
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1998



Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

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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...
ural 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 Meriwether Lewis Monument is a component landscape in Lewis County, Tennessee, seven miles east of the county seat of Hohenwald and seventy miles southwest of Nashville. The 300 acre site is located along the historic Natchez Trace at the burial site of Meriwether Lewis, today part of the Natchez Trace Parkway (Milepost 385.9, Section 1-E). The site is bounded by the parkway to the east and south, Tennessee Highway 20 to the west, and buffered by second growth forest to the north. The centerpiece of the Meriwether Lewis site is a commemorative landscape designed by the National Park Service in the 1930s (Park Development Era). A maintenance complex, picnic area, and hiking trails are within the component landscape boundaries, while a campground, overlook, picnic area, and park housing border the historic core. The Meriwether Lewis tract of the Natchez Trace Parkway extends to the north and east of the component landscape.

The Grinder's Inn operated along the Old Natchez Trace, a nationally significant route used first by migrating animals, later by the Chickasaw and Choctaw, and during the eighteenth century, as the overland path from the Mississippi River to Nashville. Meriwether Lewis stopped at Grinder's Inn on October 10, 1809 and died the following morning. Historians suggest he committed suicide, while local lore maintains he was murdered. Lewis was buried at the site. Few landscape features remain from this historic period, though the configuration of the inn, spring, road trace, and burial remain intact. Archeologists located the site of Grinder's Inn along the Natchez Trace in 1992. The monument erected in 1848 marks the site of Meriwether Lewis' burial with a broken column atop an engraved plinth supported by a rough-hewn stone pyramid. In 1856, land around the monument became a local cemetery. The road trace and spring were incorporated into park development in the twentieth century.

Meriwether Lewis

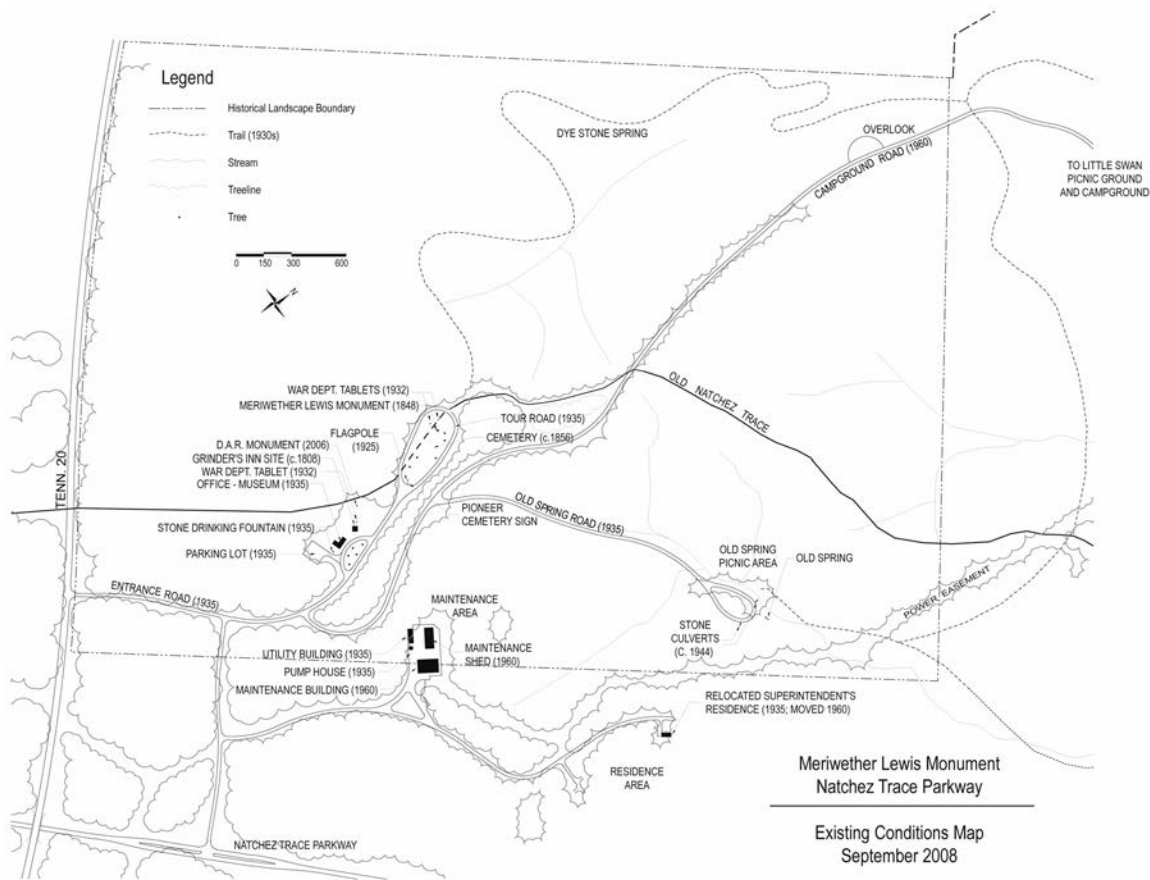
Natchez Trace Parkway

The Meriwether Lewis landscape memorializes the co-captain of the expedition to the Pacific Ocean and his burial along the Natchez Trace. The cemetery (Pioneer Cemetery) surrounds the monument in a level, grassy ellipse enclosed by a loop tour road. The War Department administered the site from 1925-1933 and designed the formal space around the monument. The poorly-maintained gravestones were replaced in 1927 with flush marble markers. The War Department added interpretive tablets to the landscape and removed a dilapidated iron fence around the monument. The period of significance for the site (1925-1948) includes this landscape design and the improvements made by the National Park Service. During the NPS Park Development Era, the road system was improved and the ellipse was graded and filled. The change in topography prompted the resetting of the cemetery stones and covered a portion of the old Natchez trace. A log office-museum built in 1935 resides near the site of the Grinder's Inn and the nearby parking lot and drinking fountain (1935) remain unchanged. The Natchez road trace was delineated during the 1930s to the north and south of the memorial ellipse. The current tour road loop encircling the monument and cemetery preserve the simple landscape designed to commemorate Lewis. The extant entrance road built during the period of significance creates a vista along an axis to the monument.

The Old Spring picnic area remains an intact recreational site on a loop road spur east of the campground road. The picnic area includes scattered picnic tables, grilles, and trash cans located near the local spring. Stone culverts and drainage ditches remain from the original 1935 design and the site links to the trail network. Besides the Old Spring picnic area, maintenance buildings and a residence were added in 1935 and remain in use today. A Pump House and Utility Building are part of the Maintenance Area and the Superintendent's Residence, once adjacent to the other buildings, was moved to a Mission 66 housing area in 1960.

Outside of the historic landscape, a campground and additional picnic area exist as the park road continues. These areas and two overlooks were completed in 1960. The Mission 66 development includes two comfort stations, the Little Swan picnic area, the campground, and park housing (that has since been removed). Additional buildings were added to the Maintenance Area in 1960. The 1935 Superintendent's Residence is located in the park housing.

Site Plan



CLI updated site map, 2009.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Meriwether Lewis
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	550193
Parent Landscape:	550177

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Natchez Trace Parkway -NATR
Park Organization Code:	5570
Park Administrative Unit:	Natchez Trace Parkway

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Meriwether Lewis Monument landscape is a component landscape of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The 300-acre site is located in Section 1-E (approximately at milepost 385.9) and was incorporated legislatively into the Natchez Trace Parkway in 1961. The boundaries of the component landscape coincide with the boundaries that established the Meriwether Lewis National Monument in 1925.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Susan Hitchcock completed a draft CLI in conjunction with the Meriwether Lewis CLR in 2001. In 2008, Beth Wheeler visited the site and recorded current site conditions, updated existing condition photography, and adapted the final CLR publication. The CLR provided a site history, historic photographs, and identified key landscape features. Together the CLR and current site conditions provide the CLI with information about the Meriwether Lewis landscape. The park contact is Dr. Christina Miller-Smith.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	07/16/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	07/09/2009

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Reviewed by Claudette Stager and signed by Richard Tune.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H22 (SERO-CRD)

19 June 2009

Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialist
Tennessee Historical Commission
Department of Environment & Conservation
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Ms. Stager:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Meriwether Lewis Monument, a part of Natchez Trace Parkway located in Lewis County, Tennessee.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or that contribute to an existing nomination. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Meriwether Lewis Monument CLI and ask that you sign and return the enclosed concurrence form.

Meriwether Lewis Monument was listed on the National Register in 1976, as part of a nomination for Tennessee historic sites located along the Old Natchez Trace. It includes a brief history of the property and identifies the Monument as the only contributing feature. Based on our research, we suggest that the nomination be expanded in scope and detail to articulate the commemorative significance of the site and include contributing features from the War Department and National Park Service eras. A case could also be made for submitting a separate National Register nomination just for the Meriwether Lewis property itself, rather than as a contributing feature of the existing 1976 Old Natchez Trace nomination.

