



Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields

District of Columbia

Washington, DC
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Authority

The American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996, as amended by the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002), directs the Secretary of the Interior to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

Acknowledgments

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Cover: In 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed Fort Stevens. Today, it is owned and managed by the National Park Service. Photograph by Elizabeth Ries, 2009.

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Introduction

The information in this report fulfills, in part, the purposes of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016). Those purposes are:

- 1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and
- 2) to create partnerships among state and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, to update the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. The CWSAC was established by Congress in 1991 and published its report in 1993. Congress provided funding for this update in FY2005 and FY2007. Congress asked that the updated report reflect the following:

- Preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields identified by the CWSAC during the period between 1993 and the update;
- Changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and
- Any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

In accordance with the legislation, this report presents information about the one CWSAC battlefield in the District of Columbia for use by Congress, federal, state, and local government agencies, landowners, and other interest groups. Other state reports will be issued as surveys and analyses are completed.

Synopsis

In 1993, the CWSAC report identified the District of Columbia's **Fort Stevens** battlefield as a site that could offer little more than opportunity for commemoration. During the Civil War, most of the battlefield landscape was rural. Today, most of the terrain has been altered beyond recognition by urban development.

In 2005, ABPP surveyors revisited **Fort Stevens** and estimated that more than half of the battlefield landscape, or Study Area, had been lost to urbanization. In the battlefield Core Area, nearly all of the historic landscape has been destroyed. What little remains of the **Fort Stevens** battlefield is protected within the boundaries of the Rock Creek Park. The park includes several geographically discontinuous sites associated with the Fort Circle Parks (also known as the Civil War defenses of Washington). Within the battlefield Study Area, four of the Circle Fort Parks – Fort Stevens, Fort Totten, Fort DeRussy, Fort Bayard – retain integrity. Battlefield terrain at the other two sites – Fort Slocum and Fort Reno – is not intact. Apart from the Circle Fort Park sites and landscape protected by the National Park Service along the Rock Creek Valley, no other historic battlefield land has survived the growth of Washington, DC.

The National Park Service continues its research, interpretation, and preservation activities at those sites within the **Fort Stevens** battlefield in its care. However, given the current condition of the battlefield landscape as a whole, areas outside national park land offer no battlefield terrain preservation opportunities.

The CWSAC prioritized **Fort Stevens** as a Priority IV Fragmented/Destroyed battlefield in 1993. The American Battlefield Protection Program will issue updated priorities after all of the CWSAC battlefields nationwide have been surveyed and all state reports have been completed.

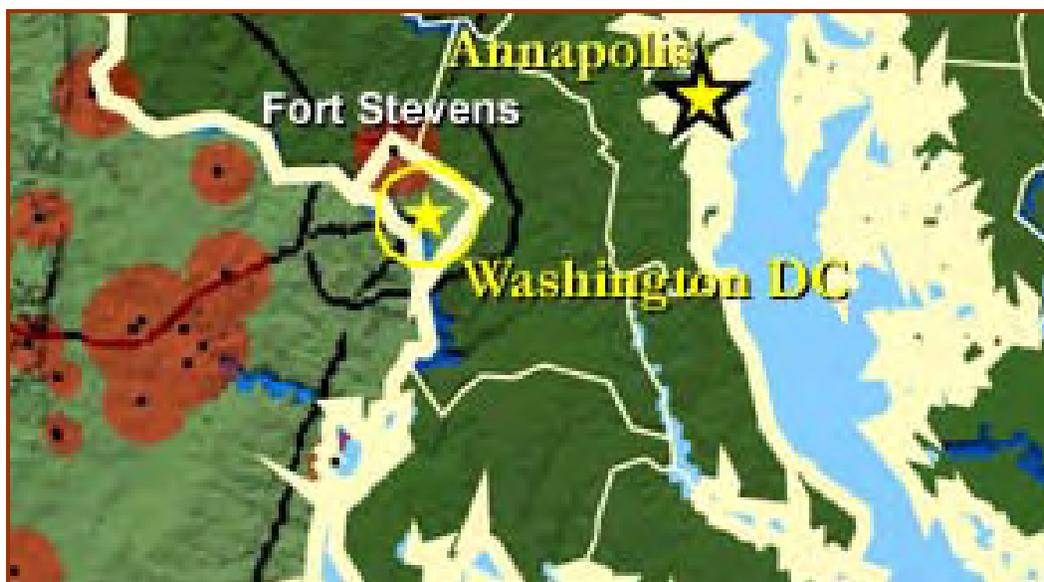


Figure 1. Fort Stevens, CWSAC Battlefield in the District of Columbia.

Method Statement

Congress instructed the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), to report on changes in the condition of the battlefields since 1993 and on “preservation activities” and “other relevant developments” carried out at each battlefield since 1993. To fulfill those assignments, the ABPP 1) conducted site surveys of each battlefield and 2) prepared and sent out questionnaires to battlefield managers and advocacy organizations (see Appendix B).

