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THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAM OF CONSERVATION FOR AREAS AND STRUCTURES OF NATIONAL HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

By
Alvin P. Stauffer and Charles W. Porter

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Historic sites and structures constitute an important body of source materials for reconstructing the historic past. In spite of the changes which time brings to an historical area, neither the reading of books nor the study of documents can supplant the poignant imagery and understanding which one direct contact with the site evokes. If the aim of historical study and writing is the accurate portrayal of historic reality, the physical site and its remains must be visited and given the same careful study that is bestowed on the written sources.[1]

Failure to examine the site and its physical remains may result in egregious blunders in historical writing. This is especially true of military history, since the peculiarities of terrain are frequently as much a conditioning force in the outcome of an armed struggle as orders given on the battlefield, and it is also true of other specialized fields of history. Historians who have never seen Roanoke Island or Jamestown sometimes generalize on the limitations of those places as settlement sites without realizing their positive assets and potentialities. Historians of the American frontier who have been through Cumberland Gap, over the Oregon Trail, or across Death Valley can write with more assurance and conviction than those who have never had this enlightening experience.

In the essay which follows, the attempt is made to trace the broad outlines of the effort of the Federal Government to preserve historic sites and structures and to make these basic historical source materials available to both the scientific historian and the general public.

Conservation of historic and archeologic sites, as opposed to marking or monumentation,[2] has been the subject of Federal legislation and Presidential action for half a century. In 1889 Congress authorized the President to reserve lands embracing the Casa Grande prehistoric ruins in Arizona.[3] Three years later an Executive Order actually reserving the lands was issued.[4] During the 1890's a number of the more important battlefields of the conflict between the North and South came into public ownership through Congressional enactments. Among the well-known areas thus saved for posterity were Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, Shiloh National Military Park, Gettysburg National Military Park, and Vicksburg National Military Park. Progress, however, was slow. The movement derived its strength largely from the organizations of Union and Confederate veterans and little attention was paid to anything other than the battlefields of the 1860's.

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[1] J. T. Schneider, *Report to the Secretary of the Interior on the Preservation of Historic Sites and Buildings* (Washington, D. C., 1935), 1.

[2] The practice of marking or monumenting historic sites has an even longer history, and is traceable back to the resolutions of the Continental Congress. Worthington C. Ford and others, *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (34 vols., Washington, D. C., 1904-1937), VII, 242, 243, 258; IX, 861; XXI, 1081.

[3] *Statutes at Large*, XXV, 961.

Growing consciousness of Federal responsibility for the preservation of historic sites found expression in the Antiquities Act of 1906.[5] It gave the President authority to establish, by proclamation, national monuments on lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government, provided the areas in question possessed historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of scientific interest. Monuments reserved because of their military significance were placed under the Secretary of War; those within or adjacent to national forests were administered by the Department of Agriculture. The remainder fell to the Department of the Interior.

The Antiquities Act gave a decided impetus to the preservation of historical and archeological areas dealing with all periods of history and prehistory. Typical of the noteworthy places thus saved were the Gila Cliff Dwellings, New Mexico; Gran Quivira Spanish Mission and pueblo ruins in New Mexico; the Tumacacori Mission, the Tonto and the Navajo cliff-dweller ruins in Arizona; Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska, commemorating the Oregon Trail; and Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine, Florida.

At the same time, other sites were given Federal protection through congressional action. Among these were Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at the site of Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky; Kings Mountain National Military Park; Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park; and Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia, commemorating the colonial period of Virginia history from the settlement at Jamestown in 1607 to the winning of American independence at Yorktown in 1781.

By 1933 approximately eighty historical and archeological areas had been acquired and developed under the varying policies of three Federal departments and several bureaus. In that year, as a measure of governmental efficiency, all these areas were grouped together for administration by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

4/ Executive Order of June 22, 1892. Unpublished, printed copy on file in the general file of the National Park Service, Chicago, Illinois.

5/ Statutes at Large, XXXIV,225.

In the 1930's public consciousness of the need of preserving historic and archeologic sites resulted in larger appropriations, the acquisition of new areas, and the establishment within the National Park Service of a Branch of Historic Sites charged with special responsibility for the proper preservation, development, and interpretation of the historic and archeologic resources of the Nation. At the same time, study and comparison of European methods and policies with regard to historical and archeological conservation made plain the need for an organic law which would consolidate the gains already made and care for the future by giving to the National Park Service and to the Secretary of the Interior authority comparable to that possessed by similar agents or agencies of conservation in Europe and recognized as indispensable to scientific planning and economical administration. This led to the passage of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, 6/ which is today the basic law governing the preservation of our heritage in historic and archeologic sites.

The Historic Sites Act declares that it is "a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." It provides for a Nation-wide survey of historic and archeologic sites with a view to determining which of them are worthy of national recognition, and confers upon the Secretary of the Interior broad powers for the development of a national program of historical conservation.

The Historic Sites Survey has been an indispensable factor in the evolution of this national policy and national program. Obviously, such guiding principles must be predicated upon a sound understanding of the extent and character of the historical and archeological resources of the Nation. This necessitates permanent classified lists of historic and archeologic sites of national significance. Every important European country has found such lists necessary as a guide to efficient government operations.

