



## INTRODUCTION

The Eisenhower National Historic Site (NHS) outside of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, preserves the home and farm of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the thirty-fourth President of the United States. Established by Congress in 1967, the site “is of outstanding historical significance to the people of the United States because of its close association with the life and work of General Eisenhower and because of its relation to the historic battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.”<sup>1</sup>

The site is located in south central Pennsylvania within Cumberland Township of Adams County and lies just three miles southwest of the town of Gettysburg. As a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), the property is under the administration of the adjoining Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP). Consisting of 690 acres, the Eisenhower NHS includes four distinct farms. Farm #1 was purchased by General and Mrs. Eisenhower in 1951 and includes an extensive ornamental landscape in addition to the working farm. Two adjacent farms, Farms #2 and #3, were purchased by General Eisenhower’s friend and business partner W. Alton Jones in the mid-1950s and were jointly used in the Eisenhower Farms cattle and agricultural operations. A fourth farm, the Clement Redding Farm, is an adjoining property acquired by the NPS in 1979 to preserve the historic scene and western views from the Eisenhower Farms. (figs. 0.1-0.3)

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) documents the development of all four farms from their earliest recorded history in the late 1700s to existing conditions in 2005. Although the individual development of each farm is discussed, special emphasis is given to the ornamental landscape on Farm #1 and the changes on Farms #1, #2, and #3 as a result of the Eisenhower Farms operation.

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### EISENHOWER NHS OVERVIEW

Ownership of the Eisenhower NHS can be traced to the late seventeenth-century and the original land grant given to William Penn. In 1681, Penn was issued a charter by King Charles II of England, including much of present day Pennsylvania. The first individual ownership records of the lands within the Eisenhower NHS are three warrants granted by Penn’s heirs. In 1749, Willoughby

Winchester was granted a warrant for property along Marsh Creek and Willoughby Run, including the site of the present-day Clement Redding Farm. Quintain Armstrong was also issued a warrant in 1749 for the adjoining lands, including present day Farms #1 and #2. By 1767, John Murphy was issued a warrant for the property making up present day Farm #3. Over the next two centuries, these lands would be subdivided, change hands many times, have a vast number of improvements made to them, survive the ravages of war, and continue to provide a home and subsistence for their many owners and residents.

The properties’ association with General and Mrs. Eisenhower began in the early 1950s. After a long and successful military career, Eisenhower had taken a position as President of Columbia University in New York. While there, he and Mrs. Eisenhower began to think about the possibility of retiring and considered purchasing a home. In their search, the Eisenhowers focused on Gettysburg for a number of reasons. General Eisenhower’s ancestors had originally been from the area; he had served a brief stint in his early career at nearby Camp Colt; they liked the town’s proximity to Washington and New York; and they had friends who were already living in the area. After much searching, the Eisenhowers found a possibility in the Allen Redding Farm (Farm #1). The property was fairly run-down and the soil fertility was questionable, but the Eisenhowers were drawn to the property and thought they could improve it. They purchased the property in 1951, and in his book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, General Eisenhower described it:

*The buildings had seen better days. So had the soil. It would take work and money to modernize it. But the view of the mountains to the west was good.*<sup>2</sup>

As is often the case, unforeseen circumstances changed those plans. President Truman asked General Eisenhower to serve as commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Prior to finalizing the settlement, General and Mrs. Eisenhower left for the overseas assignment and placed the farm under the management of a trusted friend, General Arthur Nevins. Nevins, his wife Ann, and several farm hands ran the existing dairy and poultry operation on the farm and made few changes to the landscape.