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a



Letter to SHPO

future date. If you have any questions about this document, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 507-5780 or by e-mail at david_hasty@nps.gov. The concurrence form can be returned by fax to (404) 562-3202, e-mailed to David Hasty, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,



Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resource Division
Southeast Region

Enclosures

Letter to SHPO; 2nd page

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 532-1550, ext. 105
www.TDEC.net/hist

July 9, 2009

David Hasty
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Hasty: *Paul*

Enclosed please find a signed concurrence statement regarding the Natchez Trace Parkway's Meriwether Lewis Monument.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Claudette
Claudette Stager
Historic Preservation Specialist
CS/cs

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Meriwether Lewis Monument, a part of Natchez Trace Parkway in Lewis County, Tennessee. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Richard L. ...

Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer
n
Deputy

7/9/09

Date

Letter & SHPO Signature of Concurrence



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

19 June 2009

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway

From: Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Southeast Region 

Subject: Meriwether Lewis Monument Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit the Meriwether Lewis Monument Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the park's review. The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing nomination. This CLI was produced using data from the 2003 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) by Susan Hitchcock, as well as a 2008 site visit by Beth Wheeler, and archival research at the Southeast Regional Office and the park.

In order for the CLI to be certified and counted in PMDS under NATR's goal 1a7 and the systemwide goal 1b2B, the Tennessee Historical Commission (TN-SHPO) needs to concur on the eligibility of the identified cultural landscape features to the existing nomination. Meriwether Lewis Monument was listed on the National Register in 1976 as part of a submittal for Tennessee historic sites located along the Old Natchez Trace. The nomination provides a very brief description of the property, and identifies the Monument as the only contributing feature. The existing nomination should be expanded in scope and detail to articulate the commemorative significance of the site and include specific contributing landscape features from the War Department and National Park Service eras. A case could also be made for submitting a separate National Register nomination just for the Meriwether Lewis property itself, rather than as a contributing feature of the existing 1976 Old Natchez Trace nomination. David Hasty, CLI Coordinator for the Southeast Region, will send a request to TN-SHPO for concurrence on the CLI findings.

Approval by the park superintendent is also needed for certification. If the findings of the CLI are agreed upon – especially regarding condition assessment and management category – please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office to the attention of David Hasty via mail, e-mail (david_hasty@nps.gov), or fax (404.562.3202). However, if you have comments or changes to any part of the CLI, please send those to David Hasty instead. We will incorporate them into the inventory, and send the updated version back to you for further review and signature.

Enclosures



Letter to the Superintendent

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 19 June 2009

Park Information

Park: Natchez Trace Parkway
State: Tennessee
Counties: Lewis

Cultural Landscape Condition

Inventory Name	CLI Id #	Condition
Meriwether Lewis Monument	550193	Good

Cultural Landscape Management Category

Should Be Preserved and Maintained 19 June 2009

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur ☒ Do Not Concur ☐

Andis Wilson 07-16-2009
Superintendent Date

Superintendent Signature of Concurrence

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Meriwether Lewis component landscape is roughly rectangular and bound to the south by Tennessee Highway 20 and second growth forest. The east and north boundaries merge into Natchez Trace Parkway. The western boundary meets private property beyond a buffer of woodlands. To the northeast, a modern tour road extends to the campground, overlook, and Little Swan picnic area, not included in the historic core landscape. Incorporated into the Natchez Trace Parkway in 1961, the historic site preserves the route of the original trace and the significant memorial and burial site of Meriwether Lewis within a recreation area along the parkway. The boundaries of the component landscape correspond with the 1925 national monument tract.

State and County:

State: TN

County: Lewis County

Size (Acres): 300.00

Boundary Coordinates:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Latitude: -87.4612731208

Longitude: 35.5200876290

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Latitude: -87.4601062260

Longitude: 35.5049979330

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

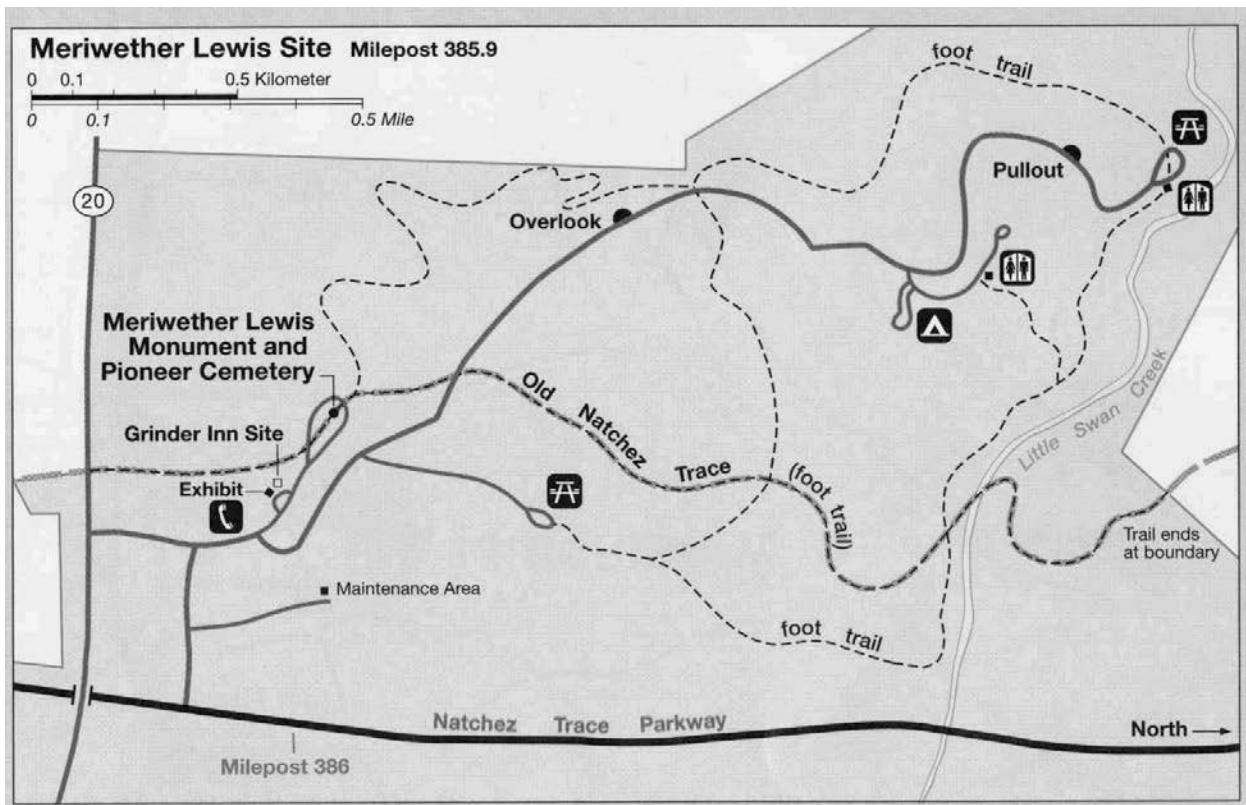
Latitude: -87.4695329251

Longitude: 35.5105159740

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Latitude:	-87.4508011561
Longitude:	35.5150958400

Location Map:



Location map

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Hohenwald/Lewis County area was the site of early hunting grounds claimed by both the Cherokee and the Chickasaw. European settlers made their way to middle Tennessee and in the process turned one of the Indian trails, the Natchez Trace, into a major north-south pathway. The road was probably a series of trails, the two best known being the "Path to the Choctaw Nation," extending from Natchez northeastward, and the "Chickasaw Trace," running from the vicinity of Tupelo to Nashville. The Natchez Trace was used by boatmen and others as an over land route from the Mississippi River to Nashville. Inns and trading posts were established along the trace and coincidentally, Grinder's Inn became the site of the death and burial of Meriwether Lewis in 1809.

Early settlers, drawn by the natural beauty of the area, cleared isolated farms from the wilderness. They formed villages at Gordon and Newburg until the Civil War disrupted county government. During the war and for several years following it, the residents were subject to attack by roaming parties of renegades. In 1878, German immigrants created a town they called Hohenwald (meaning high forest) and developed a lumber industry. With the help of the railroad, an organized colony of Swiss immigrants settled in 1894 and created a "New Switzerland" south of Hohenwald. The two small towns eventually merged under the name of Hohenwald.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Meriwether Lewis site is part of a flat high bench of the Highland Rim of Middle Tennessee. The site is located on the dividing line between a gently rolling upland topography to the northeast and steeply graded drainages, including the tributaries of Little Swan Creek. The area is heavily forested, dominated by a mix of hardwoods.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The cultural landscape is located within Tennessee's 7th congressional district.

