

THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL SETTING

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park includes sites in Caroline, Orange, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties, Virginia, and in the city of Fredericksburg. The Fredericksburg region is part of Virginia's urban corridor, which stretches from suburban Washington, D.C., through Richmond. The park lies midway between the two cities, about 55 miles from each, in an area that is experiencing rapid residential and suburban growth.

Climate

The regional climate is characterized by mild winters and warm, humid summers. Mean annual temperatures average 56° F. Daytime highs in the winter are in the upper 40s, and nighttime lows are in the middle 20s. Daytime highs during the summer are in the upper 80s, and nighttime lows are in the lower 60s. The growing season, defined as the period between the average date of the last spring freeze (April 23) and the average date of the first fall freeze (October 17), is 178 days.

Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year, with the minimum amount in August and the maximum in February. The annual average precipitation, some of which occurs in the form of snowfall, is 40 inches. Snowfall in Fredericksburg averages 16 inches a year, but yearly amounts are extremely variable. Thunderstorm activity occurs on about 40 days each year, which is near the average for the state.

Transportation

Highways. Major highways include Interstate 95 and U.S. 1, running generally north-south. I-95, one of the main East Coast traffic arteries, is being expanded to six lanes between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia. U.S. 17, stretching from Winchester to Virginia Beach, and Virginia (VA) 3, extending from Culpeper to Lancaster County on the Chesapeake Bay, are east-west connecting links crossing the area. U.S. 301 east of Fredericksburg serves as a conduit to markets in the northern and eastern states and to areas south of Richmond.

Rail. The region is served by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad (RF&P), which passes through Fredericksburg in a north-south direction. The railroad connects Richmond and Washington, and from these two points, connects with others that cross the nation.

There are numerous spur lines from the RF&P serving industrial sites in Caroline, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties. Industrial sites in the city of Fredericksburg are served by the Virginia Central Railway, connecting the RF&P with Battlefield Industrial Park next to the park.

Air. Three major full-service airports are slightly more than an hour's drive from the Fredericksburg area: Byrd International Airport,

Richmond, Virginia (65 miles southwest); National Airport, Washington, D.C. (55 miles north); and Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, Virginia (65 miles northwest).

Privately owned and operated Shannon Airport, near Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County, offers charter, hangar, and related services and a 3,000-foot paved runway. The future of this airport is being debated by local governments, as the owner wishes to sell.

Population

All five of the jurisdictions containing the park have experienced growth since the master plan was prepared in 1968. Most of the population increases have occurred in Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, as shown in the data below. Spotsylvania County, in which the majority of the park is located, is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and one of 20 fastest growing counties in the nation.

	<u>Caroline</u>	<u>Spotsylvania</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Stafford</u>	<u>City of Fredericksburg</u>
1970	13,925	16,424	16,000	24,587	14,450
1980	17,904	34,435	18,063	40,470	15,322
1990	21,500	52,000	22,000	57,300	18,500*
2000	24,400	68,500	25,000	70,000	19,000*

Sources: Historical Data, 1950-80, U.S. Bureau of the Census; Projected Data, 1985-2000, Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, March 1983.

*These figures account for annexation from Spotsylvania County in 1984.

Recent data indicate that approximately 60 percent of the region's workers commute outside the locality in which they live. Stafford County data show that over 80 percent of its residents are employed outside the county.

Land Use Patterns

The five jurisdictions are all experiencing changes in land use and activity, but each has unique demography and characteristics.

Caroline County. Approximately 50 acres of the park are in Caroline County, which consists of 536 square miles of land and approximately 4 square miles of water. The topography is gently rolling, with an average

elevation of 250 feet above sea level. The eastern two-thirds of the county is in the Coastal Plain and the western third in the Piedmont Plateau.

Although agriculture is decreasing in importance, farm products still generate a reasonable income for many county residents. The principal agricultural products are row crops (corn and soybeans), followed by livestock and poultry. Forest products, such as saw timber and excelsior, comprise one of the most important revenue sources. The developing construction industry has broadened the industrial base.

Caroline County is gradually experiencing a land use shift from rural to residential. Planning documents indicate that a major shift may occur in the next decade, particularly along I-95.

Spotsylvania County. About 5,377 acres of the park are in Spotsylvania County, which contains 400 square miles of land and approximately 2.5 square miles of water. The majority of the land surface is gently rolling and lies within the Piedmont Plateau. A small area along the eastern border is within the Coastal Plain.

The limited agricultural activity in Spotsylvania County focuses on livestock and dairy production. The county has an active and growing industrial base, which includes the manufacturing of lumber and lumber products, business forms, clothing, plastics and synthetic fibers, concrete products, industrial equipment, and building construction materials.

Increasing residential development has stimulated the growth of commercial activity in the county, and there has been a rapid change from a nonurban to an urban setting. Four square miles of the county were annexed by the city of Fredericksburg in 1984.

Orange County. Approximately 839 acres of the park are in Orange County, which consists of 355 square miles of land. The gently rolling land surface averages 250 feet in elevation.

