



Appomattox COURT HOUSE

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENT

Virginia



A view in old Appomattox Court House in 1940 at the time development work was started by the National Park Service.

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THE COVER

Adapted from the painting by J. L. G. Ferris, entitled "Peace and Reunion." The original of this painting is in the National Museum and its use has been made available through the courtesy of Mrs. Ferris who has reserved control over its use for reproduction purposes. The outline of the United States which has been superimposed on the print of the painting represents a united country, symbolized by the clasping of hands by Grant and Lee.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE · NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director*

Appomattox Court House

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENT

The Significance of Appomattox

ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va. From that day and from that event stemmed a new and stronger America. The surrender of Lee's army made inevitable the end of the War between the States, and thus decided the direction of America's destiny.

The surrender of the British troops under Cornwallis to the Colonials at Yorktown in 1781 led to the establishment of American freedom. Six years later, the Constitutional Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, drew up the Constitution to replace the unwieldy Articles of Confederation and to create a true union of the States.

From 1787 until 1861, Americans, North and South, discussed the form of that union with increasing bitterness. The first decades of the nineteenth century had brought a heightened divergence in the economic interests of the two sections, the North rapidly expanding in industry and commerce, the South, after the invention of Whitney's cotton gin, founding a new and powerful

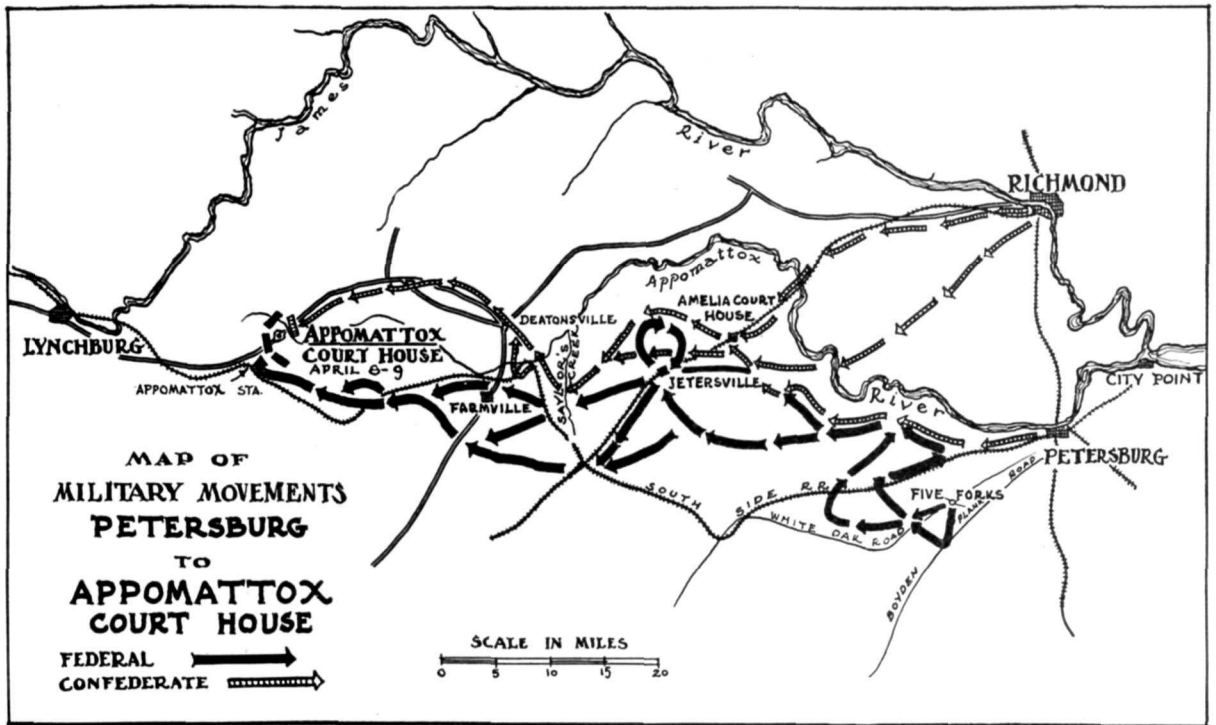
agricultural economy based directly on slave labor.

With the westward expansion of the Nation, North and South raced to settle the new land. In the earlier period of expansion, the advantage lay with the South. A vast system of inland waterways flowing south formed the natural outlet for the products of the new West.

But the era of railroad construction in the 1840's and 1850's, linking Northwest to Northeast, gradually turned the western trade and interests to the eastern seaboard, while southern statesmen at Washington, ever mindful of the South's early supremacy, fought to stem the power accruing to the industrial North. In the 1850's, as the margin of control narrowed and the struggle to balance the

This sketch is based on a lithograph, entitled "The Dawn of Peace." In some of its details it is not wholly accurate, but it represents in a general way the scene in the McLean House at the time the terms of surrender were drafted by Grant. Col. Charles Marshall of Lee's staff is seen standing, leaning against the mantel in back of Lee. Brig. Gen. John A. Rawlins, Grant's chief of staff, is standing immediately behind Grant. Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan is the officer represented at the extreme right foreground. From Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.





shift in power by admission of new States became intensified, the breach between the sections widened. Finally war, the last resort, burst over the Nation like a rocket, set off by the first shot against Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861.

Slavery, States' rights, the right to secede, issues which had brought North and South to war, were of secondary importance, as one man, Abraham Lincoln, clearly saw. In his mind burned one great purpose, the preservation of the Union; all others but fed the flame.

After Appomattox, the destiny of America, a vast and powerful democracy extending 3,000 miles from ocean to ocean, could be fulfilled by the reconciled brothers, magnanimous in victory and proud in defeat, both sharers in the same heritage.

Thus, the result of the American War between the States, proving to the world that a great democracy can survive internal dissention and rise above disaster to larger strength, makes the year 1865 one never to be forgotten. The war testing whether the Nation would endure had run its course. The dead had not died in vain, as posterity was to prove. The Nation was to live.

