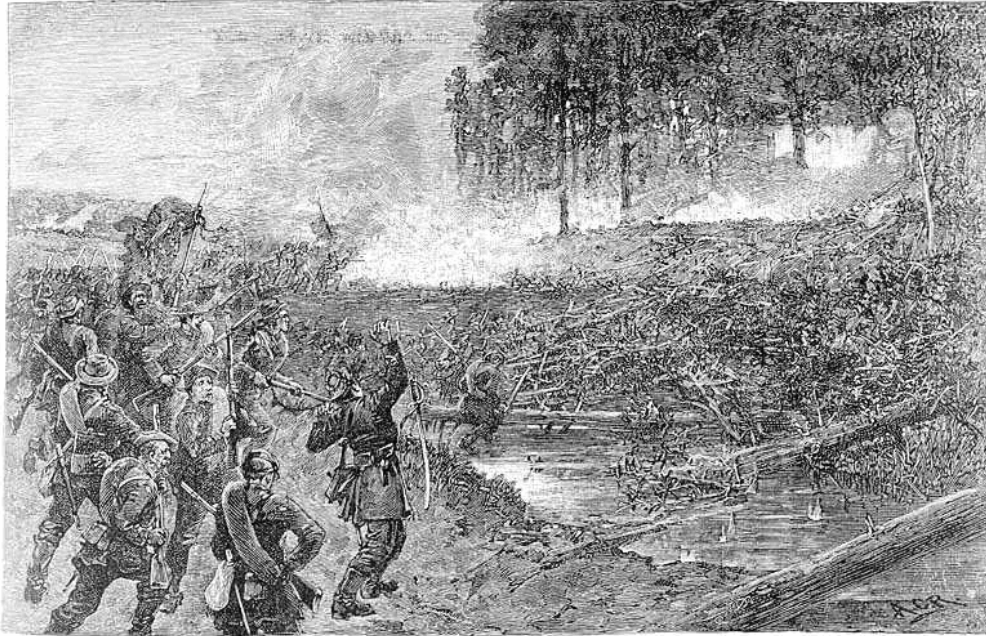


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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
1999



Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site'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. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

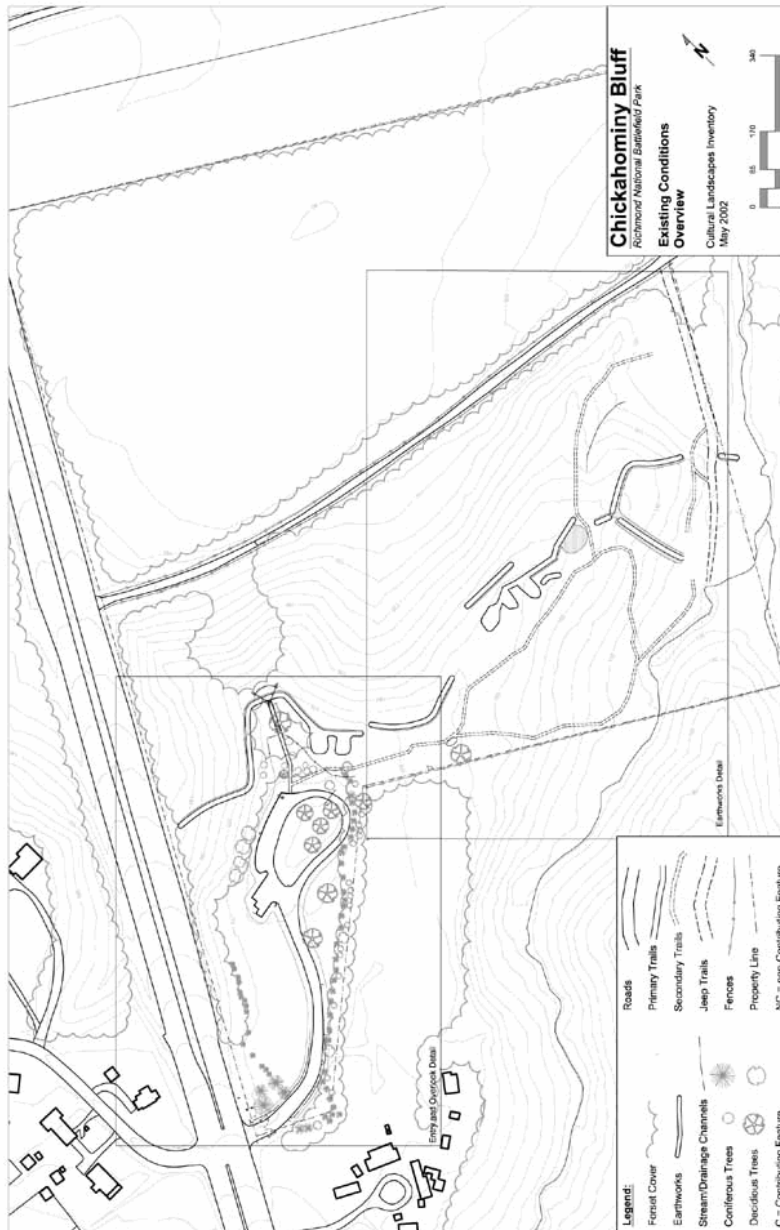
**Inventory Unit Description:**

Chickahominy Bluff is one of eight units of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The 37-acre unit is located northeast of Richmond, Virginia, just south of the Chickahominy River. The unit includes earthen fieldworks, visitor parking, and a short pedestrian trail that leads to a viewing platform with waysides. Visitor access to most of the unit has been restricted to protect the resource from vandalism.

Chickahominy Bluff served as Robert E. Lee's headquarters during the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek on June 26, 1862. The bluff was an ideal location for Lee to oversee the military maneuvers and to coordinate his attack, which was Lee's first military engagement as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of his plan, the delay of General Stonewall Jackson's troops and the breakdown of communication, Lee's experience at Chickahominy Bluff was a frustrating one.

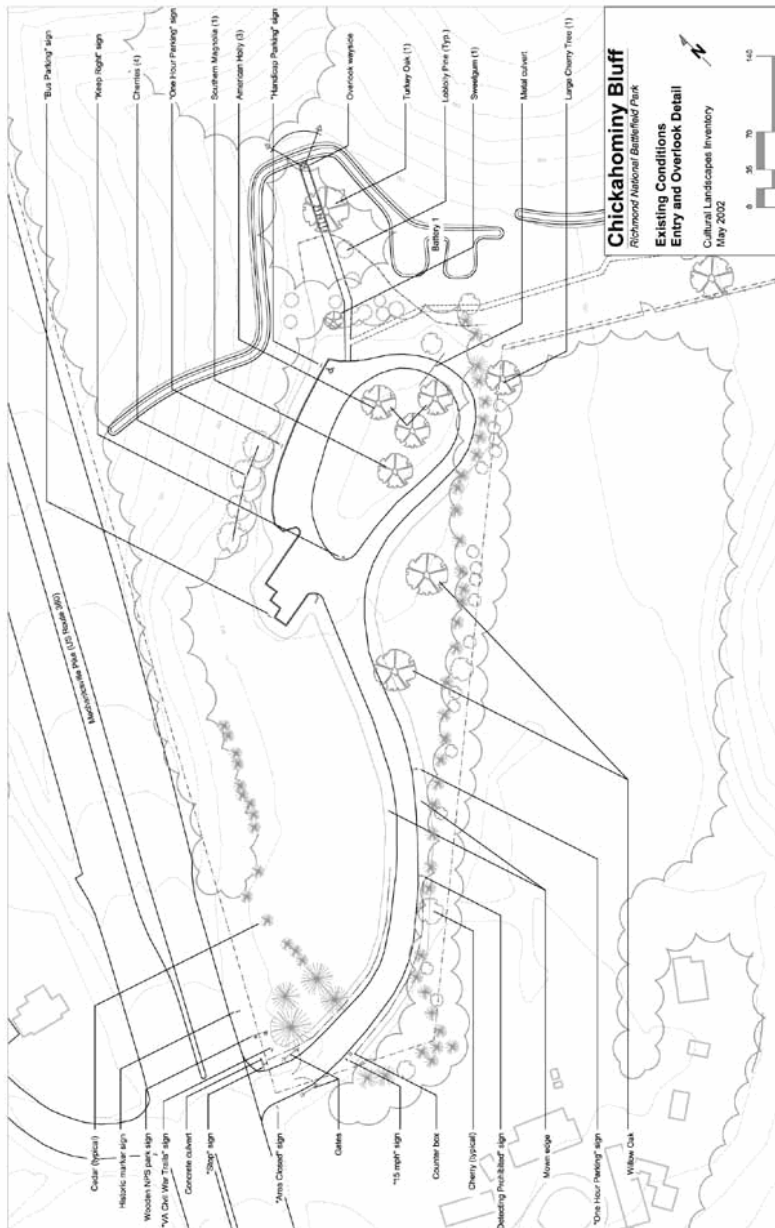
Chickahominy Bluff is significant under Criterion A for its association with the defense of Richmond during the Civil War from 1862-1865. The site is significant under Criterion B for its association with General Robert E. Lee. The earthworks are significant under Criterion C for military engineering and archeological resources. Under Criterion D, the earthworks and surrounding land are possibly significant for their potential to yield military information from the period, and could possibly yield information regarding prehistoric use of the area.