Orange County is basically in agricultural use. Operating farms cover 53 percent of the land. Development occurs mainly along major highways and in and around the towns of Orange and Gordonsville. There is a large planned community, Lake of the Woods, that shares a common boundary with the park and has 4,283 lots, all of which have been sold. This subdivision is located on VA 3.

Stafford County. About 84 acres of the park are in Stafford County, which includes 271 square miles of land and 7 square miles of water. The topography is gently rolling and lies within the Piedmont Plateau, except for an area in the eastern part, along the Potomac River, that lies in the Coastal Plain.

There is little agricultural activity in Stafford County; livestock and dairy production is the primary agricultural use. Because Stafford

County is closer to Washington, D.C., it is experiencing rapid growth and change from a rural to an urban setting.

City of Fredericksburg. Approximately 182 acres of the park are in the city of Fredericksburg, which encompasses 10.3 square miles of land and water. Its central location within the urban corridor and its proximity to good transportation routes have led to the development of a major industrial base. Industries in the city manufacture a wide range of products including building materials, electrical equipment, plastic products, fabricated metal products, clothing, and printed materials.

Fredericksburg's historical features, including sites from the colonial, revolutionary, and Civil War periods, attract many tourists annually, making this industry an important contributor to the city's economy.

Land Use Regulations

Local governments in Virginia enjoy a high degree of home rule, and the five jurisdictions are largely responsible for determining present and future land uses, according to their own prerogatives. All have zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations; however, none has historic or preservation zoning or development restrictions for the property that borders the park, despite the fact that each of the jurisdictional plans references historic preservation as one of the purposes of zoning. Because of the lack of restrictions, changes in land use are continuing. The majority of the changes are occurring in the counties where the greatest population growth and residential development has occurred in the past 10 years. Spotsylvania County, which is experiencing the most growth and is actively seeking an industrial base, has the greatest potential for land use changes that will have an impact on the park.

The status of planning and land use regulations in the city and counties around the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park is as follows:

	<u>Comprehensive Plans</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances</u>	<u>Subdivision Regulations</u>
County of Caroline	1977 revision in progress	1973 amended 1980	1973 amended 1980
County of Orange	1977 revised 1984	1968 amended 1973 amended 1979	1968 amended 1979
County of Spotsylvania	1964 revised 1980	1973 amended 1980	1961 amended 1980
County of Stafford	1975 revised 1979	1964 amended 1978	1984
City of Fredericksburg	1981	1984	1972 change in progress

Planning for the areas surrounding the park has generally been on a short-term rather than a long-term comprehensive basis. Zone designations can usually be changed with little difficulty as long as the development proposal is compatible with the political atmosphere of the area. The park has not been particularly successful in requesting compatible uses bordering the park, although local governments have at times been receptive to requests to consider zoning changes to minimize impacts on park resources. Development setbacks, buffering, and screening have sometimes been approved when requested by park officials.

Land Use Projections

The population of the five jurisdictions is projected to grow by 60 percent between the years 1980 and 2000. This growth will lead to major land use changes during the projected life of the plan, which is through the year 2000. The additional 80,000 persons who will reside in the region by the year 2000 will impact land use patterns in the following ways:

A major portion of the land now in agricultural use will be used for residential purposes, resulting in a continuing change from a rural to a suburban environment.

Within the remaining rural areas, clusters of development will occur along major highways.

There will be increasing industrial and commercial development to serve the resident population.

PARK RESOURCES

Natural Resources

The battlefield sites at Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania are located in the Piedmont physiographic province of the eastern United States. The battle for Fredericksburg occurred along the ridge that forms the fall line separating the Piedmont from the Coastal Plain province.

Fredericksburg battlefield is in an urban environment that extends from Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg along the ridge overlooking the Rappahannock River. The floodplain below the ridge is flat to gently rolling, with soils that are deep, moderately to well-drained, and medium- to coarse-textured, some of which are considered the best agricultural land in the state. The peneplain beyond the ridge is a series of Piedmont terraces cut by numerous small streams with soils that are poorly drained, medium- to fine-textured with slow internal drainage. Water tables are generally high during wet seasons. These soils are generally poorly suited to agriculture and development uses. Chatham Manor lies in the Coastal Plain province, an area characterized by gentle

slopes of deep, well-drained soils of sand and sandy loam. The Rappahannock River has cut through the coastal plain, creating steep riverbanks and exposing the underlying dense clay and sandstone. The soils along the river are composed of alluvial materials, which have moderate to severe limitations for development due to steep slopes, erodibility, and flood hazard.

Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania battlefields are on gently rolling wooded plateaus dissected by numerous streams and swamps. Chancellorsville battlefield lies on a divide separating the watershed of the Rappahannock River from the Po and Ny rivers, and Spotsylvania battlefield lies between the drainage areas of the Po and Ny rivers. The site of the Wilderness battlefield is in the Wilderness Run drainage, which flows north into the Rapidan River. Soils in these sites of Orange and Spotsylvania counties are well-drained, medium-textured soils on rolling ridges and mild slopes, and well to somewhat excessively drained soils on steeper slopes of the Piedmont Plateau, and are suited to woodland vegetation types. The soils are fairly well suited to agriculture and development uses.

