



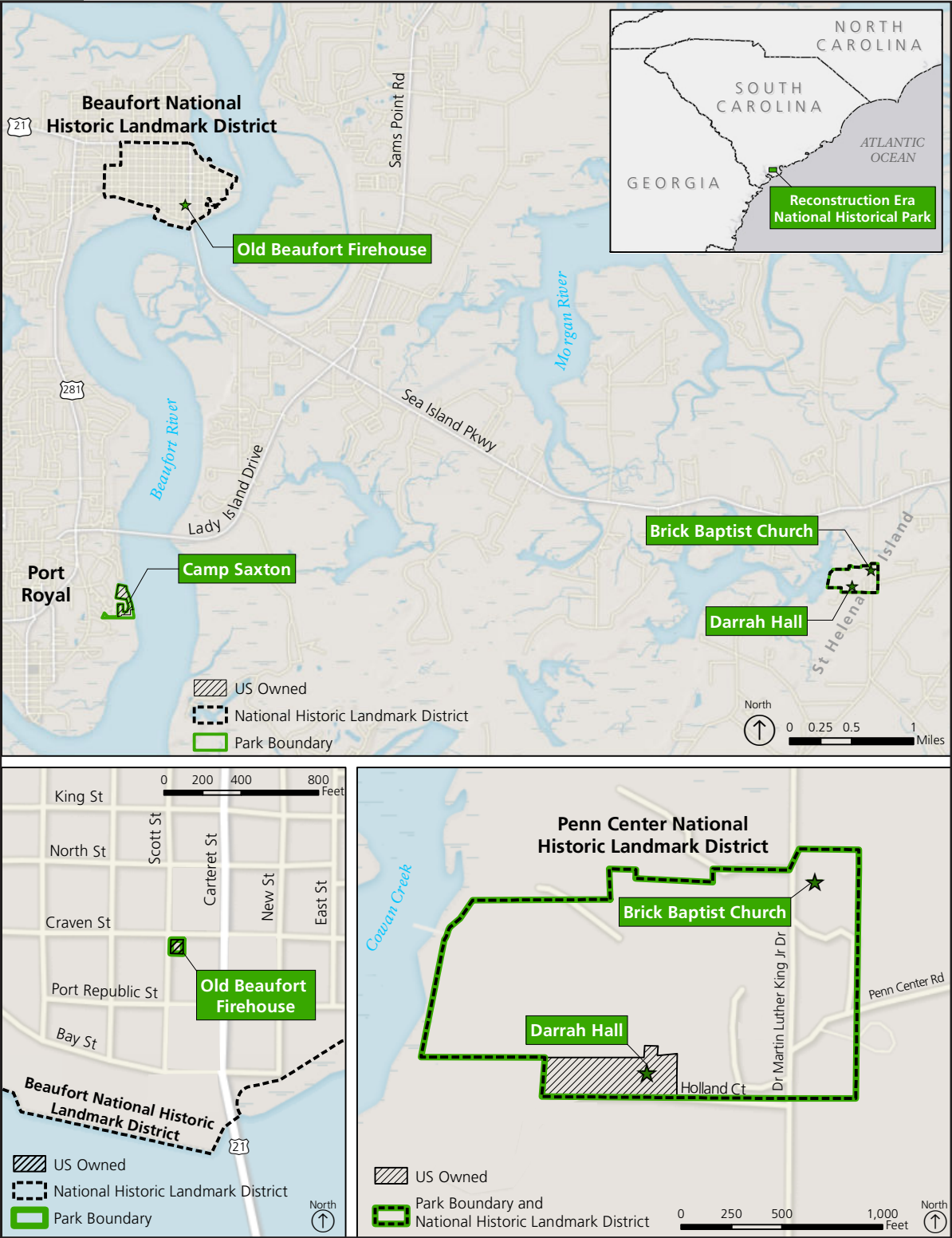
Foundation Document

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

South Carolina

September 2019





Contents

Mission of the National Park Service	1
Introduction.	2
Part 1: Core Components	3
Brief Description of the Park.	3
Park Purpose	5
Park Significance	6
Fundamental Resources and Values	7
Other Important Resources and Values	10
Related Resources	11
Interpretive Themes	12
Part 2: Dynamic Components	13
Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments	13
Special Mandates.	13
Administrative Commitments.	14
Assessment of Planning and Data Needs	14
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values	14
Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values	29
Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs	31
Planning and Data Needs	33
Part 3: Contributors	39
Reconstruction Era National Historical Park	39
Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park	39
NPS Southeast Region.	39
Other NPS Staff	39
Partners.	39
Others	39
Appendixes	40
Appendix A: Presidential Proclamation and Enabling Legislation for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.	40
Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments	49
Appendix C: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts	50



Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, related resources and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, related resources, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

The Reconstruction era (1861 to 1900) was a time of extraordinary transformation in the United States, as the nation grappled with how to reunite the country after the Civil War and how to protect the rights of millions of newly freed African Americans. Following the Civil War and to set the nation on a new footing, Congress passed three constitutional amendments, the 13th, 14th, and 15th. The amendments permanently abolished slavery, promised birthright citizenship and civil rights, and prohibited race-based discrimination in voting. To bring former Confederate states back into the union, in 1867 Congress passed a series of Reconstruction Acts that divided the former Confederacy into five military districts and laid out requirements for re-admittance, including insisting that states permit African American men to vote on the same terms as white men did. Central to Reconstruction was the former Confederacy, where the impact of slavery's abolition was felt most strongly and where the experiment in racial equality was attempted most extensively. There and across the nation, African Americans faced steep obstacles as they attempted to claim their newly won rights. Many of Reconstruction's promises went unfulfilled, but the ideas and institutions developed in that era provided a crucial framework for the civil rights movement 100 years later.

Despite the importance of Reconstruction, many Americans know very little about it. What they do know is often outdated or inaccurate. Historians once portrayed the period as a failure and defined it narrowly as the years between 1865 and 1876. Now they examine the era's broad triumphs and also its long reach. During this period, Americans debated profound questions: What did freedom mean? What kind of country would this be? What kind of political system should govern it? What were the rights of citizenship, and who could be a citizen? They struggled earnestly—if not always successfully—to build a nation of free and equal citizens. Reconstruction is often called the country's Second Founding. To this day, the outcomes of the vast political and social changes of the Reconstruction era remain visible across the landscape.





One place that embodies the themes of Reconstruction with special merit is Beaufort County, South Carolina. The significant historical events that transpired there make it an ideal place to tell critical national, regional, and local stories of experimentation, potential transformation, accomplishment, and disappointment. In the Beaufort region, including the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, and the neighboring Sea Islands, many existing historic sites demonstrate the transformative effect of emancipation and Reconstruction. The park was first established as Reconstruction Era National Monument via presidential proclamation on January 12, 2017, and redesignated as Reconstruction Era National Historical Park by Congress on March 12, 2019.

The park boundary includes approximately 65 acres of land in three different locations within Beaufort County. Approximately 16 acres of land, or interests in land, are controlled by the federal government. Key places include: the Brick Baptist Church and associated cemetery (an approximate one-acre historic preservation easement) on Saint Helena Island; Darrah Hall and associated easements (approximately four acres) within the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District on Saint Helena Island; a portion of the site of Camp Saxton (approximately 11 acres) on lands currently administered by the U.S. Department of the Navy at Naval Hospital Beaufort in the Town of Port Royal; and the Old Beaufort Firehouse (approximately 0.10 acre) located within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District in downtown Beaufort. Along with the park's redesignation, Congress established the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network in 2019 to connect places including existing NPS units and programs across the U.S. that are important to the Reconstruction era. The collection of historic sites in Beaufort County, South Carolina, along with other nationally significant sites outside national historical park boundaries, provides a unique opportunity for visitors to understand the complex history and explore places associated with the Reconstruction era.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling presidential proclamation and the legislative history that influenced its development (see appendix A for the proclamation and enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK, in Beaufort
County, South Carolina, preserves
and interprets the resources
and complex national stories
of Reconstruction—African
Americans' quest for freedom,
the challenges resulting from
the abolition of slavery, and the
struggles to redefine the nation
during and after the Civil War.*



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- In November 1861, while the Civil War raged in the background, Beaufort County became a birthplace of Reconstruction as one of the first places in the United States where formerly enslaved people began defining freedom on their own terms.
- Because of the early occupation by the United States military and implementation of Treasury Department policies in 1862, many African Americans were able to acquire land in Beaufort County, and through political and social organizations many held on to their lands, despite challenges from former landowners. In this setting land ownership and control over agricultural labor was the way to sustain community life, cultural identity, and economic independence.
- On January 1, 1863, an elaborate ceremony and historic reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states then “in rebellion” against the United States, took place at Camp Saxton, a Union encampment at the Smith Plantation. Camp Saxton functioned as both a recruiting post and training ground for the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, one of the first African American infantry regiments mustered into Federal service during the Civil War.
- One of the most influential African American politicians during Reconstruction, Robert Smalls, a Beaufort native and former slave, had a political career that spanned the entire Reconstruction era including advocating for free compulsory public education, representing South Carolina in the United States Congress in 1875–1887, and fighting against the disenfranchisement of African American voters.
- Participation in the political process was a defining component of freedom during Reconstruction. In Beaufort County, African American communities mobilized for the right to vote, and when enfranchised in 1867, African American men, many of them Civil War veterans ready to defend their civil rights, exercised their right to vote, becoming a driving force in politics both locally and nationally.
- Once freed, many African Americans in Beaufort County wanted to worship in churches and join organizations that reflected their communities. The Brick Baptist Church—also known as the Brick Church—was built by enslaved Africans in 1855 for the white planters on St. Helena Island. After the white population fled from the Sea Islands in 1861, freed African Americans began to make this church their own.
- Freed people sought education since it had been denied to them for so long. Northern missionaries including Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray provided access to education for the formerly enslaved, leading to the establishment of Penn School in 1865 on land donated by former slave Hastings Gantt.
- In the 20th century, the Penn School evolved into the Penn Center and remains a crucial place for education, community, and political organizing. As a meeting place in the 1950s and 1960s for civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Penn Center links the democratic aspirations of Reconstruction to those of the modern civil rights movement.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park:

- **Brick Baptist Church.** The Brick Baptist Church where Towne and Murray held classes in 1862–64 is today the oldest operating church on St. Helena Island. Once freed from their owners, African Americans in Beaufort County wanted to worship in churches and join organizations that they controlled. The Brick Church, also known as the Brick Baptist Church, was built by enslaved Africans in 1855 for the white planters on St. Helena Island. When the white population fled from the Sea Islands in 1861, the suddenly freed African Americans began making the church their own. Besides serving as a place of worship, the Brick Church and its environs were used for numerous meetings to promote the Reconstruction movement, the raising of African American troops, and celebrations of freedom. The church continues to serve the spiritual needs of the community to this day. Located within the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District, the Brick Baptist Church also includes the church cemetery, and the surrounding landscape that provides an important historic context to the site.





