

Gettysburg

National Military Park
Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cover: Detail from the painting of Pickett's charge by Paul Philippoteaux

Three Days in July

On June 3, 1863, a month after his dramatic victory at Chancellorsville, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began marching his Army of Northern Virginia westward from its camps around Fredericksburg, Va. Once through the gaps of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Southerners trudged northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania. They were followed by the Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. Joseph Hooker, but Lee, whose cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart was absent on a brash raid around the Federal forces, had no way of knowing his adversary's whereabouts.

The two armies touched by chance at Gettysburg on June 30. The main battle opened on July 1 with Confederates attacking Union

troops on McPherson Ridge west of town. Though outnumbered, the Federal forces (now commanded by Gen. George G. Meade) held their position until afternoon, when they were finally overpowered and driven back to Cemetery Hill south of town. The Northerners labored long into the night over their defenses while the bulk of Meade's army arrived and took up positions.

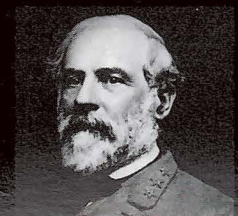
On July 2 the battlelines were drawn up in two sweeping arcs. The main portions of both armies were nearly 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) apart on parallel ridges: Union forces on Cemetery Ridge, Confederate forces on Seminary Ridge to the west. Lee ordered an attack against both Union flanks. James Longstreet's thrust

on the Federal left turned the base of Little Round Top into a shambles, left the Wheatfield strewn with dead and wounded, and overran the Peach Orchard. Farther north, Richard S. Ewell's evening attack on the Federal right at East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, though momentarily successful, could not be exploited to Confederate advantage.

On July 3 Lee's artillery opened a two-hour bombardment of the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill. This for a time engaged the massed guns of both sides in a thundering duel for supremacy, but did little to soften up the Union defensive position. Then, in a desperate attempt to recapture the partial

success of the previous day, some 12,000 Confederates under George E. Pickett advanced across the open fields toward the Federal center. Only one Southerner in three retired to safety.

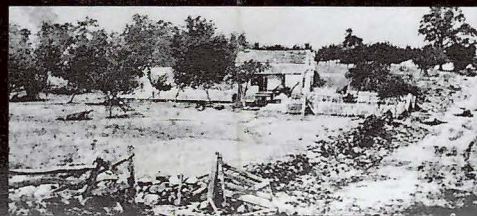
With the repulse of Pickett's assault, the Battle of Gettysburg was over. The Confederate army that staggered back into Virginia was physically and spiritually exhausted. Never again would Lee attempt an offensive operation of such magnitude. And Meade, though criticized for not pursuing Lee's troops, would forever be remembered as the man who won the battle that has come to be known as the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy."



Far left: Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander at Gettysburg.

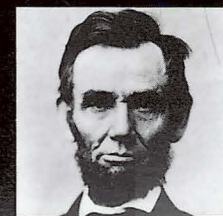


Left: George Gordon Meade, Union commander.



Far left: Gettysburg in 1863 as seen from Seminary Ridge. The battle began here along the Chambersburg Pike (right foreground) on July 1.

Left: Meade's Headquarters in 1863.



Far left: Abraham Lincoln, November 8, 1863.

Left: The only known photograph showing Lincoln (inside white circle) at Gettysburg during the dedication of the National Cemetery on November 19, 1863.

Visiting the Park

The fighting at Gettysburg is history. Upon these peaceful, tilled Pennsylvania fields more men fell than in any other battle fought in North America before or since. Many of the Union soldiers who died here are buried in the National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered that simple, poignant statement of purpose—the Gettysburg Address.

Much has been written and said about this, the greatest battle of the Civil War, and many are the treasured artifacts collected in museums here and across the country. But the most tangible link to those 3 days in July is still the battlefield itself, parts of which look much the same today as they did at the time of the battle. Fences, rocks, hills, cannon, and even the monuments (which were not here then, of course) offer the imaginative visitor the opportunity to ponder and try

to understand what happened here.

Park rangers lead walks, give talks, and present programs at various locations on the battlefield to help visitors visualize the personal impact of past events. The **Visitor Center** has orientation displays, Civil War exhibits, current schedules of ranger-conducted programs, and the Electric Map presentation that shows, through the use of colored lights, troop movement during the battle. Admission is charged for the map program.