Streams in the park generally have good sustained flows. The availability of groundwater varies with the underlying rock formations, but in most areas of the two counties, an adequate supply of water may be obtained from springs and wells. Water quality depends on the chemical content of both underground and surface waters, the tidal influence of larger surface streams, and the degree of contamination from residential and industrial development.

The forest community structure of park lands responds to two major factors: past land use and soil conditions, particularly moisture. The forest patterns reflect past land use in successional stages from pioneer community types (pine) to climax communities (oak-hickory). The vegetation of the battlefields would be classified as oak-hickory forest in the temperate deciduous forest biome. Typical arborescent species include oaks and hickories and commonly red maple, sweetgum, and yellow poplar. Subcanopy trees consist of dogwood, red cedar, tupelo, mountain laurel, and sassafras, and various shrubs, including blackberries, poison ivy, and American hazelnut. Virginia pine and shortleaf pine are found in areas recently cultivated or pastured (not now forested).

The vegetation of Chatham ranges from mixed hardwood forests to landscaped formal gardens to farm fields. Above Chatham Lane, there are predominantly grassy meadows with a cedar hedge row. The steeply sloping portion of the site contains primarily deciduous hardwoods, including tulip poplar, hickory elm, and dogwood. A dense ground cover consists mainly of honeysuckle, greenbrier, arrowwoods, and blueberries. The immediate manor grounds range from mature landscape plantings dating from the 1800s to the recently reestablished 1920s colonial revival gardens.

The interspersed vegetative types provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife in the park. The majority of these species are not generally

seen; however, those that are the most apparent have the greatest interest for park visitors. Open land wildlife includes rabbits, woodchucks, quail, mourning dove, hawks and owls, field sparrows, and several other bird species normally found in cropland, pasture, meadow, and brushy idle land. Woodland wildlife includes white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, raccoon, opossum, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodpeckers, and warblers, normally found in hardwood and coniferous woodlands. Wetland wildlife includes beaver, mink, muskrat, ducks, geese, and other water birds that live along streams, in ponds, marshes, and swamps. There is also a wide variety of reptiles and amphibians.

Except for occasional transient species, no state or federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened wildlife (50 CFR 17.11, 7/20/84) are known to be endemic to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. No known state or federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened plant species occur in the park (50 CFR 17.12, 7/20/84).

Cultural Resources and History

On four separate occasions, the main eastern armies of the United States and the Confederate States fought major battles in and around Fredericksburg, Virginia. The national military park established by Congress in 1927 preserves portions of the four battlefields and the sites associated with them. More than 100,000 Americans were casualties here, making this ground by far the bloodiest on the continent. The nationally significant historic resources related to the Civil War that are included in the park are among the most extensive and diverse in one locality in the nation.

The woods and fields that witnessed those 100,000 casualties are the primary resources of the park today. The ground cover is altered in some places, but the terrain--of such importance more than a century ago--still provides a representative setting. A number of historic structures dating from the mid-19th century add to the park's significance: more than 37 miles of earthworks built by the soldiers, Salem Church, the house where Stonewall Jackson died, Ellwood, Chatham Manor, and several other structures that were landmarks on the historic fields. A score of house sites and ruins offer the potential for defining the historic scene. More than 15,000 Federal soldiers killed in and near Fredericksburg are buried in the national cemetery.

Several of the Civil War resources contain material of secondary significance within a Civil War context, for instance in relating the impact of the war on the local civilian populace. The only non-Civil War secondary historical theme of consequence rises from the extensive and interesting role of Chatham during both antebellum and postbellum eras. Chatham had association with leading revolutionary figures and is included in some plantation and slave society annals from the period. Chatham's history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is also interpreted.

The park's museum collection includes more than 4,000 objects, which are maintained in a specially designed collection area. The area is constructed of neutral materials and is climate controlled. Accessions to the collection are guided by the "Scope of Collections Statement," which is part of the 1974 Interpretive Prospectus. That statement bans acceptance of most loans and configures the collection firmly. The collections are in an advanced state of cataloging and preservation, which has been abetted by cyclic funding for the purpose in recent years. None of the collection is used in interpretive programs other than in exhibitry, where it is used extensively. Exhibited objects are recorded in and protected by a series of exhibit guides, which are cited in the "Bibliography" of this plan.

The resources of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park offer a unique opportunity for presenting the story of the Civil War to the nation. No other area saw such a heavy concentration of fighting; none witnessed so complete a cross section of the men, great and small, who made the war what it was. As one Congressman declared during discussion of the park's creation: "We are presenting to you what . . . may be appropriately termed the cockpit of the Civil War."

The Park Story

The same accidents of geography that brought prosperity to Fredericksburg in the early 19th century conspired to bring disaster to the region during the Civil War. When the battle lines were drawn in 1861, Fredericksburg was squarely between the contending capitals of Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia. Richmond was not only the South's political capital and symbol of independence, but also an invaluable center for industrial and military production. Inevitably, the Civil War campaigns in Virginia were fought across the woods and fields of the rather narrow, 100-mile-long corridor running from Washington through Fredericksburg to Richmond.

