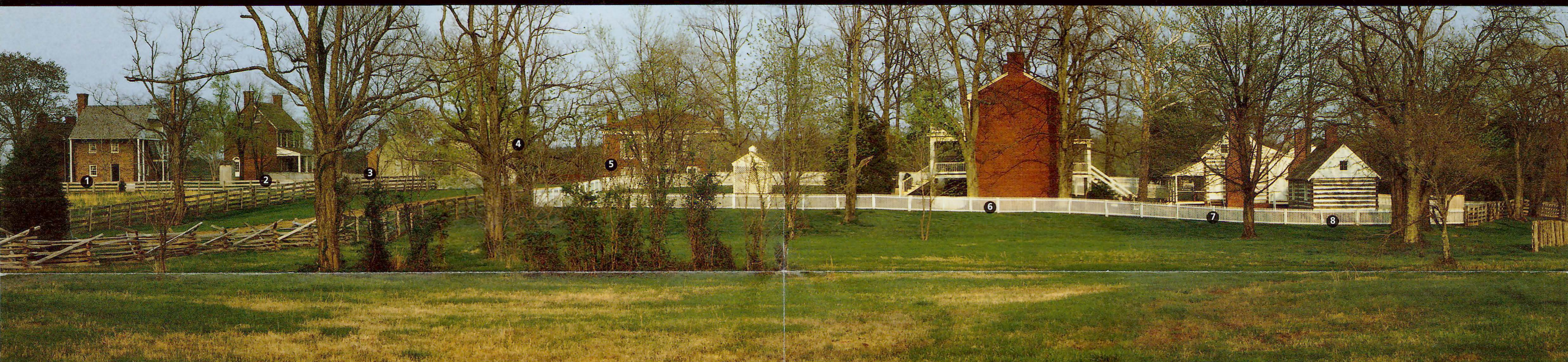


Appomattox Court House

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



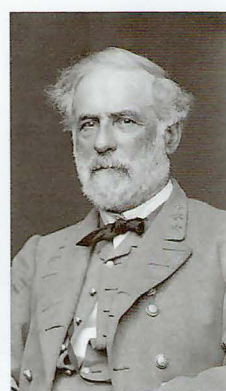
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The Surrender Site . . . Then and Now

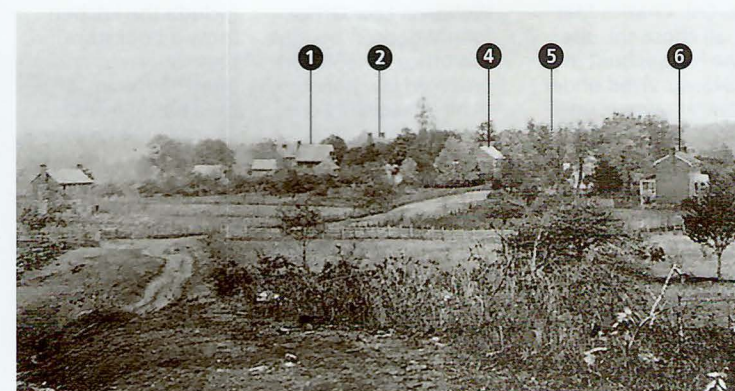
Here on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered his men to Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all United States forces. Other Confederate armies remained in the field, but Lee's surrender signaled the end of the Southern states' attempt to create a separate nation. Three days later the men of the Army of Northern Virginia marched before the Union Army. They turned over their flags, stacked their weapons, and began the journey back to their homes.

Today, the National Park Service invites you to walk the country lanes where these events took place. In the park's quiet, still places, imagine the activity of those days in April 1865.

Use the map and guide on the reverse as you tour the park. Vignettes on this side of the brochure tell some of the stories of Appomattox Court House and its place in our nation's history.



Grant and Lee
Ulysses S. Grant (far left) and Robert E. Lee (near left) skillfully led their troops against each other in the last year of the Civil War. Grant knew how to exploit an opponent's weaknesses. Lee, known for an aggressive style, excelled at assessing the enemy's capabilities.



