
Holding the High Ground: A National Park Service Plan for the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War



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Background

The Civil War, Memory, and the National Park Service

Despite the wide visibility of and interest in the Civil War among Americans, the National Park Service has not sufficiently used its sites to convey the true significance and breadth of America's Civil War experience. Nor has the NPS demonstrated the relevance of Civil War resources to educate all Americans, of this and every generation. This unfortunate reality has its roots in both history and tradition.

In the aftermath of national trauma, we as a Nation (consciously or unconsciously) have assigned the rights of memory to a few select groups. In the aftermath of the Civil War, we accorded these rights to the veterans on both sides of the conflict. They, in turn, fostered a swift but incomplete reconciliation—one that pasted over but did not extinguish lingering bitterness, one that was based on selective memory, and forged, in part, at the expense of liberty for free blacks and newly freed slaves.

Most of the legislation for America's battlefield parks is a legacy of the commemorative and reconciliatory efforts of veterans—conceived in a period where a visitor's understanding of context was assumed, when the ownership of the war's memory, legacy, and meaning was unchallenged. Though the veterans are now gone, their descendants (and the National Park Service) have faithfully carried on the veterans' traditions. We, as a Nation, still use our battlefields to define the Nation's Civil War experience in largely military terms—through the eyes of the participants of battle. We emphasize military outcomes, with little discussion of the relationship of those military events to social, economic, and political evolution of the Nation.

As a result, large segments of the population fail to see the war's relevance. The NPS has failed to find ways to engage large segments of Americans in ways that demonstrate how the war is relevant to them. They fail to see the many human experiences and perspectives that comprised the war: the trials of civilians, the triumph of newly freed slaves, the prodigious efforts of women in the North and South, and the presence or absence of political and managerial leadership at every level of government. Thus, the public is far more knowledgeable about the experience of soldiers and the detail of battles than the significance of those battles to the war or the development of this Nation. This single-minded focus on battlefield sites and military aspects of the Civil War understates the conflict's significance and relevance.

The Nation's memory of the Civil War has evolved through overlapping stages. In each, the Nation has focused its memorial and educational efforts on battlefields.

- ◆ *Era of mourning.* Characterized by memorial efforts by soldiers or their families and the re-interment of the dead. This was an era dominated by personal experience and presumed understanding.

- ◆ *Decades of reconciliation.* Dominated by the use of battlefields and shared history to forge a reconciliation between the sections. The Nation placed a strong emphasis on honor and commemoration, as well as the practical use of the battlefields for professional military study. The first National Military Parks were created during this period.
- ◆ *Patriotic era.* This period saw the proliferation of Civil War Battlefields as National Parks—an era when battlefields transformed from raw land to places of public benefit and enjoyment (with growing expectations of both). This was a time when the value of the battlefields was unchallenged and their inherent value was presumed by all. The Civil War was used as a mechanism to foster patriotism.
- ◆ *The modern era.* The traditional keepers of the memory of the Civil War have been challenged, with resultant debates over wartime symbols, causation, results, and legacy.

Today, we face an era where new research and new approaches to military history have shed new light not just on the Civil War, but on the sites that comprise the National Park System. The monolithic interpretation of the war typical of the Reconciliatory and Patriotic eras—as purely a noble adventure, undertaken by noble men on both sides for noble ends with noble results for all—ignores the undeniable fact that the war was a struggle between competing visions for a Nation. It ignores the undeniable fact that the war was experienced differently by different people—depending on race, gender, geography, socioeconomic status, and cultural background. Today, all of these factors continue to shape how Americans view their war, and the war continues to mean different things to different people. That this is so adds vivid texture to the examination and interpretation to one of the seminal events in the history of human and civil rights.

Historical scholarship has evolved as well, challenging many of the assumptions we have held in the past about this era. The scholars themselves often disagree on their interpretations of the Civil War period, but it is important for parks to recognize and tell our visitors that history is a subject of continual debate, rather than a set of fixed facts.

The Opportunity

The approaching Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War offers the current generation its most important opportunity to know, discuss, and commemorate America's greatest national crisis while at the same time exploring its enduring relevance to America at the beginning of the 21st Century.

The “mystic chords of memory” so often associated with the Civil War in fact go well beyond being either simply mystical or memorial. The wartime struggle over the existence of the Union has transformed into an omnipresent search for a more perfect Union. The issues that stood at the heart of crisis 150 years ago remain current and relevant.

They serve as a point of departure for the ongoing quest for legal and social equality for all Americans, the still-vigorous debate over the appropriate reach of the Federal government, and the never-ending effort to reconcile differing cultural values held under a single national flag. The struggle to define America continues, and all paths to understanding that struggle invariably pass through the cauldron of America's Civil War.

Understanding America's greatest trial is critical to the health of this republic. The cost of reunion, freedom, equality, self-determination and other values can be measured in the lost lives, fortunes, homes, and communities in both the North and the South. The value of those sacrifices and losses can be measured by how those who followed have exercised the freedoms gained and the lessons learned. The cost of the war and the value of its lessons intertwine to create a cornerstone of our national identity. The National Park System embodies many of the sites that constitute that cornerstone.

The Challenges

The challenge that faces the National Park Service today is huge: to convey the significance and relevance of the Civil War in all its aspects while at the same time sustaining the Service's invaluable tradition of resource-based interpretation (a concept that is at the very foundation of the National Park Service's mission). Clearly, the physical manifestations of that history are also the most vivid teaching tools. In fact, the sites of the National Park System--from battlefields to antebellum homes to Northern factories to public buildings to the homes of the renowned--offer an unmatched venue for modern Americans to understand, contemplate, and debate what Robert Penn Warren called "the great single event of our history." The value of NPS sites is both individual and cumulative--each individually embodying drama, pathos, or brilliance while collectively reflecting a struggle that permeated every aspect of American society.

Exacerbating this challenge is the current state of the parks, their facilities, staffing, and the services they are able to offer. Many of the very battlefields themselves are at risk as development irreparably damages critical lands both within and outside of park legislated boundaries. In particular, traditional agricultural land uses — which less than a generation ago were taken for granted by civil war related parks as timeless and immutable—are being rapidly destabilized and displaced.

In addition, much of the interpretive media of the parks is outdated, both in terms of technology and message, with some interpretive media being almost fifty years old. Interpretive staffing numbers have been allowed to decline and historical skills no longer seem to be highly valued as generalist interpreters have replaced trained historians. At the same time, visitors arrive at the parks with less and less background in American History in general. Some would be challenged to place the Civil War in its proper timeframe.