The armies that came repeatedly to Fredericksburg quickly discovered that nature's handiwork had given vast advantages to Confederate defenders, erasing some of the inequalities in troop strengths. Two great rivers, the Rapidan and the Rappahannock, twisted across the path of an invading army like moats around a medieval castle. Above Fredericksburg the rivers were passable at only a few readily defended fords; below the town there were no fords, and the "moat" could only be crossed on laboriously built bridges of pontoon boats.

The road network across central Virginia fed into Fredericksburg, and a good railroad ran through town. These routes were particularly useful to the defenders because of the principle of interior lines. One of the most prominent features of the region was "The Wilderness of Spotsylvania," a 70-square-mile tangle of scrubby growth and briars west of Fredericksburg. Outnumbered Southern forces skillfully exploited this wide band of natural barbed wire in two campaigns.

During the first 18 months of the war, the Federal armies pushed toward Richmond on three different campaigns without approaching Fredericksburg. But when Northern troops moved into the Fredericksburg area in the late fall of 1862, they were establishing a path that every major drive would follow for the rest of the war.

Fredericksburg. Ambrose E. Burnside had only commanded the Federal Army of the Potomac for two weeks when he brought it to the riverbank opposite Fredericksburg in mid-November 1862. He had an adequate plan and some good opportunities, but suffered from wretched execution. Delay in the arrival of his pontoon bridges kept him from crossing the river until December 11, and by that time Robert E. Lee had brought in his Army of Northern Virginia and planted it along a ridge behind the town. Before dawn on that day Northern engineers put pontoon boats into the river and started a bridge just below the 18th century Chatham house, which was also headquarters for Federal commanders. Mississippi riflemen along the riverbank in town shot the engineers and stopped the bridge building. Artillery battered the riverfront, the engineers tried again, and the Mississippians drove them back again.

Burnside next turned loose his big guns, at great cost to the town but not to the defenders hidden in cellars and behind defensive works. Finally an innovative Northern artillery general named Henry J. Hunt rounded up a force that rowed across the river through heavy fire and established a bridgehead. Throughout the day on December 12 Federal strength poured across the river, thoroughly looting and sacking Fredericksburg, while Lee and his men waited quietly in their ridge stronghold.

The ground on the right bank of the Rappahannock rises steadily, if not always smoothly, through the city of Fredericksburg to the commanding ridge, which parallels the river at a distance of a mile or more. In 1862 the town clung to the riverbank and was long but only a half-dozen streets wide. Beyond the town the rising plain approaching the heights was generally devoid of cover. The focus of Burnside's attack across this plain was a portion of the ridge known as Marye's Heights, after the Marye house (Brompton) atop the heights. Confederate artillery crowned the heights in strength, and riflemen lined a conveniently sunken road at the base of the ridge. As though by careful military design, the road was lined on each side with stone walls. Southerners in the road could shoot their enemies in complete safety. Burnside launched his men into the teeth of this formidable defense, protected by nothing but the cloth of their uniforms. When darkness finally closed on the slaughter, 8,000 Federal soldiers had been shot in a plot of a few acres in front of Marye's Heights. Confederate losses had been a tiny fraction of that total.

Meanwhile, an unconnected battle had been fought 5 miles below town, near the southern end of the Confederate line. The lay of the land between the two battle points was such that Federal troops could not even consider attacking in that interval, because the Confederate-held ridge swerved far back from the river to create an unassailable "reentrant

angle." Near Hamilton's Crossing, though, the ridge swung back within a mile of the river. The Southerners had artillery there on a promontory known as Prospect Hill. A Federal column under General George G. Meade pushed over the river plain toward Stonewall Jackson's troops stationed there.

Meade was among the very best Union officers, and he sent his troops in firmly. They found a gap in Jackson's line and poured into the vacuum in large numbers. But Southern troops waiting upon and behind the ridge rallied promptly and hurled the attackers back onto the plain. The hope raised in Northern hearts was both fleeting and illusory.

The Battle of Fredericksburg was the easiest major victory won by either side during the war in Virginia. Historic resources related to the battle, and now protected by the park, are spread unevenly across the battlefield. Chatham survives, looking from its high bluff across at the historic skyline of Fredericksburg, which is remarkably unchanged from Civil War times. The scene of the river crossing fight is also visible from Chatham's terraces. In front of Marye's Heights, early 20th century development has grown over the wide bare plain in front of the stone wall. The main visitor center is crowded into a corner of less than 12 acres of park land along Sunken Road. Another 12 acres are taken up by Fredericksburg National Cemetery, which is spread across a rear spur of Marye's Heights (actually Willis Hill). More than 15,000 Federal dead--most of them unknown--lie in the cemetery. The old Marye house stands atop Marye's Heights and serves today as the home of the president of Mary Washington College. The college and a parochial school share ownership of the entire crest and face of the main Marye's Heights ridge.

Prospect Hill, covered with original artillery emplacements, lies within the park and looks down across the field of Federal attacks. A huge stone pyramid erected in the 1890s serves to mark the attack zone. The hill is at the end of a 5-mile stretch of park-owned road, which follows a line of Southern infantry earthworks interspersed by larger artillery positions.