Auto tours conducted for a fee by licensed battlefield guides begin at the visitor center. Groups may wish to make advance reservations for bus tours with the services of a licensed battlefield guide. Reservations also can be made for organized youth group camping, available from mid-April to mid-October

(no charge). Inquiries should be made to Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325. State the day and hours of your visit.

The **Cyclorama Center** has exhibits, a 10-minute film, "From These Honored Dead," and the Gettysburg Cyclorama, a spectacular painting by Paul Philippoteaux of Pickett's charge displayed with a sound-and-light program inside a large circular auditorium. Both the film and the Cyclorama program are presented regularly; admission is charged only for the Cyclorama program.

For information about motel accommodations, restaurants, privately owned campgrounds, museums, and other facilities in the community, please check at the visitor center with a representative of the Gettysburg Travel

Council or write them at Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Gettysburg National Military Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Gettysburg, PA 17325, is in charge.

How to See the Battlefield

You have probably come to Gettysburg in your car. By following the **Auto Tour** on the other side of this folder, you can easily drive around the battlefield in 2-3 hours. At most of the numbered stops, markers describe significant action during the 3 days of battle.

The best way to sense the land and the slower pace of Gettysburg's past is to walk the battlefield as thousands of soldiers once did. The **High Water Mark Trail**, about 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) long, begins at the Cyclorama Center. You will see regimental monuments, part of an artillery battery, the land defended by Union soldiers in repulsing Pickett's charge, and General Meade's headquarters.

The **Big Round Top Loop Trail** reveals something of the plants, animals, and rocks of the Pennsylvania hardwood forest. Stone breastworks built

by the armies are visible along the way. The 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) trail takes about an hour to walk and starts just beyond Auto Tour Stop 3.

For a longer hike, inquire about the 14.5-kilometer (9-mile) **Billy Yank Trail** or the 5.6-kilometer (3.5-mile) **Johnny Reb Trail**, both of which are used by the Boy Scouts of America as part of their Heritage Trails Program.

Besides these trails, there are paths to Devil's Den and to the Point of Woods near the Virginia Memorial where General Lee spoke to his defeated men, and a self-guided tour through the National Cemetery.

The best place to begin your tour of the battlefield is the park visitor center, shown on the map at right. The Cyclorama Center and the National Cemetery are both only a short walk away.

Gettysburg National Cemetery

When the armies marched away from Gettysburg on July 5, 1863, they left behind a community in shambles and more than 51,000 casualties. Wounded and dying were crowded into nearly every building. Most of the dead lay in hasty and inadequate graves; some had not been buried at all.

This situation so distressed Pennsylvania's Gov. Andrew Curtin that he commissioned a local attorney, David Wills, to purchase land for a