The Road to Appomattox

IN MARCH 1864, Ulysses S. Grant was called to Washington to receive his commission as lieutenant general in the United States Army and to assume the duties of General in Chief of all Federal armies. His was the task of coordinating the impending drives of the Federal forces on all fronts, east and west, to bring the war to an end. Meade's Federal Army of the Potomac faced Lee's Army of Northern Virginia across the Rapidan River in Northern Virginia. At Chattanooga, Tenn., Sherman stood poised for the attack on Atlanta in the campaign destined to cripple the Deep South.

Grant chose to remain with Meade and to direct Sherman from afar. In May, the Virginia Campaign of 1864 was launched with a hammering attack which was to continue until the Army of Northern Virginia had been pounded away. First of these great blows were the battles of the Wilderness and of Spotsylvania Court House.

In June, after inflicting terrific losses on the Federals at Cold Harbor, Lee retired to a defensive line of earthworks covering Richmond, the Confederate Capital, and Petersburg, 22 miles to the



Lee's Head-Quarters.

Historical Notes.

On Sunday, the 28 of April 1865, General Lee was holding at Lynchburg a semi-circle line north of the Appomattox River, with his left resting on the river, and his right on the South Side Red Road, eleven miles from the city. The Federals were posted in whole force. Sheridan with his cavalry on the right. To meet his right flank, General Lee telegraphed to Richmond, that during the night he would fall back on the north side of the river, and ordered that Richmond be evacuated immediately.

On the morning of the 3d the retreat commenced in earnest. General Grant keeping right to the possession of Richmond, while the position of the South Side and Danville Railroad in hope of cutting off General Lee from Danville or Lynchburg. On the 3d a portion of the Federal force occupied Barboursville, Sheridan with his cavalry being in advance at Jonesville on the Danville Railroad. General Lee at Amelia C. H., 6 miles south of Richmond's advance. In this situation General Sheridan telegraphed, "will that morning of capturing the main Army of Northern Virginia. If we start tomorrow, I am no longer for Lee." On the evening of the 5th some heavy fighting took place between the Federal advance and Lee's retreating column. Sheridan again telegraphed: "If the thing is general I think Lee will surrender." Lee continued to press for Lynchburg, his own probably accepting the result, daily leaving him by thousands, until on the morning of the 9th of April, 1865, he commenced the overwhelming force of Gen. Grant with a force less than 2,000 men.

The position of the Confederate army was hardly one occupying the narrow strip of land between the South Side Railroad and the James River, the only road on which it was possible to retreat, was that marked Lynchburg road on the map. Sheridan with his cavalry having struck the rear of the Appomattox Station, obtaining possession of the Lynchburg road, thus practically cutting off Lee's retreat. Gen. Lee now had the choice of either cutting his way directly through the Federal front, or immediate surrender. In view of the immense disparity of forces between the ranks of the half starved Confederates and the overwhelming army of General Grant, he chose the latter alternative.

Generals Lee and Grant met in the house of William McLean, Esq., and after a brief interview, at 10 o'clock, on



McLean's House.

GEN. LEE'S FAREWELL TO HIS ARMY.
HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, 1 APRIL 1865.

After four years of arduous service, with appropriate courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the particulars of our heavy battle fought last night, who have been mentioned in the last. But I have confidence in the ability of our officers and men, and believe that valor and devotion would have enabled us to have repulsed the force that would have attacked the rear of the retreat. I have determined to avoid the conflict.



Appomattox Court House.

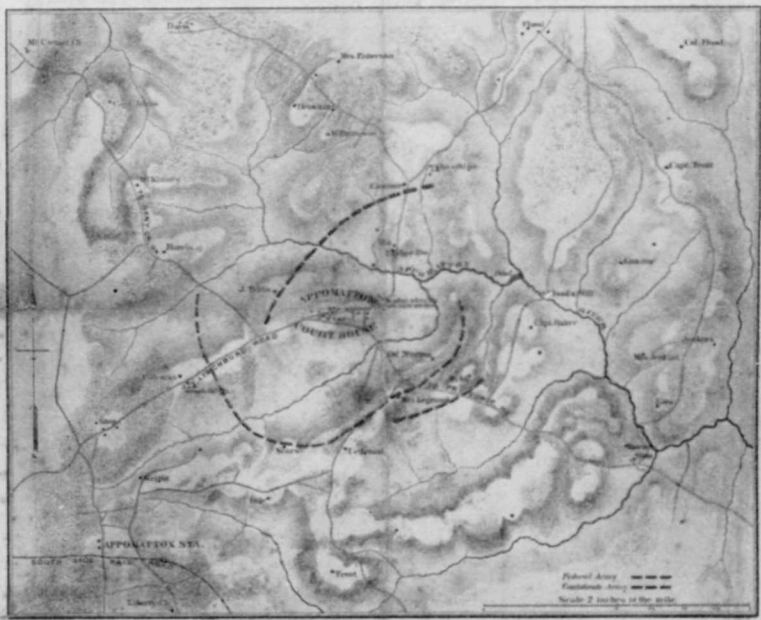
confidence of those whom past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

In the terms of agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the accomplishment of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an increasing admiration of your country and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an adieu. Farewell.

R. E. LEE, General.



Grant's Head-Quarters.

on the 28 of April 1865, the Articles of Capitulation were signed by General Lee. While negotiations were being conducted by the two Commanders in Chief, the General Officers of either army were mingling socially together in the streets of Appomattox C. H., and drinking mutual healths. Generals, Colonels, Majors, Captains and others of the Federal, Gen. Longworth, Hook, Gordon and others of the Confederate.

At 4 o'clock p. m. the announcement of Lee's surrender was made to Grant's army. The whole confidence manifestly broke forth, but all remained cool and dry.

As the great Confederate General rode past the pallid little band from his interview with Gen. Grant, which lines of battle, ranked to the beloved old chief, and breaking ranks, each struggled with the other to bring him by the head. With some calling aloud for drinks, General Lee could only say: "But, we have fought through the war together. There has been the best that I could for you."

On the morning of the 10th April the Army of Northern Virginia marched by division to a point near Appomattox Court House, and encamped there and accompanied by the United States authorities.

