

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DRAFT

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Petersburg National Battlefield**
other names/site number **VDHR No. 123-17-71**

2. Location

street & number **1539 Hickory Hill Rd.** not for publication ☐
city or town **Petersburg** vicinity ☐
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **City of Petersburg** code **730**
zip code **23803**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the _____
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the _____
 National Register
☐ removed from the National Register _____

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
 of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>16</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<u>10</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>68</u>	<u>9</u> structures
<u>24</u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>118</u>	<u>21</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DEFENSE**

DOMESTIC

AGRICULTURE

FUNERARY

TRANSPORTATION

Sub: **military facility/fortification**

single dwelling/secondary structure

agricultural field

cemetery

rail related/road related

Add:

Defense: battle site

Landscape: Park

*Landscape: natural
feature [?]*

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **RECREATION and CULTURE**

LANDSCAPE

FUNERARY

TRANSPORTATION

Sub: **museum, monument/marker**

park/national park

cemetery

rail related/road related

Add:

*Landscape:
natural feature?*

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Second Empire

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **stone**

roof **pressed tin**

walls **stone**

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Military

Architecture

Conservation

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant,
Abraham Lincoln

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☒ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance

12,000 b.p.-1946

Significant Dates

July 30, 1864

April 2, 1865

1926

1865

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Montgomery C. Meigs

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2,760.72

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	___	___	___	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

X previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

X Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ashley M. Neville and Debra A. McClane

organization Gray & Pape, Inc. date _____

street & number 1705 East Main Street telephone 804/644-0656

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23223

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip

code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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* NOTICE *
* *
* The complete text from sections 3 (if applicable), 7, 8, and *
* the bibliography from section 9 should be printed on contin- *
* uation sheets, of which this is a sample. Use the header *
* shown at the top of this page, filling in the name of the *
* property, county and State, and section number, and using *
* a running page number. When the property being documented *
* is part of a multiple property listing, use the alternative *
* header given below. *

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

^{or park units,}
A The Petersburg National Battlefield consists of ten discontinuous areas that contain significant buildings, structures, sites, and objects that played important roles in the Petersburg Campaign of 1864-1865. Situated on the south side of the James and Appomattox Rivers in the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie, the ten units contain just over 2,700 acres of open fields, hills, and forests. Many of the surviving earthworks inside the park are in a good state of preservation and approximate the scene at the time of the fighting, while others have become more wooded. Some of the earthworks were leveled shortly after the war ended as the land was returned to its pre-war uses, which were primarily agricultural. Fort Lee, U.S. Interstate 95, and encroaching development from the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell are the major modern intrusions onto the landscape surrounding the main park areas.

Suggest either listing the units in the order in which they are presented below, or reordering them below.
lc The largest section of the park is the Main Unit, which covers 1,444.36 acres. This was the site of much of the hardest fighting and includes ten miles of the original Confederate defensive line, known as the Dimmock Line, and the site of the Battle of the Crater. The City Point Unit was the location of the headquarters and large supply base of the Federal Armies. The Five Forks Unit, located 17 miles southwest of Petersburg in Dinwiddie County, contains 1,115.09 acres and encompasses the country crossroads of Fords Road (Route 627), Dinwiddie Court House Road (Route 627), White Oak Road (Route 613), and Scotts Road (Route 645) where the Battle of Five Forks occurred. Smaller units include
A Union Fort Wadsworth, Long Flank (comprised of those properties along Flank Road),
A Fishhook (comprised of Union Forts Urmston, Conahey, Fisher, Welch, Gregg, and Wheaton),
A and Confederate Fort Gregg, ^{which} guarded the western approach to Petersburg on the Boydton Plank Road. Also included within the park is the Poplar Grove National Cemetery where Union soldiers who died during the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns are buried. Two free-standing monuments within the City of Petersburg also are included. The Pennsylvania Monument was erected at the site of Fort Mahone to the Pennsylvania Third Division, IX Army Corps. The Gowan Monument, which is located near the site of Fort Mahone, commemorates Colonel George W. Gowan, Colonel Henry Pleasants, and others of his regiment who died during an assault on Confederate lines on April 2, 1865.

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On the eve of the Civil War, Petersburg was a bustling economic and trading center for southside Virginia and beyond. Located on the Appomattox River and a hub of railroad activity, it was well situated for the trade carried on there. Petersburg was largely populated with brick dwellings and commercial structures--most built since the disastrous fire of 1815 that had destroyed two-thirds of the buildings in town. Several steeples, from the Courthouse and nearby churches, pierced the sky. Immediately to its east, and closer to the fighting that later came to the area, was the old town of Blandford, with its smaller frame dwellings and large public cemetery that occupied Wells Hill, known during the Siege as Cemetery Hill.

The outlying area surrounding Petersburg was farmland where a variety of crops were raised. The landscape was one of largely flat open fields and forested lands occasionally pierced by creek ravines. Several railroads and major roads crossed these fields. Antebellum plantation dwellings, slave quarters, agricultural buildings, and smaller farmsteads could be found there and along the major thoroughfares that funneled people and goods into Petersburg.

^a
Further to the east, the village of City Point was a port for the area. Linked to Petersburg by railroad and with a new wharf and depot for transshipment of goods, City Point became the major logistical center for the Union ~~Armies~~ during the Petersburg campaign. Appomattox Manor, an Eppes family home, occupied the tip of City Point while the small village lined several streets behind it. It was in large part, these important transportation links--the rivers, railroads, and roads--that brought the Civil War to the city's doorstep in the late spring of 1864.

It was in large part these important transportation links--the rivers, railroads, and roads--that brought the Civil War to the city's doorstep in the late spring of 1864 and often dictated where earthworks and forts were built and battles were fought. The Confederate Forts Gregg and Whitworth were built to guard the western approach to town along the Boydton Plank Road while Fort Mahone was built south of Petersburg along the Jerusalem Plank Road. When Union forces reached that area of Jerusalem Plank Road they constructed Fort Sedgwick opposite Fort Mahone. Union soldiers constructed Fort Wadsworth to secure their position on the Weldon Railroad. The Battle of Five Forks was fought over a crossroads that provided access to the South Side Railroad, ^{which} that was a critical supply route for Confederate forces.

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The topography was also used by both sides where possible to their advantage. In the early days of fighting in June 1864, Confederate troops pulled back from their original position on the Dimmock line to the high ground on the west bank of the Harrison Creek ravine. However, that same ravine provided cover for Union troops to penetrate deep into the Confederate position and capture Confederate Battery 7 from the rear. In another instance, Poor Creek was dammed by Confederates to create a water obstacle in front of Gracie's Salient.

One of the most notable uses of topography was at the Crater. The Confederates held the high ground west of the deep ravine of the Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad with Union forces on the high ground east of the railroad. During fighting on June 18, Pennsylvania troops had pushed across the ravine and up the slope toward the Confederate line. The sloping terrain provided cover and opportunity for the Pennsylvania miners to dig a tunnel undetected under the Confederate position and then explode it creating one of the most unusual episodes of the Petersburg campaign.

There are several roads that played critical roles during the Petersburg Campaign that border the park but are not within its boundaries. While these roadways are discussed in Section 7, they have been treated as noncontributing resources since, for the most part, they are outside park boundaries. Likewise, cannon have been placed throughout the park as part of the interpretation of events that occurred there. These artillery pieces are representative of those used by both armies during the Petersburg campaign, although none were actually used here during the conflict. They are considered part of the park's museum collections and although they are mentioned in the nomination, they are not included in the resource count.

Over the years, a number of archeological investigations have informed the existing documentary record for the park. Where excavations focused on historic structures or Civil War features, information gleaned from those studies has been incorporated into the description of those sites. The excavations undertaken at City Point compose the bulk of non-Civil War archeological resources and are discussed as part of the City Point Unit.

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MAIN UNIT

The Main Unit of the Petersburg National Park contains 1,444.36 acres. The Petersburg fields of battle are more densely wooded today than they were in 1864 and 1865. Immediately prior to the Civil War, this land was either farmland or forest. During the siege, much of the land was deforested for military purposes. These same areas are now about 70 percent forested, the rest are open fields or developed areas. In the last 30 years, urban sprawl has encircled the unit with the exception of the southeast boundary.

There is a common edge with the Fort Lee Army Installation along the southeast and eastern boundary of the park. Some commercial development is present on adjacent properties including a high density residential development along the northwest boundary. Additional commercial impact may occur along the southern boundary and the northeast boundary where adjacent lands are zoned for heavy industrial development.

The main unit contains 5.1 miles of primary paved road. An additional .1 mile of gravel road loops around the picnic area. ^{The park contains} ~~There are~~ 1.7 miles of paved trails in the park, ^{which are including} ~~comprised of~~ trails leading from the Visitor Center to Battery 5 (Stop 1), from Fort Stedman to Colquitt's Salient and the First Maine Monument (Stop 5), to the Fort Morton audiostation (Stop 7), and the Crater Loop Trail (Stop 8). There are 12.3 miles of unsurfaced trails connecting historic sites throughout the Main Unit along with eight pedestrian bridges.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

Confederate Battery 5 (later, Federal Battery IV) has the configuration given to it after its capture on June 15, 1864, when Union troops built a wall on the west and south sides and placed heavy artillery inside. There are five cannon placed within the battery along with an audiostation describing the Federal attack of June 15, 1864. A paved trail leads from the

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Visitor Center, through the battery, down the north side of the hill, and around to the replica of the "Dictator." The area to the south of the battery is open field, while the areas to the east and west are forested. The area to the north of the battery is cleared of all undergrowth, but several large pine trees dot the slope of the hill. The railroad tracks are visible to the north from Battery V. The land adjacent to the north is zoned for industry, however, the area is well screened with trees.

Confederate Battery 6 is located to the east of the Visitor Center parking lot and is marked by two cannon. This battery fell to the Federal forces on June 15, 1864.

Confederate Battery 7 was taken from the rear by Union troops of Maj. Gen. Hinks after the line had been broken by an advance through the ravine just west of this battery. The battery is a semicircular mound with a frontal moat and an approximate radius of 50 feet. There are surviving remains of an ^{artillery} ~~artillery~~ emplacement ^{5/4 gun} ~~that originally was constructed to house six~~ ^{platforms for} ~~guns~~. This battery is not readily accessible since it is encircled by the park tour road.

Confederate Battery 8 (later, Fort Friend) is located at Stop 2 on the tour road and is a fairly well-preserved site surrounded by forest. Cannon are placed ⁱⁿ the interior and there is an interpretive marker at the site. The battery was part of the Dimmock Line and was a nearly circular fort with a magazine ^{platforms for} ~~and could~~ accommodate five guns. It measures 170 feet by 140 feet and the National Park Service has constructed an entrance between two gun positions. It was captured by Union forces on June 15, 1864.

Confederate Battery 9 is located at Stop 3 near the Living History exhibit but is just a faint rise. Two cannon and an interpretive sign mark the spot.

Colquitt's Salient was part of the final Confederate defensive line and was the starting point for General Gordon's attack on Fort Stedman. A salient provided cross-fire coverage of attacking forces through a projecting angle within a line. Colquitt's Salient was a series of infantry entrenchments, 50 feet long, 4 feet wide and 3 feet high by 370 feet long by 4 feet wide and 5 feet high. It included outer picket lines and a salient angle 170 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet high for artillery pieces. It is located at the end of a paved path leading from Fort Stedman and is in a deteriorated, but stable condition. Large trees surround site; the

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undergrowth had been cleared from the area but is beginning to reclaim the site. A monument and cannon are located at the salient.

^ **Gracie's Salient** was built by ^{Confederate} troops under Brigadier General Archibald Gracie and was held until April 2, 1865. It consisted of a series of defensive entrenchments, 4 feet high and 5 feet wide and 80 feet and 70 feet long respectively and an adjacent salient 250 feet long providing artillery emplacements for cross-fire protection. The area is wooded today.

Gracie's Dam was built by General Gracie's troops to protect their flank from attack by Federal troops. The subsequent ponding water and swamp created an obstacle to the earthworks. The earthen dam, 215 feet long, 10 feet wide and 15 feet high, crossed Poor Creek but was broken during the campaign. The area is wooded today and has eroded. It is in fair condition.

The **Second Confederate Line** was part of the Confederate defensive works and was the second position the Confederates fell back to during the initial assault by Union troops in June 1864. The feature is in two sections and has two bombproofs. The first section of the line, located northeast of the park headquarters, has an outer moat trench and wall approximately 4 feet high by 6 feet wide and 100 feet long running north/south and 50 feet long east/west. The second section is 5 feet high by 8 feet wide and measures 1,030 feet north/south and 350 feet east/west by Taylor Creek. The two bombproofs located adjacent to the north/south line measure 24 feet square.

The **Second Confederate Line Area Earthworks** are located in an area between Harrison and Taylor creeks adjacent to the Encampment Trail. The earthworks consist of various mounds, lunettes, and trenches. Little information is available about this area and they do not appear on Civil War era surveys. They may have been constructed during the Camp Lee occupation of the area.

Federal Earthworks (Battery XIII to XIV) was part of the Federal defensive line built to create a continuous fortified line between batteries and forts. It was a curvilinear line 2 to 3 feet high, 8 feet wide, and originally 800 feet long. The line has been broken by Siege Road and the southwest portion was eradicated by post-war farming and later road construction. It

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is only 500 feet long today.

Federal Earthworks (Battery X to Fort Stedman) was part of the continuous Union line built between batteries and forts. It saw action on March 25, 1865 when it was overrun by Confederates from Colquitt's Salient as part of the Fort Stedman offensive. It was retaken the same day. It was 4 feet high, 8 feet wide, and 150 feet long. A portion of the line north of Fort Stedman was eradicated by post-war farming activity.

Federal Bombproofs provided an escape from constant shelling and protection from shells and shrapnell. Three Federal bombproofs have been identified; two exposed and one overgrown by pine trees. They are located on the east side of the Siege Road and measure 24 feet square outside and are 3 feet high with a depression in the center. The exit was on the east.

when their roofs collapsed

Federal Zig Zag Trench was part of the Federal defensive line located north of Union Battery XVI and provided protection to infantry going to and from Fort Morton, Federal Battery XV, and the outer picket line. It consisted of deeply dug trenches with steep walls approximately five to six feet high and five to eight feet wide. Erosion has filled in the trenches.

Fort Stedman is located at Stop 5 with a pull-off parking area. There is an audiostation at the fort concerning the Federal recapture of Stedman on March 25, 1865. A paved trail leads around to the Hare House Site, Battery X, and Colquitt's Salient. Fort Stedman was one of the few fortifications that had trees located within its walls. A number of large trees have been left to reflect this historic condition. The interpretive painting of the site during the Siege shows a completely bare landscape with several bombproofs located inside the fort along with officer's huts to the rear.

The approximately circular fort measures 220 feet by 250 feet with the remains of embrasure openings, gun emplacements, bombproofs, magazines, and traverses. It was built to house 10 guns. The walls are steep and there is a moat. Revetted trench lines run to the north and south along the Federal defensive line.

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Federal Earthworks (Fort Stedman to Battery XI) was part of the Union defensive line that ~~provided~~^{connected} a continuous line between fortifications and batteries. It is a curvilinear infantry entrenchment 400 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 4 feet high. It is in good condition today.

Federal Battery XI is in^{a well-?} preserved state, denoted by a clump of large trees that have grown up. It was a 100 foot by 150 foot redan shaped battery with six gun emplacements and embrasure openings, a traverse, and two magazines. The frontal moat and outer earthworks exist on the north and west sides. The site is indicated by a small marker, but there are no trails or other interpretive markers at this location.

Federal Earthworks (Battery XII to Fort Haskell) was part of the Union line that was overrun by Confederates during their attack on Fort Stedman but was retaken the same day. It was a curvilinear line of infantry entrenchments approximately 1,000 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 4 feet high with a frontal moat and rear ditch. Portions of the line remain north of a small stream and stretched to Fort Haskell. Battery XII exists only as a site today, indicated by cannon and a small marker.

^(Union)
Fort Haskell is Stop 6 on the tour road. Fort Haskell was instrumental in breaking Gordon's advance beyond Fort Stedman. It was a trapezoidal shaped fort, 250 feet by 280 feet, with 10 gun emplacements and embrasure openings, 6 "en barbette" emplacements, 3 magazines, and several traverses and bombproofs. A full moat surrounded the fort. It is in good condition and cannon have been placed inside the fort.

Federal Earthworks (Fort Haskell to Battery XIII) was part of the Union defensive line and protected infantry divisions between Fort Haskell and Battery XIII. It was a curvilinear line of infantry entrenchments 1,056 feet long with an outer moat and rear ditch.

Federal Battery XIII was a three-sided battery with open rear line 180 feet by 70 feet, seven gun emplacements and embrasure openings, one bombproof, and several traverses. It is in good condition today with three cannon to facilitate interpretation.

Federal Earthworks (Battery XIII to XIV) was built for infantry positions and to create a continuous fortified line between batteries and forts. This was a curvilinear line 2 to 3 feet

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high, 8 feet wide, and ~~originally~~ was 800 feet long. The southwest portion of the line was destroyed by farming activities after the war and by construction of Siege Road for the park. The line now stretches 500 feet in length and is marked with two cannon.

Federal Battery XVI was a large battery approximately 150 feet long by 100 feet wide and was built in a modified redan shape with outer moat and high walls. It has been altered by the construction of U.S. Route 460. It was part of the Federal defensive line and because of its location near Elliott's Salient, it probably supported the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment's mining of the salient.

Fort Morton no longer exists, but the site is indicated with an audiostation and historic painting. This site lies on the east side of the tour road, across from the Spring Garden ruins at Stop 7.

The first version of Fort Morton, referred to as a 14-gun battery, was completed by July 19, 1864. Reports indicated that the fort had been built behind an apple orchard ~~which~~ ^{that} was cut down on July 30, ^{during} the Battle of the Crater, by two black soldiers to clear a field of fire for the fort's guns. A mature version of Fort Morton was constructed during September and October under the direction of Lt. W.H.H. Benyaud of the U.S. Engineers. The fort, in the shape of a backwards ^D, featured gun embrasures, traverses, magazines, and bombproofs. A line of chevaux-de-frise ran in front of the fort. Fort Morton was considered the strongest of the Union forts that surrounded Petersburg and it was from this vantage that Burnside directed the IX Corps during the Battle of the Crater.

After the war ended and the Taylor family reclaimed their farm, they leveled the fortifications, including Fort Morton, so that the land could be farmed. The area is now a grassy field and no trace of the fort exists above ground today.

Several studies of Fort Morton have been conducted, including ground-penetrating radar testing in 1979 and geophysical surveys in 1991 and 1993. These studies indicate that several features survive below ground. The survey identified a north and south magazine, the bombproof trenches, and the main Union trench. Several excavations were located on the east side of the trench that may be the remains of soldier's subterranean huts. Scattered iron

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objects were also identified. The study also located a unique iron object that appears to be a well filled with a massive amount of iron¹

The Crater

The **Crater**, located at Stop 8 on the tour road, was formed on July 30, 1864, when Federal troops exploded 8,000 pounds of powder underneath the Confederate position held by Brig. Gen. John Pegram's Richmond Battery and Brig. Gen. Stephen Elliott, Jr.'s South Carolina troops. This position was 500 feet to the east of Cemetery Hill, 600 feet north of the Baxter Road, and less than 200 feet from the Union line. The Confederate earthwork was called a re-entrant salient, rather than a projecting one, since it curved inward to allow enfilading fire to come from either side to the front in case of an attack.² In front of the salient was a deep ditch with abatis and chevaux-de-frise and a line of rifle pits. A covered way entered from the rear. The Federal line was held by the IX Corps, under General Burnside, which occupied an advanced position beyond a deep cut for the railroad.

The 48th Regiment, Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry led the endeavor that created the Crater. Lt. Col. Henry Pleasants suggested running a mine under the enemy's forts in front of a deep hollow that ran north/northeast of the salient.³ Digging began on June 25 and the tunnel was completed by July 23. The troops, composed of former coal miners, were able to dig a tunnel underneath the Confederate position and pack it with explosives without being detected. The excavated tunnel was approximately 510 feet long, 5 feet high and 4-1/2 feet wide at the bottom and 2 feet wide at the top and was reinforced with lumber taken from local saw-mills and from an old bridge.⁴ There were two lateral galleries that ran underneath Confederate trenches, one to the right and one to the left, totaling 75 feet.

When completed, the lateral wings of the mine tunnel were nearly parallel to the interior crest of the Confederate salient and beneath the foot of the banquette.⁵ The blast created a hole in the earth 170-200 feet long and 60-80 feet wide and 30 feet deep and destroyed a portion of the front line of the fortification and the right of a trench cavalier, which had been constructed in the rear to strengthen the position.⁶ The earthen fallout from the explosion covered the abatis and chevaux-de-frise in front of the salient. The Confederates regained possession of the Crater and reinforced the position. A 12-foot¹ embankment was formed

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around the crater with "sides of loose pulverized sand piled up precipitately from which projected huge blocks of clay," one of which was "the size of a cabin."⁷ The Confederates buried many of the dead within the fort by covering them with the loosened dirt. Later, most of these bodies were exhumed and ~~were~~ reburied at Poplar Grove National Cemetery.⁸

The land where the Battle of the Crater took place was just southeast of Petersburg, near the town of Blandford. The farmland on which the battle occurred belonged to William H. Griffith. Elliott's Salient was located on Griffith's open farmland while the Union line was in a cornfield belonging to William B. Taylor of the adjacent farm.⁹

Much of the physical evidence of the siege in the area disappeared from resumed cultivation and vegetative growth. Taylor resumed farming on his land, which destroyed much of the Federal works at that site. Fort Morton, which sat directly opposite Elliott's Salient and served as Gen. Burnside's headquarters, was leveled by 1888.¹⁰

The Griffith house, which stood at the junction of the Jerusalem Plank Road and Baxter Road, was burned in mid-June 1864. After the war, Griffith rebuilt his house about 225 feet southwest of the Crater. The Crater became a tourist attraction almost immediately after the war and Mr. Griffith preserved it, charging visitors \$.25. Griffith also added walks and steps to assist the visitors in viewing the Crater and opened the "Crater Saloon" which served refreshments. Griffith also kept a visitor's book beginning in 1867 and erected a "relic house," a one-story, frame structure with a shingled gable roof, which housed objects found in the Crater.¹¹ The relic house was destroyed around 1920. The land was sold by Griffith's heirs in 1918 and in 1926, the Crater Battlefield Association obtained the land. Lighting was erected at the mine tunnel entrance, a section of the tunnel was enlarged to facilitate the passage of visitors, and a wooden floor was laid in the tunnel.¹² The Association constructed a golf course and clubhouse on the surrounding land, fencing the area of the Crater and the tunnel entrance. When the Crater became part of the park in 1936, the former club house was used as a museum and superintendent's quarters and contained numerous "relics" found in the Crater throughout the years. The golf course was leveled in 1937 and trees were planted to screen the views of the highway and modern structures adjacent to the park.¹³ During the 1950s, the Crater House was used as park offices. The relics kept at the Crater are presently featured in the museum at the Visitor Center.

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Archeological investigations in 1937, 1958, and 1962 determined that the tunnel entrance was located approximately where a stone marker had been erected in 1909. The NPS reconstructed this entrance adding sandbags to reinforce the opening. The 1962 excavation provided additional information on the depth, dimensions, and shape of the Union tunnel leading to the Crater and produced a soil profile in that area of the tunnel.¹⁴ A 1981 excavation at the Confederate Picket Line in the Crater Area revealed information concerning the general conditions of life in the trenches, ammunition supplies, and attempts by the soldiers to make life more comfortable.¹⁵

f/tr. Views between the Crater and the Union Fort Morton were cleared of timber in the mid-1970s to simulate the openness of the battlefield, but the general area is much more wooded today than at the time of battle. The mine entrance tunnel is no longer accessible to visitors due to its deteriorated and precarious condition, but can be viewed from a small walkway. An interpretive audiotape station provides information concerning the Union excavation effort. Ventilation shafts along the length of the tunnel are also marked. The Crater itself is now mostly filled in and is only approximately 15 feet deep. Several interpretive markers are located at the rim of the Crater, along with two interpretive audiotape stations. A split rail fence surrounds the feature. The open field to the west of the Crater retains its original appearance.

^ The **Union Mine Tunnel Entrance** provided access to the 500-foot ^{long} tunnel leading underneath the Confederate fortification. The tunnel runs in an east-west direction with the entrance lying to the east of the Crater. Today, the restored entry has been reinforced with sandbags. There is an audiotape station at the site that describes the plan of the mine explosion.

The **Union Picket Line** was part of the forward Union line during the siege and aided in protecting the 48th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers' mining efforts. It is a linear earthwork measuring three feet wide and 100 feet long. The remnant of the line is only one foot deep. Much of the line has been lost to erosion, but markers indicate its location along the Crater Loop trail.

The **Confederate Picket Line** was the first line of defense for Elliott's Salient. If pickets were overrun by the enemy, they could withdraw to the main line of defense. The picket line

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runs in a north-south direction and measures 4 feet wide, 2 feet deep, and 400 feet long. Two zigzag trenches, approximately 20 feet long, extend westward from the rear trench. Today, the park's Crater Loop trail runs through the center of the picket line.

Archeological excavations in this area revealed features created by soldiers in an effort to deal with exposure to the elements and make life in the trenches more comfortable. The soldiers burned coal to provide warmth but food preparation or consumption apparently did not occur at these fires. No artifacts associated with food were recovered. A ditch, apparently for drainage, lay in the center of the trench.

The occupation layers yielded only a small collection of bullets (10), only one of which was unfired and probably dropped by a Confederate soldier. Likewise, only four of the 47 intact percussion caps collected were unfired and thus discarded unintentionally. Few weapon or accouterments parts were recovered. Fragments of melted lead indicated that the soldiers apparently were melting lead at open hearths for recasting in bullet molds. The paucity of some types of artifacts and the presence of others indicate shortages or supply problems for Confederate soldiers of the basic material of war.

The **Confederate Trench Cavalier Line**, or second line of defense, was constructed after it was suspected that the Federal troops were attempting to tunnel under the salient. Part of the trench cavalier was destroyed in the blast. The steep walled earthwork is 8 to 10 feet high, 5 feet wide, and 300 feet long. The trench was built in an "L" shape surrounding the east and west sides of the former salient.

Two shafts of **Confederate Counter Mines** were dug around Elliott's Salient in an attempt to locate the Federal tunnel. The Confederates became aware of the tunnel after hearing the shoveling beneath them. General Alexander reported to Lee as early as July 1 that the enemy was mining in the vicinity of the salient.¹⁶ The counter mines are located to the north of the Crater and today consist of three pits approximately eight to ten feet in diameter. This defensive strategy was given up because the soldiers no longer heard the shoveling and they believed that such a tunnel would be impossible to accomplish.