## Site Plan



*Existing Conditions: Overview (See Addendum for enlargement).*

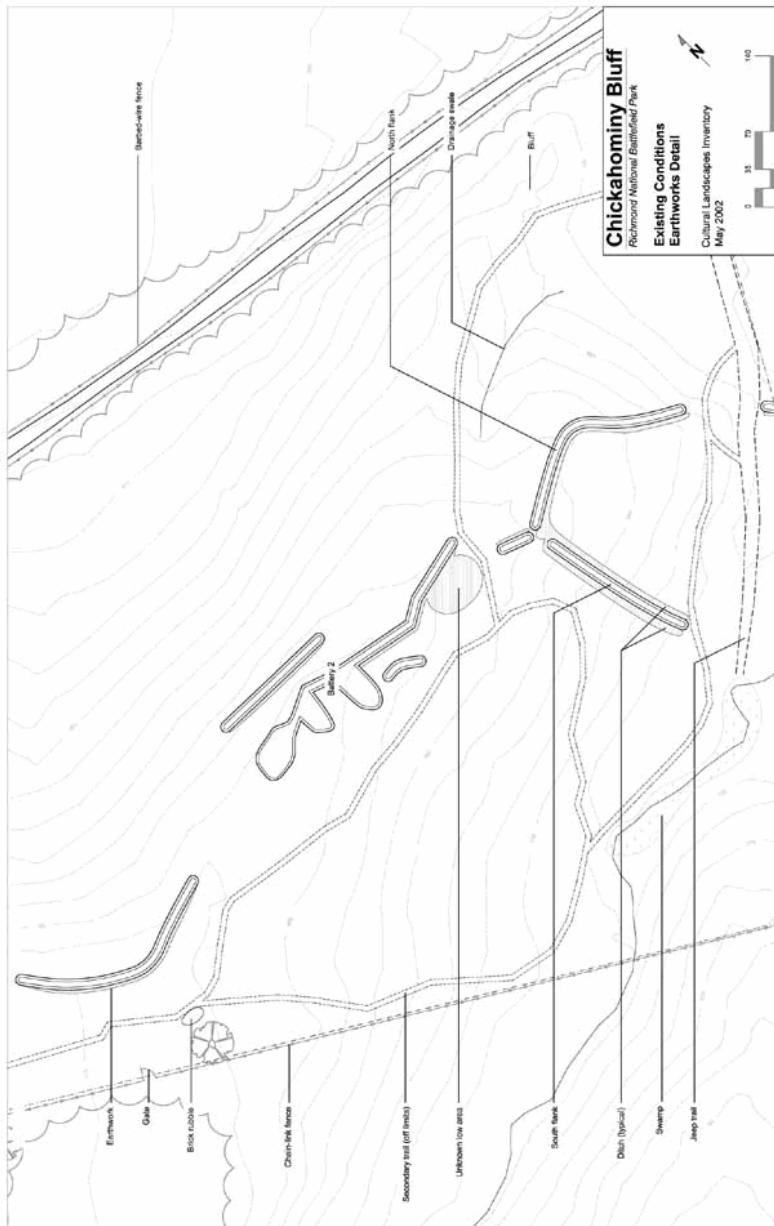
Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park



*Existing Conditions: Entry and Overlook detail (See Addendum for enlargement).*

Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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*Existing Conditions: Earthworks detail (See Addendum for enlargement).*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Chickahominy Bluff
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	300099
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	300092

### Park Information

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Richmond National Battlefield Park -RICH
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	4800
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Richmond National Battlefield Park

### CLI Hierarchy Description

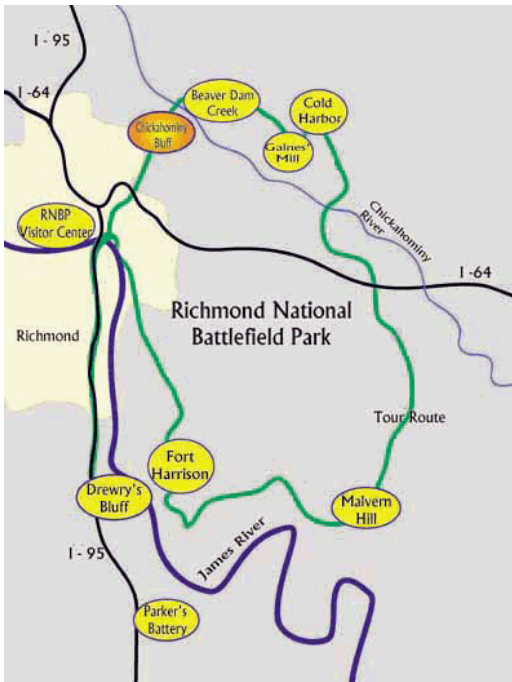
Richmond National Battlefield Park is comprised of a series of noncontiguous Civil War sites. The Chickahominy Bluff unit makes up one component landscape of the park. Other component landscapes that have been identified include: Beaver Dam Creek, Drewry's Bluff, Ft. Harrison, Cold Harbor, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, and Parker's Battery.

Richmond National Battlefield Park is located in the Chesapeake Cluster of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.



Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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*This diagram illustrates the general layout of Richmond National Battlefield Park and the approximate location of the component landscapes.*

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Level II field survey work was performed by Brown, Sams and summer intern Layton in July, 2000. Sams completed the research and writing of the text, which was edited by Brown. Existing conditions maps were prepared by Sams and intern Witters. Sams entered the information into the CLAIMS database.

The park contact for the Cultural Landscape Inventory is David Ruth, Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Manager, at (804)771-2808.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	07/19/2002
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	08/01/2004

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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**Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
Condition Reassessment  
2007**

Richmond National Battlefield Park:  
Chickahominy Bluff

Richmond National Battlefield Park concurs with the condition reassessment for the Chickahominy Bluff, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Chickahominy Bluff

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

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

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

The condition reassessment for the Chickahominy Bluff is hereby approved and accepted.

Cynthia MacLeod 9.28.07  
Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park Date

*Condition reassessment form for Chickahominy Bluff.*

OCT-21-2008 17:23 RICHMOND NBP 804 771 8522 P.02

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
Condition Reassessment  
2009**

Richmond National Battlefield Park:  
Chickahominy Bluff

Richmond National Battlefield Park concurs with the condition reassessment for the Chickahominy Bluff, including:

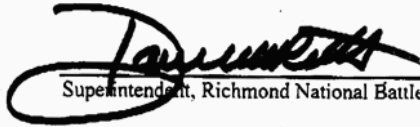
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Chickahominy Bluff


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

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

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

The condition reassessment for the Chickahominy Bluff is hereby approved and accepted.

  
Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park

  
Date

*Condition reassessment form for Chickahominy Bluff.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:**

Change in Condition

**Revision Date:** 09/28/2007

**Revision Narrative:**

Condition reassessment.

**Revision Date:** 10/21/2008

**Revision Narrative:**

Condition reassessment.

## **Geographic Information & Location Map**

**Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

The northwestern corner of the Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park is located east of US Route 360, and south of a high-tension power line and the Chickahominy River. The unit boundary runs 100' south of the power line for approximately 1250'. Then the boundary line turns 90 degrees and continues about 1260' to the southwest. At this point the boundary heads northwest for 860' until it turns southwest for 650'. The boundary then jogs 150' to the west where it turns to run approximately 1900' along Mechanicsville Pike to its originating point.

**State and County:**

**State:** VA

**County:** Henrico County

**Size (Acres):** 39.20

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	289,040
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,162,130
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	288,070
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,162,820
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
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<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	289,340
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<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	289,000
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,162,270
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000

<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	289,540
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,162,130

