United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE
   other names/site number APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

2. Location
   street & number not for publication
   city, town APPOMATTOX
   state VIRGINIA
   code 51
   county APPOMATTOX
   code 011
   zip code 24522

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   ☑ private
   ☐ public-local
   ☐ public-State
   ☑ public-Federal

   Category of Property
   ☑ building(s)
   ☑ district
   ☑ site
   ☑ structure
   ☑ object

   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing Noncontributing
   ☑ 31 3 buildings
   ☑ 3 9 sites
   ☑ 18 14 structures
   ☑ 8 1 objects
   96 18 Total

   Name of related multiple property listing:
   None

   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ☑ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

   In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of certifying official
   ________________________
   Date May 17, 1989
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   National Park Service

   In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of commenting or other official
   ________________________
   Date
   State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification
   I hereby certify that this property is:
   ☑ entered in the National Register.
   ☐ See continuation sheet.
   ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
   ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
   ☐ removed from the National Register.
   ☑ other, (explain:) documentation ☑ previously-listed district

   Signature of the Keeper ________________________
   Date of Action 5/26/89
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is a unit of the National Park System maintained as a restored nineteenth century rural Virginia community commemorating the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865. The Park is located in the rolling piedmont of south central Virginia, three miles northeast of the town of Appomattox in Appomattox County. It comprises a 1,325-acre landscape of pasture, field, and mixed hardwood and mature Virginia pine woodland. Approximately 438 acres are used for agricultural purposes, and 650 acres are wooded. Rolling in character, the terrain rises from drainage areas formed by the Appomattox River and its Plain Run Branch (elevation 645 feet), to the highest ridge lines (elevation 830 feet). The village of Appomattox Court House is on the crest of a 770-foot high ridge.

The village and other historic resources are preserved in much the same appearance they presented in 1865-1870. It was a scene dominated by open fields with trees surrounding the streets and homes of the residents. The main street circles the Courthouse. Clustered around the village are thirteen restored and fourteen reconstructed buildings. Several are operated as museums open to the public. While the village was a center for county government, and contained the homes of judges, clerks, and small-business operators, it was also an agricultural community with field slaves. Retention of the open fields along Virginia 24, a major two-lane highway which bisects the Park, is an important factor in interpretation of the historic scene resembling that of 1865. (In the 1950s, the highway was rerouted to its present location away from the center of the village.) This is accomplished by cattle grazing and crop rotation of grasses, corn, and silage. The area to the southwest, west, and north of the village has more trees than in 1865. This is a result of a management decision to screen modern visual encroachments which would otherwise adversely affect the historic scene.
8. Statement of Significance
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

X nationally □ statewide □ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria

X A □ B □ C □ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

□ A □ B □ C □ D □ E □ F □ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

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Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Persons:

Lee, Robert E.
Grant, Ulysses S.

Architect/Builder

Raine, Charles (original McLean House)
Patterson, Alexander (Clover Hill Tavern)

National Park Service

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

On April 9, 1865, in the village of Appomattox Court House, Appomattox County, Virginia, population one hundred, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States. The surrender signaled the defeat of the Confederate States of America. Across the unoccupied areas of the South, Confederate commanders realized the futility of further resistance, and, like Lee, surrendered their troops. Four years of civil war were over.

In 1892, Brigadier General George B. Davis, Chairman of the Commission for Publication of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, received a report from an aide on the condition of the historic features at Appomattox Court House. By that time the McLean House, site of the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, had been dismantled prior to its planned reerection as an exhibit at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago (its structural members were to be re-assembled in Washington, D.C., to house a Civil War museum); the Courthouse had burned; and Grant's headquarters had disappeared. Davis transmitted this disturbing news to Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont, and recommended that these and other important sites at Appomattox be permanently marked by tablets. After Lamont's approval, Davis had these and other sites marked with cast iron tablets, in 1893. Upon visiting Appomattox in 1902, Davis found the markers to be in excellent condition except for need of painting. He testified before the House Military Affairs Committee that if Congress concluded that land acquisition was desirable, 150 acres would be sufficient to encompass all the main

X See continuation sheet
9. Major Bibliographical References


Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
☐ has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
  Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
  Record #

Primary location of additional data:
☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:
NPS, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Phila., Pa. (MARIO)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.325.08

USGS Quadrangle Vera and Appomattox, Va. Scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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<tr>
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Verbal Boundary Description

XXX XXXXX Justification

The Congressionally-authorized boundary includes the village core around the Courthouse; outlying historic buildings and sites, including Lee's Headquarters in the extreme northeast, Grant's Headquarters in the extreme southwest, and the Battle of Appomattox Court House in the west center; and the farm fields and forests representative of those which surrounded the historic village in 1865.

Boundary Justification

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

street & number MARO: U.S. Custom House, 2nd & Chestnut St. telephone Engle: (215)597-5028; Tobias:
city or town Philadelphia state Pa. zip code 19106 9970
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park,
Appomattox County, Va.

Section number 7 Page 2

Materials

other METAL/cast iron (War Department Tablets)
EARTH (roads)
Architecture and Landscape

If the modest village of Appomattox Court House is considered a museum, its architectural significance lies in the breadth and depth of its collection of late eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, structures, and sites. The collection had breadth because it includes a wide range of public and private structures, depth because these buildings are supplemented by a large number of ancillary structures that typically punctuated the rural Virginia landscape of that era. And there is a framework to this assemblage: historic roads, fences, hedgerows, and fields demonstrate a pattern of ownership, occupation, and use, thereby creating a framework cultural landscape in which the historical events of 1865 may be interpreted.

The residential buildings at Appomattox Court House represent a wide range of styles, from settlement cabins to the homes of prosperous judges and court officials. The J. N. Williams and Sweeney-Connor Cabins are typical of "hall" type, one room and loft above, log cabins that were indigenous to the rural Virginia landscape in the nineteenth century. Many are still extant, but in a state of disrepair or sheathed in modern materials that conceal their humble origins. A step up the economic ladder within settlement era structures is typified by the "hall" house of Charles Sweeney. Only slightly larger than the nearby log cabins, Sweeney built his cabin of more "finished" materials, a post and beam frame sheathed in beaded weatherboard. Although still one room and a loft, the simple structure made attempts at elegance by including a sophisticated cornice molding, carefully detailed door panels, and the evident intent that the interior would one day be plastered.

The Kelly House, not unlike Sweeney in size, scale, materials, and simplicity, includes an element of vernacular pretension in the front elevation "Georgian" porch, but the facade is weakened by the incorporation of only a single additional bay, thereby denying symmetry. The zenith of residential construction in Appomattox Court House is seen in the Bocock-Isbell House. Built for two brothers, the residence was later owned by a country judge and must therefore have been considered a prestigious structure. The exterior incorporates Greek Revival allusions in the templeform porches, but as in most vernacular structures, adds elements of
Roman Classicism (the raised podium), and the Southern Colonial type (the exterior closet addition). The interiors, although simple, convey quiet prosperity in the use of an extensive range of millwork profiles and combinations.

The public buildings at Appomattox Court House reflect the modest prosperity of the Bocock-Isbell House. The Clover Hill Tavern and the McLean House are public parallels to the private residence. They are larger in scale and plan; their porches and entryways are defined in a broader way; and the number of dependency structures reflects the demands of greater use. But the modest structural and architectural details of the interiors indicate the accommodation to the needs and tastes of middle class travelers. Elaboration of treatment was limited to the application of grained, stencilled, and painted surfaces, a visual degree of elegance. The Courthouse itself typifies this solid, businesslike approach to construction. Raised high on its classical podium, and the court rooms approached by costly stone steps flanked by iron rails and balusters, the balance of the structure betrays the simplicity of local brick construction. As with the fenestration and iron bars on the new Jail, a few exterior details define the public purpose of the building.

The residences at Appomattox Court House are typically sited in relation to the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, to its secondary circulation, or to the Courthouse "square." The public and commercial buildings cluster tightly against the public focus, the Courthouse, and to an extent, the greater the distance from this center, the lesser the degree of structural pretension. This gradation in scale and detail is evident also in ancillary structures and elaborate picket and paling fences yielding to horizontal boards and eventually to snake (worm) enclosures.

Many "historic" villages retain their major buildings, but few still exhibit the clutter of the outbuildings extant at Appomattox Court House. Wellhouses, quarters, kitchens, stables, privies, guesthouses, and smokehouses add a richness of density and detail to the domestic and public landscape. These buildings also show the transition from modest and unnecessary ornamentation (trellises, bargeboards, and brackets), to utilitarian simplicity as a visitor moves away from the center of the village.
Individually, the buildings at Appomattox Court House are fine examples of their type; collectively, the landscape of which they are a part provides a strong statement of economic and political power within a small, rural, southern community.

Contributing Resources

The following resources, either original or reconstructed, contribute to the Park's National Register qualities. Most are entered on the National Park Service's List of Classified Structures (LCS). Those which are currently entered on the LCS have the LCS Identification Number, followed by the LCS Park Structure Number, in parentheses beside the structure name. The Structure Numbers have been added to the accompanying site maps (Park Folder [1981], which depicts the village and shows the entire Park in an insert; Village Plan [1976]; and General Development Plan Existing Conditions [1986], which shows the entire Park).

I. Buildings [see Park Folder/Sketch Map "A," and Sketch Maps "B," "C," and "E"]

A. Clover Hill Tavern (00049 04)

The tavern was built by Alexander Patterson in 1819 for travelers on the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, and was restored in 1954. Constructed of local brick laid in flemish bond, the 39' x 23' 2-story building has a full attic and no cellar. The south (front) elevation has 4 bays on each principal floor, and is bisected by a full-length porch. The porch is supported on brick foundation piers, and has a random board floor and ceiling, wood shingle roof, ends enclosed with random horizontal boards, a simple box cornice, and 5 9 1/2 x 9 1/2 box columns. The second floor has 4 6/9 sash with 10" x 12" lights; the first floor has 2 9/9 sash (10" x 12" lights) on the west of the entry door, and a single sash on the east. The entry door has 5 recessed panels, square edged, and a soffit of 1/4" flutes and beaded edges. The door is surmounted by a 6-pane fanlight. All windows have 2-panel, non-operable, louvered windows.

The east and west (gable) elevations have external, centered, brick chimneys with single steps at the attic level, and
four-course, corbelled drips. The chimneys are flanked by 9-light inward-opening casements. The west elevation has an entry door on the first floor, north of the chimney; the door frame and fanlights match that on the front elevation. The east elevation has no openings. The rear (north) elevation is identical to the front, but reversed.

The wood shingle roof is supported by a corbelled brick cornice on the main elevations and by denticulated rakes on the gables.

