

CHALMETTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
ST. BERNARD HIGHWAY  
CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA 70043

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Notes on the Establishment and Development  
of

CHALMETTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Compiled by Major General Edward S. Bres, Ret.

Washington, D.C.

August 1964

## FOREWORD

On January 8, 1840, Major General Andrew Jackson, ex-President of the United States, visited Chalmette Battlefield to participate in the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the victory of the Battle of New Orleans.

The visit of General Jackson imbued in his veterans and the people of New Orleans the desire to appropriately commemorate this victory and honor those who had fought and died to save the city from the British. A site on the battlefield was selected by General Jackson for the erection of a monument.

During the 125 years that have intervened since the visit of General Jackson, the development of the battlefield befitting the glory of the victory has been the objective of the people of New Orleans and patriotic organizations. With the completion of the restoration of the battlefield fortifications of 1815, now in progress, the objective will be realized.

There were times during the past 125 years when the successful establishment of the park seemed doubtful. And during these same years, progress was impaired by the lack of funds for battlefield restoration on the small area then constituting the park and for the purchase of additional lands for a suitable park.

The sale in 1952 of these additional lands, the 66 acres comprising the battlefield area, to the Kaiser Corporation could have doomed the park. But through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Martha G. Robinson, who organized and directed a campaign, Mr. Henry G. Kaiser was prevailed upon to donate this area to the park.

Had Mrs. Robinson, failed in her plea, the establishment of the eagerly sought park, too, would have failed, as the Chalmette area then owned by the Federal Government was not large enough to be developed as a National Historical Park. Therefore, the project would necessarily have been reclassified and qualified for development in a lower grade as a memorial area.

The events since 1960 reveal the continuing strong support of Senators Allen J. Ellender and Russell B. Long and Congressmen F. Edward Hebert and Hale Boggs and show that close attention and firm action were necessary to bring about the satisfactory development of the program and its completion in 1964.

Those who have been active in sponsoring the reconstruction of Chalmette National Historical Park have learned of the high ideals of the able officials of the National Park Service and have received insight into the very constructive nation-wide program they are accomplishing.

The appendix chronologically clarifies and substantiates the events recorded.

E.S.B.

Washington, D.C.  
August 1964

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHALMETTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK has been accomplished because of the perseverance of the civic minded people of New Orleans over a continuing period of 125 years.

The greatest progress has been effected during the final thirty years. This progress can be attributed to the preparation of an authentic map of the area, on which the presentation to Congress was based; the very vital procurement, through the efforts of Mrs. Martha G. Robinson, of the 66 acres of land, donated by the Henry J. Kaiser Corporation; and, during the last seven years, the close work with officials of the National Park Service in determining an acceptable program of period reconstruction and in placing this work under contract.

Unfortunately, the Battle of New Orleans has never received the national recognition it warrants. This might be attributed to our American histories and historians who dismiss the victory as of little importance because of the "constant cry" that the battle was fought after the Treaty of Ghent was signed. Maybe these historians were not familiar with the Articles of the Treaty and were not aware that in the Treaty of Ghent, it was specifically provided that the treaty would not be binding until ratified by both nations; this ratification did not occur until 40 days after the Battle of January 8, 1815. They also overlooked the important fact that while negotiations, which lasted five months, were pending between the Ministers of the United States and Great Britain, an expedition to invade New Orleans was in preparation under the command of General Pakenham.

We can reasonably assume, with all due deference to the friendly relationship existing today between America and England, that if England had been successful and had defeated General Jackson and his troops at New Orleans, she would not have relinquished her possession of New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory. There was no obligation on her part to do so, nor were there any provisions in the Treaty of Ghent that would have justified England's releasing the Louisiana Territory. The contrary was the case. Spain had protested and claimed that the transfer of the Louisiana Territory by Bonaparte was invalid and was in violation of the San Ildefonso Treaty.

Those who have studied and have become familiar with the international situation at the time of the battle readily understand how important the success of the American troops on January 8 was to this country. It is not difficult to visualize what might have occurred had Jackson and his troops been defeated. Would the United States, as then constituted, have been able to survive the British attacks from the interior--with the Mississippi Valley, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, in the possession of the British whose fleet threatened the security of the Atlantic seaboard?

The Battle of New Orleans was not a local battle as many of our present-day, intelligent, well-educated Americans are of the opinion. It was one of the most important military engagements in the history of this country

and secured and preserved for us the independence gained at Yorktown. Many Americans have never heard of the Hartford Convention, the political unrest of the Union and the possible secession of the Northeastern States which would have disrupted our country, or of the financial difficulties our Treasury was facing. The victory of General Jackson immediately eliminated these hazards.

The origin of the blemish that demeans the glory of the victory of General Jackson on January 8, 1815, by stating that the battle was fought after the treaty had been signed, is not known; and certainly it was not in evidence in Washington on February 4, 1814. Quoting from page 42, et seq...National Park Service Historical Handbook, No. 29.

"In January 1815, people in the cities of the East knew only that a large British force had landed and that fighting was going on. An editor of Niles Register, a Baltimore newspaper, wrote that "great interests" in all the Nation were anxiously awaiting news. Some leaders of the New England States, meeting in Hartford, were strongly suspected of planning to secede from the Union. The Capitol in Washington was in ruins. The Federal Government was in bad financial condition. Men feared that the negotiations at Ghent would fail or that the resulting treaty would not be ratified. It was possible that one of these outcomes, coupled with probable defeat at New Orleans, could have broken up the Union.

"The relief of the Government was extreme when the news of victory at New Orleans finally reached Washington on February 4. The National Intelligencer used its largest type for the headline: ALMOST INCREDIBLE VICTORY!!! People went wild with delight. A heavy fall of snow did not dampen the celebration in Philadelphia. All over the East the fireworks and rejoicing were greater than for any other victory of the War of 1812.

"Nine days later, news of the signing of the Peace Treaty at Ghent completed the people's happiness. The envoys to Washington from the Hartford Convention were glad to slip back to their own States without presenting their demands to the Federal Government. Even the Massachusetts Legislature gave thanks for the victory -- to God if not to Andrew Jackson.

#### "WHAT THE VICTORY MEANT TO THE UNITED STATES

"The Battle of New Orleans was fought between the signing and the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812...because of the American victory in Louisiana, the treaty was promptly ratified by both sides.

"Much of the significance of the Battle of New Orleans is found in its effect on political thinking. From its founding, many men doubted that the new United States could endure...We have seen that news of the British defeat helped to end a secession movement in New England. Partly because of the victory's unifying effect, the United States endured as a republic. Its success belied the prophecies of the skeptics, and its form of government became a model for the new nations of Latin America.



"The victory meant much to the people of the United States as a nation. It helped them to forget earlier defeats in the War of 1812-- such as Detroit, Niagra, and the burning of Washington -- and it helped them to feel pride in their country as a whole. This national feeling was shown in the following years by the establishment of the Second Bank of the United States, protective tariffs, increased army appropriations, and acceptance of the nationalizing opinions of Chief Justice John Marshall.

