbor, and Watt House area units of the park. About 53% of the total visitation is from various parts of the United States; foreign visitation probably is never more than 2%.

The Headquarters Visitor Center receives the most intense use during the months of April and May, made up of school groups. This type of visitation overcrowds the facilities, which were not designed for such large groups. There is no significant use of the battlefield tour drive by these groups.

While conclusions about trends in visitor characteristics cannot rest on any available statistical evidence specific for this park, it is the consensus of the park staff that the following factors have operated significantly to shape Richmond NBP visitation since the close of the Civil War Centennial period in 1965:


HANOVER COUNTY
GOOCHLAND COUNTY
HENRICO COUNTY
RICHMOND
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
James River
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
BATTLEFIELD AREAS
1. Chickahominy Bluff
2. Beaver Dam Creek
3. Cold Harbor
4. Gaines Mill
5. Chimborazo
6. Drewry' Bluff
7. Fort Harrison
8. Malvern Hill
9. Parker's Battery

The age of the average visitor is decreasing, probably in a manner closely paralleling the national statistical profile, but decreasing from an age significantly higher than the national average – he is still around 35 years of age.

For the average visitor, the intensity of the Civil War's emotional impact is receding measurably. Socioeconomic and political causes and effects, military strategy and "big picture" concepts are becoming more important.

The average visitor is more affluent. He travels farther and sees more than ever before, on his vacation time. He is therefore in a greater hurry, and wants capsule history, living history, audiovisual experiences and quick, neat, entertaining and convincing concepts. He buys interpretive information freely, but mostly for deferred consumption.

Richmond is a highly significant national, historical, and architectural showplace on a transportation nerve center. Few visitors come to Richmond to see Richmond NBP; they see Richmond NBP while they are in Richmond, enroute to many other more enticing recreational, historical, and natural show places of national magnitude closeby.



THE PLAN 3

FORT HARRISON / 29
COLD HARBOR / 33
MALVERN HILL / 37
OTHER UNITS / 41
GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT
CONSIDERATION / 47

PURPOSE OF THE PARK

The purposes of Richmond National Battlefield Park are: (a) to preserve and interpret significant Civil War historic sites in the vicinity of Richmond, and (b) to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation consistent with the historical management of the park.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

The park will be managed in accordance with the Service's Administrative Policies for Historical Areas.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

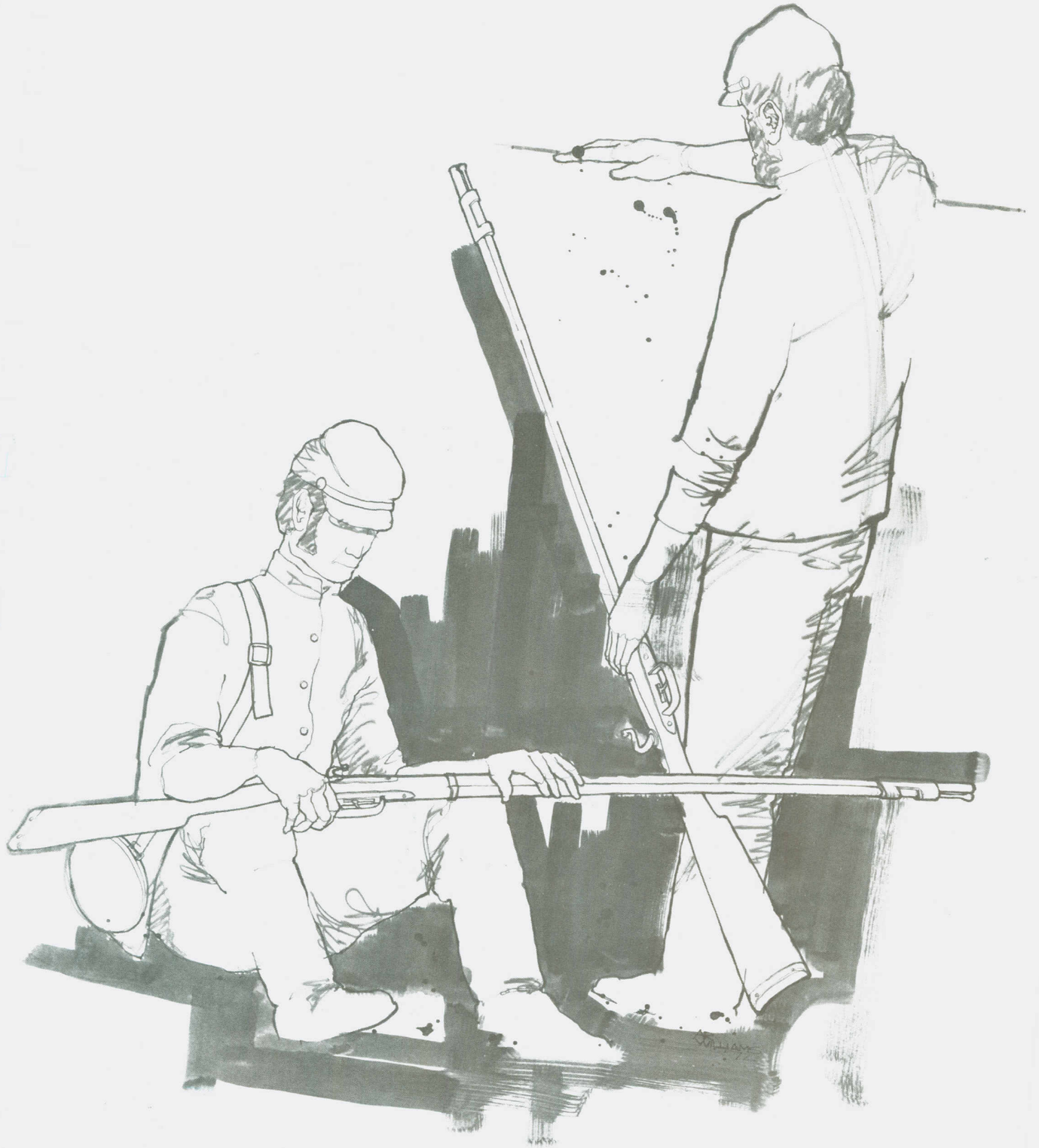
- Determine the adequacy of lands to meet the purpose of the park, the need to consolidate current holdings, the availability of buffer zones, and the ability to provide a quality experience and effective management.

- Provide facilities compatible with the concept that Richmond National Battlefield Park is an urban historical park with an increasing recreational involvement.

- Work actively with all appropriate historical, recreational, and governmental organizations in the Richmond metropolitan area concerning matters of common interest.

- Simulate a portion of the historic scene on selected battlefield lands as an aid to interpretation.

- Position facilities and planting to minimize non-compatible urban development adjacent to the park boundary.





APPENDIXES 4

BASIC DATA / 53
LEGAL FACTORS / 77
ACT OF MARCH 2, 1936 / 78
BIBLIOGRAPHY / 79
PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS / 80

This conceptual plan will provide the overall direction for the management and development of Richmond National Battlefield Park. Certain concepts were derived during the planning process that should be stated in order to understand the plan better.

- Fragmented areas are not and cannot be tied together.
- A tour route is no longer a valid approach for most visitors.
- Recreation facilities in the region have not kept pace with the needs of a growing population.
- The battlefield, once well beyond the urban fringe, is being impacted by the city.
- Concentration of planning would be on the three largest units of the park.
- Visitor center location should have convenient access to major circulation routes and principal park units.
- Interpretation should be more concerned with concepts and less with battle tactics.
- Utilize existing land in the park as much as possible.
- Capitalize on the relationship of the new beltway Interstate 295 to park units.
- Expand interpretive methods and techniques in portraying the battlefield story.
- Realize that Richmond National Battlefield Park is but a very small component of a rapidly changing region.
- Provide a variety of choices for the visitor.
- Study land adjacent to the park for zoning.

- Develop recreational facilities outside the primary historical resource, unless they are compatible with or provide access to important interpretive features.

- Preserve the vast system of Civil War earthworks within the park boundary, restoring only minor portions that are desirable for interpretive purposes.

- Work with local government for the elimination of commercial and commuter traffic in the park.

- Manage the park resource in such a manner as to set an outstanding regional example of environmental awareness.

- Provide a central visitor-use facility convenient to the major regional transportation network.

- Explore alternate methods of interpretation to the present 60-mile auto tour.

- Develop an interpretive program that will benefit visitors in proportion to the time they are involved, but a program that rewards even those with limited time.

- Provide environmental study areas within the park boundary.

The ten areas comprising Richmond National Battlefield vary in size from about 5 acres to 300 acres. It would not be feasible nor economical to plan a major recreational function for each of the ten areas. Concentration will, therefore, be on the three largest park areas: Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and Malvern Hill. Each will have a single recreation function. Fort Harrison will be used for family recreation, Cold Harbor for historical recreational use, and Malvern Hill for group recreation activities. Other areas are too small to combine active recreation and preservation of historical features.

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

FORT HARRISON	COLD HARBOR	MALVERN HILL
VISITOR INFORMATION ORIENTATION		
INTERPRETATION		
Exhibits Audiovisual Material Hiking - Bicycling Living History : military & social Restored Fort	Exhibits Living Farm Living History Historical - Natural History history Military - Social History Trails	On site Exhibits Audiovisual Station
RELATED ACTIVITIES		
Camping Picnicking Hiking Field Sports Horseback Riding	Bicycling Picnicking Hiking Field Sports	Camping Picnicking Hiking Field Sports Horseback Riding

These three larger areas would embody opportunities for a variety of uses compatible to a historic resource. In addition to the need for intensified programs in historical interpretation, there is a great need to diversify park activities to reach a wider segment of our population. This plan proposes to change what is a basically static Battlefield Park to one which relates the park's resources more meaningfully to contemporary society.

Analysis of existing and proposed facilities in the Richmond region demonstrates the necessity to reevaluate park functions and programs within the context of an urbanized setting. The proposed beltway (I-295) redistributes major traffic to the outskirts of Richmond and close to the battlefield units. Aided by graphic designations or trailblaze markers in cooperation with the State, the visitor gains easy access to the three principal areas from the proposed beltway (I-295). With the demise of rural land use on tour Route 156 and traffic bypassing the visitor center on Route 5, easy visitor access from new circulation patterns to the battlefield is a critical planning consideration.

FORT HARRISON

To give visitors easy access from new arterials requires relocation of the visitor center and park headquarters from Chimborazo to Fort Harrison, which is proximate to the beltway interchange and where space is available. The visitor center will provide information and orientation for the battlefield and other surrounding historic points of interest.

These three larger areas would embody opportunities for a variety of uses compatible to a historic resource. In addition to the need for intensified programs in historical interpretation, there is a great need to diversify park activities to reach a wider segment of our population. This plan proposes to change what is a basically static Battlefield Park to one which relates the park's resources more meaningfully to contemporary society.

Analysis of existing and proposed facilities in the Richmond region demonstrates the necessity to reevaluate park functions and programs within the context of an urbanized setting. The proposed beltway (I-295) redistributes major traffic to the outskirts of Richmond and close to the battlefield units. Aided by graphic designations or trailblaze markers in cooperation with the State, the visitor gains easy access to the three principal areas from the proposed beltway (I-295). With the demise of rural land use on tour Route 156 and traffic bypassing the visitor center on Route 5, easy visitor access from new circulation patterns to the battlefield is a critical planning consideration.

FORT HARRISON

To give visitors easy access from new arterials requires relocation of the visitor center and park headquarters from Chimborazo to Fort Harrison, which is proximate to the beltway interchange and where space is available. The visitor center will provide information and orientation for the battlefield and other surrounding historic points of interest.

Provisions for administrative staff, interpretive programs, and parking are other functions to be met at Fort Harrison. The earthwork fort is an excellent onsite historic feature with intriguing interpretive appeal for guided tours, demonstration programs, or as a backdrop for the cooperative youth programs. Where significant or decisive combat eluded Fort Harrison, it seems logical to give visitors here some fundamental insights into the engineering aspects of fort construction. Figures on soil volumes that could be compared to some known object are thoughts that might stretch the visitor's imagination on the efforts men went through for protection. Fort Harrison is the setting to interpret the daily routine of life in a garrison where long periods of monotony tired the spirit between combat. Routines of monotonous loneliness were as much of a contention to be coped with by the soldier as survival itself.

Fort Harrison has long needed an exhibit in place to illustrate more graphically the tremendous difference in its appearance between the Civil War era and the present. One of the six forts along this line of Richmond Defenses could be restored. Fort Johnson would be an excellent example of Civil War earthen fortifications. The earthworks should be restored to original height and stabilized, the moat cleared to its original 27-foot depth, and the structures reconstructed. This exhibit would give visitors a vivid impression of the monumental task of constructing such defenses and show the scar that man and war inflicts on his natural environment. Nature's recovery from these scars can be another part of the story.

