

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C.
DEC - 6 1932

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

As requested, the following notes are submitted regarding the selection of national historical areas.

The list of present battlefield sites and national historical monuments administered by the War Department is as follows:

NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS

	<u>State</u>	<u>Area</u>
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park	Georgia and Tennessee	5,933 acres
Fort Donelson National Military Park	Tennessee	93.19 "
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battle Fields Memorial	Virginia	In process of establishment
Gettysburg National Military Park	Pennsylvania	2,327 acres
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park	North Carolina	110 acres
Kings Mountain National Military Park	South Carolina	In process of establishment Area undetermined.
Moore's Creek National Military Park	North Carolina	30 acres
Petersburg National Military Park	Virginia	In process of establishment Area undetermined.

NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS (Cont'd)

	State	Area
Shiloh National Military Park	Tennessee	3,546 acres
Stones River National Military Park	Tennessee	325.48 "
Vicksburg National Military Park	Mississippi	1,322 "
Abraham Lincoln National Park	Kentucky	110 "
Fort McHenry National Park	Maryland	47 "

BATTLEFIELD SITES

Antietam Battlefield	Maryland	40 acres
Appomattox,	Virginia	1 " in process of establishment
Brices Cross Roads	Mississippi	1 acre
Chalmette Monument and Grounds	Louisiana	15 acres
Cowpens	South Carolina	1 acre
Fort Necessity	Pennsylvania	1 " in process of establishment
Kenesaw Mountain	Georgia	60 acres
Monocacy	Maryland	1 acre in process of establishment
Santiago, Cuba		1 acre
Tupelo	Mississippi	1 acre
White Plains	New York	Monument
Peking, China		Tablet on walls of legation compound

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

	<u>State</u>	<u>Area</u>
Big Hole Battlefield	Montana	5 acres
Cabrillo Monument	California	21,910 sq. ft.
Castle Pinckney	South Carolina	3 1/2 acres
Father Millet Cross,	New York	.0074 acre
Fort Marion	Florida	18.09 acres
Fort Matanzas	Florida	1 acre
Fort Pulaski	Georgia	20 acres
Meriwether Lewis	Tennessee	300 acres
Mound City Group	Ohio	57 "

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIALS

Camp Blount Tablets, Lincoln County,	Tennessee	(not yet established)
Kill Devil Hill Monument, Kitty Hawk,	North Carolina	547 acres
New Echota Marker	Georgia	1 acre

The above list gives the impression that the acceptance of these areas has been a matter of chance, influenced by temporary local pressure, rather than the result of well-considered selection. Some of these areas are of the highest importance; others are much lower in the scale of interest and value. It can not be said that the list represents the outstanding national shrines of American history.

The National Park Service now administers Washington's Birthplace and Colonial National Monuments. A number of other historical sites have been proposed for national parks or monuments. If the Park Service is to play a part in this field it is very desirable that a program should be worked out in advance, and progress guided toward a definite objective.

The history of a nation is made up of progress in every field of human endeavor. Commerce, industry, invention and literature are but a few of the activities that have played a large part in the history of this country. The list of important events is almost without limit.

In considering events of national importance, the acts of the Government claim first consideration. Such a list would include wars, treaties, legislative acts, etc. A war may have less effect on the progress of a nation than an invention, but the war is carried on by the nation, whereas the invention may be an individual achievement.

American history can be separated into its many important epochs which would include:

- Early discovery and exploration,
- War of the Revolution,
- War of 1812,
- Mexican War,
- Civil War,
- Indian wars,
- Spanish War,
- World War.

The selection of the most important events of each war would involve the consideration of such topics as:

- Events leading to or causing the war,
- Opening and closing engagements,
- Turning points of campaigns,
- Engagements that are conspicuous for the number of men engaged, extent of losses, heroism, etc.,
- Places that mark the birth, death and outstanding events in the lives of the greatest national figures, such as presidents and generals, are also to be considered.

From such a study one might make up a list of a hundred or more events of outstanding national importance. The most competent and authoratative historians of the country can then be asked to list these events in the order of their importance. No two men would

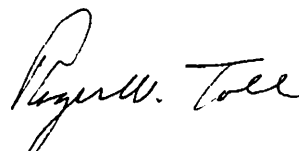
agree exactly but in this manner a list could be secured which would represent the consensus of opinion of the greatest events in American history, and their approximate order of importance.

Some events are not connected with a specific place which is susceptible of being marked, and for a variety of reasons many locations of important events would not be suitable for national monuments. From such a list however, a program could be shaped. One could say "All things being considered, these are the most desirable national monuments." No project far down on the list would be eligible for consideration until those of greater importance had been passed upon.

Another method of approach is to ask each State Historical Society to furnish a short list, in order of importance, of the places in its state, where the most important events have occurred, or the places best adapted to national monuments. From these lists a national list may then be prepared. This method would give an interesting check on the other more comprehensive and more reliable method.

The suitability for national monuments of many historical areas would be determined primarily by selection of the list of events which it is most important to commemorate. Inspection of the areas themselves would come after the selection of a list, rather than before. There may be some cases where old buildings or other existing structures will give added weight to the desirability of an area.

Very truly yours,



Superintendent,
Yellowstone National Park.