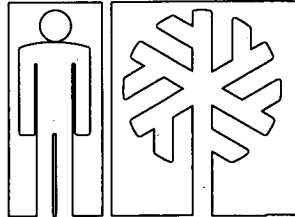


general management plan
development concept plan
environmental assessment
w/FONSI 4/88

D-28A

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA



NATIONAL MILITARY PARK - GEORGIA/TENNESSEE



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

75 Spring Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PLAN APPROVAL AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
Georgia and Tennessee

INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service has prepared a General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Walker, Dade and Catoosa Counties, Georgia, and Hamilton County, Tennessee. The proposal as well as alternatives are described in the General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment (GMP/DCP/EA) which was released in November 1987.

The purpose of this document is to record the selection of plan proposals and a Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. This document should be attached to the GMP/DCP/EA.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RESPONSE AND REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A total of 50 written comments were received from governmental agencies, organizations and individuals. Responses from three organizations recommended expansion of the National Park Service's responsibilities to include Stringer's Ridge and Moccasin Bend because of their historical and archeological significance. Although, as stated in the GMP/DCP, Stringer's Ridge and Moccasin Bend played a significant role in the Battle of Chattanooga, further study indicates that they do not fall within the primary established park purpose "of preserving and 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." Stringer's Ridge and Moccasin Bend are sites of occupation and fortification and are not primary fields of military maneuvers and fighting of the Civil War. For this reason and those already cited in the GMP/DCP, there will be no change in the GMP/DCP proposal for the Park Service to "encourage the owners to respect the historically significant features of the property with regard to any subsequent development and use...."

Comments from 22 individuals were received concerning Highway 27 closure and/or reduction in the speed limit. On page 30, the first and second sentences of the fourth paragraph are changed to read: The former US 27 will remain open, but speed limits will be reduced to 25 - 35 mph, and commercial traffic will be prohibited as guided by conditions after the relocation of US 27. The roadway will be reduced to a width comparable to that of other park tour roads and a 6- to 8-foot wide bike lane will be incorporated into the existing roadway prism in accordance with safety standards, visitor use and the amount of traffic.

Review comments from the Georgia State Department of Transportation requested that the widening of U.S. 27 through the park be considered as an alternative solution to the relocation of U.S. 27. The U.S. 27 relocation issue was considered primarily a State transportation issue and not an issue of the Park Service GMP/DCP. Its relocation outside the park was a given condition of the GMP/DCP for resolution as a project apart from the GMP/DCP. Public Law 100-211, dated December 24, 1987, is enclosed which authorizes the State Department of Transportation to construct a by-pass road generally outside of the park. This public law is to be part of Appendix A, Legislation, in the GMP/DCP/EA.

Several concerns were expressed regarding acceptable visitor uses in the historic park and preservation of the historic scene. The plan establishes a primary goal of protecting historical values of the park and introduces management concepts (page 29, paragraph two) to reduce the impacts of recreational use in the historic setting. The programs evolving from the GMP/DCP will be phased and adjusted so that local communities can respond to their recreational needs. The GMP/DCP gives adequate general direction for the management of recreation in the historic setting.

Comments were received requesting a program which would return the landscape to the historic scene. Maintenance of the historic scene is already established as part of the park operations program and the last paragraph on page 41 will give further guidance.

On page 27, paragraph 2, the first sentence is revised as follows: "All park collections are inventoried and cataloged according to policy guidelines; however, it is difficult to determine which collections should be stored and curated...." The phrase "by the park staff" should be struck from the last sentence.

The sentence, "Over 1,400 monuments and markers and 250 cannons are maintained as part of an extensive cyclic maintenance program," is added as the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 38.

The sentence, "The correct location for each marker/monument will be determined and maintained in accordance with resource management policies and historic documentation," is added as the last sentence, third paragraph, on page 38.

"A total" is changed to "extensive" in the first sentence, fourth paragraph, on page 38.

On page 60, the last paragraph, first sentence, "in its existing state," is changed to "as an historic landscape."

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The visitor center addition and expansion of the maintenance area will be a visual intrusion on the historic scene; however, the architectural design will be compatible with the existing scene. Development will disturb a total of 1.5 acres. During the preparation of preliminary plans, qualified archeologists will be contacted for determination of possible effects on archeological resources. If such examination indicates that significant cultural resources will be affected, and preservation in place is not feasible, an archeological data recovery program will be implemented prior to construction.

Under the proposal for recreational activities, visitor use and interpretation, the effects of current recreational activities within the historic park will continue; however, management strategies may be implemented to reduce the impact on the historic scene.

Consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Georgia and Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officers under the 1981 Amendment to the 1979 Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 has been ongoing throughout this planning effort. Compliance has been completed.

In accordance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, no development will be in or adversely affect the floodplain or wetlands.

No prime or unique farmlands as defined by the Department of Agriculture will be affected by this plan.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted and there are no known Federally listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat which will be affected by proposals of the GMP/DCP. As recommended by the State of Georgia, however, an on-the-ground survey for rare species typical of Cedar Glades habitat will be completed prior to construction of the visitor center.

CONCLUSION

The National Park Service has made a Finding of No Significant Impact since implementation of the proposal does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Approved: Frank Catoffo
for Robert M. Baker
Regional Director
Southeast Region

Date: 4-13-88

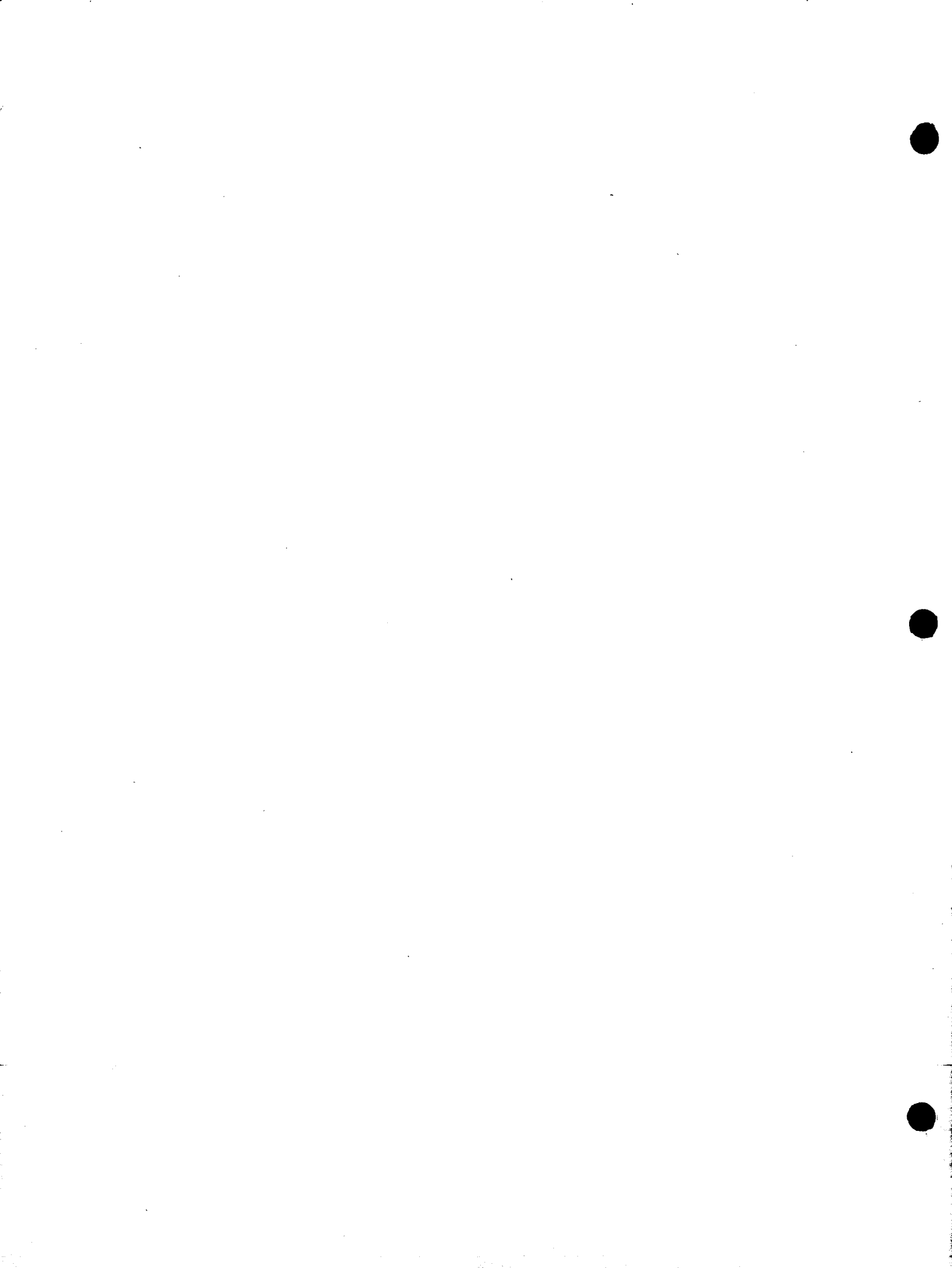
General Management Plan
Development Concept Plan
Environmental Assessment

Chickamauga and Chattanooga

National Military Park

Georgia / Tennessee

U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



SUMMARY

This document presents a proposed general management plan and development concept plan for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The park was established in 1890, and it commemorates two 1863 battles that were among the turning points in the Civil War. The proposed plan sets forth basic management strategies that will ensure the protection of the park's significant cultural resources, will foster a better visitor understanding of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, and will provide facilities needed by park visitors to appreciate the park's resources.

The proposed plan recommends a 6,000-square-foot addition to the visitor center at the Chickamauga battlefield to accommodate present and future demands for visitor services and administrative functions. Orientation and interpretive programs will be improved throughout the park. To protect the historical scene, nonorganized recreational activities will be restricted to the designated recreation field, and organized activities will only be permitted with the approval of the superintendent.

Following the completion of the US 27 bypass around the park, the present US 27 alignment will be established as part of the park tour route, and the speed limit will be reduced to 25 to 30 miles per hour; commercial traffic will be prohibited. Access to and parking at the various units of the park will be improved where possible (particularly at the Chickamauga battlefield visitor center and Missionary Ridge).

The National Park Service will not seek formal involvement in the protection of Stringers Ridge; instead the present landowners will be encouraged to protect the site's historically significant features. Landscape features within the park will be maintained to complement interpretive themes. The battlefields will not be restored to their appearance in 1863, but the landscape at key interpretive sites will be managed to resemble the appearance at the time of the battles. The National Park Service will work with landowners and developers to eliminate visual intrusions or to mitigate their effects. The powerlines at Chickamauga battlefield and Cravens house will be placed underground to remove this intrusion on the historical scene.

Besides the proposed plan, a no-action alternative that would continue present management strategies was considered. In addition, alternatives for specific actions were examined. The major alternatives other than no action are summarized below:

Chickamauga battlefield visitor center--Construct a visitor center elsewhere in the park, or lease a facility within the Chattanooga metropolitan area.

Recreational activities--Restrict all activities to one designated area out of view of visitors, or prohibit all recreational activities in the park.

US 27--Restore the road alignment to its historical appearance.

Stringers Ridge--Acquire fee-simple title to the ridge and establish it as a park unit; establish cooperative agreements; or acquire scenic easements to protect this historic area.

Chickamauga battlefield landscape--Restore the entire battlefield to its 1863 appearance.

The environmental consequences of implementing the proposed plan and the alternatives are considered in the "Environmental Assessment" portion of this document.

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INTRODUCTION



PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park encompasses 17 separate units along the Tennessee-Georgia border. The park commemorates "some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting" in the Civil War (see appendix A). It was the first historical park established in the United States, and over 1 million visitors each year come to see the battle sites and to participate in recreational activities.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purposes of this General Management Plan / Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment are to address recently identified issues and concerns, to meet the park's management objectives (see appendix B), and to set forth the basic strategies that will guide management, development, and use of the park for the next five to 10 years.

The "Environmental Assessment" portion of this document describes alternative strategies that were considered during the planning process. The environmental consequences of the proposed plan and alternatives are also analyzed, and actions taken to comply with environmental and historic preservation laws and regulations are recorded.

In developing the proposed plan and alternatives, the general public was invited through newsletters to comment about the issues and express any concerns about the planning effort (see appendix C). The public and other governmental agencies will be invited to comment on this proposed plan and assessment. The NPS director of the Southeast Region will then decide if the proposed plan should be revised to address any new concerns and will determine whether an environmental impact statement will be prepared. Once all environmental compliance actions have been completed, a final general management plan will be approved.

The proposed plan complies with the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which calls for a general management plan to be prepared for the preservation and use of each unit of the national park system. This plan has been prepared by an interdisciplinary team, and it has been developed to meet the needs of the park's managers and visitors.

PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Several problems and park needs have been identified during the current planning effort, and they are addressed in this document:

Visitor Use and Interpretive Programs

A clear definition of visitor experiences is needed to direct planning and development of the park's orientation and interpretive programs.

The present visitor center/administrative headquarters building at Chickamauga cannot accommodate existing or future demands for visitor orientation and interpretation plus collection/archives storage, library space, conference rooms, and administrative offices.

Several types and forms of traditional and nontraditional recreational activities are occurring in the park. The national military park is the largest expanse of publicly owned open space within the Chattanooga area. Many residents come to the park for outdoor recreational activities, which frequently intrude on the more contemplative experiences sought by other visitors. Some activities may be adversely affecting cultural resources.

Visitor Access and Circulation

The presence of commercial/commuter traffic on US 27 and other through-roads in the park's Chickamauga battlefield unit creates congestion and noise, as well as safety hazards and aesthetic intrusions.

The Lookout Mountain unit and the other detached units of the park within the Chattanooga metropolitan area are difficult for visitors to find because many are very small and are within residential areas. Thus, it is difficult to provide visitor access without affecting the quality of life for these local residents.

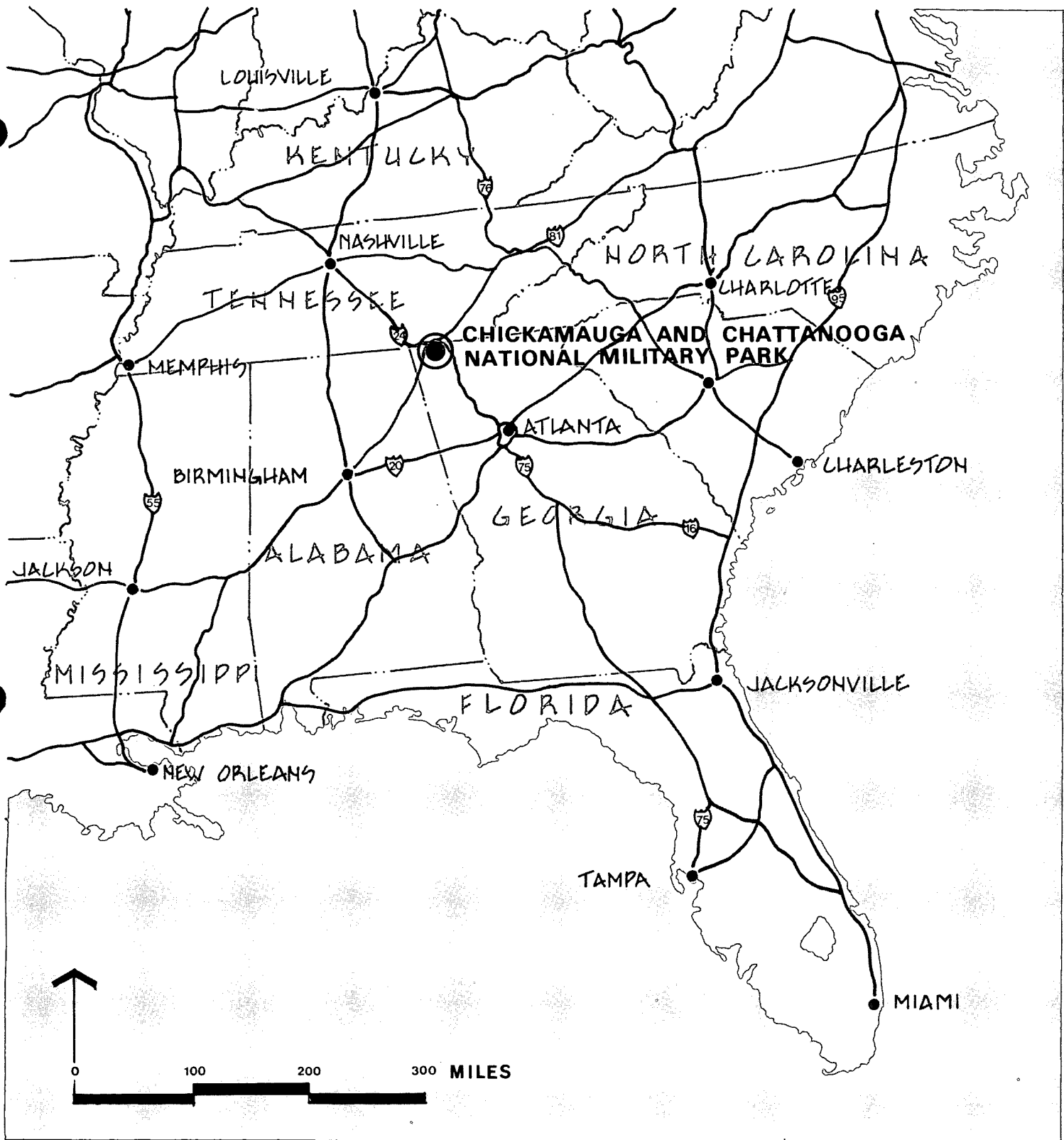
The rock quarry at the Chickamauga battlefield has become a water retention pond and is a potential threat to visitor health and safety.

Resource Management

Archeological resources have not been adequately identified and evaluated within the Tennessee units of the park.

There is no record that details the present location of all the markers and monuments in the park.

No overall guidance is provided for activities such as mowing, cropping, grooming, clearing, and revegetation to ensure that historical and natural resource landscape values complement the park's resource management and interpretive programs.



REGION

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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Land Protection

Stringers Ridge is historically significant as the site of the Union gun emplacements during the Battle of Chattanooga. The area is not included in the park, and commercial or residential development could destroy its historical integrity.

Visual intrusions could interfere with visitor enjoyment or understanding of the park, whether the intrusions are inside or outside the park. A strategy to deal with potential intrusions is lacking.

The lack of an updated plat map for Lookout Mountain, and of boundary surveys for the Chickamauga battlefield and Missionary Ridge, make it difficult to determine precisely which land parcels are included within the park boundaries.

Park Operations

Because of insufficient staff and the long distances between various park units, law enforcement and resource protection for some of the Tennessee units of the park (particularly Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, and Signal Point) are not commensurate with that provided for the Chickamauga battlefield unit in Georgia.

The park's maintenance area at Chickamauga battlefield lacks adequate facilities to accomplish its expanded role as the park's operations center.

RELATED PLANS AND STUDIES

The following plans and studies have recently been completed for the national military park:

The Development Concept Plan (NPS 1984a) for the Point Park visitor contact center on Lookout Mountain is incorporated in this plan by reference.

The "Traffic Engineering and Safety Improvement Study" (NPS 1986) is modified as explained in the "Visitor Access" section of this plan.

The "Historic Landscape of the Chickamauga National Military Park" (NPS 1984b) is incorporated in this plan by reference and is discussed in the "Landscape Management" section.

The "Land Protection Plan" (NPS 1983b) for the park is expanded as detailed in the "Land Protection" section.