On the afternoon of the 10th, with an escort of Federal cavalry as a guard of honor, attended by a portion of his staff, General Lee returned to Richmond.

These quiet days passed from the thence of the most desperate war of modern times the returned Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the remnants of that army in the hands of the army were quietly sending their way to their long Southern homes.

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

1. Gen. Lee's Head-Quarters near Grant's House. Position marked by a flag and No. 1 on the map.

2. View of Appomattox Court House.

3. Grant's Head-Quarters near Grant's House. Position marked by a flag and No. 2 on the map.

4. Place where the arms were stacked. The exact spot is marked No. 3 on the map. In this picture may be seen the burning apple tree, position marked with a tree and No. 2 on the map, near Lee's house, where the Arm meeting between the Commanders was generally, but inaccurately, supposed to have taken place.

5. McLean's House, in the village of Appomattox Court House, where the articles of capitulation were signed. The signing took place in the front room, on the right of the door, opening from the porch.



Place where the Arms were Stacked.

Map entered in the clerk's office of the District Court of Maryland, according to act of Congress, by Henderson & Co., in 1866, the year following the surrender at Appomattox Court House. The engraving is interesting as a document so nearly contemporary with the surrender. Courtesy Library of Congress.



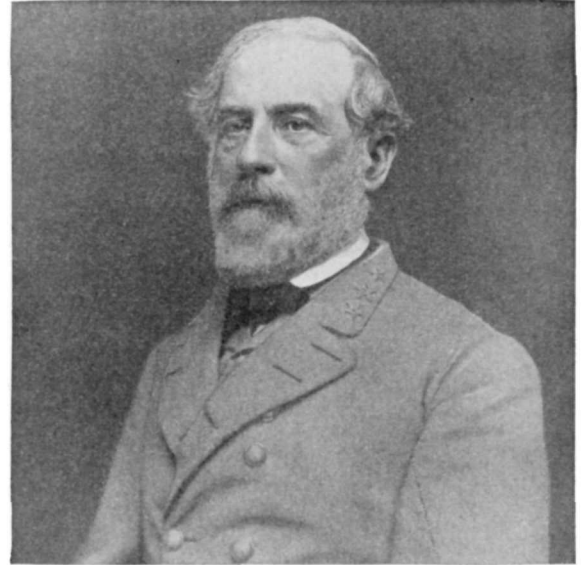
This Brady photograph of Ulysses S. Grant is considered a good likeness of the Federal commander. Grant was General in Chief of the United States Army at the time of the surrender of Lee's Confederate Army at Appomattox Court House in 1865. Born 1822; West Point 1843; died 1885. Signal Corps U. S. Army.

south, its back door. When direct assault tactics failed, the Federal commander extended his left flank around Petersburg, throwing up a strong system of intrenchments with each advance. The consequent necessary extension of Lee's right stretched the Confederate lines ever thinner. Road by road, throughout the fall and winter, Grant cut off Lee's supply lines from the south. By March 1865, a year after the launching of his Grand Campaign, Grant had stretched the Confederate line to the breaking point.

A desperate but short-lived offensive against Federal Fort Stedman, in the works encircling Petersburg, failed March 25, and the Confederate right flank crumbled at Five Forks, April 1.

Forced to abandon Richmond and Petersburg, though not yet contemplating surrender, Lee moved westward on the night of April 2 in an attempt to reach Danville, Va. From that point he might possibly reinforce Joseph E. Johnston, whom Sherman, following the successful Atlanta and Savannah campaigns, was driving up the coast through the Carolinas.

On April 4, retarded by high water in the Appomattox River, Lee's scattered forces from the lines around Petersburg and Richmond assembled



Photograph of Lee, made in Richmond in 1865, showing some of the qualities that characterized the Southern leader. By many this is considered the best photograph of Lee in existence. Lee was General in Chief of the Confederate Army at the time of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House in 1865. Born 1807; West Point 1829; died 1870. Courtesy Cook Studio.

at Amelia Court House, 40 miles west of Petersburg. There, the first disaster of the retreat faced them. Through mischance, rations ordered to Amelia had gone on to Richmond. A day was lost in foraging for supplies.

Meanwhile, the Federals had begun their vigorous pursuit. As one column marched on the Confederate rear, another swung around to the southwest to cut in ahead of the retreating Confederates.

The following morning, at Jetersville, 7 miles southwest of Amelia, the Confederate advance force found the way blocked by Sheridan's cavalry and Griffin's infantry corps. Flanked from the Richmond-Danville Railroad, Lee turned west, toward Farmville, where rations for his men awaited on the Southside (now the Norfolk & Western) Railroad.

On April 6, at Saylor's Creek, about 10 miles east of Farmville, Anderson's and Ewell's Confederate corps halted their march to assist Gordon defend his wagon train. Sheridan, entering a gap in the Confederate column, isolated Anderson and Ewell. Struck by Sheridan on one side and Wright's infantry on the other, the two Confed-

erate corps fell before the onslaught. Virtually the entire force, over 4,000 men, was lost, the prisoners including six Confederate generals; Ewell, Ker-shaw, Corse, Dubose, Hunton, and General Lee's son, Custis Lee. Gordon's command escaped with a loss of some 1,700 men.

At Farmville, on April 7, rations had hardly been issued to Lee's shattered and hungry army when the relentless Federal pursuit again forced the resumption of the retreat. Lee once more turned west, though an ultimate move southward was still his purpose.

From the vicinity of Farmville, the troops under Gordon and Longstreet, Lee's remaining corps after the disaster of Saylor's Creek, took up the march along the old stage roads, past the hamlets of Sheppards, Curdsville, and New Store, final milestones in the road "from Manassas to Appomattox," and then down the Lynchburg road (now Virginia Highway 24) toward Appomattox Court House. In pursuit were Humphreys' and Wright's two corps of the Army of the Potomac. To the south, Sheridan's cavalry and infantry under Griffin and Gibbon advanced on Appomattox Station (the present town of Appomattox).