If a site of outstanding national importance can be acquired without obligating the general fund of the United States Treasury, as is often the case, through gift from states, patriotic groups, and individuals, then the Secretary of the Interior is empowered by the Historic Sites Act to acquire them at his discretion. In deciding the delicate question of which sites are of national significance historically or archeologically, the Secretary relies upon the counsel of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. That Board, created under the authority of the Historic Sites Act, has from the beginning been composed of eminent authorities in the fields of history, archeology, architecture, museology, and park planning.

It is obviously not desirable that the Federal Government should

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6/ Statutes at Large, XLIX, 666-68.

either own or administer all nationally important historic sites. Consequently, the Historic Sites Act provides that the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with state or local groups, or even individuals, for the proper preservation, restoration, and use of historic and archeologic sites and buildings, regardless of whether title thereto is vested in the United States.

In this connection, it must be emphasized that the Secretary is not empowered to enter into cooperative agreements for the preservation of sites and buildings of merely state or local importance, but only for those of national significance. The cooperative agreement takes the form of a contract between the Secretary of the Interior and such local agencies as the states, municipal subdivisions, corporations, associations, or private individuals. If a local group does not already exist, the Secretary may organize a corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia or any state for the purpose of maintaining, restoring, or administering an historic site for public use. There is consequently a legal basis for a large measure of cooperation between the National Park Service nd local groups engaged in historical conservation. Indeed, it is believed that by far the greatest potentialities for progress in the conservation of historic and archeologic sites lie in this field of state and local cooperation.

A few examples will indicate the scope of cooperative effort made possible under the Historic Sites Act. Federal Hall Memorial, at Wall and Nassau Streets, New York, is operated by the Federal Hall Memorial Associates, Incorporated, acting under the terms of a cooperative agreement. The Roanoke Island Historical Association cooperates in the interpretative program of the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, through the annual presentation of Mr. Paul Green's pageant-drama, "The Lost Colony." At Jamestown Island, Virginia, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the National Park Service have entered into a cooperative agreement to give unified development and interpretation to their respective portions of historic Jamestown, site of the first permanent English settlement in America.

A national historic site in non-Federal ownership, which is designated under the authority of the Historic Sites Act but remains in state or local ownership, benefits by the technical assistance of National Park Service foresters, landscape architects, restoration architects, engineers, lawyers, wild life technicians, geologists, archeologists, and historians, as well as by the general advice of the directing officials of the National Park Service. The cooperative agreement or contract with the Federal Government might also be thought of as constituting a "trust" or guarantee against hasty, improvident, or unwise action on the part of present and future generations. The present corporate owners of a site after their three score years and ten must die and be succeeded by younger persons with different ideas and aims, but the Federal Government with its national program of conservation will live on in perpetuity.

The National Park Trust Fund Board created by act of Congress of July 10, 1935, 7/ is modeled on the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board. The Board consists of the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service and two persons appointed by the President for five years each. It is empowered to build up an endowment fund for the furtherance of all kinds of national park work including historical and archeological research and the preservation of nationally important historic sites.

The National Park Service has endeavored to interpret the broad national aspects of history, including in its areas those illustrating pre-Columbian, undocumented history, as well as those illustrating the different fields of later, documented history. It has emphasized those aspects of its areas which are of major historical import without neglecting, however, other aspect perhaps less important but nevertheless significant for the light they shed on American development. Some areas possessing a varied significance consequently fall into several categories of historical interest. Of the Service's holdings, 18 are valuable for the study of pre-Columbian history; 16, for social history; 6, for religious history; 12, for economic history; 3, for maritime history; 8, for the history of the westward movement; 6, for political history; 11, for biography; and 38 for military and naval history.

The fascinating pre-Columbian history of the Southwest is extensively illustrated by one national park and fourteen national monuments. In these holdings the objective is to tell the story of the cultural evolution of the ancient American peoples. This story has been unfolded by archeological excavation of pueblos, cliff dwellings, kivas, and other ruins, some of them more than a thousand years old. By the study of dendrochronology and the position of artifacts in undisturbed deposits, time sequences in cultures and peoples have been discovered. Field exhibits and museums show what prehistoric Indians working only with stone and bone tools could accomplish. Though much archeological research has already been done in the Service's holdings, a vast amount of scientific study admittedly yet remains to be done.

Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado is the largest and most varied in interest of the archeological areas. Approximately 250 cliff dwellings, 400 mesa top pueblos, and hundreds of Basket Maker pit dwellings are found there. Typical examples of these ruins have been excavated. Much information can be derived from them concerning the ancient Basket Makers who lived in the region during the first seven centuries of the Christian era and concerning the Pueblo peoples whose cultural evolution can be traced through the Developmental Period, 700-1000 A. D., into the Classic Period, 1000-1300 A. D. Chaco Canyon in New Mexico was another major center of Pueblo culture and, though its ruins do not cover so extensive a period of time as those of Mesa Verde, they have long been recognized as among the largest and most imposing in the United States. Pueblo Bonito, five-storied pueblo about 670 by 315 feet, consisting of hundreds of small,

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7/ Ibid., 477, 478.

rectangular masonry rooms, is the most famous and most extensively investigated Chaco ruins. At Aztec Ruins and Bandelier National Monuments in northern New Mexico are great pueblos, kivas, and other fascinating remains. Canyon de Chelly in Arizona has several hundred ruins ranging in age from early Basket Maker sites to thirteenth century cliff-houses. Some of the largest and best preserved cliff dwellings are found in Walnut Canyon, Navajo, and Montezuma Castle National Monuments in Arizona. At Casa Grande in the same state is found a ruined adobe watch-tower of the fourteenth century, the most complete surviving structure of its type. Pueblo ruins are located in Tuzigoot and Wupatki National Monuments, Arizona, and ruined house mounds in Gran Quivira National Monument, New Mexico.

Ocmulgee National Monument near Macon, Georgia, is one of the leading areas for study of the relatively unknown prehistory of the Southeast. There the remains of several ancient Indian peoples representing four major cultural influences have been unearthed. These remains, some of them seven hundred years old, include seven prehistoric mounds, an extensive fortification system, a ceremonial earth lodge, a cultivated field buried beneath a mound, a council chamber, and burial mounds. Another interesting feature is the "trading post." Judging from the artifacts which have been found on the site, it was in operation about 1700 and supplied the neighboring Creek Indians with war materials, beads, pipes, iron axes, and copper and brass bells.

In many of the National Park Service's holdings, ruins, surviving structures, and material objects relate a story important to social history conceived in its broadest sense to include religious, intellectual, and artistic development. Much of the daily life of the people of St. Augustine, Florida, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is told at Castillo de San Marcos (Fort Marion), one of the oldest masonry forts in the United States and the northernmost permanent fortification of New Spain on the Atlantic. The fort museum displays, among other exhibits, specimens of pottery, pipes, and wearing apparel excavated from the moat.

The reconstructed San Jose Mission, near San Antonio, once the most beautiful and the most prosperous of Texas missions, together with its restored granary, Indian pueblo, soldiers' quarters, and civilian officers' quarters, illustrates the self-sufficient economy of the missions.

At the site of Fort Raleigh on Roanoke Island and at Jamestown, part of Colonial National Historical Park, is told the story of the primitive circumstances under which the pioneers of these initial English colonizing efforts lived.

In the final development of Jamestown, social conditions in Virginia will be depicted as they were during the whole seventeenth century when this town was the capital of the colony and its port of entry.

Surviving and reconstructed buildings in the Yorktown portion of Colonial National Historical Park reflect the social conditions of the community in the eighteenth century when it had become Virginia's principal port and the home of enterprising merchants. Among these buildings are the Swan Tavern, furnished in part with period furniture, and the Lightfoot House, used as park headquarters. The eighteenth century plantation house in Virginia is exemplified by the Moore House at Yorktown and by the memorial mansion at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, both of which are appropriately furnished.

The Derby House at Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Massachusetts represents the type of structure built by a well-to-do New England merchant in the years just before the Revolution. At Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey, Washington's Headquarters (Ford Mansion) shows the late colonial architecture of the Middle Colonies at its best; and the restored Wick House, though located in New Jersey, is a splendid example of the Connecticut Valley type of farmhouse. The traditional Lincoln birthplace log cabin housed in the memorial building at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park in Kentucky typifies the primitive conditions under which most frontiersmen at first lived. At Arlington, Virginia, the completely furnished Lee Mansion exemplifies a plantation house of the Greek Revival type that is characteristic of the homes of the aristocracy of the ante-bellum South; in addition to some original Lee furnishings, the mansion contains a rich collection of period articles.

Public architecture is represented by the Salem Custom House and the Old Philadelphia Custom House, once the Second Bank of the United States. The first is a fine example of the architecture of the Federal period, one of the few remaining in New England; the second is one of the first and finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in America.

At Hopewell Village National Historic Site near Reading, Pennsylvania, one can study an early American iron-making community which was established about 1770 and survived bitter competition for more than a century. Although some of the buildings have disappeared, Hopewell Furnace, standing almost in the center of the village, remains, together with the Big House or ironmaster's residence, the spring house, the blacksmith shop, the charcoal storage house, and several tenant houses. These structures give an excellent picture of a compact semifeudal industrial village, more or less self-sufficient, where the people lived at their place of employment.

The structures that have survived from the 1850's at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, when rehabilitated and open for inspection, will represent not only the momentous event that occurred at Appomattox when Lee surrendered, but also a typical county seat of the newer South in the mid-nineteenth century with its "lawyer" culture, its taverns, its general stores, and its population of only a few hundred people.

The Vanderbilt Mansion, Hyde Park, New York, one of the finest examples of Italian Renaissance architecture in the United States, typifies the great estates built by wealthy industrialists, merchants, and financiers in the period of rapid accumulation of huge fortunes between 1865 and 1900. As such, it illustrates an important phase of social history, and has not inaptly been called a "monument to an era."