The first floor is partitioned into 2 rooms. That to the west is the smaller, but has a 39"-high brick fireplace with a 84"-wide and 60"-high wood surround featuring a fluted mantel and dentils. The first floor trim is 6 1/2" baseboards with 3/8" quirks and 5' 4"-wide door and window trim with a 1/4" inner quirk bead, step with 3/8" molding, and 1/2"-wide edge moldings with raised beads. The doors are 5-panel, 1 1/4" thick, with beaded flush panels with no molding on the reverse. The trim on the fanlight arches of all 3 exterior doors features transverse fluting on the soffits, and 7 simple, chisel-cut, 8-pointed starts. The stairs are unusual as they are centered on the partition dividing the floor and are approached from both rooms. The stair is enclosed with random vertical boards within the western room, and access is through a 5-panel door. Within the eastern room, the stair is open and flanked by turned balusters, a handrail with fluted edge, and a turned newel with flared cap. The treads have fretted stair brackets and cove moldings below their nosing.

Of particular note is the original stencilling and painting exposed on the plaster and in the western room stair enclosure, and the evidence of original graining on all interior trim. The building houses a representative exhibit of the printing of thousands of parole passes for the surrendered Confederate soldiers. Recent research has suggested that in fact the paroles may have been printed in the wooden dining room wing at the Tavern's west end, which no longer exists.
B. Tavern Kitchen and Guest House (00052 04A)

The 2-story tavern kitchen was built in 1819 and was restored in 1953. Located northeast of the Tavern, the local brick is laid in common bond with the mud/lime mortar joints highlighted by white pencilling. The 32' x 18' dependency has a full attic but no cellar. The south (front) elevation has 4 bays on the second floor and 3 on the first. The second floor has 2 central doors, board and batten with exterior face beads, flanked by 6/6, double-hung windows with 10" x 12" lights. The first floor has a 6/9 sash on the west end and 2 central doors below those above. An eastern window was eliminated because it would have been bisected by the extant flight of 13 steps that provide access to the open second floor porch. The porch is supported by 3 8"-square box columns, and has random (3 1/4"-6") tongue & groove flooring and a ceiling of random beaded boards. All windows have 2-panel, non-operating, louvered shutters. The side elevations have no fenestration or door openings and are relieved only by the projection of the centered, internal chimneys. Both chimneys have 4-course corbelled drips.

The wood, clipped-corner, shingle roof is supported by simple beaded rake boards on the gables and by a box cornice with applied molding at the eaves. The first and second floors are divided into 2 rooms each. The longer of the first floor rooms has a large (5' 6 1/2"-wide x 58"-high) fireplace with an original iron crane; it has no trim or mantel; the smaller room has an untrimmed fireplace 48" x 39". The interior baseboards are 5 1/2" high with a quirk bead, as are the sill aprons. The doors and windows are plain. There is no interior stair. Tradition holds that the second floor rooms were used as extra housing for tavern guests; the first floor provided food. The building houses the sales outlet for the Eastern National Park and Monument Association.

C. Clover Hill Tavern Guest House (00053 04B)

The 1819 Tavern Guest House is a 3-story brick structure with a finished attic and no cellar. It would be a simple and common vernacular building were it not for the fact that its
use by guests of the Tavern dictated that the upper floors were reached by separate exterior stairs. The unusual character of the building is thus defined by the complexity of stairs, porches, roof overhangs, and support posts. The brick masonry is laid in common bond; pencilled joints highlight all but the east and a portion of the south elevations, which are whitewashed. The masonry core of the structure measures 20' wide (north and south elevations) and 22' on the east and west.

The north elevation includes the external chimney with 2 steps and a corbelled brick drip. Because of the chimney, the brick masonry extends upward as a full masonry gable. The south elevation gable is wood above the third floor joists; the masonry also stops at the third floor joist level on the east and west elevations. There is a 5' roof overhang on the east and west elevations and a 4'6" overhang on the south. The overhang protects the porches, steps, and entry doors below, and provides additional floor area in the third floor room.

The front (east) elevation lower level has 2 doors with 5 flush-beaded, recessed panels. The reveals have 2 flush-beaded panels, as do the single-panel soffits. The first floor has a similar, but larger entry door and a 6/6 sash. The dominant feature on the elevation is, however, the porch. Six octagonal posts, formed from chamfered square ones, support the second floor deck and first floor ceiling, composed of random boards. Thirteen open treads form the stairs to the second floor deck and are centered on the roof, not on the masonry portion of the building. The simple beaded handrails continue onto the porches. The second floor porch has 4 posts, the center 2 being eliminated as the cantilevered third floor joists support the roof overhang.

The south elevation has 3 windows: 2 6/6 sash on the first floor, and a single 6/6 sash above. An eastern window is eliminated because of the stairs that extend from the east elevation second floor porch to the balcony formed by the extended overhang of the third floor gable. On the east and west ends of the gable, the areas beyond the lower masonry are sheathed with random horizontal beads as is that portion.
of the gable above the ceiling of the balcony. The interior wall of the balcony rests on the masonry and has a centered door similar to those on the lower floors. The west side of the elevation has 2 2-story octagonal columns; one supports the outer corner of the roof; the other is aligned with the southern extension of the west wall masonry and falls directly below the edge of the balcony above.

The west elevation has 2 bays. There are 2 6/6 sash on the second floor above a single 6/6 sash on the western side of the first floor, and a board and batten door on the east. A 2-story octagonal post supports the overhanging corner of the roof on the north and on the south. On the north elevation, 2 4-light casements flank the chimney on the third floor. A single 6/6 double-hung sash window east of the chimney on the second floor is the only other fenestration.

The interior has been extensively adapted since construction and the restoration/rehabilitation of 1959. The fabric is of questionable integrity.

D. Mariah Wright House (00041 20)

The Mariah Wright House was built by Pryor Wright in 1823 and inherited by his wife, Mariah, on his death in 1851. On the morning of April 9, 1865, Brigadier General Joshua Chamberlain's Union infantry was advancing on the Confederates through the village, and his right flank had reached the Wright House when a flag of truce came out from the Confederate lines. The exterior was restored in 1965, at which time a concrete cellar was added. The interior was unfinished, and the building is not open to the public.

The building is 40'6" (north/south) by 18', exclusive of the porches, on the east and west elevations. The post and beam structure sits on a raised foundation of rubble-stone with a raised grapevine pointing. The siding is of beaded pine weatherboards. Centered external gable chimneys are fieldstone to the second floor level, stepped back in stone, and continuing upward as free-standing brick stacks with corbelled drips accented with a whitewashed course just below
the drip.

The west elevation has a full-length porch supported by 6 square posts bearing on stone piers separated by diagonal lattice trellises. The shallow pitch shed porch roof and gable roof are covered with wood shingles. Plain square balusters and railing surround the porch, which is approached by 4 centered steps. Within the porch, 3 6/6 sash are separated by 2 entry doors; the doors have 6 panels with raised centers with edge moldings cut out in a concave, quarter-round shape.

The east elevation has a central porch (16'6" wide x 7'6" deep), supported on stone piers joined by a diagonal lattice trellis. Five posts support the wood-shingled shed roof enclosed with random boards on the ends. Five steps with closed risers approach the porch. Within the porch are 2 entry doors constructed as those on the west elevation. Centered on the spaces external to and flanking the porch are single, 6/6 double-hung sash.

The south elevation has 2 4-light casements flanking the chimney on the second floor, and a narrow, 4/4 double-hung sash adjacent to the west edge of the chimney below. An entry door approached by 6 open treads is tight against the chimney to the east. The door is of the same construction as the others.

The north elevation replicates the south, but has a second 4/4 double-hung sash instead of the first floor door.

E. Bocock-Isbell House (07787 13)

This house was built by brothers Thomas S. and Henry F. Bocock in 1849-50. Thomas was Speaker of the Confederate House of Representatives, and Henry was Clerk of the Court for Appomattox County from 1845 to 1860. (A third brother, Willis, was Virginia Attorney General in 1853.) Lewis Isbell, the Commonwealth Attorney for Appomattox County during the Civil War, lived in the house at the time of the surrender. The building was restored in 1949. It now serves as Park
Headquarters; previously it was used for quarters.

The 2-story post and beam house includes a raised basement of local brick laid in common bond. It measures 19' (north/south) by 50', exclusive of the porches, and has 2 brick external chimneys with single steps and corbelled drips. The frame is sheathed with weatherboards having 4 3/4" - 5 1/8" exposures.

The north (front) elevation has 3 bays on the first and second floors and 2 on the raised basement. The 2 6/6 double-hung sash on the first floors are separated by the 14'-wide x 10'6" entry porch, raised on brick piers and approached by 9 steps. The stair and porch railing is made of 1 1/8" x 7/8" balusters, solid 4" x 4" newels with ball stops, and a built-up rail. The 4 paired porch columns and 2 half pilasters are 10 1/2"-square box posts. The porch floor is part t & g, part random butted boards; the ceiling, random boards with quirk beads. The flat-seam tin roof supports a balustrade reflective of the columns and balusters below. A box cornice and fascia have simple moldings. Within the porch, the centered entry door has 4 panels with raised centers and ovolo moldings. Surmounting the door is a 15-light transom divided into a border of square and narrow, rectangular panes and larger inner panes.

The second floor has windows directly over those on the first floor, but these have 6/6 sash. The center bay, centered on the porch, has a door providing access to the porch deck. The door is half-glass, a pair of 6 lights divided by a heavy muntin. The door is surmounted by a narrow single-light, rectangular transom. The single cellar windows flanking the porch are almost entirely above grade and both are 6/6 double-hung, with 12" x 14" lights.

A simple box cornice with a crown molding supports the overhang of the wood shingle roof at the eaves; a rakeboard with crown on the gables. The west elevation is without fenestration, and the east has a single, double-hung sash north of the chimney. The east elevation also has a "closet extension" projecting outward 2'2", flush with the rear elevation and north to the chimney. Probably not original -
- the original cornerboard is still in place -- the 2-story addition allows for closets within the southeast rooms. The addition has a simple, wood-shingled shed roof.

The south (rear) elevation is similar to the north elevation. The second floor has 3 6/6 sash; the door on the front elevation replaced here with a window. The first floor has 2 6/6 sash flanking the central porch that here is 20' wide and 10'6" deep with a low pitch wood-shingled shed roof. The entry door within the porch is constructed in the same manner as the one on the front elevation second floor. The 4 porch posts and 2 pilasters are 9 1/4" x 9" box columns; the 2 central posts offset to the east and flanking the flight of 7 closed-riser steps.

The raised basement has 2 6/6 sash flanking the porch and an areaway beneath the porch incorporating an entry to the cellar.

F. Bocock-Isbell Smokehouse (07788 13A)

Built ca. 1849-50, and restored in 1949, this 12' x 12' post and beam structure is raised on brick piers, sheathed in weatherboards with a 6 1/2" exposure, and has a wood shingle roof with a plain box cornice on the eaves and plain rakes. The door on the north elevation is made of random-width butted boards with interior battens.

