
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2023



Cape Henry Memorial
Colonial National Historical Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Cape Henry Memorial

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300222

Parent Landscape: 300222

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Colonial National Historical Park

Alpha Code: COLO

Park Organization Code: 4290

Park District: COLO

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Cape Henry Memorial is located on the south side of the Chesapeake Bay, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Established as Colonial National Monument in 1930 and redesignated as Colonial National Historical Park in 1936, the park protects and interprets several sites relating to the Colony of Virginia and the history of the United States more broadly. The park includes the historic Jamestown Island settlement, and the sites of two Battles at Yorktown; in 1781 during the American Revolutionary War and in 1862 during the American Civil War. The park acquired the site for the Cape Henry Memorial in 1938, and then relocated the site further inland in 1981 ahead of the encroaching shoreline.

The quarter-acre Cape Henry Memorial landscape marks the approximate site of the first landing of the Jamestown settlers in Virginia. The original site was developed in 1935 by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, who erected the First Landing Monument, a 12-foot high by 6-foot wide granite cross, in memory of the original wooden cross built by the settlers soon after they landed. Today, the cross stands within a small flagstone terrace partly enclosed by a stone retaining wall. Plantings of beach rose and Chinese holly border the terrace, while grass- and shrub-covered dunes wrap around the site. Nearby is a statue of Admiral Comte de Grasse and a granite memorial honoring those who fought in the Battle of the Virginia Capes. From these memorials a walkway leads to the top of the dunes where one can overlook the Atlantic Ocean and the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. Another walkway just to the south of the Cape Henry Memorial accesses the beach. Towering over the memorials are the Cape Henry Lighthouses, built in 1791 and 1881.

The memorial is located within the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, and as such has access restriction. The general public must ride a shuttle from the base gate to the lighthouse, and then walk approximately two blocks to the memorial.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Cape Henry Memorial is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the site of the first recorded landing of English colonists in North America in 1607 that resulted in the founding of the nearby Jamestown settlement. The property also meets Criteria Considerations B (Moved Properties) and F (Commemorative Properties) for the construction of the First Landing Monument in 1935 (moved in 1981) in memory of the wooden cross erected at Cape Henry by the English colonists. The property possesses two periods of significance: 1607, the year of the first landing, and 1935–1973, the construction of the monument to fifty years before present.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance, 1607 and 1935-1973, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023. Landscape characteristics from the periods of significance that remain today include natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Specific landscape features include the shifting sand dunes and berms, the spatial relationship of the memorial landscape to the Atlantic Ocean, and the First Landing Monument.

Since 1973, landscape characteristics and features at the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape have changed. The memorial – consisting of a monument, paved terrace, and perimeter wall – was constructed in 1935, acquired by the National Park Service in 1938, and relocated in 1981. Current plantings around the memorial remain from the 1981 design, have been replanted according to that plan, or are naturalized from the surrounding area.

Condition:

The overall condition of the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is evaluated as “Good.” The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and or human forces. The property’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition. However, several impacts should be closely monitored, including adjacent land development, inundation/storm surge, vegetation/invasive plants, and ongoing dune erosion.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is one of eight cultural landscapes currently identified within Colonial National Historical Park. The others are: Colonial Parkway, Green Spring, Jamestown Island Area, Moore House, Village of Yorktown, Yorktown Battlefield, and Yorktown National Cemetery. The Nelson House is a component landscape of the Village of Yorktown landscape.

Landscape Type:

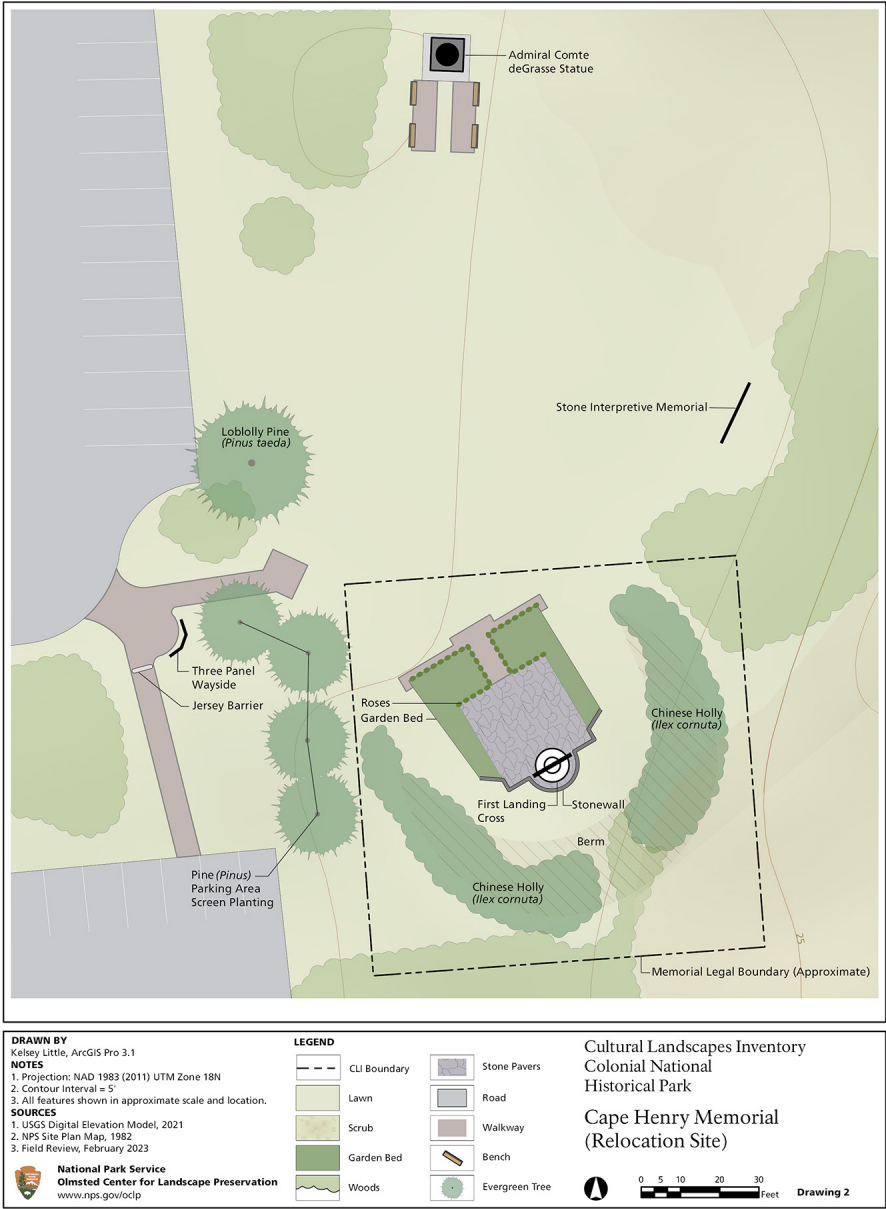
Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name: Cape Henry

Other Name Type: Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site plan, 2023, 2 of 2. (OCLP)

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/29/2023

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Ethan Berriault, Cartographic Technician, completed the existing conditions mapping and Eliot Foulds, Preservation Planning Program Manager, completed the existing conditions field work in February 2023. Tim Layton, Historical Landscape Architect, and Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator, completed the CLI. The cultural resource contact for the park is Dwayne Scheid, Cultural Resources Program Manager/Archeologist, who may be reached by email, Dwayne_Scheid@nps.gov, or by telephone, 757-898-2429.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1
North Atlantic-Appalachian
1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1.A.2.(IR1-RSS)

Julie Langan
Director & State Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Langan:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Cape Henry Memorial at Colonial National Historical Park. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and staff at Colonial National Historical Park. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently undertaking a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one

SHPO concurrence letter, September 29, 2023, page 1 of 5.

component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Previous Historic Property Evaluation:

The Cape Henry Memorial is part of Colonial National Historical Park. The park was originally established as Colonial National Monument by an Act of Congress P.L. 71-510, 46 Stat. 855) on July 3, 1930. The park was redesignated as Colonial National Historical Park by an Act (P.L. 74-666, 49 Stat. 1483) on June 5, 1936. The park acquired the site for the memorial in 1938, and then relocated the site in 1981.

Documentation of the site in the National Register of Historic Places has not been undertaken. However, resources adjacent to the site are listed in the National Register. The Cape Henry Lighthouse is listed as a National Historical Landmark (NRIS 66000910) under Criterion A in the areas of Other (Travel and Communications) for the period 1792–1881. The Cape Henry Light Station, Second Tower (NRIS 02001439) is listed under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Maritime History, and Transportation for the period 1875–1974. Immediately south of Fort Story, the Seashore State Park Historic District (NRIS 05001267) is listed under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period 1925–1949.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for the Cape Henry Memorial fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the area of Exploration/Settlement. The CLI identifies four resources related to natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property. An additional five features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant. One feature has been evaluated as undetermined because future research is needed to determine its significance.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, Boundary Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

SHPO concurrence letter, September 29, 2023, page 2 of 5.

Cape Henry Memorial
Colonial National Historical Park

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The Cape Henry Memorial is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the site of the first recorded landing of English colonists in North America in 1607 that resulted in the founding of the nearby Jamestown settlement.
- The property meets Criteria Considerations B (Moved Properties) and F (Commemorative Properties) for the construction of the First Landing Monument in 1935 (moved in 1981) in memory of the wooden cross erected at Cape Henry by the English colonists in 1607.
- The property possesses two periods of significance: 1607, the year of the first landing, and 1935–1973, the construction of the monument to fifty years before present.
- The categorization of contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, Interior Region 1 CLI Coordinator, by email: jeff_killion@nps.gov. We would appreciate your response in **30 days**, if possible. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 508-455-8540 (telework cell).

Sincerely,

**JONATHAN
MEADE**

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

Digitally signed by JONATHAN
MEADE
Date: 2023.08.07 10:10:16
-04'00'

Enclosure/Attachment

cc:
Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for Cape Henry Memorial, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.



Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

9/29/2023

Date

SHPO concurrence letter, September 29, 2023, page 3 of 5.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Cape Henry Memorial Landscape
Colonial National Historical Park
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
August 2023

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Natural Systems and Features

Shifting Sand Dunes and Berms

Spatial Organization

Spatial Relationship of Memorial Landscape to Atlantic Ocean

Views and Vistas

View East to First Landing Monument

Small Scale Features

First Landing Monument

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation

Beach Rose Planting
Chinese Hollies on Berm

Circulation

Cape Henry Memorial Terrace
Compacted Path to Cape Henry Memorial

Buildings and Structures

Cape Henry Memorial Terrace Stone Wall

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation

Mixed Vegetation on Berm

SHPO concurrence letter, September 29, 2023, page 4 of 5.

bcc:
Stephen Pisani, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Dennis Montagna, Region 1 History Program
Bethany Serafine, Region 1 History Program
Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

SHPO concurrence letter, September 29, 2023, page 5 of 5.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Cape Henry Memorial Landscape
Colonial National Historical Park

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Cape Henry Memorial Landscape, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.

JERRI MARR Digitally signed by JERRI MARR
Date: 2023.09.29 19:41:28
04'00'

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, September 29, 2023.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State

Virginia

County

York County

Size (Acres): 0.23

Land Tract Number(s)

Boundary Description:

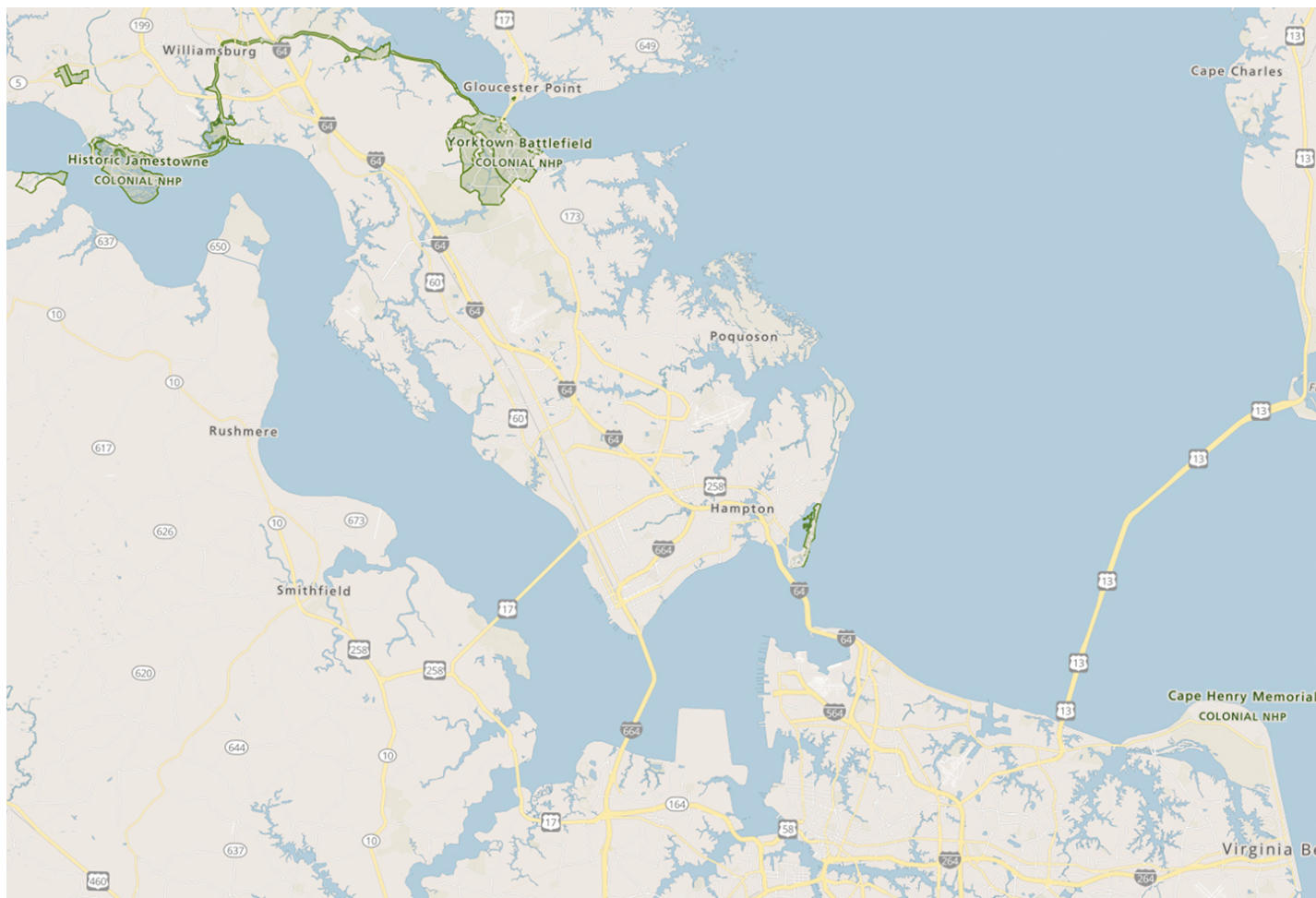
The CLI project area for the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is defined by Public Law 99-390, an act exchanging land between the National Park Service and the US Army's Fort Story. The land exchange area is cited as 0.23 acres. A boundary of that area is roughly 100.09 feet x 100.09 feet square, centered on the present-day location of the First Landing Monument (Peace Cross Monument) and a semi-circular berm and planting located to the monument's east. The boundary does not include the Admiral Francois Joseph Paul de Grasse statue, the French and English Naval Engagement Monument, the parking area off of Atlantic Avenue, nor the circulation features and furnishings associated with the statue, monument, and parking area.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
GIS	Area	36.928084	-76.008622	
GIS	Area	36.927835	-76.008768	
GIS	Area	36.927952	-76.009078	
GIS	Area	36.928201	-76.008932	

Cape Henry Memorial
Colonial National Historical Park

Location Map:



Map of Colonial National Historical Park. The Cape Henry Memorial Landscape component landscape is at image lower right. (NPS Park files)



Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context describes the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape, such as hill, plateau, ravine, or drumlin, etc. The Cape Henry Memorial Landscape lies within the Coastal Plain or Tidewater region of Virginia. The low-lying area extends from the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay westward rising about 300 feet in elevation. Soil profiles in the study area extend greater than 80 inches and consist of fine sands and sand. Soil classifications include Newhan fine sand and Psammets, an unconsolidated sand deposit. The soils are marked by moderately well drained to excessively drained characteristics. Within the humid subtropical climate zone (Köppen climate classification Cfa), the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape generally experiences hot, humid summers and mild to cool winters moderated by the Chesapeake Bay. This climate qualifies the site for US Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zone 8a, wherein plant health necessitates hardiness at a temperature as low as 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context describes the general human overlay on the physical form on the landscape. Cape Henry marks the southern point where the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. The history and development Cape Henry is connected to maritime navigation and transportation, recreational development with an adjacent state park and beachfront residential and commercial development in Virginia Beach, and military development with the establishment of Fort Story, presently Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek–Fort Story.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

This context describes the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). The Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is located in southeastern Virginia, approximately 6 miles north of Virginia Beach and 22 miles east of Norfolk, Virginia. This NPS property is within Fort Story, a component of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek–Fort Story, operated by the US Navy, in the independent city of Virginia Beach.

According to 2020 US Census, the City of Virginia Beach has a population of 459,470 increasing by over 20,000 people from the 2010 decennial census (US Census Bureau QuickFacts). The City of Virginia Beach's comprehensive planning and zoning recognizes the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape and surrounding areas including Fort Story and First Landing State Park as Federal and State lands. As an active US Navy base, the land around the memorial landscape is designated "Federal" in Virginia Beach's land use planning and zoning process.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/29/2023

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Cape Henry Memorial meets the requirements of the management category "Must be Preserved and Maintained" because the preservation of the site is specifically legislated. The Act of June 28, 1938 (P.L. 75-753, 52 Stat. 1208) authorized acquisition of the site through a transfer from the War Department to the National Park Service. The Act of August 23, 1986 (P.L. 99-390, 100 Stat. 831) authorized an exchange of lands with the Secretary of the Army for the purpose of relocating the Cape Henry Memorial Cross.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Lands adjacent to the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape contribute to multiple historic context themes. Fort Story has not been formally evaluated in the National Register of Historic Places, but offers potential for recognition in military history including coastal defense, military mobilization and training during both World Wars, Nike missile defense systems, and the Army amphibious vehicle program. The waters off of Cape Henry witnessed a crucial American Revolutionary War naval battle and are a major national route for maritime transportation, history, and navigation. Cape Henry's role in aiding navigation is formally recognized with the Cape Henry Lighthouse, listed as a National Historical Landmark (NRIS 66000910) and the Cape Henry Light Station, Second Tower (NRIS 02001439). The development of the US Life-Saving Service on Cape Henry and its evolution to the US Coast Guard is an additional component of the adjacent maritime history. Immediately south of Fort Story, the Seashore State Park Historic District (NRIS 05001267) is formally recognized for recreational development, architecture, landscape architecture, and the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Undocumented

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Cape Henry Memorial is part of Colonial National Historical Park. The park was originally established as Colonial National Monument by an Act of Congress P.L. 71-510, 46 Stat. 855) on July 3, 1930. The park was redesignated as Colonial National Historical Park by an Act (P.L. 74-666, 49 Stat. 1483) on June 5, 1936. The park acquired the site for the memorial in 1938, and then relocated the site in 1981.