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Roads

Jordan Point Road Trace, sometimes known as the Coggin's Point Road, was an eighteenth-century road that connected Petersburg with Jordan's Point on the James River. During the attack of June 15, 1864, and throughout the Petersburg campaign, Federal troops used it as a main transportation corridor. The present 20-foot-wide graveled road bed runs eastward from Siege Road for about 1,600 feet within the park boundaries. The road trace is part of the park's interpretive trail system and is located at Stop 3 on the park tour.

<sup>Building
(courthouse)
or
village
(Court House)</sup> **Prince George Courthouse Road Trace** connected Petersburg with the Prince George County Courthouse which was established in 1703. In 1864, Federal troops attacked along this route and during the Siege it connected Meade's Station on the military railroad with the front lines. Approximately a half mile of the original road survives within the park boundaries. Its width varies from 20 to 44 feet. The center section, 4,300 feet, is part of the Siege Road and is paved. The road trace is part of the interpretive trail system within the park and is marked at Stop 3 and near Fort Stedman at Stop 5. There is an interpretive marker located along the trace.

Baxter Road Trace linked Petersburg and Norfolk and was also known as the Norfolk Stage Road and the Sussex Road. It was used by both sides during the Siege and Petersburg officials traveled on Baxter Road to discuss conciliation terms after the evacuation of the Confederate Army from Petersburg. Today, the road trace is of varying widths measuring approximately 20 feet wide by 5,200 feet long within the park. Part of the road trace is used as a walking trail while a portion has been eroded by an adjacent stream and the remainder is reverting to nature. The road trace is broken by the Norfolk & Western Railroad cut.

Shand House Road provided access from the Shand House to Baxter Road and Prince George Courthouse Road. It existed at the time of the Siege of Petersburg and was use by both Confederate and Federal armies for troop and supply movements. The road measures 10 feet wide by 1,500 feet long and is used by the park as an unpaved access road.

CCC Park Tour Road was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide access from State Route 36 towards Confederate Battery 9 during the early stages of park development.

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The present park road is paved and follows the Dimmock Line from Battery 6 through Battery 9 where it turns west for a mile then south along the Union siege line.

5/A
Mortar Loop Road was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of the development of the park. This road encircled Battery 5 and the site of ~~The Dictator~~ *(a seacoast mortar mounted on a railroad car)* which was the beginning of the park tour. The road is now part of an interpretive trail and is paved with asphalt covered with gravel. It varies in width from 8 to 15 feet and is 800 feet long.

Railroads

Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad forms a section of the western boundary of the park before cutting southeast through the park. The railroad linked the port of Norfolk with Petersburg but was a latecomer to the area. It began operating in 1858 and was too new to have made much of an impact before the Civil War began. William Mahone had been its chief engineer and was better acquainted with the terrain of the railroad which bisected the Union position at the Crater. The Crater lay west of the railroad, which was in a ravine, while Fort Morton lay to the east. During fighting on June 18, 1864, the 48th Pennsylvania crossed the Poor Creek ravine, where the railroad also lay, and struggled up the other side to within 130 yards of the Confederate line. It is now part of the CSX system.

Watercourses

Harrison Creek trends northwest across the eastern third of the Main Unit from a pond on the park's southern border and empties into the Appomattox River. After Federal troops had punched a hole in the Dimmock Line on June 15, 1864, Beauregard positioned his new defensive line to take advantage of the high ground along the creek's west bank. By early morning on June 17, Union forces fed into the Harrison Creek ravine which led deep into the Confederate position and captured the Confederate position and more than a mile of the ravine.

5
On the park tour, Harrison Creek is located at Stop 4 with a paved pull-off area. A short paved walk leads to two interpretive markers. One marker recounts the events of the Federal attack of June 15-18, 1864, in which the Confederates retreated to Harrison Creek and quickly

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entrenched there. The fortifications, still visible, are to the east. On March 25, 1865, the Confederates, successful in capturing Fort Stedman, charged as far as Harrison's Creek before encountering a Federal counterattack.

Several branches of **Poor Creek** flow across the southwestern part of the park and combine into one stream shortly before it crosses the park boundary. The creek flows north just east of the railroad tracks and empties into the Appomattox River just east of Blandford. During the Petersburg Campaign, Confederate troops dammed Poor Creek to create a water obstacle in front of Gracie's Salient. Poor Creek is sometimes called Taylor Creek.

- ^ **Taylor Creek**, shown as Taylor's Branch on Civil War-era maps, is a wet-weather stream near Fort Haskell and Union Battery 12. It is a tributary of Poor Creek and in some instances Poor Creek is called Taylor Creek.

SITES

*made
add
5/14/83*
Taylor House Site is located approximately 800 yards east of the Crater on a rise above the railroad tracks. William Byrd Taylor lived in the area near Fort Morton when the war came to Petersburg. The second house to be built at this site, Spring Garden was burned in June 1864. Maj. Gen. Burnside makes reference to "the burnt house" and "the Taylor house" in his reports of June and July 1864 as does Brig. Gen. ^{Orlando B.} Willcox.¹⁷ By September 1864, the fortification erected at this site was designated as Fort Morton.¹⁸ After the war, Richard Field Taylor built another house at the site. This house was sold to Robert W. Travis in 1901 and in 1950 ~~the house~~ was demolished leaving only the chimney and brick foundation.¹⁹

The **Taylor Kitchen Ruins**, located at Stop 7 on the tour road, lies approximately 60 feet south of the prewar Taylor house site, but was misidentified for many years as being the foundation of the original prewar Taylor house.²⁰ Archaeological investigations conducted in 1978 and 1981 discovered the location of the original Taylor House and determined its cellar measured 55 feet by 19 feet. Ceramics found during the excavation indicate that the house was built in the eighteenth century and that it was destroyed in the early stages of the Petersburg campaign.²¹ The investigations also identified the sites of a prewar outbuilding

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and a postwar smokehouse, as well as determining that the postwar Taylor House was built on the foundations of the prewar detached kitchen.

The dependency ^{site} measures 34 feet by 16 feet and the ruin wall is about 3 feet high. The foundation ruins show that the kitchen was two stories tall and was divided into two rooms, one partially below grade. The chimney is located near the center of the building with four fireplace hearths, two on either side. The brick is laid in five-course American bond. Three steps lead down into the ruins.

Efforts to stabilize the ruins have included placing a concrete wash on the top of the brick wall to prevent water seepage, placing a concrete cap on the chimney, replacing missing bricks, and removing vegetative growth from the ruins. The military role of the site is indicated by two cannon placed to the west of the ruins, aimed at the area of the Crater.

The **Hare House Site** is located at Stop 5 on the tour road near Fort Stedman. The Hare House was built prior to 1796 and was destroyed in the earliest stages of the Petersburg Campaign. Archeological excavations conducted in 1978 focused on locating the exact house site. The investigation revealed the location and size of the house, 41 feet, 10 inches in length by 19 feet, 8 inches, and that the foundation construction used a mixture of yellow and red brick. Although the house was destroyed, it did not burn and the archeological site possesses a high degree of integrity. The Hare House archeological site represents an element of the larger Petersburg story during the siege when residents suffered from the destruction of their personal property and their livelihood.²² Today the house site is demarcated by three brick foundation corners at grade level. An interpretive sign marks the site.

The **Friend House Site**, also known as Whitehill or Whitehall, is located to the west of the Visitor Center. The house stood about 700 feet south of the historic Jordan House. The two houses, built by Colonel Robert Mumford for his two sons around 1740, were identical structures, each being of frame construction with two stories, hip roof and columned front porch.²³ In April 1782, during the American Revolution, British forces under the command of General William Phillips and General Benedict Arnold camped at the Friend House. Both the Friend and Jordan houses may have been used as headquarters and/or signal stations by the XVIII Corps. Maj. Gen. William F. Smith had his headquarters at the Friend House on

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June 16 and 17.²⁴ Later, the Friend House became the headquarters of Orlando B. Willcox, of the First Division, IX Corps.

Because it was used as a headquarters, the Friend House survived most of the war. However, when the Friend family returned after the war, they found the house stripped of doors, windows, and even its porch. Additionally, all outbuildings and fences were gone and the yard was severed by trench fortifications.²⁵ The Friends leveled the earthworks and restored the house. Charles Friend died in 1871 and the property was sold in 1900. During World War I, the property was purchased by the War Department and used as the headquarters of the Motor Transport Corps, 80th Division, stationed at Camp Lee.²⁶ In 1923, the Friend House was razed; the property was acquired by the park in 1939.

A 1918 photograph shows the house as a five-bay, two-story, frame structure with a brick foundation and a hip roof covered in standing seam metal. A pediment with two windows has been placed in the center of the front of the hip roof, apparently making the attic space more livable. Two interior chimneys are visible. A three-bay, one-story porch is located on the front of the house, while two smaller porches are located on the sides. All porches have hip roofs.

The **Jordan House Site**, built on property known as Clermont, is located at Stop 1 on the tour road between the Visitor Center and Battery 5. The property was acquired by Josiah Jordan around 1830 and stood approximately 700 feet north of the Friend House. As mentioned previously, the Friend House and the Josiah Jordan House were identical structures that were built around 1740.

The Jordan house was destroyed during the siege, either torn down for firewood or used to build structures at City Point.²⁷ Prior to its destruction, however, the house was the site of a signal station, which was later moved to the Friend House. It is unclear whether Gen. Smith, XVIII Corps, had his headquarters at the Jordan House and then at the Friend House, or only at the Friend House, immediately following the June 18 assault.²⁸ Historic photographs of Battery 5 show that the land immediately in the vicinity of the Jordan House had been cleared of trees and overlooked the plain to the north between the Jordan Farm and the Appomattox River.

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After the war, the Jordans built a new home about 300 feet from their previous home. This house burned in 1879. Another house was constructed on the prewar house foundations and was sold to Peter Batte after Jordan's death in 1886. During World War I, this land was purchased by the War Department and the house was razed around 1920. The NPS acquired the property in 1939.

Today, the site of the Jordan House appears as a brick foundation barely above grade. Large trees mark the house site and an open field lies to the east of the house site. A paved walkway leads from the Visitor Center, past the house site, to Battery 5. An interpretive marker has been placed at the site.

The **Jordan Family Cemetery** is located near the Jordan House Site on the east side of the present-day parking area at the Visitor Center. The cemetery is approximately 24 feet square and is surrounded by a board fence. The cemetery sits within an overgrown, wooded area, but the graveyard itself is cleared. At the time of the siege, this land belonged to Josiah Jordan. He is buried here with his parents, his wife Mary, and four of their children--Watson, 10 months; Laura, 3 years; Charles, 4 months; and Lemuel, 24 years. Three marble markers locate these graves. Two of the stones bear the maker's mark "JH Brown" on the back. Two of the markers have been broken and are currently held together with iron frames.

One marker is dedicated to the memory of Josiah M. Jordan, son of Josiah M. and Rebecca B. Jordan. The birth and death dates are illegible on the stone. A second stone marks the grave of Mary C. Jordan, wife of Josiah M. Jordan who was born in 1827 and died in 1868. The third marker in the cemetery is inscribed on both sides. One side is dedicated to the memories of Josiah M. Jordan, 1789-1834, and Rebecca Bonner Jordan, 1799-1852. The other side of the stone is dedicated to the memories of the Jordan children: Watson, born in 1857, Laura, 1855-1858, Charles, 1852, and Lemuel, 1854-1878.

BUILDINGS

The **CCC Operations Building** was constructed as part of the original Civilian Conservation Camp MP-12 which was active at the park from 1933 to 1942. It is a one-story, concrete

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block building with a gable roof covered with composition shingles. It measures approximately 25 feet by 70 feet. Built in stages, there are two garage doors on the facade of the south end. Most windows are covered with bars and there is both an interior and an exterior chimney. A three-bay, shed roof porch is located on the center section.

Accessory sheds are located to the west of this building and a horse corral is to the east. The site is used for maintenance equipment storage and meetings. The park bike path runs just to the west of the building. The site is partially screened from the tour road by trees.

OBJECTS/MONUMENTS

The earliest monuments were placed on the former battlefields of Petersburg in 1905 and marked the advanced position of the Second Regiment Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery on July 30, 1864 at the Battle of the Crater. These and the many monuments that followed are considered to be contributing elements to the commemorative nature of the battlefield park and to the history of the park itself.

The **Soldier's Spring Monument** marks the spring used by the 209th Regiment, IX Corps, of Pennsylvania Volunteers during the siege. Located to the east of Fort Stedman near the Hospital Gate entrance (Route 109) at Fort Lee, the monument was erected in October 1912 by survivors of the regiment. Steps lead down from the road to the marker, which is a three foot square, concrete box that resembles a spring house. The bronze marker on top of the concrete marker bears the following inscription in raised letters:

SPRING USED BY THE
209TH REGT. PENN. VOLS.
DURING THE
SIEGE OF PETERSBURG
1864-1865
ERECTED OCT. 1912 BY
F.H. BARKER
M.A. EMBICK

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S.W. JONES.

The **Third Division, IX Corps Monument** (at Fort Stedman) was dedicated at the same time the Pennsylvania monument was placed near the Jerusalem Plank Road (Crater Road, U.S. Route 301). This monument was erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sons of Lieutenant Hugh Jones, Co. C, 209th Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Fort Stedman.²⁹ The monument commemorates the role of the Third Division, IX Corps, in the recapture of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865, after Gordon's initial success in surprising the Union forces. The monument is composed of a large granite block that is rough-cut on three sides, but polished on the front (north) side. On this side, a bronze plaque is affixed ~~which~~ *that* bears the IX Corps badge with the following narrative text:

IN THE LAST GRAND OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT OF LEE'S
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, FORT STEDMAN WITH ADJACENT
WORKS, WAS CAPTURED AT 4:30 A.M., MARCH 25, 1865, BY
A WELL SELECTED BODY OF CONFEDERATES UNDER THE
COMMAND OF GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON.

AN ADVANCE WAS MADE WITH GREAT DETERMINATION OVER
THE BROKEN UNION LINES THEN THROUGH THE RAVINE AND UP
THE RISING GROUND TO THE EASTWARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CUTTING THE U.S. MILITARY R.R. AND THUS MAKE SUCCESSFUL
THE CONFEDERATE PLAN OF SEVERING THE ARMY OF THE POTO-
MAC AND DESTROYING ITS BASE OF SUPPLIES AT CITY POINT.

THIS MOVEMENT WAS CHECKED AND THE DIRECT ASSAULT
IN THE RECAPTURE OF THESE EMBATTLEMENTS WAS MADE BY
THE THIRD DIVISION NINTH CORPS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IN
WHOSE MEMORY THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE COMMON-
WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The monument measures 52 inches by 24 inches by 70 inches. The plaque is 45 inches by 55

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inches and has raised lettering. Vandals have scratched the bronze plaque of the monument.

↗
roadbed is one word
The **First Maine Artillery Monument** is located near Fort Stedman and Colquitt's Salient and was erected on September 30, 1895³ to the memory of the 632 men who fell in the Union attack on the Confederate salient on June 18, 1864. It was placed by the survivors of the regiment. The monument is located along the "Colquitt's Salient Path," which leads from Fort Stedman, down a small hill, into a wooded area. Photographs from the dedication ceremony show that in 1895, the area was open field with tree growth only along the roadbed (presumably the Prince George Courthouse Road). This site is near the edge of the park boundaries. A residential development lies less than 50 yards from the monument.

The monument is composed of a large stone slab with a gable peak atop a stepped stone base. The base and three sides of the stone slab are rough cut. The base is 2 feet in height while the slab is 82 inches in height. On the east side of the monument are two arched bronze plaques bearing the corps insignia and lists of the members of the unit who were mortally wounded or killed here on June 18, 1864. The polished west side of the monument bears the state seal of Maine and the inscription:

MAINE
FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY
IN MEMORY OF
604 BRAVE MEMBERS WHO FELL
CHARGING HERE
JUNE 18, 1864

UNION

MAINE ----- VIRGINIA

PEACE

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Colquitt's Salient Marker was erected at the site of the Confederate stronghold directly west of Union Fort Stedman. The monument was erected in 1912 by the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The monument is rough cut granite and is 35 inches in height. The face of the monument is cut at a 45 percent slope and bears the inscription:

COLQUITT'S SALIENT
ON JUNE 18, 1864 THE
CONFEDERATES ON THIS
HILL REPULSED THE
CHARGE OF THE FIRST
MAINE REGIMENT
ON MARCH 25, 1865 FROM
THIS SALIENT GENERAL
JOHN B. GORDON LED A
BODY OF PICKED MEN
TO SURPRISE AND
CAPTURE FORT STEADMAN (SIC).

Gracie's Salient Marker is located east of the creek near Colquitt's Salient. It marks the stronghold held by the Confederates under Brig. Gen. Archibald Grace. Gracie's Salient is actually located west of the creek. This marker was erected by the A.P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans around 1912.

The monument is similar to the marker at Colquitt's Salient. It is a rough cut shaft of granite with a polished, sloped face. The monument is 20 inches by 14 inches and 35 inches in height. The face of the stone bears the inscription:

GRACIE'S SALIENT
THIS SALIENT NAMED FOR
BRIG. GEN. ARCHIBALD

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^

I
GRACE OF ALABAMA
FACED THE FEDERAL FORTS
STEDMAN AND HASKELL AND WAS SUCCESSFULLY
HELD BY THE CONFEDERATES
DURING THE ENTIRE SIEGE OF PETERSBURG

Crater of Mine Monument commemorates the mine excavated by the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment and the Crater created from the explosion on July 30, 1864. The marker was placed in 1926 and is located on the eastern rim of the Crater.

The monument is a rough cut monolithic shaft of granite measuring 30 inches by 18 inches and 51 inches in height. The top of the shaft is cut at a slope and has a finished face which bears the inscription:

CRATER OF THE MINE
EXCAVATED BY
THE 48TH REGT. PENN. VET. VOL. INF.
BURNSIDE'S 9TH CORPS,
JULY 30, 1864

The **Entrance to the Mine Monument**, erected in 1907 by survivors of the 48th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, denotes the entrance to the mine tunnel that the regiment excavated during the summer of 1864, which resulted in the explosion of Elliott's Salient and created the Crater.

The small granite monument measures one foot 13 inches and is 15 inches in height. The finished top face of the monument bears the inscription: ENTRANCE TO MINES 48th REGT. The monument had to be reset in its original position in the 1980s after its earlier removal by vandals.

The **South Carolina Monument** (at the Crater) was erected on November 26, 1924, by the South Carolina Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in memory of the South

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Carolina troops who were killed at the explosion of the mine. The monument is placed on the northwest side of the Crater.

The rough cut granite base of the monument measures 60 inches by 24 inches and is 15 inches in height. The shaft of the monument, also rough cut, measures 48 inches by 12 inches and is 3 feet in height. A bronze plaque on the northeast side of the monument bears the following inscription in raised letters:

ON THIS HILL FOR ONE MONTH
SOUTH CAROLINA TROOPS GUARDED THE ENTRANCE
TO PETERSBURG AND HERE JULY 30, 1864
SUFFERED DEATH FROM A MINE EXPLODED BY THE FEDERAL.
HERE THE SURVIVING SOUTH CAROLINIANS
UNDER THE COMMAND OF
STEPHEN ELLIOTT
BY THEIR VALOR
TURNED A DREADFUL DISASTER IN TO A GLORIOUS VICTORY
ERECTED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION, UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY,
1923.

The **Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Monument** was one of the earliest markers placed on the Crater battlefield.³⁰ The monument was erected in 1905 to mark the advance position of the 2nd Regiment of the Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery during the Battle of the Crater. The positions of the right and left flanks are also indicated. The monuments are located on the western side of the Crater along the foot trail. Approximately 500 yards to the west lies the Jerusalem Plank Road (Crater Road, U.S. Route 301) and Cemetery Ridge (Blandford Church and Cemetery) rise to the northwest. From this advanced position, the artillery regiment was driven back by Mahone's division, which recaptured the salient.

The monument is a rough-cut granite, 24 inches square and 52 inches in height. The polished top of the monument bears the inscription:

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THE ADVANCED POSITION 2ND PA.
VET. HEAVY ART., JULY 30, 1864

An inset on the southern side of the monument bears the inscription:

WENT INTO ACTION JULY 30, 1864, 780
MEN--ANSWERED ROLL CALL AFTER
BATTLE 286 MEN, LOST KILLED AND
WOUNDED 494 MEN, INCLUDING 8
OFFICERS.

The flank position markers are smaller measuring only 12 inches square and 21 inches in height. The right flank marker lies 136 feet north of the advanced position monument and the left flank marker lies 132 feet south of the monument. These markers are also rough cut granite with slope cut faces. The right flank marker indicates the position: RIGHT 2nd PA. VET./HEAVY ART. The left flank marker bears a similar inscription: LEFT 2nd PA. VET./HEAVY ART.

*Noncontributing
outside period
of significance.* **Commemorative Crater Monument** was erected by the citizens of Petersburg in 1964 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Crater. It is located west of the Crater just south of the Mahone obelisk. The monument is composed of a granite, arched-top slab with incised letters on the east side. The sides of the slab are rough cut while the two faces are finished. This slab sits atop a granite base that is flush with the ground. The base is 1 foot by 3 feet and the arched stone is 6-1/2 inches wide, 28 inches long and 34-1/2 inches in height.

The inscription on the stone shows a Confederate flag and a United States Flag and states the purpose of the marker:

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER
JULY 30, 1864

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ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF PETERSBURG
JULY 30, 1964.

Can't the exact date be determined?
The **Mahone Monument** was erected by the Petersburg Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy between 1910 and 1927 to honor Maj. Gen. William Mahone, who led the Confederate counterattack at the Battle of the Crater. The monument is located on the western side of the Crater.

The granite base of the monument steps up to an obelisk of rough-cut, granite stones. The first stone of the obelisk is smooth cut with a commemorative inscription. The remainder of the stones compose a coursed, tapered, and rusticated shaft topped with a smooth-cut, pyramidal top. The obelisk is 4 feet square and 24 feet in height with MAHONE inscribed on the west side of the base. The following inscription is located on the west side of the monument:

TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM MAHONE
MAJOR GENERAL C.S.A.
A DISTINGUISHED CONFEDERATE
COMMANDER, WHOSE VALOR AND
STRATEGY AT THE BATTLE OF THE
CRATER JULY 30, 1864, WON FOR
HIMSELF AND HIS GALLANT
BRIGADE UNDYING FAME.
A CITIZEN OF PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA,
BORN DECEMBER 1, 1826
DIED OCTOBER 6, 1895.

ERECTED BY PETERSBURG CHAPTER, U.D.C.

Mahone's Brigade Monument, erected by the Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1920, marks the position of Mahone's brigade during the Battle of the Crater when the brigade retook the Confederate position. It is located on the western side of

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the Crater.

The monument is a rough cut monolith with a polished face and incised inscription and a polished, slanted top with another inscription. The granite block is 20 inches by 30 inches and is 43 inches in height. The inscription on the south face reads: PLACED BY THE PETERSBURG CHAPTER, U.D.C., NOVEMBER 1920. The inscription on the top of the marker reads:

THIS STONE MARKS
APPROXIMATELY THE EXTREME
RIGHT OF MAHONE'S BRIGADE
VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS
WHEN IT RECAPTURED THE
CONFEDERATE BREASTWORKS
ON THE 30TH DAY OF JULY 1864

The **Massachusetts Monument** honors all Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors who died during the Civil War in various battles in Virginia. This monument was erected in 1911 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is located at the intersection of the tour road and Crater Road at the western boundary of the Main Unit. The monument is comprised of a base, a two-part shaft, and a bronze sculpture. The granite base is a stepped pedestal with MASSACHUSETTS inscribed into it. The base is 5 feet by 9 feet and 5 feet in height. The shaft is 22 feet in height with flanking ionic volutes at its base. Bronze plaques list rosters of the Massachusetts units that served in the Civil War in Virginia. The bottom of the second part of the shaft is encompassed by a faeces. The shaft then tapers upward with a surmounting frieze of festoons (swags) and the state seal of Massachusetts. A bronze sculpture of an eagle with its wings spread tops the monument. The overall height of the monument is 25 feet. A plaque on the north face of the monument reads:

IN MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS FROM MASSACHUSETTS
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ARMIES OF THE POTOMAC AND JAMES
IN VARIOUS BATTLES IN VIRGINIA

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1861-1865

THIS MONUMENT ERECTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The **Confederate Unknown Monument** was placed to honor all unknown Confederate dead. Erected in 1901, the monument is a slender slab of granite, two feet by five inches and one foot in height. The sides are rough cut, while the front and rear are smooth faced. One side of the monument bears the inscription: "To The Unknown Confederate Dead, They Fought a Good Fight."

*Contributing
outside Per. of
Sign.*
The **Colored Soldiers Monument** was erected in 1990 and honors the United States Colored Troops who served in the Army of the James and the Army of the Potomac during the Siege of Petersburg. The granite monument is located at the intersection of the Prince George Courthouse Road Trace and the Jordan Point Road Trace at Stop 3 along the park tour road. It is an eight inch-thick, light gray monolithic stone mounted on a granite base. The monument is four feet seven inches in height. The sides of the monument are rough cut while the front and rear faces are smooth cut. The west side of the monument bears the incised inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
THE VALOROUS SERVICE OF REGIMENTS
AND COMPANIES
OF THE U.S. COLORED TROOPS
ARMY OF THE JAMES
AND ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
SIEGE OF PETERSBURG
1864-1865.

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NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

*Contributing.
Within Per. g
Sig.* **World War I Training Trenches** were constructed during World War I (1917-1920) for training exercises at Camp Lee (now Fort Lee), land that later became part of the park. They are located to the east of Siege Road between State Route 36 and Stop 3. These are traversing trenches, that is, they are a running line of trenches with squared, U-shaped offsets. World War I trenches are more traversed, wider, and deeper than Civil War trenches. They vary in depth from 4 to 6 feet and run for approximately 30 feet.

Ditto.
~ A **Powder Magazine and Revetment** also were constructed as part of the training exercises at Camp Lee. The magazine was one room, 9 feet by 12 feet and approximately 10 feet high. There was a single metal door on the west side and a gable roof with ventilator. The revetment consists of two crescent-shaped earthworks that encircled the powder magazine. They measure approximately 30 feet long and are 4 feet high.

Roads

*Is it outside
the boundary?* **Crater Road** (U.S. Route 1/301) formerly known as Jerusalem Plank Road, connected Petersburg with Courtland, then known as Jerusalem, in Southampton County. Built in 1853 and originally paved with planks, it was a major thoroughfare at the time of the Civil War and linked Petersburg with its economic hinterland to the south and southeast.³¹ Today it is a heavily traveled, paved, modern road that borders the park.

