
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2014



Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is a component landscape of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. It is located approximately three-quarters of a mile southwest of the town of Bolivar, West Virginia, between U.S. Highway 340 and the Shenandoah River. It occupies a high, open bluff above the Shenandoah River two miles upriver from its confluence with the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry. This bluff is the southwestern end of Bolivar Heights, a low, 1.7 mile ridge spanning the Harpers Ferry peninsula about 2 miles west of the confluence. The inventory unit is bounded to the north by Murphy Road and the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Visitor's Center on Cavalier Heights; to the east and south by the Shenandoah River, and to the west by a steep draw which separates it from Recreational Adventures Campground, LLC (KOA). The farm currently encompasses approximately 98 acres. Built features are scarce on the property, with the Main House as the only extant historic building. Other historic landscape features include Civil War era earthworks, the foundation of the former site of John Browns Fort and some historic vegetation.

Historical Overview:

The property has been inhabited and/or exploited by human groups since the prehistoric era. Paleoindians are believed to have initially inhabited the area between 11,000 and 8,000 BCE. Archeological evidence suggests that the area continued to be utilized by American Indian groups, but by the time of European settlement in the early 18th century, there were no permanent villages in the Harpers Ferry region.

By 1733, Robert Harper had established a ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah

Chambers-Murphy Farm

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Rivers, lending his name to the town that grew up on the point. The property that would become the Chambers-Murphy Farm was by 1813, part of a larger parcel owned by Robert Strider. Strider operated a grist mill on the portion of his land that was located along the Shenandoah River and may have used the open bluff of current farm to grow wheat for his mill. It wasn't until 1848 that the current boundaries of the farm began to take shape. In that year, Edmund Chambers, who worked in Harpers Ferry at the U.S. Musket Factory, purchased 53 acres from Strider and then went on to develop it as a farmstead. He built the first known structure, a farm house by 1852 and went on to add typical farm outbuildings, a garden and an orchard. He also grew wheat and corn.

The Civil War brought both Union and Confederate troops to the farm. Troops from both armies crossed the farm during the 1861 Battle of Harpers Ferry and the farm was occupied by Union forces for several months in early 1862. The Chambers-Murphy Farm also probably saw fighting during another fall 1861 cavalry skirmish, was likely a Union bivouac site in the spring and again in the fall of 1862, was again traversed by Confederate forces during General Jubal Early's July 1864 invasion, and was the site of Federal defenses from August 1864 until war's end in April 1865. It is the site of extant Union earthworks that were constructed by Major General Philip H. 'Little Phil' Sheridan's men in August 1864.

The Chambers family left the farm sometime after the Battle of Harpers Ferry in 1862 and did not return until 1865, after the war had ended. Edmund Chambers described his farm as a 'perfect prairie'. His farm buildings, fences, orchard and fields had been largely destroyed. The family never rebuilt the farm, choosing instead to live on another property they owned in the town of Bolivar.

In 1866, Chambers sold the farm but it apparently was not redeveloped until it was purchased by Alexander Murphy in 1869. Murphy rented the land to tenants and by 1871, a house, outbuildings and garden once again were located on the property. Between 1882 and 1910, Murphy expanded the boundaries of the farm to its current size of almost 98 acres.

In 1895 the building that had become known as John Browns Fort was moved to the Chambers-Murphy Farm. The fort was originally a guard and fire-engine house at the United States Armory in Harpers Ferry. Brown made it famous when he used it as a refuge during his failed 1859 raid. The building survived the Civil War and was eventually sold and shipped to Chicago as an ancillary exhibit to the 1891 World's Columbian Exposition. The building was abandoned after the exposition, until in 1894, Washington D.C. journalist Kate Field spearheaded a movement to preserve it and move it back to Harpers Ferry.

The fort, rebuilt on what may have been the site of a spring house on the farm, became a pilgrimage destination, particularly for African Americans. It became an important symbol of the fledgling civil rights movement during its time on the property. In 1909, the 50th anniversary of John Brown's raid, it was once again dismantled and moved to Storer College, located on Camp Hill in Harpers Ferry. The college was a mission school established in 1867 to educate former slaves and for 25 years it was the only school in West Virginia to offer secondary education to African Americans. Acquired by the National Park Service in 1960, the building was moved back to the Lower Town in 1968. Because the

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fort's original site was covered with a railroad embankment in 1894, the building now sits about 150 feet east of its original location. The Chambers-Murphy Farm has remained largely unchanged and became part of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in 2002.

Significance Summary:

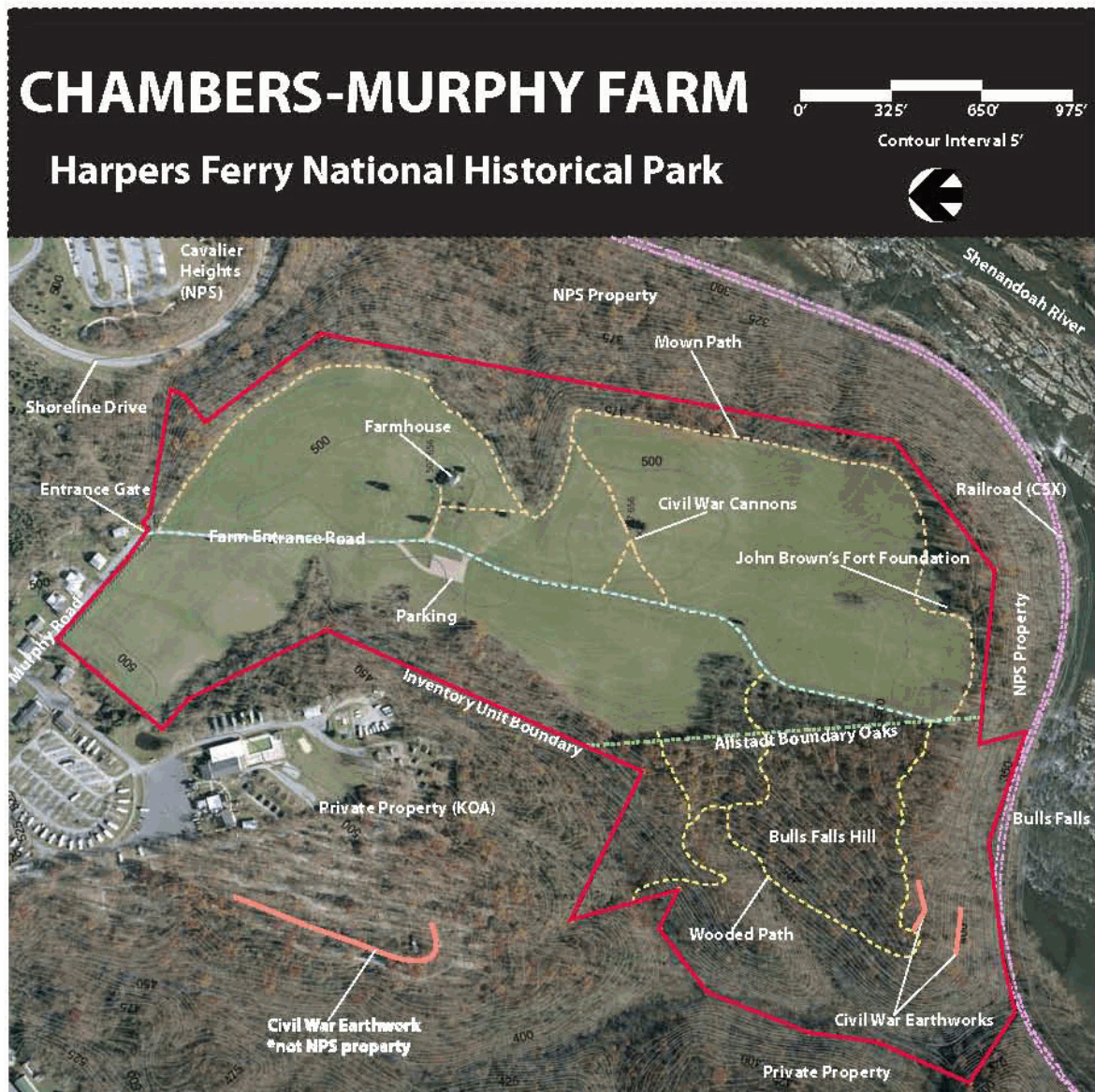
As component landscape of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park the landscape derives national significance as a contributing site under National Register Criterion A in the area of military history, social history and ethnic heritage (Black) and Criterion D for its military, domestic, and pre-historic archeological potential.

It has two periods of significance; 1861-1865, the Civil War era, and 1895-1909, the period during which it was the home of John Browns Fort.

Analysis and Evaluation Summary and Condition:

Although the Chambers-Murphy Farm has lost some features that existed during its periods of significance, the landscape retains integrity in accordance with National Register definitions to the following: location, setting, feeling, association. Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Chambers-Murphy Farm are natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small scale features and archeology.

Site Plan



Site Plan (Fig.2)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Chambers-Murphy Farm
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600292
Parent Landscape:	600292

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park -HAFE
Park Organization Code:	3850
Park Administrative Unit:	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by David Sheehan, National Council for Historic Preservation intern (NPS). Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. This Cultural Landscape Inventory relied heavily on research in the draft report 'Murphy Farm Phase I Archeological Survey.' by Darlene Hassler and Justin Ebersole, 2014. (Note: references in this document refer to a draft copy provided to the cultural landscape team in the spring of 2014).

Research and editorial assistance was provided by: Justin Ebersole, formerly Archeologist, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; Darlene Hassler Godwin, Archeologist, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; Martha Temkin, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Parks Region, National Park Service.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/16/2014
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	01/14/2015

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The National Register Eligibility concurrence date is the date signed by the SHPO.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

August 27, 2014

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Chambers-Murphy Farm Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Rebecca Harriet, Superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Chambers-Murphy Farm, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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

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

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

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Chambers-Murphy Farm is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

9/16/14

Date

Superintendent Concurrence



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

January 12, 2015

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, West Virginia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Chambers-Murphy Farm Cultural Landscape CLI

I, Susan Pierce, Deputy West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Chambers-Murphy Farm Cultural Landscape CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on August 27, 2014.

 Date 1/14/2015

Susan Pierce
Deputy West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

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West Virginia SHPO Concurrence

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is approximately three-quarters of a mile southwest of the town of Bolivar, West Virginia, between U.S. Highway 340 and the Shenandoah River. It encompasses Jefferson County, West Virginia Tax Map Number 9, Parcel 68, and consists of two smaller parcels; a main parcel of 97.040 acres and a 0.906 acre sliver of land along the Shenandoah River separated from the main parcel by the CSX (formerly B&O) Railroad right-of-way. The Chambers-Murphy Farm, NPS tract 103-43, occupies a high, open bluff above the Shenandoah River two miles upriver from its confluence with the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry. This bluff is the southwestern end of Bolivar Heights, a low, 1.7 mile ridge spanning the Harpers Ferry peninsula about 2 miles west of the

Chambers-Murphy Farm
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confluence. The inventory unit is bounded to the north by Murphy Road and the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Visitor's Center on Cavalier Heights; to the east and south by the Shenandoah River, and to the west by a steep draw which separates it from Recreational Adventures Campground, LLC (KOA). Situated directly across the Shenandoah River from Loudoun Heights, it overlooks School House Ridge to the west, has commanding views of the Shenandoah River and Bulls Falls Rapids to the east and south, and a partial view of lower town Harpers Ferry to the northeast.

State and County:

State: WV

County: Jefferson County

Size (Acres): 97.95

Boundary Coordinates:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,889
UTM Northing:	435,547
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,799
UTM Northing:	4,355,370
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,879
UTM Northing:	4,355,210
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,719
UTM Northing:	4,354,890
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,579
UTM Northing:	4,354,960
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,599
UTM Northing:	4,354,860
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,559
UTM Northing:	4,354,870
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,499
UTM Northing:	4,354,830
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18

UTM Easting:	261,449
UTM Northing:	4,354,730
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,439
UTM Northing:	4,354,660
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,389
UTM Northing:	4,354,580
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,439
UTM Northing:	4,354,530
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,459
UTM Northing:	4,354,460

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: WSG 84

UTM Easting: 261,549

UTM Northing: 4,354,500

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: WSG 84

UTM Zone: 18

UTM Easting: 261,639

UTM Northing: 4,354,500

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: WSG 84

UTM Zone: 18

UTM Easting: 261,729

UTM Northing: 4,354,470

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: WSG 84

UTM Zone: 18

UTM Easting: 261,759

UTM Northing: 4,354,470

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: WSG 84

UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,779
UTM Northing:	4,354,560
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,869
UTM Northing:	4,354,530
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Easting:	262,029
UTM Northing:	4,354,620
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	262,149
UTM Northing:	4,355,210
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	262,079
UTM Northing:	4,355,300

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	261,999
UTM Northing:	4,355,370
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	WSG 84
UTM Easting:	261,889
UTM Northing:	4,355,470

Location Map:



Location Map (Fig.3)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/16/2014

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is due to be included in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HAFE) National Register listing update, which is currently in draft.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Chambers-Murphy Farm

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The Chambers-Murphy Farm today is relatively secure from residential and commercial encroachment. Murphy Road bounds the northwest corner, and dead-ends at the public entrance to the property. The north side of Murphy Road is lined with four residential lots with single-family homes which are across from and visible from the inventory unit. This visual intrusion was mitigated by 2007 tree plantings along the 500 feet of field adjacent to Murphy Road.

Moving in a clockwise direction around the property boundary, The NPS owns all the land to the Shenandoah shoreline save the CSX (formerly Baltimore & Ohio Railroad) railroad right-of-way along the rest of the northern, eastern, and southern edges. The NPS also owns the opposite shore of the Shenandoah from just above Chambers-Murphy Farm to the US 340 bridge, which has protected its historical views of the river and Loudoun Heights. The inventory unit's western boundary approximately follows a large ravine which runs inland in a north-northeasterly direction from the Shenandoah River just above Bulls Falls Rapids. The western boundary's southern half borders two undeveloped residential parcels until it makes an acute turn to the east, at the Adventure Campgrounds, LLC (KOA) southern property boundary. From this dogleg until Murphy Road, the western boundary is adjacent to the campground. The inventory unit is separated from the developed areas of the campground by a steep ravine and thick woodland vegetation, which serve to make the campground's visual impact on the landscape negligible. This adjacency's use as a campground has up to this point been compatible with NPS goals for the inventory unit, mainly due to the retaining of a thick border of mature woodland on both sides of the boundary. Should the campground adjacency change to a less compatible use in the future it could potentially have an adverse impact on the Chambers-Murphy Farm. However, that impact would be minimized by the continued retaining of woodland along the NPS side of the boundary.

Lands which are not physically adjacent to the inventory unit but which contribute to the cultural landscape include Bolivar Heights, which is across US Route 340 to the north-northeast, and Loudoun Heights, across the Shenandoah River to the east. Both of these properties are NPS-owned, and contribute to the Chambers-Murphy Farm cultural landscape by adding to its rural feel and by reinforcing its contextual relationship to historical Civil War operations in the Harpers Ferry area.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HFNHP) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, although a formal nomination form was not submitted and signed by the Keeper until July 28, 1980. A separate nomination form was prepared for the Harpers Ferry Historic District, which was listed on the National Register on October 15, 1979. On August 7, 2001, additional documentation was submitted for properties that had been recently added to the park. None of the aforementioned nominations discuss the Chambers-Murphy Farm, since it was outside the boundaries of both the town and the park until December 30, 2002 when the National Park Service acquired it from the Trust for Public Land. In accordance with section 106, Dominion Virginia Power is currently preparing an update to the park's National Register listing which will include Chambers-Murphy Farm, and is expected to be submitted in 2014.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
NRIS Number:	66000041
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1979

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
Criteria Considerations:	B -- A building or structure removed from its original location

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Area of Significance Category: Agriculture

Statement of Significance:

Statement of Significance

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Military History. It played a role in a number of Civil War military operations, most notably during the Battle of

Harpers Ferry (September 13-15 1862), which resulted in the Confederate capture of the town and the largest

Federal surrender of the war. Confederate General A.P. Hill's 3,000-man division marched to and deployed on

the property during the night of September 14, 1862, in what proved to be the battle's decisive flanking maneuver. The Chambers-Murphy Farm also probably saw fighting during a fall 1861 cavalry skirmish, was likely a Union bivouac site in the spring and again in the fall of 1862, was again traversed by Confederate forces during General Jubal Early's July 1864 invasion, and was the site of federal defenses from August 1864 until war's end in April 1865. It is the site of intact Union earthworks that were constructed by Major General Philip H. "Little Phil" Sheridan's men in August 1864.

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is also nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage (Black) as the former site of the relocated John Brown's Fort and for its resulting importance as a symbolic site of pilgrimage in the early civil rights movement. The single-story brick building known as "John Brown's Fort" began its existence in 1848 as the fire engine and guard house for the Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry. It was there that radical abolitionist John Brown and his followers barricaded themselves during the last hours of their ill-fated raid of October 16-18, 1859. It was the only armory building to survive the Civil War, and in the ensuing decades, "John Brown's Fort" became a shrine and a symbol of freedom to African Americans, Union soldiers and abolitionists (HAFE NPS website, retrieved 06/18/14).. The building was moved several times, and from 1895 to 1909 it stood on a knoll in the southwest corner of the Chambers-Murphy Farm. During this time, it became a pilgrimage destination for African Americans; most notably in 1896 for The National League of Colored Women, and in 1906 for the Niagara Movement, led by author and civil rights pioneer W.E.B. DuBois. The Niagara Movement was a forerunner to later civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The occasion for their pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort was the group's historic second meeting, and its first meeting on

Chambers-Murphy Farm

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American soil. From August 17-19, 1906 the Niagara Movement met at nearby Storer College. Storer had opened in 1867 as a mission school to educate former slaves, and for 25 years was the only school in West Virginia to offer post-primary education to African Americans.

The Murphy-Chambers Farm possesses national significance under Criterion D for its military, domestic, and pre-historic archeological potential. An archeological survey and inventory project was conducted in 2013, with results yet to be published. However, the site has significant archeological potential due to its known, prolonged use for military operations during the Civil War, its periodic use by the District of Columbia National Guard for annual encampments known as Camp Ordway (1900-1920), and as the site of 19th century settlement and agricultural operations from at least 1848 onward. It was also likely the site of pre-historic use due to its proximity to the Shenandoah River.

As a property associated with the HFNHP historic context of the Civil War, Chambers-Murphy Farm has a period of significance from 1861-1865, which falls within the period of significance for the park. Significant dates which fall within this period are October 16, 1861 when Union and Confederate cavalry clashed in the vicinity of Bolivar Heights, forcing the Chambers family to evacuate their home; May 30, 1862 when Confederate forces under Stonewall Jackson made an abortive assault on General Rufus Saxton's Camp Hill defenses; September 14-15, 1862 when Confederate troops under A.P. Hill turned the left flank of Federal Bolivar Heights defenses and positioned themselves on Chambers-Murphy farm; Late September-November 1862, when the 15,000 men of the Army of the Potomac's II Corps camped on Bolivar Heights; July 4, 1864 when Confederates under Jubal Early again moved through the area to briefly seize Harpers Ferry; and August 1864-April 1865, when Union General Philip Sheridan's troops constructed and manned the existing fortifications on the property.