Copies of these plans are available at the following NPS offices:

Office of the Superintendent
Chickamauga and Chattanooga
National Military Park
P.O. Box 2128
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

Office of the Regional Director
National Park Service
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Office of the Director
National Park Service
19th and C Streets NW
Washington, DC 20240

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

SIGNIFICANCE

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established in 1890 "for the purpose of preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the fields of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting" in the Civil War. The legislation was the first to authorize the preservation of an American battlefield, and it laid the basis for the national historical park concept in the United States. From this concept evolved future national battlefields, memorials, and monuments. Thus, the legislation establishing this park provided the cornerstone for the preservation of historic sites throughout the United States. Moreover, the creation of the park was an enterprise shared in by veterans of both sides.

Priorities for addressing the themes represented at the park are established in the "Regionwide Cultural Resources Profile" developed by the Southeast Regional Office. The themes and their significance to local, state, and national history are listed in table 1.

REGIONAL AREA

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park contains 17 separate units (approximately 8,400 acres total) that straddle the Georgia-Tennessee border. All of the units are within or close to the greater Chattanooga metropolitan area (see Vicinity map). The largest unit of the park, Chickamauga battlefield, has 5,283 acres and is in Walker and Catoosa counties, Georgia. The second largest unit is Lookout Mountain, containing 2,689 acres, the majority of which are in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Orchard Knob, Signal Point, and the detached reservations on Missionary Ridge are also found in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Park administrative offices are in the community of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

The park is situated in the Cumberland Mountains of the southern Blue Ridge, which extend southwest through Tennessee and Georgia. The land consists of broad valleys and coves separated by high ridges and numerous streams. Geologically, the area is a stratified limestone deposit that is susceptible to erosion. Chickamauga battlefield, Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge all consist of limestone accumulations that have eroded through the centuries.

Mean annual precipitation is 52 inches, with an average monthly high of 5.6 inches in March and a low of 3 inches in October. More than 5 inches of rain may fall in each of the three winter months and in July. The mean annual temperature is 60°F, with the January average low temperature of 40°F and the July average high temperature of 79°F. About 75 days a year the temperature is below freezing.

Table 1: Categories of Historical Significance

| <u>Theme Number and Category of Significance</u> | <u>Level of Significance</u> |
|---|------------------------------|
| I. The Original Inhabitants | |
| B. Native Villages and Communities | |
| 2. Eastern United States | Local |
| C. Indian Meets European | |
| 1. Indian Life at Time of Contact | State |
| 2. Changes in Native Life due to Contact | State |
| III. Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775 | |
| 2. Political and Diplomatic Affairs | State |
| IV. Major American Wars | |
| A. The American Revolution | |
| 4. War on the Frontier | Local |
| D. The Civil War | |
| 3. War in the West | National |
| E. The Spanish-American War | |
| 2. The Four-Month War | Regional |
| F. World War I | |
| 2. "The Yanks Are Coming!" 1917-18 | State |
| G. World War II | |
| 2. The Home Front | State |
| VII. America at Work | |
| E. Architecture | |
| 3. Classical and Eclectic Revival | Regional |
| VIII. Contemplative Society | |
| B. Painting and Sculpture | National |
| C. Education | |
| 5. Museums and Libraries | Regional |
| IX. Society and Social Conscience | |
| C. Environmental Conservation | |
| 2. The Cultural Environment | National |

Note: Themes are established in History and Prehistory in the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks Program (NPS 1982).

The rich soils of the alluvial valleys have been used for agriculture for hundreds of years. Koasati, Tuskegee, and later, Cherokee Indians settled in the region, hunted, and raised corn to supplement their diet. Settlers of European ancestry rapidly populated the Georgia-Tennessee country after the War of 1812, and especially after Andrew Jackson implemented a policy to relocate the Indians. By 1860 the city of Chattanooga, located on the Tennessee River in the southeastern quadrant of the state, had become a southern trade and railroad center.

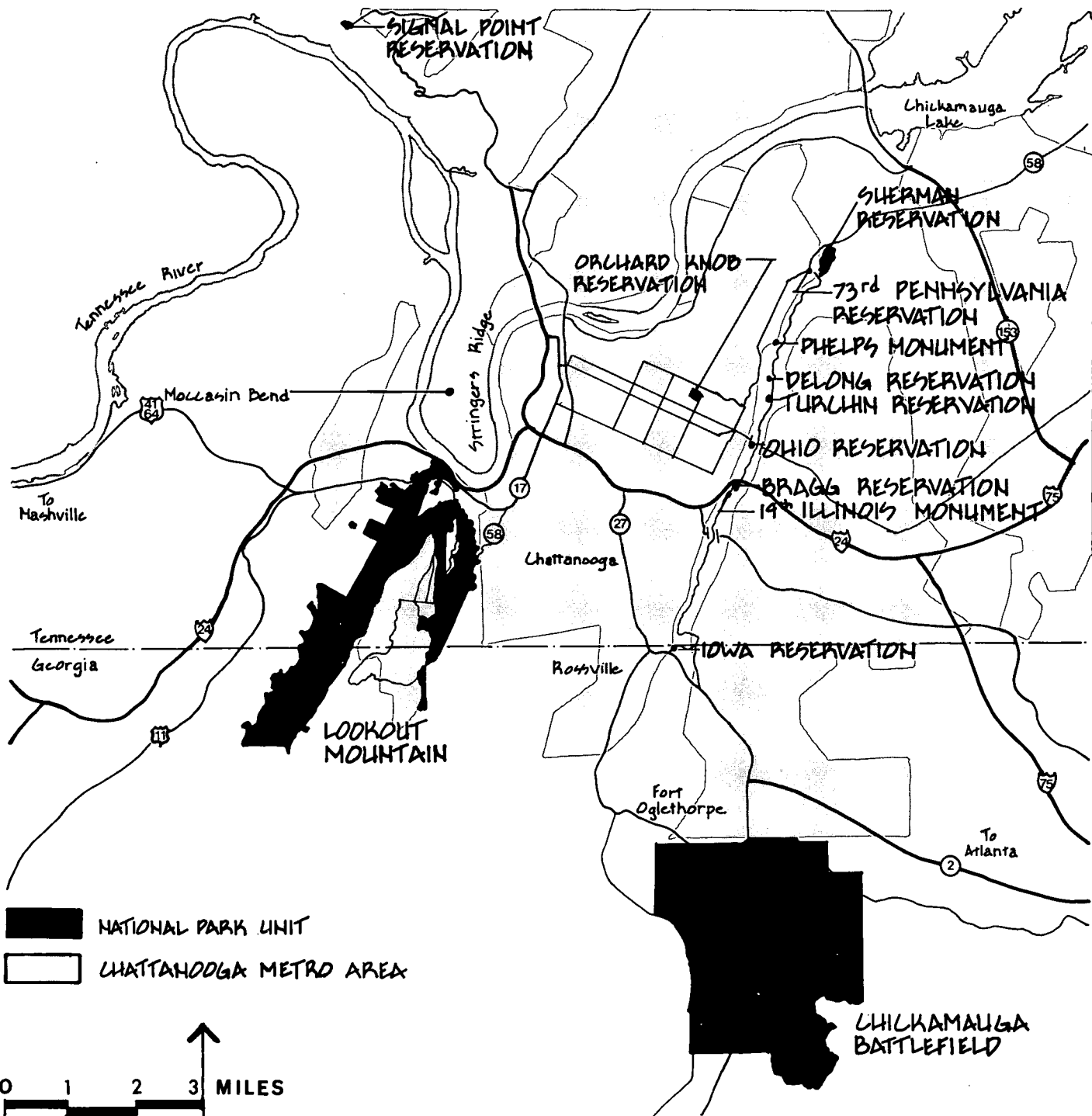
Today Chattanooga is Tennessee's fourth largest city. In addition to the national military park, the Chattanooga area is home to several other tourist attractions. Those nearest the park units include Rock City, the site of several interesting geologic formations; Ruby Falls, which consists of two underground caverns, one of which has a 145-foot waterfall; and the Incline Railway up the side of Lookout Mountain. A privately operated attraction known as Confederama offers an electronic diorama depicting the story of the Battle of Chattanooga.

CIVIL WAR BATTLES

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Chattanooga and its railroads quickly became focal points of Union strategy. It was not until 1863, however, that a concentrated effort to seize the city got underway. In September of that year Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans captured Chattanooga with his 58,000-man Army of the Cumberland. Rosecrans then pursued the retreating Confederate Army of Tennessee under Gen. Braxton Bragg into the wooded hills of north Georgia. Bragg soon received strong reinforcements and struck back at the Federals in the bloody Battle of Chickamauga on September 18-20, 1863. The intense fighting of September 19 for control of the crucial LaFayette-Chattanooga Road ended in a stalemate and forced both armies to prepare for a third day of combat. On the 20th Bragg's attacking army gained the advantage and forced Rosecrans and his army to abandon the field. Rosecrans's subordinate, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, consolidated the remaining Union troops and assumed a vital defensive position on Snodgrass Hill. Thomas held back the attacking Confederates until sundown, when he used the darkness to cover the retreat of the Union army into Chattanooga. Union losses at Chickamauga totaled more than 16,000, while Confederate losses numbered over 18,000.

Rosecrans quickly regrouped his command and entrenched his army in the fortified city of Chattanooga. Bragg surrounded the city, intending to starve his enemy into submission. Confederate troops occupied Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and the majority of the high terrain around the city. Rosecrans's army suffered tremendously after their food supplies were used up. In October, however, relief forces arrived under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Thomas replaced Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Cumberland, and Grant assumed overall command.

On November 23 Grant directed an assault on a Confederate position at Orchard Knob near the base of Missionary Ridge. Gaining that objective,



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General Thomas drove the Confederates back to their rifle pits at the very base of the ridge. On November 24 Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker led three divisions against the Confederate stronghold on Lookout Mountain. After a bloody day of fighting, the outnumbered Confederates were forced to withdraw from the mountain and take up new positions on Missionary Ridge. At dawn on November 25, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman was ordered to attack the Confederate position on the north end of Missionary Ridge. General Hooker was ordered to move across Chattanooga Valley and assault the southern end of the Confederate line near Rossville, Georgia.

Both attacks failed, and by midafternoon it looked as if the Confederate army might survive for another day. General Grant ordered General Thomas and the Army of the Cumberland to move against the Confederate center on Missionary Ridge and relieve the pressure on Generals Sherman and Hooker. After taking the rifle pits at the base of the ridge, the Union Army of the Cumberland stormed the face of the ridge and smashed the center of the Confederate army. The Union troops pursued the stricken foe, capturing men, guns, and supplies. Most of Bragg's army, however, successfully eluded the Union troops, but not before suffering almost 7,000 casualties. Northern losses in the Battle of Chattanooga totaled almost 6,000.

Grant's tactics succeeded in freeing the Union army entrenched at Chattanooga while attaining federal control over the rail center, a move that set the stage for Sherman's march through Georgia in 1864 and ultimately the end of the war.

THE PARK

Administrative History

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established in 1890 to commemorate the Civil War military engagements and to allow opportunities for future study. Veterans who fought at Chickamauga and Chattanooga played important roles in determining command positions on the ground and in raising markers and monuments. The park was administered by the War Department until 1933, when it came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Besides its inspirational and commemorative values, the park was and still is used for military instruction. In 1898 it was designated as a major assembly point for thousands of regular and volunteer troops mustered for service in the Spanish-American War. Military use continued into the 20th century, and army instructional facilities were built on the park grounds during World Wars I and II. Except for World War II, military activity was substantially curtailed following transfer of the park to the National Park Service, although the presence of the regular army post of Fort Oglethorpe at the north end of the Chickamauga battlefield influenced the park until 1947. Today, the Army Command General Staff continues to bring field classes to the park to study the military strategies used during the battles.

Visitor Use

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has reported a fairly stable visitation of about 1 million visitors per year over the past 10 years. Most visitors go to the Chickamauga battlefield, and about a quarter of the total go to Lookout Mountain. Peak visitation occurs in June, July, and August; lowest visitation months are December, January, and February (see appendix D for additional visitor use data). During the peak season approximately 10,000 visitors per month go to the Chickamauga visitor center, while about 2,000 visitors per month are recorded at the Point Park visitor center on Lookout Mountain. (Until the summer of 1986 the Point Park facility was in an old house that did not look like an information facility and was not clearly signed. The recently completed visitor center will probably attract more visitors.) Visits to the visitor centers at Chickamauga battlefield and Point Park represent less than 20 percent of the total visitation to the national military park.

In addition to park visitors who come to the Chickamauga battlefield to learn about its historical significance, many Chattanooga area residents come for open-space recreation. Frisbee players, sun bathers, and other activity-oriented recreationists frequently intrude on the more contemplative experience sought by many visitors. In an effort to accommodate local recreation needs while protecting visitor experiences more related to the park's purpose, the park has designated a special playfield for active recreation.

Several million people per year experience the park only as commuters or commercial drivers on US 27, which bisects the Chickamauga battlefield. The congestion and noise associated with this highway traffic create safety hazards and aesthetic intrusions for all park visitors. A proposal has been made to construct a bypass around the park, which would allow the present alignment to be used for park purposes.

Management Zoning

The lands within Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park have been placed in three management zones. The purpose of management zoning is to indicate where park operations, management functions, visitor uses, and developments are appropriate. Zones are identified based on the authorizing legislation, NPS policies, the nature of a site's resources, the desired visitor experiences, and established uses. The management zones for the national military park are as follows:

Historic Zone--Sixty-four percent (5,376 acres) of the park is placed in the historic zone, including most of the Chickamauga battlefield unit, all of Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, and Signal Point, and approximately 70 acres on Lookout Mountain. Lands and resources within this zone are managed to protect, preserve, and interpret the cultural resources and their setting.

Natural Zone--Thirty-three percent (2,772 acres) of the park lands have been placed in the natural zone, and they are managed to conserve the natural resources and processes, and to accommodate use of the area without adversely affecting these resources or processes. Included in this zone are 2,629 acres on Lookout Mountain.

Development Zone--Three percent (252 acres) of the park lands have been placed in the development zone, which allows for intensive visitor use areas, administrative and maintenance centers, as well as picnic areas and roadways.

Unstructured recreation subzone--Approximately 0.2 percent (20 acres) within the southwestern portion of the Chickamauga battlefield unit has been designated as a recreation field. Although the historic setting will continue to be preserved, casual outdoor recreation will be allowed.

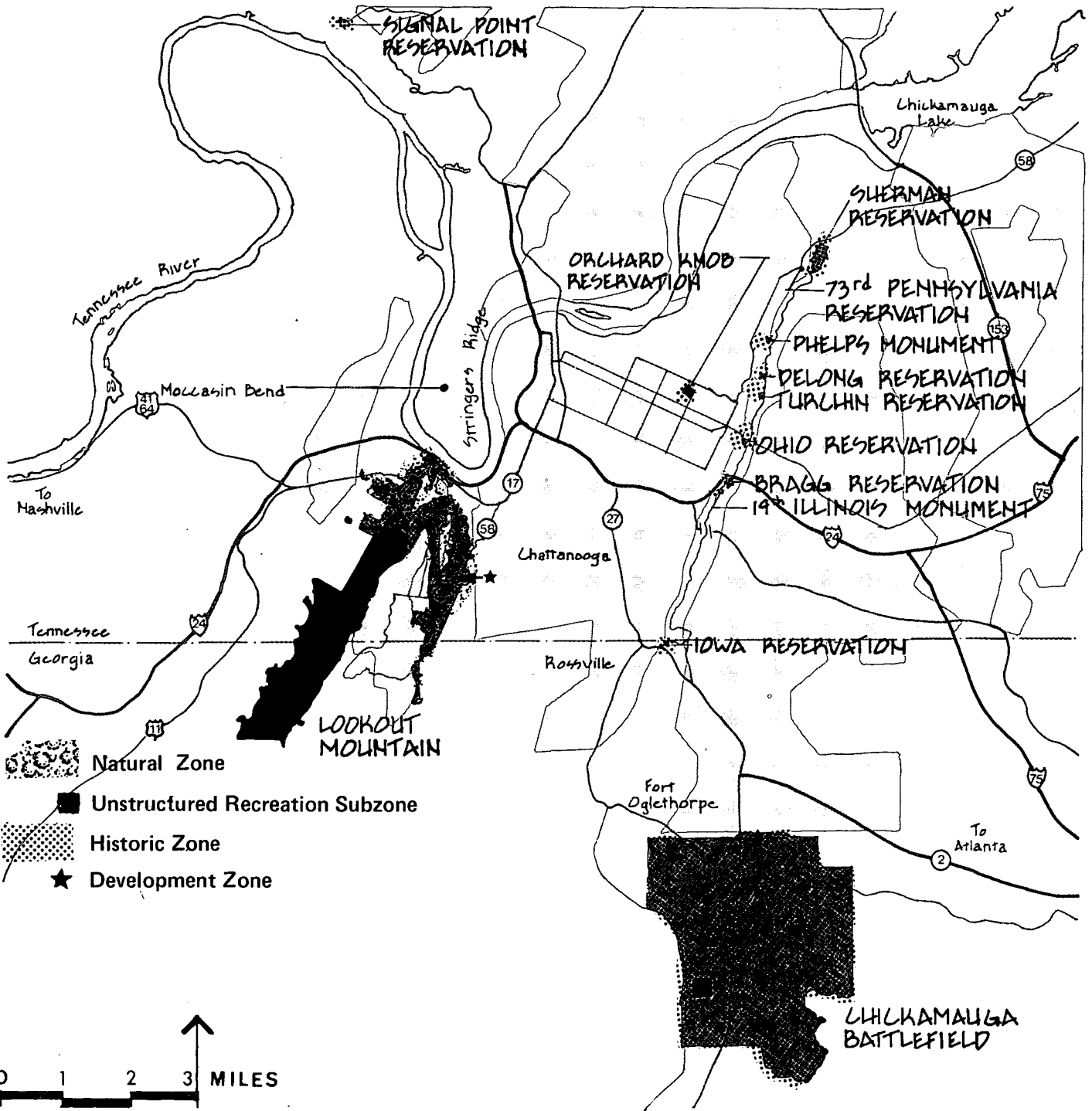
Natural Resources

Vegetation. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has a diverse vegetative cover, including hardwood forests, cedar glades, sagponds, and open fields. The slope of Lookout Mountain and the bluffs of Signal Point have well developed hardwood forests, while the forest cover of Chickamauga battlefield has been severely disturbed by military and agricultural uses.

Lookout Mountain and Signal Point are part of the Cumberland Plateau physiographic province. Streams have dissected the plateau to create steep slopes along ravines and valleys. Mixed-oak and oak/pine forest communities grow on the plateau, and oak or oak/hickory forests (including yellow poplar, basswood, buckeye, red oak, maple, birch, and beech) cover the slopes. Not all of these species are present in any one location, so the general impression is of oak woods.

Chickamauga battlefield is in the valley of West Chickamauga Creek, in the Ridge and Valley province. The weathering of underlying rock strata has created essentially two types of terrain. In the northwestern portion of the battlefield Knox dolomite has weathered to form a band of rolling, round-topped hills. The rest of the battlefield has a gently rolling terrain with shallow soils, exposed rock outcrops, and areas with flat, horizontal, underlying rock strata.

Rainfall and seasonal water flow help define the plant communities of the battlefield. Streamflows depend on rainfall because the shallow soils have very little water-holding capacity. Consequently, West Chickamauga Creek is subject to extremes in water flow; it floods frequently in the winter and runs very low in late summer. During low flows the creek is subject to organic pollution because of upstream discharges. Smaller streams are typically dry three to six months each year. Forested areas contribute significantly to the summer drying of small streams because of evapotranspiration.



MANAGEMENT ZONING
 Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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ON MICROFILM

The hills in the northwest portion of the battlefield have deep soils of heavy clay content, which support upland hardwood forests--red oak and hickory are dominant, with some scattered pines. Swales support white oak, elm, yellow poplar, ash, sweetgum, and hackberry. The rest of the battlefield is broadly characterized as Chickamauga Valley forest.