Documentation of the site in the National Register of Historic Places has not been undertaken. However, resources adjacent to the site are listed in the National Register. The Cape Henry Lighthouse is listed as a National Historical Landmark (NRIS 66000910) under Criterion A in the areas of Other (Travel and Communications) for the period 1792–1881. The Cape Henry Light Station, Second Tower (NRIS 02001439) is listed under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Maritime History, and Transportation for the period 1875–1974. Immediately south of Fort Story, the Seashore State Park Historic District (NRIS 05001267) is listed under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture for the period 1925–1949.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance for the Cape Henry Memorial have not been adequately documented in the National Register. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Cape Henry Memorial is considered “Undocumented.”

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/29/2023

Concurrence Narrative:

The Virginia SHPO agreed with the findings of this CLI, and offered several editorial comments.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Cape Henry Memorial is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the site of the first recorded landing of English colonists in North America in 1607 that resulted in the founding of the nearby Jamestown settlement. The property also meets Criteria Considerations B (Moved Properties) and F (Commemorative Properties) for the construction of the First Landing Monument in 1935 (moved in 1981) in memory of the wooden cross erected at Cape Henry by the English colonists in 1607. The property possesses two periods of significance: 1607, the year of the first landing, and 1935–1973, the construction of the monument to fifty years before present.

CRITERION A

Exploration/Settlement:

The Cape Henry Memorial is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement for its association with the first landing of English colonists in April 1607, which marks the very beginning of what would become British North America and subsequently Anglo Canada and the United States of America. After a voyage of almost four and half months, the settlers first sighted the coast of the North American continent on the 26th of April. They entered the Chesapeake Bay, landed a few men, and explored for the next several days. On the 29th of April, they raised a wooden cross upon the sandy shoreline and gave thanks for a successful crossing to a new land. The colonists then proceeded up the James River and after two weeks of searching, established Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement, in mid-May 1607.

Cape Henry was named in honor of Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, the elder of two sons of King James I of England to survive to the age of 18 and heir-apparent to the throne of the Kingdom of England (later united in 1707 with neighboring Scotland as the Kingdom of Great Britain), by an expedition of the London Company branch of the proprietary Virginia Company headed by Captain Christopher Newport.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B: MOVED PROPERTIES

The Cape Henry Memorial meets Criteria Consideration B because the property was removed from its original or historically significant location and is significant primarily as the surviving property most importantly associated with the first landing of English colonists in North America. The site had to be relocated 200 feet to the southwest in 1981 due to ongoing shoreline erosion. This site is sufficient in size and character to recall the basic qualities of the original 1935 site of the First Landing Monument.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION F: COMMEMORATIVE PROPERTIES

The Cape Henry Memorial meets Criteria Consideration F because the property is primarily commemorative in intent and its design, age, and symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance. The First Landing Monument commemorates the first landfall of colonists bound for the Jamestown settlement. The stone cross was erected in 1935 by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists and stands in memory of the wooden cross erected by the English colonists in 1607. The cross stands 12 feet high upon a stepped base and is set within a stone-paved terrace with a perimeter wall. A plaque on the front of the base is inscribed with the following: "HERE AT CAPE HENRY FIRST LANDED IN AMERICA, UPON 26 APRIL 1607, THOSE ENGLISH COLONIST WHO, UPON 13 MAY 1607, ESTABLISHED AT JAMESTOWN VIRGINIA, THE FIRST PERMANENT ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA." The monument was relocated 200 feet inland to its present site in 1981 due to shoreline erosion.

National Register Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Exploration - Settlement

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

National Register Criteria Consideration:

B -- A building or structure removed from its original location

F -- A commemorative property

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1607 - CE 1607

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	English Exploration And Settlement	

Time Period: CE 1935 - CE 1973

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Historic Preservation Movement	

NRIS Information:

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 5000 - 1000	Altered	The Chesapeake Bay forms when glaciers melt and flood the Susquehanna River valley while rising sea levels push to expand the boundaries of the estuary. (Chesapeake Bay Foundation)
BCE 5000 - 1600	Inhabited	Artifacts dating to the Paleoindian period (9500-8000 BCE), Archaic period (8000-1200 BCE), and Woodland period (1200 BCE-1600 CE) record Native American habitation in various locations in the Virginia Beach area. (Brief History of the City)
CE 1550 - 1599	Inhabited	In the late 16th century, the Cheasapeakes occupy an area from the Atlantic Ocean to the Elizabeth River. (Brief History of the City)
CE 1585 - 1593	Explored	John White completes the map "La Virginea Pars" showing Cape Henry projecting into an unnamed body of water (Chesapeake Bay) and a Native American settlement "Chesepiuc" southwest of the Cape's point.
CE 1607	Colonized	On April 26, English settlers land on the south end of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and name the landform Cape Henry. On April 29, the settlers mark their arrival on Cape Henry by erecting a wooden cross. The settlers then proceed up the James River and approximately two weeks later, land at Jamestown Island establishing the first permanent English settlement in North America. (Report on the Cape Henry Memorial Site, n.p.)
CE 1612	Explored	Based on travels in 1608, John Smith's map of the Chesapeake region is published. Cape Henry is labeled and immediately west the water body is labeled "Mortons baye." A "King's House" or chief's town is shown with a longhouse symbol, and one is placed west of Mortons baye and labeled "Chesapeack." The cross symbol, there are many depicted on the map, indicates where Smith's survey efforts stopped and adjacent areas were completed on the map "by relation." (Library of Congress)
CE 1630 - 1639	Settled	Permanent English colonial settlement occurs in the Virginia Beach area in the 1630s when Adam Thoroughgood is provided a land grant of 5,350 acres along the western branch of the Lynnhaven River. (Brief History of the City)
CE 1781	Military Operation	On September 5, 24 French warships engage 19 British warships off of Cape Henry at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The two fleets fight to a standoff and British General Charles Cornwallis is denied reinforcements and supplies.
CE 1781	Military Operation	On September 19, British General Charles Cornwallis surrenders to General George Washington at Yorktown.
CE 1789	Established	On August 7, The Lighthouse Service Act is signed into law authorizing construction of a lighthouse at Cape Henry. (The Old Cape Henry Light, 2-3;17)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1791 - 1792	Built	The Cape Henry Lighthouse is constructed and lamps lighted in late October 1792 earning the lighthouse the distinction of the first Federal government public works project. (The Old Cape Henry Light, 22)
CE 1798	Altered	On July 24, Benjamin Henry Latrobe draws a section of the Cape Henry Lighthouse showing the accumulation of sand around the lighthouse and keeper's house. (preservationvirginia.org)
CE 1862	Developed	Cartographer B. Hove Jr. completes a map of southeastern Virginia showing Cape Henry and symbols for two lighthouses. One symbol, closest to the Atlantic shoreline is the 1792 Cape Henry Lighthouse and the symbol further west nearer to Lynhaven Bay is not named. A road is shown leading south from the Cape Henry Lighthouse and skirts west around a feature labeled Monk Hill. (Library of Congress)
CE 1873	Built	In December, the US Army Signal Service completes a one-story weather station building at Cape Henry. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 29)
CE 1874	Built	In October, a US Life-Saving Station is completed and operational on Cape Henry. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 41)
CE 1880 - 1881	Built	Cape Henry Light Station (second tower) is completed.
CE 1904	Built	US Life-Saving Service completes construction on a new station building and converts the old station to a storehouse and stable. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 46-7)
CE 1907	Built	USGS publishes a 1:125,000 map of the Norfolk and Hampton Roads area showing a Norfolk and Southern railroad line paralleling the perimeter of the Cape's point. The lighthouse is labeled as is the Cape Henry Life-Saving Station. At least 30 buildings are depicted as black squares around the lighthouse and life-saving station and the area to the south of the Cape is labeled "The Desert."
CE 1914	Land Transfer	The Virginia General Assembly gives 343 acres of land on Cape Henry to the US Government "to erect fortifications and for other military purposes." The War Department names the installation Fort Story after General John Patton Story, one of the most noted coast artillerymen of his day. (https://cnrma.cnrc.navy.mil/jeb_little_creek_fort_story/)
CE 1914 - 1918	Built	Prior to the US entry into World War I, the US Army constructs barracks, mess halls, storehouses, and a post headquarters for Fort Story. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 59-61)
CE 1919	Built	USGS publishes a 1:62,500 map of Cape Henry showing a Norfolk Southern railroad line and a parallel spur line following the perimeter of the Cape's point and connecting Lake Smith and Virginia Beach. The Cape Henry Light Station is shown as a symbol and to its southeast, a label identifies the Coast Guard Station. At least 50 buildings are depicted as black squares around the lighthouse and Coast Guard Station and the area to the south of the Cape is labeled "The Desert."