Religious history is represented by several sites. In addition to San Jose Mission, Tumacacori National Monument in Arizona tells part of the story of the Spanish mission frontier. It embraces the surviving structures of a mission completed about 1820 to replace the mission established by Father Eusebio Kino in 1691. At Jamestown the old church tower, the only standing ruin which goes back to the seventeenth century settlement, recalls the establishment of the Church of England in the American colonies. Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia, the second oldest Swedish church in the United States, was one of the truly fine ecclesiastical structures of its period and is a genuine monument to the achievements of the colonial Swedes and Finns. When its mission, buildings, and grounds are restored, the Whitman National Monument near Walla Walla, Washington, will afford data for studying the medical missionary labors of Dr. Marcus Whitman in the Oregon country and the primitive conditions under which he worked.

In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, lying partly in Tennessee and partly in North Carolina, abundant material exists for the study of the social conditions of the American frontier which, coming to this region in the late eighteenth century, never really passed on as it did elsewhere, but persisted to give future generations a sense of the conditions under which their pioneer forebears worked. Sturdy log structures, handmade household articles, all fashioned from simple native materials, survive in variety and quantity, probably unequaled elsewhere, to tell the story of the frontier way of life. To a lesser degree, the same type of material exists in the Blue Ridge Parkway and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

The romantic story of American expansion from the Appalachians to the Pacific is told in a number of areas. Near the point where Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee meet lies a proposed park at Cumberland Gap, the entrance to the land of abundant opportunity which was most used by pioneers in the period 1775-1795. It will tell the story of the trailblazers, hunters, trappers, and homeseekers who, through this gap, traversed the Wilderness Trail, one of the more important roads in the early westward movement. Portions of this road are still visible in the proposed park. Scotts Bluff, Fort Laramie, and Whitman Mission depict the great migration of venturesome Americans and Europeans over the Oregon Trail. At these sites it is not difficult to comprehend the aspirations of the varied host that passed by — of Mormons seeking a new Zion in the promised land of Utah, of forty-niners hoping to find "El Dorado" in California, of heads of families looking for more fertile and more plentiful land than the older regions provided. Other phases of the westward movement are represented by the Natchez Trace Parkway following as nearly as possible the route of the famous old road between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee, along which passed many of the traders, merchants, and pioneers of the Old Southwest in the heyday of the Trace, 1800-1830. Meriwether Lewis National Monument near Hohenwald, Tennessee, contains the remains of part of the Natchez Trace, the grave of Meriwether Lewis, leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the site of Grinder's Inn, a frontier tavern, where Lewis met his death.

The dauntless courage of the pioneer confronted by seemingly overwhelming odds is recalled by the formidable desert waste of Death Valley, scene of the tragic experiences of the Jayhawkers in attempting to cross the valley in the winter of 1849-1850, an episode which gave the region its name. At Homestead National Monument in Nebraska, the site of the first homestead granted under the Homestead Act, the setting and life of the pioneer farmer will be recreated so far as possible in order that the visitor may visualize the conditions under which the plains were settled.

Outstanding aspects of American economic development are depicted in the National Park Service's historic areas. At Jamestown it will eventually be possible to study not only the early history of tobacco cultivation and the dominant role it played in the economic life of Colonial Virginia but the abortive experiments in the production of silk and wine as well. Glass House Point near Jamestown, site of the first American glass works, will tell the fascinating story of this early manufacturing venture. The history of Virginia's commercial relations with the outside world in the seventeenth century will also be related at Jamestown and illustrated by artifacts collected from the Jamestown ruins. At neighboring Yorktown this same story, continued into the eighteenth century, will be told in connection with the history of the waterfront of this once thriving port. The surviving structures of Hopewell Village develop the story of cold blast, charcoal-iron manufacture from about 1770 to the 1880's, when technological changes forced the ancient stone furnace to cease operations.

In Philadelphia the Old Custom House recalls the phase of American financial history associated with the Second Bank of the United States which occupied this structure. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal on the Maryland side of the Potomac River relates the story of the important stage of transportation history that is embodied in the canal era. Study of the restored lower division of the canal, with its towpath, stone lift locks, and stone lock houses, reveals valuable information concerning the construction and use of canals in their great epoch. In Death Valley in California are the remains of the borax works erected there in the 1880's, when this great sink was the major center of American borax production and the home of the celebrated twenty-mule team.

The romantic maritime history of the United States is illustrated by three areas. Salem Maritime National Historic Site commemorates the golden age of American shipping and foreign trade. There, at the

Custom House, at Derby Wharf extending nearly two thousand feet into the harbor, and at the Derby House, home of Elias Hasket Derby, one of the most prominent merchants of the early Federal period, are recalled the shipping and commercial methods of the days when Salem privateers upheld their country's cause in the American Revolution and the War of 1812 and Salem men pioneered the way for American trade to the Baltic and the Orient and around the Cape of Good Hope. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, North Carolina, from 1870 to 1936 guardian over the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," illustrates older methods of protecting shipping, as does Cabrillo National Monument, whose principal feature is the abandoned Point Loma Lighthouse which, from 1855 to 1891, warned passing ships of the coast about San Diego, California.