- Darrah Hall at the Penn Center.** Located within the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District, Darrah Hall provides a venue to connect visitors to the rich legacy of the Penn Center. Freed people hungered for education, as every state in the Confederacy except Tennessee had prohibited slaves from learning to read and write. In 1862, Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray from Pennsylvania were among the northern teachers to arrive at St. Helena Island as part of the Port Royal Experiment. Charlotte Forten, a well-educated African American woman from a prominent abolitionist family in Philadelphia, joined the faculty later that year. Initially located in a room of the Oaks plantation house, in 1862 the school was moved to the Brick Church in order to accommodate large numbers of students. In 1864, Hastings Gantt, an African American landowner, donated land for a permanent school. The school became a model to illustrate the development of African American educational institutions in the Reconstruction era. The Penn School would evolve into the Penn Center in the 20th century, and remain a crucial place for education, community, and political organizing for decades to come. Darrah Hall is the oldest standing structure on the site of the Penn School grounds. Students and community members built Darrah Hall in 1893 or 1894 initially, then re-built it in 1901 at its current site after the original building was destroyed by fire. As part of the Penn Center, Darrah Hall sits on a landscape lined with Spanish-moss-covered oaks that reflect a unique sense of place.



- Camp Saxton.** Established by Union forces during the American Civil War, Camp Saxton in Port Royal was located on the site of the former Smith Plantation. In August 1862, U.S. Brigadier General Rufus Saxton, the military governor of the abandoned plantations in the Department of the South, received permission to recruit 5,000 African Americans, mostly former slaves, into the Union Army. The 1st South Carolina Volunteers, among the first black regiment mustered into regular service in the United States Army during the Civil War, occupied and trained at Camp Saxton from early November 1862 to late January 1863. Camp Saxton was also the location of elaborate and historic ceremonies on January 1, 1863, to announce and celebrate the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states then “in rebellion” against the United States. General Saxton himself had attended church services at the Brick Baptist Church in the fall of 1862 to recruit troops and to invite everyone, African American and white, “to come to the camp . . . on New Year’s Day, and join in the grand celebration.” This Emancipation Proclamation celebration was particularly significant because it occurred in Union-occupied territory in the South where the provisions of the Proclamation would actually take effect before the end of the war. The exact location of Camp Saxton and the ceremonial site is not known, but the location of the Smith Plantation House and some of the outbuildings have been identified on period maps and documented via rigorous searches of contemporary photographs. This site associated with Camp Saxton is currently owned and managed by the United States Navy. The site sits on a landscape lined with live oaks that capture the setting and sense of place.
- Oral Histories, Archives, and Museum Collections.** In order to preserve and interpret the broader stories and history of the Reconstruction era, the national historical park will need to develop museum collections and archives that include oral histories. Historical scholarship on Reconstruction is extensive, and professional historians continue to deepen our understanding of the period. Across the country, museums, institutions of higher learning, libraries, and non-profit organizations hold archival materials and museum objects that are significant to the period. The national historical park will work in collaboration with these entities as it identifies resources, builds relationships, and develops its own museum collection and archives with a focus on both the local history and the national scope of the Reconstruction era. Understanding what materials are available and providing access to them, is essential to building successful educational programs and interpretive materials for the national historical park. Of particular importance is collecting oral histories that document the first-hand accounts and experiences of African Americans in Sea Island communities who have knowledge of the sites and resources within the national historical park.

- **Partnerships and Collaboration.** The history of the Reconstruction era is larger than any one location and cannot be fully articulated without partnerships and collaboration with a variety of entities. The importance of these partnerships was affirmed and expanded with the establishment of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network. Partnering with the City and County of Beaufort, Town of Port Royal, St. Helena Island, Penn Center, United States Navy, Mitchelville Freedom Park, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, local churches, friends groups, and other organizations in the stewardship of these resources and interpreting the history of the Reconstruction era is essential to the national historical park. Partnerships at the federal, state, county, and local municipal levels as well as non-profit organizations, institutions of higher learning, churches, and local community organizations will be required in order for the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and National Historic Network to be successful.

Other Important Resources and Values

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park :

- **Old Beaufort Firehouse.** Built around 1911, the Old Beaufort Firehouse stands near the center of downtown Beaufort, across the street from the historic Beaufort Arsenal. Although the Old Beaufort Firehouse does not date to the historic period of the Reconstruction era, it is centrally located within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District, designated a National Historic Landmark district in 1973. From the Old Beaufort Firehouse visitors can walk to many significant Reconstruction era sites and properties that are not owned or managed by the National Park Service. A number of the places within close proximity to the Old Beaufort Firehouse are associated with Robert Smalls, the most influential African American politician in South Carolina during the Reconstruction era.



Related Resources

Related resources are those that may be part of the broader context or setting in which park resources exist, represent a thematic connection that enhances the experience of visitors, or have close associations with park fundamental resources and the purpose of the park. Related resources may be fundamental to the park, but they are not owned by the park. They are resources that, if acquired via ownership or a delegated legal management interest by the National Park Service, they could become fundamental resources. The related resource represents a connection with the park that often reflects an area of mutual benefit or interest, and an opportunity for collaboration between the park and owner or manager of the related resource.

Many resources related to the Reconstruction era were identified and documented as part of “The Era of Reconstruction, 1861–1900: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study.” As mandated by Congress, Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network will serve as a national platform for telling the story of Reconstruction by conducting research, producing and disseminating educational and promotional materials, and providing technical assistance to federal and non-federal entities interested in being a part of the Network.

The following related resources in Beaufort County were identified in the park’s proclamation and have close associations with Reconstruction Era National Historical Park:

- Penn Center National Historic Landmark District.** Listed as a National Historic Landmark District in 1974, the Penn Center National Historic Landmark District includes the campus of Penn Center, Inc. (formerly Penn School) and the Brick Baptist Church, historically known as Brick Church. The Penn Center is located on Saint Helena Island, South Carolina. Founded in 1862, the Penn School was one of the first academic schools in the South established by Northern missionaries, to provide a formal education for formerly enslaved people. For more than 150 years, the Penn Center has continued to be an important focal point for African American education, historic preservation, and social justice. Today, the mission of the Penn Center is to promote and preserve Penn’s true history and culture through its commitment to education, community development, and social justice. The Penn Center National Historic Landmark District is open to the public and offers tours and educational programming throughout the year.
- Beaufort National Historic Landmark District.** Listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1973, the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District and the surrounding area reflect, perhaps better than any single location in the United States, the political, economic, organizational, and religious transformations that occurred during the Reconstruction era. After the capture of Port Royal in November 1861, Beaufort quickly became a place of refuge for formerly enslaved people from across the Low Country and Sea Islands. Following the American Civil War, African Americans not only built thriving agricultural communities, but were also professionals, industrialists, merchants, and civic officials who built lasting political, religious, and educational institutions, many of which can be visited today. Perhaps the most significant property within the historic district is the Robert Smalls House. A former slave and Civil War veteran, Robert Smalls became one of the most influential African American political figures during the Reconstruction era. This district also includes the Beaufort Arsenal Building, which housed African American militia units during Reconstruction and served as a polling location in the 1867 election of delegates to the 1868 Constitutional Convention; the Grand Army of the Republic Hall, an African American post formed after the Civil War by Union veterans; and Tabernacle Baptist Church, formed by African American members of the Beaufort Baptist Church after federal occupation of the town in 1861. Robert Smalls is buried in the churchyard.



Beaufort Arsenal Building

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park:

- **Land, Labor, and Economics.** Economic independence, whether the result of land ownership or compensated labor, was the foundation for the legacy of families, communities, and institutions in Beaufort County. Many African Americans in Beaufort continued to build on their economic independence throughout the Reconstruction era.
- **African American Institution Building.** After emancipation, African Americans formalized and supported institutions like churches, mutual aid societies, and labor organizations that nurtured families and communities during Reconstruction and beyond.
- **Enfranchisement/New Democracy.** Reconstruction witnessed a great contest over the fundamental question of who had a voice in the American political process. Places like Mitchelville, one of the first communities where freedpeople exercised self-governance, and political leaders like Robert Smalls, who advocated for black enfranchisement, self-sufficiency, and education, helped set the stage for black leadership that contributed to a new American democracy and civil rights in the 20th century.
- **Civil Unrest/Violence.** The events during Reconstruction were characterized by conflict, negotiation, and transformation. Federal officials, northern reformers, freedpeople, and white southerners interpreted the word freedom differently. The success of black lawmakers, some who had been enslaved, infuriated southern Democrats, which led to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and Red Shirts who inflicted violence and intimidation bent on regaining their power and influence.
- **Federal Power.** During and immediately after the Civil War, Reconstruction laws and policies implemented by the federal government served as a stimulus for hope and change. However, as time went on these aspirations were compromised and unfulfilled as federal resolve waned.
- **Remaking and Modernizing the Nation.** The Reconstruction era was characterized by significant modernization of the South. By the end of the century, racial segregation and repression were becoming increasingly entrenched, even as leading white southerners also worked to diversify the economy and improve infrastructure and education. The promises of Reconstruction had provided hope for a freer, more equal nation. Subsequent social and political regression ended these gains, but Reconstruction established a platform for the Civil Rights Movement decades later.