"Before 1815, American leaders had watched with anxiety every political and military move in Europe. After the New Orleans victory they stood on their own feet."

(Note: A conversation between President Jackson and William Allen, M.C., Ohio, quoted from White House secret files, gives President Jackson's summation of the Treaty of Ghent. This conversation was cited during Congressional hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs. "Hearing before the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives on H.R. 4820 and H.R. 4869, 1st Sess. 68th Cong., March 27, 1924", pp. 13-15.)

Events which have led to the present development of Chalmette National Historical Park may be chronologically listed:

January 8, 1840: Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson, ex-President of the United States, visited New Orleans to participate in the 25th Anniversary Ceremonies of the Battle of New Orleans. At that time, he laid the cornerstone of the monument to him in Jackson Square (Place D'Armes). He also visited the battlefield and selected the location for the erection of Chalmette Monument, honoring those who gave their lives in the battle.

January 13, 1840: The cornerstone was laid for a battlefield monument.

February 1852: The Legislature of Louisiana passed an act appropriating \$5,000 for the purchase of a tract of land in St. Bernard Parish known as "Chalmette Plains" for the purpose of erecting a monument on the battlefield of January 8, 1815. This purchase was made in 1855 and a committee consisting of Newton Richards, architect; John Stroud, contractor; and D.D. d'Hemecourt, surveyor, after due consideration, fixed the exact site for the monument.

Following the laying of the cornerstone on January 13, 1840, nothing was accomplished on the construction until the project was revived and promoted by the Jackson Day Monument Association and the State of Louisiana started work in 1855. Over a period of years, the monument rose to a height of 55 feet before work ceased because of the lack of funds and the approaching war.

May 1864: The War Department established Chalmette National Cemetery for the Civil War Dead.

1888: The Louisiana Legislature (by Act III, No. 84, 1888) ceded the Chalmette National Monument property to the U.S. War Department. No work was done by the War Department to complete the monument from 1888 to 1893.

January 11, 1893: The Louisiana Society of the United States Daughters 1776--1812 (U.S.D. 1776--1812) was organized; incorporated, January 17, 1894.

January 17, 1894: The Louisiana Legislature placed Chalmette Monument and grounds under the care of U.S.D. 1776--1812. This was effected by Act, No. 6: "That the Chalmette Monument and Ground upon which it is located...sold by Pierre Bachelot to the State of Louisiana in Act before Theo Guyol, Notary Public...Signed Murphy J. Foster, Governor."

The State of Louisiana gave to the U.S.D. 1776--1812 two donations of \$1,000 each. With these funds, the grounds were cleared; an iron fence and gate erected across the front of the grounds; a mound built for the monument and cap on top; a twenty-one step, iron stairway constructed inside the monument; walks paved in front; a keepers lodge built; new fences erected and old ones repaired; and the area was drained.

July 19, 1902: At the request of the U.S.D. 1776--1812, the responsibility for the care and maintenance of Chalmette Park Monument was transferred back to the State of Louisiana with the proviso that the State could complete the monument and return it to the Society in five years. This was accomplished by Legislative Act #41.

March 4, 1907: \$25,000 was appropriated to complete the construction of the monument when the 50th Congress enacted P.L. 263 (34 Stat. 1411). This law--which was enacted largely through the efforts of W. O. Hart, an attorney from New Orleans; and Adolph Meyer, M.C., La.-- also carried the provisions: that the State of Louisiana cede and transfer the monument property to the Federal Government, and that the U.S.D. 1776--1812 assume the entire responsibility for the care and maintenance of the monument grounds.

August 25, 1916: The National Park Service of the Department of the Interior was established by P.L. #235 (H.R. 15522), enacted by the 64th Congress, 1st Session.

June 16, 1919: H.R. 5918--that the Secretary of War be directed to investigate the feasibility of establishing a national military park on the Plains of Chalmette and to prepare plans and estimates of cost to enable Congress to act--was introduced to the 66th Congress, 1st Session by James O'Connor, M.C., La. This bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

October 24, 1919: In accordance with H.R. 5918, the Chief of Engineers, Maj. Gen. William M. Black, directed Lt. Col. Herbert Deakne, District Engineer, New Orleans, to investigate and report on the feasibility of establishing a National Military Park on the Plains of Chalmette.

November 1, 1919: Colonel Deakyme reported the project feasible and recommended the acquisition of the land between Chalmette Monument and the National Cemetery and east of the cemetery to include British battery positions, Pakenham headquarters, and the water front. The total area was estimated at 226 acres, of which 166 acres would have to be purchased at an estimated cost of \$2000 per acre. The total cost of land acquisition, parking area, and the development of roadways was estimated at \$500,000.

November 1, 1919: In forwarding the above report, Col. Mason M. Patrick stated that the report and cost estimate had been hastily prepared and that more careful study was advisable.

November 7, 1919: Col. Frederic V. Abbot, Acting Chief of Engineers, forwarded Colonel Deakyme's report to the Adjutant General, concurring with Colonel Patrick.

April 11, 1921: H.R. 2232, which was exactly the same as H.R. 5918, was introduced in the 76th Congress, 1st Session, by James O'Connor, M.C., La.

November 21, 1921: H.R. 2232 was enacted as Public Law 94 by the 67th Congress.

January 17, 1922: Brig. Gen. H. Taylor, Asst Chief of Engineers, directed Lt. Col. E.J. Dent, District Engineer, New Orleans, to carry out the provisions of Public Law 94 by holding hearings to ascertain from interested persons their ideas of the scope of the project, and by preparing the necessary maps, work proposals, cost estimates, etc.

March 8, 1922: Lt. Col. E.J. Dent held a conference. Those present included: Lt. Col. E.J. Dent, District Engineer; O.O. Melancon, U.S. District Engineer's Office; E.K. Ross; and A.B. Booth, State Adjutant General. Attending from Arabi, Louisiana were: A.S. Munez, Sebastian Roy, A.P. Perrin, A.S. Livaudais, Albert Laburre, Sheriff Albert Estopinal, Jr., and J.C. Bourg, Parish Treasurer. From New Orleans, came: Sidney F. Lewis and Gervais Lombard, Board of State Engineers; Dr. W.C. Stubbs; E.L. Gladney; J.E. Kell, Engineer, American Sugar Refinery; J. Wilfred Gaidry; Col. Allison Owen; and Gen. J.B. Levert, Sugar Exchange.

Mrs. H.D. Bruns of New Orleans, who was active in promoting this project for many years, had suggested taking lands north of the public road which were of some sentimental value, but of relatively small cash value. Many at the hearing agreed with Mrs. Bruns. Speakers during the meeting were: Colonel Owen; General Booth; Messrs. Roy, Lombard, Livaudais; A.P. Perrin; Mr. Gaidry; Sheriff Estopinal; and Mr. Ross.

