



BATTLE OF FORT HARRISON BATTLE OF NEW MARKET HEIGHTS

2014 SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION VISITOR GUIDE

September 27 - September 30, 2014



Exactly 150 years ago, as Union and Confederate armies entrenched around Richmond and Petersburg in late 1864, Ulysses S. Grant attempted to force an end to the stalemate by pressing Robert E. Lee to extend his ever-thinning ranks. Sending Union troops north of the James River to assault the defenses of Richmond not only stretched Confederate resources, it also diverted Lee's attention from attacks elsewhere along what would become a 37-mile front stretching from Richmond to beyond Petersburg. On September 29, 1864, an assault by Union forces – including United States Colored Troops – on Confederate defenses in eastern Henrico County finally achieved success. With victories at Fort Harrison and New Market Heights, Grant established a toe-hold just miles south of the Confederate capital. Join us as we explore and commemorate these battles on the landscapes where they took place.

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Partnership Programs



Saturday, September 13, 2:00 p.m. – Henrico Theatre

The Siege of Richmond and Petersburg in Photos, Fall 1864

NPS Ranger and Historian Mike Gorman will explore the siege of Richmond and Petersburg through the photographer's lens, including newly-discovered historic photographs of the Fort Harrison area. This free program is offered in partnership with Henrico County Recreation and Parks.

Henrico Theater, 305 E Nine Mile Road, Henrico 23075

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bus Tour: The Siege of Richmond and Petersburg

This tour with historian and author Richard Sommers will include visits to New Market Heights and forts Harrison, Hoke, Johnson, and Gilmer, to look at anniversary operations north of the James. It also will visit sites south of Petersburg, including forts Archer, Fisher, Welch and Urmston, in connection with the anniversaries of the fighting there.

This bus tour will involve a mix of driving and walking, although much of the day will be spent outdoors, walking on uneven and rough terrain. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothes for possibly warm or damp weather, and bring water and a lunch.

This program is offered in partnership with Petersburg National Battlefield. The cost is \$40 and reservations are required – please call 804-335-8100 to register.

The tour will depart from the parking lot maintained by Henrico County at 3300 New Market Road, just east of the northbound onramp for Interstate 295.