G. Bocock-Isbell Outside Kitchen (07789 13B)

Built ca. 1849-50, and restored in 1959, this 16' x 18' post and beam dependency has weatherboards with 6 1/2" exposure, a single 4/4 double-hung sash, and a 4-light entry door on the north elevation. It has a single 4/4 sash on the south. A single step brick chimney with corbelled drip is centered on the east gable. The wood shingle roof is supported by a plain box cornice with shaped end boards at the eaves and rakes with quirk beads on the gables. The interior has no integrity.
H. Plunkett-Meeks Store (00051 09)

This 36' x 20' structure was built in 1852 by John H. Plunkett and was purchased in the early 1860s by Francis Meeks, who served as the local postmaster and druggist. It was later the home of a Presbyterian minister who presented it to his church for use as a manse. While a store, the building was one of the social centers of village life. It was restored in 1959. The first floor interior is a single room furnished and interpreted as a general store and post office; it appears to originally have been 2 rooms. Fitted with period shelving and counters, the store's depleted stock of goods is intended to show the effects of the war upon the rural village. The second floor has no integrity.

The store is a 2-story post and beam structure with a full attic and a full cellar. It is sheathed in weatherboards with a 6" exposure, and the cellar foundation of deeply pointed rubble fieldstone is exposed for approximately 32" above grade.

The east (front) elevation is dominated by the 8' x 18' first floor templeform entry porch. Reached by 4 steps, the porch is supported on 4 brick piers and has 4 equally spaced 7 1/2" x 7 1/2" box column posts. Simple 1 1/2" square balusters under the shaped handrail connect the columns. The porch gable is faced with clapboards; the fascia on the eaves and gable is capped with a crown mold. Within the porch the entry is a pair of 4-panel doors flanked by single 9/9 double-hung sash with 10" x 12" lights. The second floor has 6/9 sash over those on the first floor. The attic gable has no windows.

The second floor of the south elevation has 2 6/9 sash; the first floor has 2 6/9 sash east of the 8-panel single door matching that on the front. It is reached by a flight of 5 open-riser steps leading to a small stoop.

The west rear elevation has a 6/9 sash on the second floor directly above a 9/9 double-hung window. The cellar bulkhead, covered with a pair of board and batten doors,
The north elevation is complex for it incorporates a centered 16' x 5' enclosed porch on the second floor approached on the east by a flight of 15 open-riser steps. Windows, 6/9, flank the porch and 2 4-light casements penetrate the north porch siding. The first floor has single 9/9 double-hung sash at the west end.

The roof of the building is covered in round-butt wood shingles supported by returned box cornices with cove moldings on the eaves, and rakes with coves on the gable. The internal brick chimney is centered on the structure and has a 5-course corbelled drip. The first floor sash has 3-panel solid shutters; the second floor windows lack shutters.

I. Plunkett-Meeks Store Storage Building (07784 09B)

Constructed ca. 1850 by John Plunkett, this 1-story structure was relocated slightly on the property and restored in 1959. The 14' x 16' post and beam building is elevated on deeply-pointed, rough cut sandstone piers, and is sheathed in weatherboards having approximately 5 1/2" exposure. The clipped-corner wood shingle roof has slightly tapered rakeboards at the gables.

The west (rear) elevation has a 4-panel door approached by 3 open-riser wood steps and a 6/6 double-hung sash to the south. The south elevation has a 4-panel door; the east elevation has another 6/6 double-hung sash. The north elevation has no openings.

J. Plunkett-Meeks Store Stable (17260 09F)

Constructed ca. 1850 and restored in 1949, this barn is 21' wide and 20' 6" long, with sheds on both the east and west elevations. The main body of the structure is covered with weatherboards, 6" to the weather, the sheds with butted vertical boards. The roof is of wood shingles with square butts. Board and batten doors in both gables provide access...
K. New County Jail (00036 08)

The New County Jail is directly across Main Street from the site of the first County Jail. Begun about 1860 but not completed until after the Civil War in 1870, the New County Jail is a 20' x 40', 3-story brick structure. The exterior walls are of local brick laid in common bond with half-brick vent holes into the crawl space below the first floor level. The sills and lintels on the outer east and west elevation windows on the second and third floors (the cell windows), are of cut local sandstone; the central windows on these floors and those on the first floor have wooden sills and lintels. The internal end chimneys are centered on the ridge and have a 2-course and corbelled drip. The standing seam tin roof is supported by a corbelled brick cornice on the eaves and plain wooden rakes, broken by chimneys, on the gables.

The north (front) elevation has 3 bays on each floor. The first floor has 2 6/6 double-hung windows (10" x 12" lights), flanking the central 4-panel with raised center door that is surmounted with a simple 4-light transom. The second and third floors have centered 6/6 (8' x 10") double-hung windows faced by a triple set of vertical and/or horizontal iron bars set into frames tied to the sandstone lintels and sills. The south elevation is identical except that there are no second or third floor windows and no transom above the first floor entry door. The gable ends have no fenestration.

The interior reflects the exterior, 2 rooms flanking the central hall on each floor. The sheriff's office and quarters were on the first floor, and the cells were on the top floors. The windows on the central bay of the north elevation light the stairway within the central hall. The first floor central hall is floored in brick, the adjacent office and quarters with blind-nailed random boards. The second and third floors are covered with random boards 4"-5 3/4", face nailed with wrought nails. The walls and ceilings of the first floor are plastered on the brick; those on the
top floors against iron bars 8" o. c. (1 1/2" x 1/2"), bolted to the exterior masonry. The first floor rooms retain simple fireplaces without trim; the cells have no provision for heat.

From 1870 until the county seat was moved in 1892, the building served its original function. From that time until 1940, the building was used as the polling station for the Clover Hill magisterial district. The structure was restored in 1959.

L. Woodson Law Office (07786 09A)

This 12'6" x 14'6" 1-story frame building without attic or cellar was built as early as 1851. In 1856 it was purchased by John W. Woodson, one of several lawyers who practiced in the village. It served him until he died of typhoid on July 1, 1864. Built on brick piers, the post and beam building is sheathed in weatherboard with a 6" exposure. The east gable (front) elevation, has an 8-panel door with a simple ogee molding on the panels and a simple 4"-wide surround. The north and south elevations have single 6/6 double-hung sash with 10" x 12" lights and single full-width shutters with exterior faces of beaded boards laid diagonally. The west elevation has an external common bond brick chimney with a single step and a 5-course corbelled drip. The standing seam tin roof is supported by a rake with bead and canted molding on the gables, and by a box cornice with bead and crown molding that returns at the eaves. The building, which was restored in 1959, is plainly furnished and is typical of the country lawyers' offices found in Virginia county seats of the period.

M. Peers House (07790 16)

This frame house was built by 1855, when it was sold by a Mr. McDearmon to William Abbitt, who sold it to D. A. Plunkett in 1856. George Peers, clerk of the court for Appomattox County for 40 years, lived there at the time of the Surrender. He bought the house at public auction after
Plunkett's death in 1870.

The 34' x 18' house has striking similarities to the nearby Bocock-Isbell House, being post and beam, constructed on a brick "raised" basement 68" above grade, finished with a narrow wood siding (4 3/4" exposure), and having single-step, external end chimneys with 3-course corbelled drips.

The west (front) elevation has a templeform entry porch raised to the first floor level by brick piers and reached by closed-riser wood steps. The balusters (1 3/8" x 1"), square newels, and plain hand rail connect the 6" box posts. The square-butt wood shingles over the simple pedimented gable are echoed on the main roof; that is supported by a box cornice with crown molding at the eaves and a rake with quirk molding at the gables. The second floor has 2 exterior 8/8 sash with 10" x 12" lights; the first floor has 2 8/12 windows. The porch covers the 4-panelled centered entry door.

The south elevation has a single 6/9 sash on the first floor west of the chimney and a cellar bulkhead to the east. The north elevation has no fenestration. The east elevation has a 9'6" x 16' porch offset to within 6' of the southeast corner. The porch is supported by brick piers connected with a diagonal lattice trellis, and has 4 7" box post columns beneath the wood shingled shed roof. A single 6/9 window is located north of the porch on the first floor, 2 6/6 sash on the second, and a single 6/6 window on the north end of the raised basement.

Restored in 1954, the Peers House interior has been adapted for staff housing, but much of the original trim remains.

N. Kelly House (00396 17)

This 21'6" by 17'6" post and beam house was constructed for Lorenzo D. Kelly, a wheelwright, probably between 1845 and 1860. The exterior was restored in 1963. The one-story house has a full, raised cellar and attic, and the exterior is sheathed in unpainted weatherboards with 5"-5 1/2"
exposure. The roof is covered with round-butt wood shingles and is supported by a box cornice with crown molding at the eaves and a rake with a simple ogee on the gables. The west elevation external chimney is centered on the ridge and is constructed of rough-dressed sandstone extending upward to include the second floor fireplace; above that level, a free-standing common-bond, brick stack continues and terminates in a 3-course corbelled drip. Adjacent to, and south of, the chimney, is a shed-roof enclosed entry to the cellar, and flanking the chimney on the second floor are 2 square 4-light casements. The east elevation has a 6/6, double-hung sash in the loft, a similar 6/9 window on the principal floor, and a pair of 4-light upward-swinging casements in the cellar. The south (rear) elevation has a centered 4-panel door providing access to the first floor, and another pair of cellar casements, these being 3-light. The north (front) entrance has a simple porch with facing pediment covered in clapboards, 2 6"-square posts, and 2 6' x 3" pilasters, simple 1' 1/8" by 3/4" balusters, a heavy rounded rail on the side only, and 4 open riser steps. Flanking the porch to the west is a 6/9 window. All windows are shutterless. The interior has not been restored and retains little integrity.

After the war, John Robinson, a Black shoemaker, and his wife lived here. They are buried in a small graveyard behind the house.

O. Sweeney Prizery (00045 28)

This 36' by 16'6" structure is of one story with a loft, and a full, partially above-grade cellar. It has been assigned a construction date during the 1790s as a residence and a prizery (a tobacco packing house), for Alexander Sweeney. It was owned by Major Joel W. Flood in 1865. The structure has been stabilized and "mothballed" since 1975.

The prizery is built into a bank. The grade on the front (northwest) elevation is but slightly below the level of the first floor; the rear (southwest) elevation exposes the full height of the rough-hewn sandstone cellar walls. Stone external one-step chimneys without drips are centered on both
gable ends. The cellar prizery has no exterior openings except the 3 located on the southeast elevation: 2 doors and a paired upward-opening casement. The door jambs and doors are absent although rough sills and lintels remain. The window frame is extant; the sash are missing. The front elevation of the first floor (northwest) is penetrated by only 2 door openings: that to the west retains its original random board and batten door; the eastern has been replaced with a door constructed of late 19th century "fence boards." The west elevation retains only the form of a probable 4-light casement on the first floor south of the chimney. The rear elevation originally had 2 windows; only the frames remain of what appear to have been 6/6 double-hung sash. The east elevation has no first floor fenestration. The interior studs indicate that each gable originally had a small casement window.