The Chambers-Murphy Farm's second period of significance under Criterion A extends from 1895-1909 in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage (Black). During this period, the John Brown Fort stood at the southern end of the property and was involved with important events in the early civil rights movement. Significant dates during this period include July 14, 1896 when a group from the National League of Colored Women made the first documented pilgrimage to the John Brown Fort; and August 17, 1906 when the Niagara Movement made a pilgrimage to the site during their historic meeting at Storer College and when leader W.E.B. Du Bois gave an address.

During both periods of significance, the Chambers-Murphy Farm property was managed for agricultural purposes, and today it retains an agricultural character which is reflective of its historical appearance. Significant views from the property of lower town Harpers Ferry, Loudoun Heights, Bolivar Heights, and the Shenandoah River Valley are intact due to the rural setting as well as the expansion of HFNHP.

Note: Chambers-Murphy Farm is not significant in the early agricultural development of the greater Shenandoah Valley, as are nearby NPS properties such as Allstadt Farm and Schoolhouse Ridge North, due to the relatively late date of its initial development. The Chambers-Murphy Farm property wasn't first developed for agricultural purposes until 1848, well after agriculture was firmly established in the greater Shenandoah Valley region.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Use/Function

Single Family House
Agricultural Field
Battle Site
Battery (Defense)
Fortification-Other
NPS Class IV Primitive Road
Parking Area
Interpretive Trail
Monument (Marker, Plaque)

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic
Both Current And Historic
Historic
Historic
Historic
Both Current And Historic
Current
Current
Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Buena Vista
Chambers Farm
Murphy Farm
Chambers-Murphy Farm

Type of Name

Historic
Historic
Both Current And Historic
Current

Chronology:

Year

Event

Annotation

11000 - 8000 BCE

Inhabited

The Mid-Atlantic Region is initially inhabited by early Paleo-Indians.

CE 1550 - 1575

Colonized

The Native Americans of Algonquian linguistic stock living in the lower Shenandoah Valley become inundated and dominated by the Susquehannocks, a tribe traditionally from the vicinity of the present-day Susquehanna River in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

CE 1600 - 1700	Exploited	Throughout this century, there are few permanent settlements in the Harpers Ferry area or in the Shenandoah Valley. The area is somewhat of a 'no man's land', used by various tribes for different uses. Tuscarora and Shawnee use the Shenandoah Valley to hunt deer and elk, Delaware and Catawba use it as a war zone, and northern Iroquoian tribes use it as part of the Great Warrior's Path to attack the southern Cherokee.
CE 1632	Explored	A fur-trading expedition under Captain Henry Fleet explores the Potomac River at least 100 miles upriver from Great Falls. It is likely that they explored the area of present-day Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.
CE 1669 - 1670	Explored	German explorer John Lederer explores the area of the Potomac/Shenandoah confluence and the Shenandoah Valley for Virginia Governor Sir William Berkeley.
CE 1707	Explored	The confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers appears on Francis Louis Michel's map.
CE 1712	Explored	Baron Christoph von Graffenried explores the area with an interest towards establishing a Swiss Anabaptist settlement. He reaches at least as far as the Shenandoah River.
CE 1721	Explored	A 1721 map of the upper Potomac River shows the Potomac/Shenandoah confluence and the vicinity of present-day Harpers Ferry. The map is drawn on the information provided by a trader who maintained a habitation near the Potomac at present-day Williamsport, Maryland.
CE 1733	Settled	Peter Stephens establishes a ferry operation on the future site of Harpers Ferry. He is the first documented European to permanently occupy the site.
CE 1734	Settled	Israel Friend settles land two miles west of Harpers Ferry and begins mining ore near the future location of the Keeptryst Furnace.
CE 1744	Purchased/Sold	Treaty over the Shenandoah Valley is signed between settlers and the Iroquois, transferring the land to Virginians in exchange for compensation.

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

CE 1745	Purchased/Sold	Lord Fairfax is confirmed as the owner of land in the Shenandoah Valley, including the Jefferson County area, which is part of the Northern Neck; all the land between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers.
CE 1747	Purchased/Sold	Robert Harper buys Peter Stephens' ferry operation at the site of present-day Harpers Ferry.
CE 1748	Destroyed	First recorded flood at Harpers Ferry apparently drives Robert Harper from his cabin on the riverbank.
CE 1751	Settled	Lord Fairfax grants title of 125 acres in the vicinity of the Potomac/Shenandoah confluence to Englishman Robert Harper. Peter Stephens sells his ferry operation to Harper.
CE 1751 - 1764	Platted	Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary Land Office awards numerous land patents in the region around harpers Ferry, including land that would eventually become part of the Murphy Farm.
CE 1763	Established	The town later known as Harpers Ferry is given the name Shenandoah Falls of Mr. Harper's Ferry by the Virginia General Assembly.
	Land Transfer	Gersham Keyes likely becomes the first owner of the land of the Murphy-Chambers farm when he obtains patent on a parcel that includes the modern-day Cavalier Heights parking lot of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to the northeast of the inventory unit as well as that portion of Schoolhouse Ridge known as the Allstadt Property to the west of the inventory unit.
	Land Transfer	Gersham Keyes transfers 1,675 acres of his property which likely includes the land comprising the Murphy-Chambers farm to John Semple.
CE 1763 - 1804	Land Transfer	The exact chain of land ownership during this time period is unknown, although there are two possible scenarios. 1) John Semple---Richard Bland Lee 1789---Henry Lee 1790. 2) John Semple---Philip Ludwell Lee between 1763-1773---Henry & Matilda Lee and Ludwell & Flora Lee 1788---Richard Bland Lee 1792---Henry Lee. Both scenarios reconverge in 1804 with Richard Bland Lee and Ludwell Lee in ownership of the land.

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

CE 1799	Built	Construction begins on Harpers Ferry Armory, the nation's second federal armory.
CE 1801	Established	Jefferson County is formed from Berkeley County.
CE 1804	Land Transfer	Richard Bland Lee and Ludwell Lee obtain title to the property that includes Murphy-Chambers Farm.
CE 1805	Developed	Harpers Ferry is described as a post office and fifteen houses.
CE 1808	Land Transfer	On April 7, Thomas Wilson obtains title to the property that includes Murphy-Chambers Farm.
CE 1810	Developed	Harpers Ferry now includes a tavern, library, several stores, and has a population of approximately 700.
CE 1813	Land Transfer	On September 23rd, Thomas Wilson sells 230 acres to John Strider for \$19,000. This area known as 'Gulph Mill', likely includes what is now the Murphy-Chambers Farm.
CE 1825	Established	The town of Bolivar is recognized by the Virginia General Assembly, with a population of 270.
CE 1828	Built	Construction begins on both the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.
CE 1830	Land Transfer	John Strider uses Gulph Mill as collateral on a debt to William Lucas, Isaac Fouke, and Henry Miller via a note to Henry Miller of \$3,151.00 due 12/29/1830.
CE 1831	Paved	The Charles Town Turnpike is graded and paved with macadam.
CE 1833	Developed	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal opens in Jefferson County.
CE 1835	Land Transfer	John Strider again uses Gulf Mills as collateral on a debt to William Lucas, Isaac Fouke, and Henry Miller via a note to Henry Miller of \$3,151.00 due 10/1/1835.
CE 1836	Developed	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad opens in Jefferson County, and passes through the southern edge of the Murphy-Chambers farm along the Shenandoah River.

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

CE 1845	Land Transfer	John Strider dies, and his 230 acre property is partitioned into lots to be sold at auction in order to cover the debts of his estate.
CE 1848	Developed	By this time, the US Government has constructed four public school houses in and around Harpers Ferry.
	Purchased/Sold	On March 20, Edmund H. Chambers buys 52 acres from the trustees of John Strider's estate in consideration of the sum of \$686 and a note of \$902.40, to secure deed, at auction.
CE 1848 - 1852	Built	Edmund H. Chambers builds the first house on the Murphy-Chambers Farm property and also names the property Buena Vista, in recognition of its vantage over the Shenandoah River but also possibly in commemoration of the Mexican-American War battle of the same name.
CE 1850	Developed	Harpers Ferry is documented as having 40 businesses in operation, up from seven in 1825.
	Purchased/Sold	Edmund H. Chambers sells 1.5 acres adjacent to Taylor Lane along the northern boundary of his property to Abraham Martin. This land eventually comes under the ownership of the Shenandoah City Water Power and Manufacturing Company.
CE 1851	Established	The town of Harpers Ferry is incorporated.
CE 1852	Destroyed	The worst flooding recorded since European settlement in Harpers Ferry occurs. Waterpower dams on both the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers are severely damaged.
CE 1859	Military Operation	On October 16, abolitionist John Brown raids the Harpers Ferry armory in an effort to trigger a slave uprising.
CE 1860	Developed	The towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar reach a combined population of 3,000.
CE 1861	Military Operation	On April 17, Virginia secedes from the Union. On the 18th, the U.S. Army withdraws from Harpers Ferry, firing the arsenal and destroying some 15,000 small arms.

	Military Operation	On October 16, Union and Confederate forces under Cols. John Geary and Turner Ashby, respectively, clash over wheat stores in Harpers Ferry. Col. Geary sends forward a complete line of skirmishers from the main street in Bolivar to the Shenandoah River, an action which entails troop movements over the plateau occupied by the Murphy-Chambers Farm. The Chambers family lends Federal forces a team of draft animals before the battle and are forced to flee their home for safety during the engagement, after which they are briefly threatened by Confederate forces for their Union sympathies and for daughter Jennie's assistance to Federal pickets.
CE 1862	Military Operation	From February to late March, 20 Federal officers under Col. John W. Geary are quartered in the Chambers family home, forcing the Chambers family into the back building.
	Planned	At Col. Geary's recommendation, Edmund Chambers has his property appraised with an eye towards restitution should any of it be damaged by Federal forces in the course of the war. The property is appraised at \$4,543.32.
	Planned	In June, West Virginia statehood separate from Virginia is proposed. The proposal includes 50 counties, to which Jefferson County is added later.
	Military Operation	As part of the Army of Northern Virginia's 1862 northern invasion which culminated at Antietam, Confederate troops under Maj. Gen Thomas Stonewall Jackson defeat the Union garrison and capture Harpers Ferry. The action results in the largest Federal surrender of the war. During the battle on September 14th and 15th, the Murphy-Chambers Farm is on the extreme left flank of the Union position. Federal infantry occupy parts of the farm's plateau and construct an abatis in the draw which runs along the farm's western edge. Confederate troops under Maj. Gen A.P. Hill use this and another draw to turn the Union left flank during the night of the 14th. This is the decisive movement of the battle, and allows Confederate artillery to enfilade the Union position on the morning of the 15th. The Murphy-Chambers farm suffers some impacts from this bombardment. According to Jennie Chambers, The Federal troops were encamped all around us, and shell exploded in front of the cellar door; another cut a l

	Abandoned	Edmund Chambers and family abandon his farm sometime after the September 12-15 Battle of Harpers Ferry. Chambers moves to Bridesburg, Pennsylvania, where he undertakes a federal government contract to bore and straighten 100,000 rifle barrels for Barton H. Jinks.
	Inhabited	Stonewall Jackson's Confederates don't hold Harpers Ferry for long. The same day they capture the town, they depart to participate in the Battle of Antietam. For 6 weeks after Antietam and before departing in the first week of November for the Fredericksburg campaign, the 2d Corps of the Army of the Potomac, numbering 15,000 men is camped on Bolivar Heights. Elements of the 2d Corps likely occupied the Murphy-Chambers farm during this time.
	Planned	In October Union engineer Lt. C.B. Comstock generates plans to fortify the line of Bolivar Heights along its full length between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. These plans are not completed, but would have incorporated the Murphy-Chambers farm.
CE 1863	Established	The State of West Virginia is officially established on June 20, becoming the 35th state of the Union.
CE 1864	Military Operation	On July 4th, Confederate forces under LtGen. Jubal Early again move through portions of the Murphy-Chambers farmstead while flanking union forces out of their Bolivar Heights positions in preparation for forcing a Potomac crossing at Harpers Ferry.
	Military Operation	From August 6-August 23, as part of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Union forces under Gen. Philip Sheridan finally complete the Bolivar Heights defenses in order to defend a large marshalling yard, or wagon park for supply trains. This includes the construction of artillery redoubts on adjacent land now occupied by Recreational Adventure Campgrounds, LLC (KOA), as well as a redan and rifle pit at the southern end of the Murphy-Chambers farm property which protected a battery of six cannon.
CE 1865	Military Operation	The Civil War ends in April in a Union victory.

	Destroyed	Upon returning in 1865 Chambers finds much of his estate destroyed. According to the war claim that Chambers filed with the War Dept, the following property was destroyed: 1 stable and its` contents; 1 corn house and its contents; 3 lots of lumber. doors and window shutters; 10 gondola sides; 1 house; 1 bureau; 5 pairs of bedstands; 3 washstands; 1 desk, 1 bookcase; contents of 1 cellar; 1 kitchen and its contents; 87 locust and chestnut posts; 1 pump; 500 fruit trees of various kinds; 204 locust and chestnut posts; 70 panels of plank fence; 900 panels, eight rails to the panel, of rail fence; 3 x 200 bushel stacks of wheat; 1 string paling fence; 1 garden fence; 1 dwelling house in Bolivar; 75 cords of wood; 1 sideboard; 1 candlestand; and 1 table. The total amount of the claim is \$4545.32.
CE 1866	Purchased/Sold	Edmund Chambers sells his property to John G. Cockrell.
CE 1866 - 1871		A house, outbuildings, and a garden are rebuilt on the Murphy-Chambers Farm property.
CE 1867	Established	The Storer Normal School opens on Camp Hill, welcoming students of all races, sexes, and religions.
CE 1869	Altered	The Storer Normal School expands and is renamed Storer College
	Purchased/Sold	On September 1, John G. Cockrell sells the farm to Alexander Murphy for \$4,000. The property is described as 52 acres, with the caveat that 1.5 acres belonged to the Shenandoah City Water Power and Manufacturing Company.
	Built	Alexander Murphy constructs at least a portion of the extant farmhouse, likely on the original site of the Chambers farmhouse.
CE 1871	Developed	Alexander Murphy posts a newspaper listing putting the Murphy-Chambers Farm property up for rent.

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

CE 1882	Expanded	Between 1882 and 1910, Alexander Murphy engages in three land transfers; with the heirs of Dr. Nicholas Marmion following the doctor's death in 1882, with Allstadt heir Susan V. Henkle, and with Eliza Lancaster, which bring the Murphy-Chambers Farm property to its current 97.95 acres.
CE 1895	Land Transfer	Alexander Murphy conveys 5 acres of his property to Kate Fields for the express purpose of reconstructing John Brown's Fort on it. The sale is essentially a donation.
	Reconstructed	In November the John Brown Fort, returned to the area by Kate Fields after being shipped to Chicago in 1891 for the World's Columbian Exhibition, is reconstructed on a knoll on the southern edge of Alexander Murphy's property.
CE 1896	Land Transfer	On April 6, 27 & 3/4 acres of land along Alexander Murphy's southwestern boundary, which was previously acquired from Allstadt heir Susan V. Henkle by William J. Murphy (son of Alexander), is transferred to Alexander Murphy.
	Memorialized	On July 14, a group from The National League of Colored Women makes a pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort on Murphy-Chambers Farm.
CE 1898 - 1913	Military Operation	The Washington, D.C. National Guard conducts a two-week annual training exercise in the vicinity of Bolivar Heights known as Camp Ordway. Murphy Farm is specifically cited as the setting for Camp Ordway encampments in 1898 and 1905. Additionally, Alexander Murphy's records of the time indicate that portions of his land were at times rented to the Army.
CE 1906	Memorialized	On August 17, members of the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP made a pilgrimage to the John Brown Fort after their first meeting at Storer College. The group was led by author W.E.B. DuBois, who gave an address at the site.
CE 1910	Removed	The John Brown Fort is removed from Alexander Murphy's property and moved to the nearby Storer College campus on Camp Hill.
	Land Transfer	The 5 acres previously transferred to Kate Fields for the John Brown Fort is returned to Alexander Murphy.

	Land Transfer	Eliza Lancaster and Alexander Murphy engage in a land transfer in which 5 lots, numbered 4-8 are divided into western and eastern portions to be owned by the two, respectively.
CE 1912		The Murphy-Chambers farm house is expanded; a foursquare form western block is added, possibly to accommodate the family of Alexander Murphy's son William.
CE 1935	Established	Harpers Ferry is recognized as a National Historic Landmark under the Historic Sites Act of 1935.
CE 1944	Established	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt authorizes the recognition of Harpers Ferry as a National Historic Monument on June 30.
CE 1963	Established	President John F. Kennedy signs legislation to create Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
CE 1979	Established	Harpers Ferry becomes a historic district.
CE 1999	Land Transfer	On February 24, Recreational Adventures Campgrounds, LLC (KOA) and two Murphy heirs, Josephine Murphy Kuhn Curtis and Karen Dixon Fuller agree to a redrawing of the boundary line between their adjacent properties, which results in the shifting of an equal amount of land to each party.
CE 2001	Purchased/Sold	On December 21, Josephine Murphy Kuhn Curtis sells the Murphy-Chambers Farm property to Curtis WVA, LLC, a Maryland-based company managed by her husband. The company intends to develop the land into a 189 home residential community dubbed Murphy Landing.
CE 2002		The Trust For Public Land (TPL) purchases 97.95-acre Murphy-Chambers farm from Josephine Murphy Curtis and Karen Dixon Fuller (cousins, Murphy Family heirs) for \$2.6M, for the purpose of transferring it to the NPS.
	Land Transfer	On December 30, TPL conveys the Murphy-Chambers Farm to the NPS.

CE 2004	Stabilized	In partnership with the NPS, the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia repaired the roof; replaced six rotted window sills; stabilized a step; repaired, replaced, and painted siding; capped an open cistern/well; enclosed a porch; and plastered and painted portions of the interior of the Murphy-Chambers farmhouse.
CE 2006		During March and April, the NPS conducts the reconstruction and stabilization of the John Brown fort foundation at the southern end of Murphy-Chambers Farm. Work is conducted by a crew from the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) and consists of draining the pond that had formed in the foundation, excavating around the walls, stabilizing historic structural components, and building a prepared surface for interpretive purposes.
	Memorialized	Descendants of Niagara movement members recreate the 1906 pilgrimage to the John Brown Fort site on Murphy-Chambers Farm.
	Removed	The NPS removes five electric utility poles connecting the Murphy-Chambers farmhouse to the main road, and 1100' of power line buried over the previously spanned distance. The work required extensive trenching and the installation of a new transformer pad, and was preceded by the excavation of shovel test pits to prevent disturbance of archeological sites.
CE 2007	Established	The site of Thomas Stonewall Jackson's 1862 siege of Harpers Ferry makes the Civil War Preservation Trust's list of the nation's ten most endangered Civil War battlefields.
	Planted	The NPS plants trees along the 500' of field adjacent to Murphy Road.

Physical History:

11,000 BCE to 1763 CE

PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORIC PERIOD

Prehistory

The Chambers-Murphy Farm is located in the Harpers Ferry District of Jefferson County, West Virginia (Figure 3, Location Map). Paleoindians are believed to have initially inhabited the area between 11,000 and 8,000 BCE. They were semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers, organized into small bands which lived in seasonal base camps. Over the ensuing 10 millennia, habitation and use patterns changed gradually along with the climate; average temperatures and precipitation in the area increased, which caused grasslands to be replaced by thick forests dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus Rubra*), hickory (*Carya ovate*), poplar (*Populus sp.*), ash (*Fraxinus sp.*), and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). These forests harbored small animals, moose, and deer rather than the larger game animals of earlier periods (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:28).