This plan urges a broader approach to interpreting the Civil War—it seeks to have parks challenge people with ideas, challenge them to not just understand the nature and

horrid expanse of the bloodshed, but the reasons for it, and the consequences of its aftermath. This plan also recognizes that NPS sites relating to the Civil War are not exclusively battle sites. Rather, battles had implications far beyond the battlefields. Men (and even a few women) didn't just fight; they fought for reasons—some of them personal, some of them political. The women and families the soldiers left behind fought their personal battles as well. Nearly all faced new, and in many cases devastating hardships. Some supported the war effort, others resented it, and still others were conflicted. Overall, the sacrifices of those men and women had profound meaning and implications for an entire society. This plan expands the accepted definition of what constitutes a Civil War site and proposes a more nuanced approach to interpretation—one that goes beyond stereotypes toward a clearer (though more complex) understanding of the war.

Part I: The Basis for the Action Plan

A First Step: Re-Defining a “Civil War Site”

For the public to view the Civil War as more than a succession of battles and campaigns, the Nation (and therefore the National Park Service) must expand its definition of Civil War site to go beyond battlefields. While each battlefield must clearly demonstrate how it fits into the continuum of the war, and while each battlefield will be able to illuminate several of the larger themes articulated above, most battle sites are ill-suited to tell anything approaching the entire story of the American Civil War. Indeed, for them to do so would be a disavowal of the National Park Service’s invaluable tradition of resource-based interpretation.

| Instead of asking battle sites to function as a sole interpretive source, the NPS must look to other sites within the system (or perhaps identify new sites) that can further illuminate some of the larger themes of the war. These sites are readily identifiable; in fact, most are anxious to assume their rightful place as part of the Civil War mosaic. They reflect virtually every aspect of the Civil War—causes, politics, social change, economics, the military experience, civilian experience, and the legacy. [See Appendix A for a list of Civil War-related sites and their relevant themes.]

Second Step: Acknowledging Differing Perspectives of the Wartime Experience and the War’s Meaning

Americans have for 140 years viewed the Nation’s Civil War largely through the eyes of men who waged battle. The military lens on the Civil War is indispensable and inviolable, but it is not the only lens through which to view the struggle. Major events of the war were subject to contemporary scrutiny and interpretation by every American. Often those varying interpretations found expression in individual action; a few found a voice in governmental policy or societal change. All add richness to the larger story of the conflict and help illustrate the enduring relevance and meaning of the war.

As it moves forward with this initiative, the NPS will give voice to observers and participants with differing, relevant perspectives on key events and places. Such an approach will enhance rather than diminish the perceived significance and relevance of events both military and not.

For some, anguish; for others freedom

Different participants often saw the same event in radically different ways, depending on age, economic status, race, gender, and location. On April 18, 1862, the Union army arrived for the first time opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia. Militarily, it was an insignificant event, but viewed through non-military lenses, the army's arrival illustrates hugely important aspects of the Civil War. The following two writings recount the same event—the arrival of the Union army—from different perspectives. Helen Bernard was a white woman living just outside Fredericksburg. John Washington was a slave in town.

Helen Bernard

Beaumont, Spotsylvania County

Good Friday, 1862. I write while the smoke of the burning bridges, depot, & boats, is resting like a heavy cloud all around the horizons towards Fredcksbg. The enemy [the Union army] are in possession of Falmouth, our force on this side too weak to resist them.... We are not at all frightened but stunned & bewildered waiting for the end. Will they shell Fbg., will our homes on the river be all destroyed? It is heartsickening to think of having our beautiful valley that we have so loved and admired all overrun & desolated by our bitter enemies, whose sole object is to subjugate & plunder the South.....

John Washington

April 18th 1862. Was "Good-Friday," the Day was a mild pleasant one with the Sun Shining brightly, and every thing unusally quiet...until every body Was Startled by Several reports of [Yankee] cannon.... In less time than it takes me to write these lines, every White man was out the house. [But] every Man Servant was out on the house top looking over the River at the yankees, for their glistening bayonats could eaziely be Seen. I could not begin to express my new born hopes for I felt...like I Was certain of My freedom now.

A Third Step: Establishing a Thematic Context for Interpreting the Civil War Through the Sites of the National Park System

For the National Park Service to expand its interpretation beyond traditional bounds, it needs to be guided by strong thematic statements that are both grounded in solid scholarship and reflective of differing perspectives of the war and its meaning.

In fact, NPS battlefields and other sites have for years been using lenses beyond the purely military, to tell the broader story of this era. Still the work by individual parks provides ample intellectual basis for future enhancement of the Nation's interpretation of the Civil War. The themes are derived from the study and synthesis of more than 150 thematic statements submitted by National Parks possessing resources or stories associated with the American Civil War.

They are intended to act as a point of departure for developing media and programs and engaging visitors in figurative or literal discussions about the Nation's most destructive and transforming epoch.

It is neither desirable nor possible for each site to address each (or even most) of the themes articulated below. Rather, each park will focus interpretive efforts on those that relate to that park's physical resources and primary stories. Antietam, for example, has much relevance to emancipation, but little to do with westward expansion. Appomattox can illustrate much about the results and consequences of the war; what it might say about industry and economics is far less significant.

Causes

Primary Theme: *The Civil War culminated eighty years of sectional tensions—tensions begot at various times and places by debate over economic policies and practices, cultural values, the extent and reach of the Federal government, but, most importantly, the role of slavery within an American society striving for identity and economic strength on the world stage.*

Secondary Theme: *Though various Southern states clearly linked secession to*

the debate over slavery, the cause that motivated individual soldiers often differed from the causes of the war itself. Rather, the motivation of the individual soldier often derived from a complex mix—that sometimes changed during the war—of personal, social, economic and political values that at times contrasted with war aims expressed by the respective governments.

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Causation: Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, Cane River Creole, Hampton, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Boston African American, Charles Pinckney, Fort Sumter, Fort Pulaski, Arlington House, Harper's Ferry, Jefferson NEM, Lincoln Home, Lincoln Birthplace, Lincoln Boyhood Home, Lincoln Memorial, President's Park, Martin Van Buren, Natchez, Richmond, Jean Lafitte, and Independence National Historical Park, Palo Alto, New Bedford, Fort McHenry, Shiloh, Boston.

The Military Experience: Strategy, Tactics, Technology, and Humanity

Primary Theme: *The outcome of the war was the cumulative result of political, economic, and social policies that affected (and were affected by) military operations and battles waged across a front spanning 2,000 miles.*

Subtheme: *The battles and campaigns of 1861-65 ultimately demonstrated that the simple application of massive military force and materiel by armies on a battlefield was insufficient to resolve a conflict between two sections mobilized against one another politically, socially, philosophically, economically, and emotionally.*

Secondary Theme: *Leaders on both sides improvised, innovated, and gambled in an*

attempt to achieve a decisive, concluding battlefield victory.