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

Special Mandates

Excerpts from 2017 Presidential Proclamation

- **Lands within Park Boundary.** “If the Federal Government acquires any lands or interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the [Presidential Proclamation] accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.”
- **Camp Saxton Site.** “The Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Navy’s designee, shall continue to have management authority over Department of the Navy lands within the monument boundary at the Camp Saxton site, including the authority to control access to these lands. The Secretaries of the Navy and the Interior shall enter into a memorandum of agreement that identifies and assigns the responsibilities of each agency related to such lands, the implementing actions required of each agency, and the processes for resolving interagency disputes. . . . Nothing in this Proclamation precludes the activities and training of the Armed Forces; however, they shall be carried out in a manner consistent with the care and management of the objects to the extent practicable. . . . Nothing in this proclamation or any regulation implementing it shall limit or otherwise affect the U.S. Armed Forces’ discretion to use, maintain, improve, or manage any real property under the administrative control of a Military Department or otherwise limit the availability of such real property for military mission purposes.”

Excerpts from 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act

- **Boundary Expansion.** The Secretary is authorized to (1) acquire land or interests in land within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District that has a historic connection to the Reconstruction Era; (2) land and interests in land adjacent to the existing boundary on St. Helena Island, land or interests in land on St. Helena Island that has a historic connection to the Reconstruction Era and; (3) accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land adjacent to the existing boundary at Camp Saxton. Upon finalizing an agreement to acquire land or accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass that property or Federal land or interests in Federal land. The Secretary may only acquire land by donation, exchange, or purchase with donated funds.
- **Historic Network Establishment and Administration.** The Secretary shall establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network and administer the Network through the historical park.

Administrative Commitments

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, please see appendix B.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Brick Baptist Church
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once freed, many African Americans in Beaufort County wanted to worship in churches and join organizations that reflected their communities. The Brick Baptist Church—also known as the Brick Church—was built by enslaved Africans in 1855 for the white planters on St. Helena Island. After the white population fled from the Sea Islands in 1861, freed African Americans began to make this church their own. Freed people sought education since it had been denied to them for so long. Northern missionaries including Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray provided access to education for the formerly enslaved, leading to the establishment of Penn School in 1865 on land donated by former slave Hastings Gantt.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the bricks and building foundation are in good condition. There is minor ceiling damage from a prior roof leak. There is a tabby wall surrounding part of the church cemetery, which includes headstones and markers next to the building. This tabby wall is in poor condition. There is a metal, ornamental fence around some of the grave markers, which is damaged and in need of conservation and repairs. Because there is an active congregation using the church, there is limited public access to the interior of the building. The cemetery is closed to future burials and there are no active plots. Live oaks, other character-defining trees, and shrubs are a part of the cultural landscape surrounding the church and provide an important context for the site. At least one of the live oaks is in a state of decline. There is a small cottage on campus that was renovated with community funds for the purpose of facilitating interpretation of the church and possibly the Penn Center campus beyond Darrah Hall. The National Park Service currently holds a conservation easement on the exterior façade and cultural landscape of the Brick Baptist Church. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is increasing public interest in the history of the congregation and the church. Since the national historical park designation, there has been an increase in visitation and people wanting to access the church.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Brick Baptist Church
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing and continuing water damage to the church building, cemetery, and overall landscape due to storm water run-off and drainage issues. • Some resource issues related to the historic fabric of the church building have been observed, including water-damaged mortar on the base level of the church. The church building may possibly need foundation and brick work. • Increased visitation could increase potential for resource impacts such as erosion and landscape degradation, as well as wear and damage to the church building. • The development of any new visitor infrastructure (paved parking or sidewalks) could impact the historical setting and cultural landscape by increasing pavement footprint. • There is a potential to focus only on the church building when the whole landscape is rich in cultural resources and visitor experiences. • There is a potential loss of traditional knowledge and understanding of the history of this site as the church congregation ages. • The church cemetery, including the tabby wall, iron fence, and headstones are in need of conservation due to deterioration and weathering. • There are visitor safety concerns related to vehicular traffic on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (State Road 7–45) that runs between the Penn Center and the church building. Likewise, vehicular traffic may also cause vibrations and air pollution that could be impacting the historic fabric of the church building. • The geographic distribution of the numerous sites within the national historical park can be a challenge for connecting visitors to the resources and history of the Reconstruction era. • The church building is not universally accessible to visitors of all abilities. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with the church congregation to document and collect community stories and the history of the church. Also, engage the congregation in the active preservation and stewardship of the site (church building, cemetery, and the surrounding landscape). • Engage the church congregation in volunteer docent opportunities to better tell the stories and history of the site. • Work with the church congregation on identifying appropriate levels of signage for wayfinding, interpretation, and site recognition, such as a state historical marker. • Conduct outreach to other local historic churches about cultural landscape maintenance and cemetery conservation techniques. • Work in partnership with cultural tour groups to provide creative and spiritual programs related to the Reconstruction era. • The site offers an opportunity to tell the story of enslaved and later freedpeople choosing their own place of worship in an evocative and memorable setting at the very church and grounds they used. • Engage the community in the development of interpretive programs, exhibits, and special events at the church. • Develop treatment recommendations to guide the management of the vegetation that surrounds the church building in order to better protect the historic structure. • Collect oral histories from the church congregation for the national historical park museum collections and archives. • Conservation/restoration of cemetery and general restoration of site. • Collaborate with national historical park partners, key stakeholders, and park partners on interpretive training to provide high quality and historically accurate educational programming and visitor experiences. • Contact the county to collect data they have on the church's cemetery. • To better protect the historic fabric of the building, gain a better understanding of the building's capacity as it pertains to visitation and visitor access.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Brick Baptist Church
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological overview and assessment of church grounds and cemetery. • Add the Brick Baptist Church to the List of Classified Structures (LCS) database. • Cemetery survey and study. • Arborist survey of trees at Brick Baptist Church and Camp Saxton. • Cultural landscape inventory. • Digitize oral histories and archives to provide online access. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • GIS data on landscape features at the Brick Baptist Church. • Oral histories from the Brick Baptist Church congregation.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive signs plan. • Cultural landscape report. • General management plan. • Historic structures report of the Brick Baptist Church. • Land protection plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Scope of collections statement. • Strategic partnerships plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Darrah Hall at the Penn Center
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the early occupation by the United States military and implementation of Treasury Department policies, many African Americans were able to acquire land in Beaufort County, and through political and social organizations many held on to their lands, despite challenges from former landowners. In this setting land ownership and control over agricultural labor was the way to sustain community life, cultural identity, and economic independence. • Freed people sought education since it had been denied to them for so long. Northern missionaries including Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray provided access to education for the formerly enslaved, leading to the establishment of Penn School in 1865 on land donated by former slave Hastings Gantt. • In the 20th century, the Penn School evolved into the Penn Center and remains a crucial place for education, community, and political organizing. As a meeting place in the 1950s and 1960s for civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Penn Center links the democratic aspirations of Reconstruction to those of the modern civil rights movement.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, Darrah Hall is not open to the public. • A historic structure report for Darrah Hall is underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2019. This report will assess the existing condition and provide treatment recommendations. • Asset is being listed in Facility Management Software System (FMSS) inventory. • The building is listed in the List of Classified Structures database (#1096080). • The National Park Service has executed a general agreement with Penn Center in January 2018 regarding use of Darrah Hall before and after the National Park Service takes on full maintenance and operation of the building. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing visitation to Darrah Hall and growing interest in the national historical park. • Penn Center uses NPS special use permit forms as part of their process in contracting the building out for events. The Penn Center has been broadening its scope and mission to include multiple ventures, and use of the larger landscape continues to evolve with the center.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Darrah Hall at the Penn Center
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclical maintenance needs and deferred maintenance need to be addressed to ensure the structural stability and long-term stewardship of Darrah Hall. • Currently, there is a lack of National Park Service presence and interpretation at the site, which can be confusing for visitors. • There is no designated parking near Darrah Hall and this may lead to visitor impact on the larger landscape of the site, including erosion and vegetation. • Universal access requirements at Darrah Hall need to be addressed to ensure visitors of all abilities can experience the site. • There are information gaps regarding compliance with state and federal standards for the use of Darrah Hall for public gatherings (OSHA, ADA, etc.). • The geographic distribution of the numerous sites within the national historical park can be a challenge for connecting visitors to the resources and history of the Reconstruction era. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement treatment recommendations outlined in the historic structure report for Darrah Hall to ensure the long-term stewardship of the building. • Enhance and expand partnership opportunities with Penn Center. There are many opportunities to collaborate on holistic interpretation of the Reconstruction era, develop educational programming, access, and use the Penn Center archives on-site and Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, among others, to enhance interpretation, share technical expertise, and provide educational opportunities for students and community members. • There is an opportunity to tell the story and interpret the greater Penn Center history and its impacts on the community by using on-site primary sources such as the Penn Center Archives and collections. • More research and documentation about the historic uses and overall history of Darrah Hall is needed in order to better inform management decisions regarding its historic significance, preservation, and future uses. • Engage community members and native islanders on developing accurate interpretation and promoting continued use of the buildings at the Penn Center. • The National Park Service could explore the option of leasing Darrah Hall back to Penn Center. • Engage the Penn Center and local communities in developing volunteer docent opportunities to better tell the stories and history of the site. • Darrah Hall offers a large space for the potential development of museum exhibits, interpretive displays, and educational facilities for the national historical park. • There are opportunities to improve the knowledge base and understanding of Darrah Hall's historic features and its context/role in the larger Penn Center landscape. • Balancing special / community events at Darrah Hall with the goals of providing public access and interpretation at the site will need to be addressed. • Collaborate with national historical park partners, key stakeholders, and park partners on interpretive training in order to provide high quality and historically accurate educational programming and visitor experiences.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological overview and assessment. • Cultural landscape inventory. • Ethnographic overview and assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Darrah Hall at the Penn Center
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive signs plan. • Cultural landscape report. • General management plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Land protection plan. • Strategic partnerships plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>