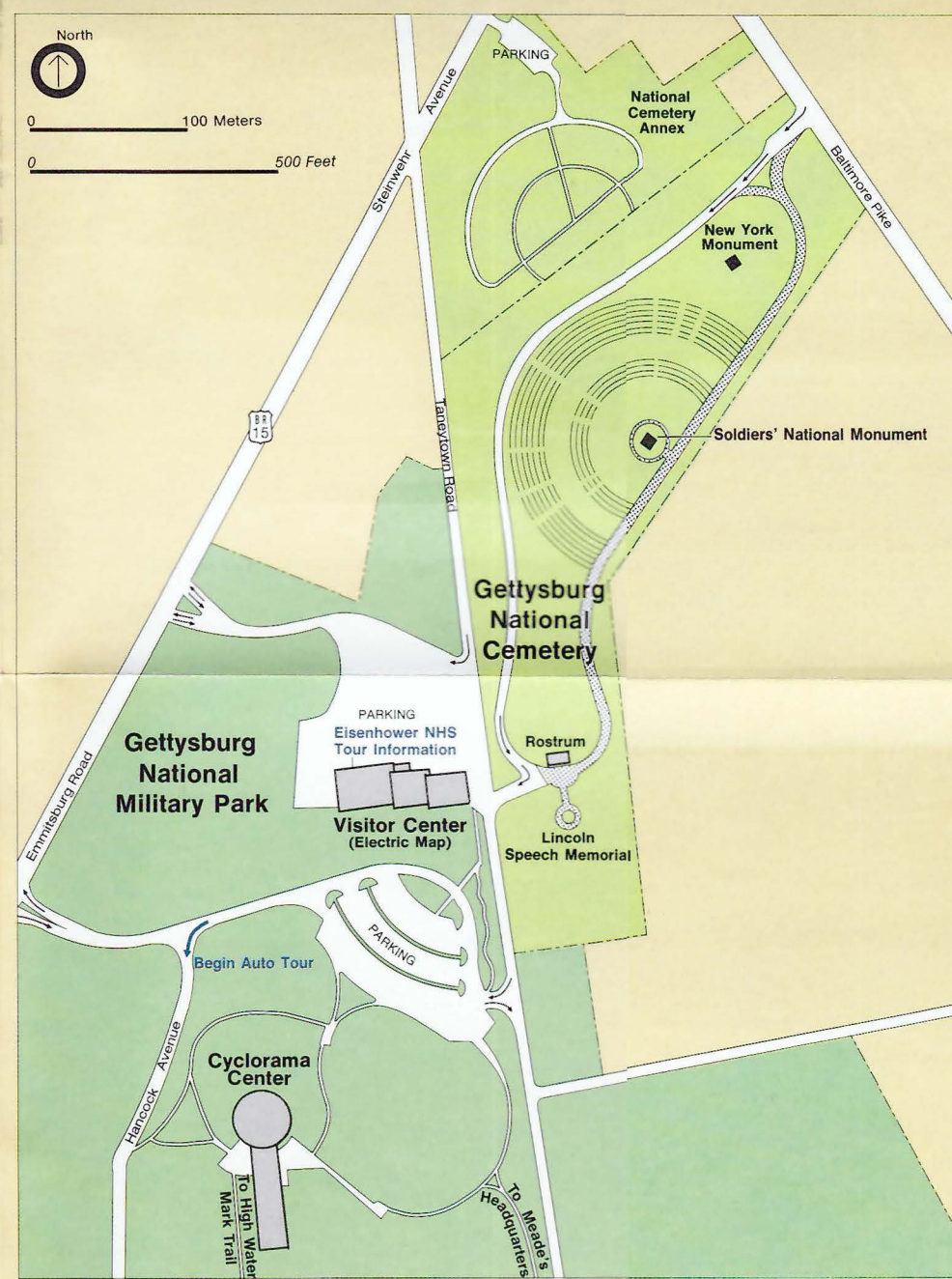
proper burial ground for the Union dead. Within 4 months of the battle, reinterment began on 6.9 hectares (17 acres) that became Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863. The principal speaker, Edward Everett, delivered a well-received 2-hour oration rich in historical detail and classical allusion. He was followed by President Abraham Lincoln, whose 2-minute address transformed Gettysburg from a scene

of carnage into a symbol, giving meaning to the sacrifice of the dead and inspiration to the living.

Less than half of the Union battle dead finally interred in the national cemetery had been removed from their field graves by the day of the dedication. Within a few years, however, the bodies of 3,700 Union soldiers killed in the battle had been reinterred in the cemetery and the landscaping completed. Through the years, from the Spanish-

American War to the Vietnam conflict, United States veterans continued to be buried here. Today the cemetery is the final resting place for more than 7,000 honorably discharged servicemen and their dependents.



The Gettysburg Address

After Abraham Lincoln completed his "few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery, he turned to his friend Ward Lamon and remarked: "Lamon, that speech won't scour. It is a flat failure." The world has not affirmed that judgment and, instead, considers it one of the supreme masterpieces of eloquence in the English language.

During the summer season, thanks to an agreement between the Library of Congress and the National Park Service, the Cyclorama Center contains a special Gettysburg Address Exhibit in which, depending upon the time of your visit, you will be able to see the original of Lincoln's first or second draft copy.

The Gettysburg Address contains 272 words and took about two minutes to deliver. Contrary to popular belief, Lincoln

did not write the speech on the back of an envelope on the way to Gettysburg. Actually he took great pains in its formulation. He wrote the first draft in Washington shortly before November 18 and revised it at the home of David Wills in Gettysburg sometime before the dedication.

The second draft, written entirely in ink on two pages of the same paper used for part of the first draft, reflects Lincoln's first revision of the address and, except for the words "under God," constitutes the text of the speech he delivered at the dedication ceremony. Although the exact origin of this draft cannot be determined, evidence suggests that Lincoln wrote it shortly after his return to Washington.