As darkness deepened on the evening of April 8, the light of Federal campfires warned the Confederates encamped around Appomattox Court House that the Federal pursuit was closing in on their rear and flank. Then, through the night, from the direction of the station, 3 miles in their front, came the crash of cannon. There could be no mistaking its meaning.

Even now, however, Lee did not consider surrender inevitable. The situation for the Army of Northern Virginia was critical but not hopeless. At a last council of war, Lee and his officers decided that Gordon's infantry and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry would attempt to break through toward Lynchburg if the force in front were cavalry, or cavalry not heavily supported by infantry.

At daybreak on the morning of April 9, the Confederate cavalry attack brushed Sheridan's cavalry aside, and Gordon's infantry captured two Federal cannon, only to find the road blocked by blue-coated infantry.

Upon receiving Gordon's report that he was helpless unless reinforcements were sent to him, Lee said: "There is nothing left me to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

The Ninth of April

SINCE APRIL 7, when Grant first suggested surrender to Lee, notes had been passing between the two generals regarding terms. Ringed about by Grant's forces, steadily pressing up to the outskirts of the village, Lee's army faced destruction or surrender. Longstreet, heavily threatened, held the rear and could send no aid to Gordon. Realizing the utter impossibility of a break through, Lee dispatched a note to Grant requesting an interview to arrange terms for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

While an informal truce kept precarious peace on the field, and staff officers rode busily to and fro, Lee rested on a pile of fence rails under an apple tree in an orchard just across the Appomattox River from the village. About noon, a Confederate escort and a Federal officer rode up. The officer was Col. Orville E. Babcock, of Grant's staff, bearing a note from his chief. Grant stated that he was riding to the front for the interview.

General Lee, his military secretary, Col. Charles Marshall, an orderly named Tucker, and Colonel Babcock crossed the little river and rode up the hill to the village. While the rest drew rein, Marshall undertook to find a house in which a meeting could be held. It chanced that the first man he met was Wilmer McLean, in whose Prince William County fields the first great battle, Manassas, had begun. He had moved southward to escape the war. When asked about a house suitable for a meeting between Lee and Grant, McLean first showed Colonel Marshall a house considered unsat-

Contemporary photograph showing the McLean House where Lee surrendered his army to Grant, April 9, 1865. The conference between Grant and Lee in which the terms of surrender were arranged was held in the large room on the first floor to the left of the entrance. Courtesy Library of Congress.



isfactory by the latter. He then offered the use of his own comfortable brick dwelling.

Sitting with Marshall and Babcock in McLean's parlor, Lee doubtless heard the hum of conversation from the yard where several Federal officers had gathered, awaiting events. Grant had not yet arrived.

At about 1:30 o'clock, a group of horsemen rode up from the west. A bearded man in a mud splattered uniform was directed to the McLean House. He entered the parlor, and Lee rose to meet him. In the center of the room they shook hands. Lee wore the dress uniform of a Confederate general. Grant had come straight from the field as he was, rather than inconvenience his adversary by delay. He wore the uniform of a private, with the shoulder straps of a lieutenant general.

The two men seated themselves quietly. They had met only once before and that was in Mexico nearly two decades earlier where both of them were serving in the United States Army during the Mexican War. At that time, Lee, about 15 years older than Grant, was Chief of Staff for General Scott, while Grant was an obscure lieutenant. Grant spoke of the incident and remarked that from the time of that meeting he had never failed to remember Lee's appearance. Lee answered that he remembered the meeting, but had been unable to recall Grant's appearance, although he often had tried to do so. The conversation between the two continued for some minutes of old army days and the Mexican War. Babcock meanwhile ushered in various high ranking Federal officers, who stood respectfully behind Grant.

It was Lee who turned the conversation to the business at hand.

"I suppose, General Grant," he said, "that the object of our present meeting is fully understood. I asked to see you to ascertain upon what terms you would receive the surrender of my army."

Grant answered at once without a change of countenance or voice that the conditions of surrender were substantially those stated in his letter of the day before. Some conversation followed, and it was drifting off again into matters other than those immediately at hand when Lee, apparently anxious to get the business over, suggested that the terms of surrender of his army should be written out in order that they could be formally acted upon. Grant called to Col. Ely S. Parker, an Indian serving as secretary on his staff, for writing materials, and without delay started writing out his terms. They were: rolls of Lee's army to be made in duplicate, a copy for the Federals and a copy for the Confederates; all Confederates to be paroled prisoners; and all materials of war to be turned over to officers designated by Grant, except sidearms, horses, and personal baggage of Confederate officers.

Lee expressed his pleasure at Grant's generous terms. After a brief pause he remarked that the Confederate Army was organized differently from that of the United States and that the men in the ranks in the artillery and cavalry owned their own horses. He asked if these men under the terms would be allowed to retain them. Grant replied that as the terms were written they would not.

Grouped here are the table at which Grant sat when writing the terms of surrender in the McLean House, April 9, 1865, and the chairs used by Grant and Lee, respectively, during the conference at which the terms were arranged.

Courtesy Smithsonian Institution.





Contemporary Brady photograph of soldiers and citizens in front of the courthouse at Appomattox Court House in 1865 shortly after the surrender. Signal Corps U. S. Army.



Drawing from a contemporary sketch showing General Lee and Colonel Marshall riding away from the McLean House after the terms of surrender had been agreed upon. From Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.

Lee read the penciled draft again, and then said it was clear the terms did not allow it.

Grant understood his opponent's unspoken wish. He remarked that he had not known that the private soldiers in the Confederate Army owned their own horses. Continuing, he said he believed the war was about over. The men would need the animals to put in a crop to carry their families through the next winter. He would not change the wording of the terms as written, but with the generosity, magnanimity, and fine consideration that marked the man in his hour of victory, he said he would instruct his parole officers "to let all the men who claim to own a horse or mule take the animals home with them to work their little farms."

"This will have the best possible effect upon the men," Lee responded, "it will be very gratifying and will do much toward conciliating our people."

Grant handed his rough, pencil draft of the terms to Colonel Parker for copying in final form, and Lee requested Marshall to write an acceptance.