Secondary Theme: *The application of new technologies forced changes in tactics that marked significant steps in the evolving method of warfare and that transformed the experience of soldiers in the field and navies on the waters.*

Secondary Theme: *The worsening ordeal of prisoners on both sides was closely related to the evolution of the war, militarily, politically, and economically. The Union's 1864 suspension of exchanges-intended to deny manpower to the Confederacy-contributed to conditions within prisons that cost thousands of lives and engendered*

bitterness that would continue for many years.

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the Military Experience: All battlefield sites and forts including, Andersonville, Boston Harbor Islands, Colonial, Dry Tortugas, Arlington House, Harpers Ferry, James A. Garfield, Springfield Armory, Mammoth Cave, Ulysses S. Grant, C&O Canal, Governor's Island, Palo Alto, New Bedford, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Boston.

The Changing War: Interplay of the Military, Economic, Social, and Political

Primary Theme: *Begun as a purely military effort with the limited political objectives of reunification (North) or independence (South), the Civil War transformed into a social, economic and political revolution with unforeseen consequences. As the war progressed, the Union war effort steadily transformed from a limited to a hard war; it targeted not just Southern armies, but the heart of the Confederacy's economy, morale, and social order—the institution of slavery.*

Secondary theme: *Failures on the battlefield and the expansion of the Union war effort to include the abolition of slavery, degradation of the Confederate economy, and the imposition of hardship on Southern civilians hardened the resolve of white*

Confederates to carry the war to a successful conclusion in some cases, while it demoralized some to the point of such desperation, they deserted. It also engendered intense debate within the North, giving rise to opposition to the draft, urban violence, and a vocal peace party that threatened to defeat Lincoln's efforts to reunify the Nation and expunge slavery.

Subtheme: *Confederate success (independence) required merely that its territory be defended; Union success (reunification and eventually emancipation) required invasion of the South, defeat of Confederate armies, and occupation of Southern territory.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the Changing War: All battlefield sites, Hampton, Charles Pinckney, Tuskegee, Ulysses S. Grant, Andersonville, Cane River Creole, Natchez, Lincoln sites, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Palo Alto, Shiloh.

Emancipation and the Quest for Freedom

Primary Theme: *Though most Northerners embraced abolition as a practical measure rather than a moral cause, the abolition of slavery emerged as one of two dominant objectives of the Union war effort. The war resolved in a legal and constitutional sense the single most important moral question that afflicted the nascent republic—an issue that prevented the country from coalescing around a shared vision of freedom, equality, and nationhood and hampered the emergence of the United States as a moral and economic leader on the world stage.*

Subtheme: *For millions of enslaved Americans, war meant liberation followed by a complex journey into freedom. Runaway*

slaves were so intent on achieving their freedom, they forced the issue of emancipation onto the Union agenda. But freedom did not mean racial equality; indeed, those who were most committed to the ideals of freedom that underlay the Constitution were often persecuted for their efforts to achieve and sustain true freedom. The quest for equality by former slaves, their

descendants, and other Americans of color was an issue left undecided by the war.

white Americans—ranging from ready acceptance to reluctant tolerance to violent opposition.

Subtheme: Freedom for four million former slaves stimulated myriad responses from

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Emancipation: Antietam, Booker T. Washington, Colonial, Frederick Douglass, Hampton, Harpers Ferry, Richmond, Appomattox, Charles Pinckney, Cane River Creole, Lincoln sites, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Natchez, Tuskegee, Boston African American, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Gulf Islands, Monocacy, Fort Raleigh, Independence.

Ethnicity, Race, and the Military

Primary Theme: Though soldiers of color in the North and several distinct immigrant groups on both sides played significant roles in the progress of the war effort, their prominent role in the war did not represent a significant step forward in their quest for social equality. It would be decades before significant numbers of Americans recognized the considerable contributions of ethnic groups that had suffered chronic discrimination and a racial group that had been alternately enslaved, segregated, or ignored for more than 200 years.

Secondary Theme: The use of black troops on a wide scale enraged many Southerners, who regarded soldiers of color as the ultimate symbolic threat to the South's established social order. The enmity resulted in instances of battlefield

atrocities that claimed the lives of black troops and white officers who commanded them. In addition, the introduction of black troops contributed to the breakdown of the prisoner exchange program in 1864.

Secondary Theme: American Indians saw the war both as an opportunity and a threat. If they picked the right side they might regain land and freedom they had lost. On the other hand, if they picked the wrong side, they might face catastrophe. American Indians also provided ancillary services as guides and scouts in the western campaigns.

Secondary Theme: Hispanics played important roles on both sides. For example, the 1st New Mexico Volunteers, stationed at Fort Union, was mostly comprised of native Hispanic New Mexico troops.

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Ethnicity, Race, and the Military: Richmond, Petersburg, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Gettysburg, Appomattox, Andersonville, Rock Creek Park (Fort Stevens), Fort Washington, Fort Scott, Boston African American, Frederick Douglass, Lincoln sites, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Natchez Trace, Fort Union National Monument, New Bedford, Shiloh, Fort Raleigh.

Women Amidst War

Primary Theme: The extreme demands of wartime industry and the loss of traditional family breadwinners to military service caused hardship, but also presented opportunities to women for employment, volunteerism, and activism that previously had been unavailable to them. While many

of these gains would be temporary, the Civil War nonetheless represents an important step forward in American society's view of the role of women..

Subtheme: With male family members off to war, women were sometimes required to

serve the traditionally male roles of protector, manager, negotiator, care-giver, and counselor. As the war progressed, women were increasingly seen (and saw themselves) as the foundation of the respective war efforts—sustainers of the will

to fight. On the other hand, recent scholarship suggests that the burdens women, especially in the South, faced such intense hardships, they implored their soldier husbands to desert.

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Women Amidst War: Manassas, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Richmond, Gettysburg, Clara Barton, Andersonville, Antietam, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Arlington House, Vicksburg, Petersburg, Booker T. Washington, Women's Rights, Shiloh.

The Civilian Experience

Primary Theme: *After being mere spectators at the war's early battles, civilians in the war zone later would become unwilling participants and victims of the war's expanding scope and horror.*

Secondary Theme: *In response to the hardships imposed upon their fellow citizens by the war, governments and civilians on both sides mobilized to provide comfort, encouragement, and materiel. On the other hand, the Confederate government failed*

almost completely to care for the families of its soldiers

Secondary Theme: Modern scholarship looks more broadly at the civilian population—those who fled before the hostilities and never saw soldiers—and at the profound changes they experienced during the war. It also looks more closely at internal dissent—Copperheads in the North and Unionists in the South.

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the Civilian Experience: All battlefields, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, F.L. Olmstead, Charles Pinckney, Hampton, Cane River Creole, Booker T. Washington, Arlington House, Harpers Ferry, Springfield Armory, New Bedford, Women's Rights, Fort McHenry, Independence.

