
Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

This chapter is comprised of four sections: an evaluation of the significance of the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape in accordance with the guidance provided by the National Register of Historic Places, a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions, an identification of contributing and non-contributing resources, and an integrity assessment.

The significance evaluation identifies the park's important historical associations over time, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to discrete period(s) of time in which its important contributions were made and the historic contexts within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed.

Based on this identification and discussion of the park's significance, and the period during which historical associations occurred, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. The analysis conveys an understanding of change over time and suggests which resources today reflect their character and appearance during the period(s) when historical contributions were made, including the key terrain features associated with siege and battle tactics during the Civil War and commemorative efforts that followed the war.

One of the byproducts of the comparative analysis is an inventory of resources that survive from the identified period(s) of significance. These are referred to as contributing features. Resources that originated after the period of significance are assessed as non-contributing. The CLR also

identifies features that existed during the period(s) of significance but no longer survive, except perhaps in the archeological record.

The final section of the chapter is comprised of an integrity assessment that summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey conditions during the identified period of significance.

Evaluation of Significance

In order for a property to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, it must possess significance under one of four criteria. The Criteria for Evaluation state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.¹⁹⁹

Vicksburg National Military Park is a memorial to the soldiers and civilians who participated in the campaign, defense, and siege of Vicksburg. The park's purpose statement emphasizes the significance of the site and its resources:

[The purpose of Vicksburg National Military Park is] to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations of the siege and defense on the ground where they were fought and were carried on . . . [during the months of May, June, and July 1863].²⁰⁰

The park is marked by more than 1,340 monuments, markers, tablets, and plaques that illustrate the actual locations of troops and events during the siege. The park also contains nine historic fortifications; more than twenty miles of reconstructed trenches, approaches, and parallels; fifteen historic bridges; five historic buildings; historic cannon; and the USS *Cairo*. Vicksburg National Cemetery, adjacent to the park, contains more than 17,000 interments, the largest number of Union Civil War soldiers of any national cemetery in the United States.²⁰¹

At the time that Vicksburg National Military Park was first listed in the National Register in 1966 as part of the Historic Preservation Act, a nomination form was not prepared for the property. In 1976, a nomination was prepared that identified the park as an historic district. The nomination focused primarily on the extensive commemorative statuary placed on the battlefield.²⁰² It indicates

that the property is significant in the subject areas of military history and sculpture. While the nomination was approved in 1977, it contains gaps in data regarding the areas, themes, and period(s) in the park's significance evaluation. The pages that follow expand on the significance evaluation afforded by the National Register nomination to support the decision-making process necessary to complete a treatment plan for the park, and should be considered if the existing nomination is updated or amended in the future.

Per Criterion A, the battlefield is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history: generally, the Civil War, the Vicksburg campaign (March 29–July 4, 1863), and the siege and associated fighting around the city that occurred between May 19 and July 4, 1863.

Per Criterion B, the battlefield is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, particularly Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton. Grant led the Union armies to ultimate victory in the war, contributing to his election as the nation's eighteenth president in 1868. Pemberton, a native of Pennsylvania, married a Virginia woman and joined the Confederate army when war began. The surrender at Vicksburg resulted in Pemberton's demotion, although he continued to serve in the Confederate army for the remainder of the war. There are many other persons who participated in the siege and achieved prominence later in life who merit consideration under this criterion, should an update to the nomination be prepared.

Per Criterion C, the commemorative sculpture in the park possesses high artistic values. The state memorials, monuments to individual Union and Confederate leaders, and other monuments and markers represent the work of renowned sculptors in a variety of materials and artistic styles.

199. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60. "The National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

200. <www.nps.gov/vick/parkmgmt/missionstat.htm>

201. NPS web site, Cultural Resource Preservation. Evaluation of the cemetery is beyond the scope of this report.

202. Nancy Aiken Miller, Interpretive Specialist, Vicksburg National Military Park. *National Register Nomination form, Vicksburg National Military Park*. The nomination form is dated as having been received at the National Park

Service on February 5, 1976, and approved on February 9, 1977.

Per Criterion D, archeological investigations may indicate that areas of the battlefield are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. Although the evaluation of archeological significance is not addressed by the National Register nomination, physical features of the park suggest that further research is warranted to understand the history of the site prior to, during, and after the siege. A park-wide archeological survey is needed before further determination can be made regarding Criterion D significance.

Military History

Vicksburg National Military Park is nationally significant under Criterion A because it contains a large portion of the area where the siege of Vicksburg and associated fighting occurred. Over the course of forty-seven days, from May 18 to July 4, 1863, Confederate defenders resisted Union efforts to capture the city. The Confederate surrender not only affected the lives of those involved in the campaign, defense, and siege, and the immediate activities of both armies and civilians in the region, it also had implications for the final outcome of the war.

The campaign for Vicksburg was one of the most complex and protracted engagements of the war, and involved operations of the Army and Navy of the North and South, land and water troop movements, and diversion, siege, and defense efforts.²⁰³ Vicksburg National Military Park is significant as the site of the siege of Vicksburg and the battle for the city, which had decisive results for the outcome of the Civil War. As a result of the Union victory, the Confederacy lost an army and the states of the Trans-Mississippi were separated from the eastern Confederacy. Union forces were able to concentrate on the one remaining Confederate army in the west—the Army of Tennessee—and move forward toward ultimate victory. The surrender of Vicksburg, coming one day after the defeat of Confederate forces at Gettysburg, had a significant psychological impact on morale in both the North and South. The

203. "Vicksburg: A Silent Tribute," <www.nps.gov/vick/forteachers/upload/Silent%20Tribute.pdf>

South's dream of independence was nearly shattered, while the North's hope for a reunited country was renewed with the success of its strategic objective: control of the Mississippi River, which again rolled "unvexed to the sea."²⁰⁴

The landscape of Vicksburg National Military Park is significant for its critical role in the activities and outcome of the siege and fighting that occurred at the site. Military strategists and commanders of Confederate and Union forces developed their strategy in response to the high bluffs, rugged terrain, and unique properties of the loess soil. The overlook from the bluffs to a hairpin curve in the Mississippi River influenced Confederate defense strategies and Union assaults, as well as the movement of troops and supplies for both armies. The swampy bayous that Union forces had to traverse in their attempts to approach the city gave advantage to whichever forces held the high ground. Finally, the location of the city adjacent to the river made the capture of Vicksburg the key to control of the Mississippi, and hence to victory in the war.

Commemoration and Sculpture

Vicksburg National Military Park is one of the first five military parks created by Congress at the sites of Civil War battles. Establishment of a park at Vicksburg was the result of efforts by Union and Confederate veterans of the campaign and siege. Creation of the park was supported by the Vicksburg National Military Park Association, formed in 1895 with the goal of promoting congressional designation of a military park at Vicksburg.

The enabling legislation that created Vicksburg National Military Park was enacted on February 21, 1899. The legislation called for the restoration of the forts and lines of fortifications, and marking of the lines of battles and other points of interest with tablets; permitted any state that had troops engaged in the campaign, siege, or

204. President Abraham Lincoln, letter to James C. Conkling, August 26, 1863, in *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* 6 (Piscataway, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press 1953, 1990), 409.

defense of the city to erect monuments and markers in memory of its soldiers; and established a commission to oversee the creation of the park. The 1,200-acre park as established in 1899 encompassed the entire area of the siege and defense lines around the city.

Commemoration continued through acquisition of property and placement of markers on the battlefield, as represented in part by the numerous sculptures added to the landscape of the battlefield beginning in 1903 by states whose troops had served in the Vicksburg campaign. Early monuments included those of the states of Massachusetts (1903); New Hampshire (1904); Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Illinois (1906); Minnesota and Virginia (1907); Rhode Island (1908); Mississippi (1909–1912); Wisconsin (1911); Michigan (1916); Missouri and New York (1917); and Louisiana (1920). A monument to the Federal Navy was constructed in 1911. Monuments continue to be designed and erected to the present day. The sculpture within the park includes a renowned collection of monuments, including work by Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson, represented by sixty-nine relief portraits or busts, and Henry Hudson Kitson, who created two statues and other busts and relief portraits. Other sculptors whose work is represented in the park include F. C. Hibbard and Adolph Weinman.²⁰⁵ The Tiffany and Company foundry is known to have cast many of the bronze sculptures located within the park.

Another significant commemorative feature of the park is the Vicksburg National Cemetery, established in 1866 as part of the system of national cemeteries authorized by Congress on or near Civil War battlefields. The battlefield and cemetery were the sites of commemorative events and reunions over the next several decades.

205. The present park boundaries do not include approximately the southern one-third of the Confederate defense line. This portion of the park was quitclaimed with the City of Vicksburg in 1966. Some monuments and markers are thus now located on city property, although they are owned and maintained by Vicksburg National Military Park.

Period of Significance

The 1977 National Register nomination defines the period of significance broadly as the nineteenth century. Research performed for this study suggests that the period of significance be refined to include a primary period of significance that encompasses the March 29–July 4, 1863, campaign for Vicksburg, and a secondary commemorative period of significance that extends from the earliest efforts in 1864 to mark and honor the events of the siege through the placement of the Surrender Interview Site Monument, through early park development and the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, to 1959. This closing date represents the fifty year age consideration for historic properties recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

The dates of importance associated with this revised primary period include the events of the campaign and siege of Vicksburg as they fall within the broader context of the Civil War (1861–1865). The campaign is considered to extend between March 29 to July 4, 1863, while the siege falls between May 19 and July 4, 1863. The dates of the campaign are also inclusive of the period of the siege. The fortifications that were started prior to the beginning of the campaign fall into the historic context period of the entire Civil War (1861–1865). These fortifications are not considered to be defining of the beginning date of the primary period of significance because they were proposed for construction as general defenses rather than in preparation for the specific events of the siege. However, the fortifications are contributing features to the primary period as well, since their significance comes not from their construction as general defenses but from their use as military features during the campaign and siege.

The secondary period of significance begins with the placement of the Surrender Interview Site Monument in 1864, and encompasses veterans' reunions and other commemorative activities leading up to and including park establishment in 1899. The period also encompasses the commemorative efforts conducted by veterans, park commissioners, and the War Department to develop and manage the park; the construction of

state monuments and other memorials; memorial celebrations and other events held at the site; as well as the efforts undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1941 to rehabilitate and restore battlefield features in threatened condition. The closing date of 1959 extends to the fifty year age consideration recognized by the National Register in order to encompass the ongoing process reflected through the placement of additional state monuments.

As more monuments and other resources reach fifty years of age, these structures should be considered in light of their contribution to the significance of the park. Future evaluation may also consider Mission 66 resources when they reach fifty years of age. While the Mission 66 period is beginning to gain recognition as a significant period in American history and its attendant resources evaluated for their potential to contribute to the significance of historic properties, the efforts conducted at Vicksburg National Military Park are at approximately ten years from reaching the fifty year age consideration of the National Register, and have not been evaluated in terms of significance as part of this study. The features at the park attributable to the Mission 66 period would need to meet Criterion Consideration G and present exceptional qualities to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Resources of the Mission 66 period should be evaluated again when they reach fifty years of age circa 2017–2020. As a result of these considerations, the closing date of the secondary period of significance may be extended in future.

Closely related to the establishment of period of significance is the question of historic site boundaries. The boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park do not fully reflect the extent of siege and assault lines during the primary period of significance. However, careful interpretation of historic resources that lie outside of the current park boundaries, and coordination with the City of Vicksburg to protect and preserve those resources, will permit outlying features to be appreciated as part of the historic setting. Similarly, the preservation and use of Pemberton's

Headquarters in conjunction with the park provides an important link to downtown Vicksburg and an opportunity to enhance interpretation of the historic city and its environs.

Comparative Analysis of Existing and Historic Conditions

For the purposes of this study, two periods of significance— March 29 to July 4, 1863, and 1864 to 1959—have been utilized to compare historic and existing landscape conditions within the Vicksburg National Military Park CLR project area. As discussed previously, these periods of significance have been suggested as part of the development of this CLR and augments the period of significance previously documented in the 1977 National Register nomination for the park. Extension of the period of significance to include twentieth century commemorative and restorative efforts by the CCC and others is appropriate because the park as it is known today might otherwise have been lost without these efforts. It should be noted, however, that although commemorative activities and features may be National Register-eligible, their contribution to the significant history of the property is secondary to that of the features for which the park was established to commemorate and preserve.

The comparative analysis that follows focuses on four distinct moments in time: the landscape as it existed prior to the siege, the 1863 military siege, the park property during the commemorative period of significance, and the evolution of the site since 1959, for each of the landscape characteristics discussed in chapter three previously:

- Natural Systems and Features and Responses to Natural Resources
- Topography and Topographic Modifications
- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Land Uses and Activities
- Circulation Patterns and Features

- Cultural Vegetation
- Views and Vistas
- Buildings
- Structures
- Small-scale Features

For each characteristic, major events associated with each period are summarized, and the dates of origin of primary features are identified. A summary discussion of the evolution of features associated with each landscape characteristic identifies features established during each of the periods of significance—contributing resources—and those that post-date the periods of significance—non-contributing resources. Features that existed during the periods of significance but are no longer extant are discussed as missing from the historic landscape. Post-1959 alterations that have affected the integrity of the landscape to convey its character during the period of significance are also noted in the summaries. The information conveyed in each summary analysis is collected in a list of contributing, non-contributing, and missing resources at the end of the analysis section. Appendix A collects this information in a reference table.

Fig. 271 and Fig. 272 illustrates the features contributing to each period of significance. Also supporting the comparative analysis are pairs of historic and contemporary photographs taken from the same or a similar location that help illustrate change over time (see Fig. 184 through Fig. 269). Photographic pairs are cited to illustrate points made in the narrative.

Comparative Analysis by Landscape Characteristics

Today, the Vicksburg National Military Park project area landscape most closely approximates the character of the site as it evolved during the secondary period of significance, although many changes have occurred since 1959 to alter the landscape. In particular, the vegetation that the CCC helped to establish as an erosion control measure has matured and woodland areas have expanded over time due to decreased maintenance budgets. In addition, park boundaries have been considerably altered since the end of the period of significance through transfer of some parcels to the city of Vicksburg and Warren County, and the acquisition of others.

Much of the physical evidence of the Civil War siege has been lost over time as well. Gone is all but the eroded earthen evidence of the siegeworks associated with both armies. All other features associated with the earthworks—gabions, fascines, headlogs, abatis, cheveaux-de-frise, bombproofs, magazines, soldier privies and latrines, huts and tent sites, and military access roads—have been lost to the ravages of time. Early War Department and park period signs, parking circles, picnic facilities, etc., have also been lost or replaced with features of a different character. Surviving are the larger-scale site organizing features, and the landform and topography as stabilized and repaired by the CCC, including Union and Confederate Avenues, the monuments, markers, and many of the tablets explaining the activities of the siege, and the earthworks and rifle pits.

Natural Systems and Features and Responses to Natural Resources

Summary Analysis. The park's natural environment, featuring deep deposits of loess soil, a diverse landscape of ridges, valleys, and steep sideslopes, three water courses, and extensive deciduous hardwood forest, remains recognizable as compared with the period of significance, but has become increasingly forested to the detriment of visual accessibility and historic patterns of open space. The park's stream corridors and attendant

ravine landforms, also present during the Civil War, continue to link the park to historic periods and events.

However, when considered against conditions present during the Civil War siege, natural systems and features are dramatically different in the present-day landscape. Military operations led to the removal of nearby all woody plant material by the end of the siege. Wood and cane were used to construct and reinforce features of the fortifications and saps, for fuel, and to construct obstacles such as abatis and cheveaux-de-frise. Erosion of the loess soil as a result of tree removal during the siege was likely extensive, negatively affecting water resources. Potable water sources were likely overused and sullied. Today, water and soil resources are protected by park maintenance of vegetative stands over the soil, and riparian buffers in association with streams and bayous, and woody vegetation covers more than 70 percent of the site.

During the subsequent commemorative period, soil erosion caused by agricultural use of the land and exposure of cultivated soil to stormwater again affected the park's natural resources, leading to extensive sedimentation of the ravines and proliferation of extensive cane breaks in low-lying areas. Shrubby and scrubby woody growth colonized the side slopes, as the ridges remained open due to farming activities. Park establishment in 1899 included the retention of local land-owners on their properties as a way to diminish maintenance costs. By the time the last of their life-leases expired in the 1930s, many areas of the park were threatened by severe erosion problems. Filling and regrading efforts conducted by the CCC helped to correct and diminish the erosional problems, while also altering the character of the park's landscape by rehabilitating Civil War earthworks, planting scores of native tree saplings and seeding and sodding, and installing new stormwater management systems to limit exposure of soils to overland flow. The park's natural features and systems, and associated responses to natural resources today most closely approximate conditions shaped by commemorative-period activities.

Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site prior to 1861.

- Loess bluffs formed east of the Mississippi River from wind-blown deposits after the retreat of the last glaciers. Over time, steep-sided valleys formed where streams cut into the soil. The erosive action of the stream corridors contributed to the formation of two major ridge networks that generally encircled a landing along the river. The ridge networks were connected by other east-west trending ridges that divided the watersheds of Glass Bayou, Mint Spring Bayou, and Durden Creek. The ridges define the watersheds composed of hundreds of ravines that drain the eastern boundary into Durden Creek, and the western boundary into Stout's, Glass, and Mint Spring Bayous. Moving eastward, the loess ridge descends gradually to the undulating and rolling farmland of the Pearl River Valley.
- Until about 300 years ago, much of the regional landscape was forested with mixed hardwoods and conifers. Many grew quite large. Nineteenth-century logging operations reported removing cypress, cottonwood, and sycamore logs measuring four feet across and weighing up to thirty-five tons from the swamp and lowland areas. These species, along with sweet gum, were the dominant trees in lowland areas. On the uplands, black walnut, hickory, oak, magnolia, and pecan were prevalent within a diverse forest community.
- In fact, the area north of the city was known as Walnut Hills prior to the Civil War for the abundance of walnut trees. Fort Nogales was the name given to the eighteenth century Spanish military fortification located near present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery. Nogales means walnut in Spanish.
- One of the native understory plants typical of lowland areas within the region is a local grass called giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), a relative of Asiatic bamboo. It grew in extensive thickets known as cane brakes that were

sometimes burned by Native American and early European settlers to facilitate passage.

- For Native American peoples, and later settlers of European descent, the bluffs afforded prospect. The loess soils proved fertile and suitable for cultivation, and level areas associated with ridgelines and bottomlands were used for agriculture; sloped areas were avoided due to the highly erodible nature of the soil. Rains continually wash away any surfaces not securely anchored by plants with good root systems. The soil becomes a thick liquid when wet and flows freely.
- Springs and seeps existed as a water source for Native Americans and later settlers; there were also numerous drainageways extending through the area including Mint Spring Bayou, Glass Bayou, Stout's Bayou, and Durden Creek. An antebellum description of the Shirley House suggested that the property included a spring—a never failing water source—and good, rich land.
- After European settlement began to occur within the region, the ridges were used to site road approaches to Vicksburg. By the Civil War, these included the Yazoo City Road, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, and Baldwin Ferry Road.
- The Mississippi River was an important component of local settlement. It served as a transportation corridor and means for commercial trade. To facilitate passage and commerce, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began clearing a channel through the Mississippi River in 1824.
- The town of Vicksburg was established in 1825 just below the confluence of the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers to take advantage of the commercial, trade, and transportation opportunities afforded by these river corridors.
- By 1862, the siege landscape was a patchwork of open fields, cleared areas, cultivated crops, orchards, and woodland cover that generally

followed drainageways and ravines, with the largest block of forest occurring to the northwest and northeast of Graveyard Road.

Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Situated on high bluffs that commanded a wide bend in the Mississippi River, Vicksburg was recognized as a strategically-important location during the early years of the Civil War. Confederate forces established batteries at Vicksburg and elsewhere along the river at the beginning of the war as a means for controlling this strategic transportation feature.
- Confederate military engineers began in September 1862 to establish a system of defensive earthen fortifications around the city of Vicksburg to protect against land-based attack. The system was anchored to the north and south along the Mississippi River, which ran nearly south alongside the city. Local streams generally entered the river east, and flow in a southwesterly direction. The defensive system was sited along the dividing ridges between streams entering the Mississippi above and below Vicksburg.
- The Confederate military engineers who designed defensive earthworks to protect the city employed the challenging conditions of the natural environment to their advantage. Elevated positions afforded prospect and thus power and knowledge. The earthworks were sited on high bluffs overlooking ravines and swamps made more impenetrable by the obstacles fashioned from downed timber referred to as abatis and cheveaux-de-frise, or thickets of brush and timber intertwined with cables. Trees were removed to open views of potential avenues of attack by enemy forces. This likely led to extensive erosion and deposition of sediments in stream corridors, springs and seeps, and ravines. The Union army is said to have poisoned potable water sources by dumping the bodies of dead pigs and sheep into streams and bayous.

- Perpendicular ridges associated with road approaches to Vicksburg were the most heavily fortified, and became the target of attack by the Federals as the most expedient way to breach the defenses and reach the city.
- During the fall of June and July 1862 and January through March of 1863, the Union army conducted two separate failed attempts under the commands of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, respectively, to reach Vicksburg by establishing a canal across the base of DeSoto Point, near a hairpin curve in the river, from the west bank. The channel was intended to gunboats to bypass the Confederate batteries stationed along the riverfront. It was abandoned due in part to fluctuations in the water level.
- After failed attempts to breach and control the Confederate fortifications in May 1863, the Union army initiated a siege. The Union positions occupied high points within view of the major Confederate fortifications from which they could maintain artillery pressure. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant established a lookout on nearby Mount Ararat, located south of the Jackson Road outside of the present-day park boundaries, where it is said he could view the majority of the Confederate line.
- Scrubby vegetation remained along Mint Spring Bayou, ravines around Graveyard Road, and north of Jackson Road.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subsequently constructed a canal, watered by the Yazoo River, within the former river channel to reestablish Vicksburg as a port. The abandoned bend was renamed Lake Centennial.
- After removal and disturbance of most vegetation cover during the siege, local soil began to erode due to the action of water and wind. Slopes became riddled with gullies and cave-ins. The ravines filled with silt that remained wet and boggy. Cane grew up in extensive thickets within the lowlands, and the slopes of the ridgelines were quickly covered with tangled scrub. Local farming continued on the upland ridges.
- The CCC conducted numerous soil erosion control efforts in the park during the 1930s, including regrading, filling, and placement of sod. The CCC also planted extensive numbers of native woodland tree species in a large-scale revegetation effort intended to control erosion.
- In 1939, approximately seventy-six acres of land were purchased between Fort Hill and Highway 61 for an expansion of the cemetery. The land was found to be unsuitable for burials due to underground springs.

Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- In 1876, the Mississippi River formed a new channel west of the city during a flood. Prior to the event, the river had been eroding DeSoto Peninsula for years, causing concern among local residents. Citizens began to request action as early as 1870, but no stabilization work was performed. The river finally broke through during a high-water period in 1876. The cutoff happened quickly, within four days.

Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site after 1959.

- During the 1960s, the land to the north, east, and south of the park was described as primarily agricultural with considerable lumbering operations.
- A master plan prepared in the 1960s as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program identified natural resource management goals as preventing and correcting erosion, controlling exotic plants, and clearing vistas between battle lines to add authenticity to the historical scene.
- Invasive plant species have become an increasingly challenging problem for the park,

negatively impacting native plant communities, and altering their visual character. Soil disturbance is one of the factors that contribute to the proliferation of invasive species. Problematic species include privet, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu, Johnson grass, chinaberry, mimosa, paper mulberry, princess tree, and tree of heaven. Most, but not all, of these species were introduced after the Civil War.

Topography and Topographic Modifications

Summary Analysis. Landform and topography are one of the critical character-defining features of the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape. The landform and topography known to, and topographic modifications undertaken by, the opposing armies during the Civil War are contributing resources of the park. The loess hills that encircle the city, comprised of two parallel ridges divided by deep ravines and connected by a series of transverse ridges, were used to advantage by Confederate military engineers in 1863 to establish a system of armed defensive earthworks. Although the local soil is highly prone to erosion from the overland movement of stormwater, and erosion has occurred over the years, the park's landform and topography appear to retain integrity to the 1863 Civil War siege. Evidence of the siege exists in the form of earthworks, including fortifications and battery positions, which generally followed two parallel sweeping arcs around the city to its north, east, and south, with the river located to the west. One of the topographic modifications associated with the siege that is no longer extant is the hillside of shebangs, a system of earthen dugouts established by Union soldiers (Fig. 184 through Fig. 186). These dugouts served as sleeping quarters protected from Confederate artillery fire by the sideslopes of the hill.

Much of the soil erosion that occurred after the Civil War was due to cultivation and a lack of vegetative cover to hold the soil. It was indicated in early Park Commission maps that eroded



FIGURE 184. Shirley House shebangs, looking northeast, 1863. During the Civil War siege of Vicksburg, artillery shelling was a constant fact of life. Union soldiers camped near the Third Louisiana Redan established tent sites by digging into the hillside near the Shirley House.



FIGURE 185. A similar view, 1935. Note the erosion control measures in place on the steep slope in the foreground.



FIGURE 186. The same view, 2007. The historic view in Fig. 184 was compared with similar later views, Fig. 185 and Fig. 186. The later views indicate that evidence of the shebangs does not survive, and that woody vegetation obscures the viewpoint of these features.



FIGURE 187. View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial of slope erosion, October 11, 1934.



FIGURE 188. View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial of filling operations, February 1935.



FIGURE 189. View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial showing completed slope, November 7, 1935. These 1930s photographs illustrate the filling, grading, and sodding efforts conducted by the CCC. These images are an example of the many similar efforts conducted in numerous locations around the park at the time to correct erosional problems threatening roads and monuments. Agricultural activities had led to a lack of vegetative cover to protect against the loss of soil due to overland flow of stormwater. The CCC worked to protect the soil from further erosion through filling, grading, and sodding.

military features would be repaired and reconstructed. A circa 1902 survey of the park shows the gaps in earthworks, while a circa 1903 master plan indicates the reestablishment of missing features. Little is currently known about how much of this work was completed.

Better documented are the efforts conducted to control and correct erosion by CCC crews in the mid-1930s. Maps indicate the degree of erosion present in the park in the 1930s, and the locations of CCC efforts to correct these identified erosion problems (Fig. 187 through Fig. 189). Their work entailed filling, grading, sodding, and planting. The CCC are also known to have repaired and rehabilitated Civil War earthworks. Changes that have occurred to park landform and topography since the end of the period of significance include the removal of Indiana Circle and associated landforms to construct the Mission 66 visitor center in 1968–1970, establishment of the interpretive earthworks that are associated with this facility, realignment of Clay Street involving extensive fill sections as it passed through the park, and construction of the USS *Cairo* exhibit.

Topographic Characteristics of the Site prior to 1861.

- The loess bluffs and dissected landforms established through the formation and action of stream corridors described above characterized the park landscape prior to the Civil War.

Topographic Characteristics of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- In September 1862, Confederate military engineers began to design and construct defensive earthworks to protect the city of Vicksburg as a means for maintaining control of the Mississippi River. The major earthen fortifications were placed on the military brow or upper reaches of the high ridges overlooking road and rail line approaches into the city. These works were connected by a continuous line of trenches and rifle pits. Artillery and rifle positions were placed so as

to be able to fire on approaching attackers in all directions.

- As noted above, the Army of the Tennessee under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams (1862) and Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant (1863) attempted to build a canal at De Soto Point to bypass the city rather than attack over land. The canal was to be sixty feet wide and of sufficient depth to admit any vessel. By late March, however, the final attempt by Grant was deemed unattainable, and work was abandoned.
- The Union army attacked the Confederate position twice in mid May 1863. Finding the Confederate fortifications difficult if not impossible to assail, the Union army changed tactics. Because of the combination of topography, obstacles, steeply sloped fortification walls, and number of rifles positioned to fire upon all potential avenues of approach, Grant determined to lay siege to the fortified position, and undertake a series of mining operations to reach the Confederate line.
- The Union army established artillery positions of its own on high points within range of the Confederate earthworks and maintained artillery pressure during a forty-seven siege. Union soldiers began work on numerous excavated trenches to approach the Confederate fortifications. These followed a zigzag form that would not allow for direct fire from the fortifications. The Union soldiers intended to place explosives in the mines once they reached the Confederate fortifications as a means for breaching the earthworks.
- Mines were exploded on June 25 and July 1, damaging the structure of the Third Louisiana Redan on the Jackson Road, contributing to Pemberton's decision to surrender on July 4, 1863.

Topographic Characteristics of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- After the Civil War, local residents returned to the Vicksburg landscape and began to cultivate crops and pasture livestock along the ridges and bottomlands. Erosion took its toll on many areas of the landscape, including the earthen fortifications and other evidence of the siege.
- When the park was established in 1899, local residents were permitted to remain on the land as a means for maintaining it. They were given life leases that remained in effect until the 1930s. Most continued to farm the land.
- During the 1930s, the CCC worked to rehabilitate the important earthworks located within the park and to correct other erosion problems in a variety of ways, including major earth moving, the addition of fill or borrow material, grading, seeding, and sodding.
- Erosion control measures were preceded by investigations by landscape architects and park historians reviewing the changes that had occurred to the land by comparing the circa 1902 topographic survey with existing conditions.
- Documentation of the efforts of the CCC is relatively extensive. Although there remain many more records of their work at the park that were not available at the time this report was prepared, notable locations of erosion control projects include:
 1. Along Pemberton Avenue: grading and widening of the road.
 2. At the intersection of Pemberton Avenue and Jackson Road: regrading.
 3. At/near the intersection of Confederate Avenue, Jackson Road, Louisiana Avenue (a former section of Confederate Avenue south of the intersection with Pemberton Avenue), and Pemberton Avenue: filling for widening of Pemberton and Louisiana

Avenues and reconstruction of the intersection.

4. At the intersection of Confederate Avenue and Jackson Road: a small hill was removed, gutters were placed and replaced, and telephone poles were relocated.
 5. North of the Wisconsin State Memorial: erosion was corrected, drainage appurtenances were added, and forest were removed to allow for reshaping of the ground.
 6. Along the road leading toward former Tower No. 1: underbrush was cleared to expose erosion; the ground was regraded, filled, and sodded.
 7. Behind the Illinois State Memorial: wood bracing was erected, filling and grading were conducted, and a temporary wooden flume was constructed. The ground was then sodded.
 8. North of Confederate Avenue approximately 200 yards west of a lunette along Graveyard Road defended by Shoup's brigade: repair included terracing, erosion control, filling, and fine grading.
 9. Fifty feet east of the 38th and 37th Mississippi trench line: work included clearing of undergrowth, filling, regrading, and fine grading.
- The process was described in a report prepared by the CCC in 1938 as follows:

Very few scattered trees were cut. The operations consisted for the most part in clearing the slopes of such brushy material as existed and in carefully grubbing the roots of this material and the existing sod so as to present a clean surface, free of vegetation, on which to place the new fill. . . . Final shaping and rounding of slopes and shoulders was done after paving operations were completed and just prior to sodding. . . .

Drainage operations consisted of the excavation for and installation of Reinforced Concrete Pipe culverts

underneath the roadway and Corrugated Metal Pipe outlets. The character of the soil is such that it is impossible to outlet culvert pipes on the slopes at any elevation above the ravine bottoms without immediate and serious erosion resulting. In addition, it was necessary to erect special aprons at the outlet ends of the pipes, equipped with baffles so arranged as to lessen the rate of flow of the water and reduce thereby its erosive force. The inlet ends of culverts were provided with brick drop inlets constructed on concrete bases and equipped with cast iron grating. Combination headwalls and receiving basins constructed at the outlet ends of the reinforced concrete pipes served as headwalls, collecting basins, and clean-out chambers.²⁰⁶

Topographic Characteristics of the site after 1959.

- Construction of the visitor center in 1968–1970 was preceded by the removal of Indiana Circle and a nearby knoll. It was followed by removal of the earlier visitor center in 1976. The site plan for the visitor center and environs includes constructed earthen forms that recall and interpret the Civil War earthworks found within the park.
- Establishment of the USS *Cairo* exhibit included site work and grading to create a level viewing area, and construction of an adjacent museum set into the side of a hill to diminish its visual impact on the surrounding landscape.
- The park continues to correct erosion problems as they are detected. Regrading, the addition of fill and stone, and redirection of stormwater are measures that the park takes to repair erosion on a site by site basis.

206. North Confederate Avenue regrading, 1938, 8–10.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Summary Analysis. The park's primary patterns of spatial organization today are derived primarily from the relationship between mown and wooded areas. In many cases, mown areas are associated with the surviving evidence of the Civil War earthworks of the lines of the opposing forces, the roads constructed to interpret them, and associated monuments. These patterns of spatial organization are also tied to the topography of the loess bluffs and the ravines created by stream corridors, as it is the ridgelines that are mown, and sloped areas are often wooded.

Prior to the Civil War, the local uplands and ridgelines were the most viable locations for local settlement, which related primarily to agriculture. House sites prior to the war were generally located on the ridgelines, and farming occurred as possible on the most level areas. Ravines, naturally difficult to traverse, likely remained wooded due to the challenges they presented to travel and cultivation.

Patterns of open space associated with the Civil War have been altered profoundly by the expansion of woodland over time. In 1862, Confederate military engineers selected high points and ridgelines around the city of Vicksburg for the construction of a defensive earthwork system due to the military advantage it afforded. Woody vegetation was removed to clear fields of fire and create obstacles to approaching enemies during the war. Obstacles consisted of felled trees placed in the bottomlands and along the slopes below the Confederate line with their branches pointed toward the enemy. Downed timber was frequently interwoven with cable to further hinder forward movement across the ground fronting the siegeworks. By the end of the siege, the landscape between the lines was nearly denuded of woody vegetation. Today, only 30 percent of the park retains this open quality.

After the war, small farming operations again occupied the bluffs, and trees and cane breaks began to colonize the ravines and bottomlands. Establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park contributed new patterns of spatial organization involving roads and monuments that followed the

lines of the opposing armies, in part reinforcing the patterns associated with the siege, which in turn related directly to landform, topography, hydrology, and cultural settlement patterns. The War Department maintained the landscape in and around the earthworks under grass cover, while outlying areas remained open through agricultural use of the land by former land owners.

By the expiration of the last life leases in the early to mid-1930s, erosion problems were in evidence throughout the park. Erosion control measures implemented by the CCC followed the end of the life leases associated agriculture within the park. This period contributed additional new patterns of spatial organization associated with the planting of trees as an erosion control method. These trees, and the slow encroachment of additional woodland resulting from diminished maintenance beginning in the 1970s, have led to the patterns of spatial organization present within the park. Today, open space is currently confined to a narrow linear band that edges roads, and expands to encompass important monuments and earthworks.

Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- At European contact, Native American villages were present within this region of Mississippi. During the eighteenth century, these coexisted with French and Spanish military fortifications such as Fort Nogales near the present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery, as well as outlying farmsteads and settlements.
- Early settlers cleared the forest and planted crops on the ridges and hilltops.
- In 1812, Reverend Newett Vick and his family settled on the bluffs just south of Walnut Hills.
- In 1825, Vicksburg incorporated as a town. The landscape around the city slowly evolved into a mosaic of small farms and cotton plantations that included fields, pastures, wooded ravines, and deeply cut springs. Houses and roads were also generally sited on the ridgelines.

- The area during the antebellum period was characterized by cotton plantations and small subsistence-level farmsteads.
- In 1836, Vicksburg incorporated as a city and became the seat of Warren County due to its prime location between the commercial ports of Memphis and New Orleans, along developing rail lines, and amidst an important cotton growing region.
- At this time, Vicksburg was described as located on “the shelving declivity of a cluster of precipitous hills, which rise abruptly from the river . . . The houses are scattered in picturesque groups on natural terraces along the river, the balcony of one often overhanging the roof of another.”²⁰⁷

**Patterns of Spatial Organization
Characteristic of the Site during the Civil
War (1861–1865).**

- Between 1861 and 1862, the Confederates established batteries of heavy artillery along the river front. With the river defended and land approaches to the north and south guarded by densely wooded swamplands, Vicksburg defied large-scale land and river expeditions until late 1862.
- In September 1862, Confederate engineers began to construct fortifications around Vicksburg to further protect it from an attack by land. Most of the trees in the vicinity of the eight-mile defensive line were cut to clear fields of fire for artillery, establishing a relatively open landscape and exposed the dramatic terrain of the loess bluffs.
- During this time, the Confederate line was an extended line of rifle-pits occupied by infantry, punctuated by nine powerful fortifications occupied by artillery arranged to

command ravine and ridge approaches as well as the adjacent fortifications.

- Although Grant’s Union forces attempted a direct assault of three primary Confederate fortifications—Railroad Redoubt, Stockade Redan, and the Great Redoubt/Third Louisiana Redan—during the engagements of May 19 and 22, he found the Confederate defenses unassailable without large numbers of casualties. After May 22, Grand changed tactics and initiated a siege. Over time, the Union forces excavated approach trenches at numerous locations along the Confederate line to reach the fortifications below grade. Patterns of spatial organization that characterized this period included the semi-circular line of Confederate rifle pits and batteries punctuated by nine major fortifications, placed atop ridgelines and highpoints, particularly at junctures with roads leading to Vicksburg. The landscape was nearly denuded of trees. Military roads connected the positions. Facing the Confederate line across various ravines was a series of small batteries placed atop high points. The excavated trenches, covered with saps, formed zigzag cuts in the earth leading between the Union batteries and Confederate fortifications.

**Patterns of Spatial Organization
Characteristic of the Site between 1865
and 1959.**

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege.
- In 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park was established to encompass the Union and Confederate lines during the siege. New patterns of park boundaries, tour roads and circles, and monuments arose through park development. At the time of its establishment, the park extended over approximately 1,200 acres.
- In 1958, the park transferred two parcels to the city of Vicksburg and state of Mississippi. The

207. Ingraham, *The South-West: By a Yankee*, 2: 169–170, quoted in Reys, *Cities of the Mississippi*, 138.

first was a three-acre parcel used to build a school along South Confederate Avenue. The other was a one-and-one-third-acre parcel used to build a highway weighing station along Warrenton Road. The city and state transferred parcels of a similar size to the park.

Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- In 1963, the park quitclaimed 154 acres of the park between Fort Garrott and Louisiana Circle to the city. In exchange, the city agreed to increase the authorized boundary of the park by 544 acres along its northern boundary.
- In 1964, the park transferred 24 acres associated with Sherman Avenue beyond Sherman Circle and the cemetery access road to Warren County.
- In 1988, a 2.5 acre parcel in Madison Parish, Louisiana, encompassing a segment of the canal that Grant's troops attempted to establish prior to the siege was proposed for acquisition as part of the park. A similar proposal was made to acquire an additional 2.82 acres of land adjacent to the entrance of the park for construction of a maintenance facility. Both of these parcels were acquired in 1990.
- In 2002, the park acquired the dwelling utilized by Confederate Lieutenant General Pemberton during the siege. The residence is located in downtown Vicksburg.

Land Uses and Activities

Summary Analysis. The principal land uses associated with Vicksburg National Military Park today are commemoration, education/museum/interpretive, visitor services, recreation, administration, maintenance, and military training. All of these land uses survive from and are characteristic of the park's secondary period of significance. The Vicksburg National Cemetery is affiliated with burial uses; during the battles and siege, soldiers were buried on the battlefield. Many of the bodies were recovered later, and reinterred at the national cemetery and elsewhere. Land uses that were formerly associated with the site but no longer occur include residential—both during the military siege, and later by private residents, National Park Service personnel, and CCC camp residents—and agricultural.

Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- The French claimed ownership of the region in 1675.
- In the early eighteenth century, as European settlers began to arrive in the area that is now western Mississippi, its inhabitants included the Natchez, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Houmas. Native Americans maintained villages and burial grounds within the Vicksburg area at Contact. Early trappers and traders used existing native trade routes such as the Natchez Trace for exploration and commerce, and initial contact between French settlers and trappers and the native inhabitants was generally friendly. The primary land uses during the eighteenth century were agriculture and military. French settlers, many accompanied by black slaves, were primarily farmers.
- As a result of the French and Indian War, Mississippi and all other French territory east of the Mississippi River passed into British control in 1761.
- In 1779, Mississippi came under the control of Spain when Bernardo Galvez, the governor of

Spanish Louisiana, captured Natchez. Following the end of the Revolutionary War in 1781, and under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, West Florida, which included the southern half of Mississippi, came under Spanish control, while the United States gained possession of Mississippi north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel.

- In the 1790s, the Spanish established Fort Nogales across Mint Spring Bayou from the present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery site on the bluffs overlooking the bend in the river. The fortification included Fort Sugar-loaf, sited on the mound in the present-day cemetery and Fort Mount Vigio at current-day Fort Hill.
- In 1803, the region was acquired by the U.S. government as part of the Louisiana Purchase and the Mississippi River was opened for commerce.
- Treaties signed by the U.S. Government and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians between 1805 and 1834 opened Indian lands in Mississippi to settlement.
- Reverend Newett Vick settled in the region in 1812. The town of Vicksburg incorporated in 1825 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established a channel in the river for shipping in 1824. The town slowly evolved into a port town and commercial center where local agricultural products could be shipped to larger markets due to its strategic located near the confluence of the Yazoo River and Mississippi River.
- The land around the town developed into an agricultural community characterized by small subsistence-level farms as periodic larger cotton plantations.

Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Military land uses and related activities predominated during the Civil War period. Residential and agricultural uses of the

landscape were interrupted by the military activities in 1863. Burial of soldier casualties occurred on the battlefield.

- The Anshe Chesed Cemetery was established near the Second Texas Lunette in 1864.

Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- The Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege.
- Veterans conducted reunions after the war. In 1890, a reunion was held that featured a parade, fireworks, concerts, and visits to the battlefield and cemetery.
- In 1895, the Vicksburg National Military Park Association was formed.
- In 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park was established. The land uses associated with the park evolved to include military training, commemoration, education/museum/interpretive, maintenance, administration, recreation, and visitor services. Recreational uses included picnicking, walking, hiking, and horseback riding.
- Private property owners within proposed park boundaries were offered life leases and required to “cultivate their present holdings upon condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads and the present outlines of field and forest, and they will only cut trees or underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works. . . .”²⁰⁸
- In 1917, a National Memorial Reunion and Peace Jubilee was held at the park.

208. Ibid.

- During the 1930s, the private in-holdings associated with the life-estates within the park ended.
- Between 1934 and 1941, four CCC camps were established within the park. Men stationed in the camps undertook a wide range of physical improvements within the park.

Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- The NPS sought to eliminate some recreational uses of the park, including picnicking, camping, and horseback riding. While camping and horseback riding were eliminated in the 1960s, picnicking is still allowed. Although a picnic ground, including grills, was developed by the CCC, it was later altered to diminish the impact of this activity on the park.

Circulation Patterns and Features

See Fig. 190 through Fig. 199.

Summary Analysis. Circulation within the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape that survives from the period of significance includes Union and Confederate Avenues, Connecting Avenue, Pemberton Avenue, Old Jackson Road, the Jackson Road trace, Graveyard Road, Grant Avenue, Grant Circle, Sherman Circle, Logan Circle, and Tilghman Circle North and South. Surviving circulation features associated with the siege and park located beyond park boundaries include the Kansas City Southern Railroad rail line, Washington Avenue, Fort Hill Drive, South Confederate Avenue, Halls Ferry Road, Indiana Avenue, Iowa Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue, and North Frontage Road. Many historic roads have been realignment, repaved, or resurfaced, diminishing their integrity. For example, paving of Union Avenue was not completed until 1970.

At the time of the siege, six primary roads afforded access to the city of Vicksburg. From north to south, these included the Yazoo City Road, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Baldwin Ferry Road, Halls Ferry Road, and Warrenton Road. All were heavily guarded by Confederate earthworks. Today, three of these have been at least partially altered in their alignments and names. The Yazoo City Road is now partially expressed as part of Fort Hill Drive; Baldwin Ferry Road exists to the west of the park, and a portion survives in the part tour road connecting the South Loop with the exit along Clay Street; and Warrenton Road is now part of Washington Avenue, also known as U.S. Business Route 61.

Confederate forces established military roads behind their earthworks to facilitate movement between artillery positions and fortifications along the line. This road system does not survive, but may be overlain in places by Confederate Avenue. The Union army established similar access routes to its fieldworks from existing road corridors, which also do not survive.

Roads present during the secondary period of significance that survive within current park

boundaries include Confederate and Union Avenues, Connecting Avenue, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Pemberton Avenue, Grant Avenue, Sherman Avenue, Grant Circle, Sherman Circle. Lost are the circle drives around many state monuments. Former park roads that are no longer included within park boundaries include Sherman Avenue north of Sherman Circle, which was transferred to Warren County, and connections beyond park boundaries of Jackson Road, as well as South Confederate Avenue and the network of roads that arose from the corridor, which was



FIGURE 190. View looking northeast from the Third Louisiana Redan toward the Shirley House, circa 1899. This photograph predates construction of the Illinois State Memorial, which was dedicated in 1906. It indicates the existence of Jackson Road and the Shirley House at the time.



FIGURE 192. The contemporary view indicates the addition of cannon, tablets, and monuments marking the Civil War events that occurred in this area. A hard-packed earth road in the historic view, Jackson Road is paved in the 2007 view. Although partially visible due to tree cover, the Illinois State Memorial can be seen in the center of the historic photograph.

transferred to city ownership in 1963, and provided access to surviving earthworks and placed tablets and monuments. The city-owned roads and their associated rights-of-way are maintained in a park-like setting by the city; however, twentieth- and twenty-first-century developments beyond the park-like corridor visually encroach on the roads. Their integrity has been diminished by the various residential driveways and access roads that now lead to commercial and institutional developments from the roads.



FIGURE 191. A similar postcard view from the vicinity of the Third Louisiana Redan, 1908. This view shows the historic site after construction of the Illinois State Memorial and the placement of tablets and cannon.



FIGURE 193. Comparison with a similar view in 2007 indicates that a parking area has been added below the redan and tree cover is far more extensive in 2007 than it was historically.

Circulation features that post-date the period of significance include the entrance and parking area leading to the current visitor center that were established in the late 1960s, the connection between Confederate Avenue and the South Loop, and the reorientation of the Union and Confederate Avenue system into one-way loop road. Modern Jackson Road was established through a ravine crossing the park in 1970 that carried through traffic, but was not connected to the park. Although its impact is diminished by the grade separation, the road corridor is often used as an illegal dump site within the park boundary, especially along Glass Bayou. Similarly, Mission 66 Road was constructed to by-pass the park, and the majority of the twenty-one local roads that connected with the point were disconnected from park circulation. Until this time there had been four major entrances into the park. Two entrances, one major and one minor, were then developed, and the tour road was converted into a closed loop. Today, twelve public roads extend across park boundaries, but the park only remains accessible from Clay Street and Fort Hill Drive. These circulation changes from the 1960s through the 1980s have altered the visitor experience, patterns of spatial organization, and historic circulation, and constitute non-contributing resources.



FIGURE 194. View looking northeast along Jackson Road toward the Illinois State Memorial, circa 1912.

Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- During the nineteenth century, the Mississippi River became a transportation artery that linked the West with ports on the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic seaboard. The region afforded access to the Mississippi River for transportation.
- Rail lines developed through the area during the early and mid-nineteenth century. The primary line was the Vicksburg & Meridian Railroad (also known as the Southern Railroad of Mississippi) that served as the only east/west line located between New Orleans and Memphis. The Vicksburg, Shreveport, & Texas Railroad line traversed De Soto Point in the bend of the Mississippi to a railhead at De Soto Landing.
- The De Soto ferry crossed the Mississippi River between Vicksburg and the railhead at De Soto Landing.



FIGURE 195. The same view, 2007. These two views indicate that the road corridor pavement has been altered, and the degree of the tree cover between the monument shown and the Shirley House in the background has increased.

- Six roads led into Vicksburg from the north, northeast, east, southeast, and south by 1861: Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Baldwin Ferry Road, Halls Ferry Road, Yazoo City Road, and Warrenton Road. The roads were generally built along ridge spurs or followed stream channels. Most were surfaced with hard-packed earth. During rains, they turned to mud, making passage difficult.
- The Yazoo City Road was the northernmost of the roads leading into Vicksburg. It crossed Mint Spring Bayou via a ford.
- Jackson Road, which continued to the state capital, followed a ridgeline extending northeast from the city.
- Graveyard Road was so named because it passed the city cemetery.
- The Mississippi River was a key transportation route that also afforded access to the rich farmland of the Delta.
- The Shirley House existed prior to the Civil War. It was described as having a semi-circular driveway that passed the front door, a wide walk running between the front porch and the road, and steps leading to the porch.
- Grant led an expedition through Yazoo Pass to land troops downriver at Yazoo City between February 3 and April 14, 1863.
- Grant later marched his forces north-northeast toward the Big Black River, intending to flank the Southern Railroad that connected Jackson and Vicksburg.
- Baldwin Ferry Road was used as an artery of movement for the Federal XIII Corps in its advance on Vicksburg.
- Jackson Road was the artery of advance for the Federal XVII Corps.
- Graveyard Road was the main assault road for the Federal XV Corps.
- Federal troops also approached the Confederate siege lines through trenching and mining and movement of artillery across rough terrain.
- Thayer's Approach was the site of one of the more spectacular of a series of constructed avenues of approach made by the Union army to reach the Confederate lines. It involved excavation of zigzag trenches extending toward a Confederate battery overlooking Mint Spring Bayou.

Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Vicksburg was recognized by both Union and Confederate commanders as the key to controlling the Mississippi River.
- In During the fall of 1862 and winter of 1863, the Union army conducted failed attempts under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to approach the city by digging a canal across De Soto Point prior to the siege.
- A fleet of Federal gunboats ran the batteries at Vicksburg on the night of April 16, 1863.

- Hovey's Approach was comprised of a series of excavated trenches converging on Fort Garrott.
- After these approach efforts contributed to surrender by Confederate Lieutenant General Pemberton on July 4, 1863, General Grant's soldiers marched into Vicksburg along the Jackson Road.

Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866. The first entrance to the cemetery occurred from the riverfront (Warrenton) road. A masonry arch marked the entrance.

- Under the direction of the three early park commissioners, a road system was laid out for Vicksburg National Military Park in 1902. The system was intended to incorporate existing roads such as Graveyard and Jackson Roads, while establishing new roads to meet the mission of the park. The new roads followed the lines occupied by the opposing armies, rendering the fortifications visually and physically accessible. Two main roads were planned. Confederate Avenue would follow the Southern works to their rear, while Union Avenue would edge the Federal lines. Additional roads planned for the park included Connecting Avenue that linked the two lines, and Pemberton Avenue that passed the Surrender Interview Site Monument and also linked the two lines. Completed by 1903, the roads were first surfaced with hard-packed earth. Later a layer of chert gravel was added. Confederate Avenue was constructed first. It was twenty feet wide, while Union Avenue was sixteen feet wide. The roads were intended to support horse and buggy use. Grading was required to create level roadbeds. Circle drives were designed to loop around the many monuments so that they could be seen from all sides.
- Bridges were built in association with the new roads to cross ravines and bayous. By 1903, nine Melan arch bridges and four steel bridges had been constructed. In 1908, the Maloney Circle Bridge was added. The Halls Ferry Road Bridge was completed later by the CCC in 1937.
- During the 1930s, Confederate Avenue was paved in concrete, with curbs, to accommodate the growing popularity of the automobile.
- The CCC conducted road improvement projects involving grading, paving, and stormwater management. Projects included paving of North Confederate Avenue from Fort Nogales to Graveyard Road, using reinforced concrete, and Pemberton Avenue from North Confederate Avenue to the site of

the Administration Building under construction, in 1935. Type H-1 asphalt concrete surfacing was used for some projects such as Pemberton Avenue. The concrete for the upper two inches of the slab consisted of the regular mix of aggregates to which emulsified carbon black was added.

- Beginning in 1940, many of the circle drives around monuments were removed. This effort continued until 1978. Of the original circle drives, only Pemberton Circle and Tennessee Circle survive today.

Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- Asphalt paving of Union Avenue began during the Mission 66 development program and was completed in the early 1970s. Many segments had super elevated paving edged by 3-inch mountable curbing.
- In the 1960s, to accommodate the proposed new visitor center structure, Indiana Circle was removed and an associated knoll was leveled.
- Traffic conflicts, particularly public use of park roads as thoroughfares, led to changes in park circulation, land ownership, and the construction of new public roads through and adjacent to the park and associated park bridge crossings. Prior to the Mission 66 era, local roads connected with park roads at twenty-one points, of which four were considered major park entrances. A major portion of the work performed during the Mission 66 era included roadwork outside the park boundaries to create a self-contained one-way park tour road, separated from local roads.
- Mission 66 Road and Modern Jackson Road were built in the late 1960s to establish new public roads that would accommodate some of the traffic that had previously traversed the park. Mission 66 Road was not completed until 1979.



FIGURE 196. View looking north along Confederate Avenue toward the Arkansas State Memorial, circa 1950s. This photograph of the road corridor after construction of the memorial in 1954 shows the historic concrete road surface and a view to the memorial.



FIGURE 197. A similar view photographed in 2007 indicates that the scene remains much the same, although once again the degree of tree cover behind the monument is greater in 2007 than in the historic photograph.



FIGURE 198. View west from the Surrender Interview site along Pemberton Avenue, circa 1910.



FIGURE 199. The same views, 2007. Comparison of the images indicates that regrading was conducted in this area after the 1910 image was taken. Images of the CCC efforts to correct erosion at the park show the work that was conducted along Pemberton Avenue to correct erosion at its intersection with Confederate Avenue. Comparison of these two images reveals that the Louisiana State Monument had not yet been constructed. A circle drive referred to as Louisiana Avenue is known to have afforded visitors the opportunity to view the monument from all sides between construction of the monument in 1920 and the CCC regrading effort that changed the intersection of the circle, Pemberton Avenue, and Confederate Avenue.

- As part of a Mission 66 Master Plan, the visitor center, entrance sequence, and Union and Confederate Avenue road network was reconfigured. The avenues were converted to a one-way closed circuit loop road. Grade separations were used to carry public thoroughfares above or below park roads at intersections, and access to the park was limited to two entrances, one major at U.S. Highway 80, and one minor at Fort Hill Drive.

In 1968–1969, the park roads in the vicinity of the new visitor center were reconfigured. At the west edge of the park near Anshe Chesed Cemetery, the connection of Grove Street to the park tour road was removed, and the southward extension of Confederate Avenue to U.S. Highway 80 (Clay Street) was removed. The historic Baldwin Ferry Road was realigned to serve as an east-west connection from Confederate Avenue to the visitor center site and Union Avenue. Similarly, the southward extension of Union Avenue to U.S. Highway 80 (Clay Street) was removed and reconfigured to connect to the visitor center parking lot. The Memorial Arch, which was considered a traffic hazard, was relocated in 1967 to Union Avenue at the beginning of the new tour route. Midway between Union and Confederate Avenues, a new north-south road was created, running south under a new overpass for U.S. Highway 80, and curving east to connect to the existing Union Avenue overpass over the railroad. In the vicinity of the Texas Monument, the former Confederate Avenue railroad overpass was disconnected from the park tour roads and retained to provide access to private residences on Melborn Place.

- In 1970, Old Jackson Road was removed in the vicinity of the Illinois Monument and Shirley House (Fig. 48). At the west end, the connection from the Hickenlooper Battery parking lot to Confederate Avenue was removed. At the east end, the connection from Union Avenue to other public roads was removed.

- In 1972, a new overpass was constructed at modern Jackson Road/Glass Bayou.
- The 1980 *General Management Plan* noted that an uncompleted Mission 66 road in Vicksburg presented an obstacle to planning vehicular traffic flow through the park. The city had constructed 1-1/2 miles of four-lane highway using federal funds south of East Main Street, but 1/2 mile of road north of East Main Street was left unfinished due to funding limitations. This limitation had required the park to maintain its two-way road system. In 1979 the road work was completed. The park tour road was converted to a one-way loop that began at the fee collection booth at Union Avenue beginning in 1980. At that time, the park access point at Sky Farm Avenue was also closed.



FIGURE 200 and FIGURE 201. Views west along Graveyard Road toward Stockade Redan, 1899 and circa 1908. These two historic views of Graveyard Road looking west toward Stockade Redan illustrate the landscape during the early park development period.



FIGURE 202 and FIGURE 203. A similar view, 1935 and 2007. The image at left shows this location during the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) period. The images illustrate the character of Graveyard Road as it evolved from a hard-packed earth road to a paved road corridor. These images indicate that severe erosion along the road margins was corrected by CCC filling and regrading efforts. Telephone poles visible in the 1908 view had been removed by the 1930s. Rustic wooden guard rails installed during the 1930s are also now gone, as are trees that once edged the road to its north. Woody vegetation in the background of the photographs is far more extensive in 2007, however.



FIGURE 204 and FIGURE 205. Left: View looking north along Union Avenue of the site of Battery De Golyer, circa 1902. The historic image illustrates the open character of the landscape, with exposed earth undergoing erosion in the foreground, Battery De Golyer and a few trees scattered in the middle ground, and the Shirley House and another unidentified building in the background. Right: The same view, 2007. In the contemporary view, a tree growing in the foreground has been replaced with the Michigan State Memorial, Union Avenue has been paved with asphalt, curbing occurs along the downhill sides of the road to conduct stormwater, and the earthen slopes are protected under turf grass. Battery De Golyer is still visible in the middle ground. Heavy tree cover has grown up in the background and to the east of the road corridor, obscuring the historic view of the Shirley House.

Cultural Vegetation

Summary Analysis. Predominant among the cultural vegetation that contributes to the park's period of significance is the Bermuda-grass dominated turf that extends along the margins of Union and Confederate Avenues and around the monuments and fortifications viewed from the road. Turf grass is one of the land cover types that protect the local loess soil from erosion, and it is used in many areas of the park to maintain open areas that support visitor interpretation, education, and enjoyment. Bermuda grass has been used for turf in this area since the nineteenth century.

There is otherwise, there is little in the way of cultural vegetation present within the park, and no examples of specific plantings that survive from either period of significance. Pre Civil War descriptions of the Shirley House suggest residential plantings included quince, lilac, rose, violet, jonquils, hyacinth, crape myrtle, and rose of Sharon. None are present today. Review of historic documents has not revealed site designs for monuments and other commemorative features that include plantings of ornamental trees or shrubs.

Cultural vegetation that post-dates the periods of significance includes shrubs and trees associated with the Old Administration Building and the visitor center and park entrance road. Invasive plants with the ability to disrupt native plant populations and habitats have colonized many areas of the park. Among the invasive alien plant species present within the park, those of most concern are kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, privet, Johnson grass, tree of heaven, mimosa, and princess tree. Eradication programs are currently being conducted at the park to remove these invaders. Although some were introduced as early as the Civil War period, most of these plants have an exotic character that contrasts with the natural setting of the park.

Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- During the nineteenth century, farms dotted the Warren County landscape. Most were small subsistence-level farms, although there were some larger cotton plantations present. Many farms produced a variety of grains, fruits, and vegetables, as well as cotton.
- The Shirley House landscape is described in mid-nineteenth century accounts as including a variety of fruit trees, and ornamental plantings of quinces, lilacs, roses, violets, jonquils [narcissus], hyacinths, crepe myrtle, and althea [Rose-of-Sharon] around the house. A rustic summer house composed of "green grape vines and roots with beds of flowers all around it,"²⁰⁹ and a vegetable garden with peas, lettuce, and radishes were apparently also present prior to the Civil War.

Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Col. Isham W. Garrott commanding the Confederate troops in and around Fort Garrott was killed by a Federal sharpshooter who fired from a position within a nearby tree.
- Pemberton and Grant met under an oak tree located 200 feet from the Confederate trenches to discuss surrender terms on July 3, 1863.
- On July 4, 1864, a small stone obelisk was placed to mark the site of the Surrender Interview. The oak tree that had been located on the site of the surrender had already been lost to souvenir seekers.

209. *Fredonia N.Y. Censor*, May 30, 1900, cited in Wilshin, *The Shirley House*, 3.

Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- After establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park in 1899, management of the site as a park led to a change in the character of the existing agricultural landscape as mown grass and trees began to replace crop fields and pastures.
- The CCC conducted exotic plant eradication efforts during the 1930s.
- The CCC sodded many areas with Bermuda grass where they had regraded and filled to correct erosional problems.



FIGURE 206. View looking north toward the Railroad Redoubt from the South Loop, Confederate Avenue, January 1934.

Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- The Old Administration Building along Pemberton Avenue was formally planted with trees and shrubs around the parking area and building foundation.
- Ornamental and shade plantings of trees and shrubs are associated with the 1968–1970 visitor center.
- Battlefield restoration during the late twentieth and early twenty-first century has focused on removing woodland cover in association with important fieldworks and their fields of fire (Fig. 206 and Fig. 207).



FIGURE 207. The same view, 2007. The redoubt survives, continues to be associated with a series of tablets and monuments, and can be viewed across open ground from a nearby road corridor. Recently cleared of woody vegetative cover, the landcover fronting the redoubt appears to be in the process of stabilizing as turf grass becomes established over the area cleared of trees. Evidence of recent erosion is present in the photograph, however. Tree cover behind the earthwork is more extensive today than in the historic photograph.

Views and Vistas

See Fig. 208 through Fig. 215.

Summary Analysis. Views were a critical component of both the Confederate military defensive system as well as the Union offensive positions during the siege. High points afforded long views of surrounding terrain providing a military advantage. Tree clearing contributed to the ability of Confederate defenders to see approaching troops, but also facilitated an understanding of the terrain by the Union infantry. To ensure early warning of attack and a clear field of fire, views from the high points occupied by military earthworks were maintained as open through the clearing of trees. Views were obscured from ravines and other low points.

During the early park development period, views were considered, at least minimally, in the placement of roads and monuments. Although road corridor design was primarily focused on providing safe access to important features, and following a reasonable gradient within the limited confines of the park boundaries, they also featured views of the important military landscape elements of the adjacent Federal and Confederate lines. Monuments were placed to mark key locations. Many monuments were designed as tall columns, obelisks, or other vertical forms that could be seen from a distance. These became visual reference points for key locations and terrain. When visible from the road, these monuments heighten the drama of the landscape.

Many historically important views are today partially to fully blocked by woodland vegetation. The sense of vast expansive open space and the ability of the visitor to take in the complex terrain is no longer present. Where there are openings in the woodland cover across the siege lines, it is possible to gain a sense of the dramatic terrain. Those earthworks and monuments that are maintained in open turf lawn continue to be visible along the road corridors. Some historic visual relationships have been reestablished since the 1990s by removal of woody vegetation.



FIGURE 208. View looking southwest from the Illinois State Monument toward the Third Louisiana Redan, circa 1900. The historic image predates construction of the Illinois State Monument. The landscape is almost entirely open in the photograph. Visible is the earthen corridor of the historic Jackson Road and terraced slopes that likely indicate agricultural use of the ridgeline.



FIGURE 209. The same view, 2007. The contemporary view indicates the numerous changes that have occurred within this area of the park, including the paving of Jackson Road, construction of the 1920 Louisiana Monument in the distance, establishment of numerous smaller monuments, markers, and tablets, and an increase in tree cover and turf grasses. The photograph was taken from the steps of the Illinois State Monument, which did not exist at the time the historic photograph was taken.

Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- Little is known about views that were important to local residents prior to the Civil War, although it is assumed that French and Spanish fortifications were sited on high points to afford views of the surrounding terrain.

Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Access to long views of the surrounding landscape were an important part of the military strategy of both forces during the siege.
- River batteries were sited to command unobstructed views of the river and approaching vessels.

Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- The park's tour road afforded visitors an opportunity to view the lines and fortifications of the opposing lines, punctuated in many cases by state monuments that provided a point of visual reference across long distances.
- Views were maintained through the use of Bermuda grass along road margins, around most state monuments, and earthworks, and other low growing ground cover throughout much of the battlefield.
- After trees were planted by the CCC in the 1930s, the ravines and many other areas of the park slowly became less visually accessible.

Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- Clearing of trees in 1998 opened important military views between Fort Garrott and Hovey's Approach
- Clearing of trees around Railroad Redoubt in 2005-06 reinstated important military views.



FIGURE 210. View looking north from Fort Hill toward Vicksburg National Cemetery and the Yazoo River Diversion Canal, first decade of twentieth century.



FIGURE 211. A similar view, 2007. Generally, the view continues to include a glimpse of the former river bed, and features of the national cemetery are visible from the elevated landform, but woody growth is far more extensive in 2007 and serves to obscure much of the view.

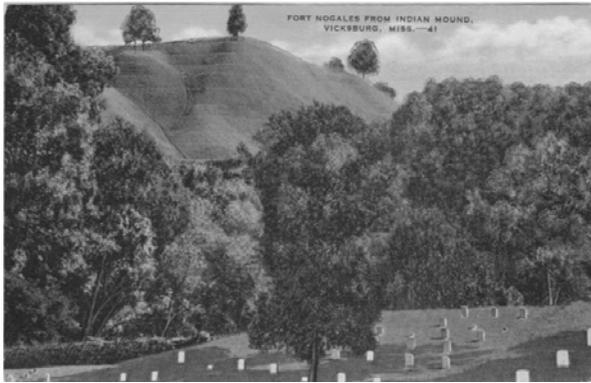


FIGURE 212. An undated postcard that illustrates the landscape of the national cemetery and view toward Fort Hill (referred to as Fort Nogales) during the early twentieth century.



FIGURE 214. View south along Union Avenue and a historic bridge crossing Glass Bayou toward the Shirley House on the ridgeline beyond, circa 1903.



FIGURE 213. A similar view, 2007. The primary change in the landscape since the early twentieth century is the degree of tree cover which obscures the view of the hillside from the mound. The cemetery also appears slightly less manicured and planted with ornamental specimens and flower beds in 2007.



FIGURE 215. The same view, 2007. A comparison of the two images is difficult due to the extent of woody vegetation blocking views of the bridge and Shirley House. The bridge shown in the early photograph was replaced with a contemporary bridge in the 1970s. The Shirley House survives, but is no longer visible from this vantage point.

Buildings

See Fig. 216 through Fig. 219.

Summary Analysis. Three buildings within the park survive from the period of significance. These include the antebellum Shirley House, and the Old Administration Building and maintenance complex built circa 1936. Buildings that post-date the period of significance include the visitor center, garage additions to the maintenance complex, two fee collection booths, the USS *Cairo* Museum, and a garage, restoration shop, and storage/archives building located to its north.

Buildings present at the time of the siege that do not survive today include houses and outbuildings associated with subsistence farming that dotted the ridgelines prior to the siege. Many of these, such as the Riddle and Lynd Houses, were burned by the Confederates to establish clear fields-of-fire for their earthworks. Others survived the siege, but are no longer present today, such as the Rock House. Houses were later built after the Civil War that remained after the park was established with owners maintaining life-leases. Park-related buildings that are no longer extant include park personnel housing and the Mississippi River Commission Office that served as a visitor center between 1944 and 1970.

Buildings Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- Limited settlement occurred within the area during French and Spanish occupation.
- The Willis House was constructed circa 1835–1836. This Greek Revival dwelling, located in downtown Vicksburg, was owned at one point by a descendant of Reverend Newett Vick, Vicksburg’s first settler.
- The Shirley House was built circa 1837–1838 along the Jackson Road by Nicholas Gray. It was known as “Wexford Lodge.” Judge James Shirley purchased the property in 1851, and renovated the dwelling.



FIGURE 216. The Shirley House, looking northeast, undated, circa 1930s. The historic photograph indicates that the house was formerly surrounded by a wooden picket fence painted white, which was edged by shade and ornamental trees. Turf lawn extended from the house precinct toward Jackson Road.



FIGURE 217. The same view, 2007. The fence and shade and ornamental trees are no longer extant, but the turf grass survives.



FIGURE 218. The Shirley House, looking northwest, from the intersection of historic Jackson Road and Union Avenue, circa 1910–1920.



FIGURE 219. The same view, 2007. The 2007 view indicates that removal of the tablets along the road, which occurred in 1942 as part of a World War II metal drive, the changes that have occurred to the road corridor including paving, curbing, and widening, and growth of trees along the right hand side of the road and behind the house since the historic photograph was taken

- The Riddle House was present by the Civil War. It was located on a ridge later occupied by Confederate earthworks. It served as a visual and physical landmark during one of the Federal attacks.
- Other dwellings present prior to the siege included the Edward House, Lynd House, Catnol House, Yoste House, Merritt House, Williamson property, and various un-named properties that generally were sited along road corridors.

Buildings Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- The Shirley House survived Confederate destruction of most farmhouses in the area as part of their effort to clear the field of fire in front of their defensive lines. The house served as an 1863 headquarters for an Illinois regiment and a smallpox hospital for Federal troops in 1864.
- The Willis House was appropriated for use by Pemberton as his headquarters.
- The Lynd House was set on fire by the Confederates to provide light so that their sharpshooters could see withdrawing Union troops after one of the May 1863 attacks.
- The Union army maintained a lookout and station for sharpshooters referred to as “Coonskin” tower. It was built under the direction of Lt. Henry C. Foster of the Twenty-third Indiana Infantry near the Third Louisiana Redan along the Jackson Road.

Buildings Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- The Shirley House was also known as the White House. It fell into disrepair after the war. Alice Shirley Eaton sold the house to the federal government in 1900, but retained burial rights for her parents. Incorporated into the park in 1902, the Shirley House was restored by the park commissioners. It later

served as a visitor center and residence for park employees.

- The Rock House burned in the early 1900s.
- During the early park development period, three observation towers were built within the park. Two of these were located within current park boundaries, while the third was placed within the land currently maintained by the city of Vicksburg. The towers were removed in the 1960s due to their poor and unsafe condition.
- The Shirley House was again restored in 1938.
- The park's visitor center between 1944 and 1970 was the adapted headquarters for the Mississippi River Commission, constructed behind Anshe Chesed Cemetery in 1929.
- The Vicksburg National Cemetery Superintendent's House at Vicksburg National Cemetery was constructed in 1927. The park and the cemetery were managed by separate superintendents until 1947.
- Between 1933 and 1941, four CCC camps existed at the park. The camps variously included tents, temporary wooden army barracks, and other facilities arranged in quadrangles around a parade ground and flagpole.
- The Old Administration Building was constructed in 1936 as park administrative offices. It was converted to the Superintendent's Residence in 1944 and continued in this role until 1978.
- In 1936, the park maintenance complex was constructed.
- Park employee housing was present within the park near the early visitor center by the 1930s.

Buildings Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- The Shirley House was again restored in 1966, at which time its use as a residence for park employees was terminated. Exterior restoration work was conducted in 1983 and again in 2005.
- In the 1960s, the park employee housing was demolished, and three new garages were built in the maintenance complex.
- In 1968–1970 a new visitor center was constructed to replace use of the Mississippi River Commission Office. The building was reroofed in 1980. A new sloped roof was constructed in 1997.
- Construction of the *Cairo* museum, which is partially embedded in a hillside, was completed in 1980. The restored gunboat, placed under a protective tensile structure, opened to the public in 1985. The Cairo Restoration Shop was built in the 1980s as well.
- Fee collection booths were added at the two park entrances in 1987.
- The Operations Storage Facility was built in the late 1980s–early 1990s.
- The curatorial (archive) facility was built in 2000–2001.