Fundamental Resource or Value	Camp Saxton
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 1, 1863, an elaborate ceremony and historic reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states then “in rebellion” against the United States, took place at Camp Saxton, a Union encampment at the Smith Plantation. Camp Saxton functioned as both a recruiting post and training ground for the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, one of the first African American infantry regiments mustered into Federal service during the Civil War.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exact location of Camp Saxton and the ceremonial site is not known, but the location of the Smith Plantation House and some outbuildings have been identified on period maps and documented via rigorous searches of contemporary photographs. There is no archeological evidence to confirm the foundation footprints of any 19th century buildings or structures at the site. Currently, this location is not publicly accessible because of its location within the United States Naval Hospital Beaufort campus. The United States Navy has an Integrated Cultural Resources Plan and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. Although no historic structures remain from the Civil War or Reconstruction era, the moss-draped live oaks and historic water views are present at the site. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Register of Historic Places boundary of Camp Saxton aboard Naval Hospital Beaufort continues to be maintained by the United States Navy. The Navy is currently drafting a memorandum of agreement that will guide the management of Camp Saxton as a contributing element of the park. This instrument will be executed by the Navy, Atlantic Marine Corps Communities, LLC, and the National Park Service. The site is currently leased to the Atlantic Marine Corps Communities, LLC. There is growing public desire, particularly from the community of Port Royal, to provide some level of public access to the site associated with Camp Saxton.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Camp Saxton
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public access limits the interpretation of the significant history of Camp Saxton in the story of Reconstruction. • Because the National Park Service does not own or have any easements on the property, the national historical park is limited in its ability to influence the stewardship and management of Camp Saxton. • In the future, the naval hospital may close or could be transferred to another agency. This would potentially impact the future of the site. • Potential sea-level rise may contribute to site erosion while more frequent and stronger storms may affect historic trees and archeological resources. • The geographic distribution of the numerous sites within the national historical park can be a challenge for connecting visitors to the resources and history of the Reconstruction era. • 1950's-era military housing and the modern naval hospital structures impact the historic setting and views overlooking the Beaufort River at the site associated with Camp Saxton. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the United States Navy to develop some level of public access and interpretation of Camp Saxton. • Explore other off-site locations to develop interpretive programing and education about Camp Saxton and its history. • Partner with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on the Fort Fredrick Heritage Preserve next to Camp Saxton in order to facilitate public access, interpretation, and educational programming. • Work with Beaufort County / Town of Port Royal on improving access in and around the Fort Fredrick Heritage Preserve. • Work with the Town of Port Royal on future archeological research and investigations of the full extent of the Smith Plantation site including along the Old Shell Road, outside the current naval hospital fence line. • Leverage the waterways on the Beaufort River and other creeks as potential access points / point of entry to Reconstruction era sites and resources. This could involve working with partners on improving the boat ramp at Fort Fredrick Heritage Preserve and developing a blue trail that connects Reconstruction era sites by waterways. • Enhance interpretive experiences at the national historical park by providing opportunities to connect visitors with the story and significance of the Emancipation Proclamation reading at the place where it was first read in public in the South. • Collaborate with national historical park partners and key stakeholders on interpretive training to provide high quality and historically accurate educational programing and visitor experiences.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arborist survey of trees at Brick Baptist Church and Camp Saxton. • Archeological overview and assessment. • GIS mapping of the site associated with Camp Saxton. • Research and document the historic Smith Plantation. • Cultural landscape inventory.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive signs plan. • Cultural landscape report. • General management plan. • Land protection plan. • Long-range interpretive plan.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Camp Saxton
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • Heritage Trust Act; 51-17-10, SC Code of Laws • Establishment, operation, and maintenance of wildlife management areas; 2200, SC Code of Laws • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • Regulations Applicable to Wildlife Management Areas, Heritage Preserves Department of Natural Resources; 123-200, SC Code of Regulations <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>





Fundamental Resource or Value	Oral Histories, Archives, and Museum Collections
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 1861, while the Civil War raged in the background, Beaufort County became a birthplace of Reconstruction as one of the first places in the United States where formerly enslaved people began defining freedom on their own terms. • Because of the early occupation by the United States military and implementation of Treasury Department policies, many African Americans were able to acquire land in Beaufort County, and through political and social organizations many held on to their lands, despite challenges from former landowners. In this setting land ownership and control over agricultural labor was the way to sustain community life, cultural identity, and economic independence.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of Reconstruction era-related archives and collections throughout the county, managed at institutes of higher learning and museums. • Currently, the national historical park does not have a museum collection or archive, and is not actively developing these resources. • No baseline museum management documents are in place at this time. • Penn Center museum collections and archives are a significant resource and cultivating this partnership is essential to the stewardship of these resources. • Oral histories are an important tool in building the national historical park's archives and museum collections. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the national historical park develops, there will be increasing interest and requests from scholars and the public for conducting research and connecting with primary source materials.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Oral Histories, Archives, and Museum Collections
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a loss of culture and lands as continued development comes into Sea Island communities. Property ownership among Sea Island Gullahs continues to decrease, and locals with traditional knowledge move away for economic opportunity. • Potential data and archeological resources may be lost to increased development and the effects of erosion that are exacerbated by climate change. • Currently, the national historical park has no collections storage facilities or ways to exhibit and display artifacts in a climate controlled way, per NPS museum standards. • There are community concerns about how the history and story of Reconstruction in Beaufort County will be told by the National Park Service. • Oral histories and knowledge are getting lost as populations age and local community members leave the region. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a nationwide focus on Reconstruction era history may lead to identifying opportunities for additional oral histories or museum collections identification. • Work in collaboration with existing groups such as the Penn Center, Beaufort County Library, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, International African American Museum, and National Museum of African American History and Culture in developing strategies to collect oral histories and building connections to existing archives and resources. For example, the Beaufort County Library has a list of all Sea Island collections. Linking with existing groups that manage archives and museum collections would help create a network of institutions that preserve and tell the story of the Reconstruction era. • Develop an inventory of national archives and repositories where existing information may be found to aid in the development of national historical park collections. • The national historical park could serve as a national hub or resource for connecting researchers to Reconstruction era history / archives. • Develop more relationships with scholars to expand and help the National Park Service plan exhibits on related themes and topics. • Survey existing related oral history collections related to Beaufort and the vicinity including local libraries, local historical societies, University of South Carolina researchers, and Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. • Collaborate with universities such as the University of South Carolina College of Education as well as the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor to design oral history projects with local community members and work with elders and locals to gather information not yet recorded. • Plan for the stewardship of data collected from archeological investigation and research that will occur within the national historical park. • Ensure accuracy of museum exhibits and interpretation by presenting oral histories that are balanced with other historic resources. Explore ways to present stories in the appropriate and balanced way. • Explore how the Sea Islands retain African American culture and how this influenced local identity, lexicon, and spirituality. • Work with partners on developing and linking to online digital content, such as integrating partner digital work with NPS web-based platform (CMS). • Partner with University of South Carolina scholars and College of Education contractors to train staff to give professional, accurate interpretation, facilitate dialog, and relay information on sensitive topics. • Ensure national historical park staff and park rangers are sensitive to the complex story of Reconstruction and its legacy. • Work with Penn Center on the stabilization and stewardship of their collections and archives in order to protect this significant resource.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Oral Histories, Archives, and Museum Collections
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral histories from the Brick Baptist Church congregation. • Develop a baseline survey of existing museum collections and archives associated with the Reconstruction era. • Digitize oral histories and archives to provide online access. • National survey of Reconstruction era sites and resources.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection management plan. • Exhibits plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Collection storage plan. • Scope of collections statement. • Strategic operations plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13287, "Preserve America" • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • Director's Order 32: <i>Cooperating Associations</i> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III



Fundamental Resource or Value	Partnerships and Collaboration
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 1861, while the Civil War raged in the background, Beaufort County became a birthplace of Reconstruction as one of the first places in the United States where formerly enslaved people began defining freedom on their own terms. • Because of the early occupation by the United States military and implementation of Treasury Department policies, many African Americans were able to acquire land in Beaufort County, and through political and social organizations many held on to their lands, despite challenges from former landowners. In this setting land ownership and control over agricultural labor was the way to sustain community life, cultural identity, and economic independence. • One of the most influential African American politicians during Reconstruction, Robert Smalls, a Beaufort native and former slave, had a political career that spanned the entire Reconstruction era including advocating for free compulsory public education, representing South Carolina in the United States Congress in 1875–1887, and fighting against the disenfranchisement of African American voters. • Participation in the political process was a defining component of freedom during Reconstruction. In Beaufort County, African American communities mobilized for the right to vote, and when enfranchised in 1867, African American men, many of them Civil War veterans ready to defend their civil rights, exercised their right to vote, becoming a driving force in politics both locally and nationally.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many partner groups already in place who are fully engaged and interested in the national historical park. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general public is becoming more aware of the national historical park. • The national historical park is currently working on developing general agreements with the City of Beaufort, Beaufort County, United States Navy, and Beaufort Arsenal among other entities to formalize its relationships. • The National Park Service as a whole is working on developing more partnerships and philanthropic opportunities. • “Reconstruction Beaufort,” a local organization with local and national advisors, is being established to support the National Park Service and the future development of the national historical park.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the number of potential partners and navigating these relationships is a challenge. Too many partners may be less effective due to the amount of staff time needed to maintain these relationships. • With so many partners and groups working on different projects, there are concerns about overlapping efforts and duplicating work that is being done or has been done in the past. • There may be different or conflicting missions between partner organizations and the National Park Service. Navigating these different missions and priorities will be a challenge for the national historical park. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to create links and partnerships with state, national, and international museums in order to collaborate on interpretation, archival needs, and exhibit development. • Expand volunteer and interpretive opportunities by working with Eastern National on the development of a national historical park bookstore. • Partner with researchers and subject matter experts already working on Reconstruction era history in order to prepare park staff and volunteers with cultural competency, facilitation skills, and history base to prepare them for visitor feedback and questions. • Use the national historical park to connect visitors with and promote other existing local Reconstruction era resources such as the Beaufort Museum, Penn Center, Parris Island Museum, and Coastal Discovery Museum.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Partnerships and Collaboration
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Beaufort County to obtain already available GIS data on other Reconstruction era sites and resources in the community. • Cultivate both artistic and cultural partnership opportunities such as the National Park Service Artists-in-Residence program. • Work closely with the Penn Center and United States Navy on operational planning for the national historical park and accommodating different missions and priorities. • Collaborate with University of South Carolina Beaufort, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the Zinn Education Project to develop educational materials and school curriculum programs. • Pursue funding from National Trust for Historic Preservation's new African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund for studies, data mapping, professional development, and continued education certification. • Explore the viability of developing a national historical park friends group or cooperating association. • Work with partners and tour operators in order to ensure the availability of appropriate training for staff and volunteers for interpreting accurately the sensitive nature of the Reconstruction era to ensure historically accurate educational programming and visitor experiences. • Explore opportunities to work with various trail programs such as Rails-to-Trails, Blue Trails, and the Spanish Moss Trail in order to reach a larger recreationally focused audience. • Develop a general agreement and formalize the national historical park's relationship with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. • Investigate potential for cooperative interpretation with South Carolina State Park Service sites that currently interpret or have the potential to interpret various aspects of Reconstruction (Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site, Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site, Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, Rivers Bridge State Historic Site, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, and other parks that interpret the segregated state park system and the integration of the state parks).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect GIS data of all partner sites. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • National survey of Reconstruction era sites and resources.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan. • Strategic partnerships plan. • Volunteer management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.9.1.6) "Volunteers in the Parks" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.10) "Partnerships" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§7.6) "Interpretive and Educational Partnerships" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 7: <i>Volunteers in Parks</i> • Director's Order 21: <i>Donations and Fundraising</i> • Director's Order 32: <i>Cooperating Associations</i> • Director's Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i>