Research and Field Survey

The ABPP conducted the field assessment of the District of Columbia’s battlefield in April 2006. The survey entailed additional historical research, on-the-ground documentation and assessment of site conditions, identification of impending threats to each site, and site mapping. Surveyors used a Global Positioning System (GPS) to map historic features of the battlefield and used a Geographic Information System (GIS) to draw site boundaries. The ABPP retains all final survey materials. The battlefield survey file includes a survey form (field notes, list of defining features, list of documentary sources, and a photo log), photographs, spatial coordinates of significant features, and boundaries described on USGS topographic maps. The ABPP survey did not include archeological investigations for reasons of time and expense. However, this report does reflect the findings of a four-year archeological study completed for the National Park Service at Rock Creek Park in 2008.¹

Study Areas and Core Areas

The CWSAC identified a Study Area and a Core Area for each principal battlefield (see Figure 2). The CWSAC boundaries have proven invaluable as guides to local land and resource preservation efforts at Civil War battlefields. However, since 1993, the National Park Service has refined its battlefield survey techniques, which include research, working with site stewards, identifying and documenting lines of approach and withdrawal used by opposing forces, and applying the concepts of military terrain analysis to all battlefield landscapes. The ABPP’s *Battlefield Survey Manual* explains the field methods employed during this study.² The surveys also incorporate the concepts recommended in the National Register of Historic Places’ *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, which was published in 1992 after the CWSAC completed its original assessments of the battlefields.

Using its refined methodology, ABPP was able to validate or adjust the CWSAC’s Study Area and Core Area boundaries to reflect more accurately the full nature and original resources of these battlefields (see Table 2). At **Fort Stevens**, the refined methodology resulted in significant increases to the size of the Study Area and Core Area. However, it is important to note that the Study Area and Core Area boundaries are simply historical boundaries that describe where the battle took place; neither indicates the current integrity of the battlefield landscape, so neither can be used on its own to identify surviving portions of battlefield land that may merit protection and preservation.

¹ S. Piedad, J. Bedell, C. LeeDecker, J. Shellenhamer, E. Griffiths, “*Bold Rocky, and Picturesque*, Archeological Overview and Assessment and Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park,” (Washington, DC: The Louis Berger Group, Inc., 2008)

² American Battlefield Protection Program, “Battlefield Survey Manual,” (Washington, DC: National Park Service, revised 2007), <http://www.nps.gov/history/abpp/battlefieldsurveymanual.pdf>, October 2008.

Potential National Register Boundaries

To address the question of what part of the battlefield remains reasonably intact and warrants preservation, this study introduced a third boundary line that was not attempted by the CWSAC: the Potential National Register boundary (see Figure 2).

Looking at each Study Area, the surveyors assigned PotNR boundaries where they judged that enough battlefield land remained to convey the significance of the engagement. In a few cases, the PotNR boundary encompasses the entire Study Area. In most cases, however, the PotNR boundary includes less land than identified in the full Study Area.

In assigning PotNR boundaries, the ABPP followed National Register of Historic Places guidelines when identifying and mapping areas that retain integrity and cohesion within the Study Areas.³ However, because the ABPP focuses only on areas of battle, the ABPP did not evaluate lands adjacent to the Study Area that may contribute to a broader historical and chronological definition of “cultural landscape.” Lands outside of the Study Area associated with other historic events and cultural practices may need to be evaluated in preparation for a formal nomination of the cultural landscape.

Most importantly, the PotNR boundary **does not constitute a formal determination of eligibility by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.**⁴ The PotNR boundary is designed to be used as a planning tool for government agencies and the public. Like the Study and Core Area boundaries, the PotNR boundary places no restriction on private property use.

Figure 2: Boundary Definitions

The **Study Area** represents the historic extent of the battle as it unfolded across the landscape. The Study Area contains resources known to relate to or contribute to the battle event: where troops maneuvered and deployed, immediately before and after combat, and where they fought during combat. Historic accounts, terrain analysis, and feature identification inform the delineation of the Study Area boundary. The Study Area indicates the extent to which historic and archeological resources associated with the battle (areas of combat, command, communications, logistics, medical services, etc.) may be found and protected. Surveyors delineated Study Area boundaries for every battle site that was positively identified through research and field survey, regardless of its present integrity.

The **Core Area** represents the areas of fighting on the battlefield. Positions that delivered or received fire, and the intervening space and terrain between them, fall within the Core Area. Frequently described as “hallowed ground,” land within the Core Area is often the first to be targeted for protection. The Core Area lies within the Study Area.

Unlike the Study and Core Areas, which are based only upon the interpretation of historic events, the **Potential National Register (PotNR) boundary** represents ABPP’s assessment of a Study Area’s current integrity (the surviving landscape and features that convey the site’s historic sense of place). The PotNR boundary may include all or some of the Study Area, and all or some of the Core Area. Lands within PotNR boundaries should be considered worthy of further attention, although future evaluations may reveal more or less integrity than indicated by the ABPP surveys.

³ For general guidance about integrity issues and National Register properties, see National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, revised 1997). The survey evaluations described above do not meet the more stringent integrity standards for National Historic Landmark designation. See National Park Service, *How to Prepare National Historic Landmark Nominations* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1999), 36-37.

⁴ See 36 CFR 60.1-14 for regulations about nominating a property to the National Register and 36 CFR 63 for regulations concerning Determinations of Eligibility for inclusion in the National Register.