Environmental Study Areas should be expanded to meet future needs. Facilities and literature at Fort Harrison are an excellent start in this direction. The marshy ground in the southwest corner of this area is proposed as a new Environmental Study Area. This offers a substantially different biotic area for studying man's use of the environment – terrain, flora, and fauna – as an integral part of the living

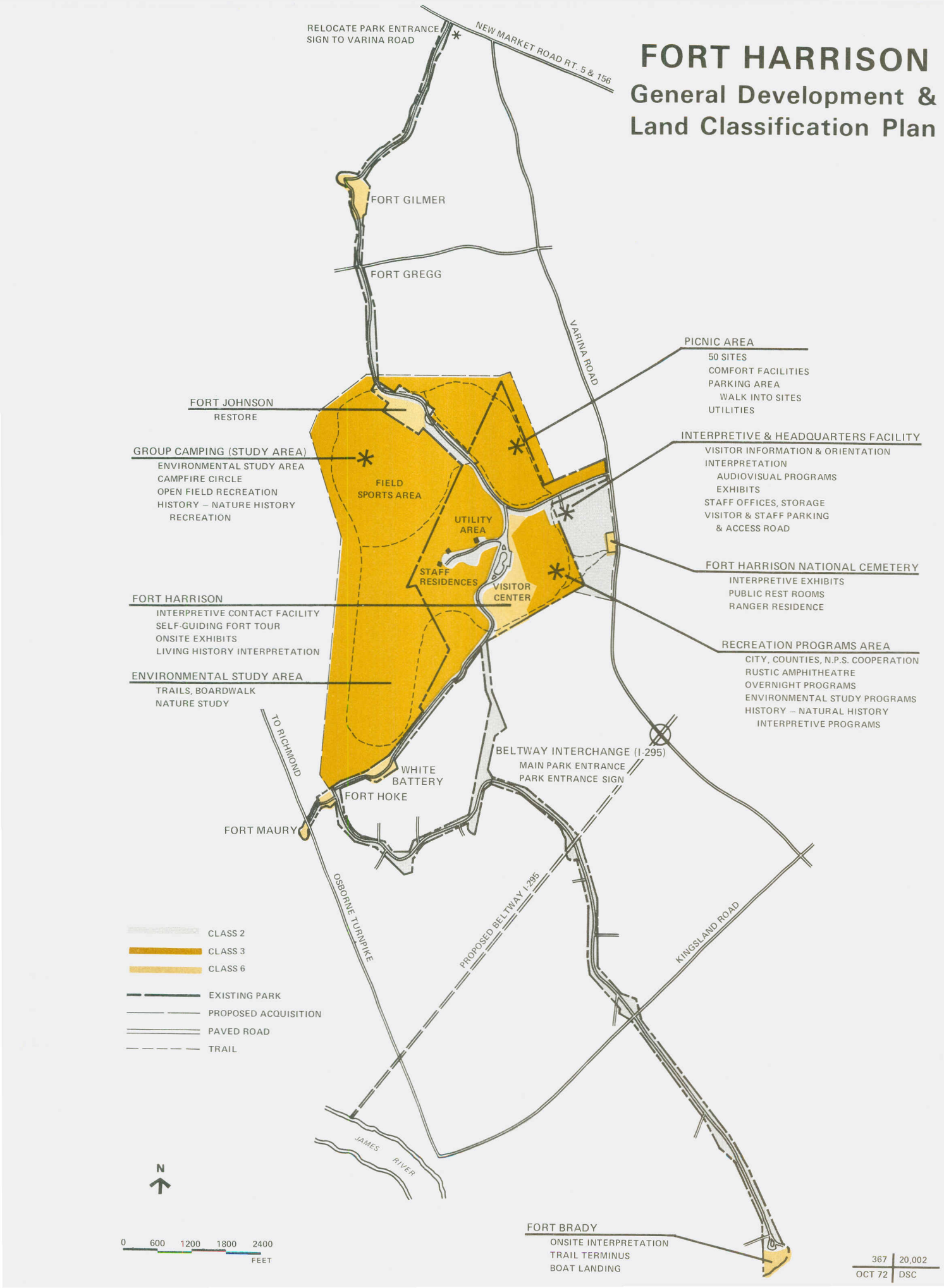
interpretation programs for the three planned areas.

Self-guided trails are recommended for Fort Harrison. These trails will interpret periods of history in such a way as to give the visitor a feeling of walking through a Civil War battlefield.

Although history is the primary experience awaiting the visitor's attention at Fort Harrison, there is sufficient space to accommodate other compatible activities. The successful youth program conducted in cooperation with the City of Richmond utilizes an existing group camp facility and features cookouts, overnight camping, and related programs. The success and planned expansion of "Sum-Fun" indicates the need to upgrade facilities for this group camp. An alternate site for group camping with an environmental study area is proposed to meet the request for such facilities by youth organizations.

In the absence of county parks in Henrico County, Fort Harrison is already a major recreation resource with 15 picnic table sites. This facility will be expanded and moved out of the historic zone. Opportunities exist and are encouraged for field sports, bicycle trails, and nature study away from historic zones at Fort Harrison.

Proposed boundary changes would surround the Fort Harrison National Cemetery, and its inclusion will add an important historic resource. An interpretive facility here would give particular emphasis to the gallantry of U.S. colored troops involved. The property also includes an operating public restroom, a residence, and a small maintenance building.

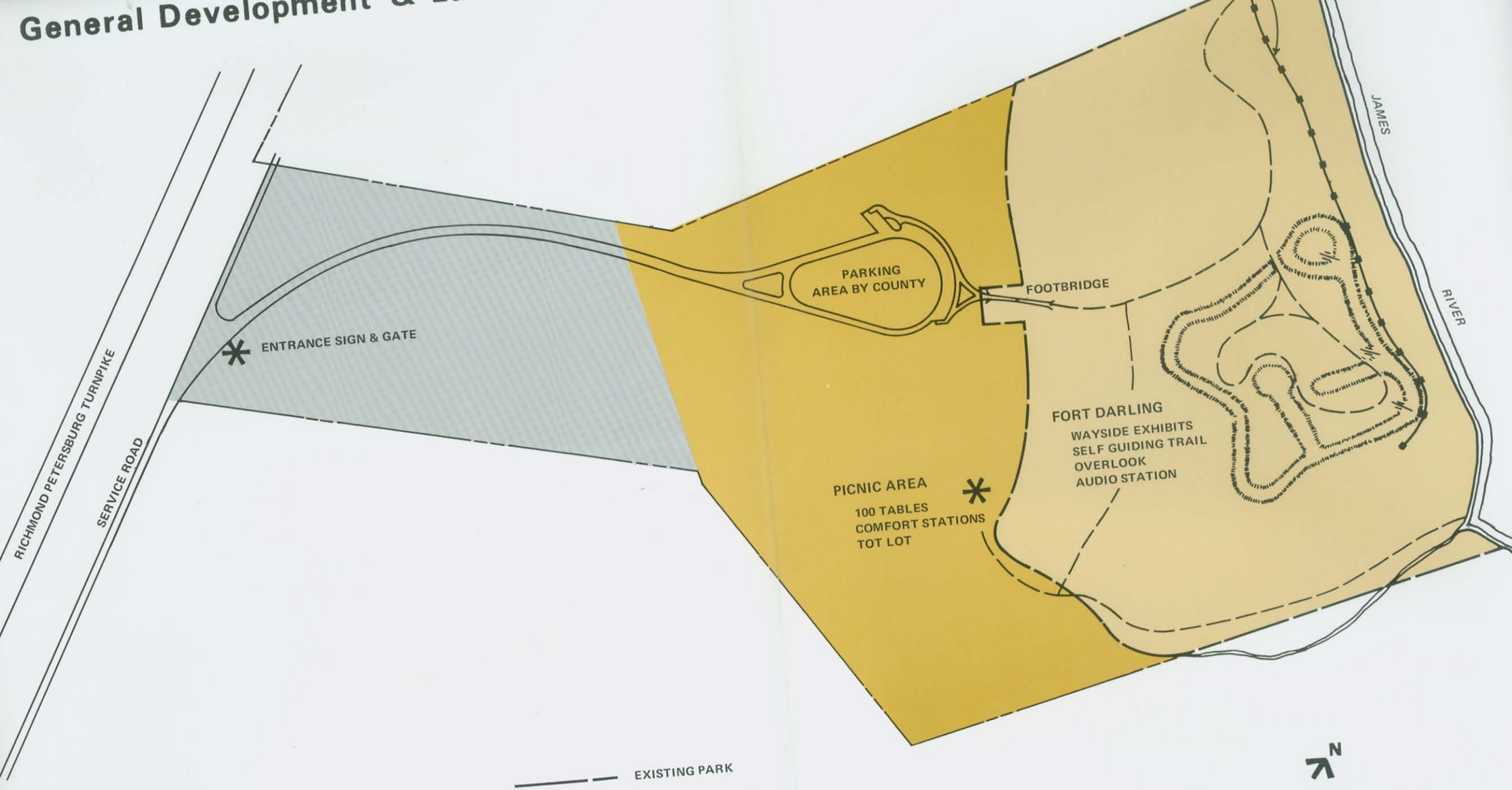

FORT HARRISON
General Development &
Land Classification Plan
RELOCATE PARK ENTRANCE SIGN TO VARINA ROAD
NEW MARKET ROAD RT. 5 & 156
FORT GILMER
FORT GREGG
VARINA ROAD
PICNIC AREA
50 SITES
COMFORT FACILITIES
PARKING AREA
WALK INTO SITES
UTILITIES
FORT JOHNSON
RESTORE
INTERPRETIVE & HEADQUARTERS FACILITY
VISITOR INFORMATION & ORIENTATION
INTERPRETATION
AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMS
EXHIBITS
STAFF OFFICES, STORAGE
VISITOR & STAFF PARKING
& ACCESS ROAD
GROUP CAMPING (STUDY AREA)
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA
CAMPFIRE CIRCLE
OPEN FIELD RECREATION
HISTORY – NATURE HISTORY
RECREATION
FIELD SPORTS AREA
UTILITY AREA
STAFF RESIDENCES
VISITOR CENTER
FORT HARRISON NATIONAL CEMETERY
INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS
PUBLIC REST ROOMS
RANGER RESIDENCE
FORT HARRISON
INTERPRETIVE CONTACT FACILITY
SELF-GUIDING FORT TOUR
ONSITE EXHIBITS
LIVING HISTORY INTERPRETATION
RECREATION PROGRAMS AREA
CITY, COUNTIES, N.P.S. COOPERATION
RUSTIC AMPHITHEATRE
OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY PROGRAMS
HISTORY – NATURAL HISTORY
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA
TRAILS, BOARDWALK
NATURE STUDY
TO RICHMOND
BELTWAY INTERCHANGE (I-295)
MAIN PARK ENTRANCE
PARK ENTRANCE SIGN
WHITE BATTERY
FORT HOKE
FORT MAURY
OSBORNE TURNPIKE
PROPOSED BELTWAY I-295
KINGSLAND ROAD
CLASS 2
CLASS 3
CLASS 6
EXISTING PARK
PROPOSED ACQUISITION
PAVED ROAD
TRAIL
JAMES RIVER
N
0 600 1200 1800 2400
FEET
FORT BRADY
ONSITE INTERPRETATION
TRAIL TERMINUS
BOAT LANDING
367 | 20,002
OCT 72 | DSC