Management Unit: NATR

Tract Numbers: 140-05 and 140-06

GIS File Description:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/28/2001

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Meriwether Lewis Monument is included in the 1975 National Register nomination for sites on the Old Natchez Trace in Tennessee.

Maintenance Location Code: 66733

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:

The campground and picnic area at Little Swan Creek, the employee housing area, and a portion of the maintenance complex are outside of the 300 acre Meriwether Lewis Monument component landscape boundary. These areas in addition to the adjacent portions of the Natchez Trace Parkway contribute to the significance of Meriwether Lewis Monument and do not compromise the historic or commemorative scene.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Meriwether Lewis Monument is part of the National Register nomination for Tennessee sites located on the Old Natchez Trace. The nomination, listed in May 1975, includes a very brief description of the history of the site and identifies the Monument as the only contributing feature. The nomination primarily addresses the road trace through several Tennessee counties.

The National Register documentation of the Meriwether Lewis Monument should be expanded in scope and detail to articulate the commemorative significance of the site and include specific landscape features from the War Department and National Park Service design. A separate nomination for the Meriwether Lewis Monument should be undertaken.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Old Natchez Trace (310-2A)
NRIS Number:	76000156
Other Names:	310-2A;Road from Natchez to Nashville;Path to Chickasaw Nation;Path to Choctaw Nation;Natchez Trace
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	11/07/1976

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:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Criteria Considerations:

D -- A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events

F -- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1809
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Transportation by Land and Air
Facet:	Early Turnpikes, Roads, And Taverns East Of The Mississippi
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1848
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The Revival Of Classicism
Time Period:	CE 1925 - 1948
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Transportation by Land and Air
Facet:	Early Turnpikes, Roads, And Taverns East Of The Mississippi
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1925 - 1948
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Vernacular Architecture
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1925 - 1948
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Transportation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Meriwether Lewis Monument is nationally significant under National Register Criteria A and B as part of the old Natchez Trace. A 1975 nomination lists the original portion of the road trace through Tennessee as well as the associated Meriwether Lewis Monument. The Natchez Trace is significant for its use by prehistoric tribes for hunting and gathering and later guiding explorers and travelers along the ridgeline from Natchez and the Mississippi River to Nashville. The Trace was extensively traveled from the late 1780s to the early 1830s and played an important role in opening the western frontier. The Natchez Trace retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and feeling as it passes through the Meriwether Lewis landscape. The integrity of workmanship is diminished by the addition of fill as a War Department improvement over the original trace near the ellipse.

The transportation route also became associated with Meriwether Lewis in 1809 when he died at the Grinder's Inn. Grinder's Inn was one of the early stands along the Trace that provided shelter and food to travelers and was said to be the "last white settlement before entering Indian Territory in the southwest." Meriwether Lewis, co-captain with William Clark of the historic overland expedition to the Pacific Ocean, was traveling on October 10, 1809 and stopped at the Grinder's Inn for the night. He died the following morning (either by murder or suicide) and the site became the location of his burial. Archeology uncovered the site of the Grinder's Inn in recent years, but little information survives from this early period. The integrity of location and association remain. The 1975 nomination notes the location of the inn and Lewis burial to be contributing features of the significant Natchez Trace.

The historic designed landscape derives its primary significance as a memorial to Meriwether Lewis (Criteria C). The landscape evolved from the historic site associated with the burial of Lewis, the Old Natchez Trace, and the Grinder's Inn to a landscape that reflects early 20th-century memorial architecture and landscape architecture. The Monument, dating from 1848, expresses the valor of Meriwether Lewis while the surrounding ellipse, containing the monument and community cemetery, is a character-defining feature of the

designed landscape. The current ellipse landscape was completed during the NPS Park Development Era. The period of significance related to the memorial landscape covers the end of the War Department administration and early NPS development (1925-1948).

The first effort to commemorate the location of Meriwether Lewis's grave began in 1848 with the erection of the Monument. The monument was built in a style typical of the era and memorialized Lewis with a broken stone column supported by an engraved plinth and rusticated base. The broken column symbolized a life cut short (alluding to possible suicide) and marked the location of his burial. Subsequent efforts to reinforce the commemorative setting were complicated by the use of the area immediately around the Monument as a cemetery beginning in 1856. The Monument and cemetery languished in obscurity prior to the establishment of the Meriwether Lewis National Monument in 1925.

The War Department converted the overgrown rural cemetery into a memorial landscape in the late 1920s. A minimalist approach to grounds management resulted in a simple lawn with a few trees, highlighting the Monument as a centerpiece. The cemetery grave markers were replaced with flush white marble markers, further expressing the simple design evocative of its time. The formal space symbolized the War Department approach to commemorative sites and interpretive panels were added to call attention to the Grinder's Inn, Natchez Trace, and Meriwether Lewis Monument. The War Department transferred ownership of the site to the National Park Service in 1933.

This landscape was irrevocably altered by the addition of four feet of fill to the ellipse in 1935 during regrading of the site. An important change after the transfer to the NPS was the relocation of the entry road, which had historically overlaid the old Natchez Trace. The new design created an axial approach to the Monument, a design motif characteristic of Park Development-era landscapes. The road created a vista terminating with the Monument and regrading and realigned the tour road to loop around the ellipse. As expressed in the early 1930s, the Park Service felt that the layout heightened the memorial character of the site. Today the Monument remains the centerpiece of the twentieth-century commemorative landscape and the tour road encircles the Monument, cemetery, and open lawn with a few mature, scattered oaks. The Monument, 1926 replacement of the cemetery markers, the addition of War Department interpretive tablets, and the regrading of the landscape to a uniformly flat ellipse enclosed by a tour road all convey the significance of the site as a 20th century memorial to Meriwether Lewis. The integrity of location, association, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and design remain intact from the period of significance.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed
Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Cemetery
Primary Current Use:	Cemetery
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Equipment/Vehicle Storage	Both Current And Historic
Campground/Picnic Area	Both Current And Historic
Cemetery	Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Both Current And Historic
Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Both Current And Historic
Pedestrian-Related-Other	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Meriwether Lewis Monument	Current
Meriwether Lewis National Monument	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1500 - 1750	Established	The Chickasaw and Chotaw utilized an overland path that would become the Natchez Trace.
CE 1809	Inhabited	Meriwether Lewis and John Pernier stop at Grinder's Inn on the old Natchez Trace on the evening of October 10, 1809. Meriwether Lewis dies the next day.
CE 1811	Planned	Alexander Wilson, friend of Meriwether Lewis, describes the burial site as "a few loose rails thrown over his grave" and finances a post fence to shelter the grave from wolves and hogs.
CE 1843	Established	Lewis County, Tennessee established.
CE 1848	Memorialized	In 1848, the Tennessee legislature provided \$500 to build a monument to memorialize Meriwether Lewis. The broken column, plinthe, and rustic stone pyramid reflected the commemorative design popular in the mid-nineteenth century. A wrought iron fence was constructed around the monument.

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

CE 1849	Land Transfer	Hugh Venable donates one acre of land surrounding the Meriwether Lewis monument to Lewis County to establish a local cemetery.
CE 1856	Altered	Other burials added to the cemetery during the early site history. The oldest original burial marker (surviving) dates to 1856.
CE 1923 - 1924	Built	Between 1923-1924, a road was opened over the old Trace between Highway 20 and the Old Spring veering west of Grinder's Inn with a loop road around the Monument.
CE 1925	Established	On 6 February, President Coolidge issued a proclamation establishing Meriwether Lewis National Monument. The monument was dedicated on August 18, 1925 on the 151st anniversary of Lewis's birth. The new national monument is administered by the War Department and included an additional 49 acres (surrounding the one-acre plot) donated by J. Clint Moore and his family.
CE 1926	Stabilized	In 1926, the Monument shaft was plumbed and the stone work holding the shaft was straightened and repointed with cement mortar. The border masonry at the base was removed, the Monument placed on a base of concrete and set with twenty cannon balls.
CE 1926 - 1930	Developed	The War Department completed a number of improvements to the site under the supervision of DeLong Rice (Superintendent). New marble markers for the local cemetery were ordered, the road system was upgraded to a chert surface, a flag pole was constructed, a tool shed built, and concrete gutters added. Siege guns were placed at the entrance along the Old Natchez Trace and rocks were removed from the slope leading to the Old Spring. Stones were also added to outline the old Natchez Trace route from the highway to the monument.
CE 1927	Land Transfer	250 acres transferred from the State of Tennessee to the U.S. government to expand the historic site. The additional land included the Old Spring and Grinder's Inn site.