Chancellorsville. The armies that had fought at Fredericksburg went into winter quarters on opposite sides of the river, in and near the town. General Burnside led his Northern soldiers out of their camps in mid-January on a disastrous venture that came to bear the derisive and apt name "The Mud March." Almost at once Burnside was replaced by a general known for his political machinations and aggressiveness, Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker.

As soon as springtime made Virginia's roads passable, Hooker moved his army up the river behind Fredericksburg. His plan was a daring one and it was crisply executed, placing Lee at a disadvantage as great as the Southern leader suffered throughout the war. Lee hurried his men west of Fredericksburg toward the tiny country crossroad of Chancellorsville, where a great battle was fought May 1-6, 1863. Although Lee and Jackson were outnumbered more than two to one, they conceived a plan for dealing with Hooker, and Jackson executed it with

the enormous energy that was his dominant trait. In complete contravention of most of the established rules of warfare, the Southerners divided their small force, and Jackson hurried most of the infantry on a 12-mile march all the way around Joe Hooker's army.

Late in the afternoon on May 2, Jackson had his 30,000 men lined up behind the unsuspecting Northerners. When he said to the major commanding his skirmishers "You can go forward then," the Southern Confederacy was about at its highest tide. The hordes of ragged Confederates who came boiling out of the Wilderness, screaming their spine-chilling rebel yell, had little trouble rolling over their opponents and destroying half of Hooker's line. After darkness halted the advance, Jackson rode in front of his lines in quest of a route that would offer new advantages. When he came back toward his own troops, a North Carolina regiment fired blindly at the shadowy figures and mortally wounded Jackson. He died eight days later in the office building of the Chandler plantation (now called Jackson Shrine) south of Fredericksburg, where he had been taken after the amputation of his shattered arm.

The most intense fighting during the Battle of Chancellorsville took place on May 3 across the densely wooded Wilderness where Jackson had been wounded. The pivotal advantage came from Confederate artillery, which was crowded onto a small, high-cleared space known as Hazel Grove. Southern troops took the Chancellorsville crossroads in mid-morning after several hours of bitter and costly woods fighting. The campaign continued for three more days, but consisted primarily of static lines facing one another awaiting Hooker's decision to admit defeat and recross the river.

During the crisis of the battle on May 3, a separate drama was being enacted at Salem Church on the outskirts of Fredericksburg. A Federal force that had been left near the town brushed aside Confederates attempting to contain it and pushed west toward the main action. There was every prospect that this force might threaten Lee's success at Chancellorsville, but some stray Confederates got in their path at Salem Church and turned back the threat. The little brick country church (built in 1844) was literally used as a fortress during the battle and became a surgeon's chanel house in the aftermath.

The park today includes important historic resources in and around Chancellorsville, particularly those associated with the May 3 fighting. A modern visitor center is within a few feet of the 1880s monument marking Jackson's mortal wounding. Hazel Grove is a key tour stop, offering the 1863 view across two stream valleys to the opposing Federal artillery position. The ruins of Chancellorsville Inn have been stabilized and incorporated into another tour stop. The route of Jackson's daring flank march is within the park and can be followed along a dirt road; at the end of the route, however, there is no park land to tell of the climactic attack. Salem Church has been carefully restored to its 1860s appearance, including the marks of battle damage, but the surrounding historic terrain has been obliterated by development. The house in which Stonewall Jackson died has also been restored by the Park Service and sits in splendid quiet in the backcountry of Caroline County.

Wilderness. Confederate victory at Chancellorsville provided the initiative that Robert E. Lee needed to carry the war out of the battered Virginia countryside and into the North. When his campaign was turned back at Gettysburg, Lee fell back by gradual stages until both armies rested again in the country west of Fredericksburg. For several months a fairly stable front existed along the line of the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers, broken only by occasional forays.

During the first week of May 1864, the Federal army moved purposefully across the Rapidan River into the Wilderness. The new commander-in-chief of all Federal armies, Ulysses S. Grant, had made his headquarters with the field army in Virginia. As the Northern army crossed the Wilderness, Lee came roaring out of the west to assail it at two different points. The two east-west roads traversing the Wilderness at the point where Grant was trying to pass were separated by 2½ miles of Wilderness, so the battles along their shoulders were fought in complete isolation from one another. The intervening woodland was relatively free from fighting.

Confederates struck first on the northern road, the Orange Turnpike. When Federals turned to face them, fighting settled down to desperate charges and countercharges across a clearing known as Saunders Field. Northern guns stranded in the open between the lines were taken and retaken repeatedly. Headquarters for the army commander (Meade) and the commander-in-chief (Grant) were in the open behind the Northern lines in this area. Two of the four immediate subordinates (corps commanders) had headquarters at the 18th century Lacy house, Ellwood.

