



INTRODUCTION

“This was chance, I thought, to prove that careful husbandry could restore land to its original fertility...Although we haven’t achieved the greatest success...there are enough lush fields to assure me that I shall leave the place better than I found it.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower, from *At Ease, Stories I Tell To Friends*

Eisenhower National Historic Site (NHS) offers a bucolic glimpse back to the lives and ideals of General Dwight D. and Mrs. Eisenhower. (figs. 0.1-0.3) Established in 1967, the site preserves the structures, landscape, and agricultural uses that reflect the Eisenhower’s acquisition of the property beginning in 1950. The mission of the National Park Service (NPS) has been to ensure that the historical characteristics of Farms #1, #2, #3, and the Clement Redding Farm are retained, while allowing for visitor access and educational opportunities. The 1967 designation states,

The farm of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, thirty-fourth President of the United States, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 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....The establishment as a national historic site will constitute a fitting and enduring memorial to General Dwight D. Eisenhower and to the events of far-reaching importance which occurred on the property.

Today, the Farm #1 property retains a high level of historical integrity for its association with Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1950s and 1960s. Compared with other historic presidential home sites, the park is relatively young and many trees installed during the Eisenhower period are still maturing. Most shrubs, ornamental plants, and site furnishings are original, and many that have died since the end of the historic period have been replaced. Written material, photographs, and maps provide excellent documentation of the property. Similarly, Farms #2, #3, and the Clement Redding Farm retain a high level of integrity as twentieth-century working farms, with structures and landscape features that date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and perpetuate the longstanding tradition of agricultural use.

In 2005, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation completed a Cultural Landscape Report to document the development of all four farms from their earliest recorded history in the late eighteenth century to the existing conditions. The first volume contains a comprehensive site history, record of existing conditions, analysis of the significance with respect to the National Register of Historic Places, and evaluation of integrity and extant historic landscape characteristics and features. Existing conditions maps of the four farms appear in Volume 1. This second volume articulates a preservation strategy for the long-term landscape management of Farms #1, #2, #3, and the Clement Redding Farm.

According to NPS policy, the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) serves as the primary supporting document guiding the treatment of a cultural landscape, and is required before any major intervention. For Eisenhower NHS, the treatment plan is needed to address the many issues associated with a maturing landscape, loss of historic vegetation, viewshed management, visitor circulation and accessibility, educational and interpretive objectives, and maintenance requirements. This volume describes related planning documents, discusses treatment alternatives and implications, and provides guidelines and recommendations for the preferred treatment alternative. The overall goal of the treatment recommendations is to reinforce the National Park Service’s tradition and philosophical basis for the sound stewardship of cultural landscapes as outlined in the National Park Service *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997) and the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1996).

Relationship to Existing Planning Documents

Shortly after General Eisenhower’s death in March 1969, the NPS began a period of research and planning to inform the future management of the historic site, including a Historic Resource Study with period plans for the 1967 landscapes of Farms #1, #2, and #3.¹ The NPS granted lifetime tenancy to Mrs. Eisenhower on Farm #1. During this period, she had use of the fourteen acres surrounding the main house while an NPS grounds crew maintained the landscape.² In the spring of 1969, NPS prepared detailed maps of the existing conditions of the property (see CLR Volume 1, Appendix A). NPS management decisions concentrated on maintaining agricultural activity on the farm and on basic maintenance to prevent deterioration of site features, rather than an