COLD HARBOR

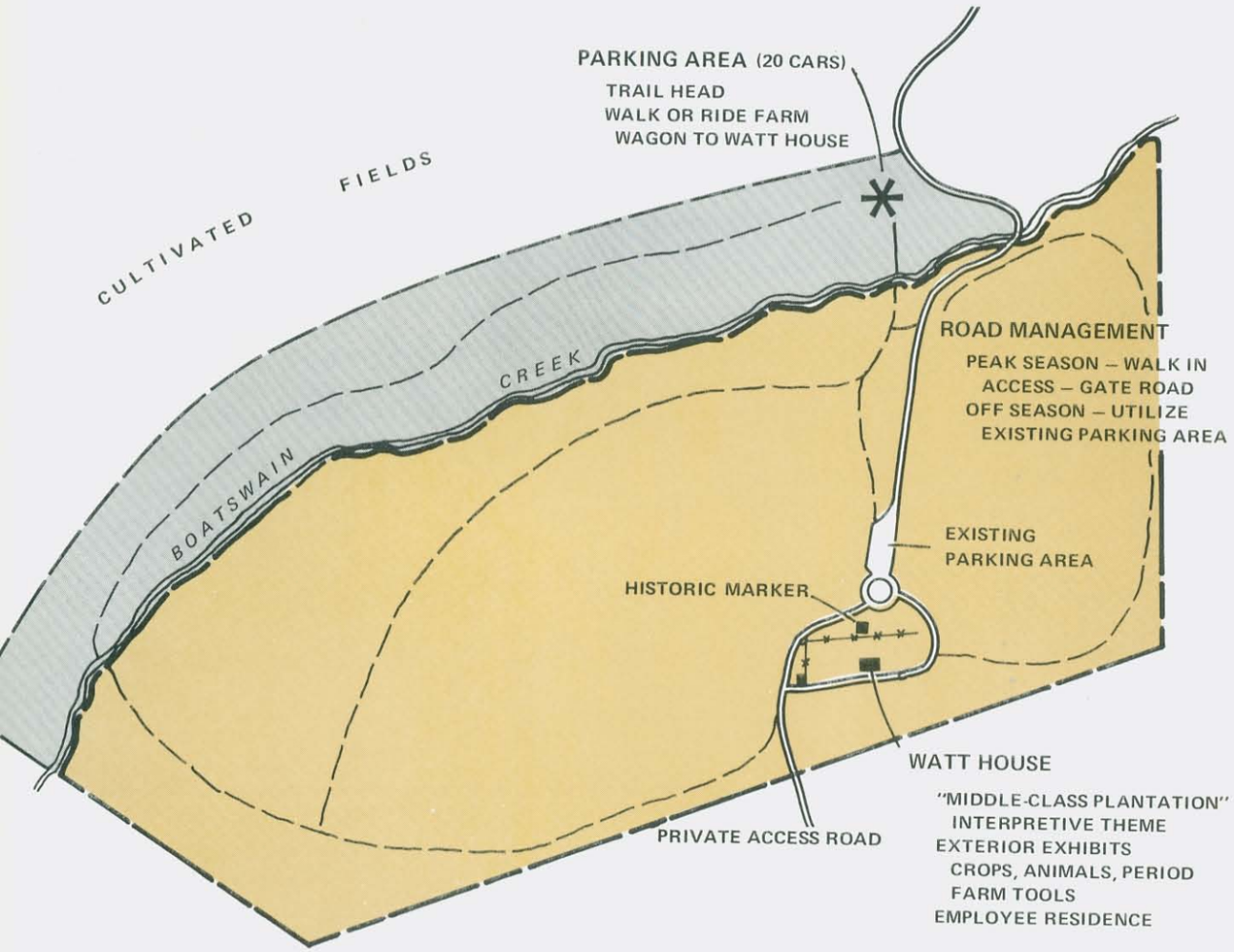
Cold Harbor is the second largest of the ten units of Richmond National Battlefield Park. It is also the setting of the most intense battle which saved Richmond from capture by Union forces.

At the present time, a 1.80-mile loop road meanders between Union and Confederate positions. Primary interpretation now depends on the automobile and a few scattered markers. The 150-acre woodland parcel is too restrictive in scale for automobiles and such use tends to overwhelm the small battlefield. A shorter loop will keep the automobile out of the historic zone, but allow visitors on foot, bicycles, or horse into a closer acquaintance with the historic events. Guided tours, demonstration programs, or appropriate mid-19th century field hardware are perhaps a few interpretive techniques that would flavor Cold Harbor with greater visitor interest. Cold Harbor is an appropriate setting for the history day sequence of the four-day "Sum-Fun" program for the Richmond area youth. Participation of youth in these reinactments of "living history" are both entertaining and educational. Firearms demonstrations, cookouts, etc., bring about real understanding of historic resources. In addition to the present mortar firing demonstration, live demonstrations of trench construction and daily camp life can graphically enhance the Cold Harbor story. A recreational-programs area north of the battlefield provides sufficient space to assist the youth programs. Comfort stations and luncheon sites will be available to the visitor at Cold Harbor where they do not detract from historic zones.

General Development &



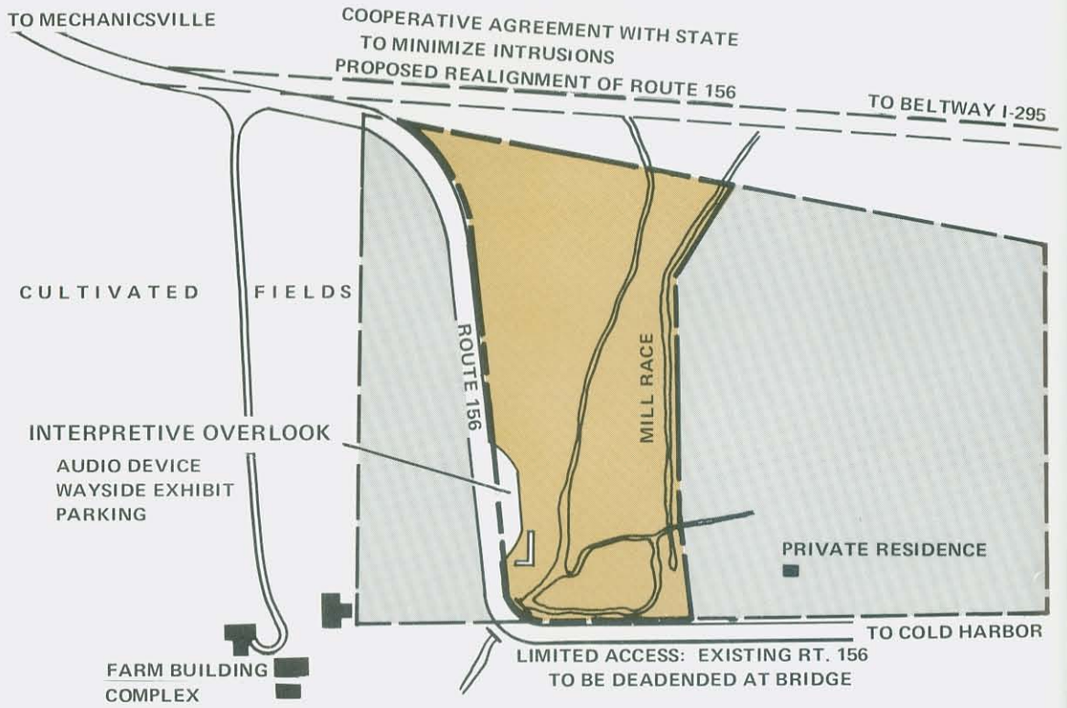
General Development & Land Classification Plan



ROADS & PARKING
- CLASS 2
- CLASS 3
- CLASS 6

- EXISTING PARK
- PROPOSED ACQUISITION
- EXISTING BUILDING
- PAVED ROAD
- TRAIL

General Development & Land Classification Plan



ROADS & PARKING
- CLASS 2
- CLASS 3
- CLASS 6

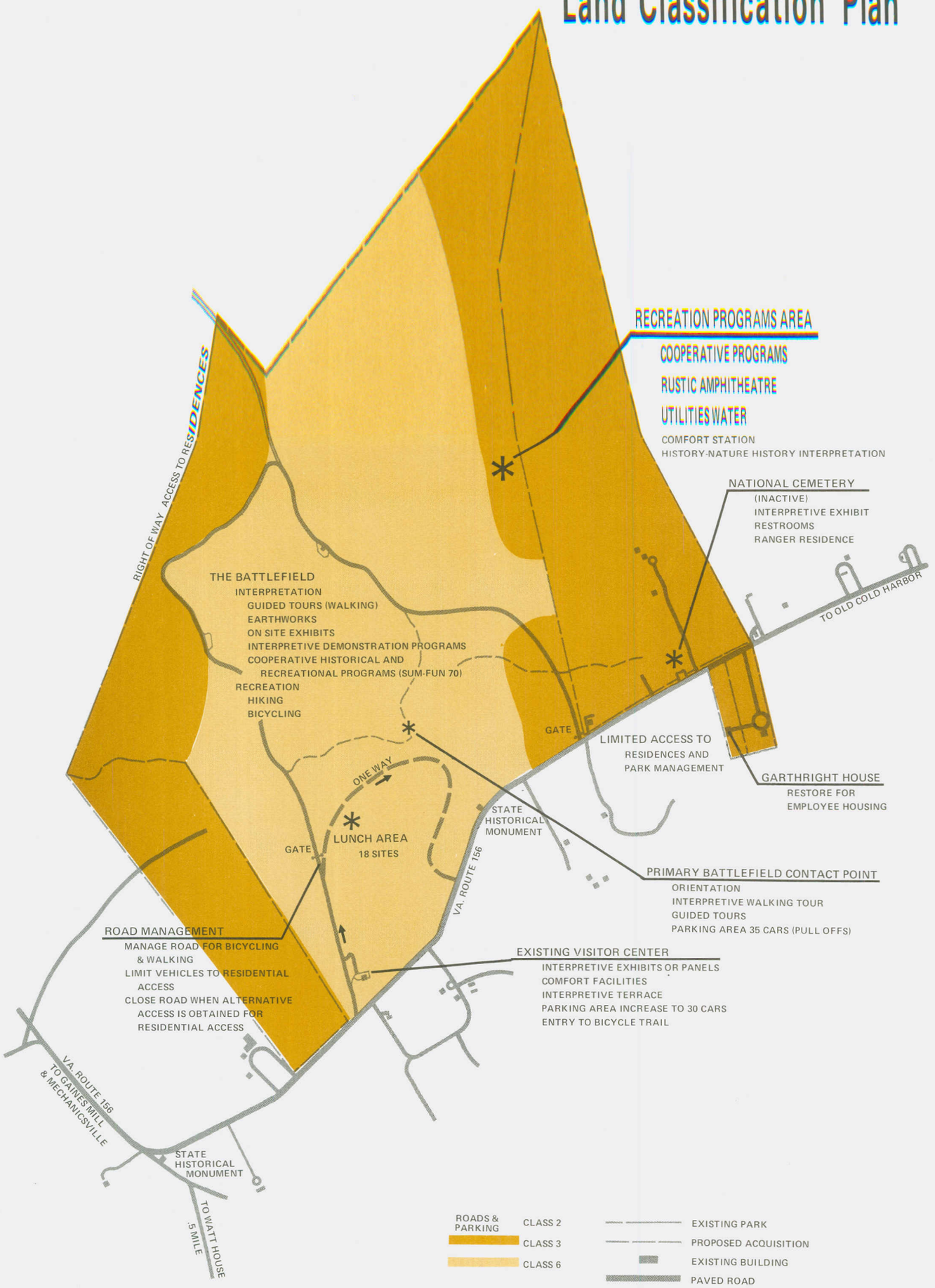
- EXISTING PARK
- PROPOSED ACQUISITION
- EXISTING BUILDING
- PAVED ROAD

The Cold Harbor National Cemetery contains remains of those killed in the bloody Cold Harbor attack, in which there were more casualties than in any similar period of the war. The cemetery thus provides a valuable resource by which to interpret the intensity of the engagement. Existing facilities include public restrooms, a residence, and a maintenance building.

As recreational needs of the City of Richmond and the surrounding area increase, the park will aim at serving these, tying recreational programs to the larger meanings of the history story wherever possible. Cold Harbor has land suitable for such purposes. Limited camping and picnicking can be accommodated. Riding and hiking trails should be added after removal and realignment of the tour road.

COLD HARBOR

General Development & Land Classification Plan



367 | 20,003
OCT 72 | DSC

MALVERN HILL

Malvern Hill is the third major unit. Here is the site of final major Confederate assault on Union positions before the Union withdrawal from the costly 1862 peninsula campaign. Improvement in interpretation is needed to alter the static battleground into a meaningful venture into history. There is little evidence of the important struggle here. Again, guided tours, demonstration programs, and appropriate field hardware or period structures would lend credibility to the Civil War scene.

Malvern Hill is the least developed of the three principal areas and has the most to offer for natural environment-history programs. This site will continue as the setting for environmental programs, the last of the four-day sequence of the "Sum-Fun" program. One group camp is located on the wooded western slopes of the hill with primitive provisions for sanitation, eating and outdoor classrooms. As program successes increase, two additional camps can be installed on nearby land proposed for acquisition. An adjacent farmhouse and barn also proposed for acquisition, would provide space and facilities for protection, safety, and a crafts shop center for environmentally related projects where instruction, material and work space requirements are fundamental in youth programs. Plan flexibility allows the alternative use of group camps as walk-in family picnic areas.

A family picnicking area, with adjacent open space suitable for sports and games, is proposed on the east side of Route 156.

OTHER UNITS

While the three principal units will receive major attention, the remaining seven units will be improved as necessary to increase their visitor-serving effectiveness.

Chimborazo • is the present headquarters and visitor center facility for the battlefield. The building location is inaccessible to major arteries, for it is removed from the battlefield proper and lacks adequate parking or expansion capability. A new visitor center and headquarters facility will be located at Fort Harrison, whereupon this property will revert to the city.

Chickahominy Bluffs • possesses a panoramic vista over the Chickahominy Swamp. Union positions are clearly defined from this observation post of General Robert E. Lee. A new road, parking and interpretive facilities adequately serve present and anticipated visitation.

Garthright House • recently suffered fire damage, but will be restored as an exterior exhibit. The interior will serve as a residence for park personnel.

The Ellersons Mill • site consists of bottomland bordered by a millrace and State Route 156. This road will one day be relocated so that the present road will serve only as an access to the existing interpretive overlook that highlights the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek. This new realignment for Route 156 will pass just north of the park to a direct connection with the beltway. Additional land acquisition would secure historic troop emplacements in addition to visual controls over the narrow valley.

Parkers Battery • is an inaccessible, remote, 10-acre battlefield parcel in the midst of industrial development. It possesses minimal interpretive potential.

GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION

Land Classification. • The park will be managed under three types of land use classifications. Class II – general outdoor recreation will be reserved for visitor accommodations, administration facilities, maintenance operations, roads, etc. Class III – natural environment areas provide the "buffer" between developed areas, private lands, and historic lands. Facilities are limited to those required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation and protection of the features, such as informal picnic sites and trails. In Class VI – historical and cultural physical developments are limited to those essential to preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historical values.

Land Acquisition. • The conceptual land acquisition proposals embodied in this plan take into account both buffering requirements and needs indicated by existing programs. There should be some flexibility in the approach to land acquisition, with respect to program-oriented parcels. As the success of these programs dictate the need for additional land, specific proposals can be submitted to Congress for approval.

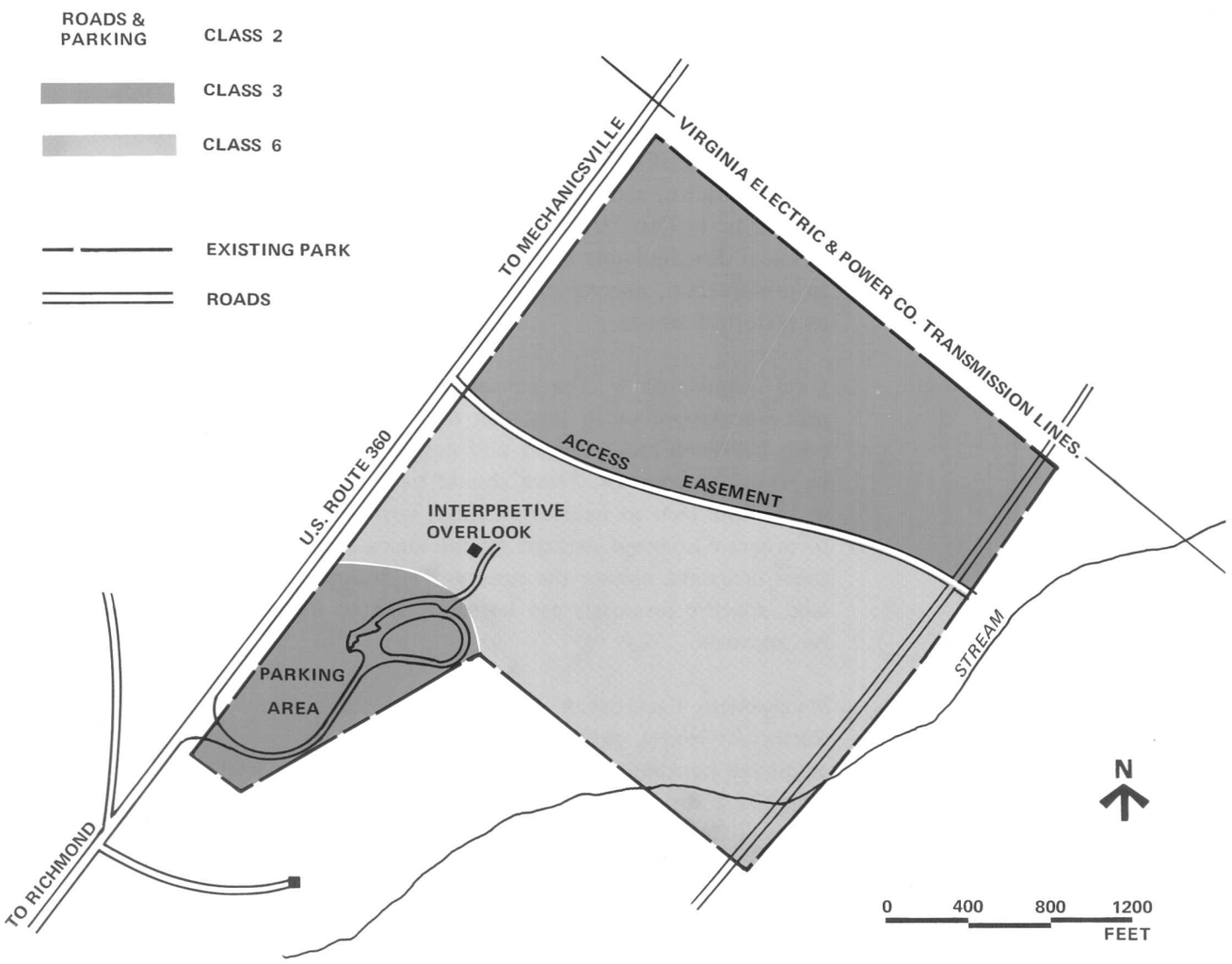
Management Facilities. • In addition to the Garthright House, presently being converted to employee housing, three residences will become available with the addition of Cold Harbor and Fort Harrison National Cemeteries, as well as the Crew House at Malvern Hill.

The maintenance area at Fort Harrison is adequate. In the event maintenance facilities need expansion it should be in the form of sub-maintenance areas. Central maintenance will remain at Fort Harrison.

Fort Darling on Drewry's Bluff • is an outstanding example of an earthen fortification with commanding view over the James River. Present interpretive facilities seem adequate. Surrounding land use is heavily industrial with a county dump as a bordering neighbor. There is a need to stabilize the slope between the fortification and the James River and to construct a boat docking facility. Acquisition of the Chesterfield County sanitary landfill site would buffer the fortification, give control over the parking and entrance road, provide additional space for recreational activities, and remove an eyesore.

The Watt House • is a sizeable, attractive battlefield unit with outstanding potential for future interpretive services. The basic resources exist to recapture and demonstrate the rural flavor of a "middle class plantation." Crops, animals, period farm implements, and other exterior exhibits would create the magnetic appeal of "a living farm" operation convenient to metropolitan Richmond. Most inner-city children have never seen farm activities; and participation by them may well be the high point of their park visit. Land acquisition or easement control on the north side of the existing area would buffer the Boatswain Creek watershed and provide space for fringe parking from which visiting school groups could ride a farm wagon to the Watt House. Additional details of specific management problems in each unit may be found in the appendix.

Cooperative Land Use. • Standing on a parcel of land where one sees only manmade objects, it is difficult, if not impossible to imagine open fields we speak of in a battlefield park. The Superintendent, working with the surrounding communities and the city, should seek to have lands adjacent to park property zoned for open space or low density land uses.