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Old Beaufort Firehouse
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the building is not open to the public and does not offer visitor services. • This facility does not offer off-street parking. • A historic structure report for the building is underway and will be completed by in 2019. This report will assess the existing condition and provide treatment recommendations. • The National Park Service arrowhead and signage draws a lot of attention and interest by visitors and locals, who stop at the building looking for information. • The Firehouse building is in stable condition. • The physical size of the Firehouse building limits its carrying capacity. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest in the national historical park continues to grow. • Visitors are becoming more interested in the local history and heritage tourism continues to grow in South Carolina.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors mistakenly assume that the Firehouse building is from the Reconstruction era historic period. • Because there is no off-street parking and free parking in downtown Beaufort is limited, visitor parking and access to the Firehouse building will be an issue. • The large windows in the Firehouse building make it susceptible to water filtration due to flooding and severe storm events. • In the past, there have been issues with water infiltration through building gutters and inadequate draining near the back door. • The bricks of the Firehouse building are showing signs of deterioration (flaking). • Issues with floor warping behind the Firehouse building have been observed. • Pest control service has been contracted for the building, with the exception of termite inspection. Exclusion work and bait control for rodents and other pests such as insects has been contracted with a professional pest control company. • The geographic distribution of the numerous sites within the national historical park can be a challenge for connecting visitors to the resources and history of the Reconstruction era. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Firehouse building is in a central location in the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District (listed as a National Historic Landmark), and is an ideal location for NPS-led tours of many of the Reconstruction era buildings and resources in the community. • The Firehouse building can be used to encourage visitors and spark interest in visiting and experiencing all the sites associated with the national historical park and Reconstruction era history. • The Firehouse building could be used not only as a visitor center but as museum exhibit space and an interpretive center as well as a national historical park bookstore. • Collaborating with the Beaufort Arsenal across the street could help address staffing and volunteer constraints. • In order to address staffing, the national historical park could partner with existing tour groups like Downtown Beaufort, Spirit of Old Beaufort, as well as the University of South Carolina-Beaufort and other centrally located schools to train and develop a volunteer docent program. • Work with the University of South Carolina-Beaufort hospitality school to develop an internships program.

Other Important Resource or Value	Old Beaufort Firehouse
Threats and Opportunities	Opportunities (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to make the upstairs universally accessible in order to increase the functional/usable space within the building. • Collaborate with national historical park partners and key stakeholders and park partners on interpretive training in order to provide high quality and historically accurate educational programming and visitor experiences. • Implement the treatment recommendations from the historic structure report to ensure the structural stability and long-term stewardship of the Firehouse building.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive signs plan. • Exhibits plan. • General management plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Strategic operations plan. • Volunteer management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i>

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- Formalizing Partnerships.** Because the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network address sweeping stories and a time period that unfolded throughout the nation, working in partnership with numerous stakeholders and historic sites across the country will be essential to success. More specifically, the Presidential Proclamation and subsequent legislation establishing the national historical park and national historic network identified key partners that are essential to the stewardship and protecting of resources related to the Reconstruction era. As the national historical park already has many partners, both formal and informal, and this will likely grow in the future, formalizing these relations with agreements will ensure the efficient management and shared stewardship goals of the sites and places associated with the Reconstruction era. These formal partnership agreements will be essential in outlining the roles and responsibilities of both parties. Partners and potential partners may include, but are not limited to: the United States Navy, the Penn Center, the Brick Baptist Church, the County and City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, Mitchelville Freedom Park, and potentially other entities, particularly those associated with dispersed Reconstruction era sites and historic organizations. Establishing formal partnership agreements between the National Park Service and individual entities is a priority for the national historical park.

- *Associated planning and data needs:* Strategic partnerships plan



Robert Smalls Monument at the Tabernacle Baptist Church

- **Visitor Use, Access, and Interpretation.** Currently, the primary physical resources under the stewardship of the National Park Service at Reconstruction Era National Historical Park are Darrah Hall at the Penn Center, the Camp Saxton site, the Brick Baptist Church, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse. None of these sites is fully accessible to visitors nor do they offer interpretive services at this time. The national historical park is in need of developing both short-term visitor contact services as well as long-term plans for providing a high level of visitor use and access that meets National Park Service standards. Because the Camp Saxton site is located on an active military base, there is limited public access subject to security clearance and military operations. This lack of access has frustrated the local community and key stakeholders who want to share the important stories of the site with visitors. In the short term, the National Park Service and the United States Navy need to identify and outline the appropriate levels of visitor access while addressing the security needs of the site. Both Darrah Hall at the Penn Center and the nearby Brick Baptist Church provide some level of access, and visitors can walk the grounds and see the exteriors of these buildings. However, the National Park Services does not currently offer regular interpretive services or wayfinding signage at these locations. With its central location in downtown Beaufort, the Old Beaufort Firehouse has been identified as a visitor center for the national historical park and a place to provide interpretation of the broader regional and national Reconstruction era story. In order to make this a reality, building improvements are needed, as well as planning for exhibits, waysides, and interpretive programs. In the near-term, temporary waysides, National Park Service branding, and staffing is needed to provide some level of visitor services and interpretation at all the sites within the national historical park. Developing baseline documentation is an important first step to improving understanding and providing valuable information on how these places should be developed and interpreted to visitors. Several plans are needed in order to provide high-quality visitor experiences and to help address this key issue.

 - *Associated planning and data needs:* Cultural landscape report, historic structure report of the Brick Baptist Church, long-range interpretive plan, exhibits plan, general management plan, comprehensive signs plan, research shift in land use (plantation to family farms)
- **Collecting Oral Histories and Developing a Museum Collection.** As a new unit of the national park system, Reconstruction Era National Historical Park currently has no museum collections, collections facility, or scope of collections identifying the appropriate resources that should be included in a growing museum collection. The appropriate repository for such items may or may not be within the National Park Service, and the national historical park should consider a collaborative approach to working with existing archives and museums. Other organizations that interpret the history of the Reconstruction era or wish to preserve associated Reconstruction era stories, including Penn Center, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Beaufort County Library, and the Beaufort Arsenal, are among the entities that already have associated oral histories and materials. The National Park Service must determine, hand in hand with its network of partners, the appropriate approach to building a museum collection and archives for the national historical park that is compatible with existing efforts. A sustainable approach requires that the national historical park staff considers how to maintain and grow its museum collection, where this museum collection will be housed, and how the museum collection will be used to help guide the interpretation of the local National Park Service-held resources in and around Beaufort as well as the full story of Reconstruction.

 - *Associated planning and data needs:* Scope of collections statement, long-range interpretive plan