State Route 36 is a post-Civil War road and route. It is a heavily traveled, paved, four-lane, modern road that transects the park.

Railroads

The **Petersburg and City Point Railroad**, runs along the northern border of the Main Unit

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in the area of the Visitor Center. This line became the oldest part of the Norfolk & Western and is now part of the CSX system.

Structures

Living History Site is located at Stop 3 on the tour road. A small fortification has been built with abatis, bateaux, and chevaux-de-frise. A bombproof is located on the southeast side of the fort. Other structures at the stop include a sutler's store, several lean-to type structures, and a soldier's hut.

Picnic Area is located between Stop 3 and Stop 4 on the north side of the tour road. Approximately a dozen tables are arranged in a circle around an open field. The area is surrounded by forest. Although there is a gravel road encircling the picnic grounds, no public vehicular traffic is allowed.

BUILDINGS

Visitor Center, located at Stop 1 on the tour road, was constructed in 1968, as a 7,250 square foot, one story, polygonal-shaped building, built of brick laid in common bond. The shape of the building mimics the shape of a fort. There is a rectangular-shaped entrance vestibule on the southwest side and two ranks of windows at the basement level. Vertical windows are also located on the east side overlooking Battery 5. The area between the Visitor Center and Route 36 is heavily wooded so that there is no visual effect and little noise from the road.

Three **Maintenance Buildings** are located in the maintenance area immediately to the west of the park entrance, but are somewhat screened from view by trees. The three brick buildings are rectangular in shape with gable roofs and multiple bays that are either enclosed with garage doors or open. The buildings area is enclosed by a chainlink fence.

The **Park Guard Post** is a small 6-foot by 10-foot building with a gable roof. A flagpole sits to the south of the guard post. Brick planters flank the building on the north and south.

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1429 Hickory Hill Road is a 1-1/2 story, three-bay, frame house on a brick foundation sheathed with aluminum siding. Composition shingles cover the gable roof and there are two gable dormers on the front. A gable roof shelters the one-bay front stoop. There is a concrete block garage in the rear yard and a circular driveway. The house is used for employee housing.

1445 Hickory Hill Road is a 1-1/2 story, three-bay, gable-roofed house built of brick laid in common bond. The Colonial Revival style house has an exterior chimney on the front facade and a small stoop with metal railings. There is a concrete block, gable-roofed garage in the rear yard. The house is used for employee housing.

1505 Hickory Hill Road is a one-story, originally three-bay, gable-end entry, brick dwelling. The three-bay front porch has a concrete floor and tapered wooden columns on brick piers. A large addition has been constructed on one side and the rear porch has been enclosed. There is a metal garage in the side yard. The building houses park offices.

1539 Hickory Hill Road is a one story, brick, ranch-style house. The five-bay building has a gable roof of composition shingles and decorative iron posts that support the front porch. A section has been added to one end and a brick garage has been connected to the house by an addition. This house serves as offices for the park.

1541 Hickory Hill Road is a one story, frame dwelling with pressed board siding. Several additions have been made to the house including a large addition with chimney on the front that obscures the original facade. A frame garage has been connected to the house by an addition. This house is used for employee housing.

*why are they
combined?*

THE LONG FLANK AND FISHHOOK UNITS

The area now known as Long Flank contains 37.52 acres where Union Forts Urmston, Conahey, and Fisher were constructed. The area known as the Fishhook contains 14.42 acres

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and connects to the western end of Long Flank and encompasses the sites of Union Forts Welch and Gregg. The fortifications of the Long Flank and Fishhook are located in Dinwiddie County and were part of the Union's siege line as it moved westward around the City of Petersburg. The forts were constructed after the Battle of Peebles Farm in September and October 1864. The line of forts was connected by a series of earthworks. The "fishhook" anchored the Union left flank and attached to a secondary line of fortifications about a mile to the rear of the main line.

The park property of Long Flank runs westward from Squirrel Level Road (State Route 613) to Church Road (State Route 672); the line then makes a southwesterly turn and hooks around. Fort Wheaton lies to the east of Fort Gregg, which lies at the end of the Fishhook. Field obstructions such as abatis and chevaux-de-frise and buffers like gabions were used as additional defenses at the forts. According to Civil War maps, the area for the most part was wooded with areas of felled timber slashings. The immediate areas around the forts were cleared fields, although cultivated fields laid to the north and along the roads. Unpaved farm roads criss-crossed the area. One stream, Old Town Run (also known as Indian Town Creek), ran north to south directly through the middle of the area. The homesteads of Chappell, Boswell, and Pegram were identified in the area.

Natural reforestation, predominantly pine and hickory with a dense undergrowth of brush, has been especially heavy in the areas of Long Flank and the Fishhook. This growth has helped to prevent recreational use of the properties, but it is also a barrier to complete appreciation of the resources. Some residential development has occurred on the eastern edge of Flank Road, near Crater Road, and near Fort Fisher to the south of Flank Road, but the area immediately surrounding these units retains its semi-rural character.

The main roads in the area today are the same as those used in 1864. Squirrel Level Road (State Route 613) branches off the Boynton Plank Road (State Route 142) and runs south. Today it is a paved, secondary state route. Church Road (State Route 672) is also a paved, secondary state route, a northern branch of which runs east to west between the former Boynton Plank Road (State Route 142) and U.S. Route 1. Another part branches southward from this section and connects with Squirrel Level Road, just below the site of Fort Wheaton.

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

Fort Urmston, located at the eastern end of the Fishhook, was named for a Union officer killed during the Battle of Peebles Farm, September 29-October 2, 1864. This was a lunette-shaped fort measuring 200 feet by 100 feet with six guns "en barbette," a magazine, and a full moat. The southern half of the fort was obliterated with the widening of Flank Road. Approximately one-half mile of linear earthworks connected Fort Urmston with Fort Conahey to the west. These infantry entrenchments were constructed with a frontal ditch, a parapet, and a rear trench and measured two to three feet in height. Flank Road was built over two sections of the earthworks that were located west of Squirrel Level Road. Interpretation of the fort site is not provided in the park tour. The area today is wooded.

Fort Conahey, completed in November 1864, was named for Second Lieutenant John Conahey of the 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers, who was killed at the Battle of Peebles Farm. The earthen fort, which took engineers only 20 days to construct, contained 11 gun emplacements--7 of which were "en embrasure" (open) and 4 of which were "en barbette" (casemented)--a moat and a long, pallisaded traverse across the center, which was possibly a bombproof living quarters. Fort Conahey measured 100 feet by 200 feet and was an unusual lunette shape due to the incline of the land. Approximately one quarter mile of linear earthworks connected Fort Conahey with Fort Fisher to the west. These entrenchments consisted of a frontal ditch, a parapet, and a rear ditch and measure two to three feet in height. A section of the earthworks located north of Flank Road was destroyed by the building of the road. A period photograph of the fort shows that the immediate area around the fort was cleared field with pine tree forest beyond. Such field constructions as rifle pits, bombproofs, advanced redoubts two lines of abatis, and trenchlines are visible in the photograph. Additional structures such as powder magazines and second line trenches are also apparent.

Fort Conahey is now indicated by a pull-off interpretive site along Flank Road. A small

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A parking area was constructed at the site in 1986. The area ~~has~~^{is} overgrown with pine and hickory trees. Logging and residential construction occur directly north and south of the fort.

Fort Fisher is located at the intersection of Squirrel Level Road and Church Road. It was the largest earthen fort constructed by Federal forces during the Petersburg Campaign. The fort measured approximately 500 feet square and contained 4 bastions, 3 magazines, 12 guns "en embrasure" and at least 8 guns "en barbette." There were also several traverses and continuous shooting banquettes between artillery positions. A full moat encircled the fort.

A Fort Fisher ~~was~~^{is} connected to Fort Welch to the west by approximately a quarter mile of linear earthworks, which consists of a frontal ditch, a 4 foot parapet and a rear ditch measuring 5 feet wide by 1-1/2 feet deep. Near Fort Welch an artillery emplacement measuring 300 feet long is believed to be Federal Battery 28.

M/- The site of Fort Fisher is one of the best preserved examples of an earthen fort in the United States. The site can be viewed from an interpretive pull-off from Flank Road. The moat and exterior wall of the fort are well-preserved, although some vegetation has grown up over the years including pine, hickory, and holly trees. The immediate areas around Fort Conahey and Fort Fisher, as depicted on Civil War maps, were surrounded by slashed woods with forest beyond.

e A Across Church Road from Fort Fisher lies **Fort Welch**, which was named for Col. Norval Welch of the 16th Michigan who was killed in the Battle of Pepples Farm. It was an earthen fortress measuring 280 feet by 180 feet with steep walls and sharp bastion corners. The fort was surrounded by a large moat with embrasures. Linear earthworks, approximately one-fourth mile long, connected Fort Welch with Fort Gregg to the south. These earthworks consist of a frontal ditch, a parapet, and a rear trench. Part of the earthworks has been obliterated due to being placed in a swampy location.

J Today Fort Welch is accessible only by a foot trail leading to the west from Church Road (Route 672). A smaller redoubt is located just east of the fort, but is not as well preserved. Civil War maps show slashed woods to the north and west around Fort Welch and forest to the south and east. Although completely encompassed by regrown forest, the fort is well preserved and retains its distinctive characteristics. There is no interpretive information

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provided at this site in the park.

Fort Gregg was an earthen fort with embrasures, magazine, and full moat. Measuring 200 feet by 150 feet, the fort was defended by sharp bastion corners and 12 foot walls. Fort Gregg is approximately 1-1/2 miles from Fort Fisher and approximately 1/4 mile south of Fort Welch.

Civil War maps show slashed woods north and west of Fort Gregg and forest to the south and east. Today Fort Gregg is accessible only by foot trail.

When Confederate Fort Archer was captured by the Union after the Battle of Peebles Farm, they renamed it **Fort Wheaton**. A circular fort, Wheaton measured 180 feet in diameter. Embrasures and a moat were added to the defensive structure by the occupying Union forces. Fort Wheaton is located to the south and slightly east of the Fishhook at the end of the Union siege line. It lies along Church Road to the southeast of Fort Fisher.

Today the fort, encompassing 1.28 acres, is accessible by foot trail only. The well-preserved site is marked by a growth of pines trees and is surrounded by open field. A private residence is adjacent to the fort on the north. There is no interpretive information provided at this site.

Roads

Flank Road (State Road 676) was completed by the NPS in 1950 and follows the line of Union earthworks. It originates at Crater Road (State Route 301) and runs westward to Church Road (State Road 672) and ultimately connects with Defense Road (State Route 142). Along this route, Flank Road passes the sites of the Union Forts Davis, Alexander Hays, Howard, Wadsworth, Keene, Tracy, and the Fishhook area. The road, following the same path as the Union supply route, was constructed to assist in interpreting the westward movement of Union forces against the right flank of the Confederate Army. The road crosses the line of Union entrenchments at several points. Forts Urmston, Conahey, and Fisher all lie to the north of Flank Road. Forts Welch, Gregg, and Wheaton, located to the west of Church Road, are now accessible by foot trail only.

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In 1974, the NPS transferred ownership of part of Flank Road to the City of Petersburg, which maintains it. The road is considered a secondary state route. The park maintains 2.4 miles of Flank Road, a two-lane paved road, through Long Flank and the Fishhook.

FIVE FORKS UNIT

5/ ^ Five Forks is a rural crossroad^y where the road from Dinwiddie Courthouse to Ford's Depot on the Southside Railroad intersects with the White Oak Road, ^{at Flank Junction} ~~and from their crossing~~ another road (Scott's Road) leads off to the southwest. The scene at Five Forks was described by a Confederate artillerist as a "typically" southern scene: fruit trees in bloom, an old-fashioned mansion gleaming white through the trees, the meadowland, thin lines of smoke rising from hastily deserted Negro^{slave?} cabins, and a haze over the land.³² Union reports characterize the area as having open fields and pine woods with dense undergrowth.³³ There were several farmsteads in the area including those of the Sydnor, Boisseau, and Gilliam families.

Today, the larger area of the Five Forks Battlefield is more forested than in 1865, but the immediate area of the crossroads is more open now than it was during the battle. In 1865, there were several large agricultural fields south of White Oak Road and west of Scott's Road where Custer's cavalry was positioned. There was also a large open field just west of Ford's Road.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

Five Forks Confederate Line was part of the Five Forks defensive works hurriedly thrown up by Confederate soldiers. The line paralleled White Oak Road with part of it situated north of the road and the western end of the line south of the road. Two sections of the line survive. North of White Oak Road the "Angle" survives with 11-foot long traverses that

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measure 350 feet long by 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. South of White Oak Road and west of Five Forks a section of the line 20 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 2 feet high also survives.

Five Forks Confederate Forward Outpost was part of the defensive works hurriedly thrown up by Confederates. It was pivotal in the final battle of Five Forks and was used by forward pickets to stem approaching Federal troops. It measures 5 feet wide by 2 feet deep and extends 50 feet in length.

Roads

Pickett's men were deployed along the unpaved **White Oak Road (Rt. 613)** for a distance of a mile and three quarters with lightly built breastworks of pine logs and dirt. Today, it is a two-lane, paved, secondary road.

Fords Road (Rt. 627) was also known as Ford's Church Road and provided access to Ford's Depot on the South Side Railroad. It was unpaved during the battle; today, it is a two-lane, paved, secondary road.

Dinwiddie Courthouse Road (Rt. 627) was also known as the Dinwiddie Road and connected the courthouse community with Petersburg. It was unpaved during the battle but today, it is a two-lane, paved, secondary road.

Scott's Road (Rt. 645) was unpaved during the battle and remained unpaved as late as 1980. Today, it is a two-lane, paved, secondary road.

Wagon Road existed prior to the Battle of Five Forks and was used to transport troops and supplies for both the Confederate and Federal armies. Located at the eastern edge of the Five Forks Unit park boundary, it connected Dinwiddie Courthouse Road and White Oak Road. The unpaved road trace is 10 feet wide by 2,640 feet long.

Confederate Escape Road existed during the Battle of Five Forks and was used as an escape route by Pickett's infantry division and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry during the retreat from the battle. That portion of the unpaved road trace located within park boundaries measures 10

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feet wide by 7,392 feet long. It is located at the west end of the Five Forks Unit.

Gilliam Field Road existed prior to the Battle of Five Forks and provided access from the agricultural fields to the Gilliam outbuildings. During the battle, Federal troops used the road. That portion of the unpaved road trace located within the park boundaries measures 9 feet wide by 528 feet long. It is located south of White Oak Road and northwest of Burnt Quarter, a private residence.

Watercourses

*Not contributing
to the
landscape*
Hatcher's Run flows in an easterly direction and forms the northern border of the park property at Five Forks. Shortly before crossing the Boydton Plank Road, the run was dammed to create a mill pond for Burgess's Mill, which is no longer standing.

OBJECTS/MONUMENTS

*Noncontributing
Outside
Per. of Sig.*
Battle of Five Forks Monument was erected by the Dinwiddie Confederate Memorial Association as a memorial to Dinwiddie soldiers in particular, and all soldiers north and south, who fought in the Battle of Five Forks. The monument consists of a concrete base with rough-cut sides and a finished top five feet four inches long by two feet eight inches wide by one foot high. The six foot rough-cut granite shaft steps back six to eight inches. The monument has incised crossed United States and Confederate flags and the following inscription:

BATTLE OF FIVE FORKS

HERE AT FIVE FORKS ON APRIL 1, 1865
10,000 CONFEDERATES, COMMANDED
BY GENERAL PICKETT, WERE OVERWHELMED
BY ABOUT 50,000 FEDERAL TROOPS,
LED BY GENERAL SHERIDAN, THEREBY
OPENING THE WAY TO THE SOUTHSIDE

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RAILROAD MAKING FURTHER DEFENSE
OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND
IMPOSSIBLE. WITHDRAWAL TO
APPOMATTOX FOLLOWED.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE
VALIANT DINWIDDIE SOLDIERS, AS
WELL AS TO ALL SOLDIERS OF THE
SOUTH AND NORTH, TAKING PART IN
THIS ENCOUNTER.

PRESENTED BY THE DINWIDDIE CONFEDERATE
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION AND ERECTED BY THE
DINWIDDIE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
APRIL 1, 1965

Five Forks Battlefield NHL Monument was erected by the National Park Service ^{in 1961} to recognize the Five Forks Battlefield as a National Historic Landmark. The rough-cut granite marker stands 22 inches high and is 25 inches wide. A bronze plaque is mounted on the polished face of the monument with the following inscription:

*Noncontributing
Outside Per. of Sig.*

FIVE FORKS BATTLEFIELD

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A
REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE
HISTORIC SITES ACT OF AUGUST 21, 1953
THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
IN COMMEMORATING AND ILLUSTRATING
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1961

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

BUILDINGS

¹ An early-twentieth-century **Dwelling** stands on the southern section of the five road intersection and faces north. It is a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling built on piers with weatherboard siding and a gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. There are two interior-end brick chimney flues and a one-story, three-bay porch across the front. The windows are six-over-six light double-hung sash and are flanked by shutters. The house is unoccupied and in a deteriorated condition.

A **Concrete Block Store** is located at the northeast segment of the intersection and faces the crossroads. It is a one-story, three-bay, concrete block structure with a gable roof of standing seam metal. There is one interior brick chimney flue and a one bay porch flanks the entry door. The building is currently used by the Park Service.

A one story frame **Barn** sheathed with weatherboards is situated on the southwest segment of the crossroads.

date?

² A **Dwelling** stands on the northeast quadrant of the battlefield park well off White Oak Road (Route 613). It is a two-story, three-bay, frame, weatherboarded structure on stone piers with a gable roof covered with standing seam metal. There is one interior brick chimney and an addition across the rear. The house is abandoned and partially boarded up.

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FORT WADSWORTH

5 The Union fortification known as Fort Wadsworth lies in the City of Petersburg along Route 604 (Halifax Road). After Federal victories on August 18-21, 1864, along the Weldon Railroad and at the Battle of Peebles Farm in late September, the Union Army sought to secure its position with a rash of fortification constructions in the area, among them Fort Wadsworth. The fort was named for General James S. Wadsworth, who was killed at the Battle of the Wilderness. The fort was placed strategically near the road, rail line, and Warren's headquarters at Globe Tavern, which was located just south of the fort.

Descriptions of the area during the battle for the Weldon Railroad indicate that the area was comprised of "alternating patches of cleared farmland and cluttered forests."³⁴ Union maps of the area show open space at the future sight of Fort Wadsworth, surrounded by forest and felled timber, with cultivated fields to the north. Battle notes indicate that cornfields were standing at the time: "The corn stalks were cut off by the bullets as if with a knife."³⁵ The forests were an "entangled thicket" due to many felled trees. In preparation for battle, "rifle pits were dug, fields of fire cleared, and slashings piled up to slow down enemy attackers."³⁶ There were two Union batteries in the vicinity of Fort Wadsworth--Battery 27 lay to the east and Battery 29 lay to the southwest with trenches attached.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

^ The fort was 300 feet by 400 feet with 4 bastions, 2 magazines, 10 gun ^{emplacements ?} "en barbette," several traverses, and continuous banquettes between artillery positions, bombproof quarters, and a full moat. In 1954, the National Park Service obtained copies of the original plan of Fort Wadsworth from the National Archives. Brush was cleared from the site revealing well-^ preserved features of the fortification including bombproof quarters and gun positions.³⁷ Interpretive markers and light field guns were placed inside the fort. Today, an interpretive

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marker is still located at the site, but the artillery has been removed.

Presently, the site of the fort is cleared, save for a few trees left on the interior of the site. A stand of pine trees surrounds the fort on the west and south. A paved parking area is maintained by NPS to facilitate visitation to the site. State Route 604 (Halifax Road) runs just to the east of the fort. At the time of the battle, the road was referred to as "a narrow country road."³⁸ The road is now a paved, secondary state route. It runs southward to Carson where it connects with U.S Route 301. The historic course of the 1864 Petersburg and Weldon Railroad is the present line of the Halifax Road, not the straighter course of the present day CSX Railroad, which lies west of the fort site.

Railroads

The **Petersburg and Weldon Railroad** runs north to south. This rail line played an important role in connecting Petersburg with the rest of the South and in providing supplies for Lee's forces. The line ran from Petersburg south to Weldon, North Carolina, where it connected with another line to the port of Wilmington. Presently, State Route 604 (Halifax Road) follows the bed of the former rail line.

OBJECTS/MONUMENTS

The **Hagood Monument** is located at the southwest corner of Halifax and Flank roads just to the south of Fort Wadsworth. This monument is dedicated to the South Carolina troops who broke the Union lines here on August 21, 1864. Of the 681 men who began the charge with the brigade, only 292 survived.³⁹ The monument was erected in 1908 by survivors of the brigade. The monument is constructed of rough-cut, light gray granite. A two foot square shaft with incised lettering is mounted on a stepped base that is five foot square. The total height of the monument is nine feet. There is a 15¹/₂ inch bronze shield of the State of South Carolina on the west side of the shaft. The monument sits atop a concrete pad and is enclosed by a low fence of galvanized pipe and granite piers.

The text of monument reads:

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HERE A BRIGADE COMPOSED OF THE 7TH BATTALION THE 11TH, 21ST, 25TH
AND 27TH REGIMENTS, SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS COMMANDED BY BRIG.
GEN. JOHNSON HAGOOD CHARGED WARREN'S FEDERAL ARMY CORPS ON THE
21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 1864 TAKING INTO THE FIGHT 740 MEN RETURNING
WITH 273.

NO PROUDER FATE THAN THEIRS, WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO LIBERTY.

The four sides of the low base are inscribed as well. The east side, facing Halifax Road
reads: HAGOOD'S BRIGADE. On the south side are the letters: C.S.A. On the north side
are the letters: A.N.V. The west side is inscribed with information concerning the
monument: Placed Here by Wm. V. Izlar, A Survivor of the Charge Aided by Other South
Carolinians.

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Railroads

The **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad** runs north to south. The present ACL rail connection
through the city was made in 1867. After the war, the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad line
was consolidated into the ACL system.⁴⁰ This line lies west of the fort site and is now
owned by CSX.

CONFEDERATE FORT GREGG UNIT

The Confederate Fort Gregg Unit encompasses 44.8 acres and is located north of the Boydton
Plank Road and south of Interstate 85. Fort Gregg, built just west of the main Confederate
defensive line, guarded the western approach to Petersburg along the Boydton Plank Road.
Fort Gregg and the nearby Fort Whitworth were named for the farms on which they were
built.⁴¹ Only Fort Gregg is within park boundaries.

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At the time of the battle, there was open ground in front of Fort Gregg. Recent spring rains had filled the fort's moat with breast-high water and left the surrounding fields muddy. There had been winter huts near Fort Whitworth which were burned to provide an unobstructed field of fire shortly before Federal troops attacked the two forts.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

STRUCTURES

Earthworks

J Fort Gregg is a modified redan fortification (or *VK*) 250 feet long by 180 feet wide with a pronounced outer moat and high exterior walls and interior traverse. It was designed for four gun emplacements, two "en barbette." Today Fort Gregg stands in the middle of a grass-covered field wedged between U.S. Interstate 85 and the Boydton Plank Road. A heavy industrial facility is situated across the Boydton Road from the fort.

Roads

Boydton Plank Road, State Route 42, was one of the main supply routes from the west into Petersburg. As its name implies, it was at one time covered with planks which provided a rudimentary form of road paving. The present two-lane, paved highway roughly follows its historic route.

OBJECTS/MONUMENTS

^/2 **Fort Gregg Monument**, situated just south of the fort, honors Confederates who held Federal troops at bay while Longstreet's Corps moved into Petersburg to bolster the defensive line on the west side of town. It was placed here by the A. P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans *in 1940* at the 50th Anniversary of the Fort Gregg defense. The granite monument has a rough-cut front and sides, a pebble finished rear, and a slope cut polished face with an incised inscription. It measures 30 inches long by 18 inches wide by 42 inches high. The inscription

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reads:

FORT GREGG
CONFEDERATE DEFENSE LINE
APR 2, 1865
ERECTED APR. 2, 1914
A.P. HILL CAMP S.C.V.

CITY POINT UNIT

The City Point Unit occupies a triangular parcel of land within the City of Hopewell at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers. Situated on a bluff above the rivers, the plateau is some forty feet above mean low water. Several ravines or swales cut into the bluff. The Appomattox River forms the western boundary of the unit while it is bounded on the north and east by the James River. The park unit is bounded on the south by the historic village of City Point.

Appomattox Manor is sited prominently on this high bluff overlooking the rivers. Standing just west of the main house is a complex of domestic dependencies that are contemporary with the earlier portions of the house. Located east of the main complex are two houses that were either built or acquired by the Eppes family over the years. The grounds east and south of the house were landscaped by the Eppes family ~~over the years~~ and a number of these features survive. Grant's Cabin has been re-erected near its original location on the east lawn and an earthwork survives in the garden area.

RESOURCES

The **House** (contributing building) has undergone a number of building campaigns over the years but as it stands today is a 1-1/2 story, U-shaped, frame dwelling approximately 50 feet by 90 feet. Eighteen gable dormers pierce the gable roof of the house, which is now covered

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with wooden shingles. The gable ends of the roof have decorative sawnwork bargeboards as do the dormers on the east side. There is a box bay window on the western gable end. There are three interior brick chimneys and one exterior. The southernmost chimneys are part of the original house. The windows are six-over-nine-light sash and are flanked by louvered shutters.

The house has two main porches. A simple three-bay porch with Tuscan columns is located around the entryway on the south facade. A multiple-bay porch wraps around the east and part of the north facades with projecting polygonal sections at the southeast and northeast ends. The porch is supported by pierced posts and both porches have a picket balustrade on the roof. A partially enclosed and screened porch is located on the west side of the house. A handicap ramp has been built off this porch.

The earliest section of the house, which was begun in 1763, was a five room dwelling that today comprises the southern part of the structure. The east wing was added in 1840-1841. It included a library and parlor that flanked a center hallway. Three bedrooms and a hall were located on the second floor. A decade later in 1850, a changing room and indoor privy were said to have been added to the west end of the house along with a storeroom and passageway. In 1907, steam heat was installed with radiators placed throughout the house. A major construction phase began in 1914 financed through the sale of the Eppes' Hopewell Farm to Dupont. A new kitchen formed the west wing of the house and the basement space was expanded. New stairs were added to provide access to the new second floor rooms in the west wing.⁴²

In 1950, a slate roof replaced the wood single roof. The weight of this roof created structural problems and in 1988 and 1989 the slate was replaced with wooden shingles that replicated the last type of shingles that had been on the house. Also at this time, dormer additions were removed and the original roofline and dormer appearance restored.⁴³

The **Kitchen/Wash House** (contributing building), sited just west of the house, is one of the early surviving dependencies and is thought to have been constructed around 1836. It is a one-story structure sheathed with beaded weatherboards and has a gable roof covered with wooden shingles. The eastern elevation has four bays, two doors flanked by a window, while

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the western side ^{has} ~~is~~ three bays ^{and} a central door flanked by windows. One of the two doors on the east side is a six-raised-panel door while the other is a batten door. The west elevation has a single doorway surmounted by a gable canopy supported by cross brackets. Windows are nine-over-nine ^{light} ~~light~~ sash and there are two large interior end brick chimneys that appear to have been rebuilt. The interior features a two-room plan with plastered walls.