Political history is illustrated at Jamestown by the site of the church in which the first representative legislative assembly in America met in 1619. At Jamestown also are commemorated two early rebellions on behalf of representative government, the "thrusting out," in 1635, of Governor John Harvey in the first revolt against royal authority in what is now the United States and Bacon's Rebellion against Sir William Berkeley's misrule in 1676, the famous rebellion against despotic government in the American colonies before the Revolution,

Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall in Independence Square, Philadelphia, form a group of structures possessing unsurpassed importance in the history of the United States. These buildings, which have recently been designated a national historic site, include the scene of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the meeting place of the Continental Congress, the seat of the American government during the Revolution, and the assembly place of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

The Federal Hall Memorial, in the old Sub-Treasury Building in New York, commemorates the site of Federal Hall on which it stands. This site was scarcely less important than Independence Square in Philadelphia; it was the first capitol of the United States under the Constitution, the scene of Washington's first inauguration, and the meeting place of Congress from April 1789 to May 1790. At Federal Hall, the new government was organized and Congress submitted the constitutional amendments forming the Bill of Rights to the states for ratification. On this same spot, in earlier days, was held the trial of John Peter Zenger, which helped establish freedom of the press; at this place the Stamp Act Congress proclaimed the doctrines of "no taxation without representation," and on this same ground was adopted the Ordinance of 1787 enacting the principle that newly settled territories should not be governed as dependent provinces but should enter the Union as states.

At the Old Philadelphia Custom House is told the story of the epic struggle between Andrew Jackson and Nicholas Biddle over the proposed recharter of the Second Bank of the United States. The political negotiations and intrigues of the Jacksonian era are likewise recalled at the Blair House in Washington, D. C., home of

Francis P. Blair, Sr., perhaps Jackson's closest friend in the national capital and his acknowledged journalistic spokesman. At the Blair House, Robert E. Lee was offered the command of the Union Army. This house, which has been given a national historical marker, is now Government owned and has recently been used for the entertainment of visiting statesmen of the United Nations. International relations are likewise illustrated at the Statue of Liberty, the gift of France, which commemorates the Franco-American alliance during the Revolution and the long friendship between the two countries.

Closely allied to the purely political sites are those representing biography. These holdings recognize some of the most outstanding figures of American history. The best known are George Washington Birthplace National Monument, commemorating this great leader with a memorial mansion at his birthplace; Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, including a memorial building which houses at the birthplace site the traditional log cabin in which Lincoln was born; the Lincoln Museum (Ford's Theatre), Washington, D. C., where Lincoln was assassinated; the House Where Lincoln Died, also in the national capital; and the Lee Mansion, the stately home of the celebrated Confederate general, on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, overlooking the city of Washington.

At Washington's Headquarters, Morristown, where George Washington lived in the winter of 1779-1780, stress is laid on his steadfast courage and faith in ultimate victory in spite of the overwhelmingly adverse odds. Andrew Johnson National Monument in Greenville, Tennessee, preserves the tailor shop in which Johnson worked before becoming President, and the house in which he lived during most of the last twenty-five years of his life. Two sites, the McLoughlin House, Oregon City, Oregon, and the Whitman Mission near Walla Walla, Washington, recall the notable part played in the settlement of the Oregon country by John McLoughlin, celebrated factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and by Dr. Marcus Whitman, medical missionary. Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Kill Devil Hill National Memorial marks the site where Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first successful power-driven airplane flight.

Intimately associated with the political areas are those illustrating military history. These areas commemorate most of the outstanding military engagements from Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 to the Custer Massacre in 1876.

At Jamestown, in 1676, occurred an engagement fought under primitive conditions that gave Bacon and others in rebellion against Berkeley's misgovernment temporary control of the Virginia capital. Fort Necessity near Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida, depict not only the international colonial rivalries that precipitated the French and Indian War of 1754-1763, but also the vastly different weapons and methods used in the prosecution of that war. Fort Necessity is interesting to military students because the engagement fought there centered about a rude frontier stockade hastily erected in a few days and the American defense was conducted largely in pioneer fashion. In contrast, Castillo de San Marcos, symbolizing the long contest between Spain and Great Britain for control of the southeastern coast, was a massive, permanent stronghold built in accordance with standard military engineering practices of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The struggle for American independence is epitomized by parks embracing some of its most significant battlefields and winter encampments. Saratoga commemorates the triumph of a ragged but determined patriot army over Burgoyne's encircled force of British regulars and German mercenaries in the campaign which signalized the turning point of the Revolution. Yorktown affords opportunities for the study of the coordinated action of the French fleet in Chesapeake Bay and the Franco-American army in the Peninsula between the James and York Rivers by which Cornwallis was cut off from supplies and reinforcements by both land and sea and forced to surrender, an event that was the most influential factor in finally inducing Great Britain to recognize American independence. Trenches, redoubts, and batteries restored on their original sites, a general museum telling the story of the siege, and a naval museum, whose interior is built to resemble a British frigate of the Revolutionary period, help the student visualize the campaign. At Morristown National Historical Park the Continental Army, in the winter of 1779-1780, endured the same appalling sufferings as it had at Valley Forge two years before. Reproductions of log structures used as a hospital hut, an officers' hut, and a soldiers' hut, the still visible remains of some of these huts, and a large historical museum displaying Revolutionary relics, books, and manuscripts cause this park to be an excellent place in which to study the organization of the Continental Army and its problems in winter quarters. Kings Mountain in North Carolina exemplifies frontier fighting methods triumphing over the more orthodox British methods in a region ideally fitted to enable the backwoods patriots of Virginia and the Carolinas to demonstrate the success that might be achieved by their military technique.