The earliest pottery find in the Potomac Valley, dating from 1200-500 BC, was found at Harpers Ferry, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the inventory unit. Ceramic vessels, stone artifacts, fire-cracked rock, and three postholes found there indicate concentrated prehistoric use of the area around the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008: 28). During the early historic period, American Indians of Algonquian linguistic stock migrated to the area and established fortified villages which sometimes came into conflict with neighboring tribes of Iroquoian stock. Between 1550 and 1575, Susquehannocks migrated to the area and soon became dominant (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:28).

During the sixteenth century, tribes living in the area did not build permanent villages. The region was an inter-tribal no-man's land, used as a highway and as an area for raiding, hunting, and intertribal trade. When initial European contact was made circa 1600, the Shenandoah Valley had supported no permanent settlement for approximately 100 years. The Five Nations Iroquois League used the valley as part of The Great Warriors Path, an attack route to the Catawba and Cherokee tribes to the South. During the seventeenth century, the Delaware and Catawba tribes used the area as a conflict zone, while the Tuscarora and Shawnee hunted deer and elk from temporary bark-hut villages (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:28). The first Europeans to enter the area found it blanketed by a thick oak and hickory dominated forest, absent signs of human habitation. The only breaks in this forest were the rivers themselves, slopes too steep for trees to root, bedrock outcroppings, and talus slopes without enough topsoil for woody plants to establish. The heavily forested, steep terrain made riverine travel the most viable method, and its relative lack of human habitation reinforced the perception of the area as a foreboding wilderness.

European Arrival

In 1632, the brother of Captain Henry Fleet likely became the first European to see the

Potomac/Shenandoah confluence while on a fur-trading expedition that reportedly travelled 100 miles up the Potomac River from Great Falls. The first documented European to visit the Shenandoah Valley was made by German explorer John Lederer, who made three expeditions to the area between 1669 and 1670 for Virginia Governor Sir William Berkeley (Ebersole 2014 Draft:1). The Harpers Ferry area was part of the Northern Neck Proprietary; more than 5 million acres between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers which had been given to two Culpeper family members by England's Charles II in 1649. The Potomac/Shenandoah confluence first appeared on Francis Louis Michel's map in 1707, and in 1712 Baron Christoph von Graffenried, a contemporary of Michel's, explored the area intending to establish a Swiss Anabaptist settlement (Fiedel et al., Cohongorooto, Vol. I:45).

In the 1730s, European settlers started coming to the Shenandoah Valley in significant numbers. Many traveled from Pennsylvania via the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, driven southward by rising Pennsylvania land prices. Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, Sir William Gooch, facilitated this migration with incentives, intending the Shenandoah settlers to be a buffer between the French and Indians and the older Virginia settlements east of the Blue Ridge (Allstadt Farm CLI 2005:38). The rising European population began causing friction with the Indians as early as 1722, and in 1744 a treaty was signed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania by which the Five Nation Iroquois deeded the Shenandoah Valley to Virginians in return for compensation, and moved The Great Warriors Path further west. By 1745, sole ownership of the Northern Neck Proprietary had passed to Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax, who soon moved to establish his rights over it (Schoolhouse Ridge CLI 2008:29).

Settlers in Harpers Ferry

The first European to live at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers was Peter Stephens, an Englishman who settled at the "point" in 1733 and began operating a small ferry service (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:29). In 1747 Robert Harper, destined to give his name to Harpers Ferry, bought Stephens' ferry equipment, corn patch and cabin. The following year, surveyor James Genn and his companions, including a young George Washington, surveyed all of Lord Fairfax's holdings, resulting in Harper having to obtain a patent from Fairfax in 1751. This initial patent totaled 125 acres of "waste and ungranted land" at the junction of the two rivers, the future site of Harpers Ferry (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008, 29).

English victory in the 1754-1763 French and Indian War left England in possession of France's North American lands. Additionally, Native Americans had by the end of the war abandoned most of the region around Harpers Ferry, leaving the Shenandoah region more open than ever for European settlers. In recognition of the community that had grown around Robert Harper's ferry since 1747, the Virginia General Assembly in 1763 established a town there, naming it "Shenandoah Falls of Mr. Harper's Ferry" (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:30). That same year, Gersham Keyes patented a tract of land including today's Cavalier Heights parking lot and the portion of Schoolhouse Ridge now known as the Allstadt property. Keyes immediately sold 1,675 acres of it, likely including the future Chambers-Murphy Farm, to John Semple, a Scottish merchant who built the Keep Triste Furnace at the north end of Schoolhouse Ridge,

also in 1763 (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:30). Up to this point, habitation of the area had been limited, characterized by the temporary hunting camps of Native Americans and the scattered homes of a few European settlers. The heavily forested, rolling hills of the area remained relatively unchanged, appearing much as they had since the replacement of the region's grasslands by forest (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI 2008:30).

1764 to 1859

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY NATIONAL PERIOD

Between 1763 and 1808, ownership of the land that would become Chambers-Murphy Farm is somewhat indeterminate, but likely followed one of two possible chains of ownership. In the first, ownership passed from John Semple's heirs to Richard Bland Lee on December 31, 1789 and then immediately to Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee on New Year's Day 1790. Lee was the noteworthy commander of a partisan unit during the American Revolution; a famous personage in his own right, "Light Horse Harry" Lee fathered the even more famous General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War. One of the major land speculators in Northern Virginia, Henry Lee leased portions of the land out to tenants who engaged in a variety of commercial activities, and in 1804 transferred title back to Richard Bland Lee and Ludwell Lee (Ebersole 2014 Draft: 4).

The other possible chain of ownership, as described in the Allstadt Property Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), starts with the transfer of the property from John Semple to Philip Ludwell Lee between 1763 and 1773. Philip Ludwell Lee lost the property to foreclosure, whereupon it was purchased at auction by his daughters Matilda and Flora Lee, and their husbands Henry and Ludwell in 1788. In 1792 the Lees transferred ownership to Richard Bland Lee, who in turn transferred the land to back Henry Lee sometime before 1804. At this point both alternatives for the chain of ownership converge, and by 1804 Richard and Ludwell Lee held title (Ebersole, 2014 Draft: 4).

Thomas Wilson obtained the property likely containing present-day Chambers-Murphy Farm from Richard and Ludwell Lee on April 7, 1808. On September 23, 1813 Wilson sold 230 acres which included the project area to John Strider for \$19,000. This parcel included the Shenandoah River shoreline and a grist mill known as Gulph Mill at the base of Cavalier Heights (Ebersole 2014 Draft: 5). It is unknown how the area of modern-day Chambers-Murphy Farm was used during this time. Gulph Mill was used to process flour, and it is possible that Strider grew wheat on the open bluff now comprising Chambers-Murphy Farm to supply his mill. He did not live up there, instead building his house near the mill below Cavalier Heights. By the 1830s Strider was apparently having financial difficulties; in 1830 and again in 1835, he used Gulph Mills as collateral for a \$3151 debt owed to William Lucas, Isaac Fouke, and Henry Miller. Gulph Mill was destroyed by a fire in 1837, and John Strider was unable to pay his debts; after he died in 1845 his creditors partitioned his land into lots and sold them at auction.

One of the buyers was Edmund Hillary Chambers, an armorer who worked for the Federal Government at the musket factory in Harpers Ferry from 1822 until 1861. Chambers purchased

52 acres forming the direct basis for the current Chambers-Murphy Farm on March 20, 1848 from the trustees of the Strider estate “in consideration of the sum of \$686 and a note of \$902.40, to secure deed, at auction (Ebersole 2014 Draft:5). Although the condition of the land when Chambers bought it is unknown, Chambers was probably the first to develop it; his house, likely of log construction, appears on an 1852 Jefferson County plat in the same location as the current Chambers-Murphy farm house. At some point during his tenure, Chambers named the farm “Buena Vista”. This was likely in recognition of its commanding views of the Shenandoah River and Bulls Falls Rapids, although it may also have been in commemoration of the United States victory in the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican-American War. The only boundary change that occurred during Chambers’ ownership was the sale of 1.5 acres adjacent to Taylor Street along the farm’s northern boundary. In 1850, Edmund Chambers sold this small portion to a neighbor, Abraham Martin, and it eventually came under ownership of the Shenandoah City Water, Power, and Manufacturing Company (Ebersole 2014 Draft:6). Meanwhile, Edmund Chambers developed and cultivated his land. He built a house, granary, stable, and several outbuildings, planted a garden and an orchard of various fruit trees, and farmed wheat and corn atop his bluff. From 1848 until the outbreak of the Civil War, Chambers and his family appear to have managed a successful agricultural operation at Buena Vista. From the reparations claim that Chambers filed with the War Department for damage caused during that conflict, a fairly clear picture of his farmstead emerges. The damage to his property was described as follows:

“Claimant during the rebellion was the owner of a farm of 50 ½ acres, near Harpers Ferry, on which there was erected a 1 ½ story proper...dwelling house, stable, granary and several outbuildings, all of which were nearly new and in good condition. Enclosing the farm and dwelling-house were 321 panels of plank fence and 573 panels of pales fence... In the early part of the winter of 1862, the 14th Regt. Penn. Cavalry encamped in the neighborhood of and on the farm of my claimant, and while there ‘destroyed and carried away the fences of the farm and the wood-work of the different buildings, as well as the bricks in the chimneys and lining of the buildings. In this manner, fences, beams, rafters, flooring, window frames, doors, and in fact all the materials contained in the buildings were used; a portion for fire wood, and the remainder for various building purposes, quarters for the men, bake-houses, etc.” (Ebersole 2014 Draft:6)

Additional documents included with the war claim provided more details about Chambers’ pre-war property, describing 500 fruit trees, 600 bushels of wheat, furniture, fencing, and even a pump, all of which were lost during the course of the war. According to the 1860 census he even owned two slaves, aged 26 and 64. Thus, the picture of Chambers-Murphy Farm just before the Civil War is of a thriving farm, replete with an orchard. The farmhouse, at least partially of log construction, stood where the current farmhouse stands today, on top of a low knoll at the terminus of a dirt drive that was visible on the 1852 plat. It had a cellar and a brick chimney, was surrounded by a perimeter fence, and had a family garden nearby. A stable, granary, and several other outbuildings supported the farm’s operations, and were likely not far from the main farmhouse. Edmund Chambers most likely farmed as much of his acreage as possible, keeping the relatively flat land atop his bluff under cultivation right up to the point where the steepness of the bluffs, ravines, and draws precluded agricultural operations. Where

the land was too steep to farm on the edges of the bluff and along the sides of the ravines cutting it, oak and hickory forest still dominated and was likely used by Chambers for the farm's timber needs.

Between 1764 and 1859 the Shenandoah Valley underwent a transformation. The heavily forested rolling hills of the region became broken by large expanses of cleared farmland with their attending clusters of buildings, cultivated with wheat and other crops and separated by belts of woodland. In 1796, at the urging of President George Washington, Congress selected Harpers Ferry as the site of the nation's second national armory. Construction of the facility began in 1799, and it became fully operational in 1802. The armory attracted skilled laborers and their families, such as the Chambers'. Transportation improvements soon followed the opening of the armory, attracting more industry to the area, and by the 1830s the low lying lands known as Virginus Island above the confluence on the Shenandoah River supported several mills. Canals and railroads linked Harpers Ferry with the rest of the country; the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which opened in 1836, traversed the edge of Edmund Chambers' farm as it squeezed by between the base of the bluffs and the Shenandoah River. Although Harpers Ferry itself had become a burgeoning industrial center by 1859, the Chambers-Murphy farm remained a relatively rural, agrarian landscape marked by lines of wooden fencing, open fields, small stands of trees, and isolated clusters of buildings.

1859 to 1865

JOHN BROWN'S RAID AND THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War officially began on April 12, 1861 when Confederate artillery fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. For residents of Harpers Ferry Virginia, however, the war had started 18 months earlier, when abolitionist John Brown and 21 followers seized the United States Armory, Arsenal, and Rifle Factory in the town. Brown's raid did not spark the slave revolt he was hoping for and ended in failure just 36 hours after it began. It did, however, arouse white southerners' deep seated fears of slave revolt and abolitionist agitation and helped widen the growing schism between North and South. Edmund Chambers' daughter Jennie was 15 years old at the time of Brown's raid. On route to school from Buena Vista on the morning of October 17, 1859, Jennie came upon a chaotic scene of shouting armed men, firing weapons into the air. She later recalled, "My home was a mile back through the woods, in Bolivar Heights, and my heart sank as I thought of the distance to safety" (The Chambers Family Goes to War Part I: 1). Edmund Chambers had already left to find out what was happening by the time Jennie made it back to the family home. He returned shortly, amid gunshots and rumors, at the head of a crowd of local men. Edmund told his family, "We were going to get a butcher-knife apiece and go down at them and be captured – and then cut them to pieces. But just then we found these muskets. Now all you women folks must come and help to mould bullets" (The Chambers Family Goes to War Part I:2). Edmund was not injured in the ensuing fight, although five local men were killed.

In the following months, as compromise to save the Union became less and less of a possibility, Virginia Unionists such as Edmund Chambers found themselves in the minority. When Virginia seceded from the Union in April 1861 the Armory, Arsenal, and Rifle Factory at Harpers Ferry

again became targets, but this time of pro-confederate Virginians. Two days before Virginia voted to secede, Chambers learned of a plot by secessionists to seize the arsenal and the rifle factory with its valuable machinery. He promptly took the night train to Washington DC with two other unionists to warn federal authorities. When LtCol. Turner Ashby arrived at the rifle factory with 300 Virginia militiamen two days later, it was defended by 1stLt. Edmund Chambers and 25 volunteers of the armory guard. Realizing that his situation was hopeless, Chambers opened the factory gates in return for safe passage himself and his men back to their homes. While this occurred, the 45 Federal troops at the arsenal were able to fire the armory and its 15,000 rifles, and escape across the Potomac River to Maryland. Edmund Chambers was arrested at Buena Vista by Virginia authorities a few days later for “inveterate unionism.” He was saved from trial only by the intervention of Andrew Hunter, a personal friend and the prosecutor at John Brown’s trial (Chambers Family Goes to War part two. Draft, 2014:2).

The Civil War next came to Buena Vista on October 16, 1861. In order to prevent the federal seizure of 20,000 bushels of wheat from Abraham Herr’s Virginius Island Mill, Confederate LtCol. Turner Ashby planned an attack on Union Col. John Geary’s forces in Bolivar. The Chambers family got news of the impending battle and left Buena Vista to take refuge in a nearby neighbor’s house. From accounts of what happened next, it appears that the Chambers’ fled southward to a house under the hill near the Shenandoah River. Along the railroad tracks just south of Buena Vista, they encountered Union pickets. Jennie Chambers, then 17, warned them of the approaching Confederates. She almost paid for this action with her life. Reluctant to abandon their position without orders, the union troops asked Jennie to warn them if she saw the rebel troops. When soon after she saw a company of Confederate cavalry, she turned and waved to the Federal pickets, who successfully escaped. Confederate Captain Robert W. Baylor threatened to shoot Jennie for this action. He didn’t shoot, but Baylor did take Edmund Chambers and the other men taking refuge in the house to Libby Jail in Charles Town, where they were held for 51 days. A rebel was overheard to say of the incident, “If it had not been for the daughter of Edmund Chambers, we would have captured 10 pickets of the 28th Pennsylvania and 1 Company of the 3rd Wisconsin on the Shenandoah River” (Chambers Family Goes to War part two, Draft 2014:2). Jennie faced arrest when word of the incident got to Confederate authorities, so the Chambers’ arranged for her passage across the Potomac River to Maryland. She stayed in Maryland with an uncle for three months during the winter of 1861 before she was able to return to her family.

Colonel Geary’s troops remained in Harpers Ferry, and from February to late March of 1862, 20 of Geary’s officers were quartered in the Chambers farmhouse, forcing the Chambers family into the back building (Ebersole Draft 2014). It was during this time that Edmund Chambers, at Col. Geary’s recommendation, had his land and property appraised in case of damage by Federal forces; the appraisal totaled \$4543.32 (Ebersole Draft 2014).

Fighting returned to Chambers-Murphy farm on September 14, 1862. As a supporting effort to the 1862 Maryland Campaign which culminated at Antietam, Confederate General Robert E. Lee detached MajGen.

Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson to seize Harpers Ferry. Union Col. Dixon Miles deployed the majority of his 14,000 defenders on Bolivar Heights, the ridge just to the West of Harpers Ferry

of which Chambers-Murphy Farm is the eastern end. Federal infantry who were stationed on Chambers-Murphy farm constructed an abatis in the draw running northward along the farm's western boundary. The Chambers-Murphy farm was on the extreme left flank of the federal position, and would prove to be key terrain in the ensuing battle. Jackson was thoroughly familiar with the terrain around Harpers Ferry; he had trained the Virginia Militia units that would form the nucleus of the famed "Stonewall Brigade" on Bolivar Heights in 1861, and he had previewed Union defensive preparations during an abortive attempt to capture the town in May. Jackson moved quickly to capture Maryland and Loudoun Heights. With those positions in hand and his main force on Schoolhouse Ridge, he had the town's Federal garrison effectively surrounded on Bolivar Heights. On the night of October 14th 1862, MajGen A.P. Hill's division exploited the weakly held Union left flank at Chambers-Murphy Farm. Skirting the Shenandoah River at the base of the bluffs, Hill's men maneuvered up the steep draw behind the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse. On the morning of the 15th they established artillery on Buena Vista's open plateau which enfiladed the Union position, and, in concert with the Confederate guns on Maryland Heights, Loudoun Heights, and Schoolhouse Ridge, compelled the Union garrison to surrender. MajGen. Hill described the action:

"Having first shelled the woods over which my route lay, I moved obliquely to my right until I struck the Shenandoah. Moving down the Shenandoah, I discovered an eminence crowning the extreme left of the enemy's line, bare of all earthwork, the only obstacle being abatis of fallen timber. The enemy occupied the hill with infantry, but no artillery. Branch and Gregg [Brigadier Generals leading brigades in Hill's Division] were ordered to continue the march along the river, and, during the night, to take advantage of the ravines cutting the precipitous banks of the river, and establish themselves on the plain to the left and rear of the enemy's works. Pender, Archer, and Brockenbrough [more of Hill's officers leading brigades] were directed to gain the crest of the hill before mentioned. Thomas [officer of another brigade for Hill] followed as a reserve. The execution of this movement was entrusted to General Pender, his own brigade being commanded by Colonel Brewer. This was accomplished but with slight resistance, and the fate of Harper's Ferry was sealed."