Yesterday and Today
Compare the picture of the village today (above) 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 Meeks Store
- 5 Courthouse
- 6 McLean House
- 7 Kitchen
- 8 Slaves' Quarters



The Park
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is 92 miles west of Richmond and 18 miles east of Lynchburg, on VA Rt. 24. It is three miles north-east of the town of Appomattox. You'll find accommodations, restaurants, and stores located there.

Begin your tour at the park visitor center in the reconstructed

courthouse, which includes an information desk, a museum, and an auditorium where a film is shown. Park programs illustrate the impact of the Civil War on daily life in the village of Appomattox Court House.

Accessibility
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; call or check our website.



Black Contributions
Blacks served in both armies. In Lee's army they worked as cooks, musicians, teamsters, and personal servants. Thirty-nine received paroles. Grant's army had seven black regi-

ments, about 5,000 men, including Cpl. John Peck, USCT (United States Colored Troops), who participated in the Battle of Appomattox Court House during the final hours (above).



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.

Grant allowed Confederate officers to keep their side arms and any man who owned a horse to take it home with him. The generous terms of surrender began the process of reunification.

Lt. Col. Charles Marshall of Lee's staff and Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker of Grant's prepared the official surrender documents. Both men appear at the far left in the painting of the surrender (above).

Capt. Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln and a junior member of Grant's military team, stands directly behind his general.



The Paroles
Printing presses (far right) set up in the Clover Hill Tavern quickly produced passes, or paroles, required of Confederates en route to their homes. Printers worked in relays to print 30,000 blank parole forms by April 11. Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Army of Northern Virginia cavalry commander

and nephew of Gen. Robert E. Lee, carried the parole shown above.

The McLeans
During the war Wilmer McLean and his family left their home in Manassas, VA, for business purposes. A sugar speculator, he 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 surrender did not immediately end the Confederate States of America; other armies were still in the field. Not until the surrenders 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. The terms set at Appomattox Court House by Lee and Grant governed the surrenders of all other Confederate armies.



The Village
Appomattox Court House developed from the small settlement of Clover Hill, a stop along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. Clover Hill's few houses clustered around a tavern. When the county of Appomattox formed in 1845, Clover Hill became the county seat and was renamed Appomattox Court House. Its courthouse, built in 1846, spurred the construction of

homes, stores, and lawyers' offices.

Among the many structures that survive from the 1800s are the Clover Hill Tavern (left, in 1865), Meeks Store, Woodson Law Office, Peers House, Mariah Wright House, and Kelley House.



The County
The rural, agricultural county had 8,900 residents (54 percent black, most of them enslaved) at the time of the Civil War. Appomattox Court House, the county's only town, boasted a population of under 150.

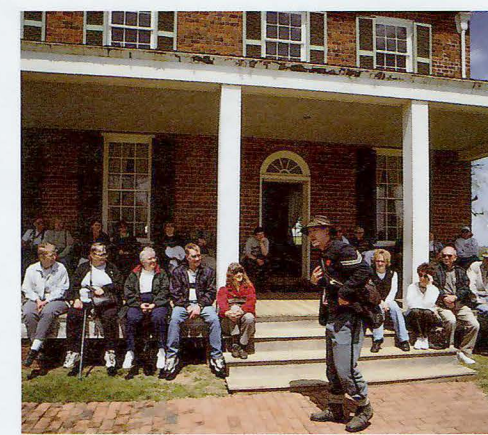
The few trades—blacksmith, cooper, wheelwright, miller, and sawyer—mostly served the needs of farmers

and plantation owners. Yet people needed a place to conduct legal affairs, buy the few items they did not grow or make, and meet with their neighbors. Appomattox Court House filled these needs.

Some lawyers opened offices around the courthouse, and merchants opened two of the county's dozen stores here. The Meeks

Store doubled as post office. Francis Meeks' son Lafayette served in the Confederate army, died of typhoid, and was buried here (left).

The village and county both prospered in the 1850s. The war changed all of this.



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

Appomattox Court House is one of over 400 areas in the National Park System. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.