One community type of special significance is the cedar glades, which occupy a significant portion of the eastern half of the battlefield. The glades occur where limestone strata protrude in outcropping shelves, or on low limestone ridges and slopes with thin, azonal soils. These are believed to be the only cedar glades in a protected location in Georgia. They are more common in Tennessee and Kentucky, and these glades are at the southern limit of their occurrence. Several rare, endemic plant species occur in the glades, and some are protected in the state. Red cedar is the dominant and characteristic tree species, with chinquapin oak as codominant.

Another unique community type is the stratigraphic flats along the US Highway 27 corridor. Water draining from the adjacent hills tends to stand on the flats, giving the vegetation a patchy, irregular, lowlands appearance. The flats have a pine/hardwood forest, with assemblages of ash/elm/hackberry and willow oak occurring in shallow depressions, along with other lowland hardwoods scattered throughout the flats. This community has been significantly altered by land use activities and is in various stages of secondary succession, including a heavy growth of honeysuckle in the forest understory. The community type may not occur elsewhere in Georgia.

Sagponds are located throughout the limestone areas of the battlefield. Formed by a partial collapse of the overburden of a cavity in the underlying strata, they have no surface drainage, and the decay of material deposited in the pond is retarded because of a lack of oxygen and a redox barrier that typically forms on the bottom of the pond. Sagponds vary in size, shape, and species composition as a result of water availability and the retention time of the substrate. A unique sagpond along the eastern boundary of the battlefield is dominated by large willow oaks. The deep cushion of willow oak leaves on the floor of the pond prevents the invasion of herbaceous vegetation during dry periods. Other sagponds support a mix of hydrophytic or floodplain plant species.

Chickamauga Valley forest areas with deeper soils support more typical forest communities. Red oak and hickory mixed with pine dominate gentle slopes and ridges. White oak and yellow poplar occur throughout the forested areas, although they are scarce. Several large, overmature pines--from 70 to 180 years in age--grow on the battlefield.

A mixed floodplain hardwoods community along West Chickamauga Creek and east of Jays Mill Road contains the largest and possibly the oldest hardwoods in the park. These include several large red oaks, white oaks, hickories, sweetgums, and hackberries. Scattered pine stands appear to be primarily the result of old-field succession in areas

disturbed during World War II. These areas provide good cover for wildlife. Several fields (500 acres total) also provide some wildlife habitat. They are routinely mowed by a local farmer to maintain a semblance of the historical appearance. Twenty-two species of plants found within the park are included on the federal and state lists of endangered or threatened species, or they are listed as species of special concern (see appendix E).

Wildlife. Several species of mammals occur in the park, including white-tailed deer, opossum, swamp and cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, and eastern chipmunks. There is habitat in the park for three species of mammals on the federal and state lists of endangered or threatened wildlife--the gray bat (Myotis grisescens), the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), and the eastern cougar (Felis concolor cougar). However, none of these is known to be in the vicinity of the park.

A total of 149 bird species have been observed. The red-cockaded woodpecker (Picoides borealis), listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been observed in areas of the Chickamauga battlefield. In 1979 a systematic search located potential habitat areas. Although no sightings of the bird were reported, a potential nesting site that conformed to general characteristics of red-cockaded woodpecker habitat was found in the southwest portion of the battlefield. The southern bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) and peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) have been observed within the region, but not within the park (see appendix E).

The park also provides a varied range of habitats for reptiles and amphibians. Specific habitats of interest include stream courses, springs, cedar glades, and limestone sinks.

An old limestone quarry in the park's environmental study area near US 27 in the southern portion of the Chickamauga battlefield is filled with water year-round. It is inhabited by several fish species (sunfish, largemouth bass, and warmouth), watersnakes (Natrix spp.), eastern painted and musk turtles, and frogs (northern cricket, bullfrog, and greenfrog). The $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre quarry also provides a water source for wildlife when periodic streams are dry during late summer and fall. The quarry is in the maximum probable flood zone of West Chickamauga Creek.



Sherman Reservation



Lookout Mountain



Orchard Knob Reservation



Point Park, Lookout Mountain

Chickamauga National Battlefield



US Highway 27

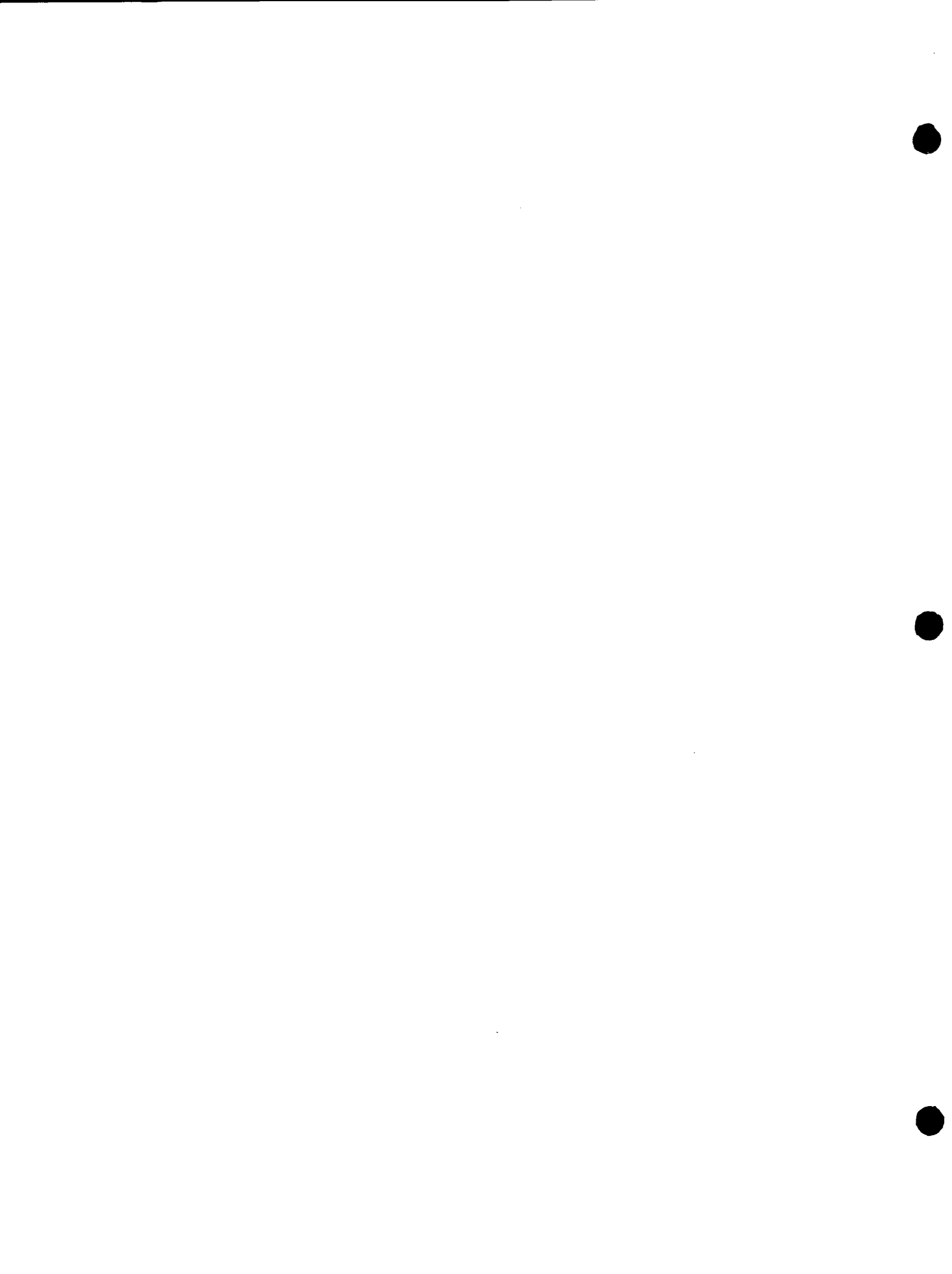


Cedar glade

Sag ponds



THE PROPOSED PLAN



PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

The future of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is closely tied to the future of the Chattanooga metropolitan area. The many complex forces influencing Chattanooga today are also directly or indirectly controlling the future of the national military park. Therefore, any successful plan for the park will depend not only on the commitment and resources of the National Park Service, but also on the commitment and resources of the many agencies, organizations, and individuals in the area. Close cooperation will be required between the Park Service and the people of the greater Chattanooga metropolitan area.

This general management plan seeks to ensure the preservation and protection of park resources and to provide visitors with high-quality experiences. Visitors should leave the park with an understanding of why the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga were important, and why the people of the United States have sought to preserve and protect these lands as a unit of the national park system.

The plan will try to balance active and passive recreational uses in the park. It will also ensure that all park visitors have access to detached units and that the desires and needs of adjoining or nearby residents are respected. Furthermore, the plan will attempt to minimize traffic congestion and noise associated with commercial and commuter traffic on US 27 (pending its relocation) and other park roads within the Chickamauga battlefield unit without unnecessarily interrupting the regional transportation network.

The plan is described in four parts: visitor use and interpretation, visitor access and circulation (including use of US 27), land protection (Stringers Ridge, landscape management, mitigation of present and future visual intrusions), and park management and operations. Existing conditions are briefly described to provide a context for each of the proposed actions. A plan implementation section with estimated costs follows the description of the proposed plan.

VISITOR USE AND INTERPRETATION

PARKWIDE VISITOR ORIENTATION

Existing Conditions

Most visitors to the national military park generally go to the Chickamauga battlefield first. The dated exhibits at the visitor center, however, do not orient visitors to the entire park, nor do they relate the significance of park units to the context of the entire park story. As a result, many visitors learn about the events at Chickamauga only and miss out on the continuation of the story at Lookout Mountain and the other Chattanooga units.

At some park units, the NPS presence is so inconspicuous that many visitors are unaware that the site is part of the national military park. Also information is not always readily available to explain the significance of each site. Better park orientation and site identification would help visitors plan a logical and comprehensive park tour.

Proposal

Parkwide orientation will be offered at all park visitor centers and will convey the following information:

- location and primary significance of all park units

- suggested route(s) for visiting park units

- explanation of military monuments and markers and how they supplement park interpretive media

- special regulations and safety messages

- schedules of all park activities and programs

- information about related resources and programs outside the park

The park brochure supplements visitor center orientation, but it will have to be revised when the tour road or visitor center facilities are changed (see "Interpretation" section).

The National Park Service will work with local and state highway agencies to develop a consistent signing system to guide visitors to park units and to identify the units as part of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. A distinctive sign design, park logo, or color scheme will be developed for use on park signs so that visitors can more readily find sites and features.

Another use of the park logo (decals or very small label signs) will be to identify isolated monuments and cannon that are part of the park and that mark battle events throughout the Chattanooga area. Such identification will help increase public awareness of the park and may help reduce vandalism of some features.

INTERPRETATION

Existing Conditions

The visitor center at Chickamauga serves as the primary visitor contact point and park administrative headquarters. The visitor center building, however, is too small, and the floor plan does not accommodate all the functions assigned to the building. Staff must pass through visitor areas to walk from one office to another, there is insufficient space for the park library and collections/archives storage, and the information desk and publication sales area is extremely crowded. The park's audiovisual program is shown in a cramped, unattractive space that is inconveniently located on the second floor. Exhibits are old and ineffective, and the floor plan focuses visitor attention on exhibits that, while interesting in themselves, are not central to understanding the park.

Three types of on-site interpretation are offered at the Chickamauga visitor center--a booklet, a cassette tape, and wayside exhibits. Visitors may purchase a booklet that tells about the critical events of the battle on September 20 and that is keyed to eight pullouts along the park's main tour route. Alternatively a cassette tape can be purchased or rented, along with a player, at the visitor center. The tape presents much of the same information as the booklet, but it directs visitors around an additional loop to sites associated with the first day of battle. Wayside exhibits along the tour route also present bits and pieces of the battlefield story. Although the booklet and tape tours work quite well and are enjoyed by visitors, some actions would clarify the story, simplify the route, and reduce traffic conflicts at crossings and intersections of US 27 (at least until the highway bypass has been completed).

The booklet also provides some interpretation of the primary Chattanooga units--Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, and Signal Point. The most comprehensive interpretation of the Battle of Chattanooga, however, is offered at Confederama, the privately operated tourist attraction outside the park.

At Lookout Mountain visitors may tour the reconstructed Cravens house and visit Point Park, where a new visitor center has been recently opened. The Ochs Museum, also at Point Park, contains some small exhibits related to the battle. An extensive trail system on the west side of the mountain offers visitors an opportunity to view the unit's natural environment.

Some of the sites and reservations along Missionary Ridge are large enough to accommodate parking for a few vehicles; others are accessible only by foot. On-site interpretation along the ridge is limited to military markers and monuments.

Markers and signs at Orchard Knob supplement the information in the tour booklet. At Signal Point wayside exhibits interpret the landscape, but they do not relate the site to the rest of the park story.

Proposal

Visitor Centers. A 6,000-square-foot addition will be constructed at the existing Chickamauga visitor center and administrative headquarters. Administrative offices, the library, collection and archival storage, and the Fuller gun collection will remain in the existing building; while exhibits, the theater, publication sales, the information desk, and visitor restrooms will be moved to the addition (see appendix F). Interpretation will emphasize the relationship between the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battles and their significance to the Civil War. This approach will help visitors make the most of their park visit and enhance their understanding of the sites and resources. The park "Interpretive Prospectus" (approved 1982) will be revised and updated to determine specific content and media for new exhibits in the visitor center.

The tour route, associated media, and interpretive content will also be examined in the revised "Interpretive Prospectus." A one-way route that incorporates two or more loops of various lengths and different levels of interpretive detail is preferred by the staff because it would offer visitors tour options. Trails to supplement the auto tour will be specifically identified in the prospectus, and a new trail guide and trailhead signing will be developed.

The Lookout Mountain unit's wayside exhibits and Ochs Museum exhibits will also be evaluated. Media will be developed to help visitors fully understand the Battle of Chattanooga and its importance to the outcome of the war.

Wayside Exhibits. A new orientation/interpretation wayside exhibit or group of exhibits will be installed at the Bragg reservation on Missionary Ridge. The purposes of the exhibits will be to orient visitors to the ridge and to explain the primary significance of the ridge to the Battle of Chattanooga. Specific planning for the exhibits will be included in the revised "Interpretive Prospectus" and a wayside exhibit plan. A park ranger/interpreter will be assigned to the Missionary Ridge unit to provide a more visible NPS presence and to answer visitor questions. The ranger could also offer talks or tours.

A new wayside exhibit will be planned for Signal Point. It will be designed to complement existing exhibits and will explain how the site was used during the Chattanooga campaign.

Interpretive Themes. The themes outlined in table 2 will form the core of the park's interpretive program. The main headings are the primary themes that visitors should understand in order to appreciate the significance of the park. These ideas should be presented at the visitor centers because they are basic to understanding any additional information. The subheadings represent supplementary ideas that can be developed at the various units. Where desirable for clarity, on-site interpretation may also reinforce the primary ideas presented at the visitor centers.

Collection Management. All park collections have been inventoried and cataloged; however, the staff is uncertain which collections should be stored and curated at the visitor center and which would be better housed and curated at a repository outside the park. A collection management plan is needed to identify procedures for acquisition, cataloging, management, preservation, treatment, and use of the park's library, archives, and museum collections. The document will be developed by the park staff, in consultation with appropriate regional and Washington office specialists.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Existing Conditions

During the army's administration of the park (1890-1933) facilities were provided for such diverse recreational activities as golf, polo, and other athletic games. During the National Park Service's administration (since 1933) active recreational uses in the park have continued. A primitive camping area has been established for scouts; a recreation field has been maintained for sport-type activities; and running events, bike races, weddings, and symphony concerts have been allowed. Currently two running events and three symphony concerts are allowed each year, plus unlimited use of the recreation field and camping by Boy Scout groups. Informal individual or family picnicking is allowed in designated picnic areas only.

To many people such nontraditional recreational activities within a historical park are incompatible with the direction provided in the park's establishing legislation. To others, however, such activities provide opportunities to bring many new visitors to the park, people who otherwise might not be inclined to visit at all. Without an established policy to govern recreational activities, the debate as to what constitutes an acceptable balance between commemorative and recreational uses of the park will continue.

In addressing this issue, two types of recreational activities have been defined--organized and nonorganized. Organized activities are pursued by a group of participants or spectators who gather for a specific reason (for example, team sports, bike races, running events, or symphony concerts). Nonorganized activities are pursued by individuals or groups, and they may or may not be related to the park's cultural and natural

Table 2: Interpretive Themes

- I. The railroads at Chattanooga were the objective of a major Union campaign during the Civil War.
- II. The Battle of Chickamauga was the first major engagement of the Chattanooga campaign.
 - A. The battle involved a different kind of warfare than other Civil War battles.
 1. The forests impaired visibility and resulted in close-range fighting and much hand-to-hand fighting.
 2. Chickamauga has been called a "soldiers' battle" because the troops often had to act without officer leadership.
 3. Tactics employed before and during the battle were important in later wars (e.g., use of railroads to move large numbers of troops, breakdown of the mass army into squads and platoons, use of breastworks, use of repeating rifles).
 - B. The battle resulted in the greatest number of casualties of the western Civil War (34,000 in 18 hours) because of the close fighting and the numbers of troops involved.
 - C. The battle was one of the last major Confederate victories.
- III. The Confederate victory at Chickamauga led to the Battle of Chattanooga.
 - A. Chattanooga was besieged, which in turn resulted in
 - Grant's promotion to commander of the western armies and assignment to Chattanooga
 - reinforcement of the Union army by means of the railroads (three major Union armies were represented at Chattanooga)
 - eventual demoralization of the Confederate army due to inaction by the commander
 - B. Key positions during the Battle of Chattanooga included
 - Lookout Mountain (intense fighting was concentrated at Cravens Terrace)
 - Point Park (both a Union and Confederate signaling station and a Confederate gun emplacement)
 - Orchard Knob (Union headquarters)
 - Signal Point
 - Missionary Ridge
 - C. Signal stations, horses, and boats were used to overcome geographic obstacles.
 - D. Opening of the Union supply line broke the siege.
- IV. The major Union victory at Chattanooga was a significant turning point in the Civil War because Union control of the rails opened the gate to the Deep South and allowed Sherman's campaign against Atlanta and subsequent march through Georgia.
- V. Most monuments and markers at the park were placed at battle locations by veterans of the battles for purposes of commemoration and military study.
- VI. The military park was the first historical park in the national park system.

resources (for example, kite-flying, Frisbee throwing, or spontaneous pick-up softball, soccer, or volleyball games).

Proposal

The primary goals of protecting the historical and natural values of the park and of interpreting their significance set the parameters for appropriate recreational activities (for example, hiking, bird-watching, jogging, and biking). Because the national military park is the largest expanse of open space in the Chattanooga metropolitan area, the use of the park for appropriate recreational activities will continue to enhance some visitors' experiences. However, the National Park Service will ensure that the park's historical significance is not overshadowed by activities that would be better conducted elsewhere.

Nonorganized recreational activities (ball playing, kite flying, Frisbee throwing, etc.) will be limited to the designated recreation field. Appropriate organized activities will be allowed only with the approval of the superintendent, who will issue a special use permit. (Appropriate organized recreational activities or events are identified as those that enhance the interpretation of the historical and cultural values in the national military park.) Picnicking will be allowed only in designated areas. Swimming will be prohibited in the rock quarry at the Chickamauga battlefield.