The Chambers family took refuge in the cellar of their home during the battle, and daughter Jennie recalled, "One shell exploded in front of the cellar door; another cut a limb from a large tree at the corner of the house. At about ten o'clock A.M. the firing ceased and we were called out to gaze upon the white flag on Bolivar Heights. The grape shot, shell, cannon balls were lying almost like hail over the barn and fields of the farm. Several shells had struck the barn. ...[It] was literally torn to pieces by the shelling" (Chambers Family Goes to War Part Two, Draft 2014:3). Jennie emerged from the cellar to witness the aftermath of the largest Federal surrender of the war; "The Confederates...were ragged barefooted, dusty and hungry as wolves. In appearance they appealed to the sympathy of even their enemies who [they] soon began circulating among. Many brotherly pleasantries were exchanged. I remember my father passing 'round a large basket of peaches to the blue and gray indiscriminately, as they sat conversing. I looked at them and said, 'See what you are doing, awhile ago you were in deadly combat. Now you are friends.' The answer came 'When we are in war, we are in war. We are brothers. When the battles are over we are brothers.'" (Chambers Family Goes to War, Draft 2014:3) After Confederate forces evacuated Harpers Ferry following the battle of

Antietam, a large union force moved back in, and officers of the 28th Pennsylvania took over the Chambers farm house. Shortly thereafter, Edmund Chambers moved his family to Bridesburg, Pennsylvania for the duration of the war, where he undertook a federal contract to bore and straighten 100,000 rifle barrels (Ebersole, Draft 2014:7).

Although the Chambers family did not reside on the Chambers-Murphy farm for the rest of the war, the farm continued to play a part in military operations around Harpers Ferry and in the greater Shenandoah Valley. From shortly after the battle of Antietam in September 1862, until the first week of November 1862, the Army of the Potomac's 2d Corps, numbering 15,000 encamped on Bolivar Heights. It is likely that Union troops also camped on the Chambers-Murphy Farm. During this time, Union engineer Lieutenant Cyrus B. Comstock generated a plan to fortify the line of Bolivar Heights along its entire length between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Had this plan been implemented, it would have entailed the construction of fortifications on present-day Chambers-Murphy Farm. However, these fortifications were not fully realized until August of 1864.

In July of 1863 and again in July 1864, Confederate forces briefly occupied Harpers Ferry. Both times, Union forces offered only limited resistance at Bolivar Heights, choosing instead to withdraw across the Potomac River and shell the Confederates from commanding positions on Maryland Heights. It is unknown whether the Confederate cavalry which occupied Harpers Ferry in 1863 traversed the Chambers-Murphy Farm. Confederate forces under Gen Jubal Early, however, very likely traversed Chambers-Murphy Farm while maneuvering on and around Bolivar Heights. An 1865 map by engineer Jedediah Hotchkiss shows Confederate troops of Rodes' division deployed along the base of the bluffs just south of Buena Vista as they advanced on the town (See Figure 7). Early briefly occupied Harpers Ferry in July of 1864 before invading the North in an attempt to relieve federal pressure on the Army of Northern Virginia, which was at the time defending Richmond against Gen. Ulysses Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign.

In August of 1864, Union Gen. Philip Sheridan made Harpers Ferry his base of supply for his ensuing Shenandoah Valley campaign. As Lieutenant Comstock had first suggested in 1862, the line of Bolivar Heights was finally fortified in its entirety between the two rivers; in order to protect a large marshalling yard and corral for Sheridan's supply trains. The fortifications included a redan and rifle pit at the southern end of Chambers-Murphy Farm which protected 6 cannon; these cannon commanded both Bulls Falls rapids in the Shenandoah River and one of the draws that had been used by the Confederate army to such effect in 1862.

When Edmund Chambers and his family returned to Buena Vista shortly after war's end in 1865 they found it totally destroyed. When the Civil War began, Chambers had spent almost four decades as a skilled craftsman at the United States Armory and Arsenal. He owned two houses, one in Bolivar and the other one on his 51-acre farm, complete with a barn, stable, and outbuildings, stacks of wheat and grain, 500 fruit trees, thousands of feet of post and rail fence, piles of cordwood, and several acres of standing timber. During the war, all his property was completely destroyed, or as Chambers put it, "carried off." He described his farm upon his return as a "perfect prairie" (Chambers Family Goes to War Part Two, Draft 2014:4). For the

next 35 years, Edmund and his wife Mary attempted to obtain reimbursement from the government based on the 1862 appraisal of their property. Edmund repeatedly wrote to the government describing what happened when Union forces occupied his property; “They occupied the buildings and land all the time. And when they left, they left it wholly destroyed, tied their horses to my fruit trees till they ate all the bark off them, cut them down and burnt them up. Carried my wheat off to make beds in their tents” (Chambers Family Goes to War, Draft 2014:4).

Loyal southerners did not have any legal recourse to recover any property lost from the war until 1871. Even then, only losses of lumber and building supplies were considered reimbursable. At least 15 letters and documents survive which attest to the back and forth between Edmund and Mary Chambers, the Office of the Quartermaster General, the Secretary of War, and the Court of Claims. The Quartermaster General’s position was summed up in one letter, “It is impossible to learn whether these articles [in Chambers’ claim] were used for the legitimate purpose of the army or wantonly destroyed or stolen. And it cannot be determined at this time what proportion of the materials in the different buildings was used for fuel and for building purposes” (Chambers Family Goes to War part two, Draft 2014:4). To Edmund Chambers, it seemed that [the government] “had something against every man south of the Potomac River ... that all the men south of the Potomac could be bought for fifty dollars a head” (Chambers Family Goes to War part two, Draft 2014:4). Eventually, an agent from the Quartermaster General’s Office visited Buena Vista to investigate the Chambers’ war claim. He consulted with a local builder to determine the cost of lumber and building supplies, and on October 9, 1872, Edmund Chambers was reimbursed \$1,484.35; less than one-third of the property’s 1862 assessed value, which in turn was \$2000 less than Chambers thought was its worth (Chambers Family Goes to War, draft 2014:5).

By the Civil War’s end, Edmund Chambers’ Farm had been transformed into a barren field. Where before there had been a successful agricultural operation, there was now a wasteland; barren of buildings, trees, crops, and fences.



Figure 6: The military situation at Harpers Ferry on September 15, 1862 just prior to the Union surrender. Note the Chambers Farm outlined in black.

1866 to 1920

RECONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION

The Chambers family never rebuilt Buena Vista, instead choosing to live on the Bolivar property. Edmund Chambers sold his farm for an unknown price to John G. Cockrell in 1866 (Ebersole, *The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective Draft* 2014:4). Cockrell owned the land for three years, during which it is unclear whether or not he farmed it or built any structures on it. Circumstantial evidence indicates he may have built a log cabin on the site of the original Chambers house site, but he may not have needed a dwelling, since he owned other land in the area (Ebersole, *The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective Draft* 2014:7). John Cockrell sold Buena Vista to Alexander Murphy for \$4,000 on September 1, 1869. The property description of 52 acres, with 1½ acres belonging to the previously mentioned Shenandoah City Water Power and Manufacturing Company indicates that the property boundaries had not changed since Edmund Chambers' ownership.

Alexander Murphy was listed on the 1870 census as a butcher living in the town of Bolivar. Given his interest in local real-estate ventures as shown in newspaper advertisements, it is likely that Murphy acquired Buena Vista with the intent of renting it out to tenant farmers. By 1871, Alexander Murphy, John Cockrell, or a combination of the two had completed major improvements to the "perfect prairie" that Edmund Chambers had returned to in 1865. Murphy put the land up for rent in an 1871 newspaper listing which described a house, outbuildings, and a garden already on the property; therefore, sometime between 1866 and 1871 these had been built or re-built.

Between 1882 and 1910, Alexander Murphy conducted three land transactions which expanded the Chambers-Murphy Farm from 52 to its current 97.95 acres. Although further research is needed to determine the exact sequence of events, it is known that after Dr. Nicholas Marmion died in 1882, his heirs subsequently sold off his land adjacent to Chambers-Murphy farm, and Alexander Murphy acquired a portion of it. The largest addition to Chambers-Murphy farm occurred in 1896. Susan V. Henkle, an heir to the Allstadt family, sold 28 acres to Alexander Murphy's son William. William transferred the title to his father on April 6, 1896. Known at the time as "Bulls Falls Hill", this is the southwestern forested portion of the property which contains the extant Civil War earthworks. The Allstadt holdings had partially defined the western border of Chambers-Murphy farm since at least Edmund Chambers' time, and their boundary is still visible upon the landscape today. The third addition involved a land transaction between Alexander Murphy and Eliza Lancaster. Lancaster purchased Edward Tearney's acreage from Tearney's heirs in 1910. That same year, she and Murphy engaged in a land transfer that divided a series of lots, numbered 4 through 8, into western and eastern portions to be owned by the two; Lancaster the western, and Murphy the eastern.

John Brown's Fort

"John Brown's Fort" was originally a guard and fire-engine house at the United States Army in Harpers Ferry. Brown made it famous when he used it as a refuge during his failed 1859 raid. The building survived the Civil War and was eventually sold and shipped to Chicago as an ancillary exhibit to the 1891 World's Columbian Exposition. The building was abandoned after

the exposition, until in 1894 Washington D.C. journalist Kate Field spearheaded a movement to preserve it and move it back to Harpers Ferry. In 1895, in what was essentially a donation, Alexander Murphy sold 5 acres in the southern portion of his property for \$1 to Ms. Fields for the express purpose of reconstructing John Brown's fort there. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad offered to ship the dismantled structure from Chicago to Harpers Ferry free of charge, and in November of 1895 the building was rebuilt on a small knoll at the southern end of Chambers-Murphy Farm. There was a small spring on the fort site, and it is possible that it was the previous location of the farm's springhouse.

Alexander Murphy welcomed visitors to John Brown's Fort, and it quickly became a pilgrimage destination, particularly for African Americans. It was during its time at Chambers-Murphy Farm that the John Brown Fort became an important symbol of the fledgling civil rights movement. In 1896, a group from the National League of Colored Women made a pilgrimage to the site. In 1906 the Niagara Movement, the forerunner to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), held its second meeting and its first on U.S. soil at the campus of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. Storer College, located on Camp Hill and founded in 1867 by Freewill Baptists as a mission school to educate former slaves, was for 25 years the only school in West Virginia to offer secondary education to African Americans. As such, it was seen as a fitting place for the Niagara Movement to hold their first public meeting in the United States.

The meeting took place from 15-18 August, and the 17th was declared "John Brown's Day", and devoted to the memory of the late abolitionist. On that morning, the more than fifty strong Niagara Movement gathered at 6:00 AM and made a silent procession from Storer College to John Brown's Fort on Chambers-Murphy Farm. They removed their shoes and socks as they walked on the hallowed ground where the fort stood. They then marched single-file around the fort, singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and "John Brown's Body". Afterwards, a number of speakers spoke at the fort, including movement founder W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass' son Lewis, and Reverdy C. Ransom, pastor of Boston's Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. W.E.B. DuBois called this meeting "...one of the greatest meetings that American Negroes ever held" (www.nps.gov/hafe/historyculture/the-niagara-movement.htm, accessed 06/04/14).

Although Alexander Murphy facilitated and encouraged public visitation, he may also have had more pragmatic reasons for allowing John Brown's Fort to be re-located to his farm. A 1903 newspaper article indicates that by this time Murphy was storing wheat in the fort, and it may also have been used as a springhouse. A spring was supposedly drained in conjunction with the fort's reconstruction, and by the time the National Park Service obtained the property in 2002, that same spring had long-since flooded the building's old foundation (Ebersole, *The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective Draft* 2014: 8). Also in 1903, Storer College began fundraising efforts to have the fort moved from Chambers-Murphy Farm to its nearby campus on Camp Hill. By 1909 they had raised the necessary funds, and the building was relocated from Alexander Murphy's property to the school. Shortly after, the 5 acres that Murphy had transferred to Kate Fields for the fort was returned. The details of this transaction are unclear, as Field had died at Honolulu in 1896 of pneumonia (Stoddard:371).

Camp Ordway

Beginning in 1900, the Washington, DC National Guard began conducting their two-week annual training exercise, known as “Camp Ordway” in the vicinity of Bolivar. Reporting on the training, “The Spirit of Jefferson” newspaper suggested that the Murphy Farm was a prime bivouac location for guardsmen conducting exercises on Bolivar Heights. Camp Ordway was held in Bolivar almost every year until 1920. Each summer, thousands of Washington, DC National Guardsmen inundated Bolivar and Harpers Ferry for more than two weeks. The diverse topography, extensive open farmland, and proximity to Washington made it ideal for this military training. Murphy’s land was invariably traversed during maneuvers between Charles Town and Bolivar. Soldiers were directed to avoid damaging cornfields, so when Murphy’s records of the era indicate that certain fields were rented by the Army, they were likely not under cultivation. The guardsmen often used left-over Civil War trenches, notably during 1917-1918 in preparation for World War I, and Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in World War I is reported to have visited Camp Ordway several times. The National Guard encampment also figured briefly in the early days of U.S. military aviation, when 2ndLt Henry “Hap” Arnold and Capt Charles Chandler landed their Burgess-Wright aircraft there on a flight originating from College Park, Maryland. Arnold was the second designated military aviator and eventually became the Chief of Army Air Forces during World War II (Ebersole, The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective, Draft 2014: 9. O’Connor, Spirit of Jefferson 3 or 10 April 2014). It is unknown where they landed, but Chambers-Murphy Farm was one of the few relatively flat cleared areas in the vicinity that would have been able to accommodate a 1911 vintage aircraft.

Chambers-Murphy Farm House

Although it is unclear how much time Alexander Murphy and his family actually resided at Buena Vista/Chambers-Murphy farm, the house’s architecture indicates that the Murphy’s began placing more emphasis on their rural lifestyle during the end of the 19th or beginning of the 20th centuries. The extant two-story house incorporated an earlier log structure that may have been the remains of Edmund Chambers’ house or an earlier construction by one of the property’s post-Civil war owners, as previously discussed. The house was constructed in two distinct styles, indicating that the eastern block is older, with the newer western block done in the foursquare form and style popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Local newspapers indicate that Murphy completed unspecified improvements to the farm in 1912, possibly referring to the addition of the western block of the house. Those improvements may have been needed to accommodate the family of William Murphy, Alexander’s son who had moved to the farm in 1910 (Lee, HAFE NR Update Draft 2014: 35).

Also in 1910, Alexander Murphy engaged in a land transfer which constituted the last addition to the size of the farm. In that year Eliza Lancaster purchased Edward Tearney’s lot adjacent to the farm’s northwest corner from Tearney’s heirs. Shortly after, she agreed with Alexander Murphy to split 5 lots, numbered 4 through 8, into western and eastern halves to be owned by the two, respectively. These appear to be the same plots as shown on the 1852 survey of the

area (Ebersole. The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective. Draft 2014: 10).

During Alexander Murphy's ownership, the Chambers-Murphy Farm likely looked much as it did prior to its destruction during the Civil War. The relatively flat land atop the plateau was kept clear for the farming of wheat. In the southwest corner of the property, the land acquired from Susan Henkle which contained the Union Earthworks and the slopes of the ravine down to the Shenandoah River, was too steep to farm and gradually became reforested. Alexander Murphy and later his heirs likely used this area to supply the farm's timber requirements. A steep draw cutting the Chambers-Murphy plateau southeast of the farmhouse likewise became reforested after the war and was used as a dumping ground. Further archeological research is needed to determine exactly when this site began being used for that purpose, although it has been long enough to change the topography of the draw and presumably began in the 18th century (Ebersole, Artifact Summaries Phase I, Draft 2014: 15).

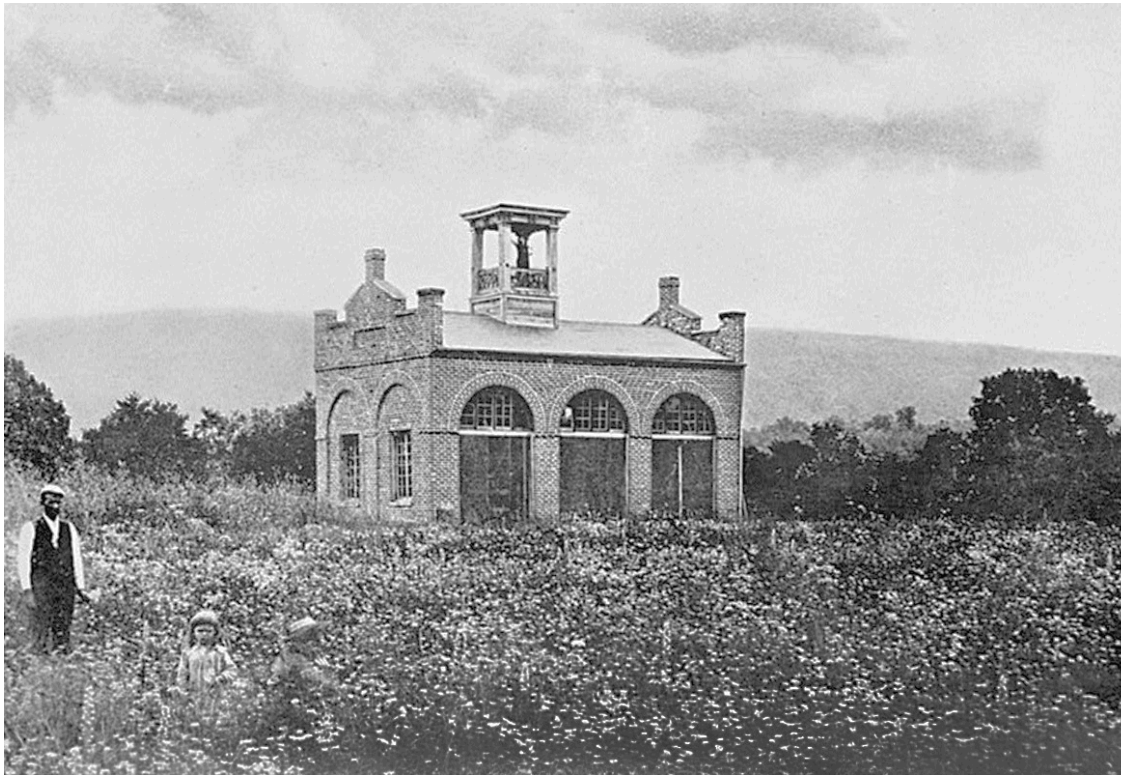


Figure 8: The relocated John Brown Fort on the southeastern corner of the farm. Note Loudoun Heights in the background, and the size and distance of the trees from the fort compared to Figure 17.



Figure 9: 1896 Pilgrimage to the John Brown Fort by the National League of Colored Women.

1920 to 2002

STASIS, NPS COMES TO TOWN

After 1910 the borders of Chambers-Murphy Farm were largely static, save for a 1999 re-drawing of the western boundary which will be discussed later in this section. Alexander Murphy died on July 8, 1931, dividing his estate between his children, William J. and Mary M. Murphy. Although the exact division of the estate is unclear, William most likely received the farm, because it is known that he and his family were living there as early as 1910 (Lee, NR Update Draft 2014: 37), and because Mary was specifically willed a house and property in town (Jefferson County deed book: 0136-0042). William Murphy died in 1941, leaving everything to his wife to raise their children (Jefferson County Will Book 7982-0474). The Chambers-Murphy Farm stayed within the Murphy family throughout the 20th Century, passing through a succession of heirs until 1997. From July through December of that year, Jefferson County Deed archives indicate that the last generation of Murphy heirs, Josephine Murphy Kuhn Curtis, and Karen Dixon Fuller acquired the property through a series of land transfers and deferred purchases (Jefferson County Deed Books: 871/5328, 871/5332, and 885/9126).