Colonel Dent asked Colonel Owen to present the consensus of views about location and what the park should include. Colonel Owen stated that the area should include the sites of all principal events connected with the occupation by the British from December 23 to January 8.

Colonel Owen said that the area should be bounded up stream on the line of the erected monument extending downstream to Paris Road and from the river bank to the 40 arpent line. The area would include 1760 square arpents or 1325 acres.

It was agreed by those present that the area described by Colonel Owen represented their views.

March 14, 1922: Colonel Dent approved Colonel Deakyne's proposal for the acquisition of land (of November 1, 1919) and some small additions of undeveloped lands.

March 16, 1922: Col. H. C. Newcomer, Division Engineer, concurred with Lt. Col. Dent and forwarded his opinion to the Chief of Engineers.

March 29, 1922: Maj. Gen. Lansing H. Beach, the Chief of Engineers, recommended to the Secretary of War a survey of the site recommended by Colonel Owen from the Monument to Paris Road and from the river bank to the 40 arpent line with estimates of the cost covering both projects of the 1st Indorsement.

May 1, 1922: Major General Beach directed Colonel Dent, the District Engineer to make a survey and report.

July 13, 1923: Colonel Dent, District Engineer, reported on the proposed site, submitting a map in five sheets. The area included was that from the Chalmette monument to Paris Road and from the Mississippi River to the 40 arpent line, and was divided into the southern section of 630 acres and the northern section of 975 acres. The estimated cost of acquiring these 1605 acres and the required improvements was given as:

630 acres @ \$5,000 per acre (Southern section).....	\$3,150,000	
975 acres @ 600 per acre (Northern section).....	585,000	3,735,000
Roads, fencing, clearing (Southern section).....	175,000	
Roads, fencing, clearing (Northern section).....	340,000	515,000
Total		\$4,350,000

Colonel Dent did not give the project a favorable recommendation; he felt that it was not feasible because of the excessive cost.

July 17, 1923: Col. G. M. Hoffman, Division Engineer, concurred in the unfavorable recommendation of Colonel Dent.

September 4, 1923: Maj. Gen. Lansing H. Beach, Chief of Engineers, reported to the Secretary of War that interest had waned, property values were high, and--although a worthwhile project--the establishment of a park was not feasible because of excessive cost.

January 7, 1924: H.R. 4869--to establish a National Military Park to commemorate the Battle of New Orleans, to be known as the Chalmette National Military Park--was introduced in the 68th Congress, 1st Session by James O'Connor, M.C., La.

This resolution called for the acquisition of the areas from the monument at Paris Road and the river bank to the 40 arpent line and authorized an appropriation of \$4,500,000.

The resolution was defeated largely because of the unfavorable report of the Chief of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Lansing H. Beach.

By the Act of April 19, 1890, Congress provided for the establishment of National Military Parks. In the years between 1890 and 1925, communities frequently requested the establishment of a National Park, the placing of a monument, tablet, or other form of recognition for the particular area. When these requests were introduced as resolutions in Congress, an individual study had to be made for each one. This procedure proved unsatisfactory because it caused duplication of work which resulted in an unnecessary expenditure of funds. Moreover, the relative historical importance of the projects could not be adequately evaluated because historical comparisons with other areas had not been developed.

Because of the number of increasing requests and the need to establish standard procedures, the Congress requested the War Department through the Army War College to make a study of the records and data pertaining to certain wars in which the military forces of the United States had been engaged. Excerpts of this study--dated May 28, 1925, submitted by Lieutenant Colonel C.A. Bach, Cavalry, Chief, Historical Section, Army War College, and approved, June 16, 1925 by Dwight F. Davis, Acting Secretary of War--follow:

"The object of the study will be the compilation of two lists of such battles arranged in order of priority under the following heads:

"(I) Those battles of such great importance and far-reaching effect as to warrant commemoration by the establishment of national military parks.

"(II) Those battles sufficiently important to warrant commemoration by the acquisition of some land and the placing of a limited number of markers or monuments and the designation of the sites so obtained as national monuments.

"It is the view of the War Department that national military parks should as a general thing cover a comparatively large area of ground, probably some thousands of acres, and so marked and improved as to make them into real parks available for detailed study by military authorities, the battle lines and operations being clearly indicated on the ground...



"Appropriations for monuments in which the National Government contributed show:

-- WAR OF 1812 --

New Orleans battlefield monument, to complete, United States...\$25,000.  
(Note: This is the only battlefield listed for the War of 1812)

The policy as thus outlined by acts of Congress gives an appropriate scheme for the commemoration of the battles in which the military forces of the United States have been engaged:

Class I. Battles worthy of commemoration by the establishment of national military parks. These should be battles of exceptional political and military importance and interest, whose effects were far-reaching, whose fields are worthy of preservation for detailed military and historical study, and which are suitable to serve as memorials to the armies engaged.

Class II. Battles of sufficient importance to warrant the designation of their sites as national monuments. The action of Congress and the great difference in the importance of these battles give reason for the subdivision under this class into:

Class IIa. Battles of such great military and historic interest as to warrant locating and indicating the battle lines of the forces engaged by a series of markers or tablets, but not necessarily by memorial monuments.

Class IIb. Battles of sufficient historic interest to be worthy of some form of monument, tablet, or marker to indicate the location of the battlefield.

II. LIST OF BATTLES

1. REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
.....
2. WAR OF 1812

In the War of 1812 the principal actions, within the limits of the United States, in which the military forces were engaged, were of a defensive character.

No battle of this war is placed in Class I.



"(a) Battles of IIa.

Battle of New Orleans, January 18, 1815: The Battle of New Orleans is the best known of the battles of this war and more troops were engaged on that field than on any other. It was a brilliant defense by raw troops against the attack of a much larger force of highly trained troops with war experience and led by well-known British generals. As it was fought after the treaty of peace had been signed, though not confirmed, it had no effect on the general conduct or outcome of the war or on the terms of the treaty of peace. Its immediate effect was to protect New Orleans from capture and perhaps from the experience of the National Capital.

In honor of this victory a monument has been erected: it was completed under the act of March 4, 1907, which appropriated \$25,000 for this purpose. In view of the unique character of this battle, it is believed that the line of defense should be located and properly marked; the battle is therefore listed in Class IIa.

(b) Battles of IIb.

1. Battle of Black Rock, N.Y., December 30, 1813
2. Fort Meigs, Ohio, April 28--May 9, 1813
3. Frenchtown, Michigan, January 18, 1813 and January 22, 1813
4. North Point, Maryland (Long Log Lane), September 12, 1814
5. Plattsburg, N.Y., September 6--11, 1814
6. Sacketts Harbor, N.Y., May 29, 1813."

(Note: Colonel Bach evidently had little knowledge of the Battle of New Orleans, and it would seem that his research was rather superficial. A Bill should be introduced to change this battle to Class I. It certainly qualifies from the criteria of political, military importance and far-reaching national effects.)