National Park Foundation
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

Appomattox Court House

Creating a Park

After the surrender ceremony the soldiers returned home, the war ended, but Appomattox Court House was changed. In many ways the village declined. Neither side rushed in to erect monuments as they did on many other Civil War battlefields. Appomattox Court House became a backwater, while Appomattox Station, just to the west, prospered as the result of its position on the railroad.

In the late 1880s Union veterans formed the Appomattox Land Company. They hoped to develop the area, but their plans never left the drawing board. In 1892 the courthouse burned (right) and the county seat moved to Appomattox, formerly Appomattox Station.

In early 1893 a Niagara Falls, NY, company dismantled the McLean House with the hope of taking it to Wash-

ington, DC, as a war museum. They never moved the piles of bricks and lumber, which, exposed to the elements, eventually disappeared. The little village was either going up in smoke or crumbling into dust.

In 1930, Congress passed a bill that provided for building a monument at the site of the old courthouse. The monument was never built, but the idea of commemorat-



MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY

ing the events of April 1865 endured. The War Department administered the area until its transfer to the National Park Service in 1933. Congress authorized it as a national monument in 1940.

The project resumed at the end of World War II; in 1954, the area was redesignated Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Today the village looks much as it did in April 1865.



A few spots associated with the events of the surrender lie outside the village.

Lee's headquarters site is northeast of the village. It is a two-minute walk from a small parking lot on VA Rt. 24.

Grant's headquarters site is southwest of the village. Nearby, a monument erected by the state of North

Carolina marks the farthest advance of its troops that April day.

A small Confederate cemetery, just west of the village, holds the graves of one Federal and 18 Confederate soldiers killed on April 8 and 9.

A hiking trail south of the highway connects Lee's headquarters site to the North Carolina Monument.

Touring the Village

Begin at the visitor center, where you'll find exhibits, a film, seasonal talks, maps, and restrooms. The map below depicts the historic village, much as it looked in April 1865. Existing structures have white labels; those no longer standing are pale gray with black numbers; see the key at far right. All the sites are within easy walking distance but you must walk on gravel and grass surfaces. Most buildings are over 150 years old and require steps for entry. Wheelchairs are available at the visitor center.

The National Park Service handbook covers many aspects of Lee's retreat and surrender, and the history of the village. Find it and other publications at the park bookstore.

For firearms regulations check the park website. Firearms are prohibited in the following buildings: Visitor Center, McLean House, Clover Hill Tavern, and 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. Lee's aide Lt. Col. Charles Marshall chose this site. The house, built in 1848, survived under several owners until 1893, when speculators dismantled it in a failed money-making venture (see above). (Reconstructed)

In the 1940s, using the speculators' plans and specifications, and archaeological evidence, the National Park Service rebuilt the house on its 1848 foundation.

Meeks Store
Constructed in 1852; at the time of the surrender Francis Meeks operated a general store and post office here. (Original)

Woodson Law Office
John Woodson bought this office in 1856 and practiced law here until he joined the Confederate Army and died of disease in 1864. (Original)

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

Appomattox County Courthouse
The original county courthouse, built in 1846, burned in 1892. None of the events of the surrender took place here. (Reconstructed 1964)

Appomattox County Jail
Completed by 1867, this "new" county jail replaced the first jail, which burned in December 1864.

Kelley House
From the porch of this house the residents may have watched Lee's Confederates lay down their arms on April 12, 1865. (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 are typical of this region. Not open to the public. (Original)

Isbell House
Two brothers built this house in 1850. One of them, Thomas Bocock, was a US Congressman. He later served as speaker of the Confederate Congress. Not open to the public. (Original)

Peers House
George Peers, clerk of Appomattox County court for 40 years, lived in this frame house, 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 Army of Northern Virginia. Lee's infantry stacked their weapons, flags, and other accoutrements before the Federals in a formal 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 Isbell Law Office
- 26 Inge House
- 27 Peers Cabin/Slave Quarters
- 28 Moffitt House
- 29 Union Academy Hall
- 30 J. Rosser Blacksmith Shop
- 31 Wright Stable