While Chambers-Murphy Farm itself remained relatively static throughout the 20th Century,

events were happening in the Harpers Ferry area which had great bearing on its future. In 1935, Harpers Ferry was recognized as a National Historic Landmark under the Historic Sites Act, which was for the first time declared a “national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States” (www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/hsact35.htm, retrieved 06/09/14). This law gave the National Park Service authority to survey and value historic sites, and to designate, preserve, and administer those of exceptional value. Harpers Ferry officially became a National Park when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt designated it a National Monument on June 30, 1944 (Schoolhouse Ridge North CLI, 2008). This served to solidify the NPS presence in Harpers Ferry and its environs. President John F. Kennedy designated it the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in 1963, and three years later the park was added to the brand new National Register of Historic Places (www.nps.gov/nr/about.htm, retrieved 06/09/14). In 1979, those portions of lower town Harpers Ferry which were not under NPS jurisdiction were added to the National Register as the Harpers Ferry Historic District, thus ensuring the preservation of lower town Harpers Ferry entire.

In 1997 Josephine Murphy Kuhn Curtis and Karen Dixon Fuller, both Murphy heirs, acquired the Chambers-Murphy Farm property. Soon after, they began planning to develop the property. In 1999, the two Murphy heirs agreed with Recreational Adventures Campgrounds, their western neighbors, to a redrawing of their property’s Western boundary. Small, equal amounts of land changed hands in the re-draw, which did not affect the total acreage of the farm (Figure 4), (Ebersole, *The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective*, Draft 2014: 10). Meanwhile, plans to develop the property moved forward; on December 21, 2001, Josephine Murphy Kuhn Curtis transferred the Chambers-Murphy Farm to Curtis WVA, LLC, a Maryland-based company run by her husband which planned to develop a 189 home residential community there dubbed “Murphy Landing” (Ebersole, *The Murphy Farm Property in Perspective*, Draft 2014: 10). For a variety of reasons, the residential development never materialized, and in 2002 Curtis WVA, LLC sold the Chambers-Murphy Farm property to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for inclusion in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Accordingly, TPL transferred the property to the National Park Service (NPS) on December 30, 2002.

The characteristics of the Chambers-Murphy Farm did not change much over the course of the 20th century. The land maintained its agricultural character, although the slopes of the bluff and the southwestern corner of the property, re-forested since the Civil War, continued to mature. This forest contained a successional mix of predominantly poplar, oak, and hickory, moving towards the region’s dominant oak-chestnut forest. The 500-tree orchard of Edmund Chambers’ time was never re-planted, although the extant farmhouse was built on the foundations of his. The outbuildings that Edmund Chambers built before the Civil War were either never rebuilt, or were sufficiently transient to have left no traces by the time the NPS acquired the property. At some point, light poles were installed to carry 1100’ of electrical lines from Murphy Road at the north end of the property to the farmhouse.

2002-Present

STABILIZATION, PRESERVATION, AND INTERPRETATION

Since 2002, The NPS has managed the Chambers-Murphy Farm and interpreted it primarily according to its roles in the Civil War and the Niagara Movement. In 2004, the Citizens Conservation Corps, in partnership with the NPS, conducted repairs on the Chambers-Murphy farm house. They repaired the roof, replaced six rotted window sills, stabilized a step, repaired and replaced damaged siding, capped the open well next to the house, enclosed a porch, and plastered and painted portions of the interior (Lee, HAFE NR Update Draft 2014: 38). Next, during March and April of 2006, a crew from the Historic Preservation Training Center conducted reconstruction and stabilization of the John Brown Fort foundation on the farm's southern end. The crew drained a pond that had formed in the foundation courtesy of the previously mentioned natural spring, excavated around the walls, stabilized historic structural components, and filled in the foundation's footprint with gravel for interpretive purposes. In August of that year, descendants of the original Niagara movement members reenacted the historic 1906 pilgrimage to the John Brown Fort site in celebration of its centennial anniversary. Also in 2006, the NPS removed the five electric utility poles that connected the Chambers-Murphy farm house to the main road, and buried the over 1100' of power line that had spanned the distance. The work required extensive trenching, the installation of a new transformer pad, and the excavation of numerous shove test pits (STPs) to prevent the disturbance of possible archeological sites (Ebersole. Phase I Archeological Report Draft 2014: 26). The last major work done on the Chambers-Murphy Farm was in 2007, when the NPS planted 15 cedar trees along approximately 500' of field adjacent to Murphy Road, at the Northern end of the property (Ebersole, Justin. Murphy Farm Phase I Archeological Report Draft 2014).

Today, the Chambers-Murphy Farm retains its agricultural character, and continues to be farmed for hay under a NPS-managed lease agreement. Civil War cannon have been added to low knoll roughly in the center of the property, aimed toward Bolivar Heights, for interpretive purposes. The farmhouse and the John Brown Fort foundation remain in their original locations, and the electrical lines to the farmhouse have been buried, bringing the farm's overall character more in line with the periods of significance.

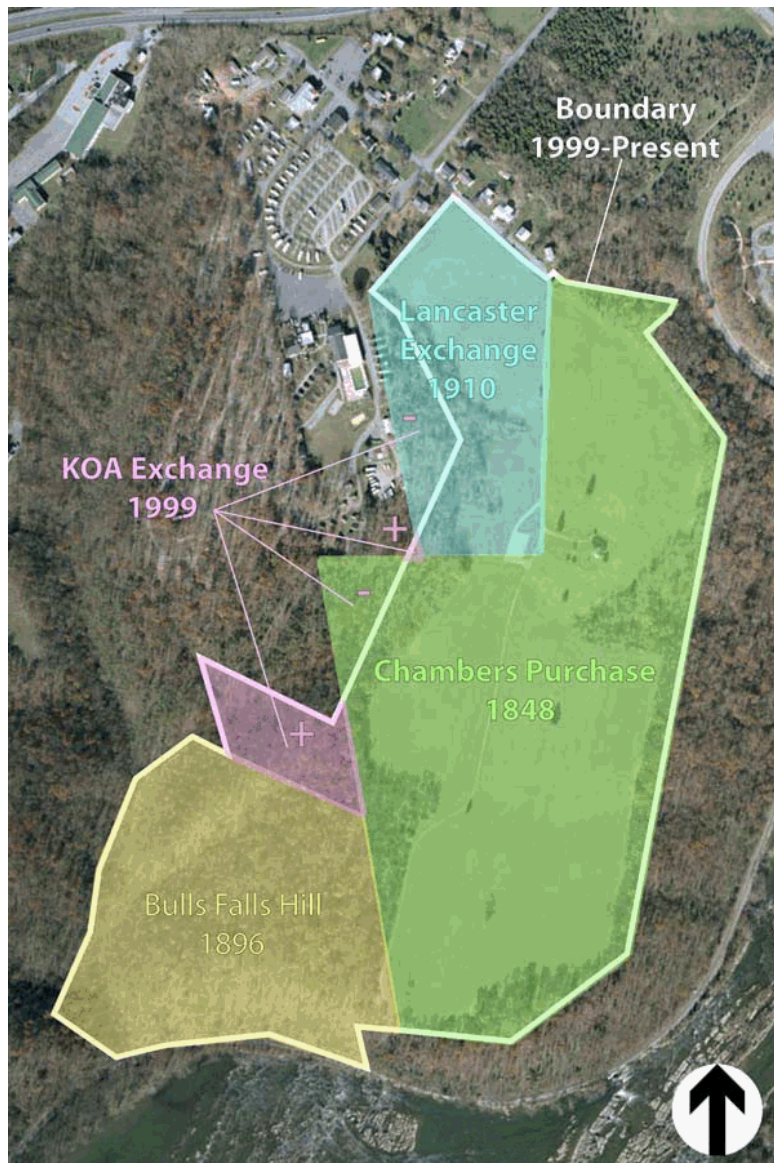


Figure 4: Boundary Changes : Historic boundary changes are overlaid over the current boundary, differentiated by color and date. 'Plus' and 'minus' signs depict gains and losses from the 1999 equal land exchange with the adjacent KOA campground.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Analysis and Evaluation Summary Narrative

This section evaluates the physical integrity of the cultural landscape at Chambers-Murphy Farm by comparing the landscape characteristics and features present during the Civil War period (1861-1865) and the John Brown Fort period (1895-1909) landscapes with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a cultural landscape which express its historic character and facilitate visitors' understanding of the site's history. Each characteristic or feature is classified as either a contributing or non-contributing element of the site's overall historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics were present during the site's period of significance; non-contributing characteristics weren't. Non-contributing features are considered compatible if they fit within the context of the historic period and match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Features considered incompatible are those which are inharmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and which lessen its historic character.

This section also evaluates the property's integrity in accordance with the National Register, which defines historic integrity as the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. A site listed on the National Register must have significance under at least one of the four National Register Criteria, and it must also retain integrity to the period of significance.

Location

Although the western boundary of the Chambers-Murphy Farm has been altered since the period of significance due to some land acquisition and boundary agreements, the original Chambers plat is fully incorporated in its original location. The farm's exterior field boundary appears to have changed little since the periods of significance save for some limited reclamation by second-growth forest in the northeast corner and along the former Allstadt boundary. Likewise, the farm entry road and the farmhouse occupy their original locations, and an extant foundation marks the former location of the relocated John Brown's Fort. Historic views of both lower town Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah River are in approximately their original locations, based on their historic relationship to the extant farmhouse and foundation. The farm entrance road from Murphy Road to the farmhouse also occupies its original location, and its extension to the southwest field corner follows a route that was extant during the Civil War, ostensibly connecting to the extant Civil War earthworks, which are also in their original location.

Setting

Due to the continued rural nature of the Harpers Ferry area as well as to the expansion of HFNHP, the Chambers-Murphy Farm has integrity of setting to both periods of significance. The inventory

unit's topographic relationship to surrounding landforms explains its tactical importance to Civil War operations around Harpers Ferry. Those landforms: Bolivar Heights, Loudoun Heights, Maryland Heights, and Schoolhouse Ridge, have been at least partially incorporated into HFNHP and maintained in a state similar to that which existed during the Civil War era. This has both preserved the farm's rural setting and facilitated its interpretation as part of the larger context of Civil War operations around Harpers Ferry. On the farm itself, the continued cultivation under a NPS hay lease maintains its historic agricultural setting.

Feeling

Because the farmhouse is at its original location, the stabilized foundation marks the location of the John Brown's Fort, the original field edges are mostly intact, and the property is still used for agriculture, its historic feeling as a rural farmstead is intact. The property is free from modern intrusions, and it is possible for visitors to imagine it frozen in time; when evaluated together with the existing Civil War earthworks and associated resources on nearby parcels, its feeling as a farmstead overtaken by war is prominent in the visitor's experience.

Association

The property's association with historic agricultural activities is readily apparent, since farming is still actively taking place there. Its association with Civil War activities, while less readily apparent without interpretation, is strikingly apparent with minimal interpretation of the extant topography, both on and around the inventory unit. The existing Civil War earthworks on the property add to the farm's Civil War associations and facilitate appreciation of the terrain from a Civil War tactical standpoint. Likewise, the NPS interpretive cannons in the center of the farm, in concert with the extant view of Bolivar Heights, highlight the farm's tactical importance in the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry.

The farm maintains its association with the early Civil Rights movement through the stabilized foundation of John Brown's Fort, which remains at the location where the fort stood from 1895 to 1909. Although the building has moved on, its footprint remains, calling to mind a time when a corner of the Chambers-Murphy Farm was a place of pilgrimage for former slaves, abolitionists, and early civil rights leaders.

Association with historic agricultural activities is primarily maintained through active farming of the property via a NPS lease. Although the actual crops and methods differ than those grown during the periods of significance, farming maintains the agrarian nature of the property.

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Chambers-Murphy Farm are natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small scale features.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition:

The cultural landscape of Chambers-Murphy Farm during both of its periods of significance was chiefly influenced by two natural systems: the Shenandoah River and its tributaries, and the

region's dominant oak-chestnut forest. As the Shenandoah River cut through the limestone of the upper Shenandoah Valley, it created a landscape of high bluffs, with their steep, forested slopes precipitously falling to the river below. Thin strips of low, flood-prone land clung to the bases of these slopes, promising easy access to hydro-power for industry, but also exposure to the ravages of the river's violent floods. Just as the main channel of the Shenandoah cut through the limestone of the valley floor, runoff from the ridge and mountain tops wore passages through the steep slopes en-route to the river. These annual and intermittent streams cut steep ravines into the land, creating the flat-topped bluffs and steep headlands of the Shenandoah shoreline. Two such streams defined the bluff upon which sat the 52 acres of Edmund Chambers' Buena Vista farm. The stream on the northeastern edge of the farm created a deep ravine which separated Buena Vista from Cavalier Heights to the northeast. On the southwestern edge, another large ravine complex separated Edmund Chambers' bluff from the lower-lying land between Bolivar Heights and the southern end of Schoolhouse Ridge. These two intermittent streams along with the Shenandoah River formed the eastern, southern, and western physical limits of Buena Vista's land form. The transition between the steep slopes rising from these water features and the relatively flat bluff-top marked the extent of arable land as well as the approximate boundary of Edmund Chambers' holdings. A natural spring discharged on a low knoll at the southern end of the property, and was probably used to supply water for some portion of the farm's needs. It also likely enhanced the farm's attractiveness as a bivouac site for Civil War soldiers of both sides due to the availability of drinking water. When John Brown's Fort was rebuilt on the farm in 1895, Alexander Murphy offered the area around the spring for it, possibly so the foundation of an earlier spring house could be used.

When Edmund Chambers began developing his land in 1848, he likely encountered a mature oak-hickory forest including white and red oak, hickory, poplar, ash, chestnut, and black walnut. By the time of the Civil War, Chambers had put his acreage into agricultural production. The areas which were too steep to farm on the margins of the property and on ravine slopes remained forested, and were probably used by Chambers to supply the farm's timber needs. By 1861, Buena Vista consisted of cleared agricultural land across the top of the bluff, abruptly transitioning to steep, thickly forested slopes on the eastern, southern, and western sides. Smaller forested ravines cut into the plateau at intervals from the east and west.

Over the course of the Civil War, the Harpers Ferry area, to include the Chambers-Murphy Farm, was denuded of trees to support the needs of the thousands of soldiers living and operating there. When Edmund Chambers returned to Buena Vista in 1865, he described the landscape as "a perfect prairie" (Chambers Family Goes to War Part Two, Draft 2014:4). Between 1866 and 1871, first John Cockrell and then Alexander Murphy returned the farm to agricultural production. As before, slope dictated the extent of arable land, and areas which were too steep were left to re-forest through secondary succession. By the beginning of the property's second period of significance in 1895, the areas of the farm that were forest before the Civil War were reforested, although it was forest of a slightly different character; what had been in 1861 a mature stand of oak, hickory, poplar, ash, chestnut, and black walnut was in 1895 a stand in intermediate secondary succession. It most likely consisted primarily of tulip

poplar and pines and had a relatively thick shrub layer, with young specimens of later successional species such as oak, hickory, beech, and chestnut.

Existing Condition:

The Shenandoah River and its tributaries continue to frame and shape the landscape around Chambers-Murphy Farm, essentially unchanged since the periods of significance. Likewise, the slope conditions on the edges of the bluff and the ravines continue to dictate the extent and shape of the property's arable area as they did during the periods of significance. When the NPS acquired Chambers-Murphy Farm in 2002, the natural spring had filled in the extant stone foundation where John Brown's Fort had stood. A NPS stabilization project in 2006 drained and stabilized the foundation and capped the spring so that it no longer reaches the surface.

The forest has increased in size, thickness, and extent both on the inventory unit and in the surrounding landscape since the 1861-1865 and 1895-1909 periods of significance. Even before the mass-deforestation that accompanied the Civil War, forests around Harpers Ferry were thinner and less extensive than they are today due to land clearing and logging practices in support of the town's rapidly expanding industrial complex. Since the mass de-forestation that accompanied the Civil War, forests in the Harpers Ferry area have been in a state of recovery. This recovery was first facilitated by the fact that the town's industry never returned to pre-war levels; the federal armory complex was never rebuilt, and of the Virginus Island mills that operated after the war, the last shut down for good in 1935 (Virginus Island CLI, 2003:63). Also, the 1944 designation of Harpers Ferry as a national landmark and the park's subsequent expansion to nearly 4,000 acres have precluded logging and facilitated reforestation in the area.

Alexander Murphy's 1896 acquisition of "Bulls Falls Hill" from Allstadt heir Susan Henkle added 28 acres of forested land to the farm's southwestern corner. This substantially increased the amount of forest on the property, and the parcel has remained forested at least since that time. The condition of the Henkle parcel at the Civil War's conclusion is unknown. However, due to the positions of extant Civil War artillery emplacements (which would have required extensive timber clearing for fields of fire), and the known wartime treatment of the adjacent Chambers property, it is assumed that this parcel was also denuded of forest during the war. Therefore, the actual amount of forested land on the inventory unit increased between the first (1861-1865) and second (1895-1909) periods of significance, but the relationship of the forested to the cleared land on the farm has remained the same from Edmund Chambers' time to the present day. The upland, mixed-hardwood, deciduous forest present on Murphy-Chambers Farm today contains two differential dominant species: "tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)), which dominates moist lower slopes, ravines, and benches, and chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), which dominates drier positions and aspects (Vanderhorst, 2000; Bartgis and Ludwig, 1996, as quoted by Wong, 2010:19). Within the chestnut oak communities, drier areas are characterized by an understory containing Blue Ridge blueberry (*vaccinium pallidum*), while wetter areas are typified by red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and sweet birch (*Betula lenta*) in the canopy and several characteristic shrub and herbaceous species in the understory. In areas where thin soil overlies bedrock, an oak-hickory dominated forest containing white ash (*Fraxinus americanus*) and

scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*) is prevalent. These rocky, steep, typically north-facing slopes are rarely found below 2,500' in West Virginia, and support the area's richest assemblage of montane species (Vanderhorst, 2000, as cited by Wong, 2010:19). HFNHP vegetation classification maps identify the eastern-edge forest of Chambers-Murphy Farm as "*Quercus* (*alba*, *prinus*, *rubra*)-*Fraxinus americana*-*Carya*(*alba*, *cordiformis*, *glabra*)/*Cercis canadensis*" or oak (white, chestnut, red)-ash-hickory (mockernut, bitternut, pignut)/redbud forest, and the southern edge as "*Quercus prinus*/*Vaccinium pallidum*" or Chestnut Oak/Blue Ridge Blueberry forest (NHNHP vegclass map, 2000).

Photographs taken of John Brown's Fort during the Chambers-Murphy Farm's second period of significance (1895-1909) indicate that the farm's eastern-edge forest was shorter than it is today. Most likely, a combination of two reasons is cause for the change in forest height; the forest during those years was still in the early-intermediate stage of succession, so the trees weren't fully grown; and Alexander Murphy may have farmed further down the slope than is done currently. Although photographs of other portions of the surrounding forest have yet to be found, the historic photographs showing the forest at Chambers-Murphy Farm's southwest corner are likely representative of the forest all around the inventory unit during the 1895-1909 period of significance.

Evaluation:

The relationship of the Shenandoah River and its tributaries to the Chambers-Murphy Farm has not changed since Edmund Chambers first developed the property for agriculture. The capping of the naturally occurring spring at the former John Brown Fort site represents a slight loss of integrity with the Civil War (1861-1865) period of significance, when soldiers of both sides may have used it to supply their needs. However, it serves to maintain historic integrity to the John Brown Fort (1895-1909) period by helping to stabilize the extant fort foundation.