Battle of Fort Harrison – Commemoration Weekend

Saturday, September 27

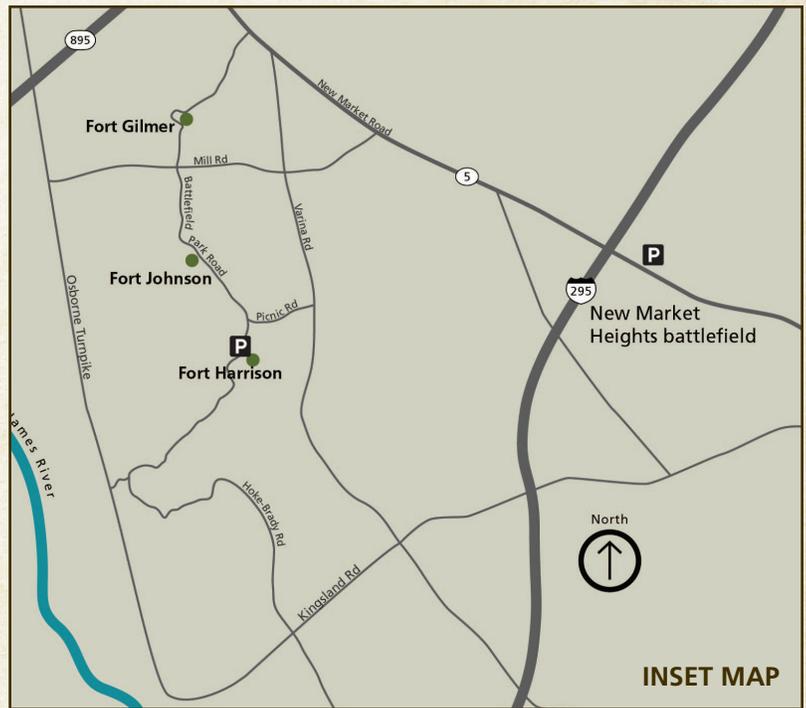
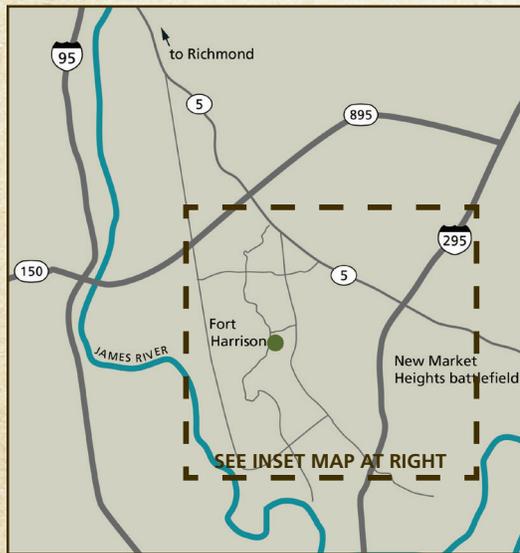
- Ongoing all day 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Visitor orientation and interpretation in the visitor center.
 - Interactive family and children's activities in the children's activity area in front of the visitor center.
 - Beyond the Park Boundary: Led by Park Historian Robert E.L. Krick, these free "windshield" tours will depart approximately every hour and a half from the Fort Harrison visitor center and will explore the Fort Harrison battlefield within and beyond the park boundary.
- 9:30 a.m. The Union Assault on Fort Harrison – Tour led by Ranger Bert Dunkerly
- 11:00 a.m. Fields of Fire: Infantry Tactics in 1864 / Cannon's Roar: Artillery at Fort Harrison (firing demonstration)
- 12:15 p.m. The Battle for Fort Harrison: History and Historic Photos – Tour with Ranger Mike Gorman and historian/author Doug Crenshaw
- 2:00 p.m. Fields of Fire: Infantry Tactics in 1864 / Cannon's Roar: Artillery at Fort Harrison (firing demonstration)
- 2:45 p.m. "The Line Disappeared as if Swallowed by an Earthquake": The Battle for Fort Gilmer – Tour led by Ranger Ashley Luskey; shuttle will depart the Fort Harrison Visitor Center at 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, September 28

- Ongoing all day 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Visitor orientation and interpretation in the visitor center.
 - Interactive family and children's activities in the children's activity area in front of the visitor center.
 - Beyond the Park Boundary: Led by Park Historian Robert E.L. Krick, these free "windshield" tours will depart approximately every hour and a half from the Fort Harrison visitor center and will exploring the Fort Harrison battlefield within and beyond the park boundary.
- 9:30 a.m. The Battle for Fort Harrison: History and Historic Photos – Tour with Ranger Mike Gorman and historian/author Doug Crenshaw
- 11:00 a.m. Fields of Fire: Infantry Tactics in 1864 / Cannon's Roar: Artillery at Fort Harrison (firing demonstration)
- 12:15 p.m. The Union Assault on Fort Gilmer – Tour led by Ranger Bert Dunkerly
- 2:00 p.m. Fields of Fire: Infantry Tactics in 1864 / Cannon's Roar: Artillery at Fort Harrison (firing demonstration)
- 3:00 p.m. Meet the Author – Richard Sommers and Doug Crenshaw, authors of published histories of the Battle of Fort Harrison

Fort Harrison and New Market Heights

Unless otherwise indicated, most programs take place or depart from the Fort Harrison Visitor Center at 8621 Battlefield Park Road, Varina 23231.