**Location Map:**

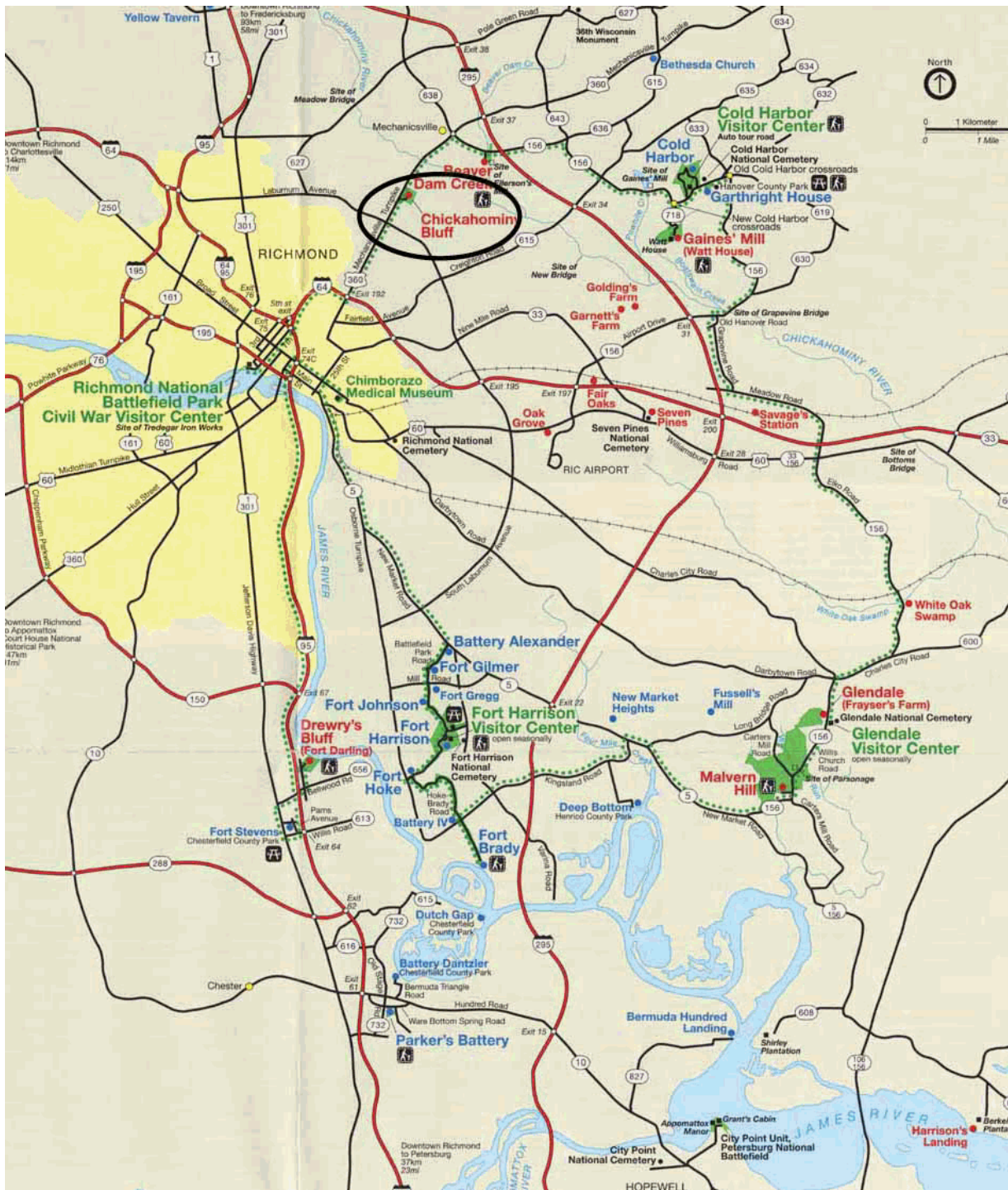


*General location of Richmond National Battlefield Park within the Mid-Atlantic states.  
(Map Source: <http://clients.mapquest.com/infoseek/mqcustomconnect?screen>)*



Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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*This maps shows the location of all component landscapes in Richmond National Battlefield Park (Park brochure 2000).*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

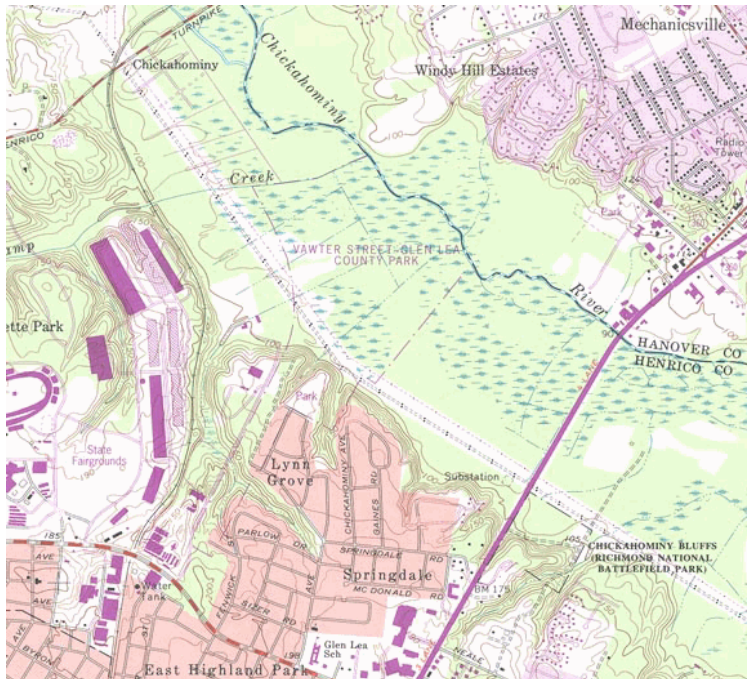
**Description:**

The Chickahominy Bluff unit is located in an area dominated by residential subdivisions. There is currently residential development located east, west and south of Chickahominy Bluff and more commercial and industrial development closer to Mechanicsville. A utility corridor is located directly north of the site.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Chickahominy Bluff is located in the relatively flat land of the Atlantic Coastal Plain province, but just east of the fall line of the Piedmont Province. “The topography east of the fall line includes large, relatively level terraces or plateaus bounded by steep embankments associated with the margins of the waterways, many of which are edged by swamps and other wetlands over much of their floodplains” (OCULUS 1996, Vol. I: 2-1). The Chickahominy Bluff overlooks the Chickahominy River from the south, which is part of the James River drainage basin.



*1994 USGS Map of the Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park.*

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

The Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park is located approximately one-mile southwest of Mechanicsville in Henrico County, Virginia. The park unit is located directly east of Mechanicsville Pike, US Route 360.

## **Management Information**

### **General Management Information**

**Management Category:** Must Be Preserved And Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 01/15/2002

### **Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** No

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Chickahominy Bluff is now located in a very suburbanized area of the greater Richmond metropolitan area. The lands east, south and west of the site are already or zoned to be suburban development. The land directly north of the site is a utility corridor that runs through the Chickahominy River valley. The proximity of the site to Mechanicsville Pike, a major artery, allows traffic noise to be very evident on the site. Fortunately, the increased vegetation of the site visually screens most of these incongruent land uses from view.



*Adjacent lands map indicating the suburban development on three sides of the park unit (City of Richmond 2000).*

## National Register Information

### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Richmond National Battlefield Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000836
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966

<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history
<b>Period of Significance:</b>	
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1862 - 1865
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Shaping the Political Landscape
<b>Subtheme:</b>	The Civil War
<b>Facet:</b>	Battles In The North And South
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Military

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Engineering

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Archeology

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Conservation

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Statement of Significance:**

To have historical significance, a landscape must be associated with at least one of four criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places. The four criteria are Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; Criterion C: Embodies distinct characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; Criterion D: has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. These criteria can be judged to be significant at the national, state or local level.

The CLI documents the national significance of the Chickahominy Bluff unit under Criterion A for its association with the Seven Days' Battles, which occurred in June 1862. The park unit is also significant under Criterion B for its association with the military career of General Robert E. Lee. The remnant fieldworks at the Chickahominy Bluff unit are significant under Criterion C as representations of military engineering and archeological resources. In addition, many of the remaining earthworks might be significant under Criterion D for their potential to yield archeological information important to the history of the Civil War period.

One area of significance for Chickahominy Bluff unit is military, with 1862 - 1865 as its period of significance. The Seven Days' conflict started with the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek and led to McClellan's retreat from the Virginia peninsula, ending his attempt to seize Richmond. General Robert

E. Lee used Chickahominy Bluff as his headquarters for the first day of the Seven Days conflict, which was Lee's first battle as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Union troops defended their position at Beaver Dam Creek during the fighting, but Lee's tactics and the perceived strength of his army caused McClellan to retreat toward White House Landing soon afterward.

The permanent earthworks at the Chickahominy Bluff unit are significant in the area of engineering, as they contribute to the understanding of the military strategy used during the Civil War. These military remnants are associated with another area of significance: archeology. The earthworks have the potential to yield information related to the creation and development of fieldworks between 1862 and 1865. In addition archeology could possibly yield information regarding prehistoric use of the area.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Battle Site

**Primary Current Use:** Leisure-Passive (Park)

**Current and Historic Names:**

Name	Type of Name
Chickahominy Bluff	Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

An Ethnographic study should be done at Chickahominy Bluff to discover any possible Native American use of the site during its history.

**Chronology:**

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 200 - 1697	Settled	Various Algonquin-speaking groups settled in Chickahominy Bluff area.
AD 1607 - 1775	Colonized	English colonized the region.
	Farmed/Harvested	English settlers farmed tobacco for shipment to England.

Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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AD 1775 - 1800	Built	Both canals and roads built to improve shipment of goods from region.
AD 1800 - 1860	Developed	Region became rich in industrial development, such as flourmills, sawmills and sugar refineries.
AD 1862	Established	June 26, 1862: General Robert E. Lee establishes his headquarters to coordinate the start of the Confederate offensive for the Seven Days Battles at Chickahominy Bluff.
	Built	Earthworks and trenches dug at Chickahominy Bluff to help defend Mechanicsville Turnpike.
AD 1863	Expanded	Earthworks and batteries at Chickahominy Bluff were improved and expanded as part of the Outer Line of Defense for Richmond.
AD 1864 - 1865	Inhabited	Military personnel manned Chickahominy Bluff throughout the remainder of the Civil War. Men might have seen some action during the Kilpatrick Dahlgren Calvary raid in March 1864 or during Sheridan's Yellow Tavern raid in May 1864.
AD 1880 - 1920	Developed	Increasing development pressure from expanding Richmond population threatens the preservation of earthworks at Chickahominy Bluff.
AD 1865	Abandoned	Batteries and earthworks at Chickahominy Bluff abandoned by military at the end of the Civil War.
AD 1932	Land Transfer	State of Virginia accepted Richmond Battlefield Park's land and established the first state park of Virginia.
AD 1933	Established	Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) Colored Company 1375 established at Richmond Battlefield Park.
AD 1936	Established	President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed enabling legislation for the National Park Service to establish Richmond National Battlefield Park.
AD 1944	Land Transfer	July 14: NPS officially accepted management responsibility for Richmond National Battlefield Park.



Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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AD 1958	Land Transfer	September 26, 1958: E. I. Du Pont & Co. donates approximately 85 acres of Chickahominy Bluff's land to Eastern National Park and Monument Association.
AD 1966	Altered	By 1966, Chickahominy Bluff was improved as part of the Mission 66 project. An example of the improvements was the interpretive shelter built adjacent to the viewing platform.
AD 1985 - 1995	Removed	Interpretive shelter removed from site.
AD 1999	Built	Split rail fence built to block visitor access to the secondary trail to the earthworks and the bottom of the bluff. Remote location and dense vegetation on the bluff enabled unlawful access to the resources and subsequent damage.
AD 1960	Land Transfer	July 29, 1960: Eastern National Park and Monument Association exchanges approximately 49 acres for approximately 4 acres held by William F. Keck.
	Land Transfer	Eastern National Park and Monument Association transfers 39.2 acres of the Dupont tract to Richmond National Battlefield Park.

### **Physical History:**

#### Native American Settlement/Habitation: 200 AD – 1607

The settlement and habitation of various Algonquin-speaking groups took place in the region during this period. While the CLI did not discover any documentation of actual Native American settlements at the Chickahominy Bluff unit, villages sprang up and remained near rivers to take advantage of their numerous resources, so it is conceivable that there were settlements in the region.

#### English Colonization: 1607-1775

With the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, Virginia entered the period of English colonization. English explorers discovered many natural resources available to ship back to England, and the land was very good for growing tobacco, a lucrative crop. Thus, the British settlers started to force the Native Americans from their land. The late 17th century saw typical rural settlement through the area with mills and trading posts located along the river.

#### American Revolution/Aftermath: 1775-1800

After the American Revolution, the area around Richmond, Virginia, began to bustle with manufacturing establishments to supply the new nation. Now that England was not ruling the colonies, they could manufacture supplies locally instead of sending the raw materials to England, who in return, forced the colonies to purchase their finished goods. “The area’s vast growth resulted from a number of factors, including its navigable waterways, rich soils, access to ores and other natural resources” (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 2:9). The aftermath of the American Revolution also demonstrated a shift of some agricultural lands surrounding Richmond to produce grains instead of tobacco. Due to Chickahominy Bluff’s location adjacent to the Chickahominy River and the fertile soil in the area, the CLI can infer that the agricultural lands near the Chickahominy Bluff unit were producing grains at this time.

The roads of eastern Henrico County served to link the small rural communities with the wholesale markets for the agricultural produce. These markets were located primarily in Richmond, which contained grain mills and was a commercial transportation hub for the Mid-Atlantic and even Trans-Atlantic markets. Besides River Road, the fan-like network of roads emanating from Richmond toward southeastern Henrico County included Darbytown Road, New Market Road, Varina Road, and Osborne Turnpike.

This time period ushered in another important advancement: the canal system. A system of canals, the James River and Kanawha Canal, opened the James River to the west beyond the series of falls at the end of the piedmont. These canals enabled rural farms to export grains more expediently. While Chickahominy Bluff lies north of Richmond, the canal system helped the exporting infrastructure to be established in Richmond. Thus, the farmers in the Chickahominy Bluff area would benefit as well.

#### Industrial Development: 1800-1860

With the completion of the canal system, Richmond became a premier industrial city. Tobacco began to dominate commercial activities as manufacturers set up warehouses and factories to store and process it. Coal was shipped via the canal to Richmond to be used locally and to be shipped to other markets. Several of the other industries established in Richmond were flourmills, cotton-clothing manufacturers, sawmills, sugar refineries, and many others. Some industries were more successful than others were, but in general Richmond's industry thrived during the first half of the 19th century (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 2:13).

#### Civil War: 1861-1865

With the start of the Civil War, Richmond gained additional significance by being named the capital of the Confederacy in 1861. Richmond's industrial strength was also a great contrast to the South's mostly agricultural economy. For these two reasons, control of Richmond became a key factor for both sides to win the war.

General Robert E. Lee took over the command of the Army of Northern Virginia on June 1, 1862 after the previous commander, General Joseph E. Johnston was wounded during the Battle of Seven Pines. Lee assessed that the city of Richmond was at great peril from the Army of the Potomac, which was under the command of General George B. McClellan. The first task Lee performed to remedy the situation was to send the troops out to strengthen the trench systems around Richmond for defense.

Lee assessed that the Federals were positioning their troops north of the Chickahominy River in order to protect the supply lines from White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. This position, along with a consistent food and arms supply, would allow the Federal army to make a prolonged investment at Richmond. Lee knew that this kind of investment would lead to the downfall of Richmond. Therefore, Lee planned an offensive against the Federal army in hopes to threaten their supply line and drive them back to relieve the pressure on Richmond.

Lee first ordered General J.E.B. Stuart to gather intelligence about the Federal army's position, and from June 12-15 Stuart and 1200 horsemen observed the Federal army and discovered the weakness of McClellan's right flank. Lee then held a council of war at the Dabbs House on June 23, 1862 with Generals James Longstreet, A. P. Hill, D. H. Hill, and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to discuss his plan for an offensive against the Federal army. Lee established a complex plan that would require close communication and precise timing of the Confederate troops. His plan was daring because it would require the majority of the Confederate army in the eastern theater to be part of the offensive, thus leaving Richmond relatively unprotected. If McClellan did not take the defensive and kept marching towards Richmond, it would be likely that Richmond would fall. Lee's plan for the offensive was to have Jackson's men march in from the Shenandoah Valley to support General D. H. Hill and General Lawrence Branch in turning the right flank of the Federal army. Then the rest of the Confederate troops would cross the Chickahominy and force the Federal army to retreat.

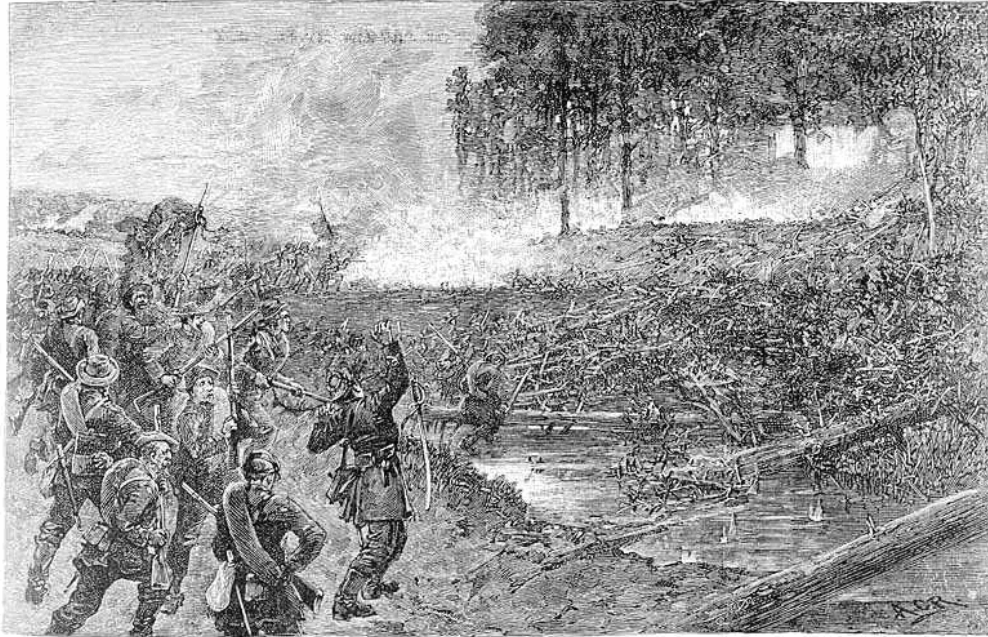
On June 26, 1862, Lee made his headquarters at Chickahominy Bluff because the height of the bluff afforded a good view over the Chickahominy valley towards Mechanicsville. Therefore, Chickahominy Bluff would be an ideal location to enable Lee to coordinate the attack.