The **Dairy** (contributing building) stands immediately to the north of the Kitchen and is thought to date to the same period. It is a square, frame, one-story building with a pyramidal roof of wood singles. A small triangular finial tops the roof. Louvered vents, which provided the necessary air circulation, are located at the cornice line.

The **New Smokehouse** (contributing building) is located immediately west of and on an axis with the Dairy and is of the same construction period. The one-story, frame structure sits on a brick foundation and is sheathed with beaded weatherboards. Wood shingles cover the pyramidal roof and this building is identical to the Dairy except for the absence of the louvered vents. A later addition is the six-over-six ^{light} ~~light~~ window on the east facade.

The **Old Smokehouse** (contributing building) is given a construction date of about 1825 by the Park Service and is the westernmost of the domestic dependencies. The one-story, one-bay, frame structure ^{that} ~~that~~ sits on piers and is sheathed with weatherboards. Wood ^{en} ~~en~~ shingles cover the gable roof.

The **Garage** (contributing building) is located south of the group of early domestic outbuildings. It was built about 1916 over an ice pit that existed by 1887. This building was used for vehicle storage and quarters for the Eppes's driver. It is a 1-1/2 story, frame, weatherboarded structure with a clipped gable roof. One gable dormer is located on each side of the roof and circular vents are found in each gable end. Double sliding doors on the north end of the building provide access to the main section. Double six-pane windows pierce one of the doors. A shed-roof addition with double doors is located on the east side of the building. A similar west wing was removed in 1982. The gravel garage driveway, which provides access to the garage, is 10 feet wide, extends 250 ^{feet} ~~feet~~ and is located west of the main entrance drive.

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There are a number of landscape features at Appomattox Manor that represent the extended ownership of the Eppes family. These include walkways, driveways, gardens, and garden-related structures. Some of these features existed prior to the Civil War and were codified by later improvements or alterations. The Civil War occupancy by Federal forces brought dramatic changes to the Appomattox Manor grounds and Dr. Richard Eppes made extensive improvements when he reclaimed the property after the war. Other landscape features date from the building campaign of 1916 as well as from the 1930s period.

A stone and concrete sidewalk curves around the southern elevation of the house and provides access from that side of the house to the side entry and outbuildings. The present sidewalk essentially follows a late-eighteenth century walk that was codified over generations of use.

There is also a garden walk of pea gravel that provided access to gardens laid out by Dr. Richard Eppes that were located south of the house. The walkway formed a cross or ~~+~~ in the yard. The north-south section extended 320 feet south of the house and was 3 feet wide. The east-west section, approximately 2 feet 8 inches wide, extended for 200 feet.

The entrance drive and loop created a formal entry to Appomattox Manor. The ~~10-foot-wide~~ drive extends 730 feet from the terminus of Cedar Lane to the east elevation of the house where it forms a loop. The drive existed at the time of the Civil War.

Contributing structures
The stone and metal entrance gates and fence formalized the entryway to Appomattox Manor. Part of the 1916 building campaign, the gate consists of six rough-cut, random-laid, coursed pillars that measure 4 feet by 4 feet by 7 feet high with a stepped apex and are topped by large lanterns. A low wall of the same random-laid stone, connects the pillars that immediately flank the drive. The large, wrought-iron, central gate is flanked on each side by fencing between each pillar. Smaller pedestrian gates are located between each of the end pillars.

r/s
Upon his return to Appomattox Manor after the Civil War, Dr. Richard Eppes laid out formal **gardens** (contributing site) on the grounds. These plans were extensively modified by his descendants in the late ~~nineteenth~~ and early ~~twentieth~~ centuries. Today, the garden is approximately 250 feet square with lined pathways flanked by plantings. Grapes are grown along both sides of the northern and eastern paths and fig bushes are found along the western

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side of the garden. Boxwood flank the path that bisects the garden on a north/south axis and partially border the southernmost path.

The four paths are lined by cement capped brick curbs that stand about six inches high. Paths run along both the northern and southern boundaries of the garden with a third path along the eastern boundary that continues past Bonaccord to Pecan Street. The fourth pathway bisects the garden. These paths are approximately seven feet wide with a grass surface. In some areas the curbing is missing.

Contributing structures
↑
The garden gate posts were part of the formal gardens laid out by Dr. Richard Eppes after the Civil War. These concrete posts measure one foot, three inches square and are five feet, two inches high and have pyramidal tops surmounted by metal spheres. Sited eight feet, two inches apart, they retain iron hooks from a now-vanished gate. They are located at the eastern end of an allee of crepe myrtle trees and at the western terminus of the east/west path lined with grape arbors along the northern boundary of the formal garden.

There are three rows of grape arbors that run approximately 400 feet with wire stretched between cedar posts to support the grape vines. The arbors flank the northern path at the west end as well as the east path that runs from the garden past Bonaccord to Pecan Street.

1/2
An ornamental garden pool is situated in the center of an approximately 27 ~~feet~~ by 30-foot elevated, grassy area at the southern terminus of the north/south garden path. It is a rectangular pool with scalloped corners measuring seven feet, seven inches by eight feet and is two feet, seven inches deep. The walls and bottom are concrete with brick capping. The elevated area is bordered by brick and brick steps lead up to the pool.

Garden faucets and drains are also a part of the formal garden area. Three water faucets, three feet one inch high, are located at the northwest and southwest corners and in the center of the garden. Three, one foot square, cast iron grate drains are also found in the garden.

Cold frame ruins are located just south of the northern pathway and grape arbor. These consist of two pairs of low brick walls that run east/west and measure 39 feet by 4 feet, 7 inches. The side walls only survive in fragments.

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Three additional arbors, a rose arbor, the Lady Bank rose arbor, and a wisteria arbor grace the grounds of Appomattox Manor and demonstrate the Eppes family continued interest in decorative gardening. The rose arbor, situated of the river side of the house, ~~originally~~ was built some time between 1916 and 1920. It consists of eight decorative cast iron posts surmounted by a gable-shaped, open, wooden roof frame. The posts, with a rustic tree limb motif, were originally part of the nineteenth-century entrance gates and fence. The ground below the structure is paved with concrete and the arbor measures 19 foot 6 inches by 12 feet by 10 feet high.

A second arbor, the Lady Bank rose arbor, was erected during the same time period by the Eppes family as part of the formal garden area. Situated just east of the reconstructed Grant's Cabin, this arbor is built of eight debarked cedar posts, 8 to 10 inches in diameter, that are topped by 4 to 6 inch diameter rafters. The structure is 12 feet 6 inches wide on the west end, 10 feet wide on the east end, and measures 22 feet long and is 7 feet tall. Only one of the original Lady Bank roses survives.

The wisteria arbor dates from a later period, 1930 to 1935, and was also part of the creation of formal gardens at Appomattox Manor. This arbor also is constructed of debarked cedar posts, 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and is topped by 4 to 6 inch split cedar posts. The arbor measures 12 feet wide by 24 feet long and is 7 feet high.

The **Gazebo** (contributing structure) was part of the 1916 renovations and was constructed on the north lawn to take advantage of the extensive view of the James and Appomattox rivers at this point. Originally sited closer to the river, it was moved in 1986 due to the erosion of the bank. The one-story gazebo is octagonal shaped with a wood-shingled roof with finial and rustic, debarked limbs for posts and balustrade. The gazebo is 10 feet 6 inches across with each side measuring 5 feet 1 inch.

Grant's Cabin (contributing building) is located 100 yards to the east of Appomattox Manor and is the only surviving military structure from the Union's occupation of City Point. The Army of the Potomac established its headquarters at City Point on June 14, 1864. During the summer months, the troops, including Grant, lived in tents erected on the front yard of Appomattox Manor on the bluff overlooking the river. Approximately 20 cabins replaced

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these tents when it became apparent that the army would be involved in a siege operation and as winter moved in. Tents continued to be used to house additional troops. Various military buildings were scattered throughout the small settlement at City Point including barracks, a corps of engineers camp, and an army hospital.

Constructed in November 1864, the cabin is T-shaped in plan and consists of two interconnected rooms. The square front room was used as an office (14 feet square) while the rectangular room to the rear (9 feet by 26 feet) was used as Grant's bedroom. The two rooms were separated by a partition with sliding (pocket) doors. This feature is not included in the reconstructed cabin. Unlike the majority of the cabins that were built at Appomattox Manor to house the Army of the Potomac, Grant's and the one to its immediate west were constructed of vertically positioned logs placed in a stockade pattern laid in a shallow foundation trench. The rest of the cabins were constructed of horizontally laid logs and were rectangular in plan. All the one-story cabins had gable roofs covered with wooden shingles. Board-and-batten siding is used in the gable end on the north facade. There is a central chimney in the cabin with a fireplace that may have served both the front and rear room.

In August 1865, Grant's cabin was dismantled by George H. Stuart, President of the Sanitary Commission, and was displayed at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.⁴⁴ The cabin was returned and rebuilt at Appomattox Manor in 1983. It is estimated that the current cabin contains approximately 5-15 percent of its original fabric.⁴⁵ All modifications have been in-kind replacements of deteriorated fabric. The siting of the structure was facilitated by archaeological investigations which determined the exact cabin location by the discovery of the original pine sill set into a "builder's trench" and covered with debris from the original chinking that had fallen during the cabin's removal in 1865. In its original construction, the vertical wall logs were toenailed to the sill with cut spikes and then the trench was filled with dirt.⁴⁶ The rebuilt structure, however, was not built on the original site, but near it, so as to preserve the integrity of the archaeological site.

The current condition of the cabin is similar to its appearance in 1864-1865. A board-and-batten door on the north facade leads into the square room that was used as Grant's office. Another door on the south facade gives access to Grant's sleeping quarters. There are two six-over-six single-hung windows in the east and west walls of the office. There is one six-

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over-six, single-hung window in the south wall of the bedroom and a six-light fixed window in the north wall. The central chimney is brick laid in a running bond. The sycamore tree that is located to the west of the cabin is visible in period photographs of the cabin.

An **Earthwork** (contributing structure) survives from the Civil War period. Located east of Grant's Cabin on a promontory overlooking the James River, it is believed to have been built by Confederates as part of their defenses for City Point. This modified redan, measuring 50 feet wide by 100 feet long with 4-foot-high walls, would have provided protection for a deep-water landing area. It has three discernible gun embrasures.

Adjacent to the main portion of the Appomattox Manor property is **Bonaccord** (contributing building), a house constructed between 1842 and 1845 ~~that originally was used~~ as the rectory for St. John's Episcopal Church. The house was purchased by the Eppes family in 1903 and maintained as a family residence until 1986 when it was acquired by the NPS. The house is a 2-1/2-story, three-bay brick structure with Greek Revival detailing and faces south onto Pecan Avenue. The main entrance to the house is located on the east side and is accessed by a set of wooden steps. The door is surrounded by a decorative fanlight and sidelights. The gable roof is covered with slate shingles. There are two interior chimneys on the main house on the north and south sides of the gable roof. A one-story, four-bay by five-bay, hip-roofed porch runs along the front (south) and wraps around the eastern side of the house. Wooden lattice covers the crawl space below the porch, except on the south side, which is screened. A door leads into the basement level on this side as well. The east-side porch roof is covered with standing-seam metal and is supported by slender Tuscan columns. A railing, approximately three feet in height, surrounds this porch and has one inch square balusters. The ceiling is beaded board. This porch was added by the Eppes in 1916.

Eppeses
1/2 cap.
Also in 1916, a two-story ell was constructed to the rear of the main house. A two-story, three-bay porch was constructed on the western side of the rear wing. The materials and overall detailing of this addition are in character with the main house. One interior chimney is located on the eastern side of the gable roof of the addition. ~~Both~~ ^{Both} windows in the main house ~~as well as the addition~~ ^{and} have ~~are~~ ^{and} twelve-over-one, six-over-one, and a decorative diamond paned window, all with wooden sills and simple wooden surrounds. Fixed, three-pane windows are located on the basement level. The brick bond of Bonaccord varies from five-course

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American on the east, north, and west sides of the main house and east and west sides addition, six-course American on the north end of the addition, and running bond on the south (front) facade of the main house.

A metal ~~wire~~ and post fence surrounds the property on the south, west, and north. The fence is approximately 300 feet long and varies in height from three to six feet. The south side of the fence, along Pecan Avenue, has a gate that opens onto a sidewalk, which leads to the front steps of the house. A concrete walkway of interlocking hexagonal pavers leads from the west side of the house, along the front, to the east side porch egress. ^{the} Total length of the walkway is approximately 300 feet. Both the fence and walkway were most likely installed during the Eppes occupancy.

There is also a ^{date?} **garage** (contributing building) at Bonaccord ^{that} which was added to the property along the northwestern corner and is an early example of prefabricated metal building. The corrugated metal structure measures approximately 24 feet by 30 feet with an addition on the east side with barn doors. The two-car garage has a gable roof with an embossed winged wheel symbol in the pediment with the manufacturer's name: "The Edwards Mfg. Co." The garage is not accessible from the street due to the surrounding fence. The garage is used for storage.

Hunter House (contributing building) is a 1-1/2-story, painted brick house constructed c.1920 by the Eppes family. The house is a two-story bungalow with a gambrel roof and large, three-bay shed dormer. The roof is covered with slate shingles. The central window in the dormer is a tripartite window; other windows in the house are six-over-one, double-hung windows. The detailing of the house exhibits both Craftsman and Dutch Colonial styles. A one-story entrance porch is located in the center bay of the house and is supported by vernacular styled columns with stepped capitals. Transom and sidelights frame the entrance door. The structure measures approximately 40 feet by 30 feet with additions on the south and rear. A flat roofed, one-story screen porch has been added on the south. There are two interior chimneys on the north and south ends. Until 1993, the Hunter House was occupied under a life estate agreement.

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^ A metal-wire-and-post fence surrounds the property on the north and west. This fence is similar to the one at Bonaccord. It has an opening at the driveway and front gate, which opens to a sidewalk. The Hunter House **garage** (contributing building) is located to the south of the main house. It is a two car garage, measuring approximately 16 feet by 24 feet with double sliding wooden doors on the east side. The brick structure has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A small structure was added to the west side of the building. A concrete, ribbon driveway leads from the street to the garage.

The house known as **Naldara** (contributing building) was constructed by the Eppes family between 1908 and 1912. The house is a 2-1/2-story, four-bay, duplex and was built as rental property. The frame structure is covered with a cross gable roof with three, gable roofed dormer windows. The roofs are covered with composition shingle. The north and south dormers have one three-over-three light window, while the central dormer has a pair of three-over-three light windows, as well as a chimney. There are two doors leading into the duplex, one on the north and one on the south end of the front facade. These doors have a transom and one sidelight. The house is T-shaped in plan with two recessed porches located on the north and south sides of the rear extension. These porches are two-stories tall and two-bays by one-bay. A set of concrete steps leads up to the first floor of each of these porches. There is also a one-story, four-bay front porch supported by five Tuscan columns. There are three chimneys on the house all located along the roof ridge. The windows are nine-over-nine, six-over-one, and twelve-over-one light with Palladian windows located in the gable ends of the roof. A one-story, gable-roof addition is located at the rear with access to the basement located on the west end. The house faces east to the James River.

An entrance drive leads from Pecan Avenue to the rear of the house in a northeasterly direction. The road is approximately 10 feet wide and 230 feet long. It is a dirt surface with pea gravel. The drive approaches the rear of the house and loops around.

Railroads (Contributing Structure)

^ When the Army of the Potomac established its headquarters at City Point, it ^{seized} ~~co-opted~~ the damaged rail lines of the Petersburg and City Point Railroad and reconstructed the line as the **U.S. Military Railroad**. This line ran from the depot at City Point to the Union lines

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surrounding Petersburg as far as Globe Tavern at the Weldon Railroad and insured that the Union troops stayed well supplied throughout the siege.

The U.S. Military Railroad Construction Corps built an engine house and yard at the base of the bluff at City Point, drastically cutting into the riverbank. To operate the new railroad, 25 locomotives and 275 railroad cars were brought to City Point via barge. When completed in February 1865, the City Point & Army line was twenty-one miles long and ran nine trains each way daily including freight and passenger trains.⁴⁷ By June 1865, these tracks had been removed, but as late as 1934 the rail bed was still discernible on the landscape.⁴⁸

Most evidence of the military railroad at City Point and in the Main Unit has long since been demolished. The engine house and other Union constructed buildings at City Point are gone. Only one track remains of over a half dozen spur tracks that formerly ran into the depot area.

Roads (Noncontributing Structure)

Maps from 1864 show the **City Point Road** (State Route 36) as the main road leading from Petersburg to the point. The road led directly to the entrance of Appomattox Manor then turned east and led to the port. Today, Route 36 is a paved, primary state road that runs northeast out of Petersburg to Hopewell where it becomes West Broadway, Appomattox Street, and finally Cedar Lane, which leads directly through the gates of Appomattox Manor. A branch of the road, Pecan Avenue, leads east to the port.

Historic Archeological Resources (Contributing Site)

Historic archeological resources at Appomattox Manor are represented by both domestic sites and Civil War related sites. Evidence of an earlier dwelling is located approximately 20 feet north of the present house and is represented by subsurface brick footings. The house measured 31 feet by 19 feet and was frame on an English-bond foundation with a chimney on each gable end. Evidence further suggests that one of the chimneys may have been timber framed with a daub covering. Architectural fragments also reveal the house had leaded casement windows and whitewashed plaster interior walls. It possibly was a two-room structure.⁴⁹ Other features, such as buried pathways, were revealed by a geophysical survey of

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Appomattox Manor. These paths probably represent the post-Civil War occupation period.

Much of the archeological testing that focused on the Civil War period, focused on determining the site of Grant's Cabin. The original location of his cabin was identified through testing and the reconstructed cabin was slightly offset so as not to disturb any subsurface remains. The footing trench, portions of the wooden sill, and fragments of the original chinking used between the logs remain in situ. Other Civil War-era artifacts have been found scattered throughout the property although a large concentration came from a trash midden south of the house. These artifacts include a Union Army Eagle breast plate.

Prehistoric Archeological Resources (Contributing Site)

What periods?
A number of prehistoric archeological resources that have the ability to yield significant information on regional prehistory have been identified at City Point. A Phase I-type survey conducted by P/RA Research, Inc., in 1980 at a proposed parking lot site retrieved approximately 9,500 prehistoric and historic artifacts. A number of prehistoric features were tentatively identified but not fully defined. This fieldwork led investigators to define a low-level association between archeological sites/features and slight topographic rises on the property. In 1983, a limited testing program was conducted by the NPS in the vicinity of Appomattox Manor. Fourteen test trenches were excavated to a general depth of 2 feet below modern grade. A substantial number of prehistoric artifacts, represented notably by quartzite flakes and debitage, were located in all of the trenches. Investigators discovered prehistoric materials in intact contexts, usually at the higher elevations noted earlier by P/RA Research, Inc., and in disturbed contexts associated with historic construction and occupation activities. Due to the small areal exposure, no definitive prehistoric features were identified. Nonetheless, the volume of lithic remains led investigators to conclude that the City Point Unit was occupied extensively, if not continuously, through time.

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POPLAR GROVE NATIONAL CEMETERY

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

SITES

*Refer to
MPD +
nomination*

Poplar Grove National Cemetery was established in the summer of 1866 as part of the National Cemetery System, which was created in 1862 by President Lincoln. The cemetery occupies the Civil War encampment site of the 50th New York Engineers, who were responsible for the construction of the Union fortifications within the Fishhook. This work was performed from October 1864 to March 1865.

Prior to and immediately following the war, the site was part of the Flowers farm. This site is approximately six miles southwest of Petersburg and lies between the Halifax and Vaughan Roads. During their occupation of the site beginning in October 1864, the 50th New York Engineers constructed several log huts for winter quarters. In February 1865, the engineers constructed the Poplar Grove Church, which was a log structure with Gothic detailing. The church was named in honor of the Poplar Springs Church that lay less than a mile to the west from the camp. That church had been destroyed during the Battle of Peebles Farm. At the end of the war, the engineers left Poplar Grove Church to the Poplar Springs congregation.

When the cemetery was established in 1866, a search and recovery program was undertaken to locate the interred remains of soldiers throughout the Petersburg battlefields and to reinter them at Poplar Grove. Almost all of those reinterred at Poplar Grove were Union dead. Most Confederate soldiers who died during the Siege were buried in mass graves, by state, in the city's Blandford Cemetery. Many of the Union soldiers who died at the City Point Field Hospital were buried in Hopewell at the City Point National Cemetery, which is maintained by the Department of Veterans Administration.

A flagpole was erected at the center of the cemetery and the remains were reinterred in concentric circles around and facing the flagpole.⁵⁰ Five civilians, employees, or dependents who died between 1866 and 1868, also are buried there. A few more recent interments have

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taken place. There are 6,312 headstones in the cemetery. It is now closed to burials. The burial corps also constructed a fence around the cemetery, brick walks and avenues for access to the graves, and gutters to drain the grounds. The corps was disbanded on June 30, 1869.⁵¹

Maps and photographs of the period indicate that the area of the camp was generally open field with pine forest surrounding it. The Vaughan Road (State Route 675) still follows the same route as it did in 1864, running directly to the west of the cemetery site. The road is a paved, secondary road and continues south until it intersects with and becomes State Route 670.

The rural setting of the cemetery has not been disturbed by development. Some new housing is located along Vaughan Road, but does not intrude upon the cemetery. The landscaping in the cemetery has reached mature growth. The many trees and shrubs in the cemetery include magnolias, cedars, boxwood, pines, hollies, Norway spruce, crepe myrtle, cypress, oaks and maples.

BUILDINGS

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Lodge** was constructed in 1868 according to a prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. This building was used as a residence for the superintendent of the cemetery. A plaque has been placed on the front of the lodge which bears the text of President Lincoln's speech at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, delivered on November 19, 1863.

The lodge is two stories in height and L-shaped in plan with a one-story, kitchen addition. The main building is of dressed, random stone and the addition is covered with stucco. The main building has a mansard roof of standing-seam metal, while the addition has a low-pitched, gable roof of the same material. The mansard roof is perforated by several gable-roofed dormer windows with four-over-four lights. The windows on the rest of the house are six-over-six panes. The cornice line is decorated with large modillion blocks. The inside of the **L** has been infilled with a screen porch. There are two interior chimneys, one original and one that appears to have been added later. Today, the house is maintained as a private

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residence; the small yard is enclosed by a low wooden fence.

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Lodge Utility Building** was constructed in 1929 as a multi-purpose utilitarian structure. It houses such functions as public restrooms, storage and furnace room. It is a one-story, gable roofed, rectangular structure constructed of hollow clay tile with a stucco finish. The roof is of standing seam metal. It is located to the south of the lodge.

The current **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Lodge Stable** was constructed in 1929, replacing the original structure that was built in 1873. It functioned as a stable and tool shed for the cemetery. It is a one-and-a-half story structure with stucco-covered brick walls. A gable roof of standing seam metal covers the stable. On the south side of the building there are a set of barn doors and there is a hay loft door on the west end. The overall form and design of the building is very similar to the Lodge Utility Building, but is larger. Presently, the stable is used for storage. The hay loft door has been converted into an exterior door and is accessible from an exterior metal staircase. The stable is located north of the Lodge.

STRUCTURES

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Bandstand** was constructed in 1897 for use as a rostrum on such commemorative occasions as Memorial Day. It is an octagonal pavilion with a corbelled, brick base and decorative iron fret and scroll work along the roof line. The roof is metal with a finial at its top. Iron steps on the east lead up to the platform, which sits about 4 feet 6 inches above grade. The bandstand is located east of the Lodge.

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Wall** was constructed in 1873-1876 to enclose the grounds of the cemetery. The wall was repaired in 1978-1979. The wall encloses 8 acres and is 2700 feet long. The brick wall is divided into 132 sections by large piers with concrete caps. Each section has two recessed panels. There are two sets of wrought iron gates with large, chamfered stone piers with pyramidal caps where the wall meets the carriage lane--one for vehicular traffic, the other for pedestrian traffic. Metal badges with the inscription of "U.S. National Cemetery" are attached to the flanking piers of the vehicular entrance.

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The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Carriage Lane** is part of the original 1867 design of the cemetery and serves as a circulation path to and from its center. The road is 11' wide and approximately 400 feet long and runs from Vaughan Road (the entrance lane) to the circular drive around the flagpole at the center of the cemetery. Some concrete curbing was added along the circular cul-de-sac in 1933. The lane is now paved.

The current **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Flagpole** was erected in 1913, replacing earlier flagpoles erected in 1866 and 1874. It is a painted iron flagpole and is 12 inches in diameter and 40 feet tall. It is set in the center of the circle drive which terminates the entrance road. Two location aids are located next to the flagpole. A map of the layout of the cemetery is marked with concentric circles, sections, and grave numbers. A roster of the known interments are listed by name with their interment number. These interpretive signs assist the visitor in locating a specific grave within the cemetery.

OBJECTS/MONUMENTS

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Monument** was erected in 1868 as part of the initial efforts to decorate and landscape the grounds of the cemetery and lies between section markers B and C. The cannon tube was brought to the cemetery from Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia. The monument was fashioned from a 32 pound Columbaid cannon tube set vertically on a three feet by six feet concrete pad. A plaque mounted on the front of the tube lists the numbers of known and unknown interments. The tube is flanked by 19 cannon balls stacked in a tetrahedron form. The monument is placed on the outer edge of the drive encircling the flagpole.

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Section Markers** are labelled alphabetically (A to F) and delineate the six radiating paths which assist visitors in locating grave markers. The six markers are cast iron and measure four inches by five inches. They are mounted on a pipe stand and are painted black with raised white lettering.

The **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Grave Markers** locate the remains of 6,178 soldiers killed during the Siege of Petersburg. These small marble plaques vary in shape, size, and design but are typical of most markers in the National Cemetery System. In 1877, these

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markers replaced the original wooden markers placed in the cemetery. Some of the markers are square, while others are rectangular. Each states the name of the interred, his military designation, and the date he was buried if this information is known. An interment number is also listed on the marker, which is keyed to a map of the cemetery and aids in the location of specific graves. Some markers simply state "Unknown Soldier, Civil War." Decoration on the stones is sparse, usually a simple U.S. shield. Originally, these markers stood upright, but in 1934 they were laid flat to facilitate mowing.