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1921	Built	The US Army begins construction on a four-gun battery, Battery Pennington, featuring 16-inch guns at Fort Story. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 64)
CE 1922	Built	The US Army constructs a mine casemate to control mines laid across the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 67)
CE 1928	Memorialized	On April 26, a black and white photograph records an anniversary celebration of the English colonial landing featuring a wooden cross installed near the 1792 Cape Henry lighthouse. Virginia's governor and soldiers from Fort Story attend the event. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 14)
CE 1930	Established	On July 3, Public Law 71-510 establishes Colonial National Monument by authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land for the presidential proclamation. (P.L. 71-510, 46 Stat. 855)
CE 1931	Memorialized	In April, a black and white photograph records an anniversary celebration of the English colonial landing attended by President and Mrs. Hoover and over 10,000 visitors. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 14)
CE 1933	Eroded	On August 23, a hurricane establishes a record high tide of 9.8 feet above Mean Lower Low Water and 82 mph winds at Cape Henry. (https://www.weather.gov/media/akq/miscNEWS/hurricane history.pdf)
CE 1933	Land Transfer	On August 8, the Cape Henry Syndicate donates 1,000 acres of land to the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development for the creation of Seashore State Park. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:22)
CE 1934	Land Transfer	On October 2, 2,383 acres of land are formally deeded to the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development for the creation of Seashore State Park. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:22)
CE 1930 - 1935	Built	The First Landing Monument, also known as the Peace Cross Monument, is constructed and installed. (CRIS-HS record)
CE 1935	Memorialized	On April 26, the First Landing Monument is dedicated by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 18)
CE 1936	Developed	On April 27, Seashore State Park opens and welcomes 6,000 inaugural visitors. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:22)
CE 1936	Altered	On June 5, Colonial National Monument is redesignated Colonial National Historical Park. (Foundation Document, 68)
CE 1938	Altered	On January 24, Colonial NHP Superintendent B. Floyd Flickinger sends a letter to the NPS Director asking that the First Landing Monument site be added to Colonial NHP. (Report on the Cape Henry Memorial Site, n.p.)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1938	Land Transfer	On June 15, Congress passes a law authorizing the Secretary of War to transfer to the Secretary of the Interior an area not to exceed 100 feet square within Fort Story containing the Cape Henry Memorial. The Secretary of the Interior, through the NPS, is authorized to "exercise jurisdiction over and maintain such site and memorial as a part of the Colonial National Historical Park." (Foundation Document, 68)
CE 1939	Built	The US Coast Guard constructs a new station west of Cape Henry on Little Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The growth of Fort Story and completion of the new station ends maritime rescue operations from Cape Henry. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 48)
CE 1940	Land Transfer	The NPS publishes a map of Colonial National Historical Park showing the completed and planned construction of Colonial Parkway, as well as an inset of the Cape Henry Memorial and the 100 feet square NPS property located northeast of the Cape Henry Light Station. (NPS eTIC COLO_333_7004)
CE 1941	Altered	US Route 60 is rerouted from Fort Story (present-day Shore Drive) to a new roadway through Seashore State Park. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 70)
CE 1942 - 1949	Built	The US Army constructs new 16-inch gun batteries, 6-inch gun batteries, and anti-aircraft batteries at Fort Story as part of the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay. The Harbor Defenses system consists of installations at the outer and inner Bay and includes Fort Story, Fort John Custis, Fort Monroe, and Fort Wool. After World War II, the Army declares the harbor defenses systems obsolete and the artillery is scrapped. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 70)
CE 1946	Altered	Following the conclusion of World War II, the US Army reassigns Fort Story as an amphibious training facility. (https://cnrma.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/JEB-Little-Creek-Fort-Story/About/History/Former-Fort-Story-History/)
CE 1956	Planned	The NPS prepares development plans for parking, a 1,000-seat amphitheater, walkways, and planting at the Cape Henry Memorial.
CE 1957 - 1974	Built	The US Army installs a Nike Ajax missile unit at Fort Story to defend against high altitude Soviet bombers. The Fort Story facility is later upgraded to the Nike Hercules system and is retained until Nike facilities across the US are decommissioned in 1974. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 108)
CE 1955 - 1962	Abandoned	Virginia Division of Conservation and Development closes Seashore State Park rather than allow integrated access. The decision to close results from a class action lawsuit filed by four African Americans who tried to enter the park in 1951 and were turned away by park staff due to their race. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:24)
CE 1962 - 1965	Developed	Seashore State Park reopens and adds 375 new campsites in the next three years. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:24)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1976	Built	The Virginia Beach Bicentennial Commission installs a statue of Admiral Francois Joseph Paul Comte de Grasse to highlight his role in the 1781 naval battle with the British. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 19)
CE 1981	Built	On September 5, the French and English Naval Engagement Monument is installed and dedicated in an open lawn area northeast of the Admiral de Grasse statue.
CE 1981	Moved	In November, the First Landing Monument is moved 200 feet to the southwest and installed 175 feet east of the Admiral de Grasse statue. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 17)
CE 1985	Eroded	On September 27, Hurricane Gloria passes 45 miles east of Cape Henry. Storm-driven tides are 5.3 feet above Mean Lower Low Water. (https://www.weather.gov/media/akq/miscNEWS/hurricane history.pdf)
CE 1986	Established	On August 23, Public Law 99-390 authorizes an exchange of lands between the NPS and the Secretary of the Army for the purpose of relocating the Cape Henry Memorial Cross. (P.L. 99-390, 100 Stat. 831)
CE 1995	Altered	Seashore State Park is renamed First Landing State Park. (NR Seashore State Park Historic District, 8:24)
CE 2002	Built	The US Army contracts to install 18 stone breakwaters along a mile of beach along Cape Henry's Atlantic Ocean shoreline. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 40)
CE 2009	Altered	On October 1, Fort Story and Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek merge officially becoming Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek–Fort Story. (https://cnrma.cnrc.navy.mil/jeb_little_creek_fort_story/)
CE 2016	Preserved	NPS Heritage Documentation Programs complete Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation on the Cape Henry Light Station. (survey VA-370)

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. The following text is extracted directly from selected portions of “Brief History of the City,” prepared by the City of Virginia Beach Planning & Community Development Department for their VB2040 comprehensive planning process.

LANDSCAPE ORIGINS TO 1607

Native peoples have utilized the natural resources found near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and along local inland waterways for perhaps 15,000 years. The nomadic life of following the migration patterns of various animal species eventually gave way to seasonal habitation as the climate changed and the coastline and environment followed. Eventually, the native people lived as tribes in relatively permanent villages.

Artifacts dating to the Paleoindian period (9500–8000 BCE), Archaic period (8000–1200 BCE) and Woodland period (1200 BCE–1600 CE) have been discovered in various locations in Virginia Beach. Algonquian speaking tribes occupied the Tidewater area of Virginia and the Eastern Shore during the late Woodland period (900–1600 CE). Maps created by Englishman John White in the 1580s located the native villages of Apasus and Chesepiooc within the geographical areas of Virginia Beach (Figure 1).

In the late 16th century, the Chesapeake occupied the land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Elizabeth River. They tended to remain removed from the Powhatan chieftain that controlled most of the other Algonquian speaking tribes in southeastern Virginia. The Chesapeake were eradicated by Powhatan just prior to English colonization. In the aftermath, the Nansemonds, who were settled to the west, spread to the east to occupy area in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. (Brief History of the City)



Figure 1. Detailed portion of “La Virginea Pars” by John White showing Cape Henry projecting into an unnamed body of water (Chesapeake Bay) and a Native American settlement “Chesepiuc” southwest of the Cape’s point. (The British Museum, 1593)

FIRST RECORDED LANDING, 1607

European exploration of the Chesapeake Bay included Spanish and English explorers in the late 16th century as demonstrated by John White’s map “La Virginea Pars” (see Figure 1). In December 1606, the Virginia Company embarked from London on a transatlantic voyage in pursuit of economic opportunities in the New World. After a voyage of almost four and half months, the settlers first sighted the coast of the North American continent on April 26, 1607. Roughly 30 members from the voyage formed a landing party and reached land at the south end of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. George Percy, a member of the landing party, described his experience, writing: “There wee landed and discovered a little way: but wee could find nothing worth the speaking of, but faire meddowes and goodly tall Trees; with such Fresh-waters running through the woods, as I was almost rauished at the first sight thereof.”

The colonist explored for the next several days with Percy noting the party “marched eight miles up into the land” and the next day “marched some three or four miles further into the woods.” (National Humanities Center, Jamestown: 1607, The First Months). On April 29, the landing party marked their arrival by erecting a wooden cross and were led in prayer for their safe arrival by the Reverend Robert Hunt. (NPS, Cape Henry Memorial Cross) Naming the landform Cape Henry after the Prince of Wales, the group then proceeded northwest up the James River establishing the first permanent English colony in North America at Jamestown Island (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Detailed portion of John Smith's map of the Chesapeake region based on 1608 travels identifying Cape Henry, Mortons baye, and a Native American settlement labeled "Chesapeack." (Library of Congress, 1612)

NAVAL BATTLES AND THE MARITIME DEVELOPMENT, 1781-1900

Cape Henry witnessed a pivotal naval battle during the American Revolutionary War when on September 5, 1781, 24 French war ships engaged 19 British warships at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The two fleets fought to a standoff and British General Charles Cornwallis was denied reinforcements and supplies, ultimately leading to his surrender to General George Washington at Yorktown.

The importance of maritime transportation and navigational aids at Cape Henry and the transition from the Atlantic Ocean to the Chesapeake Bay was recognized in the early years of republic when on August 7, 1789, the Lighthouse Service Act was signed into law authorizing the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Henry. Recognized as the first public service project completed by the Federal government, the Cape Henry Lighthouse was completed and lighted in late October 1792. The lighthouse, keeper's house, and the cape's shifting sand dunes were captured in a 1798 drawing by Benjamin Henry Latrobe (Figure 3).

With the lighthouse identifying Cape Henry and directing ships away from the shoals around it, development in the region happened in the more sheltered waters of Hampton Roads further inland. In nautical terms, a "road" or "roadstead" is a stretch of deep water safe for passage; Hampton Roads defined the area where the James, Elizabeth, and Nansemond Rivers emptied into the Chesapeake Bay. (The Virginian-Pilot, 2008)

In Hampton Roads, the US Army constructed Fort Monroe in 1834 and paired it with Fort Wool to guard the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's navigable rivers, including the Potomac. The city of Norfolk was incorporated in 1845 on the mouth of the James and Elizabeth Rivers. During the Civil War, Fort Monroe remained in Federal hands and Norfolk served as a hub for water and rail transportation for the Confederacy. A Confederate map of southeastern Virginia, completed in 1862, shows Fort Monroe, rail transportation serving Norfolk, and symbols for two lighthouses on Cape Henry. One symbol, closest to the Atlantic shoreline, is the 1792 Cape Henry lighthouse and the symbol further west near Lynhaven Bay is not identified. Access to Cape Henry is shown with a road leading south from the lighthouse and skirting west around a feature labeled Monk Hill (Figure 4).