Well to the south, a separate battle had developed along the edges of the Orange Plank Road. Robert E. Lee exerted direct command on this end of the field. Southern troops barely missed controlling the crossroads through which a part of the Union army had already passed. At the end of May 5, costly fighting on both roads came to a bloody stalemate. On May 6, Grant discovered how difficult the war in Virginia could be. He was newly in from the West, where there were no Confederates with the capacity of Lee. Both of Grant's flanks were hanging somewhat nonchalantly in the air, and Lee capitalized on this opportunity during the day. On the shoulders of the Orange Plank Road, a mighty Federal assault at dawn had almost smashed Lee's forces. Lee personally led arriving reinforcements into the breach on the fields of the widow Tapp's farm. When the situation was stabilized, a force was sent out to Grant's southern flank and destroyed it.

When Lee rode through the Wilderness to the independent battle well to the north, he found Grant with an open flank there as well. John B. Gordon of Georgia was sent out to take advantage of this opportunity. Gordon's men captured hundreds of Federals, including two generals, and bent the Federal line far back as darkness fell.

Today, Ellwood survives on its knoll above Wilderness Run, awaiting rehabilitation. Saunders Field has recently been restored to its wartime appearance. Half of the Orange Turnpike battlefield is in park hands, but a portion of the property is privately owned. Little of the battlefield

along the Orange Plank Road is protected except for the crucial Tapp field. Postbattle earthworks between the two main roads are followed by the modern park tour road, Hill-Ewell Drive, which is on the old trace. Although there is more park land in this unit than in any other, the primary battle scenes are less protected except for the Marye's Heights sector and Jackson's flank attack.

Spotsylvania. The turning point of the war in Virginia came on May 7, 1864, when Grant pushed south out of the Wilderness. He had been as firmly thwarted as had Hooker at Chancellorsville (with rather more disproportionate losses), but he moved relentlessly ahead instead of falling back across the river.

Grant's push was checked abruptly in front of the crossroad village of Spotsylvania Court House. The first race for an intersection near the town was won by Confederate infantry on the morning of May 8 in a region known as Laurel Hill. From that first contact, lines stretched for miles across the rural countryside. The armies were out of the Wilderness terrain here, but Lee used massive earthen fortifications to restore the defensive edge he needed. The fortifications he threw up around Spotsylvania were the most substantial fieldworks ever built at that time, and they revolutionized the way war was fought.

Fighting continued around Laurel Hill for a week, but meanwhile there had been action to the northeast along a huge salient, or bulge, in the Confederate line. The salient was an apparent weakness in the Southern position, and Northern officers at once planned its downfall. A smart young New York colonel named Emory Upton led an attack of his own devising on May 10, with considerable initial success.

Perhaps prompted by the success of Upton's attack, two days later Grant launched a frontal assault against the nose of the Confederate salient. It succeeded beyond anything that had been tried against Lee to that date. Thousands of Confederates were captured (2,500-3,000) and the salient was smashed. With great effort the Southerners restored much of their line on the morning of May 12. When both attacks had run down, the opposing soldiers found themselves on either side of the strong works where the Confederates had begun the morning. For 20 hours, the men fought from positions within arm's reach of each other. The unparalleled intensity and duration of the fight won for the arc of earthworks the nom de guerre "The Bloody Angle."

For the next several weeks, tens of thousands of Union soldiers were shot easily while trying to repeat the temporary breakthrough of May 12. Six days later, for instance, a far-flung Northern attack at Spotsylvania was repulsed so readily that most of the Confederate infantry did not notice the difference from the steady sniping that had become commonplace.

By May 19, Grant was moving away from Spotsylvania in easy stages. A strong Confederate reconnaissance sent to the northeast to keep track of him ran into green Union soldiers near the Fredericksburg-Courthouse

Road, and a hot fight ensued at the Harris farm. In this vicinity, the first action in Virginia involving black troops took place. Two days later, both armies slipped away from Spotsylvania for good, on their way to another succession of battles at North Anna, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

Today the Spotsylvania Court House battlefield preserves the most well-rounded set of historic resources in the park. Laurel Hill's battle sites are within the boundary, as are Upton's attack road and the point where he struck the Confederate line. The Bloody Angle and its environs are preserved and marked, and the 1864 scene has recently been restored. The final Confederate line, from which the May 18 assault was so casually crushed, is all park property. The Harris farm lies a mile beyond the park, but the large 1st Massachusetts marker there is covered by a special agreement with the adjacent landowner. At the unit's eastern extremity, the boundary follows the Federal earthworks, leaving the scene of the fighting (well to the south near the village) in private hands.

EXISTING USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Visitor Use

The Fredericksburg battlefield visitor center is the first stop for most visitors to the park and the starting point for a self-guided battlefield tour. The site provides a general orientation to the entire park as well as specific information about the Battle of Fredericksburg and various facets of military life during the Civil War. The building is open daily and has a manned information desk; in 1984, it had approximately 85,000 visits.

The Chancellorsville visitor center serves the Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania battlefields, with exhibitry emphasis on Chancellorsville and a sound/slide program relating the events surrounding all four battles. The visitor center serves as the only stop for a large proportion of its users. The center is open daily, and an interpreter is stationed at the information desk; visits totaled 53,000 in 1984.