Industry/Economics

Primary Theme: *Both North and South mobilized industry to an unprecedented degree. Industrial mobilization in the South represented a manifold increase over its pre-war capacity. Northern industry mobilized to conduct a war designed not just to defend Union territory, but to invade the South, defeat Confederate armies, and occupy Southern territory—a huge and unprecedented task that required all of the resources the North could muster.*

Subtheme: *The mobilization of both Northern and Southern industry in support of the war was a dramatic indication to the world of America's industrial potential—and a foreshadow of the decisive role American industry would play in shaping the political, economic, and military realities of the 20th Century.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the Industry/Economics: Springfield Armory, Richmond, Natchez Trace, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Mammoth Cave, C&O Canal, Harpers Ferry, Governor's Island, New Bedford, Shiloh.

The Ordeal of the Border States

Primary Theme: *The existence of divided populations in Border States (and in remote areas of some seceded states) had a profound impact on Union and Confederate strategy—both political and military. Each side undertook military and political measures (including brutal guerilla warfare) intended to persuade or sometimes conquer areas of divided loyalty. Each side suffered*

setbacks in the face of hostile moral and political views held by local civilians.

Subtheme: *Issues relating to civil liberties in wartime were particularly problematic in the Border States where the wrong words spoken at the wrong time could result in arbitrary incarceration.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the Ordeal of the Border States: Antietam, Monocacy, Cumberland Gap, Andrew Johnson, Lincoln sites, Arkansas Post, Wilson's Creek, C&O Canal, Fort McHenry, Pea Ridge, Shiloh.

The War and the Westward Movement

Primary Theme: *With Federal resources focused on waging the war farther east, both native tribes and the Confederacy attempted to claim (in the Indians' case, reclaim) lands west of the Mississippi. The Federal government responded with measures (Homestead Act, transcontinental railroad) and military campaigns designed to encourage settlement, solidify Union control*

of the trans-Mississippi West, and further marginalize the physical and cultural presence of tribes native to the West.

Secondary Theme: *The Confederate aspirations to establish a foothold in the West ended with defeat at Glorietta Pass in New Mexico.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the War and the Westward Movement: Homestead, Arkansas Post, Andrew Johnson, Fort Davis, Fort Larned, Fort Scott, Fort Union, Pecos, Golden Gate.

Consequences

Primary Theme: *The Civil War confirmed the single political entity of the United States, led to freedom for more than 4,000,000 enslaved Americans, started the abrupt departure of a fairly small central government toward a more powerful and centralized federal government, and laid the foundation for America's emergence as a world power in the 20th Century.*

Subtheme: *Though by itself unable to transform racial attitudes among white Americans, the Civil War initiated immense constitutional changes that re-defined the nature of American society and acted as a point of departure for a struggle for equal civil and human rights.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to the War's Consequences: Appomattox, Richmond, Ulysses S. Grant, Andrew Johnson, Natchez, Cane River Creole, Frederick Douglass, Lincoln Home, Lincoln Memorial, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, Charles Pinckney, Ford's Theater, Arlington House, Harpers Ferry, Homestead, Fort McHenry, Shiloh.

Reconstruction

Primary Theme: *During Reconstruction, the Federal government pursued a program of political, social, and economic restructuring across the South—including an attempt to accord legal equality and political power to former slaves.*

Subtheme: *Reconstruction became a struggle over the meaning of freedom, with former slaves, former slaveholders and Northerners adopting divergent definitions.*

The activities of African Americans alone gave substantive meaning to their freedom—in schools, family life, churches, and the political arena.

Subtheme: *Faced with increasing opposition by white Southerners and some Northerners, the government abandoned efforts for black equality in favor of sectional reconciliation between whites.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Reconstruction: Andrew Johnson, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Dry Tortugas, Ulysses S. Grant, Arlington House, Harpers Ferry, Tuskegee Institute, Charles Pinckney, Cane River Creole, Shiloh.

Reconciliation, Commemoration, and Preservation

Primary Theme: *In the wake of the bloodiest, most destructive war of the century, the North and South—led by the men who had waged the battles—sought political and cultural reconciliation. In their pursuit of reconciliation, whites of both sections subjugated the Reconstruction-era's pursuit of social and legal equality for Americans of color.*

Subtheme: *The recognition and commemoration of shared sacrifice hastened and solidified the reconciliation of former enemies. Northerners permitted white Southerners their regional identity*

(intensified by emerging Confederate iconography), acknowledged their collective suffering, yet rejoiced in the reunited Nation. White Southerners permitted Northerners to revel in the glow of wartime victory and consoled themselves with images of their wartime sacrifices and order their racial relationships without interference from the North.

Secondary Theme: *The varied efforts at commemoration and preservation by succeeding generations illustrate society's evolving values and views on the Civil War.*

Parks with Relevant Major Resources Related to Reconciliation, Commemoration, and Preservation: All battle sites, Lincoln Memorial, Tuskegee Institute, Frederick Douglass, Harpers Ferry, Boston African American, Appomattox, Independence.

A Fourth Step: Establishing Goals for the Visitor Experience at Civil War Sites

In the following goals, the term “visitor” encompasses both visitors who actually arrive on site and those who access its resources from a distance. The goals are based on legislation, NPS Management Policy, and the Secretary of Interior’s NPS Centennial Initiative.

1: Every visitor to every site related to the war will have the opportunity to understand how that event, or that prominent person, or that story both fits into and affected the evolution of the Civil War—its change from a war to restore the Union to a war that transformed a Nation.

Rationale: Providing a richer, more varied perspective of the Civil War requires the NPS to address anew its goals for visitors to sites related to the War. Virtually every theme described above speaks to change—transformation. The Civil War evolved from a war to restore the Union to a war that transformed a Nation. This continuum is the mortar that holds together the bricks that are the individual Civil War sites.

2: Every visitor will have the opportunity to perceive the relevance of that particular site and the Civil War at large to America and Americans of today.

Rationale: The war’s relevance to modern Americans is complex. For some, the war itself was a stage upon which Americans exhibited qualities and values that are today a cornerstone of the Nation’s identity. For others, the war’s relevance derives solely from results; the war became a vehicle for the most profound social, political, legal, and economic changes the Nation has ever seen.

3: Every visitor will understand that a park’s event, figure, or story was historically perceived and valued differently by different people—often depending on rank, race, gender, geographic origin, age, or socioeconomic status.

Rationale: Just as participants in the war perceived the same events differently, so too do modern visitors. Indeed, the differing perceptions of participants are the perfect vehicle to allow for varied interpretation for today’s visitors. Ordinary men and women engaged in political action in their personal lives and their actions and thoughts were a powerful force in the historical process. Studying people on their own terms provides valuable insights into the complex forces that gave birth to decisive historical moments during the war. It is the challenge of the NPS to provide Americans of various backgrounds and perspectives the opportunity to explore the story, meaning, and significance of the Civil War in a way that is relevant to them.

Each visitor will be given the opportunity to engage the park’s story from multiple perspectives.