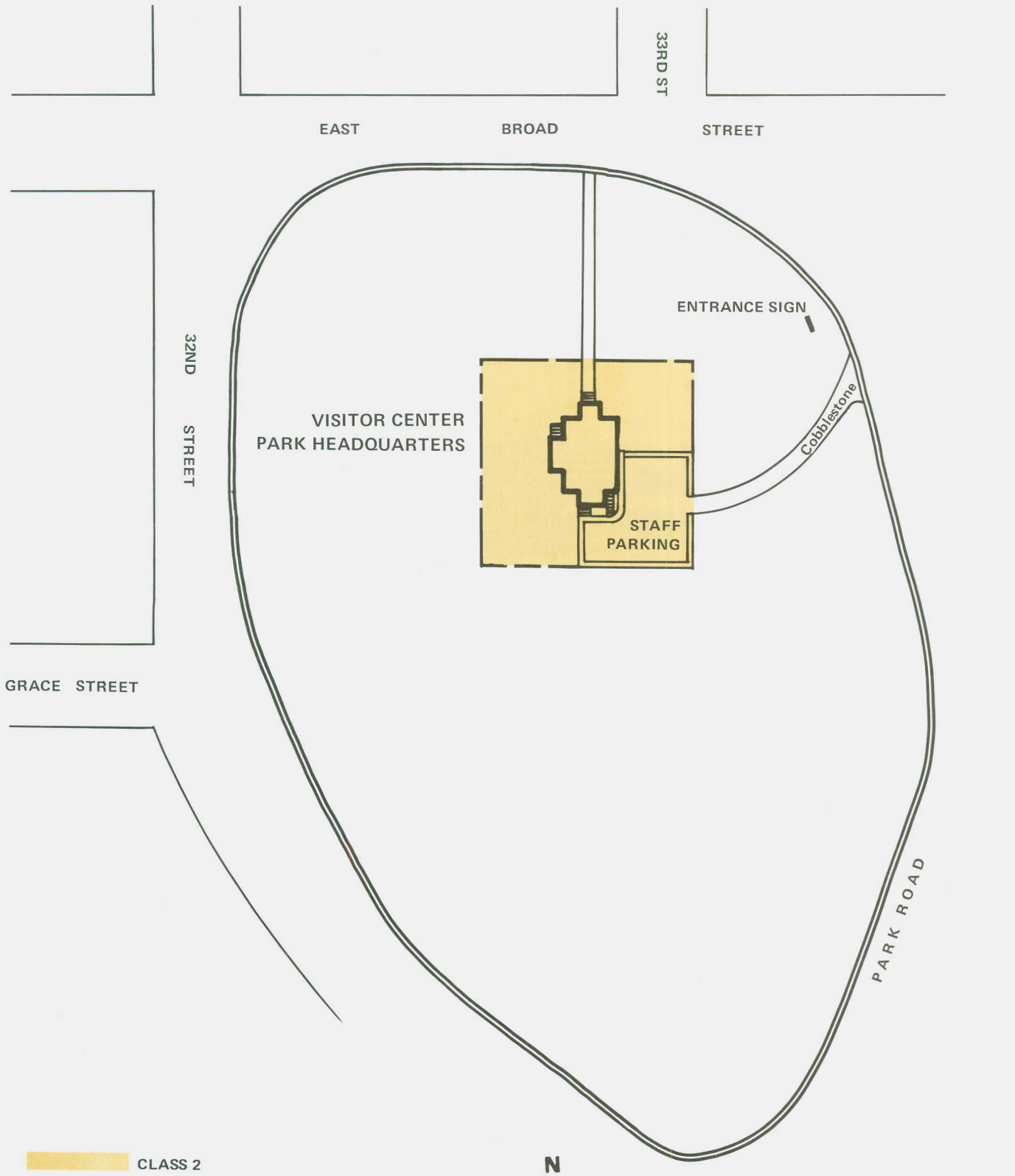
Land Classification Plan

CHICKAHOMINY BLUFFS

367	20,007
OCT 72	DSC

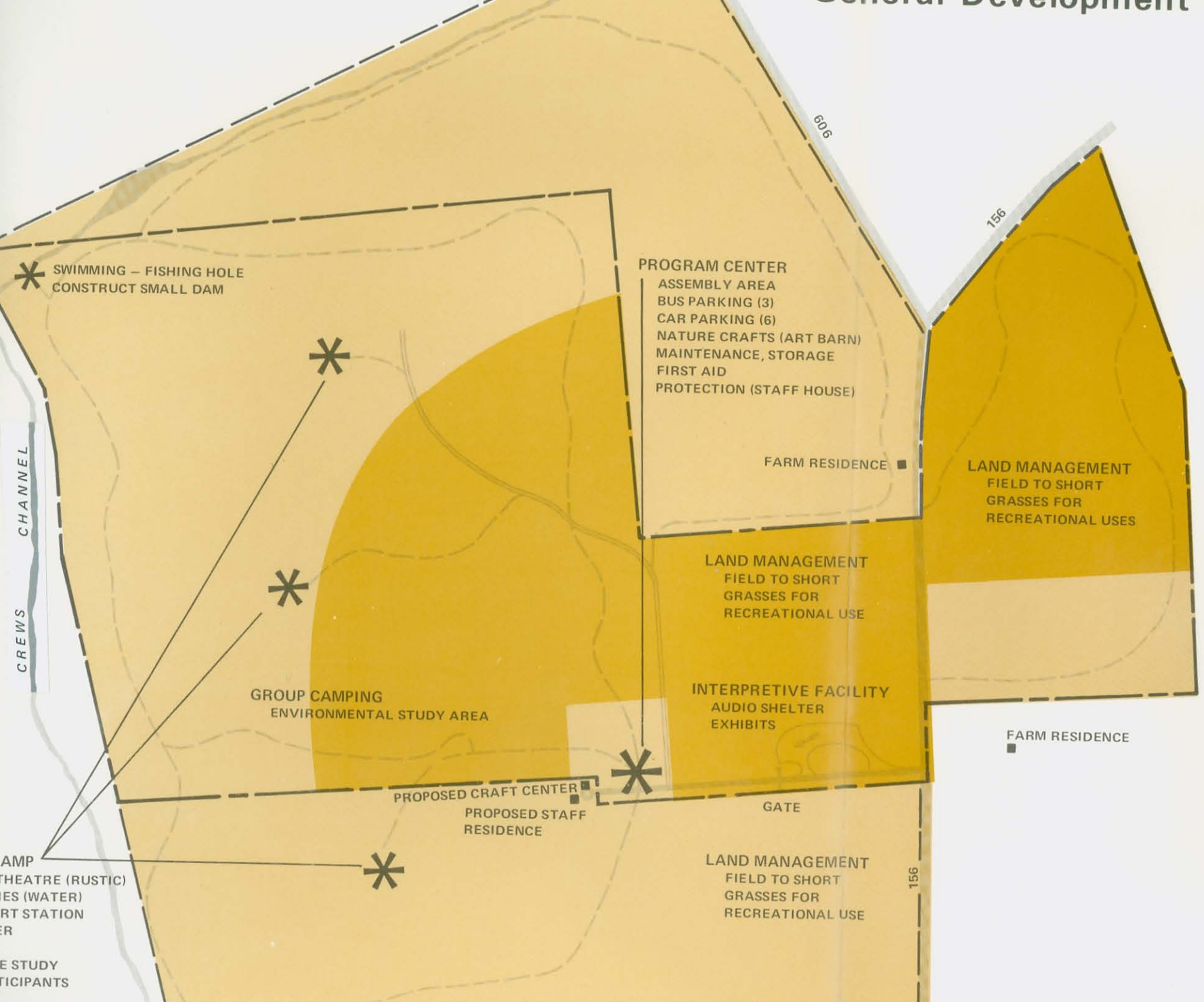
CHIMBORAZO PARK

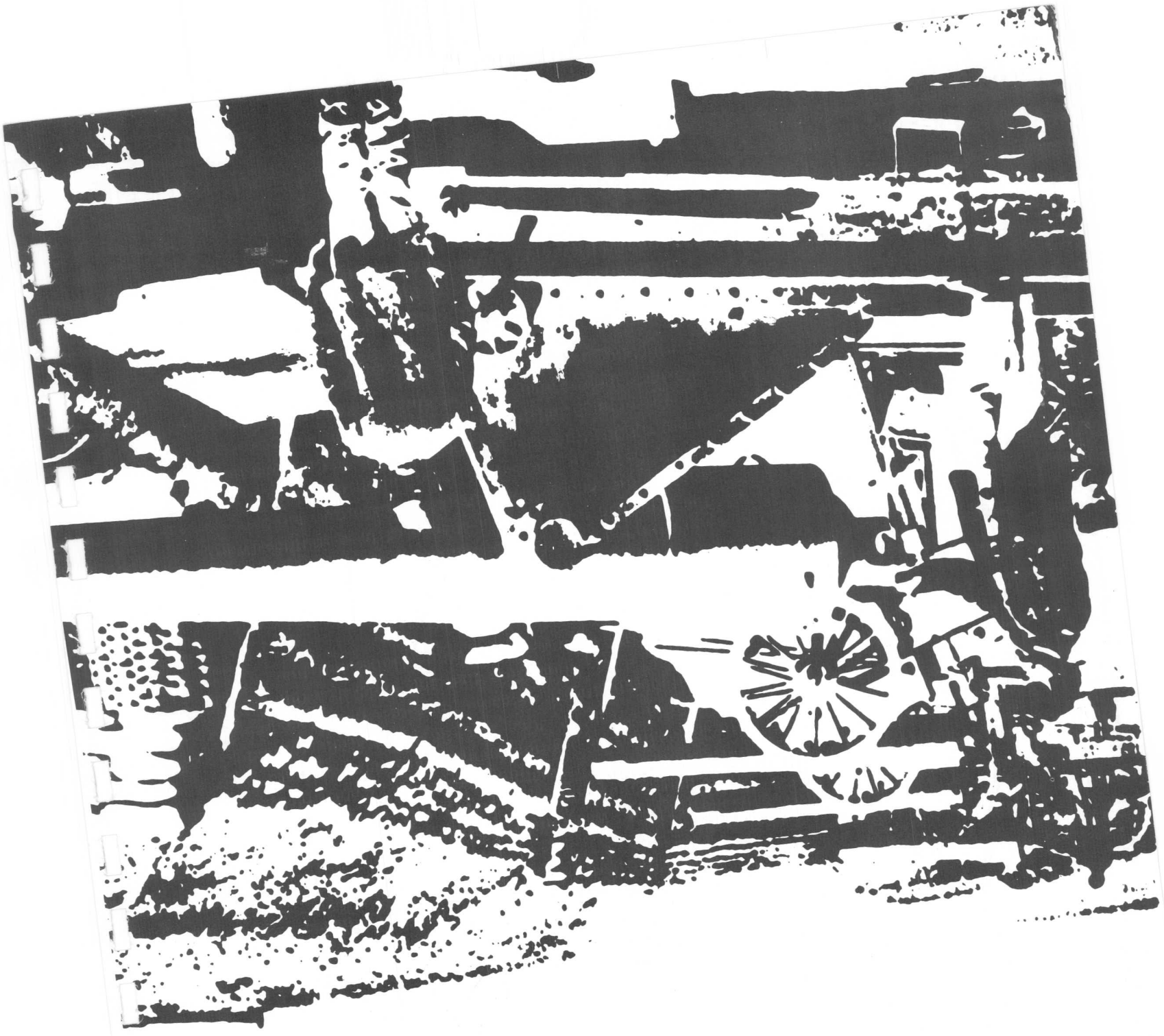
Land Classification Plan



367	20,006
OCT 72	DSC

General Development & Land Classification Plan





BASIC DATA

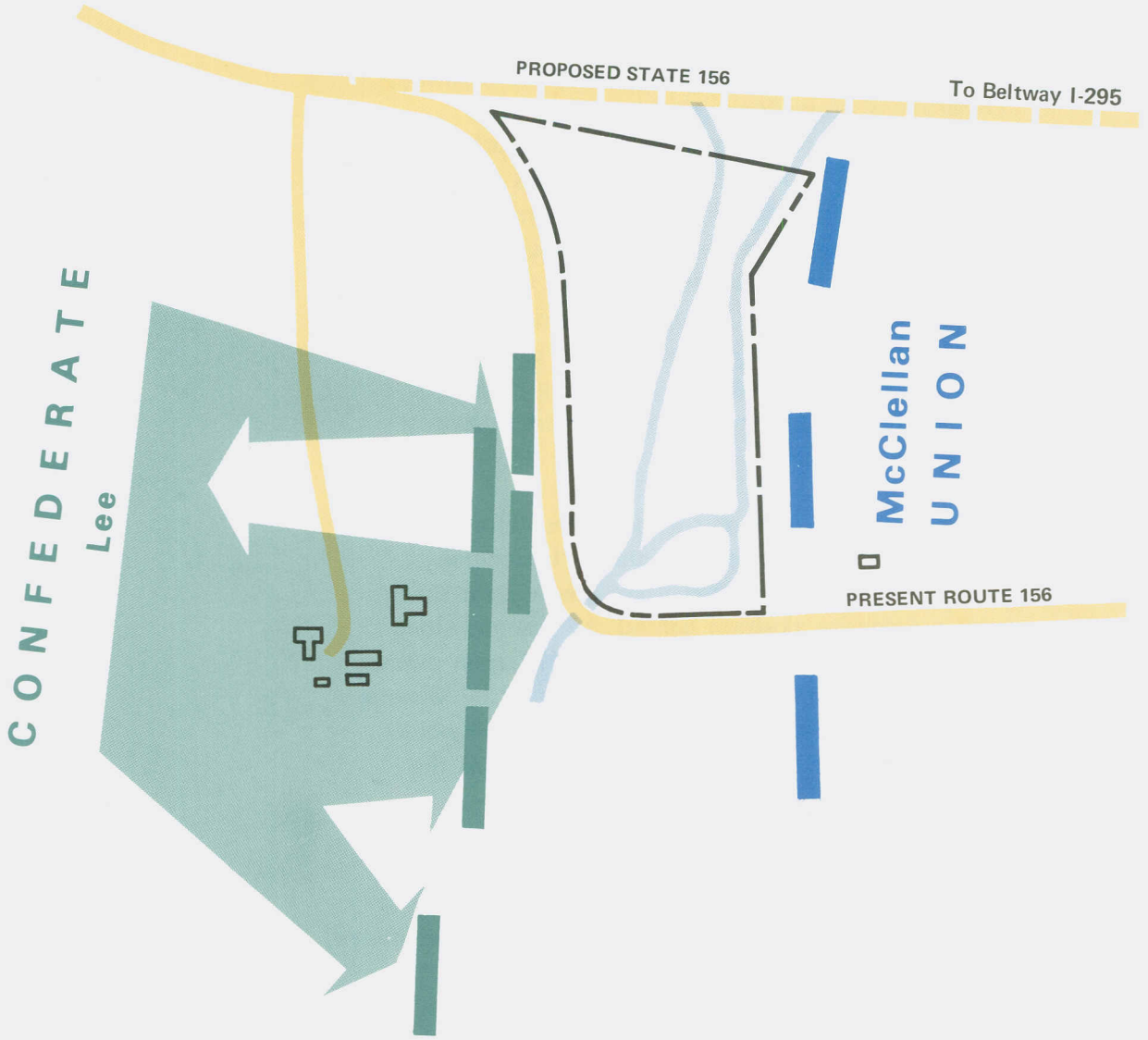
Chickahominy Bluffs • was acquired as an 84.9-acre gift from the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Co. in October 1958, by a transfer of title first to the Eastern National Park and Monument Association. The land contains a representative portion of the Richmond outer defense line – rifle pits, gun emplacements, and their appurtenances. It is located 1.6 miles southwest from Mechanicsville, on the south side of the Chickahominy River, and fronting on the east side of U.S. Route 360 (Mechanicsville Turnpike). It includes a portion of the crest of the river valley bluffs from which Confederate cannon duelled with Union artillery occupying Mechanicsville prior to the Seven Days' Battle. It was in this area that General Robert E. Lee had his command post on June 26, 1862, when he launched the attack that opened the series of conflicts and maneuvers known as the Seven Days' Battle, thus successfully turning aside the first, and the most serious Federal threat to Richmond until late in the war.

Before title to Chickahominy Bluffs was transferred to the United States in October 1960, there was acquired by exchange a 4.1-acre parcel of land adjacent to both U.S. Route 360 and the south side of the original plot, to provide a suitable access. The land exchanged was a 40.6-acre portion comprising the southeastern half of the original gift plot, plus an additional 1.4-acre portion forming a 60-foot road right-of-way to U.S. Route 360. This approximately bisects the remaining northwestern half of the original gift plot. This bisected northwestern portion and the 4.1 acres acquired for access comprise the 29.2 acres presently in this park unit.

The land on the bluff affords a sweeping panoramic view of the Chickahominy River valley, Mechanicsville, and the area of the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek, providing an overview of the first day and the first two events of the Seven Days' Battle. The park fronts on 4-lane U.S. Route 360, which connects with the circumferential route, Laburnum Avenue, less than half a mile to the south. Two miles south of the park, U.S. Route 360 connects with Interstate 64, which in turn forms a junction with Interstate 95 in downtown Richmond. By this fast, 4-lane route, Chickahominy Bluffs is a 10-minute drive from anywhere in downtown Richmond. Via the supporting circumferentials, it is not more than 20 minutes from anywhere in the greater metropolitan Richmond area. Three miles northeast of the park, U.S. Route 360 will soon connect with a new suburban circumferential, Va. "I" Route 295.

Beaver Dam Creek • was fought on the afternoon of the first day of the Seven Days' Battle, June 26, 1862, on one of those typical plateau-creek-plateau battlefields. (Some historians hold that the engagement at King's Schoolhouse, fought on June 28 was the first battle of the Seven Days.) Union forces under General Fitz-John Porter were dug in and awaiting the Confederate advance across the Chickahominy River and through Mechanicsville, just abandoned by Union infantry. The battle, which generated about 1,700 casualties, mostly Confederate, achieved the Union objectives of attrition and delay. Under the threat of increased pressure, Union forces withdrew toward Gaines' Mill during the night. The conflict demonstrated raw courage and the crude state of the tactical arts while revealing much of the intended strategy of both sides.

