



The Gettysburg Quarterly

Preparing for 2013

Project funding from the National Park Service, financial support from the Gettysburg Foundation, and the hard work of park staff and volunteers is helping us prepare the park for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address. In order to roll out the red carpet in 2013 we have been working hard. Here is a wrap-up of just some of the projects underway or recently completed.

Museum Galleries / Artifact Rotation

- To refresh the park's museum exhibits and give sensitive artifacts and documents a rest, we have installed 150 new, historic artifacts into the exhibits. The Gettysburg Foundation funded the project, which included conservation of each object to prep it for display. The Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, the Texas Civil War Museum and the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation have loaned artifacts to the park for the project.

Treasures of the Civil War Exhibit

- Work continues on this special battle anniversary exhibit co-sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation and the park. The exhibit will open in the museum's Gilder Lehrman Gallery in June 2013. It will feature rare Civil War artifacts that provide links to leaders of the Civil War era—including Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, George Meade, Frederick Douglass and Clara Barton. This glimpse into the lives of these extraordinary people will help visitors gain a better understanding of the magnitude of the Civil War and its lasting impact on our nation.



Soldiers' National Cemetery Rostrum

- Work is progressing on this project which includes waterproofing of the masonry, adding internal drainage systems to the structure, repointing and brick replacement. We also plan to replace the wooden trellis and place sod on the platform of the rostrum, both of which were in the original design. This project is being completed with the financial assistance of the Gettysburg Foundation.

Safety Project / Pedestrian Trail along Taneytown Road

- A safety project has been awarded to construct a pedestrian trail from Pleasonton Avenue to Hunt Avenue with a connecting trail to the Museum and Visitor Center. The new trail will remove pedestrians from Taneytown Road in this section where visitors



Construction at the Rostrum in the Soldiers' National Cemetery, left, with Bert Herbert, park archeologist, doing testing at the project site. The photo above shows the deteriorated interior walls of the rostrum after the fill was excavated.

have been walking in increasing numbers along the narrow, busy roadway with little or no shoulder. The contract will begin in the fall of 2012 and will be completed by the spring of 2013.

Painting contracts at the Eisenhower National Historic Site - Numerous painting projects are underway at the site, including the Eisenhower bank barn and Quonset hut on Farm 1 and the east and west bull sheds, maternity barn, loafing shed, and the silo and self-feeder on Farm 2. Lead based paint abatement is being done by park staff for the main home, and preservation repairs being made to shutters, doors, and garage doors on both sites. Our goal is to complete the work by the end of 2012.

The Blocher House - This project is 90% complete and has included repointing the exterior stone walls, replacing the non-historic Mansard roof with a historic wood shingle roof, reconstruction of the

(Continued on page 2)

addition in the back, creating new historically-accurate window frames, sashes, exterior door frames and doors.

The Pitzer Barn – We are now in our second year of this project which includes replacing all of the white oak sill beams, rebuilding of lower barn doors, reframing nearly the entire west gable end, rebuilding all louvered vents, and installation of a fire suppression system. We are also in the process of installing new board and batten sheathing and new louvered vents on the west end and rebuilding and stabilizing the barn’s north side. This is an old-style, timber frame structure and park staff is staying true to that style of building method using mortise and tenons, oak pins and dowels for fasteners, and using the original species of wood such as white oak. The work involves moving the old timbers with block and tackle, rope and pulleys, and good old-fashioned muscle power.

Fencing – This summer we replaced numerous historic fences on the battlefield, including: the Sherfy hog fence, the Slyder lane post and board fence, the



National Park Service
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Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers’ National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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Pedestrians along the Taneytown Road, top. The model of the 121st Pa. cartridge box, bayonet and belt, above left. A new horse trail boardwalk built by volunteers from the Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society, above right.



Emmitsburg Road hog fence, the Spangler farm’s post and board fence, and the picket fences at the Hummelbaugh, Rose, Bushman, Spangler, Klingel, Trostle and Althoff farms. Park staff also reconstructed the stone and rider fence behind the U.S. Regulars monument; the stone and rider fence that runs from the Trostle farm to Wheatfield Road; a section of Virginia Worm fence that runs from U.S. Regulars monument to the Codori farm; the stone and rider fence along Wheatfield Rd. by the Althoff house; and a post and rail fence at the Weikert house.

Fences in the Pickett’s Charge area were cleared of brush and repaired as necessary. The team completely re-constructed the post and rail fence on the west side of Culp’s pasture by the Slocum equestrian monument and the post and rail fence at Benner’s Hill along the property line. In addition, together with Friends of Gettysburg volunteers we built new Virginia worm along the east side Chambersburg Pike from Lee’s Headquarters north to

Plum Run, and new post and rail on the west side of Chambersburg Pike.