COMFORT STATIONS

Existing Conditions

Currently, restrooms at the Chickamauga battlefield are located only at the visitor center, and there is a temporary comfort station near Wilder Tower. This is inconvenient for many visitors, including senior citizens, families with young children, or those without vehicles.

Proposal

A permanent comfort station will be constructed on the west side of the Chickamauga battlefield near the recreation field. The existing portable comfort station at Wilder Tower will be relocated to the picnic area on Brotherton Road.

VISITOR ACCESS

US HIGHWAY 27

Existing Conditions

US 27, a major north/south artery, bisects the Chickamauga battlefield unit. The average daily traffic numbers over 12,000 vehicles, most of which are local commuters and commercial vehicles. The presence of all this nonvisitor traffic creates significant impacts on the park's cultural and natural resources, and it intrudes on the visitor experience. Also, the two-lane highway cannot adequately carry existing traffic loads at certain times of the day, further compounding safety problems for visitor and nonvisitor traffic. The National Park Service owns that segment of US 27 through the park.

For several years the Georgia Department of Transportation has advocated widening US 27 through the park to four lanes so that traffic can move more efficiently. However, this would further increase the road's adverse impacts on the park and its visitors. The Park Service, therefore, has proposed that a bypass be constructed around the park. In October 1985 NPS Director William Penn Mott, Jr., reaffirmed that the construction of a bypass alignment west of the park boundary would be the preferred solution.

Once the bypass has been constructed, the Park Service must decide what to do with that portion of US 27 within the park.

Proposal

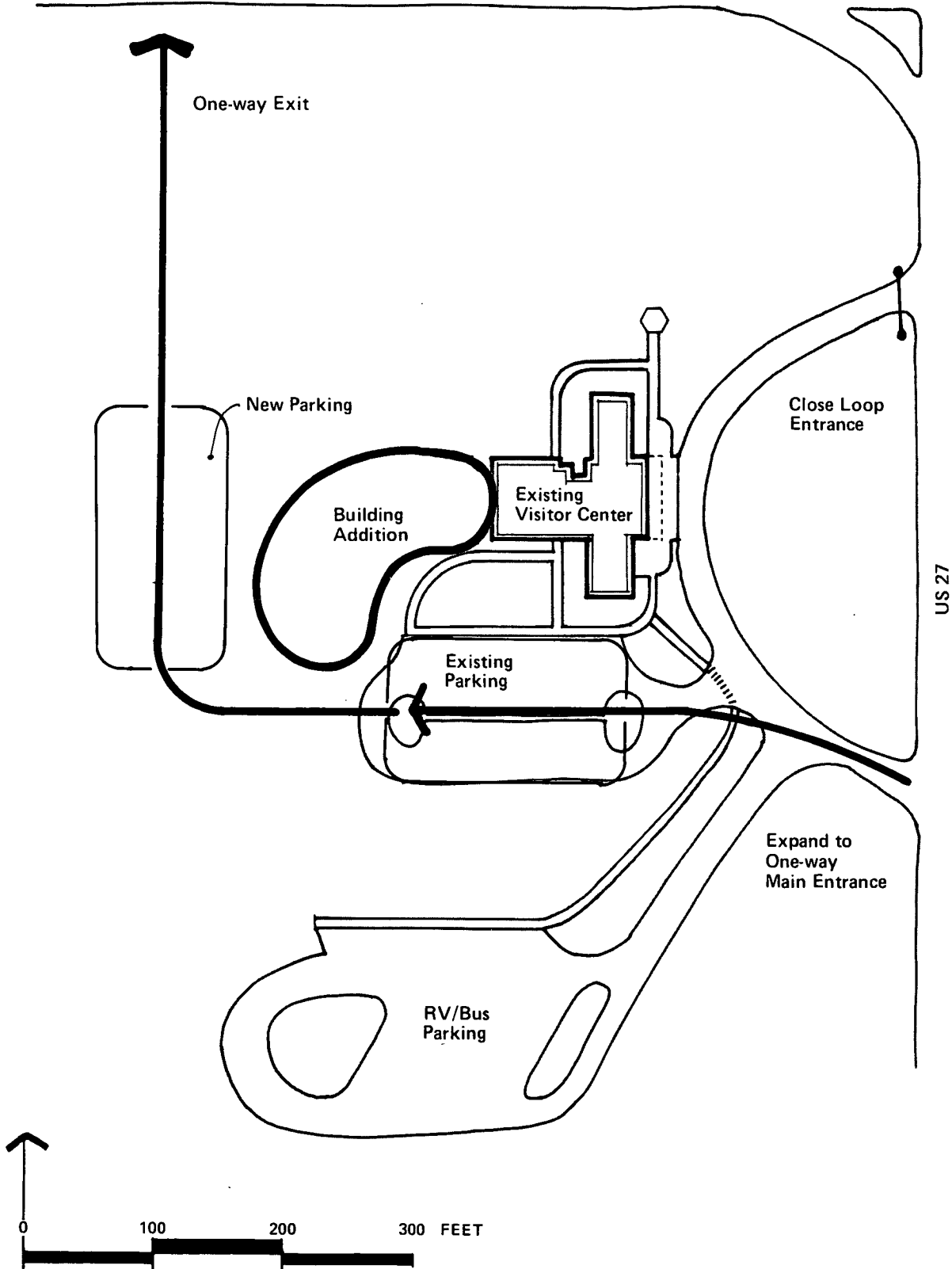
The former US 27 will remain open, but speed limits will be reduced to 25-30 mph, and commercial traffic will be prohibited. The roadway will be reduced to a width comparable to that of other park tour roads, and a 6- to 8-foot-wide bike lane will be incorporated into the roadway prism. Because US 27 will function primarily as a park tour road, the Park Service will work with the Georgia Department of Transportation to develop signs or a road design that will encourage through-traffic to use the US 27 bypass. The other park tour routes will then be redesigned to incorporate this portion of the park's road system as appropriate. Pullouts for the new tour stops will be included in the reconstructed roadway.

ACCESS AND PARKING

Chickamauga Visitor Center

Existing Conditions. The Chickamauga visitor center is on the northwest corner of the intersection of US 27 and McFarland Gap Road. Both roads have heavy traffic demands, and a traffic signal is at the intersection.

McFarland Gap Road



VISITOR CENTER DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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ON MICROFILM

The visitor center entrance and exit are on US 27, and traffic conflicts occur because of left turns into the visitor center. The proximity of the entrance and exit to the signalized intersection intensifies the problem.

Proposal. Conflicts at the visitor center will be reduced by rerouting the existing entrance and exit traffic. Access from the south on US 27 will be facilitated by providing a left-turn lane for vehicles entering the visitor center to prevent traffic from backing-up. Access will also be provided from the parking areas north to McFarland Gap Road (see the Development Concept Plan map). This will reduce the need for left turns onto US 27 and will improve the route for the existing tape tour (see the 1986 "Traffic Engineering Safety Improvement Study").

It is anticipated that expanding the visitor services at the proposed visitor center addition (for example, additional exhibits and the orientation film) will increase visitor stays at that facility. Therefore, a new 50-car parking area will be constructed behind the addition when a need for it has been clearly demonstrated.

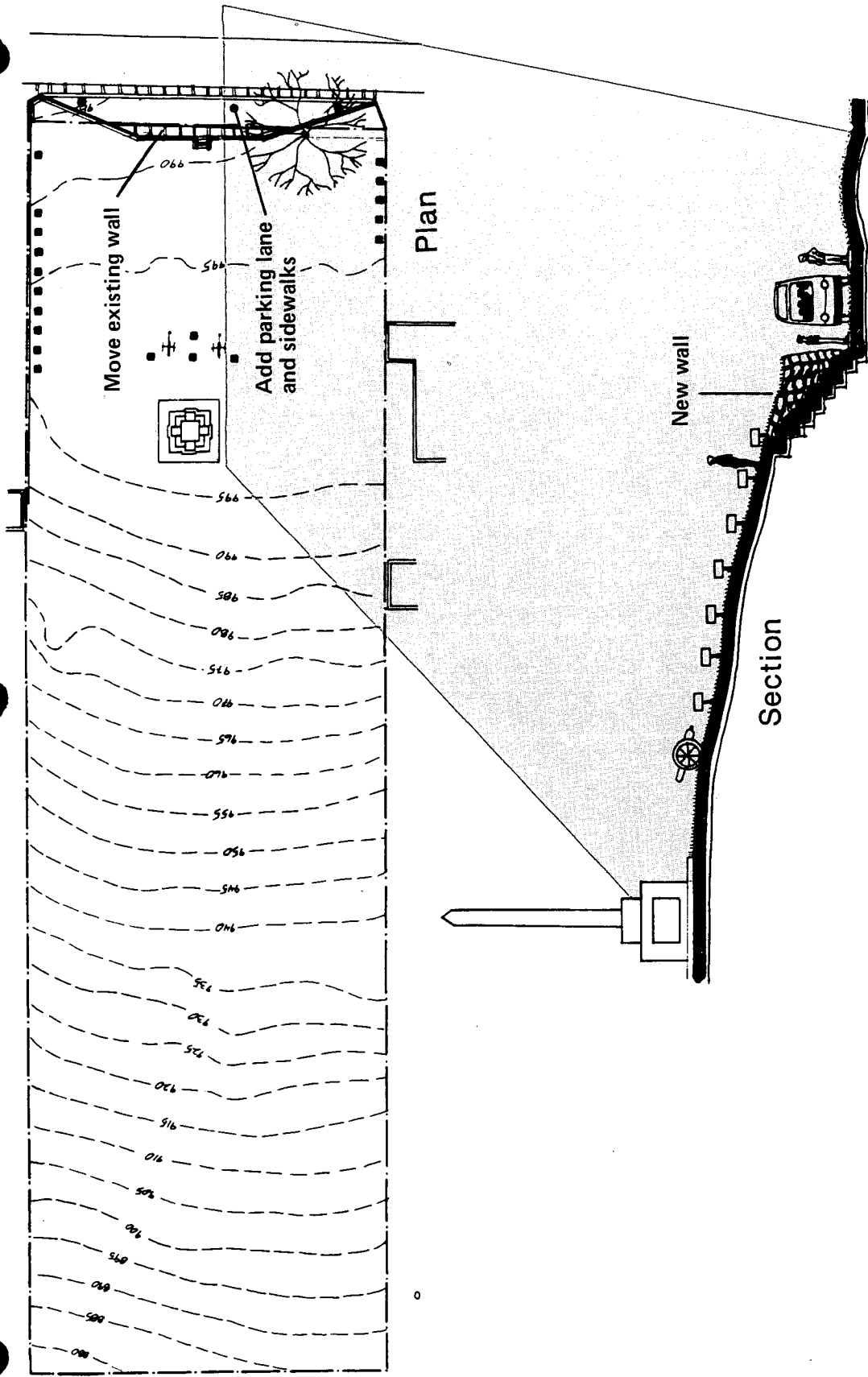
Missionary Ridge

Existing Conditions. Missionary Ridge is east of the Chattanooga metropolitan area, and where slopes allow, residential neighborhoods cover the top and sides of the ridge. The steep slopes and narrow width of the ridge limit access to a single main road along the top of the ridge. Within the residential neighborhood along this main access road (Crest Road) are several NPS sites ranging in size from a single monument, marker, or cannon to 50 acres.

Although the park sites blend with the surrounding neighborhoods as small urban parks, their location along the narrow winding road creates parking and access problems for visitors. Crest Road has few areas where there is enough shoulder width to park a car, and these areas are often crowded with vehicles. Entrance and exit from these informal parking areas is hazardous because of limited sight distances caused by steep slopes and sharp curves.

Although the parking capacity needs to be increased, the land base is not sufficient. The Ohio, Bragg, and Sherman reservations are large enough to accommodate some parking. The Sherman and Bragg reservations both have some existing informal parking areas, and parking at both areas could be expanded off Crest Road. The Turchin and DeLong reservations are relatively small, although there is now parking for two cars at DeLong. Other areas, such as the Iowa and Illinois reservations, are very small pieces of land within intersections or on corners, and there is no potential to provide parking.

Proposal. The reservations along Crest Road are spread along a 4-mile distance. Therefore, several small parking areas are more appropriate than a single, centralized parking area.



PROPOSED PARKING — OHIO RESERVATION
 Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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ON MICROFILM

Bragg Reservation--Old South Crest Road is a side street that bisects the Bragg reservation, and the existing road width and sidewalk provide enough room to expand the parking area. Allowing only one-way traffic will provide potential for parking on both sides of the street, without interfering with existing monuments. The expanded Old South Crest Road has potential for 30 additional parking spaces. The parking expansion could be phased with interpretive development. Further expansion can be coordinated with demand.

Sherman Reservation--The existing entrance to the Sherman reservation is a two-lane, two-way road ending in a cul-de-sac where two or three cars can park. Because of existing topography, erosive soils, circulation patterns, and the location of historic resources, the existing entry road and service access will not be altered. Some additional parking can be achieved by reshaping the turnaround and widening the road. These minor parking arrangements can be incorporated at the time of cyclic repaving.

Ohio Reservation--The Ohio reservation has 100-160 feet of street-front access on Crest Road and is bounded on both sides by residential driveways. An old stone wall also fronts the street. To provide parking for two cars or one bus, plus sidewalk access to the site, a recessed bay will be constructed. This will require moving the existing wall 17 feet back from its existing location. The proximity of the entrance and exit to the existing driveways, and the limited sight distance at the north end of the site, will remain potential safety hazards.

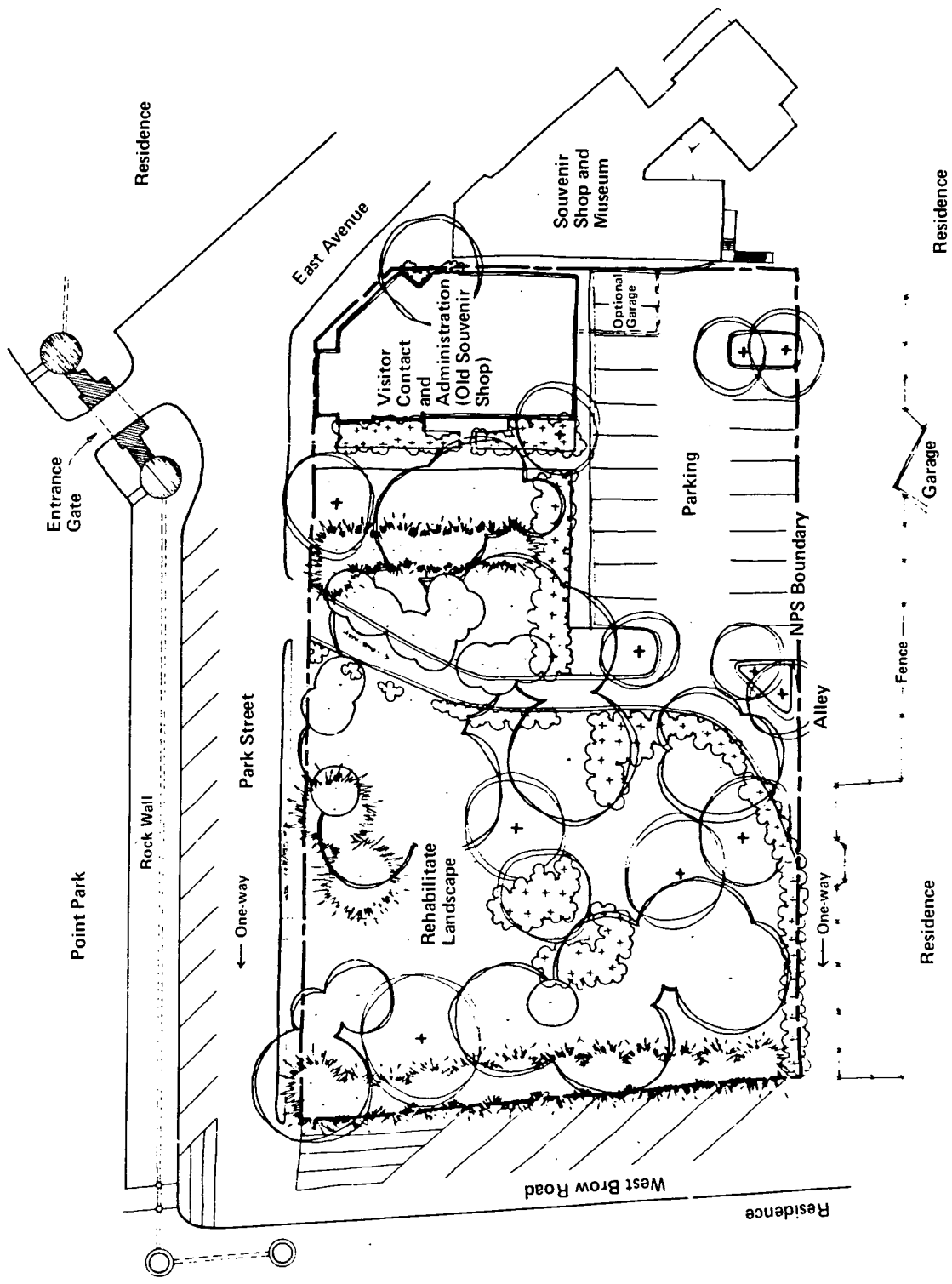
Lookout Mountain

Access to the Lookout Mountain visitor center is by way of a circuitous route through residential neighborhoods. Circulation and parking at the center were addressed in the 1984 Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment for the Point Park Visitor Contact and Administration Building.

SECONDARY ROADS

Existing Conditions

Roads that historically connected farms, fields, and towns are used today as interpretive tour routes, visitor access roads, and administrative roads. Although many of these roads have been widened and paved, they still retain much of their historical character. Currently, the interpretive tour route includes Battle Line Road, Poe Road, US 27 (LaFayette Road), Glenn-Viniard Road, and Glenn-Kelly Road. All of these except US 27 are narrow, one-way roads, with chip-and-seal surfaces. Most parking is informal and occurs on the road shoulders.