4: Every visitor will engage the park’s story primarily by interaction with the park’s historic and natural resources—viewing larger thematic issues through the lens provided by the historic people, places, and events that comprise the park. Each visitor shall encounter a resource that is intact, well maintained, well-researched, and unencumbered by incompatible uses.

Rationale: The hallmark of the National Park Service is resource-based interpretation and a park’s “sense of place.” The physical resources within parks are the points of departure for the stories it tells. Preservation of those resources is fundamental to the education of our visitors.

5: Every visitor will have access to up-to-date, accurate, effective interpretive media and high-quality personal services that help them to have a safe, enjoyable visit and to understand the park’s story and derive the significance of the place.

Rationale: Typically, 85% of visitors to Civil War related sites depend *entirely* on media to receive the story and derive the significance of a site. Current NPS media often dates to the 1960s and reflects the limited scope and monolithic interpretation of that time.

A Fifth Step: Identifying Deficiencies

In order to develop action items, it is necessary to examine the themes and goals identified thus far in this plan and compare them to current park operations. The resulting “findings” which are here grouped under three of the five overarching goals of the Director’s Centennial Initiative provides a rationale for the suggested actions that follow.

Stewardship - The National Park Service will lead America and the world in preserving and restoring treasured resources.

Findings:

- Many parks are being overwhelmed by urban and suburban development. Park founders did not foresee that agricultural landscapes would be transformed into commercial sites and residential communities. Authorized park boundaries are often woefully out-of-date and even land within park boundaries that is not owned by the NPS can be developed by private interests.

- It is no longer enough to strive for a friendly “coexistence” between parks and their agricultural neighbors. All parties need to be more intentional and proactive in defining their mutual interests and crafting new, more cooperative strategies that contribute to some measure of sustainability and long-term conservation of rural landscape character, such as has been started at Cuyahoga National Park.

- Resources in Civil War parks reflect the Maintenance Backlog issues present throughout the NPS. In addition, unique issues concerning the preservation and restoration of historic landscapes, structures, monuments and ruins often present challenging problems at battlefields.

- The same roads that were important to troop movements in the Civil War are still in use today. There is increasing pressure to expand such roads to the detriment of the parks and historic landscapes.

Education - The National Park Service will foster exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.

Findings:

- Visitors to Civil War parks often find outdated facilities and exhibits. Many exhibits are more than fifty years old and feature both outdated technology and

scholarship. Some facilities are not energy efficient and present accessibility challenges. In addition, many are located on primary historic resources.

- Current visitors come to the parks with less knowledge about the Civil War than previous generations. Park interpretive media and the NPS website overall do not now provide information for understanding sites in the overall context of the war.

- Diverse perspectives concerning the causes and consequences of the Civil War are not presented by interpretive media in parks.

- New technologies, such as the internet, are not adequately utilized to tell park stories or reach audiences at a distance.

- Many parks do not have curriculum-based education programs.

- While over seventy parks have Civil War themes, they are not tied together thematically in NPS interpretive efforts.

- In the five years from 2001 to 2006, site-based visitation to National Military Parks dropped 14%. This has an effect not only on the number of visitors parks can serve, but also on local economies.

- Parks lack staff to adequately cooperate with the travel industry to promote visitation.

- Older facilities often lack full accessibility for visitors with disabilities.

Professional Excellence - The National Park Service will demonstrate management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.

Findings:

- In recent years the number of professional historians has declined alarmingly in Civil War parks, decreasing the knowledge base and scholarship available to do research, answer visitor inquiries, and create effective interpretive programs.

- Interpretive media in the parks do not reflect current scholarship.

- Only about 15% of park visitors are able to attend ranger-led park programs and parks need to rely increasingly on non-professionals to perform interpretive Park Ranger functions.

- Few parks have up-to-date planning documents, including General Management Plans and Long Range Interpretive Plans.

- Although the parks contain the Nation's premier Civil War resources and outstanding curatorial and research collections, they are often not managed as centers of scholarship.

Part 2: Implementation of the NPS Sesquicentennial Action Plan

Since the National Park Service is the keeper of the most significant buildings and sites from the Civil War Era—from the Pump House in Harpers Ferry occupied by John Brown and his raiders in 1859 to the final major battle site and place where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses Grant in 1865 – the National Park Service will be at the forefront of all commemorative activities.

By fortuitous circumstance, the Centennial of the National Park Service occurs in 2016, just as the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is concluding. Thus, many of our proposed projects will likely be folded into the Centennial Initiative which began in FY 2008 and will continue for the next decade. Without exception, these requirements and desired conditions reflect the goals and objectives outlined in the Centennial Initiative Report. With few exceptions, the action items identified in *Holding the High Ground: A National Park Service Strategy for the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War* also encompass already existing, funded NPS programs. The needs and deficiencies at Civil War parks identified in the report mirror those at parks throughout the National Park System. Overall NPS priorities set by NPS senior management will dictate whether Civil War parks and programs receive funding as programs and budgets are formulated throughout the Civil War Sesquicentennial time frame.

A significant part of the Sesquicentennial Action Plan involves a new strategy and approach as articulated in Part I of the Report. Commemorative activities will likely take place at all Civil War battlefield parks, as occurred during the 125th anniversary, although they will vary widely in scope and approach without specific direction. Some action items will require funding. Cost details and available fund sources will be determined in future budgets. A synopsis of actions that should be considered, in accordance with the Sesquicentennial Plan, follow:

Commemoration Activities:

Community Events: Throughout the Sesquicentennial, site specific community events and 150th anniversary activities will be held. Park base funds will be available for these efforts and, as priorities and budget allowances dictate, one time or short-term increases may be included in budget requests.

Sesquicentennial Daybook: During the American Bicentennial of the Revolution and the Constitution, the National Park Service produced daybooks with entries for each day highlighting significant events. Major national media used this source to develop such specials as the Bicentennial Minute. Sesquicentennial Daybook objectives include tourism promotion, thematically linking NPS Civil War related sites, information sharing and education via media to include national network television, e-technologies, radio stations, newspaper and print. Accomplishment will be dependent on budget allowances and NPS priorities.

Centennial Initiative Goal 1 - Stewardship

Land Acquisition: Critical areas and tracts both within and outside NPS boundaries remain to be protected. The Civil War Preservation Trust has made a commitment to match National Park Service money up to \$7.5 million per year through 2015 to acquire critical battlefield lands both inside and outside National Park Service boundaries. In addition, the NPS has an existing partner program within the NPS Land Acquisition account that provides grants to partners for preserving Civil War battlefield sites outside NPS boundaries. The Administration has proposed an extension of the authority for this program and \$4 million has been requested for FY 2009. Land Acquisition priorities and opportunities will continue to drive NPS acquisitions and are dependent on budget allowances.