The interior is divided into 2 rooms on each level by a narrow stair and horizontal plank partition. The ceilings are unplastered and the supports heavily whitewashed. The exterior weatherboards are covered on the interior by board sheathing: horizontal butted boards in the western first floor room; vertical boards with battens, possibly not original, in the eastern.

P. Charles Sweeney Cabin (80,016 # to be assigned)

Believed to have been constructed ca. 1840 for Charles Sweeney, the cabin was purchased in 1980 and was restored in 1987-88. The 20'3" by 18'2" post and beam hall house on rough fieldstone piers is covered with non-tapered, beaded weatherboards with exposures of 4 1/2"-5 1/2". The roof of oak shakes, square-butted, is supported at the eaves by a box cornice with the ends covered with scribed end boards. The gable ends have tapered rake boards.

The west elevation is broken by the rough, crudely quoined, fieldstone chimney that extends upward to the top of the second floor fireplace; above this, a brick stack corbels inward and away from the weatherboard gable end until the chimney terminates in a 4-course corbelled drip. The second
floor section of the chimney is flanked by small 4-light, inward-opening casements. The south (front) elevation has 3 bays, and a central 4-panelled entry door flanked by 6/6 double-hung sash. The east elevation has a single centered 4-panel door on the first floor, below a 6-light (8' x 12") casement. The north elevation has a single 6/6 double-hung sash offset slightly to the east of center.

The interior of the cabin is of interest because it retains a high degree of integrity. One room and a loft above, the structural frame is whitewashed and exposed to view. Hewn oak, L-form corner posts, knee braces, and principal studs alternate with secondary members of pine. The window and door casings and trim indicate the cabin was intended to be, but never was, plastered. The open "dog-leg" stairway in the northwest corner has many of its original balusters, trim on the stringers, and square newel and rail formed from a planed oak branch. The small closet under the stairs has its original 4-panel door with concave, quarter-circle, corners on the raised panels -- an elegant detail that is also found on the doors of the Mariah Wright House.

Q. Sweeney-Connor Cabin (80,052 # to be assigned)

This simple "hall" type cabin measures 16'3" by 18'3" and is supported by a deeply-pointed fieldstone foundation. It is believed to have been built for Jennings W. Connor and his bride Missouri Sweeney between 1860 and 1865. The exterior was restored in 1986-87, and the building is retained as a landscape element typical of early settlement. The interior retains little integrity to the period of construction. The cabin is constructed of 6" x 9" logs, V-notched at the corners, and originally shimmed and sheathed with 1/2"-thick, non-tapered, sawn and random weatherboards with exposures of 5 1/4"-6 1/2".

The split-shake roof is supported by a plain box cornice at the eaves and a tapered rakeboard on the gables. The cabin's east elevation has a centered fieldstone chimney that after stepping inward at a level just above the second floor fireplace, continues upward in stone to terminate in
fieldstone drip. Flanking the chimney in the gable are 2 small 4-light casement sash. The east (front) elevation has a single opening, a board and batten door. The only opening on the west elevation is the small gable casement. The west (rear) elevation retains a central window frame suitable for a 6/6 sash; the original sash is not extant.

R. J. N. Williams Cabin (80,--- # to be assigned)

The construction date of the 16' by 18'1" Williams Cabin is not known, but contemporary documents indicate that it had been built by 1865. It is similar to the Connor-Sweeney Cabin in that it is constructed of logs (6" by 8"), V-notched at the corners, and supported on a fieldstone foundation. Unlike the other cabin, this was never sheathed in clapboards except for the gable ends above the level of the eaves. The external chimney, rough fieldstone below the top of the loft fireplace, steps inward and is replaced by common bond brick corbelling inward at the top. The west (front) elevation has a simple board and batten entry to the south of a 6/6 double-hung sash. The chimney is flanked to the east by a similar 6/6 window on the first floor, and the west by a 6-light casement. The east elevation has another entry door, and the north elevation only a 6-light casement in the loft. The original wood shingles on pole rafters are now covered with tin roofing supported at the eaves by a simple box cornice, and at the gables by tapered rake boards.

S. Courthouse (00038 01)

The original Courthouse was constructed in 1846, one year after Appomattox County was established. The Courthouse played no role in the Surrender, for it was closed that day, Palm Sunday. In 1892 the building burned, and the citizens voted to move the county seat to nearby Appomattox Station, now Appomattox. The existing building and square were reconstructed in 1963-64 as the Park Visitor Center and the focus of the village.

The 2-story, hip-roofed, running-bond brick Courthouse
measures 50' on its main east/west elevations, and 40' on each side. The second floor, the principal level, has raised entry porches on the main elevations. The centered porches have 2 slightly tapered doric columns and 2 half-column pilasters supporting the pedimented roof. The porches are approached by flights of 16 cast-stone treads on high brick foundation walls. The stair rails, newels, and balusters are cast iron. The doors within the porches are paired, 4-panelled, and the porches are flanked by 12/12 double-hung sash with 2-panel, non-operable, louvered shutters. The principal elevation first floors also have 3 bays, and a central, smaller paired, 4-panel door between 8/8 double-hung sash with 2-panelled, non-operable, louvered shutters. All of the windows have wooden lintels with protruding rosettes and limestone sills.

The side (north and south) elevations are identical. Each has 2 internal chimneys projecting above the roof on the plane of the exterior wall; all have 3-course, corbelled drips. The first floors has 2 8/8 double-hung sash outward from the chimneys; the second floor has 3 windows, adding a central 8/8. The flat-seamed tin roof is supported by an elaborate 2-level cornice, each level with a crown mold, and dentils at the head of the fascia. The interior of the building is adaptively used and has modern finishes.

T. Courthouse Well House (07780 01A)

This 10' by 8'6" wood structure was reconstructed over the original well in 1963-64. A brick foundation wall supports 8 square posts that carry the round-butt, wood shingle, ridge roof with gable ends finished in random weatherboards. The posts are joined at all but the 2 entry points by 2 1/4" by 3/8" diagonally applied trellis. The wood enclosed well housing sits upon a butted plank (9 1/4" x 1 1/2") floor.

U. McLean House (00050 02)

The building was built by Charles Raine as a tavern in 1848, and was purchased by Wilmer McLean in 1863. It was the site
of Lee's surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865. In 1892 the building was dismantled in an abortive attempt to exhibit it at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago; its structural members were to be re-assembled in Washington, D.C., to house a Civil War museum. It was reconstructed on its original site in 1948, and was dedicated on April 16, 1950, with Robert E. Lee IV and General Ulysses S. Grant III as guests of honor.

The house is 50' wide and 22' deep (exclusive of the porches), and has 3 stories and a full attic. Constructed of brick, the principal north (front) elevation floors are of flemish bond; the lower front level, sides, and rear are of common bond. The roof is covered with square-butt wood shingles, supported by a box cornice with crown molding and returns at the eaves, and by a molded rake on the gables. Internal chimneys are centered on each gable and have 4-course, corbelled drips. The north (front) elevation is dominated by the full length, 2-story porch supported by brick columns that extend from the full cellar area way to support the 6 12"-square box columns on the first floor. The columns are joined by a plain rail supporting 1 1/4" x 7/8" balusters. The rail continues down the 15'-wide porch staircase composed of 8 steps. The porch is surmounted by a second floor balustrade of an open, horizontal, diamond lattice design. The 3 bay openings of the front elevation are stacked; the first and cellar levels with central doors (the cellar door has 4 panels; the first floor door is a pair of 2-panel doors surmounted by a 15-light transom) flanked by windows (12/12 on the first floor; 3 8/8 below). The second floor has 3 8/8 sash. The rear (south) elevation replicates the front except that the porch is a simpler pedimented one supported on the first floor by 4 box post columns (10" x 11"), and 2 half-column pilasters bearing brick piers at the cellar level. The side elevations have no fenestration.

The interior is devoted to interpretation and is largely conjectural, except for the "Surrender Room," which is a reconstruction based on a contemporary oil painting. The house is furnished with items typical of those owned by McLean, but none are believed to be original. Many of the
parlor furnishings are copies of the originals.

V. McLean Well House (07781 02A)

A 10' by 9' well house supported on a brick foundation over and around the original McLean well. Eight square posts support the wood shingle ridge roof and butted broad cupola. The sides and rear of the structure are screened by a wood lattice trellis applied diagonally toward the center posts to create a "V" pattern. The well house was originally constructed in 1848, and was reconstructed in 1950.

W. McLean Ice House (00242 02B)

Originally constructed in 1848, this structure was reconstructed in 1965 within and upon the original pit. It is comprised of 2 elements: a pit, approximately 5' deep, lined with logs and floored with sand; and the roof and gable superstructure. The latter consists of 2 courses of logs supported by fieldstones and extends 20" above grade. The logs form a foundation 16' wide by 18' long sheathed in random (10"-12") weatherboards, and penetrated by the short door opening; the south gable has no openings. The roof, covered in wood shingles, extends downward almost to grade, and projects out over the gable ends. On the north elevation, the roof edge has a purely decorative bargeboard formed of 2 rows of "saw tooth" planks; no barge is used on the south elevation gable.

X. McLean Privy (07782 02F)

Originally constructed in 1848, and reconstructed on site in 1968, this simple 4'2" by 4'2" "one-holer" is built of butted vertical board, on grade. It has a board and batten door, and a square-butt, wood shingle roof.

Y. McLean Outside Kitchen (00043 02C)
Originally constructed in 1848, and reconstructed in 1965. It is composed of the main 1-story, exposed "V"-notched log building (20' by 16'), and the rear (south) elevation, 1-story frame addition (20' by 16'), constructed on a foundation of 6 courses of stretcher-bond brick laid upon a rough fieldstone foundation.

The north elevation has a full-length shed roof porch supported by 4 5" x 5" solid posts. The porch shelters the centered board and batten door, and 6/6 double-hung window to the west. On the west elevation, a board and batten door adjacent to the porch flanks the common-bond chimney with 1 inward step and a 4-course corbelled drip. Above eave level, the logs are replaced by weatherboards on frame that incorporates 4-light casements on either side of the chimney. The rear shed has a similar, but smaller brick chimney and a board and batten door to the north. The east elevation is broken by 3 windows: a 4-light casement in the log kitchen gable, a 6/6 sash below, and a 6/6 double-hung sash centered on the rear shed. The south elevation of the shed, raised high on its stretcher-bond foundation, has a single centered 6/6 window.

The interior, interpreted as a first floor kitchen and second floor residence, is entirely conjectural.