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV, Key Issue	Cultural landscape report	H	A cultural landscape report would serve as the primary guide for the documentation and treatment of cultural landscapes within the national historical park for the next 20 years. This report would include the Penn Center, grounds of the Brick Baptist Church, and the Camp Saxton site. As part of this effort, a cultural landscape inventory would also be completed.
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Long-range interpretive plan	H	A long-range interpretive plan would allow the park to fully develop interpretive themes and explore the larger historic context of the Reconstruction era and its impacts on American history. This plan would also identify contemporary media for communicating these stories to the public, as well as opportunities for engaging more diverse audiences. Such a plan would define the overall vision and long-term (5–10 years) interpretive goals for the national historical park.
FRV, Key Issue	Scope of collections statement	H	A scope of collections statement is needed to identify the appropriate materials and artifacts that would be collected and included in the national historical park museum collection and archives. As interest in the national historical park grows, clearly defining the scope of collections will be essential to ensure the growth and development of the museum collections in a sustainable way.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV, Key Issue	Strategic partnerships plan	H	The strategic partnerships plan would help outline desired relationships with multiple partner organizations to build capacity, lending museum objects and archival materials, conducting and archiving oral histories, leveraging funding and building larger community support while encouraging resource stewardship. The national historical park will rely on partnerships with other federal and state agencies, local municipalities, universities and schools, and non-profit organizations. Understanding the potential roles and responsibilities of these partners while managing expectations is essential for effective management and stewardship of the national historical park.
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	General management plan	H	A general management plan with visitor use and access components would develop a collaborative vision and strategy for providing access to the key sites within the national historical park, including the Brick Baptist Church and the site associated with Camp Saxton. The plan would create a vision and clear direction for the future management of the park; establish preservation prioritization for allocating resources; set and achieve goals for management to foster cooperative partnerships; comply with public law and NPS policies; manage visitation and use of the historical park; and manage park permitting and public use.
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Exhibits plan	M	Building on the long-range interpretive plan, an exhibits plan would guide the development of museum exhibits and displays at the national historical park. The exhibits plan would identify key locations for interior exhibit spaces, and would also outline a strategy for developing external wayside displays at key sites throughout the national historical park.
FRV, Key Issue	Historic structure report of the Brick Baptist Church	M	A historic structure report is needed to provide baseline information and documentation of the Brick Baptist Church building's history and existing condition. It would outline treatment options and a scope of recommended work. This report would serve as an important guide for future management of the structure. The information in the historic structure report will be used to inform optimizer band rankings and other facilities management programming and funding requests for the national historical park. Optimizer bands divide a park's asset portfolio into bands to represent the level of maintenance that each asset should receive.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV, OIRV	Strategic operations plan	M	A strategic operations plan would provide guidance and management strategies for the day-to-day operations of the national historical park. Outlining staffing needs and addressing the operational requirements of the various sites within the national historical park would be a key goal of this planning effort. This strategic operations plan would also have to take into account the administrative relationship of the national historical park and Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park.
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Comprehensive signs plan	L	The comprehensive signs plan is needed to guide the development of directional signage in order to improve connectivity and branding across the discontinuous units of the national historical park. This plan would contribute to improving visitor experience and understanding about the national historical park. Partnerships with the South Carolina Department of Transportation, various municipalities, and local organizations will be needed.
FRV	Collection management plan	L	As the national historical park grows and develops, so too will its museum collections and archives. A collection management plan is one of the primary planning documents for park museum collections and will ensure the proper management and care of the national historical park museum collection. This is a required document for museum collections management per NPS law and policy.
FRV	Collection storage plan	L	As the national historical park grows and develops, so too will its museum collections and archives. A collection storage plan would identify and discuss the museum collection storage space alternatives such as the renovation of an existing space into collection storage or the design of a new facility. This is a required document for museum collections management per NPS law and policy.
FRV	Land protection plan	L	A land protection plan is needed to establish acquisition priorities within the park's authorized boundaries and identify opportunities to cooperate with local governments, landowners, and the private sector to help protect the park.
FRV, OIRV	Volunteer management plan	L	A volunteer management plan would outline guidance for recruiting and training volunteers to help support day-to-day operations at the national historical park. Special consideration would be given to training volunteers on interpreting the complex history of the Reconstruction era through techniques like facilitated dialogues.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Archeological overview and assessment	H	The archeological overview and assessment would identify the known and potential archeological resources at all sites within the national historical park. In collaboration with key partners, the overview would review and evaluate existing archeological data/work (United States Navy, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources). The assessment would also help determine the need for and potential research questions for future studies in order to best inform future management decisions.
FRV, Key Issue	Oral histories from the Brick Baptist Church congregation	H	There is a potential for loss of traditional knowledge and understanding of the history of the Brick Baptist Church as the church congregation ages. Collecting oral histories is a high priority need to ensure the history and stories associated with the site are preserved and protected as part of the national historical park archives and museum collections.
FRV	National survey of Reconstruction era sites and resources	H	A broad national survey of Reconstruction era sites and resources is needed to fully understand the scope of existing resources and sites associated with the national historical park. Understanding this inventory could inform future interpretive programming as well as partnership building efforts.
FRV	Research and document the historic Smith Plantation	H	Understanding the full extent of the historic Smith Plantation would enhance understanding about the Camp Saxton site and better inform both future management decisions and the development of interpretation at the site.
FRV	Cultural landscape inventory	H	Developed as part of the cultural landscape report, a cultural landscape inventory would be completed to provide baseline information on the location, historical development, landscape characteristics and associated features of cultural landscapes in the national historical park.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Arborist survey of trees at Brick Baptist Church and Camp Saxton	M	An arborist survey of trees at the Brick Baptist Church and Camp Saxton site would provide insights into the age and composition of trees at these locations. Through dendrochronology, this survey could also aid in the identification of potential witness trees.
FRV	Cemetery survey and study	M	A formal survey of the cemetery at the Brick Baptist Church is needed in order to identify both known and unknown gravesites. Fully understanding the extent and scope of the cemetery would help inform appropriate development and visitor services near this location.
FRV	Digitize oral histories and archives to provide online access	M	Given the national scope of the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, providing online access through the digitization of oral histories and archives will be needed. Digitization of the museum collections and archives will enhance broader educational and research goals of the national historical park.
FRV	Ethnographic overview and assessment	M	An ethnographic overview and assessment would review and analyze accessible archival and documentary data on the national historical park's ethnographic resources and the groups who traditionally define such cultural and natural features as significant to their ethnic heritage and cultural viability. Interviews and discussions would occur with the traditionally associated people in order to supplement and assess the documentary evidence and identify gaps in the available data.
FRV	GIS mapping of the site associated with Camp Saxton	L	A collection of GIS data for Camp Saxton is needed in order to document and establish a baseline for monitoring the site. These data could also be used to inform the development of a cultural landscape report for Camp Saxton. Any work related to Camp Saxton would be done in full collaboration with the Department of the Navy. Any work related to Camp Saxton would be done in full collaboration with the Department of the Navy.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Add the Brick Baptist Church to the List of Classified Structures (LCS) database	L	Add the Brick Baptist Church to the List of Classified Structures database to ensure baseline documentation is complete and can be used to inform long-term monitoring and stewardship of this historic structure as well as ensure the terms of the conservation easement are being met. The List of Classified Structures assists park managers in planning, programming, and recording decisions of appropriate treatment.
FRV	Collect GIS data of all partner sites	L	The collection of GIS data for all Reconstruction Era National Historical Park partner sites would provide a baseline source of information that could inform future interpretive programming and the possible development of web-based and educational apps to enhance visitor experiences at the national historical park. Much of these data may exist and working closely with partners will be essential in collecting this information.
Key Issue	Research shift in land use (plantation to family farms)	L	Understanding the broader shifts in land uses from plantations to family farms will be essential to telling the story of the Reconstruction era and how it took shape on the Sea Islands. This research will be essential in the development of future educational programming and interpretive materials at the national historical park.
FRV	GIS data on landscape features at the Brick Baptist Church	L	A collection of GIS data on landscape features at the Brick Baptist Church is needed in order to document and establish a baseline for monitoring these landscape features. These data could also be used to inform the development of a cultural landscape report for the Brick Baptist Church landscape.
FRV	Develop a baseline survey of existing museum collections and archives associated with the Reconstruction era	L	A baseline survey of existing museum collections and archives would allow the national historical park to understand what existing resources and information exist related to the history of Reconstruction. This baseline information could then be used to inform exhibit development, interpretation, and educational programming in the future.

Part 3: Contributors

Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Danita Brown, (former) Acting Superintendent
 Dawn Davis, (former) Acting Superintendent
 Melissa English-Rias, (former) Acting Superintendent
 Scott Teodorski, Superintendent

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park

Tracy Stakely, Superintendent

NPS Southeast Region

David Hasty, Senior Historical Landscape Architect
 Keilah Spann, Historian
 Ben West, Chief, Planning and Compliance Division

Other NPS Staff

Justin Henderson, (former) Project Manager, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
 John Paul Jones, Visual Information Specialist, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
 LuAnn Jones, Staff Historian, Washington Office Park History Program
 Tatiana Marquez, Economist, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
 Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
 Philip Viray, Publications Chief, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
 Laura Watt, Contract Editor, Denver Service Center – Planning Division

Partners

Dr. Gregory P. Downs, Professor of History, University of California, Davis
 Meg Gaillard, Heritage Trust Archaeologist, S.C. Department of Natural Resources
 Shawn Halifax, Cultural History Interpretation Coordinator, Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission
 Billy Keyserling, Mayor, City of Beaufort
 Dr. Kate Masur, Professor of History, Northwestern University
 Dr. Page Miller, Historian, University of South Carolina
 Samuel Murray, Mayor, City of Port Royal
 Deloris Pringle, Coordinator, University of South Carolina/NEH Summer Institute
 Len Winter, Historic Preservation Officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command/Commander Navy Region Southeast
 Dr. Stephen Wise, Assistant Professor, Citadel College
 Joyce Wright, Mitchelville Preservation Project

Others

Urshula Barbour, Digital Content Team
 Paul Carlos, Digital Content Team
 Sonja Griffin Evans, Artist

Appendixes

Presidential Proclamation and Enabling Legislation for Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Proclamation 9567—

Establishment of the Reconstruction Era National Monument

January 12, 2017

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Reconstruction Era, a period spanning the early Civil War years until the start of Jim Crow racial segregation in the 1890s, was a time of significant transformation in the United States, as the Nation grappled with the challenge of integrating millions of newly freed African Americans into its social, political, and economic life. It was in many ways the Nation's Second Founding, as Americans abolished slavery and struggled earnestly, if not always successfully, to build a nation of free and equal citizens. During Reconstruction, Congress passed the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth constitutional amendments that abolished slavery, guaranteed due process and equal protection under the law, and gave all males the ability to vote by prohibiting voter discrimination based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Ultimately, the unmet promises of Reconstruction led to the modern civil rights movement a century later.

The Reconstruction Era began when the first United States soldiers arrived in slave holding territories, and enslaved people on plantations and farms and in cities escaped from their owners and sought refuge with Union forces or in free states. This happened in November 1861 in the Sea Islands or "Lowcountry" of southeastern South Carolina, and Beaufort County in particular. Just seven months after the start of the Civil War, Admiral Samuel F. DuPont led a successful attack on Port Royal Sound and brought a swath of this South Carolina coast under Union control. The white residents (less than twenty percent of the population), including the wealthy owners of rice and cotton plantations, quickly abandoned their country plantations and their homes in the town of Beaufort as Union forces came ashore. More than 10,000 African Americans -- about one-third of the enslaved population of the Sea Islands at the time -- refused to flee the area with their owners.

Beaufort County became one of the first places in the United States where formerly enslaved people could begin integrating themselves into free society. While the Civil War raged in the background, Beaufort County became the birthplace of Reconstruction, or what historian Willie Lee Rose called a "rehearsal for Reconstruction." With Federal forces in charge of the Sea Islands, the Department of the Treasury, with the support of President Lincoln and the War Department, decided to turn the military occupation into a novel social experiment, known as the Port Royal Experiment, to help former slaves become self-sufficient. They enlisted antislavery and religious societies in the North to raise resources and recruit volunteers for the effort. Missionary organizations headquartered in the Northeast established outposts in Beaufort County.

In and around Beaufort County during Reconstruction, the first African Americans enlisted as soldiers, the first African American schools were founded, early efforts to distribute land to former slaves took place, and many of the Reconstruction Era's most significant African American politicians, including Robert Smalls, came to prominence. African American political influence and land ownership endured there long after setbacks in other regions. In short, events and people from Beaufort County illustrate the most important challenges of Reconstruction -- crucial questions related to land, labor, education, and politics after the destruction of slavery -- and some early hopeful efforts to address them. The significant historical events that transpired in Beaufort County make it an ideal place to tell stories of experimentation, potential transformation, hope, accomplishment, and disappointment. In Beaufort County, including St. Helena Island, the town of Port Royal, and the city of Beaufort, many existing historic objects demonstrate the transformative effect of emancipation and Reconstruction.