Restore Historic/Commemorative Landscapes and Perform Maintenance of Historic Structures: Research and restoration efforts are necessary to return landscapes to their Civil War appearance, maintain commemorative features, such as monuments, and rehabilitate historic buildings and ruins. Existing programs such as Flexible Park Base and Regular and Cultural Cyclic Maintenance could be utilized to accomplish these goals. While landscape restoration has not been among the goals targeted in the Flexible Park Program for FY 2008 and FY 2009, the program is an excellent match for this type of effort in future years. In addition, if interested partners can be identified and funds are provided, these efforts could also fit with the Centennial Challenge Matching Program.

Centennial Initiative Goal 2 – Education

National Educational Programs: In order for the Park Service to have a legacy that will last well beyond the sesquicentennial, the development of educational programs that incorporate the themes articulated in our *Centennial Report to the President* is a critical goal. The NPS vision for the future included a goal for Education that stated that we should “cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park based and online learning.” We would seek to “introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.” This sentiment is also expressed in the NPS Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan. Accordingly, the NPS would seek to develop curriculum-based educational media for all grade levels using the vast resources and expertise in our parks. The NPS would work with the National Park Foundation to secure partners to develop these projects. The National Park Foundation has already secured a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to implement a curriculum based educational program called the War for Freedom. As budget allowances and priorities dictate, the Civil War theme could serve a pilot for a national program, which has been and will likely continue to be considered for funding as part of the NPS Centennial Initiative.

Interpretive Media Development and Implementation: The Sesquicentennial provides the opportunity to use all Civil War-related sites in the National Park System to tell a broader story of the war in a fuller context using current scholarship. Many of these parks have exhibits from the 1950s-1960s with outdated media and messages. Currently, the NPS has no specific dedicated source of funding for interpretive media development, but does accomplish these efforts through a variety

of funding sources. Again, both the NPS *Education and Interpretive Renaissance Action Plan* and the *Centennial Report to the President* identify this deficiency. Interpretive media require upgrade in both form and context, especially in Civil War parks, with emphasis on replacing high cost media, and emphasizing new technology such as podcasts, webcasts, and digital imagery. This was an emphasis area in the FY 2008 Centennial proposal and remains so. The concept of connecting people, especially children, with parks and reaching a new, diverse audience with different learning styles and interests remains a basic goal of the Centennial Initiative.

Web Learning – the National Park Service Website: Continue with the development of the enormously popular Civil War Website. Approximately 11,000,000 visitors come to Civil War battlefields each year; those numbers likely will increase dramatically during the sesquicentennial. Several hundred million visitors from around the world, however, will visit the NPS Civil War website, to prepare for visits to our parks, to learn about the Civil War, and to download the most innovative curriculum materials available.

Centennial Initiative Goal 3 – Professional Excellence

Subject Matter and Media Training: The Centennial goal of Professional Excellence states has a further goal to “establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to provide superior leadership.” This plan urges a broader approach to interpreting the Civil War—it seeks to have parks challenge people with ideas, challenge them to not just understand the nature and horrid expanse of the bloodshed, but the reasons and the consequences of the war, as well as its aftermath. For the National Park Service to expand its interpretation beyond traditional bounds, it needs trained staff guided by strong thematic statements that are both grounded in solid scholarship and reflective of differing perspectives of the war and its meaning. The FY 2009 Budget proposes a significant increase to reinvigorate the Servicewide training program. As budget allowances and priorities dictate, employee development will continue to play a significant role in the NPS Centennial Initiative.

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program: The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) Program links National Park units with teachers from Title 1 (30% of students on free or reduced cost lunch) urban and rural school districts. Under TRT, selected teachers spend the summer working as park rangers performing various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park, including developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing the visitor center desk, developing curriculum-based materials for the park, or taking on special projects. Then, during the school year, these teacher-rangers bring the parks into the classroom by developing and presenting curriculum-based lesson plans that draw on their summer’s experience. This program would compliment the Centennial Initiative proposal of 3000 new seasonal employees.

Appendix A: Civil War-Related Sites in the National Park System

Relevant themes are those supported by the extant cultural resources within the park and which are identified in park planning documents.

Site	Relevant Themes
Andersonville National Historic Site	Military Experience, Changing War, Women, Reconciliation
Andrew Johnson National Historic Site	Causes, Border States, Consequences, Reconstruction
Antietam National Battlefield	Military Experience, Women, Civilians, Emancipation, Border States, Reconciliation
Appomattox Court House NHP	Military Experience, Changing War, Emancipation, Civilians, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Arkansas Post National Memorial	Military Experience, Border States, Westward Movement
Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial	Causes, Military Experience, Emancipation, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Booker T. Washington National Monument	Causes, Emancipation, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Boston African American National Historic Site	Causes, Emancipation, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation, Ethnicity and Race
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area	Military Experience, Changing War
Boston National Historical Park	Causes, Military Experience
Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Site	Military Experience, Changing War
Cane River Creole National Historical Park	Causes, Emancipation, Women, Civilians, Industry/Economics, Consequences
Cape Hatteras National Seashore	Military Experience, Changing War, Industry/Economics
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park	Military Experience, Changing War, Women, Civilians, Industry/Economics

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site	Causes, Emancipation, Reconstruction
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	Military Experience, Industry/Economics
Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP	Military Experience, Changing War, Civilians, Industry/Economics, Reconciliation
Clara Barton National Historic Site	Changing War, Women, Civilians, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Colonial National Historical Park	Military Experience, Civilians, Emancipation, Reconciliation
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park	Military Experience, Border States
Dry Tortugas National Park	Military Experience, Consequences
Ford's Theater National Historic Site	Consequences, Reconstruction
Fort Davis National Historic Site	Military Experience, Westward Movement
Fort Donelson National Battlefield	Military Experience, Border States
Fort Larned National Historic Site	Military Experience, Westward Movement
Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine	Military Experience, Causes, Ordeal of the Border States, The Changing War, The Civilian Experience, Consequences.
Fort Pulaski National Monument	Military Experience, Changing War, Emancipation
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	Emancipation, Ethnicity and Race
Fort Scott National Historic Site	Military Experience, Westward Movement
Fort Sumter National Monument	Causes, Military Experience, Civilians, Changing War, Consequences, Reconciliation
Fort Union National Monument	Military Experience, Westward Movement
Frederick Douglas National Historic Site	Causes, Emancipation, Ethnicity and Race, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Frederick Law Olmstead NHS	Civilians
Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP	Causes, Military Experience, Changing War, Ethnicity and Race, Women, Civilians, Industry/Economics, Reconciliation
General Grant National Memorial	Military Experience, Reconstruction