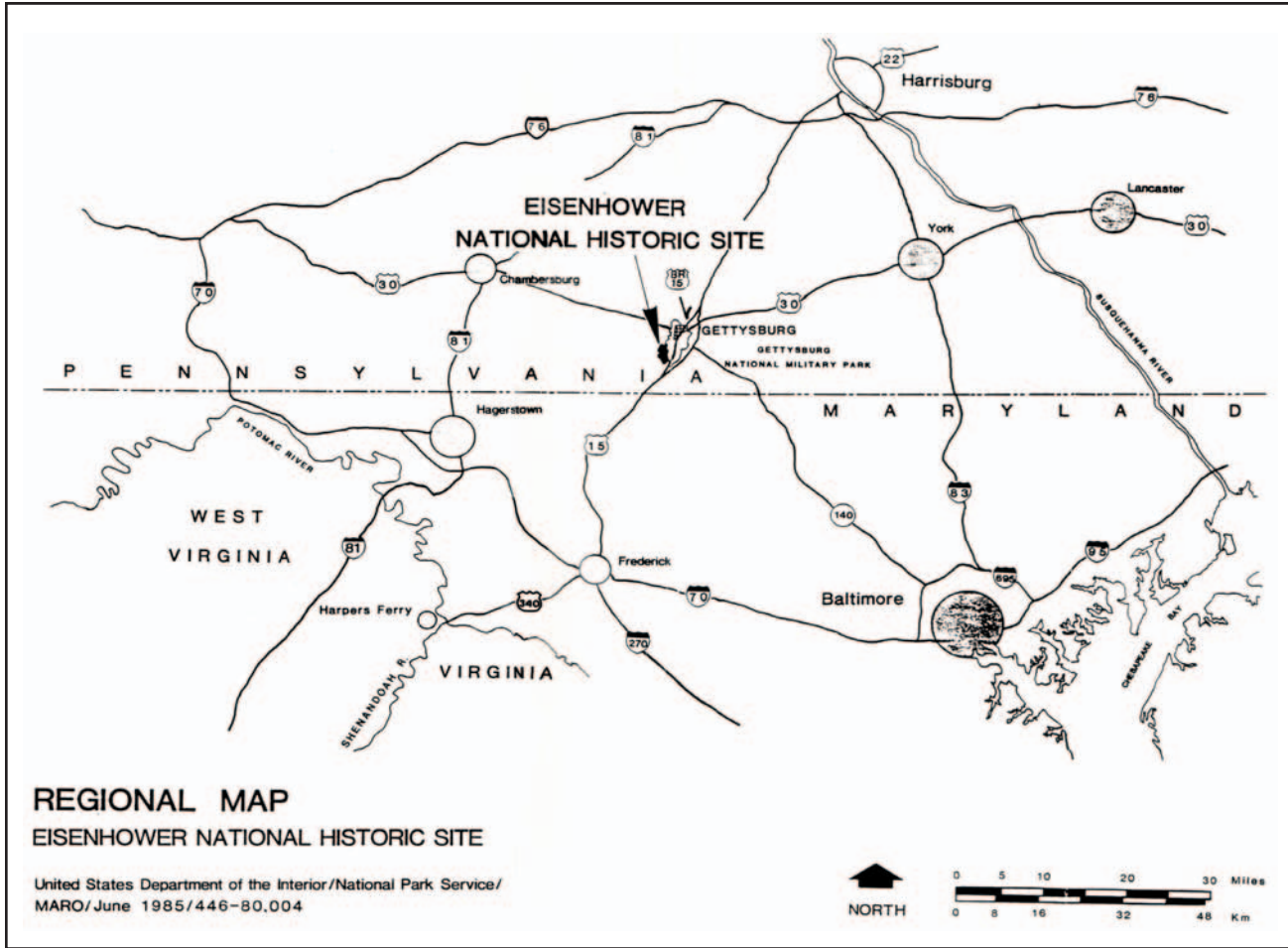


Figure 0.1. Regional map.



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

extensive program of development. Farms #2 and #3, which the W. Alton Jones Foundation donated to Gettysburg National Military Park in 1962, were transferred to the newly established Eisenhower NHS in 1969.

Mrs. Eisenhower died on November 1, 1979, and the NPS assumed full responsibility for the Eisenhower home on Farm #1 and its surrounding landscape. Changes were necessary to transform the private residence into a public site. The NPS converted Eisenhower’s storage building east of the bank barn to a visitor reception center. A portion of the drive was widened and a fence section was removed in order to accommodate the shuttle bus for visitors. The addition of macadam walkways – painted green to distinguish them from original walkways – improved accessibility for interpretive purposes. These changes did not dramatically alter the Eisenhower homestead and upon opening in June 1980, the site attracted thousands of visitors to experience the place the Eisenhowers called home.