GOWAN MONUMENT (Contributing Object)

might mention that this has become an icon for the battlefield preservation movement (See The Civil War Battlefield Guide, pg. 249. Also was on a PBS show several years ago.)

The **Gowan Monument**, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Crater Road, formerly the Jerusalem Plank Road (State Route 301), and Sycamore Street (State Route 301A) in the City of Petersburg, was erected on June 20, 1907, by survivors of the 48th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and the school children and citizens of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.⁵² The monument was erected near the site of Union Fort Mahone to honor Colonel George W. Gowan, regimental leader of the 48th, and other members of the regiment who were killed during the general assault on the Confederate lines on April 2, 1865.⁵³ The monument was cast by the Jno. Williams No. 9 Foundry and cost \$5,000.⁵⁴ The site the monument stands on was formerly the Davis Farm in Prince George County. Today, the statue is completely engulfed in modern construction. Only a small portion of green space surrounds the monument, which sits atop a concrete pad. It is directly adjacent to the parking lot for the Merchant's Tire store.

The monument consists of a granite base 12 feet square, topped by another base of 8 foot 4 inch square. The pedestal is 6 feet 7 inches high by 4 foot square surmounted by a bronze figure of an officer at parade rest, which measures 8 feet in height. Total height of the monument is 20 feet 8 inches. The figure faces north toward the site of Fort Mahone. On the north side of the pedestal, there is a large, rectangular plaque with the following inscription:

ERECTED BY THE SURVIVING COMRADES, SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CITIZENS OF
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA., AND DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD OF THE

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48TH REGIMENT, PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

COLONEL GEORGE W. GOWAN, KILLED IN ACTION IN FRONT OF FORT MAHONE, APRIL
2ND, 1865. AGED 25 YEARS.

On the east side of the monument, at the top of the base, is a bronze plaque depicting the IX Corps badge, which portrays a cannon and fouled anchor. Below this, there is another bronze plaque with the following inscription:

48TH REGIMENT, PENNSYLVANIA VETERAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, 1ST BRIGADE, 2ND
DIVISION, BURNSIDE'S 9TH A. C. MUSTERED IN SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1861, MUSTERED
OUT JULY 17, 1865.

A plaque bearing the likeness of Brig. Gen. Henry Pleasants with a palm frond behind it is located below this with the inscription:

BREVET. BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY PLEASANTS, OF THE 48TH REGIMENT,
PENNSYLVANIA VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.

Below this plaque there is a bronze medallion of the Pennsylvania coat of arms with oak and laurel branches surrounding it. Both the Pleasants' medallion and the medallion on the south side of the monument, which bears a bronze relief of the opening of the mine at the Crater, allude to the leading role the members of the 48th Regiment played in that failed attempt to break the Confederate lines. The west side of the monument is blank.

PENNSYLVANIA MONUMENT (Contributing Object)

2 The **Pennsylvania Monument** stands near the intersection of Wakefield Avenue and Walnut Boulevard in the City of Petersburg. The monument was erected on May 19, 1909, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to honor the Third Division of the IX Corps of the Army of the Potomac. President William H. Taft was present for the unveiling. Jones Brothers of Boston, Massachusetts served as contractors for the construction of the monument and F.W.

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Ruckstuhl was the sculptor.⁵⁵ The monument was erected on the site of Confederate Fort Mahone, opposite the Union Fort Sedgwick. According to the history of the division, Fort Mahone "had been leveled to the earth for more than 20 years," but Fort Sedgwick was undisturbed.⁵⁶ The Third Division participated in several important engagements during the Siege of Petersburg, including the general assault on the Confederate lines on April 2, 1865. Fort Stedman had been considered as a site for the monument since the 200th Regiment had fought bravely during the Confederate attack there. That site, however, was abandoned since, at the time, Fort Stedman was "grown up to young timber" and since the monument would be visible to more people along the Jerusalem Plank Road.⁵⁷ A smaller monument honoring the regiment was placed at the site of Fort Stedman.

The monument consists of a granite base, which steps from a 25 foot square to a 15 foot square, to a 6 foot square shaft. A 60 foot tall obelisk of rusticated Barre granite rises from this last base. The base of the obelisk is encircled by a faeces. At the base of the obelisk on the north side there is a 6 foot bronze statue of a young soldier standing upon a pedestal with an open shirt, grasping a rifle in his left hand and the United States flag in his right hand. The pedestal is inscribed with the names of the important sites where the Third Division fought. These include: Bermuda Hundred, Weldon Raid, Hatcher's Run, Petersburg, Fort Stedman, and Fort Mahone. The inspiration for this figure was supposedly derived from an actual event that occurred during the April 2 assault:

In that assault the 207th Regiment was the leading Regiment in the assaulting column. Its color bearer was pierced by seven bullets as the head of the column reached the Confederate fortifications, and the flag was immediately taken from his hands by one of the color guards and carried through the rest of the battle. An examination of the cut of the monument will convey the idea that the color bearer has fallen; a corporal of the color guard has thrown his gun to his left hand, has grasped the fallen flag, and holds it up in defiance to the enemy.⁵⁸

Steps set on the south side lead up to the obelisk, the base of which bears the inscription: "3rd Division, 9th Corps, Army of the Potomac." A small bronze plaque on this side of the obelisk is inscribed with the state seal of Pennsylvania. On the west side of the base is a roster of the 1st Brigade of the IX Corps, which included the 200th, 208th, and 209th

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Pennsylvania. Information is listed on each regiment, including its muster dates, the number of men killed, wounded, captured, died of disease, death in service, and total casualties. The east side bears a similar roster listing information on the 2nd Brigade of the IX Corps, which included the 205th, 207th, and 211th regiments. A bronze IX Corps corps badge is located above each roster. The entire monument is enclosed by a 50' square, 2' high granite post and rail fence.

The monument today is located at the edge of a commercial and residential area. The monument sits in the middle of two lanes of vehicular travel. No parking or interpretive information is provided at the monument. It is near the Walnut Hills Elementary School. Some vandalism to the statue has occurred. Due to development in the immediate area, the monument is all but obscured from view from Crater Road.

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55. Milton A. Embrick, ed., *The Military History of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac*. (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: C.E. Aughinbaugh, 1913) 63.

56. Embrick, 65.

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57. Embrick, 64.

58. Embrick, 64.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Petersburg National Battlefield (PNB) is significant as a national park that preserves, protects, and interprets elements of one of the most traumatic and definitive events in the history of the United States. It commemorates the sacrifices made by those who fought and died during the Siege of Petersburg, a pivotal chapter of the Civil War, and preserves significant elements of the Siege of Petersburg for posterity. The battlefield is also significant as the place where people, important in American history, lived, fought, and, in some instances, died during the Siege of Petersburg. The park is significant for several of the structures found within its boundaries including Appomattox Manor and its associated outbuildings, Grant's Cabin, Bonaccord, the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, including the Superintendent's Lodge, and the extensive network of earthworks constructed during the siege. The park is also significant for information it has already yielded or may yield in the future through archeological investigation. Significant archeological sites are located at the City Point Unit, the site of Union Fort Morton, the Taylor House, and the Crater Tunnel.

Petersburg, Virginia, was one of the south's leading industrial and commercial cities before the Civil War and its location as the southern gateway to Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, positioned Petersburg to play a major role in the last year of the war. For six weeks in 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant engaged in a series of hard-fought battles from the Wilderness in Spotsylvania County to Cold Harbor in Hanover County. Grant was unable to break through and capture Richmond or draw Lee's forces out from their defensive positions and defeat them in a decisive battle. After suffering heavy losses at Cold Harbor, Grant moved his forces to the south side of the James River and sought to occupy Petersburg and its strategic rail connections. Tentative Union forays against the city on June 9, 1864, were repulsed and determined assaults occurred June 15-18. After the latter also failed to take the city, Grant began a siege operation that lasted for nine and a half months.

The Siege of Petersburg was the longest uninterrupted campaign against a single American city in the history of the United States. The nine-and-a-half-month siege lasted from mid-June 1864 to early April 1865 and included the first use of trench-warfare tactics that would

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be further developed during World War I. During the siege, non-military targets within Petersburg were shelled and, by the fall of the city, severe shortages of food and clothing existed for both residents and the Confederate soldiers. Over the nine-and-a-half-month siege Grant gradually extended the siege line south and west around Petersburg, cutting major supply routes and further stretching Lee's defensive line. On March 25, 1865, Confederate forces attempted to shorten the line with a surprise attack on Fort Stedman that ultimately failed. On April 2, 1865, the Confederate Army's last major transportation link was lost to Federal forces as a result of the Battle of Five Forks. Throughout the siege, the Union lost 42,000 men and the Confederates lost 28,000 either killed, wounded, or captured.¹ The Union's ability to replenish their losses was paramount to their success. By April 1865, Grant's Federal forces numbered 120,000 while Lee's Confederate forces numbered only 58,000. Grant's war of attrition and Lee's thinning defenses finally forced Lee to abandon Petersburg and Richmond and within a week the war was essentially over with Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

The Siege of Petersburg involved many officers who are significant in Civil War military history. On the Confederate side, General Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, personally supervised his army during the siege. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant was General-in-Chief of all the Federal forces and although he could have remained in Washington, he chose instead to manage the army and to develop his strategy for the siege from his headquarters at City Point. President Abraham Lincoln visited the area twice during the siege. In March and April 1865, just before the fall of Petersburg, he spent two weeks at City Point where he formulated the terms of surrender for the Confederate Army.

A host of other Confederate and Federal leaders played major roles in the Siege of Petersburg. Among the prominent Confederate leaders involved in the events at Petersburg were: General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, whose brilliant defensive strategy at Petersburg held off the initial assault of Federal forces until reinforcements arrived; Lieutenant General Ambrose P. Hill, commander of the Third Army Corps, who was killed during the Union breakthrough at Petersburg; Major General William Mahone, who commanded troops that repulsed the Federal assault at The Crater and after the war became a prominent Republican politician in the state and a railroad president; Major General George E. Pickett, whose troops

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guarded the Five Forks crossroads and is most remembered for his failed charge against Federal lines at Gettysburg; Major General William Henry "Rooney" Fitzhugh Lee, second son of Robert E. Lee, who also was involved in the Battle of Five Forks and after the war served as the president of the Virginia Agricultural Society and as a state senator (1887-1891); Major General John B. Gordon, commander of the Second Army Corps, who led Lee's last offensive thrust at Fort Stedman and after the war became the first commander in chief of the United Confederate Veterans and Governor of Georgia (1886-1890).

Among Federal leaders participating in the siege were: Major General Philip Sheridan, commander of the Cavalry Corps, who played a major role at the Battle of Five Forks and who served in Texas and Louisiana in 1867 as the commander of the Fifth Military District during Reconstruction; Major General Gouverneur K. Warren, commander of the V Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac, who was successful in cutting the Weldon Railroad, was one of the participants in the Battle of Five Forks, and who spent his army career after the war as an engineer and writer on military subjects; Major General Winfield S. Hancock, who commanded the II Corps and participated in the initial attempts on June 15-18 to capture Petersburg and who also commanded troops at the Battle of Deep Bottom, an operation on July 27, 1864, to divert Confederate attention from Petersburg, and at the Battle of Reams Station on August 25, 1864, and who was the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1880 but lost the election to James A. Garfield; and Major General Ambrose E. Burnside, who gave the go-ahead for the plan to tunnel under a Confederate fort, ~~and who~~ commanded the forces at the ill-fated Battle of the Crater, and ~~who~~ served three terms as Governor of Rhode Island (1866, 1867, and 1868) and later in the U.S. Senate (1874).

In 1926, the U.S. Congress recognized the importance of preserving elements of the Petersburg siege and established the Petersburg National Battlefield. A report by the U.S. House of Representatives noted that:

Manassas was, in the largest sense, the beginning of the war; Gettysburg was the high tide of hostilities on both sides, but Petersburg was the final field where the fratricidal struggle was fought to a finish. There, if anywhere should be a permanent memorial to a restored peace between the states. Such a memorial, in the form of a park, would commemorate the highest ideals and

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exploits of American valor and strategy, without the taint of bitterness or shame to either side. . . . The committee believes that the marking and preservation of the battlefields of the siege of Petersburg, according to the plan recommended by the commission and as embodied in this bill will serve very practical, educational, historical, military, and patriotic purposes, and recommends the passage of the bill.²

The establishing legislation is equally clear:

In order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865 and to preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein, the battle fields at Petersburg, in the State of Virginia, are declared a national battlefield.³

The initial park plan called for the construction of a hard-surfaced road along the lines of both armies and the acquisition of land that included Federal Forts Stedman, Haskell, Rice, Sedgwick, Davis, Wadsworth, and Fisher, as well as Confederate Forts Walker and Gregg, Battery Pegram, and the Crater. The road would be 21 miles long and the park would encompass 185 acres.⁴ Today the park consists of ten properties totalling just over 2,700 acres. It includes the City Point Unit, where the headquarters and large supply base of the Federal Armies was located during the siege; the Main Unit where much of the hardest fighting occurred including the June 15-18 assault, the Battle of the Crater, and Fort Stedman; the Five Forks Unit, which is a National Historic Landmark; a series of Union-constructed forts that guarded their southern line including Forts Wadsworth, Urmston, Conahey, Fisher, Welch, and Gregg; the Confederate Fort Gregg, which guarded the western approach to Petersburg on the Boydton Plank Road; the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, where soldiers, primarily Federal, who died during the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns are buried; and two free-standing monuments in the City of Petersburg, the Gowan Monument and the Pennsylvania Monument.

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JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Petersburg National Battlefield is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C, and D, and manifests three Criterion Considerations, B, D, and E.

Criterion A -- The park is eligible for its contributions to the broad patterns of our history in conservation as a *national military park* established by Congress in 1926 "to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865." The battlefield park also is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the 1864-1865 Siege of Petersburg during the Civil War and because this struggle was the longest unbroken campaign against a single American city in the history of the United States. It was also the first use of trench-warfare tactics that would be further developed during World War I. The siege and subsequent fall of Petersburg and Richmond led to the end of the Civil War.

Criterion B -- The park is eligible because of its association with many Civil War leaders, both Confederate and Union, who participated in the battles that took place in and around Petersburg from June 1864 to April 1865. These included General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A.; Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, U.S.A., future President of the United States; their major subordinate commanders; and Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States during the Civil War who was present twice during the siege.

Criterion C -- The park contains many historic structures within its boundaries. These include Appomattox Manor and its associated outbuildings, Grant's Cabin, Bonaccord, the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, including the Superintendent's Lodge, and the extensive network of earthworks constructed during the siege.

I think that this material up to Crit. D discussion on p. 7, can be cut as it's already described in Sec. 7.

Appomattox Manor, constructed in 1763, is significant as an early example of colonial architecture in Virginia. It is also significant as a part of an intact domestic grouping of structures consisting of a kitchen, two smokehouses, a dairy, a garage, and a gazebo. These dependencies date from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. The manor house was originally a one-and-a-half story, hall-and-parlor-plan house. The first floor consisted of a center hall flanked by a chamber and a dining room. In 1840, the east wing of the house was added, which contained a library and a parlor. At the same time, three

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bedrooms and a hall were added to the second floor. Because Appomattox Manor was a functioning home continually from the eighteenth century until 1979, the house exhibits later additions and renovations. Since taking ownership of the property, however, the National Park Service (NPS) has restored much of the historic appearance of the house. Appomattox Manor is already individually listed in the National Register and is a contributing structure within the City Point National Register Historic District (listed in 1979).

Grant's Cabin, located approximately 100 yards east of the manor house, was constructed at Appomattox Manor in November 1864 as the lieutenant general's headquarters. It is significant as a reminder of the role Appomattox Manor and City Point played in the struggle at Petersburg. During the siege, City Point was the central supply site for the armies operating against Richmond and Petersburg and the grounds of Appomattox Manor became the campsite for the army headquarters. Grant's Cabin is typical of the others that were constructed on the east lawn of the manor house by the Union armies. It is constructed in a stockade pattern with the pine logs being inserted vertically in the ground. The cabin consists of two rooms--a front room was used as a reception and sitting room and the rear room was Grant's sleeping room. A partition with sliding doors was erected between the two rooms with sliding doors. A brick fireplace and chimney is inset into the partition. The cabin was removed from this site after the war and placed on display in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1980, when the NPS acquired Appomattox Manor, it requested the cabin's return. Upon its return, the cabin was reconstructed slightly offset of its approximate original site. Of necessity, much of the original fabric of the cabin has been replaced over the years. The cabin, however, has been restored to its historic appearance.

Bonaccord is significant as an example of mid-nineteenth-century architecture with Greek Revival detailing. The house is a two-story brick structure constructed between 1842 and 1845. It was the first rectory for Saint John's Episcopal Church on Cedar Lane and was damaged by Federal gunboats early in the Civil War. The name "Bonaccord" was given to the house in 1868 by the owner, Elizabeth Cocke. The addition to the rear of the house was constructed in 1916 in a compatible architectural style. Some Colonial Revival detailing was also added to the house. Bonaccord was in private ownership until 1986, when it was acquired by the NPS. The house is listed as a contributing structure within the City Point National Register Historic District (listed in 1979).

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The Poplar Grove National Cemetery was established in 1866 as part of the National Cemetery System, which was created by President Lincoln. The cemetery covers 8.72 acres just east of the Vaughan Road. There are over 6,000 interments in the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, almost all of which are Union soldiers who died in the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns. The cemetery is significant for its association with the Civil War, in particular the Siege of Petersburg. The Poplar Grove National Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge was constructed in 1868 to house the cemetery superintendent and is significant as an example of the Second Empire style of architecture. The buildings were built from a prototypical design developed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. The lodges were constructed at most national cemeteries to house the superintendent for the cemetery. The lodge is constructed of stone and has a mansard roof. The L-shape plan contained offices on the first floor and sleeping quarters above. The kitchen was originally in a separate structure, but was later added to the main building.

This is why the WWI trenches are contributing.

The extensive system of earthworks constructed at Petersburg is significant as an example of the early use of trench-warfare tactics that would be further developed during World War I. Both Federal and Confederate commanders had attended West Point Academy and benefitted from the instruction of Dennis Hart Mahan, professor of civil and military engineering. Mahan adapted European warfare tactics and taught that fixed trench warfare should be used in conjunction with the skillfull maneuvering of troops and the use of the flank attack.⁵ This knowledge was put into practice at Petersburg by the construction of earthworks that included a network of trenches (firing and communicating), bombproofs and dugouts, and artillery batteries. The Dimmock Line was constructed as a defensive network of trenches and artillery batteries in a semi-circular shape around Petersburg with both ends on the Appomattox River. Because the Union had more men and were better supplied, Union forts along the siege lines were often superior to Confederate forts. Union forces would later occupy part of this network, as well as constructing their own, parallel system. No other trench warfare site is preserved in such an intact state.

Criterion D -- The park is eligible for the information it has yielded on the Civil War and domestic resources through archeological excavations conducted at Appomattox Manor in the City Point Unit and at the Crater, as well as several antebellum house sites at the Main Unit.

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In addition, the archeological potential of prehistoric and early settlement periods of the park is significant as evidenced by the findings of past investigations on the park's property.

Additionally, the Petersburg National Battlefield manifests three Criterion Considerations (Exceptions):

Criterion Consideration B -- Grant's Cabin at City Point was dismantled and moved to Philadelphia after the war. It was disassembled in 1981 and reassembled at City Point in 1983.

Criterion Consideration D -- The park includes Poplar Grove National Cemetery, established in the summer of 1866 on the encampment site of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers Regiment. It is the resting place of over 6,000 Civil War soldiers, most of whom fought for the Union. From July 1866 to June 1869, burial corps recovered remains from Petersburg to Lynchburg from battlefields involved in the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns.

Criterion Consideration E -- Grant's Cabin was returned to City Point and was reassembled in 1983, approximately one foot off its original site so as not to disturb any archeological features.

The Siege of Petersburg

Petersburg did not become the stage of one of the last acts of the Civil War by accident. It was due to compelling strategic reasons that the armies found themselves entrenched at Petersburg. By 1860, Petersburg had a population of 18,266, was the second largest city in Virginia, and the seventh largest in the South.⁶ It was one of the few large commercial and industrial cities in the South, producing tobacco, cotton, flour, iron, and other goods.⁷ It was also a transportation hub that connected Petersburg to cities and towns across the nation and served as the gateway to Richmond. Petersburg's transportation network has been characterized as its most distinguishing feature in the antebellum period and made it of strategic military importance.⁸ If Grant were to defeat the Army of Northern Virginia, he had to cut off its transportation and supply networks.

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Petersburg, in large part, was a creature of its variety of transportation resources and the importance of its tobacco trade. Founded on the Appomattox River at the fall line, the river initially was responsible for Petersburg's development. It was the site of the mid-seventeenth century Fort Henry and the later trading post of Peter Jones, for whom Petersburg was named. By 1730 a tobacco inspection station/warehouse had been authorized.⁹ Petersburg was formally established in 1748 and incorporated as a city in 1850.

Petersburg was the crossroads of several major regional roads that connected the city with its economic hinterland. Two major roads in the area during the Civil War were the Jerusalem Plank Road and the Boydton Plank Road. The former connected Petersburg to Jerusalem (now known as Courtland) to the south and the latter led southwestward to Dinwiddie Court House. The Boydton Plank Road was the first plank road to be built in into Petersburg in 1850. While the planking prevented the roads from becoming mud bogs, other problems arose. The planking washed away in heavy storms and eventually broke under the heavy load of wagons. By 1858, most plank roads existed in name only.¹⁰ Other important roads through the area were the City Point Road, the Prince George Court House Road, Baxter Road, Halifax Road, Jordan Point Road, Squirrel Level Road, Vaughan Road, and Cox Road.¹¹

It was the railroad, however, that spurred Petersburg's growth as a commercial and an industrial center in the South. The railroad boom in Petersburg began in the 1830s with the construction of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad (also known as the Petersburg Railroad and the Weldon Railroad) that linked the city with Weldon, North Carolina, and other towns along the North Carolina border. During the war, it provided an important link with the Confederate port of Wilmington, North Carolina, where blockade runners were able to supply the Confederacy with much needed goods. By 1840, a railroad connected Petersburg with Richmond and the City Point Railroad linked Petersburg with the deep-water port on the James River. In 1854, the South Side Railroad, having been chartered in 1846, was completed and connected Petersburg with Lynchburg. Through connecting with the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, the South Side Railroad provided a link with the western Confederacy. It was the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad and the South Side Railroad that served as major Confederate supply lines and which were the focus of the Federal forces plan to overtake the Confederates entrenched in Petersburg and Richmond during 1864 and 1865.

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l.c. The importance of Petersburg's industrial facilities to the war effort were not lost on the Confederate government and it invested heavily in the city. The Confederate Navy established a ropewalk and a powder mill, the Ordnance Corps organized a lead works to support rifle bullet production in Richmond, and percussion caps for army rifles were produced by an army copper and zinc works there. The Confederate Niter and Mining Bureau constructed niter beds near the city to manufacture potassium nitrate, a major component of gunpowder and the Quartermaster Corps established a wheel plant.¹² All of these elements and its transportation resources made Petersburg of critical strategic importance.

The land around Petersburg was predominately agricultural. By the mid-eighteenth century, settlement had occurred along the rivers and many wealthy planters owned large tracts of land. Tobacco became the main cash crop, but wheat was considered an important second. At the time of the siege of Petersburg, cultivated fields and domestic structures patterned the landscape of Prince George and Dinwiddie counties. The inhabitants of these farmsteads fled the area as fighting advanced towards Petersburg. Many of the abandoned homes were used by both Union and Confederate troops as headquarters, signal stations, and hospitals.

a/a
l.c. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command of all Federal armies^o in March 9, 1864, and attached himself to the Army of the Potomac, then under the command of Major General George Gordon Meade. Unlike earlier Federal commanders, Grant pursued Lee at every turn with a dictum to Meade, "Where Lee goes, there you will go also," although others thought it was Lee who dogged the Federal Army.¹³ In a series of battles that included the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna River, Totopotomoy Creek, and Cold Harbor the two opposing armies inflicted heavy casualties on each other. As Meade noted, the preceding months had only served to draw the Confederates in towards Richmond but not "overcome, destroy or bag" Lee's army.¹⁴

Although neither army had been defeated outright by this series of battles, the South's inability to replenish its depleted ranks crippled Lee's offensive capabilities. With the exception of periodic counterattacks and the attack on Fort Stedman, the Army of Northern Virginia functioned only as a defensive army from this point forward.

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F.
In early June 1864, after the Army of the Potomac had been stopped at Cold Harbor, Grant's strategy focused on the rail network that supplied Lee, his army, and Richmond, the Capital of the Confederacy. To this end, Grant moved the main body of his army across the James River towards Petersburg. At the same time, he sent the cavalry under Major General Philip H. Sheridan to attack the Virginia Central, the rail line that brought food and supplies from the Shenandoah Valley to Richmond and Petersburg. Major General Benjamin Butler, whose Army of the James had been bottled up by Confederates at Bermuda Hundred, was to attempt to break out and, if possible, attack Petersburg.

Union intelligence indicated that troops defending Petersburg were being sent north to reinforce Richmond in early June. Butler sent Major General Edward W. Hinks (Hincks) and Brigadier General August V. Kautz and their troops under the command of Major General Quincy A. Gillmore to raid Petersburg on June 9. Petersburg was defended by barely 1,000 Confederates led by Brigadier General Henry A. Wise, former Governor of Virginia and brother-in-law of Federal Maj. Gen. Meade. Wise rounded up a local militia of wounded soldiers, old men, and boys to augment the Confederate defenses, but it was largely due to Union bungling that Petersburg escaped disaster that day.

The June 9 attack on Petersburg and Sheridan's engagement with the Confederate cavalry under Wade Hampton at Trevilian Station on June 11-12, 1864, served to divert Lee's attention from the main body of the Union army. Grant was able to position his forces for the move against Petersburg. Although Confederate Gen. Beauregard had predicted as early as June 9 that Grant would cross the James River and strike Petersburg, Lee uncharacteristically was unprepared for the Union thrust against Petersburg on June 15.