Grant now introduced the various Federal officers to Lee, and, at Lee's request, ordered rations for the Confederate soldiers.

The signing of the two letters and their exchange completed the negotiations.

Then came more brief conversation, and Lee shook hands with Grant, bowed to the other officers, and went outside. As he stood on the steps

of the house, waiting for the orderly to bring him his horse, he looked out over the little valley to the hillside where the Confederate troops were waiting. Whatever his thoughts, faithful old Traveller standing before him brought him back to the present. He swung slowly to the saddle.

Grant, just leaving the house, stopped abruptly and raised his hat. The other Federal officers standing about followed his example. Lee returned the salute and rode from the yard, back eastward, through the village and over the river to his waiting men.

His hardest task lay before him.

"Are we surrendered?" rose the cry.

The men filled the road, shouting and crying, clutching at the horse and rider. Lee halted. He spoke a few words expressing his efforts to do all he could for them and told them they were to be paroled and free to go home. They answered that they would still fight on. Many crowded up to take his hand, or, failing that, to touch him or his horse.

Finally, he made his way back to the apple orchard. There he walked alone among the trees. Toward dark, he rode to his headquarters, a mile to the rear. A solid wall of his old soldiers lined the road on either side, weeping and cheering their leader, bringing the tears to his own eyes. Before going into his tent, he spoke briefly again, bidding farewell to the veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia, a name forever to be linked with his own.



Drawing from a sketch made at the time showing Federal soldiers fraternizing and sharing their rations with Confederate soldiers at Appomattox Court House after the surrender. From Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.

The Surrender of the Arms

DETAILS OF THE SURRENDER of the Confederate Army, arms, and artillery were arranged by three commissioners for each side. Lee's committee consisted of Generals Longstreet, Gordon, and Pendleton. The Federal commissioners were Generals Gibbon, Griffin, and Merritt.

Meeting first in the Tavern at Appomattox Court House on April 10, they later adjourned to the McLean House and completed their discussions in the parlor where Lee and Grant had agreed on the general terms the day before. The final agreement for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia was signed in McLean's parlor by these six officers at 8:30 p. m., April 10, 1865.

Meanwhile, during the forenoon, Grant and Lee had met on a knoll just east of the village and discussed informally the South and its problems, parting never to meet again except for a short courtesy call paid by Lee to Grant at the White House in 1869.

That same day, April 10, 1865, Grant broke up his field headquarters, a mile west of Appomattox Court House, and left for Washington.

An Army printing press was set up on the field to turn out the thousands of paroles needed. The Tavern in the village, according to a news dispatch of the time, was used as the parole officers' headquarters.

On April 11, the Confederate artillery officer, Gen. E. P. Alexander, formed his guns and caissons, as directed, in single column along the road.

On the morning of April 12, 1865, the day appointed for the surrender of the arms, General Chamberlain (later Governor of Maine) formed a Federal division along the old stage road. Facing north, the Federal infantry at order arms were drawn up along the road from a point near the river to within the village. As the Confederates marched up from across the river, Chamberlain's men shifted to carry arms. General Gordon, leading the Confederates, dropped the point of his sword to his toe in acknowledgment and gave the order to carry arms to his own men. The head of the column halting in the village, the Confederates stacked their muskets and tattered battle-flags in the road.

It was the fourth anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter, and now in this far-off Virginia county, in a wet Virginia April, some 8,000 arms stood stacked in the mud. The total number of Confederates paroled at Appomattox was 28,231.

On the afternoon of April 12, 1865, General Lee set out for Richmond. He had not witnessed the surrender of the arms, but had remained on the field until the ordeal for his soldiers was over.

In North Carolina, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate Army was on the verge of surrender to Sherman.

On April 14, weary, seeking the respite of relaxation, Lincoln went to Ford's Theater in Washington to see "Our American Cousin." There, an assassin's bullet mortally wounded the man who had harbored malice toward none and had struggled his life long for justice for all.

In Virginia, in Powhatan County, Robert E. Lee, almost home, was spending his last night under canvas.

The Old Village

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA by act of February 8, 1845, established the county of Appomattox, created from portions of Buckingham, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Campbell Counties. "Clover Hill," the residence of Capt. John Raine, in the upper end of Prince Edward County, was chosen as the area for the new county seat. Local organization took place at John Raine's residence in May 1845. The act of the General Assembly establishing the county of Appomattox authorized creation of a township at the county seat as follows: "And be it further enacted, that not exceeding thirty acres of land, now occupied by Capt. John Raine, in the now county of Prince Edward, lying on the stage road leading from or through said county to the town of Lynchburg, at the place called and known as Clover Hill, the proposed seat of justice for the said new county, so soon as the same shall be laid off into lots, with convenient streets and alleys, with back and cross streets if necessary, shall be and the same is hereby established a town by the name of Clover Hill."

The year 1846 saw the completion of the courthouse, a square two-story brick building, set in a green bounded by the road. During the late 1840's the town began to take shape. Some of the houses, however, already existed, notably the Tavern, the home of Captain Raine. This tavern had been built in 1819 by Alexander Patteson as a stop on the stage line between Cumberland County and Lynchburg, owned by Alexander and his brother, Lilburne Patteson.

Conditions as they existed in 1940 in parts of the village of old Appomattox Court House at the time clearing work was begun by the National Park Service.



One of the houses erected after the formation of the village of Clover Hill was the Bocock House, home of Henry Flood Bocock, clerk of the court, and Thomas S. Bocock, a distinguished southern statesman, who missed being Speaker of the United States House of Representatives by only one vote and later became the Speaker of the Confederate House of Representatives.

At the time of the War between the States, the village, according to a Federal writer, consisted of about "five houses, a tavern, and a courthouse, all on one street, and that was boarded up at one end to keep the cows out," which shows how the village impressed an outsider. There were several more dwellings, however, some off the main street, and quite a number of cabins and outbuildings.