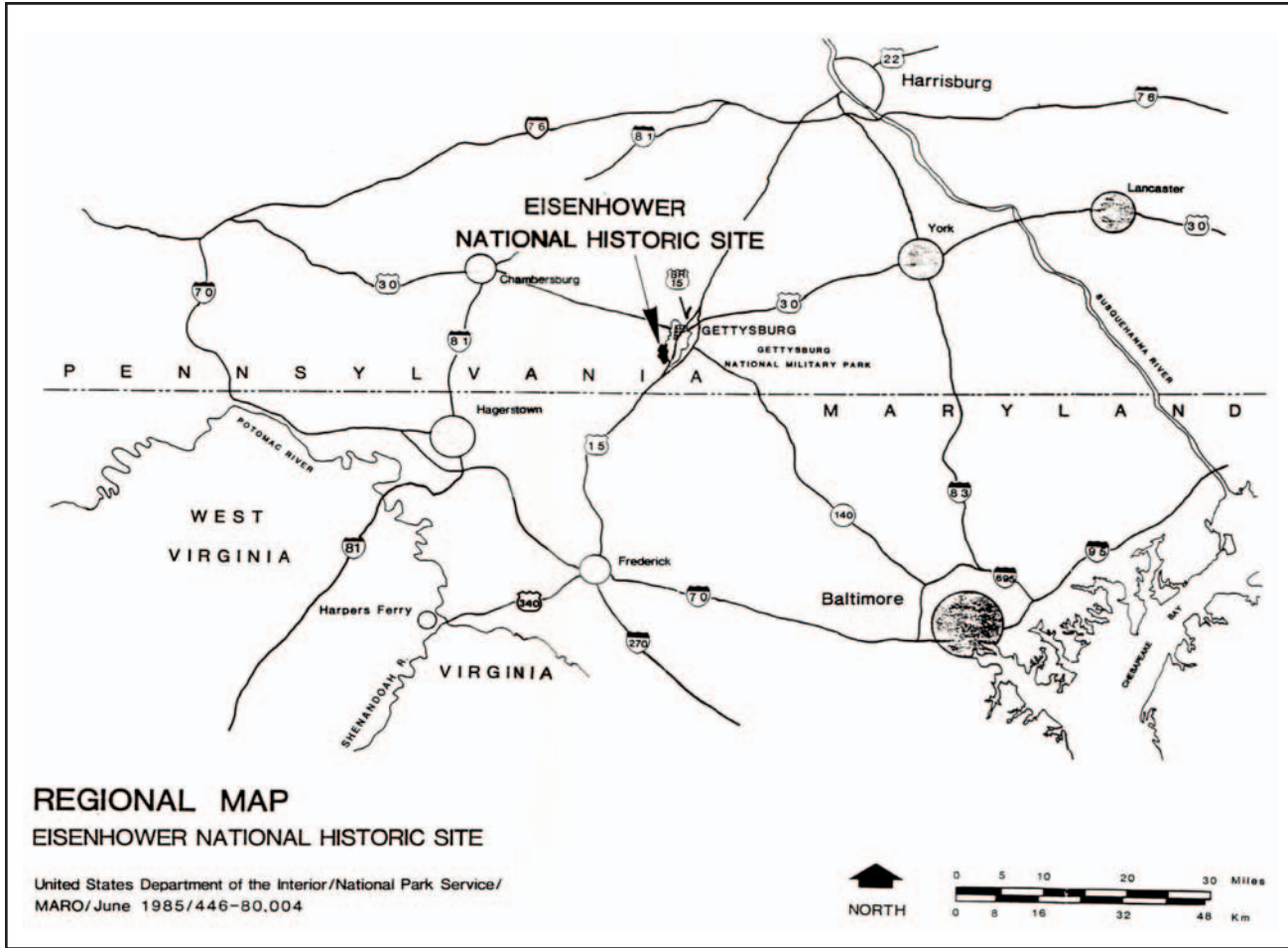


Figure 0.1. Regional map.



Figure 0.2. Vicinity map (Park shaded in dark gray).