Horse trail repairs – Park staff repaired the trail that runs along the fence at Brown’s Ranch from McMillan Woods to the other tree line by the Virginia Memorial. This section of trail had washed out several times and the trail surface was barely distinguishable. With help from the Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society we repaired a second horse trail section - from the Sedgwick Equestrian monument to the Weikert farm. Although this trail is not as frequently used as some of the other trails, it needed repairs due to environmental concerns. The trail is in a wooded area that does not drain well. With continued use through a couple of wet seasons the trail was almost impassable and heavily worn. After exploring several options, we decided to replicate the boardwalk that was used on other horse trail sections, to elevate the horses off of the wet areas. The material was bought by a donor and the

installation was done by the Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society.

The Cannon Shop - The crew continues to repair cannon carriages and return them to the battlefield. We hope to complete another 24 carriages this year with the efforts of staff and volunteers. We completed carriages 295 thru 299 this summer and placed them along Confederate Avenue and Emmitsburg Road. We also repaired positions on Power's Hill for the placement of artillery pieces.

Monument Preservation - We recently repaired the 10th Massachusetts, 11th Massachusetts, and 121st Pennsylvania monuments. The 10th Mass. included bronze metal finishing and configuring and positioning components, using historic Tipton photos as a guide. Final patina work was completed. The model of the 121st Pennsylvania's bayonet, cartridge box, and belt was received and the piece was molded and wax poured, fitted and chased. It has been shipped to the foundry. A loose Michigan state seal was removed in June. The park decided to make a mold of this seal to replace another one in our park as well as provide a mold to Chattanooga National Military Park which needed Michigan state seals for their monuments. The 11th Massachusetts sculpture contract was awarded to Granite Industries of Vermont and the model was shipped to them. We also temporarily removed, blasted, and powder coated ten park avenue signs from the first day's fields, and started planning for the repairs of the Copse of Trees iron fence which was damaged in a recent storm.

The crew repointed the masonry on 24 monuments in the south end of the park this year to date. The 74th PA Infantry on Howard Avenue was reset with no problems. We cleaned and waxed the Pennsylvania Memorial. This required the rental of a 150ft lift, paid for by the Gettysburg Foundation. We also waxed the NY State monument and the Stanard VT monument.



Above left, the crew resets the 74th Pa. monument along Howard Avenue. On the right, Tom Shriver, of the park's monument preservation crew, working on Winged Victory high atop the Pennsylvania Memorial.

The Future of the Cyclorama Building

On August 22, 2012, Gettysburg National Military Park posted an environmental assessment (EA) for the Final Disposition of the Gettysburg Cyclorama Building on the National Park Service's (NPS) public planning website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cycloramaea>. The comment period ended September 21, 2012.

The NPS is proposing to demolish the Gettysburg Cyclorama building, located on North Cemetery Ridge in Gettysburg National Military Park, as part of its project to rehabilitate North Cemetery Ridge

to its historic 1863 and commemorative-era appearance. Other actions would include returning monuments to their historic locations, rebuilding commemorative pedestrian pathways and rebuilding historic fences.

The environmental assessment was prepared in response to a decision of the U.S. District Court in March 2010 directing the NPS to undertake a site-specific environmental analysis on the demolition of the Cyclorama building and to

continued on next page



Park Advisory Commission member Bob Prosperi, left, talks with park historian Winona Peterson at the September 6, 2012, workshop for the Cyclorama building EA.



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The Future of the Cyclorama Building (continued)

consider “non-demolition alternatives” to its removal before any implementing action is taken on the building. The building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The EA described the environment and resources that would be affected by the alternatives and the environmental consequences of implementing these alternatives. The three alternatives are Alternative A: No-action: Mothballing of Cyclorama Building; Alternative B: Demolition and Removal of the Cyclorama Building (NPS Preferred); Alternative C: Relocation of the Cyclorama Building outside the Park by a Non-NPS Entity.

The NPS identified a preferred alternative, B: Demolition and Removal of the Cyclorama Building as the NPS preferred

alternative because it best meets the project’s purpose and need to rehabilitate the landscape of the North Cemetery Ridge to its 1863 and commemorative-era appearance by removing modern intrusions.

Once the comment period ends, the NPS will carefully evaluate the comments and proceed with a decision. If necessary, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared and recommended for signature by the park superintendent to the Northeast regional director. Then implementation could begin. The Gettysburg Foundation has the funds available to do the work.



The Gettysburg Cyclorama building

Want the latest updates for events and programs for Gettysburg’s 150th commemoration?
Go to www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com