	Removed	In 1927, the existing gravestones were removed and replaced with flush marble markers.
CE 1931 - 1932	Built	The installation of two limestone entrance pillars. War Department tablets were added and five oaks were planted in the ellipse.
CE 1933	Land Transfer	Meriwether Lewis National Monument was transferred to the National Park Service.
CE 1933 - 1936	Removed	The park removed the two siege guns from the entrance, the iron fence surrounding the ellipse, and the stones outlining the old Trace. An Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) crew worked at the monument on erosion control, general clean-up, and trail development.
CE 1935 - 1936	Altered	The park altered the topography by adding four feet of fill to the ellipse. The flush cemetery markers were taken up and reset, but the Monument base and the stone curb were covered up.
	Built	The park completed construction of the office-museum, superintendent's residence, pump house, utility building, and new road network. As part of this work, the bronze entrance plaque was relocated to the new entrance. A drinking fountain was added near the office-museum.
CE 1937	Built	Brick walkways leading to the Superintendent's residence. Flagstone landing outside of the office-museum. The trail to the Old Spring was also upgraded.
CE 1944	Built	A rail fence was constructed along the Highway 20 boundary.
CE 1945 - 1947	Altered	Flagpole added to museum-office area. In 1947, flagpoles are taken down and put back up.
CE 1959 - 1960	Removed	Portions of the Park Development-era road network were removed. Also during this time, the custodian's residence was moved to the newly developed housing area. The road spur north of the monument was removed and the recreation and historic site were separated.

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

CE 1961	Established	Meriwether Lewis National Monument incorporated into the management of Natchez Trace Parkway under the administration of the National Park Service.
CE 1963 - 1967	Built	Installation of the Little Swan recreational area occurred between 1963-67 and included a campground, two comfort stations, a picnic area, and a terminating loop as part of the NPS Mission 66 initiative.
CE 1975	Established	Meriwether Lewis Monument listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the nomination of Old Natchez Trace sites in Tennessee.
CE 1992 - 1998	Excavated	Archeologists conduct a series of surveys at the site to locate the site of Grinder's Inn. The archeology includes, shovel test pits, ground-penetrating radar, and remote sensing.
CE 2000 - 2001	Rehabilitated	The Meriwether Lewis monument was rehabilitated in 2000. The monument received a new concrete foundation and was modified vertically to avoid a change in location or site regrading. A new stone base was added and the original plinth and column preserved. Marble curbs were added around the monument in 2001.

Physical History:

Prehistory to 1809

Before the southeast was settled, animals blazed a trail along the ridgeline searching for natural salt licks and land to graze. The Chickasaw and Choctaw used the same trail, Natchez Trace, as a route across the southeast. Andrew Jackson later used the trace to move his troops during the War of 1812. The ancient footpath became an overland return route for boatmen in the nineteenth century who floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans or Natchez. Boatmen, farmers, itinerant preachers, and traders followed the trace north to Nashville, Tennessee and established a reliable route between the gulf coast ports and eastern states. Inns and “stands” or trading posts appeared along the route to provide services and goods for travelers on the Natchez Trace. Grinder’s Inn, seventy miles south of Nashville, was one such “stand” and became the site of Meriwether Lewis’s final resting spot. Lewis died on October 10, 1809 while staying at Grinder’s Inn en route to Washington.

1809-1926 The Death of Meriwether Lewis and Early Designation

General Meriwether Lewis first served as secretary to President Thomas Jefferson and later as Governor of Louisiana (Territory), after his return from the exploration (1803-1805). On a trip to Washington DC via New Orleans to justify payment for reimbursements in 1809, Lewis traveled overland through Tennessee. Lewis arrived at Grinder’s Inn on the Natchez Trace the evening of October 10, 1809 and was found the following morning with bullet wounds to the head and chest. Historians studying the cause of Lewis’ death support a suicide theory, though local legend maintains that he was murdered. Lewis was buried near the Grinder’s Inn and a post fence was financed by his friend Alexander Wilson two years later to protect the grave from wolves and routing hogs.

In 1848, the state of Tennessee erected the Meriwether Lewis Monument to commemorate the death and burial of the General who led the expedition to the Pacific Ocean with William Clark. The Meriwether Lewis Monument was placed at the gravesite by local witnesses to verify the location. Lemuel Kirby, a stonemason, designed a broken column memorial, typical of nineteenth-century funerary architecture, to represent a life cut short. A wrought-iron fence was constructed around the stone monument. The following year, 1849, the land surrounding the monument was sold for use as a cemetery. The oldest extant grave marker dates to 1856, though earlier burials may have taken place. By the 1880s, the monument was covered in moss and the overall condition of the site declining from disuse. By 1893, the iron fence enclosed the monument and cemetery was in disrepair. Accounts published in magazine articles in 1905 describe 50 gravestones adjacent to the monument and the entire site in poor condition. The fence was said to be used by General John Bell Hood’s men for horseshoes and nails during the Civil War.

Lobbying by George “Teen” Cothran in 1923 aided the Meriwether Lewis Memorial Association (MLMA) in designating the site a national monument. Cothran surveyed the property and cleared a stretch of the Natchez Trace between Tennessee Highway 20. An entrance road built in 1923-1924, provided access to the monument looping west of Grinder’s Inn. On February 2, 1925, President Coolidge proclaimed the 50-acre site a national monument. The condition of the Meriwether Lewis Monument was poor at the time and reports detailed fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, broken headstones and the column monument leaning.



View of monument and cemetery from Everybody's magazine, 1905.



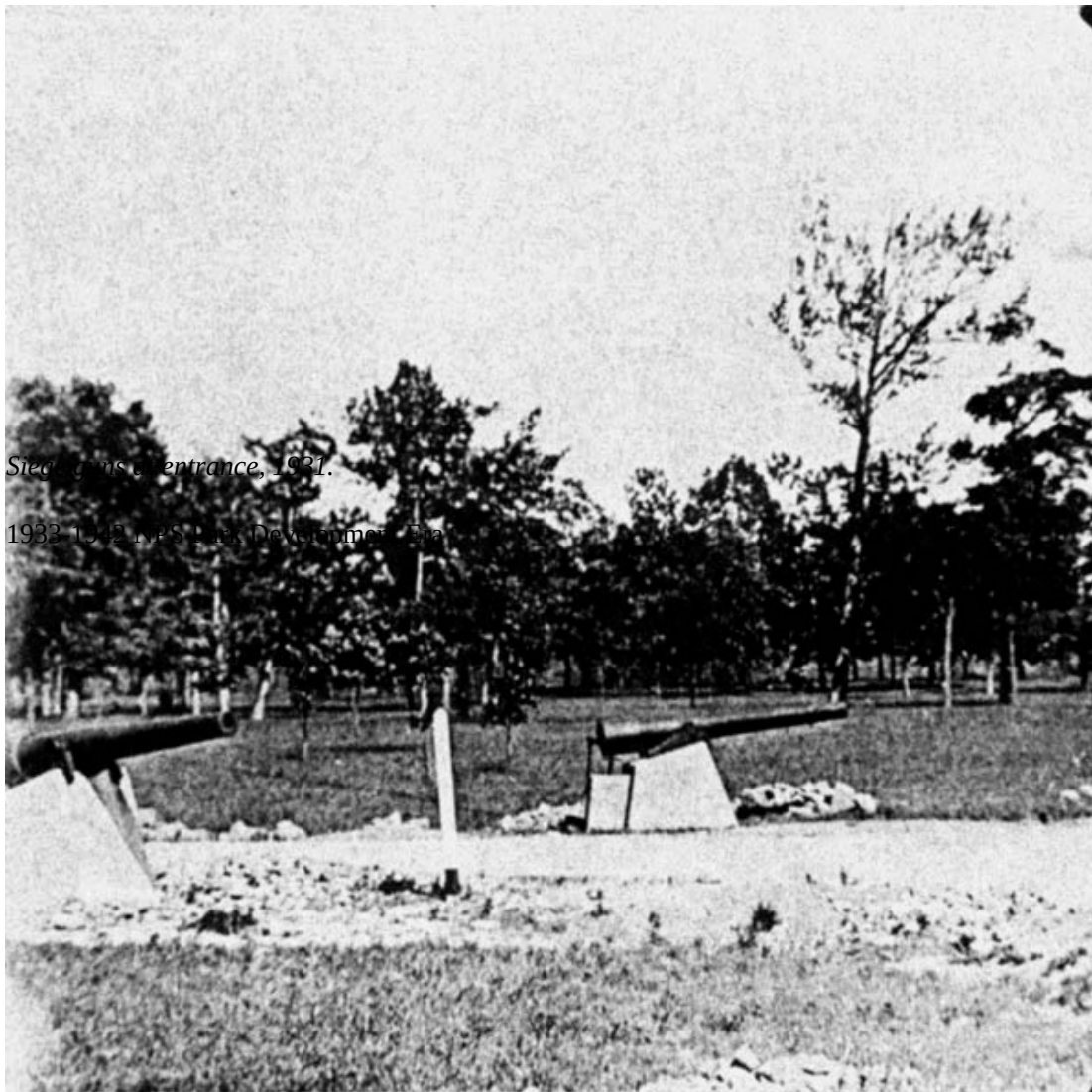
View of the Monument prior to establishment as a national monument, c. 1916



