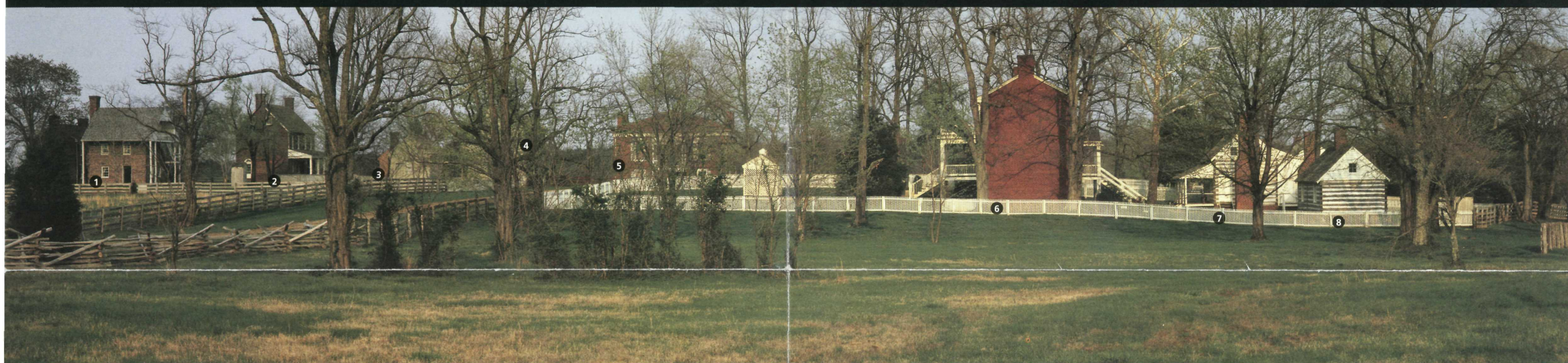


Appomattox Court House

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

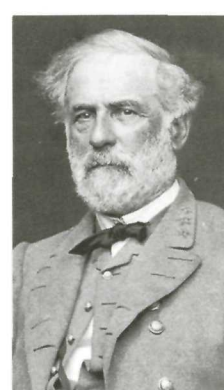


ALL PHOTOS NPS EXCEPT GRANT AND LEE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Surrender Site . . . Then and Now

Here on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered his men to Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all United States forces. Though several Confederate armies under different commanders remained in the field, Lee's surrender signaled the end of the Southern States' attempt to create a separate nation. Three days later the men of the Army of Northern Virginia marched before the Union Army, laid down their flags, stacked their weapons, and then began the journey

back to their homes. For them it was an ending, but for the nation it was a new beginning. Today, the National Park Service, which manages this historical park, invites you to walk the old country lanes where these events took place and in the quietness and stillness imagine the activity of those April days of 1865. We suggest you use the map and guide on the reverse side as you travel about the park. Vignettes about the Appomattox story are presented on this side of the folder.



Grant and Lee
Ulysses S. Grant (far left) and Robert E. Lee were well-matched adversaries who skillfully led their troops against each other in the last year of the Civil War. Grant knew how to exploit an opponent's weaknesses to best advantage. Lee's strengths were his aggressiveness and his ability to assess an opponent's capabilities.



Yesterday and Today

Compare the cover picture of the village today with the picture at left taken in 1889. Both show the village from the west, though the older one is farther away. The numbers are on the same buildings in both pictures. The building at the far left in the older photograph is the Union

Academy Dwelling House, which no longer exists.

- 1 Tavern Guest House
- 2 Clover Hill Tavern
- 3 Woodson Law Office
- 4 Plunkett-Meeks Store
- 5 Courthouse
- 6 McLean House
- 7 Kitchen
- 8 Slaves' Quarters



The Park

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is located in south central Virginia, 92 miles west of Richmond and 18 miles east of Lynchburg. It is on Va. 24, three miles northeast of the town of Appomattox, where motel accommodations, restaurants, and stores are located. The nearest public campground is at Holiday Lake

State Park. Park programs are designed to show how the war affected the people of the village and how they lived from day to day. We suggest you begin your visit at the visitor center in the reconstructed courthouse, which contains an information desk, a museum, and an auditorium where interpretive slide shows are presented.



Surrender Terms

When Grant and Lee sat down in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home, Grant asked only that the Confederates pledge not to take up arms against the United States.

Officers were allowed to keep their side arms and any Confederate soldier who owned a horse was allowed to take it home with him. The generous terms began the process of reunification.

The official surrender documents were prepared by Lt. Col. Charles Marshall of Lee's staff and Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker of Grant's. They appear at the far left in Keith Rocco's painting of the surren-

der (above). Also present in the room, seen standing directly behind Grant, was Capt. Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln and a junior member of Grant's military family.



The Paroles

To print the passes that Confederates would need to return to their homes, printing presses (right) were set up in the Clover Hill Tavern. Printers worked in relays to print 30,000 blank forms. By April 11, the paroles were ready for distribution to the Southern camps. The parole seen here is the one issued to



Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Army of Northern Virginia cavalry commander and nephew of Robert E. Lee.

The McLeans

During the war Wilmer McLean and his family left their home in Manassas, Va., for business purposes. He was a sugar speculator and bought the property at Appomattox Court House in the fall of 1862 to be near the railroad. Lee used the parlor of their home (left) when he surrendered to Grant.

End of the War

Lee's capitulation did not bring an immediate end to the Confederate States of America; other armies were still in the field. Not until the surrender of Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina on April 26, Richard Taylor's army in Alabama on May 4, and Edmund Kirby Smith's army in Texas on June 2 did the Confederacy cease to exist. All were surrendered on the terms set at Appomattox Court House by Lee and Grant.



The Village

Originally the village of Appomattox Court House was known as Clover Hill. It was a small settlement with just a few houses around the tavern, which was a stopping-off point on the main Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. When the county of Appomattox was formed in 1845, Clover Hill was chosen as the county seat and the town was renamed Appomattox Court

House. The next year the county courthouse (shown left as reconstructed) was built. Slowly the settlement grew into a village of homes, stores, and lawyers' offices. Among the original structures still standing from 1865 are the Clover Hill Tavern, the Plunkett-Meeks Store, the Woodson Law Office, the Peers House, the Mariah Wright House (above), and the Jones Law Office.



The County

At the time of the Civil War, Appomattox County was a rural, agricultural area. The county had no towns except the county seat, which boasted fewer than 150 inhabitants. The remainder of the county's 8,900 citizens, 54 percent of whom were black, lived on the land. The few professions—blacksmith, cooper, wheelwright, miller, and sawyer—tended

to support the needs of the farmers and plantation owners. Despite the county's overwhelming agricultural character, the people needed a place to conduct their legal affairs, to buy the few items they did not grow or make, and to meet their neighbors. Appomattox Court House filled these needs. Some lawyers opened offices around the courthouse. Two of the county's dozen stores

were in the small village. The largest, Plunkett-Meeks Store, also was the post office. Francis Meeks's son, Lafayette, served in the Confederate army, died of typhoid, and was buried here (left). The village and county prospered in the 1850s. The war would change all of this.



More Information

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
P.O. Box 218
Appomattox, VA 24522
434-352-8987
www.nps.gov/apco

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is one of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. Visit www.nps.gov to learn more about them.

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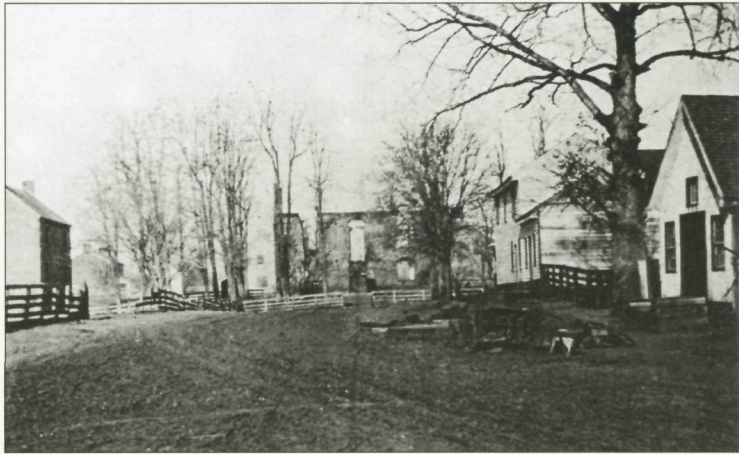
Creating A Park

After the surrender ceremony the troops went away and the war ended, but Appomattox Court House had been changed. In many ways the village was worse off. No large battle had taken place here; neither side rushed in to erect monuments as they did on many other battlefields of the war. Locally the village became a backwater as Appomattox Station, just to the west, prospered because of its position on the railroad.

In the late 1880s a group of Union veterans formed the Appomattox Land Company. They hoped to develop the area by selling lots and building houses, but their plans never really left the drawing board. In 1892 the courthouse burned (right) and the county seat was moved to Appomattox, formerly Appomattox Station. And in the spring of 1893 a Niagara Falls, N.Y., company had the McLean House dismantled with

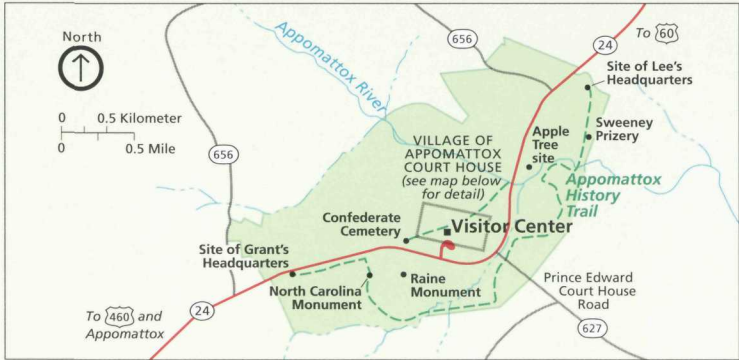
the hope of taking it to Washington, D.C., as a war museum. But the piles of bricks and lumber were never moved. Exposed to the elements, they eventually disappeared. The little village was either going up in smoke or crumbling into dust.

