
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1998



Chalmette Battlefield
Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Chalmette Battlefield is a 125.6-acre commemorative and interpretive site located in Chalmette, Louisiana, approximately six miles southeast of downtown New Orleans, in a highly industrialized corridor along the east bank of the Mississippi River. Administered by the National Park Service as part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, the battlefield represents a portion of the site on which the Battle of New Orleans was fought, serving both to commemorate the battle and to interpret the strategy of this decisive American victory during the War of 1812.

The commemorative battlefield contains an assortment of historic, commemorative, and interpretive features associated with the Battle of New Orleans. These include the Rodriguez Canal and the archeological site of the Rodriguez Plantation (late 18th-early 19th century), the reconstructed American rampart (1815;1964), and Chalmette Monument (1855-1908). The battlefield zone also includes some significant features not connected with the Battle of New Orleans, notably the Malus-Beauregard House (c.1833), as well as archeological resources related to earlier land uses no longer apparent. For example, a trace of Fazendeville Road, a remnant of the free black subdivision of Fazendeville that existed on site from the late nineteenth century until 1964, remains within park boundaries. The interpretation of these latter non-battle-related features has proven problematic to the park's primary mission of interpreting the historic battlefield landscape, yet they represent features of historical and cultural significance in their own rights.

Site Plan

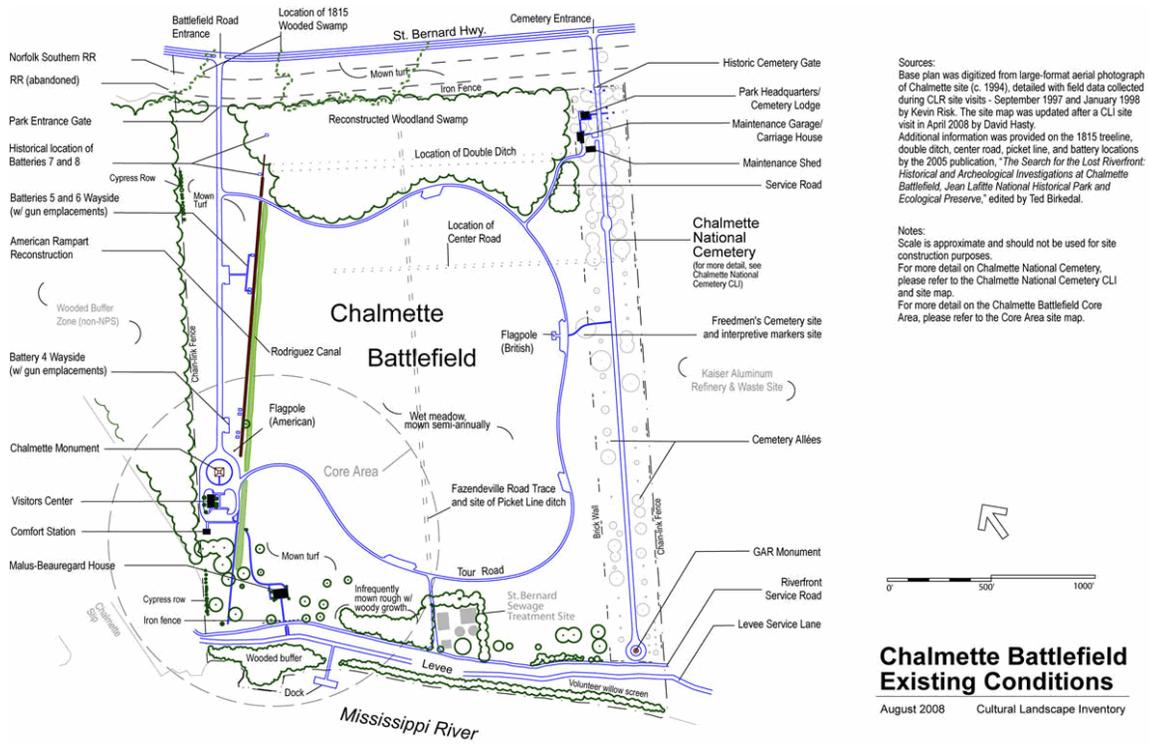


Figure 1. Chalmette Battlefield - Existing Conditions - August 2008

Chalmette Battlefield
 Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

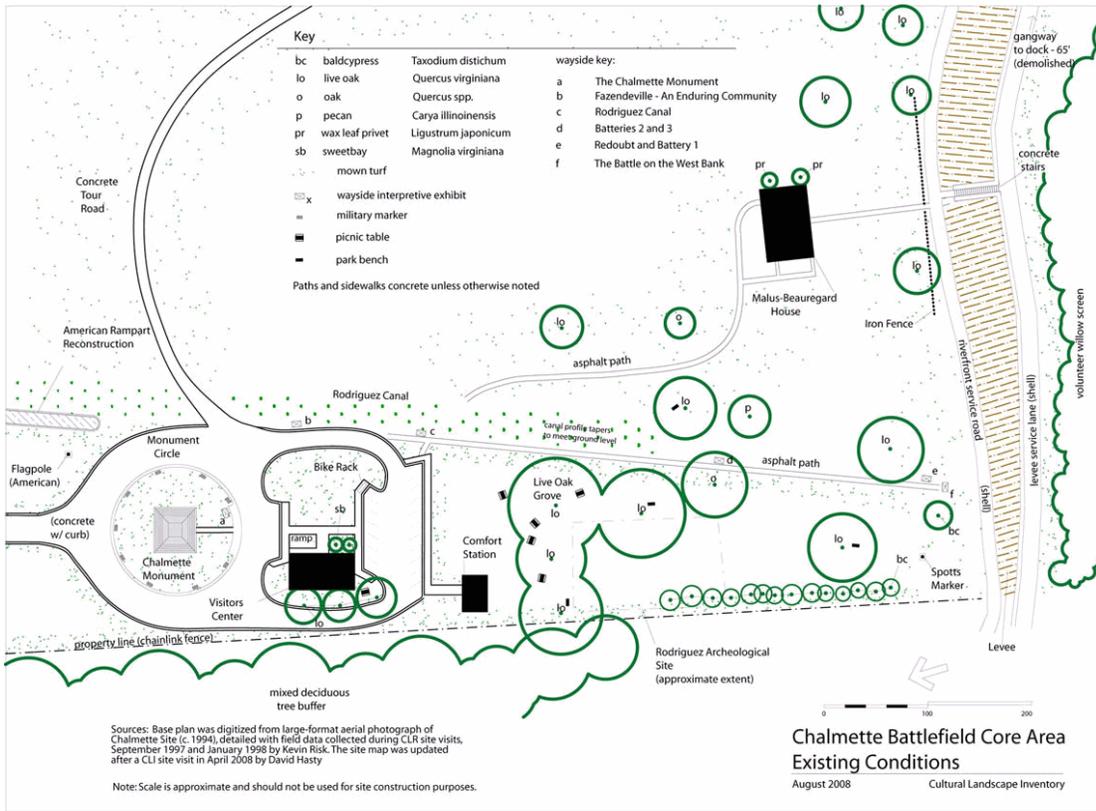


Figure 2. Chalmette Battlefield Core Area - Existing Conditions - August 2008

Chalmette Battlefield
 Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

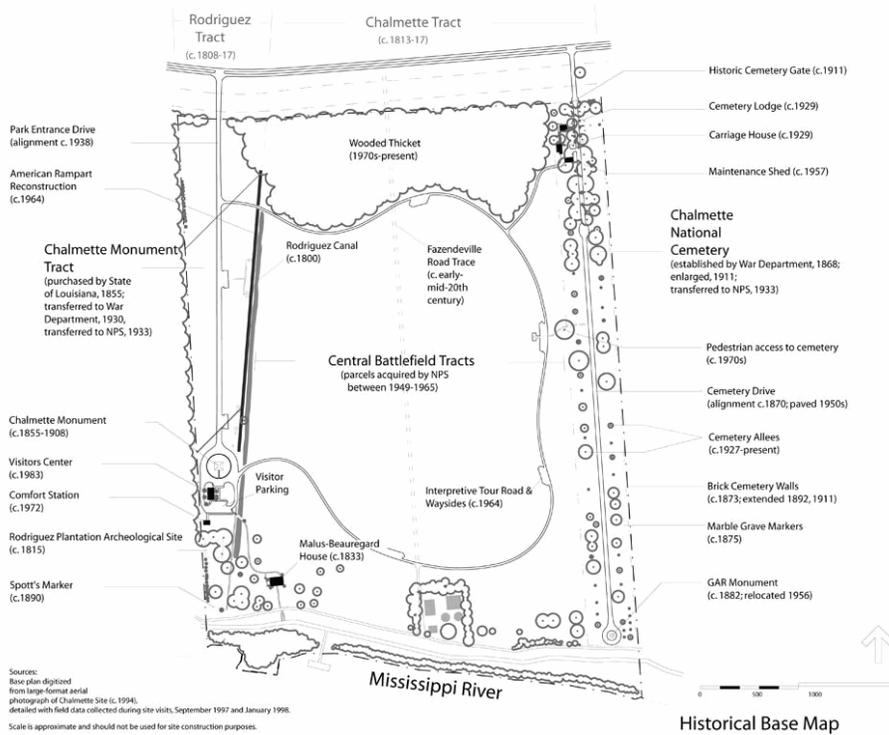


Figure 3. Chalmette Battlefield - Historical Base Map

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Chalmette Battlefield
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550111
Parent Landscape:	550111

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit -JELA
Park Organization Code:	7536
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit - JELA
Park Administrative Unit:	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

CLI Hierarchy Description

Chalmette Battlefield

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

Chalmette Battlefield is the larger of two contiguous landscapes that comprise the 142.9-acre Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The battlefield, a 125.6-acre commemorative and interpretive site, preserves a portion of the former agricultural landscape on which the Battle of New Orleans was fought. The adjacent 17.3-acre Chalmette National Cemetery is a designed landscape which, although it occupies a portion of the historic battlefield landscape, is spatially distinct from the commemorative battlefield. Although these two landscapes--the cemetery and battlefield--are listed together as a single historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, they have very different developmental histories, purposes, and management regimes and should be treated as separate landscapes, both for management purposes, and, ideally, for National Register listing. Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery are thus treated as separate landscapes in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).

Chalmette Battlefield includes several historic landscape features, including the battle-era Rodriguez Canal, the reconstructed American Rampart and batteries, the post-battle-era Malus-Beauregard House (1833), the commemorative Chalmette Monument (1855-1907) and Spotts Marker (1890s), as well as non-contributing NPS-era infrastructures. Because of the almost total lack of historical integrity exhibited by its landscape setting, the Malus-Beauregard House is not treated as a component landscape or significant landscape feature; it is discussed in this overall landscape form for the battlefield. The battle-era features, later commemorative features, and park infrastructure are likewise discussed in this overall form.

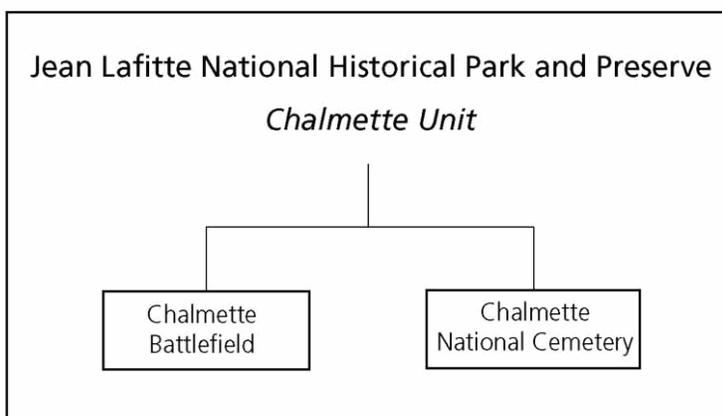


Figure 4. Chalmette CLI Hierarchy

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Documentation for the CLI was extracted from a CLR for Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery written by Kevin Risk and completed in the fall of 1998. Several site visits were conducted during the course of the CLR research, including a systematic review of the historic park maps and archival photographs. The author also photographed the key landscape features, surveyed the vegetation, and recorded existing conditions for the battlefield. Additional research was complete in 2008 by David Hasty, including a site visit, resulting in a completed CLI. The park contact is David Muth.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/18/2008
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	11/05/2008

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The battlefield is bounded to the south by a broadly concave arc of the Mississippi River and by its adjacent levee. To the north, an approximately 200-foot wide strip, containing highway, railroad, and several gas line rights-of-way, separates the park from the St. Bernard Highway (LA Highway 46). The Norfolk Southern Railroad line runs along this right-of-way just north of park boundaries. The former Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation's processing plant bounds the park to the east, and Chalmette Slip, a ship docking and storage facility, bounds the park to the west. Both of these properties are owned by the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District, and a service road along the landward toe of the levee provides cross-park access between them. A sewage treatment facility, owned by the St. Bernard Parish Police Jury, stands as a 1.5- acre inholding at the park's southern end. The boundary UTM's listed are those for the entire Chalmette Unit, which includes both Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery.

State and County:

State:	LA
County:	St. Bernard Parish

Size (Acres): 125.60

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	16
UTM Easting:	211,200
UTM Northing:	3,316,460
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	16
UTM Easting:	211,420
UTM Northing:	3,315,420
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	16
UTM Easting:	210,850
UTM Northing:	3,315,790
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	16
UTM Easting:	244,780
UTM Northing:	3,316,170

Location Map:

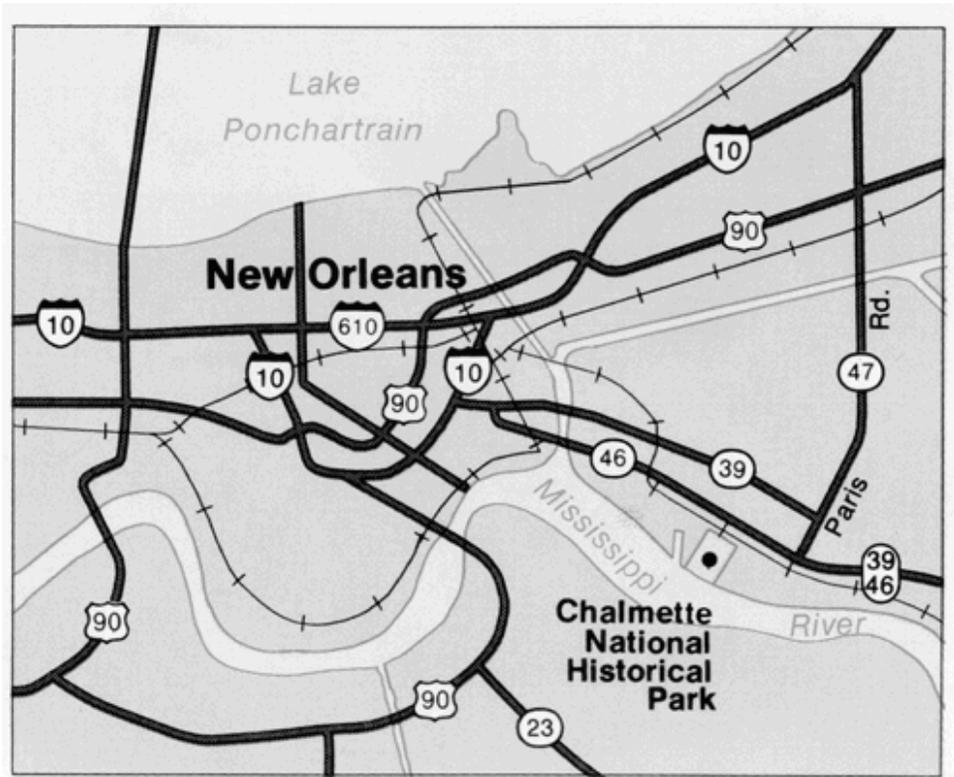


Figure 5. Regional location of the Chalmette Unit of JELA, formerly Chalmette National Historical Park