Eisenhower National Historic Site

Adjacent to the Gettysburg battlefield is the retirement home of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower. Due to critical space limitations in the Eisenhower home and the lack of onsite parking, all visits to the site are conducted through a reservation/shuttlebus system and begin at the Tour Information Center at the lower end of Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Only a limited number of tours are available each day and tickets are distributed on a first-come first-

served basis. Tickets are free but there is a small fee for the concession-operated shuttlebus.

Eisenhower National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Address all inquiries to the Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

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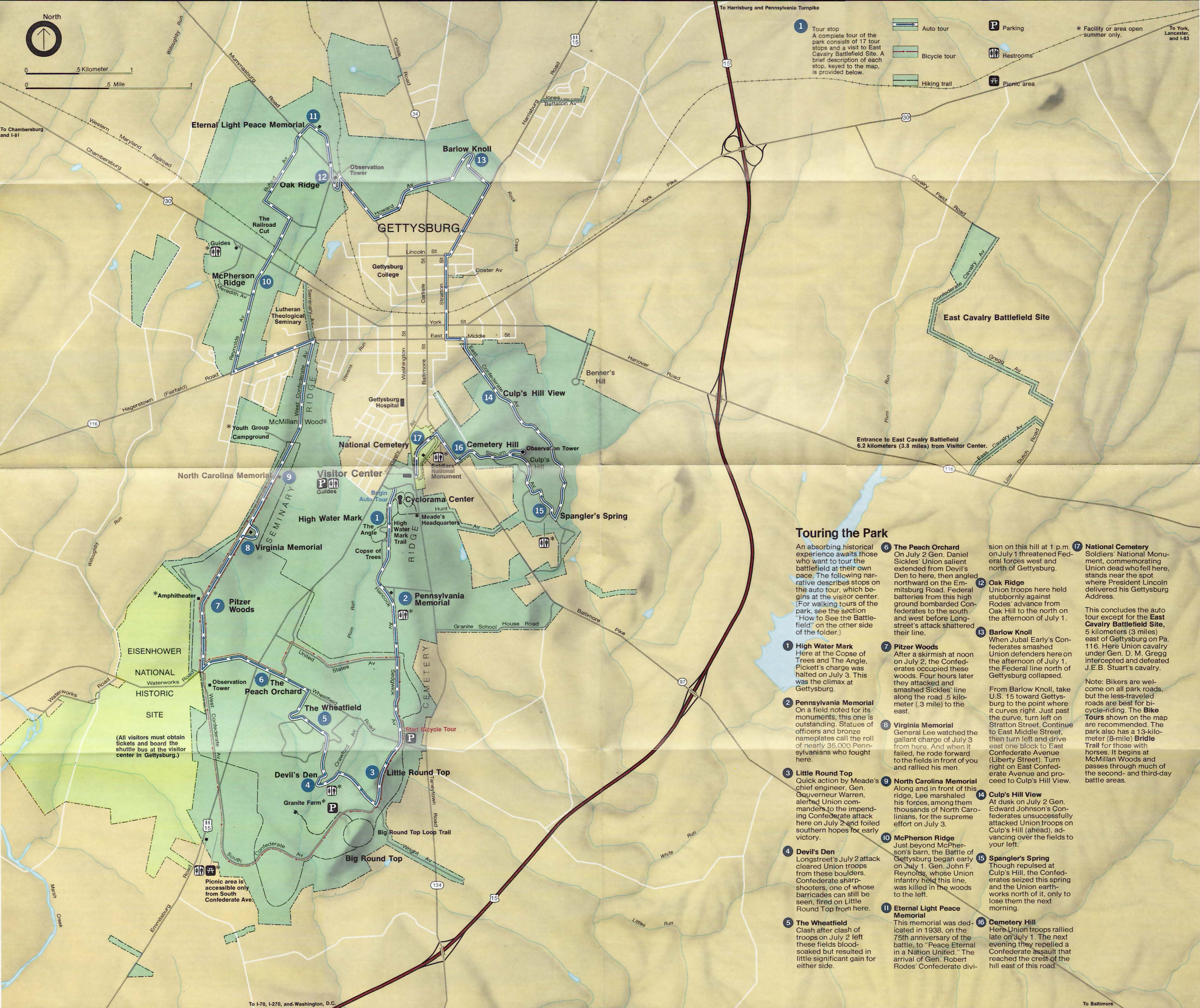
Regulations and Safety Tips

Use extreme caution driving the park roads, especially where they intersect with heavily traveled highways. Please obey the posted speed limits and be cautious at blind curves and on one-way roads. Bikers should keep to the

right with the flow of traffic. Park in designated areas or on the avenues, not on the grass. Do not climb on cannon and monuments. Pets must be leashed and attended at all times. They may not be taken

into the visitor center or Cyclorama Center or crowded areas. Running and climbing youngsters frequently fall and injure themselves, so parents are urged to closely supervise their children.