The term integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, is “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”⁵ While assessments of integrity are subjective, battlefields can have integrity only if they can be positively located through research and “ground-truthing,” and only if significant portions of the landscape’s historic terrain have not been substantially disturbed. Other conditions contribute to the degree of integrity a battlefield retains:

- the quantity and quality of surviving battle-period resources (e.g., buildings, roads, fence lines, military structures, and archeological features);
- the quantity and quality of the spatial relationships between and among those resources and the intervening terrain that connects them;
- the extent to which current battlefield land use is similar to battle-period land use; and
- the extent to which a battlefield’s physical features and overall character visually communicate an authentic sense of the sweep and setting of the battle.

Natural changes in vegetation—woods growing out of historic farm fields, for example—do not necessarily diminish the landscape’s integrity. Significant changes in land use since the Civil War do affect integrity; the degree to which post-war development has altered and fragmented the historic landscape and destroyed historic features is critical when assessing integrity. Still, some post-battle development is expected; slight or moderate change within the battlefield may not substantially diminish a battlefield’s integrity. Often these post-battle “non-contributing” elements are included in the PotNR boundary in accordance with National Register of Historic Places guidelines.

The Potential National Register boundaries therefore indicate which battlefields are likely eligible for future listing in the National Register of Historic Places and likely deserving of future preservation efforts. If a surveyor determined that a battlefield was entirely compromised by land use incompatible with the preservation of historic features (i.e., it has little or no integrity), it did not receive a PotNR boundary. In cases where a battlefield was already listed in the National Register, surveyors reassessed the existing documentation based on current scholarship and resource integrity, and, when appropriate, provided new information and proposed new boundaries as part of the surveys. As a result, some PotNR boundaries will contain lands already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In other cases, PotNR boundaries will exclude listed lands that have lost integrity.⁶

The data from which all three boundaries are drawn do not necessarily reflect the full research needed for a formal National Register nomination. Potential National Register boundaries are based on an assessment of aboveground historic features associated with the cultural and natural landscape. ABPP surveys did not include a professional

⁵ National Park Service, *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America’s Historic Battlefields*, 1992 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), 10. Archeological integrity was not examined during this study, but should be considered in future battlefield studies and formal nominations to the National Register.

⁶ The ABPP’s survey and PotNR assessment of the **Fort Stevens** battlefield do not constitute formal action on behalf of the office of the National Register of Historic Places. The PotNR assessment is re intended for planning purposes only; it does not carry the authority to add, change, or remove an official listing.

archeological inventory or assessment of subsurface features or indications. This report does reflect the findings of four-year archeological study completed for the National Park Service at Rock Creek Park in 2008. However, future archeological testing could help further determine whether additional subsurface features remain, whether these subsurface battle features convey important information about a battle or historic property, and whether that information may help to confirm, refine, or refute the boundaries previously determined by historic studies and terrain analysis.

The ABPP survey information should be reassessed during future compliance processes such as the Section 106 process required by the National Historic Preservation Act⁷ and Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act.⁸ Likewise, more detailed research and assessments should take place when any battlefield is formally nominated to the National Register or proposed for designation as a National Historic Landmark. New research and intensive-level surveys of these sites will enlighten future preservation and compliance work. Agencies should continue to consult local and state experts for up-to-date information about these battlefields.

Isolated sites within the **Fort Stevens** battlefield are included on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the “Civil War Fort Sites” (1974) and “Civil War Fort Sites Boundary Increase” (1978) listings. Together, the sites of Fort Stevens, Fort Totten, Fort DeRussy and Fort Bayard constitute approximately 26.00 acres of the “Civil War Fort Sites” listing.⁹ The ABPP assigned a PotNR boundary to the **Fort Stevens** battlefield that includes the previously listed fort sites and, based on the findings of Rock Creek Park’s four-year archeological study, includes protected lands within Rock Creek Valley.

Questionnaire

While the ABPP maintains data about its own program activities at Civil War battlefields, most preservation work occurs at the local level. Therefore, to carry out the Congressional directive for information about activities at the battlefields, the ABPP sought input from local battlefield managers and advocacy organizations. The ABPP distributed questionnaires designed to gather information about the types of preservation activities that have taken place at the battlefields since 1993. The Questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix B.

Responses were provided by representatives from the National Park Service administrative unit of Rock Creek Park, which manages park areas within the **Fort Stevens** battlefield Study Area boundaries. Input from this source, combined with the survey findings, allowed the ABPP to create a profile of conditions and activities at the battlefield.

⁷ 16 USC 470f.

⁸ 42 USC 4331-4332.

⁹ Although the boundaries of this NRHP listing include 19 fort sites, collectively known as the “Fort Circle Parks” or “Civil War Defenses of Washington,” only four of the listed sites lie within the Fort Stevens battlefield Study Area.

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Figure 3. Fort Totten earthworks, damaged by erosion and insensitive recreational uses. Photograph by Lisa Ruppel, 2004.