Among the structures in this obscure hamlet, one, the McLean House, was destined to be well remembered by history. Wilmer McLean moved from his farm near Manassas, where two great battles had been fought, to this quiet village to escape a war, only to find it following him into his very parlor. Charles Raine built the house in 1848. The estate of Eliza D. Raine sold the dwelling to Wilmer McLean in 1863.

Upon the termination of the conference between Lee and Grant in the McLean House, in the afternoon of April 9, 1865, Federal officers bought several pieces of McLean's furniture. Many of his possessions found their way off the premises without benefit of sale. After the war, McLean sold pictures of his house, but failed financially, and in 1869 his property at Appomattox Court House was sold at public auction by his creditors. He returned then to Manassas, but left his name forever in Appomattox.

General appearance of old Appomattox Court House in 1940 after the growth of honeysuckle vines and weeds had been cleared away at the time development work was started by the National Park Service.



In 1891, Capt. M. E. Dunlap of Niagara Falls, N. Y., bought the McLean House with a view to removing it to the Chicago World's Fair. After acquiring the house, Dunlap altered his plans and entered into a contract with a local builder to raze the house for reerection in Washington, D. C., as a war museum.

Though the building was torn down (February 1893), the plan to remove the structure to Washington did not materialize, and the brick and wood, never moved from the spot, lay on the ground, prey to souvenir hunters. A dense thicket of honeysuckle and locusts took over the site, gradually covering the piles of moldering debris.

A year before, in 1892, the courthouse had been destroyed by fire. Partly as a result of this and to take advantage of rail transportation, the county elected to reestablish the courthouse and county seat at Appomattox Station, 3 miles west, on the Norfolk & Western Railroad. From then on the old village declined. No longer the judicial and social center of the county, it became truly a "deserted village."

Over and above the great historic event which occurred there, Appomattox Court House, or Clover Hill, represents a significant development mirroring the social and economic life of the middle nineteenth century in rural Virginia. This culture, not to be confused with the pattern of great riches exemplified in portions of the Deep South, was one of quiet pattern, a "lawyer" culture, stemming directly from the early days in Virginia.

Appomattox Court House was thus typical of other Virginia villages founded to further the judicial procedures of the State and differing from the larger towns, founded for purposes of trade usually in relation to some geographical situation. In villages like Appomattox trade followed the law. Appomattox differed from eighteenth century Virginia courthouse towns, however, in that the village did not just grow around the house of law, but was laid out by official act. Even so, the seat of law was here placed on a trade route, the Richmond-Lynchburg stage road. When the chance for removal came in 1892, the station on the railroad was chosen for the county seat to take advantage of the transition to rail communication. Thus a whole period, the middle period in America's rapidly changing economic life, is reflected in the history of Appomattox Court House.

The Monument

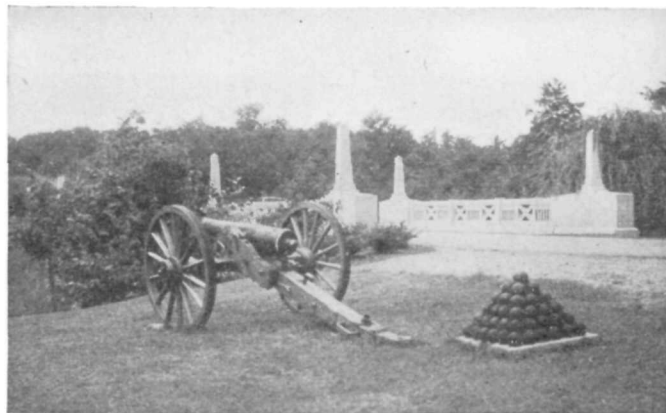
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS, August 13, 1935, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument was established April 10, 1940. Embraced in the park are the old village grounds and a large tract of adjoining land, a total of 970 acres.

Existing historic structures at the time the park was established were the Patteson-Hix Tavern, the Tavern Kitchen or Guest House, the Law Office Building, originally an outbuilding of the Tavern, the Boccock-Isbell House, the Plunkett-Meeks Store and House, and several other residences just outside the limits of the original township. The brick jail, still standing, was under construction in 1865 and was completed shortly after the termination of the war.

Points of interest on the field, some of which are identified by markers, include the sites of Lee's and Grant's headquarters, the site of the apple tree under which Lee rested while waiting for Grant's reply during the morning of April 9, the line of Chamberlain's brigade drawn up to receive the Confederate arms, April 12, 1865, and the position of the last cannon fired by the Confederate artillery on the morning of April 9. A monument and two tablets, erected by the State of North Carolina, describe the last engagement of the armies on the morning of April 9.

Other points of interest for the visitor are the State Highway Wayside and Memorial Bridge at the Appomattox River, a half mile east of the village, and the Confederate Cemetery, just west of

The wayside and the memorial bridge over the Appomattox River on State Highway 24, a short distance east of the village. The old village of Appomattox Court House is situated on the high ground seen in the middle distance.



the village where some of the last casualties of the war, 18 Confederates and 1 unknown Federal soldier, were interred. They are buried side by side on a little hill overlooking the site of the McLean House.

How to Reach the Monument

Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument is situated on Virginia State Highway 24, 90 miles west of Richmond by way of United States Highway No. 60 and State Highway 24. The park is 180 miles southwest of Washington, D. C. Two miles west of the old village, Virginia Highway 24 runs into United States Highway No. 460 at the outskirts of the present town of Appomattox. From there, west to Lynchburg, the distance is 24 miles, and east to Petersburg, 100 miles.

A visitor desiring to follow the approximate route of the Confederate retreat and Federal pursuit from Petersburg through the battlefields of Saylor's Creek leaves Petersburg by way of United States Highway No. 460 and Virginia Highway 38 to Amelia, proceeding from Amelia on United States Highway No. 360, Virginia Highway 307, and United States Highway No. 460 to Farmville. From Farmville to Appomattox, United States Highway No. 460 is the approximate route of the Federal "cutting off" column in the last phase of the pursuit.

The Norfolk & Western Railroad runs through the new town of Appomattox with connections at Lynchburg and Petersburg. Bus service to the town from Richmond to Lynchburg and points west is also available.