Dedication of the Meriwether Lewis National Monument, 1925

1926-1933 War Department Era

In 1926, the park became administered by the War Department and was placed under the supervision of the Superintendent of Shiloh battlefield. The following year, the Governor of Tennessee signed a bill adding 250 acres to the site, including the location of Grinder's Inn and the Old Spring. The site, totaling 300 acres altogether, included and surrounded the Meriwether Lewis Monument. While no master plan exists for the War Department period, a number of improvements took place. The monument was plumbed and repointed while citizens met to identify and mark the surrounding burials. The gravestones were replaced with flush marble markers. The monument was set on a concrete base with 20 cannonballs lining the perimeter to replace the iron fence. The new fence was constructed of red cedar posts with galvanized iron and each post was topped with a fifty-pound shell. The road system was improved to a chert drive and a storage building and flagpole were constructed. The portion of the Old Natchez Trace running through the park was designated with a border of concrete and stone, while two siege guns were placed at the entrance in 1927. In 1931-32, two stone pillars were added to the entrance with bronze plaques. Vegetation was cleared on the lawn and the slope leading to the Old Spring was leveled. The War Department also placed interpretive signs on-site that remain intact today. Photographs from the War Department era reveal five post oaks in the area of the monument.



Siege guns at entrance, 1931.

1933-1942 NPS Park Development Era

The landscape became NPS property in 1933. The existing conditions of the site upon transfer included: gravel roads leading to the spring and campground, two stone pillars with bronze plaques and accompanying guns at the entrance, a storage building and office structure, a steel flagpole, a fence enclosing the cemetery, and interpretive markers placed by the War Department. Excavations of the Grinder's Inn took place in 1933, though only a few nails and the chimney foundation were uncovered.

The National Park Service prepared a site map and began planning for improvements to the Meriwether Lewis Monument. The park plans included a system of trails to be constructed by the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as well as general clean-up, erosion control, and other improvements. The Washington office stepped in to prevent plans that removed healthy understory vegetation and allowed trails to be constructed as roadways. The removal of deadwood occurred and new native trees were planted.

The construction of an office-museum and rerouting of the entrance road dramatically altered the monument approach. The office-museum, a log building typical of the Tennessee vernacular, was built south of the monument to reflect the architecture of the original Grinder's Inn. The entrance from Tennessee Route 20 was realigned to create a vista terminating at the monument. The addition of four feet of fill to the tour road ellipse prompted the reinstallation of the monument itself and the marble headstones. The fence was removed and "judicious plantings" were planned for the Natchez Trace. The tour road continued north, following the old trace, to a "public gathering space." The simple oval design of the formal landscape complimented the cemetery and monument and plans to reconstruct Grinder's Inn were discarded.

The Superintendent's Residence and utility buildings complimented the construction of the office-museum. The residence was positioned to the east of the office, overlooking the historic landscape and the utility area. In 1935, the pump house and workshop were built, both extant and in use today. Besides the addition of visitor and caretaker facilities, landscape features added by the NPS included a flagstone landing at the office and brick walkway near the residence. By 1936, the siege guns at the entrance were removed. A stone drinking fountain was added next to the office-museum.

The construction of Natchez Trace Parkway in the late 1930s and early 1940s dovetailed into planning initiatives for the Meriwether Lewis Monument. The site was placed under jurisdiction of the new park and a new entrance linked the site to the Parkway. A bronze plaque once adorning one of the stone entrance pillars was relocated to greet visitors off of the Natchez Trace Parkway.



Relocated entrance, 1941.



Meriwether Lewis Monument and ellipse, 1941.



War Department improvements circa 1934. Note the interpretive tablets, the iron fence with cannonballs, and the curbing in the foreground .



Entrance sign, 1941.

1942-Present National Park Service Administration

The Meriwether Lewis site underwent additional changes related to the 1948 Master Plan. The entrance road was rerouted to provide vehicular access to the utility buildings and new park housing, while the northern loop of the monument road was removed. The maintenance area was expanded and a new entrance from the parkway added. Locals passed an ordinance limiting the open grazing of domestic animals before the 1948 plan was implemented.

Mission 66 projects further improved the visitor services at Meriwether Lewis Monument. A recreation area and associated access road to Little Swan was built. This area, built between 1963 and 1967 included a campground, two comfort stations, overlooks, a picnic area, and terminal road loop. The Superintendent's Residence was moved to join new park housing, which included two ranch houses. The Old Natchez Trace was maintained as a foot trail after the rerouting of park roads. In 1975, the Meriwether Lewis site was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the old Natchez Trace sites in Tennessee. A General Management Plan written in 1987 called for archeology and the location of the Grinder's Inn was found in 1992. The NPS administers the Meriwether Lewis Monument as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

In 2000, the monument was rehabilitated following the recommendations of a 1998 Historic Structure Report. The column, plinth, and base were dismantled and a new foundation raised the location of the monument vertically. In 2001, new marble curbs were added around the preserved structure.

In 2003, a Cultural Landscape Report called for rehabilitation of the memorial landscape. Since that time a new D.A.R. monument has been added near the site of Grinder's Inn, the two ranch park houses were demolished, and a mature oak in the ellipse was struck by lightning. The component landscape is in good condition and the site maintained following the treatment recommendations made in 2003.



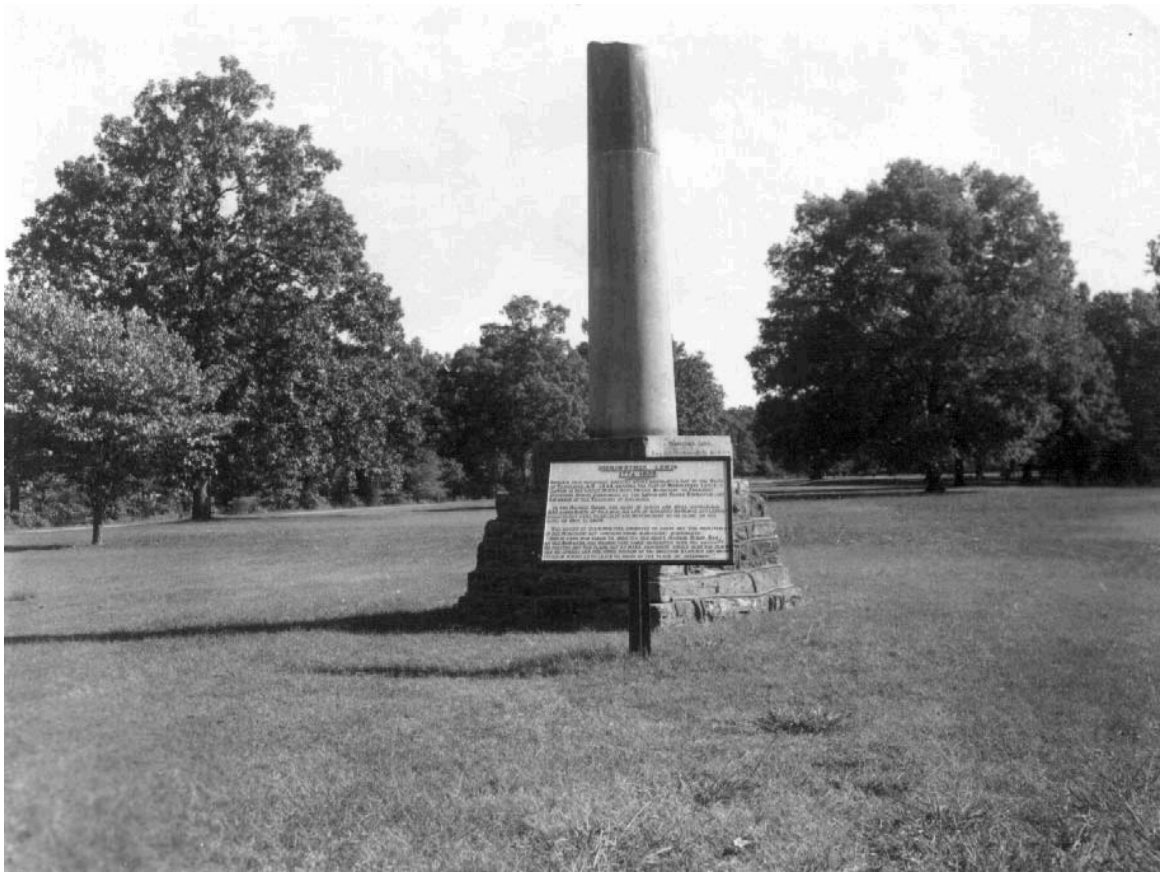
Aerial view of the park showing NPS road network, 1951



Moving the custodian's residence, 1960



Maintenance complex, 1962



View of the Monument and ellipse, 1962



Monument base, 2000.