However, lack of communication became a major hindrance for Lee's ability to coordinate the attack. Jackson's troops fell behind schedule and did not communicate their delays to Lee. In addition, Lee's vague orders left Jackson unsure of his exact role in the offensive.

After several hours delay, General A. P. Hill, who was anxious to prove himself in his first battle in high command, crossed the Chickahominy River and engaged the enemy. "At three o'clock he decided he must act. As he put it in his report, he determined to cross Meadow Bridge without reference to either Branch or Jackson – or Lee – rather than hazard the failure of the whole plan. He felt sure that by the time he was in position to confront the Yankees, Jackson would be on their flank" (Sears 1992, 201). Hill's men scattered the Federal pickets at the bridge and started to march towards Mechanicsville. The Union troops immediately abandoned Mechanicsville and dropped back to their lines at Beaver Dam Creek.

When Lee came into Mechanicsville and learned that the battle had been joined and Richmond was virtually unguarded, he knew that he had to continue without Jackson or Richmond could be lost. Therefore Lee ordered the attack at Beaver Dam Creek, and the Seven Days battles began.

After the Seven Days battles the earthworks at Chickahominy Bluff were expanded and manned throughout the rest of the war. Their proximity to Mechanicsville Turnpike (today known as Mechanicsville Pike or US Route 360) and their location on the bluff made it an ideal location to defend the road that led straight into Richmond. The earthworks most likely were manned during the nearby Kirkpatrick-Dahlgren calvary raid in March 1864 and were certainly manned during Sheridan's Yellow Tavern raid in May 1864 (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 5:4). The Confederates would have abandoned Chickahominy Bluff in the spring of 1865 when Richmond was evacuated at the end of the war.



*Charge of the Confederates at Beaver Dam Creek. Military offensive coordinated by General Lee at Chickahominy Bluff (RICH Archives No Date).*

Commemoration: 1866 -1944

While the United States saw a commemoration movement around the Civil War begin almost immediately after the war's end, the Richmond battlefields did not benefit from congressional preservation efforts beyond the establishment of National Cemeteries such as Cold Harbor, Richmond, and Fort Harrison National Cemeteries built in 1866.

The president of the C & O Railroad led one of the earliest attempts to memorialize the Richmond battlefields in 1914. He proposed the construction of a road linking the significant battles of the Civil War fought near Richmond. His plans were postponed by the United States entering World War I, but the effort to commemorate the Civil War was resumed when the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation was formed in 1927 to quietly purchase crucial battlefield land to avoid inflating real estate prices. The group purchased approximately 550 acres of battlefield lands around Richmond and developed a road system, later known as State Route 156, linking the parcels (OCULUS 1996, Vol. I 2:58).

The Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation knew that they did not have the resources to maintain this park, so they sought to create a state park. Richmond Battlefield Park, therefore, became the first state park of Virginia on January 12, 1932, which was managed by the Virginia Conservation Commission. An immediate problem for the commission was a lack of funds for the development or maintenance of the park. Thus, there was a push to transfer the park to the National Park Service. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the enabling legislation on March 2, 1936, but the National Park Service didn't officially accept the park until July 14, 1944

(OCULUS 1996, Vol. I 2:59).

Before the parks were officially transferred to the NPS, federal dollars were already being spent on their development. Due to the push to move Richmond Battlefield Park to the National Park Service, the federal government put them on the duty list for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Thus, a CCC camp was established in the immediate vicinity of Fort Harrison in 1933. "There was a dichotomy in camp management. Actual supervision of the camp was assigned to the United States Army. By contrast, management of the work projects was assigned to the host agency. Thus, the National Park Service found it necessary to hire employees at CCC sites that were located in National Parks and elsewhere. Since there was some impetus to absorb Richmond Battlefield State Park into the national system, the NPS hired among others, Floyd B. Taylor, a young man with no prior experience in land management work as a Junior Historian and assigned him to Richmond" (Baril n.d., 1). In July 1933, CCC Junior Colored Company 1375, a group comprised of about two hundred young African American men, was assigned to Richmond Battlefield Park. The CCC primarily focused on the Fort Harrison area in the first couple of years, but by 1935 they fanned out and started clearing other areas. With the departure of the CCC camps in 1941 and the US entry into World War II in 1942, most work at the park came to a halt, and much of the work performed by the CCC became overgrown again.

The Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park has a different post-war history than most other units of the park. The explosives department of the E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. (DuPont) purchased part of the site in 1902 and the rest in 1912 to house an explosive storage magazine. Dupont made no other alterations to the site besides the small magazines.

#### National Park Service Stewardship: 1944 - Present

The National Park Service (NPS) took over the management of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1944, but little was done until after World War II was over. The park was administered in conjunction with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park until 1951. After that, the park then had its own administrative staff.

The DuPont Company donated the tract of land on which Chickahominy Bluff is located to the National Park Service in 1953. The tract of land still contained Civil War breastworks, and the Park Service felt that it would provide a good starting point to interpret the Seven-Day battles fought around the City of Richmond during 1862. The deed for approximately 85 acres was originally transferred to the Eastern National Park and Monument Association, who held ownership of the land until the parcel was transferred to the Park Service. Eastern National exchanged approximately 41 acres of the DuPont tract for about 4 acres held by William F. Keck in 1960. It is thought that this land transfer provided a better entry point to the Chickahominy Bluff site from Mechanicsburg Pike. Finally, Eastern National transferred the remaining 39.2 acres to Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1960.

"By the mid-1950s, increasing park visitation had taken a toll on parks nationwide, many of

## Chickahominy Bluff

### Richmond National Battlefield Park

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which had been little developed since CCC days. Recognizing this shortfall, National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth initiated the Mission 66 program, in which Congress agreed to allocate a billion dollars over a ten-year period so that parks across the country could be developed and improved in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the system in 1966.

“To meet the goals of Mission 66, Richmond National Battlefield Park drew up a master plan to guide its improvements. As part of the master plan, the park sought to acquire a large building in Richmond, the Weather Bureau building Chimborazo, to serve as park headquarters and visitor center” (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 13:22). The development of Chickahominy Bluff to be accessible to the public was part of the Mission 66 initiative. The current entry drive and parking lot was most likely laid out during this period, and photographs taken for the List of Classified Structures inventory indicate that there was an informational shelter adjacent to the pathway that led to the viewing platform of the Chickahominy Valley (see Building and Structures section for photograph). The Chickahominy Bluff unit also had an interpretive trail that led the visitor through the park unit and around the earthworks.

Richmond National Battlefield Park has since closed the trail through the earthworks to the public due to the proliferation of volunteer trails among the earthworks, and the shelter was removed circa 1985.



*View of entry drive from Mechanicsville Pike. Sign on right indicates that improvements are a the Mission 66 Project (RICH archives 1963).*



*View of parking area looking back towards Mechanicsville Pike (RICH archives 1963).*



## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park is the location of General Robert E. Lee's headquarters for the beginning of the Seven Days' Battles. The height of the bluff provided Lee a good observation point to coordinate his attack in June 1862. Chickahominy Bluff was also an important military location because of its topography and its location to the Mechanicsville Turnpike (today known as Mechanicsville Pike or US Route 360). Mechanicsville Turnpike was a direct road straight into Richmond. By building earthworks and batteries at the edge of the escarpment, the Confederate army had an ideal defensive location that overlooked the river valley and provided cover if they needed to attack against Federal forces making their way across the swampy river valley.

The 37-acre park unit contains a series of defensive earthworks and two batteries. Most of these earthworks are maintained under a thick forest canopy. While the tree cover is not the historic condition of the site, it does a very good job of protecting the earthworks. The unit also has an entry drive and parking area, a trail leading visitors to a viewing platform, and several interpretive waysides. The lower, level area of the unit is part of the Chickahominy River floodplain, and is characterized by a marshy swamp.

The features still located at Chickahominy Bluff that contribute the Civil War period of significance are the natural features of the bluff and the swamp, which made this location ideal as a defensive position. The topographic features of the Confederate earthworks and batteries built at the edge of the bluff to provide cover for the soldiers. These earthworks have shown erosion since the period of significance and are now located under forest cover, but otherwise have good integrity.

### Landscape Characteristic:

#### Natural Systems And Features

General Robert E. Lee's selection of Chickahominy Bluff as the location for his headquarters to oversee the first day of the Seven Days Battles was directly related to its natural systems and features. As a bluff overlooking the Chickahominy River, Lee was afforded an excellent view over the valley towards Mechanicsville and Beaver Dam Creek. Lee also enhanced the natural defensive position of the bluff with earthworks and batteries as part of the outer ring of defense of Richmond.