Summary of Conditions of the District of Columbia’s Civil War Battlefield

Quantified Land Areas

Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), the ABPP calculated the amount of land historically associated with the battle (Study Area), the amount of land where forces were engaged (Core Area), and the amount of land that may retain enough integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that remains to be protected (Potential National Register boundary).

As Table 1 illustrates, the Study Area and Core Area of **Fort Stevens** have been revised. In particular, the original CWSAC surveys did not consistently include routes of approach and withdrawal or secondary actions that influenced the course or outcome of the battle. The revised boundaries take these movements and actions into account. In some instances, new or additional research has sharpened our understanding of battle events. Therefore, the ABPP determined that additional lands belonged appropriately in the Study and Core Areas because they lend additional understanding to the battle story. Please see the individual battlefield profile at the end of this report for more information about the extent of and reasons for any revisions to the CWSAC Study Area and Core Area boundaries.

Battlefield	Boundary Type	Established/Revised*	Acres
Fort Stevens (DC001)	Study Area	2009	9,103.32
	Core Area	2009	2,765.73
	PotNR	2009	1,166.01
*If the CWSAC's 1993 Study and Core Area boundaries were confirmed during this update, they remain listed as established in 1993. If the ABPP adjusted the boundaries based on research or refined survey methods, the year in which the revision was made is given.			

Condition Assessment

Using ABPP field survey data and research findings from the archeological study completed for the National Park Service at Rock Creek Park in 2008,¹⁰ the ABPP assessed the overall condition of the battlefield *Study Area*. At **Fort Stevens**, most of the aboveground landscape and terrain features have been altered beyond recognition over the past 150 years. During the 1860s, this area was rural. Today, more than half of the aboveground battlefield features in the Study Area have been lost to urbanization. In the battlefield Core Area, nearly all of the historic landscape is gone. In areas of development, the battlefield terrain’s integrity has been destroyed by the District of Columbia’s residential, commercial, and transportation infrastructure.

Terrain features protected within Rock Creek Park are the only aboveground portions of the **Fort Stevens** battlefield to retain any historic integrity, and some of these areas are

¹⁰ John Bedell, Eric Griffiths, Charles LeeDecker, Stuart Piedel, and Jason Shellenhamer, “*Bold Rocky, and Picturesque*, Archeological Overview and Assessment and Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park,” (Washington, DC: The Louis Berger Group, Inc., 2008).

compromised as well. The forts at Fort Reno and Fort Slocum are entirely lost, while the landscape of Fort Bayard, although still used as a recreational park, retains limited, identifiable terrain features to associate it with the battle. The outline of this fort only protrudes a few inches above grade.

Topographical features that informed the military siting decisions at forts Reno, Bayard, Slocum, Totten, and DeRussy are still identifiable. These forts sit on the high ground, and, at some locations, still offer a limited view of the surrounding area. However, views from each of these sites are impeded by adjacent buildings, trees, and radio towers.

Of the six forts within the **Fort Stevens** battlefield Study Area, Fort DeRussy is in the best state of preservation. In the early 1920s, this site, along with Fort Totten, was re-vegetated to prevent earthworks erosion. Since 2000, new earthwork management guidelines have been adopted in response to overgrowth of vegetation. Today, the outline of the parapet, which consists of high earthen mounds with embrasures, and the deep ditch (dry moat) around the parapet wall, remain distinct. There is visible evidence of the location of powder magazines inside the fort. Beyond the dry moat, well-defined rifle trenches extend in each direction.

In 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed portions of Fort Stevens using policies and materials that were best practice at the time. Today, the National Park Service plans to restore the reconstruction. Its concrete materials are deteriorating, threatening to damage what original earthen features remain beneath.

At Fort Totten, the integrity of authentic earthworks is threatened by neighborhood residents who use the “obstacles” for dirt bike and motorbike stunts. Erosion of the earthworks is clearly visible where bikers wear new paths and use existing paths on and inside of the fort. Dense vegetation has overgrown the historic earthworks, making them susceptible to damage from falling trees. Given these conditions, efforts to stabilize Fort Totten are planned. The National Park Service is monitoring vegetation growth in order to identify immediate hazards and remove them.

Within the Rock Creek Valley portion of the NPS’ Rock Creek Park administration area, terrain features used by Confederates to mask their approach on the left flank of Fort Stevens are still present. According to the previously cited four-year archeological study undertaken in Rock Creek Park, artifacts dating to the Battle of Fort Stevens have also been found in Rock Creek Valley north of Fort DeRussy.¹¹ Together, these terrain features and archeological findings help characterize Rock Creek Valley as the largest, most intact portion of **Fort Stevens** battlefield.

¹¹ Ibid., 220.

Table 2. Condition Summary

Condition	Battlefield
Land use is little changed (0)	NA
Portions of landscape have been altered, but most essential features remain (0)	NA
Much of the landscape has been altered and fragmented, leaving some essential features (0)	Fort Stevens
Landscape and terrain have been altered beyond recognition (0)	NA
Battlefields that were not assessed (0)	NA

Registration

The nation’s official method for recognizing historic properties worthy of preservation is listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Registered battlefields meet national standards for documentation, physical integrity, and demonstrable significance to the history of our nation. Federal, state, and local agencies use information from the National Register as a planning tool to identify and make decisions about cultural resources. Federal and state laws, most notably Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, require agencies to account for the effects their projects (roads, wetland permits, quarrying, cell towers, etc.) may have on listed and eligible historic properties, such as battlefields. Listing allows project designers to quickly identify the battlefield and avoid or minimize impacts to the landscape.