Chatham interpretation is geared to the general visitor. Interpretation focuses on the history of the building and its environs from its construction in 1768 to NPS acquisition in 1975, with emphasis on the Civil War period and the Battle of Fredericksburg. Modern temporary exhibits are housed in the five rooms, and an interpreter is stationed at an information desk. The building is open daily; approximately 27,000 people visited in 1984.

The gardens at Chatham have recently been restored to the 1920s period. This restoration was begun in 1983 to repair the walls, walks, and other physical features in the gardens which had deteriorated and were in danger of being lost as historic resources to the point of creating potential safety hazards to park visitors. Additionally, large portions of

the plant material had become overgrown or had died and required excessive maintenance costs. Faced with this widespread deterioration, a phased restoration has been implemented which received support from a broad cross-section of local and regional citizens and organizations.

Chatham, built in the 1770s, has both pre- and post-Civil War secondary historical themes. The gardens have in the past achieved national acclaim, and the park has used the 1920s garden design plans done by noted landscape architect Ellen Shipman.

The detached site at Stonewall Jackson Shrine is both an integral part of the park story and a separate feature with its own significance. The building has been restored to its 1863 appearance to interpret the scene in which the general died. Interpretation is aimed at general visitors (10,000 in 1984), although a relatively large number are specifically interested in General Jackson and in military history. The on-site interpreter provides guided tours of the building, emphasizing the details of Jackson's personality, military career, and mortal wounding. Stonewall Jackson Shrine is open daily in the summer and on a reduced schedule in the winter.

The old Salem Church, a preserved and restored early 19th century Baptist Church, served as a refugee center during the Civil War, a battleground during the Chancellorsville campaign, and then a military hospital. The building is interpreted by means of a self-guided trail leading to exterior exhibits, supplemented by a free trail guide. The site is open only to special tours.

The primary means of visitor exposure to the features of the park is the self-guided auto tour. Printed folders, available at the visitor centers for a nominal fee, are geared to numbered signs on the battlefields. Exhibit shelters at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields provide orientation and information on the respective battles and are the first stops on driving tours of these battlefields. Exhibits, paintings, and maps make visits to these shelters and battlefields meaningful for visitors who have not stopped at any of the visitor centers. A third exhibit shelter, on Lee Drive at Lee Hill, is oriented to Lee's headquarters, the artillery at the site, and the second battle at Fredericksburg. The shelters are open daily during daylight hours.

Although there are 16 major stops in the park (not including Stonewall Jackson Shrine, Chatham, and Salem Church), the tour is divided into three separate routes (with three self-guided folders) to encourage visitors with limited interest or time to go to at least one or two of the battlefields. The entire driving tour covers more than 100 miles and involves a time commitment of at least one entire day. The driving tours are designed for the general visitor and only cover the historical highlights of the park.

Self-guided auto tape tours of the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields are available to visitors interested in an in-depth tour, or those who feel more comfortable with narrated driving instructions than

with maps. Visitors may rent cassette tapes and players or may purchase the tapes. A Wilderness-Spotsylvania tape tour is in use.

Trails interpreted by narrative signs and supplemented by free publications are available to visitors who wish a more leisurely and intimate association with important park features than would normally be possible by driving. These trails are at the Spotsylvania battlefield (Bloody Angle has a separate trail), Salem Church, Sunken Road, and between Hazel Grove and Fairview.

A cultural study area near the Chancellorsville visitor center is provided for organized groups who want to gain a feel for the day-to-day life and activities of the common soldier during the Civil War. Collateral activities such as battlefield hikes and discussion groups are frequently associated with use of the area. The program is intended primarily for school groups.

Living history is conducted in the summer at Chatham and near the Chancellorsville visitor center by interpreters portraying participants in the battles. These presentations help modern visitors understand the men of the Civil War by displaying not only their clothing and accoutrements but their thoughts, ideas, and attitudes.

During the summer, guided walks are conducted in the Sunken Road area and from the Chancellorsville visitor center to the Stonewall Jackson monument. In addition, summer concerts are held at Chatham featuring replica Civil War military bands. Personal services are also offered at the Wilderness exhibit shelter and the Spotsylvania battlefield.

Off-site programs are presented to civic, school, and historical groups on various aspects of the park story. On-site interpretive programs are provided for school groups, and guided tours are given to organized groups. Visitors served by these programs originate from all across the United States, with 5 percent coming from other countries. Of the remaining national visitors, 10 percent are local residents, 23 percent are regional residents, and 62 percent come from beyond the region. Almost half come during the summer months, another 40 percent in spring or fall. Winter visitation is quite low. The busiest day is Sunday, followed by Saturday; weekday visitation is evenly spread. Visitation statistics are included in appendix C.

Other nonconsumptive uses such as biking, hiking, and jogging are allowed in the park.