POINT PARK VISITOR CONTACT AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

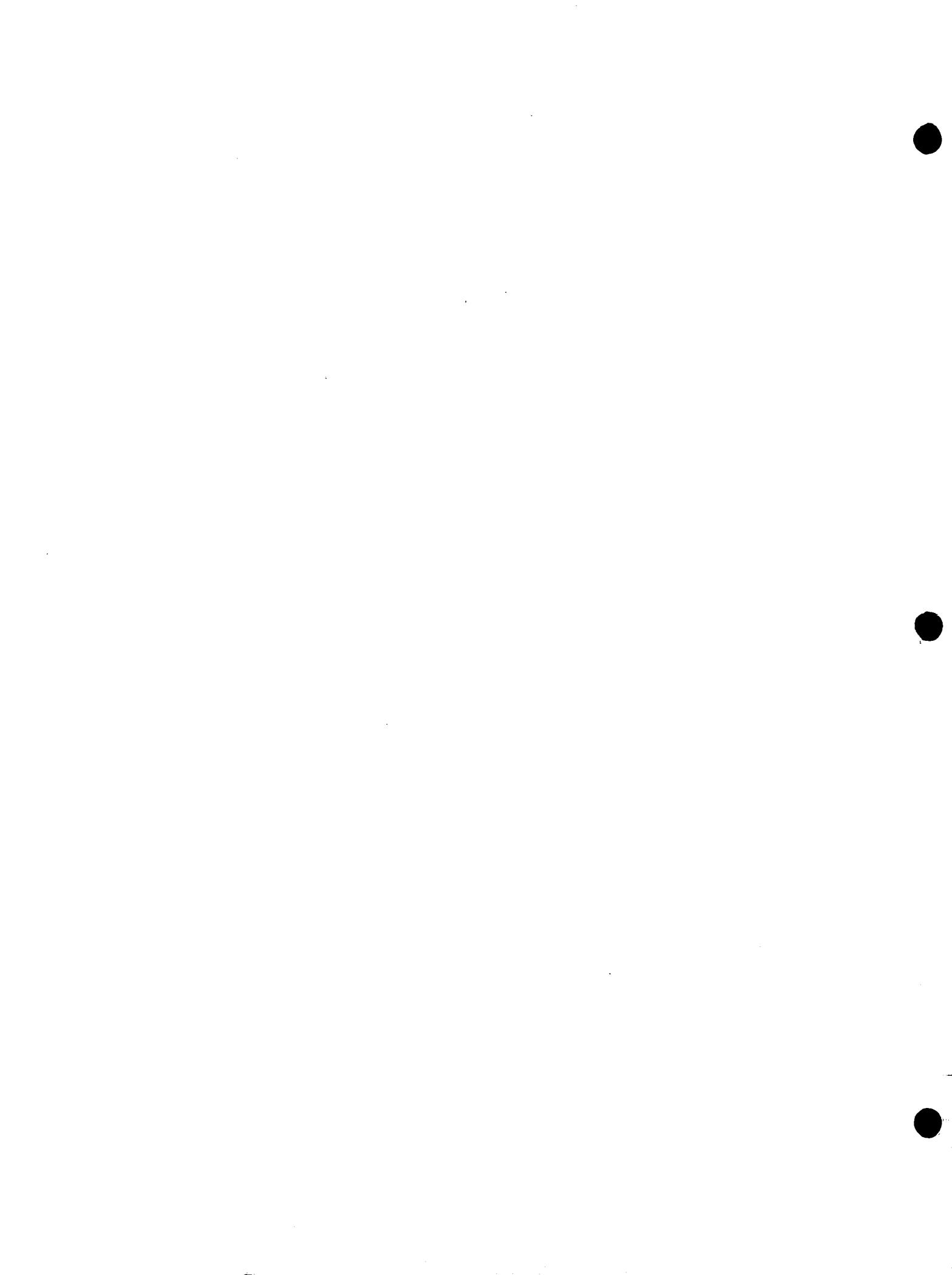
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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ON MICROFILM



Visitor access roads include several additional roads that have also retained their historical character, including Jays Mill Road, Brotherton Road, Viniard-Alexander Road, and Dyer Road. Most of these roads are two-way, narrow, and have chip-and-seal surfaces. In some locations the lack of drainage structures has created deep ruts next to the pavement, resulting in safety hazards. A parked car creates a potential hazard on these narrow, two-way roads.

Alexanders Bridge Road, McFarland Gap Road, and Reeds Bridge Road have been widened, striped, and paved with asphalt. McFarland Gap and Reeds Bridge roads are both heavily used and connect with the metropolitan area's street network.

Proposal

The historical character of roads within the park will be preserved. Existing one-way roads will be maintained so as to keep the road width to a minimum. Roadside parking will be limited to designated areas, which may be paved. Locations for roadside parking will be selected when the park's wayside exhibit plan is implemented.

Designated parking areas will minimize "gradual" road widening caused by indiscriminate parking. Parking should not, however, be located on US 27 or other high-volume roads until the bypass has been completed. Parking at the Brotherton cabin will be moved from US 27 to Dyer Road. Dangerous roadside ditches will be partially backfilled to minimize hazardous dropoffs. Backfill material will include compacted gravel and smaller particles to allow drainage. Roads will not be widened, however, and ditches will not be paved over. Paving materials will be chosen to blend with existing surfaces. Additional striping on all park roads will be avoided.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CULTURAL RESOURCES

For the most part, cultural resource management at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is not a critical issue. Because the entire park is a cultural resource, the NPS staff is acutely aware of the historical significance of the park and its resource base. Consequently, virtually all management decisions are carefully weighed against any potential negative impact they may have on the park's cultural resource values, and responsible cultural resource management is of paramount importance in the day-to-day operation of the park. As part of the planning process, two issues related to technical information have been identified and are addressed below.

Markers and Monuments

Existing Conditions. Although the park maintains a separate file on each commemorative marker and monument, not every marker or monument is in its original location. Several have been relocated by park managers or have been destroyed or stolen by vandals who sometimes leave them elsewhere in the park.

Proposal. All park markers and monuments will be surveyed, and their precise locations noted. Individual marker/monument files will be updated as needed. A map will be produced showing the location of each marker and monument.

Archeological Resources--Tennessee Units

Existing Conditions. In conjunction with various studies and proposals for relocating US 27, the Chickamauga battlefield unit has received a total archeological survey. The Tennessee units, however, have never been similarly studied or surveyed, and park managers have an incomplete parkwide cultural resource data base.

Proposal. Archeological studies and surveys will be undertaken for the Tennessee units of the park to locate and identify archeological remains, evaluate their significance, nominate those that qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, and determine whether they relate to any of the park's primary or secondary interpretive themes. The survey will also recommend whether any identified resources should be managed as interpretive sites, preserved for future scientific study, or allowed to deteriorate through natural forces. Pending completion of these surveys, any areas slated for ground-disturbing activity will be intensively surveyed before construction. If significant archeological resources are identified, the project will be modified to avoid adverse impacts to the resource. If avoidance is not possible, appropriate data recovery procedures will be initiated and completed before construction begins.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Existing Conditions

The natural resources of the park were previously described in the "Description and Significance of the National Military Park."

Proposal

The park's natural resources will generally be managed to support the preservation of cultural resources and the interpretation of the Civil War battles. The forest on the west side of Lookout Mountain will be maintained in its present natural state. The cedar glades, stratigraphic flats, and sagponds in the Chickamauga unit will continue to be protected. The glades support several rare plant species and offer opportunities for research and interpretation of natural succession. The sagpond communities will provide opportunities for natural resource education and research. The quarry pond in the natural environmental study area is a water source for wildlife during dry seasons, and it will continue to be managed as such.

LAND PROTECTION

Although the park prepared a "Land Protection Plan" in 1983, the following issues were either not addressed or require further elaboration.

STRINGERS RIDGE

Existing Conditions

Stringers Ridge consists of approximately 100 acres on the eastern edge of the Tennessee River's Moccasin Bend, near downtown Chattanooga. Although the area is now heavily forested, at the time of the Battle of Chattanooga (November 1863) the ridge had virtually no vegetation and was the site of Union gun emplacements. Most historians agree that the gun emplacements on Stringers Ridge contributed significantly to the Union's eventual victory in the Battle of Chattanooga.

Stringers Ridge is jointly owned by the city, county, and state. Because of its location, it is considered prime real estate for commercial or perhaps residential development. In 1985 the quasi-public Moccasin Bend Task Force prepared a master plan for commercial development of the Tennessee River corridor through Chattanooga. Entitled "Tennessee River Park," the plan proposes that Moccasin Bend, recently declared a national historic landmark by the secretary of the interior, not be extensively developed, but rather be set aside as a cultural park for the interpretation of its significant prehistoric values, as well as its role in the Civil War and the Battle of Chattanooga. The plan further proposes that Stringers Ridge be made a unit of the national military park.

From a historical perspective, Stringers Ridge played a significant role in the Battle of Chattanooga, but its present heavy forest overgrowth limits meaningful interpretation. Including it within the park's boundaries would create another detached unit.

Proposal

The National Park Service will not seek to acquire a fee or less-than-fee interest in Stringers Ridge. Instead, the Park Service will encourage the owners to respect the historically significant features of the property with regard to any subsequent development and use. Activities affecting the ridge would be monitored as part of the Park Service's overall responsibility to monitor the status of all designated national historic landmarks.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Existing Conditions

At the time of the Battle of Chickamauga (September 1863), the battlefield area was primarily woodland interspersed with pastures, cultivated fields, and 24 small farms and connecting roads. Heavy fighting during the battle destroyed or damaged much of the forest, and more land was subsequently cleared for farming after the war. At the same time, Lookout Mountain had been mostly clear-cut because the wood was needed to support the war effort.

When the park was established in 1890, the commissioners wanted to restore the Chickamauga battlefield to conditions existing at the time of the battle. In 1901 a topographic map denoting the area's 1863 appearance, as could best be determined from official records and accounts of veterans, was prepared by the park's civil engineer. By 1906 all but 100 acres of the Chickamauga battlefield unit had been restored to their 1863 appearance, but most of this work was subsequently undone by 1945. No attempt was made to provide similar treatment to the Lookout Mountain or other units, primarily because the surrounding areas had been developed for residential use.

Currently, most of the Chickamauga battlefield unit is maintained in forest. Fifteen separate fields (500 acres total) are mowed to traditional sizes and shapes. Several old farmsites are overgrown, and the landscape at many other areas is significantly different from what it was in September 1863. The other detached units are maintained by mowing. The west side of the Lookout Mountain unit is heavily forested.

Proposal

Many park units are quite small and are surrounded by residential areas; consequently, it is not practical to consider historical landscape management strategies for these units. They include Orchard Knob, Signal Point, and Missionary Ridge, plus the Point Park and Cravens house areas of the Lookout Mountain unit. Existing landscape management will continue at these areas. Similarly, because the primary significance of the west side of Lookout Mountain is derived from its natural setting, it will continue to be managed as a forested area.

At Chickamauga battlefield, however, the information gathered for the historic landscape study (NPS 1984b) will be used to manage the landscape at key interpretive points (for example, the fight for Snodgrass Hill, Longstreet's breakthrough, Thomas's line covering the Lafayette Road, and the struggle for Viniard's farm) to provide visitors with a feeling for the historical scene. Other key interpretive points will be defined during revisions to the park's "Interpretive Prospectus." Actions could include the removal of underbrush, selective pruning or cutting, reestablishment of trees in small areas, and mowing or cropping of traditionally open fields. No attempt will be made to rebuild historic

structures, although if necessary for interpretive purposes, selected farmsites that include extant structural remains may be cleared and remaining features marked in some unobtrusive manner.

VISUAL INTRUSIONS

Existing Conditions

Certain development pressures are occurring outside park boundaries, and intrusions have affected or may affect historically significant vistas and viewsheds that are critical to interpreting the park's stories (see above). For example, a large outdoor advertising sign in Fort Oglethorpe is visible from Snodgrass Hill, within the Chickamauga battlefield unit. A potential housing development along the extreme southern boundary of the same unit could intrude on the present pastoral scene. Existing overhead powerlines crossing Chickamauga battlefield and directly behind the Cravens house (Lookout Mountain unit) constitute a major visual intrusion within the park boundaries.

Proposal

Although some developments can be screened by vegetation, this often intrudes on the viewshed as much as the original development. In such instances, the Park Service will continue to live with the intrusion rather than attempt to screen it.

To deal effectively with existing or potential vista and viewshed protection problems, the following actions will be implemented in phases.

Wherever real or potential intrusions are identified that could threaten significant viewsheds, the National Park Service will work with local owners to individually or collectively eliminate or mitigate these visual intrusions. Concurrently, the Park Service will begin negotiations with local officials either to implement adequate zoning regulations, or in those areas where adequate zoning exists, to ensure that zoning ordinances are enforced to prevent future intrusions.

With respect to the powerlines crossing Chickamauga battlefield and adjacent to the Cravens house, the National Park Service will seek funding to pay for placing the lines underground.

BOUNDARY SURVEYS AND PLAT MAPS

Existing Conditions

Over the years several legislative actions have affected the park's boundaries (see appendix A). For the Lookout Mountain unit the National Park Service has unlimited authorization to accept donated parcels of land within 1 mile of the park's authorized boundary, and several small parcels have been donated.

Proposal

To update the status of lands owned by the Park Service, new boundary surveys will be completed for Chickamauga battlefield and Missionary Ridge, and plat maps will be updated for Lookout Mountain. Because this information is critical to many resource management strategies set forth elsewhere in this plan, the new surveys and updated plat maps will be a high priority.

PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE TENNESSEE UNITS OF THE PARK

Existing Conditions

Law enforcement, particularly resource protection, within the unstaffed Tennessee units of the park is not commensurate with that provided at the Chickamauga battlefield unit in Georgia or the portion of the Lookout Mountain unit in Tennessee. The primary reasons are limited staff and the distances between the staffed and unstaffed units. The problem is compounded by the absence of concurrent jurisdiction authority between the National Park Service and the state of Tennessee. Although metropolitan Chattanooga law enforcement agencies have traditionally been quick to inform park officials of situations requiring attention, the lack of concurrent jurisdiction authority means these agencies are powerless to exercise police powers within the boundaries of the national military park. As a result, significant park resources are sometimes damaged or destroyed.

Proposal

Present federal budgetary constraints preclude any major increases in the park's budget to hire additional staff to provide a full-time NPS presence within all park units. Therefore, the National Park Service will work with the state of Tennessee to have legislation passed to establish concurrent jurisdiction for law enforcement. Because this is a lengthy legislative process, the National Park Service will continue to work in the meantime with the Chattanooga metropolitan law enforcement agencies on an informal basis to protect park resources.

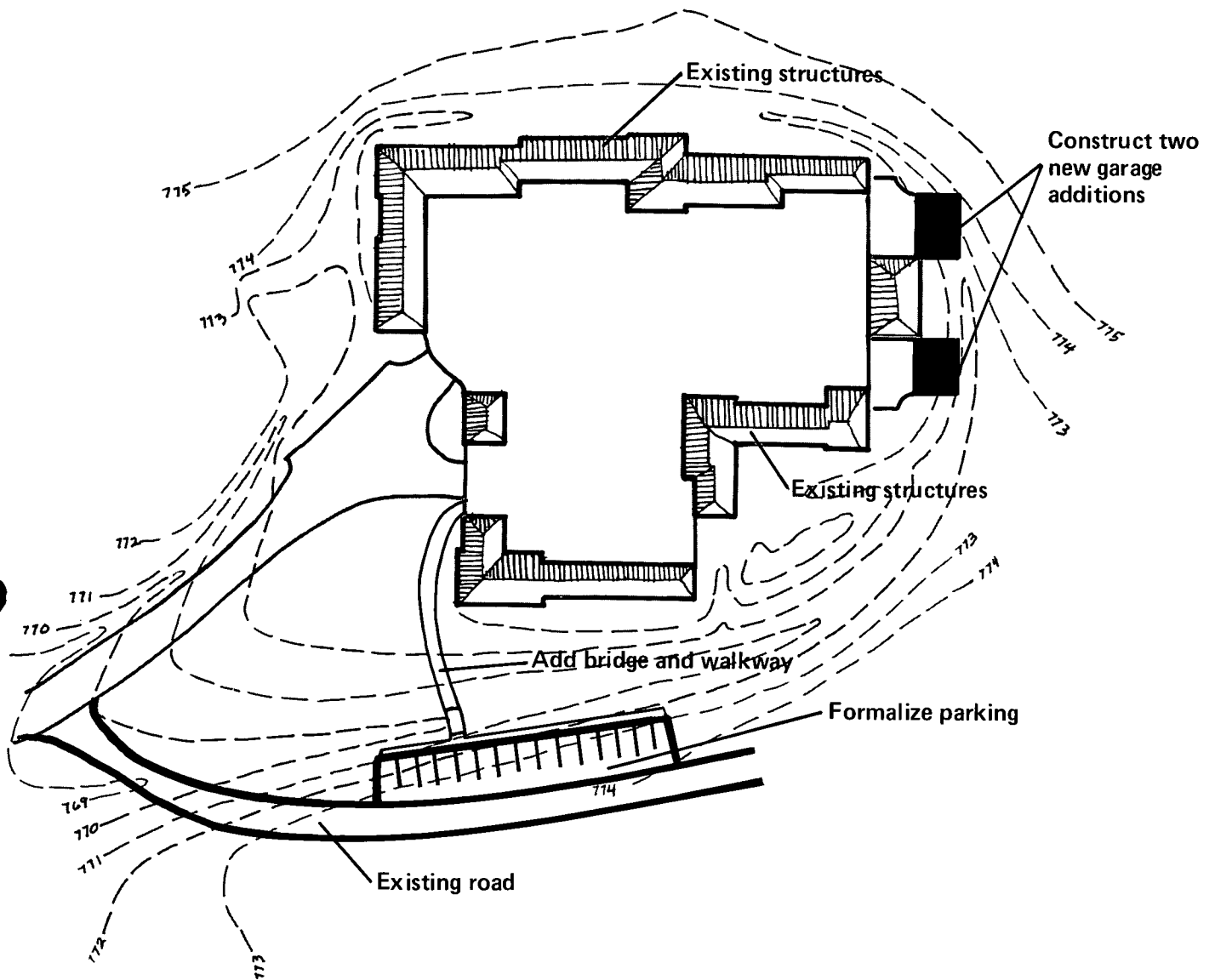
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CENTER

Existing Conditions

The park's primary operations and maintenance center, which is west of US 27 and north of Dyer Road within the Chickamauga battlefield unit, is out of view of park visitors. Included in this area are the maintenance center, large artifact storage rooms, interpreters' work area, and ranger offices. The existing complex is too small for present or future office functions and maintenance equipment storage. The lack of parking causes congestion near the existing entrance gate.

Proposal

To accommodate existing and future needs at the operations center, two small additions will be constructed on either side of the easternmost garage bay. Space will be provided for four more garage bays (minimum



OPERATIONS AREA DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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ON MICROFILM

25' deep x 11'3" wide x 10' high), one additional office, an extra 400 square feet for large artifact storage and interpreters' work area, and formalized parking for 20 vehicles. Concrete pullout areas will also be constructed for equipment storage. The parking area will be built southeast of the operations center (see Development Concept Plan map).

STAFFING

Existing staffing levels for the national military park are shown in appendix G. Specific staffing requirements to implement this plan will be evaluated and addressed through the park's operations evaluation, which will be prepared after the general management plan has been approved. The approved operations plan will be appended to the final general management plan. Operating costs are presented in the "Plan Implementation" section.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Estimated costs and priorities for the proposed plan are shown in table 3. The subject headings are arranged by park unit and do not reflect a priority sequence; priorities will be decided through the budgeting and programming process. Although priorities have been established within each category, priority proposals for all categories will be programmed so as to provide a logical implementation sequence.

Specific segments of the interpretive proposal will be implemented by the Harpers Ferry Center. The approximate cost of implementing these interpretive segments is estimated to be \$250,000. Interpretive facilities and media costs will be described in more detail in the park's revised "Interpretive Prospectus."

The park's annual operations and maintenance costs are not expected to increase appreciably as a result of implementing the proposal.

Table 3: Implementation Costs (1987 dollars)

| <u>Estimated Development Costs</u> | <u>Gross Construction Cost</u> | <u>Advance and Project Planning Costs</u> | <u>Total Project Costs</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Visitor Center Complex, Chickamauga Battlefield | | | |
| Construct visitor center addition (6,000 square feet), make site modifications; provide furnishings; enlarge parking area (50 cars) and undertake access road modifications; and rehabilitate existing visitor center for administrative purposes | \$2,325,250 | \$443,750 | \$2,769,000 |
| Operations Area | | | |
| Construct four oversized garage bays (300 square feet each); construct large artifact storage area (400 square feet); provide additional office space (100 square feet); and build gravel parking lot (20 cars) | 231,870 | 44,250 | 276,120 |
| Missionary Ridge | | | |
| Provide paved parking area at Ohio reservation (2,600 square feet); remove/reconstruct stone wall | 24,890 | 4,750 | 29,640 |
| US Highway 27 | | | |
| Convert present highway to park tour road (3.39 miles)* | 209,600 | 40,000 | 249,600 |
| Park General | | | |
| Build comfort station; place power lines underground at Chickamauga battlefield and Cravens house; fabricate and install directional signs (20); provide identification markers; and fabricate and install new wayside exhibits (cost not included; to be determined in new wayside exhibit plan) | <u>248,900</u> | <u>47,500</u> | <u>296,400</u> |
| Subtotal | \$3,040,510 | \$580,250 | \$3,620,760 |
| Plans and Surveys | | | |
| Revise "Interpretive Prospectus" and prepare new wayside exhibit plan | | | \$ 25,000 |
| Complete new boundary survey/prepare plat maps | | | 125,000 |
| Conduct archeological survey/site evaluation (Tennessee units) | | | 125,000 |
| Prepare collection management plan | | | 7,500 |
| Survey commemorative markers | | | ** |
| Subtotal | | | \$ 282,500 |
| Total | | | \$3,903,260 |

Note: Additional staff positions to implement general management plan proposals will be determined in the park's operations evaluation, which will be initiated after the general management plan has been approved.

*US 27 should be converted immediately after construction of the bypass.

**The survey will be funded through the park's regular operating budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



ALTERNATIVES

Besides the proposed plan, a no-action alternative that would continue existing policies at the park was considered. Other alternatives and options that were considered included actions related to the Chickamauga visitor center, Stringers Ridge, US 27, and recreational uses of the park. All alternatives are summarized in table 4. Costs of development-related alternatives are shown in table 5.

Table 4: Summary of Proposed Plan and Alternatives

| <u>Visitor Use and Interpretation</u> | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> | <u>Alternative 2</u> |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Visitor Center/ Administrative Space | Construct 6,000 sq ft addition to existing visitor center/administrative facility at Chickamauga battlefield. Rehabilitate building as necessary and use for administrative space, library, and artifact and manuscript collections. | Continue use of existing visitor center/administrative facility. | Construct new 6,000 sq ft visitor center elsewhere in park; rehabilitate existing facility for administrative purposes only. | Lease space within the metropolitan area for visitor center functions; rehabilitate administrative facility as described in proposed plan. |
| Parkwide Visitor Orientation | Improve orientation programs at visitor center; develop signed, parkwide tour route; install identification signs at isolated markers and monuments. | Provide no parkwide orientation or directions to detached units. | | |
| Interpretation | Provide new parkwide interpretive exhibits in expanded Chickamauga visitor center; revise "Interpretive Prospectus"; coordinate interpretation with a variety of auto, hiking, and biking tours. | Maintain existing tour route; do not revise "Interpretive Prospectus." | | |
| Recreational Activities | Limit nonorganized recreational activities to the designated recreation field; allow organized activities only with superintendent's approval and special use permit. | Same as proposal. | Control organized and non-organized recreational activities by restricting them to one designated area out of visitors' view. | Prohibit all recreational activities within the park. |
| <u>Visitor Access</u> | | | | |
| Access and Parking | Improve entrance/exit at Chickamauga battlefield visitor center; provide additional parking at Missionary Ridge; improve directional signing to detached units; improve maintenance and safety of park roads but maintain their historical character; make Chickamauga battlefield roads one-way where possible. | Maintain present circulation patterns at Chickamauga visitor center; improve roads at Chickamauga battlefield to highway standards rather than maintain them as one-way park roads. | | |
| US 27 | Establish US 27 as part of park tour route; reduce speed limit to 25-30 mph; prohibit commercial traffic; designate bike lanes. | Maintain existing conditions. | Restore road alignment to historical appearance. | |
| <u>Resource Management</u> | | | | |
| Cultural Resources Markers and monuments | Survey, identify, update records. | Same as proposal. | | |
| Archeological surveys | Undertake archeological surveys/studies of Tennessee units. | Same as proposal. | | |

| <u>Resource Management</u> | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> | <u>Alternative 2</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Natural Resources | | | | |
| Unique vegetation communities | Protect. | Same as proposal. | | |
| Rock quarry | Maintain as wildlife habitat; prohibit swimming | Same as proposal. | | |
| <u>Land Protection</u> | | | | |
| Stringers Ridge | Seek no formal NPS involvement in Stringers Ridge. | Same as proposal. | Acquire fee-simple title to Stringers Ridge and establish it as a park unit. | Establish cooperative agreements or acquire scenic easements to protect Stringers Ridge. |
| Landscape Management | Maintain landscape features to complement interpretive themes; do not return battlefields to their 1863 appearance, except at key interpretive sites; maintain Point Park, Cravens house, Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, and Signal Point as at present; maintain west side of Lookout Mountain in a natural condition. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal except restore Chickamauga battlefield to its 1863 appearance. | |
| Visual Intrusions | | | | |
| Outside the park | Identify visual intrusions; work with landowners and developers to eliminate or mitigate intrusions; work with local governments to ensure zoning ordinances are implemented and enforced. | Same as proposal except do not acquire any NPS interest as a last resort. | | |
| Inside the park | Have powerlines at Chickamauga battlefield and Cravens house placed underground at NPS expense. | Encourage utility companies to place powerlines underground, but not at NPS expense. | | |
| Boundary surveys/plat maps | Undertake new boundary surveys at Chickamauga battlefield and Missionary Ridge; update plat maps for Lookout Mountain unit. | Same as proposal. | | |
| <u>Park Operations and Management</u> | | | | |
| Law Enforcement | Work with state of Tennessee to establish concurrent jurisdiction. | Maintain exclusive jurisdiction. | | |
| Maintenance and Operations Center | Formalize parking for 20 vehicles; provide 4 additional garage bays, 1 additional office, large artifact storage area, and interpreters' work area. | No action. | | |

Table 5: Alternative Development Costs

| <u>Visitor Center</u> | <u>Gross Construction Cost</u> | <u>Advance and Project Planning Cost</u> | <u>Total Project Cost</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Alternative 1--build new 6,000 sq ft visitor center on new site | \$2,194,250 | \$418,750 | \$2,613,000 |
| Alternative 2--lease space outside park boundaries | | | * |
| <u>U.S. Highway 27</u> | | | |
| Alternative 1--restore present alignment to its 1863 appearance | 681,200 | 130,000 | 811,200 |

*Depends on market rate at time action would be initiated.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

PROPOSAL

The most significant impact of the proposed plan would be on the visitor experience. Implementation of the proposal for parkwide and site-specific orientation and interpretation would ensure that first-time and repeat visitors alike would leave the park with a better understanding of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. A balance would be created between commemorative and recreational uses of the park's resources. Many conflicts between visitor traffic and commercial/commuter traffic, specifically at the Chickamauga battlefield unit, would be reduced or eliminated. Establishing priorities would help ensure that administrative and operational actions were taken in a timely manner to fill in data gaps about park resources and to improve resource management and protection activities. Administrative and operational facilities would be improved to better enable the park's administrative and maintenance staff to effectively perform their duties without interfering with the visitor experience.

State and local governmental agencies, private enterprises, organizations, and the general public in and around the Chattanooga metropolitan area would be expected to fully cooperate in the implementation of the plan, which could have a major effect on these entities.

The most notable effect on local communities would be the change in local and regional traffic flows once the US 27 bypass was constructed and the one-way park tour roads were in place. Further, there would be a need to serve more visitors, and additional traffic at such units as Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge would have to be accommodated. Some local park visitors would have to find areas outside the park to pursue recreational activities not compatible with the park purpose.

Impacts on cultural and natural resources resulting from the proposed plan would be negligible because no major actions are proposed. Minimal impacts would occur, however, as capital improvement proposals were implemented.

Any impacts resulting from constructing the US 27 bypass would be addressed in the environmental compliance document prepared for that specific undertaking.

NO ACTION

Under the no-action alternative, the visitor experience would remain the same as it is now because no improvements would be made in the present management and operational activities of the park.

Table 6 compares the major environmental consequences of the proposed plan and alternatives.

Table 6: Major Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Plan and Alternatives

Visitor Use--Chickamauga Visitor Center/Administrative Facility

| | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> | <u>Alternative 2</u> |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <u>Action</u> | Construct 6,000 sq ft visitor center addition next to existing visitor center/administrative facility at Chickamauga battlefield; rehabilitate existing facility for administration, library, and collection storage. | Continue use of existing visitor center facility. | Construct 6,000-sq-ft visitor center elsewhere in park; rehabilitate existing facility for administrative purposes only. | Lease space within the metropolitan area for visitor center functions; rehabilitate administrative facility as described in proposed plan. |
| <u>Impacts</u> | | | | |
| Cultural Resources | Addition could visually intrude on historical scene; however, the architectural design would be compatible with the existing scene, which has been previously affected by existing development both inside and outside park boundaries; also the addition would be behind the visitor center. | No additional effect. | Same as proposal | No additional effect. |
| Natural Resources | One acre would be disturbed for construction. | No additional effect. | Two acres would be disturbed for construction, including required parking areas. | No additional effect. |
| Socioeconomic Environment | No additional effect. | No additional effect. | No additional effect. | Depending on location, leased facility could enhance or detract from local area; lease payments would have negligible effect on local economy. |
| Visitor Use and Experience | A new visitor center would allow for an improved parkwide interpretive program; entrance/exit patterns would be safer. | Inadequate visitor space would mean parkwide interpretive programs would continue to be less than desirable; entrance and exit patterns would remain congested and unsafe. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal. |
| Park Management | Visitor center addition and rehabilitated administrative facilities would provide maximum flexibility for visitor services, collection storage, and administrative functions; no additional staffing would be required. | Visitors and staff would continue to have to share same cramped spaces; collection storage facilities would remain inadequate. | Staff functions would be decentralized. | A visitor center off-site would require more staff; an additional park unit would be created; staff functions would be decentralized. |
| Costs | Least expensive of new construction alternatives. | No new costs incurred. | More costly than proposal. | Long-term lease expenses could be more than constructing NPS-owned facility in the park. |

Visitor Use--Recreational Activities

| | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> | <u>Alternative 2</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Action</u> | Limit nonorganized recreational activities to the designated recreation field; allow organized activities only with superintendent's approval and special use permit. | Same as proposal. | Control organized and nonorganized recreational activities by restricting them to one designated area out of visitors' view. | Prohibit all recreational activities within the park. |
| <u>Impacts</u> | | | | |
| Cultural Resources | The present effects of recreational activities within a historic area would be continued. | Same as proposal. | Less effect than proposal. | Any effects on cultural resources would be ended. |
| Natural Resources | Natural resources in one area would continue to be managed to accommodate recreational activities and not to enhance the historical scene. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal. | Natural resources in former activity areas would be managed to enhance the historical scene. |
| Socioeconomic Environment | Local residents could continue to pursue recreational activities in the park. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal. | Local residents would have to pursue certain recreational activities outside the park. |
| Visitor Use and Experience | The visitor experience for those interested in the historical aspects of the park would continue to be interrupted by recreational activities. | Same as proposal. | Visitors would not be aware of recreational activities, and their park experience would not be infringed on. | The prohibition of recreational activities would greatly enhance the experience for visitors interested in the historical aspects of the park. |
| Park Management | A considerable amount of time would continue to be expended by NPS rangers to enforce existing policy. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal. | Rangers would have to spend considerable time enforcing policy. |
| Costs | Present enforcement costs would continue. | Same as proposal. | Same as proposal. | Enforcement costs would be higher than at present. |

Visitor Access--US 27

| | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| <u>Action</u> | Establish US 27 as part of park tour route; reduce speed limit to 25-30 mph; prohibit commercial traffic; designate bike lanes. | Maintain existing conditions. | Restore US 27 alignment to its historical appearance. |
| <u>Impacts</u> | | | |
| Cultural Resources | The reduced speed limit and the absence of commercial traffic would reduce noise and visual intrusion of traffic. | The existing road corridor would continue to intrude on the historical scene. | Restoration of road to its historical appearance would have a positive effect on the park scene. |
| Natural Resources | No additional effects. | No additional effects. | Restoration activities would temporarily disturb natural resources, but this would be offset by restoring more natural conditions along the road. |
| Socioeconomic Environment | Slower speed limits could impede commuter traffic; commercial traffic would have to seek alternative routes. | No additional effects. | US 27 would no longer be available as a thoroughfare. |
| Visitor Use and Experience | Removal of commercial traffic would eliminate certain problems and intrusions; conflicts with commuter traffic would be reduced; interpretation along road could be improved. | Existing visitor/commuter/commercial traffic conflicts would remain. | Restoring US 27 to its historical appearance would have a maximum positive impact on visitor use and experience. |
| Park Management | Maintaining US 27 as a park road would continue concerns about visitor safety. | Existing unsafe conditions and law enforcement problems would remain. | Same as proposal. |
| Costs | Long-term maintenance costs would be lower than at present because of decreased traffic. | Least cost to NPS. | Short-term costs would be higher; but long-term maintenance costs would be lower. |

Land Protection--Stringers Ridge

| | <u>Proposed Plan</u> | <u>No-Action Alternative</u> | <u>Alternative 1</u> | <u>Alternative 2</u> |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Action</u> | Seek no formal NPS involvement in Stringers Ridge. | Same as proposal. | Acquire fee-simple title to Stringers Ridge; manage it as a park unit. | Acquire a less-than-fee interest in Stringers Ridge to ensure the historical significance is not compromised. |
| <u>Impacts</u> | | | | |
| Cultural Resources | Careless development or land management could impair significant historical values. | Same as proposal. | NPS fee acquisition would afford maximum protection of cultural resources. | An NPS less-than-fee interest would provide more protection for cultural resources than the proposal; but less than alternative 1. |
| Natural Resources | Same as for cultural resources. | Same as for cultural resources. | Same as for cultural resources. | Same as for cultural resources. |
| Socioeconomic Environment | No effect. | No effect. | Fee acquisition of Stringers Ridge would establish another park unit, which could economically benefit the Chattanooga area; any private property would be removed from the tax rolls. | Any current tax base would be reduced. |
| Visitor Use and Experience | Visitors would be denied access and interpretive experience. | Same as proposal. | Another major unit of the national military park would be developed, managed, and interpreted, which would add considerably to the visitor experience. | Acquiring a less-than-fee interest could result in an expanded visitor experience, but not to the degree that alternative 1 would. |
| Park Management | No effect. | No effect. | Park staff would have to be increased to manage an additional park unit. | Park staff would have to monitor activities, but involvement would not be as extensive as alternative 1. |
| Costs | No cost. | No cost. | Most costly to NPS. | More costly than the proposal; less costly than alternative 1. |

COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Because Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is included on the National Register of Historic Places, actions affecting it, such as the adoption and implementation of a general management plan, are subject to comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the council (36 CFR 800), the National Park Service, the Advisory Council, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers have executed a programmatic memorandum of agreement for the NPS planning process. In accordance with the provisions of that agreement, staffs to the council and the Georgia and Tennessee state historic preservation officers have participated in the development of this document through reviews of draft plans. That participation will continue throughout the remainder of this planning process. Evidence of final compliance with section 106 will be provided in the final environmental compliance document prepared for the general management plan/development concept plan.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the National Park Service has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It has been determined that no threatened or endangered plants or animals, nor their critical habitat, would be adversely affected by proposed activities at the national military park (see appendix G).

FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS

Portions of the Chickamauga battlefield are within the floodplain of West Chickamauga Creek, where the creek forms the park boundary (between stream miles 11.5 and 19). The areas subject to flooding constitute only a small part of the 5,446 acres of the battlefields. The national environmental study area, and sections of US Highway 27 and Viniard-Alexander Road, are in the maximum probable flood zone (as determined by the Tennessee Valley Authority). No developments are proposed for these areas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently determining the presence of wetlands in and adjacent to the park for the inventory of national wetlands.

PRIME FARMLAND

Because the land in the park has been dedicated to public use, it will not be used for agriculture, but rather maintained and preserved in its existing state. However, there are several soil types that are classified as prime farmland. None of these soil types will be adversely affected.



APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

An Act To establish a national military park at the battle-field of Chickamauga, approved August 19, 1890 (26 Stat. 333)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of preserving and 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, and upon the ceding of jurisdiction to the United States by the States of Tennessee and Georgia, respectively, and the report of the Attorney General of the United States that the title to the lands thus ceded is perfect, the following described highways in those States are hereby declared to be approaches to and parts of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as established by the second section of this act, to wit: First. The Missionary Ridge Crest road from Sherman Heights at the north end of Missionary Ridge, in Tennessee, where the said road enters upon the ground occupied by the Army of the Tennessee under Major-General William T. Sherman, in the military operations of November twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three; thence along said road through the positions occupied by the army of General Braxton Bragg on November twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and which were assaulted by the Army of the Cumberland under Major-General George H. Thomas on that date, to where the said road crosses the southern boundary of the State of Tennessee, near Rossville Gap, Georgia, upon the ground occupied by the troops of Major-General Joseph Hooker, from the Army of the Potomac, and thence in the State of Georgia to the junction of said road with the Chattanooga and Lafayette or State road at Rossville Gap; second, the Lafayette or State road from Rossville, Georgia, to Lee and Gordon's Mills, Georgia; third, the road from Lee and Gordon's Mills, Georgia, to Crawfish Springs, Georgia; fourth, the road from Crawfish Springs, Georgia, to the crossing of the Chickamauga at Glass' Mills, Georgia; fifth, the Dry Valley road from Rossville, Georgia, to the southern limits of McFarland's Gap in Missionary Ridge; sixth, the Dry Valley and Crawfish Springs road from McFarland's Gap to the intersection of the road from Crawfish Springs to Lee and Gordon's Mills; seventh, the road from Ringold, Georgia, to Reed's Bridge on the Chickamauga River; eighth, the roads from the crossing of Lookout Creek across the northern slope of Lookout Mountain and thence to the old Summertown Road and to the valley on the east slope of the said mountain, and thence by the route of General Joseph Hooker's troops to Rossville, Georgia, and each and all of these herein described roads shall, after the passage of this act, remain open as free public highways, and all rights of way now existing through the grounds of the said park and its approaches shall be continued.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park established. Purpose. Conditions. Jurisdiction.

Title.

Highways declared approaches to and parts of park.

Description of roads.

To remain free public highways. Rights of way.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Conditions. Jurisdiction.</p> | <p>SEC. 2. That upon the ceding of jurisdiction by the legislature of the State of Georgia, and the report of the Attorney-General of the United States that a perfect title has been secured under the provisions of the act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An act to authorize condemnation of land for sites of public buildings, and for other purposes," the lands and roads embraced in the area bounded as herein described, together with the roads described in section one of this act, are hereby declared to be a national park, to be known as the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park; that is to say, the area inclosed by a line beginning on the Lafayette or State road, in Georgia, at a point where the bottom of the ravine next north of the house known on the field of Chickamauga as the Cloud House, and being about six hundred yards north of said house, due east to the Chickamauga River and due west to the intersection of the Dry Valley road at McFarland's Gap; thence along the west side of the Dry Valley and Crawfish Springs roads to the south side of the road from Crawfish Springs to Lee and Gordon's Mills; thence along the south side of the last named road to Lee and Gordon's Mills; thence along the channel of the Chickamauga River to the line forming the northern boundary of the park, as hereinbefore described, containing seven thousand six hundred acres, more or less.</p> |
| <p>Title. Vol. 25, p. 357.</p> | |
| <p>Condemnation of lands and roads.</p> | |
| <p>Name, etc.</p> | |
| <p>Description of condemned area. Post, p. 978.</p> | |
| <p>Acreage.</p> | |
| <p>Park and ap- proaches to be under control of Secretary of War.</p> | <p>SEC. 3 That the said Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park, and the approaches thereto, shall be under the control of the Secretary of War, and it shall be his duty, immediately after the passage of this act to notify the Attorney General of the purpose of the United States to acquire title to the roads and lands described in the previous sections of this act under the provisions of the act of August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight; and the said Secretary, upon receiving notice from the Attorney-General of the United States that perfect titles have been secured to the said lands and roads, shall at once proceed to establish and substantially mark the boundaries of the said park.</p> |
| <p>Proceedings in condemnation.</p> | |
| <p>Vol. 25, p. 357.</p> | |
| <p>Establishment and marking of boundaries.</p> | |
| <p>Agreements with present land owners to remain, etc.</p> | <p>SEC. 4. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to enter into agreements, upon such nominal terms as he may prescribe, with such present owners of the land as may desire to remain upon it, to occupy and cultivate their present holdings, upon condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads, and the present outlines of field and forest, and that they will only cut trees or underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and that they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works as may from time to time be erected by proper authority.</p> |
| <p>Conditions of occupancy.</p> | |
| <p>Appointment of park com- missioners. Composition, etc., of com- mission.</p> | <p>SEC. 5. That the affairs of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of War, be in charge of three commissioners, each of whom shall have actively participated in the battle of Chickamauga or one of the battles about Chattanooga, two to be appointed from civil life by the Secretary of War, and a third, who shall be detailed by the Secretary of War from among those officers of the Army best acquainted with the details of the</p> |

battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, who shall act as Secretary of the Commission. The said commissioners and Secretary shall have an office in the War Department building, and while on actual duty shall be paid such compensation, out of the appropriation provided in this act, as the Secretary of War shall deem reasonable and just.

Secretary of
commission.
Office.

Commissioners'
compensation.

SEC. 6 That it shall be the duty of the commissioners named in the preceding section, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to superintend the opening of such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and the repair of the roads of the same, and to ascertain and definitely mark the lines of battle of all troops engaged in the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, so far as the same shall fall within the lines of the park as defined in the previous sections of this act, and, for the purpose of assisting them in their duties and in ascertaining these lines, the Secretary of War shall have authority to employ, at such compensation as he may deem reasonable and just, to be paid out of the appropriation made by this act, some person recognized as well informed in regard to the details of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, and who shall have actively participated in one of those battles, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War from and after the passage of this act, through the commissioners, and their assistant in historical work, and under the act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, regulating the condemnation of land for public uses, to proceed with the preliminary work of establishing the park and its approaches as the same are defined in this act, and the expenses thus incurred shall be paid out of the appropriation provided by this act.

Duties of com-
mission.

Employment of
assistant,
expert.
Compensation.

Vol. 25, p. 357.

Preliminary
work of
establishing
park, etc.
Expenses.

SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to ascertain and substantially mark the locations of the regular troops, both infantry and artillery, within the boundaries of the park, and to erect monuments upon those positions as Congress may provide the necessary appropriations; and the Secretary of War in the same way may ascertain and mark all lines of battle within the boundaries of the park and erect plain and substantial historical tablets at such points in the vicinity of the Park and its approaches as he may deem fitting and necessary to clearly designate positions and movements, which, although without the limits of the Park, were directly connected with the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

Location of
regular troops
within park.

Monuments,
designating.

Lines of battle,
within.
Erection of
historical
tablets.

Positions and
movements,
without.

SEC. 8. That it shall be lawful for the authorities of any State having troops engaged either at Chattanooga or Chickamauga, and for the officers and directors of the Chickamauga Memorial Association, a corporation chartered under the laws of Georgia, to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of troops engaged therein: *Provided*, That before any such lines are permanently designated the position of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them by monuments, tablets, or otherwise shall be submitted to the Secretary of War, and shall first receive the written approval of the Secretary, which approval shall be based upon formal written reports, which must be made to him in each case by the commissioners of the park.

Certain States,
etc., may
ascertain and
mark lines of
battle, etc.

Provido.

Secretary of
War to first
approve lines,
etc.
Written
reports.

Care of park, etc.

Regulations, etc.

Punishment for injury, etc., to monuments, etc.

Trees, etc.

Exception.

Breast-works, etc.

Conviction.

Fine.

Distribution of fines in moieties. How recoverable.

Appropriation for preliminary work and pay, etc., of commission, etc.

Approved disbursements. Report.

Sec. 9. That the Secretary of War, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, shall have the power to make, and shall make, all needed regulations for the care of the park and for the establishment and marking of the lines of battle and other historical features of the park.

Sec. 10. That if any person shall willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, column, statues, memorial structure, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall willfully destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall willfully destroy, cut, hack, bark, break down, or otherwise injure any tree, bush, or shrubbery that may be growing upon said park, or shall cut down or fell or remove any timber, battle relic, tree or trees growing or being upon such park, except by permission of the Secretary of War, or shall willfully remove or destroy any breast-works, earth-works, walls, or other defenses or shelter, on any part thereof, constructed by the armies formerly engaged in the battles on the lands or approaches to the park, any person so offending and found guilty thereof, before any justice of the peace of the county in which the offense may be committed, shall for each and every such offense forfeit and pay a fine, in the discretion of the justice, according to the aggravation of the offense, of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, one-half to the use of the park and the other half to the informer, to be enforced and recovered, before such justice, in like manner as debts of like nature are now by law recoverable in the several counties where the offense may be committed.

Sec. 11. That to enable the Secretary of War to begin to carry out the purposes of this act, including the condemnation and purchase of the necessary land, marking the boundaries of the park, opening or repairing necessary roads, maps and surveys, and the pay and expenses of the commissioners and their assistant, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and disbursements under this act shall require the approval of the Secretary of War, and he shall make annual report of the same to Congress. (16 U.S.C. § 424 as amended.)

Excerpt from "An Act Making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 948, 978)

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park. Ante, p. 333.

Proviso.

Reduced area.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park: To enable the Secretary of War to complete the establishment of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park according to the terms of the act entitled "An act to establish a national military park at the battle field of Chickamauga," approved August nineteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, two hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Secretary of War, upon the recommendation of the Chickamauga Park Commissioners, may confine the limits of the park to such reduced area, within the bounds fixed by the said act, as may be sufficient for

the purposes of the said act, and the acquisition of title for the United States to such reduced area shall be held to be a compliance with the terms of said act, and such title shall be procured by the Secretary of War and under his direction in accordance with the methods prescribed in sections four, five, and six of the act approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An act to establish and protect national cemeteries," which procurement of title shall be held to be a compliance with the act establishing the said Park, and the Secretary of War shall proceed with the establishment of the park as rapidly as jurisdiction over the roads of the park and its approaches and title to the separate parcels of land which compose it may be obtained for the United States. (16 U.S.C. § 424 as amended.)

Title.

Vol. 14, pp.
400, 401.

Establishment,
jurisdiction,
etc.

An Act Authorizing the Secretary of War to make certain uses of national military parks, approved May 14, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to obtain practical benefits of great value to the country from the establishment of national military parks, said parks 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: **Provided,** That the said parks shall be opened for such purpose only in the direction of the Secretary of War, and under such regulations as he may prescribe.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized, within the limits of appropriations which may from time to time be available for such purpose, to assemble, at his discretion, in camp at such season of the year and for such period as he may designate, at such field of military maneuvers, such portions of the military instruction there. The Secretary of War is further authorized to make and publish regulations governing the assembling of the National Guard or Militia of the several States upon the maneuvering grounds, and he may detail instructors from the Regular Army for such forces during their exercises.

APPENDIX B: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

Manage and protect both historic and natural resources in accordance with the policy set forth in the 1890 establishment act of the park, the 1916 organic act of the National Park Service, and NPS directives.

Encourage cooperation between local landowners, developers, and the National Park Service to ensure that development of private lands protects the park's historic fabric.

Foster an understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Union/Confederate struggle for the control of Chattanooga and the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

Provide park visitors with the interpretive facilities and programs needed to understand the impact and significance of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

Encourage environmental education activities that convey an understanding of the park by exploring the students' relationship with the historic and natural resources in an ever-changing, modern environment.

Cooperate with federal, state, and local governmental agencies in resolving US 27 traffic conflicts that infringe on the protection of park resources and on the interpretation of the park's historical significance.

Provide those facilities needed by park visitors to enjoy and understand the significance of both natural and historic resources; ensure these facilities do not compromise the park's historic resources.

Manage the park's natural resources consistent with its historical values and interpretive themes.

Preserve and protect the park's historic structures, monuments, and collections in accordance with legislation, executive order requirements, and NPS historic preservation policies.

Encourage use of the park for those special events and recreational activities that are compatible with the purpose and objectives of the park.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

Initiate a monument refurbishing program that will include cleaning 15 to 25 percent of the monuments in the park annually.

Finalize the Historic Vegetation map and initiate action to control exotic plant species in the park.

Provide improved access on park secondary roads by making surface and shoulder improvements on 50 percent of these roadways.

Carry out facility improvements to enhance visitors' interpretive experiences in the park; complete the Lookout Mountain visitor center as a high priority.

APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RESPONSE

During August 1986 the park newsletter, The Cannons Roar, was distributed to the public. The purpose of this first issue was to explain the general management planning process. A public response form was included so that readers could review and respond to seven planning issue questions. The following summary was compiled from the responses. They were received from readers in Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas. Only 35 written responses were received; however, many verbal opinions were expressed through informal public contacts (for example, visitors or people on the street), after two television programs, and as a result of speaking engagements. The issues and the responses are listed below:

1. What would you do in the visitor centers or at the battle sites to provide the public with a better understanding of the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga?

A third of the respondents stated that additional maps were needed to more clearly chronicle the battles. This included interpretive displays and handouts.

A quarter of them referred to the present audiovisual program. All indicated that a film would be preferable to the current slide presentation. A statement was made that the program should focus more clearly on the battle.

Seventeen percent said that the use of additional guided walks and living history programs would enhance their enjoyment of the park.

Thirteen percent indicated no change was necessary to improve present interpretive methods.

Eight percent mentioned the Fuller gun collection, indicating a need to enlarge the collection. One person suggested that the collection be moved to another location.

Four percent provided no alternatives.

2. Recognizing that the park is one of the largest expanses of publicly owned open space in the Chattanooga metropolitan area, but at the same time realizing that the park is a nationally significant historic site set aside in memory of those who fought and died there, how would you provide for a balance between recreational, educational, and inspirational uses of the park?

More than a third of the respondents (38 percent) indicated that limitations on recreational uses in the park are needed to protect the historic resources. Limits included restricting

recreational uses only to the present recreation field and prohibiting recreational activities in historically significant areas.

Twenty-one percent stated that present management was properly controlling the balance of park uses.

A need to broaden recreational uses in the park was mentioned by 21 percent. One respondent suggested construction of a chapel. It was also suggested that an amphitheater be built.

Sixteen percent of the responses were returned with no comment.

Four percent stated that no recreational activity was appropriate in the park.

3. In October 1985 the director of the National Park Service affirmed that US Highway 27 will not be widened to four lanes within the Chickamauga battlefield unit. Assuming, therefore, that this decision will require a bypass route around the battlefield, what should be done with the current US 27 after the bypass has been constructed?

More than half of the respondents (54 percent) concluded that the present highway should remain the same and that some traffic restrictions would be appropriate to enhance its function as a park road. Suggestions included lower speed limits, speed bumps, and traffic control signs. Better landscaping along the roadway and at park entrances was also suggested.

Twenty-two percent indicated that the highway should be closed to through-traffic and used only for "park" traffic.

Only 8 percent believed that no change should be made to the present highway.

There was no comment by 8 percent of the respondents.

Four percent said the highway should be returned to a dirt historic road, except where used for the tour route.

Four percent indicated the road should be used as a walkway.

4. What would you do to make Lookout Mountain, Signal Point, Missionary Ridge, and the other detached units of the park easier to locate and more accessible to visitors?

Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of the respondents indicated that the most significant improvement would come from providing

a better directional/locator method for these sites. A separate minifolder for these sites and additional road directional signs were suggested.

A shuttle tour to these areas was suggested as an alternative by 8 percent.

Eight percent felt present management met the need.

Eight percent made no reply.

The development of a regional visitor center was suggested by 4 percent.

5. Currently, certain developments within and outside the park boundaries intrude on visitor enjoyment and understanding of the park and its resources. Examples include overhead powerlines, advertising signs, and residential and commercial developments. What would you do to minimize the existing visual intrusions, as well as avoid future ones?

Two-thirds of the respondents (67 percent) concluded that development around the perimeter of the park can only be controlled by establishing a cooperative relationship with local governments and landowners. Most indicated zoning or ordinances were needed to protect the park. Where zoning or ordinances cannot be secured, landscaping practices may be a practical alternative.

Sixteen percent directly referred to utility lines through the park. It was agreed that all utility lines should be buried along the right-of-way.

"Intrusions" did not adversely affect the park in the opinions of 13 percent, and they suggested that management efforts be concentrated on improving and protecting the interior of the park.

Four percent made no comment.

6. How should the National Park Service manage the landscape within the Chickamauga battlefield unit, considering the significance of the historical scene?

Half of the respondents stated that the key to management of the historical scene is to maintain and to return, where necessary, the park to its 1863 appearance.

One-fourth concluded that present NPS management practices were adequate.

A need to protect significant resources was mentioned by 8 percent.

No comment was made by 8 percent.

Four percent indicated a need to plant more vegetation.

Four percent suggested that grassy areas be mowed more frequently.

7. What would you do to better protect the park's visitors and resources at detached units such as Orchard Knob, Missionary Ridge, and Signal Point?

A third of the respondents (34 percent) offered no alternatives.

Twenty-nine percent suggested a neighborhood-watch program to assist in the protection of these sites.

Scheduling park rangers to work at these sites was recommended by 29 percent. Providing both interpretation and protection functions would help protect these sites.

A few respondents (8 percent) said that visitors should be made more aware of these sites. The increased visitation would help protect these areas.

In your opinion, what is the most important thing to keep in mind when planning for the future of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park?

The one response made by all commenters was the importance of protecting the significant historic resources found in the park.

Issues that respondents felt had been overlooked and should be considered in planning included the following:

Expand living history programs.

Interpret Fort Oglethorpe military history.

Limit auto traffic in the park.

Eliminate concerts in the park.

Remove the Sherman reservation building, which has been acquired by the National Park Service.

Provide parking on Missionary Ridge.

Add the Moccasin Bend Civil War sites to the park.

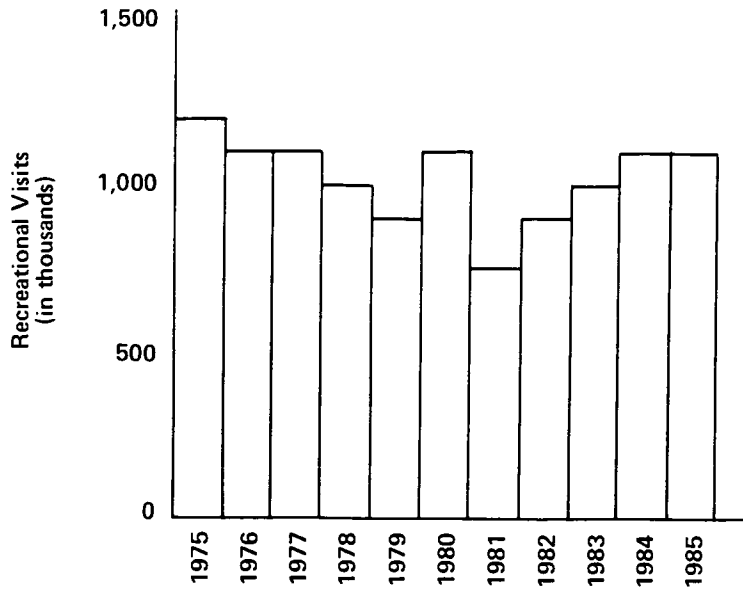
Initiate a user fee at the park.

Acquire land adjacent to the park that is historically significant.

Add more field personnel to assist visitors.

APPENDIX D: VISITOR USE DATA

Yearly Recreation Visits, 1975-1985



Parkwide Recreational Visits by Month, 1985

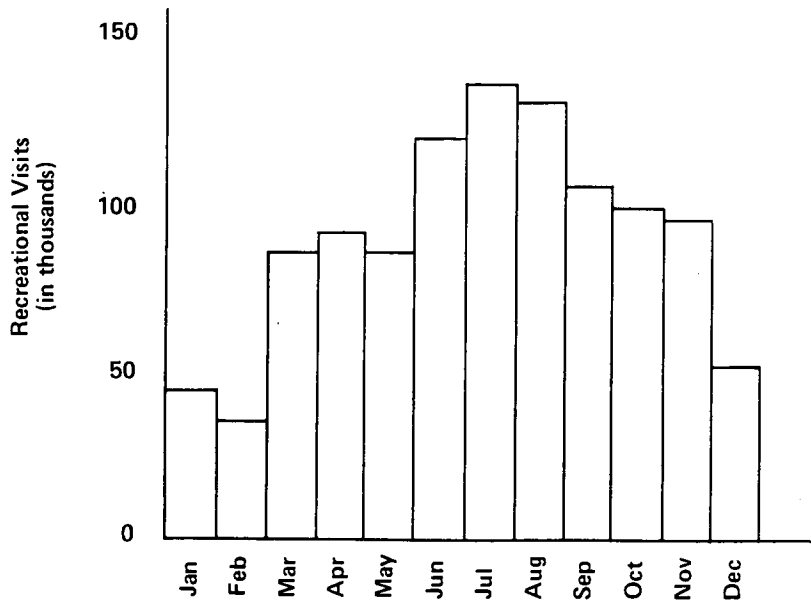


Table D-1: Monthly Recreational Visits to Various Sites, 1985

| | <u>Parkwide</u> | <u>Point Park</u> | <u>Chickamauga Visitor Center</u> | <u>Lookout Mountain Visitor Center</u> | <u>Cravens House</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| January | 43,133 | 601 | 2,264 | 601 | closed |
| February | 34,577 | 10,034 | 5,365 | 1,129 | closed |
| March | 84,658 | 14,867 | 6,817 | 2,416 | 4,321 |
| April | 91,367 | 23,123 | 8,577 | 2,720 | 5,232 |
| May | 85,169 | 27,471 | 10,469 | 1,990 | 5,141 |
| June | 120,203 | 36,159 | 10,320 | 2,402 | 6,238 |
| July | 136,021 | 43,435 | 12,689 | 2,537 | 8,772 |
| August | 130,091 | 40,627 | 9,283 | 3,970 | 7,004 |
| September | 104,847 | 27,203 | 6,814 | 1,445 | 5,444 |
| October | 98,830 | 19,726 | 8,281 | 2,000 | 5,999 |
| November | 95,202 | 21,672 | 4,902 | 1,660 | 3,528 |
| December | <u>51,406</u> | <u>8,688</u> | <u>3,104</u> | <u>1,082</u> | <u>closed</u> |
| Total | 1,075,504 | 273,606 | 88,885 | 29,952 | 51,679 |

APPENDIX E: THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ENDANGERED SPECIES FIELD STATION
100 OTIS STREET, ROOM 224
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28801

February 12, 1986

IN REPLY REFER TO
LOG NO. 4-2-86-242

Mr. Kenneth Raithel, Jr.
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Raithel:

Your January 30, 1986, letter regarding the proposed improvements to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Hamilton County, Tennessee, was received February 3, 1986. We have reviewed the project as requested with regard to endangered and threatened species.

The attached page describes the federally listed endangered (E) and/or threatened (T) and/or species proposed for listing as endangered (PE) or threatened (PT) which may occur in the area of influence of this action.

The legal responsibilities of a Federal agency under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) were detailed in material sent to you previously. If you would like another copy of this material, or if you have questions, please contact us at 704/259-0321 (FTS 672-0321).

Your concern for endangered species is appreciated, and we look forward to working with you on endangered species matters in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Currie".