Monument shortly after rehabilitation, 2000

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The landscape of the Meriwether Lewis Monument derives historic significance from the commemorative design that embodies the ideals of the early twentieth-century landscape architecture. The landscape evolved from a historic site associated with Grinder's Inn and the Old Natchez Trace to a landscape significant as a memorial to Meriwether Lewis. The one-acre grass ellipse containing the monument, flagpole, War Department signage, and cemetery is a feature with several landscape characteristics. The formal simplicity should not be mistaken for an inadequate tribute to Meriwether Lewis since the configuration of the lawn and trees evokes the early twentieth-century attitudes toward the commemoration of famous Americans. Changes initiated by the 1948 General Management Plan resulted in the separation of the historic and recreational areas of the park, replacement of the previous landscape, and ended the period of significance. The aspects of integrity, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are present to varying degrees at the Meriwether Lewis Monument.

The location of the site remains unchanged including the monument, the office-museum, the pump house, the utility building, the stone drinking fountain, site of the Grinder's Inn, and the Old Natchez Trace. The War Department tablets have moved location (evidenced from historic photos) but their context survives. Segments of the tour road were removed, but a majority of the loop and picnic access remains with integrity of location.

The landscape retains integrity of design with the rehabilitation of the monument in 2000-01 and the preservation of the grassy ellipse and office-museum area. The roads constructed during the Park Development era has diminished design integrity when portions connecting the historic and recreational areas were removed, but the overall form of the elliptical tour road and entrance road vista is intact. The office-museum area preserves the spatial arrangement of the flagstone walkway, stone drinking fountain, and parking lot. The significant design of the Meriwether Lewis Monument and contrasting flush cemetery markers is retained in the twentieth century landscape design.

The natural setting surrounding the ellipse retains integrity and proposals to create an extensive park-like setting ended in the early days of the NPS administration. The integrity of setting remains from the period of significance with native second growth forests and selected understory species thriving around the tour road ellipse. The landscape in the Old Spring picnic area, near the office-museum, and bordering the Maintenance Area reflects the setting of the Park Development Era. Integrity of the Grinder's Inn landscape is lost.

The small-scale features, buildings, and vegetation retain diminished integrity of materials due to the fill and repair of the ellipse and modifications over the intervening years. The replacement and addition of modern features has compromised the material integrity of the pump house and the Superintendent's Residence. The stone, concrete, marble, asphalt, and brick used historically in the other buildings remains intact. The Monument was rehabilitated in 2000-01 and the War Department tablets recently repainted. The vegetation retains material integrity, though replacement of some trees has compromised integrity.

The integrity of workmanship was preserved in the monument after the 2001 rehabilitation. The office-museum, utility building, pump house, picnic area culverts, and stone drinking fountain all exemplify the workmanship and construction techniques of the Park Development era.

The feeling of the commemorative site is preserved by the focus on the monument as a centerpiece and the simple surrounding landscape. The tour loop, flush marble markers, and scattered vegetation, all highlight the park-like feeling and retain integrity.

The association of the memorial landscape persists with the monument to Meriwether Lewis and the interpreted old Natchez Trace. The conversion of a rural cemetery to a formal landscape has continued unchanged since the 1920s. The alteration of the Natchez Trace diminished the association of the trace, which is now partially buried beneath the tour loop road, though portions to the north and south of the monument are identified and preserved. The Monument, War Department tablets, and landscape design all convey the association with Meriwether Lewis. The memorial landscape has integrity of association.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Association
	Design
	Workmanship
	Feeling

Buildings and Structures

The most significant structure of the cultural landscape is the Meriwether Lewis Monument. Constructed in 1848, the monument memorializes the grave of Meriwether Lewis and dominates the current formal ellipse. The monument was restored in 2000-01 and is listed on the National Register and LCS. The Meriwether Lewis monument is over twenty feet tall and consists of a broken column on an engraved plinth of stone, both sections made from a fine limestone called Tennessee marble. The base is a pyramid of rough-hewn stacked stone and a marble curb encloses the base. The monument is in good condition and conveys integrity of materials, location, setting, feeling, design, and association.

The office-museum built in 1935 during the Park Development Era survives in good condition. The building is constructed of logs and serves as a visitor contact station. The vernacular architecture is often mistaken by visitors for a replica of the Grinder's Inn, yet the building retains integrity of location, association, materials, workmanship, design, setting, and feeling as a typical park structure of the period. The office-museum is a dog-trot with a gable roof and clapboard addition in the rear. The building contributes to the historic landscape design and should be included in future National Register documentation.

The Maintenance Area complex includes construction from the early Park Development era and modern utility buildings that do not contribute to the historic landscape. The complex is part of the

1948 Master Plan (included in the period of significance) has contributing and potentially contributing structures. A Mission 66 shed and administrative building are non-contributing, yet two buildings in the complex are eligible for the National Register. The Pump House (1935) is a 10'x12' brick building with a side-gable slate shingle roof. The foundation is concrete, beveled at the exterior, and the windows have been replaced. The Pump House still contains the original pump and retains integrity of location, materials, feeling, association, and setting. The window modification compromised the integrity of workmanship.

The garage/utility building, current used as a carpenter's workshop and shed (78'x 28') remains from the period of significance (1935) and retains integrity of location, materials, association, setting, and workmanship. The utility building is a timber-framed ell-gable building with a white clapboard exterior. The building retains the original doors and 6/6 windows. Lichen and moss are deteriorating the roof. Ornamental corner pediments survive on the ell-gable of the building.

The Superintendent's Residence, built in 1935 and moved in 1960, is located at the terminus of the residential area of the park. Two Mission 66 quarters nearby were demolished in recent years. The Superintendent's Residence is a one-story timber-frame, side gable house with a slate roof, carport, and bay window on the front façade. The house has some integrity of association, but no integrity of materials, workmanship (due to modifications), setting, feeling, or location. The residence is non-contributing due to the move in 1960.

The 1948 Master Plan included the Maintenance Area buildings built before 1948 and the later Mission 66 development. The complex is significance to the historic Park Development design and two buildings contribute to the period of significance. The remaining structures will likely attain the same significance when they reach 50 years of age since they are part of the same Master Plan.

The water tank was removed at an unknown date.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Maintenance Shed

Feature Identification Number: 133868

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Maintenance Administration Building

Feature Identification Number: 133870

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Quarters/Superintendent's Residence

Feature Identification Number: 95911

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

Feature: Meriwether Lewis Monument

Feature Identification Number: 95912

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 102351

LCS Structure Name: Meriwether Lewis Monument, MP 385.9

LCS Structure Number: CS-1

Feature: Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 95913

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Utility Building

Feature Identification Number: 95914

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Meriwether Lewis Monument and ellipse, 2001

Circulation

The circulation routes within the inventory unit are a part of the historic landscape design and contribute to the significance of the site. The Old Natchez Trace remains as a historic road bed cleared of vegetation and interpreted near the office-museum and Meriwether Lewis Monument. The integrity of association, location, workmanship and setting remain for the old roadbed. A 2006 D.A.R. monument also honors the Old Natchez Trace.

During the War Department administration of the site, a new entrance was established along the Old Natchez Trace, perpendicular to Tennessee Highway 20. The entrance led to the monument and veered west of the Grinder's Inn site. The entrance was marked with stone pillars and siege guns when the NPS administered the site (1926-31). This portion of the road system was abandoned in 1935 when the entrance was rerouted to the south. The 1924 entrance has no integrity, but the loop around the monument, although improved over the years, remains intact.

The NPS Park Development Era (1933-1948) included the major road building and planning that shaped circulation in the component landscape. The circulation system contributes to the formal NPS design of the memorial landscape with the entrance aligned on an axis and a delineated formal space, together honoring Lewis with a terminal view of the monument. The 1935 entrance began from Highway 20 and veered to the east of the Grinder's Inn. The curvilinear entrance aligned to create an axial vista to the Monument and connected to the 1924 loop around the cemetery. A turn-around in front of the office-museum and a parking lot adjacent were also built at this time. The entrance, turn-around, and parking lot all remain intact and retain integrity of location, design, association, materials, setting, and feeling.

A road to the old spring was also cleared and graveled in 1935. The Old Spring Road leads to the picnic area and remains in good condition. The road has integrity of location, association, workmanship, design, and setting. The Old Spring Road loop remains from the period of significance.

Planning initiatives during NPS administration specified the separation of historic and recreational areas of the park, prompting changes to the Park Development-era circulation system. A 1938 Bureau of Public Roads plan included an extension of the monument loop to the north. The public gathering area loop was added along Old Natchez trace immediately north of the monument, but was removed as part of the 1948 NPS Master Plan and retains no integrity today. Disagreement about converting the monument loop road into a pedestrian path continued even though a plan specifying its retention was approved in 1948. Earlier plans called for an elaborate design surrounding the monument that was never built.