Gettysburg National Military Park	Ethnicity and Race, Women, Civilians, Consequences, Reconciliation, Military Experience, Changing War,
Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA <i>Alcatraz Island</i> <i>Fort Point National Historic Site</i> <i>Presidio of San Francisco</i>	Military Experience, Westward Movement
Governor's Island National Monument, NY	Military Experience
Gulf Islands National Seashore	Military Experience
Hampton National Historic Site	Causes, Civilians, Border States, Emancipation, Consequences
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Industry/Economics, Border States, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation, Causes, Military Experience, Changing War, Emancipation, Civilians.
Homestead National Monument of America	Westward Movement
Independence National Historical Park	Causes, Emancipation, Civilian Experience, Reconciliation
James A. Garfield National Historic Site	Military Experience, Reconstruction, Reconciliation
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	Causes
Jean Lafitte NH Park and Preserve	Civilians, Emancipation
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park	Military Experience, Changing War, Civilians, Reconciliation
Lincoln Home National Historic Site Lincoln Birthplace NH Site Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Lincoln Memorial Mammoth Cave NP	Causes, Emancipation, Race and Ethnicity, Consequences, Reconstruction Industry
Manassas National Battlefield Park	Military Experience, Changing War, Women, Civilians, Reconciliation
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP (Northern homefront)	Civilians, Causes and Consequences, Free African-American Experience
Martin Van Buren NHS	Causes
Monocacy National Battlefield	

Military Experience, Civilians, Emancipation, Natchez National Historical Park	Border States, Reconciliation Causes, Emancipation, Consequences
Natchez Trace Parkway, MS <i>Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail</i> <i>Tupelo National Battlefield</i>	Military Experience, Industry/Economics
National Capital Parks East <i>Civil War Defenses of Washington</i>	Military Experience
Network to Freedom	Civilians, Causes, Emancipation, Border States, Ethnicity & Race
New Bedford National Historic Site	Causes, Military Experience, Ethnicity & Race, The Civilian Experience, Industry/Economics
Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site	
Pea Ridge National Military Park	Causes, Military Experience, Changing War Military Experience, Civilians, Border States
Pecos National Historical Park <i>Glorietta Pass Battlefield</i>	Military Experience, Westward Expansion
Petersburg National Battlefield	Military Experience, Changing War, Ethnicity and Race, Women, Civilians, Industry/Economics, Reconciliation
Richmond National Battlefield Park	Causes, Military Experience, Changing War, Ethnicity and Race, Women, Civilians, Industry/Economics, Reconciliation
Rock Creek Park <i>Fort Stevens</i>	Military Experience
Shiloh National Military Park	Military Experience, Civilians, Reconciliation
Springfield Armory National Historic Site	Industry/Economics, Civilians
Stones River National Battlefield	Military Experience, Changing War, Civilians, Reconciliation
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site	Reconstruction
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site	Causes, Military Experience, Changing War, Ethnicity and Race, Consequences, Reconstruction, Reconciliation

Vicksburg National Military Park

Military Experience, Changing War,
Civilians, Emancipation, Reconciliation

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Military Experience, Border States

Women's Rights National Historical Park

Women Amidst War, Civilians.

Appendix B: A Sampling of Interpretive Intent for Civil War Sites as Expressed in Legislation & Presidential Actions:

The following excerpts from legislation and proclamations illustrate the evolution of both general and specific mandates that park managers have been charged with by Congress and the President. These mandates have evolved from primarily marking and labeling battle lines to telling both military and civilian stories and relating their significance to the broad context of the Civil War and American History.

Antietam – 1890: ...for the purpose of surveying, locating and preserving the lines of battle of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia at Antietam, and for marking the same, and for locating and marking the positions of the forty-three different commands of the regular Army engaged in the Battle of Antietam, and for the purchase of sites for tablets for marking such positions.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga – 1890: ...for the purpose of suitably marking for historical and professional military study the fields of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting in the war of the rebellion.

Shiloh – 1894: ...so the participating armies might have "the history of one of their memorable battles preserved on the ground where they fought." A park commission will "ascertain and mark with historical tablets all lines of battle of the troops engaged in the Battle of Shiloh and other historical points of interest pertaining to the battle within the park or its vicinity." The legislation also mentions preserving outlines of fields and forest and restoring the battlefield to its 1862 condition.

Gettysburg – 1895: ...to properly mark the boundaries of the said park, and to ascertain and definitely mark the lines of battle of all troops engaged in the battle of Gettysburg...to preserve the important topographical features of the battle-field: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed and held prejudice the rights acquired by any state or by any military organization to the ground on which its monuments or markers are placed...authorized and directed to cause to be made a suitable bronze tablet, containing on it the address delivered by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, at Gettysburg on the nineteenth day of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, on the occasion of the dedication of the national cemetery at that place.

An Act Authorizing the Secretary of War to make certain uses of national military parks – 1896: That in order to obtain practical benefits of great value to the country from the establishment of national military parks, said park and their approaches are hereby declared to be national fields for military maneuvers for the Regular Army of the United States and the National Guard or Militia of the States.

Vicksburg – 1899: ...to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations of the siege and defense on the ground where they fought and were carried on...to ascertain and mark with historical tablets, or otherwise, as the Secretary of War may determine, the lines of battle of the troops engaged in the assaults, and the lines held by the troops during the siege and the defense of Vicksburg, the headquarters of General Grant and of General Pemberton, and other historical points of interest to the siege and defense of Vicksburg.

Kennesaw Mountain – 1917: ...for the benefit and inspiration of the people.

Arlington House – 1925: Lee Mansion ...honor is accorded Robert E. Lee as one of the great military leaders of history, whose exalted character, noble life, and eminent services are recognized and esteemed, and whose manly attributes of percept and example were compelling factors in cementing the American people in bonds of patriotic devotion and action against common external enemies in the war with Spain and in the World War, thus consummating the hope of a reunited country that would again swell the chorus of the Union.

Presidential Proclamation (No. 1713) of October 15, 1924

WHEREAS, there are various military reservations under the control of the Secretary of War which comprise areas of historic and scientific interest...

NOW THEREFORE, I, Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States of America, under the authority of the said Act of Congress (1906 National Monuments Act) do hereby declare and proclaim the hereinafter designated areas with the historic structures and objects thereto appertaining, and any other object or objects specifically designated, within the following military reservations to be national monuments.

Petersburg – 1926: ...to commemorate the siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865 and to preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein...ascertain and mark with historical tablets or otherwise, as the Secretary of War may determine, all breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters, lines of battle, location of troops, buildings, and other historical points of interest.

Appomattox Court House – 1927:...to inspect the battle fields and surrender grounds in and around old Appomattox Court House, Virginia, in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such fields.

Appomattox Court House – 1930: ...for the purpose of commemorating the termination of the War between the States...and for the further purpose of honoring those who engaged in this tremendous conflict.