Robert R. Currie
Acting Field Supervisor

CC:

Mr. Bob Hatcher, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN
Mr. Dan Eager, Program Administrator, Ecological Services Division, Tennessee
Department of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219
Field Supervisor, ES, FWS, Cookeville, TN



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ENDANGERED SPECIES FIELD STATION

100 OTIS STREET, ROOM 224

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28801

IN REPLY REFER TO

LOG NO. 4-2-86-242

LISTED SPECIES

BIRDS

Bald eagle - Haliaeetus leucocephalus (E)

PLANTS

Large flowered skullcap - Scutellaria montana (PE)

STATUS REVIEW SPECIES

"Status Review" (SR) species are not legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and are not subject to any of its provisions, including Section 7, until they are formally proposed or listed as endangered/threatened. We are including these species in our response for the purpose of giving you advance notification. These species may be listed in the future, at which time they will be protected under the Endangered Species Act. In the meantime, we would appreciate anything you might do to avoid impacting them.

PLANTS

False foxglove - Aureolaria patula
Carey's saxifrage - Saxifraga careyana

BIRDS

Bachman's sparrow - Aimophila aestivalis



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ENDANGERED SPECIES FIELD STATION
2747 ART MUSEUM DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

February 13, 1986

MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Manager, Eastern Team, National Park Service,
Denver, Colorado

Subject: Threatened and Endangered Species List for Chickamauga and
Chattanooga National Military Park.

From: Field Supervisor, Endangered Species Field Station,
Jacksonville, Florida

This responds to your memorandum of January 30, 1986, requesting a list of federally threatened and endangered species. We have assigned Log No. 4-1-86-144 to this project and we would appreciate it if you would refer to this number in future correspondence.

Based on the information provided, the project is within the range of the following federally listed threatened and endangered species:

| <u>Common name</u> | <u>Scientific name</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| Bald Eagle | <u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u> | E |
| Red cockaded woodpecker | <u>Picooides (Dendrocopos)</u> <u>borealis</u> | E |
| Indiana bat | <u>Myotis sodalis</u> | E |
| Gray bat | <u>Myotis grisescens</u> | E |
| Green pitcher plant | <u>Sarracenia oreophila</u> | E |

There are no critical habitats found within this project area.

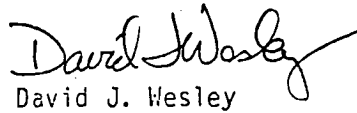
Scutellaria montana, large-flowered skullcap, is proposed for listing as endangered. It occurs on private land in Walker County, Georgia.

In addition to these listed species, there are several plant species which, although not listed or officially proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, are of special concern to the Service and may be listed under the Endangered Species Act and the biological assessment requirements do not apply to them. However, we would appreciate any efforts you might make to avoid adversely impacting them.

The species of special concern that may occur with the project area are:

Arabis georgiana
Aureolaria patula
Helianthus smithii
Helonias bullata
Leavenworthia exigua var. exigua
Marshallia mohrii
Plantago cordata
Polymnia laevigata
Saxifraga careyana
Xyris tennesseensis

We appreciate this opportunity for early coordination.


David J. Wesley

APPENDIX F: DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS AND RATIONALE--
PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER ADDITION, CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD

The following considerations and rationale for the visitor center at the Chickamauga battlefield address facility location, the park staff's desired building layout, and the square footage requirements. All the recommendations are conceptual. They are identified to document preliminary needs, thereby supporting more detailed designs later on. During future design phases, these concepts will be refined to establish specific layout, facility design, capacities, and materials.

Facility Location: Under the proposal a new structure for visitor services will be built behind the existing visitor center/headquarters building. The structure can be either an addition to the existing building or a separate building. The objective is to consolidate visitor services at one location and to separate visitor services from administrative functions.

Interpretation: Exhibits and interpretive media should be consolidated and redesigned to orient visitors to the interpretive themes (see table 2). The Fuller gun collection should be deemphasized.

Architectural Style: Various sitings and locations behind the existing building will be considered under the proposal. The intent is to keep the new building or addition from interfering with the existing facade or roofline of the visitor center; especially any new building segments visible from US 27. Both architectural style and materials should help to integrate the new building with the present one.

Site Conditions: Both pedestrian and vehicular circulation will change as a result of the new building or addition. Visitors will be directed toward the new visitor services area and away from the existing administrative area. Visitor traffic will be redirected to use US 27 as an entrance only. The existing parking area will remain, and more sites will be added out of view of US 27. Cars will exit by way of McFarland Gap Road. This will make access easier for the first-day-of-battle tour loop.

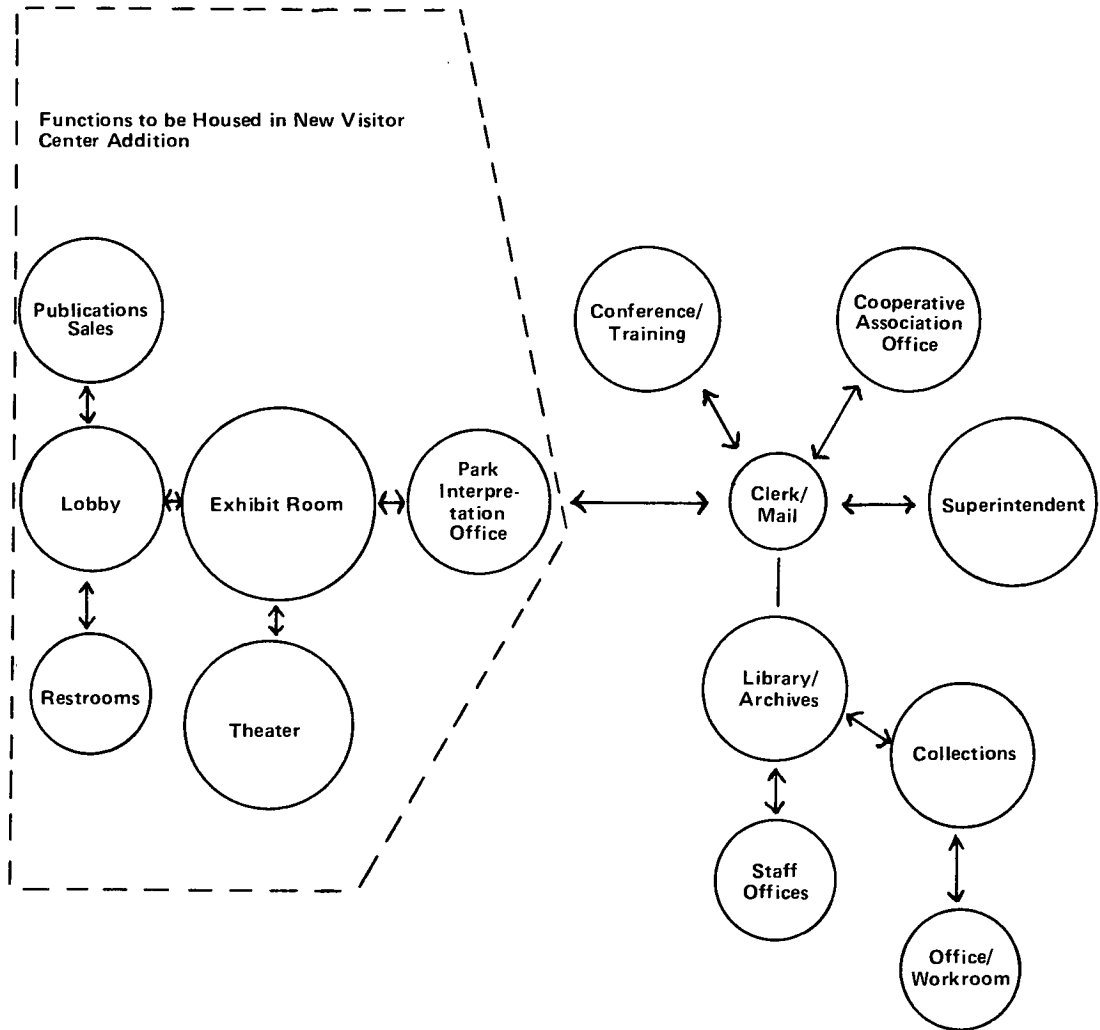
Layout: See the diagram of functional needs.

Table F-1: Space Requirements for Chickamauga Visitor Center Addition

| <u>Visitor Services (New Building/Addition)</u> | <u>Area (sq ft)</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| Lobby/sales (80 people @ 12 sq ft/person) | 960 |
| Exhibit space (50 people @ 20 sq ft/person) | 1,000 |
| Auditorium (100 people @ 10.5 sq ft/person) | 1,050 |
| Office/workroom (curatorial space) | 350 |
| Publications office/storage | 300 |
| Restrooms | 800 |
| Interpretive staff (2 offices, 100 sq ft each) | 200 |
| Interpretive supplies storage | 100 |
| Janitor's storage | <u>25</u> |
| Subtotal | 4,785 |
| Allowance for hallways, HAVC equipment, etc. (plus 25%) | <u>1,196</u> |
| Total | 5,981 |
| | |
| <u>Administrative Functions (Existing Building)*</u> | |
| Superintendent | 200 |
| Secretary | 120 |
| Administrative officer | 120 |
| Administrative technicians (2 people) | 200 |
| Facility manager | 120 |
| Employees' lunchroom | 200 |
| Employees' restrooms | 400 |
| Library (upstairs) | 400 |
| Conference room (breezeway) | 200 |
| Chief of interpretation and resource management | 120 |
| Interpretive supervisors (2 people) | 200 |
| Historian | 120 |
| Computer/ADP equipment (2 stations, 100 sq ft each) | 200 |
| Mailroom | 50 |
| Storage/office supplies | <u>100</u> |
| Subtotal | 2,750 |
| Allowance for hallways, etc. (plus 25%) | <u>688</u> |
| Total | 3,438 |

*Based on 120 sq ft for private offices, 100 sq ft for open offices.

**DIAGRAM OF FUNCTIONAL NEEDS FOR THE
CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD VISITOR SERVICES
AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES**



APPENDIX G: EXISTING STAFFING LEVELS

Park Manager GS-025-13 - 1
Secretary (Steno), GS-318-05 - 1
Historian, GS-170-11 - 1

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Officer, GS-341-09 - 1
Administrative Clerks, GS-303-05 - 2

MAINTENANCE

Facility Manager, GS-1640-09 - 1

Roads and Trails

Engine Equipment Operator Foreman, WS-5716-07 - 1
Engine Equipment Operator, WG-5716-10 - 1
Engine Equipment Operators, WG 5716-08 - 2
Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-05 - 1
Maintenance Worker, WG-4749-08 - 1
Laborer, WG-3502-03 - 1

Buildings and Utilities

Maintenance Mechanic Foreman, WS-4749-08 - 1
Maintenance Mechanic, WG-4749-09 - 1
Painter, WG-4101 - 1
Carpenter, WG-4607-09 - 1
Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-05 - 1

INTERPRETATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-025-11 - 1
Supervisory Park Rangers, GS-025-07 - 2
Park Rangers, GS-025-05 - 8

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Park Manager, GS-025-11 - 1
Park Rangers, GS-025-06 - 2
Park Ranger, GS-025-05 - 1
Maintenance Worker, WG-4749-07 - 1
Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-05 - 1

APPENDIX H: ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Table H-1: Existing Conditions

| Route Number | Road Name | Purpose | ADT | Width (ft) | Surface | Road Deficiency Code* | Resource Considerations/Comments |
|--------------|------------------------------|---|--------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 010 | McFarland-Reeds Bridge Road | Major intracity road/portion of tour route | 6,000 | 23 | paved | D | |
| 011 | US 27 | Major intracity road/portion of tour route | 12,900 | 25 | paved | | |
| 012 | Visitor Center Access | Visitor center access/initial entry experience | 1,080 | 19.5 | paved | | One-way |
| 013 | Alexanders Bridge Road | Historic route to farms, fields, and residences | 350 | 22 | paved | | Recently repaved |
| 100 | Jays Mill Road | Historic route to farms, fields, and residences | 720 | 17 | chip-seal | A,C | Drainage needs improving |
| 101 | Dyer Road | Historic route to farms, fields, and residences/ access to maintenance area | 720 | 17 | chip-seal | A | |
| 102 | Brotherton Road | Tour route/historic route | 120 | 17 | chip-seal | A,C | Drainage needs improving |
| 103 | Alexander-Viniard Road | Tour route/historic route | 720 | 17 | chip-seal | A,C | |
| 104 | Vittatoe Road | | 720 | 21 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 105 | Chickamauga-Vittatoe Road | Minor entrance road/ historic route/local traffic | 400 | 21 | chip-seal | A,C,D | |
| 106 | Sanders Road | Access to picnic area/ local traffic | 213 | 17 | paved | C | |
| 107 | Cravens Terrace Road | | 127 | 15 | chip-seal | A,B,C | Closed to public access |
| 108 | Elenore Street | Access to historic resource/ private residences | 127 | 12 | chip-seal | A,C | Widening could affect surrounding residences |
| 109 | South Carolina Road | Potential parking for Cravens house | 127 | 10 | gravel | A,B | Within residential neighborhood |
| 110 | Old Park Military Road | Access to Bragg reservation/ private residences | 127 | 21 | paved | C | |
| 111 | Sherman Reservation Road | Access to Sherman reservation and two residences | 127 | 16 | paved | A,D | |
| 112 | Snodgrass Road | Access to Snodgrass Hill and house | 127 | 20 | chip-seal | A,C | |
| 200 | Picnic area access | | 360 | 20 | chip-seal | A,C | |
| 201 | Sanders picnic area access | | 85 | 16 | paved | C | |
| 202 | Signal Point | Access to overlook | 85 | 17 | paved | A,C | |
| 400 | Mullis-Vittatoe Road | | 4 | 22 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 401 | Mullis Road | | 4 | 11 | chip-seal | | Closed to public access |
| 402 | Residential access road | | 20 | 18 | paved | | |
| 403 | Quarry Road | | | 9 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 404 | Snodgrass access road | | 4 | 20 | chip-seal | | Closed to public access |
| 405 | Savannah Road | | 4 | 20 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 406 | South Post Road | | 4 | 17 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 407 | Savannah service road | Access to maintenance area | 4 | 18 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 408 | South Carolina Monument Road | | 20 | 13 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 409 | Dalton Ford Road | Access to environmental study area | 4 | 18 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 410 | Thedford Ford Road | Access to environmental study area | 1 | 19 | gravel | | Closed to public access |
| 411 | Point Park access road | Access to parking area | 42 | 11 | paved | C | One-way |
| 500 | Glenn-Kelly Road | Historic road/tour route | 470 | 18 | chip-seal | A,D | One-way |
| 501 | Battleline Road | Historic road/route route | 960 | 15 | chip-seal | A,D | One-way |
| 502 | Poe Road | Historic road/tour route | 960 | 15 | chip-seal | A | One-way |
| 503 | Glenn-Viniard Road | Historic road/tour route | 960 | 15 | chip-seal | A | One-way |

*A - Pavement
 B - Width
 C - Drainage
 D - Shoulders/Pull

Table H-2: Recommended Road Classification

| Route Number | Road Name | Desired Visitor Experience | ADT | Class* | Proposed Width (ft) | Proposed Surface | Comments |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|--------|--------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 010 | McFarland-Reeds Bridge Road | Major intracity road | 6,000 | I | 22 | paved | |
| 011 | US 27 | Tour route/main access to battlefield resource | 12,900 | I | 25 | paved | Reduce speed; prohibit commercial traffic; add bike lane |
| 012 | Visitor center access | Retain for aesthetics/special occasion use | 1,080 | III | 19 | paved | Close north end; realign south end as major entrance |
| 013 | Alexanders Bridge Road | Tour route | 350 | II | 22 | paved | Do not restripe except at major intersections |
| 100 | Jays Mill Road | Retain historic character/tour route | 720 | II | 18 | paved | Do not stripe; retain existing bridge |
| 101 | Dyer Road | Retain historic character/access to maintenance area | 720 | II | 18 | paved | Do not stripe |
| 102 | Brotherton Road | Retain historic character/tour route | 120 | III | 18 | paved | Do not stripe |
| 103 | Alexander-Viniard Road | Retain historic character | 720 | III | 18 | paved | |
| 104 | Vittatoo Road | | 720 | VI | 21 | gravel | Retain as is |
| 105 | Chickamauga-Vittatoo Road | Minor park entrance | 400 | II | 21 | paved | |
| 106 | Sanders Road | Retain parklike character | 213 | II | 20 | paved | |
| 107 | Cravens Terrace Road | | 127 | VI | 18 | paved | |
| 108 | Elenore Street | Access to Cravens house | 127 | III | 18 | paved | Improve orientation signing |
| 109 | South Carolina Road | Access to Cravens house | 127 | III | 18 | gravel | Possible expansion for parking |
| 110 | Old Park Military Road | Access to Bragg reservation | 127 | III | 21 | paved | Make one-way and use existing paving for parking |
| 111 | Sherman Reservation Road | Access to Sherman reservation | 127 | III | 16 | paved | Widen cul-de-sac to allow for parking |
| 112 | Snodgrass Road | Access to Snodgrass Hill | 127 | III | 20 | paved | |
| 200 | Picnic area access | | 360 | III | 20 | paved | |
| 201 | Sanders picnic area access | Retain parklike character | 85 | III | 16 | paved | |
| 202 | Signal Point | Access to overlook | 85 | III | 18 | paved | Improve orientation signing |
| 400 | Mullis-Vittatoo Road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 22 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 401 | Mullis Road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 11 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 402 | Residential access road | Not intended for park visitors | 20 | V | 18 | paved | |
| 403 | Quarry Road | No vehicular access | | VI | 9 | gravel | |
| 404 | Snodgrass access road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 20 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 405 | Savannah Road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 20 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 406 | South Post Road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 17 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 407 | Savannah service road | Access to Dyer Field/monuments | 4 | III | 18 | gravel | |
| 408 | South Carolina Monument Road | No vehicular access | 20 | VI | 13 | gravel | |
| 409 | Dalton Ford Road | No vehicular access | 4 | VI | 18 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 410 | Theford Ford Road | No vehicular access | 1 | VI | 19 | gravel | Retain as trail |
| 411 | Point Park access road | Access to parking area | 42 | III | 11 | paved | Retain as one-way |
| 500 | Glenn-Kelly Road | Retain historic character | 470 | III | 18 | paved | Retain as one-way |
| 501 | Battleline Road | Retain historic character | 960 | III | 15 | paved | |
| 502 | Poe Road | Retain historic character | 960 | III | 15 | paved | |
| 503 | Glenn-Viniard Road | Retain historic character | 960 | III | 15 | paved | |

*Park Road Classification:

Class I: Principal Park Road--A road that constitutes a main access route, tour route, or thoroughfare for park visitors.

Class II: Connector Park Road--A road that provides access to an area of scenic, scientific, recreational, or cultural interest.

Class III: Special Purpose Park Road--A road that provides circulation within public use areas; designed for low-speed traffic and one-way circulation.

Class V: Administrative Access Road--A road intended for access to administrative developments or structures.

Class VI: Restricted Road--A road normally closed to the public.

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PLANNING TEAM AND CONSULTANTS

PLANNING TEAM

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

M. Ann Belkov, Superintendent
Jim Staub, Park Liaison

Denver Service Center

Mike Bureman, Cultural Resource Planner, Team Captain
Marilyn Hof, Planner, Interpretation Specialist
Robert Rothweiler, Natural Resource Specialist
Terri Urbanowski, Landscape Architect

Southeast Regional Office

Allen Woodrow, Regional Liaison

CONSULTANTS

Denver Service Center

Jerome Greene, Historian
Robert Schreffler, FHWA Coordinator/Project Manager

Harpers Ferry Center

Dave Guiney, Wayside Exhibit Planner
Larry Tillman, Team Captain, 1982 "Interpretive Prospectus"

Washington Office

Ed Bearss, Chief Historian

Other

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer
Southeast Archeological Center
Tennessee State Historical Preservation Officer

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Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs of the Denver Service Center. NPS D-28 July 1987