Additional roads and changes were included in the 1948 Master Plan. The park constructed a spur road to the campground in the 1960s that was part of the 1948 plan but funded as part of the Mission 66 initiative. The road to Little Swan included a campground spur, a picnic area, and two overlooks. The current configuration has a distinct historic area, while other recreational and administrative functions are accessed by a separate entrance off the Natchez Trace Parkway. Today the oval monument road remains essentially intact and conveys integrity of location, setting, design, association, materials, and workmanship.

Roadways beyond the component landscape include a two-way asphalt road to the Little Swan campground and picnic area (2.02 miles) built as part of the Mission 66 initiative. A paved service road accesses the maintenance complex and park housing (located outside the Meriwether Lewis component landscape boundary) from the Natchez Trace Parkway entry road. The residential road built during Mission 66 was included in the 1948 Master Plan.

The trail system retains integrity from the historic period. The trail from the monument to Dye Stone Spring and from the picnic area to the Old Spring remains from the 1930s with integrity of location, setting, association, and materials.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Trail system

Feature Identification Number: 135060

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Access Road
Feature Identification Number: 135064
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Campground Road
Feature Identification Number: 135066
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: 1924 ellipse route
Feature Identification Number: 135068
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 1935 road network
Feature Identification Number: 95915
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Old Natchez Trace
Feature Identification Number: 95916
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 102060
LCS Structure Name: Old Natchez Trace Segment, MP 386-387
LCS Structure Number: NATR

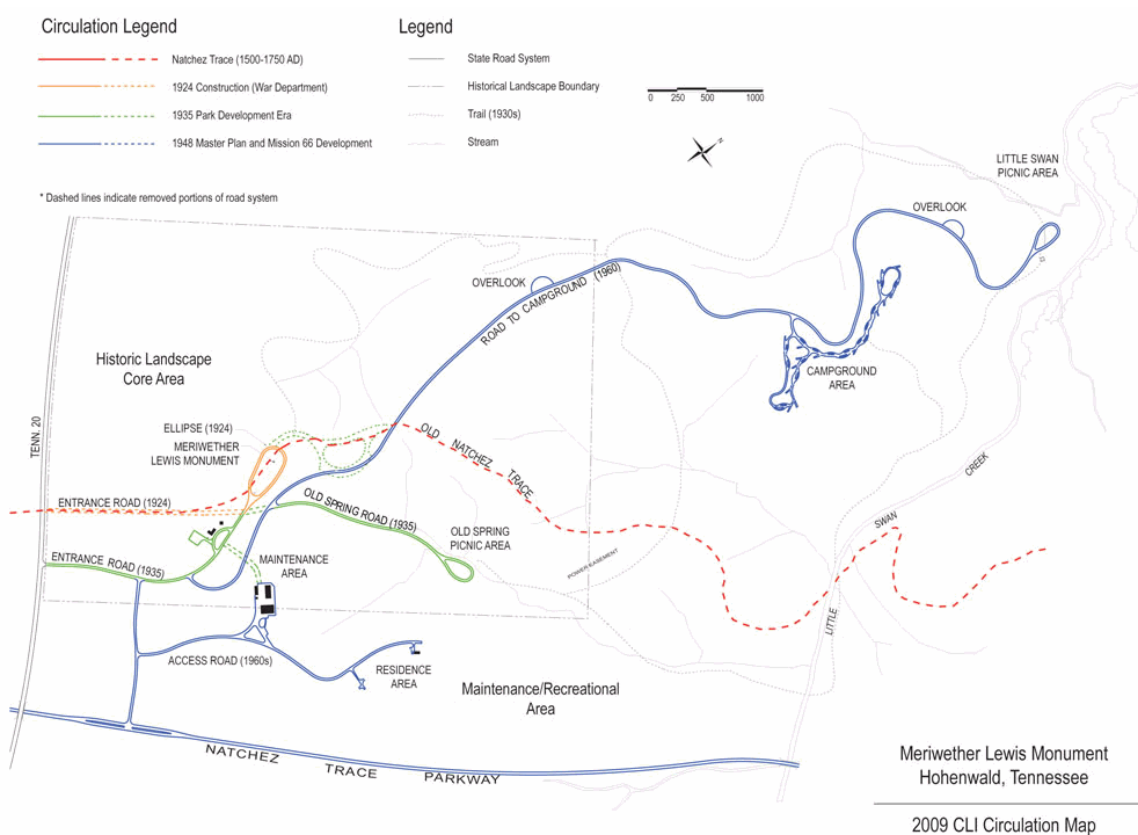
Feature: Old Natchez Trace mp 386-387
Feature Identification Number: 95919
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 102061
LCS Structure Name: Old Natchez Trace Segment, MP 386-387
LCS Structure Number: NATR

Feature: Old Natchez Trace mp 386
Feature Identification Number: 95918

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	102062
LCS Structure Name:	Old Natchez Trace Segment, MP 386
LCS Structure Number:	NATR
Feature:	Old Natchez Trace mp 385-386
Feature Identification Number:	95917
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	102063
LCS Structure Name:	Old Natchez Trace Segment, MP 385-386
LCS Structure Number:	NATR

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



CLI Circulation map (2009) with each phase of road development.



Axial alignment of entrance road, 2000



View of tour road taken from segment of Natchez Trace

Small Scale Features

Several small scale features contribute to the Meriwether Lewis landscape and interpretation of the site. Significant small scale features include flush marble cemetery markers installed by the War Department in 1927 and restored in 2001. These markers replaced the original gravestones of local citizens buried around the monument. The cemetery was redesigned to honor Lewis and broken and ill maintained markers were removed. A non contributing wooden sign notes the “Pioneer Cemetery” at the beginning of the tour road loop presently.

The War Department installed interpretive tablets that survive from the period of significance and note the importance of the Grinder’s Inn, Old Natchez Trace, and the burial of Meriwether Lewis. These contributing landscape features are metal with white and brown paint and in good condition. The War Department tablets do not have integrity of location or setting (due to changes in the commemorative landscape) but retain integrity of materials, association, and workmanship. The War Department also installed a steel flagpole (1925) near the monument that retains integrity of association.

A stone drinking fountain next to the office museum remains from the early NPS site improvements in 1935. The fountain is inoperable but contributes to the designed landscape. The rail fence at the entrance was added in 1944 and retains integrity of materials, location, setting, workmanship, design, association, and feeling. A modern kiosk, wooden bench, trashcan, and water fountain between the building and the parking lot date to the Mission 66 period and do not contribute to the historic landscape

A Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution monument placed in 2006 commemorates the importance of the “Early American Trail” and its use by Andrew Jackson and Meriwether Lewis. This modern addition is non-contributing, but does not detract from the design of the landscape or the spatial organization of the site. Other modern features include wooden park signs indicating the route of the Old Natchez trace, traffic signs, a fire hydrant, and modern lighting. These modern features do not contribute to the period of significance.

Several drainage features and stone culverts survive from the period of significance in the Old Spring picnic area. These features are in good condition and retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The stone culverts around the ellipse appear as only a modern metal grate and subtle grassy ditch indicating drainage. Later changes to the ellipse removed or buried these culverts.

The culverts extant at the Old Spring picnic area and at the entrance should be further researched and added to the LCS. A stone culvert on the south side of the Old Spring picnic loop is angled, while the culvert north of the loop is straight. Stone markers standing upright in the ground near the Old Spring prevent vehicle access and remain in good condition. Two stone culverts at the entrance survive and likely date to 1935 when the entrance was rerouted.

Non-extant small-scale features include the siege guns removed to Fort Donelson, stone entrance pillars added in 1931-32, and bronze plaques. The plaques hung on the stone pillars but were moved in 1941 and placed near the entrance, freestanding from the pillars. The plaques were put into the Natchez Trace Parkway collection at some point after their replacement. No documentation shows when the stone pillars were removed

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	War Department Grinder's Inn tablet
Feature Identification Number:	133862
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	War Department Natchez Trace tablet
Feature Identification Number:	134998
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	War Department Lewis tablet
Feature Identification Number:	135000
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	DAR Monument

Meriwether Lewis
Natchez Trace Parkway

Feature Identification Number:	135002
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Old Spring culvert (north)
Feature Identification Number:	135014
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined
Feature:	Old Spring culvert (south)
Feature Identification Number:	135016
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined
Feature:	Entrance culverts
Feature Identification Number:	135018
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined
Feature:	Cemetery markers
Feature Identification Number:	95920
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Stone drinking fountain
Feature Identification Number:	95921
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Pioneer cemetery gravestones, 2008.



War Department tablet interpreting Grinder's Inn, 2008.



Old Spring culvert, south of picnic loop. 2008.