Properties listed in the National Register are also eligible for numerous federal and state historic preservation grant programs. Recognition as a registered battlefield may also advance public understanding of and appreciation for the battlefield, and may encourage advocacy for its preservation.¹²

As mentioned previously, small geographically discontinuous portions of the **Fort Stevens** battlefield were included in the NRHP in 1974 and 1978. These listed sites encompass only 26.28 acres of the battlefield’s total area. Given the nearly complete urbanization of the historic landscape, ABPP did not identify additional lands beyond Rock Creek Park as having eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP. However, within Rock Creek Park, ABPP recognizes a potential for expanding the existing National Register boundary associated with this battlefield to include portions of Rock Creek Valley. Rock Creek Park’s four-year archeological study found “a rather thin scatter of bullets and shell fragments across a

¹² There are three levels of federal recognition for historic properties – Congressional designations, such as national park units, National Historic Landmarks, and listings in the National Register of Historic Places. Congress creates national park units. The Secretary of the Interior designates National Historic Landmarks (NHL) – nationally significant historic sites – for their exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The National Park Service, in partnership with states, lists cultural sites significant at the national, state, or local level and worthy of preservation on the NRHP. National park units and NHLs are also treated as listed in the National Register.

wide swath of the park.”¹³ Management recommendations highlighted within the 2008 report conclude that the battlefield could include most of the park from Fort DeRussy northward, and suggest further work could allow delineation of firing lines, troop movements, key terrain, and other significant battlefield features.

Stewardship

While the majority of **Fort Stevens** battlefield terrain features have been lost to urban development, the NPS does own and manage more than 3.00 acres at Fort Stevens (reconstruction), more than 12.00 acres at Fort Totten, more than 6.00 acres at Fort DeRussy, and more than 4.00 acres at Fort Bayard. These areas of intact battlefield land, totaling more than 26.00 acres, are administered as portions of Rock Creek Park. In 2004, the NPS developed the “Fort Circle Parks Final Management Plan” to help guide stewardship of all 19 Civil War Defenses of Washington sites, including the four surviving forts located within the **Fort Stevens** Study Area.

In addition to these four Fort Circle Parks, the NPS administers a 1,166.01-acre swath of battlefield landscape in the Rock Creek Valley portion of Rock Creek Park. Stewardship of this area includes engagement in the four-year archeological study cited within this report. Future activities could include additional archeological investigation and interpretation of this area as a battlefield landscape.

Given the ABPP’s determination that there is no additional intact battlefield landscape within the **Fort Stevens** Study Area to protect and preserve, opportunity for new stewardship seems limited to commemoration in areas outside of NPS-owned land.

Public Access and Interpretation

In its questionnaire, the ABPP asked battlefield stewards about the types of public access and interpretation available at the battlefield. The ABPP did not collect information about the purpose or intent of the interpretation and access, such as whether a wayside exhibit was developed for purely educational reasons, to promote heritage tourism, or boost local economic development.

The ABPP asked respondents to indicate the type of interpretation available at or about the battlefield. The categories included brochures, driving tours, living history demonstrations, maintained historic features or areas, walking tours and trails, wayside exhibits, websites, and other specialized programs. The results indicate that the surviving Circle Forts within Rock Creek Park – Fort Stevens, Fort Totten, Fort DeRussy, and Fort Bayard – currently do provide public interpretation and educational opportunities.

While there is no visitor center associated with the **Fort Stevens** battlefield, tours of the fort reconstruction – including concrete parapet walls, magazine, dry moat, and mounted cannon replicas – have been conducted by NPS park rangers since 1981. A podcast was also developed for the site in 2007 and wayside signage was replaced in 2009.

The parks at Fort Totten and Fort DeRussy offer wooded walking trails. New interpretive signage was installed at these sites in June 2009. The Fort Bayard park is currently used as

¹³ Bedell, et al., “*Bold Rocky, and Picturesque*”, 229.
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an athletic recreation area with fields for softball and soccer, but one interpretive sign communicates the site's history.

Battleground National Cemetery, which is located within the battlefield Study Area and administered as part of Rock Creek Park, was established after the battle of **Fort Stevens** to commemorate the location where Union soldiers were buried when fighting concluded. Interpretive signs at the cemetery highlight the events and aftermath of the battle.¹⁴

In addition to NPS interpretation efforts, a "Fort Stevens Day" event has been held since 1989 by the local residents to commemorate the battle's impact on the development of their neighborhood. As an extension of this activity, the Brightwood community and Cultural Tourism DC organization developed interpretive signage for the "Battleground to Community: Brightwood Heritage Trail," which incorporates the history of the battle of **Fort Stevens**.