Today the natural systems of Chickahominy Bluff are the same as they were when Lee used this location as his headquarters. The park unit is located on a bluff overlooking the Chickahominy River valley. There are also several natural drainage systems and creeks on the site that lead towards the Chickahominy River. There is a wet, marshy area at the bottom of the bluff that runs adjacent to a creek.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Chickahominy Bluff

Feature Identification Number: 93628

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Drainage swales

Feature Identification Number: 93629

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Swamp

Feature Identification Number: 93630

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Drainage swale located on eastern edge of park unit (PHSO 2000).*



*Swamp located at bottom of escarpment (PHSO 2000).*

### **Spatial Organization**

Little is known about the details of the Chickahominy Bluff's spatial organization during the Civil War. It is known that General Robert E. Lee stood on the bluff overlooking the Chickahominy River and Mechanicsville and that his headquarters were adjacent to Mechanicsville Turnpike. Some of the earthworks would have been in place by this time, but they would have been in open fields rather than under forest cover.

The spatial organization at Chickahominy Bluff today is organized around its circulation system. Vehicles access the site by the entry drive and loop leading from Mechanicsville Pike to the parking area. There is a pedestrian pathway leading from the parking area to a viewing platform situated on part of the earthworks. The vegetation has been cleared immediately in front of the viewing platform to open the view towards the Chickahominy valley. The rest of the site is located under dense forest cover. A previous pedestrian trail that leads into the forest cover and around the earthworks has been blocked by a split rail fence and is no longer accessible to the public. The earthworks consist of long linear infantry lines that lead down the slopes of the bluff. There are also two batteries located east of the viewing platform.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature Identification Number:	94123
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined

### **Land Use**

During the Civil War Chickahominy Bluff was used for military purposes. The earthworks

located at Chickahominy Bluff were part of the rings of defensive earthworks that were established to help protect Richmond from Federal attack. The site was also used as Lee's headquarters for the first day of the Seven Days battles contested in June 1862. As Chickahominy Bluff overlooked the river valley and Mechanicsville, the site was ideal for Lee to see the maneuvers of his troops so that he could coordinate the offensive attack that he planned.

Today the Chickahominy Bluff unit is used as a park for passive recreation and commemoration. The unit is part of the series of Civil War sites owned by the National Park Service to interpret the role Richmond played during the Civil War and how it was defended.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature Identification Number:	93627
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined

**Topography**

The natural topography of Chickahominy Bluff was critical in its selection as a location for a defense location during the Civil War. The height of the bluff gave the men standing guard at the earthworks a good view over the valley, and the steep topography of the bluff made a good barrier against attacking forces. The bluff's proximity to Mechanicsville Turnpike, which led directly to Richmond, also made it a very important place to build infantry fieldworks and batteries so that the Confederates could protect the road. "General John B. Magruder ordered infantry fieldworks and two redoubts suitable for heavy guns placed near the pike" (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 5-6).

Today much of the natural topographic features still exist on the Chickahominy Bluff site. The bluff overlooking the Chickahominy River still exists, although the extended view across the Chickahominy valley available during the Civil War is now blocked by dense vegetation.

The earthworks built by the Confederates are still located on the site, but they have been worn down by erosion. The features that remain are the linear infantry lines that run down the slopes of the bluff and two batteries built to protect heavy artillery. The infantry line parapet's height varies from approximately 8' tall near the viewing platform to 4-5' tall as it heads into the woods and down the slope towards Mechanicsville Pike. There are two batteries remaining at Chickahominy Bluff, as well. Battery I, which is directly adjacent the viewing platform, consists of two arms, approximately 35' long and 10' high extending to the southeast from the infantry line. The embrasure across the front of the battery is indicated by a 3-foot drop in the height of the front of the battery that is approximately 21-feet wide. Battery II is located further east along the infantry line on the west edge of the bluff. This battery is shaped very much like Battery I, except that it was protected by a traverse on the west side and an additional infantry earthwork to the north. There is a low area at the end of the earthwork adjacent to Battery II that might be a possible bombproof location. More research is necessary to verify the origin of this low area. The infantry works continue east of Battery II, then split to head down two sides of the bluff.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Battery I

Feature Identification Number: 94124

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 081620

LCS Structure Name: Chickahominy Bluffs Confederate Battery No. I

LCS Structure Number: 4002

Feature: Battery II

Feature Identification Number: 94125

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 081621

LCS Structure Name: Chickahominy Bluffs Confederate Battery No. II

LCS Structure Number: 4003

Feature: Confederate Earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 94126

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 006744

LCS Structure Name: Chickahominy Bluffs Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: 4000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Earthworks heading down bluff slope west of viewing platform (PHSO 2000).*



*Battery I located immediately east of the viewing platform (PHSO 2000).*



*Interior of Battery I (PHSO 2000).*

### **Vegetation**

The vegetation located at Chickahominy Bluff during the Civil War would have been mostly agricultural. According to OCULUS, “nineteenth-century maps of the region indicate that much of the upland area was under cultivation during the war... The escarpment slope appears to have been wooded during the Civil War... The fieldworks were most likely intended to function in an open setting... Confederate troops camped along the turnpike at the bluffs for several months, cutting down much of the existing tree cover to construct fieldworks and for fuel” (OCULUS 1996, Vol. II 5:6-7).

The vegetation at the Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park is broken into several distinct areas: open park setting and planted vegetation, deciduous/evergreen forest cover, swamp/river vegetation and cleared meadow.

The entry drive to the park unit leads to the parking area within an open, park setting of turf grass and several planted specimen trees. The specimen trees include two willow oaks [*Quercus phellos*], a southern magnolia [*Magnolia grandiflora*], three American holly trees [*Ilex opaca*], and a flowering dogwood tree [*Cornus florida*]. The entry clearing is bordered by dense vegetation that includes many species that are included on the invasive species list, such as aihanthus [*Ailanthus altissima*], poison ivy [*Rhus radicans*], trumpet creeper [*Campsis radican*] and Virginia creeper [*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*]. On closer inspection of the vegetation located along the edge of the entry clearing, the CLI team documented a series of cedar [*Juniperus sp.*] and cherry [*Prunus sp.*] trees within the tangle of invasive species that appear to be planted. More research will be necessary to determine when the trees were planted, but

according to photographs taken during the Mission 66 improvements, it appears that there were mature trees planted in the approximate locations on the site by this time (See photographs in Physical History section, 1944-Present).

The interpretive trail and earthworks located at the top of the escarpment are located under a more open canopy of loblolly pines [*Pinus taeda*]. The understory vegetation in this area consists of herbaceous ground cover that is mown to deter succession. Located directly in front of the viewing platform is a meadow, cleared by occasional mowing to allow for a view toward the Chickahominy River. As the earthworks head down the slope of the escarpment, the density of trees thicken considerably and change to a majority of deciduous trees such as tulip poplars [*Liriodendron tulipifera*] and sweetgum [*Liquidambar styraciflua*]. The thicker canopy deters the herbaceous understory, but the leaf litter from the trees provides protection for the earthworks.

The vegetation changes character as it reaches the level ground at the bottom of the escarpment. As would be typical in moist soil that is located near drainage creeks and swamps, the vegetation changes to birch [*Betula* sp.] and beech [*Fagus* sp.] trees, and ferns and grasses as the understory.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Cherry/Cedar border

Feature Identification Number: 94127

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Swamp vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 94130

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Deciduous woodland

Feature Identification Number: 94128

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Planted vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 94129

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Southern magnolia and holly trees planted in parking island (PHSO 2000).*



*Cedar and cherry border covered with invasives (PHSO 2000).*



*Flowering dogwood with Loblolly pines in background (PHSO 2000).*



*Typical vegetation and ground cover over earthworks in woods (PHSO 2000).*

### **Circulation**

Little is known about the internal circulation system of Chickahominy Bluff during the Civil War. The most important issue pertaining to circulation during the war was the bluff's proximity

to Mechanicsville Turnpike, which was a primary road leading into Richmond. Therefore, the defense of this road was critical to Richmond's safety. By building defensive earthworks along the edge of the bluff, the Confederate soldiers had an ideal location to see over the Chickahominy valley and attack aggressors trying to cross the river and the swampy land in the valley. The Confederate soldiers guarding the earthworks would most likely have internal circulation systems to assist movement along the bluff, but more research will be necessary to determine how extensive they might have been.

The circulation system at the Chickahominy Bluff unit today accommodates both vehicles and pedestrians. Vehicles access the site from Mechanicsville Pike via the entry drive. The pea gravel embedded asphalt drive heads east from Mechanicsville Pike, then turns north and forms a loop around a center island to the parking area. The parking area includes 15 regular parking spaces, 2 handicap spaces and 3 bus spaces. There is a concrete curb bordering the parking edge. Maintenance vehicles can get to the north end of the site from a gated and locked gravel access road that leads from Mechanicsville Pike at the bottom of the hill. An abandoned "jeep" trail heads south from the access road along the eastern border of the park.