Twenty-eight bills were introduced in the 69th Congress, 1st Session for the recognition and commemoration of national military areas. Fourteen of these were for the establishment of National Military Parks, requesting appropriations approximating \$6,000,000. The other fourteen were for smaller memorials and requested appropriations of a lesser amount.

February 25, 1926: H.R. 9765--proposing the creation of a seven-member, National Military Park Commission, which would make a study of all the battle fields of the various wars in which the United States and its colonies have been engaged, with a view to marking and commemorating every battle field within the United States--was introduced in the 69th Congress, 1st Session by Noble Johnson, M.C., Ind.

March 11, 1926: Congressman Johnson requested Dwight F. Davis, Acting Secretary of War, to submit a report on H.R. 9765.

Secretary Davis stated that H.R. 9765 was objectionable and unnecessary for these reasons: It created additional agencies, and it would cause unnecessary hearings, travel, and expense; moreover, the Secretary of War should be authorized to make studies from both the military and historical points of view, to undertake surveys, and to compare and evaluate areas, reporting annually to Congress, etc.

April 8, 1926: Congressman Johnson asked Secretary Davis to submit his views regarding the provisions of an acceptable law; and in response, Secretary Davis submitted a draft of H.R. 11613.

June 11, 1926: H.R. 11613 was enacted as P.L. 372 by the 69th Congress. This law provides for an Advisory Board of three officers--one each, representing: the Quarter master General, the Chief of Engineers, and the Historical Section of the Army War College--as advisory to the Secretary of War in making studies of the commemoration of battlefields. The Board was directed to prepare a general plan of all projects, including the costs of surveying and carrying out the projects, and annually submit plans and a progress report through the President to Congress. It was specifically stated that no real estate could be purchased for military park purposes by the Government unless a report thereon had been made by the Secretary of War through the President to Congress.

March 3, 1927: A Congressional appropriation of \$15,000 for the construction of a highway from the main highway to and around the monument was secured by James O'Connor, M.C., La.

1927: The U.S.D. 1776--1812 requested that they be relieved of the responsibility of maintaining the Chalmette Monument and keeping the grounds surrounding it and that custody and all expenses be taken over by the United States Government.

June 2, 1930: Public Law 293 authorized the Secretary of War to assume care, custody, and control of the Chalmette and grounds--taking over this responsibility and relieving the U.S.D. 1776--1812. This was introduced in the 71st Congress, 2nd Session as H.R. 6151 by J.O. Fernandez, M.C., La.

January 31, 1931: P.L. 869 appropriated the sum of \$300.00 for the study, investigation, and survey for commemorative purposes, of the battlefield of Chalmette, to be made during the fiscal years 1931-32; this was introduced in the 71st Congress by J.O. Fernandez, M.C., La. (46Stat. 1045). The study to be financed by this appropriation was recommended by the Advisory Board established under P.L. 372, and the procedures were in compliance with P.L. 372. (Document 27, Senate, 72nd Congress, 1st Session; read to the Committee on Military Affairs December 19, 1931; order printed December 21, 1931; signed by Patrick J. Hurley, Secretary of War December 16, 1931, and delivered to the President.)

June 10, 1933: The War Department transferred to the Department of the Interior:

Chalmette National Cemetery.....  
 Original Plat (Donated to War Department  
 by City of New Orleans, May 26, 1868.  
 Approved by Congress and established as  
 a National Cemetery September 16, 1868.) 13.60 Acres  
 Extension 3.73 17.33  
 Chalmette National Monument, original plot 15.92 33.25 Acres

January 9, 1935: By a resolution of the National Defense Committee, New Orleans Association of Commerce, Colonel Edward S. Bres, Chairman of the Historical Memorials Committee, was authorized to sponsor the application to the Works Progress Administration, requesting a survey and the preparation of a map of the Chalmette Battlefield on which the battle of New Orleans was fought January 8, 1815. In 1913, Colonel Bres had conducted some research concerned with the co-ordination of the township corners established by the Federal surveys of the 1825 period. With these maps and other data, and with the procurement of additional field notes, maps and other information, he directed the survey and the preparation of a map. The project was fortunate in being able to secure the services of D.W.G. Ricketts, a surveyor of outstanding ability, to make the survey and prepare the map. He was meticulous in his studies, research, and field work. This comprehensive study and preparation of the map under the direction of Colonel Bres made it possible to locate and establish on the map the bank line of the Mississippi River which had existed in 1815, but had subsequently been eroded, by projection from the existing corners and land marks. The WPA policy was to bear the expense of salaries and wages for the work and for office space. Therefore, other expenses--such as enlargements, prints, supplies required, field notes, township plats and reproductions--had to be borne by the sponsor or others; these expenses were personally assumed by Colonel Bres. The attest as shown on the map reads:

"This survey has been made, the map compiled and prepared and the area monumented at the request and in accordance with the suggestions of Colonel Edward S. Bres, Chairman, Historical Memorials Committee of the National Defense Committee, New Orleans Association of Commerce, for the purpose of accurately locating and delineating for perpetuation the battlefield area and historical features of the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815.

Approved: Edward S. Bres  
 Chairman

Submitted to National Defense Committee, New Orleans Association of Commerce, December 10, 1935 in accordance of authority of January 9, 1935.

Edward S. Bres, Chairman  
 Historical Memorials Committee

Approved: A.R. Brousseau  
 State Project Director, W.P.A."

The need for this map was evidenced in the hearing conducted May 23, 1935, when a series of maps provided only a fragmentary presentation. The new map which was available for the hearing of March 12, 1936 served to portray the area as of 1815 and 1936, and therefore, was of much assistance in the presentation. The map has served for basic use by the National Park Service in its studies for the restoration of the area. Copies are on exhibit in the Cabildo and in the Visitor Center of the Park.

1935: An allotment of \$43,068.60 was secured from the National Park Service for the construction, reconditioning, and improvement of roads and walks and for ground improvement, a comfort station, water and sewerage, and building repair by J.O. Fernandez, M.C., La.

February 5, 1935: H.R. 5368--"A Bill to provide for the addition of certain lands to the Chalmette National Monument, etc."--was introduced by J.O. Fernandez in the 74th Congress, 1st Session.

March 14, 1935: Chairman Rene L. De Rouen, M.C., La., wrote to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, requesting a report on H.R. 5368.

April 26, 1935: Secretary Ickes replied:

"This proposed legislation would authorize the extension of the Chalmette National Monument by the acquisition of lands for that purpose, and include the present national monument, together with the additions and the Chalmette National Cemetery, in the proposed Chalmette National Historical Park...

The purpose of changing the name of the Chalmette National Monument to Chalmette National Historical Park is to recognize definitely its great historical importance.

...the authority for the acquisition of lands for the inclusion in the proposed national historical park should be confined to such funds as may be secured by public or private donation, rather than by appropriation of Federal Funds. I, therefore, recommend that the bill be amended as follows...eliminate the words, 'funds allotted and made available for this project by proper authority,' and insert the words, 'donated funds.'