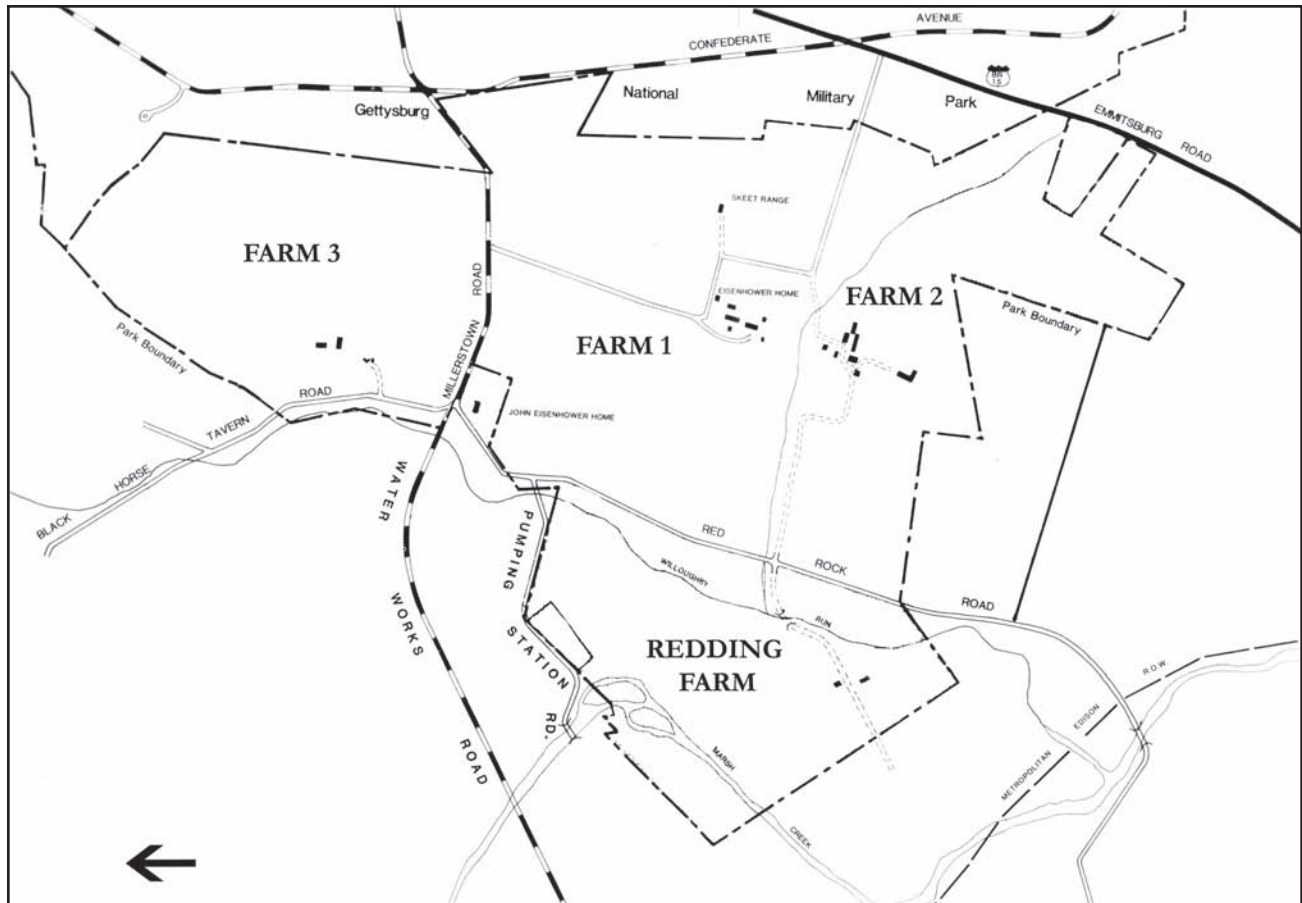


Figure 0.3. Site map.

Visitor programs began in 1980, focusing on the house, with little emphasis on the surrounding agricultural landscape. Prior to this time, however, the park carefully negotiated several special use permits in 1969 and 1970 to continue active agricultural use of the property, preserve the historic land use and setting, and facilitate maintenance. Agricultural operations expanded further in 1978 when five additional parcels were added to the park, including the Clement Redding Farm, which was acquired to preserve the historic setting of the Eisenhower property and the significant views to the west. The Reddings continued farming the property until the death of Irene Redding in 1993, at which time the NPS issued an Agricultural Use Permit to a local farmer to continue agricultural operations. Consignment of the agricultural activities allowed the NPS to focus on the preservation of the many historic structures and the ornamental plantings, particularly those at Farm #1.