Currently pedestrian visitors have limited access to the site. The accessible pedestrian circulation system consists of a single, 6-foot wide path, surfaced with loose pea gravel leading from the parking lot to the viewing platform. A secondary trail leads off this gravel path into the woods. Public access to this trail, however, has been barred by the placement of a split rail fence. This trail once led past Battery I and the infantry line before splitting into a loop to head past Battery II and continues down the slope then circles back. A spur trail led from the east end of the loop to meet up with the jeep trail at the bottom of the escarpment.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Entry Drive

Feature Identification Number: 93622

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Parking area

Feature Identification Number: 93624

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Primary trail

Feature Identification Number: 93625

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Secondary trail

Feature Identification Number: 93626

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing



Feature: Access road

Feature Identification Number: 93621

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Jeep trail

Feature Identification Number: 93623

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



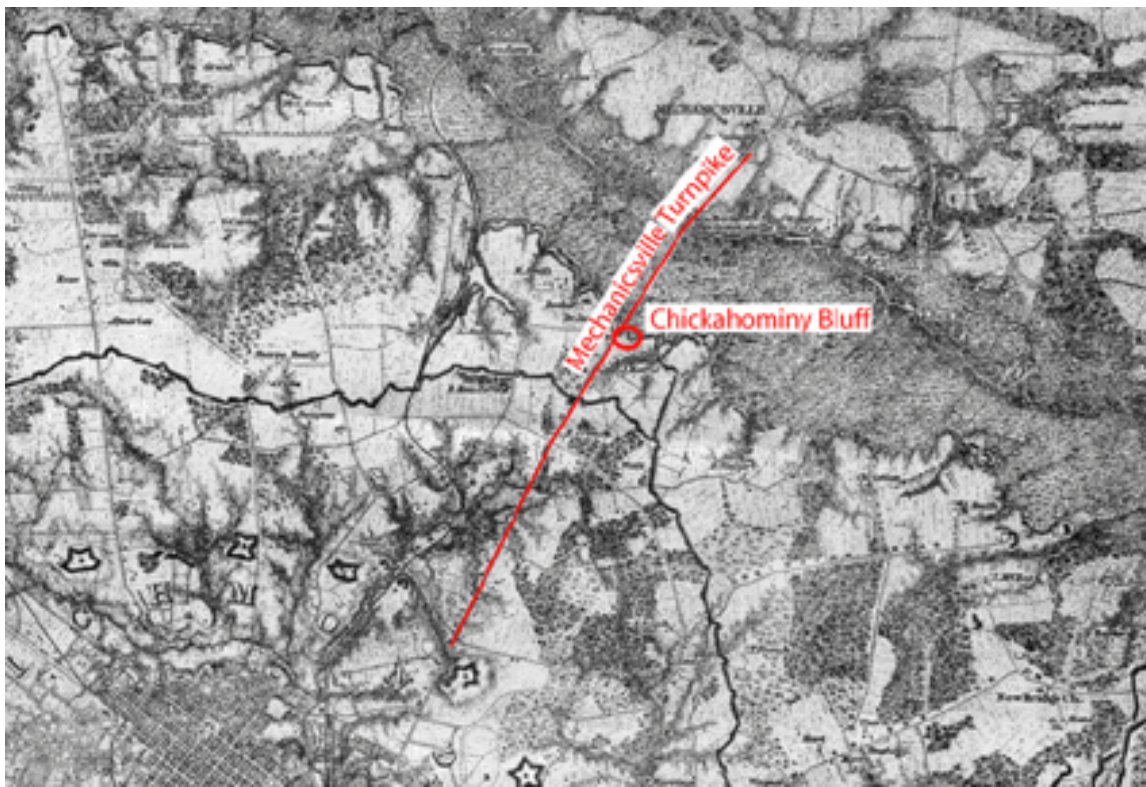
*Pea gravel trail leading from parking area to viewing platform (PHSO 2000).*



*Entry drive and bus parking (PSHO 2000).*



*Secondary trail leading through woods (PHSO 2000).*



*Historic map of Richmond showing Chickahominy Bluff's location to Mechanicsville Turnpike (Michler 1867)*

### **Buildings And Structures**

There is no documentation of any buildings or structures located at Chickahominy Bluff during the Civil War. As part of the outer ring of defense for Richmond, where soldiers were stationed throughout the war, there were most likely temporary structures placed on the site to assist with day to day life on the lines, but more research is necessary to determine these structures' existence and locations.

The CLI did uncover documentation that a structure had been located on the site during the Mission 66 improvements. A photograph taken for the List of Classified Structures in 1976 shows a shelter directly adjacent to the viewing platform that was most likely used for interpretation. This shelter has since been removed.

The only structure located at Chickahominy Bluff today is the viewing platform. Placed on the site by the National Park Service to help interpret Lee's position during the first day of the Seven Days' conflicts, the viewing platform was laid directly on one of the earthworks. A set of wooden steps access an asphalt surface that leads to the bluff's edge where a wayside interprets Lee's role while he was at this location. The platform is bound by wooden guardrails made of rail timbers.



While the earthworks at Parker's Battery are built structures on the site, they are described and listed under the Topography section of this inventory.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Viewing platform

Feature Identification Number: 93620

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Interpretive shelter and viewing platform in 1976 (LCS 006744 1976).*



*Viewing platform and split rail fence in 2000 (PHSO 2000).*

### **Views And Vistas**

The view offered at Chickahominy Bluff was the primary reason that this location came into prominence during the Civil War. The bluff is located on the south side of the Chickahominy River and its height over the river valley provided an excellent view towards Mechanicsville. General Robert E. Lee used it as his headquarters to coordinate Confederate troop movements during the first day of the Seven Days' conflict.

Today, the dense vegetation located on the site limits the view offsite. The vegetation has been cleared directly in front of the viewing platform, but the height of the trees located further down the slope blocks the view across the Chickahominy valley towards Mechanicsville.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature Identification Number:	94131
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined

### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Trees blocking the view of the Chickahominy River from viewing platform (PHSO 2000).*

### **Small Scale Features**

There is no documentation of any small scale features located at Chickahominy Bluff during the Civil War. Similar to the building and structures section, as part of the outer ring of defense for Richmond, where soldiers were stationed throughout the war, there were most likely features placed on the site to assist with day to day life on the lines, but more research is necessary to determine these structures' existence and locations.

Today the small scale features on the site are primarily located to direct and inform visitors and block access to the earthworks. There are two signs located at the entry on Mechanicsville Pike. The first is a large wooden National Park Service sign indicating the site as Chickahominy Bluff, and the second is a metal sign that is a State of Virginia historical marker interpreting the site as part of the outer fortifications of Richmond. This marker is outside of the NPS boundary, therefore it cannot be considered a contributing feature of the site. There are multiple signs to direct traffic throughout the site. There are also several interpretive waysides and a bulletin board to inform visitors. There is also a metal gate at the entrance to block entry when the unit is closed and a counter box to assess visitation. There is a split rail fence blocking visitor access to the earthworks and the secondary trail and a mesh wire fence running along the southern property line.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Bulletin board

Feature Identification Number: 93632

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Counter box

Feature Identification Number: 93633

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Directional signage

Feature Identification Number: 93634

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Entry gate

Feature Identification Number: 93635

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: NPS sign

Feature Identification Number: 93636

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Wire mesh fencing

Feature Identification Number: 93940

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature Identification Number: 93631

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*NPS and State of Virginia signage located along Mechanicsburg Pike (PHSO 2000).*



*Split rail fence barring access to secondary trail and earthworks (PHSO 2000).*

### **Archeological Sites**

This section identifies archeological resources that are part of the cultural landscape such as ruins, traces, or artifacts evidenced by the presence of surface and subsurface features. Those features listed below as contributing have been designated as such under the National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, or C by the List of Classified Structures. These resources have not been evaluated under Criterion D and must be considered potentially contributing under Criterion D at this time. The list below contains resources identified in previous archeological research, the List of Classified Structures, and cultural landscape field investigations. This list will be updated upon completion of an Archeological Overview and Assessment.

The earthworks located at Chickahominy Bluff provide the main archeological resource at the site. Detailed descriptions of the earthworks can be found in the Topography section of this report. Study of these resources might provide further insight into military and engineering practices during the Civil War. The CLI team also came across some brick debris at the location where the secondary trail splits into its loop. More research will be necessary to determine their origin and significance.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Confederate Earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 93619

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

IDLCS Number: 006744

LCS Structure Name: Chickahominy Bluffs Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: 4000

ASMIS ID Number: RICH00002

Feature: Brick debris

Feature Identification Number: 93618

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Brick debris, possible archeological resource (PHSO 2000).*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair  
**Assessment Date:** 12/18/2001  
**Condition Assessment:** Fair  
**Assessment Date:** 09/28/2007

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

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

The most significant issue at the site include the presence of vegetation/invasive plants. The earthworks and much of the site are covered with successional deciduous tree growth.

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 10/21/2008

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In Fiscal Year 2008, the park performed the exotic and tree removal, as well as earthwork preservation specified on the CLI to improve this landscape from "fair" to "good" condition. However, due to a clerical error, this change was not recorded in the database until FY 2009.

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

#### Stabilization Measures:

The items listed under the following impacts section describe the issues that are impacting both the condition and integrity of this park unit. If the impact is affecting condition, the impact is listed, along with a stabilization method and cost estimate to perform the stabilization procedure.

It should be noted, however, that the park will have future maintenance costs involved with this park unit's impacts to keep the landscape in good condition. These maintenance costs are not included in the stabilization cost estimates listed within this report.