If amended as indicated above, I recommend that H.R. 5368 receive favorable consideration by the Congress."

May 23, 1935: A hearing on H.R. 5368 was held before the Committee on the Public Lands, House of Representatives, Rene L. De Rouen, M.C., La., Chairman; and the amendment proposed by Secretary Ickes was discussed. Appearing and giving statements were: Joachim O. Fernandez, M.C., La.; Paul H. Maloney, M.C., La.; A. Sidney Nunez, St. Bernard Parish; Mrs. Henry Dickson Bruns, President, Colonial Dames of Louisiana; Col. Edward S. Bres, Col. Bennet A. Molter, and Mrs. O.W. McNeese of New Orleans.

August 8, 1935: A hearing on H.R. 5368 was held before the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys of the U.S. Senate (74th Congress, 1st Session), Senator Robert E. Wagner of New York, Chairman. Appearing and giving statements were: Senator John Overton of Louisiana; Colonel Harris, Office of QMG, US Army; and Bennett A. Molter of New Orleans. The hearing was called to hear the objections of Senator Overton to the amendment recommended by Secretary Ickes, and specifically to the elimination of appropriated funds and the substitution of "donated funds" which Secretary Ickes had suggested in his letter of April 26, 1935. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada was in favor of the bill but stated that if the amendment as suggested by Secretary Ickes was not included, and if an appropriation was included, the bill would not pass. On the other hand, if the amendment was included, the status as the Chalmette National Historical Park would be established and a future Congress might secure appropriations. With this idea in view, it was decided to include the amendment of Secretary Ickes.

March 12, 1936: A hearing on H.R. 5368 was held before the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, U.S. Senate (74th Congress, 2nd Session), Senator Robert F. Wagner, Chairman. Appearing and giving statements were: Senators Hohn H. Overton and Rose McConnell Long of Louisiana, Senator Nathan L. Bachman of Tennessee, Congressmen J.O. Fernandez and Paul H. Maloney of Louisiana; and William C. Holmes, Esq., and Col. Edward S. Bres of New Orleans.

The general discussion centered on the need and desire of establishing the Chalmette National Park and the selection by the Department of the Interior of approximately 200 acres for the project with the understanding that the lands required be paid for by a Federal appropriation. Senator Overton suggested that the amendment proposed by Secretary Ickes and adopted by the House be changed to read, "appropriated or allotted and made available by proper authority." The Chairman closed the hearing with the statement that he would confer with the two Senators from Louisiana on the wording of the amendment.

The final H.R. 5368 carried an appropriation of \$300,000 for the acquisition of lands. This bill was passed by the House and the Senate and died by pocket veto of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1938: Those who had sponsored H.R. 5368 had a resolution for an appropriation of \$300,000 to purchase lands for the park introduced in the Louisiana State Legislature. This bill was passed and the appropriation was to be made from the General Fund. This fund had served as the cushion for the Department of Education and had been used only by that Department. It was thought that if an appropriation of \$300,000 was taken from the fund to purchase lands for the park, although the fund was well able to take care of that amount, a precedent would be established and the Department of Education might suffer in future years. For this reason, Governor Oscar K. Allen was persuaded by many requests to veto the bill.



March 3, 1939: H.R. 4742--to establish the Chalmette National Historical Park in the memory of the soldiers who fell in the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812--was introduced by J.O. Fernandez, M.C., La.

August 10, 1939: The Chalmette National Historical Park was established when H.R. 4742 was enacted into Public Law 368 during the 1st Session of the 76th Congress. The Park, which was to include Chalmette Cemetery and the area formerly known as Chalmette Park, was designated as the Chalmette National Historical Park. The law provided that the total area of the enlarged Park should not exceed 500 acres; that payment for lands should be made solely from donated funds; and that the administration, protection, and development of the Park should be by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

June 30, 1945: Chalmette National Cemetery was closed for burials.

November 22, 1946: Governor James H. Davis of Louisiana appointed a committee to look into the matter of Chalmette National Historical Park and advise the State Park Commission on the purchase of lands for the Park, as provided by Act 138 of the Louisiana Legislature of 1946. (As reported in New Orleans States, November 22, 1946)

January 27, 1947: H.R. 1324--to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, land not to exceed the value of \$200,000 for the extension of Chalmette National Historical Park, all within the boundaries approved for the Park by the Secretary of the Interior, February 26, 1946--was introduced in the 80th Congress, 1st Session by F. Edward Hebert, M.C., La.

March 14, 1949: The New Orleans Terminal Company transferred to the State Park Commission 36.4 acres of land which were, in turn, transferred to the U.S. Government on November 28, 1949 (recorded at St. Bernard Courthouse).

1950: The Louisiana Legislature appropriated \$100,000 to reimburse the New Orleans Terminal Company for the 36.4 acres which included the Beauregard House and grounds. This was accomplished during the administration of Governor James H. Davis by the passage of House Bill 917.

April 8, 1952: The Henry J. Kaiser & Aluminum Corporation purchased 66 acres of land between the Park property and Chalmette Cemetery, which comprise the battlefield area of 1815, from the Southern Railway System for \$66,000.

May 1952: H.B. 62--requesting an appropriation of \$66,000 to purchase 66 acres of land between the Park property and Chalmette Cemetery--was sponsored by the Louisiana Landmarks Society and other patriotic groups, under the leadership of Mrs. Martha G. Robinson, and was introduced in the Louisiana Legislature by George Tessier from New Orleans. This project had been substantially approved by the Association of Commerce and the New Orleans Newspapers who, overnight, became persuaded that the land should be sold to the Henry J. Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation for the extension of the plant. The bill was defeated. The land had already been acquired by the Kaiser Corporation.



June 1952: Mrs. Martha G. Robinson, President, Louisiana Landmarks Society, organized the patriotic societies of the State in an effort to persuade Henry J. Kaiser to donate the 66 acres of land to the National Park Service.

May 16, 1956: The National Park Service in its summary of objectives and program stated:

"Development and Operation Problem"

The development and interpretation of Chalmette National Historical Park, as planned by the National Park Service, requires the acquisition of tracts of land situated between the present holdings contained within the Park. This land, owned primarily by the Kaiser Company, contains approximately 65 acres. If this cannot be done, the proposed plan must be abandoned and the area made a Memorial only. Every effort will be made to acquire the land."

July 3, 1956: Dr. Edward C. Morse and Maj. Gen. Edward S. Bres discussed with Mr. Richard E. Parsons, British Embassy, the erection in Chalmette National Historical Park of a memorial to the British who lost their lives in the Battle of New Orleans. Dr. Morse, who was married to the former Miss Alice Beauregard, had heard that the British Government would be interested and arranged for the conference. The Beauregard Home, which was then being restored on the battlefield, was Miss Beauregard's birthplace. Mr. Parsons was apparently interested in investigating the project of locating the grave site and erecting a monument, but stated that the British Government had no funds for the undertaking. Mr. Parsons also stated that he would write to Mr. D.V. Lawford, British Consulate General in New Orleans, and asked General Bres to confer with Mr. Lawford on his next trip to New Orleans. Later, Mr. Parsons received the map of the battlefield area compiled by General Bres.