Local Advocacy

Nonprofit organizations play important roles in protecting historic battlefields. These groups step in to preserve historic sites when public funding and management for historic preservation are absent. When public funding is available, nonprofits serve as vital partners in public-private preservation efforts, acting as conduits for public funds, raising critical private matching funds, keeping history and preservation in the public eye, and working with landowners to find ways to protect battlefield parcels. While the **Fort Stevens** battlefield does not have an organization dedicated *solely* to its protection, interpretation, and promotion, a nonprofit organization known as the Fort Circle Parks Alliance has emerged to support public education and preservation advocacy for surviving sites associated with the Civil War defenses of Washington.

¹⁴ National Register of Historic Places, "Battleground National Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form," (Washington, DC: National Park Service), <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/66000032.pdf>, September 2009.

Individual Battlefield Profile

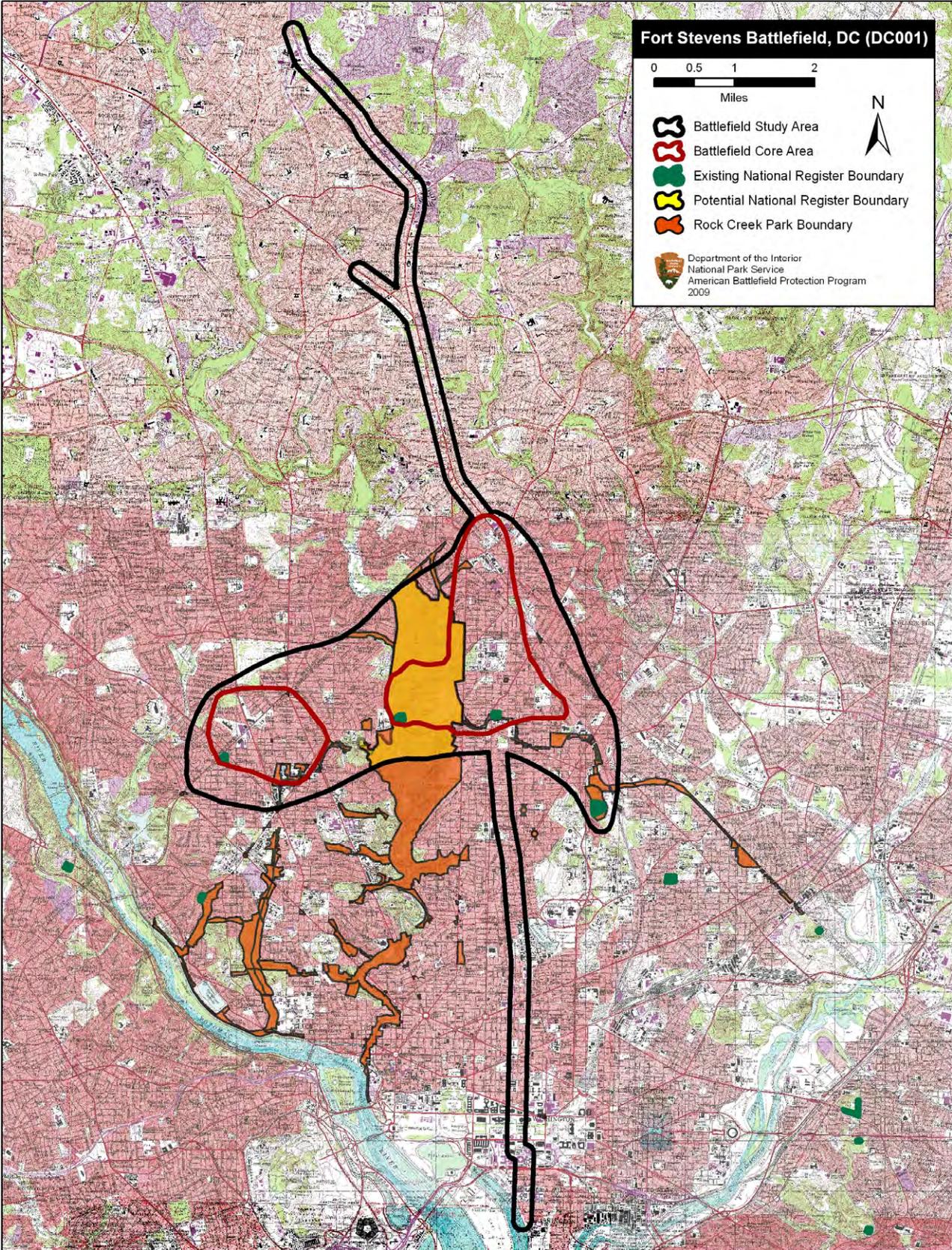
Battlefield Profile Glossary

Location	County or city in which the battlefield is located.
Campaign	Name of military campaign of which the battle was part. Campaign names are taken from <i>The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies</i> .
Battle Date(s)	Day or days upon which the battle took place, as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.
Principal Commanders	Ranking commanders of opposing forces during the battle.
Forces Engaged	Name or description of largest units engaged during the battle.
Results	Indicates battle victor or inconclusive outcome.
Study Area	Acres within the Study Area (see Table 1), as determined by the ABPP, that represent the historic extent of the battle upon the landscape.
Potential National Register Lands	Acres of land that retain historic character and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (see Table 1).
Protected Lands	Estimated acres (based on questionnaires and GIS) of battlefield land set aside or placed under permanent easement since the Civil War for the purposes of maintaining the historic character of the landscape and for preventing future impairment or destruction of the landscape and historic features.
Publicly Accessible Lands	Estimated acres (based on responses to questionnaires) maintained for public visitation.
Management Area	Name of historic site, park, or other area maintained for resource protection and/or public visitation.
Friends Group(s)	Name of local advocacy organization(s) that support preservation activities at/for the battlefield.
Preservation Activities Since 1993	Indicates which types of preservation activities have taken place at the battlefield since 1993 (based on responses to questionnaires).
Public Interpretation Since 1993	Indicates which types of interpretation/educational activities have taken place at the battlefield since 1993 (based on responses to questionnaires).
Condition Statement	The ABPP's assessment of the overall condition of the battlefield's Study Area (based on field surveys and responses to questionnaires).
Historical Designation	Notes the most prestigious historical designation the battlefield has received (i.e. national park unit, National Historic Landmark, or National Register of Historic Places).

Fort Stevens (DC001)

Location	District of Columbia
Campaign	Early's Raid and Operations against the B&O Railroad (1864)
Battle Date(s)	July 11-12, 1864
Principal Commanders	Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright and Maj. Gen. Alexander M. McCook [US]; Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early [CS]
Forces Engaged	The District of Columbia Legion, 400 [US]; Morgan's Cavalry Division, 1,800 [CS]
Results	Union victory
Study Area	9,103.32 acres The revised Study Area includes the Confederate avenue of approach from the north towards the City of Washington's outlying fortifications. It also includes the route Union forces marched from the 6 th Street docks on the Potomac River through the streets of Washington to bolster the defenses at Fort Stevens and Fort DeRussy where the primary action occurred.
Potential National Register Lands	1,166.01 acres
Protected Lands	1,424.11 acres National Park Service, fee simple
Publicly Accessible Lands	1,424.11 acres Rock Creek Park, National Park Service
Management Area(s)	Rock Creek Park
Friends Group(s)	None