Generally, impacts that are affecting the integrity of the site will need to be addressed through a treatment plan, which can only be prepared within a full cultural landscape report. The CLI will list these impacts to bring the issues to the park management's attention so that they can decide if they

want to seek funding for a cultural landscape report and treatment plan.

## Impacts

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	<p>The earthworks and much of the site are covered with successional deciduous tree growth. While the trees help maintain the earthworks by slowing erosion, they need to be monitored to assess tree health and stability to insure visitor safety and prevent damage to the resource. Trees that are dying need to be removed manually before they topple naturally or get knocked down by wind, where the root structure of the tree can do considerable damage to the earthworks.</p> <p>An arborist should assess the conditions of the trees and give recommendations for tree removal. The cost of the arborist is \$60/hour or \$240 for 4 hours work, which would cover the initial assessment of the trees and the development of the scope of work necessary to prune and cut trees down for visitor safety and protection of the earthworks. Additional money needed to perform the work recommended by the arborist would depend on the scope of work. The price for cutting and tree removal can range from \$200 - \$250 per tree, thus the cost could range widely. For the purposes of this estimate, the cost is based on the removal of 20 trees, which would range from \$4,000 to \$5,000.</p> <p>There are some invasive species affecting the site as well. Specifically, the cherry and cedar trees lining the entrance area are particularly affected by invasive plant growth. NPS maintenance staff could spray the invasive vegetation and then a team of seasonal help could follow up and remove the dead vegetation, and mulch the exposed areas. The cost associated with this procedure would be approximately \$4,000.</p>

### **Stabilization Costs**

**Landscape Stabilization Cost:** 9,240.00

**Cost Date:** 02/08/2002

**Level of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities

**Cost Estimator:** Park/FMSS

#### **Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:**

The stabilization cost of \$9,240 should be sufficient to bring the landscape at Chickahominy Bluff into good condition. The details of these stabilization costs are listed under the Impacts section of this report. The cost estimate is based on the figures given by the park staff for Parker's Battery, which has similar impact issues.

### **Treatment**

### **Bibliography and Supplemental Information**



## Bibliography

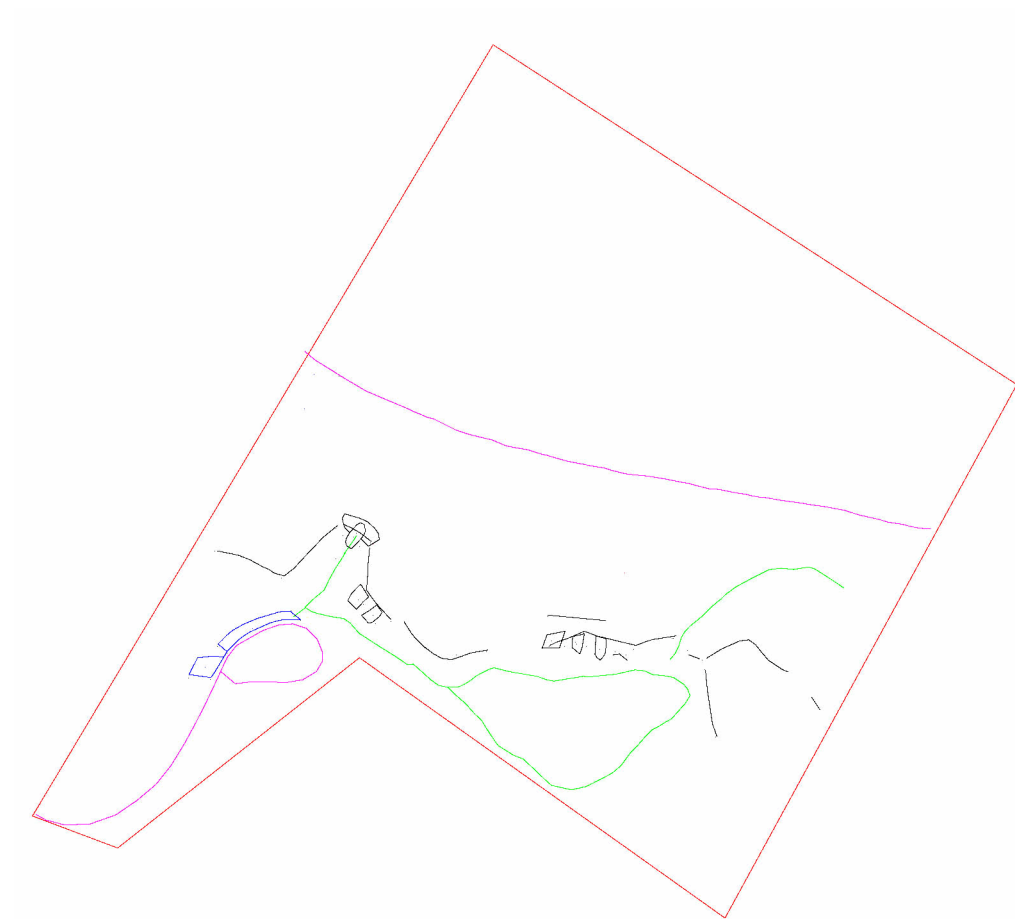
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Willett, John T
<b>Citation Title:</b>	A History of Richmond National Battlefield Park
<b>Source Name:</b>	CRBIB
<b>Citation Number:</b>	002204
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Iris Williams, Peter
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Conserving Richmond's Battlefields
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1990
<b>Source Name:</b>	CRBIB
<b>Citation Number:</b>	015546
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Staff
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Sketches on the Battlefields Around Richmond, Virginia
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1937
<b>Source Name:</b>	CRBIB
<b>Citation Number:</b>	016977
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Oculus et al.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Documenting Richmond's Civil War Battlefields
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1996
<b>Source Name:</b>	Other
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Robertson, James I. Jr.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	General A. P. Hill, The Story of a Confederate Warrior,
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1987
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Random House, Inc. New York, NY.
<b>Source Name:</b>	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

<b>Citation Author:</b>	Sears, Stephen W.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	To the Gates of Richmond, The Peninsula Campaign
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1992
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Houghton Mifflin Co. New York, NY.
<b>Source Name:</b>	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Gallagher, Gary W. Ed.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	The Richmond Campaign of 1862, The Peninsula and the Seven Days, 2000,
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	2000
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	University of N. Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC.
<b>Source Name:</b>	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Baril, Peter E.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	“They Found a Jungle and Made a Park” The Civilian Conservation Corps at Richmond National Battlefield Park, ND, PHSO Library.
<b>Source Name:</b>	Other
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Narrative
<b>Citation Location:</b>	Draft copy from Park
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Du Pont Donates 85-Acre Tract For Use by National Park Service
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1958
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Richmond Times-Dispatch
<b>Source Name:</b>	Other
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Both Graphic And Narrative
<b>Citation Location:</b>	RICH archives

### Supplemental Information

**Title:** Chickahominy Bluff Earthworks GPS

**Description:** Global Positioning System locations for the circulation system and earthworks located at Chickahominy Bluff. Source: Richard Easterbrook, Petersburg.

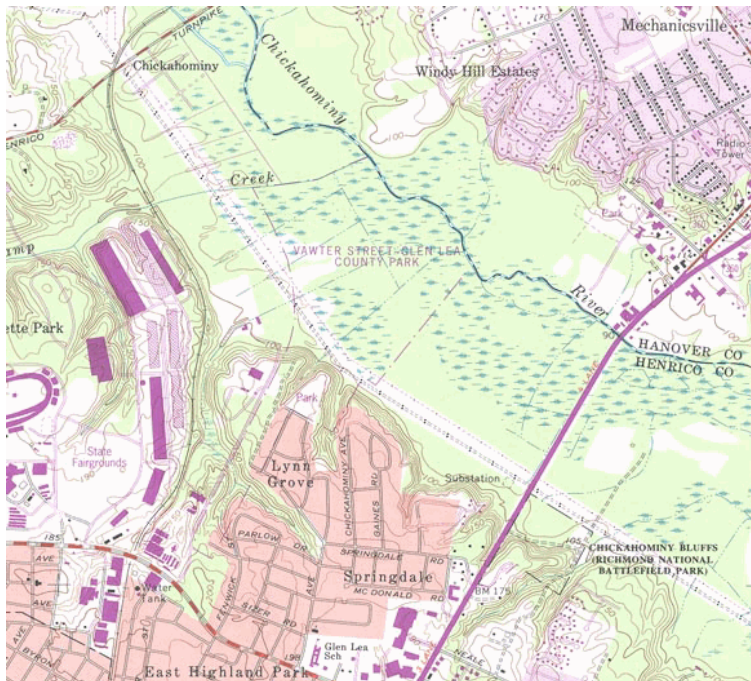


**Title:** Chickahominy Bluff USGS

**Description:** US Geologic Survey for Richmond, including Chickahominy Bluff unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Chickahominy Bluff  
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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**Title:** City of Richmond GIS

**Description:** Geographic Information System produced by the City of Richmond. Used as base for existing conditions map.