The upland, mixed hardwood, deciduous forest around the edges and steeply-sloped portions of the Chambers-Murphy Farm defines the edges of the cultivated lands and helps to maintain the character of the landscape as it was during both periods of significance. Most of the deforestation that occurred during the Civil War was probably hap-hazard in nature, conducted by bivouacking soldiers as needs arose. The area in front of the extant fortifications on the southern end of the property, however, was likely cleared in order to remove cover and open fields of fire for the artillery and riflemen covering the most likely avenues of approach. Therefore, the existence of forest vegetation both on the earthworks themselves and in areas that would have been cleared for their observation and fires negatively impacts the site's integrity to the Civil War (1861-1865) period of significance.

Overall, natural systems on the Chambers-Murphy Farm retain higher integrity to the John Brown Fort period of significance than to the Civil War period, primarily because the existing mature woodland does not reflect the destruction visited upon it during the war. High integrity to both periods remains, however, because the forest helps maintain the property's character as a rural farmstead, which it was before, during, and after both significant periods.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Edge-Condition Mature Forest

Feature Identification Number:	169309
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Mature Forest in Front of Earthworks
Feature Identification Number:	169311
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Shenandoah River
Feature Identification Number:	169305
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Natural Spring
Feature Identification Number:	169307
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible

Spatial Organization

Historic Condition:

Edmund Chambers' original 52 acre plot was shaped like the flat-head screwdriver blade of a Swiss-Army knife (See Figure 4). Thinner at the northern end, it covered the eastern half of the plateau for just over a third of the plateau's length, or approximately 1,000 feet, before doubling in width to cover the entire bluff-top until it fell away to the Shenandoah River. Just south of the point where the property doubled in width, an east-west running ravine cut into the bluff-top. The combination of this ravine and the property boundary conspired to make this area a choke point; the thinnest area of arable land on the property sandwiched between a steep ravine and the neighbor's land. It was here that Edmund Chambers chose to build his farmhouse, which he connected to the road network via a 950 foot long dirt road running north-south along the farm's western boundary. Both the road and the farmhouse were shown on the 1852 survey, only four years after Chambers acquired the property. Chambers continued to develop the property in the years leading up to the Civil War. Descriptions from post-war damage claims suggest that by 1861 it included a barn, stable, and other outbuildings, as well as an orchard and a garden. Although the spatial organization of these features is unknown, era farms in the region usually had outbuildings clustered close to the main farmhouse. The only known outbuilding location on the Chambers farm was a spring house located over a natural spring at the southern end of the property, where the John Brown Fort foundation now sits.

The farm's western boundary generally followed the eastern branch of a large ravine complex and abutted land owned by the Allstadt family. In 1896, during the property's second period of significance, then-owner Alexander Murphy acquired 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres at the southwestern corner of his property from Allstadt heir Susan Henkle. Known as Bulls Falls Hill, this property occupied the eastern slope of the previously mentioned ravine and contained the extant Civil War earthworks. This acquisition, while adding significantly to the overall acreage of the property,

did not significantly affect its spatial organization.

The internal spatial organization of the fields on the Chambers-Murphy Farm is unknown during either period of significance. The overall boundaries of the cultivated area conformed to the terrain. Agricultural production occurred on all areas that were flat enough; the approximate boundaries of the fields were therefore the Allstadt boundary on the western side, today's Murphy Road on the north, and the bluff-edge on the eastern and southern sides. One large ravine created un-farmable land which cut into the field behind and to the south of the farmhouse (See Figures 5, 11).

Existing Condition:

The current farmhouse on Chambers-Murphy Farm was built on the same location of Edmund Chambers' original farmhouse, which was largely destroyed during the property's 1861-1865 period of significance. Also, the entrance road connecting Murphy Road to the farmhouse appears to be in the same location as Edmund Chambers' original. The existence of relatively old cedar trees with wire affixed and grown into them on the northern, eastern, and southern field edges supports the National Register nomination's assertion that during the 132 years of Murphy family ownership, the farm "remained largely unchanged" (HAFE NR update Draft, 2014). Likewise, a line of older oak trees with barbed wire grown into them marks the former Allstadt boundary on the southwest edge of the farm. The proximity of these trees to the present field's western edge may indicate that this edge has remained relatively stable since at least 1896. Further archeological research may be able to determine the exact field boundaries and spatial organization of the farm both before its Civil War destruction, and during the second (1895-1909) period of significance. In 1910, Alexander Murphy added additional arable land to the northwest corner of the property through a land deal with Eliza Lancaster. This deal added the field north of the present parking lot and west of the farm entrance drive, and gave the farm the approximately 500' of Murphy Road frontage that it has today (See Figure 4).

Evaluation:

Aside from the location of the farmhouse, entrance road, and springhouse, little is known about the pre-Civil War configuration of Chambers-Murphy Farm. From Edmund Chambers war claims, it is known that several other outbuildings existed, but further archeological research is needed to determine their locations. Likewise, further research is needed to determine the size, layout, and location of Edmund Chambers' garden and orchard. Although it is likely, due to topographical considerations, that the northern, eastern, and southern field boundaries have remained static since Edmund Chambers first developed the property, more research is needed to determine this for sure. The addition of land on the western side of the farm entry road approximately doubled the amount of arable land in the northern portion of the farm since the period of significance that ended in 1910. Further research is needed to determine how the land transfer with Eliza Lancaster affected the character of Chambers-Murphy Farm's northwestern boundary. Although further research is also needed to determine the exact field boundary in the vicinity of Bulls Falls Hill, the steepness of the terrain as it falls into the ravine likely precluded significant expansion into that area after Alexander Murphy acquired it in 1896.

The presence of barbed wire grown into extant oak trees along the former Allstadt boundary could indicate its use as a field boundary, and further research could determine when the barbed wire was installed.

Overall, the spatial organization of Chambers-Murphy Farm retains fair integrity to both the 1861-1865 and the 1895-1909 periods of significance. What integrity it does retain is due to the fundamentally unchanged relationship of the farm to the flat bluff-top, and to the unchanged locations of the farmhouse, the entrance road, and the springhouse/John Brown Fort foundation. The greatest impact to that integrity was the addition of Eliza Lancaster's lands west of the entrance road in 1910, which changed the character of the entry road from an edge condition to a field-bifurcation.

It should be noted that the spatial organization's historic integrity is negatively affected less by any known changes since the periods of significance than by a lack of specific knowledge regarding the property's spatial organization during those time periods. Further archeological research could address this knowledge gap.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Entrance Road
Feature Identification Number:	169313
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Farm House
Feature Identification Number:	169315
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Allstadt Boundary Fence-line
Feature Identification Number:	169317
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 5: Comparison of 2011 and 1952 aerial photographs shows internal spatial organization that may give clues to the farm's historic internal organization.

Land Use

Historic Condition:

The Shenandoah River bluff containing Murphy-Chambers Farm has been used almost continuously for agricultural activities since 1848, when Edmund Chambers purchased and developed the original 52 acres. Chambers is known to have cultivated a small garden near his farmhouse, which was built on the current house's location, and a 500-tree orchard. Available evidence from his war claim suggests that Chambers farmed corn and wheat on the remainder of his land. During the Civil War, the Chambers-Murphy Farm was actively fought over, was used as a bivouac area and was also a defensive position. During an 1861 cavalry clash that became known as the "Skirmish at Bolivar Heights", the Chambers family was forced to flee their home. From official accounts of the battle, it seems that the combatants traversed the Chambers-Murphy Farm. Union officers were garrisoned on Chambers Farm during the Federal occupation of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar in 1862. During the September 1862 Battle of Bolivar Heights, the farm was on the extreme left flank of Union Col. Dixon Miles' position. An abatis of fallen timber was constructed in the vicinity of Bulls Falls Hill, and Federal soldiers occupied the northern end of the bluff. Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill's division established an artillery position on Chambers' farm on the morning of September 15, 1862 in the battle's decisive maneuver.

Between 1862 and 1865, the farm was in an abandoned condition, as Chambers and his family

had fled to Pennsylvania. For six weeks during late fall of 1862, 15,000 Union soldiers bivouacked on Bolivar Heights, and from August 1864 until the end of the war in April 1865, Bolivar Heights was defended along its whole length from the Shenandoah to the Potomac Rivers by Union soldiers. This position included present-day Chambers-Murphy Farm, and the extant earthworks in the southwest corner are from this period.

The Chambers-Murphy Farm's agricultural operation was destroyed between 1862 and 1865, but was rebuilt between 1866 and 1871 by first John Cockrell and then Alexander Murphy. Although the exact timeline of reconstruction is unknown, by 1871 the property's original 52 acres was back under agricultural production, and, by all accounts, has remained so ever since. Alexander Murphy enlarged the property through the 28-acre acquisition of Bulls Falls Hill on the property's southwest corner in 1896. During both periods of significance, Chambers-Murphy Farm was identifiable as a rural farmstead, although from 1862-1865 it was not under active cultivation. The site also experienced domestic use during both periods of significance as the home of first the Chambers, and then the Murphy families. During the second period of significance (1895-1909), when it was the site of John Brown's Fort, the farm also experienced commemorative use in the form of pilgrimages to the fort. Therefore, the historic uses for the Chambers-Murphy Farm property were agricultural, domestic, military, and commemorative.

Existing Condition:

Alexander Murphy enlarged the farm's arable area with a 1910 land deal with Eliza Lancaster that resulted in the addition of the fields west of the entrance road, and brought the property to its present 97.946 acres. While this changed the physical shape of the fields, agriculture remained the dominant land use. Chambers-Murphy Farm has remained in agricultural production from its reconstruction in 1871 until the present. Today, hay is farmed on the property via the National Park Service's agricultural lease program. Since the NPS acquired the property, they have also managed it for interpretive purposes according to its dual role in the Civil War and in the early civil rights movement, and for recreation. The property is open to the public, and the NPS maintains gates, a dirt road and parking lot, trails, interpretive signage, and civil war cannon. The property still experiences commemorative use as the former site of John Brown's Fort, most notably in 2006 when descendants of the original Niagara Movement members recreated the group's historic 1906 pilgrimage.

Evaluation:

The current use of the Chambers-Murphy Farm has some integrity to the property's periods of significance. While the current hay lease maintains the property's historic character as a rural farmstead, further research is needed to determine exactly what crops Edmund Chambers and Alexander Murphy farmed during their respective tenures. Edmund Chambers' 500-tree orchard would have been an important feature of the landscape by 1861. More research is needed to determine the location, size, and makeup of the orchard, but its re-addition to the landscape would enhance integrity to the 1861-1865 period of significance. The property was not actively farmed between 1862 and 1865. However, its character remained that of a

farmstead, overtaken by war. The NPS interpretive signage, the introduced cannons, and the extant civil war earthworks juxtaposed to the property's continuing agricultural use emphasizes that historic character.

The inventory unit maintains some integrity to its historic agricultural use through the current agricultural lease. There currently is no domestic use of the property; however, the historic domestic use is partially interpreted through the stabilization of the extant farmhouse on its historic location. Likewise, there is no current military use of the property, but the historic military use is partially interpreted through the placement of cannons and through the extant Civil War earthworks. There is also some integrity to the farm's historic commemorative use through the stabilization of the historic foundation of John Brown's Fort.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Murphy Farm House

Feature Identification Number: 169319

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: John Brown Fort Foundation

Feature Identification Number: 169321

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Civil War Redan

Feature Identification Number: 169323

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Civil War Rifle Trench

Feature Identification Number: 169325

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Civil War Cannons

Feature Identification Number: 169327

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Farm Field

Feature Identification Number: 169329

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

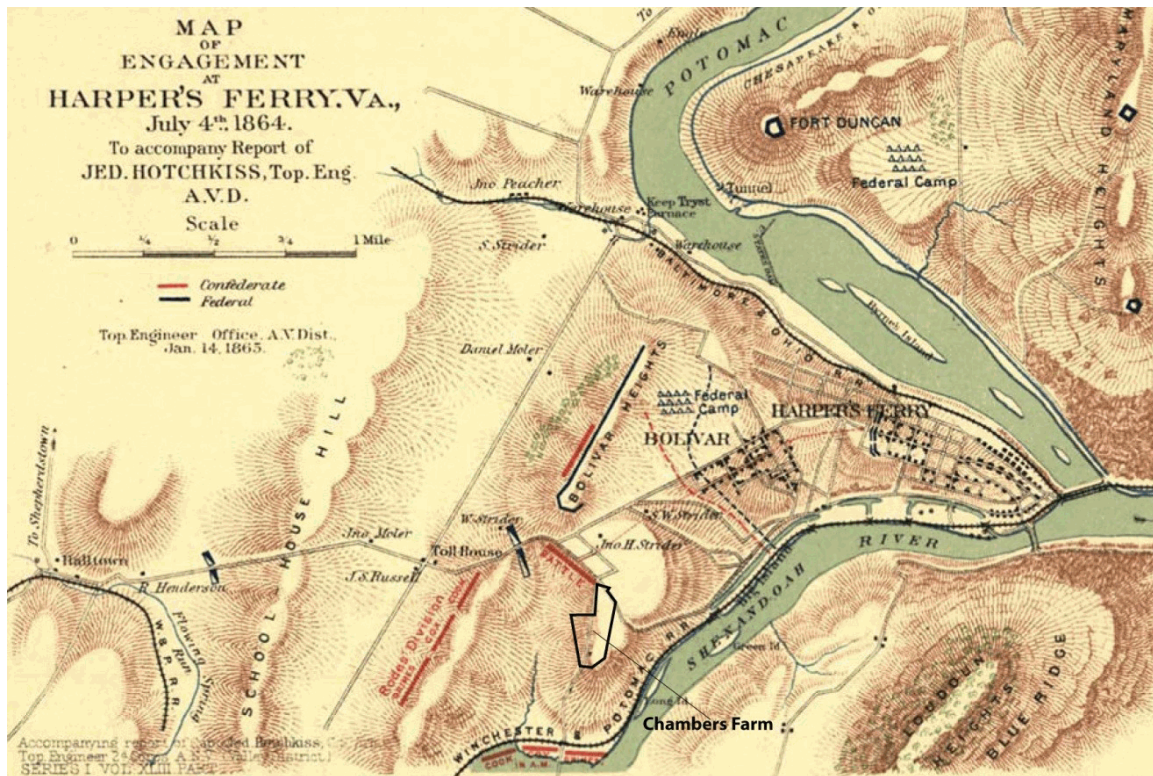


Figure 7: Map showing the July, 1864 seizure of Harpers Ferry by Confederate Forces. Note the Chambers Farm outlined in black, and the farm entrance road extending through the property to what appears to be a bridge across the Shenandoah River.

Topography

Historic Condition:

The inventory unit historically occupied a high river bluff overlooking a ninety-degree bend in the Shenandoah River. The landform itself was the southern terminus of Bolivar Heights, a 623 foot-high, north to south running ridgeline that spanned between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers about 2 miles west of Harpers Ferry. Steep ravines, which fed the Shenandoah River, formed the western and northeastern boundaries of the plateau, separating it from Cavalier Heights to the north and from the southern terminus of Schoolhouse Ridge to the south. The plateau upon which the farm sat was surrounded by steep, down-sloping terrain all around its perimeter except for approximately 500 feet of the northern edge. It averaged 480 feet above mean sea level (MSL), and 180 feet above the Shenandoah River. Smaller, feeder ravines cut into the bluff-top from the east and west, most notably on the eastern side, where a ravine cut deep into it behind and to the south of the farmhouse; this ravine was probably used by A.P. Hill's Confederates to outflank the Union defense during the September 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry. The top of the plateau itself was relatively flat, rolling terrain created by the interplay between ravines and bluff-top. Five small hillocks constituted the high points on the farm, ten to twenty feet higher than the surrounding terrain. The Chambers-Murphy farmhouse occupied the highest of these, at its present location. While the exact placement of the 1862 Confederate artillery is not known, the central hillock immediately south of the farmhouse was a potential

and likely position. Another hillock at the farm's southeastern corner housed a spring house and then the relocated John Brown's Fort. The eastern and southern edges of the bluff were characterized by steep, cliff-like slopes down to the Shenandoah River. To the north, the land gradually rose and became a more defined ridgeline as it crossed Charles Town Pike (today's US 340) and merged into Bolivar Heights proper. The entire area was commanded by 1100-foot-high Loudoun Heights, across the Shenandoah River to the east. The southwestern tip of the farm's promontory commanded the southern approaches along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Shenandoah River. Consequently, it was fortified by Union soldiers in August 1864; they constructed a redan for an artillery battery, and a supporting rifle trench about halfway down the slope. Together, these fortifications defended the bluff's southern approaches in order to prevent a repeat of Hill's 1862 flanking maneuver.

Existing Condition:

The topography of the area has not significantly changed since the periods of significance. The Chambers-Murphy Farm still occupies the southern tip of Bolivar Heights, forming a high, flat-topped promontory that juts out over a ninety-degree bend of the Shenandoah River at Bulls Falls. It is a highly topographically defined parcel, surrounded on three sides by steep down-slopes which sometimes approach vertical, and which all-but-preclude land approach except from the north-northwest, along present-day Murphy Road. The Civil War redan and rifle trench are extant on the southern tip of the bluff, although further archeological research is needed to determine if, and to what extent, they have been disturbed or modified by previous owners. The Chambers-Murphy farmhouse occupies its original location on the farm's high point, and a stabilized foundation marks the historic location of John Brown's Fort on the farm's southernmost hillock. A recent Phase I archeological investigation conducted a thorough analysis of the micro-terrain of the site, and found a series of push piles and linear mounds that follow the field boundary. These were likely formed by plowing and other agricultural operations over the years, and indicate the approximate locations of historic field boundaries.

Evaluation:

The topography of the inventory unit retains high integrity to both the Civil War (1891-1865) and the John Brown Fort (1895-1909) periods of significance. Now, as then, the varied nature and high relief of the terrain both on and around the inventory unit define the landform. They also create highly channelized avenues of approach and provide distinct areas of cover and concealment; terrain attributes which were used to good effect by soldiers of both sides during the Civil War and which aid in the understanding of the area's historic military operations today. The terrain still dictates the extent of the agricultural operation on the farm much as it did during the periods of significance, and it still provides the commanding views of the Shenandoah River valley that made it an opportune, aesthetically-pleasing site for the relocated John Brown Fort.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Bolivar Heights
Feature Identification Number:	169331
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: Loudoun Heights
Feature Identification Number: 169333
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Shenandoah River
Feature Identification Number: 169335
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cavalier Heights
Feature Identification Number: 169337
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Schoolhouse Ridge
Feature Identification Number: 169339
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ravine Behind Farm House
Feature Identification Number: 169341
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bulls Falls Hill
Feature Identification Number: 169343
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 10: Significant topography of the immediate Harpers Ferry area explains the tactical significance of the Chambers-Murphy Farm (right frame, middle).



Figure 11: Aerial photograph of the inventory unit shows the rugged topography of the area in stark relief. Note the extant Civil War earthworks and the various ravines providing avenues of approach to the Chambers-Murphy plateau.