Z. McLean Slave Quarters (00044 02D)

Originally constructed in 1848, and reconstructed in 1965. This 1-story, double crib log quarters is constructed of 8 1/2"-9 1/2" logs with "V"-notched corners and an interior transverse log partition, all supported on brick piers. The roof is covered with clipped-corner wood shingles and is penetrated by the brick chimney with corbelled drip centered on the cabin and the ridge. The south (front) elevation has 2 board and batten doors; the north elevation, 2 6/6 double-hung sash. The clapboard east gable and log wall below has no fenestration; the west elevation has only a 4-light casement in the gable.
AA. Clover Hill Tavern Slave Quarters (07783 04F)

Originally constructed in 1819, and reconstructed in 1953-54 as public toilets and utility rooms. The 1-story 15' by 28' building is sheathed in random boards and battens, and is roofed with square-butt wood shingles broken by a central internal brick chimney with 2-course drip. The south (front) elevation has 4 bays, with 2 external board and batten doors flanking 2 4/4 (8" x 9 3/4" lights) double-hung windows, each with single, full-width board and batten shutters. The east and west elevations are identical, having louvered gable "windows" above 4/4 double-hung, shuttered sash. The north elevation has a board and batten door slightly to the east of center with a typical 4/4 sash and shutters to the west. The roof is finished with plain box cornices and rakeboards.

BB. Clover Hill Tavern Privy (80, --- # to be assigned)

Originally built in 1819, and reconstructed in 1968, this 2-compartment "necessary" is built of vertical butted boards, a square-butt wood shingle roof, and has 2 board and batten doors. As the privy is windowless, ventilation is through the space between the rafters on the eaves, and no cornice is present.

CC. Plunkett-Meeks Store Privy (07785 09G)

Reconstructed in 1968, this 4' by 4' "one-holer" is built on-grade from vertical butted boards, and is covered with square-butt wood shingles. The board and batten door is on the south elevation.

DD. Bocock-Isbell House Stable (00037 13C)

Originally constructed in 1849, and reconstructed in 1964. This 24' by 21' wood frame structure is sheathed with weatherboards of 6"-6 1/2" exposure, and has a simple box cornice and tapered rake boards below the square-butt wood shingle roof. The longer north and south elevations have no
openings. The east (front) elevation has a pair of modern 8'-wide garage doors with diagonally applied boards forming inverted "V" patterns. A board and batten door in the gable provides haymow access. The west elevation has an identical haymow door, and a door on the lower level, offset to the south, of random boards with quirk beads.

EE. Kelly Well House (00040 17A)

Originally constructed in 1855, this small open well covering was reconstructed in 1963. The wood deck on grade supports corner posts (5 1/2" square with chamfered edges), with plain upper braces for the rounded wood shingle ridge roof. The roof gables are sheathed with weatherboards.

II. Structures - Fences

The quality of the restored and reconstructed village at Appomattox Court House is in no small part strengthened by the myriad of restored and/or reconstructed fences. Most significant are those around the Courthouse, the McLean property, the Clover Hill Tavern, and the Bocock-Isbell House, because of their architectural merit and the fact that they define the property boundaries of the village in 1865. Other fences also add a richness to the cultural landscape.

A. Courthouse Yard Fence

Five horizontal rails with graduated spacing and heavy posts. The top rail and posts are covered with a continuous flat board cap. Entry into the Courthouse yard is over a 3-step stile, not through a gate. Reconstructed in 1948.

B. McLean House Fence

Vertical paling with a top rail and skirt board at grade. Heavy gateposts with caps; intermediate posts lighter and terminating below the top rail. Posts and palings covered with a bevelled capboard. Reconstructed in 1948.
C. Clover Hill Tavern Fence

Same as McLean House Fence; reconstructed in 1954.

D. Bocock-Isbell House Fence

Square pickets extending above the top rail and with a skirt board at grade. Restored/reconstructed in 1949.

E. Plunkett-Meeks Store Fence

The narrow pointed top pickets extend above and below the cross rails. Heavy gateposts with square caps. Restored/reconstructed in 1949.

F. Kelly House Fence

Heavy rectangular pickets extending above and below the two cross rails. The post and picket tops are covered with a continuous board cap with "broken" edges. Reconstructed in 1963.

II. Structures - Roadways [see Park Folder/Sketch Map "A," and Sketch Maps "B" and "E"]

The Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road appears on a map of Virginia published in 1799, establishing it as one of the earlier roads of the state. Evidence suggests that it was the first line of public transportation across Virginia. The road ran through the village of Appomattox Court House and was instrumental in its founding. It was a second class road supported and maintained by public funds in the form of statute labor. The road had an earth surface, and like all Virginia roads was required (in the Code of 1860) to be 30' wide with no more than a five percent grade. This highway served as the principal village street, and it was along this
section of the Stage Road that Lee and Grant travelled to and from the McLean House.

The Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, the Prince Edward Court House Road, and the Oakville Road were all locally important transportation routes. There appears to have been a surge of building in the village about the middle of the nineteenth century, resulting in the making of lanes to connect houses within the village, or to provide links with the already existing roads. Tibbs Lane, Sears Lane, Wright Lane, Trent Lane, Williams Lane, and Pryor Wright Lane were private lanes in use during the Civil War.

As Appomattox Court House declined in regional importance with the growth of the town of Appomattox, and with the disruptions in the regional economy resulting from the Civil War and the depression of the 1890s, many of these roads and lanes were either rerouted or completely abandoned. The Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, now Virginia Highway 24, underwent various changes before its final rerouting around Appomattox Court House. Alignment, grade, and width were all changed at various times. Along a section between the Appomattox River and the village, four alignments are visible today. Although features of the other roads and lanes have undoubtedly also changed through time, none of the changes are so visible today nor so well documented in either local and county records or in oral histories.

In 1964 a resurfacing of the historic roads in the village was completed. The roadbed construction consisted of a gravel base, a seal coat of asphalt, and over this, a layer of yellow stone. This treatment was not historically accurate nor was it economical, since the gravel washed away after each heavy rain. In 1973-74 the Park developed a road treatment plan that is compatible with the historic scene. The asphalt covering was left in place (to control weed growth and allow use by emergency vehicles), and was covered with a 4-inch sand/clay mixture native to the Park. This treatment restored the roads to their original 1865 appearance, and substantially cut maintenance expenses. The historic roads and trails outside the village are of ungraded natural materials and will remain in that condition.
A. Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road (00047 RD-54)

Somewhat overgrown and deteriorated as it climbs the hill from the Appomattox River to the village, its cleared width varies from 35' down to 12', and the surface is grass and exposed soil. As it nears the level terrain of the village, its cleared width stabilizes at about 30'. For a short distance it defined the north side of the Surrender Triangle, where Confederate troops laid down their arms on April 12, 1865. Through the village, the roadbed varies between 13' and 9', with wide grass verges and various forms of fencing along its boundaries. Total length in Park, 1 mile.

B. Prince Edward Court House Road (07793 RD-54A)

Another 1790s roadway, this was a link between the village and neighboring settlements. It crosses roughly from south to north at the east end of the village, where, for a short distance, it forms the base of the Surrender Triangle. Immediately south of present SR 24, its original trace is lost under the modern highway and other disturbances; as it mounts the hill towards the village, its trace becomes identifiable, but it has suffered from grading and farm operations and merges somewhat with the surrounding field. Total length in Park, 1,200'.

C. Back Lane (07794 RD-54B)

This mid-nineteenth century road ran along the back sides of the properties developing along the south side of the Stage Road, from which it deviated at the western end of the village. There it headed in a southeasterly direction at an oblique angle from the Stage Road, and joined Prince Edward Court House Road on the eastern edge of the village. It is only partially discernible at its western end, having been ploughed under in field operations; where it reaches the area of the McLean House, it has a mainly grassy surface. Further east, after intersecting Market Lane, as it runs behind the
Courthouse and the County Jail, the roadbed is readily visible, with a grassy surface. In its most easterly section it is much less discernible, and beyond its junction with Bocock Lane, it has suffered field disturbance. Total length in Park, 1,800'.

D. Market Lane (07795 RD-54C)

This mid-nineteenth century road runs 350' from the Courthouse circle south to Back Lane; it is 25' wide and has 6' grass verges on each side.

E. Bocock Lane (07796 RD-54D)

This mid-nineteenth century road in the eastern part of the village is less formal than Market Lane; it runs 650' from the southwestern corner of the Surrender Triangle south to the Mariah Wright House. About 10' wide, it has grassy verges about 5' wide on each side.

F. Sears Lane (07797 RD-54E)

This mid-nineteenth century farm road lies beyond the western edge of the village area. It runs roughly south southwest from the Stage Road, which it connected with the J. Sears farm, across present SR 24, to the Park boundary (and on to the farmhouse). Its surface varies and it is eroded in sections of its 2,000' length within the Park.

G. Oakville Road (not on LCS)

Ran northwest from the Stage Road west of the village. Forms a small portion of the Park boundary.

H. Trent Lane (not on LCS)

This mid-nineteenth century farm road parallels Sears Lane
to the west; it connected the T. Trent farm with the Stage Road.

I. Tibbs Lane (not on LCS)

This mid-nineteenth century farm road was an extension of Back Lane which ran northwest beyond the Stage Road to link with the J. Tibbs farm.

J. Wright Lane (not on LCS)

This mid-nineteenth century farm road ran just east of the Park's western boundary, where it connected the Wright farm with the Stage Road.

K. Williams Lane (not on LCS)

This mid-nineteenth century farm road was an extension of Bocock Lane which ran north across the Stage Road and the river to the J. N. Williams House.

L. Pryor-Wright Lane (not on LCS)

No information available; this lane evidently served the Pryor-Wright House, which stood on Market Lane immediately southwest of the Courthouse.

III. Sites - Cemeteries (see Park Folder/Sketch Map "A," and Sketch Maps "C" and "D")

A. Grave of Lafayette Meeks (07791 CM-9D)

Lafayette Meeks, son of (storeowner) Albert Francis and Maria Weeks, was buried in the field west of the Plunkett-Meeks Store following his death in October 1861, near Fairfax Court House. Lafayette was a young private in "H" Company, 2nd
Virginia Cavalry, when he died of typhoid fever. Albert Francis Meeks is said to be buried somewhere in the same field, possibly beneath the steps of the former saddler's shop, today identified as the Storage Building. The board fence around Lafayette's grave was erected by the Park to protect the site from grazing cattle.

The grave is marked by a white marble headstone, 24 1/2" wide and 50" high (arched to 53"), and set in concrete to prevent further deterioration. A gray granite footstone, 13 1/4" wide, 17" high, and 2" thick, is incised with the initials "L. W. M." The headstone carries a bas-relief at the top which is badly eroded but appears to be the "tree of life" design. The inscription reads as follows:

LAFAYETTE W. MEEKS  
SON OF  
FRANCIS & MARIA MEEKS  
BORN MARCH 2, 1843  
AND DIED IN THE DEFENCE  
OF HIS COUNTRY  
OCTOBER 4, 1861 AT  
FAIRFAX C.H., VA

(The following cemeteries are not on the LCS; numbers will be assigned:)

B. Confederate Cemetery

Located west of the village and just north of SR 24, this property is owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). Here are buried 19 soldiers -- 18 Confederate and 1 Union -- who died in the final fighting of April 8 and 9, 1865. Established in 1866, the cemetery is maintained by the UDC; the Park maintains the surrounding area. Only 8 of the names of the interred soldiers are known; all are Confederates.