On June 18, 1930, Congress passed a bill that provided for building a monument at the site of the old courthouse. The monument was never built, but



NPS

the idea of memorializing the event stayed alive. In 1934-35 the National Park Service suggested that the entire village be restored. The idea was received enthusiastically. Legislation creating the park as a national historical monument was signed on August 3, 1935, and work began on acquiring land and researching the records. The project resumed at the end of World War II; on April 15, 1954, the area was redesignated



Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Today the village looks much as it did in April 1865.

Outside the village are a few spots associated with the events of the surrender. Lee's headquarters site is northeast of the village. It is a two-minute walk from a small parking lot on Va. 24. In the opposite direction from the village is Grant's headquarters site. Nearby, a monument

erected by the state of North Carolina marks the farthest advance of its troops that April day. And a small Confederate cemetery west of the village contains the graves of one Northern soldier and 18 Southern soldiers who were killed on April 8 and 9. A hiking trail and the highway connect all these locations.

Touring the Village

Start at the visitor center, where museum exhibits, slide programs, seasonal talks, map orientations, and restrooms are available. The map below depicts the historic village much as it looked in April 1865. All the structures that currently exist are labeled in white; those that no longer exist are shown as numbered, pale gray images. They are identified at the far right. All the sites are within easy walking distance. You may travel at your own pace on roads that are reserved for pedestrian traffic only. The official National Park Service handbook, covering many aspects of Lee's retreat, the surrender, and the history of the village, is available along with other publications at the park bookstore.

McLean House
On April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the parlor of this house. The site of the meeting was chosen by one of Lee's aides, Lt. Col. Charles Marshall. The house, which was built in 1848, survived under several owners until 1893, when it was dismantled by speculators in a failed money-making scheme (see above). In the 1940s, using detailed plans and specifications made by the speculators, along with archeological evidence, the National Park Service rebuilt the house on its original foundation. (Reconstructed)

Plunkett-Meeks Store
Constructed in 1852, at the time of the surrender it was used as a general store and post office, both operated by Francis Meeks. (Original)

Woodson Law Office
John Woodson bought this office in 1856 and practiced law here until his death eight years later. It is a typical lawyer's office of that period. (Original)

Clover Hill Tavern
Built in 1819, this is the oldest structure in the village and was the site where parole passes were printed for Confederate soldiers. Associated structures include the kitchen (now a bookstore), slave quarters, and guesthouse. In 1865 there was also an attached dining wing and a small detached bar. (Original)

Appomattox County Courthouse
The original courthouse was built in 1846 and destroyed by fire in 1892. None of the surrender events took place here. (Reconstructed)

Appomattox County Jail (new jail)
The new county jail was completed about 1870; the original jail burned during the war years. (Original)

Jones Law Office
Office and town home of Crawford Jones, Appomattox County farmer, lawyer, and local secessionist leader. (Original)

Mariah Wright House
This frame house, built in the mid-1820s, is one of the older buildings in the village. The stone and brick chimneys, like those of the Jones Law Office, are typical of this region. Not open to the public. (Original)

Bocock-Isbell House
This house was built in 1850 by two brothers, one of whom was U.S. Sen. Thomas Bocock, who later served as speaker of the Confederate Congress. Not open to the public. (Original)

Peers House
George Peers, clerk of the Appomattox County court for 40 years, lived in this frame house, which was built in the early 1850s. Not open to the public. (Original)

Stacking of Arms
On the morning of April 12, 1865, about 5,000 Federal troops lined the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road from just east of the Peers House to a point near the McLean House to receive the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The weapons, flags, and accoutrements of Lee's infantry were stacked before the Federals in a formal surrender ceremony that Brig. Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain dubbed "Honor answering honor."

Key to numbered buildings (no longer standing)

- 1 Union Academy Dwelling House
- 2 Woodson Law Office (1865)
- 3 Raine Tavern (empty ca. 1865)
- 4 McLean Smokehouse
- 5 McLean Stable
- 6 Pryor Wright House (1865)
- 7 Meeks Storehouse
- 8 Office
- 9 Office

- 10 Office
- 11 Tavern Smokehouse
- 12 Tavern Dining Room
- 13 Tavern Bar
- 14 Carriage House
- 15 Mule Stable
- 16 Clover Hill Tavern Stable
- 17 Robertson-Glover Store
- 18 Original Jail
- 19 W. Rosser Tenant House
- 20 W. Rosser Wheelwright Shop
- 21 W. Rosser Blacksmith Shop

- 22 W. Rosser Corn Crib
- 23 W. Rosser Barn
- 24 Peers Stable
- 25 Bocock-Isbell Law Office
- 26 Inge House
- 27 Peers Cabin/Slave Quarters
- 28 Moffitt-Layne House
- 29 Union Academy Hall
- 30 J. Rosser Blacksmith Shop
- 31 Wright Stable