Freed people hungered for education, as South Carolina had long forbidden teaching slaves to read and write. In 1862, Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray from Pennsylvania were among the first northern teachers to arrive as part of the Port Royal Experiment. They established a partnership as educators at the Penn School on St. Helena Island that lasted for four decades. Charlotte Forten, a well-educated African American woman from a prominent abolitionist family in Philadelphia, joined the faculty later that year. The first classes for the former slaves were held at The Oaks plantation house, headquarters of the occupying U.S. military forces in the region. In 1863, Murray and Towne moved their school into Brick Church, a Baptist church near the center of the island. In the spring of 1864, supporters in Philadelphia purchased school buildings for Towne and Murray, and construction of Penn School began across the field from Brick Church on 50 acres of property donated by Hastings Gantt, an African American landowner.

Penn School helped many African Americans gain self-respect and self-reliance and integrate into free society. Towne and Murray strove to provide an education comparable to that offered in the best northern schools. The faculty also provided other support, including medical care, social services, and employment assistance. Penn School would evolve into the Penn Center in the 20th century, and remain a crucial place for education, community, and political organizing for decades to come. As a meeting place in the 1950s and 60s for civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, this historic place links the democratic aspirations of Reconstruction to those of the modern civil rights movement. Darrah Hall is the oldest standing structure on the site of the Penn School grounds. Students and community members built it around 1903, during the transition in the South from the Reconstruction Era to an era of racial segregation and political disenfranchisement.

The Brick Church where Towne and Murray held classes in 1863-64 is today the oldest church on St. Helena Island. Once freed from their owners, African Americans in Beaufort County wanted to worship in churches and join organizations they controlled. The Brick Church -- also known as the Brick Baptist Church -- was built by slaves in 1855 for the white planters on St. Helena Island. When the white population fled from the Sea Islands in 1861, the suddenly freed African Americans made the church their own. The Brick Church has been a place of worship and gathering ever since, and continues to serve the spiritual needs of the community to this day.

Camp Saxton in Port Royal -- formerly the site of a plantation owned by John Joyner Smith -- is where the First South Carolina Regiment Volunteers mustered into the U.S. Army and trained from November 1862 to January 1863. In August 1862, U.S. Brigadier General Rufus Saxton, the military governor of the abandoned plantations in the Department of the South, received permission to recruit five thousand African Americans, mostly former slaves, into the Union Army. The former slaves assumed that military service would lead to rights of citizenship. Saxton selected Captain Thomas Wentworth Higginson of the 51st Massachusetts, a former Unitarian minister, abolitionist, and human rights activist, to command the regiment. An important ally of Higginson and the African American troops was Harriet Tubman, the famed conductor on the Underground Railroad, who in May of 1862 arrived in Beaufort as part of the Port Royal Experiment and who served skillfully as a nurse at Camp Saxton.

Camp Saxton was also the location of elaborate and historic ceremonies on January 1, 1863, to announce and celebrate the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states then "in rebellion" against the United States. General Saxton himself had attended church services at the Brick Church in the fall of 1862 to recruit troops and to invite everyone, African American and white, "to come to the camp...on New Year's Day, and join in the grand celebration." This Emancipation Proclamation celebration was particularly significant because it occurred in Union-occupied territory in the South where the provisions of the Proclamation would actually take effect before the end of the war.

Over five thousand people, including freed men, women, and children, Union military officials, guest speakers, and missionary teachers, gathered around the speakers' platform built in a grove of live oaks near the Smith plantation house. One of the majestic witness trees has become known as the Emancipation Oak. Of all the prayers, hymns, and speeches during the three-hour ceremony, one of the most moving was the spontaneous singing of "My country, tis of thee; Sweet land of liberty" when the American flag was presented to Higginson. As part of the celebration, the military had prepared a feast of roasted oxen for all to enjoy.

The town of Beaufort was the center of the County's social, political, cultural, and economic life during the Reconstruction Era. Before the Battle of Port Royal Sound in November 1861, Beaufort was where the planters spent the summer months in their grand homes. Beaufort served as the depot for plantation supplies transported there by steamship. The Old Beaufort Firehouse, built around 1912, stands near the heart of Reconstruction Era Beaufort, across the street from the Beaufort Arsenal, and within walking distance of over fifty historic places. The Beaufort Arsenal, the location today of the Beaufort History Museum, was built in 1799, rebuilt in 1852, and renovated by the Works Progress Administration in 1934, and served historically as the home of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery Company that fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Several historic Beaufort properties within walking distance of the Firehouse are associated with Robert Smalls, the most influential African American politician in South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era. Robert Smalls was born in Beaufort in 1839, the son of slaves of the Henry McKee family. When Smalls was twelve years old, his owner hired him out to work in Charleston, where he learned to sail, rig, and pilot ships. In May 1862, Smalls navigated the CSS Planter, a Confederate ship, through Charleston harbor, past the guns of Fort Sumter, and turned it over to Union forces. This courageous escape made him an instant hero for the Union, and he soon began working as a pilot for the U.S. Navy. Smalls and his family used prize money awarded for the Planter to purchase the house in Beaufort once owned by the family that had owned him.

In 1864, Smalls was named to a delegation of African American South Carolinians to the Republican National Convention in Baltimore, where the delegation unsuccessfully petitioned the party to make African American enfranchisement part of its platform. Elected to the Beaufort County School Board in 1867, Smalls began his advocacy for education as the key to African American success in the new political and economic order.

In the years immediately following the end of the Civil War, the United States fiercely debated issues critical to Reconstruction. Southern Democrats tried to regain the power they held before the Civil War. The Republican majorities in the U.S. Congress rebuffed them, and proceeded to pass legislation and constitutional amendments to implement the principles of the Union victory. In 1867, Congress passed the Military Reconstruction Acts that called for military administration of southern states and new state constitutions. Voters elected Robert Smalls as a delegate to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention that met in Charleston in January 1868, where he successfully advocated for public education with compulsory attendance. The resulting constitution also provided for universal male suffrage and racial, political, and legal equality. In this new political order, Robert Smalls was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly from 1868 to 1874, first as a representative and then as a senator. In 1874, Smalls was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served five terms.

The success of Smalls and other African American lawmakers who had been enslaved only a handful of years before infuriated South Carolina's Democrats. Some of them turned to violence, carried out by the Ku Klux Klan and others. On more than one occasion, a homegrown vigilante group known as the Red Shirts terrorized Robert Smalls.

As a result of the contested Presidential and South Carolina gubernatorial elections of 1876, deals were made that effectively ended political and military Reconstruction in 1877. Smalls, however, continued to serve in Congress until 1886. He then returned to Beaufort, and served for many years as the Presidentially appointed customs collector for the Port of Beaufort.

In 1895, Smalls was elected a delegate to his second South Carolina Constitutional Convention. Twenty years after Democrats had regained control of the State government, they had figured out how to take back African Americans' rights as citizens. Smalls spoke eloquently at the Convention against this blow to democracy and representative government, but ultimately rights hard won three decades before were struck down. South Carolina voters ratified a new constitution that effectively eliminated African Americans from electoral politics and codified racial segregation in law for decades to come.

Even as Jim Crow laws and customs limited political participation and access to public accommodations, African Americans maintained visions of freedom and built strong community institutions. Ownership of land, access to education, and churches and civic organizations that took root during the Reconstruction Era laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

The many objects of historic interest described above stand testament to the formative role of the Reconstruction Era -- and the enormous contributions of those who made it possible -- in our shared history.

Whereas, section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

Whereas, the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District, which contains many objects of historic interest including the Old Beaufort Firehouse, was designated in 1973; and the Penn School National Historic Landmark District, which also contains many objects of historic interest including Darrah Hall and the Brick Baptist Church, was designated in 1974;

Whereas, the Camp Saxton Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995;

Whereas, portions of the former Camp Saxton Site are located today on lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Navy at Naval Support Facility Beaufort, South Carolina;

Whereas, Penn Center, Inc., has donated to the United States fee title to Darrah Hall at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina, with appurtenant easements, totaling approximately 3.78 acres of land and interests in land;

Whereas, Brick Baptist Church has donated to the United States a historic preservation easement in the Brick Baptist Church and associated cemetery located on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, an interest in land of approximately 0.84 acres;

Whereas, the Paul H. Keyserling Revocable Trust and Beaufort Works, LLC, have donated to the United States fee title to the Old Beaufort Firehouse at 706 Craven Street, Beaufort, South Carolina, approximately 0.08 acres of land;

Whereas, the designation of a national monument to be administered by the National Park Service would recognize the historic significance of Brick Baptist Church, Darrah Hall, Camp Saxton, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse, and provide a national platform for telling the story of Reconstruction;

Whereas, it is in the public interest to preserve and protect these sites;

Now, Therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be the Reconstruction Era National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of protecting those objects, reserve as a part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. The reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 15.56 acres. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries described on the accompanying map are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights. If the Federal Government acquires any lands or interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a management plan within 3 years of the date of this proclamation, with full public involvement, and to include coordination with Penn Center, Inc., Brick Baptist Church, the Department of the Navy, Atlantic Marine Corps Communities, LLC, the City of Beaufort, and the Town of Port Royal. The management plan shall ensure that the monument fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations: (1) to preserve and protect the objects of historic interest associated with the monument, and (2) to interpret the objects, resources, and values related to the Reconstruction Era. The management plan shall, among other things, set forth the desired relationship of the monument to other related resources, programs, and organizations, both within and outside the National Park System.

The Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Navy's designee, shall continue to have management authority over Department of the Navy lands within the monument boundary at the Camp Saxton site, including the authority to control access to these lands. The Secretaries of the Navy and the Interior shall enter into a memorandum of agreement that identifies and assigns the responsibilities of each agency related to such lands, the implementing actions required of each agency, and the processes for resolving interagency disputes.

The National Park Service is directed to use applicable authorities to seek to enter into agreements with others to address common interests and promote management efficiencies, including provision of visitor services, interpretation and education, establishment and care of museum collections, and preservation of historic objects.