In the late nineteenth century, the importance of maritime transportation and navigational support brought additional development to Cape Henry. In December 1873, the US Army Signal Service completed a one-story weather station building and in October the following year, the US Life-Saving Service completed a station. Development on the cape continued in 1881 when a new lighthouse, the Cape Henry Light Station, was completed and operational. The Light Station was constructed on a granite foundation that supported a 163-foot-tall tower built from cast iron plate sections that were bolted together. The tower was topped with a one-story black iron lantern that contained a first-order Fresnel lens. (Figure 5). (National Register, 2002)

The late nineteenth century development on Cape Henry was recorded in a USGS map published in 1907 of the Norfolk and Hampton Roads areas. The map shows a Norfolk and Southern railroad line paralleling the perimeter of the Cape's point, one of the Cape Henry lighthouses labeled, and the Cape Henry Life-Saving Station labeled as well. At least 30 buildings are depicted on the map as black squares located around the lighthouse and Life-Saving Station and the area to the south is labeled "The Desert" (Figure 6).



Figure 3. Benjamin Henry Latrobe section of the Cape Henry Lighthouse showing the accumulation of sand around the lighthouse and keeper's house. (preservationvirginia.org, 1798)



Figure 4. "Southeastern part of Virginia, from York River, and west to Black Water River." The map shows the 1792 Cape Henry Lighthouse and a lighthouse symbol further west nearer to Lynhaven Bay that is not named. (Library of Congress, 1862)



Figure 5. Cape Henry Lighthouse, image right, completed 1792, and Cape Henry Light Station, image left, completed 1881. View southeast from near the 1935 location of the Cape Henry Memorial. (Library of Congress, circa 1905)

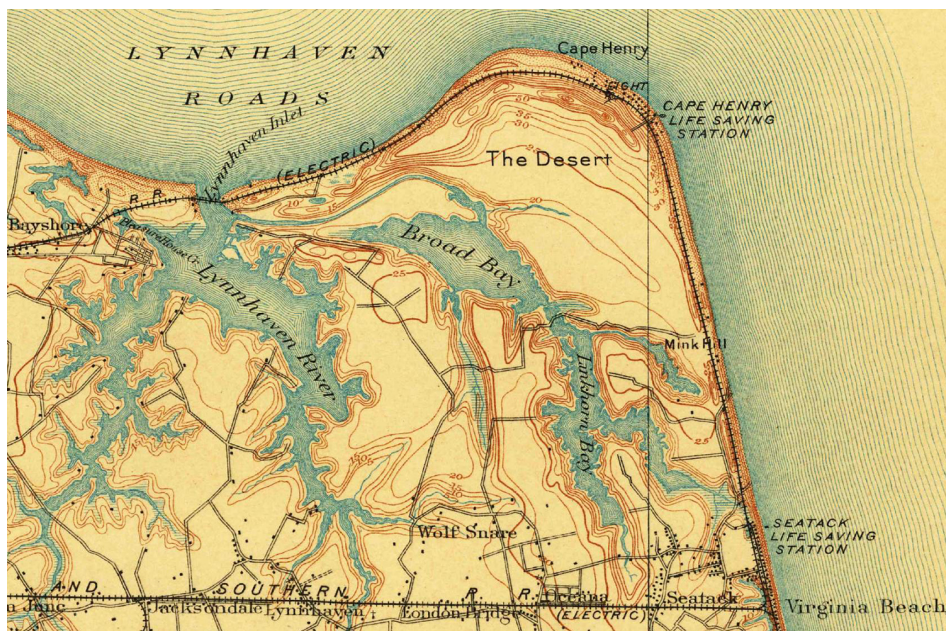


Figure 6. Detailed portion of a 1:125,000 map of the Norfolk and Hampton Roads area showing Cape Henry, the lighthouse, and Life Saving Station. (USGS, 1907)

ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT STORY AND EARLY COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST LANDING, 1900-1928

In the 1906 recommendations in the Taft Board report identified Cape Henry as a location for installing coastal defenses. Advancing those recommendations, the Virginia General Assembly gave 343 acres of land on Cape Henry to the US government in 1914 for the purpose of establishing a military reservation and installing coastal defenses. The War Department named the installation Fort Story after General John Patton Story, a noted coastal artilleryman. During the next four years, the US Army constructed barracks, mess halls, storehouses, and a post headquarters at Fort Story to support preparedness for the country's eventual entry into World War I.

Establishment of Fort Story and its early development is reflected in a 1919 map published by the USGS. The map shows a Norfolk Southern railroad line and a parallel spur line along the perimeter of the Cape's point and connecting Lake Smith to the west with Virginia Beach to the southeast. One of the lighthouses is identified with a symbol and the Life-Saving Station is now identified as a Coast Guard Station reflecting the evolution of the Life-Saving Service into the US Coast Guard. Numerous buildings occupy the narrow area between the spur railroad line and the water's edge between the Coast Guard Station and the lighthouse. Southeast of the Cape, denser development and a second Coast Guard Station mark Virginia Beach with the area directly south of the Cape labeled "The Desert" (Figure 7).

Following the end of World War I, the US Army began construction of a large-caliber four gun battery at Fort Story that featured 16-inch guns and was named Battery Pennington. A year later, the army constructed a mine casement at Fort Story to control mines laid across the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. These two defenses were in addition to the completed small caliber guns, post housing and facilities, and railroad transportation to the military reservation, recorded in a 1922 map of the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay, Fort Story (Figure 8).

The military presence on Cape Henry and establishment of a major coastal defense facility did not erase the Cape's history of the English colonists' landing in 1607. In 1928, marking the April 26 landing, a black-and-white photograph shows a celebration featuring a wooden cross installed near the original Cape Henry lighthouse. The event featured Virginia's governor and soldiers from Fort Story. Three years later, a similar anniversary celebration is documented in a black-and-white photograph and featured the attendance of President and Mrs. Hoover as well as over 10,000 visitors to Cape Henry. This event was also focused around a wooden cross installed to recall the colonists' cross erected on April 29 before their departure to Jamestown Island (Figure 9).



Figure 7. Detailed portion of a 1:62,500 map of the Cape Henry area showing the lighthouse, life saving station, and at least 30 buildings around these two structures. (USGS, 1919)

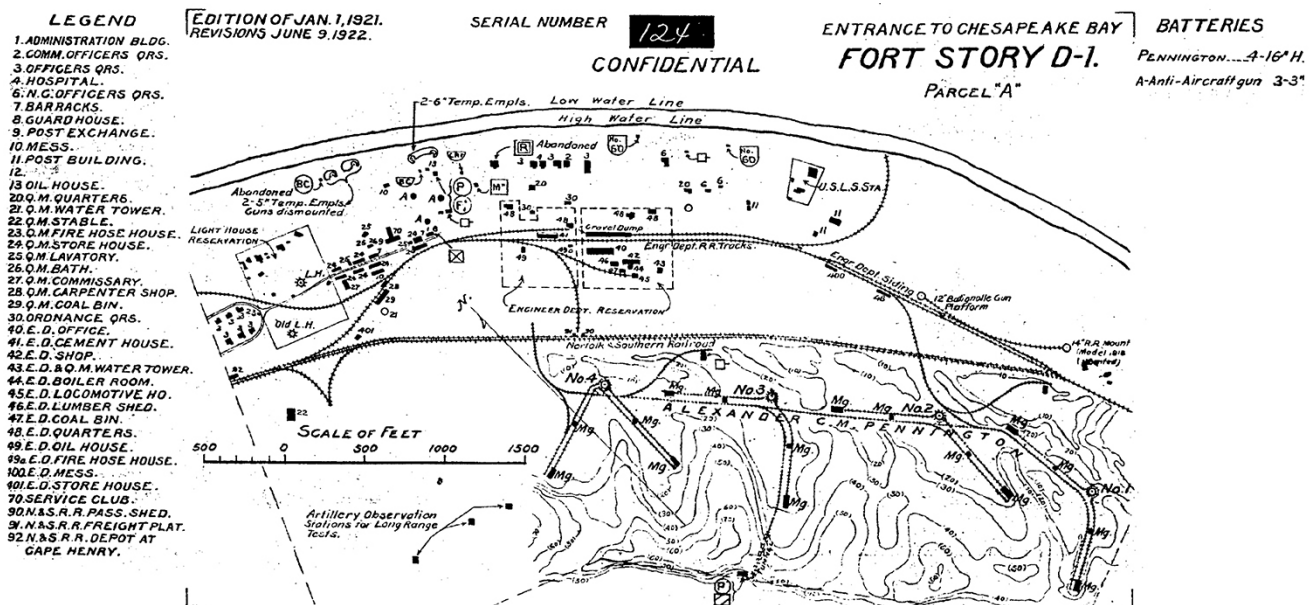


Figure 8. Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay, Fort Story. The Army developed Fort Story with multiple artillery and defense systems. The 1935 Cape Henry Memorial location is in or near the box labeled "Light House Reservation." (CDSG, 1922)



Figure 9. April 1931 First Landing anniversary celebration at Cape Henry. A wooden cross was installed for this event that was attended by President and Mrs. Hoover and over 10,000 visitors. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 1931)

**NATIONAL AND STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND CAPE HENRY MEMORIAL
ESTABLISHMENT, 1929-1940**

In 1929, William Carson, head of the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development, proposed to NPS Assistant Director Horace Albright the creation of a “historic national park” that would include Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg. The concept grew to include the idea of a parkway connecting the three sites and facilitating access for an increasingly driving public. (Colonial Parkway CLR, 171-172) On July 3, 1930, Public Law 71-510 established Colonial National Monument and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land and to conduct a survey of the area to establish a proposed boundary for the park and parkway. Three years later, on August 8, conservation and recreation opportunities through park establishment came to Cape Henry. A local real estate group known as the Cape Henry Syndicate donated 1,000 acres of land to the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development for the creation of Seashore State Park located south of Fort Story. A year later, the state park added an additional 2,383 acres of land. (National Register, 2005).

Within the Fort Story reservation, a permanent first landing monument and Cape Henry Memorial was formally dedicated on April 26, 1935, by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists. The memorial featured a semi-circular terrace paved with irregular, angular-shaped flagstone pieces, a low stone wall installed around the perimeter of the terrace, and the First Landing Monument. The monument consisted of a two-part stepped base, an engraved plaque attached to the base, and a 12-foot high by 6-foot wide granite cross (Figure 10). The following year, Colonial National Monument was redesignated Colonial National Historical Park and Seashore State Park opened and welcomed 6,000 inaugural visitors. (National Register, 2005)

On January 24, 1938, Colonial National Historical Park superintendent B. Floyd Flickinger sent a letter to the NPS Director asking that the Cape Henry Memorial site be added to the National Historical Park. Roughly five months later, Congress passed a law authorizing the Secretary of War to transfer to the Secretary of the Interior an area not to exceed 100 feet square within Fort Story containing the Cape Henry Memorial. The Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, was authorized to “exercise jurisdiction over and maintain such site and memorial as a part of the Colonial National Historical Park.” (Foundation Document, 68) In 1940, the National Park Service published a map of Colonial National Historical Park showing the completed and planned construction of Colonial Parkway, as well as an inset of the Cape Henry Memorial and the 100 feet square park property located northeast of the Cape Henry Light Station (Figure 11).



Figure 10. First Landing Monument and Cape Henry Memorial. The memorial consisted of the cross monument, an irregular stone-paved terrace, and a perimeter wall. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, no date)

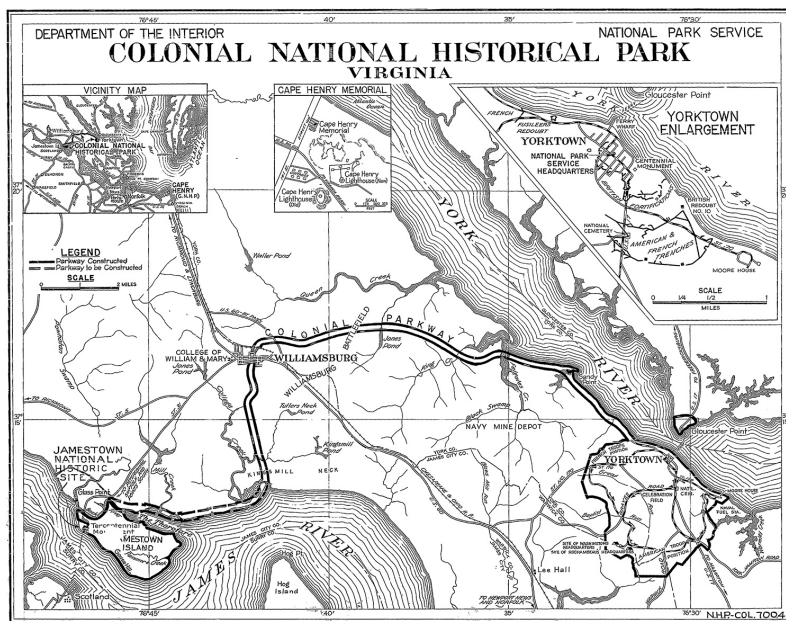


Figure 11. Two years after the 1938 land transfer, a map of Colonial National Historical Park shows an inset for the Cape Henry Memorial and the 100 foot square park property located northeast of the Cape Henry Light Station. (NPS eTIC COLO_333_7004, 1940)

WORLD WAR II AND THE COLD WAR ERAS, 1941-1975

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the US entry into World War II, US Route 60 was rerouted from its alignment through Fort Story, present-day Shore Drive, to a new roadway that wound through Seashore State Park. The fort received major building projects and development to support the war effort that included new 16-inch gun batteries, 6-inch gun batteries, and anti-aircraft batteries that served the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay. The harbor defenses system consisted of installations across the Hampton Roads area protecting the outer and inner Chesapeake Bay and included Fort Story, Fort John Custis, Fort Monroe, and Fort Wool. The growth of Fort Story during World War II, the rerouting of US Route 60, and the establishment of Seashore State Park are all recorded on a 1952 USGS map of the Cape Henry quadrangle. On the map, a small box with a cross in the center symbolizes the location of the Cape Henry Memorial (Figure 12).

The advent of atomic warfare demonstrated the futility of harbor defenses at the Chesapeake Bay and across the United States. After World War II, the Army declared the harbor defense systems obsolete, and the artillery was collected for scrap metal at Fort Story. The US Army reassigned Fort Story as an amphibious training facility and in 1957, installed a Nike Ajax missile unit to defend against high altitude Soviet bombers.

At the Cape Henry Memorial, the National Park Service prepared development plans for parking, a 1,000-seat amphitheater, walkways, and planting. The development proposal stretched outside the agency's diminutive parcel within the military reservation and demonstrated an effort to establish basic visitor amenities at the memorial. Implementation of the plan appears to have been scaled back and only the parking area and a single walkway to the memorial were installed (Figures 13 and 14).



Figure 12. Detailed portion of the Cape Henry quadrangle (1:24,000) showing development of Fort Story, the northern section of Virginia Beach, and Seashore State Park. The memorial is symbolized with a cross.. (USGS, 1952; annotated by OCLP, 2023)

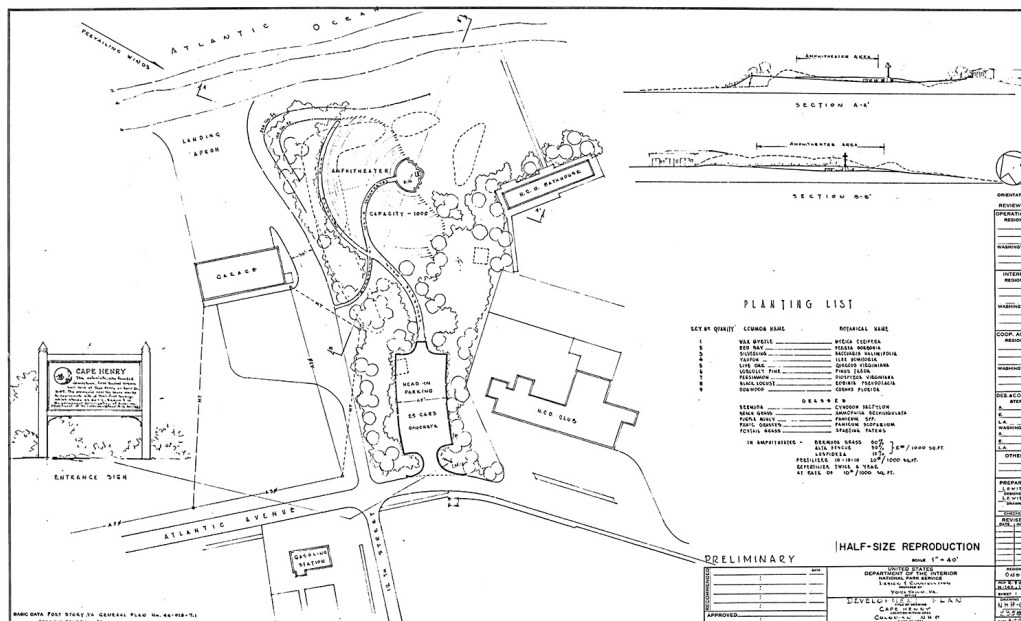


Figure 13. NPS development plans for parking, a 1,000-seat amphitheater, walkways, and planting at the Cape Henry Memorial. Only the parking and a single walkway would be implemented. (NPS, 1956)

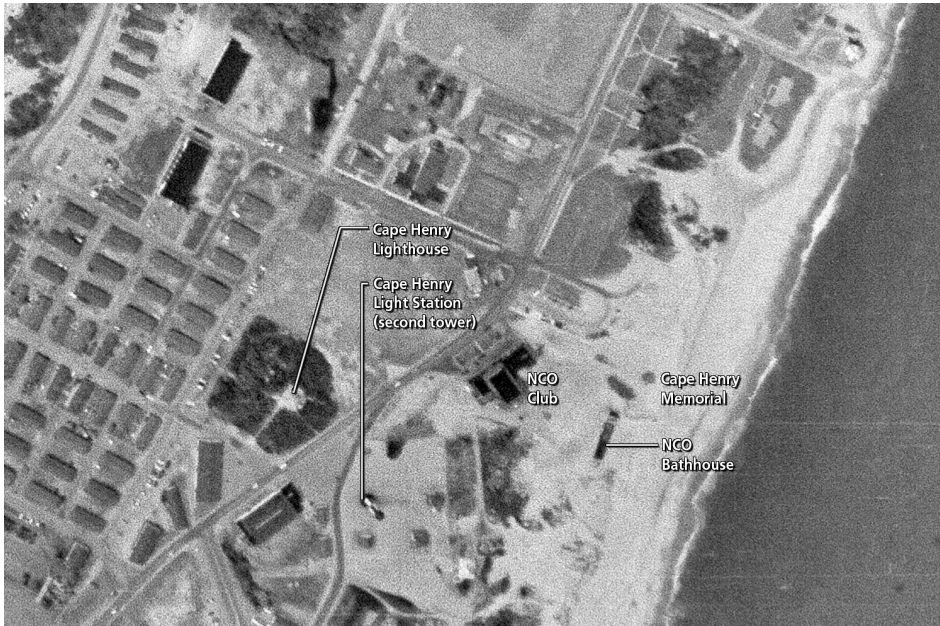


Figure 14. Detailed portion of aerial photograph showing development of Fort Story, the lighthouses, and the Cape Henry Memorial. (USGS, 1963; annotated by OCLP, 2023)

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL AND CAPE HENRY MEMORIAL RELOCATION, 1976-Present

In 1976, the Virginia Beach Bicentennial Commission installed a statue of Admiral Francois Joseph Paul Comte de Grasse to highlight his role in the 1781 naval battle with the British. The statue was installed southwest of the shifting barrier dunes that rose above average high tides and was accompanied by a raised viewing shelter accessed via a boardwalk. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 19) Commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the naval battle Admiral de Grasse led, the French and English Naval Engagement monument was installed and dedicated on September 5, 1981. The monument consisted of polished pink granite and was installed roughly 100 feet northeast of the statue in an open lawn area guarded by a barrier dune.