After his return to the country in 1952, General Eisenhower was elected the thirty-fourth President of the United States. While living in the White House, he and Mrs. Eisenhower initiated renovations to the farm. In 1953 construction began, and a new farmhouse was built around a salvaged section of the original house. In addition to the new home, other farm buildings were rehabilitated, and an extensive ornamental landscape was installed. By the mid-1950s General and Mrs. Eisenhower began to regularly use the farm as a weekend getaway. The Eisenhowers considered the farm their permanent residence by 1955 and when he left the presidency in 1961, they began to live in Gettysburg full-time.

During the late 1950s through the 1960s the landscape of Farm #1 continued to develop and change with the addition of new site features, buildings, and a wide variety of vegetation. Many items, especially trees, shrubs, and flowers, were gifts from the Eisenhowers' friends and supporters. General Eisenhower's friend W. Alton Jones purchased the two adjoining farms (Farms #2 and #3)

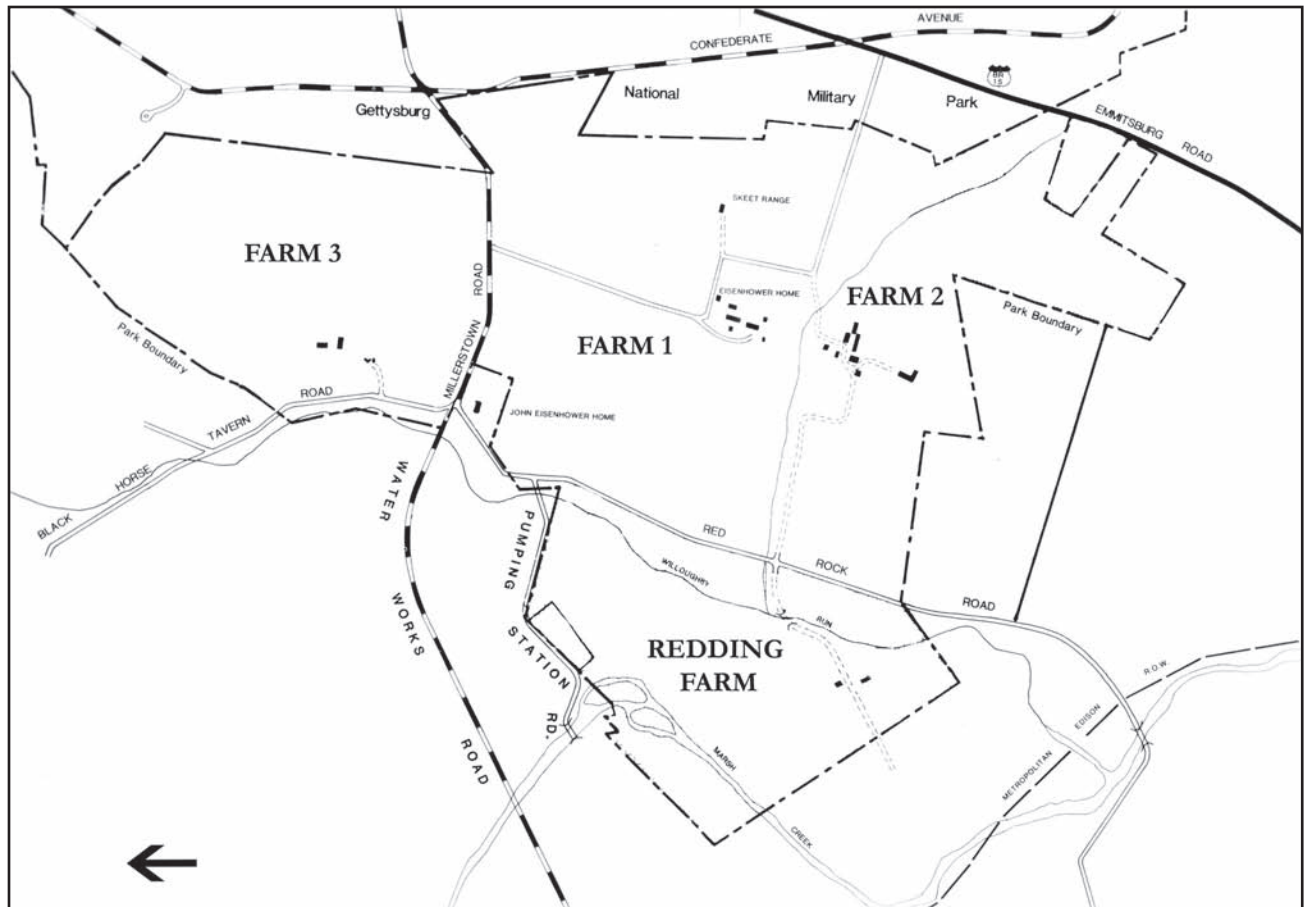


Figure 0.3. Site map.

and became one of Eisenhower's business partners in the Eisenhower Farms. An Angus show herd was established and cattle were pastured on all three farms. Additions were made to the farms' individual landscapes to support the growing cattle business as well as the crop production needed to sustain the operation. Eisenhower put his full energy into these endeavors, emphasizing the most up-to-date agricultural techniques and soil conservation practices. His primary goals were to have a top-notch cattle operation, and make improvements on the land's productivity. General Eisenhower was determined to leave the farm in better shape than when he purchased it.

Although General and Mrs. Eisenhower's initial intent was to simply purchase a quiet retirement home in the country, in the end the farm in Gettysburg provided much more than this. The farm was a weekend getaway from the pressures of Washington. It provided a place to host friends, family, and visiting dignitaries. It afforded General Eisenhower the opportunity to explore new interests in agriculture and cattle production. And finally,

it allowed the Eisenhowers to establish a true "home" for themselves amid the pastoral fields and extensively landscaped grounds surrounding their farmhouse. In fact, the Eisenhower Farm was the only home ever owned by General and Mrs. Eisenhower during their life together.

Upon the death of W. Alton Jones in 1962, Farms #2 and #3 were donated to the federal government by the W. Alton Jones Foundation. These farms were incorporated into the adjacent Gettysburg NMP. A lease was given to General Eisenhower allowing him to continue the farming operations. In 1967, General and Mrs. Eisenhower donated Farm #1 to the federal government, also to be administered by the NPS, but as the newly established Eisenhower NHS. A lifetime lease was retained on the property for General Eisenhower. Following his death in 1969, the NPS assumed management of the Eisenhower Farm and Farms #2 and #3 were transferred from the Gettysburg NMP to the Eisenhower NHS. Mrs. Eisenhower was granted a special use permit allowing her to stay on the farm until



her death. She died in 1979, and full management of Farm #1 was assumed by the NPS. The site was opened to the public in June 1980.

The National Parks Foundation acquired the adjoining Clement Redding Farm in 1971. Although not historically associated with the Eisenhower Farms, the property provided a buffer for the site, and prevented development from encroaching on the historic farm scene. Clement and Irene Redding maintained a lifetime use and occupancy lease for the farm. In 1978, the Clement Redding Farm was transferred to the federal government and officially became a part of the Eisenhower NHS. President Jimmy Carter signed omnibus parks legislation adding 195 acres in five additional parcels to the park, including the Clement Redding Farm and smaller tracts south of Farm #2 owned by S. J. Smith, George Smith, and Boyd Rinehard. The Reddings and S. J. Smith retained lifetime use and occupancy leases for their respective properties. After Irene Redding's death in 1993, the NPS assumed full responsibility for management of the Clement Redding Farm.

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

A CLR is the primary document used in the treatment and long-term management of cultural landscapes. It provides site managers with a comprehensive site history, identifies important landscape characteristics for the property, compares and analyzes the historic and existing conditions, discusses the site's significance and historic integrity, and provides treatment recommendations to guide future site development and stewardship.

This CLR represents completion of phase one of a two-phase project intended to develop a complete CLR for the Eisenhower NHS. Included in this document is a comprehensive site history, record of existing conditions, and analysis of significance and integrity. The evolution of the landscape is described from the earliest recorded land ownership to the present for each of the four included farms. Both the common development patterns and unique landscapes of each farm are examined; however, the primary emphasis is placed on the development of the historic core of Farm #1. Secondary emphasis is given to the role of the Eisenhower Farms agricultural and cattle operation in regards to the farms' development.

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### METHODOLOGY

Extensive research of written, graphic, and photographic resources was completed to establish a complete historical record of the site, and field surveys were undertaken to document the existing conditions. Much of the written documentation examined was previously compiled and edited primary source material. Bound collections of correspondence from General Eisenhower and others and a set of transcribed oral history interviews with persons associated with the Eisenhowers and the site provided detailed information. Major secondary sources used were a previously completed survey of the site's early land ownership record, and several NPS planning documents, including the *1969 Historic Resource Study and Historical Base Map*, the *1987 General Management Plan*, and the *1999 Cultural Landscapes Inventory*. The site's extensive photographic collection and several historic maps also provided valuable information.

Field surveys were completed in spring and summer 1999, 2000, 2002, and fall of 2005. Existing conditions were documented and checked against a 1969 historic base map to determine changes in the landscape. Existing conditions maps were then produced by combining the detailed information with a 1999 AutoCAD base map. This map was acquired by the park from an outside contractor prior to the completion of this report. Additionally, repeat photography was used to document landscape changes. In 1969, NPS photographer W. E. (Bud) Dutton took a set of slides of Farms #1, #2, and #3. These images were rephotographed in May 1999 by the primary author from the same locations to document the landscape changes that had occurred over the previous three decades.

The analysis examines the historical significance of the Eisenhower property and evaluates the integrity of the physical character of the landscape. It is based on criteria developed by the National Register of Historic Places, which lists properties significant to our country's history and prehistory. The analysis reviews the current National Register status, identifies inconsistencies and potential new areas of significance, and evaluates them in accordance with National Register criteria and related historical contexts. The evaluation examines the physical integrity of the extant landscape characteristics and features, such as vegetation, views, and circulation, with respect to the site's historical appearance and identifies



which contribute or do not contribute to the site's historical significance. An awareness of contributing and non-contributing characteristics and features will facilitate the development of the second volume of the CLR, the treatment plan.

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### ORGANIZATION OF REPORT

Volume 1 of this CLR consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 discusses the early history of the properties and land ownership records from the late 1700s until 1950. Chapter 2 documents General and Mrs. Eisenhower's acquisition of Farm #1, their use of the farm as a home, and the development of its ornamental landscape. It covers the "Eisenhower period" of 1951 to 1969. Chapter 3 discusses the Eisenhower Farms operation during this same period. Chapter 4 covers the NPS management period from 1970 to 2005 and documents existing conditions for all four farms.

While Chapters 1 and 4 follow a chronological format in discussing both the early and recent site history, the Eisenhower period between 1951 and 1969 discussed in Chapters 2 and 3 does not flow chronologically from chapter to chapter. Several different themes are discussed in these chapters such as the Eisenhower's acquisition and use of Farm #1, development of the ornamental landscape, and the farming operations. These themes occurred concurrently during the historic period and as a result, the chronology for each section may overlap with other sections. For example, the ornamental landscape on Farm #1 and the Angus show herd were under development at the same time historically, but for clarity they are each discussed separately in this report.

Chapter 5 discusses the significance of the site's historic landscape and identifies contributing landscape characteristics and features. The second volume of the CLR will provide treatment recommendations based on the historical research, significance, existing conditions and analysis, and the management goals set forth by the park. A bibliography and a number of appendices are included and provide supplemental information and are referenced in the text.

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### ENDNOTES TO INTRODUCTION

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *General Management Plan, Eisenhower National Historic Site, Pennsylvania*, February 1987, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967), 358.