March 18, 1957: A telegram from Mrs. Martha G. Robinson said that the St. Bernard Police Jury planned to build a sewage disposal plant in the battlefield area.

March 19, 1957: Mr. E.T. Scoyan, Associate Director, NPS, sent three prints of the map of Chalmette National Historical Park, showing the proposed restoration, to General Bres. At the same time, Mr. Scoyan stated that the policy of the National Park Service was restrictive regarding plaques and asked that any plans for memorials to the British be checked with the Park Service.

April 2, 1957: General Bres conferred with Mr. D.L. Benest, British Embassy. Mr. Benest said he was in consultation with the British Consulate in New Orleans about the best way to proceed with the memorial project. Later, additional maps were sent to Mr. Benest.

April 27, 1957: Mr. D.L. Benest, British Embassy, wrote to General Bres, saying that he had heard from the Consul General in New Orleans and asking that General Bres contact Mr. Lawford when in New Orleans.

May 15, 1957: General Bres visited Chalmette National Historical Park and discussed with Lyle K. Lynch, Superintendent and Frank L. Ahern, Chief Safety Engineer, NPS, the proposed improvements, etc. General Bres later conferred with R.G. Dundas, British Consulate General, who was interested but indefinite. Mr. Dundas was informed that General Bres would confer with Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director, NPS, on his return to Washington and advise him about details, etc.

May 23, 1957: Mr. D.L. Benest, British Embassy, telephoned General Bres to say that both he and Mr. Dundas were interested and optimistic regarding the memorial for the British dead. Mr. Benest was advised that formal sketches would be submitted to him.

May 29, 1957: The Kaiser Corporation agreed to sell  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land on the river end of the Fazendville Road to the St. Bernard Police Jury for the construction of a sewage disposal plant.

June 10, 1957: Concurrent Resolution No. 59--"That the State take necessary steps to acquire 66 acres of land on the designated site of the Battle of New Orleans"--was passed by the Louisiana Legislature.

June 25, 1957: General Bres conferred with officials of the National Park Service. During this conference it was stated that MISSION 66 had been adopted and that the detailed development of the Park was outlined therein. It was stated that funds were available for the completion of the project if and when the required area, being the absolute minimum that would be considered, for the Park was secured. The area designated was that between the present Park and the National Cemetery.

MISSION 66, conceived by Conrad L. Wirth, Director, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Park Service, had as its objective the completion of all parks, monuments, and other areas of the National Park Service program by August 25, 1966.

The announcement of MISSION 66 had been made at a staff meeting on February 8, 1955, and was immediately set into motion by a directive of February 18, 1955, to all Field offices requesting suggestions and recommendations for the ultimate completion of the project. It was directed that imagination and vision were to be used in making the analyses which had to be submitted by March 10, 1955.

August 2, 1957: Congressman Hale Boggs of Louisiana sent General Bres a copy of a letter that he had received from William Marks, Vice President of the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. This letter, addressed to Roger Ernst, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, stated that the Corporation had made available to the Sewage District  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land for sewage treatment plant and that it could not sell or donate 66 acres of land as requested for the Park. However, the company would be willing to exchange the 66 acre tract for other suitable river-front property in the vicinity of its plant.

October 14, 1957: General Bres conferred with NPS Assistant Directors Hillory A. Tolson and Jackson E. Price regarding the status of the development of the Park. During this conference, it was announced that Messrs. Price, Diederich, and Cox would visit the Park and that on October 28, 1957, they would confer with General Fleming and E.M. Roy about a possible trade of lands with the Kaiser Corporation.

October 24, 1957: A conference was held in the office of E.T. Scoyan, Associate Director, NPS. Other National Park Service officials attending were: Director, Conrad L. Wirth; Assistant Directors, Tolson and Price; Planning, Diederich; Historians, Lee and Kahler; and Regional Director, Elbert Cox. Mrs. Martha G. Robinson and Gen. Edward S. Bres also attended. There was a general discussion of the Park and the possible trade of lands with the Kaiser Corporation.

March 20, 1958: NHP-CHAL Drawing #7008, showing the boundaries as approved by Secretary of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton, was officially adopted pursuant to the Act of August 10, 1939. The official boundaries were declared to include the land from the cemetery to the eastern boundary of the Present Park.

April 15, 1958: H.R. 11910--to authorize the acquisition of lands for Chalmette National Historical Park to provide for the enlargement of the cemetery, etc.--was introduced in the 85th Congress, 2nd Session by Congressman F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana. (Note: This would provide for the purchase of lands to trade with the Kaiser Corporation.)

May 18, 1958: The Visitor Center (Rene Beauregard Home) was formally opened.

1958: The booklet, CHALMETTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, by J. Fred Routh, was published as National Park Historical Handbook, Series no. 29, Washington, D.C.

January 7, 1959: H.R. 790, which was essentially the same as H.R. 11910, was introduced by F. Edward Hebert. The Superintendent of Chalmette National Historical Park, Lyle K. Lynch, stated that this bill had been approved by the Department of the Interior.

April 8, 1959: A letter from Chad F. Calhoun, Vice-President, Kaiser Corporation, addressed to Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service, officially advised of the proposed donation of 66 acres to the Park. That same day, F. Edward Hebert telephoned Mrs. Martha G. Robinson to let her know that the donation had been officially proposed.

April 27, 1959: Mrs. Martha G. Robinson wrote to General Bres, saying that he had been the first to suggest a sesquicentennial celebration for 1965 and that action toward the planning of the celebration should be undertaken immediately.

April 6, 1960: General Bres discussed the possible contour survey of the Chalmette battlefield area with New Orleans District Engineering officials and was advised that the survey could be made.

June 24, 1960: General Bres conferred at great length with Herbert E. Kahler, Chief Historian, National Park Service and Assistant Director, Jackson Price about the joint resolution to be introduced in Congress for the Sesquicentennial. Mr. Price said that he would be sending General Bres laws on the other celebrations that had been held in the past.

July 21, 1960: General Bres forwarded suggestions for the Sesquicentennial planning to Elbert Cox, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service.

August 29, 1960: General Bres discussed with Bob Hunter, Administrative Assistant to Senator Long, a request to be made to the National Park Service for the preparation of a joint bill for the Sesquicentennial that would be introduced by Senator Long and Congressman Hebert.

September 1, 1960: In a letter to General Bres, Elbert Cox stated that he would have the draft of the bill prepared by the National Park Service.

September 19, 1960: The Kaiser Corporation announced the donation of lands for the Park, and the ceremonies of transfer were held in the office of George W. Abbot, Assistant Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Chad F. Calhoun, Vice-President, acted for the Kaiser Corporation and General Bres represented Senators Ellender and Long at the ceremony. The first donation was 13-3/4 acres--the remainder to be given yearly.