Barely 2,200 defenders under Gen. Beauregard manned the fortifications guarding Petersburg. The city was surrounded by an imposing chain of artillery emplacements connected by earthworks and trenches that had been built in 1862. It extended nearly ten miles from the Appomattox River east of Petersburg, around to the south, and back up to the river west of the city and contained 55 artillery batteries. Called the Dimmock Line after the engineer who laid it out, the Petersburg Common Council supplied 200 free and slave laborers to construct the fortifications. Area residents also lent their slaves to help.¹⁵ The Dimmock Line was studded with redans with ditches, *abatis*, and *chevaux-de-frise* arrayed in front of the

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fortifications. Woods had been cut down to create fields of fire. While the Dimmock Line created a defensive network around Petersburg, Beauregard, unfortunately, did not have enough soldiers to adequately man the works.

Grant sent the XVIII Corps under Major General William F. "Baldy" Smith to attack Petersburg at dawn on June 15 and Major General Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps to support Smith. Smith's forces consisted of his own troops, Hinks's division of black troops, and Kautz's division of cavalry. As on June 9, Kautz was to ride south to the Jerusalem Plank Road and make a feint there while the main attack was made from the east by Smith. Smith's corps attacked Batteries Nos. 5, 6, and 7 and Hinks' division moved against redan No. 11. The roughly 2,000 exhausted Confederates were no match for the 14,000 strong Federal infantry and were forced to retreat. Federal troops quickly seized Batteries No. 4 through 9 and Batteries No. 10 through 13 also were occupied. Hinks's black infantrymen captured seven Confederate guns.

Dithering by both Smith and Kautz cost the Union a victory. Due to a battle in the early morning and logistical mistakes, Smith did not attack until Kautz had left the field. Hancock, wandering in the countryside, arrived just as the Confederate line gave way, but deferred to Smith in his decision not to pursue the attack. Inexplicably, the Union commanders chose not to pursue their advantage and bungled their best opportunity to capture Petersburg.

The fighting continued through June 18. Lee, reluctant to move more forces from their defensive positions southeast of Richmond until he had proof that Grant had crossed the James, was slow to reinforce Beauregard. Unknown to Lee, fully half of the Army of the Potomac was massed at Petersburg. In what probably was his finest military performance of the war, Beauregard managed to keep the Federal forces at bay through a series of maneuvers and strategic retreats until Lee realized the gravity of the situation and arrived with reinforcements.

Repeated Union assaults against the new Confederate line, particularly in the vicinity of Colquitt's Salient, were repulsed with heavy casualties. The Federal army had suffered more than 10,000 casualties in four days of fighting. They were exhausted and for once Grant let up, ordering Meade to "rest the men and use the shade for their protection until a new vein can be struck."¹⁶ Grant, however, began his relentless drive to move by the left flank and

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cut off the transportation arteries that were the lifeblood of Petersburg and the Army of Northern Virginia.

The Weldon Railroad served as a major supply line of men, ammunition, and food. Grant knew that severing this line would cut the Confederate capital's most direct connection to the southern states. The first attacks on the Weldon came during June 22-24, 1864, also known as the Battle of Jerusalem Plank Road. Grant sent two infantry corps, the II and VI Corps, to the southwest towards Jerusalem Plank Road. Confederate generals Wilcox and Mahone advanced from the southern defense line to halt the Federal forces. The Union reached the railroad on June 23, but were repelled quickly by the Confederates. Although the initial goal of cutting the railroad line was not attained, the Federal line had advanced to the left as far as the Jerusalem Plank Road. Although the Federal forces lost 2,300 men in this advance, these troops were quickly replaced.

This battle is significant in that it set the course of the upcoming campaign. The encounter moved Federal lines westward towards the goal of severing all rail connections to Petersburg and further stretched the Confederates' thin lines of defense.

The Crater

The Crater was one of the most extraordinary events of the entire siege. During the fighting on June 18, Federal troops from Pennsylvania had pushed across a ravine and up a slope to within 130 yards of the Confederate line. Captain Richard Pegram's Company Light Artillery (Virginia) manned the Confederate redan with South Carolina troops under Brigadier General Stephen Elliott, Jr. in the entrenchments to the north and south. Approximately 500 yards behind the Confederate line was the Jerusalem Plank Road and a half-mile to the northwest rose Cemetery Hill (Blandford Cemetery) that dominated the surrounding landscape, including Petersburg.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants led the 48th Pennsylvania, many of whom were coal miners from Schuylkill County. Pleasants and his miners devised an ingenious plan to destroy Elliott's Salient and provide an opening to Petersburg. He proposed to tunnel under the Confederate line and blow it up with gunpowder. Major General Ambrose E. Burnside

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approved Pleasant's plan but neither Meade nor Grant had much faith in it. Meade's chief engineer labeled the plan "clap-trap and nonsense," asserting that "such a length of mine had never been excavated in military operations, and could not be."¹⁷

Little support was forthcoming, and the miners had to scavenge supplies. Digging began on June 25, 1864, with shifts working around the clock excavating forty feet a day. Dirt was removed in cracker boxes fitted with handles and carefully disposed of so as to not raise Confederate suspicions. Pleasants devised an ingenious means to provide ventilation for the miners by way of a vertical shaft to the surface. When completed on July 23, the tunnel measured 510 feet in length, was five feet high, four-and-a-half feet wide at the bottom and two feet wide at the top. There were two lateral galleries that ran underneath the Confederate trenches. The right gallery measured 38 feet and the left gallery measured 37 feet. Three hundred-twenty kegs of powder, totaling 8,000 pounds, were placed in the galleries and the shaft was then sealed.

The Confederates became suspicious and by July began digging countermines on either side of Elliott's Salient, barely missing the Federal tunnel. Although the Confederates never discovered the tunnel, they took further steps to avoid a breach in the salient with a retrenchment and a series of batteries covering its rear.

During the construction of the tunnel, Lee and Grant were preoccupied with Jubal Early's Washington raid. In an offensive move, Grant sent Sheridan and Hancock to threaten Richmond's eastern defenses, which resulted in the Battle of Deep Bottom on July 27, 1864. It succeeded in forcing Lee to move four of his divisions north of the James leaving only three divisions, about 18,000 soldiers, defending Petersburg. At this point, Grant directed Meade to attack Petersburg and the destruction of Elliott's Salient would provide an excellent opening.

Black troops under Brig. Gen. Edward Ferrero had trained for days to spearhead the assault after the explosion. On July 29, the day before the scheduled detonation, Meade and Grant ordered a frustrated Burnside to substitute white troops--veterans, but untrained for this mission. The Federal commanders did not want to be accused of using black volunteers as

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cannon fodder if the plan failed. Brig. Gen. James Ledlie, perhaps the least competent division commander, was chosen by lots to lead the assault.

The explosion was set for 3:30 a.m. on July 30, but the fuse died at a splice and had to be relit. At 4:45 a.m., four tons of powder exploded in an awesome spectacle. Eyewitnesses reported a vast cloud of earth flung upward. The sound was described by those not at the scene as a dull, heavy thud. The blast demolished much of Elliott's Salient with Pegram's four-gun battery. Nearly 300 men from the 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, and 26th South Carolina Regiments and Pegram's Battery were killed or wounded by the blast that left a hole in the Confederate line 170 feet long, 60 to 80 feet wide, and 30 feet deep.¹⁸

Debris from the blast fell back on the Union troops waiting to advance and some men broke line and scattered to the rear. Once reformed, the line was again broken as they climbed out of the Union trenches. Upon reaching the crater left by the blast, the sight of debris, guns, broken carriages, projecting timbers, and men buried in various ways had a disconcerting effect on the soldiers. After the stunned soldiers recovered their bearings, the Federal troops poured directly into the crater instead of going around as the black troops had trained to do. Three additional divisions were sent forward and three hours after the explosion there were an estimated 10,000 troops in the area of the Crater.

The surviving Confederates in the adjacent lines recovered their senses and raked the crater with fire. The Union soldiers were pinned down, unable to move forward to their goal of Cemetery Hill or to retreat either. The Confederates regrouped and, led by the pugnacious Maj. Gen. William Mahone, recaptured the position. By 2:00 p.m. the battle was over, with more than 4,000 Federal casualties compared with Confederate losses estimated at 1,500. Lee said every man in the fight "made himself a hero." Grant lamented, "It was the saddest affair I have witnessed in the War."¹⁹ The opportunity for a quick Union advance into Petersburg had been lost.

African Americans

African-American soldiers served in both armies during the Civil War, however, they served in far greater numbers in the Union forces. At the beginning of the war, the Lincoln

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administration turned away thousands of black men who tried to enlist in the army. Still, the Union troops, like the Confederate troops, used blacks in support roles as laborers, nurses, and railroad workers. In June 1862, the U.S. Congress authorized the use of black soldiers and after the Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863, large numbers of black soldiers were recruited. These soldiers served in segregated units known as the U.S. Colored Troops and were commanded by white officers. A total of 186,097 African Americans served in the Union Army with the first regiments activated after September 1862.²⁰

In Petersburg, slaves and freedmen comprised the labor force that constructed the trenches and batteries that made up the city's defensive Dimmock Line. The Confederate Army did not recruit black soldiers until almost the end of the war. In March 1865, desperate for replacement troops, Lee requested authorization to recruit black soldiers. Recruits were promised "freedom and undisturbed residence" after the war²¹ The end of the war came quickly and few recruits ever served in battle.

There were many black support workers stationed at the Union Headquarters at City Point. Two black divisions saw action at Petersburg. A division of the XVIII Corps of the Army of the James, led by Maj. Gen. Hinks, participated on the initial assault upon the Dimmock Line on June 15, 1864. Black troops helped capture Southern defenses and captured a gun from the Petersburg Artillery. Hinks' troops acted in a supporting role in the June 18 assault. The troop lost 414 men, killed or wounded, in these encounters.

^{black}
The other division, composed of 4,300 men, was the Fourth Division, IX Corps, Army of the Potomac, commanded by Maj. Gen. Burnside. This division took part in the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. The division, led by Brigadier General Edward Ferrero, was intended to be the first to arrive at the Crater after the explosion and had trained especially for the attack. But on the day before the planned explosion, Meade ordered that the black troops would go in last. He feared that, should the endeavor fail, there would be criticism of using black troops as the lead on a doomed mission.

When Ferrero's men attacked the Crater, they were met with a strong counterattack by the Confederates, led by Maj. Gen. William Mahone. As the fighting progressed, many of the blacks who surrendered at the Crater were not taken prisoner; the division suffered 209 killed,

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697 wounded, and 421 missing or captured, which accounted for 38% of the IX Corps loss at the battle.²² The black Union soldiers were also bayoneted by white Union soldiers who feared Confederate retribution should they be found fighting side by side with black soldiers.²³

Sergeant Decatur Dorsey of the 39th United States Colored Troops (USCT) received a Medal of Honor for his actions at the Crater. Three of the white officers who led the black troops also received medals. It was reported by one of the brigade leaders that "a colored deserter was a thing unknown."²⁴

In December 1864, all the United States Colored Troops around Petersburg were incorporated into three divisions and were designated as the XXV Corps of the Army of the James, commanded by Major General Godfrey Weitzel. This corps varied between 9,000 and 16,000 men. Some of these men were present in Appomattox Court House when Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865.

Move by the Left Flank or Extending the Line

By August 1864, Federal forces were heavily fortified on the east of Petersburg and the resolve to cut off Lee's supply lines had strengthened. On August 18, Grant dispatched Major General Gouverneur K. Warren, commander of the V Corps, to occupy and hold the Weldon Railroad. This goal was accomplished on the first day of battle, August 18, and a mile of track was occupied. Warren then marched northward towards Petersburg, but was repelled by Confederate forces led by Major General Henry Heth. Falling back, the V Corps was reinforced by the IX Corps, commanded by Major General John G. Parke. On August 19, in a Confederate attack, brigades led by Heth and Mahone took 2,700 Federal prisoners and pushed the Federal forces south almost to Warren's headquarters at Globe Tavern. Although Confederate attacks on the Union line continued until August 21, Lee, who had arrived in the area on August 20, decided not to waste manpower by attempting to regain the Weldon tracks.

The Union forces built Fort Wadsworth to secure their position on the Weldon Railroad. The fort was constructed near Warren's headquarters at Globe Tavern at a strategic point along the

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Union line on the Halifax Road. President Lincoln visited Fort Wadsworth during the 1865 Confederate attack on Fort Stedman towards the end of the siege.

Today, Fort Wadsworth is also the site of the Hagood Monument, which is dedicated to the South Carolina troops that broke the Union lines here on August 21, 1864. Brigadier General Johnson Hagood's brigade charged into the Union lines during the battle, inadvertently breaking through an advanced line, and found themselves surrounded on three sides by the enemy. When confronted by Union Captain Dennis Dailey, who demanded surrender, Hagood shot the officer, took his horse, and led his men back to Confederate lines. Of the 681 men who began the charge with the brigade, only 292 survived.²⁵ The monument was erected in 1908 by survivors of the brigade.

The immediate effect of losing the Weldon Railroad was a rise in food prices in Petersburg and Richmond.²⁶ The corn supplies in Petersburg were exhausted and the small supply in Richmond was quickly consumed.²⁷ The Confederates still utilized the Weldon line up to Stony Creek, about 20 miles below Petersburg. At Stony Creek, supplies were transferred to wagons which travelled to Dinwiddie Court House and then into Petersburg via the Boydton Plank Road.²⁸ By December 1864, however, the rail line below Stony Creek had also been destroyed by Union forces, leaving Petersburg with only one direct rail connection to the southern states--the South Side Railroad.

l.c. During the late summer and fall, Grant continued to threaten the outer defenses of Richmond. A major assault diverted Confederate attention and soldiers from Petersburg and met with partial success with the capture of Fort Harrison that stood north of the James River. While Union forces were engaged in taking the Confederate Fort Harrison, the First Division of Warren's V Army Corps was moving northwest around Petersburg towards Squirrel Level Road. Their objective to sever the South Side Railroad, the Confederates' last supply line from the west and the south, was stopped by Confederates at ~~The~~ Battle of Peebles Farm.

Fighting began on September 30 when Brigadier General Charles Griffin's division attacked Fort Archer, the Confederate stronghold near Peebles Farm and later renamed Fort Wheaton by the Union.²⁹ The Confederates were forced from the fort, falling back to the primary defensive line along Boydton Plank Road. Hill's 3rd Corps and Major General Wade

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Hampton's Cavalry Corps struggled with Maj. Gen. Parke's IX Corps, and Warren's V Corps, respectively. Both sides settled in along Squirrel Level Road for nightfall.³⁰ The next day, Confederate forces struck against Ayres' division of the V Corps, but they were repulsed. On October 2, the last day of fighting, the Union again attacked the Confederate line along Boydton Plank Road. Although additional Federal troops had been moved into the area overnight, they were unsuccessful in dislodging the enemy. Total losses in the Battle of Peebles Farm were 2,898 for the Federal forces and 1,300 for the Confederates.³¹

7 The goal of severing the South Side Railroad was not reached, yet the Battle of Peebles Farm was successful for the Union in that their siege line advanced another step around the city of Petersburg, approximately three miles to the west, and further stretched the Confederates' defensive line. On the land that Union forces had gained southwest of Petersburg, they constructed Forts Urmston, Fisher, Welch, Conahey, and Gregg.³² Fort Fisher would eventually become the largest earthen fortification constructed on the Petersburg front.³³ The fort was completed in March 1865, having been built over a smaller square fort, and played an important role in the last days of the siege, sounding the first shot of the final assault on Petersburg in April. A 150-foot signal tower was constructed to the south by the 50th New York Engineers. There was also a field of execution located nearby for military offenders and spies.³⁴ The signal tower was destroyed in 1867.

On October 27, in an additional offensive, Union forces succeeded in advancing to the Boydton Plank Road but they met with resistance from Hampton's cavalry and Heth's and Mahone's infantry divisions. On February 5-7, 1865, at the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Union forces again failed to sever the Boydton Plank Road, although they extended their left flank westward.

A Winter of Siege

As winter approached, much of the fighting wound down but skirmishing, sniper fire, and mortar shelling continued. Weeks of service at the front took their toll. One Confederate expressed shock

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at the condition, the complexion, the expression of the men and of the officers, too. Indeed we could scarcely realize that the unwashed, uncombed, unfed and almost unclad creatures we saw were officers of rank and reputation in the army.³⁵

The winter of 1864-1865 was unusually severe. Although Wade Hamptons's daring capture of cattle from Union pens at Coggin's Point in September had supplied Lee's army with beef, it had not lasted long and there was little to follow. There was little for the Confederates to forage south of the James and the winter was a long season of deprivation. Union forces, on the other hand, were well supplied from the nearby base at City Point. By early February 1865, Grant had a well-equipped, well-fed force of 110,000 while Lee could only muster 60,000 cold and hungry soldiers to man the trenches.³⁶

To ensure that his forces were well fed and well supplied, Grant ordered the building of the City Point & Army Railroad, which ran from the Union headquarters in City Point to the front at Petersburg. Beginning in June 1864, the Union forces had utilized renovated tracks of the City Point Railroad to move men and supplies to the front. Additional tracks were constructed connecting the City Point Railroad to the Weldon Railroad.

City Point/Appomattox Manor

City Point is located approximately seven miles northeast of Petersburg on a high bluff above the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers. The site was reached easily by water from Fort Monroe, Virginia, as well as Washington, D.C., making it an ideal location for the Union's headquarters. Appomattox Manor, the Eppes family seat, was at the heart of the Union supply center located at City Point during the 1864-1865 Siege of Petersburg. By the time of the Civil War, City Point and Appomattox Manor already had a long history.

In May 1607, Christopher Newport sailed up the James River from the Chesapeake Bay, landing at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers.³⁷ Here, Newport found the Appomattuck Indians living in villages with large cultivated fields. The Tappahanna and the Weyanoke tribes also inhabited the area. All three were part of the Powhatan Confederacy. The exploration party stayed in the area for four days. The site Newport chose for the

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English settlement, however, would not be colonized until later. The colonists who were awaiting the exploration party's return had already disembarked at Jamestown.³⁸

In 1613, Sir Thomas Dale, deputy governor of the colony, was successful in establishing the settlement of Bermuda Cittie. The community was soon known as Charles City Point, after Prince Charles (later Charles I), and by the early 1700s was known simply as City Point.³⁹ City Point, due to its strategic geographical location, would play important roles in both the American Revolution and the Civil War.

In 1622, a colony-wide attack by the Native Americans wiped out the settlement at City Point, which had consisted of only about six dwellings. By the 1630s, settlement in the area had been reestablished. Captain Francis Eppes was among the early English settlers who received a land grant in the area. In 1635, Eppes was granted 1,700 acres which was bordered on the east by Bailey Creek, on the west by Cawson's Creek and the Appomattox River, and on the north by the James River.⁴⁰ This patent included the approximate 20 acres at the tip of the peninsula at City Point.

Other early homesteads in the area included Cawsons, which was owned by Richard Bland and later Theodoric Bland, both of whom attended the First Continental Congress in 1774; the former became one of the largest land owners in the area in the eighteenth century.⁴¹ Kippax, in present-day Hopewell, was the seventeenth-century home of Robert Bolling and his wife Jane, granddaughter of Pocohontas. Bolling purchased the land in the late seventeenth century and maintained ownership until his death in 1709. The plantation was a major agricultural and trading center.

City Point became an important eighteenth century port. In 1797, the U.S. Customs Service established offices there and in 1801 the U.S. Post Office opened a branch office. By 1826 it had been incorporated as a town. City Point continued to be small--its 1836 population was less than one hundred. It had five wharves, a small mill that manufactured flour barrels, twenty-five houses, three taverns, three shops, a school, the post office, and a church.⁴²

Appomattox Manor was constructed on the land originally patented to Captain Francis Eppes in 1635 at the tip of the peninsula known as Charles City Point.⁴³ The original section of

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the present house was constructed about 1763 by Richard Eppes who removed an earlier dwelling.⁴⁴ A number of dependencies were associated with the house including a kitchen, two smokehouses, and a dairy.

In the years prior to and immediately following the Civil War, Dr. Richard Cocke Eppes owned and lived on the property at City Point with his wife and children.⁴⁵ Mary Eppes Cocke, Dr. Eppes' mother, added the east wing to the house in 1840-1841.⁴⁶ In 1850, before his second marriage, Dr. Eppes made several additions to the west side of the house, including a storeroom and an upstairs bedroom.

Though not a strong secessionist, Eppes supported Virginia's decision to secede. He served one year in the Confederate Army, from September 1861 to September 1862, and continued to serve the Confederacy as a contract surgeon.⁴⁷ The Eppes family was forced to leave Appomattox Manor for Petersburg in 1862 when the Union gunboats appeared in the James River. Two years later, after the war came to Petersburg, Mrs. Eppes and the children fled to Philadelphia.

Bonaccord, a two-story, brick house situated near Appomattox Manor, was built between 1842 and 1845 for the Reverend Malcolm MacFarland, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. It was shelled and damaged by Union gunboats in 1862. The nature of its use by Federal forces during their tenure at City Point is unknown.⁴⁸

Union headquarters were established at City Point on June 15, 1864, transforming the small settlement into a bustling port town. Appomattox Manor served as the residence of Brigadier General Rufus Ingalls, Chief Quartermaster of all armies operating in the field. Grant kept quarters with his staff, first in tents, then in log cabins constructed in the front yard of the house. The U.S. Military Railroad Construction Corps built extensive wharves and warehouses for the supplies used to maintain the 110,000 Union troops in Petersburg and Richmond. Hundreds of ships arrived from Washington, D.C., bringing food, clothing, ammunition, and other supplies. The only food not imported from the North was bread, which was produced by the army bakery at a rate of 100,000 rations per day.⁴⁹

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Seven hospitals operated at City Point during the siege, including the Depot Field Hospital, which covered an area of 200 acres and at peak times held as many as 10,000 patients.⁵⁰ The hospital complex was comprised of 1,200 tents during the summer months, 90 log barracks in the winter months, and laundry, kitchen, and dispensary facilities. This hospital was the largest Union field hospital during the Civil War.

Railroad crews restored parts of the Petersburg and City Point rail lines and laid new rails for delivery of rations and supplies to the Union troops in the trenches. Twenty-five locomotives and 275 railroad cars were brought to City Point via barge to operate the Military Railroad. When completed in February 1865, the City Point & Army line was twenty-one miles long and ran at least nine trains each way daily including freight and passenger trains.⁵¹ By June 1865, these tracks had been removed, but as late as 1934 the rail bed was still discernible on the landscape.⁵²

Grant entertained several distinguished visitors at City Point. President Lincoln made two visits to Grant's headquarters at City Point on June 21, 1864, and again in late March and April 1865. During this latter visit, which also included guests Major General William T. Sherman and Vice Admiral David D. Porter, the President and his generals discussed the surrender terms which were to be offered to the Confederate armies. After the fall of both Petersburg and Richmond, Lincoln visited both cities before returning to Washington, D.C.

After the war, Eppes was unable to return to his home immediately since Grant had ordered that City Point be reserved for military purposes. Eppes was finally granted free title to his property in March 1866 from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.⁵³ Eppes found his land in a state of "perfect desolation; barns, stables, hay houses, dwellings and fences had, with scarcely an exception, disappeared."⁵⁴ Instead of his farm buildings, Eppes found in their place cabins and tents belonging to the U.S. Army. Eppes was required to purchase this property for \$641.50 from the government in order to remove it from his land; he also spent approximately \$3,000 to repair damages to Appomattox Manor.⁵⁵ Not all of the Union cabins left on the Eppes property were destroyed, however. Grant's Cabin was dismantled by George H. Stuart, President of the Sanitary Commission, in August 1865 and displayed in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.⁵⁶ Eppes utilized one cabin for a schoolhouse. This was removed in 1916.

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Fort Stedman

On March 25, 1865, Fort Stedman was the site of Lee's last offensive of the war. Although the Confederates were successful in obtaining control of the fort, the Union recaptured the site only four hours later. The area around Fort Stedman also had been the site of one of the deadliest assaults of the war by the First Maine Heavy Artillery. The First Maine lost 632 men out of approximately 800.

Lee sent Major General John B. Gordon, Second Corps, to review the Union lines for any possible weakness. Gordon reported back that Fort Stedman, located to the east of Colquitt's Salient, was the best place for an attack. Lee's hope was that an attack on Grant's right would cause him to bring up his left flank, thus shortening the Union siege line. If the plan succeeded, Lee would not need as many troops and could send aid to General Joseph Johnston, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, who was losing ground to Sherman in North Carolina. If the plan failed, Lee would withdraw from the area and rendezvous with Johnston in North Carolina.⁵⁷

The Confederate plan called for a small group of soldiers, "axmen," to remove the Union pickets quietly and then to dismantle all *chevaux-de-frise* and *abatis* in front of the fort. Another group of men were to rush into the fort, pose as Union soldiers, and rush the rear positions.⁵⁸ Subsequent troops would take the siege lines, then break telegraph communications, and destroy the military railroad.

The attack began as planned at 4:00 a.m. on March 25. Union pickets were so quickly overcome that no alarm was sounded. The axmen swiftly created openings through the obstacles to the fort and the Confederate troops took Fort Stedman without a fight. Southern troops pushed in the direction of City Point advancing as far as Harrison's Creek. Others captured the Union line to the north up to Battery 9 and as far south as Fort Haskell; in all, about a mile of the Union defense line was captured.

Within two hours, the Confederates' forward motion had ended and the confused troops were caught in heavy Federal crossfire. Lee ordered a retreat, at which time Federal Brigadier General John F. Hartranft, 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, IX Corps, recaptured Fort Stedman. In

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the retreat, Gordon was wounded, though not seriously. In all, the Confederates lost about 4,000 at Fort Stedman, while Union losses were less than 1,500.⁵⁹

In a letter to Confederate President Jefferson Davis following the offensive, Lee wrote:

6#
I was induced to assume the offensive from the belief that the point assailed could be carried without much loss and the hope that by the seizure of the redoubts in the rear of the enemy's main line . . . Genl. Grant would . . . be obliged so to curtail his lines, #
. . . I fear now it will be impossible to prevent a junction between Grant and Sherman, nor do I deem it prudent that this army should maintain its position until the latter shall approach too near. 5#⁶⁰

Lee hoped to leave the area by April 10, waiting only to gather enough supplies to last until his rendezvous with Johnston.

Five Forks

After stalled offensives on Petersburg in June 1864, Grant's strategy was to stretch Lee's defenses by moving the Union left flank continually westward, cutting supply lines from the south and west as he went. The maneuver was accomplished in five steps: two attacks on the Weldon Railroad (June and August 1864), the Battle of Peebles Farm (September through October 1864), Boydton Plank Road (October 1864), and Hatcher's Run (February 1865). The Battle of Five Forks would further attenuate Lee's lines. From November 1864 through January 1865 combat in Petersburg was relatively quiet, while the Union secured victories in other parts of the country. By late March, however, Grant's forces again moved against the Confederates. The Union's numbers, superior to the enemy's since the beginning of the siege, were further enhanced by the arrival of two divisions of Maj. Gen. Sheridan's cavalry fresh from victories in the Shenandoah Valley.⁶¹

On March 29, 1865, Sheridan occupied Dinwiddie Court House while the II and V Corps, commanded by Hancock and Warren respectively, crossed Gravelly Run. As in the Battle of Peebles Farm, the objective was to reach the South Side Railroad and cut the last supply line into Petersburg. Lee sent Pickett and Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee to defend the Confederate

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right. On March 31 in the Battle of Dinwiddie Court House, Sheridan's cavalry, which had advanced as far as Five Forks, was driven back to one mile north of the courthouse by Pickett's men and Major General W.H.F. Lee's cavalry. This was a small and short-lived victory for the Confederates.