The Cape Henry Memorial, closer to the Atlantic shoreline than either the Admiral de Grasse statue or the French and English Naval Engagement monument, faced threats from seasonal storms and eroding dunes. In 1981 the National Park Service prepared plans to relocate the memorial further inland. The plans called for aligning the memorial on an east-west axis centered on and to the east of the Admiral de Grasse statue. The First Landing Monument was to be the focal point at the east end of a square, redesigned terrace with the terrace bounded by a new perimeter wall located only on the terrace's east side. Beach rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and shore juniper (*Juniperus conferta*) were to flank the north and south sides of the terrace and frame an entry for visitors to approach the monument (Figures 15 and 16). Coordinating with the Army, the National Park Service moved the monument to a redesigned terrace in November 1981. (Fort Story and Cape Henry, 17) Five years later, on August 23, Public Law 99-390 officially authorized an exchange of lands between the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Army for the purpose of maintaining the 100-foot square property associated with the Cape Henry Memorial.

Presently, in the National Park Service's Facility Management Software System (FMSS) — a system intended to identify, manage, and analyze maintenance operations — the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape contains a maintained landscape location (78719) and a monument and memorials location (110617). Colonial National Historical Park engages a contractor for maintenance at the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape with duties primarily consisting of mowing and trimming work.

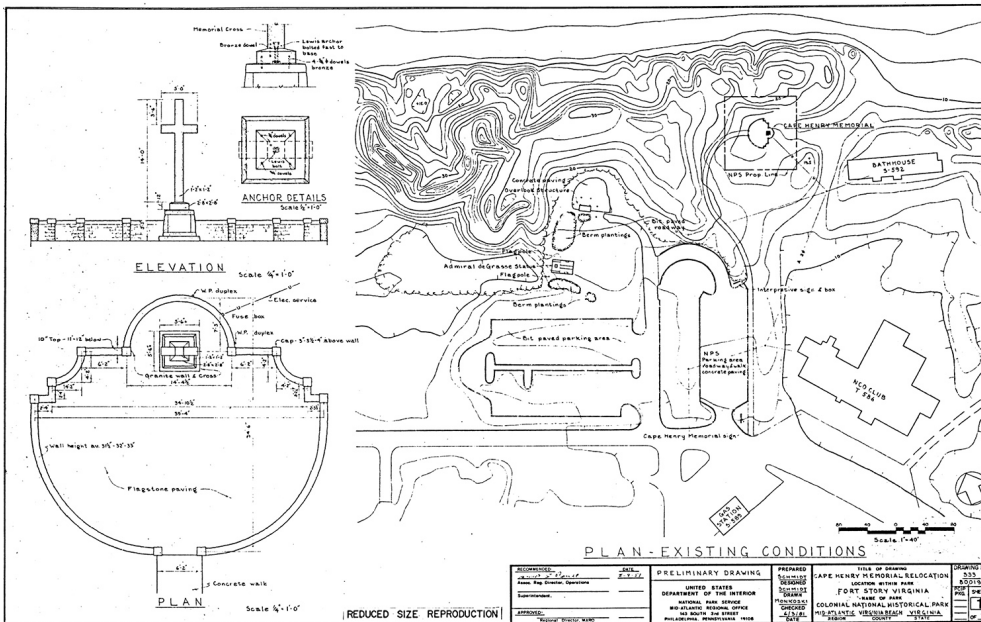


Figure 15. NPS existing conditions of the Cape Henry Memorial, prior to its relocation. (NPS, 1981)

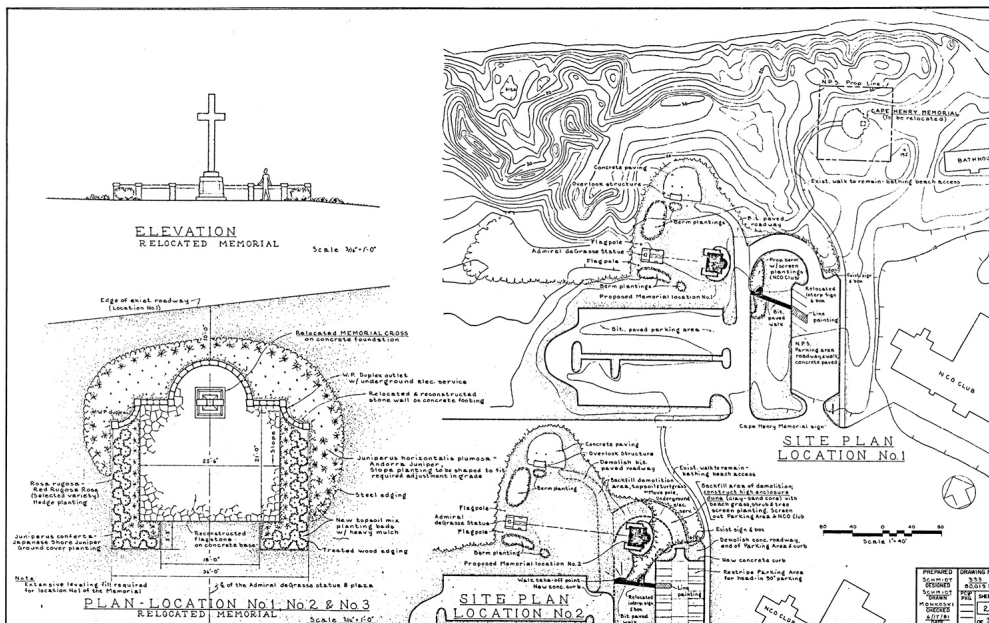


Figure 16. NPS plan for relocating the Cape Henry Memorial and reconfiguring the terrace and perimeter wall. (NPS, 1981)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Landscape	Natural Area	Beach	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)		Yes	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The National Park Service fee simple property and the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape are within an active US Navy base, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek–Fort Story, and access is restricted by the US Navy. Security gates are at both the north and south ends of Atlantic Avenue, the major road that parallels Cape Henry's shoreline and provides access from US Route 60 to the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape. Visitors may arrive at the gates and request access to the memorial and the Cape Henry lighthouses. A Navy shuttle transports visitors to the NPS property as well as the lighthouses.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

The site of significant human habitation for more than 11,000 years prior to the first English contact, the park protects resources and evokes stories of the interaction and conflict between the English colonists and the American Indians of the Powhatan Paramount Chiefdom. (FD 2018: 3)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance, 1607 and 1935-1973, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023. Landscape characteristics from the periods of significance that remain today include natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Specific landscape features include the shifting sand dunes and berms, the spatial relationship of the memorial landscape to the Atlantic Ocean, and the First Landing Monument.

Since 1973, landscape characteristics and features at the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape have changed. The memorial – consisting of a monument, paved terrace, and perimeter wall – was constructed and installed in 1935, acquired by the National Park Service in 1938, and relocated in 1981. Current plantings around the memorial remain from the 1981 design, have been replanting according to that plan, or are naturalized from the surrounding area.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on the 1607 and 1935-1973 periods of significance for the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape. Overall, the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape retains integrity of setting, materials, feeling, and association, but has diminished integrity in design and workmanship, and has lost integrity of location.

Location:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Given that the Cape Henry shoreline is roughly three miles long, the exact location where English colonists landed on Cape Henry in 1607 and erected a cross is not known. Given changes to the sea level and shoreline, the actual site is possibly in the Atlantic Ocean. The colonists explored the area for four days and recorded encountering meadows, tall trees, and freshwater running through woods. This account indicates colonists moved around and through the Cape's landscape and plausibly passed through the original 1935 site and present 1981 site of the Cape Henry Memorial. Although the intention of the monument was to commemorate the landing event, rather than an actual location, a particular location for the erection of the monument was chosen in the 1930s and the monument no longer retains that original location.

Evaluation: Lost integrity of location

Design:

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The monument, paved terrace, and perimeter wall, were reconfigured when these features were moved. The original paved terrace was semi-circular and surrounded by a low perimeter stone wall with an opening placed on center with the monument. At the new site, the terrace was designed as a rectangle and the perimeter wall rebuilt only on the east side of the terrace. The monument, including the cross, its pedestal base, and an inscription plaque were all retained in the relocation and positioned on the cardinal direction east to match the original orientation.

Evaluation: Diminished integrity of design

Setting:

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The presence of undulating sand dunes, a mixture of dune vegetation, and the sight and sounds of the nearby Atlantic Ocean are all retained elements of a landscape colonists encountered in 1607. However, non-historic vegetation abutting the memorial and continued development of Fort Story surrounding the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape area has somewhat diminished the larger cultural landscape setting.

Evaluation: Retains integrity of setting

Materials:

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The presence of undulating sand dunes and a mixture of dune vegetation are materials that were present in 1607 and are presently extant. Materials that comprise the monument are unchanged, but materials that compromise the stone wall, terrace, and plantings primarily date to the 1981 design.

Evaluation: Retains integrity of materials

Workmanship:

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Cultural landscape characteristics and features conveying the workmanship of the English colonists that landed in 1607 on Cape Henry are not extant. The workmanship of the First Landing Monument, a granite cross with a bush hammer finish, is retained.

Evaluation: Diminished integrity of workmanship

Feeling:

Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The current Cape Henry Memorial is more substantial than the simple wooden cross the colonists installed after their four days on the Cape. However, the proximity of the memorial to the ocean and the surrounding dunes with varied vegetation generally conveys the feeling of the landscape encountered and described by English colonist in 1607. Despite its relocation, the First Landing Monument continues to convey its role as a memorial to the events in 1607.

Evaluation: Retains integrity of feeling

Association:

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Cape Henry Memorial remains associated with the first recorded English landing in the United States through the proximity of the memorial landscape to the Atlantic Ocean, the presence of shifting sand dunes and berms, and the First Landing Monument. It also retains its association with the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists.