The War of 1812 is represented by the sites of three famous American triumphs. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument at Put in Bay, Ohio, overlooks the scene of the Battle of Lake Erie, the greatest American naval victory of the war on the Great Lakes. In Baltimore, Fort McHenry celebrates the successful resistence offered to British naval bombardment, the episode which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. The excellently preserved fort, which is laid out on the plan of a regular pentagon with a bastion at each angle, is a fine example of late eighteenth century military architecture. The most notable American victory of the war on land is commemorated at Chalmette National Historical Park, which embraces part of the site of the decisive triumph of Jackson's Kentucky, Tennessee, and Louisiana militia over British regulars and veterans in the Battle of New Orleans.

Virtually all the famous battlefields of the great conflict between the North and the South, from Manassas to Appomattox, are embraced in whole or in part in the holdings of the National Park Service.

These areas constitute the largest group of historic sites in the system of national parks and monuments. In administering them Federals and Confederates are equally honored. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, U. S. Grant and W. T. Sherman all take their rightful places as military heroes of the nation. The valor of Americans in blue and gray, who took up arms for causes which they believed worth fighting for, is the underlying theme in all these areas.

Several battlefields represent the four-year Union campaign to capture Richmond, and the Confederate campaign to defend it. This struggle for the capital and symbol of the seceding states seriously reduced the limited manpower of the South and hastened its defeat. At Manassas, Virginia, the story of the panicky rout of the raw Union recruits in the war's first important battle is told, as is also that of Second Manassas, when the Federals again retreated but this time with ranks unbroken. McClellan's ill-fated Peninsular Campaign in the Old Dominion is represented by portions of the important battlefields of Seven Pines and the Seven Days' engagements in the Richmond National Battlefield Park. This area contains impressive remains of massive fortifications such as Fort Harrison and Fort Darling, which were erected to defend the Confederate capital. The park at Antietam in Maryland containing the major points of combat of this battle represents the repulse of Lee's first great counteroffensive in Union territory. At Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park, Virginia, the strategic road system was the hub about which the contending armies maneuvered and fought. On these fields occurred the brilliant Confederate victories of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and the savagely fought battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse. Visible evidence of these conflicts is provided by thirty-two miles of trenches in the park and as many more in private hands. Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania, scene of "the high tide of the Confederacy," contains most of the significant terrain of the decisive battle of Gettysburg. A portion of the battlefield of Cold Harbor, one of Grant's bloody battles of 1864, is included in Richmond National Battlefield Park. The memorable ten-months' siege of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864-1865, prelude to Richmond's fall and Lee's surrender, is commemorated at the Petersburg National Military Park, which includes remains of the batteries and earthworks whose effective use makes this site illuminating to military students. Numerous pieces of ordnance of the type used during the siege add to the interest of the park.

The story of the conquest of the Mississippi Valley, which isolated that part of the South west of the river from the main body of the Confederacy, is told at Fort Donelson and Shiloh in Tennessee and at Vicksburg in Mississippi. At Fort Donelson, whose surrender to Grant delivered western Kentucky and western Tennessee into Federal hands and gave the North control of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, the old fort, the earthworks, rifle pits, and water batteries are well preserved. In conjunction with the fall of Fort Donelson, the sanguinary Battle of Shiloh prepared the way for Grant's successful siege of Vicksburg, the last important connecting link between the eastern and western sections of the Confederacy and the chief obstacle to the free movement of Federal traffic up and down the river. At Vicksburg there are historically valuable remains of huge earthworks, such as the Confederate Railroads Redoubt, which illustrate the character of the siege warfare.

The thrust across the Nashville Basin along the railroads through Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia, which aimed at ultimately reaching the sea and cutting in two the Confederacy east of the Mississippi, is illustrated at Stones's River, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, and Kennesaw Mountain. At the battle of Stone's River or Murfreesboro in Tennessee occurred the successful beginning of the great Federal offensive which finally trisected the Confederacy. The park at this site includes part of the battlefield and a portion of Fortress Rosecrans, an extensive Union fortification built to guard Murfreesboro. At Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park is told the story of the long and bitter struggle for the important railroad center of Chattanooga which, after an initial Confederate victory at Chickamauga, culminated in complete victory for the Federals. They thus acquired a strategically strong base that could be used to disrupt industry and transportation in the very heart of the South. Included in this park are the battlefields of Chickamauga, Orchard Knob, Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge. At Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia, many fortifications at the principal sites of combat are well preserved. The Union success in this battle made it possible for Sherman to besiege and capture Atlanta, the juncture of several important railroads. This event, in turn, led to the devastating "march to the sea" and the equally devastating march northward through the Carolinas, developments that, combined with the fall of Petersburg on April 2, 1865, rendered Confederate collapse inevitable. The McLean House at Appomattox Court House, when restored, will commemorate the termination of the war and the reunion of the North and South.