*Figure 12: Extant Civil War rifle trench. *Extent of disturbance by previous property owners is unknown at this time.*

Circulation

Historic Condition:

Historic maps of Jefferson County, Virginia show that by 1852, Edmund Chambers had constructed an approximately 950 foot road connecting his farmhouse with present-day Murphy Road. Murphy Road itself continued on, defining the northern boundary of the Chambers Farm as it continued east to the low land along the Shenandoah River and then turned north towards

Virginus Island and lower town Harpers Ferry. Today, Murphy road ends at the entrance to Chambers-Murphy Farm, although the historic road trace and cut is still visible today. The historic trace is picked up approximately 900 feet later by present-day Shoreline Drive (See Figure 2, Site Map). By 1862, the entrance road on Chambers-Murphy farm had undergone no major changes. However, an 1865 map by engineer Jedediah Hotchkiss shows the farm entrance road extending through the farm, over the bluffs, and across the Shenandoah River at Bulls Falls (see figure 7). This could indicate either new construction, or the improvement of an existing farm road. Regardless, it indicates the increased military importance and use of the farm's circulation system by federal forces. It also opens the possibility that a bridge across the Shenandoah at Bulls Falls connected union positions on Loudoun and Bolivar Heights by 1864. More research is needed to determine whether this was the case. The August 1864 construction of the artillery redan and rifle trench at the southern tip of the farm's bluff would have warranted extension or improvement of the pre-civil war farm road at least that far, to facilitate re-supply, reinforcement, and tactical mobility.

Existing Condition:

The farm's gravel entrance road exists in its original location, extending from Murphy Road to the farmhouse. The section of the road from the farmhouse to the southwestern field corner, which may have been improved or constructed during the Civil War, is also extant (see figures 2, (site map) and 7). A gravel parking lot capable of accommodating 10 passenger cars is on the western side of the entry road, adjacent to the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse. The Park Service currently maintains two trail systems on the property. A mown trail connects the two ends of the farm entrance road by following the farm field's eastern edge, linking vistas and interpretive points at the John Brown Fort foundation, the Confederate artillery position, and the farmhouse. A second, dirt hiking trail runs from the southern end of the farm entrance road in a 0.5 mile semi-circle to the west, passing the civil war earthworks and through the wooded ravine that marks the farm's western boundary before linking back up with the entrance road at the road's 45 degree western jog (see figure 2, site map). A 0.2 mile spur trail departs this trail to the west, continuing onto property owned by the neighboring Kampgrounds of America (KOA) campground. The combined trail and road system on the inventory unit totals approximately 3 miles. Analysis of available aerial photography indicates that the internal circulation system on the Chambers-Murphy farm has evolved to meet the current needs of the occupants at any given time over the past 62 years. Apart from the farm entrance road from Murphy Road to the farmhouse, which has remained in its present location since Edmund Chambers first developed the land, the patterns appear to have come and gone according to the frequency of use. In other words, the farmers drove or walked wherever they needed to go on the fields, and the most frequently used paths became visible as wheel ruts. The present, NPS-maintained circulation systems across the open field mirror portions of this vernacular circulation system. The extension of the farm entrance road from the farmhouse to the field's southwest corner is evident on late civil war military maps, and it has been more or less visible as wheel ruts over the past six-plus decades, but it was not formalized as a gravel road until after the NPS acquired the property in 2002. Evidence of frequent internal circulation around the field perimeter is also evident from aerial photography, and has been formalized by the NPS

in the form of mown paths. The NPS created the half-mile loop trail through Bulls Falls Hill by linking together a path to the Civil War earthworks that had been created by previous owners, a path leading to the property from the adjacent campground, and an abandoned road from a 2001 well-drilling operation.

A network of unofficial “social” trails descends partway down the face of the southern edge of the bluff from the Bulls Falls overlook. This was probably created by visitors looking for better vantage points.

The remains of a road trace follow the edge of the bluff in the farm’s southeastern corner, well within today’s tree-line behind the John Brown’s Fort foundation. This indicates that the field perimeter road used to continue along the bluff edge, rather than making the ninety-degree inland jog that the mown path makes today. It also indicates that the cultivated field in this area used to extend further towards the bluff-edge, which is corroborated by historic photographs from the John Brown’s Fort period of significance.

Evaluation:

The circulation system on Chambers-Murphy Farm retains some integrity to both periods of significance, primarily due to the existence of the pre-Civil War dirt entrance road in its original location. While it is unclear whether the entrance road’s extension to the property’s southwestern corner was an internal circulation pattern prior to 1864, its existence on Civil War maps of the area indicate that it was at least improved upon for military use during the war. Its continued existence at the same location adds integrity to the Civil War period of significance. Other patterns of internal circulation that existed on the farm during the periods of significance are unknown, but it is likely that they were similar to the circulation system maintained by the NPS today, given their probable creation through repeated use rather than by formal layout. Therefore the circulation systems on the property today generally have integrity of location, setting, and character to the period of significance. The main entrance road probably does not have integrity of materials, as the entrance road was likely packed dirt created by repeated use, rather than today’s improved gravel surface. The only place where today’s path appears to diverge from the historic circulation pattern is the ninety-degree jog around the John Brown Fort foundation in the farm’s southeast corner. The field perimeter road here appears to have historically continued to follow the perimeter of the bluff-top rather than turn inland. This is corroborated by the partial road trace, period photographs, and push piles found by the Phase I archeological investigation.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Entry Road from Gate to Farm House

Feature Identification Number: 169347

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entry Road from Farm House to SW Corner

Feature Identification Number: 169345

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Dirt Parking Lot and Semi-circular Drive
Feature Identification Number:	169349
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Mown Trail
Feature Identification Number:	169351
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Wooded Dirt Trail
Feature Identification Number:	169353
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible

Vegetation

Historic Condition:

When the Civil War began in 1861, Edmund Chambers primarily grew wheat on his 52-acre farm. He also had a 500-tree orchard and a home garden near the farmhouse. The mature oak-hickory forest that had covered the Harpers Ferry area prior to agricultural development had been cleared from the relatively flat top of Buena Vista's plateau, but still dominated the steep slopes leading down to the Shenandoah River and the draws which defined the landform (see figures 5, 8, 10, 11). There were likely American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) trees in abundance, the wood of which was desirable for fence-posts. According to post war damage claims, the property also contained several acres of standing timber, which was likely forest that was left standing on non-arable areas of the farm. Judging by Jennie Chambers' (Edmund's daughter) description of the Battle of Harpers Ferry in 1862, there were also trees around the Chambers farmhouse: "One shell exploded in front of the cellar door; another cut a limb from a large tree at the corner of the house" (Chambers Family Goes to War Part Two, Draft 2014:3).

Period farms in the Harpers Ferry area tended to have existing vegetation, or fencerows that helped define internal field boundaries and boundaries with adjacent lands. Further research is needed to determine if, and where fencerows may have existed on Edmund Chambers' farm, although vegetation extant in 1952 aerial photographs may provide clues to the locations of earlier fencerows and internal field organization on the property (see figure 5).

Buena Vista's southwestern boundary with the adjacent Allstadt holdings represented its longest, and perhaps only, border with adjacent agricultural lands. Although further research is needed to determine whether this is in fact the case, it is probable that some form of fence or fencerow was used during Chambers' tenure to delineate this border and to separate his from the Allstadt fields.

During the Civil War, Edmund Chambers' orchard was destroyed, and the forested areas around his farm were largely denuded of trees by the opposing armies. According to Chambers, "They [soldiers] occupied the buildings and land all the time. And when they left, they left it wholly destroyed, tied their horses to my fruit trees till they ate all the bark off them, cut them down and burnt them up. Carried my wheat off to make beds in their tents" (Chambers Family Goes to War, Draft 2014:4).

By the beginning of the property's second period of significance in 1895, the farm had been restored to agricultural production by some combination of the efforts of first John G. Cockrell and then Alexander Murphy. The orchard was never re-planted, and its historic location is presently unknown. Photographs from this period indicate that the farm's field-edge forests on the slopes to the Shenandoah River were not mature, but were still in a state of recovery (see figures 8, 9). In 1896, Alexander Murphy acquired a portion of the adjacent Allstadt property, known as Bulls Falls Hill, from Allstadt heir Susan Henkle. Located on the farm's southwestern corner, this addition contained the extant Civil War earthworks. The condition of the property at the time of Murphy's acquisition is unknown. However, based on its known use for military operations during the Civil War, on the post-war condition of nearby lands, and on its current mature forest condition, it was likely in a condition similar to that of the eastern field-edge.

Civil War period photographs of the Harpers Ferry area indicate that the forested areas were both less dense and less extensive than they are today. Land was cleared for industrial, agricultural, and residential use where today environmental regulations preclude development. The Civil War caused great devastation across the region, destroying its industry and economy, driving away the population, and ravaging the landscape. Many pre-war residents never returned to Harpers Ferry after the war, and the town's industry never recovered to pre-war levels. The Chambers-Murphy farm was at the center of this devastation, and ended its first, Civil War period of significance as a ravaged wasteland. By 1896, the property was back in agricultural production and the pre-war forest was recovering, but had not yet reached maturity.

Existing Condition:

The Federal armory was never rebuilt in Harpers Ferry. The population, industry, and economy of the town never returned to pre-war levels, and many areas that had been historically cleared for agriculture, industry, or residency were gradually reforested. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was created in 1963, and since then, its expansion and protection of lands around Harpers Ferry has allowed for even more widespread reforestation. The result is a landscape in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry, including the inventory unit, which is less open, and more heavily forested than it was during either period of significance.

Today, approximately 63 of the Chambers-Murphy Farm's 97 acres are cultivated for hay under a NPS agricultural lease. The field configuration is essentially the same as it was during both periods of significance, save for the northwest quadrant, which was added in 1910 (see figure 4). The field edge condition is mature forest except for approximately 500 feet of the

northwest boundary which front Murphy Road. The NPS planted 15 Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*) trees along this frontage in 2007 in order to screen views of the residential lots across the road. There are also Eastern Red Cedar trees of varying ages along the western edge of the farm entry road. More research is needed to determine exactly when these trees were planted. However, due to similarities in size with the 2007 plantings, it is likely that some were planted then. The four, larger entry-road Cedars were planted sometime between 1989 and 1991.

Around the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse is a cluster of ten trees, including three Eastern Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), two Eastern White Pines (*Pinus strobus*), and one each of Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*), and Purple-Leaf Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*). Some of the cedars appear aged; more research is needed to determine if they are witness to either period of significance.

Scattered throughout the southern half of the farm are several small clusters of one to three trees. None of these trees date to either period of significance. However, aerial photos indicate that trees have been allowed to grow at these particular spots on the farm since at least 1965.

In the southwestern corner of the inventory unit is a line of oak trees (*Quercus Alba*) which runs along the former Allstadt boundary (see figure 2, site map). This was the farm's western boundary from 1848 until 1896, when Alexander Murphy acquired Bulls Falls Hill. This time period encompasses the entire Civil War Period of significance and the beginning of the John Brown's Fort period. These oak trees bear evidence of usage as a fence line, in the form of barbed wire which was affixed to the trees and has been grown around in the period since (see figure 13). More research is needed, but it is possible that at least some of these trees are witness to one or both period of significance. One particular specimen, with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 46.7 inches, is estimated to be at least 116 years old (see figure 14).

Evaluation:

The vegetation on the Chambers-Murphy Farm has low integrity to either of the property's periods of significance. Edmund Chambers' 500-tree orchard likely occupied a significant portion of his lands prior to, and during the first years of the Civil War. The fact that it is gone represents a significant loss of integrity to the Civil War period. Edmund Chambers and Alexander Murphy primarily grew wheat rather than hay, and what integrity the current agricultural operations add to the landscape is primarily to its character as a farmstead rather than to its specific historic use.

The current field-edge forest differs in maturity, thickness, and composition to the forest that existed during the periods of significance. Chestnut Blight, Woody Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, climate change, and human disturbances have significantly affected forest composition since 1909. Currently, the farm's mature forest contributes to historic integrity by emphasizing the outer field boundaries, which have changed little since Edmund Chambers first developed the property. Likewise, the present cluster of trees around the farmhouse contributes to the

property's historic integrity by continuing the pattern of having trees around the dwelling in the domestic area of the farm; a pattern that Chambers is known to have implemented, based on Jennie Chambers' aforementioned description of the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry.

It is unknown whether there were any trees along Murphy Road or the farm entrance road during either period of significance, although the presence of trees lining both sides of the entry road in 1952 could be the continuation of an earlier pattern (see figure 5). Consequently, the cedars planted by the NPS in 2007 contribute to historic integrity only indirectly, by (eventually) screening off-site views of residential development which detract from the property's historic character.

The line of White Oak (*Quercus alba*) trees along the former Allstadt property boundary contributes to the property's integrity by marking a historic property line that was extant during both periods of significance. The presence of barbed wire grown into the trees indicates that it was used as an active fence-line sometime after the Civil War. Barbed wire was first patented in 1874 and its use quickly became widespread. Further research is needed to determine the age of the wire, but given that demarcation of the Allstadt boundary line in that area was no longer necessary after the 1896 Murphy acquisition of Bulls Falls Hill, its installation could have been between 1874 and 1896. The fencing method of attaching the wire to the trees also indicates that at the time of fencing, the trees were large and sturdy enough to act as fence posts. The largest of these trees, located approximately 50 feet north-northwest from the start of the hiking trail in the farm's southwest corner, has a DBH of 46.7 inches. Based on the methodology developed in 2009 by Heritage Landscapes for the Camp Hill Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), this tree is approximately 116 years old, dating it conservatively to the 1890s. Further research could determine the exact age of the barbed wire and if there are in fact any witness trees on the former Allstadt boundary.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Edge-Condition Forest

Feature Identification Number: 169355

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Farm House Tree Cluster

Feature Identification Number: 169357

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Murphy Road Cedars

Feature Identification Number: 169359

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Entry Drive Cedars

Feature Identification Number:	169361
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Field Tree-Clusters
Feature Identification Number:	169363
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Bulls Falls Hill Forest
Feature Identification Number:	169365
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Allstadt Fenceline Oaks
Feature Identification Number:	169367
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 13: Barbed wire grown into Allstadt boundary oak.

Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition:

There were no known buildings on the property before Edmund Chambers began to develop it in 1848. By 1861, Chambers had built a 1 ½ story house, at least partially of log construction, with a cellar and a brick chimney. In addition to the house, there was a granary, a stable, and several other outbuildings, according to Chambers' war claim. Chambers also mentions a "back

building”, which he and his family lived in during March of 1862, when Union soldiers were billeted at his house. Additionally, daughter Jennie Chambers remarked that “several shells had struck the barn” during her description of the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry. The John Brown’s Fort foundation is thought to be on the site of a previously built spring house. Piecing together clues from this variety of sources, there are six buildings either specifically mentioned as being extant on the Chambers Farm at the beginning of the Civil War period of significance or evidenced to be; a house, a granary, a stable, a barn, a back building, and a spring house. Acknowledging that some of these could be different names for the same building, when circumstantial mentions are viewed along with the official Chambers war claim, it seems likely that there were at least six buildings on the farm in 1861. Of these, only the locations of the farmhouse and the springhouse are known. The Chambers farmhouse stood on the site of the current house; the older, eastern portion of the house is partially of log construction which may be the remains of the older Chambers structure. Knowledge of the spring house is based on the existence of a natural spring and the remains of a pre-existing foundation at the John Brown’s Fort reconstruction site. All buildings on the property were destroyed during the Civil War, and little is known about their location or construction.

Between 1866 and 1871, at least some of the farm’s buildings were rebuilt by some combination of John G. Cockrell (1866-1869) and Alexander Murphy (1869-1871). In March of 1871, Murphy placed an ad in the Spirit of Jefferson newspaper, placing the property for rent and describing it as “the Dwelling House, garden and outbuildings” (Spirit of Jefferson, 03/21/1871). This indicates that at least some of the farm’s outbuildings were rebuilt by this time in addition to the farmhouse.

Between 1895 and 1909, little is known about the buildings on the Chambers-Murphy Farm save the dwelling house and the reconstructed John Brown’s Fort. John Brown’s Fort was reconstructed on the southwestern corner of the property in 1895, on the foundation of the earlier spring house. This indicates that Alexander Murphy had not rebuilt the earlier building. John Brown’s Fort stood on the site from 1895-1909, when it was purchased by Storer College and moved to the school’s nearby campus on Camp Hill.

The farmhouse was likely rebuilt on its original foundation around 1869 by Alexander Murphy. This farmhouse consisted of the eastern half of the extant house, had a stone foundation, and was partially of log construction.

The Civil War earthworks on the southwestern tip of the bluff were constructed by soldiers of MajorGeneral Philip H. Sheridan’s command in August 1864. Consisting of an artillery redan and a rifle trench, they comprised the extreme left flank of a defensive position which spanned Bolivar Heights from the Potomac to the Shenandoah Rivers. The earthen redan was capable of accommodating six cannons (one battery). Facing south and shaped like a boomerang, it was open to the rear, with wings 80 and 60 feet long. It was constructed of earth, excavated from outside the structure, to create a mounded form, 20 feet wide and 3 to 4 feet tall, fronted by a

10 foot-wide exterior ditch (Lee, HAFE NR Update Draft 2014: 37). The rifle trench was constructed approximately 150 feet down-slope from the redan, and extended approximately 250 feet from a rock-outcropping to the edge of a ravine to the west. It was approximately three feet wide, and its parapet on the eastern half was partially constructed of stone which was likely found on-site.

Existing Condition:

The Chambers-Murphy farmhouse is located in an open field on the northeastern portion of the inventory unit. It consists of two, nearly equally sized sections that were not built at the same time. The western or front section serves as the main block and is two stories tall by three bays wide. It was likely built in 1912, when a local newspaper reported that Alexander Murphy completed unspecified improvements to the farm. The new construction may have been necessary to accommodate the family of Murphy's son William, who had moved to the farm in 1910. The western block measures 24x28 feet and reflects characteristics of the American Foursquare type, a popular architectural form of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also has a three-quarter length basement which is externally accessible via an areaway on the south side of the house. It is set on a stone foundation and is covered by clapboard siding. The roof is pyramidal, with a central brick chimney. This section has a main entrance door on the western side, featuring a stone slab step which is made from phyllite (Harpers shale) and is 9 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 5 inches thick (Lee, NR Update Draft 2014: 37).

The eastern (rear) block of the house, which was built circa 1869 on the earlier Chambers farmhouse foundation, is also two stories, but is not quite as tall as the newer western (front) half. It measures 23x14.75 feet, but has an enclosed porch on the north side which increases its footprint to 23x24 feet. Like the western block, it is set on a stone foundation and has clapboard siding. Its roof differs, however, being an unevenly pitched gable roof of standing-seam metal. It has a stone and brick chimney on the eastern side which measures 5x3 feet at the base. At 6 foot elevation, the chimney tapers to a 2.25-foot wide parge-ted stack. Although not visible from the exterior, part of the framework of the eastern block is of log construction (Lee, NR Update Draft 2014:37). In 2004, the Civilian Conservation Corps of West Virginia repaired the roof, replaced six rotted window sills, stabilized a step; repaired, replaced, and painted siding, enclosed a porch, and plastered and painted portions of the interior of the farmhouse (Lee, NR Update Draft 2014:37). This work resulted in the house's current condition and appearance.

On the southern side of the house is a stone and brick cistern which is fed by runoff from the farmhouse roof through a rudimentary gravel filter. It is unclear when this cistern was built, although a stone step on its eastern side indicates that it was primarily accessed from the door of the older (eastern) half of the house, and may be an indicator of its age (see figure 17). The cistern was capped by the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia in 2004.