All historic sites, structures, and exhibits, as well as all plants, animals, and minerals, must be left undisturbed. Relic collecting or possession of metal detectors within the park is not allowed. Please picnic in designated areas.



Touring the Park

An absorbing historical experience awaits those who want to tour the battlefield at their own pace. The following narrative describes stops on the auto tour, which begins at the visitor center. (For walking tours of the park, see the section "How to See the Battlefield" on the other side of the folder.)

- 1 High Water Mark**
Here at the Copse of Trees and The Angle, Pickett's charge was halted on July 3. This was the climax at Gettysburg.
- 2 Pennsylvania Memorial**
On a field noted for its monuments, this one is outstanding. Statues of officers and bronze nameplates call the roll of nearly 35,000 Pennsylvanians who fought here.
- 3 Little Round Top**
Quick action by Meade's chief engineer, Gen. Gouverneur Warren, alerted Union commanders to the impending Confederate attack here on July 2 and foiled southern hopes for early victory.
- 4 Devil's Den**
Longstreet's July 2 attack cleared Union troops from these boulders. Confederate sharpshooters, one of whose barricades can still be seen, fired on Little Round Top from here.
- 5 The Wheatfield**
Clash after clash of troops on July 2 left these fields blood-soaked but resulted in little significant gain for either side.

- 6 The Peach Orchard**
On July 2 Gen. Daniel Sickles' Union salient extended from Devil's Den to here, then angled northward on the Emmitsburg Road. Federal batteries from this high ground bombarded Confederates to the south and west before Longstreet's attack shattered their line.
- 7 Pitzer Woods**
After a skirmish at noon on July 2, the Confederates occupied these woods. Four hours later they attacked and smashed Sickles' line along the road .5 kilometer (.3 mile) to the east.
- 8 Virginia Memorial**
General Lee watched the gallant charge of July 3 from here. And when it failed, he rode forward to the fields in front of you and rallied his men.
- 9 North Carolina Memorial**
Along and in front of this ridge, Lee marshaled his forces, among them thousands of North Carolinians, for the supreme effort on July 3.
- 10 McPherson Ridge**
Just beyond McPherson's barn, the Battle of Gettysburg began early on July 1. Gen. John F. Reynolds, whose Union infantry held this line, was killed in the woods to the left.
- 11 Eternal Light Peace Memorial**
This memorial was dedicated in 1938, on the 75th anniversary of the battle, to "Peace Eternal in a Nation United." The arrival of Gen. Robert Rodes' Confederate divi-

- 12 Oak Ridge**
Union troops here held stubbornly against Rodes' advance from Oak Hill to the north on the afternoon of July 1.
- 13 Barlow Knoll**
When Jubal Early's Confederates smashed Union defenders here on the afternoon of July 1, the Federal line north of Gettysburg collapsed.
- 14 Culp's Hill View**
At dusk on July 2 Gen. Edward Johnson's Confederates unsuccessfully attacked Union troops on Culp's Hill (ahead), advancing over the fields to your left.
- 15 Spangler's Spring**
Though repulsed at Culp's Hill, the Confederates seized this spring and the Union earthworks north of it, only to lose them the next morning.
- 16 Cemetery Hill**
Here Union troops rallied late on July 1. The next evening they repelled a Confederate assault that reached the crest of the hill east of this road.

17 National Cemetery
Soldiers' National Monument, commemorating Union dead who fell here, stands near the spot where President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address.

This concludes the auto tour except for the **East Cavalry Battlefield Site**, 5 kilometers (3 miles) east of Gettysburg on Pa. 116. Here Union cavalry under Gen. D. M. Gregg intercepted and defeated J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry.

Note: Bikers are welcome on all park roads, but the less-traveled roads are best for bicycle-riding. The **Bike Tours** shown on the map are recommended. The park also has a 13-kilometer (8-mile) **Bridle Trail** for those with horses. It begins at McMillan Woods and passes through much of the second- and third-day battle areas.