Following the ceremony of donation, General Bres remained and conferred with Secretary Abbot and Messrs. Scoyan and Price of the National Park Service about the early development of the project.

October 17, 1960: A letter from Assistant Secretary George W. Abbot to Senator Long stated that the project would cost \$187,000 and that hopefully, it would be completed by December 1964. The letter also stated that the development would keep pace with land acquisition and the availability of funds.

October 19, 1960: A letter from Chalmette National Historical Park, Superintendent, to General Bres mentioned a rumor about enlarging Highway #39 (The Arabi to Paris Road) to six lanes. The letter also said the Highway # 39 is 225 feet from the Park's north right-of-way line. Mr. Lynch mentioned that railroad traffic on the Louisiana Southern Railroad is six large trains daily and that one track carries a train, with no passenger service or definite schedule, to Violet, Louisiana.

October 26, 1960: Because of his extreme concern about the delays on the Chalmette Battlefield reconstruction project, General Bres wrote to Mrs. Martha G. Robinson and to Senators Ellender and Long.

October 27, 1960: General Bres talked with Mssrs. Price and Kahler by telephone. Later, Mr. Rogers Young telephoned General Bres to say that the Park Service had contracted for the casting of fortifications for a sum of \$10,600. Superintendent Lynch advised that the present trend of visitors would exceed 500,000 by the end of 1960. (Note: In 1963, it was 518,000.)

November 8, 1960: Mr. E.T. Scoyan, Acting Director, NPS, forwarded to General Bres the drafts of the bills pertaining to the other sesquicentennial celebrations that he had requested. It was stated that this preparation carried no commitment. The drafts were patterned on the JAMESTOWN Law.

November 14, 1960: General Bres forwarded to Senator Russell B. Long and Congressman F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana the copies of the drafts of bills that he had received from Mr. Scoyan; and General Bres suggested that a joint bill, sponsored by Senators Ellender and Long and by Congressmen Hebert and Boggs, be introduced.

November 21, 1960: General Bres was advised by Senator Long and Congressman Hebert that the drafts of the bills had been received and that a bill for the Battle of New Orleans Sesquicentennial was being prepared for introduction in the next session.

November 25, 1960: Senator Long was advised by George W. Abbot, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, that General Bres had been in touch with the National Park Service by telephone and that General Bres had been informed that the Interior records indicate that the restoration of the mud rampart was completed in June 1958 and that cannons for the rampart were included in the cost estimate given in Mr. Abbot's letter of Oct. 17.

February 3, 1961: A letter from John A. Carver, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, advised Senator Long, that in 1958, a sample ditch, 400' long had been constructed; and in the opinion of the Interior Department, it was thought that this sample ditch, with the addition of two or more cannons, would answer the request for the restoration of the mud rampart. On February 24, General Bres received a similar letter from Mr. Scoyan.

February 17, 1961: Replying to an inquiry from Mr. Cox, General Bres advised Mr. Cox that Senator Long and Congressman Hebert would confer on the Sesquicentennial bill on February 21.

February 20, 1961: Congressman Hebert advised General Bres that he would introduce the Sesquicentennial bill.



February 27, 1961: General Bres gave detailed reasons to Senators Ellender and Long and to Mr. E.T. Scoyan of the National Park Service why the plan of Assistant Secretary Carver was unsatisfactory.

February 27, 1961: House Joint Resolution 261--to establish a Sesquicentennial Commission for the Battle of New Orleans-- was introduced in the 87th Congress, 1st Session by Congressman F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana.

March 1, 1961: General Bres received a joint letter from Senators Ellender and Long and Congressmen Hebert and Boggs stating that the Secretary of the Interior had been requested to reconsider the plan and reproduce the total line of defense of 2500 feet.

March 2, 1961: Senate Joint Resolution 60--to establish the Battle of New Orleans Sesquicentennial Commission-- was introduced by Senator Long, for himself and Senator Ellender, in the 87th Congress, 1st Session.

March 15, 1961: Mr. Scoyan advised Senators Ellender and Long and Congressmen Hebert and Boggs that a review of the plans was being made, with special attention to the reasons detailed by General Bres.

May 31, 1961: General Bres was advised by Senators Ellender and Long and Congressmen Hebert and Boggs of the proposed study and amended plan.

July 25, 1961: A letter from Hillory A. Tolson, Assistant Director, NPS, to Senator Long stated that the approved drawing NHP-CHAL 3012A should be examined by his constituent, General Bres, and suggested a conference with Elbert Cox, Regional Director, Southeast Region, for that purpose.

August 3, 1961: A conference was held in Senator Long's office. Attending were: Elbert Cox, General Bres, Mario J. Fellom from Senator Ellender's office, Richard Dashbach from Senator Long's office, and Pen Wilson from Congressman Hebert's office. Mr. Cox agreed to construct 2000 feet of mud rampart, 400 feet of a double log wall, gun emplacements, etc.

August 16, 1961: The details of the August 3 conference were explained in two letters to General Bres from Elbert Cox.

September 8, 1961: A proposed plan to develop the land donated by the Kaiser Corporation was outlined in a letter from Elbert Cox to General Bres.

September 27, 1961: General Bres wrote Elbert Cox regarding details of reconstruction.

November 10, 1961: General Bres sent excerpts from the reports of Vincent Nolte and Major Latour to Elbert Cox.



February 27, 1962: House Joint Resolution 643--to acquire the Fazendville property--was introduced in the 87th Congress, Second Session by F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana. This resolution was later included in H.R. 261.

April 11, 1962: Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service, sent a cost estimate of \$50,000 to cover operating expenses for the Sesquicentennial Celebration to Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands (Interior and Insular Affairs). This estimate was in response to a request by the Committee.

April 12, 1962: Congressman Hebert of Louisiana and General Bres appeared before the House Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 643. Congressman John H. Ray of New York opposed the bill, saying that it was a "local affair."

Later that day, Senator Bible was advised that the letter and estimate sent by Mr. Wirth were withdrawn because of Congressman Hebert's testimony that the entire Celebration expense would be borne by private donation.

April 16, 1962: Congressman Hebert received a letter from George W. Weingart, Jr., 1524 Harmony Street, New Orleans, stating that Mr. Weingart's ancestor Juan Cuera, who had been a resident of Cat Island, delayed the British ships carrying Marines to support General Pakenham by withholding information and refusing to reveal the location of Rigolets. Cuera was placed in irons by the British and later rewarded by President Jackson when he was given Cat Island for his heroic deed.

May 3, 1962: A letter from F. Edward Hebert to Mrs. Martha G. Robinson stated that a request for an appropriation of Federal funds would be fatal in the passage of legislation for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Congressman Hebert said that funds must be obtained through public contributions.

May 17, 1962: Senate Joint Resolution 60 was passed by the Senate, with the amendment that all expenditures of the Commission would be made from donated funds.