Park Development Era drinking fountain

Spatial Organization

The association with Meriwether Lewis began in 1809 at the Grinder's Inn along the old Natchez Trace. The arrangement of the inn and outbuildings is lost, though the inn site, old spring, and old road trace remain. The spatial organization of the 1809 features served as the origin of the memorial landscape and a monument was erected in 1848. The 250 acre land tract added in 1927 to the original 50 acre monument tract reunited the Meriwether Lewis Monument (and burial site) with the site of the inn and old spring. Today the Grinder's Inn archeological site and interpreted old Natchez Trace remain extant near the office-museum.

The arrangement of the Meriwether Lewis monument, centered among the flush marble gravestones of the local cemetery (1927), emphasizes the importance of the historic association with Lewis while preserving the existing grave locations. The spatial organization of the Meriwether Lewis Monument memorial ellipse remains a key landscape feature of the historic design. The monument is a centerpiece among the cemetery markers and a few mature oaks, enclosed by an oval tour route. The level terrain punctuated by trees further expresses the simplicity of the landscape design and emphasizes the monument as a focal point. The loop and approach road built in 1935 created a formal memorial area and aligned the entrance to highlight an axial vista of the monument. The 1935 parking lot is intact and contributes to the overall spatial organization of the visitor contact area.

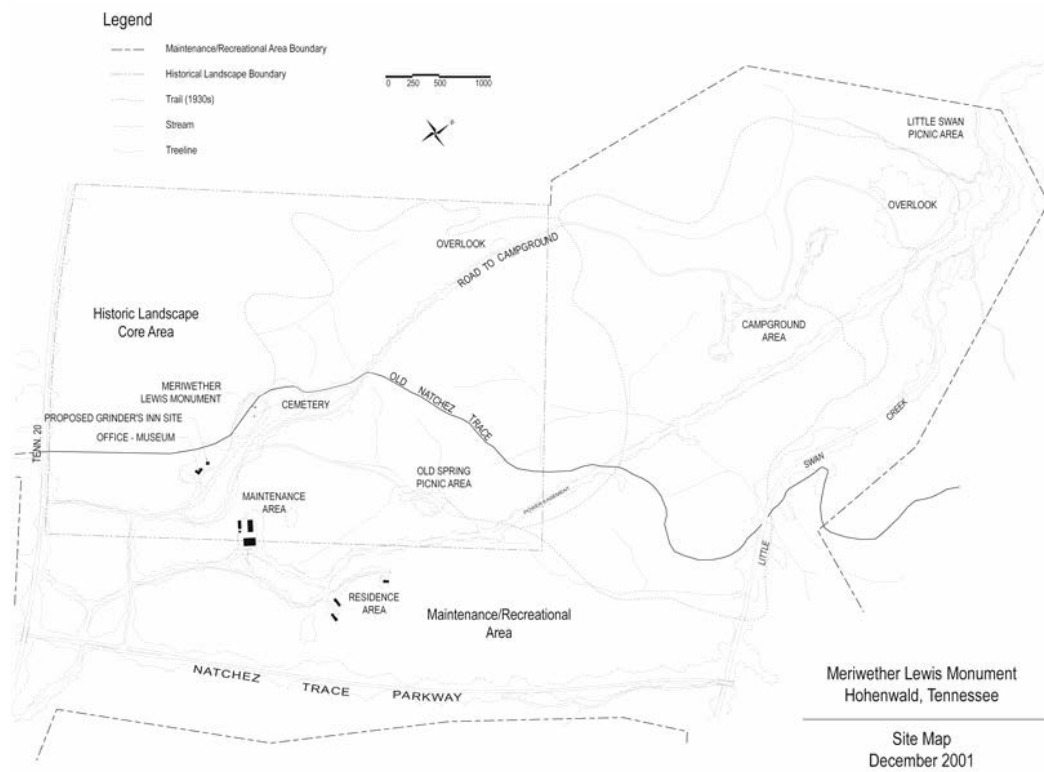
The NPS separation of the historic and recreational space remains extant. The approach to the Old Spring picnic area was rerouted and 100 feet of road demolished north of the monument loop. A new road leading from the 1935 entrance veered south, apart from the historic site, and led to the Old Spring Road spur, additional picnicking, camping, and overlooks beyond the boundary of the component landscape. The removal of the portion of the park road north of the monument restored the formal landscape to prominence as the terminus of the loop.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Overview of the ellipse showing spatial organization, 2008.

Meriwether Lewis Natchez Trace Parkway



CLR Site map (2001) with historic landscape core, maintenance/recreation area, and picnic areas noted.



Axial approach to the ellipse, 2000

Topography

Major topographical changes occurred during the period of significance motivated by the 1935 Park Development Era road work. The addition of four feet of fill to the ellipse changed the built aspects of the landscape and prompted the reinstallation of the markers and monument. The iron fence was also removed at this time. The fill covered the original Natchez Trace nearest the monument. After 1948, the National Park Service preserved the level design of the landscape and did not change the topography. The existing flat ellipse, graded drainage around the tour road, and unaltered Old Trace to the north and south of the commemorative landscape survive with integrity of location, setting, design, association, and workmanship. The natural topography is preserved in the landscape surrounding the historic core.

Vegetation

The conversion of the ellipse in 1927 from an overgrown rural cemetery to a managed memorial landscape has remained unchanged over the years. The formal vegetation pattern is a character defining element of the commemorative landscape at Meriwether Lewis. A flat expanse of turf is punctuated by a few native trees. The historic specimens within the ellipse have been damaged by ice storms, wind, and lightning and survive as large, mature oaks. The open grassy ellipse appears as it did in War Department era photographs. The office-museum portion has understory plantings of redbud and dogwood, though no original 1938 plantings survive. The integrity of design, setting, and association are retained in the vegetation at the site.

The area beyond the monument ellipse, adjacent to the historic core (including the Old Spring picnic ground) remains in second growth forest. Oaks, red cedars, tulip poplars, and red maple predominate among mixed hardwoods. The NPS replanted native species to restore the natural setting throughout Meriwether Lewis Monument during the Park Development Era.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vegetation pattern of the ellipse, 2001

Views and Vistas

Views from the approach road to the Meriwether Lewis Monument remain open and define the character of the landscape. Since the construction of the road in 1935, management practices preserved the axial vista and retained an open formal landscape. Vegetative buffers protect the broader cultural landscape from incompatible views of private property to the north and east.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/30/2000
Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 07/16/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Given the relative stability of the landscape, reassessment will occur by FY 17 after FMSS-CL project is complete.

Since the CLR was published in 2003, the Meriwether Lewis Monument landscape of Natchez Trace Parkway remains in good condition. The addition of a monument in 2006 does not distract from the design elements defining the old trace landscape. The mown lawn is well-maintained and visitor contact area kept up-to-date. Lightning struck a mature white oak in the historic ellipse in 2006. This tree should be replaced in-kind.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The tour road loop around the Meriwether Lewis Monument shows signs of erosion next to the monument and War Department sign. This area bordering the road is eroding where vehicles stop frequently.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	The impact of development on adjacent lands is not a factor at present but should be monitored.

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 0.00

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date: 12/31/2003

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) published in 2003 suggests a rehabilitation strategy to maintain the existing historic landscape and make compatible use possible. Rehabilitation addresses contemporary management, planning, and interpretive concerns while preserving the significant historic resources. The replacement of deteriorated base stones and the marble curb on the Meriwether Lewis Monument allowed the monument to return to its original height. Specific treatment recommendations included the preservation of the Old Spring picnic area, maintaining the native plant palette, restoring the marble cemetery stones, interpreting the Old Natchez Trace and expanding visitor services. The CLR suggests updating documentation of the site. Since the publication of the report, one large oak tree in the ellipse has died.

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 158,552.00
Cost Date: 12/31/2003
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

These treatment costs were taken from the recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Report.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title:	A Preliminary Report on Stands and Travel Accomodations of the Natchez Trace
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	011008
Citation Title:	Death of Meriwether Lewis
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	011003
Citation Title:	General Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment, Natchez Trace Parkway
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	013396
Citation Title:	Grinders Stand
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	002744
Citation Title:	Interpretive Prospectus for Meriwether Lewis Park, Part of the Interpretive Prospectus of Natchez Trace Parkway
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	011942
Citation Title:	Meriwether Lewis 1774-1809
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Citation Number:	002693
Citation Author:	Natchez Trace Parkway
Citation Title:	Meriwether Lewis National Monument, Its Origin, Development, and Administration
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Source Name: DSC/TIC

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Citation Title: Master Plan Development Outline

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Citation Title: "A Forgotten Hero" Southern Women's Magazine

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Citation Title: "The Natchez Trace" Everybody's Magazine

Citation Title: History of Lewis County, Tennessee

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Citation Location: SERO

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Citation Title: Mission 66 Prospectus Brief, Meriwether Lewis National Monument

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