A winter scene of the little cemetery at Appomattox Court House in which 18 Confederate soldiers and 1 unknown Federal soldier are buried.



Service to the Public

During the period of development of the park, services to the public necessarily will be incomplete, although every effort will be made to render assistance to visitors.

Development plans for the park contemplate reconstruction of the McLean House and the Court House buildings, extensive repairs to existing historic structures and replacement of original fences and roads in the village. The village of old Appomattox Court House, restored to its appearance in April 1865, will constitute the Nation's memorial to the termination of the War between the States and the establishment of lasting internal peace in the United States.

Plans of the McLean House, prepared in 1893 when the structure was razed for removal to Washington, have been acquired by the Department of the Interior and will be used as the main basis for the reconstruction of the house. As a means of assuring the greatest possible degree of accuracy in reconstruction plans for the McLean House and other structures in the village, an archeological program, designed to uncover evidence from ground remains, has been initiated. As part of the reconstruction program, made possible by the cooperation of the Virginia Highway Commission, the present road through the village (Virginia Highway 24) will be rerouted south of the village. When this change is completed, the old road through Appomattox Court House will be restored to a dirt road of the 1860's.

Information may be obtained at the superintendent's office in the village. Literature relating to the park is available for the information of the visitor.

Special services for groups and organizations will be provided if arrangements are made in advance with the superintendent.

Administration

Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Communications relative to the park should be addressed to the Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, Appomattox, Va.

Appendix

Correspondence Between Grant and Lee, Taken from the Official Records

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF
THE UNITED STATES

April 7, 1865—5 p. m.

General R. E. LEE,

Commanding C. S. Army:

GENERAL: The results of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood, by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the C. S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,

Lieutenant-General,

Commanding Armies of the United States

* * *

7TH APL '65

GENL:

I have recd your note of this date. Though not entertaining the opinion you express of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of N. Va.—I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless effusion of blood, & therefore before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender

Very respy your obt. Servt

R. E. LEE,

Genl.

Lt. Genl. U. S. GRANT

Commnd Armies of the U. States

* * *

APRIL 8, 1865

General R. E. LEE,

Commanding C. S. Army:

GENERAL: Your note of last evening, in reply to mine of same date, asking the condition on which I will accept the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, is just received. In reply I would say that, peace being my great desire, there is but one condition I would insist upon, namely, that the men and officers surrendered shall be disqualified for taking up arms again against the Government of the United States until properly exchanged. I will meet you, or will designate officers to meet any officers you may name for the same purpose, at any point agreeable to you, for the purpose of arranging

definitely the terms upon which the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia will be received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,

Commanding Armies of the United States.

* * *

8TH APL '65

GENL

I recd at a late hour your note of today. In mine of yesterday I did not intend to propose the surrender of the Army of N. Va. but to ask the terms of your proposition. To be frank, I do not think the emergency has arisen to call for the surrender of this Army, but as the restoration of peace should be the sole object of all, I desired to know whether your proposals would lead to that and I cannot therefore meet you with a view to surrender the Army of N. Va.—but as far as your proposal may affect the C. S. forces under my command & tend to the restoration of peace, I shall be pleased to meet you at 10 A. M. tomorrow on the old stage road to Richmond between the picket lines of the two armies.

Very respy your Obt. Servt

R. E. LEE,

Genl.

* * *

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF
THE UNITED STATES

April 9, 1865.

GENERAL R. E. LEE,

Commanding C. S. Armies:

GENERAL: Your note of yesterday is received. As I have no authority to treat on the subject of peace the meeting proposed for 10 a.m. today could lead to no good. I will state, however, General, that I am equally anxious for peace with yourself, and the whole North entertain the same feeling. The terms upon which peace can be had are well understood. By the South laying down their arms they will hasten that most desirable event, save thousands of human lives, and hundreds of millions of property not yet destroyed. Sincerely hoping that all our difficulties may be settled without the loss of another life, I subscribe myself,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,

Lieutenant-General U. S. Army.

APRIL 9, 1865.

GENERAL,

I received your note of this morning on the picket-line whither I had come to meet you and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposal of yesterday with reference to the surrender of this army. I now request an interview in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday for that purpose.

Very respectfully
your obt. servt

Lt. Gen. U. S. GRANT
Comdg U. S. Armies

* * *

R. E. LEE

9TH APRIL 1865

GENERAL,

I ask a suspension of hostilities pending the adjustment of the terms of the surrender of this Army, in the interview requested in my former communication today.

Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

Lt. Gen. U. S. GRANT
Comdg. U. S. Army

* * *

R. E. LEE,
Genl.

HD QRS A N VA
9th April 1865

GENERAL, I sent a communication to you today from the picket line whither I had gone in hopes of meeting you in pursuance of the request contained in my letter of yesterday. Maj. Gen. Meade informs me that it would probably expedite matters to send a duplicate through some other part of your lines. I therefore request an interview at such time and place as you may designate, to discuss the terms of the surrender of this army in accord with your offer to have such an interview contained in your letter of yesterday.

Very respectfully
Your obt servt

Lt. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Comdr. U. S. Armies

* * *

R. E. LEE
Genl.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. S.
April 9, 1865.

General R. E. LEE,
Commanding C. S. Army:

Your note of this date is but this moment (11:50 a.m.) received. In consequence of my having passed from the Richmond and Lynchburg road to

the Farmville and Lynchburg road I am at this writing about four miles west of Walker's church, and will push forward to the front for the purpose of meeting you. Notice sent on this road where you wish the interview to take place will meet me.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,

Lieutenant-General

* * *

APPOMATTOX C. H., VA.

Apl. 9th 1865.

Gen. R. E. LEE,
Comdg. C. S. A.

GEN. In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th instant I propose to receive the surrender of the Army of N. Va. on the following terms, to wit:

Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer or officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until properly [exchanged] and each company or regimental commander sign a like parole for the men of their commands.

The arms, artillery and public property to be parked and stacked and turned over to the officer appointed by me to receive them.