Administrative Use

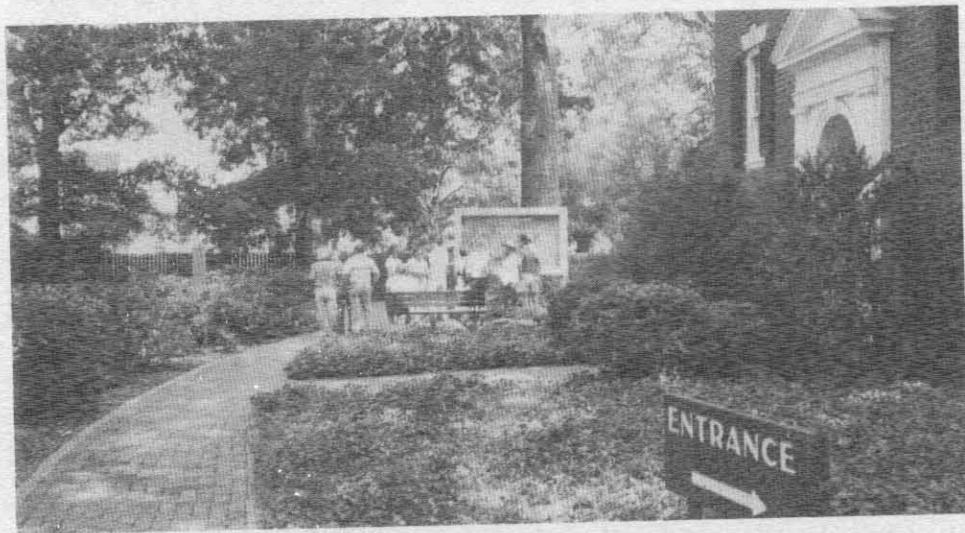
Park headquarters is at Chatham Manor, and division chiefs are stationed there. The central maintenance facility is on Lee Drive in the Fredericksburg battlefield.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park has eight park-owned residences that are used as quarters for park employees. The general management planning team examined the need for these residences in light of NPS policy and the mission of the Park Service to protect park resources and meet visitor emergency needs, and it concluded that the residences are required as housing for park employees. (The number of residences has been reduced in the past few years from 13 to 8, using the policy of retaining only those necessary for the protection of the park and its resources.) As has been previously described, the park's resources are scattered over a large geographical area, and the placement of park employees in strategic areas is necessary for the protection of the resources. The park has an approved quarters management plan and required occupancy plan as required by the "Government Furnished Quarters Management Guideline" (NPS-36).

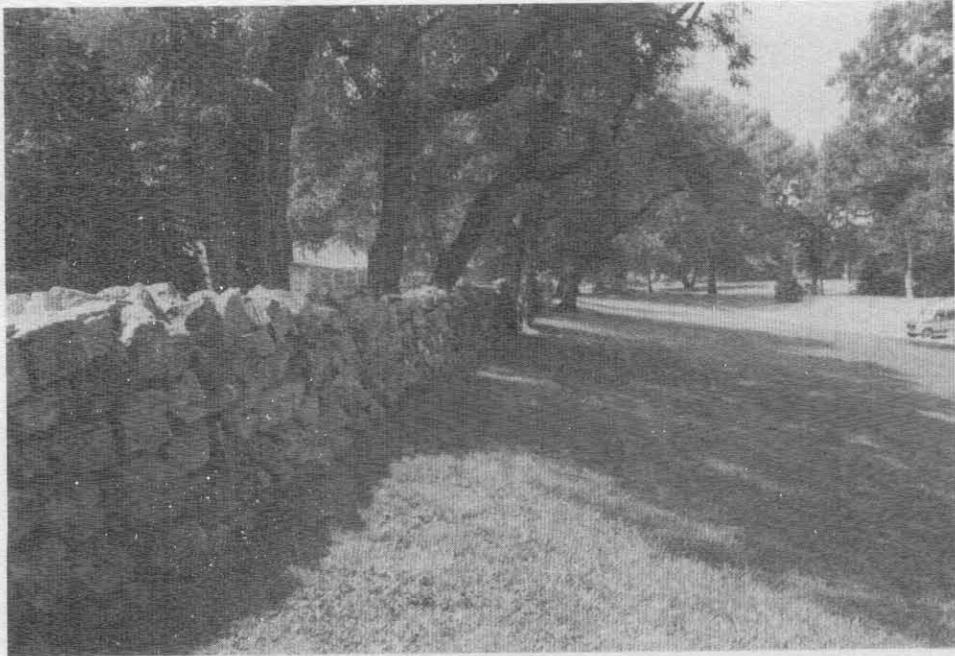
The Wilderness battlefield ranger currently resides at the Chancellorsville battlefield. When the recommendations of the general management plan are implemented and Ellwood is rehabilitated and opened to the public, a portion of Ellwood will be considered for conversion to employee quarters for the protection of this resource.

Special Park Uses

The park currently has 37 active special use permits covering power, television, telephone, water, and sewer lines, as well as a number of roads. The superintendent will follow the guidelines of NPS-53 (Special Park Use) in regard to the renewal of these permits and for the handling of any future requests to cross park property. Generally, uses must be compatible with park purposes, including resource preservation and visitor use.



Fredericksburg Visitor Center



Sunken Road at Fredericksburg Battlefield



Chancellorsville Visitor Center



Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania Battlefield