The 11.95 acres in the Beaver Dam Creek unit were all acquired prior to establishment. It consists of a strip of stream and bottomland about 700 feet wide and 1,000 feet long, enclosing the Ellerson Mill site and a section of the millrace. A 30-foot



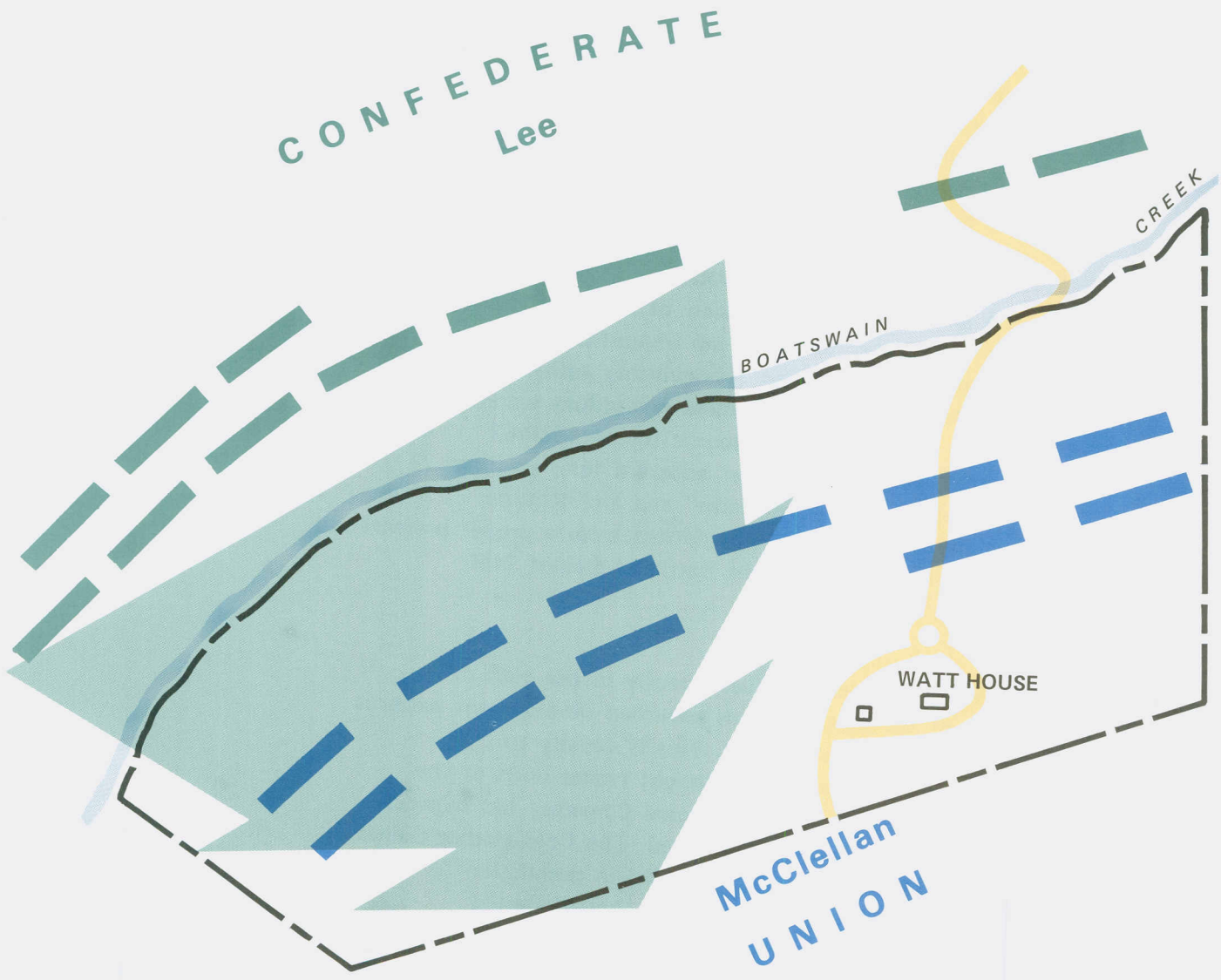
BATTLE OF BEAVER DAM CREEK
JUNE 26,1862

by 900-foot strip of land projecting upstream from the north end of this plot contains an additional stretch of millrace, which was used as a Union infantry parapet. Neither valley wall nor any plateau land is within the boundaries. The western boundary of the park is, for the most part, the right-of-way of Va. Route 156. Present Virginia State Highway Department projections call for a "re-aligned" Va. Route 156; this road would cut through the base of the 900-foot millrace projections of the property, and lie adjacent to the remaining north boundary, probably at considerable elevation. The region around this park is on the verge of an explosive period of suburban development triggered by new transportation routes and the avid metropolitan need for additional housing. A housing project is now within a few hundred yards of the northwest corner of the park.

Gaines' Mill • was fought at distances more than half a mile southeast of the mill. General Fitz-John Porter, retreating from Beaver Dam Creek, took a defensive position behind the swamps along Boatswain Creek on June 27, 1862, and again awaited a Confederate thrust. It came, misdirected by General Robert E. Lee's conviction that the Federals would retreat northeast toward the White House, on the Pamunkey River.

In reality, Porter's Corps and its supporting units were buying time for the remainder of the Army of the Potomac to execute a change of base southeastward, toward the James River. In this most bitter and costly battle of the Seven Days, Union casualties were 6,800, Confederate losses, 8,700. A Confederate charge at nightfall broke the Federal line, and Porter's men retreated across the Chickahominy River during the night.

The 60.2-acre Watt House unit of the park commemorating this battle, centers on the restored farm home of the Watt family, driven away by the battle, never

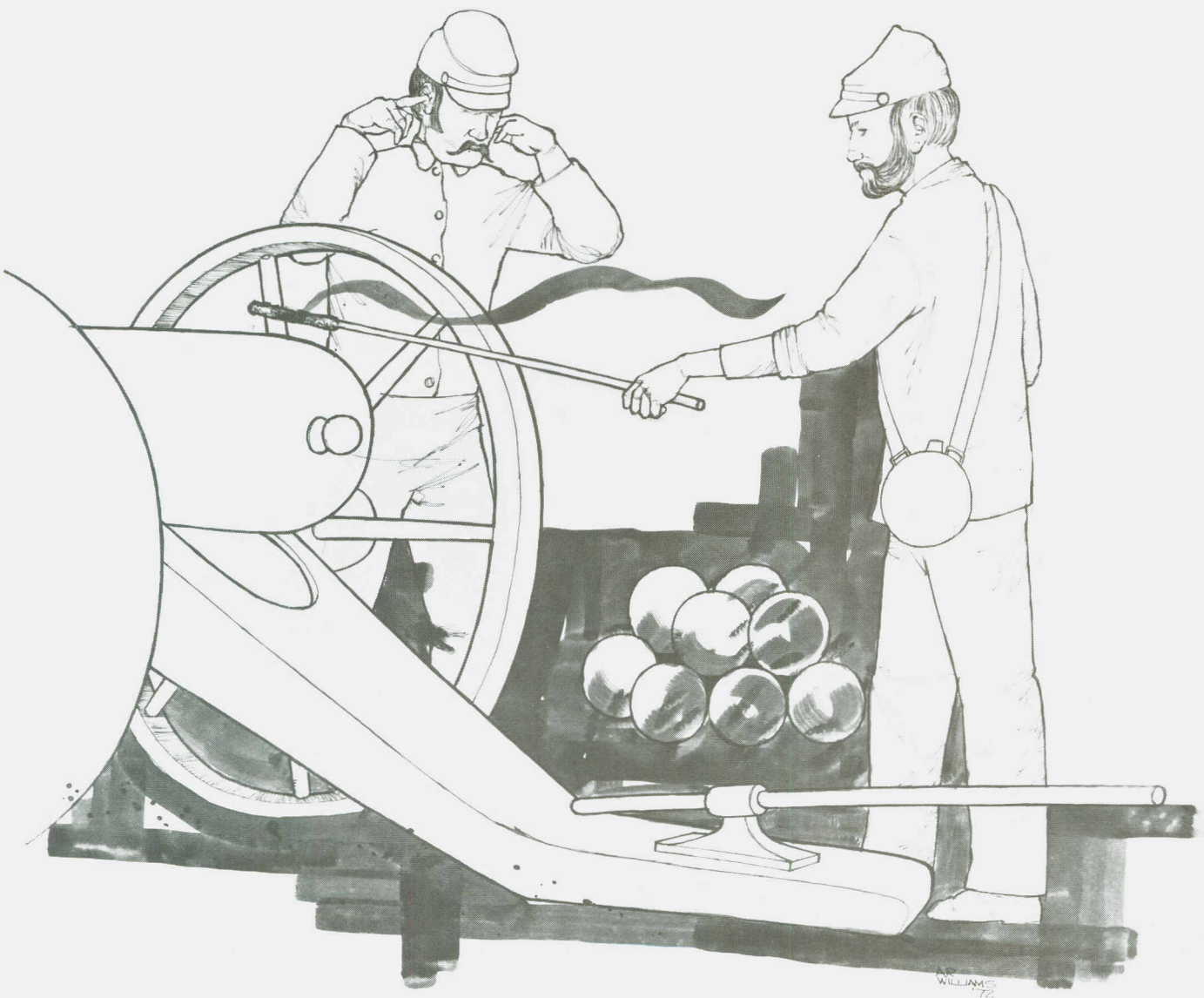


BATTLE OF GAINES MILL
JUNE 27,1862

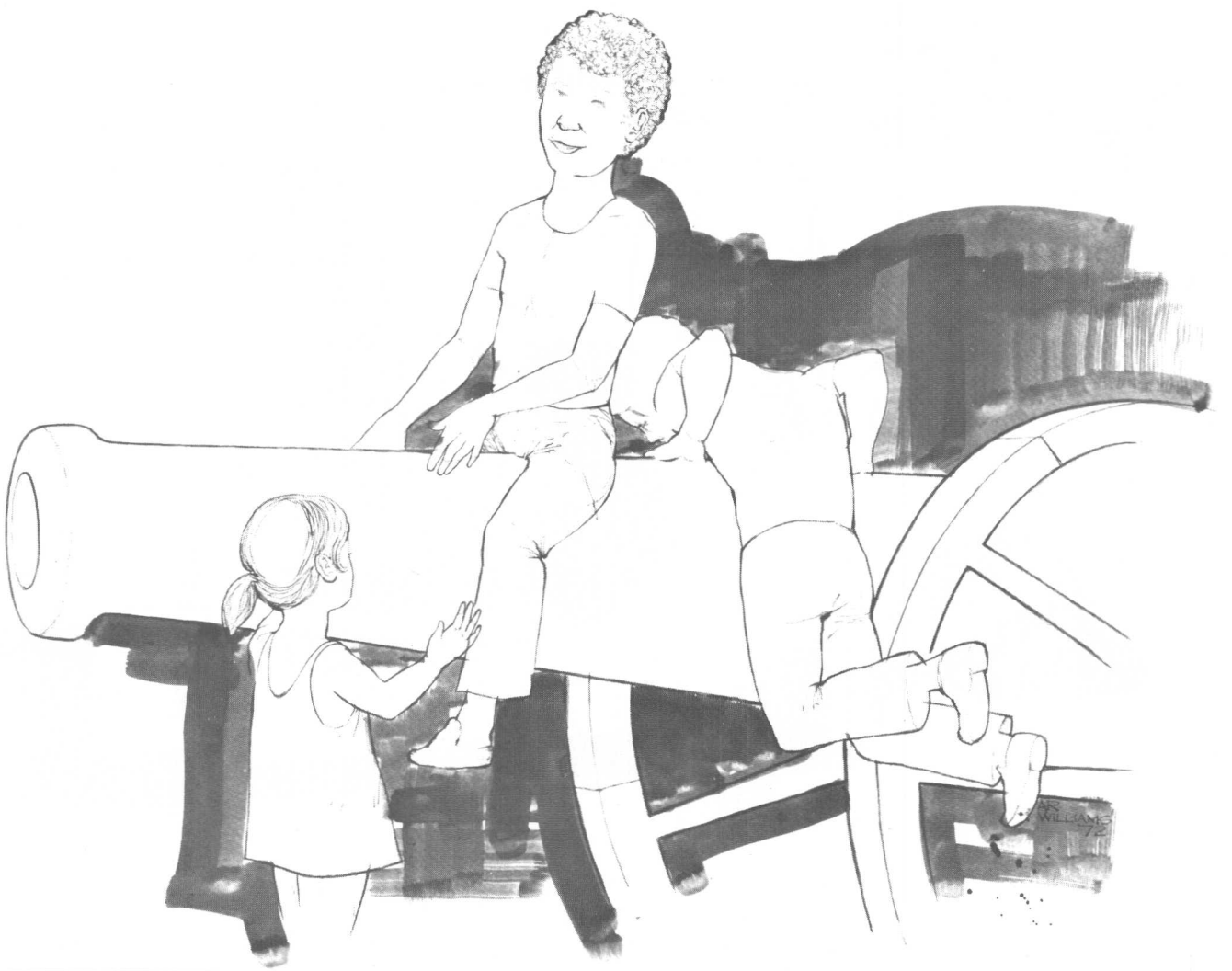
to return. Around the house, agricultural permits help maintain a plantation aspect on unwooded portions of the battlefield.

A 30-foot-wide access road bisects the park – a condition of the original terms of acquisition, prior to park establishment. Because this road runs through the center of interpretive developments and the visitor circulation pattern, it has been the subject of litigation in the past and continues to exert a depressing influence upon interpretive developments and public relations. Park boundaries are all essentially within view of the Watt House, imposing other presently insurmountable restrictions on attempts to achieve a convincing authenticity for this exhibit. Lifting these restrictions would result in a significant resource for an 1830-62 period exhibit, with good potential for "working plantation," or "living farm" and architectural emphasis. This would not detract from a proper presentation and interpretation of the Battle of Gaines' Mill on the site.

The Watt House unit lies directly in the path of one of the most vigorous suburban development patterns affecting Richmond NBP. This is equally true of Cold Harbor and the Garthright House units of the park; the Cold Harbor National Cemetery lies between them, but is not NPS operated. The Cold Harbor-Gaines' Mill area has more then doubled in population in the last five years. The new circumferential, Va. Route 295, will pass within a few hundred yards of the present Watt House unit boundary. The park setting is in extremely rapid transition from rural to suburban, with tract-type housing developments predominating. For these reasons, and because foreseeable population densities project formidable recreational resource demands in this area, it is recommended that optimum boundaries for the Watt House unit be determined with careful attention to the needs of the neighboring Cold Harbor and Garthright House units.


A.R.
WILLIAMS
'72

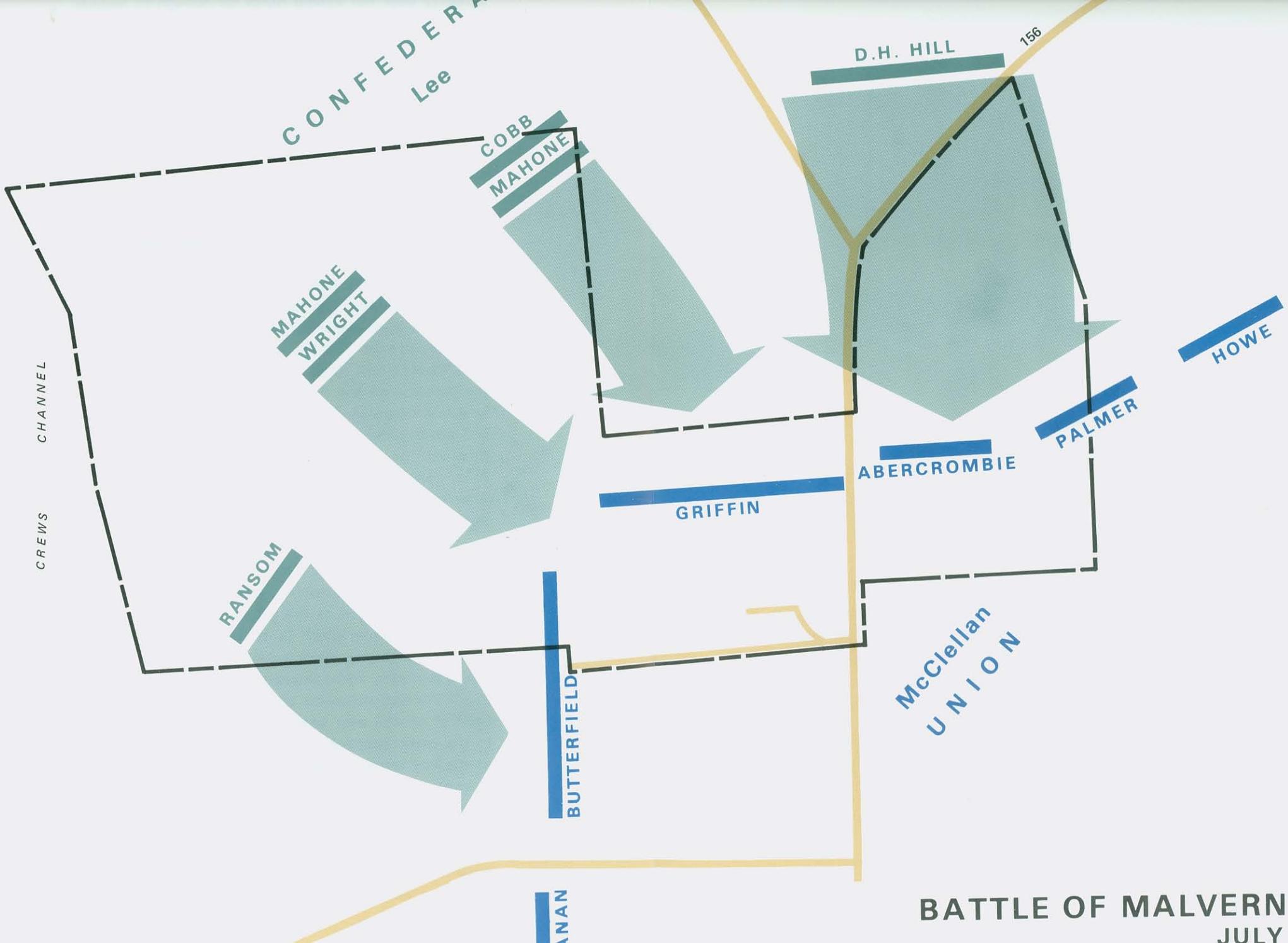
Old Cold Harbor • was a seedy looking tavern squatting by a dusty crossroads 8 miles from Richmond on the flat plain north of the Chickahominy River. The name indicates a place to get a bed for the night and something cold to drink, but no hot meals. Those dusty crossroads were strategically important if Grant was to attack Richmond, and both Grant and Lee realized it. It was Grant's last chance to get between Lee and Richmond. In the race for initial possession, Lee's cavalry won by a few hours, but on May 31, 1864, Grant's cavalry, armed with Spencer repeating rifles, drove them and a supporting infantry brigade out. On June 1 and 2 attacks by soldiers of the Armies of the Potomac and James gained ground, but Confederate counterattack prevented a Union breakthrough.



there are stories of its use as a hospital, first for Union, then for Confederate casualties. It was donated prior to park establishment, and was restored as an exterior exhibit by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937.

The 2.1 acres upon which this exhibit is located are not adequate for a proper yard for this building, without mention of interpretive facilities, parking installations, or other protection considerations. The property is afforded some care through a special use permit held by the Pamunkey Women's Club. Their attempts to exhibit the interior of the building on a fee basis failed, and the premises serve only as a meeting place for the Club. The property is repeatedly vandalized, and periodically burglarized with impunity by reason of its isolated situation and inadequate provision for its protection. The house has interpretive potential. Certainly the architecture is strong and authentic. The site has persistently been proposed as a location for a field hospital medical exhibit, with correlated interpretive services. In the summer of 1970 the house was seriously damaged by fire.
The future of the property seems dependent upon boundary changes to provide adequate space for interpretive facilities and provision for resource protection.
In view of the proximity of Watt House, Cold Harbor, and Cold Harbor National Cemetery, and in view of the previously described growth-potential of the surrounding community, there may be wisdom in considering a common exterior boundary for all in the area, and the inclusion of urban-park recreational lands for use other than historical preservation.

Malvern Hill • was fought July I, 1862, the day after the Confederate fiasco at Glendale, on ground of McClellan's choosing – a gently rising eminence terminating southwardly in bluffs on the James River valley. The position was flanked on either side by deep ravines less than a mile apart. Across this narrow front were placed Union batteries,



BATTLE OF MALVERN HILL

JULY 1,1862

with the guns almost hub to hub. In front the ground was open, sloping down to woods, marshes, and swamps in which the Confederate had to form for attack within range of Federal artillery. Ignorance of the country, dense forests, poor communications, and the extreme difficulty of the ground prevented the Confederate battle lines from attacking until late in mid-afternoon. Then, the Confederate artillery was unable to deliver effective supporting fire. General John Magruder attacked first, and was beaten back with heavy losses. D. H. Hill then assaulted, to meet a similar fate. General Benjamin Huger then hurled his two brigades against the right angle in the Union line. Repulsed they fell back as Magruder committed five fresh brigades. The Confederate infantry charged up the slope to be cut to pieces by double charges of canister. Union infantry stood in line of battle and their crashing volleys wreaked havoc on the onrushing Confederates, who were unable to coordinate their efforts. Just before dusk, General Thomas J. Jackson came up with his corps, but delayed by the woods and swamps, and was able to commit only a few brigades before darkness put a stop to the slaughter.

During the night General George McClellan continued his withdrawal, and the next day found the Army of the Potomac safe at Harrison's Landing (Berkeley Plantation), under the protection of the Federal gunboats on the James. The Seven Days were over. Total casualties: Army of Northern Virginia, 20,614; Army of the Potomac, 15,849.

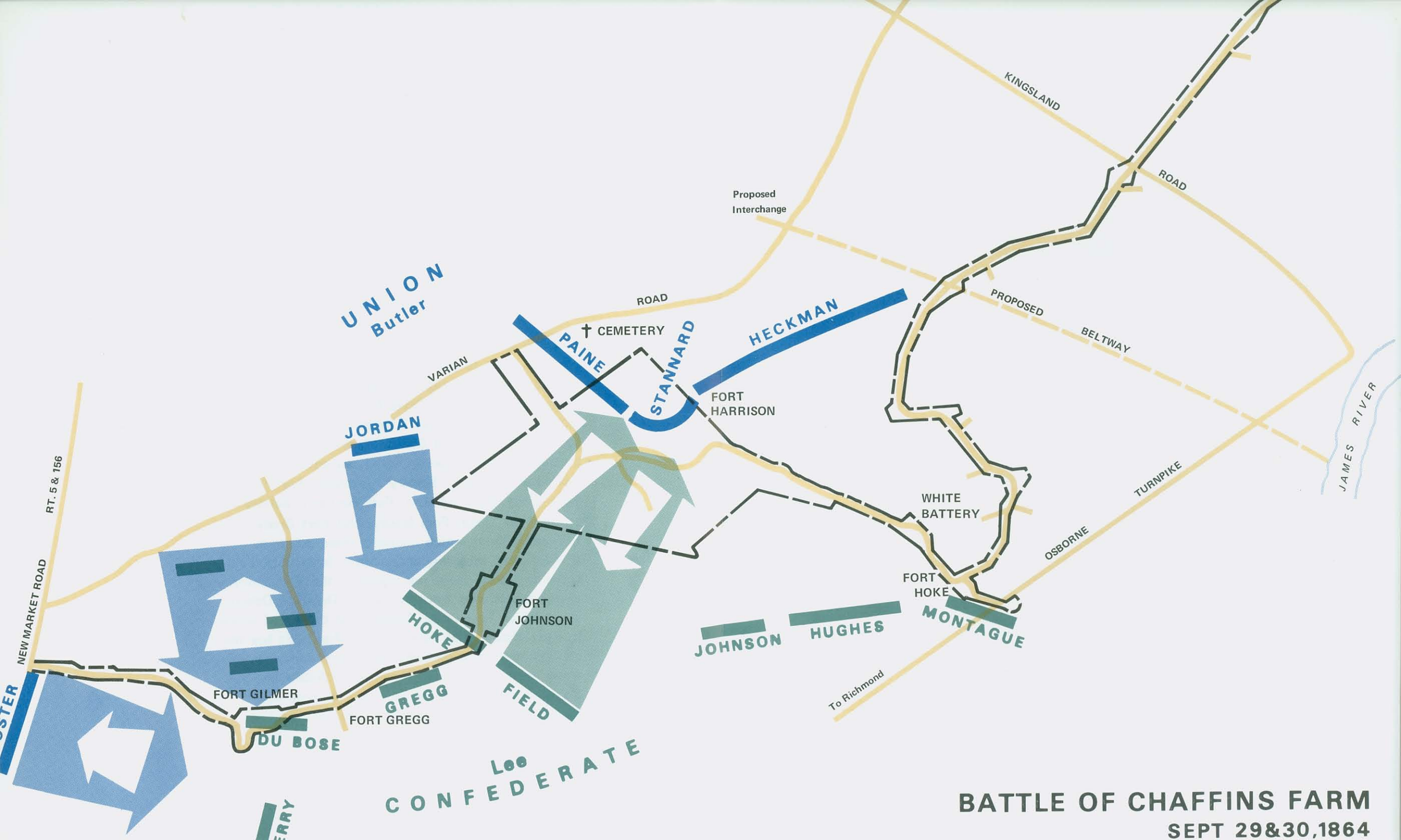
Acquisition of the 130.6-acre Malvern Hill tract was accomplished prior to park establishment. It is located approximately 2-1/2 miles south of Glendale, and is sectioned by Va. Route 156. An offset north, in the southern park boundary, excludes the Crew House site. The original Crew's House was an important landmark during the battle; there is now a modern residence on the old foundations. The west boundary of this tract follows the banks of the seasonal watercourse that fronted the Federal left. Park

of homes at Glendale and the beginnings of a crossroads community at the junction of Va. Route 156 and Va. Route 5.

The plateau land east of Va. Route 156 and south of the course of Turkey Island Creek is desirable for interpretive purposes, both delineation of the battle action and orientation to the James River escape route would be enhanced. The bluff (south) side of this area would lend itself to development of administrative and visitor use facilities. Some land in this area is suitable for non-history oriented activities. The high ground, immediately south of that portion of the park west of Va. Route 156, is essential as a buffer to protect the historic scene.

Fort Harrison was one of the effects of McClellan's Peninsular Campaign of 1862. That campaign caused much anxiety for the safety of Richmond. After the Seven Days' Battle, the war shifted to other sectors, and for nearly two years, while the armies fought in northern Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, the defensive perimeter of Richmond was extended and strengthened. By September 1864 Fort Harrison was a strong earthwork commanding the southeastern approaches to the city.

In the pre-dawn darkness of September 29, 1864, General Grant, intent upon tightening his investment of Petersburg, slipped a strong force across the James River in a surprise move against the outer defenses of Richmond. His goal was two-fold – to keep the Confederates from concentrating against the Army of the Potomac as they pushed toward the Boydton Plank Load, and to prevent General Lee from sending reinforcements to General Jubul early in the Shenandoah Valley. During the morning, soldiers of the Army of the James stormed heavily armed but badly undermanned Fort Harrison. General Hiram Burnham, commanding the leading brigade, was killed in the assault, and the captured fort was renamed



BATTLE OF CHAFFINS FARM

SEPT 29&30,1864

in his honor. A mile and a half to the north, another Federal force was repulsed in an attack on Fort Gilmer.