This will not embrace the sidearms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done each officer and man will be allowed to return to their homes not to be disturbed by United States authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT, Lt. Gl.

* * *

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF
NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

April 9, 1865.

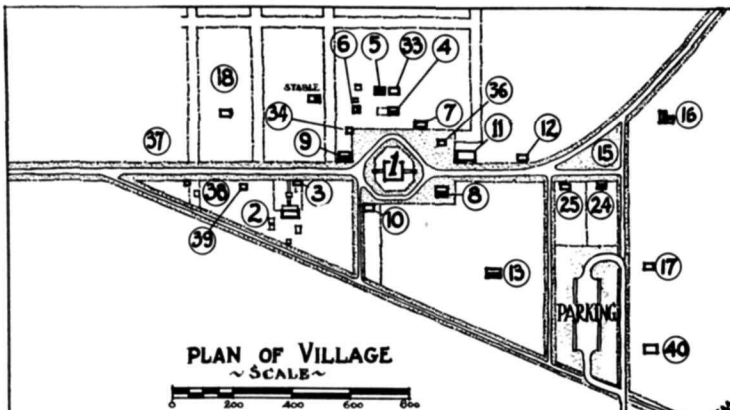
Lieut-Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States.

GENERAL: I have received your letter of this date containing the terms of surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th instant, they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

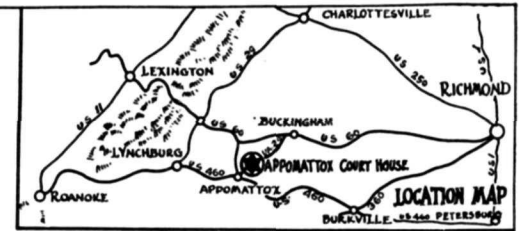
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

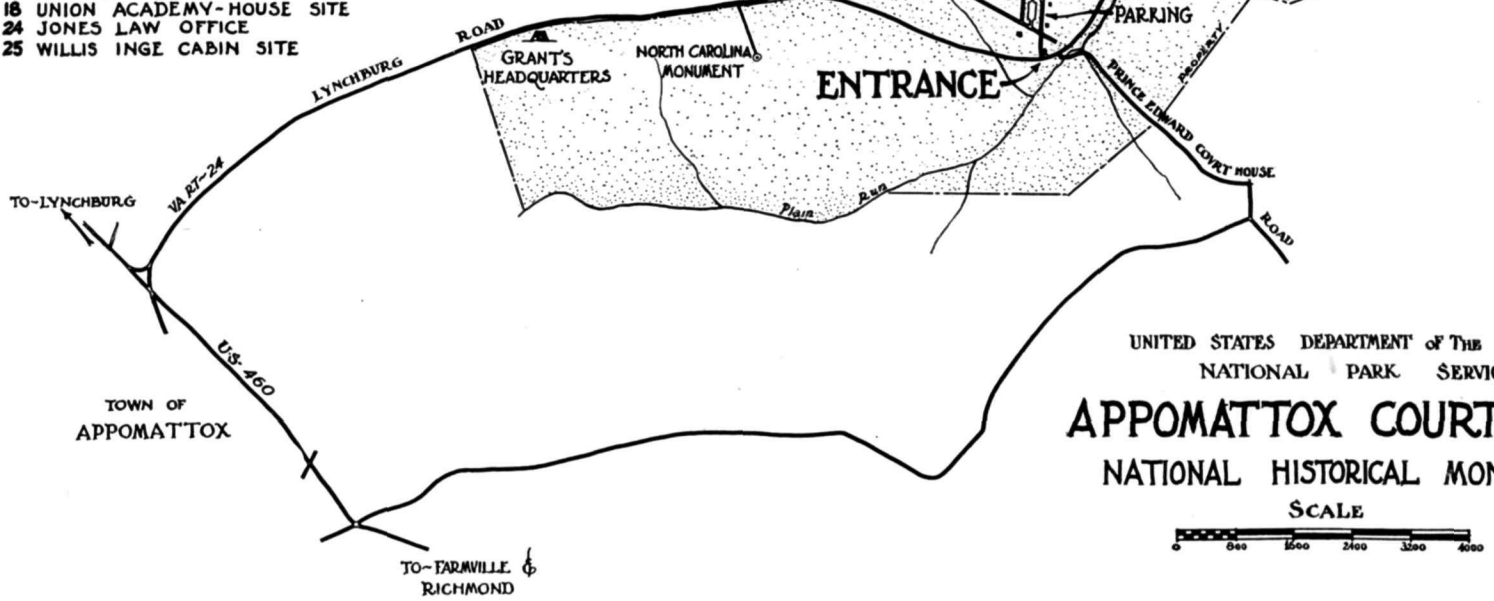
General.



- 33 TAVERN OUTBUILDING
- 34 SADDLER'S SHOP
- 36 OLD JAIL SITE
- 37 ROBERTSON-HIX SHOP SITE
- 38 NOWLIN-SEARS BLACKSMITH SHOP SITE
- 39 WOODSON'S OFFICE SITE
- 40 UNION ACADEMY SITE



- 1 COURT HOUSE SITE
- 2 McLEAN HOUSE GROUP SITE
- 3 OLD RAINE HOUSE SITE
- 4 PATTESON-HIX TAVERN & BAR
- 5 TAVERN KITCHEN & ANNEX
- 6 POORE LAW OFFICES
- 7 ROBERTSON-GLOVER STORE SITE
- 8 COUNTY JAIL
- 9 MEEKS STORE & HOUSE
- 10 WRIGHT HOUSE SITE
- 11 FERGUSON HOUSE- NON-HISTORIC
- 12 WILLIAM ROSSER SHOP SITE
- 13 BOCOCK- ISBELL HOUSE
- 14 JOHN ROSSER HOUSE
- 15 SURRENDER TRIANGLE
- 16 PEERS HOUSE
- 17 LAYNE HOUSE SITE
- 18 UNION ACADEMY-HOUSE SITE
- 24 JONES LAW OFFICE
- 25 WILLIS INGE CABIN SITE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE
 NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENT
 SCALE