Preservation Activities Since 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advocacy ✓ Cultural Resource Surveys and Inventories ✓ Fundraising ✓ Interpretation Projects ✓ Land or Development Rights Purchased ✓ Legislation ✓ Planning Projects ✓ Research and Documentation
Public Interpretation Since 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Brochure(s) ✓ Driving Tour ✓ Living History ✓ Maintained Historic Features/Areas ✓ Visitor Center ✓ Walking Tour/Trails ✓ Wayside Exhibits/Signs ✓ Website http://www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/fort-stevens.htm

Condition Statement	Only those portions of the battlefield owned by the NPS retain integrity. All other areas have been altered beyond recognition since the period of significance due to intense growth of the surrounding metropolitan area.
Historical Designation	National Register of Historic Places (1974 and 1978)



Appendices

Appendix A. Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002

Public Law 107-359, 111 Stat. 3016, 17 December 2002

Amends the American Battlefield Protection Program Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k)

An Act

To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.--Congress finds the following

(1) Civil War battlefields provide a means for the people of the United States to understand a tragic period in the history of the United States.

(2) According to the Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993, of the 384 principal Civil War battlefields--

(A) almost 20 percent are lost or fragmented;

(B) 17 percent are in poor condition; and

(C) 60 percent have been lost or are in imminent danger of being fragmented by development and lost as coherent historic sites.

(b) Purposes.--The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and

(2) to create partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

SEC. 3. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended--

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as paragraph (3) of subsection (c), and indenting appropriately;

(2) in paragraph (3) of subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))--

(A) by striking "Appropriations" and inserting

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``appropriations''; and
(B) by striking ``section'' and inserting
``subsection'';

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following

``(d) Battlefield Acquisition Grant Program.--

``(1) Definitions.--In this subsection

``(A) Battlefield report.--The term `Battlefield Report' means the document entitled `Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993.

``(B) Eligible entity.--The term `eligible entity' means a State or local government.

``(C) Eligible site.--The term `eligible site' means a site--

``(i) that is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

``(ii) that is identified in the Battlefield Report.

``(D) Secretary.--The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

``(2) Establishment.--The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

``(3) Nonprofit partners.--An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

``(4) Non-federal share.--The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

``(5) Limitation on land use.--An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-8(f)(3)).

``(6) Reports.--

``(A) In general.--Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.

``(B) Update of battlefield report.--Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Report to reflect--

``(i) preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields during the period between publication of the Battlefield Report and the update;

``(ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and

``(iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

“(7) Authorization of appropriations.--

“(A) In general.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

“(B) Update of battlefield report.--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), \$500,000.”; and

(4) in subsection (e)--

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “as of” and all that follows through the period and inserting “on September 30, 2008.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and provide battlefield acquisition grants” after “studies”.

-end-

Appendix B. Battlefield Questionnaire

State
Battlefield

Person Completing Form
Date of completion

I. Protected Lands of the Battlefield (“Protected lands” are these “owned” for historic preservation or conservation purposes. Please provide information on land protected since 1993.)