J On April 1, Pickett and Lee, whose forces numbered about 10,000, faced 6,000 of Sheridan's cavalry and 12,000 of Warren's infantry at Five Forks. The Confederates busily built barricades around Five Forks, which was the intersection of White Oak Road, Scott's Road, Ford's Road, and the Dinwiddie Court House Road. Lee knew that his officer was outnumbered and stressed the urgency of the situation in his note to Pickett: "*Hold Five Forks at all hazards. Protect road to Ford's Depot and prevent Union forces from striking the south-side railroad.*"⁶²

Warren's troops advanced at 4:00 p.m. on April 1, 1865, but had miscalculated the length of the Confederate line, attacked into a void, and became separated. Sheridan ordered the divisions to adjust to the oncoming fire. Pickett, who had been at a shad bake in the rear lines, rushed forward to command his troops, but they were quickly overwhelmed and were forced to retreat. The battle was over by dusk. The Union captured 2,000 prisoners and lost fewer than 1,000 men in the Battle of Five Forks. Lee's western defenses had been broken and the South Side Railroad was within the Federal grasp.

Although the Federal forces were victorious, Sheridan was dissatisfied with Warren's performance before and during the battle and made four "accusations or imputations" against him. Following Grant's discretionary orders, Sheridan relieved Warren of his command. Fourteen years later, Warren was cleared by a court of inquiry of the charges of slowness in his troops' movements at Five Forks. The exoneration, however, came three months after Warren died.

Fort Gregg (Confederate)

After receiving the news of Sheridan's success on April 1, Grant ordered a full assault on the defense lines around Petersburg.⁶³ Early in the morning of April 2, the Federals launched the massive final assault. Lee's western defenses were broken, but Lee needed time to

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reestablish his line. It fell to the defenders of Fort Gregg, which guarded the western approaches of Petersburg on the Boydton Plank Road, and nearby Fort Whitworth to hold the line. The 600 men defending forts Gregg and Whitworth held off the Federal XXIV Corps of 5,000 men for two hours. The Federals suffered 714 casualties while the Confederates counted 57 dead, 129 wounded, and 30 prisoners. The outnumbered Confederates had bought Lee the time he needed.

Evacuation from Petersburg

Lee ordered his troops to evacuate Petersburg at 8:00 p.m. on April 2, designating Amelia Court House as the assembly point. The long siege of Petersburg was over when Federal troops occupied the city at 4:00 a.m. on April 3 and occupied Richmond four hours later. One week after the evacuation, Lee's forces were surrounded at Appomattox Court House. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, and Gen. Johnston, still in North Carolina, surrendered to Sherman on April 26.

Civilian Properties

Many buildings and houses in and around Petersburg were affected by fighting associated with the siege or served as headquarters or hospitals. Several building complexes stood east of Petersburg and were within the present day boundaries of the park. With the exception of the City Point Unit, none survive.

Spring Garden, or the Taylor House, stood about 500 yards east of the Crater near Fort Morton and was destroyed during the early part of the Petersburg campaign, certainly by July 11, 1864. The Taylor House was built during the third quarter of the eighteenth century possibly by Richard Taylor.⁶⁴ It was the birthplace of George Keith Taylor, Virginia Federalist leader and jurist.⁶⁵ At the time of the siege, William Byrd Taylor owned the property. The dwelling and at least one outbuilding were destroyed in the fighting. The brick central chimney and foundation of a kitchen/slave quarters are all that survive today.⁶⁶

The Josiah Jordan House and the Charles Friend House were nearly identical houses that had been built 1740-1743 by Colonel Robert Mumford for two of his sons.⁶⁷ In April 1781,

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during the Revolutionary War, British forces under the command of General William Phillips and Brigadier General Benedict Arnold camped at the Friend House. Both were used as headquarters and/or signal stations by the XVIII Corps. Maj. Gen. Smith, of the XVIII Corps, had his headquarters at the Friend House on June 16 and 17.⁶⁸ Later the Friend House became the headquarters of Major General Orlando B. Willcox, of the First Division, IX Corps.

The houses stood just southwest of Battery 5 in the vicinity of the Visitor Center. The Jordan House was destroyed by Union soldiers during the siege. The Friend House survived until 1918 when it was dismantled by the U.S. Army when this section of the present battlefield park was part of Camp Lee.⁶⁹

The Hare House stood between Fort Stedman, which was built on Hare's Hill, and the First Maine Monument. The house belonged to Otway P. Hare at the time of the siege. Built prior to 1796, the prominent Newmarket horse racing course was on the grounds.⁷⁰ The house was destroyed in the earliest stages of the siege.

Poplar Grove National Cemetery

The Poplar Grove National Cemetery, totaling 8.72 acres, was established in 1866 as part of the National Cemetery System. This system was created in 1862 when Lincoln signed legislation that gave the President the authority "to purchase cemetery grounds . . . to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country."⁷¹ It is significant for its association with the Civil War, in particular with the Siege of Petersburg, and for the architecture of the superintendent's lodge, which was constructed from a prototype designed by General Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Army from 1861 to 1882. Poplar Grove is the final resting place of over 6,000 Civil War dead, almost all of which are Union soldiers.

During the Siege of Petersburg, the practice of burying the dead where they had fallen predominated. The only significant attempt to collect the scattered dead occurred in 1865 when the II and IX Corps of the Army of the Potomac established cemeteries in the vicinity of Meade's Station.⁷² Only 1,214 Union soldiers were buried at these sites. The majority of

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those killed in action remained scattered around the battlefields of Petersburg in shallow graves.

In November 1865, fearing desecration and obliteration of these grave sites, Colonel C.W. Folsom wrote to Meigs urging the selection and acquisition of land for a permanent military cemetery in which these bodies could be reinterred and protected.⁷³ No action was taken until April 1866, when Lieutenant Colonel James M. Moore submitted a formal request from the Secretary of War for the authority to select satisfactory cemetery sites in the vicinity of Petersburg. Receiving approval in June 1866, Moore selected the wartime campgrounds of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers Regiment, which had been located on the Flowers Farm.

The Flowers Farm was located between the Halifax and Vaughan Roads and lay approximately six miles southwest of Petersburg. The area was occupied by the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers in the fall of 1864 after the Union victories at the Weldon Railroad and the Battle of Peebles Farm or Poplar Springs Church. With these victories came a rash of fortification construction from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Fisher. This work was performed from late October 1864 until the end of March 1865.

During the winter of 1864-1865, the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers sought to improve camp conditions, constructing log huts for winter quarters. Most striking, however, was their construction of the Poplar Grove Church, which was completed in February 1865. The building, designed by Capt. Michael H. McGrath, was a small Gothic church of unbarked logs. The engineers named the building Poplar Grove Church in honor of the Poplar Springs Church, which lay about 8/10 of a mile from the camp and which was destroyed in the Battle of Peebles Farm. The church seated 250 and was used both for recreational purposes as well as religious purposes. During the last offensives against Petersburg, the church also served as a Union hospital.⁷⁴

Colonel Moore's selection of this site for the establishment of a cemetery was based on a number of factors. Although the government eventually paid \$1,500 to the Flowers family for the 8.13 acres in the cemetery, Moore originally believed that the land was to be donated to the federal government. He also considered the site more centrally located to all

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battlefields of the Petersburg Campaign than the cemetery established at Meade's Station. The presence of Poplar Grove Church also lent an air of sanctity to the cemetery and would be preserved as a reminder of the war.⁷⁵

In July 1866, the burial corps established a base at the cemetery site at Poplar Grove Church. Equipped by the Quartermaster General of the Army, the burial corps was divided into several search and recovery teams, each headed by a scout.⁷⁶ The scouts located battlefield graves, supervised the disinterment and proper identification of the remains, supervised the transportation and reinterment of the remains, and recorded all information and facts pertaining to the recovery and reinterment of the remains.⁷⁷ Location of battlefield cemeteries and the subsequent identification of remains found were the greatest difficulties encountered by the search-and-recovery teams.

In all, the teams searched through nine Virginia counties at the scene of all major battles associated with the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns. By December 1867, the burial corps had reinterred 5,544 soldiers at Poplar Grove. Continuing for two more years, an additional 634 remains were found for a total of 6,178, almost all of which were Union.⁷⁸ Approximately one third of the interments were listed as "unknown."⁷⁹

The burial corps also was responsible for construction at the cemetery. The first structure to be completed was the flagpole, which stands in the middle of the cemetery and was a short distance south of the Poplar Grove Church. This wooden flagpole, erected in 1866 and replaced in 1874, was replaced by the present flagpole at the same location in 1913.⁸⁰ Bodies were interred in concentric circles around the flagpole. Other elements constructed by the corps included a fence around the cemetery, brick walks and avenues accessing the graves, and gutters to drain the grounds.⁸¹

In February 1867, with the appointment of a permanent cemetery superintendent, the corps also constructed a lodge for the superintendent's quarters. In August 1867, August Miller was appointed the first superintendent of Poplar Grove National Cemetery.⁸² The superintendent's lodge was completed in September 1868 and followed a prototype designed by Meigs.⁸³ These lodges were erected in most national cemeteries, although materials varied from region to region. The lodges were one-and-a-half stories, designed in the Second

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Empire style with a mansard roof. The L-shape plan contained offices on the first floor and sleeping quarters above. Kitchens were originally in separate structures, but were later added to the main building. Exterior materials were brick, frame, ashlar, and coursed stone and the roof was covered with slate shingles.⁸⁴

The Poplar Grove Church was removed from the cemetery in April 1868 due to its deteriorated and decayed condition.⁸⁵ The space formerly occupied by the church was then dedicated for burial purposes.

Before its disbandment in June 1869, the burial corps provided landscaping at the cemetery, which included four 32-pounder cannon transferred from Fort Monroe, Virginia, sodding of the graves, and planting of 1,200 cedar trees. The wooden fence which enclosed the cemetery was replaced by 400 osage orange trees, which in turn were replaced by a brick wall in 1876.

A drastic change in appearance occurred at the cemetery in 1934, when the upright marble headstones of the graves were laid flat. The blank part of the markers, which were erected in 1877 to replace the original wooden markers, were cut off and given to a Dinwiddie resident who used them in the construction of his home.⁸⁶ Unfortunately, the marble markers sank below the ground surface and became overgrown with grass. Between 1978 and 1981, funds were allocated for the raising of these stones; however, only a few are visible today.

Of the 6,310 interments at Poplar Grove National Cemetery, only 50 are not related to the Civil War. In 1957, a World War I veteran was buried there in the last unreserved plot.⁸⁷ Poplar Grove retains its identity as a Civil War memorial to those soldiers who died on the battlefields of Petersburg during the 1864-1865 siege of that city.

Petersburg National Battlefield

The first "tourists" to visit the battlefields around Petersburg arrived on April 4, 1865, immediately after the troops had withdrawn from the area. Five Englishmen and three Americans arrived at City Point and obtained special passes to enter Petersburg. Their sketches and narratives of the area were printed in London in 1865 under the title, *Transatlantic Sketches: or, Sixty Days in America*.⁸⁸

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In 1866, James H. Platt, a former colonel of the 3rd Vermont Infantry and a veteran of the Petersburg siege, became the owner of Jarratt's Hotel in Petersburg. He published *A Guide to the Fortifications and Battlefields Around Petersburg*, which is believed to be the first published guide to a Civil War battlefield.⁸⁹ The guide contained the Michler maps of the Petersburg area and gave a description of the battles and the physical remains of the battlefields, including entrenchments, forts, and secondary buildings.

Although war veterans and the curious continued to visit the battlefield sites, there was little interest in preserving the fortifications. Many of the families who returned to their homes destroyed earthworks that had been constructed on their properties. *Abatis* and other wooden reinforcements were used for firewood. The Union military rail line was taken up by June 1865.

Private tourism enterprises were set up in several areas associated with the siege. By July 1865, Napoleon M. Hawes, a paroled soldier, set up a "retreat" in the area near Fort Stedman and served refreshments to battlefield tourists. The site of the Battle of the Crater, on land belonging to William H. Griffith, was an early tourist site. Griffith fostered this tourism by constructing paths and a "saloon" in 1867.⁹⁰

Monuments and commemorative markers were first placed in the park area beginning in 1905. A stone was placed at the Crater to mark the advance position of the Second Regiment of the Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery in 1864. Then, in 1907, a stone marked the entrance to the Crater mine tunnel. In 1911, a marker was placed to commemorate the efforts of William Mahone's troops.

The first national battlefield parks/sites designated by Congress were Antietam (1890), Chickamauga and Chattanooga (1890), Shiloh (1894), and Gettysburg (1895). In an effort to boost interest in establishing a park, the Petersburg National Battlefield Association was organized in 1898 with Stith Bolling, a Confederate veteran, as its president. The organization supported the congressional bill submitted by Representative Sydney Eppes of Virginia for the establishment of a national park at Petersburg. This bill died in committee, as did several other later bills that attempted to establish the Petersburg park.

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In 1925, a bill submitted by Congressman Patrick Drewry that appointed a committee to study the feasibility of preserving and marking the battlefields at Petersburg for historical and professional military study was passed.⁹¹ In November 1925, the committee submitted its findings recommending the construction of a hard-surfaced road along the lines of both armies and the acquisition of land that included Federal Forts Stedman, Haskell, Rice, Sedgwick, Davis, Wadsworth, and Fisher and Confederate Forts Walker and Gregg, Battery Pegram, and the Crater. The road would be 21 miles long and the park would encompass 185 acres.⁹² With the completion of the committee's investigations, Drewry submitted a bill in January 1926 establishing the Petersburg National Military Park. The bill met with no opposition and was signed on July 3, 1926, by President Calvin Coolidge, thirty years after the idea of a Petersburg park first had been conceived.

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In 1926, all military parks were under the authority of the Department of War and were administered by a three-member commission, usually comprised of two Union veterans and one Confederate veteran. The commission was authorized to accept gifts of land and contributions from the state, organizations, and individuals but no land was to be condemned for use in the park. It was hoped that much of the land would be donated by interested landowners. The commission's first objectives at Petersburg were to open or repair roads deemed necessary for the park and to designate with historical markers all earthworks, lines of battle, troop positions, buildings, and other historical points of interest within the park or in its vicinity.⁹³ Survey work to determine the proposed boundaries for the park began in April 1928.

In June 1928, the commission recommended to the Secretary of War the acquisition of the 185 acres, the construction of roads along the main army lines, the procurement by donation of all forts, trenches, and earthworks contiguous to park roads, the acquisition of the Crater, the transfer from Camp Lee of an adjacent 200 acres, and increasing the acreage in the vicinity of the Jordan House site and Battery 5. The Secretary of War urged additional acquisition of land, stating that 185 acres would not be sufficient to protect battlefield resources. He also urged that the land comprise one continuous strip. The commission revised its proposal, which was approved in June 1929.⁹⁴

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The park, as then envisioned, would be a linear park and almost completely encircle the city of Petersburg. Beginning east of the city at Battery 1 on the original Confederate Dimmock Line, it would extend to the forts southwest of the city. Fort McGilvery, north of Route 36, would be included as would Fort Stedman, Gracie's Dam, and the Crater. It would cross Route 460 and incorporate Fort Meikle, Fort Rice, Fort Sedgwick, and Rives Salient on the Confederate defenses. It would then follow Jerusalem Plank Road (U.S. Route 301) and extend west to Fort Davis, across Johnson Road and the Halifax Road (Route 604) to Fort Wadsworth. From there, the park continued westward across the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (the old Weldon line) to Fort Keene on Vaughan Road then to Fort Urmston on Squirrel Level Road and Forts Conahey, Fisher, Welch, Gregg and Wheaton (the Union line). From Fort Fisher, it would follow Church Road north to the Boydton Plank Road to the Confederate Fort Gregg. From there, it would continue east along the Confederate line and include the Rohoic Dam, Battery 45, Battery Pegram, Fort Walker then down South Boulevard to Jerusalem Plank Road. The property would consist of long strips of land and would encompass about 480 acres.⁹⁵

By January 1930, 179.71 acres had been donated to the park and by the end of 1931 that total reached 240.91 acres. In 1932, 81.13 acres had been deeded to the government or was in the process of being deeded. Clearing of the acquired land was begun in January 1929. Through this process, many landscape features were discovered including a dugout at Gracie's Salient and a tunnel at Fort Stedman.⁹⁶ Ground breaking ceremonies for the first road through the park were held on May 14, 1932, near Fort Stedman. Work was completed using some local labor, but most the work was done by the Emergency Conservation Work agency, later known as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Dedication ceremonies for the park were held on June 20, 1932, near Battery 5, the first parcel of land to be acquired in its entirety for the park. Congressman Drewry, who had submitted the successful bill to establish the park, was in attendance, as well as Assistant Secretary of War, Frederick Huff Payne, who delivered the dedication speech. The members of the park commission, members of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, and numerous reporters and photographers also attended.

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On August 10, 1933, all national military parks were transferred from the Department of War to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.⁹⁷ When the Petersburg park was transferred, total acreage in the park was 346; by the end of 1940, the park encompassed over 2,000 acres. In 1937, when the National Park System and the Service that administered it were divided into four regions, the Petersburg National Military Park was located in Region I, which was headquartered in Richmond.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was formed as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECWA). The responsibilities of organizing and executing the CCC programs were divided among existing departments and agencies including the War Department and the U.S. Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.⁹⁸ Enrollees were conditioned at army camps that were administered by U.S. Army personnel.⁹⁹

Originally, the program was designed to accept 250,000 young men ranging from 18 to 25 years old who were unemployed, unmarried, had dependents, and were willing to send salary allotments home to their families.¹⁰⁰ Later, the age restrictions were changed to 17 to 28 years old. At the end of six years, 2,500,000 men had enrolled in the CCC. Due to the skills they acquired at the camps, many of these men left the corps early to accept employment elsewhere. In Virginia, the majority of CCC workers were in national forests, private forests, and national and state parks.¹⁰¹

On July 13, 1933, 173 enrollees of CCC Company 1364 arrived at the Petersburg National Military Park from Camp Meade.¹⁰² The corps set up their camp, known as Camp MP-2, near the site of Ft. Stedman on Hare Hill.¹⁰³ The officers of Company 1364 were either regular army or army reserve and were assigned six-month duties. From 1938 to 1940, there was an average of 194 CCC enrollees at the Petersburg park; in its final days at the park, the company had about 139 members.

The CCC was responsible for most of the clearing of land, construction of roads, sodding, and tree planting done in the park. In addition, CCC staff served the park as historians,

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blacksmiths, and clerks.¹⁰⁴ For the 1937 re-enactment of the Crater battle, six CCC workers augmented the NPS guide service.

The CCC camp was disbanded in June 1942, which left the park without much of its maintenance force. The CCC buildings were used by the U.S. Army and the equipment was transferred to Camp Lee.¹⁰⁵ By 1948, only two buildings from the original camp remained—a 50-foot cinder block structure now used as an operations building and a house used as quarters for park rangers. The latter structure has since been demolished. It was renovated in 1981 by the Petersburg firm of Daugherty and Edwards. All other CCC structures have been either sold and removed or demolished.

The use of CCC labor in constructing the Petersburg Park is an important reminder of the Depression years and the efforts of the Roosevelt Administration to relieve the suffering of the unemployed. By enlisting in the CCC, workers, usually rural residents, learned valuable skills that enabled them to return to the work force and earn a viable living wage.

The Park and Its Military Neighbors

In 1929, 131 acres were transferred from Camp Lee to the newly created Petersburg Military Park.¹⁰⁶ Camp Lee, named in honor of Confederate general Robert E. Lee, was established in 1917 as a cantonment camp for the training of the National Army and forces that would serve in the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. Infantrymen were trained in the "new elements of warfare" including the use of machine guns and trench construction.¹⁰⁷ Trenches from this training are still in existence at Fort Lee (name changed in 1950 to reflect permanent status of installation). It is ironic that the site of an early use of modern trench warfare would be the training ground of this type of warfare for soldiers of a different war some 50 years later. Some of these trenches built on Camp Lee property were later incorporated into property taken over by the National Park Service and are now on park property near Stop 2 on the tour road.

With the end of World War I, all structures at Camp Lee were demolished in 1923 with the exception of the Davis House. During this cleanup, the Friend House also was demolished. During the Civil War, the Friend House had served as a Union headquarters for Maj. Gen.

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Smith's XVIII Army Corps and Maj. Gen. Willcox's IX Army Corps.¹⁰⁸ Within this area, the third house built on the Jordan property, which dated from 1879, was destroyed in 1917 when the government purchased the property.¹⁰⁹

In 1940, in preparation for World War II, Camp Lee was reconstructed. This time the installation served as the Quartermaster Replacement Training Center (QMRTC) and the Medical Replacement Training Center (MRTC). In the fall of 1941, the MRTC was moved to Camp Pickett and Camp Lee became the site of the Quartermaster School. During World War II, parts of the Petersburg National Military Park were reclaimed as grounds for training exercises and encampments. After the war, however, Camp Lee was reluctant to give up this land. Although the park eventually reclaimed the land, the Army was allowed to use part of the park for training and recreational purposes under a special-use permit.¹¹⁰

The Park and Its Federal Neighbors

Since its creation, the Petersburg National Battlefield has sought to protect within its boundaries the most significant tracts of land involved in the Siege of Petersburg. In 1939, the tract of land known as Whitehill and formerly owned by the Bureau of Prisons of the U.S. Department of Justice was transferred to the Department of the Interior.¹¹¹ This property, located in the area around Battery 5 and the present-day Visitor Center, contained the sites of the Friend and Jordan houses. In 1949, 206 acres were transferred to the park from the War Department. This land was located along Siege Road and included the Taylor Farm, known as Spring Garden.¹¹²

Park Development

The 1941 Master Plan for the Petersburg park proposed that an estimated 500 acres be acquired between the Crater area and Fort Davis. This land was not acquired and is now the site of the Walnut Mall and Walnut Hill Plaza. This is the site of Union Fort Sedgwick and Confederate Fort Mahone, known by the soldiers as Forts Hell and Damnation, respectively.¹¹³

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Fort Sedgwick was the point where the Union line shifted from north-south to east-west and Fort Mahone was located north of the position site where Lee's defense line crossed the Jerusalem Plank Road. The monument to Pennsylvania's Third Division, IX Army Corps, is located at the site of Fort Mahone on South Sycamore Street. It was erected in 1909 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The other monument in this same area is a memorial to Union Colonel George W. Gowan, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, and the other members of their regiment who were killed during the general assault on the Confederate lines ordered by Grant on April 2, 1865.¹¹⁴ Gowan was the popular commander of the 48th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The statue, located at the junction of Route 301 and 301A, was erected in 1907 by the survivors of the regiment and the school children and citizens of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.¹¹⁵ Fort Mahone was leveled before the turn of the century, while Fort Sedgwick was destroyed in 1968 to allow the construction of a department store and gas station.

In 1955, the Park Headquarters moved from the McKenney Library in Petersburg to the Crater House, which had been acquired in 1936 by the Crater Battlefield Association. The House served as a museum and public contact area as well as the superintendent's quarters. The association granted the federal government an option to purchase the property, which it did in 1938. In the transaction, the government added 128 acres to the park.

Also in 1955, the main roads of the park were largely completed. As recommended by the commission, these roads basically follow the main lines of both armies' fortifications. The progress of the road project was curtailed through the early 1940s due to the National Defense Program operations, which took away much of the money, labor, and materials needed.¹¹⁶ Resources from both the Public Roads Administration and the CCC provided funds and labor for this development.

In 1956, the National Park Service undertook a ten-year-long program--Mission 66--to develop and improve every park in the system by 1966, the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service. At Petersburg, this program called for a new Visitor Center with administrative offices, the development of an interpretive tour, a new entrance and bridge over U.S. 36, a new maintenance area, and three employee houses. All elements of the program were carried out with the exception of the employee houses.¹¹⁷

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In 1962, Congress authorized the acquisition of 1,200 acres for the Five Forks Battlefield, which had been designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960. Included in the enabling legislation for this acquisition was a name change from Petersburg National Military Park to Petersburg National Battlefield.¹¹⁸ This legislation allotted only \$90,000 for land acquisition, none of which was ever appropriated. Despite attempts by the NPS to negotiate a purchase, the land around Five Forks remained in private hands for nearly three more decades. During this interval, sections of Confederate earthworks and rifle pits were damaged by timbering of the land and clearing for power lines. In 1989, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, assisted by The Conservation Fund, purchased 930 acres of the battlefield. Along with this purchase came the donation of a protective scenic easement on an additional 435 acres.¹¹⁹ The National Park Service leased this property for one year and in 1990 received a donation of 930 acres from the Mellon Foundation. In addition, the Conservation Fund donated to the park 185.09 acres it had purchased from the Bear Island Paper Company, bringing the total acreage of the Five Forks unit to 1,115.09.

As stated above, Appomattox Manor was added to the park when the National Park Service purchased 13.76 acres at City Point in 1979, following authorization of the City Point Unit in the Omnibus Act of November 10, 1978. During the early 1980s, the NPS undertook extensive stabilization work at the manor as well as requesting the return of Gen. Grant's cabin to the site. The cabin was returned and reconstructed near its original site in 1983.

The PNB has also divested itself of parcels of land originally within the park boundaries. In 1972, Flank and Defense Roads, which run from the northeast to the southwest along the battle lines, were transferred from the park to the City of Petersburg, despite warnings from NPS officials that the move would "emasculate" the Petersburg story.¹²⁰ Many criticized the move, arguing that this land had been donated to the NPS for protection. Since that time, continuing developmental pressures have resulted in the destruction of earthworks associated with the Flank and Defense Road areas.

Another former park property is Centre Hill Mansion in the City of Petersburg. The house, originally belonging to the Bolling family, was struck by Union fire during the Siege of Petersburg. After the fall of the city, the house was occupied by Maj. Gen. George L. Hartsuff as headquarters for the military district. The NPS acquired Centre Hill in 1936 when

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Edgar S. Bowling of New York made a gift of the property. In 1939, repairs were made to the house and from July 1942 to the end of the war, the Petersburg Chapter of the Red Cross used the house.

Plans to use Centre Hill as a museum and administration building for the battlefield park were abandoned because of the distance between the two. In 1950, the house was opened as a museum and operated by the Petersburg Battlefield Museum Corporation.¹²¹ Two years later, the NPS presented the corporation with the deed for Centre Hill with the stipulation that the house must always be maintained as a museum or ownership would revert back to the Federal Government. In 1972, the corporation gave the house to the City of Petersburg with the same stipulation concerning its operation as a museum. Today, Centre Hill is operated as a house museum portraying an antebellum home and furnished with some original Bolling family furnishings.

The Visitor Center, completed in July 1967, was designed by the NPS Eastern Office of Design and Construction to resemble a fortification. Landscaping was completed at the park and a new highway entrance and overpass was constructed, as well.¹²² Before Mission 66, the interpretive program at Petersburg consisted of two homemade audio stations and seven exhibit cases. With a new one-way road system through the park, a new ten-stop interpretive program was developed, which ran from Battery 5 to the Crater and consisted of more than 50 interpretive waysides, four paintings by Sidney King, and eight audio stations.¹²³

Since its establishment, the Petersburg National Battlefield has been a tourist destination, a site of reconciliation between former Civil War opponents, and a training ground for modern soldiers. Interpretive markers, publications, and living history programs have increased and archeological investigations have been conducted in several areas of the park, providing information on the combatants who fought here in 1864 and 1865, as well as the historic and prehistoric inhabitants in the area.

Archeology

The archeological sites located within park boundaries have revealed both prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Many of the historic sites have been associated with domestic

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dwellings in the area, predominantly dating from the early-to-middle nineteenth century. These house sites are all located within the boundaries of the Main Unit with the exception of Appomattox Manor, which is located at the City Point Unit.

The most important archeological site that lies within the park boundaries is City Point. Archaeological investigations at the site revealed its association with the Civil War, the occupation by the Eppes family, and with its earlier prehistoric inhabitants and their activities. The area to the north of the house represents the most intensively occupied zone. However, substantial quantities of archeological sites have been located throughout the unit boundaries. A 1985 investigation into the prehistoric cultural occupations at City Point found that the site

exhibits a pattern of increasingly intensive occupation through time that is rather typical of the region, except for the notable lack of a substantial Savannah River component. The Middle and Late Woodland occupations are both rather more intense than is typical of high terrace situations. . . . The later prehistoric and protohistoric occupations at City Point hold great potential for providing insights into the development of the complex social networks and political systems that were found in this area by the Jamestown settlers.¹²⁴

The same holds true for the investigation of historic settlement patterns within the limits of the park. Additional research will doubtless shed new information on the occupation and use of the property through time.

It is important to note that archeological investigations within the PNB have been infrequent and relatively small in scale. Various Phase I-type surveys have been conducted in an attempt to determine the cultural resources potential of various areas within the park. Most recently, various geotechnical and geophysical surveys have been undertaken as a means to assess below-ground resources without incurring significant impacts through excavation. As a result, many questions remain unanswered with regard to the prehistoric and historic archeological resources at PNB. As a matter of record, none of the archeological sites identified within the limits of PNB are listed in the records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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With regard to Civil War resources, it should be noted that much of the historical archeology that was conducted within the limits of the park was restricted by the scientific and philosophical tenets of the period in which it was undertaken. For the past four decades, historical archeologists have debated their craft and have attempted to seat it in the realm of history or anthropology. With a clear interest in the Civil War, archeology in the service of history commands much of the work that has been undertaken at Petersburg National Battlefield. This tact employed historical archeology as a means to confirm a sometimes vague documentary record or to determine the location and measurements of presumed structures. These are exemplified by excavations in 1937, 1958, and 1962 to determine the actual measurements of the tunnel at the Crater and the 1978 investigations to uncover the foundation corners of the Hare House. More recent investigations² seated in the ranks of anthropology² have attempted to discern the patterns of behavior at sites. Historic house sites, once examined to yield structural detail, are viewed today with an eye to understanding the cultural behaviors that took place there. A continued emphasis to discern cultural activity at sites will improve our understanding of the past and all of the periods that are represented at PNB.

Prehistoric and Historic Cultural Overviews of the Park

Cultural behavior is best studied with an evolutionary perspective that employs diachronic measures. To facilitate such prehistoric and historic overviews with an eye to chronology, archeologists have compartmentalized time periods on the basis of specific cultural features and patterned assemblages. To present the fullest picture of cultural development at PNB and its environs, a summary of archeological periods defined by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the cultural elements that comprise them is presented below.

Paleoindian Period (12,000 - 8000 B.C.)

The Paleoindian Period represents the earliest known human occupation in eastern north America. In a measure to deal with an environment characterized by a complex boreal-deciduous forest, the Paleoindians appear to have developed a generalized strategy of hunting and gathering characterized by small, mobile groups or bands that occupied a succession of transient camps. Most sites of the period are, consequently, small and diffuse, exhibiting little

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evidence of reuse. Additionally, tool kits exhibit a generalized quality, with few objects adapted to specialized uses.

In Virginia, these sites usually are represented by isolated finds of diagnostic artifacts including Clovis points, replaced later in the period with the Hardaway blade, and unifacial tools. The Middle Atlantic region in general, and the Chesapeake vicinity in particular, have produced little direct evidence of Paleoindian subsistence sources. Due to their early date and relative rarity, most Paleoindian sites are considered extremely significant.

In investigations at City Point, two unifacial endscrapers fashioned from Williamson chert and fossil wood, respectively, were found. These diagnostic artifacts suggest that the Paleoindian hunters at least visited the bluff at City Point.¹²⁵ Given the characteristics of Paleoindian sites, it is unlikely that any substantial occupations dating to this period would be represented at PNB.

Archaic Period (8000 - 1000 B.C.)

The early Holocene in Virginia continued on a developmental trajectory that had started at the end of the Pleistocene, i.e., an increase in annual mean temperatures, a continued rise in sea levels, and the full development of the post-glacial oak-hickory-pine forest. The boreal biota of the late Pleistocene were extirpated or were restricted to refuges in the highest elevations of the central Appalachian Mountains.¹²⁶ There also was an increased stability in the geomorphology of the post-glacial landscape.¹²⁷

Early Archaic Period (8000 - 6500 B.C.)

The Early Archaic is marked by the introduction of new tool technologies and settlement patterns (expansion into upland areas), which may have accompanied a dramatic shift in subsistence and diet. The fluted points of the Paleoindian Period were replaced with smaller, formed bifaces that were side-notched or stemmed to facilitate hafting. Often the blades of these points exhibit serrated edges. These technological changes reflect the development of new adaptive/hunting strategies that were oriented toward the exploitation of smaller game animals and plants and also may reflect shifts in patterns of residential mobility.¹²⁸

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Diagnostic hafted bifaces of the Early Archaic in Virginia include Kirk Stemmed and Notched, Palmer Corner Notched, and several small bifurcated-base types (e.g. LeCroy). The bifurcated forms probably derived from the Kirk corner-notched type and then developed into or were replaced by stemmed forms (e.g. Stanly and Morrow Mountain).¹²⁹ This period also witnessed the introduction of a ground-stone tool technology, necessary for the exploitation of a temperate woodland environment. Other tools incorporated into the Early Archaic chipped-stone tool kit include drills, numerous scraper forms, gravers, and adzes. The addition of plant food-processing implements, such as mortars and pestles and nutting stones to the Archaic tool kit indicate the increased importance of floral resources in Early Archaic economies. A trend toward expedient technologies also began in the early Archaic.¹³⁰

In the eastern Piedmont, settlement patterns expanded beyond the quarry-related, base-camp system that characterized the Paleoindian period as groups occupied areas along the major river drainages. Extractive sites were located in upland areas and in specific, localized environmental settings (e.g., freshwater wetlands, springs, or bogs).¹³¹ The variety of site types and activities represented during this period reflect an adaptation to an increased variety of resources due to increases in the diversity of environmental settings and the beginning of a marked seasonal climate. Base camps typically are situated at the confluence of a major stream and tributary, or on broad stretches of land protruding above a flood plain or marsh. These settings offered the greatest variety and quantity of exploitable resources within the smallest land area. Due to their early date and relative rarity, most Early Archaic sites are considered extremely significant.

One quartzite Kirk Corner-Notched projectile point, a diagnostic of the Early Archaic Period, was found at City Point.¹³² Similar in structure to Paleoindian sites, it is unlikely that any substantial Early Archaic occupations would be represented at PNB.

Middle Archaic Period (6500 - 3000 B.C.)

The settlement-subsistence system of Middle Archaic groups is characterized by the occurrence of larger base camps along major stream and river systems and smaller, short-term camps along smaller streams and upland ridges. The establishment of base camps at the confluence of a major stream and one of its tributaries, or on broad areas of land that protrude

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out above a flood plain or marsh, continued to allow the exploitation of a great variety and quantity of resources within a small area.

Innovation in lithic forms continued and is reflected in the Middle Archaic material remains, e.g., the appearance of atlatl weights and grooved axes. The appearance of various types of atlatl weights indicates the landmark development of the spear thrower. Hafted bifaces of this period are large, notched, and stemmed forms such as the Morrow Mountain, Stanly, and Big Sandy types. The common occurrence of ground-stone mortars, pestles, manos, metates, nutting stones, grooved axes, and celts in Middle Archaic occupations suggests a pronounced involvement in plant harvesting.¹³³ This ground-stone technology serves as a distinctive hallmark between Early Archaic and Middle Archaic stone-tool assemblages throughout the Middle Atlantic.

The earliest phases of the Middle Archaic are represented by the various bifurcated biface forms that were introduced during the previous cultural period. Stemmed, hafted biface forms dominated by the Morrow Mountain type are particularly diagnostic of the Middle Archaic in the Coastal Plain. These bifaces occur in Middle Archaic occupations located in many topographic settings within the region, including interior drainage areas as well as major river drainages. In keeping with the concept of primary forest efficiency, the spatial distribution of these artifacts is indicative of optimal adaptive patterns based on the exploitation of a broad spectrum of both plant and animal resources. The Guilford type, a lanceolate form, is a representative type that occurs in archeological contexts that date to the latter part of the Middle Archaic period. The fish-tailed Halifax type is also found in Virginia during the latter portion of the Middle Archaic. There is also a shift toward quartz as a preferred raw material that occurs in the Middle Atlantic.

Previously identified Middle Archaic sites located around the PNB tend to occur within 100 feet of the nearest water and at a 50-100 foot elevation on lowland plains. In Virginia, occupations of the Middle Archaic Period are found more frequently than are those of earlier periods. These sites are comprised of campsites and specialized activities areas, such as quarrying for lithic raw materials.

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At City Point, occupation during the Middle Archaic Period is indicated by four Guilford points, two Morrow Mountain points, and a Stanley point.¹³⁴ Barring later disturbances associated with early historic occupation, Civil War action, and post bellum development, there is a high probability that Middle Archaic sites would be recovered archeologically at PNB.

Late Archaic Period (3000 - 1000 B.C.)

The Late Archaic is distinguished from the preceding periods by a significant change in settlement patterns and economic practices that occurred late in the period. The end of the period is sometimes defined as the "Transitional" or "Terminal" Late Archaic and is characterized by amplified food production and increased use of a broad spectrum of resources.

Lithic assemblages from this period are characterized by noticeable trends in regionalization of corner-notched and stemmed hafted biface forms. The "Terminal" Late Archaic is marked by regional varieties of broad-bladed, parallel-stemmed hafted bifaces.¹³⁵ During this period, steatite bowls became an integral part of the Late Archaic artifact assemblage. In addition, Late Archaic groups developed inter-regional trade that included such items as copper (Great Lakes), marine shells (Gulf Coast), and imported, exotic lithic raw material.¹³⁶

The subsistence economy of the Late Archaic groups within the Middle Atlantic region evidenced a stronger orientation to riverine resources and the cultivation of native plant taxa.¹³⁷ This riverine orientation undoubtedly reflected an adaptation to local hydrologic changes that resulted in vast areas of mudflats, salt marshes, freshwater swamps, and other aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats. The spawning grounds of anadromous fish were expanded enormously, and vast fish runs began. Despite this focus, the continued presence of interior sites appears to indicate a continued use of a range of plant and animal species.

Sweeping cultural changes occurred during the Late Archaic Period, including more varied and intensified resource use, changes in settlement pattern, and an increase in social complexity. Although Late Archaic peoples of the region are thought to have focused on

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riverine resources, Late Archaic sites around the park are found in an even distribution at all distances from water. Late Archaic sites tend to cluster on higher ground, which in this region is the lowland plain, at an elevation of 100-150 feet. River bluffs, creek overlooks, and swamp margins are all relatively sensitive for Late Archaic sites.

Thus far, archeological investigations within park boundaries have identified only one Late Archaic Period Halifax point at City Point. Despite this single recovery, Late Archaic sites are probably well represented within the limits of PNB.

Early Woodland Period (1000 - 300 B.C.)

The Early Woodland is a period of transition, reflecting a certain cultural continuity with the earlier Late Archaic period. The Early Woodland, however, is distinguished principally by the introduction of ceramic technology. A second marker of the Early Woodland includes the replacement of Late Archaic large stemmed hafted biface forms with small lanceolate, stemmed, and notched types. These forms occur in a variety of raw material types, in contrast to the mainly coarse materials, such as quartzite, that characterized the Late Archaic period.¹³⁸

Early Woodland populations appear to have followed settlement/subsistence strategies similar to those of the Late Archaic period. Early Woodland groups coalesced into centralized settlements on a seasonal basis, and family or microband groups dispersed to smaller habitation sites during other portions of the year. Although plant cultivation and domestication may have occurred during the period, the Early Woodland subsistence economy consisted largely of hunting, fishing, and gathering wild foods. Tool kits of the period reflect woodworking and plant processing, improved storage technology, larger sites, and possible long-term occupations of sites.¹³⁹

Although the Early Woodland sites identified within the area about the park tend to occur within 100 feet of the nearest water, they are more often located along small creek terraces than in major river bottoms, and usually occur at an elevation of 100-150 feet. In the Virginia Coastal Plain, the Early Woodland Period is marked by the appearance of Marcey Creek Plain pottery.

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No Early Woodland pottery has been recovered in investigations in the park, but a single projectile point possibly related to the period has been identified at City Point.¹⁴⁰ While Early Woodland sites are probably represented at PNB, their identification is elusive.

Middle Woodland Period (300 B.C. - A.C. 800)

Many of the settlement and subsistence strategies that developed during the Late Archaic and Early Woodland persisted into the Middle Woodland period. Distinguishing traits of the Middle Woodland consist principally of changes in material culture. Characteristic artifact types include a series of new hafted biface forms including Potts, Rossville, Fox Creek, and triangle points. In addition, new pottery types occur throughout the Coastal Plain.¹⁴¹

The early part of the Middle Woodland is characterized by Popes Creek and related ceramics.¹⁴² These types include crushed rock temper, and frequently exhibit net-impressed surface treatment.¹⁴³ During the second half of the period, shell-tempered Mockley ceramics became prevalent in the region. Examples of this ware commonly display net- or cord-impressions, or no surface treatment. In the Inner Coastal Plain, Prince George and Varina pottery types, co-exist with Mockley. Both types are tempered with coarse sand and crushed rock. Prince George ceramics are cord- or fabric-marked and Varina ceramics are netmarked.¹⁴⁴

Middle Woodland groups emphasized the cultivation of native plant taxa as well as the exploitation of wild food sources through gathering, hunting, and fishing. The trend toward a focused adaptation persisted into the Middle Woodland. A wide variety of foods were utilized, but groups may have scheduled subsistence activities to obtain specific resources at their peak of availability.¹⁴⁵ Evidence for intensified food production during this period also exists. Again, this occurrence represents the persistence of trends begun earlier, and it implies a degree of social complexity that would include some form of leadership to coordinate the harvesting, processing, storage, and distribution of resources.¹⁴⁶

Middle Woodland settlement patterns appear similar to those of the Early Woodland, and continue the trend toward greater sedentism.¹⁴⁷ Settlement of the period is distinguished by lengthy occupations of base camps or hamlets. Such sites most often lie in settings which

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maximize access to a wide diversity of resources, such as along rivers at the interface between salt and fresh water.¹⁴⁸ Smaller sites were occupied during forays from the larger camps to obtain specific resources.

The Middle Woodland sites within the region around the park strongly cluster within 250 feet of the nearest water and below 100 feet in elevation. Like the Early Woodland, the Middle Woodland sites most often occur on small creek terraces. Sites from the Early Woodland (500 B.C.-200 A.D.) are relatively frequent in Virginia. These are marked by an abundance of pottery of distinctive types including Popes Creek Net-marked and Chesterfield Net-marked.

Twelve sherds of Popes Creek Net-marked and one sherd of Chesterfield Net-marked pottery have been recovered from City Point.¹⁴⁹ Given the frequency of Middle Woodland sites throughout the general area, sites affined to this period are probably well represented at PNB.

Late Woodland Period (A.D. 900 - 1600)

The trend toward sedentarism culminated during the Late Woodland period with the establishment of permanently- or semi-permanently occupied villages and hamlets. Populations in the region grew during the period, and increasingly complex social systems developed. In addition, agricultural production emerged as the most significant element of the subsistence base.¹⁵⁰

Aspects of material culture that signal the period include distinctive pottery types. Early Late Woodland pottery types derive from late Middle Woodland types, and the Late Woodland varieties mirror the widespread homogeneity that existed earlier. Initially, the dominant Late Woodland ceramic consisted of shell-tempered Townsend wares, which most frequently display fabric-impressed and incised surface treatments. By the later portion of the period, the spatial range of this pottery type had become constrained to the margins of the Chesapeake. Along upper portions of the James River and the Appomattox River, Townsend ware was replaced by sand and crushed quartz-tempered Gaston ware. Other forms of material culture include triangular projectile points, other chipped-stone implements, and ground axes and pipes.¹⁵¹

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An important difference between the Late Woodland and earlier periods involved the greater reliance on plant production. By the early Late Woodland, varieties of maize, beans, and squash had been introduced to the region. Local populations raised crops in fields prepared through slash and burn techniques.¹⁵² Due to a small body of data relating to these cultigens, the percentage of components of the Late Woodland diet cannot be evaluated. Wild foods, however, appear to have continued to make up a significant proportion of the overall diet.

By the late Late Woodland, the Virginia Coastal Plain was populated by Algonquian-speaking groups organized into a complex chiefdom level society. Information regarding the attributes of these societies comes primarily from ethnohistorical data; archeological data do not clearly point to complex social organizations during this period.¹⁵³ Characteristics of the Powhatan chiefdom, encompassing most of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline, appear to have included social ranking, hierarchical settlement patterns, unequal access to resource surpluses and exotic goods (including European trade items after contact), and differential burial practices according to rank.¹⁵⁴

There is good evidence for permanently occupied hamlets in the Late Woodland, coinciding with an increase in population size and the large-scale integration of political control into chiefdoms. For the first time, agricultural production becomes a major contributor to the diet, rather than a minor supplement. Within the region around the park, the Late Woodland sites appear to shift out of the creek terraces and onto higher ground directly overlooking the drainages. Additional sites of the Late Woodland period are located on swamp margins. The known Late Woodland sites do not appear to sort by distance to water or elevation. These sites are marked by distinctive pottery types including the Mockley Series, Varina Net-marked, the Prince George series, and Bailey Creek cord-marked pottery. Distinctive point types are found as well. At City Point, the Late Middle to Late Woodland Period is the most heavily represented. Sherds recovered in archeological investigations at City Point have been identified as a type related to the Prince George series, Mockley ware, Bailey Creek Cord-impressed, and Varina Net-impressed. A nearly complete vessel from a typical Middle Woodland basin hearth feature was identified as Varina Net-impressed.¹⁵⁵

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Distinctly Late Woodland Period ceramics have also been recovered at City Point. These include examples of Ettrick Simple Stamped and Gaston Simple Stamped. Sherds from the Townsend series representing at least 24 vessels indicate occupation at City Point occurred from c. A.D. 1000 up to European contact.¹⁵⁶ Given the environment and topography of the general project area, Late Woodland sites are probably well represented at PNB.

Contact

The Late Woodland period terminates with the Contact period, which refers to the interval during which Native American and European societies first encountered one another. In the Coastal Plain, the period is characterized first by intermittent interaction between the two groups as a result of European exploration, trade, and fishing activities along the Atlantic Coast. Intermittent contact between the two groups began after 1570 and was exemplified by a Spanish mission in Virginia, which operated only briefly, and the short-lived English occupation of the Roanoke colony in North Carolina. In 1607, sustained intercultural contact commenced in the region with the English settlement of Jamestown. This subdivision of the Contact period extends to 1622 when the Powhatan Confederacy attacked the English settlements in the James Valley. The final period ends in 1646, after a second series of conflicts resulted in the virtual destruction and subjugation of the Powhatan Confederacy.¹⁵⁷

At first, Native responses to the appearance and colonization by the English were relatively cooperative as the two groups engaged in frequent trade with only occasional, small-scale confrontations. Their relationship degenerated over the succeeding twenty years, however. This tension stemmed in part from the two groups' competition for the same resources. Although the tidewater region comprises an extremely rich environment, resources are not distributed evenly across the landscape. In addition, conflict also grew from economic rivalry as each side attempted to control their mutual trade. In the face of English competition, relations between the two groups grew confrontational and culminated in the first mass attack by the Powhatan Confederacy on the English settlers in 1622.

The effects of this interaction on both Native populations and European colonists in the region are not well understood. In general, it has been assumed that contact led to the disruption of traditional cultural systems.¹⁵⁸ In certain instances, moreover, interaction with Europeans

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resulted in changes to native material culture as well. Cultural influences flowed in both directions, however, as Europeans adopted elements of native material culture and agriculture. Known sites from the Contact period around the park tend to cluster on river bluffs and confluences, and are therefore often located at elevations below 100 feet and less than 250 feet from the nearest water.

Contact-period sites are distinguished on the basis of an admixture of Native and European material culture in its earliest context. Such sites doubtless exist at PNB, although they have not been identified by the limited prehistoric archeological investigations conducted there.

Seventeenth Century

The seventeenth century European occupation of the upper James River and Appomattox River was limited to explorer/trader camps, a few outlier proprietary farms or "hundreds" (which could resemble hamlets in size), and isolated tobacco plantations. These sites tended to cluster near navigable waterways. Known seventeenth century occupations within the region around the park are located on the lowland plain, on alluvial terraces, or on the bluffs overlooking major river confluences. These sites tend to cluster within 100 feet of the nearest water and at elevations of less than 50 feet. European settlement is known to have occurred at City Point c. 1650 and archeological investigations revealed the brick footings of the earliest dwelling on the site that lie 20 feet north of the north wall of the main house.¹⁵⁹

It is common for seventeenth century sites to be supplanted through time by subsequent occupations. Clearly, archeological evidence confirms the presence of at least one seventeenth-century site at PNB. Given later development in the area, it is likely that the earliest historic occupation of the property has been shrouded, if not destroyed, by constructions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and destructions associated with the Civil War and the Siege of Petersburg.

Eighteenth Century

Settlers of the eighteenth century spread into the coastal plain interior from the James and York river valleys. Known eighteenth-century sites within the region do not appear to be

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sensitive to distance to water. Eighteenth-century sites are known in every topographic context included in this study, although they occur most often on the lowland plain below 100 feet in elevation. The house known as Whitehill, or the Friend House, is known to have been visited by British troops during the Revolutionary War and together with the Jordan House, which was built approximately at the same time, could reveal information concerning the domestic context of an eighteenth-century plantation and its material culture. Limited archaeological investigations at the Hare House, constructed before 1796, revealed a foundation constructed of yellow brick that may have been imported from England.

Eighteenth-century sites, by benefit of substantial construction and activity, are typically more visible than antecedent occupations. Structural evidence confirms area occupation during this period. Renewed archeological investigations of eighteenth-century sites would doubtless contribute to our understanding of the period.

Nineteenth Century

In the nineteenth century, the use of deep wells and heavy plows favored settlement on the lowland plains, with about half of these sites located over 500 feet from the nearest water. By the nineteenth century, access to transportation routes became far more critical than distance to water in site location. Previous archeological investigations at various house sites have revealed information concerning the antebellum domestic context of Prince George County and changing patterns of land utilization in the vicinity of these dwellings.

Archeological investigations of the Hare House, which was destroyed in the earliest stages of the Civil War Siege of Petersburg, have presented an opportunity "to observe the material culture of a nineteenth century Virginia plantation as a collection within its domestic context."¹⁶⁰ Additional archeological investigations that are developed to fully evaluate nineteenth century resources at PNB will doubtless elucidate our understanding of the character and expression of the antebellum period in Virginia, in general, and the Petersburg National Park, in particular.

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The Civil War

Many of the house sites within the park that have been the subject of archeological investigations hold information pertaining to their role in the Civil War. In the wake of fleeing civilians, several houses were used as hospitals, headquarters, and signal stations. After the war, residents returned to reclaim their property. Sites within the park that have revealed Civil War information through archeological investigations include the area of the Crater, the location of Grant's Cabin at City Point, and various nineteenth-century house sites including the Hare House and the Taylor House.

The location of archeological resources associated with Civil War engagements--skirmish lines, staging areas, and command centers--relates directly to the vagaries of strategy, tactics, and outcome. An excellent study conducted by Blades on the Confederate picket line in the area of the Crater suggests that the defending troops suffered shortages of supplies as a result of the Federal siege.¹⁶¹ Recovered artifacts clearly indicate that there was little waste and much reuse, both tactics representing adaptive strategies to compensate for the insufficiency of materials or the infrequency of resupply. It is doubtful, however, if additional study along the various battle fronts would improve our understanding of the Siege of Petersburg or the larger military campaign that guided it.

Conversely, material culture studies at the sites of military bivouacs behind the lines could illuminate the sharp contrast in artifact acquisition and use between the Federal and Confederate forces. In the same regard, archeological investigations at domestic sites within the park could demonstrate the sobering effects of the Siege of Petersburg on the civilian populace.

One of the complicating factors in the study of Civil War sites at PNB is the nature of the conflict and the developments wrought to effect recovery after the war. Numerous domestic properties at PNB were abandoned during the war with houses adapted for military use as headquarters and hospitals. Following the war, families often returned to their properties and, like the Jordans and Taylors, destroyed Civil War forts and ancillary features through the reintroduction of farming and building revitalization. The effect of these actions has not been fully identified through archeology.

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The Twentieth Century

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The twentieth-century archeological resources located within the park boundaries reflect predominantly the construction and property-development activities of the National Park Service. Some remnants of Civilian Conservation Corps activities and associated buildings are also located within the park boundaries. In addition, portions of PNB have been effected by activities at Fort Lee from its inception in 1917. ^

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