Evaluation: Retains integrity of association

The following section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic periods (1607 and 1935-1973), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. The 1607 Cape Henry landscape encountered by the English colonists was featured sand dunes and berms that shifted, driven by wind and wave action. In "The Historie of Travaile into Virginia Britannia," William Strachey described the "white hilly sand, like unto the Downes" present at Cape Henry. The dynamic processes of this coastal shoreline environment likely submerged the actually landing site long ago, and erased any traces of the original wooden cross. In 1935 the original site of the memorial was located amongst the sand dunes and berms in the general vicinity of the first landing.

Evaluation:

The continuation of natural coastal processes prompted the NPS to relocate the original 1935 memorial site inland. Wind and wave forces continue to shape the Cape Henry landscape today and shifting sand dunes and berms are a contributing feature of the landscape. A berm is present east of the Cape Henry Memorial and wraps around the memorial forming a semi-circular shape (Figure 17).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Shifting Sand Dunes and Berms	201611	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Figure 17. A semi-circular berm wraps around the east side of the Cape Henry Memorial. The berm is covered with a mixture of plant materials, including Chinese hollies (*Ilex cornuta*) at image right of the cross. View northeast. (OCLP, 2023)*

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. As the site of the first English landing recorded in the United States, the Cape Henry landform has long possessed a historic relationship with the Atlantic Ocean. The prominence of the landform, marking the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay, made it identifiable to English colonists and resulted in the landing event. In 1935 the First Landing Monument was erected and fronted with a semi-circular shaped terrace enclosed by a low stone wall. Directly opposite the front of the monument was an opening in the wall, which simultaneously served as the entrance to the memorial and provided a direct view of it.

Evaluation:

The spatial relationship of the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape to the Atlantic Ocean is extant and has not changed since the 1607 landing event. The exact shoreline and water levels have changed over time and will continue to do so, however, the relationship between the landscape—represented by the installation of the memorial—and the ocean is a contributing feature. Within the memorial area itself, spatial relationships were altered at the new site. The monument, including the cross, its pedestal base, and an inscription plaque were all retained in the relocation and positioned on the cardinal direction east to match the original orientation. However, the shape of the terrace was changed to a rectangle and the stone wall only enclosed a portion of the terrace.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Spatial Relationship of Memorial Landscape to Atlantic Ocean	201612	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Based on George Percy's account of the 1607 landing, the colonists encountered in the broader Cape Henry landscape, "faire meddows and goodly tall Trees, with such Fresh-waters running through the woods, as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof." William Strachey in "The Historie of Travaile into Virginia Britannia," described white hilly sand and "all along the shoare growe great plenty of pines and firrs."

Over time this vegetation pattern was impacted by changing coastal conditions and human impacts, particularly beginning in the late eighteenth century with the construction of the lighthouses and in the early twentieth century with development of Fort Story. The original memorial site in 1935 was set within sand dunes. There may have been plantings added around it, but no record of plant species or planting design has been located.

Evaluation:

A drawing of the new memorial site in 1981 indicated plantings of beach rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Andorra juniper (*Juniperus horizonatalis plumosa*), and Japanese shore juniper (*Juniperus conferta*) around the outer edges of the stone wall. Today there are beach rose and Chinese hollies (*Ilex cornuta*) along the terrace edges (Figure 18). There is a mixture of vegetation on the berms that encircle the terrace. Non-native invasive species, such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), are included in this mixed composition. Vegetation communities consistent with mid-Atlantic shorelines are present at Cape Henry and include lower growing herbaceous vegetation nearest the ocean, shrubs, and a transition to taller trees as one heads west.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Beach Rose Planting	201613	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	78719	No
Chinese Hollies on Berm	201614	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	78719	No
Mixed Vegetation on Berm	201615	Undetermined			Location	78719	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. A compacted path, flanked by a grid planting of beach rose (Rosa rugosa), leads to a terrace paved with irregular flagstone. View east. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Circulation within the 1607 Cape Henry landscape was ephemeral, likely consisting of footpaths that shifted and changed with the movement of the sand dunes and the rising and falling of the tides. There is no known record that the colonists established circulation routes or features during their four days on Cape Henry. The original 1935 memorial site featured a semi-circular-shaped flagstone terrace in front of the First Landing Monument. At this time there were roads, walkways, and parking areas to the east and south associated with Fort Story and the lighthouse complexes.

Evaluation:

Circulation features presently extant in the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape include the memorial terrace and a compacted earth footpath leading to the terrace. The terrace is comprised of irregular, angular-shaped flagstone pieces with mortared joints. When the monument was relocated in 1981, the shape of the terrace was redesigned as a rectangular shape (see Figures 15 and 16). The compacted earth footpath has resulted from repeated visitor access to the memorial and is flanked by beach rose (*Rosa rugosa*) planting. Both the terrace and footpath are non-contributing (see Figure 18).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cape Henry Memorial Terrace	201616	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	110617	No
Compacted Path to Cape Henry Memorial Terrace	201617	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	78719	No

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Written accounts from John Smith and George Percy do not include any descriptions of buildings and structures being present on Cape Henry when the English colonists landed in 1607. The construction of the lighthouses and their support structures in 1792 and 1881, as well as nearly 110 years of development for Fort Story, have added numerous buildings and structures proximate to the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape. The only structure in the original memorial site was a low retaining wall that wrapped around the entirety of the terrace.

Evaluation:

The original stone wall associated with the First Landing Monument was removed when the memorial was relocated in 1981, although it is possible some materials from it may have been used at the new site. Within the boundaries of the current landscape, the stone wall is present along the east side of the Cape Henry Memorial terrace. The wall is roughly 2.5 feet high and consists of random ashlar stones with thicker capstone pieces and wider columns at the wall corners (Figure 19). The shape of the wall, which wraps around the sides and back of the monument, is similar to the original wall (see Figures 15 and 16).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cape Henry Memorial Terrace Stone Wall	201618	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	110617	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 19. The First Landing Monument and an ashlar stone wall mark the east end of the Cape Henry Memorial terrace. View southeast. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1973):

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. In the broader Cape Henry landscape, the English colonists likely experienced views from the beach north to Cape Charles, east to the Atlantic Ocean, and around the Cape's shoreline with dunes and vegetation forming a barrier inland from the rolling waves. A similar prospect would have been present when the memorial was built in 1935, but interrupted with the presence of the nearby lighthouses and buildings at Fort Story. Within the site itself, the terrace and walls were designed to focus views on the First Landing Monument.

Evaluation:

Within the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape, views to the water are largely blocked by vegetation that secures the dunes and non-historic vegetation abutting the memorial. The memorial itself is oriented on an east-west axis with visitors entering the terrace on the west end and the location of the First Landing Monument installed at the east end. This designed orientation creates a view of the monument for users approaching the terrace and upon entering it (see Figure 18).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View East to First Landing Monument	201619	Contributing			Location	78719	No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1973):

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. In George Percy's account of the 1607 landing, he recorded that on, "the nine and twentieth day we set up a Cross at Chesupiec Bay, and named that place Cape Henry." Additional details on materials and location were not provided by Percy or other contemporaneous accounts. Ceremonies celebrating the April 26 landing by English colonists occurred in the 1920s and 1930s and often featured the installation of a wooden cross. These efforts culminated in the design and construction of the Cape Henry Memorial and the First Landing Monument by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists in 1935. The granite cross is mounted on a trapezoidal-shaped base, upon which a plaque reads:

HERE AT CAPE HENRY FIRST LANDED IN AMERICA, UPON 26 APRIL 1607, THOSE ENGLISH COLONIST WHO, UPON 13 MAY 1607, ESTABLISHED AT JAMESTOWN VIRGINIA, THE FIRST PERMANENT ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA, Erected by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, April 26, 1935

Evaluation:

In 1981 the NPS moved the memorial and monument sixty yards to the west to avoid the advance of the ocean. The monument consists of a two-part stepped base of rocked-faced granite and features the engraved plaque. The base is topped by a 12-foot high by 6-foot wide granite cross with a bush hammer finish (see Figure 19).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
First Landing Monument	201620	Contributing			Asset	496611	Yes

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 10

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/29/2033

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/29/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is evaluated as “Good.” The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and or human forces. The property’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: There is a potential for development at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek–Fort Story immediately adjacent to the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape that would alter the landscape's setting, feeling, and association.

Date Identified: 02/18/2023

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: A mixture of vegetation including Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is present on the berms east of the memorial.

Date Identified: 02/18/2023

Type of Impact: Wind

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Wind continues to shape the dunes and berms on Cape Henry and deposit or remove material from its current configuration.

Date Identified: 02/18/2023

Type of Impact: Inundation/Storm Surge

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: The Cape Henry Memorial is partially within FEMA Flood Zone VE, base flood elevation 9. There is a potential for damage from king tide and major hurricane events.

Date Identified: 02/18/2023

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

No approved landscape treatment for the Cape Henry Memorial Landscape is prescribed by the park's 1993 "General Management Plan for Colonial National Historical Park."

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Tyler, Fielding Lewis	Images of America: Fort Story and Cape Henry	2005	Arcadia Publishing			
Porter, Charles W.	Report on the Cape Henry Memorial Site, Fort Story, Virginia	1938	National Park Service			
National Park Service	Foundation Document Colonial National Historical Park	2018	National Park Service			
National Humanities Center	"Jamestown: 1607, The First Months," American Beginnings: The European Presence in North America, 1492–1690	2013	National Humanities Center			
Hatch, Charles E., Jr,	The Old Cape Henry Light	1962	National Park Service			
Eshelman, Ralph E. and Perunko, Jennifer	Cape Henry (Second Tower) Light Station National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	2002	National Park Service			
Denver Service Center	General Management Plan Colonial National Historical Park	1993	National Park Service			
David, Kimble A.	Seashore State Park Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	2005	National Park Service			

City of Virginia Beach Planning & Community Development Department	VB2040 Existing Conditions StoryMap, Brief History of the City	2022	City of Virginia Beach			
--	--	------	------------------------	--	--	--