Beginning in the late 1980s, several NPS planning documents guided site management including the *General Management Plan* (1987), *Interpretive Prospectus* (1989), *Statement for Management* (1992), *White Tail Deer*

Management Plan (1995), *Strategic Park Management Plan for Government Performance and Results Act* (1997), *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (2000), and most recently, the *Wayside Exhibit Plan* (2004). The 1987 *General Management Plan* (GMP) recommended less interpretive emphasis on the house and greater emphasis on Eisenhower's interests in cattle and land husbandry, and the buildings and activities outside of the house itself.³ The GMP divided the park into three management zones: historic, park development, and special use. (Table 0.1, figs. 0.4, 0.5) The GMP designated the predominant management approach as "preservation, with selective restoration" of missing features. Recommendations included the restoration of the pond and the "light appearance" of the roads, removal of the 1970 security station, and more.⁴ Most recommendations, however, were not carried out such as those for grounds modifications. Revisiting the GMP recommendations nineteen years later, the document is considered outdated and is no longer followed. This volume of the CLR reexamines and reevaluates the GMP recommendations with direction set by subsequent management documents and more recent applicable guidelines and policies. The



TABLE 0.1
MANAGEMENT ZONING DEFINED IN THE GMP, FEBRUARY 1987⁸

Historic Zone	
Preservation Subzone	644.5 acres
Preservation/Adaptive Use Subzone (adaptive use of structures for park operations)	2 acres
Protection Subzone	135 acres
Park Development Zone	
Administrative Development Subzone (Staff parking area, Farm #2)	.5 acres
Special Use Zone	
Agricultural Use Subzone	40 acres
Private Residential Clement Redding Tract (scenic easement permitting the construction of three dwellings)	3 acres

park's current management direction and philosophy are reflected in the *Statement for Management* (1992), *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (2000), *Wayside Plan* (2004), and *Strategic Park Management Plan for Government Performance and Results Act* (2005-2010).

The *Interpretive Prospectus* prepared in 1989 focused on the production of interpretive media with no guidance for landscape modifications. In 1992 the park prepared a *Statement for Management* (SFM) which detailed the park's significance, purpose, management objectives, park conditions, and major issues to resolve. The stated objective for resource management is to "preserve significant features of the cultural landscape to reflect the general character of the Eisenhower farm at the time of its donation to the National Park Service in 1967."⁵ For the setting, the objective is to "promote conservation of the setting of Eisenhower NHS so that visitors can experience the historic, scenic, rural, and agricultural character of the farms during the period of the Eisenhowers' occupancy, 1950 to 1969." A major issue raised following these statements is the challenge of maintaining the historic setting and the need to allow for some changes in vegetation.⁶

More recently, documentation for the National Register has been completed. The July 2005 documentation lists a period of significance as 1863 and 1951 to 1969, with the significant dates of 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg; 1955, when renovations to the home were complete and the Eisenhowers began actively using the property and hosting dignitaries; 1966, when the Eisenhower Farm was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of 21 August 1935; and 1967, when the Eisenhowers gifted the property to the people of the United States. The property

is recognized under Criterion A for its association with the Battle of Gettysburg and its association with one of the country's foremost military leaders and 34th President. The property is also recognized under Criterion B specifically for its association with President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Criteria consideration G, achieving significance within the past fifty years, also applies to the Eisenhower NHS.⁷

As stated in the CLR Volume 1, Chapter 5, the period of 1951, when General Eisenhower acquires the farm and is elected president, to "circa 1967" will be used when discussing the period of significance. Recommended treatment actions seek to preserve the integrity – the location, setting, association, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling – of this period.

ENDNOTES TO INTRODUCTION

¹ *Historic Resource Study and Historical Base Map*, Edwin C. Bearss (National Park Service: Washington, DC, 1970) and Thomas C. Dall, Landscape Architect to Chief, PSC, Memorandum, Trip Report – Gettysburg NMP, May 26-29, 1969.

² Mrs. Eisenhower paid her own utility bills and the like, but on occasion the NPS made improvements in the house, such as painting some of the rooms per her request. Park review comment from Memorandum from John P. McKenna to Margie Coffin Brown, April 7, 2003.

³ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *General Management Plan, Eisenhower National Historic Site, Pennsylvania*, February 1987, p. 2. Hereafter: *General Management Plan*.

⁴ *General Management Plan*, p. 40-42.

⁵ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Statement for Management, Eisenhower National Historic Site, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*, March 1992, p. 29. Hereafter: *Statement for Management*.

⁶ *Statement for Management*, p. 30.

⁷ Kathy Harrison, Winona Peterson, and Carol Hegeman, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form - Eisenhower National Historic Site." July 2005.

⁸ *General Management Plan*, p. 30-31 and *Statement for Management*, p. 27.

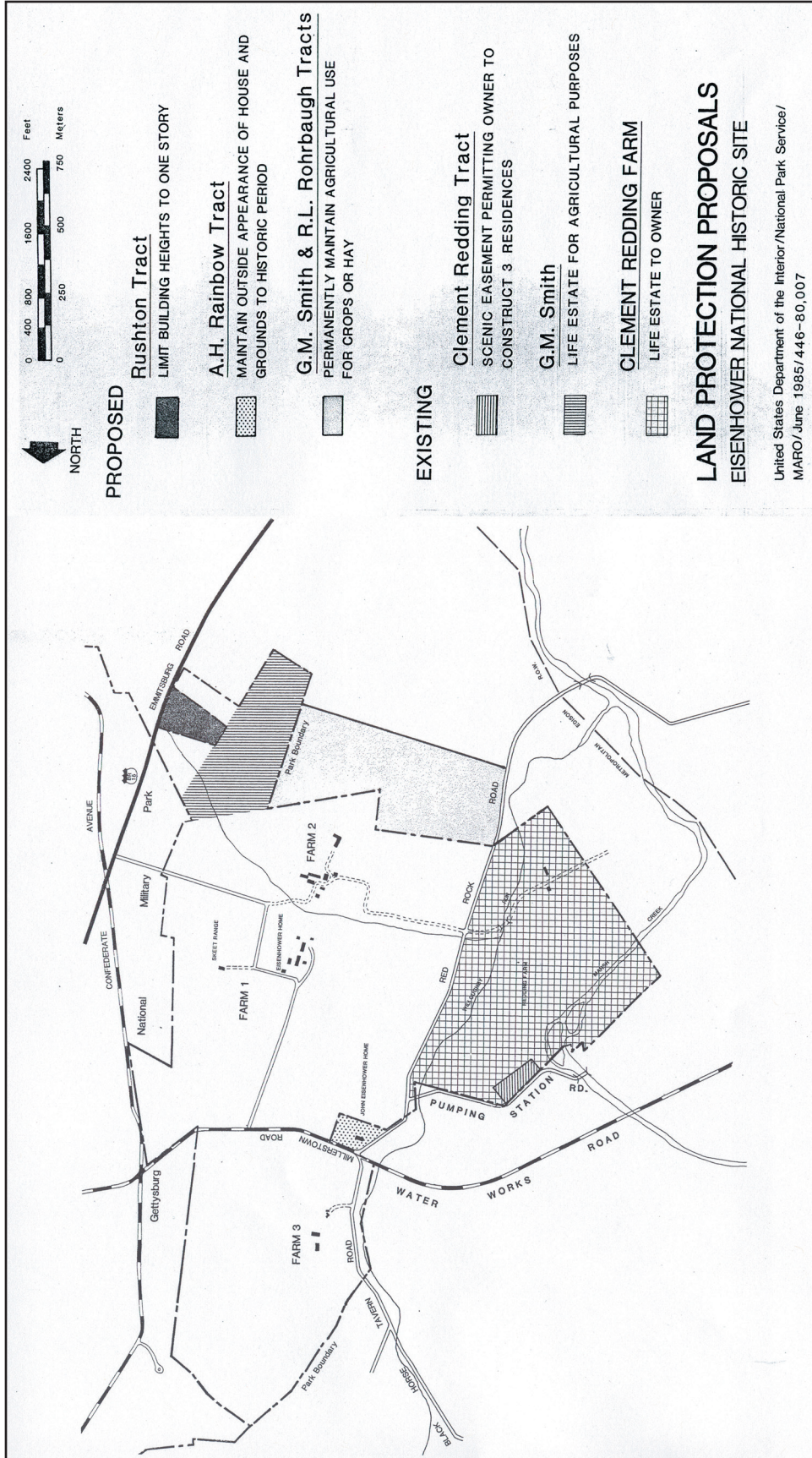


Figure 0.4. Land Protection Proposals map (from General Management Plan, 1987)