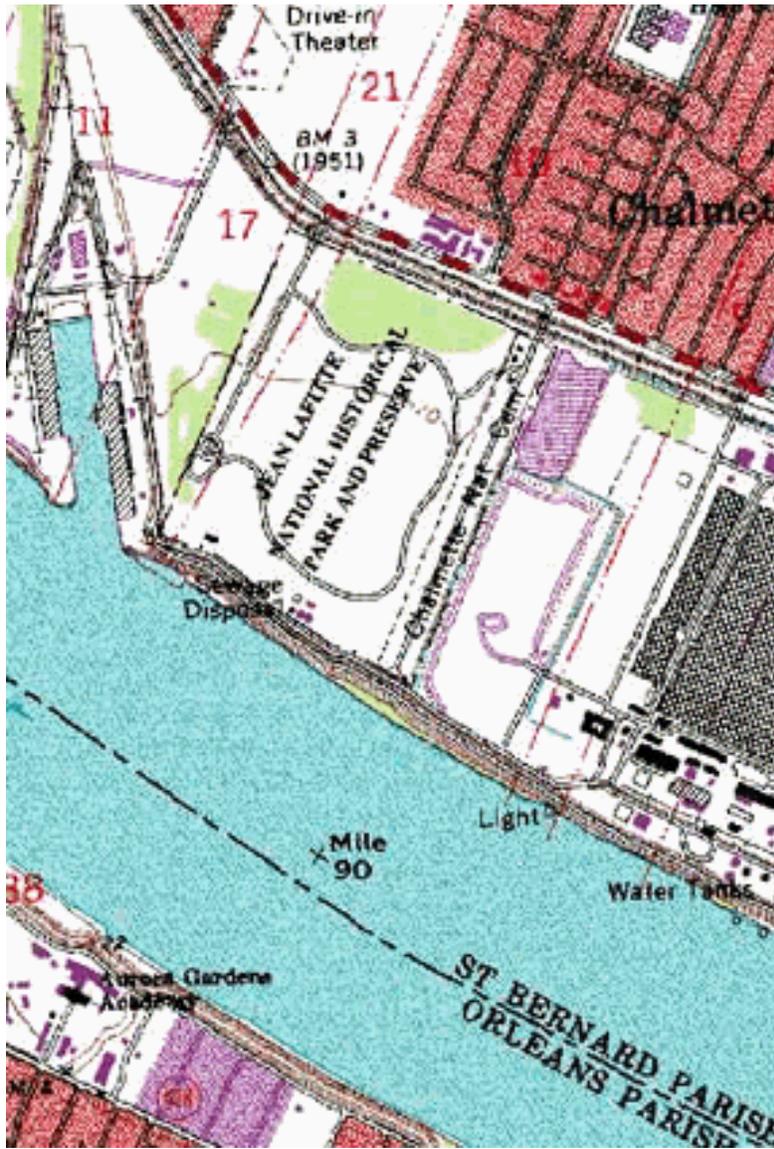


Figure 6. Cropped image of USGS 1:24000 quadrangle - Chalmette, LA (1967; revised 1994)

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Chalmette Battlefield lies in a region that has been historically influenced by the intermingling of many different cultures, including American Indian, French, Spanish, African, West Indian, Canary Islander, and English.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Chalmette Battlefield is located in the Mississippi River Delta region of Southeastern Louisiana, within the ancient alluvial fan of the Plaquemine Delta.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Chalmette Battlefield site is located in the civil jurisdiction of St. Bernard Parish, within Louisiana's 1st Congressional District.

Management Unit: Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Tract Numbers: 105-02 to 105-08 inclusive, 105-12 to 105-14 inclusive (Note: 105-01 is a private in-holding located within the federal park property)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/18/2008

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Interagency Agreement

Expiration Date: 01/01/0000

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

NPS and the Army Corps of Engineers share jurisdiction of the levee service road and the linear strip of land that contains the Mississippi River levee.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Chalmette National Historical Park--a designation which included both the Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery properties--was administratively listed as a National Register historic district in 1966, apparently without substantial supporting documentation.

In 1978, the park was legislatively redesignated as the Chalmette Unit of the newly created Jean Lafitte National Historical Park. Subsequently, more thorough supporting documentation was prepared for the Chalmette Unit by NPS historian Jerome Green in conjunction with a Historic Resource Study written during the mid-1980s; this additional documentation was accepted by the National Register on July, 6, 1987, and the park was renamed the "Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park" in the National Register database.

In the current documentation, the land, landscape features, and structures that compose both Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery are listed under the same historic district designation, even though the battlefield and cemetery are spatially and developmentally distinct landscapes. In the author's opinion, the battlefield and cemetery should have separate National Register nominations. Current documentation also misattributes significance to an area of second-growth woodland that covers the northern end of the battlefield, misidentifying this relatively young wooded thicket as a portion of a battle-era cypress swamp.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Chalmette Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park Historic District
NRIS Number:	66000889
Other Names:	Chalmette National Historical Park
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	Additional Documentation - 7/6/1987

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
Criteria Considerations:	E -- A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived F -- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1814 - 1815
Historic Context Theme:	Changing Role of the U.S. in the World
Subtheme:	International Relations
Facet:	International Relations
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1814 - 1815
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860
Facet:	War Of 1812, 1812-1815
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1833 - 1860
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Greek Revival (1820-1840)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1833 - 1937
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Other Expressing Cultural Values
Facet:	Other Expressing Cultural Values
Time Period:	AD 1718 - 1803
Historic Context Theme:	Peopling Places
Subtheme:	Colonial Exploration and Settlement
Facet:	French Exploration And Settlement
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Archeology
Area of Significance Subcategory:	Historic-Non-Aboriginal
Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Agriculture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Because the battlefield displays compromised spatial integrity and limited material integrity from the period of the Battle of New Orleans, its historical significance as an integral landscape is undeniably diminished. However, it is the only remnant of the former battlefield landscape in public ownership--in fact, practically the only portion that has not been consumed by industrial or suburban development--and as such, holds obvious historical and interpretive significance despite its diminished integrity.

Furthermore, the park contains the most strategically important portion of the battle-era landscape, and the key corner of American activity. Scholarship has firmly established the Battle of New Orleans as a seminal event in the history and evolving consciousness of our nation; consequently, the landscape on which the battle occurred has lasting patriotic, commemorative, and interpretive appeal.

Though the landscape has been much altered over time, the remnant battlefield still contains topographic traces of the agricultural land patterns that existed at the time of the Battle of New Orleans. The Rodriguez Canal and other remaining battle-era resources, including those archeological, serve as identifying landmarks on the battlefield terrain and should be preserved for interpretive

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purposes and future scholarly study. Much of the landscape's battle-era significance, in fact, resides in the integrity of archeological resources. These resources have the potential to enhance scholarship and, ultimately, to heighten the public's understanding of the battle and the terrain on which that event occurred.

In addition to direct battle-era associations, the landscape at Chalmette possesses further historical significance because of its commemorative history, which is physically represented by features such as the Chalmette Monument and Spotts Marker. The commemorative landscape at Chalmette, the material origins of which can be traced to the beginning of construction on the Chalmette Monument in 1855, may also be one of the earliest examples of on-site battlefield commemoration in the United States.

Agricultural land patterns:

Chalmette Battlefield is one of few sites in this heavily industrialized region to display both the meadow-like openness of earlier agricultural land use patterns and the physical trace of colonial-era land divisions based on the French arpent-unit of measure. In fact, the Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) tract represents the southern end of the battle-era Rodriguez property, a half-arpent-width parcel which had been subdivided from a larger holding some years prior to the battle. The Rodriguez Canal marks the original property line between the Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations, and is a relic of the agricultural landscape and plantation mode of life that was predominant in this region at the time of the battle. The central battlefield zone represents a portion of the fields of Chalmette Plantation--known since the time of the battle as Chalmette Plain or the Plain of Chalmette--across which the British troops attacked. Although the park does not contain the full extent of either the Rodriguez or Chalmette properties, it is nonetheless a significant remnant of the agricultural landscape that existed at the time of the Battle of New Orleans.

Commemorative military park:

Chalmette's battlefield landscape has additional historical significance as an early prototype of the commemorative military park. Indeed, the wedge-shaped parcel of land on which the Chalmette Monument sits was purchased by the State of Louisiana in 1855 for the purpose of erecting a monument to the American soldiers who had fought in the Battle of New Orleans. Chalmette Monument, begun that same year, thus symbolizes a 19th-century impulse to memorialize Jackson's victory on the site where the battle occurred; yet, in a broader sense, it also represents an early manifestation of a patriotic sentiment which would produce the first military parks as commemorative landscapes, some years after the Civil War. During the years 1855-1949, before National Park Service efforts to acquire the Beauregard and Fazendeville tracts to the east, Chalmette Monument and the wedge-shaped Rodriguez parcel constituted the full extent of the commemorative landscape at Chalmette.

Archeological resources:

Despite a weak measure of integrity based on existing landscape resources, Chalmette Battlefield has proven to be especially rich in archeological resources. Ted Birkedal's previously cited archeological report, in fact, emphasizes the importance of the site's archeology for understanding both the Battle of

New Orleans and the region's social and economic development. Certain archeological resources, such as the Fazendeville Road trace and the Rodriguez Plantation site, hold clues for understanding 18th and 19th-century social and economic life in this region of Louisiana. Additional investigation of the archeological resources dating from the Battle of New Orleans--the American rampart and battery positions, agricultural drainage ditches and road alignments, the British battery positions, and the Rodriguez site--could yield fresh insights into military and social aspects of the battle itself and the importance that landscape features played in the strategy and tactics of the campaign.

Conclusion:

As mandated by the park's enabling legislation, and based on the property's direct association with the battle and with the historic personage of Andrew Jackson, the primary focus of interpretive efforts at Chalmette remains the Battle of New Orleans. The period immediately preceding the battle (1814-1815) thus represents the primary period of significance for assessing the integrity of the landscape at Chalmette, an integrity which, unfortunately, has been irreparably diminished by changes in surrounding land use. However, the trace of pre-battle agricultural land patterns, the presence of the Chalmette Monument on the site of Jackson's victory, and archeological resources from the time of the battle considerably bolster the landscape's significance, partially compensating for the obvious loss of physical and spatial integrity from the battle era.

The Mississippi Riverfront should be reconsidered as a feature which contributes to the historical significance of the battle-era landscape, and a feature which should be more fully incorporated into the park's interpretive program. The action of the Battle of New Orleans was largely shaped by the terrain on which it occurred; that terrain was in turn shaped by the river.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site
Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Agricultural Field
Primary Current Use: Waste Water Treatment Facility

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Defense-Other	Historic
Domestic (Residential)-Other	Historic
Farm (Plantation)	Historic
Grave/Burial	Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Both Current And Historic
Meadow	Both Current And Historic
Monument (Building)	Both Current And Historic
Village Site	Historic
Wayside Exhibit	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Chalmette Battlefield	Both Current And Historic
Chalmette Monument & Grounds Site	Historic
Chalmette National Historical Park	Historic
Chalmette Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Associated Group:

Name of Group: The community of free black individuals who settled the post-Civil War subdivision of Fazendeville, as well as their descendents who inhabited this on-site community until 1964.

Type of Association: Historic

Ethnographic Significance Description:

Fazendeville was a post-Civil War community of free black individuals who inhabited part of what is now the Chalmette Battlefield property. This linear subdivision existed from the 1870s until 1964, when the NPS acquired the property, removed the structures, and incorporated the land into the park. The community's inhabitants may well have represented former slaves from the Chalmette and St. Amand Plantation complexes. In this respect, the site may reveal a continuous history of African-American occupation from the early colonial era until the mid-20th century

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
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Chalmette Battlefield
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AD 1718	Established	The City of New Orleans is established.
AD 1808	Purchased/Sold	Jean Rodriguez purchases land with a width of 1/2 arpent fronting the Mississippi. Jean Rodriguez
AD 1815	Military Operation	American and British troops engage in the Battle of New Orleans on the Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations Andrew Jackson
AD 1817	Purchased/Sold	Jean Rodriguez sells his riverfront property to Dame Marguerite Verret. After her death, the land is passed to her son Edouard Prevost. Jean Rodriguez
	Purchased/Sold	Two years after the death of Lino de Chalmet, the Chalmette property is sold to brothers Hilaire and Louis St. Amand, wealthy free men of color. Hilaire and Louis St. Amand
AD 1819	Explored	Architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe visits the site of the battle for the first time, sketches the existing condition and writes of the visit. Benjamin Henry Latrobe
AD 1832	Purchased/Sold	The Chalmette property is subdivided and lots are sold by the St. Amand brothers to pay off debts. Alexander Baron purchases the westernmost of the St. Amand tracts. Hilaire and Louis St. Amand Alexander Baron
AD 1833	Built	Alexander Baron has a residence constructed on the tract he purchased from the St. Amand brothers. The residence is for his mother-in-law Madeleine Pannetier (widow of Guillame Malus). The house serves as a country retreat for the next seventy years. Alexander Baron

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AD 1849	Purchased/Sold	Etienne Villavosa purchases the Rodriguez tract after Prevost's death. Villavosa owns the adjoining downriver parcel, a former portion of the Chalmette Plantation.
AD 1851	Established	The Jackson Monument Association is established to solicit funds for the erection of a monument to commemorate the American victory at the Battle of New Orleans and to acquire a site for such a monument. Jackson Monument Association
AD 1852	Purchased/Sold	Etienne Villavosa sells the Rodriguez tract to Pierre Bachelot.
AD 1855	Purchased/Sold	The State of Louisiana purchases the Rodriguez tract from Bachelot for \$5,000, with the intent of erecting a memorial on the site for Jackson's victory.
	Designed	In May 1855, New Orleans stone dealers Newton Richards and John Stroud and Company submit four designs for a battlefield monument to the Jackson Monument Association. The Monument Association selects for the design a 150-foot Egyptian-style obelisk. Newton Richards John Stroud and Company
AD 1855 - 1859	Built	Construction of Chalmette Monument begins in 1855, but work is halted in 1859 due to lack of funds. The monument remains unfinished, at a height of 69 feet four inches and topped by a makeshift wooden roof, until 1908. United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 Jackson Monument Association
AD 1857 - 1965	Developed	Jean Pierre Fazande, a free man of color, inherits a St. Amand tract. The tract is subdivided in the late 1960s, and the property develops into the black community of Fazandeville. Jean Pierre Fazande
AD 1904	Purchased/Sold	Rene Toutant Beauregard sells the Malus-Beauregard property to the New Orleans Terminal Company.
AD 1905	Built	Around 1905, construction begins on the Chalmette Slip on the former Macarty property.

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AD 1906 - 1908	Engineered	In 1906, the United Daughters of 1776 and 1812 asked civil engineer Alfred F. Theard to inspect the unfinished monument and to make recommendations for its completion. Alfred F. Theard
AD 1930	Purchased/Sold	Ownership of the Chalmette Monument is transferred from the United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 to the War Department.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	The Chalmette National Monument property is transferred to the National Park Service.
AD 1939	Established	Chalmette National Historical Park is established by act of Congress. It includes both the Monument and the National Cemetery.
AD 1949	Purchased/Sold	NPS acquires the adjacent Beauregard and Villavosa properties, and initiates broad-range development plans for their incorporation into the park.
AD 1958	Reconstructed	The Beauregard House is restored to its presumed mid-1800s appearance.
AD 1964	Built	The visitor tour road is constructed and a portion of the American rampart is reconstructed.
AD 1965	Purchased/Sold	In the mid-1960s, NPS acquires Fazandeville through condemnation or purchase, removes the structures and incorporates it into the battlefield park.
AD 1972	Built	A comfort station is built south of the monument to replace an earlier brick facility.
AD 1978	Land Transfer	Chalmette National Historical Park is incorporated into the newly created Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.
AD 1983	Built	The visitor center and parking area are constructed.

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AD 2000 - 2008	Memorialized	Nine additional military markers are installed in the turf along the periphery of the Chalmette Monument island. These markers interpret the roles of various American militia and armed forces that had a role in the Battle of New Orleans.
	Rehabilitated	Several of the recommendations in the CLR are implemented, including: removal of trash cans and bulletin boards in the core area; removal of the Rodriguez Canal footbridge, removal of ornamental vegetation around Malus-Beauregard House and Visitor Center, etc.
	Maintained	After testing, JELA officially adopts a mowing plan that calls for mowing Chalmette Battlefield less frequently, creating a scene more in keeping with the battlefield era.
AD 2005	Damaged	Hurricane Katrina passes through greater New Orleans inflicting heavy damage on the city and flooding much of the battlefield. Structures are damaged, particularly in the National Cemetery (see Cemetery CLI).
AD 2006	Planned	The archeological report edited by Ted Birkedal, "The Search for the Lost Riverfront" is published, and shows that the riverfront did not erode nearly as much as once thought. Among other things, this places batteries in different positions along the rampart. Interpretive wayside markers are moved to reflect this discovery. Additional information about the double ditch, picket line, and other ditches are brought to light as well.

Physical History:

The Pre-Battlefield Landscape (to 1814)

Physiography, Natural Resources, and Climate

Though a landscape of subtle topographic relief, Louisiana's Mississippi River Delta region--the physiographic setting for the Chalmette site--is a complex and shifting matrix of rich alluvial bottomland, natural levees, lazy bayous, sluggish swamps, fertile marshlands, and meandering streams. The region's earliest inhabitants enjoyed a land of remarkable variety, where river, land, and ocean met to create a surprising diversity of habitat and an abundance of natural resources. The region's many waterways, especially the Mississippi and its tributaries and distributaries, provided natural arteries for exploration, transportation, and settlement within this fluctuating landscape of sediment and flow. The rich deposits of sand and silt left behind by regular flooding along the river's course created a highly desirable agricultural soil, which had a decisive impact on patterns of settlement and land use. European settlement would long be confined to the narrow ribbons of productive, relatively well-drained soil along the natural levees on either side of rivers and streams. Furthermore, the region's humid subtropical climate, strongly influenced by proximity to the Gulf Coast, necessitated unique cultural adaptations on the part of early inhabitants, both American Indian and European; many of these adaptations--crop cultivation, architectural forms, regional cookery, even modes of transport--are still strongly identified with the delta region of Southeastern Louisiana.

Presettlement Vegetation and Topography

The native flora encountered by early inhabitants to the region was likewise patterned through a complex interrelationship of soil, hydrography, and climate. Three broadly distinctive forest associations, corresponding to the characteristic topographic profile and hydrographic regime along the Mississippi River, can be identified. On the sandy bature slope rising from the river to the elevated natural levee, one would find a predominance of willows (*Salix* spp.), along with the pioneering cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), sweet gums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*). These species were adapted to the extreme fluctuations in moisture, due to periodic flooding, that are typical of this protective zone nearest the river. The elevated natural levees, accumulated ridges of alluvial soil up to 10 feet high along either side of the river, supported a second-bottom hardwood forest of deciduous and live oak (*Quercus* spp. and *Q. virginiana*), pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and hickory (*Carya* spp.), interspersed with thick brakes of native cane (*Arundinaria* spp.). Because the levee soil was especially favorable to agriculture and better drained than the more clayey inland soils, the fertile natural levee was where most early settlement occurred. Consequently, much of this zone--the open landscape at Chalmette is located on the natural levee--was cleared of its vegetation upon settlement.

From the natural levees, the land gently sloped away to an extensive backswamp, where cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*), swamp oak (*Quercus michauxii*), swamp red maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *Drummondii*), and palmetto (*Sabal minor*) characterized the first-bottom or swamp forest. The width of the swamp zone and its distance from the river

varied according to the gradient of the topography and the porosity of the underlying soils. In the immediate proximity of the Chalmette site, the natural levee was narrow, and as a result, the cypress swamps impinged more closely towards the Mississippi River than on the surrounding lands. These swamps connected to a series of bayous that extended from Lake Borgne, a major body of water to the northeast of New Orleans. This particular combination of topography and vegetation would play a major strategic role during the Battle of New Orleans. The three vegetative zones described, which provide a tangible ecological link to the presettlement landscape, persist today in undeveloped or released areas along the rivers and waterways, and can be observed to some extent along the edges of the Chalmette site itself.

Earliest Human Habitation

The earliest inhabitants of the Chalmette region were not the French who settled along the rivers and streams in the early eighteenth century, but seasonally nomadic native peoples who hunted the abundant game and fished the productive waters of the delta for at least three thousand years prior to European arrival. In fact, the archeological record for St. Bernard Parish--the civil jurisdiction within which the Chalmette site is located--has yielded sites dating back to 1740 B.C. Numerous tree-covered mounds and shell middens remain as testaments to the presence of native peoples in this ancient sedimentary region between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Though archeological evidence has never definitively established the occupation of the Chalmette site by American Indians prior to European settlement, it would be difficult to imagine, given the proximity of other documented sites within the parish, that the fertile banks of the Mississippi River at Chalmette were not, at some time, inhabited or even cultivated by earlier people. Their artifacts might well be preserved within the clayey subsoil of Chalmette's plain.

European Settlement and Land Patterns

French settlers arrived in southeastern Louisiana around 1700, introducing patterns of land division that were uniquely responsive to regional geographic conditions and constraints. The meandering course of rivers and streams served as the survey (cadastral) baseline along which property demarcations were made. Even today, the French system of survey and land division--a system based on the arpent measure of 192 feet--remains apparent in many areas, despite suburbanization and industrialization. Early maps of the Mississippi River show the characteristic wedge-shaped or linear parcels of land with their shortest dimension fronting the waterway (see figure 7). These parcels were laid out to maximize the number of lots with river frontage, productive levee soils, and access to the backswamp's abundant supply of timber.

A typical French land grant included river frontage of 25 or fewer arpents (approximately 4800 feet) along the natural levee, extending to a standard depth of 40 arpents (7680 feet) towards the backswamp. Grants occasionally extended to a depth of 80 arpents, or, if the levee's backslope was sufficiently wide, a second range of less-desirable lots was created behind the riverfront parcels. The riverfront configuration of properties provided a transect through the essential natural resources needed for agricultural settlement: the well drained land along the levees was highly amenable to agricultural use, the rivers provided natural channels for the

transportation of goods to market, and timber was readily available from the backswamps. The emerging port city of New Orleans provided the commercial center for the developing agricultural economy.

Growth and Influence of New Orleans

New Orleans was established in 1718, according to a plan envisioned by Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville. The city was sited at a convenient portage between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. Under the supervision of Adrien de Pauger, a French military engineer, the city was laid out as a compact and fortified grid along the elevated ground lying just to the north of a protected crescent-shaped bend in the river. Man-made levees were constructed along either side of the Mississippi River for some distance above and below the city to offer protection against flooding.

Though some 100 miles upriver from the mouth of the Mississippi, New Orleans quickly became the region's primary commercial center and, in 1721, its colonial capital. Land grants for the property along the Mississippi River were quickly conveyed; a 1723 map records multiple plantation holdings in the area that would later become the site of the Battle of New Orleans (see figure 7). This map depicts the emerging pattern of land grants and ownership along the river. It is the earliest known graphic depiction of the future battlefield site and shows the linear long-lot parcels that were characteristic of settlement along the river.

Plantation Agriculture

During the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, a mosaic of agricultural and rural land uses emerged along the river below the city. Large land grants were subdivided into smaller properties, and an agriculture based on indigo and, later, sugarcane developed. The natural levee was reinforced and canals and ditches were constructed between the river and backswamp to drain the frequently flooded soils. The belt of cypress swamp that covered the lower inland elevations of these properties marked the extent of cultivable land, and provided a ready source of timber for fenceposts and other structures. A road along the levee near the riverfront provided access to and between the developing plantation properties.

boundaries, it is referenced because of its importance for understanding the battle-era scene. The Mississippi Riverfront is treated in separate detail because of its importance to the battle and to the later evolution of the landscape on which the battle occurred.

The Rodriguez Plantation

The Rodriguez Plantation was the smallest of the properties on which the Battle of New Orleans was fought. Due to a series of subdivisions of the original land grant, the Rodriguez property was an unusually small piece of land for agricultural use (only half an arpent wide on the riverfront), and was perhaps not even a plantation in the strictest sense of the word, but rather a country retreat. The property contained a double-concession's depth of 80 arpents, extending some 5,000 yards inland from the riverfront towards the cypress swamps that fed into the numerous meandering bayous and wet prairies bordering Lake Borgne. Before subdivision from the larger grant, the property was likely used as an indigo plantation. An 1808 survey suggests that, after subdivision, the property was operated as a mill, by then-owner J.M. Pintard. In fact, the canal marking the property's eastern boundary--labeled "canal du moulin" (mill canal) on the survey map--is thought to have served as the race for a sawmill.

Whatever the specific land use, the property was purchased by attorney Jean Rodriguez on September 29, 1808. In the act of sale, the property is described as follows:

One half arpent of land fronting the river with all its buildings and dependencies situated at four miles from this city, below and shown on one side of the residence of Mr. Guillermo Brown and on the other side that of Mr. Edouard Macarty, with a depth of eighty-one and in conformity with the act of sale of Mr. Pierre Denis de la Ronde to Mr. Laurent Sigur, the said half arpent of land forming an angle opening and always following the canal . . .

According to this description, the property formed an angle that opened outward from the river, increasing in width from roughly south to north and following the line of a canal, certainly the Rodriguez Canal. Although their presence at the time of sale to Rodriguez is undocumented, at least two residential structures stood on the property at the time of the battle: a galleried main house and a small cottage-style structure, perhaps a kitchen, to the east of the main house. These structures are depicted in Hyacinthe Laclotte's famous engraving of the battle (figure 8) and in Latrobe's sketches (figures 9 & 10). The foundations of these two structures were located during archeological testing in the mid-1980s, sited within a grove of live oak trees south of the Chalmette Monument.

At the time of sale to Rodriguez, the property exhibited the characteristic orientation and features of other larger plantations along the river, including the drainage canal running from river to backswamp and a rectilinear field pattern. Such features were mandated by law as much as by necessity:

"The pattern of French settlement was both confirmed and reinforced by law. French, and in turn Spanish, law provided that the settler must clear his land to a depth of three arpents (600 feet) [sic], plant two heavy posts near the water for mooring river craft, construct and maintain

a foot and bridle path on the levee, construct a wagon road 48 feet wide on the landward side of the levee, run ditches laterally from levee to backswamp and construct culverts where the ditches crossed the road."

This description defines a landscape that was spatially oriented towards the river. Indeed, domestic structures were generally sited near the river, on the better drained soils of the natural levee and close to the road that ran along the landward side. Except for scattered trees in the fields and formal gardens or plantings around the houses, the landscape was generally open between the riverfront and the backswamp. Battle-era sources suggest that the houses were frequently ornamented with landscaped gardens, parterres of flowers, hedges, and fruit trees on their riverfront sides. The agricultural fields which extended north of the domestic complexes were transected by the lateral drainage canals which carried overflow water towards the swamp. It is reasonable to assume that the Rodriguez property, as well as the neighboring Chalmette property, conformed to these legal requirements.

Topography played a strategic role in shaping the strategy and eventual outcome of the Battle of New Orleans. In fact, Jackson chose the Rodriguez Canal as a point of retreat after an earlier skirmish with the British primarily because the cypress swamp trended towards the river at the boundary between the Rodriguez and Chalmette properties. This provided the narrowest front of defense for the American troops (approximately 950 yards between river and backswamp), and forced British troops to cross a narrow and vulnerably open plain clearly visible to Jackson from his lookout in the upper floors of the Macarty plantation house. British movements could be carefully monitored by the Americans, who were entrenched along the west bank of the Rodriguez Canal. This canal, which marked the boundary between the Rodriguez and Chalmette properties, served as a pre-existing ditch behind which Jackson and his troops could erect more substantial defenseworks of earth, wooden palings, and cotton bales.

As Birkedal notes, Jackson's troops would have removed any mature trees or vegetation from around the line of defense, either as a protective measure to maximize visibility or for use as fuel or construction material in the reinforcement of the American line. In fact, the Rodriguez property must have been significantly impacted by the encampment and preparatory activities that took place on site prior to the actual battle. Laclotte's engraving (figure 8) and Latrobe's sketches (figures 9 & 10) agree upon the generally open character of the Rodriguez landscape at the time of the battle and in the years immediately following.

The Chalmette Plantation

". . . the Chalmette Plantation occupied a somewhat rectangular piece of ground that stretched more than 1,000 yards along the Mississippi and ranged between 1,000 and 1,500 yards inland to the cypress swamp. The neighboring Rodriguez property was a wedge-shaped tract of small proportion, bordered on the Chalmette side by an old millrace, or canal, that ran from the levee well into the swamp. The flat terrain of Chalmette was interspersed by buildings and groves near the river, but the vast majority of land was given over to sugar cane, which in December, 1814, had been harvested so that most of the broad fields were filled with stubble. Farther

downstream the river turned gently to the left, and the structures and groves of adjacent plantations could be seen along the Mississippi. On the north end of the Chalmette property stood the cypress swamp. At the Rodriguez side of the tract the swamp was closest to the river, about one-half mile distant."

The plantation of Ignace de Lino de Chalmet was subdivided into a number of rectilinear fields by a sequence of drainage ditches that ran perpendicularly from the river towards the backswamp. During the battle, these ditches--there were at least five between the British battery positions and the American line--were tactically employed by the British troops for protective cover and for refuge during retreats. The heavier vegetation that grew along the banks of these wet ditches--rushes, sedges, bushes, and small trees--provided defensive cover in the otherwise open landscape. A double ditch skirted the southern edge of the forested cypress swamp, collecting the water from the lateral ditches. The double ditch was bordered to the south by a fence, roughly demarcating a transitional zone of low swampy growth that extended to within 600 yards of the riverbank near the American line (figure 11).

Chalmette Plantation was a large sugar plantation with 22 arpents of river frontage. At the time of battle, at least one of the fields was planted in sugarcane, which had only recently been harvested. First-hand accounts make mention of the stubble-covered terrain that the British soldiers' encountered in their advance across the plain of Chalmette. Other fields are described as weedy mixes of bottomland growth and such wetland species as sedges and rushes, with low bushes growing along the lateral ditch lines. These fields may have been used for pasturage or perhaps were lying fallow for the winter.

A secondary dirt wagon road, referred to in battle-era accounts as Center Road, crossed the fields of Chalmette Plantation, paralleling the river at a point south of the cypress swamp (figure 11). This road served as a strategic route for British movement from the plantation properties to the east, and was the feature astride which the British constructed their advance artillery battery. The Chalmette plantation complex--the house and dependency structures--was located on property that is downriver from the current park. The house was destroyed during the battle. In summary, the battlefield at Chalmette was an open bottomland devoid of all but scattered trees, bordered to the north by the sweeping line of the cypress swamp, and to the south, by the Mississippi River and its adjacent levee.

The Mississippi Riverfront

At the time of the Battle of New Orleans, the Mississippi Riverfront was an integral part of the agricultural landscape that had developed along the river south of New Orleans. The sugarcane and indigo plantations of the region were dependent on the river as a vital transportation lifeline, and the fertile soils left behind by periodic flooding provided the medium for agricultural success. Furthermore, the fields were irrigated and drained by canals that ran from the river to the backswamp region, which covered the northern extremities of the plantations (figure 11). The river was as much the progenitor of this fertile landscape as it was the perpetuator of its agricultural and economic viability.

Chalmette Battlefield

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

Although the natural levees had been reinforced by individual property owners to protect against flooding since the early years of French Colonial rule, the Mississippi was very much a part of the battlefield landscape, both spatially and visually. Illustrations from the time of the battle, such as Laclotte's engraving, show a relatively unobstructed spatial connection between the riverfront and the fields of the Chalmette Plantation. Significant portions of the battle action, in fact, occurred upon the banks of the river, which also served as a vital transportation, supply, and strategic link for the opposing British and American forces. The river was the point of origin and the source of issue for the canals that transected the battle-era landscape and which played such a significant role in the movements and strategy of battle. The American schooner *Carolina* was positioned at a strategic point in the river to provide cover for the troops on the east bank. The American troops also constructed a battery and defensive line on the west bank of the river, roughly opposite the Rodriguez property.

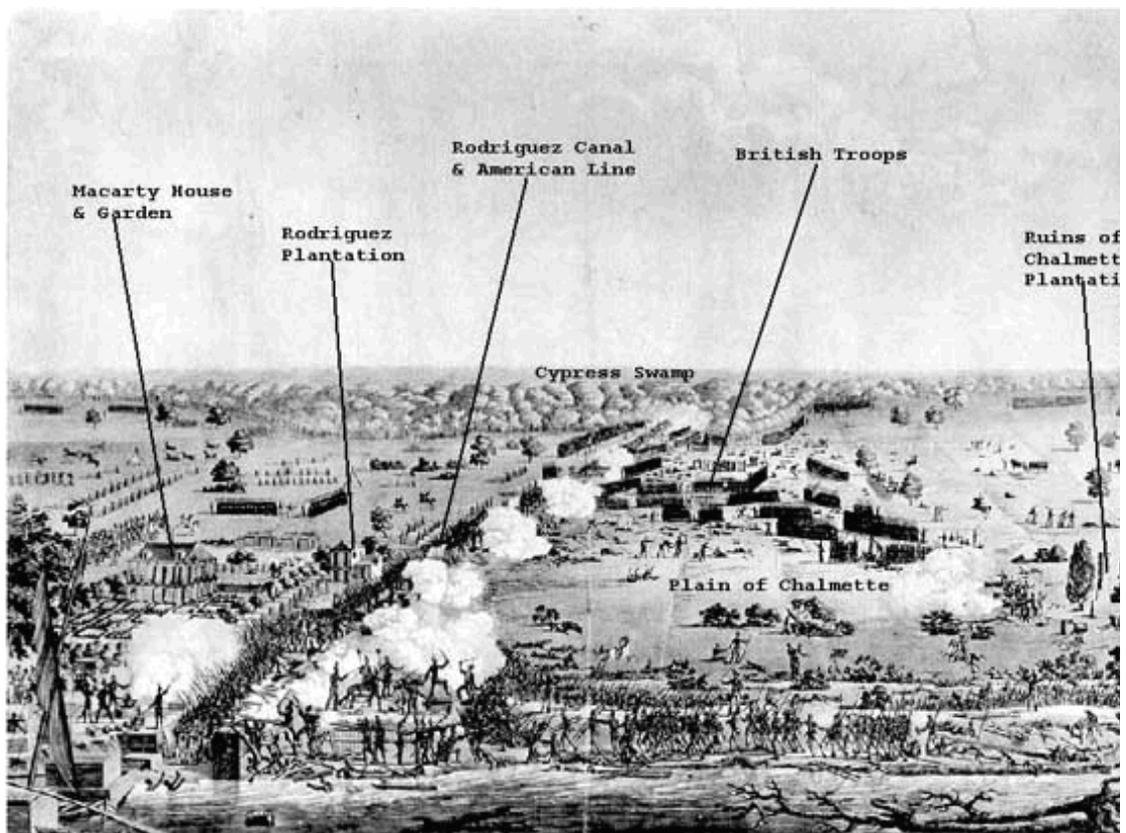


Figure 8. Hyacinthe Laclotte's engraving of the Battle of New Orleans, showing the American troops positioned along the Rodriguez Canal and the British forces attacking across the fields of Chalmette Plantation (Greene, 365; original in NY Public Library)



Figure 9. Sketch of the Battlefield at Chalmette by architect Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe, 1819. Macarty Plantation is in left and center midground; the Rodriguez Plantation, in right mid- and foreground. The mound of earth marks the Rodriguez Canal.

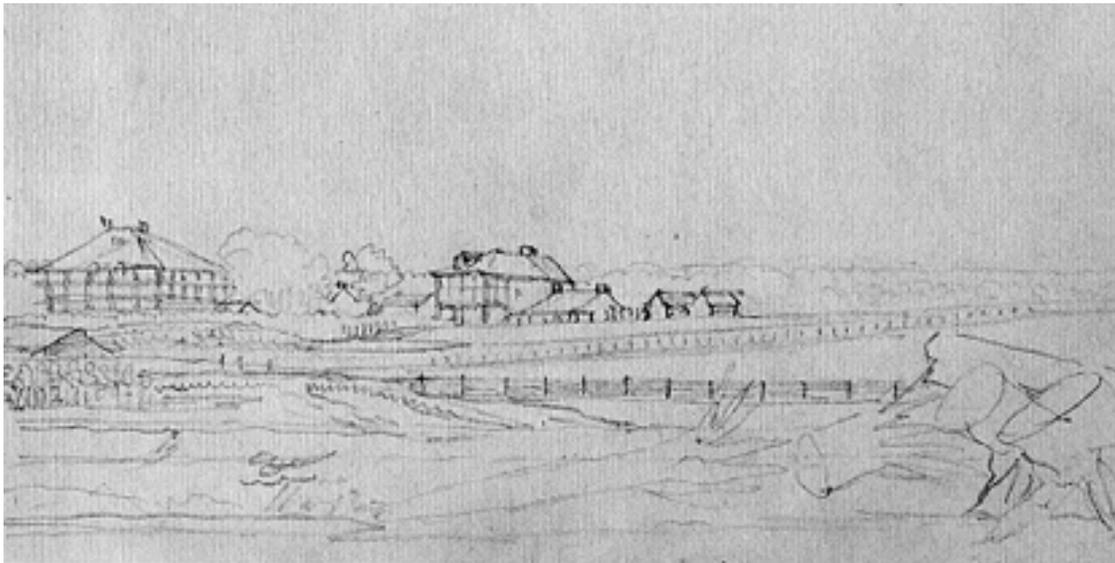


Figure 10. Sketch of the Battlefield at Chalmette by architect Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe, 1819. The Macarty Plantation is in left midground; the Rodriguez Plantation, in center midground. The fields of Chalmette Plantation stretch away to the right.

park, e.g., the Malus-Beauregard House, traces of the Fazendeville settlement, and Chalmette Monument.

Subdivision and Private Ownership (1815-1964)

The Rodriguez Property

In 1817, Jean Rodriguez sold his riverfront property to Dame Marguerite Verret, presumably after repairing any damage sustained to its structures during the Battle of New Orleans. No mention is made in the deed of transaction between Rodriguez and Verret of the appearance or condition of the landscape or of any improvements that Rodriguez may have made to it. However, archeology suggests that the L-shaped grove of live oaks that stands south of the Chalmette Monument may date from this period; the archeological site of the Rodriguez plantation house is located within this grove of trees, suggesting that the trees might have been planted in relationship to that structure. Indeed, Rodriguez might have planted the trees while he was making improvements to the house and property in anticipation of their sale.

The most keenly observed and, presumably, accurate record of the appearance of the landscape during this period are the two sketches that the architect Latrobe made during his visit to the battlefield in 1819 (figures 9 & 10). Neither sketch depicts any trees in the immediate vicinity of the house, but trees that had only recently been planted would not be visible behind the mass of the house itself. The rest of the landscape between the river and the wooded swamp to the north of the domestic complex is depicted as open land, divided into linear fields by fencerows stretching into the distance. The canal appears as a slight linear depression, with mounds of earth--the remains of the American rampart and battery positions--still visible to the southeast of the house.

After Madame Verret's death, the property passed to her son, Edouard Prevost, who held it until his death in 1849. Zimpel's 1834 map of New Orleans and vicinity shows the property under the ownership of Prevost (figure 12). At Prevost's death, the property was purchased by Etienne Villavosa, owner of the adjoining downriver parcel (a portion of the former Chalmette Plantation), who sold it to Pierre Bachelot in 1852. In 1855, the state of Louisiana bought the property from Bachelot, in accordance with an 1852 act of the state legislature, for the purpose of erecting a memorial on the site of Jackson's victory. Construction of the Chalmette Monument commenced that same year.

The Chalmette Property

In 1817, two years after the death of Lino de Chalmet, the 22-arpent Chalmette property was sold to brothers Hilaire and Louis St. Amand, wealthy free men of color. Under the St. Amands's proprietorship, the property was returned to sugarcane plantation, and the brothers established the production facilities and servants quarters (the St. Amands were slaveowners) necessary to maintain such an enterprise. The entire acreage remained intact until 1832, when the brothers subdivided the property into several smaller tracts in order to pay off debts. The Zimpel map (figure 12 shows several of these subdivided tracts between the Prevost property and the core St. Amand property. These parcels were sold and developed primarily as

residential lots, but by the late-nineteenth century, some also housed small commercial enterprises, including a sawmill on the Cantrel and Peyroux tracts.

In 1832, Alexander Baron bought one of the westernmost of the St. Amand tracts (the tract labeled "A. Baron" on the Zimpel map). Around 1833, he had a residence constructed on the property in the French Creole style for his mother-in-law, Madeleine Pannetier (widow of Guillaume Malus). During the next seventy years, the house and property served as a country retreat for a succession of private owners: the Malus and Baron families; Caroline Fabre, widow of Michel Bernard Cantrelle, who, in the 1860s, modified the house in the Greek Revival style; the Spaniard Jose Antonio Fernandez y Lineros, who named the property "Bueno Retiro"; and Rene Toutant Beauregard, eldest son of Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard. In 1904, the property was sold to the New Orleans Terminal Company by Beauregard. Early documents of sale indicate that the house had "a splendid orchard, containing every variety of rare fruit trees and vegetables, a beautiful flower garden, containing the choicest plants to be found." An 1880 notice of sale describes the property as follows:

"The property is improved by a substantial two-story Brick Mansion, and other dependencies, such as stabling and poultry houses, laborers' quarters, shaded by a magnificent lawn of magnolia and oak trees. The land is exceedingly rich and productive, and under cultivation for vegetables and flowers. The Orchard contains a fine assortment of fruit trees, comprising Orange, Mespilus, imported Pears and Pecan Trees, besides a large variety of Figs, Grapes, etc., thrifty and bearing, within half an hour's drive of the centre of the city. . . ."

Historic photographs from the Beauregard period or slightly later depict the house and landscape features--fences, gates, walks, tree plantings, and dependency structures, including a carriage house and detached kitchen--that embellished the property (figures 13 & 14). After the sale of the property to the New Orleans Terminal Company in 1904, the house was used as a foreman's residence and its landscaped grounds deteriorated. A 1934 HABS drawing shows the property boundaries, a central walk leading from the river road to the house, a pecan grove to the north of the house, a carriage lane to the east, and several other small-scale features, including a well and cistern, to the north of the house (figure 15). In 1948, the Beauregard property was acquired by the State of Louisiana, and in 1949, was donated to the National Park Service for incorporation into Chalmette National Historical Park.

In 1861, after a complicated string of land transfers, another of the parcels subdivided from the St. Amand Plantation came into the possession of the City of New Orleans. (According to Chalmette's Historic Resource Study, this parcel originally contained the slave cabins of the St. Amand plantation and possibly a sugar house.) Because of the parcel's strategic riverfront location, defensive earthworks were constructed on the eastern portion of the tract at the outbreak of the Civil War to fortify the city against attack from downriver. The city ceded the remaining western portion of the land to the United States government for use as a bivouac ground and cemetery. During the war, the land served as a refugee camp for slaves who had been freed by Union troops and as "a burial ground for former slaves, black hospital patients, and Union and Confederate troops" (see fig. 10). Chalmette National Cemetery was formally established when the city donated the cemetery parcel to the United States in 1868.

A third tract subdivided from the St. Amand holdings--the tract marked as Delery on Zimpel's map (figure 12)--came into the possession of Jean Pierre Fazende, a New Orleans grocer and free man of color, through inheritance in 1857. In the late 1860s, Fazende subdivided the portion of his property closest to the river and, during the 1870s, began selling individual lots. Fazende's subdivision evolved into the black community of Fazendeville. This linear village of small houses and lots stood on a narrow parcel of land between the Beauregard property and the Chalmette National Cemetery property. During the mid-1960s, the National Park Service acquired, through purchase or condemnation, the individual properties that composed the Fazendeville subdivision and eliminated the structures, incorporating the land into the battlefield park. The St. Bernard sewage treatment plant, which was constructed in 1959 and still stands at the southern end of the park, marks the southern terminus of the former Fazendeville Road (see figures 18 & 19).

Due to the many subdivisions and changes in ownership that have occurred since the time of the battle, the contemporary park contains only the upriver (westernmost) portion of the original Chalmette Plantation. The downriver portion of the battle-era property, including the site of the plantation house and the slave quarters, lies under the Kaiser Aluminum plant, to the east of the National Cemetery. (For further information regarding the St. Amand period and the post-battle-era land divisions of the Chalmette property, refer to Greene's Historic Resource Study.)

Private and Public Commemoration (1840-present)

Private Commemorative Efforts

On January 8, 1840, a ceremony commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans was held at the site of the American victory, on the former Rodriguez (Prevost) property. Andrew Jackson, hero of the battle and by this time a former President of the United States, was scheduled to speak at the celebration, but was delayed several days in arriving. Popular legend holds that the cornerstone for a battlefield monument was laid during the ceremony, but this legend has never been substantiated by site or documentary evidence.

Official efforts to erect a memorial were apparently suspended until 1851, when the Jackson Monument Commission was established to solicit public and legislative support for a battlefield monument. The following year, the State Legislature appropriated \$5,000 to purchase a site for a monument. In 1855, the State of Louisiana acquired the former Rodriguez property and began construction of the Chalmette Monument, based on a design by local stone dealer Newton Richards. The monument was to be a stately Egyptian-style obelisk of marble, one hundred and fifty feet tall, but by 1859, funding for construction was expended and the monument was capped off at fifty-six feet with a make-shift wooden roof. Photographs and narrative accounts indicate that the unfinished monument and the landscape around it were much neglected and weed-choked during the last decades of the nineteenth century.

In 1893, custodianship of the monument was placed in the hands of the Louisiana Society of the

United States Daughters of 1776 and 1812 (Daughters), whose members were distressed about the neglected condition of the monument. Sometime during the Daughters' early custodianship, a caretaker's house was built southeast of the monument and a shell path was constructed from the River Road to the functioning entrance in the southern face of the monument. The Daughters also erected Spotts Marker, a stone loving cup-shaped memorial honoring a veteran of the New Orleans campaign, near the entrance path from River Road to the monument (see fig. 14).

Federal Intervention and War Department Administration

In 1908, upon repeated request from the Daughters, the United States Government appropriated funding for the completion of Chalmette Monument. Although construction recommenced that same year, the monument never attained its projected height; it was permanently topped off at just over one hundred feet. The Daughters, who had solicited the funding for the monument's completion, retained custodianship of the property until 1930, when it was relinquished to the federal government and placed under the administration of the War Department.

During the early decades of the 1900s, numerous changes were occurring on the land surrounding the monument property. Industrialization along the river was rapidly changing the patterns of land use and transportation. Around 1905, construction began on the Chalmette Slip, a ship docking and storage facility located on the former Macarty property, to the west of the monument tract. In the late 1920s, the St. Bernard Highway was completed, just to the north of the Mexican Gulf (later, Norfolk Southern) Railroad line. At some point, the northern portion of the monument property (north of the present St. Bernard Highway) was sold, leaving that portion south of the railroad and public highway in the state's possession.

By the time the War Department acquired the site in 1930, the monument was accessed primarily from the east along River Road, by way of Fazendeville Road; the completion of the Chalmette Slip (c. 1908) had severed public access from the west. A 1934 photograph shows several site improvements, including an iron entrance gate and fencing, the path from River Road to the monument, and plantings along this path, that were implemented either before or during the War Department years at Chalmette (figure 20). The War Department administered the Chalmette National Monument property until 1933.

National Park Service (NPS) Administration

In 1933, the Chalmette National Monument property was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service. During the mid-1930s, the NPS implemented various site improvements, including the construction of an entrance drive from St. Bernard Highway, the paving of Monument Circle around the base of Chalmette Monument, and the construction of two visitor parking areas, separated by a grassy mall, south of the monument. Plans for a formal entrance gate to the park (figure 21) were also prepared but were never implemented. In 1939, Chalmette National Historical Park, which included both the Chalmette Monument property and the National Cemetery, was established by act of Congress.

In 1949, the park acquired the adjacent Beauregard and Villavosa properties, initiating a broad-range plan for park development that envisioned the consolidation of all the land holdings between the monument tract and the National Cemetery. Soon afterwards, the park began to clear these tracts of existing trees and features. In 1958, the Beauregard House was restored to its presumed mid-1800s appearance, and wings that had been added to either side of the main structure were removed. Historic yard features were apparently not preserved. Non-historic ornamental plantings of osmanthus, saucer magnolia, boxwood, and azalea were installed around the house and along new visitor pathways. A footbridge was constructed across the Rodriguez Canal to provide access from the Chalmette Monument core area to the Beauregard House, where the visitor center was housed. The caretaker's house, which was located on the monument tract, remained until at least the 1940s, when the park presumably razed it. The house that stood on the Villavosa tract (see figure 20) was also razed, probably in the 1950s.

Between 1960 and 1965, the park acquired through donation or condemnation the remaining parcels between the Beauregard tract and the National Cemetery, including the village of Fazendeville. In 1964, in anticipation of this consolidation of its holdings, the park proceeded with the construction of a visitor tour road, with interpretive wayside pull-offs, in the central portion of the battlefield. The reconstruction of a portion of the American rampart was completed presumably with Mission 66 funding) the same year, in time for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Battle of New Orleans. The northern portion of the park appears to have been cleared of its secondary woodland growth around this time. In fact, the landscape of the park became increasingly manicured during this era of expansion, and park development reflected the increasingly pervasive presence of automotive tourism (figure 22).

In 1972, the park constructed a comfort station south of the Chalmette Monument to replace an earlier brick facility. The addition of the visitors center and a new parking area in 1983 completed the park's visitor service infrastructure. In 1978, Chalmette National Historical Park was legislatively incorporated into the newly established Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (JELA), becoming one of several management units of the larger park.

Recent Archeology and Park Research

During the mid-1980s, a series of archeological tests revealed significant error in the long accepted historical geography of the battlefield. According to Birkedal's research, this error was first promoted by an official park map generated by Bres and Ricketts in 1935. Presumptuous and inaccurate extrapolation from a series of nineteenth-century maps had assumed a nearly 1000-foot loss of land to the river at the southern end of the park. This error had been perpetuated in the park's interpretive program for nearly a half-century. The 1964 reconstruction of the American rampart and battery positions was, in fact, based on the erroneous assumptions of the 1935 Bres and Ricketts's map. This map's calculation placed the Rodriguez House in the river, a fallacious assumption that was disproved by the archeological discovery of that site far landward of the riverbank. According to Birkedal's revised historical geography, "much of the historic riverfront area of the Chalmette Battlefield survives intact to

this day (p. 772). As a result, the park has revised its interpretive wayside markers to more closely reflect the locations of the batteries, where they are now understood to be. The park has also added military markers to the Chalmette Monument grassed island, and taken steps found in the treatment recommendations of the CLR, including removal of trash cans and ornamental vegetation from the monument area, removal of the Rodriguez Canal footbridge, etc. The park has also formalized new mowing practices that allow for the extended growth of vegetation in the battlefield, with more closely mowed strips along the tour road for safety reasons.

Summary

The Chalmette Battlefield Site is composed of various land parcels, each with its own distinctive site history, acquired over a more-than-one-hundred-year period and assembled into the present commemorative/interpretive park. This piecemeal evolution is implicitly apparent in the observed landscape of Chalmette and in the disconnected way in which extant features--the Rodriguez Canal, the Malus-Beauregard House, Chalmette Monument, Spotts Marker, the reconstructed American rampart, the St. Bernard sewage treatment plant, and the Fazendeville Road trace--relate to one another spatially. These features date from multiple eras in the site's history, serving as reminders of various land uses, circulation patterns, or property divisions that have been lost. Although not landscape features per se, subsurface archeological resources, such as the Rodriguez Plantation complex and American battery positions, further add to the site's material complexity. Chalmette's landscape represents not a battlefield preserved whole-cloth, but a fragmented continuum of material history overlaid on the remnants of the former battlefield.



Figure 12. 1834 Zimpel map of New Orleans and vicinity, showing the former Macarty plantation (Lombard); the former Rodriguez property (Prevost); the St. Amand Plantation, etc. NPS property in bold overlay. (Williams Research Center, New Orleans).

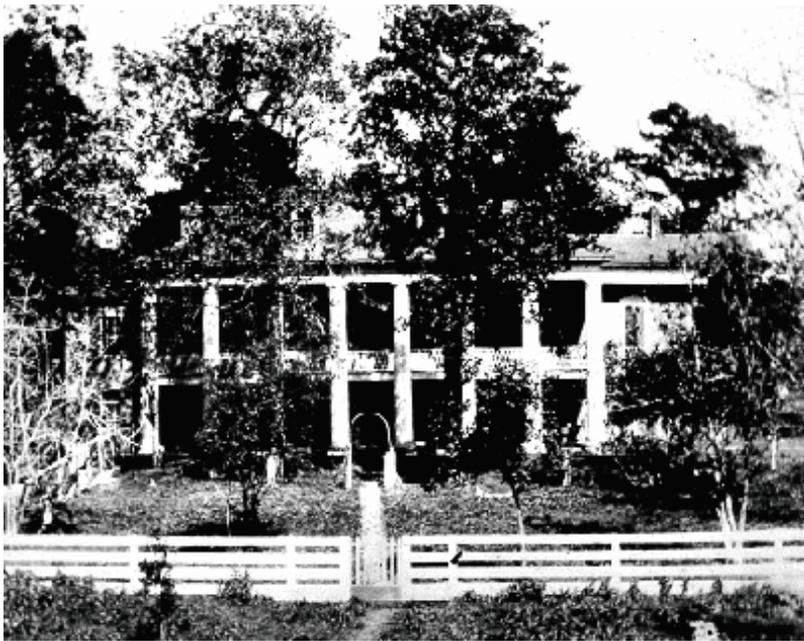


Figure 13. Malus-Beauregard House, riverfront façade and fenced yard with ornamental plantings, c. 1900 (#40-20-027).



Figure 14. Malus-Beauregard House, view of riverfront façade showing lane to carriage house and picket fencing, c. 1900 (#40-20-011).

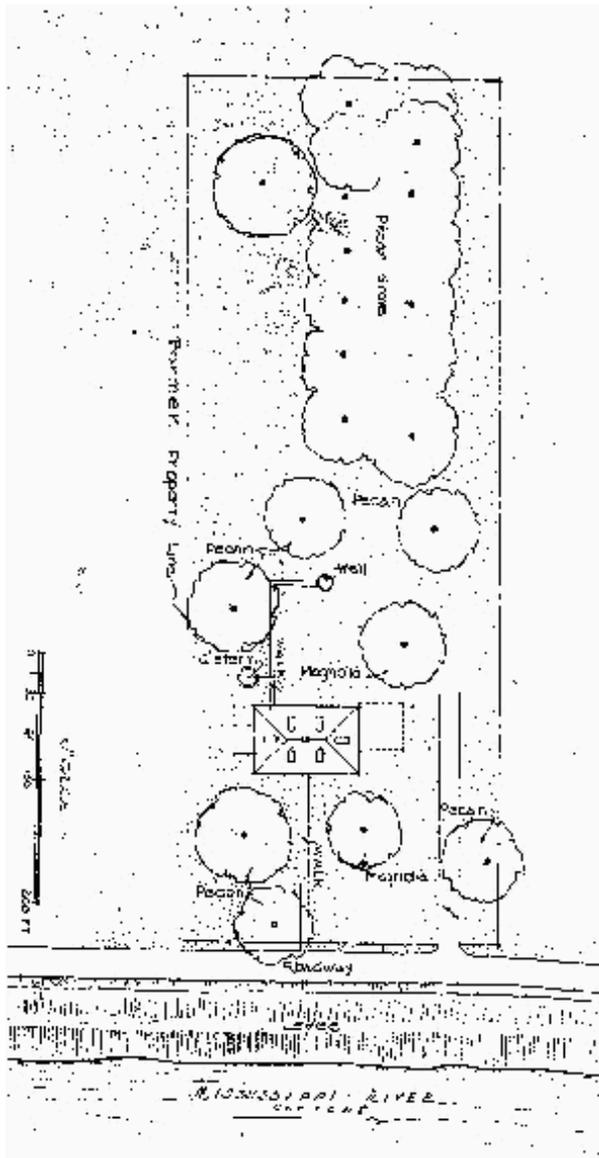


Figure 15. 1934 HABS drawing documenting existing conditions for Beauregard House and grounds (467/2005).

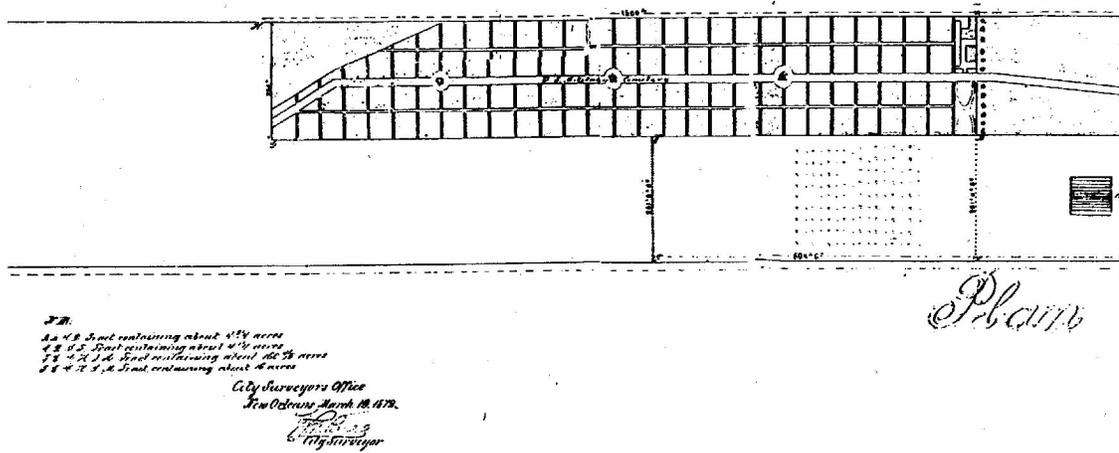


Figure 16. 1872 Plat of Chalmette National Cemetery, showing Freedman's Cemetery [bottom center] and a Civil War-era powder magazine [bottom right] (Greene, 431; original in New Orleans Public Library).



Figure 17. View from top of Chalmette Monument, looking east towards the Fazandeville settlement [midground] and Chalmette Cemetery [background], c. 1950 (#20-20-006).

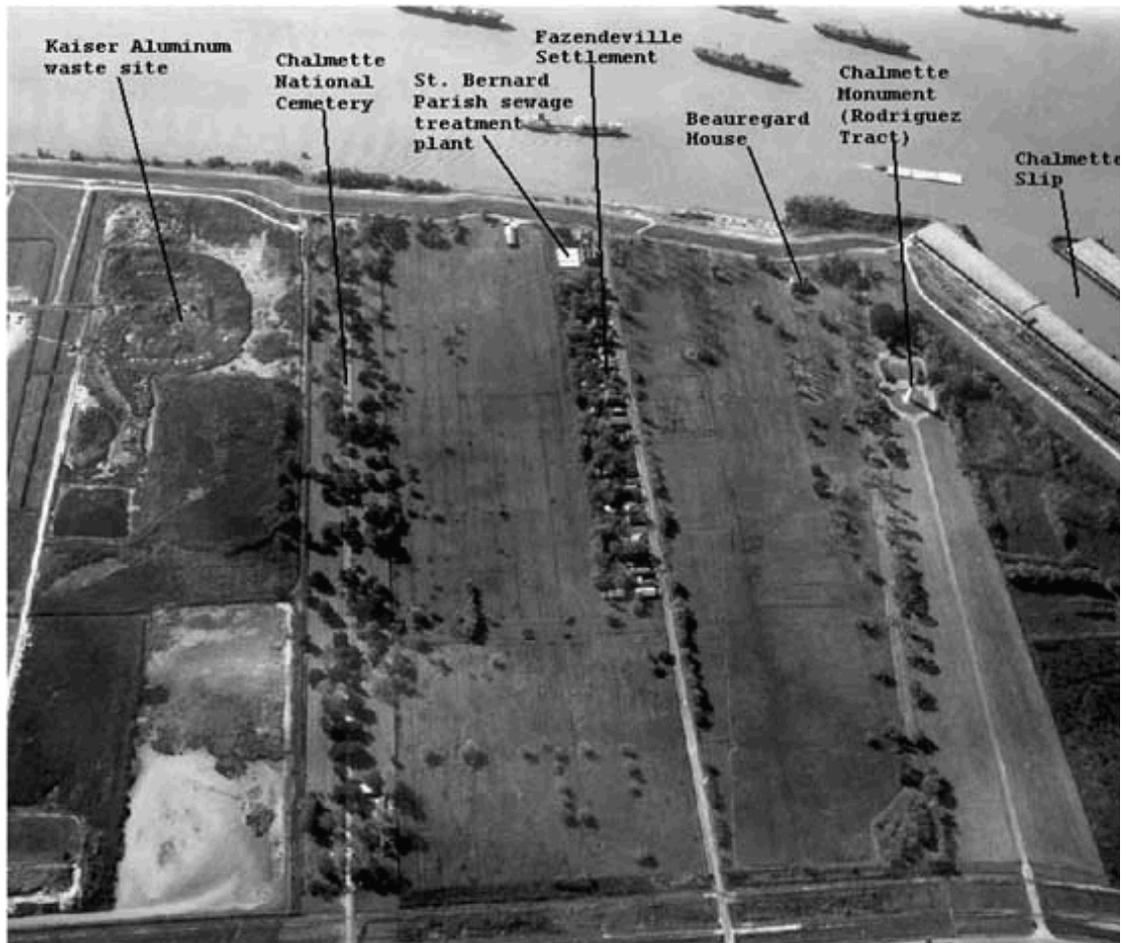


Figure 18. Aerial photo of Chalmette National Historical Park, c. 1960, showing industrialized site context and remnants of the linear land parcels that were incorporated into the contemporary park (#10-10-001).

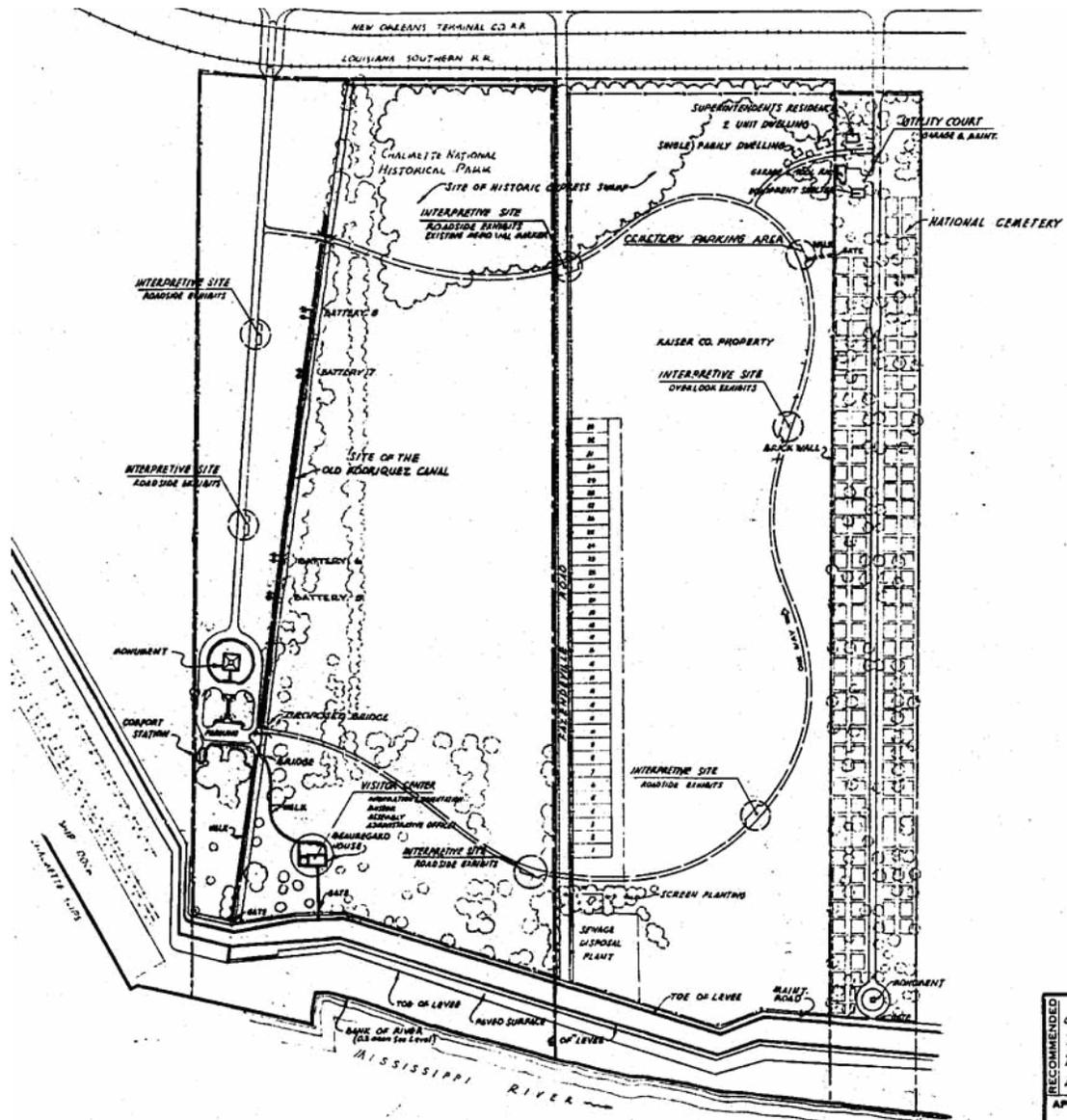


Figure 19. General Development Plan, Chalmette National Historical Park, 1960 (467/3012B0). Plan shows location of proposed tour road and American rampart reconstruction.



Figure 20. River Road entrance to Chalmette National Monument site, c. 1934. Note Spotts Marker to the left rear of the entrance gate and the Villanova house at the right edge of the photo (#10-50-001).

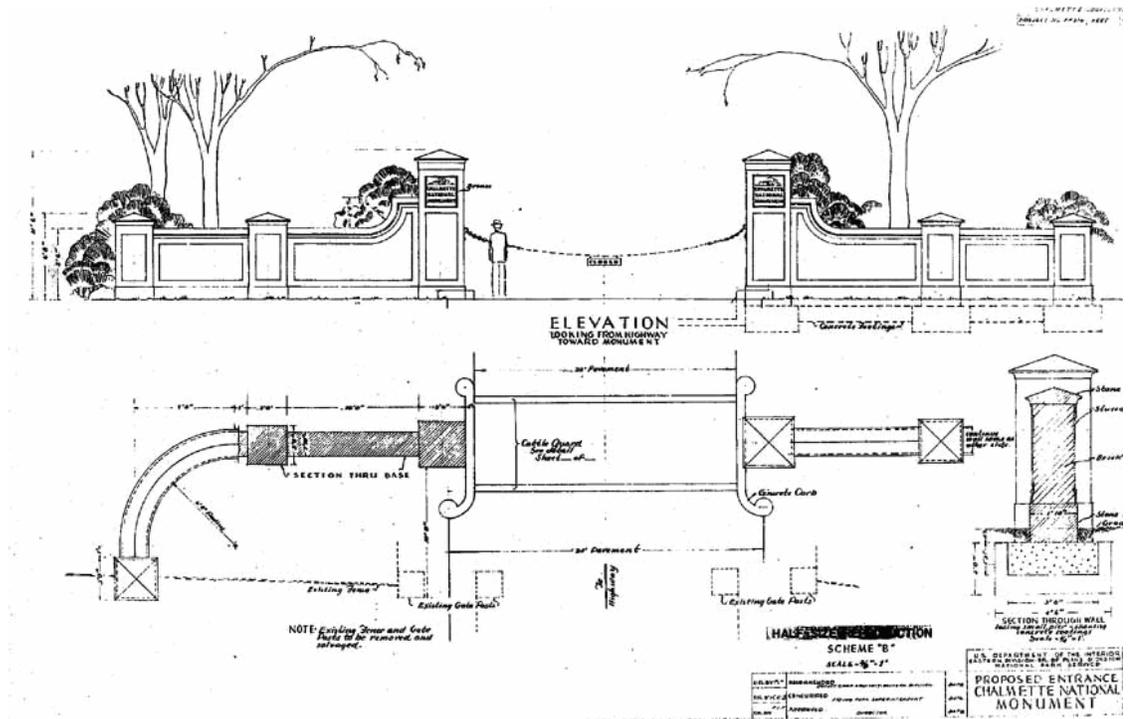


Figure 21. One of two proposed entrance plans (never implemented) for Chalmette National Monument, 1934 (467/1053A).



Figure 22. Entrance drive to Chalmette National Historical Park from St. Bernard Highway, showing railroad and utility rights-of-way and manicured landscape treatment, c. 1970 (#10-50-005).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Evaluation of Landscape Integrity

The best-preserved battlefields appear much as they would have at the time of battle, making it easy to understand how strategy and results were shaped by the terrain. All properties, however, change over time and nearly all battlefields will contain noncontributing features. The impact of noncontributing features on a battlefield as a whole depends not only on their number, but also on their nature and location and the size and topography of the battlefield.

In order for the landscape of Chalmette Battlefield to have historical significance, it must retain a certain measure of integrity from the selected historic period, in this case, from the time of the Battle of New Orleans (1814-1815). However, apart from a few battle-era maps and Laclotte's much reproduced engraving of the battle, little graphic documentation--and obviously no photographs--exists to record the appearance and condition of the landscape at the time of the battle. To make such an analysis, it is necessary, then, to examine the eyewitness descriptions, plans, and illustrations from the time of the battle in light of later accounts of visits to the battlefield (such as Latrobe's 1819 visit), historic property records, existing features on the battlefield landscape, and recent archeological and historical research on the battlefield terrain.

Because the battle was fought on a vernacular landscape temporarily appropriated for military use, not on a designed landscape, a standard evaluation of integrity based on all seven National Register criteria is problematic. Battlefield landscapes can only be construed as designed landscapes in the most abstract of senses, particularly as battle actions are fluctuating and given to strategic revision based on prevailing environmental conditions. In lieu of a comprehensive analysis, the following discussion focuses on the four criteria most pertinent to the battlefield: location, setting, feeling, and association. This is followed by a concluding statement about the integrity of the battlefield landscape.

Location--

As existing features and archeological evidence confirm, the park contains a critically important portion of the land on which the Battle of New Orleans occurred. The Rodriguez Canal is perhaps the most solidly identifying landscape feature, having survived at least partially intact from the time of the battle. The heaviest concentration of American activity occurred along the canal and contiguous rampart, and on the Rodriguez property to the west. The discovery of the Rodriguez archeological site during archeological testing in the 1980s further attests to the accuracy of location. However, archival records show that the present park boundaries do not correspond to any precise land divisions from the time of the battle. (Obviously, battles are not confined to strict property divisions, but the Battle of New Orleans has become inextricably identified with the fields of Chalmette Plantation, even though much of the American activity took place on the neighboring Rodriguez property, and some, across the river on the west bank.). In fact, the battle and its auxiliary functions were spread over a significantly wider territory, both in extent along the river and in depth from its banks, than is presently represented by the commemorative battlefield. The river's course has itself shifted over time, but not as much as

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was earlier thought. It was believed that about 200 feet of the battlefield's southernmost extent had eroded away, altering the riverfront topography and view lines that were critical to Jackson's advance surveillance of the enemy and to his defensive strategy. A recent archeological study, edited by Ted Birkedal, shows that, while the modern levee alters views by its height, the actual riverfront has moved very little in the location of the Rodriguez Canal.

None of the Macarty Plantation, which served as Jackson's headquarters in the days leading up to the battle, is included in park property; in fact, the remains of that plantation complex lie somewhere beneath the water of the Chalmette Slip. And although the commemorative battlefield does include a goodly portion of the fields across which the British attack advanced--terrain which came to be known collectively as the Chalmette Plain or Plain of Chalmette after the battle--the land on which the Chalmette plantation complex itself stood is not included in park holdings. The Rodriguez Plantation complex remains only as an uninterpreted archeological site south of the Chalmette Monument.

Setting--

The battlefield's natural setting has been dramatically altered by surrounding industrialization, which has erased the formerly rural, agricultural context. In addition, progressive reinforcements of the levee have severed the landscape from its connection with the river. The presence of a highway and railroad to the north of the park has further altered the distinctive spatial character of the former battlefield land. Strategically open view lines, across the once sweeping Chalmette Plain and along the curve of the river, have been blocked by industrial infrastructure or wooded buffer zones to the east and west of the park. The cypress swamp, which spatially defined the northern extent of the battlefield and played a critical role in Jackson's battle strategy, was lost to timbering in the nineteenth century. Consequently, the woodland thicket that exists today does not contain cypress trees and only loosely approximates, for interpretive purposes, the boundaries of the original swamp. In fact, the reconstructed thicket is located further south than where it would have been at the time of battle. The levee has blocked views of the Mississippi River to the south.

Because of the relatively small size of the site, the battlefield setting is also noticeably interrupted by the presence of non-contributing park era infrastructure, especially the visitor tour road, which circumscribes a portion of the central battlefield, and the visitor center/comfort station/parking complex. The tour road introduces automobiles into the battlefield setting and hinders understanding of the rectilinear land patterns that prevailed at the time of the battle. The visitor center, parking, and comfort station are clustered in unfortunate proximity to the Chalmette Monument and Rodriguez archeological site. Though not owned by the park, the St. Bernard sewage treatment plant is another non-contributing feature which intrudes into the battlefield landscape. The Malus-Beauregard House, a post-battle era construction, poses yet another interpretive challenge to the park; its anachronistic presence at the southern end of the commemorative battlefield confounds a clear understanding of the historic battlefield scene.

Feeling--

Despite the many changes to its context, setting, and features, the commemorative battlefield does maintain some sense of its formerly rural, agricultural character. Though not managed to simulate any

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particular agricultural patterns, the grassy field in the center of the battlefield conveys a feeling of openness that is noticeably lacking in the surrounding industrial and commercial development. Without attempting to analyze the accuracy of Laclotte's representation of the battle landscape against contemporaneous written accounts, the openness depicted in his battle-era painting is at least spatially suggested by the contemporary landscape. Furthermore, the unrelieved flatness of the terrain elicits an instinctive appreciation for the scale of combat that occurred upon this soil and for the vulnerable position of the troops as they faced off across the Chalmette Plain. Especially after a heavy rain, when the battlefield is soaked in pools of standing water and the soil is mucky, it is easy to imagine the physical discomforts and strategic difficulties that the soldiers faced in the days leading up to the battle.

Association--

The name Chalmette Battlefield itself, derived from the battle's association with the Chalmette Plantation, conveys something of both the agricultural and military history of the site. The relic line of the Rodriguez Canal is, of course, a reminder of the agricultural landscape that pre-dates the Battle of New Orleans, but it also recalls the strategy of Jackson and the American troops who used it as a line of entrenchment behind which to construct their own defense works. The reconstructed rampart, though largely inaccurate in profile and construction, serves as an interpretive reminder of the American efforts during the battle. The Chalmette Monument is an explicit memorial to the American troops who fought on this site and an iconic symbol of Jackson's decisive victory at Chalmette. The monument, along with the wedge-shaped tract of land on which it sits, represents the earliest commemorative effort at Chalmette; the monument tract was the predecessor of the contemporary park.

Conclusion

Because the park contains only a portion of the land on which the Battle of New Orleans was fought, even partial restoration of the battlefield scene would be problematic, especially given the dramatic changes to the surrounding site context and alterations to the park property itself. Significant battle-era features, such as the Rodriguez Plantation complex and the field patterns of the Chalmette Plantation, have been lost to time, while other extant battle-era features, such as the Rodriguez Canal and American rampart, have been modified by erosional processes, misguided park development, or partial reconstruction efforts. The site's topography, drainage patterns, and circulation have been altered by construction of a levee, highway, railroad, park facilities, and infrastructure within or immediately adjacent to the park. Even the site's visual and spatial connections to the Mississippi River, which played such a prominent role in the site's development and in shaping the strategy of battle, have been obscured by progressive reinforcements of the levee. Vegetation patterns likewise have been altered in response to changes in property ownership and boundaries, climatic disturbances, and the shift in local land use away from agriculture towards industrial, commercial, and suburban development.

Considering the many contextual, physical, and spatial changes to Chalmette's landscape over time, it is questionable whether the battlefield, in its present form, fully conveys the historical associations for which it is set aside. One certainly must wonder whether Jackson or Latrobe would, today, recognize the scene of battle, especially since the plantation complexes and field patterns that characterized the

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battle-era landscape have vanished and the engineered levee has blocked the view of the Mississippi River from the battlefield. As for the battle-era features that remain, the reconstructed American rampart bears only a stylized resemblance to the provisional rampart of bare earth, wood, and cotton bales that was constructed by Jackson's men. In fact, the 1985 National Register amendment for the Chalmette Unit lists the reconstructed rampart as a non-contributing element to the historical significance of the battlefield landscape, due to its inaccuracy of profile and material. The only original manmade landscape feature to remain from the time of the battle, the Rodriguez Canal, has also lost much of its historic profile and no longer connects topographically to the river or backswamp. Nothing remains of the original cypress swamp or the agricultural field patterns of Chalmette Plantation.

Based on the analysis of existing resources, the battlefield landscape displays substantially diminished integrity from its period of greatest significance, the period leading up to the Battle of New Orleans (1814-1815). The existing landscape is, in fact, most reflective of the era of park development that extended from 1964, when the tour road was constructed, the American rampart reconstructed, and the Fazendeville tract acquired and incorporated into NPS holdings, to the mid-1980s, when the current visitor center was completed. The Fazendeville acquisition gave the park its present configuration and consolidated the park's holdings between the western boundary of the Rodriguez tract and the eastern boundary of the National Cemetery, excluding, of course, the St. Bernard sewage treatment plant tract. The completion of the visitor center marked the last major addition to the park's interpretive infrastructure. After examining the physical, archeological, and documentary evidence, it is obvious that the existing landscape is more a commemorative/interpretive park than a battlefield preserved in accurate historic detail.

Evaluation of Historical Significance

Because the battlefield displays compromised spatial integrity and limited material integrity from the period of the Battle of New Orleans, its historical significance as an integral landscape is undeniably diminished. However, it is the only remnant of the former battlefield landscape in public ownership--in fact, practically the only portion that has not been consumed by industrial or suburban development--and as such, holds obvious historical and interpretive significance despite its diminished integrity. Furthermore, the park contains the most strategically important portion of the battle-era landscape, and the key corner of American activity. Scholarship has firmly established the Battle of New Orleans as a seminal event in the history and evolving consciousness of our nation; consequently, the landscape on which the battle occurred has lasting patriotic, commemorative, and interpretive appeal.

Though the landscape has been much altered over time, the remnant battlefield still contains topographic traces of the agricultural land patterns that existed at the time of the Battle of New Orleans. The Rodriguez Canal and other remaining battle-era resources, including those archeological, serve as identifying landmarks on the battlefield terrain and should be preserved for interpretive purposes and future scholarly study. Much of the landscape's battle-era significance, in fact, resides in the integrity of archeological resources. These resources have the potential to enhance scholarship and, ultimately, to heighten the public's understanding of the battle and the terrain on which that event occurred.

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In addition to direct battle-era associations, the landscape at Chalmette possesses further historical significance because of its commemorative history, which is physically represented by features such as the Chalmette Monument and Spotts Marker. The commemorative landscape at Chalmette, the material origins of which can be traced to the beginning of construction on the Chalmette Monument in 1855, may be one of the earliest examples of on-site battlefield commemoration in the United States.

Agricultural land patterns--

Chalmette Battlefield is one of few sites in this heavily industrialized region to display both the meadow-like openness of earlier agricultural land use patterns and the physical trace of colonial-era land divisions based on the French arpent-unit of measure. In fact, the Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) tract represents the southern end of the battle-era Rodriguez property, a half-arpent-width parcel which had been subdivided from a larger holding some years prior to the battle. The Rodriguez Canal marks the original property line between the Rodriguez and Chalmette Plantations, and is a relic of the agricultural landscape and plantation mode of life that was predominant in this region at the time of the battle. The central battlefield zone represents a portion of the fields of Chalmette Plantation--known since the time of the battle as Chalmette Plain or the Plain of Chalmette--across which the British troops attacked. Although the park does not contain the full extent of either the Rodriguez or Chalmette properties, the site is nonetheless a significant remnant of the agricultural landscape that existed at the time of the Battle of New Orleans.

Commemorative military park--

Chalmette's battlefield landscape has additional historical significance as an early prototype of the commemorative military park. Indeed, the wedge-shaped parcel of land on which the Chalmette Monument sits was purchased by the State of Louisiana in 1855 for the purpose of erecting a monument to the American soldiers who had fought in the Battle of New Orleans. Chalmette Monument, begun that same year, thus symbolizes a 19th-century impulse to memorialize Jackson's victory on the site where the battle occurred; yet, in a broader sense, it also represents an early manifestation of a patriotic sentiment which would produce the first military parks as commemorative landscapes, some years after the Civil War. During the years 1855-1949, before National Park Service efforts to acquire the Beauregard and Fazendeville tracts to the east, Chalmette Monument and the wedge-shaped Rodriguez parcel constituted the full extent of the commemorative landscape at Chalmette.

Archeological resources--

"In assessing the integrity of battlefields significant under Criterion D, if significant archeological features are present . . . integrity of setting and feeling may not be necessary for the property to retain its ability to convey important information." (National Register Bulletin 40)

Despite a weak measure of integrity based on existing landscape resources, Chalmette Battlefield has proven to be especially rich in archeological resources. Birkedal's previously cited archeological report, in fact, emphasizes the importance of the site's archeology for understanding both the Battle of New Orleans and the region's social and economic development. Certain archeological resources,

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such as the Fazendeville Road trace and the Rodriguez Plantation site, hold clues for understanding 18th and 19th-century social and economic life in this region of Louisiana. Investigation of the archeological resources dating from the Battle of New Orleans--the American rampart and battery positions, agricultural drainage ditches and road alignments, the British battery positions, and the Rodriguez site--have produced and can continue to yield fresh insights into military and social aspects of the battle itself and the importance that landscape features played in the strategy and tactics of the campaign.

Conclusion

As mandated by the park's enabling legislation, and based on the property's direct association with the battle and with the historic personage of Andrew Jackson, the primary focus of interpretive efforts at Chalmette remains the Battle of New Orleans. The period immediately preceding the battle (1814-1815) thus represents the primary period of significance for assessing the integrity of the landscape at Chalmette, an integrity which has been irreparably diminished by changes in surrounding land use. However, the trace of pre-battle agricultural land patterns, the presence of the Chalmette Monument on the site of Jackson's victory, and archeological resources from the time of the battle considerably bolster the landscape's significance, partially compensating for the obvious loss of physical and spatial integrity from the battle era.

The Mississippi Riverfront should be reconsidered as a feature that contributes to the historical significance of the battle-era landscape, and, as such, should be more fully incorporated into the park's interpretive program. The action of the Battle of New Orleans was largely shaped by the terrain on which it occurred; that terrain was in turn shaped by the river. In order for visitors to understand the history of the landscape at Chalmette and its complex evolutionary development, the park must present a more comprehensive interpretation of both the river and the terrain on which the battle occurred, while protecting the significant historic resources within its possession.

Character Areas

The battlefield landscape exhibits secondary levels of interpretive significance based on the post-battle features that remain on site. In fact, features such as the Malus-Beauregard House and Chalmette Monument, though not landscapes themselves, have significance as reminders of antebellum land use and military commemorative efforts. The park acknowledges the necessity of interpreting its secondary resources and the desirability of conveying something of the historical and cultural continuum that exists at Chalmette. To this end, certain landscape character areas have been identified within the park.

Chalmette Battlefield includes two landscape character areas that merit separate analysis based on their individual developmental histories and interpretive significance:

- a) the Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) Tract, which represents the park's earliest commemorative

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parcel, and

b) the Malus-Beauregard House and grounds, which occupy the southwestern-most portion of the historic Chalmette Plantation property.

Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) Tract

The wedge-shaped parcel of land on which the Chalmette Monument sits represents the southern portion of the battle-era Rodriguez property, on which Jackson and his troops constructed their defense works and from which they successfully repelled the British attack of January 8, 1815. The park's western property line represents the historic western boundary of the battle-era property; the Rodriguez Canal, its historic eastern boundary. The distinctive wedge shape that results is a recognizable reference point on almost all the historic maps depicting the site and remains clearly visible in aerial photographs of the park. Although the park does not contain the full 80-acre depth of the Rodriguez property's double concession, the existing Rodriguez tract is significant as a precursor of the contemporary commemorative park.

From 1855 until the acquisition of the Beauregard tract in 1949, the monument and the wedge-shaped Rodriguez parcel constituted the full extent of the commemorative landscape at Chalmette. The entrance drive and Monument Circle stand as reminders of this era in the park's development. In conclusion, though the Chalmette Monument tract carries interpretive significance as the forbearer of the present park, its landscape displays integrity to no particular historic period. It is currently managed, for interpretive purposes, as part of the larger battlefield scene.

Malus-Beauregard House and grounds

Erected in the 1830s as a suburban retreat for a prominent New Orleans widow, the house is one of the last survivors of a string of country dwellings that lined the banks of the Mississippi River outside of New Orleans during the mid-19th century. According to historical accounts and archival documentation, the residence was embellished with landscaped grounds and gardens, notably on the riverfront side. When the park acquired the former Beauregard property in 1949, an allee of pecan trees extended from the north side of the house towards the St. Bernard Highway. The house was restored by the National Park Service in 1958 and the remnants of its domestic landscape were gradually altered to reflect the park's concern with recovering the battlefield scene. The house now stands perplexingly out-of-context at the southwestern edge of the battlefield.

Although archival photographs show the dependency structures and domestic-scaled landscape that surrounded the house in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, these features have long since vanished as the house and grounds have been absorbed into the commemorative battlefield zone. The landscape of the house is now maintained as a manicured extension of the battlefield landscape and retains no integrity and, consequently, no historical significance according to National Register criteria. Although there is little documentation or justification for restoring a specific period setting, it would aid the park's interpretive program to give the house a landscape setting of its own, one that acknowledges the house's original riverfront orientation and that further distinguishes the house and grounds from the battlefield zone.

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Spatial Characteristics

Chalmette Battlefield

The commemorative battlefield is divided into two subzones based on a property division that dates from the time of the Battle of New Orleans and is marked, now as then, by the line of the Rodriguez Canal:

a) the Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) Tract, the wedge-shaped parcel lying between the park's western boundary and the east bank of the Rodriguez Canal, representing the southern portion of the battle-era Rodriguez property (and the park's earliest commemorative parcel); and

b) the Chalmette Tract, the roughly rectangular parcel lying between the east bank of the Rodriguez Canal and the western wall of Chalmette National Cemetery, representing the western-most portion of the battle-era Chalmette Plantation property.

Though the much-sedimented canal still delineates the historic property line, the Rodriguez and Chalmette tracts are managed for interpretive purposes as part of the commemorative battlefield. They are linked together spatially by the park loop road and by pedestrian paths which lead to park visitor facilities or distinct character areas, such as that associated with the Malus-Beauregard House. An overview of existing conditions is provided for the battlefield zone as a whole, followed by specific descriptions for the subzones and character areas, as deemed necessary for clarification.

Battlefield Overview:

Boundaries and buffering

The commemorative battlefield is managed primarily as an open field, except for distinct clusterings of trees south of the Chalmette Monument and around the Malus-Beauregard House, and an area of second-growth woodland that buffers the battlefield from development to the north. To the west, the battlefield is buffered by a wooded area on the adjacent Chalmette Slip property. The engineered embankment of the Mississippi River levee rises to the south, where scattered trees and woody successional growth along the northern edge of the riverfront service road visually define the southern extent of the battlefield zone. The western wall of Chalmette National Cemetery delimits the battlefield's eastern edge. In addition, a provisional screen of trees surrounds the perimeter of the St. Bernard sewage treatment plant.

Topography and drainage

Located on an ancient deposit of deltaic soil, the battlefield terrain is almost uniformly flat, relieved only by micro-scale undulations in the alluvial soil caused by human activity or the traces of old agricultural ditches and roadbeds which have left lasting impressions in the earth. Because of the plastic clayey subsoil and numerous micro-depressions, the battlefield zone frequently contains areas of standing water, particularly along the shoulders of the park roads where grading changes have altered and impounded natural drainage flows. Impounding is especially prevalent in the wooded swamp along the northern end of the battlefield, where the adjacent railroad embankment and St. Bernard Highway have permanently altered the natural river-to-backswamp drainage gradient. Clogged culverts underneath the railroad embankment further contribute to impoundment in this area. Significant ponding can occur along the length of the American rampart, along the western wall of the cemetery, in the area between the Malus-Beauregard House and tour road, and along the western property line (figure 23). Although this ponding may be temporarily inconvenient for visitors wishing to walk on the battlefield terrain, it causes no apparent damage and, in fact, simulates climatic conditions from the time of the battle, when the fields were waterlogged from heavy rains and flooding.

Vegetation management

The battlefield zone is maintained in primarily herbaceous cover by seasonal mowing. There is, however, some variation in the management regime for the Rodriguez and Chalmette tracts, the former receiving a noticeably more manicured turf grass treatment in keeping with its commemorative function and more intensive visitor use. In recent years, the park has adopted a regime of less frequent mowing for the Chalmette tract, allowing much of the vegetation to grow to a height of several feet between cuttings, while maintaining shorter mown swathes along the shoulders of the tour road for safety and visibility (figure 24). The less-frequent mowing, along with the numerous wet depressions in this area, probably accounts for the greater diversity of herbaceous species found on the Chalmette tract. The American rampart, which physically and visually demarcates the two tracts, is maintained in the same closely clipped turf as the Rodriguez tract.

Rodriguez (Chalmette Monument) Tract

This distinctively wedge-shaped tract contains the park entrance drive; the reconstructed American rampart; the Rodriguez Canal; Chalmette Monument and Monument Circle; the visitor center, comfort station, parking, and pedestrian paths; the archeological site of the Rodriguez Plantation; and Spotts Marker, as well as several interpretive waysides.

Vegetation and vegetation management

Apart from a partial buffer of successional woodland growth along the northern boundary, the entire tract is maintained in turf grass, with occasional large trees. In addition, a 40-foot strip has recently been released from mowing along the park's western boundary to provide a more substantial future buffer with the Chalmette Slip property, whose industrial infrastructure is

conspicuous above the existing treeline. Near the northern end of the western boundary, a single row of cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) has been planted just inside the property line to provide screening for a gas line right-of-way which has opened an objectionable view line to the southwest through the adjacent property. At the southern end of the tract, a distinctly L-shaped clustering of live oak trees marks the location of the presently uninterpreted archeological site of the Rodriguez Plantation complex. In the southwestern corner of the tract, near the riverfront service road, another row of planted cypress trees provides an ineffective screen against the visual intrusion of the Chalmette Slip dock.

Battlefield Road entrance drive

The battlefield is accessed for vehicular traffic by an entrance drive--officially denoted as Battlefield Road--that leads from St. Bernard Highway. Heavy industrialization along the highway corridor significantly impacts the automotive approach sequence. The entrance drive crosses a succession of railroad and utility rights-of-way before passing through a non-descript metal gate in the fence marking the park's northern boundary. A brown park sign distinguishes the entrance drive from the drives of surrounding industrial properties (figure 25).

Although the entrance drive is axially aligned with the prominent Chalmette Monument, too much of the site is visible at a single glance to keep one's view focused on the monument. Both the monument and the Malus-Beauregard House are clearly visible from the entrance gate, even though the latter feature is, for interpretive purposes, a problematic feature on the battlefield landscape (figure 26). The entrance gate itself is noticeably underscaled and set far enough back from the highway as to have little visual impact.

From the park gate, the two-way Battlefield Road runs south towards the planned focal point of the Chalmette Monument, bisecting the wedge-shaped expanse of manicured turf that represents an intact portion of the historic Rodriguez property. Because the monument tract is wedge-shaped, narrowing from north to south, and is defined on its western edge by a continuous line of trees, the monument appears more distant from the entrance than it is in reality because of a slightly forced perspective. Inside the park gate, the swampy woodland that covers the northern quarter of the battlefield zone sweeps irregularly to the southeast and along the north edge of the central tour road, serving as an initial screen to the towering smokestacks of the Kaiser Aluminum plant to the east. As prescribed in the CLR, the woodland screen was expanded to the east, across the maintenance access drive with a planting of cypress in recent years (figure 27). Along the eastern edge of the entrance drive, beyond its intersection with the park tour road, paved vehicular turnouts mark the location of two interpretive waysides designed to display gun carriages and interpret battery positions along the reconstructed American rampart (figure 28). The waysides interpret the general locations of batteries 5 & 6 and battery 4, as defined in the Birkedal report, rather than the earlier, and incorrect, locations of batteries 7 & 8. The entrance drive terminates in a circular drive around the base of the Chalmette Monument. Military plaques have recently been set in the turf along the periphery of the monument island. A connecting loop provides access to the visitor center

and parking facilities to the south of the monument, and to the park tour road to the east.

Reconstructed American rampart and Rodriguez Canal

The American rampart, an in situ reconstruction of Jackson's earthen line of defense, emerges from the swampy woods to the east of the park entrance. From there, it runs in a line towards the southwest, breached once by the park tour road which crosses it at a point to join the entrance drive. The rampart is formed from compacted earth, mounded and edged with wooden palings along both the interior (western) and exterior (eastern) faces. The turf-covered reconstruction is approximately three feet high on its western face and is of roughly uniform width and height along its entire length, though its cross-sectional profile would have been rough and irregular at the time of the battle.

The rampart, which follows the line of the Rodriguez Canal, originally extended from a position north of current park boundaries to the banks of the Mississippi River. During the 1964 "reconstruction," the rampart was terminated, for unknown reasons, at a point north of the Chalmette Monument. A single live oak tree, draped with Spanish moss, grows from the base of the exterior slope near the rampart's southern terminus, the lone tree in the central battlefield area (figures 27 & 28).

At the base of the rampart's exterior (eastern) slope, a shallow depression in the earth marks the line of the Rodriguez Canal. The only man-made feature surviving relatively unaltered from the time of the battle, this feature parallels the course of the rampart towards the southwest, oddly tapering in profile to level ground before it reaches the riverfront service road. The leveling off of this feature's profile at the southern end of the site, due to sedimentation and probable infilling at some point in time, hinders the visitor's understanding of the historical spatial relationship between the canal, rampart, and river. Because it is frequently inundated, the canal contains wetland species such as rush and cattail, which distinguishes it vegetatively from the remainder of the largely meadowy battlefield. The canal is twice interrupted by the park tour road.

Chalmette Monument and Monument Circle

At the terminus of the north-south entrance drive, the marble shaft of the Chalmette Monument rests on a low median of manicured turf encircled by a roundabout of the paved drive (figure 29). No plantings are present around the monument itself, but nine military markers are set in the turf at the periphery of the island. The approximately 100-foot monument is supported by a stepped marble base which gives access to a door in the south face of the shaft, a reminder that the original entrance to the park was by way of a path from the Levee Road. On special occasions, such as the annual anniversary celebration of the Battle of New Orleans, visitors are allowed to enter the monument and climb a staircase to an observation platform near its top. From this vantage point, they receive an unparalleled view of the battlefield and the surrounding site context. Nine military markers were installed in the turf along the periphery of the

Chalmette Monument island in recent years. These markers interpret the roles of various American militia and armed forces that had a role in the Battle of New Orleans (figure 30).

Visitor center, comfort station, and parking

A short connecting drive leads from Monument Circle to a paved parking lot south of the monument. The area accessed by this lot represents the park's educational and visitor services core; in fact, the comfort station (figure 31) and visitor center are immediately adjacent. The comfort station is located at the southwest corner of the parking area. The separate visitor center building is built on a grassy oval median between Monument Circle and the visitor parking lot. The area around the visitor center is shaded by several young live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*) trees planted along the front walkway and to the building's rear. Both the visitor center and comfort station are unfortunately sited, interrupting the setting for the Chalmette Monument, interfering with view lines from the north and south, and compromising the interpretation of the Rodriguez archeological site.

Pedestrian paths

From the southeast edge of the parking lot, a paved path leads south along the relic line of the Rodriguez Canal, terminating just short of the riverfront service road at an interpretive wayside placed along the western bank of the canal (figure 32). On axis with the reconstructed American rampart--in fact, resting on the archeological remains of that feature's southern end--this path serves a limited interpretive function. However, due to the presence of numerous mature oak, pecan, and magnolia trees, this area is nonetheless desirable to would-be strollers as one of the shadiest in the park. A second path once led southwest from the visitor parking area, crossing the Rodriguez Canal via a wooden footbridge and continuing towards the Malus-Beauregard House and grounds (figure 33). The bridge has been removed, effectively cutting off access to the house. Both paths compromise the spatial understanding of the canal and American rampart, and potentially disrupt their archeological fabric.

Rodriguez Plantation archeological site

South of the comfort station, an L-shaped grove of live oak trees marks the approximate location of the Rodriguez house archeological site (figure 32). The park provides no indication of the existence or location of this site, even though the corner dimensions of the main house and dependency wing were ascertained and apparently staked with rebar at the time of archeological investigations in the mid-1980s. The impressive girth and visible age of the live oak trees shading the site suggest that they too may date from the battle-era, or slightly thereafter. In fact, the trees could have been planted at the time repairs were made to the house a year or so after the battle. The area under the live oaks provides a shady respite in an otherwise open site. Consequently, it has been appropriated as a makeshift picnic area with tables and benches. In addition to the Rodriguez site, the ruins of an earlier 18th-century

domestic site have been identified under the southeast corner of the comfort station; this site, too, remains uninterpreted.

Spotts Marker

Spotts Marker, a stone loving cup-shaped memorial erected to honor a veteran of the New Orleans campaign, stands alone in an expanse of mown turf near the southwest corner of the park (figure 34). Apart from the commemorative inscription on the marker itself, no interpretive signs explain the marker's history or its isolated present context. A lone cypress tree stands just to the east of the marker, near what was once the former riverfront entrance to the park. To the west, the Chalmette Slip dock and warehouse once stood on an artificial embankment accessed by the riverfront service road. They were demolished by Hurricane Katrina (figure 35).

Chalmette Tract

The Chalmette tract contains the visitor tour road, as well as distinctive character areas associated with the Malus-Beauregard House and the reconstructed woodland swamp to the north of the tour road. Though aerial photographs reveal the north-south traces of old agricultural ditches and the former Fazandeville Road within this tract (figure 36), these features are currently uninterpreted and hardly detectable at ground level (figure 37). The story of the Fazandeville Road community is now interpreted by a wayside exhibit near the Chalmette Monument parking lot (figure 38). This subzone also contains the 1.5-acre inholding of the St. Bernard Parish sewage treatment plant, which is slated for future acquisition and incorporation into park holdings.

Vegetation and vegetation management

Like the Rodriguez tract, the Chalmette tract is maintained primarily in low herbaceous vegetation, but unlike the former, it is not mown as frequently or as closely. As a result, this tract exhibits a greater diversity of vegetation, including some native grasses, low successional species, and wet meadow species which thrive in the old road traces and ditch depressions that transect the tract from north to south (figure 37). A strip along the southern end of the tract, north of the riverfront service road and extending east from the Malus-Beauregard House, contains some low woody successional growth and a few mature live oaks near the western cemetery wall, indicating a less frequent mowing regime for that area than for the grassy central battlefield. The grounds surrounding the Malus-Beauregard House, in the southwest corner of the tract, are maintained to a more manicured, turf grass appearance, presumably as a concession to more intensive visitor use in this area. Small ornamental trees and shrubs were set in the turf around the house, but only two wax leaf privets remain by the eastern façade of the house (figure 39).

Interpretive tour road

A one-way, paved tour road loops through the central portion of the Chalmette tract, departing from the Battlefield Road entrance drive at a point just south of the Chalmette Monument and curving counterclockwise through the grassy core of the park to reconnect with the entrance drive near its northern end. This paved drive provides vehicular access to a sequence of four interpretive waysides that provide information on the British strategy and troop movements during the Battle of New Orleans (figure 40). Paved vehicular turnouts, designed for 7-10 cars, provide temporary parking for the wayside exhibits along the interior of the loop, but judging by the grass growing through the pavement, these turnouts are little used. At the southern end of the loop, a gravel drive provides access to the St. Bernard sewage treatment plant and riverfront service road. To the west of the third wayside stop, a flagpole displaying the British flag rises from a low earthen mound. To the east of this same stop, a short path provides pedestrian access to the national cemetery through a break in the cemetery wall. Three markers are placed here, interpreting the Freedmen's Cemetery, the National Cemetery, and soldiers buried at Chalmette (figure 41). A service drive connects the northeast corner of the tour road to the cemetery lodge/park headquarters building and maintenance area located at the north end of Chalmette National Cemetery.

Because the park is the primary public open space in St. Bernard Parish, the loop road serves an important recreational function for the local population, who find this paved circuit through the battlefield an amenable and convenient walking, jogging, and biking path. To emphasize the feature's importance as a recreational resource, Gary Hume, a former Chalmette site manager, recalled that many of the parish children had learned to ride their bikes at Chalmette. Because of this consistent recreational use, safety and visibility along the loop road figure prominently into the park's mowing schedule and regime, with a swath on either side of the tour road getting more routine mowing.

Woodland swamp

To the north of the tour road, a swampy, second-growth woodland buffers the battlefield from the Norfolk Southern Railroad line and St. Bernard Highway to the north. This swampy thicket is composed of wet-adapted species such as hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), willow (*Salix nigra*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), rough leaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), and groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*). The swamp sweeps in a sinuous line from a point just east of the Battlefield Road entrance, skirting along the northern edge of the tour road as it curves through the north-central portion of the battlefield. This wooded area, in addition to a critical buffering role, serves as an interpretive foil for the historic cypress swamp that existed somewhat north of present park boundaries at the time of the Battle of New Orleans. However, the existing thicket, regenerated on land that was formerly cleared, does not contain the cypress trees that characterized its historic predecessor (although a new buffered area just to the east of the maintenance access road is planted in cypress).

Heavy rains can leave this wooded area largely inundated, with water standing in ditches and

channels along the park's northern boundary fence. The railroad embankment to the north has significantly altered drainage flow from this area, creating a topographic impoundment that perpetually contains standing water. The former Fazendeville Road remains visible as an earthen trace running from north to south through the thicket; its location is marked by a gate where the thicket meets the tour road. Other ditches and channels--some possibly of historic interest--transect this area. Though not currently interpreted by the park, the spot where British General Pakenham fell in combat during the Battle of New Orleans is presumably also located within this wooded area.

Malus-Beauregard House and grounds

The zone surrounding the Malus-Beauregard House represents a distinct character area within the larger Chalmette tract. Several mature pecan and live oak trees stand in the mown turf to the east and west of the house, remnants of the domestic-scaled landscape that once surrounded this formerly private estate, as well as indications of its original riverfront orientation (figure 40). Ornamental shrubs such as boxwood, holly, and azalea were planted at the base of the house's east, west, and riverfront facades, the result of NPS-era "improvements" to the grounds. All but two wax leaf privet shrubs, on the eastern façade have been removed.

A paved path leads from the riverfront service road to the riverfront gallery of the house, passing through a small metal gate in a fence that marks the southern extent of the grassy zone around the house. Though all the grounds immediately surrounding the house are closely manicured, to the east, a less frequently mown zone containing a mix of herbaceous and woody growth snakes along the northern edge of the riverfront service road towards the sewage treatment plant and the western cemetery wall. To the north of the house, a treeless field sweeps up to meet the tour road, some 550 feet distant; consequently, the north side of the house has an unobstructed view of the central battlefield zone and the tour road. The present levee severs the spatial and visual connection between the house and the river.

Mississippi Riverfront

The riverfront is defined as a separate spatial zone not only because it is isolated from the battlefield and cemetery by the engineered bulk of the levee, but also because it represents a zone of multi-jurisdictional use. In fact, although the land underneath belongs to the park, the levee itself is maintained and administered by the Army Corps of Engineers. Furthermore, the park shares jurisdiction of the riverfront service road with the parish authorities who own the sewage treatment plant and the industrial properties on either side of the park.

Riverfront service road

A shell-paved road runs along the landward toe of the levee, providing cross-park service access for the St. Bernard Parish sewage treatment plant and the parish-owned industrial properties on either side of the park. In addition, the service road provides an internal park

conduit for maintenance vehicles between the southern end of the cemetery and the southwestern end of the battlefield, as well as an overflow parking area for park personnel and special events participants. A short access drive to the west of the sewage treatment facility connects the service road to the park tour road. The riverfront road marks the southern extent of the grassy battlefield zone.

Levee

The Mississippi Riverfront is separated from the park by the mass of an engineered levee and sea wall that were constructed after the Army Corps of Engineers took over the administration of the protective levee zone in 1928. The levee's flattened crest is traversed by a narrow service lane, maintained and used by the Corps of Engineers. A low concrete wall runs along the landward edge of the crest, providing a partial screen for the service lane from below (figure 42). A break in the wall allows pedestrian access to a concrete stairway that descends the levee embankment to the Malus-Beauregard House. Though it is possible for pedestrians to walk along the levee crest towards the National Cemetery, the odor from the sewage treatment plant is at times objectionable. Furthermore, no access is provided from the levee crest to the cemetery. A screen of volunteer willows (*Salix nigra*) on the batture (riverfront) slope of the levee significantly obscures views of the river to the east and southwest, and a dramatic view of distant New Orleans from the southwest corner of the park (figure 43). The lack of buffering at the park entrance is evidenced from atop the levee as a conspicuous gap in the treeline that runs along the northern edge of the park. The rear of the garage in the cemetery is also visible from the southern end of the park and the levee crest, but less so as the recently planted cypress buffer starts to take hold.

Due to the flatness of Chalmette's landscape and the presence of the 14-foot-high levee along the park's southern end, the river is no longer a visible component of the landscape at Chalmette. Visitors who arrive by car might easily leave without knowing that the river flows along the park's southern boundary. In fact, the crest of the levee provides the most effective location for viewing the park's landscape in its entirety and for interpreting the strategy of battle and the importance of the river to the development of the site. The tourboat docking facility, however, was damaged by Hurricane Katrina and is no longer operational. Visitors who arrive to the park by car are neither discouraged or encouraged to mount the levee or to visit the riverfront, and many leave the park without ever seeing the feature--the Mississippi River--that played such a critical role in the development of the site.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. Ponding along the northern shoulder of the visitor tour road after a heavy rainfall (January 1998).



Figure 24. Mowing pattern on the Chalmette tract, showing taller vegetation in the central battlefield area and mown swaths along the visitor tour road (April 2008).



Figure 25. Intersection of Battlefield Road and St. Bernard Highway as approached from the east (1998).



Figure 26. Malus-Beauregard House and Chalmette Monument as seen from interpretive wayside (April 2008).



Figure 27. Wooded thicket to the north of the tour road with Kaiser Aluminum smokestack in the distance (April 2008).



Figure 6. View of reconstructed rampart with cannon, and Malus Beauregard House in background (April 2008).



Figure 7. Chalmette Monument and Visitor Center (April 2008).



Figure 8. One of the military markers located by the Chalmette Monument (April 2008).



Figure 9. Comfort station (April 2008).



Figure 10. Pedestrian path leading to interpretive wayside (also providing access to the Malus-Beauregard House). The Rodriguez archeological site is to the right. Also note line of cypress trees to the rear right (April 2008).



Figure 11. Rodriguez Canal with interpretive sign. Note that footbridge leading to Malus-Beauregard House has been removed, as prescribed in CLR (April 2008).



Figure 12. Spotts Marker (1998).



Figure 13. Catwalk to the Chalmette dock, demolished (April 2008).



Figure 14. Aerial of Chalmette Battlefield (1981) identifying the locations of prominent ditch lines and batteries from the time of battle (Figure III-81 from Birkedal's 2006 'The Search for the Lost Riverfront.'



Figure 15. Location of Fazandeville Road trace and site of Picket Line ditch as seen from south end of Tour Road (April 2008).



Figure 16. Fazandville interpretive wayside, located at sidewalk to the east of the parking lot (April 2008).



Figure 17. Malus-Beauregard House and surrounding grounds as viewed from riverfront side. Note that most ornamental shrubs, except wax leaf privet have been removed (April 2008).



Figure 18. Battlefield Tour Road wayside exhibit (April 2008).



Figure 19. Location of the Freedmen's Cemetery, with interpretive markers (April 2008).



Figure 20. View along the levee crest, showing service lane and concrete wall that borders the landward edge of the crest (1998).



Figure 21. Volunteer willow screen on the batture slope of the levee.

Archeological Sites

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	American rampart and artillery batteries
Feature Identification Number:	99916
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	21369
LCS Structure Name:	Mud Rampart
LCS Structure Number:	002
Feature:	Rodriguez Plantation Site
Feature Identification Number:	130901
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Fazendeville Road
Feature Identification Number:	130903
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Double Ditch
Feature Identification Number:	130907

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Center Road

Feature Identification Number: 130905

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: First Ditch

Feature Identification Number: 130909

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sentry Line

Feature Identification Number: 130915

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Picket Line

Feature Identification Number: 130916

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Skirmish Line

Feature Identification Number: 130919

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Freedmen's Cemetery Site

Feature Identification Number: 130922

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Buildings And Structures

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Chalmette Monument

Feature Identification Number: 99917

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 21368

LCS Structure Name: Chalmette Monument

LCS Structure Number: BMON

Feature: Malus-Beauregard House
Feature Identification Number: 99918
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 21367
LCS Structure Name: Beauregard House
LCS Structure Number: BBE

Feature: Chalmette Comfort Station
Feature Identification Number: 130887
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Chalmette Visitor Center
Feature Identification Number: 130889
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Circulation

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Park Entrance Road
Feature Identification Number: 130893
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Interpretive Tour Road
Feature Identification Number: 130895
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Constructed Water Features

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rodriguez Canal
Feature Identification Number: 99919
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 64952

LCS Structure Name: Rodriguez Canal
LCS Structure Number: GCANAL

Topography

Vegetation

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Live Oak Grove
Feature Identification Number: 130897
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Reconstructed Woodland Swamp
Feature Identification Number: 130899
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Small Scale Features

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Spotts Marker
Feature Identification Number: 99920
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 064955
LCS Structure Name: Spotts Marker
LCS Structure Number: 7

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair
Assessment Date: 08/18/2008

Impacts

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: The Rodriguez tract is mown as prescribed in the CLR, but the succession of aquatic vegetation is still not allowed to grow in the southernmost region of the canal.

Type of Impact: Flooding
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Although largely a natural occurrence, and not detrimental, flooding continues to impact the site in areas like the Freedmen's Cemetery and behind the western cemetery wall. Drainage is impacted by the railway and the clogged draining by it.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: The Malus-Beauregard House is cordoned off from visitor access and continues to have structural issues post-Katrina.

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands
External or Internal: Both Internal and External
Impact Description: Views from the battlefield to the adjacent industrial development detract from the setting of the park.

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands
External or Internal: External
Impact Description: The location St. Bernard sewage treatment facility negatively impacts the visitor's experience of the property.

Type of Impact: Other
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Destruction of the riverfront dock

Type of Impact: Operations On Site
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: The location of the visitor center and comfort station continue to impact the visitor's experience of the monument, specifically, and battlefield, in general. Additionally, open views to the Malus-Beauregard House, a separate interpretive character area, impact visitor experience of the battlefield and commemorative landscape.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Ferns and other vegetation grow on the Chalmette Monument (2008 site visit shows improvement).

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 425,129.00

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

No LCS Structure Stabilization Costs exist for the Chalmette Battlefield site.

Landscape stabilization costs are derived from the following PMIS statements:

67500 Replace Failing Drainage Structures and Flood Control \$256,634 (DOI-reviewed, Class A La. DOT estimate)

57456 Repoint Historic Chalmette Monument \$168,495 (Region-reviewed, Class C Park estimate)

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment:	Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	09/29/1998
Approved Treatment Completed:	No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 09/29/1998

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

No LCS Approved Treatment Costs exist for the site, and no approved treatment costs were provided with the CLR. Unapproved treatment costs totalling \$718,000 exist in PMIS:

19624 Rehabilitate Failing Earthen Rampart at Chalmette Battlefield - \$345,000 (DOI-reviewed, Class C estimate by park)

39973 Restore Cultural Landscape at Chalmette - \$330,000 (Region-reviewed, Class C estimate by park)

70059 Restore Cultural Landscape at Chalmette Phase Two - \$43,000 (Region-reviewed, Class C estimate by park)

Additionally, several of the treatment recommendations suggested in the 1999 CLR have been completed, including:

- removal of bulletin board in core area,
- removal of trash cans,
- reorientation & relocation of wayside markers to reflect current archeological research,
- removal of footbridge leading to Malus-Beauregard House,
- removal of most ornamental vegetation near visitor center and Malus Beauregard House.
- addition of screening near the road to the maintenance area,

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information

Title: Documentary Materials

Description: Chalmette historic map collection, Chalmette Headquarters, Chalmette, LA.

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Greene, Jerome. File boxes of research papers and documentation for Historic Resource Study (1985), JELA library collection, New Orleans.

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Title: Drawings and Plans

Description: Chalmette , park uni-grid brochure. GPO: 1996-404-952/40170, Reprint 1989. Drawing modified as Figure 1 of CLR.

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344-series

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CHAL-1007 Proposed Regrading South of Monument, Chalmette National Monument, n.d.

CHAL-1053A Proposed Entrance, Chalmette National Monument, Scale 1” to 2.66”, 1934.

Chalmette Battlefield

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

- CHAL-1058 Monument Area Details, Chalmette National Monument, Scale 1" to 20', 1934.
- CHAL-1155 General Development Plan, Chalmette National Historical Park, Scale 1" to 200', 1943.
- CHAL-2005 Rene Beauregard House, Historic American Buildings Survey, Scale 3/8" to 1', 1934.
- CHAL-2011 Overlook on Mississippi River, Chalmette National Historical Park, Scale 1" to 40', n.d. (1950s ?).
- CHAL-2014B General Development - Monument Area, Chalmette National Historical Park, Scale 1" to 100', 1956.
- CHAL-2016 Topographic Base Map, Chalmette National Cemetery, Shts. 1 & 2, 1953.
- CHAL-2022 Park Entrance Development, Chalmette National Historical Park, 1956
- CHAL-3001 Sketch Showing Layout for Expansion-Utility Court, Chalmette National Historical Park, Scale 1" to 40', 1955.
- CHAL-3011 As-Built Planting Plan, Chalmette National Cemetery, Sht. 2 of 2, Scale 1" to 100', 1959.
- CHAL-3012B General Development Plan, Chalmette National Historical Park, Scale 1" to 200', 1960 (rev. 1961).
- CHAL-3024A Fazendeville Road Obliteration, Chalmette National Historical Park, 1965.
- CHAL-3025A Utility Area Access Road - Layout, Chalmette National Historical Park, 1965.
- CHAL-3026 Storm Damage Planting, Chalmette National Cemetery, Sht. 1 of 2, Scale 1" to 100', 1967.
- CHAL-27001 Rene Beauregard House, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934.
- CHAL-30000 Land Ownership Map – Fazendeville, Chalmette National Historical Park, 1963.

Chalmette Battlefield

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve - Chalmette Unit

467-series

CHAL-2026 Internment [sic] Plan, Chalmette National Cemetery, Shts. 1 & 2, 1963

CHAL-9001 Monument to the Memory of American Soldiers, Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette, La., Sht. 1 of 2, August 1902.

CHAL-41012C Interpretive Center Site Plan, Layout and Utility Plan, 1985.

Title: Published Materials

Description: Andrus, Patrick W. National Register Bulletin 40: Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields. Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1992.

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