Executive Order – Organization of Executive Agencies

WHEREAS executive order No. 6166 dated June 10, 1933, issued pursuant to the authority of Section 16 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (Public No. 428-47 Stat. 1517) provide in Section 2 as follows:

“All functions or administration of public building, reservations, national parks, national monuments, and national cemeteries are consolidated in an office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservation in the Department of the Interior, at the had of which shall be a Director of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations; except that where deemed desirable there may be excluded from this provision any public building or reservation which is chiefly employed as a facility in the work of a particular agency. This transfer and consolidation of functions shall include, among others, those of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the National Cemeteries and Parks of the War Department which are located within the continental limits of the United States. ...

NOW, THEREFORE, said executive order No. 6166, dated June 10, 1933, is hereby interpreted as follows:

The cemeteries and parks of the War Department transferred to the Interior Department are as follows:

National Military Parks

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee.

Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tennessee.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battle Fields Memorial,
Virginia.

Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania.

Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia.

Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee.

Stones River National Military Park, Tennessee.

Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi.

National Parks

Fort McHenry National Park, Maryland.

Battlefield Sites

Antietam Battlefield, Maryland.

Appomattox, Virginia.

Brices Cross Roads, Mississippi.

Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia.

Monocacy, Maryland.

Castle Pinckney, Charleston, South Carolina.
Fort Pulaski, Georgia

Miscellaneous Memorials

Lee Mansion, Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

National Cemeteries

Battleground, District of Columbia.
Antietam, (Sharpsburg) Maryland.
Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
Chattanooga, Tennessee.
Fort Donelson, (Dover) Tennessee.
Shiloh, (Pittsburg Landing) Tennessee.
Stones River, (Murfreesboro) Tennessee.
Fredericksburg, Virginia.
Poplar Grove, (Petersburg) Virginia.
Yorktown, Virginia.

Monocacy – 1934: ...to commemorate the Battle of Monocacy, Maryland and to preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein.

Historic Sites Act—1935: ...develop an educational program and service for the purpose of making available to the public facts and information pertaining to American historic and archeological sites, buildings, and properties of national significance.

Manassas – 1935: ...to preserve for the public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.

Kennesaw Mountain– 1935: ...for the benefit and inspiration of the people.

Richmond – 1936: ...to commemorate the battles that took place around Richmond and preserve features with military significance.

Fort Sumter National Monument – 1948: ...shall be a public national memorial commemorating historical events at or near Fort Sumter...and shall maintain and preserve it for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States, subject to the provisions of the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916, as amended.

Arlington House (Custis-Lee Mansion) – 1955: ...be officially designated as the Custis-Lee Mansion, so as to give appropriate recognition to the illustrious Virginia

family in which General Lee found his wife, and that the Custis-Lee Mansion is hereby dedicated as a permanent memorial to Robert E. Lee.

Pea Ridge – 1956: ...the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall administer, protect and develop the park, subject to the provisions of the act entitled *An Act to Establish the National Park Service (1916)*.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield – 1960: The lands acquired under the first section of this Act shall be set aside as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States, and shall be designated as the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park.

Arlington House (The Robert E. Lee Memorial) – 1972: ...to restore to the Custis-Lee Mansion located in the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, its original historical name, followed by the explanatory memorial phrase, so that it will be known as Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battle Fields Memorial National Military Park - 1989 (boundary adjustment): In administering the park, the Secretary shall take such action as is necessary and appropriate to interpret, for the benefit of visitors to the park and the general public, the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and the Wilderness in the larger context of the Civil War and American history, including the causes and consequences of the Civil War and including the effects of the war on all the American people, especially on the American South.

Ulysses S. Grant - 1989: ...In order to preserve and interpret for the benefit and inspiration of all Americans a key property associated with the life of General and later President Ulysses S. Grant and the life of First Lady Julia Dent Grant, knowledge of which is essential to understanding, in the context of mid-nineteenth century American history, his rise to greatness, his heroic deeds and public service, and her partnership in them...

Gettysburg – 1990 (boundary adjustment): ...to interpret, for the benefit of visitors to the park and the general public, the Battle of Gettysburg in the larger context of the Civil War and American history including the causes and consequences of the Civil War and including the effects of the war on all the American People.

Vicksburg - 1990 (boundary adjustment): In administering Vicksburg National Military Park, the Secretary shall interpret the campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area – 1996:

- (1) to preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in Tennessee;
- 2) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key Civil War battles, campaigns, and engagements in Tennessee;

(3) to recognize and interpret the effect of the Civil War on the civilian population of Tennessee during the war and postwar reconstruction period; and

(4) to create partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments and their regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, enhance, and interpret the battlefields and associated sites associated with the Civil War in Tennessee.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District – 1996: ...preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley. Recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key Civil War battles in the Shenandoah Valley, including those battlefields associated with Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson campaign of 1862 and the decisive campaigns of 1864. Recognize and interpret the effects of the Civil War on the civilian population of the Shenandoah Valley during the war and postwar reconstruction period.

Corinth Unit of Shiloh - 1996... In accordance with section 602 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 430f-5), the Secretary shall--

(1) commemorate and interpret, for the benefit of visitors and the general public, the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth within the larger context of the Civil War and American history, including the significance of the Civil War Siege and Battle of Corinth in 1862 in relation to other operations in the western theater of the Civil War; and

(2) identify and preserve surviving features from the Civil War era in the area in and around the city of Corinth, including both military and civilian themes that include--

(A) the role of railroads in the Civil War;

(B) the story of the Corinth contraband camp; and

(C) the development of field fortifications as a tactic of war.

American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 - ...the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program, shall encourage, support, assist, recognize, and work in partnership with citizens, Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations in identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, and protecting historic battlefields and associated sites on a National, State, and local level.

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom - 1998

(1) To recognize the importance of the Underground Railroad, the sacrifices made by those who used the Underground Railroad in search of freedom from tyranny and oppression, and the sacrifices made by the people who helped them.

(2) To authorize the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad, its significance as a crucial element in the evolution of the national civil rights movement, and its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation.

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park - 2002

(1) help preserve, protect, and interpret a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations;

(2) tell the rich story of Shenandoah Valley history from early settlement through the Civil War and beyond, and the Battle of Cedar Creek and its significance in the conduct of the war in the Shenandoah Valley;

(3) preserve the significant historic, natural, cultural, military, and scenic resources found in the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation areas through partnerships with local landowners and the community; and

(4) serve as a focal point to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District representing key Civil War battles in the Shenandoah Valley, including those battlefields associated with the Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson campaign of 1862 and the decisive campaigns of 1864.

Planning Team

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Marie Frias - *Fort Union National Monument*

John Howard - *Antietam National Battlefield*

Steve McCoy - *Fort Donelson National Battlefield*

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Dave Ruth - *Richmond National Battlefield Park*

Russ Smith - *Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park*

Bob Sutton - *Manassas Battlefield Park /Chief Historian, National Park Service*

Susan Trail - *Monocacy National Battlefield*

Michael Ward - *Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site*