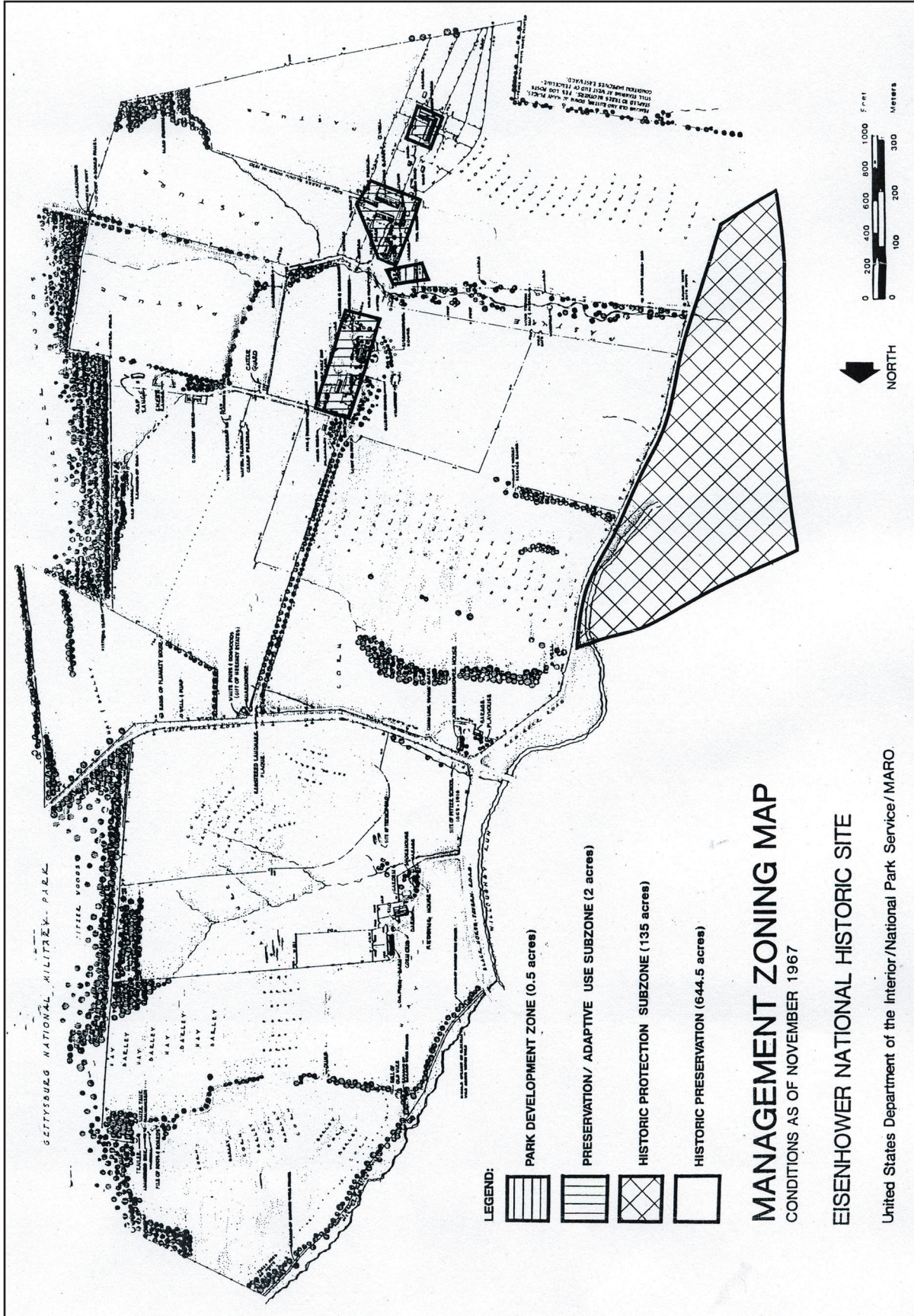


Figure 0.5. Management Zoning Map (from Statement for Management, 1992)