The fierce warfare that marked the final efforts of the Indians to preserve their way of life is represented at Fort Laramie National Monument, Lava Beds National Monument, and the Custer Battlefield National Cemetery. From its establishment as a military post in 1849 to its abandonment in 1890, Fort Laramie in Wyoming was both a center for negotiating treaties with the northern plains tribes and a base for military operations which drove them from their old homes. Its sixteen surviving structures of varying ages give an excellent picture of frontier military life. At Lava Beds National Monument in California are located well-preserved remains of Captain Jack's stronghold. The most famous episode of the Modoc War of 1872-1873 occurred at this place when about 175 hostile Indians, only a third of them warriors, took refuge in extensive lava fields honeycombed with deep fissures and, taking advantage of the naturally strong defensive positions, made the point a veritable fortress from December, 1872, to April 17, 1873, during which period they repulsed attacks by vastly superior white forces. Custer Battlefield in Montana recalls the most celebrated battle in the annals of late Indian resistance to the march of white civilization — that in which General George A. Custer and his immediate command were completely annihilated. In the Custer Battlefield

National Cemetery are buried many of the cavalrymen who fell in the battle.

The preservation and development of the historical and archeological areas of the National Park Service, now numbering about one hundred, raise technical problems involving the stabilization, protection, and restoration of ruins. Restoration practice, for instance, has been a hotly debated subject since the days of Ruskin and Viollet-le-Duc. To deal with the many knotty problems that must be solved, the National Park Service relies upon a staff of historians and archeologists, some of whom are park superintendents and administrators while others act in advisory capacities to superintendents or National Park Service administrators. The techniques of the historians and archeologists are further supplemented by the advice of National Park Service experts in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering.

Until the commencement of historical restoration work by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., at Williamsburg, and by the National Park Service, at Yorktown, in the early 1930's, the techniques of historical conservation and restoration were little understood in this country. Some mistakes were inevitably made, but to eliminate error the National Park Service built up the technical staff described above and also provided other safeguards in the form of park master plans and National Park Service policy.

The guiding principles affecting interpretation and development are embodied in park master plans which are basically cartographic, though they contain highly condensed textual statements interspersed between historical data maps, interpretative-guide-tour maps, and developed area maps.

Of the textual material accompanying the maps of the master plan the most important is the interpretative statement. This is a concise statement of the meaning of the battle or other historical events which occurred within the park. The statement is expository rather than narrative in content. For instance, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address might be used as the interpretative statement for Gettysburg National Military Park since it is the classic definition of the meaning of Gettysburg to the American people. Such interpretive statements are lucid, directional guides for everyone engaged in planning for the historical areas. They define the essential theme of the park program and the basic thoughts to be presented to visitors. Needless to say, the preparation of satisfactory interpretative statements is a process of slow growth and calls for the best type of historical scholarship and creative thought.

Among the historical data maps included in the master plan, the one of most interest to scholars outside of the National Park Service is the historical base map. This is a cartographic picture of the historical area as it appeared at the time of the events which gave the area national significance. For example, the historical base map of Yorktown shows the physical appearance of the battlefield and the town of York at the time of the surrender of Cornwallis. The information on these maps is compiled by critical method from contemporary maps, historical documents, diaries and military reports, archeological evidence, and other primary source materials. On the basis of such evidence, the historical base maps are heavily documented. In such areas as Colonial National Historical Park, where a long period of historical development is involved, a number of base maps are required. These maps become the basic data for park development since they indicate the historic roads, forest cover, buildings, fortifications, and other physical features to be explored archeologically, restored, or preserved.

Other historical data maps of the park master plans are the troop movement maps, which show the course of the battle commemorated by the park, and the interpretative-guide-tour maps, which depict the tour plan of the area. Of these, the combat or troop movement maps are based on carefully documented studies and the tour plan on experience with park visitors.

In the development and interpretation of historical areas, the National Park Service emphasizes preservation rather than restoration or reconstruction. This is in keeping with the precept that it is "Better to preserve than repair, better to repair than restore, and better to restore than to reconstruct." For instance, in so far as practicable, the excavated building ruins uncovered by archeological method at historic Jamestown will be treated for preservation and exposed to the public view; but there is no thought of attempting a restoration of the colonial town, inasmuch as such a restoration would have to be largely conjectural. Rather Jamestown will be presented to the public as one of our "buried cities of romance." The historic structures to be placed on display, when preservation techniques have been perfected, are expected to be unalloyed authentic originals.

When restoration or reconstruction is deemed necessary or desirable for educational purposes, present National Park Service policy requires the building plans to be accompanied by a documented report fully justifying in detail the work that is to be performed. Unless the justification is fully adequate the work will not be undertaken. In the case of the proposed restoration of the McLean House at Appomattox, even the technical laboratory facilities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were utilized to authenticate historical documents employed in the justification, a resource not usually available in historical work but open to the National Park Service as a Federal agency.