1) Identify protected lands by parcel since 1993. Then answer these questions about each parcel, following example in the chart below. What is the acreage of each parcel? Is parcel owned fee simple, by whom? Is there is an easement, if so name easement holder? Was the land purchased or the easement conveyed after 1993? What was cost of purchase or easement? What was source of funding and the amount that source contributed? Choose from these possible sources: Coin money, LWCF, Farm Bill, State Government, Local Government, Private Owner, Private Non-Profit (provide name), or Other (describe).

Parcel	Acres	Owner	Easement	Year	Cost	Source
Joe Smith Farm	194	Private	SHPO	1995	\$500,000	LWCF/\$250,000 Private/\$250,000
Sue Jones Tract	16	Battlefield Friends, Inc.	No	2002	\$41,000	State/\$20,000 BFI/\$21,000

2) Other public or non-profit lands within the battlefield? (Y/N)

- If yes, describe
- Name of public or non-profit owner or easement holder
- Number of Acres owned/held

3) Is the information in a GIS? (Y/N)

If yes, may NPS obtain a copy of the data? (Y/N)

II. Preservation Groups

1) Is there a formal interested entity (friends group, etc) associated with the battlefield? (Y/N)

If yes

Name
Address
Phone
Fax
E-mail
Web site? (Y/N)

If yes, what is the URL?

Does the web site have a preservation message? (Y/N)

What year did the group form?

III. Public Access and Interpretation

1) Does the site have designated Public Access? (Y/N) (Count public roads if there are designated interpretive signs or pull-offs)

If yes, what entity provides the public access (Access may occur on lands owned *in fee* or *under easement* to the above entities)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Federal government | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Nonprofit organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | State government | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Local government | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Name of entity (if applicable)

Number of Acres Accessible to the Public (size of the area in which the public may physically visit without trespassing. Do not include viewsheds.)

2) Does the site have interpretation? (Y/N)

If yes, what type of interpretation is available?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visitor Center | <input type="checkbox"/> | Audio tour tapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Brochure(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintained historic features/areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wayside exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> | Living History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Driving Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> | Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Walking Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

IV. Registration

Applies only to the battlefield landscape, not to individual contributing features of a battlefield (i.e., the individually listed Dunker Church property of .2 acres does not represent the Antietam *battlefield* for the purposes of this exercise)

1) Is the site a designated National Historic Landmark? (Y/N)

If yes, NHL and ID Number

2) Is the site listed in the National Register? (Y/N)

If yes, NRHP Name and ID Number

- 3) Is the site listed in the State Register? (Y/N)
If yes, State Register Name and ID Number
- 4) Is the site in the State Inventory? (Y/N)
If yes, State Inventory Name and ID Number
- 5) Is the site designated as a local landmark or historic site? (Y/N)
Type of Designation/Listing

V. Program Activities

What types of preservation program activities have occurred at the battlefield? Provide final product name and date if applicable (e.g., *Phase I Archeological Survey Report on the Piper Farm, 1994* and *Antietam Preservation Plan, 2001*, etc.)

- 1) Research and Documentation
- 2) Cultural Resource surveys and inventories (building/structure and landscape inventories, archeological surveys, landscape surveys, etc.)
- 3) Planning Projects (preservation plans, site management plans, cultural landscape reports, etc.)
- 4) Interpretation Projects (also includes education)
- 5) Advocacy (any project meant to engage the public in a way that would benefit the preservation of the site, e.g. PR, lobbying, public outreach, petitioning for action, etc.)
- 6) Legislation (any local, state, or federal legislation designed to encourage preservation of the battlefield individually or together with other similar sites)
- 7) Fundraising
 - a. To support program activities?
 - b. To support land acquisition/easements?
- 8) Other

Appendix C. Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (PL 107-359) amended the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 USC 469k) to authorize a matching grant program to assist States and local communities in acquiring significant Civil War battlefield lands for permanent protection. Most recently, Congress showed its continued support for these grants through its reauthorization of this program within the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11).

Eligible battlefields are those listed in the 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields prepared by the Congressionally-chartered Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC). Eligible acquisition projects may be for fee interest in land or for a protective interest such as a perpetual easement.

Since 1998, Congress has appropriated a total of \$38.9 million for this Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (CWBLAG). These grants have assisted in the permanent protection of more than 15,742 acres at 61 Civil War battlefields in 14 states. To date, no CWBLAG grants have been awarded in the District of Columbia. Given ABPP's determination that only NPS-owned portions of the **Fort Stevens** Study Area retain enough integrity to warrant assignment of a PotNR boundary, funding for land acquisition in the District of Columbia through this program will be unlikely unless additional archeological investigation indicates the presence of significant, intact battlefield resources in additional areas.

Appendix D. American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants

Since 1992, ABPP has offered annual planning grants to nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments to help protect battlefields located on American soil. Applicants are encouraged to work with partner organizations and federal, State and local government agencies as early as possible to integrate their efforts into a larger battle site protection strategy.

While ABPP has not yet awarded funding to projects associated with the District of Columbia's Civil War battlefield, the program has granted nearly \$9.5 million to 379 projects throughout the country. Projects associated with portions of the **Fort Stevens** battlefield Study Area that are not owned by the National Park Service are eligible to receive funding from this program.