Fort Harrison / New Market Heights Anniversary Programs

Monday, September 29

- 5:45 a.m. “The Battle of Fort Harrison – September 29, 1864” – Walking tour led by Rangers Bert Dunkerly and Ashley Luskey; and shuttles depart from the Fort Harrison Visitor Center at 5:45 a.m. for the first tour and 10:45 a.m. for the second tour.
10:45 a.m. The first tour takes place at approximately the same time of day that the fighting occurred 150 years ago this day.
- 6:00 a.m. “The Battle of New Market Heights – September 29, 1864” – Walking tour led by Ranger Ed Sanders and historians Jimmy Price and Mike Andrus, in partnership with Henrico County Recreation and Parks. At 6:00 a.m. and at 10:45 a.m., shuttles will depart from the parking lot maintained by Henrico County at 3300 New Market Road. It is on the north side of Route 5, immediately across the road from the Dairy Queen, and immediately east of the northbound onramp for Interstate 295. The first tour takes place at approximately the same time of day that the fighting occurred 150 years ago this day.
10:45 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m. “Fort Harrison’s Medals of Honor” – Real-time tour of sites at Fort Harrison at the time and in the place where medals of honor were earned during the battle, led by Ranger Mike Gorman; meet at the visitor center.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch with the Author – Doug Crenshaw, author of a recently-published history of the Battle of Fort Harrison. Bring your own brown-bag lunch and meet in the picnic area on Picnic Road, around the corner from the visitor center.
- 1:45 p.m. “Death Fairly Reveled in That Ravine”: The Union Assault on Fort Gilmer – Real-time tour led by Ranger Ashley Luskey; shuttles depart from the Fort Harrison Visitor Center at 1:45 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30

- 12:30 p.m. “On this date, in this place, at this time” – The Confederate Counter-Attack at Fort Harrison – September 30, 1864. These two ranger-led walking tours will take place twice, at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
and
2:30 p.m.
 - Following the footsteps of Hoke’s Division – tour led by Ranger Bert Dunkerly. Meet at the Fort Harrison parking lot.
 - Following the footsteps of Field’s Division – tour led by Ranger Randy Cleaver. Meet at Fort Johnson (parking area along Battlefield Park Road north of Fort Harrison).
- 4:00 p.m. 150 Years at Fort Harrison (Photo discussion led by Ranger Mike Gorman)

Additional Partner Programs

Check these partner websites for information about other events commemorating the 1864-1865 Siege of Petersburg and Richmond.

Henrico County's Reenactment of the Battle of New Market Heights

Saturday, September 27 - Sunday, September 28 | Hosted by Henrico County Recreation & Parks -- civilwarhenrico.com

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Peeble's Farm – Petersburg National Battlefield

Saturday, September 27 - Sunday, September 28 | www.nps.gov/pete

Lodging, Dining, Other Attractions

For lodging and other visitor information, visit www.VisitRichmondVA.org.

Groups

Please call the park at 804-226-1981 or the host of a partner event above for information about group reservations.

Eastern National

The printing of this guide was made possible by Eastern National, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit cooperating association. Cooperating associations are recognized by Congress as a means to assist the educational and interpretive mission of the National Park Service, and they provide educational materials in retail outlets located in national parks. Eastern National currently assists more than 150 national parks across the country. At this year's weekend events, Eastern National will provide visitors with the opportunity to purchase books, commemorative items, and other educational materials. Purchases help support Richmond National Battlefield Park's interpretive programs and special events.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY...

Prepare for the outdoors:

Check weather forecasts before departing. Most of the events in this guide take place outdoors. Richmond area weather in September can vary and change. Please dress accordingly – wear loose clothing, bring a hat, and choose comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking on uneven battlefield terrain. Richmond's battlefields contain mosquitoes and a variety of ticks. Knowing tick safety protocols is very important for one's health. Check yourself, your children, and all clothing for ticks.

Water and Food:

Bottled water will not be sold in the park, but free water stations will be available for refilling personal water bottles and canteens. Please plan to bring a water bottle with you. Souvenir water bottles will also be available for purchase. In most cases, food will not be available for purchase; however, visitors are welcome to bring lunches and snacks during these special events only. Please dispose of litter and recycling in the provided containers.

Facilities and Accessibility:

All events will provide accessible parking facilities. Some events and programs are fully accessible. However, most of the walking/hiking tours take place over long distances and uneven and rough terrain. The Fort Harrison Visitor Center has restrooms that are accessible.

Pets:

Pets on leashes are allowed within Richmond National Battlefield Park units as long as they remain outdoors. Service animals only are allowed inside park buildings.

Richmond National Battlefield Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

3215 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23223
804-226-1981

www.nps.gov/rich