National Park Service policy with regard to the archeology of historic sites holds that excavation should be carried on with the same care and with the exercise of the same techniques as in Egyptian or Mesopotamian archeology. A site can be archeologically excavated successfully only once. If the first excavation is made by an amateur, many valuable data are lost forever and often the site is irretrievably ruined. Important National Park Service archeological projects have been carried on at Jamestown, Ocmulgee National Monument, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Yorktown, Saratoga, Fort Laramie, along the old Natchez Trace, and at Appomattox Court House. The result has been the unearthing of large collections of cultural objects associated with the every-day life and habits of our seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century forebears. Important contributions have been made at the same time to our knowledge of early American architecture and building techniques. This new approach to the study of early American social and economic history is still in its infancy, with many potentialities still undeveloped, after ten years of progress. In a survey of archeological accomplishment during the past decade in the United States, Frank M. Setzler of the United States National Museum declared the development of this "historical archeology" or "Colonial-archeology" to be one of the four important contributions made to American archeological sciences during the past twelve years.[8] Historical archeology has proved its worth, and, as its importance becomes better understood, it will take a prominent part in supplementing our documentary knowledge of the cultural background of our own ancestors. It is no less important to historians than to archeologists.

The National Park Service has also been among the pioneers in the study of aboriginal sites of the early historic period, i.e., Indian sites described in the writings of early travelers, explorers, traders, and scientists, such as Thomas Hariot and John White. At these sites where prehistory and recorded history meet, there is an unusual opportunity to learn the past by proceeding from the known to the unknown. That is to say, when the habits and customs of the Indians of the early recorded period are more fully comprehended, the mute artifact material and archeological evidence of the older aboriginal sites will be more revealing. This field of study, known as ethno-history, has had its applications at Ocmulgee National Monument and on various sites along the Natchez Trace Parkway.

In the treatment of aboriginal or purely archeologic sites, the National Park Service policy has been one of preservation and stabilization combined with the utilization of archeology and dendrochronology as a means of study and interpretation. Restorations of aboriginal structures have been rare. A number of pueblos and kivas have been restored in the Southwestern archeological monument areas and an Indian Council Chamber has been restored at Ocmulgee National Monument, near Macon, Georgia, because in these sites unusually complete data for the restoration of the structures were available. Stabilization of ruins connotes the practice of giving permanence to the aboriginal structure with the least possible additions of new structural elements. The attempt is made to display the original workmanship of the ancient builders in so far as this is consistent with the continued maintenance of the ruins.

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[8] Frank M. Setzler, "Archeological Accomplishments During the Past Decade in the United States," *Journal of the Washington Academy of Science* (Menasha, Wisconsin), XXXII, September 15, 1942, pp. 255, 259.

National Park Service policy in the military parks conforms to the standards of restoration and preservation practice already described. For the military historian, personal examination of the terrain on which battles were fought is particularly important. Only by studying topographical conditions is it possible for him fully to comprehend troop dispositions, tactical maneuvers, and the sequence of events in battles fought under greatly varying physical conditions with weapons ranging from the most antiquated to the most modern. In order to enable students and others to grasp the character and course of military operations the National Park Service's policy has been to preserve as nearly as possible the physical conditions prevailing at the time of the battle, to stabilize existing remains of fortifications, trenches, and earthworks, to make sample restorations when they will help in the visualization of the battle, and to maintain museums for the exhibition of weapons and other objects used in battle.

In the administration and operation of the historical areas generally, the interpretive policy of the National Park Service is significant, holding that the educational and inspirational values of the historical parks can best be realized through a well-planned program which efficiently utilizes the major points of interest in the park and provides adequate facilities, such as park roads, markers, literature, outdoor exhibits, museums, lectures, and guide service. No attempt is made to regiment the visitors or to thrust information upon them. He who already knows the historical story may guide himself, assisted by mute aids to self-guidance such as markers and exhibits in place, and park officials will not intrude upon his meditations. The facilitating aids to interpretation and understanding have been provided in response to public demand and are either free or cost very little. They are available for the many people who want them. Those who come to the historical areas for research or intensive study can have aid for the asking from the park superintendent, who will furnish it himself or provide the services of the historians and archeologists on his staff.

Such are the resources and aids available to those who would ponder or find mental and spiritual stimulation in the network of historical areas administered by the National Park Service, which may aptly be described as providing the outdoor or laboratory course for the study of American history.

OCT 4 1963

March 3, 1849

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. - 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D58-H

October 4, 1963

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Fort Pulaski

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: HABS

Recently, in a collection of late nineteenth-century photographs of Savannah by Photographer William E. Wilson, we came across two views of Fort Pulaski. Thinking they may be of interest, we are enclosing prints for your files. The Historic American Buildings Survey plans to include copy negatives in its collection, and the photographer's original glass-plate negatives are at the Library of Congress. Prints of the other Savannah views have been sent to Architect John LeBey, AIA, for assistance in proper identification.

Robert E. Smith

By: James C Massey
James C. Massey, HABS

Enclosure