General Lee considered the loss of Fort Harrison serious enough to demand his personal attention. The next day, with reinforcements rushed up from Petersburg, he directed several vigorous assaults against the fort. The Union defenders had closed in the rear and strengthened it, and they successfully beat back the attacks inflicting heavy losses on the Confederates. Total casualties in the 2-day battle of Chaffin's Farm exceeded casualties at First Manassas.

is by far the largest and is historically the most important of these; other features of the line, especially Fort Gilmer, have some significance as examples of the Richmond perimeter defenses (which are also displayed at Chickahominy Bluffs), and as artillery outposts in support of Fort Harrison and Chaffin's Bluff. The latter was a Confederate stronghold, in 1864, lying west of Fort Harrison on the east bank of the James.

Initial preservation efforts at Richmond National Battlefield Park were carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps. A camp was quartered at Fort Harrison. The Park Maintenance Division is still housed in buildings erected at that time. Two employee quarters now exist on this site. Near the Fort is a 3-room log cabin, another artifact of the period, that served as park headquarters from establishment until 1957. The cabin has recently been designed as a facility of the Environmental Awareness Study Area lying east of the Fort. A 25-table picnic area, situated on the access spur between Varina Road and Battlefield Drive just north of the Fort Harrison Visitor Center, completes the facilities in this area.

By far the most significant management problems at Fort Harrison unit result from the multiplicity of legal, private accesses onto Battlefield Drive. It can be said that these accesses, and the resultant property development, prevent attainment of most of the desirable characteristics of a parkway or scenic drive, and strongly negate historical preservation. The pattern has been to develop adjoining properties in the manner that would prevail on any suburban avenue. Short driveways lead from Battlefield Drive directly into the front or side yards of unscreened private dwellings representing a wide spectrum of economic levels. Many are less than a hundred feet off the park right-of-way. Mail boxes, paper racks, and reflecterized markers adorn Battlefield Drive at each such access, and there exists legal provision

for these accesses at intervals of 400-500 feet along the major portion of Battlefield Drive

One rural landowner has a total of seven legal accesses, six of them on a single half-mile stretch of park road. This type of intrusion and non-conforming use is most acute between the north end of Battlefield Drive and Fort Johnson; on the east side of Battlefield Drive from Fort Harrison to Battery White; on both sides of Battlefield Drive from Battery White to a half mile south of Fort Hoke; and on the east side of Battlefield Drive from Kingsland Road to Fort Brady. It is interesting that the lattermost accesses were legalized by an alteration of deeds accomplished, on petition from the State of Virginia, twenty years after the park was established.

Boundary changes appear to be a necessary prerequisite for acquiring a Fort Harrison management unit in non-historical locations yet providing controlled access for appropriate developments in an increasing urban environment.

From the broader viewpoint of regional development patterns, the entire expanse of rural land, most of it under cultivation, lying between Fort Harrison and the James River seems strategically located and possessed of high potential for a spacious urban park. There are resources present to provide a whole spectrum of recreational activities. There is room for a park large enough to contribute significantly to the foreseeable needs of the urban explosion in this area. Such a park would permit development of a historical interpretive theme involving both Fort Harrison and Drewry's Bluff (west of the James), while providing ample space for activities other than history oriented types of recreation.

Drewry's Bluff, • a 90-foot high promontory on the west bank of James River, 8 miles below Richmond, was fortified in anticipation of McClellan's Campaign of 1862. The fall of Norfolk and destruction of

Virginia opened James River to the Union fleet, and on May 15, two ironclads, Monitor and Galena, and several other gunboats attempted to reduce and pass Drewry's Bluff to shell Richmond. Sunken obstacles in the river and punishing fire from the fort so decisively denied this goal that no further attempts were made. For the remainder of the war, Drewry's Bluff served as the Main Camp of Instruction for the Confederate States Navy and Marine Corps. The fortifications continued to be strengthened during the war. General P. G. T. Beauregard repulsed an attack on Drewry's Bluff by an army under General Benjamin F. Butler in May 1864, and drove the Union force behind their fixed positions on the Howlett Line, stretching from near Farrar's Island on the James River southward to an anchor point on the Appomattox. Opposing forces confronted each other across the Howlett Line from this time until the evacuation of Richmond.

The 15.95-acre Drewry's Bluff (Fort Darling) park unit, perched on an eroding clay-gravel bluff 70 feet above the James River 8 miles from Capital Square in Richmond, contains an earthen fort designed in 1862, for the purpose of denying the James River route to Richmond to enemy forces. The works now threatened by erosion of the river bank are in remarkably good condition. A small stream in a deep ravine immediately under the south side of the fort approximates the park boundary on that side, and becomes the west boundary line. Presently, Chesterfield County is operating a landfill dump on land bordering the south and southwest banks of this stream. The north boundary of the unit is an artificial property line between the park and a Shell Oil Company refinery. On the west (creek) boundary, a 60-foot wide corridor extends from the creek to the right-of-way of Va. Route 1438, which terminates in a turning circle at that point. This corridor contains the footpath and bridge abutment which forms the only public access to Drewry's Bluff. In 1960 Chesterfield County agreed to improve and

maintain the present Va. Route 1438 approach road to Drewry's Bluff in exchange for fee simple title to 7.58 acres of land lying adjacent to the Shell Oil Company property and west of the present park boundary. This strip of land was once intended for use as the primary access route to Drewry's Bluff. While no agreement exists about the future use of the present landfill dump and the land adjacent to the terminus of present Va. Route 1438, indications are that Chesterfield County expects to develop a recreational resource there when the landfill operation is complete. At present the brow of the ravine west of the Drewry's Bluff west boundary and adjacent to the access corridor, is a very poorly maintained picnic area. This results in frequent adverse reactions from patrons who assume that land to be park property. An unsightly fence parallels the final 1/8 mile of Va. Route 1438, enclosing, but not screening the active landfill operation, only about 300 yards from the park access corridor leading into Drewry's Bluff.

The most serious protection (preservation) problem at Drewry's Bluff is the rapid eroding away of the bluff that forms the eastern park boundary – the west bank of the James River. Civil War photographs indicated losses of up to about 100 feet since that time, or an annual loss averaging about 9 to 12 inches. Portions of the fort's major works, i.e., gun emplacements, parapet, a ditch, and the base of the fort curtain, or outer wall, are rapidly washing away. A Project Construction Proposal in the amount of $1,220,000 to repair and stabilize about 100 feet of this bluff was approved in August, 1970, but has not been programmed.

All external boundaries of Drewry's Bluff are vulnerable. Buffering is essential. This park unit is a 30-minute drive from the present park headquarters – 12.5 miles through parts of three densely populated communities: Richmond, Bensley, and Bellwood. There are, however, no homes in the immediate vicinity of the park. The degree of isolation and vulnerability

makes effective protection impossible with present staffing and facilities. Drewry's Bluff has the highest incidence of vandalism and non-conforming use of all Richmond NBP units. A practical solution appears to be acquisition of adequate buffering and boundary security and provision for an employee residence on site.

Parker's Battery • formed part of the defensive works designed to protect the Confederate communication line between Richmond and Petersburg from the Federal Army of the James. Landed from transports on James River in May 1864, this army under General Benjamin F. Butler occupied City Point (Hopewell) and pushed forward, gaining a lodgment on the railroad connecting Petersburg and Richmond. On May 15-16 a Federal thrust at Drewry's Bluff was repulsed by troops under General P. G. T. Beauregard, who then drove the Federals back behind their prepared works. Thereafter this front was relatively quiet. Confederate artillery in Parker's Battery occasionally fired at the enemy, tended their cows and chickens, and waited until forced out by the evacuation of Richmond almost a year later.

Situated on the military trenchwork system known as the Howlett Line, Parker's Battery is about 5 miles south of Drewry's Bluff and about 0.6 miles east of the intersection of Interstate Highway 95 with Va. Route 10. At establishment, Parker's Battery contained only 3.25 acres. In 1956, after almost ten years of negotiation, an additional 6.57 acres was acquired in a 3-cornered exchange by which the donor of record was reimbursed by Virginia Electric and Power Company, who received from the National Park Service a perpetual high-voltage power line right-of-way across (almost parallel to the west boundary of the park). This exchange brought the site to its present size of 9.82 acres.

Va. Route 898, just off the north boundary of this unit, is the former Va. Route 10, which is now a 4-lane highway located farther north. Between Va. Route 898 and the park boundary is a 30-foot right-of-way easement. This easement also exists between the Seaboard Railroad right-of-way and the park boundary on the east, as well as along the westernmost 440 feet of the south boundary. The remainder of the south boundary and the west boundary adjoin private holdings. The legal status of the easements just described has never been tested, but the weight of opinion is that the park has no legal access by reason of their existence.

Wedged on three sides by a railroad, a power transmission line and a public roadway, respectively, and located in an area destined for industrial developments which are already moving in adjacent to the park, the future of this small tract as parkland appears negligible. Its historic role is that of a segment of the line General Grant extended from Petersburg eastward to and along the Howlett Line, thence to Fort Brady, Fort Harrison, and on to White Oak Swamp. A reevaluation of its potential may disclose other methods of interpreting this phase of the final siege of the Confederate heartland.

LEGAL FACTORS

Richmond National Battlefield Park was established on July 14, 1944, as authorized by Act of Congress on May 2, 1936 (49 Stat. 1155). The property was originally acquired by a group of public-spirited Virginians who donated it to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1932.

Jurisdiction is proprietary.

Many special use permits have been issued for power lines, telephone lines, and farming. Deed reservation access to the Battlefield Park drive and the Hoke-Brady Road is common.

A 20-foot-wide public road, 7 miles long, of asphalt and pea gravel, traverses the Fort Harrison portion of the park. This road is maintained by the National Park Service.

ACT OF MARCH 2, 1936

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Establishment of park authorized.....Act of March 2, 1936

An Act To provide for the establishment of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes, approved March 2, 1936 (49 Stat. 1155)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Richmond National Battlefield Park, Va.

Establishment, when title to land, etc., acquired.

That when title to all such lands, structures, and other property in the military battlefield area or areas in the city of Richmond, Virginia, or within five miles of the city limits of said city or within five miles of the boundary of the present Richmond Battlefield State Park, as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Interior, in the exercise of his discretion as necessary or desirable for national battlefield park purposes, shall have been vested in the United States, such area or areas shall be, and they are hereby, established, dedicated, and set apart as a public park for the benefit and inspiration of the people and shall be known as the "Richmond National Battlefield Park": *Provided,* That such area or areas shall include, at least, the Richmond Battlefield Parks now belonging to the State of Virginia. (16 U.S.C. sec. 423j.)

Certain State parks to be included.

Acceptance of donations.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to accept in behalf of the United States donations of lands, interest in lands, buildings, structures and other property within the boundaries of the said park as herein authorized and donations of funds for the purchase and/or maintenance thereof, the title and evidence of title to lands purchased or otherwise acquired to be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided,* That he may acquire on behalf of the United States out of any donated funds, by purchase at prices deemed by him reasonable, or by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, such tracts of land within the said national battlefield park as may be necessary for the completion thereof. (16 U.S.C. sec. 423k.)

Acquisition by purchase, etc.

Administration, etc.

SEC. 3. The administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid national battlefield park shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916, entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended. (16 U.S.C. sec. 423*l*.)

39 Stat. 535.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Richmond Regional Planning Commission, 1968, "The Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Richmond Region."

Richmond Regional Planning Commission, 1967, "The Richmond Regional Development Plan."

Richmond Regional Planning Commission, 1968, "High Intensity Development Sectors."

Richmond Regional Planning Commission, 1968, "Historic Site and Structures in the Richmond Region."

National Park Service, 1961, "Richmond National Battlefield Park."

Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, 1965, "A Study of Virginia's Outdoor Recreation Resources."

Commission of Outdoor Recreation, 1969, "Virginia's Scenic Rivers."

Richmond City Planning Commission, 1964, "Master Plan."

Wilbur Smith and Associates, 1967, "Richmond Regional Area Transportation Study," Vol. I, II, and III.

Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, Norfolk, Virginia, District, 1968 "Flood Plain Information," Henrico County, Virginia.

Hanover County Planning Commission, 1969, "Preliminary Report on the Comprehensive Plan for the County of Hanover, Virginia."

Parks and Recreation, July 1969, "Summer in the Parks."

PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Richard V. Giamberdine, Team Captain, EP&D

Lennon Hooper, Urban Planner, EP&D

Howard L. Haiges, Engineer, EP&D

Linda Van Keuren, Sociologist, EP&D

DeVance Walker, Park Planner (Trainee), EP&D

Hobart Cawood, Superintendent, Richmond N.B.P.
Dave Dutcher, Chief Historian, Richmond N.B.P.
Duane Pearson, Chief Ranger, Richmond N.B.P.
Howard Overton, Ranger, Richmond N.B.P.
Alan Kent, Interpretive Planner, Harpers Ferry
Edwin Bearss, Historian, EP&D

Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs
of the Denver Service Center