The John Brown's Fort foundation site is located at the southeastern edge of the field boundary, overlooking the Shenandoah River and Bulls Falls rapids. It is constructed of 1.5 foot thick

phyllite walls and measures 34x22 feet. A 2006 stabilization project by the NPS's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) included archeological monitoring and documentation, salvaging stones, resetting stone coping with mortar, differentiating the openings of all fenestrations with courses of brick, and infilling the interior with gravel. This work resulted in the foundation's current condition and appearance (Lee, NR Update Draft 2014:38).

The Civil War earthworks are still extant on the farm's southwest corner in their original location. They are in good condition, despite the immediate area's reforestation since the Civil War. There are indications that previous owners of the Chambers-Murphy property took measures to allow or improve access to the earthworks, although it is unclear when this occurred. On the left flank of the rifle trench a yellow, nylon rope is affixed to a tree to allow access down the steep slope; in the same area, the remains of a wooden step are pinned to the slope. Further research is needed to determine whether previous property owners conducted any modification or stabilization of the earthworks in the years since the war.

Evaluation:

Buildings on the Chambers-Murphy Farm have low integrity to the Civil War period of significance, due to the farm's complete destruction during that conflict. According to Edmund Chambers' war claim, none of his buildings survived. None of the locations of any of the pre-war outbuildings is known, although further archeological research could potentially locate their foundations. The stone foundation of the farmhouse eastern block and of the John Brown's Fort site are the only farm-specific features known to date from the Civil War period of significance. The partial log framework of the older (eastern) half of the house may be remnants of Edmund Chambers' earlier house, but further research is needed to determine if this is the case. Likewise, further research is needed to determine the age of the cistern on the house's southern side.

The extant Civil War earthworks contribute to the property's integrity to the Civil War period of significance. They are in good condition, although further research is needed to determine if previous property owners modified them in any way.

The property maintains some integrity to the John Brown's Fort period of significance. Although the farmhouse's appearance has changed since the period of significance, it retains its location, and the eastern half is essentially unchanged save for cosmetic changes. Also, though John Brown's Fort is no longer located on the farm, its stabilized foundation remains at the same location and provides enough integrity for NPS interpretive purposes.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Murphy Farm House

Feature Identification Number: 169369

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: John Brown Fort Foundation

Feature Identification Number: 169371

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Farm House Cistern

Feature Identification Number: 169373

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Civil War Earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 169375

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15: Photograph of the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse shows the foursquare architectural style of the 1912 addition. Note Loudoun Heights in the background and (2) NPS benches in front.



Figure 16: Photograph of the south side of the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse. the delineation between the older, eastern portion and the newer, western portion is easily visible. Note the covered cistern in the middle foreground.



Figure 17. The covered farmhouse cistern. Note the rudimentary filter feeding the cistern from the bottom of the drain spout. IN the foreground is a stone step that was possibly used to facilitate drawing water from the cistern.



Figure 18: Photograph of the John Brown Fort foundation, just after its stabilization. Note how close the tree line is to the site compared to Figures (8) and (9).

Views and Vistas

Historic Condition:

Little exact information is known about the historic views from the Chambers-Murphy Farm. However, when Edmund Chambers bought the property in 1848, he named it “Buena Vista”, which may have been in reference to the same-named battle of the Mexican-American War, but was more likely in recognition of the farm’s commanding views up and down the Shenandoah River. Little direct information is known about the views from the property during the Civil War. However, during the September, 1862 battle of Harpers Ferry, Confederate cannons set up on a knoll in the middle of the farm to enfilade federal positions on Bolivar Heights. Their highly effective fire was instrumental in securing the Confederate victory, and a New York soldier described the receiving-end of the cannonade that they helped deliver: “The infernal screech owls came hissing and singing, then bursting ... plowing great holes in the earth, filling our eyes with dust, and tearing many giant trees to atoms” (Frye, retrieved 07/08/14). Civil War cannon were direct-line-of-sight weapons, meaning that the crew needed to be able to see a target to hit it. Therefore, the positioning of cannons on Chambers-Murphy Farm and the deadly effectiveness of their fire was testament to the presence of views to Bolivar Heights from the property during the Civil War period of significance.

The 1864 artillery redan and rifle pit on the southwestern corner of the Chambers-Murphy property commanded southerly views of the Shenandoah River over Bulls Falls rapids and of the southern approaches along the Winchester and Potomac Railroad corridor. Given the approximately 1,200-1,600 yard effective ranges of the Civil War’s most common types of field artillery, it is likely that the area south of the fortifications was cleared of thick forest and brush at least to that distance. Civil War military maps of the Harpers Ferry area show that by 1864, forests large and thick enough to be militarily significant existed only on the southern slopes of Bolivar Heights and on the summit of Loudoun Heights (see figure 7). This indicates that views from the southern end of the Chambers-Murphy plateau were likely more open during the Civil War period of significance than they are today.

In 1871, Alexander Murphy advertised his farm for rent in the local newspaper stating, “the Dwelling

House occupies a commanding position, and an extensive prospect” (Spirit of Jefferson, 3/21/1871). This

suggests that the view from the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse was open, and circumstantially corroborates the deforestation that had accompanied the Civil War less than a decade previously.

During the John Brown’s Fort (1895-1909) period of significance, historic photographs indicate that the height of the forest along the southeastern field edge was less than it is today (see figure 8). This lower height allowed for a more extensive view of Loudoun Heights across the Shenandoah River than presently exists (see figure 8).

Existing Condition:

Views to Bolivar Heights from the Chambers-Murphy farm currently exist both from the farmhouse and from the low knoll (with cannon) immediately to its south. The farmhouse also has a view along the Shenandoah River towards lower town Harpers Ferry. The town itself is obscured by intervening terrain, but steeple of St Peters Catholic Church marks its approximate location. The view is maintained by a cut through the vegetation, and is also visible from the mown trail around the field-edge (see figure 19).

Although less extensive than they were during the periods of significance, views of Loudoun Heights across the Shenandoah River are visible along the farm's eastern edge. Commanding views of Bulls Falls rapids and the Shenandoah River valley to the south are also extant, although they are most likely not as open as they were during the periods of significance due to forest growth and maturation. The same is true of the southerly views from the Civil War earthworks in the southwestern corner of the property; the views are extant, but not as open as they were during the periods of significance due to vegetative growth.

Views of the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse across the open farm field are visible from the southern end of the farm access road, and contribute to the agricultural character of the landscape. Northerly views from the farm access road contain present-day residential housing along Murphy Road. In 2007, fifteen Eastern Red Cedar trees were planted along the property's Murphy Road frontage in order to screen those residences.

Evaluation:

Overall, the views on Chambers-Murphy Farm retain moderate integrity to the periods of significance. Historic offsite views of the Shenandoah River to the south, Loudoun Heights to the east and Bolivar Heights to the north-northwest are extant. Although they are less open than they were historically, these views situate the property in both the physical and the historical landscape, contribute to its historic character, and facilitate its interpretation according, primarily, to the Civil War period of significance.

While it is not known whether the view towards lower town Harpers Ferry from the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse was extant during either period of significance, the presently-maintained view aids in the historical interpretation of the property by situating it in relation to the town. This helps visitors understand the tactical implications of the location in the Civil War historical context.

Southerly views of the Shenandoah River over Bulls Falls are still extant from the southern portion of the property, and they contribute to its historic character as a symbolic site of pilgrimage. Panoramic views across the fields of the farm towards the farmhouse from the southern field edge and to the south from the farmhouse contribute to the property's historic character as a rural farmstead (see figure 1, cover photo).

The expansion of HFNHP has protected the rural character of the lands surrounding the Chambers-Murphy Farm and protected historic off-site views which help situate the property in its historic context. Forest regeneration and maturation on the field edges and in front of the historic Civil War earthworks has encroached upon historically more-open off-site views, but has not significantly affected the historic integrity of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View of Bolivar Hgts from Poss. Arty Pos

Feature Identification Number: 169377

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View of Bolivar Hgts from Farm House

Feature Identification Number: 169379

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View to Lower Town from Farm House

Feature Identification Number: 169381

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views of Loudoun Hgts from Farm Fields

Feature Identification Number: 169383

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Southerly Views of the Shenandoah River

Feature Identification Number: 169385

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views from Civil War Earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 169387

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Internal Farm Views

Feature Identification Number: 169389

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 19: View towards Lower Town Harpers Ferry from the mown, field-edge trail. Note the exposed rock-face of Maryland Heights in the center background.



Figure 20: View south down the Shenandoah River Valley from the southern edge of Chambers-Murphy Farm. Note Bulls Falls rapids in the lower-left foreground.



Figure 21: View south over the Shenandoah River from the Civil War rifle trench.



Figure 22: View of Bolivar Heights from the possible Confederate artillery position on the farm's central knoll. Note the NPS parking lot in the center of the frame.



Figure 23: View of Bolivar Heights from the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse.

Small Scale Features

Historic Condition:

Little is known about the small-scale features on the Chambers-Murphy Farm during either period of significance. However, Edmund Chambers' war claim included 321 panels of plank fence and 573 panels of pales fence. The recently published "Fence Lines, Fields, and Forests" Cultural Landscape Report for Manassas National Battlefield included an in-depth study of the prevailing fence types in the region at the time of the Civil War. Based on their analysis, "plank" fence most likely described a post and board fence, a fence that used cut nails and dimensioned lumber to span an approximately 11 foot distance between posts. This type of fence only came into use after the introduction of dimensioned lumber circa 1833, and was typically used to enclose gardens, orchards, and animals (Schaible, 2013:25). Given these typical uses, it is possible that Edmund Chambers used post and board fencing to enclose his orchard

prior to the Civil War. Locust and cedar posts were preferred for post-and-board fences, with the boards typically of pine. Most board fences were five boards high; they were sometimes capped, and they were often whitewashed or painted to help preserve the fast-rotting pine. Board fences were also considered more refined and aesthetically superior to other fence options (Schaible, 2013:25). The 573 panels of pales fence claimed in Edmund Chambers' war claim probably refers to picket fencing, which was often used close to farmhouses to enclose farm yards in order to enclose poultry and to keep out rabbits and other vermin. Paling or picket fence typically consisted of locust or cedar posts set eight feet apart with two horizontal, two-by-four-inch boards attached by nails. Pine palings were then nailed to the boards, within three inches of each other, and whitewashed or painted to prevent rot (Schaible, 2013:26). Edmund Chambers probably used his pales, or picket fencing to enclose his farmhouse and garden.

Existing Condition:

The only section of fence currently present on the Chambers-Murphy Farm is an approximately 500 foot section of "stake and rider" worm fence along the property's boundary with Murphy Road. This fence was installed sometime between 2002 and 2004 by the NPS, and extends along the entire Murphy Road frontage, except for a break where the farm entrance road passes through it.

Barbed-wire grown into oak trees along the former Allstadt boundary in the southwestern portion of the farm indicates its past-use as a fencing option. Barbed-wire can also be found grown into aged Cedars along the farm's northern boundary, and remnants of this type of fencing were found all around the farm perimeter by the recent Phase I archeological investigation. The approximate age of the Allstadt boundary oaks, the 1870s advent of barbed-wire, and the ownership history of Bulls Falls Hill (the Allstadt boundary was active until 1896) indicate that this fence could date to the second (1895-1909) period of significance, but further research is needed. A rock boundary circle evident along this boundary as well as long linear mound just inside and paralleling the historic fence-line provide further evidence that this line is likely a long-standing property line and field boundary.

The farm entrance itself has a metal swing-gate. Consisting of three metal posts and a metal gate, it is secured by a padlock and closed nightly by NPS personnel to control vehicular access to the property. A single cedar post is extant on the eastern side of the farm entry road at the gate, which may indicate a previous gate or fence at the location. Just inside the gate on the eastern side of the farm entrance road is a metal sign which identifies the property as "Murphy Farm" and as a section of HFNHP. A second access control point is located on the farm entry road just past the gravel parking lot. It consists of three wooden bollards, evenly spaced across the road. The center bollard is removable to allow official vehicular access to interior portions of the farm.

The NPS has placed interpretive features at locations of interest on the Chambers-Murphy farm. Interpretive signage has been installed at the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse, on the farm entrance road adjacent to the farmhouse, on the central knoll that was the possible Confederate artillery position in 1862, at the farm's southern end overlooking Bulls Falls, at the union earthworks, at the former site of the re-located John Brown's Fort, and at the head of the ravine behind the farmhouse possibly used to haul Confederate cannons up the bluff in 1862 (see figure 11). Six Civil War cannons were also placed on the farm's central knoll, aimed toward Bolivar Heights, for interpretive purposes.

A commemorative boulder was placed near the re-located John Brown's Fort site in 2006. It bears a bronze plaque which lists several Murphy family members as well as dates of historical events which took place on the farm. It commends the Murphy family for allowing visitors to the farm over the course of their long ownership.

Six NPS-installed benches are currently on the Chambers-Murphy farm property; two are located on the front side of the farmhouse, one at the John Brown's Fort foundation site, one along the eastern field edge, one by the Civil War cannons, and one behind the Civil War earthworks. The dates of their placement are unknown, but probably occurred after the NPS took ownership in 2002.

In 2004, a crew from the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia, in partnership with the NPS, capped the open cistern on the southern side of the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse with a low, square wooden platform and covered the sides with chicken wire, ostensibly to mitigate safety concerns.

Other structures on the property include trail structures on the approximately ½ mile section of the "Murphy Farm Loop Trail" that circumnavigates Bulls Fall Hill in the farm's southwestern corner. A wide wooden bridge spans a gullied intermittent creek bed approximately 597 feet from the northern trail boundary with the main gravel road. It is 19.5 feet long and 3 feet wide, constructed of pressure-treated dimensioned lumber, with a hand rail on the western (downhill) side. As the trail turns uphill to return to the cleared portion of the farm, a 20-step natural stone staircase with an embedded stone water-bar has been installed in the treadway to prevent erosion. The installation dates of the bridge and the staircase are unknown, but given their condition, materials, and methods of construction, they were likely built by the NPS sometime after 2002.

Evaluation:

Small-scale features on the Chambers-Murphy Farm have little integrity to either of the property's historic periods of significance. According to the Chambers war claim, the two fencing types on the farm at the Civil War's outset were post and board, and picket fence. The locations and exact uses of these fences are unknown, only that they were destroyed during the war. Regardless, there is no historical evidence of fencing along Murphy Road during either period of significance, and there is no historical evidence of worm fencing ever being used on

the property. Therefore, the worm fence currently fronting Murphy road is non-contributing and is also incompatible with either of the property's periods of significance.

Further research may determine that the barbed wire fence remnants along the former Allstadt boundary date to the John Brown's Fort period of significance. Absent further information, however, they are non-contributing, but compatible, because they help identify a historic property line that was active during both of the farm's periods of significance.

The wooden cistern cap on the south side of the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse is neither contributing nor compatible with either period of significance; there is no evidence that any such cap existed during the significant periods, and it is effectively hiding a structure that may have been actively used during one or both of them.

NPS-added features such as gates and bollards, commemorative and interpretive signage, cannons, benches, and trail structures did not exist during the periods of significance and are therefore non-contributing. They do, however, facilitate interpretation of the site according to the periods of significance and are therefore considered historically compatible.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Virginia Worm Fence

Feature Identification Number: 169391

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – incompatible

Feature: Barbed-Wire Fence Remnants

Feature Identification Number: 169393

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Entrance Gate and Sign

Feature Identification Number: 169395

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Wooden Bollards

Feature Identification Number: 169397

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: NPS Interpretive Signage

Feature Identification Number: 169399

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Civil War Cannons

Chambers-Murphy Farm
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Feature Identification Number:	169401
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Commemorative Boulder and Plaque
Feature Identification Number:	169403
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Wooden Benches
Feature Identification Number:	169405
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Wooden Cistern Cap
Feature Identification Number:	169407
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – incompatible
Feature:	Wooden Bridge
Feature Identification Number:	169409
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Natural Stone Staircase and Water-Bar
Feature Identification Number:	169411
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24: Worm fence along the Murphy Road frontage. Note the Eastern Red Cedars planted to screen the adjacent residences.

Archeological Sites

Historic Condition:

Based upon its proximity to the Shenandoah River, archeological finds nearby, and known prehistoric habitation and use patterns in the area, portions of the Chambers-Murphy farm likely experienced some prehistoric use or habitation. The farm has been under almost continuous agricultural and domestic use since 1848, excepting three years during the Civil War that it experienced primarily military use.

Existing Condition:

A recent Phase I archeological investigation have identified of pre-historic as well as historic sites on the property. It also noted an unexpected paucity of Civil War artifacts; a situation attributed to extensive metal-detecting and collecting that occurred on the property prior to NPS

ownership. The study did, however, provide a great deal of general information regarding the property's agricultural history.

Evaluation:

The Chambers-Murphy Farm maintains significant archeological potential for prehistoric, 19th century agriculture/domestic, and Civil War artifacts. Further archeological research would be useful in determining the locations of outbuildings that were known to exist on the farm prior to the Civil War. It would also be helpful in determining the historic internal field organization of the farm, to include fence lines, fence rows, gardens, livestock pens, and orchard boundaries.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/16/2014
Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:
HAFE superintendent approved this CLI on 9/16/2014

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Views of residential houses across Murphy Road from farm entrance adversely impact the inventory unit's rural character.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The 1910 addition of arable land on the western side of the farm entrance road changed the feel of the farm's northern half by making it more open, changing the entrance road from a boundary to a field bisector.
Type of Impact:	Agriculture
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The current agricultural operation on the inventory unit, while maintaining the unit's agricultural character, does not accurately represent the actual agricultural operations that were prevalent during either period of significance regarding the types and internal organization of crops.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The extant Civil War earthworks on the property have been significantly affected by erosion.
Type of Impact:	Planting Practices

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The planting of Eastern Red Cedars along the property's Murphy Road frontage and along the farm entrance road has no historical basis aside from the general consensus that Eastern Red Cedars were historically common field-edge and fence-row trees. Although the Murphy Road cedars will eventually mitigate the adverse impact of the opposite residences, their historical integrity is uncertain.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The field edge forest on all sides of the inventory unit is thicker and more mature than it was during either period of significance. Specifically impacted areas are the southeastern field corner, where the forest has encroached on the historic field boundary, and in the vicinity of the extant Civil War earthworks, where the trees were likely historically cleared for tactical visibility.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The worm fence along Murphy Road is incompatible. No fence is known to have existed there during either period of significance, and worm is not a type of fence known to have been used on the property, based on available documentation.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The wooden cistern cap next to the cistern is incompatible; while understandable as a safety precaution, its existence is not indicated during the periods of significance, and its construction (pressure treated lumber and chicken wire) detracts from the historical feel of the landscape.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The improved gravel surface on the farm entrance road constitutes a negative impact to the property's historic feel. The circulation pattern during the periods of significance was likely established through repetitive wagon, horse, and foot traffic, and

therefore would have resembled wheel ruts with a strip of vegetation in the center rather than a full road.

Type of Impact:	Other
Other Impact:	Gravel Parking Lot
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The gravel parking lot across from the farmhouse represents an adverse impact to the historic feel of the landscape.
Type of Impact:	Other
Other Impact:	House on Lower Loudoun Heights
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	A large house on lower Loudoun Heights is visible from the knoll of the possible Confederate Artillery position, representing an adverse impact to the Civil War period of significance.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	The adjacent KOA campground does not constitute a visual impact, but noise from campers and their pets is a potential adverse auditory impact.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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