C. Raine Cemetery
South of SR 24, not far from the Confederate Cemetery, is the Raine family cemetery, a private inholding. The Raine Monument was established by Charles J. Raine's son, C. Hunter Raine, ca. 1910, in memory of his father, and to mark the site of the family cemetery. Eight graves are identified. No living members of the Raine family are known. The Park's 1962 Historical Base Map shows a slave plot just east of the family plot.

D. O'Brien Cemetery

Located northeast of SR 656 near the eastern boundary of the Park, this cemetery is in use and contains 23 grave markers, mostly from the O'Brien family. Two former Confederate soldiers, Jennings Conner and John H. O'Brien, are buried here.

E. Robinson Cemetery

The reputed site of the Robinson family burial ground is surrounded by a rough board fence in the enclosed field behind the Kelly House. The Robinsons were post-Civil War owners of the property.

F. Wright Cemetery

The Wright family cemetery is reputedly located somewhat south of the west porch of the Mariah Wright House. Any graves here are unmarked.

G. Herman Methodist Church Cemetery

The cemetery of the Old Herman Methodist Church is located on the right-of-way of SR 24 near the entrance to the North Carolina Monument. The church building was moved before the turn of the century to the foot of Piney Mountain elsewhere in Appomattox County (see "Vera" USGS Quadrangle). Still in use, the cemetery contains the grave of the Park's first
H. Presbyterian Church Cemetery

The cemetery of the old Presbyterian Church located southeast of the Kelly House, was surrounded years ago, by a "baby doll" fence. This cemetery, difficult to locate, is now marked.

I. Patteson-Hix Cemetery

The Patteson-Hix Cemetery, a private inholding located in a fenced area behind the Clover Hill Tavern Slave Quarters, is the burial ground for members of the Alexander Patteson and Wilson Hix families. William and Lucy Hix's graves are marked, as are those of 2 children of Edward Hix. Another grave is marked "A. E. H." Five rough fieldstones mark other graves.

III. Sites - Ruins and Building Sites [see Park Folder/Sketch Map "A"]

A. Union Academy Dwelling Ruins (07799 25)

A foundation site west of the Grave of Lafayette Meeks, across the Stage Road from the McLean House, consisting of the cellar remains of a house standing at the close of the Civil War. The house was built in 1856. The cellar depression is approximately 32' on the east/west axis (parallel to the Stage Road), and 14' on the north/south axis. A mound of rubble fieldstone and brick is probably chimney debris.

B. Robinson-Glover Store Ruin (07800 07)

A foundation site consisting of the cellar remains of a store which stood east of the Clover Hill Tavern in 1865. The construction date is unknown. The cellar appears to have
been approximately 42' long on the east/west (front) axis, and 27' long on the side. The store is believed to have been a 2-story brick structure. The partially filled cellar retains the outline of the foundations but it is somewhat obliterated by the erosion of the sides of the depression. A 1988 archeological test excavation confirmed the site.

C. Layne House Ruins (07798 18)

A foundation site consisting of the cellar of a house which stood at the extreme eastern edge of the village, east of the Prince Edward Court House Road, in 1865. The Layne House, a 2-story frame structure measuring 16' by 30', was probably built ca. 1850, and was demolished ca. 1915. The foundation is reduced to an oval depression about 38' long and 18' wide with the sides eroded, and with the long axis running north/south. A mound of brick lies at grade at the north end, suggesting the remains of the chimney. There is a similar pile of broken bricks within the cellar area, also at the north end.

D. Old Jail Site Ruin (80,--- # to be assigned)

The original Appomattox County Jail was constructed in 1846-47 on the north side of the Stage Road, east of the Courthouse. It burned in 1867. Its location, directly across from the New County Jail, is now marked by 4 brick corners, situated on the original 39'6" by 18'6" foundation.

Other known sites in village area:

E. Clover Hill Tavern Bar

The Tavern Bar was located immediately east of the Tavern.

F. Clover Hill Tavern Dining Room

The Tavern Dining Room was located immediately west of the Tavern.
G. Clover Hill Tavern Icehouse

The Tavern Icehouse was located north of the Guesthouse and west of the Kitchen.

H. Clover Hill Tavern Smokehouse

The Tavern Smokehouse was located west of the Icehouse. A 1988 archeological test excavation confirmed the site.

I. William Rosser House

The William Rosser House was located on the north side of the Stage Road, east of the original Jail.

J. William Rosser Shop

The William Rosser Shop was located immediately east of the William Rosser House.

K. William Rosser Blacksmith Shop

The William Rosser Blacksmith Shop was located immediately east of the William Rosser Shop.

L. Old Raine Tavern

The Old Raine Tavern was located on the south side of the Stage Road, north of the McLean House, and east of the McLean Well House.

M. McLean House Smokehouse

The McLean House Smokehouse was located at the southwest corner of the McLean House.

N. McLean House Stable

The McLean House Stable was located south of Back Lane, across from the McLean House Slave Quarters.

O. Pryor-Wright House
The Pryor-Wright House was located on the east side of Market Lane, southwest of the Courthouse.

P. Plunkett-Meeks Store Outbuilding

A previously undocumented outbuilding of the Plunkett-Meeks Store was archeologically excavated west of the Store in the summer of 1978. The excavation was backfilled.

Q. Nowlin Sears Blacksmith Shop

The Nowlin Sears Blacksmith Shop was located on the south side of the Stage Road, east of its junction with Back Lane.

R. Charles H. Diuguid Blacksmith Shop

The Charles H. Diuguid Blacksmith Shop was located on the north side of the Stage Road, east of its junction with Back Lane, across from the Nowlin Sears Blacksmith Shop.

S. Robertson-Hix Shop

The Robertson-Hix Shop was located on the north side of the Stage Road, east of its junction with Tibbs Lane/Back Lane, west of the Diuguid Blacksmith Shop.

T. Willis Inge Cabin

The Willis Inge Cabin was located on the east side of Bocock Land, at the southwest corner of the Surrender Triangle.

U./V. Peers House Outbuildings - Kitchen and Stable

An archeological test excavation in 1988 confirmed the location of an outbuilding just east of the Peers House. It is believed that this was the Kitchen rather than the Stable, which is now believed to have been closer to the Stage Road, near the Site of the Lee-Grant Meeting on April 10, 1865.
W. Union Academy

Union Academy was located on the east side of the Prince Edward Court House Road, near its junction with Back Lane.

III. Sites - Civil War Events [see Park Folder/Sketch Map "A," and Sketch Map "C"]

A. The Surrender Triangle

The Surrender Triangle is where 28,000 Confederate soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia laid down their arms on April 12, 1865. (Lee did not participate in the ceremony.) The site is bounded by Prince Edward Court House Road on the east, the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road on the north and west, and Main Street on the south. It is planted in grass and contains several mature trees. The Park Service has added a low brick wall and a wayside exhibit/audio station.

B. Lee's Headquarters

The site of Lee's Headquarters is on the History/Nature Trail just east of SR 24 near the Park's northeastern boundary. There is a parking area, a short loop trail, and 4 interpretive markers.

C. Grant's Headquarters

The site of Grant's Headquarters is at the western end of the History/Nature Trail, south of SR 24 near the Park's western boundary. There is a parking area and 2 interpretive markers.

D. Site of Last Battle

The site of the Battle of Appomattox Court House is in the west central area of the Park north of SR 24 and northwest of the Confederate Cemetery.

E. Apple Tree Site (The Apple Orchard)
The Apple Tree Site, where Lee awaited a reply from Grant, is on the History/Nature Trail just east of SR 24, north of the Appomattox River. There is a parking area and an interpretive marker.

F. Poplar Tree Site

The Poplar Tree Site is where Lee addressed his men.

G. Confederate Artillery Park

The Confederate Artillery Park is on the History/Nature Trail just north of the Appomattox River and east of SR 24, south of the Apple Tree Site.

IV. Objects

A. North Carolina Monument (07792 MN-53)

Dedicated on April 9, 1905, the monument was sponsored by the North Carolina General Assembly to honor the firing of the last shots at Appomattox Court House by Brigadier General W. R. Cox's brigade of Grimes' Division on April 9, 1865. Major General Bryan Grimes of North Carolina planned the last battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia, and commanded the infantry, most of whom were North Carolinians. The marker is 7'2" long, 3'2" wide, and 5'1" high, and is placed upon a pyramidal mound of crushed stone 15" above adjacent grade. The monument is tripartite. Outer piers 20" x 24" and 43" high are constructed of a block of rusticated gray granite cut to resemble a composite of 5 separate stones, the uppermost deeply scored to create the effect of battlements. The piers flank a central recessed granite tablet 38" long, 12" thick, and 42" high at its peaked center. The memorial stands on plinth 12" high and projecting 7" beyond all faces of the upper elements.

The monument is located on the History/Nature Trail south of SR 24 in the western part of the Park. The property was deeded to the United States by North Carolina in April 1943.
There is a parking area.

The North Carolina Monument also includes 2 small outlying light gray granite markers, 3'6" long, 2'3" wide, and 8" thick with slight cants, on stone and concrete bases. They are located on the north shoulder of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road near the Confederate Cemetery at the junction with SR 24. The markers are about 800' apart. The western one marks the location of the last Federal battery (taken by North Carolina cavalry); the eastern one marks the site of the last skirmish of the North Carolina infantry.

B. Confederate Cemetery Marker

A granite marker at the Confederate Cemetery is owned by the UDC and was moved there from its original location on the Courthouse site when the Courthouse was reconstructed in 1963-64. The marker was placed on the Courthouse site on June 11, 1926.

C. War Department Tablets (80, --- #s to be assigned)

Four original cast iron tablets placed by the War Department in 1893 as the first markers on the battlefield are still extant. One is at Lee's Headquarters; one marks the site of the Lee-Grant meeting north of the Peers House on April 10, 1865; one marks the right flank of the Union troops alongside the Stage Road, who received the Confederate surrender of arms on April 12, 1865; and one marks the site in front of the Peers House where the last Confederate cannon was fired on April 9, 1865.

Noncontributing Features

I. Buildings

A. Ferguson House

Located about 1 mile east of the Courthouse, the Ferguson
House, built ca. 1920, is a 2-story frame house used as quarters. It is 27' by 32' plus a 12' by 12'6" enclosed porch. It was rehabilitated in 1978 and 1983.

B. Maintenance Shop Building

A 1-story concrete block building located in the Maintenance Area east of the village. Built in 1954 (50' x 24')', with a 50' addition in 1964, and a 25' addition in 1971, giving current dimensions of 125' x 24'.

C. Maintenance Storage Building

A 1-story open fronted concrete block storage building located in the Maintenance Area. Built in 1954 with an 8'6" addition in 1970, and a 26' addition in 1978, giving current dimensions of 84'6" x 22'.

II. Structures [see Sketch Map "D"]

A. Park Entrance Road and Main Parking Lot

The Park Entrance Road runs north from SR 24 to the Main Parking Lot southwest of the village. The total area is approximately 5,700 square yards of chip and seal surface over asphalt.

B. Grant's Headquarters Parking Lot

South of SR 24 near the Park's western boundary, an area of approximately 1,313 square yards of chip and seal surface over asphalt.

C. North Carolina Monument Parking Lot

A chip and seal surface of approximately 550 square yards.

D. Confederate Cemetery Parking Lot

A chip and seal surface over asphalt of approximately 870 square yards.
E. Lee's Headquarters Parking Lot

East of SR 24 near the Park's northeastern boundary, a chip and seal surface over asphalt of approximately 1,217 square yards.

F. Apple Orchard Parking Area

G. Park Maintenance Yard

A chip and seal surface of approximately 1,560 square yards.

H. Park Service Road

A paved service road runs north from SR 24 and connects with the Maintenance Yard.

I. History/Nature Trail

A 6-mile long trail which traverses much of the Park and links many of the historic sites.

J. Sewage Lagoon

There is a sewage lagoon on the south side of SR 24 opposite the entrance to the Park Service Road.

K. Picnic Area

A wayside picnic area along SR 24 at the Appomattox River is largely owned by the Park Service, but is operated by the Virginia Department of Highways.

L. Fire Road

The Park is surrounded by a fire road which serves as a partial firebreak, an access point for firefighting, and a buffer for neighboring properties.

M./N. Utility Corridors
There are 2 40'-wide utility corridors in the Park, both of which accommodate overhead power and telephone cables. One corridor straddles the Park's eastern boundary north from SR 627; the other, shorter corridor runs into the Park from the longer corridor, crossing SR 24, terminating at the Maintenance Area.

II. Objects

A. Raine Monument

This privately-placed monument has no direct relationship to the Park's areas of significance.
points of interest, rather than the 2,500 acres proposed in pending legislation. As it developed, no action was taken on Appomattox Court House at that time.

The legislative history of the property clearly establishes the original and primary Area of Significance as "Military" (the system of defending the territory and sovereignty of a people), and the Period of Significance and Significant Date as "1865." In 1926 Congress authorized a commission "to inspect the battle fields and surrender grounds in an around old Appomattox Court House, Virginia, in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such fields." On the basis of the commission's recommendation, Congress passed in 1930 an Act which authorized and directed the Secretary of War to acquire approximately one acre of land at Appomattox Court House to erect a monument "for the purpose of commemorating the termination of the War between the States which was brought about by the surrender ... on April 9, 1865, and for the further purpose of honoring those who engaged in this tremendous conflict, ...." In 1935 Congress changed the name of the property to "Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument," authorized the rebuilding of the McLean House, and provided for

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2 Act of February 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 9).


4Executive Order #6166 (June 10, 1933).
enlarging the Park. On April 10, 1940, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, acting under the provisions of the 1935 legislation, formally established the Park with a land base of approximately 970 acres, including land which had been acquired by the Resettlement Administration. In 1954 Congress changed the Park's designation to "National Historical Park." By 1980 the authorized land area reached its present 1,325 acres.

The actions of Congress in 1930 and 1935 marked legislative recognition of the Area of Significance now called "Conservation" (the preservation, maintenance, and management of natural or manmade resources). From mid-1937 through 1939, preliminary National Park Service planning took place on the assumption that the Secretary of the Interior might seek to develop the Park. The most ambitious view was that the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House could be restored to interpret rural Virginia society. The conservative approach opposed reconstruction efforts, but since Congress had already authorized and appropriated money for rebuilding the McLean House, and local public opinion was strongly in favor of rebuilding both the McLean House and the Courthouse, the Park Service had little choice but to move ahead. Accordingly, after the Park's official establishment in 1940, a fullscale multi-disciplinary study involving archeology, architecture, and history commenced. The collaborative effort, a model historic research program, resulted in plans to reconstruct the McLean House. The final report, "Collaborative Justification for Reconstruction of the McLean House at Appomattox," was, in the words of historian of the preservation movement Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., "the first joint document of this kind ever prepared," and in the view of Park Service professionals, it represented "a peak of professional

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6 Department Order, April 10, 1940 (5 FR 1520). See also Executive Order #8057 (February 23, 1939) (4 FR 1025).
7 Act of April 15, 1954 (68 Stat. 54).
competence never before equaled."\textsuperscript{8}

Although the implementation of the project was delayed by World War II, the Park Service had embarked on one of the major American conservation efforts of the mid-twentieth century -- the restoration of the village of Appomattox Court House and its ultimate interpretation as not only the symbolic scene of the end of the Civil War, but also as a representation of rural Virginia of the mid-nineteenth century.

This fact, in turn, establishes the third Area of Significance, "Architecture" (the practical art of designing and constructing buildings and structures to serve human needs). As stated by Regional Historical Landscape Architect Reed Engle in Section 7, above:

If the modest village of Appomattox Court House is considered a museum, its architectural significance lies in the breadth and depth of its collection of late eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, structures, and sites. The collection has breadth because it includes a wide range of public and private structures, depth because these buildings are supplemented by a large number of ancillary structures that typically punctuated the rural Virginia landscape of that era. And there is a framework to this assemblage; historic roads, fences, hedgerows, and fields demonstrate a pattern of ownership, occupation, and use, thereby creating a framework cultural landscape in which the historical events of 1865 may be interpreted.

Individually, the buildings at Appomattox Court House are fine examples of their type; collectively, the landscape of which they are a part provides a strong statement of economic and political power within a small, rural,

southern community.

Thus, Appomattox Court House manifests three of the National Register Criteria:

A -- by virtue of being the site of the surrender of the Confederacy's supreme military commander and its principal field army, the property represents the effectual end of the Civil War;

B -- by virtue of being associated with General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A., and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, U.S.A., future President of the United States, and their major subordinate commanders; and

C -- by embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, and by representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The Park also manifests at least three Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

B -- at least one structure (the Plunkett-Meeks Store Storage Building), was relocated a short distance within the property;

D -- there are nine historic cemetery sites, including one individual grave, the Confederate Cemetery, and several family and church burial grounds, which derive their primary significance from their association with the historic events represented by the Park;

E -- thirteen buildings, including the McLean House and the Courthouse, together with, in several instances, their fences, have been reconstructed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of the Park's restoration master plan.

The Road to Appomattox

Beginning in June 1864, Grant, exercising personal command over the Armies of the Potomac and the James, besieged Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia. The Union forces applied constant pressure on the Confederate lines, and by the fall of 1864 three of the four railroad lines into
Petersburg had been cut. The Southside Railroad remained as the only means of rail transportation into Petersburg. Its inevitable loss would force Lee to evacuate his positions. During the fall and winter of 1864-65 Grant gradually cut off Lee's supply lines from the south. By February, Union armies under Major Generals William T. Sherman and John M. Schofield were advancing in the Carolinas, threatening to link with Grant's troops arrayed against Lee. The Confederate commander was forced to remain in the trenches throughout March due to muddy roads and the poor condition of his horses. On March 29, Major General Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry and the V Corps began moving toward the Confederate right flank and the Southside Railroad. On April 1 the siege was broken when the Confederate right flank was shattered at Five Forks. The next day Grant went on an all-out offensive against the Confederate lines. With his supply lines cut, Lee had to evacuate Richmond and Petersburg on the night of April 2-3.

Moving over predetermined routes, the Army of Northern Virginia headed west, looking for supplies. Lee hoped to link up with General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee, which was retreating north through the Carolinas. The immediate objective was to reach Amelia Court House, where rations which had been sent from Richmond were to be distributed. But when Lee reached Amelia Court House on the 4th, he found only ordnance supplies, not rations. The shaken Lee was forced to have his men forage for subsistence for themselves and their horses, but the local farmers had little to spare. This lost day gave the pursuing Federal troops time to catch up. Leaving Amelia Court House on the 5th, Lee found his route of march blocked by Union forces at Jetersville. Forced to turn west again, Lee moved toward Lynchburg, hoping to find supplies at Farmville on the Southside Railroad. Northern cavalry attacked the Confederate wagon train at Paineville, destroying a large number of wagons. The exhausted, hungry Southern troops, who had been marching day and night, began falling out rank. Gaps developed in the line of march.

At Sayler's Creek, a few miles east of Farmville, the Union forces finally caught up with the retreating Confederates, capturing thousands, including eight generals, one of them Lee's son Custis. The next day, April 7, the survivors of the Army of Northern Virginia finally reached Farmville, where rations awaited them. But the Federal troops were right behind, and Lee had to keep
moving west, hoping that he could be supplied at Appomattox Station. While in Farmville on the 7th, Grant sent a letter to Lee, asking for him to surrender. One of Lee's Corps commanders, Lieutenant General James Longstreet, advised him not to do so. In his reply Lee declined to surrender, but asked Grant for his surrender terms. Grant, in turn, replied that peace was his great desire, and that his only condition was that the officers and men of the Army of Northern Virginia would be disqualified from taking up arms again unless exchanged [for Union prisoners]. Grant offered to meet with Lee to arrange surrender terms, or have designated officers accomplish the task.

By the evening of the 8th, the Confederate columns had halted a mile east of Appomattox Court House. That night the red glow of the Union campfires could be seen from Appomattox Station to the southwest, meaning that Lee's last possible link with the Southside Railroad had been lost. Meeting that night with his generals, Lee was persuaded that one last attempt should be made to reach the rail line and escape toward Lynchburg. Lee wrote back to Grant, saying that he would be pleased to meet at 10:00 A.M. the next morning, but only to discuss the restoration of peace, not the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

At dawn on the 9th, Lieutenant General John B. Gordon's Corps attacked the dismounted Federal cavalry blocking the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. But Union infantry rebuffed the Confederate thrust. Lee's last chance to escape had been dashed. There, at the Battle of Appomattox Court House, the Army of Northern Virginia and Major General George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac had clashed for the last time.

Meanwhile, Grant replied to Lee's overture for a meeting by stating that he had no authority to discuss the subject of peace, although, of course, he and the entire North were anxious for it. Peace could be achieved by the South laying down its arms. After Gordon's failure to break through the Union lines, there would be no more quibbling about arranging a meeting to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia. Although urged by some of his staff to disperse the army and fight a guerrilla war, Lee believed that surrender was now inevitable. He wrote again to Grant, requesting a meeting to discuss surrender terms. The message reached Grant and his staff shortly before noon, as they were riding around the
Confederate forces to meet with Sheridan and Army of the James commander Major General Edward E. C. Ord. Grant agreed to a meeting, allowing Lee to decide on the location.

Colonel Orville Babcock of Grant's staff took the reply and rode off to find Lee and his staff resting under an apple tree near the Appomattox River. Lee mounted "Traveller" and set off for the village. Riding ahead, Lee's aide, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Marshall, looked for a suitable meeting place. He saw Wilmer McLean near the courthouse, which was locked on Sunday. McLean took Marshall to a dilapidated house which lacked furniture. Marshall rejected that site, and McLean then offered his own home. Ironically, McLean had moved to quiet, remote Appomattox Court House from Manassas, Virginia, where his house stood on the battlefield. Now the Civil War, which had driven him from his original home, was to end in his front parlor.

The Surrender

Lee and Babcock soon arrived, entered the McLean House, and chatted as they waited for Grant. Meeting Sheridan and Ord, Grant was cautioned that it was all a ruse; he should let them keep fighting. But Grant trusted Lee, and rode to the McLean House for the fateful meeting. Accompanied by most of his staff, Grant, wearing a mud-spattered field uniform, arrived to meet Lee, who had worn a new dress uniform for the occasion. After talking of their experiences in the Mexican War, Lee finally raised the issue at hand, the terms of surrender. Grant repeated what he had written to Lee on the previous day. The Confederate leader asked Grant to put his terms in writing. The Union commander wrote that rolls of all the officers and men of the Army of Northern Virginia were to be made. Officers were to give their individual paroles (pledges) not to take up arms against the United States unless exchanged, and company and regimental commanders were to sign general paroles for their troops. Arms, artillery, and public property were to be stacked and turned in. Officers could retain their sidearms and personal horses and baggage. Each officer and soldier could then return home and would not be disturbed by United States authorities as long as they observed their paroles and local laws.

Lee was very pleased, but requested that the enlisted cavalrymen
and artillerists, who, in the Confederate army, owned their own mounts, be allowed to retain them. Grant would not change the written terms of surrender, but would instruct his officers to allow Confederates who claimed to own a horse or mule to take the mounts home to work on the family farm. Again, Lee was very gratified by Grant's decision. In a short note, he then formally accepted the terms of surrender. The conversation turned to the Confederates' lack of provisions. Lee was unable to even guess at the total number of troops still under his command. Grant then offered to provide 25,000 rations, which Lee gratefully accepted. Lee shook hands again with Grant, bowed to the other officers, and left to ride off to his army, which greeted him with cheers.

Grant departed and rode to his new headquarters, just west of the village, stopping to write to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, to inform him of the surrender. At the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, everyone from General Meade himself to the common soldiers went wild with joy. Bands played, and cannon were fired. But Grant ordered the firing stopped; he wanted no demonstrations. Union soldiers shared their rations with their former enemies.

Back at the McLean House, souvenir hunters scrambled for mementoes of the historic event, either by buying artifacts from Wilmer McLean, or simply by taking or vandalizing whatever they could get their hands on.

On the morning of April 10, Grant and Lee met for the last time. Between the two armies, they chatted alone for over thirty minutes while still mounted. Grant hoped that Lee would use his influence with the Southern people and soldiers to urge the other field armies to surrender. But Lee declined, saying that he would have to consult with the President [Jefferson Davis] first. After the meeting Grant broke camp and left for Washington. After a chat with Meade, Lee returned to his headquarters and prepared a farewell message to the troops, praising their courage and devotion to duty.

Meanwhile, the six senior officers appointed by Grant and Lee to arrange the details of the surrender met at Clover Hill Tavern. But Major General John Gibbon, commander of the XXIV Corps, suggested that they adjourn to the parlor of the McLean House. There the final surrender agreement was prepared and signed. It
specifically allowed enlisted men of the artillery and cavalry, and couriers, to retain their own horses. Printing presses were set up in Clover Hill Tavern to produce the thousands of necessary parole passes. But the presses broke down and the operation was moved to Lynchburg.

The formal surrender ceremony was held on the damp, chilly morning of April 12. Union soldiers lined the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road from the western edge of the village to a point near the river. Led by General Gordon (Lee took no part in the ceremony), the Confederates marched between the Union lines to lay down their arms and those flags which had not been burned. Brigadier General Joshua L. Chamberlain, former commander of the fabled 20th Maine Infantry, was given the honor of commanding the Union forces at the surrender ceremony. Out of respect for his former foes, Chamberlain ordered his men to present arms. Gordon had the marching Southerners return the salute. After surrendering their weapons, the Confederates marched back to their camps, and then started for home, carrying their parole passes. That afternoon Lee left for Richmond. Appomattox Court House had taken its place in American history.

On April 26 near Durham, North Carolina, Johnston surrendered to Sherman, and by May 26 Confederate forces in the trans-Mississippi west had given up the fight. The example set by Robert E. Lee at Appomattox was thus repeated wherever Confederate troops remained in the field.  


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

Appomattox Court House  
National Historical Park,  
Appomattox County, Va.  

Section number 10  
Page 2  

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All that certain tract or parcel of land known as the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, situated in Cloverhill Magisterial District, Appomattox County, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a monument, found at a point on or near the centerline of State Route 701 (Old Mill Road) at its intersection with southerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 24; thence along the centerline of Route 701, South 57° 25' 12" East 106.09 feet to a point; thence, along the arc of a circle to the left with a radius of 108.00 feet, an arc length of 118.10 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 88° 44' 46" East 112.30 feet to a point; thence North 59° 55' 40" East 110.53 feet to a point at the intersection of the centerline of an old road scar with the centerline of the said Route 701; thence, still with the centerline of the said Route, the following bearings and distances:

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 103.57 feet, an arc length of 125.78 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 85° 16' 54" East 118.19 feet to a point; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 357.41 feet, an arc length of 232.54 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 31° 51' 08" East 228.46 feet to a point; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the left with a radius of 573.40 feet, an arc length of 522.00 feet, a chord bearing and distance of South 39° 17' 37" East 504.16 feet to a point; thence

South 65° 22' 25" East 473.57 feet to a monument, found; thence, leaving said road,

South 21° 09' 24" West 2562.81 feet to a monument set; thence

South 21° 09' 24" West 55.00 feet to a point in the Appomattox River; thence

South 01° 36' 36" East 50.00 feet to a monument, set; thence

South 01° 36' 36" East 273.59 feet to a monument, found; thence

South 04° 44' 00" West 140.36 feet to a monument, found; thence
South 18° 02' 19" West 1962.80 feet to a monument, found; thence

South 38° 48' 15" West 2131.31 feet to a monument set; thence

South 38° 48' 15" West 50.00 feet to a point on the northerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 627; thence, crossing the said State highway and with the lands of the Hunting Hills Subdivision, South 51° 02' 12" West 339.80 feet to a monument, found; thence South 44° 43' 52" West 1136.81 feet to a concrete monument and cap, found; thence South 82° 28' 25" West 2680.29 feet to a monument, set in or near Plain Run Branch; thence, in and along the said branch, the following bearings and distances:

South 63° 23' 17" West 65.99 feet to a point;
South 30° 53' 17" West 382.77 feet to a point;
South 79° 23' 17" West 171.59 feet to a point;
North 68° 36' 43" West 191.38 feet to a point;
South 66° 38' 17" West 349.77 feet to a point;
South 82° 38' 17" West 554.35 feet to a point;
North 28° 21' 43" West 270.58 feet to a point;
South 82° 08' 17" West 237.58 feet to a point;
North 68° 21' 43" West 191.38 feet to a point;
South 83° 53' 17" West 633.55 feet to a point;
South 68° 23' 17" West 699.54 feet to a point;
South 67° 53' 17" West 191.38 feet to a point;
South 88° 53' 17" West 237.58 feet to a point;
North 73° 49' 50" West 182.05 feet to a point;
North 75° 01' 21" West 151.79 feet to a point;
North 49° 16' 21" West 72.59 feet to a point;
North 83° 16' 21" West 263.98 feet to a point; and
South 62° 43' 39" West 250.24 feet to a point; thence leaving said branch,
North 22° 21' 27" West passing a monument set at a distance of 50.00 feet, a concrete monument and cap found at a distance of 1277.92 (from the last mentioned monument) and continuing in all a total distance of 1971.02 feet to concrete monument and cap, found; thence

North 21° 51' 31" West 132.41 feet to a monument, found on the southerly right-of-way line of the aforementioned Highway No. 24; thence, crossing said Highway No. 24,

North 22° 16' 34" West 357.31 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 63° 14' 31" East 51.80 feet to a monument; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 3475.73 feet, an arc length of 836.63 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 70° 08' 16" East 834.61 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 77° 02' 00" East 2024.51 feet to a monument, set; thence

Along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 11158.19 feet, an arc length of 692.16 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 75° 15' 22" East 692.05 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 73° 28' 45" East 270.47 feet to a monument, set on or near the northeasterly line of an old road scar; thence, in and along the said road and a fence line, North 44° 23' 49" West 766.47 feet to a twin poplar tree; thence

North 36° 35' 32" East 1845.41 feet to a monument, set on or near an old road scar; thence

South 82° 41' 10" East 593.96 feet to a monument set; thence

South 87° 11' 36" East 249.04 feet to a monument set; thence

South 81° 17' 17" East 1816.97 feet to a monument set; thence

North 28° 26' 36" West 691.24 feet to a triple hickory tree; thence

North 00° 10' 19" East 625.49 feet to an oak tree; thence recrossing the Appomattox River,

North 28° 11' 29" East 323.39 feet to a dead tree; thence

North 06° 39' 25" East 960.44 feet to a monument, set; thence

North 39° 39' 00" East 374.18 feet to a monument, set at a fence corner; thence
North 40° 47' 20" West 283.40 feet to a monument, set; thence
North 41° 02' 23" West 318.05 feet to a monument, set; thence
North 33° 02' 22" West 828.93 feet to a monument, set; thence
North 25° 43' 20" West, crossing a gravel road, 343.97 feet to a monument; thence

North 83° 48' 09" East 1998.72 feet to a point on or near the centerline of State Secondary Route No. 656; thence along the centerline of said Route, North 69° 58' 02" West 117.25 feet to a point; thence along the arc of a circle to the right with a radius of 507.23 feet, an arc length of 310.81 feet, a chord bearing and distance of North 52° 24' 46" West 305.97 feet to a point; thence leaving the said Route, North 42° 02' 29" East 816.20 feet to a monument, set on an old road scar; thence South 66° 16' 51" East 108.37 feet to a monument, set; thence North 00° 23' 18" East 280.74 feet to a gum tree; thence South 68° 06' 54" East 2746.79 feet to a monument, set on the northerly right-of-way line of Virginia State Highway No. 24; thence on a line recrossing the said Highway No. 24, South 36° 56' 59" West 856.28 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

All bearings and distances are based on the Virginia State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM the right-of-way for Virginia State Highway No. 24.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM that certain tract of land known as the Hermon Cemetery.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park, 
Appomattox County, Va.

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(NOTE: L.C.S. Park Structure Numbers are used as Photograph Numbers, except for the Surrender Triangle, for which Number "X" has been assigned.)
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