September 4, 1962: Senate Joint Resolution 60 was passed by the House.

September 25, 1962: Senate Joint Resolution 60 was enacted as Public Law 87-759 by Congress and was sent to the President to be signed.

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October 9, 1962: The Battle of New Orleans Sesquicentennial Celebration Commission was officially created when the President signed Public Law 87-759, which had been passed by the 87th Congress.

Shortly thereafter, the President of the Senate appointed the following Senatorial members to the Commission: Allen J. Ellender and Russell B. Long from Louisiana, John Sherman Cooper and Thruston B. Morton from Kentucky, James O. Eastland and John Stennis from Mississippi, and Albert Gore and Estes Kefauver from Tennessee; and the Speaker of the House appointed the following Congressional members: F. Edward Hebert and Hale Boggs from Louisiana, William H. Natcher and Eugene Siler from Kentucky, William M. Colmer and Thomas G. Abernathy from Mississippi, and Robert A. Everett and James H. Quillen from Tennessee.

February 28, 1963: President Kennedy appointed Maj. Gen. Edward S. Bres as Chairman of the Commission and the following as members of the Commission: Robert E. LeCorgne, Jr., Raphael H. Morvant, Mrs. Martha G. Robinson, Edwin M. Roy, and Hugh M. Wilkinson of New Orleans and Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service.

May 17, 1963: A letter to General Bres from Elbert Cox suggested a meeting to resolve reconstruction and development details. Enclosed with the letter was a report on the JACKSON LINE by James Holland, Regional Historian, Southeast Region, NPS.

May 18, 1963: General Bres was advised by a letter from Elbert Cox that Battery 8 was to be included in the restoration of fortifications. Mr. Cox had also enclosed a review by former Park Historian, Milton E. Thompson.

March 26, 1963: General Bres wrote to Elbert Cox concerning the "Ritchie Report."

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October 11, 1963: A conference was held in the office of Mr. Herbert E. Kahler, Chief, Division of History and Archeology, NPS, to finalize the design of the cotton bales for the battery emplacements in the line of fortifications. Elbert Cox Regional Director, Southeast Region, NPS, and General Bres were also present. Because there was some difficulty in reaching a decision about the interpretation of the Latour and Vincent Nolte statements, Mr. Harold Peterson, Staff Historian, NPS, was invited to join the discussion. Mr. Peterson, who reads both German and French, was asked to make interpretations from the original works of Nolte and Latour, since there was a possibility that the meaning could have been distorted during the translation into English.

October 29, 1963: A series of discussions between Mr. Peterson and General Bres resulted in a complete and satisfactory understanding of the use of cotton bales and the design of the gun platforms in General Jackson's line, and Mr. Peterson submitted his technical study which was approved by Mr. Kahler.

December 2, 1963: Elbert Cox sent General Bres copies of the plan, section, data sheet, and memorandum comprising the study by Harold L. Peterson and stated that Mr. Peterson's study would be used as the basic planning document for the restoration of the batteries at Chalmette.

March 27, 1964: General Bres wrote Elbert Cox regarding the location of Tour Road.

March 30, 1964: General Bres wrote to Elbert Cox seeking information about the location of the burial site of the British dead.

April 6, 1964: Elbert Cox submitted a sketch of the proposed monument to the British dead to Mrs. Martha G. Robinson. This sketch was not found acceptable.

April 9, 1964: Elbert Cox wrote to General Bres saying that he hoped to get the work under contract as soon as funds became available.

April 27, 1964: A letter from General Bres to Elbert Cox complained of delay and the possibility of not completing the reconstruction in time for the Celebration. Copies of this letter were sent to Senators Ellender and Long and Congressmen Hebert and Boggs, requesting the assistance of the legislators.

May 6, 1964: Bob Hunter from Senator Long's office called General Bres to say that A. Clark Stratton, Associate Director, NPS, had called Senator Long's office to arrange a conference about the completion of the Chalmette Park reconstruction. Mr. Stratton stated that \$250,000 had been transferred from other projects; that bids would be requested June 12; contracts would be awarded July 12; and fortifications and landscaping would be completed by October 20, 1964. General Bres advised Mr. Hunter that no conference would be necessary since this schedule was satisfactory.

May 8, 1964: General Bres was called in to discuss the reconstruction of Chalmette with William C. Everhart, Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, NPS. Mr. Everhart said that he had reviewed the files and was embarrassed to find that Chalmette had been so neglected, but that the work would be completed in October.

May 12, 1964: Mr. Stratton submitted the program for the reconstruction of the Chalmette fortifications to Senator Long.

May 12, 1964: Mr. Everhart asked General Bres to attend a conference with Donald Nutt, Coordination Architect from Philadelphia; Lee Wallace, Eastern Museum Laboratory; and Kenneth Anderson, Acting Chief Architect, NPS. The interpretation of the design was discussed and mutually agreed upon.

May 13, 1964: A conference was held to discuss the roads and walks for the Park. Attending were: Mr. Nutt; Mr. Wallace; Mr. Anderson; General Bres; Henry Stengel, Landscape Architect; and Ben L. Breeze, Chief of Design and Construction.

May 19, 1964: Elbert Cox replied to General Bres' letter of April 27. Mr. Cox stated that he had been absent from his office, and in his letter of April 9, he should have written, "We expect to get the work under contract," instead of, "We hope...." It was fortunate that, in Mr. Cox' absence, prompt action had been taken, thus assuring the completion of the battlefield reconstruction by November 1964.

June 29, 1964: The Department of the Interior awarded the contract for the reconstruction of the mud embankment for Chalmette National Historical Park in the amount of \$49,692.00.

With this award of the first contract for the program, the reconstruction of the battlefield in time for the 1965 Celebration became assured.

Since September 19, 1960, with the first donation of land by the Kaiser Corporation, the reconstruction of the battlefield has been greatly assisted by the officials of the National Park Service. Particularly helpful were: Herbert E. Kahler, Chief, Division of History and Archeology Studies; Elbert Cox, Regional Director, Southeast Region; Harold L. Peterson, Staff Historian--and since May 1964, William C. Everhart, Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, who accelerated the awarding of the construction contracts to assure completion by November 1964.

Much credit is due to the Superintendent of Chalmette National Historical Park, Lyle K. Lynch, for his efficient and enthusiastic development of the Park, especially since the opening of the Visitor Center. The features of the Park that he has stressed have increased the number of visitors from 53,543 in 1955 to over 519,000 in 1963. With the completion of the present program, the number of visitors will constantly increase.

The planning, development, and reconstruction of the Park, now nearing completion, could not have been accomplished without the support of Senators Allen J. Ellender and Russell B. Long and Congressmen F. Edward Hebert and Hale Boggs, who were always firm and prompt in supporting presentations to governmental agencies. The staff members of Senator Long's office--Robert E. Hunter, Administrative Assistant and William E. Leonard, Secretary--who prepared and so loyally followed through on joint presentations, were of incalculable assistance.