Given the location of portions of the monument on an operating military facility, the following provisions concern U.S. Armed Forces actions by a Military Department, including those carried out by the United States Coast Guard:

1. Nothing in this Proclamation precludes the activities and training of the Armed Forces; however, they shall be carried out in a manner consistent with the care and management of the objects to the extent practicable.

2. In the event of threatened or actual destruction of, loss of, or injury to a monument resource or quality resulting from an incident caused by a component of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, the appropriate Secretary or agency head shall promptly coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of taking appropriate action to respond to and mitigate the harm and, if possible, restore or replace the monument resource or quality.

3. Nothing in this proclamation or any regulation implementing it shall limit or otherwise affect the U.S. Armed Forces' discretion to use, maintain, improve, or manage any real property under the administrative control of a Military Department or otherwise limit the availability of such real property for military mission purposes.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

Barack Obama

“John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act”

S.47 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Title II - National Parks, Subtitle C

SEC. 2204. RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORIC NETWORK.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—IN THIS SECTION:

(1) **HISTORICAL PARK.**—The term “historical park” means the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the maps entitled “Reconstruction Era National Monument Old Beaufort Firehouse”, numbered 550/135,755, and dated January 2017; “Reconstruction Era National Monument Darrah Hall and Brick Baptist Church”, numbered 550/135,756, and dated January 2017; and “Reconstruction Era National Monument Camp Saxton”, numbered 550/135,757, and dated January 2017, collectively.

(3) **NETWORK.**—The term “Network” means the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network established pursuant to this section.

(b) **RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**—

(1) **REDESIGNATION OF RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL MONUMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Reconstruction Era National Monument is redesignated as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, as generally depicted on the Map.

(B) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Any funds available for the purposes of the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be available for the purposes of the historical park.

(C) **REFERENCES.**—Any references in a law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Reconstruction Era National Monument shall be considered to be a reference to the historical park.

(2) **BOUNDARY EXPANSION.**—

(A) **BEAUFORT NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT.**—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire land or interests in land within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District that has historic connection to the Reconstruction Era. Upon finalizing an agreement to acquire land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass the property.

(B) **ST. HELENA ISLAND.**—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to acquire the following and shall expand the boundary of the historical park to include acquisitions under this authority:

(i) Land and interests in land adjacent to the existing boundary on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as reflected on the Map.

(ii) Land or interests in land on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, that has a historic connection to the Reconstruction Era.

(C) **CAMP SAXTON.**—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary is authorized to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land adjacent to the existing boundary at Camp Saxton, as reflected on the Map. Upon finalizing an agreement to accept administrative jurisdiction of Federal land or interests in Federal land, the Secretary shall expand the boundary of the historical park to encompass that Federal land or interests in Federal land.

(D) **LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may only acquire land under this section by donation, exchange, or purchase with donated funds.

(3) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and with the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(B) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—If the management plan for the Reconstruction Era National Monument—

(i) has not been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall incorporate all provisions of this section into the planning process and complete a management plan for the historical park within 3 years; and

(ii) has been completed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the plan incorporating the provisions of this section.

(c) **RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORIC NETWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the “Reconstruction Era National Historic Network”;

(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites interested in being a part of the Network; and

(C) administer the Network through the historical park.

(2) **DUTIES OF SECRETARY.**—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(A) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of Reconstruction Era that may be underway or completed, such as the National Park Service Reconstruction Handbook and the National Park Service Theme Study on Reconstruction;

(B) produce and disseminate appropriate educational and promotional materials relating to the Reconstruction Era and the sites in the Network, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(C) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance;

(D) (i) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(ii) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under clause (i); and

(E) conduct research relating to Reconstruction and the Reconstruction Era.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

(A) All units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the Reconstruction Era.

(B) Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines—

(i) relate to the Reconstruction Era; and

(ii) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

(C) Other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Reconstruction Era.

(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this section and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Agreement Name	Type of Agreement	Responsible Party	Notes/Purpose
Agreement with the U.S. Navy	Memorandum of agreement	National Park Service and U.S. Navy	<i>In development</i> —The memorandum of agreement is under development by the Navy and will be subject to consultation with Atlantic Marine Corps Communities, LLC (AMCC) in their capacity as the public private venture (PPV) provider. Once the Navy and AMCC agree on terms and conditions, the Navy will circulate the memorandum of agreement to the National Park Service, affording “some level of public access and use at the Camp Saxton site” as one component of the larger guiding instrument.
Partnership Agreement with the Penn Center	General agreement	National Park Service and Penn Center	<i>In place</i> —A general agreement was executed in January 2018 to formalize the partnership with the Penn Center and its current and future use of the Darrah Hall Building.
Conservation Easement for the Brick Baptist Church	External conservation easement	National Park Service and Brick Baptist Church	<i>In place</i> —A conservation easement for the façade of the Brick Baptist Church is currently in place and was created as part of the establishment of the national historical park. This easement only applies to the exterior of the church itself.
Cooperating agreement with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission	Cooperative agreement	National Park Service and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission	<i>In place</i> —A cooperative agreement between the National Park Service (Southeast Regional Office) and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission is currently in place and outlines the working relationship between these two entities. The national historical park would like to develop a similar agreement to help build a collaborative relationship with the commission.
Agreement with the State of South Carolina	Cooperative agreement	National Park Service and South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism	<i>In place</i> —This state-wide agreement outlines the relationship between National Park Service units and South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism. It articulates how these two entities will share staff and resources as well as work collaboratively on special events and programs.

Agreement Name	Type of Agreement	Responsible Party	Notes/Purpose
Agreement with Eastern National	Cooperative agreement	National Park Service and Eastern National	<i>In place</i> —Currently there is an NPS agreement with Eastern National outlining the management of NPS bookstores and retail sales. This cooperative agreement is valid up to 2020.
Agreement with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History	Cooperative agreement	National Park Service and Association for the Study of African American Life and History	In August 2017, the National Park Service entered into an agreement with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The primary purpose of the agreement is to undertake projects and activities that will assist in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of the general public's understanding of natural, cultural, recreational, and other aspects of African American history in areas such as national parks, national historic landmarks, state and local parks, and other historic sites. Founded in the U.S. in 1915, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History is the oldest international and national organization of professional and academic scholars of African American history, education, and interpretation. This NPS agreement with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History allows for access to qualified professionals to assist in further interpretation, research, and development of archive collections necessary to manage the national historical park.

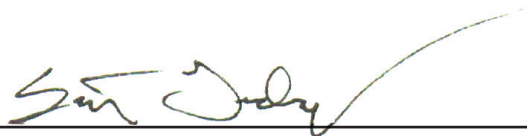
Appendix C: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Name	Date
The Era of Reconstruction, 1861–1900: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study	2017
Old Firehouse, Historic Structure Report	2018
Darrah Hall, Historic Structure Report	2018

Southeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation Reconstruction Era National Monument

August 2019

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Southeast Regional Director.

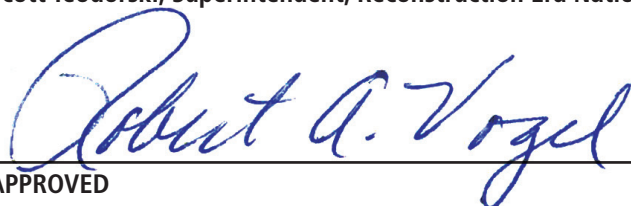


8/28/2019

RECOMMENDED

Scott Teodorski, Superintendent, Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

Date



9/5/19

APPROVED

Robert A. Vogel, Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date

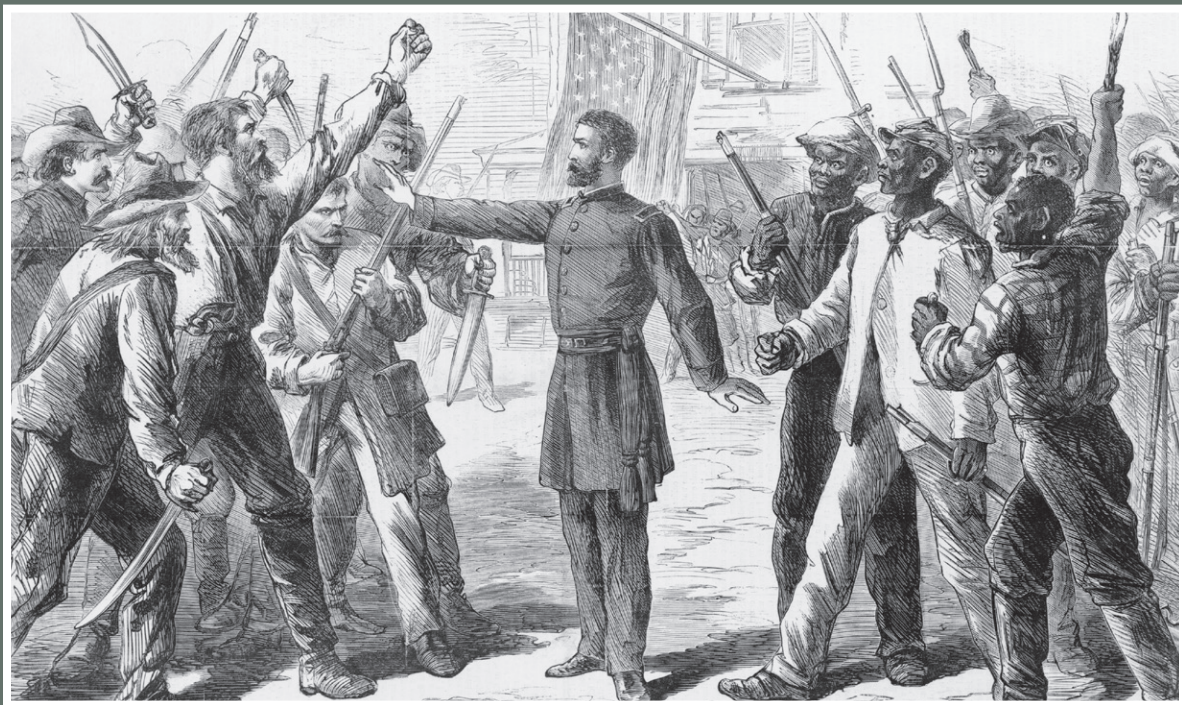


As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

REER 550/150278

September 2019

Foundation Document • Reconstruction Era National Historical Park



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR