
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2024



Gaines' Mill Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Gaines' Mill Battlefield
Resource Classification:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300095
Parent Landscape:	300092
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Richmond National Battlefield Park
Alpha Code:	RICH
Park Organization Code:	4800
Park District:	RICH
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is located approximately eight miles east-northeast of Richmond in Hanover County, Virginia. The 590-acre battlefield is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park, established in 1944 and now encompassing over 4,095 acres. The park commemorates American Civil War sites around Richmond, Virginia, which served as the capital of the Confederate States of America for most of the war. The park connects certain features within the city with defensive fortifications and battle sites around it. In addition to Gaines' Mill Battlefield, the park's sites include Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Chickahominy Bluff, Chimborazo, Cold Harbor Battlefield, Drewry's Bluff, Fort Harrison, Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill Battlefield, Parker's Battery, and Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield.

Today, the Gaines' Mill Battlefield cultural landscape includes the original 60.3-acre former Watt Farm property, which was first acquired by the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation in 1927 and then became part of Virginia's first state park in 1932. The battlefield area includes the locations of the center and left of the Union line, which on June 27, 1862 was positioned along the edge and slope of the Watt House plateau, and areas of the approach of Confederate Generals James Longstreet's and A.P. Hill's divisions, as well as the point at which Gen. John B. Hood's brigade broke through the Union line, ultimately compelling a Union retreat. Key resources within the landscape include the Watt House, which served as Union General Porter's headquarters and then as a Union field hospital, and Boatswain Creek and its ravine, which was as a formidable natural obstacle utilized to advantage by Gen. Porter. The rural landscape also includes agricultural and domestic features from during and after the historic period, commemorative markers installed in the early twentieth century, and park visitor and administrative infrastructure developed from the 1930s onward.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the June 27, 1862, Battle of Gaines' Mill, part of the Seven Days' Battles in which Confederate General Robert E. Lee turned the Union Army of the Potomac, led by General George B. McClellan, away from Richmond and pushed it back to the James River. The site is also nationally significant under Criterion A in

the area of Commemoration for its association with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, which led to the authorization of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1936 and establishment in 1944. Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the nineteenth century Watt House and in the area of Engineering for remnant fortifications that were part of the defenses around Richmond. Gaines' Mill Battlefield is significant under Criterion D in the areas of Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for both above-ground and subsurface resources that have the potential to yield information about the battle, as well as the antebellum and pre-contact use of the area.

The overall period of significance for Gaines' Mill Battlefield extends from 1830 to 1944. This period includes the construction dates of the Watt House, c.1830-1832; the site's military associations and defenseworks from the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill to the end of the Civil War in 1865; and the following commemoration-related activities from 1915 to 1944: the 1915 construction of the Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway, the 1925 establishment of the Battlefield Markers Association, the 1930s when the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission erected marker PA-25 and the federal government funded conservation and commemorative works at the Gaines Mill site with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps program, and the 1944 transfer of the Watt property to the National Park Service.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Gaines' Mill Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1830-1944, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023-2024. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The character of the area at the time of the battle was rural and agricultural, with wide open fields interrupted by bands of forest, disperse clusters of houses and outbuildings scattered throughout the open areas, and long lines of fences dividing the fields. Today, the landscape continues to exhibit a rural character, with few visual intrusions of modern development. The Watt House, which served as Gen. Porter's headquarters and as a field hospital, has been preserved. The spatial relationships between the house, the level plateau, the Boatswain Creek ravine, and the field and forest cover help visitors understand these events and place them spatially within the landscape. Today the house is surrounded by turf grass and a small number of large shade and smaller ornamental trees, but is otherwise free of ornamental vegetation. Some historic farm roads and lanes remain in use, while others have been reduced to traces.

Since 1944, some landscape characteristics and features at Gaines' Mill Battlefield have changed. The amount of open land is reduced from historic conditions, and buildings, structures, and equipment associated with agricultural uses are no longer present. Orchards, gardens, and fences are missing, as are flowers and gardens around the house. Nonhistoric trails track through the landscape but enhance visitor access to and understanding of the battle. However, the overall relationships of the landscape characteristics and features successfully convey important battle events and other historical associations.

Condition:

The overall Gaines' Mill Battlefield landscape is in good condition, with established vegetation patterns maintained by mowing and/or agricultural use. The historic Watt House, roads, monuments, are well maintained, as are non-historic facilities. A condition assessment of "good" means that the overall cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate actions corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is a component landscape within the Richmond National Battlefield Landscape, which comprises the entire Richmond National Battlefield Park. In addition to Gaines' Mill, there are nine park units that function as component landscapes: Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Chickahominy Bluff, Cold Harbor Battlefield, Drewry's Bluff, Fort Harrison and vicinity, Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill Battlefield, Parker's Battery, and Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield at Rural Plains. Pending additional research, future component landscapes may include North Anna Battlefield and Chimborazo.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name: Watt House

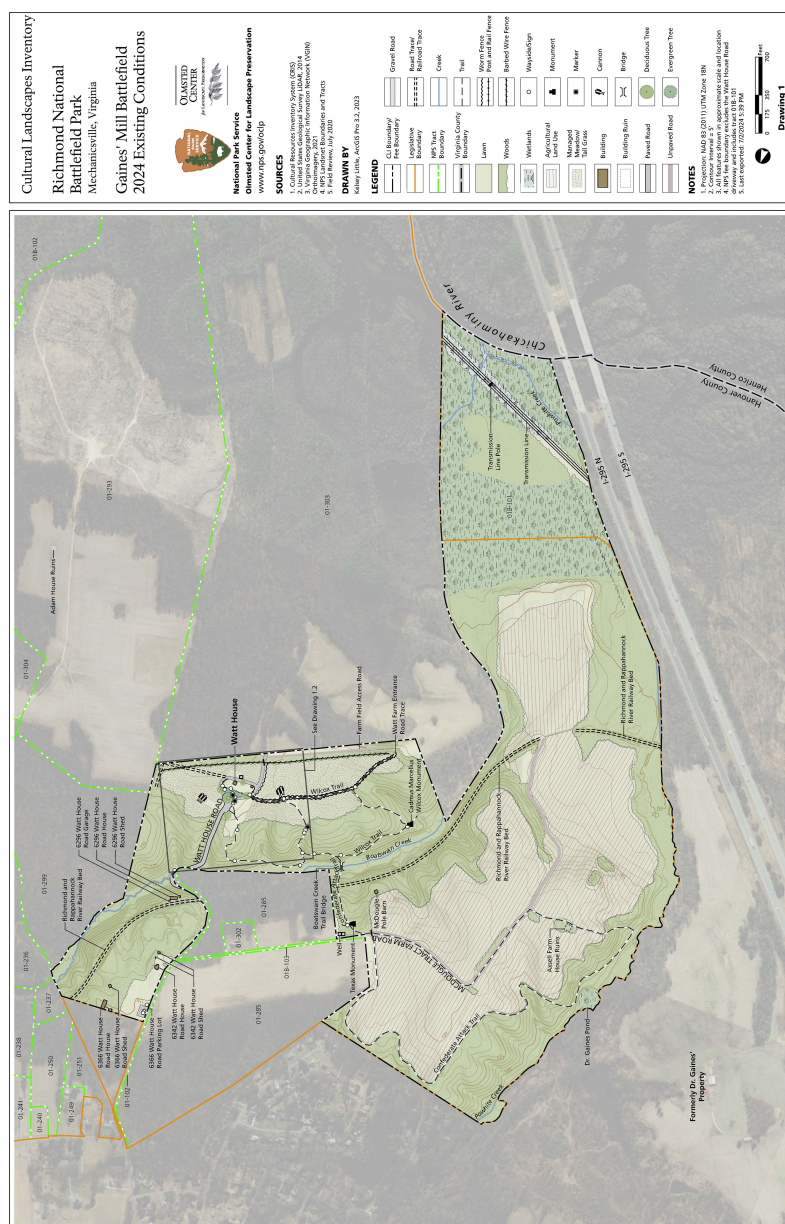
Other Name Type: Both Current And Historic

Other Name: Springfield Plantation

Other Name Type: Historic

Site Plan

Cultural Landscapes Inventory





Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/09/2024

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI has been converted from the 2024 draft of the “Cultural Landscape Report for Gaines’ Mill, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Hanover County, Virginia.” Initial research, field work, and mapping on the CLR was completed in 2017-2020 by Tim Layton, Historical Landscape Architect, and Brendan Bowman, Conservation Associate, at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston, Massachusetts. Eliot Foulds, Senior Historical Landscape Architect, and John Hammond, Historical Landscape Architect Consultant, revised the report in 2022-2024. Final mapping was completed by Kelsey Little, GIS Specialist with the Olmsted Center in 2024. Jeff Killion, Region 1 Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, prepared the CLI in 2024. The cultural resource contact for the park is Lexie Lowe, Park Archeologist, who may be reached at alexandra_lowe@nps.gov or 804-904-7443.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CERTIFICATION FORM

Gaines' Mill Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Richmond National Battlefield Park certifies the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Gaines' Mill Battlefield, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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

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

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

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Gaines' Mill Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

RAYMOND
TEODORSKI

Digitally signed by RAYMOND
TEODORSKI
Date: 2024.09.09 10:48:14 -04'00'

Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park

Date

Superintendent Certification Form, September 9, 2024.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Hanover County

Size (Acres): 331.19

Land Tract Number(s)

01-101 (61.68-acre portion of 223.34-acre parcel);
01-125, 1.81;
01-149, 3.21;
01-290, 10.94;
01-291, 3.57;
01-292, 8.440;
1B-100, 243.26;
01B-103, 0.85 (ROW).

Boundary Description:

The geographic limits of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield are most generally and broadly understood as the landscape to the southeast of Mechanicsville, Virginia enclosed to the southwest by the marshy Chickahominy River corridor and Interstate 295 (Virginia), and to the east by the meandering alignment of State Route 156. Within this broadly defined area, the Lands Program Segment Maps identifies the expanded September 2015 authorized boundaries guiding potential future lands acquisitions for the Gaines Mill unit as enclosing 75 separate tracts comprising a total of 2,177 acres. Of these, there are eight of the seventy-five tracts in which the National Park Service possesses a legal interest. These eight National Park Service owned tracts together preserve 331 acres, including the original 60.3-acre former Watt Farm property first acquired by the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation in 1927. The CLI boundary does not include Tract 01B-101; although it is fee owned by the NPS, it is outside the park boundary. There are no historic features on this parcel. (CLR draft 2024: 90)

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.580218	-77.290713	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.580425	-77.287967	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.580097	-77.287463	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.57762	-77.28846	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.574133	-77.287963	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.571594	-77.294721	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.512505	-77.296777	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.59662	-77.297924	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.596123	-77.297523	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.568134	-77.295757	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.566631	-77.294424	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.564481	-77.29847	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.567019	-77.301245	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.570719	-77.303695	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.572056	-77.305026	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.579667	-77.302285	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.578488	-77.296013	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.577097	-77.297129	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.575956	-77.29637	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.576321	-77.295526	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.574877	-77.29462	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.575094	-77.294195	

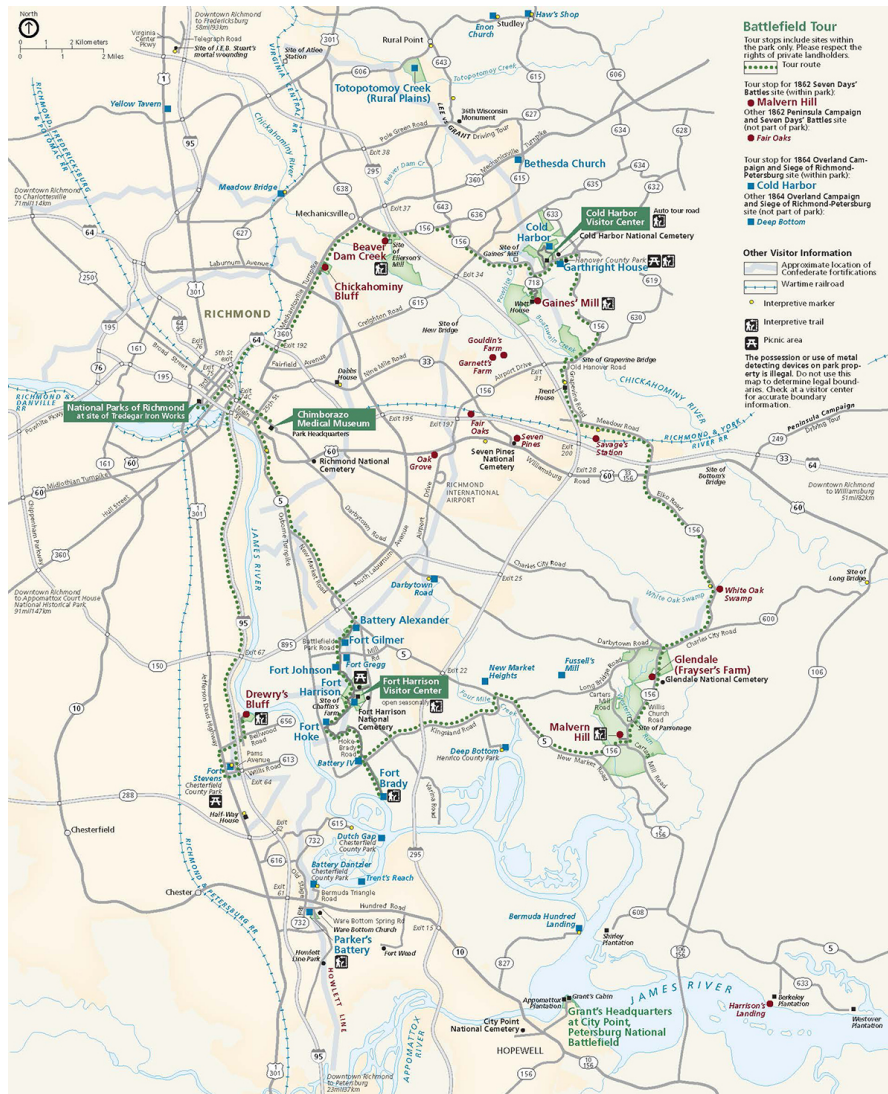
Gaines' Mill Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Aerial Photograph	Area	37.576286	-77.291002	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.576349	-77.290478	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.576933	-77.290078	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.577137	-77.291183	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.577512	-77.291651	
Aerial Photograph	Area	37.578559	-77.290753	

Gaines' Mill Battlefield

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Location Map:



Map of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Gaines' Mill Battlefield Unit is located at upper right, next to the Cold Harbor Battlefield Unit. (NPS)

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Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context concerns the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. The various units of Richmond National Battlefield Park straddle the boundary between the southern Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain of Virginia, an area known as the "Fall Line". The Fall Line is a zone of geologic transition that marks the boundary between the older, resistant, metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont and younger, softer, mostly unconsolidated sediments of the Coastal Plain. In Virginia, this boundary roughly corresponds to the route of Interstate 95 between Washington D.C. and Emporia. The Gaines' Mill unit lies within the Coastal Plain, and specifically in the Atlantic Southern Loam Hills subsection which is characterized by smooth plains ranging from 100 to 300 feet. (Patterson 2008: 21)

Waterfalls, rapids, and cataracts separate the lower, navigable, tidal portions of Virginia's major waterways, including the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers, from their narrower, more swiftly flowing upper stretches to the northwest. Several small streams – Boatswain Creek and Powhite Creek – meander through portions of the Gaines' Mill unit, draining into the nearby Chickahominy River, a tributary of the James River. Swampy lowlands, forested riverine areas, upland terraces of loosely consolidated sedimentary rock, diatomaceous clays and fine sands of the Calvert formation, and the glauconitic sands of the Aquia formation characterize much of the battlefield. (Clay 1975; Calver 1963)

Vegetation mapping in 2008 and 2015 characterized Gaines' Mill as oak-hickory forest, successional tuliptree forest, Piedmont/Coastal Plain small-stream floodplain forest, beaver wetland complex, cultural meadow, and developed land (Watt House). (Patterson 2008: 59; Taverna 2015: 16)

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context concerns the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Lands surrounding park boundaries are primarily residential developments, industrial, rural homes, and farmland. The setting of Gaines' Mill Battlefield remains rural, with agricultural properties and residential development interspersed with areas of forested land.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

This context concerns the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Gaines' Mill is in Hanover County, with an area of 474 square miles and approximately 109,000 people. Gaines' Mill Battlefield is about 110 miles south of Washington D.C. and approximately 8 miles east-northeast of Richmond. A portion of the land belonged to the original state park established in 1932 and was later transferred to the National Park Service in 1944. Interstate 295 runs along the study boundary on the southwest and is well screened from park areas by trees, but is easily heard, with the sounds of cars and trucks transmitted over great distances.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/09/2024

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield meets the management category "Must be Preserved and Maintained" because the property is nationally significant as defined by National Register of Historic Places criteria and is related to the park's legislated significance. In 2018, as part of Richmond National Battlefield Park, the property was listed in the National Register for its national-level significance under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Archeology, Architecture, Commemoration, Engineering, and Military History.

A portion of the land was part of the Richmond State Battlefield Park established in 1932. In 1936 enabling legislation for Richmond National Battlefield Park, amended in 1995, stipulated that when the United States acquired title to, "all such lands, structures, and other property in the military battlefield area or areas in the city of Richmond, Virginia, or within five miles of the city limits of said city or within five miles of the boundary of the present Richmond Battlefield State Park...as necessary or desirable for national battlefield park purposes...provided, that such area or areas shall include, at least, the Richmond Battlefield Parks now belonging to the State of Virginia." (Act of March 2, 1936, Chapter 113; 49 Stat. 1155, from NR 2018, Sec.8: 96)

In 1944 the Commonwealth of Virginia transferred the Watt property to the National Park Service for inclusion in Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Rights-of-way for aerial and underground distribution powerlines through park property at units to include Malvern Hill, Fort Harrison, Gaines' Mill, Beaver Dam Creek, Cold Harbor, Rural Plains, Chimborazo. (FD 2017: 63)

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Right-of-ways for aerial and underground telephone lines through park property at units to include Malvern Hill, Fort Harrison, Gaines' Mill, Beaver Dam Creek, Cold Harbor, Rural Plains, Chimborazo. (FD 2017: 63)

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Natural gas lines running through the Fort Harrison, Gaines' Mill, and Turkey Hill park units. (FD 2017: 64)

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: 01-101 (portion), 01-149, 01-125, 01-290, 01-291, 01B-100, 01B-103 (row)

Type of Interest: None - Privately Owned

Narrative: 01-292

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Although most of the core areas of fighting are contained within the current Gaines' Mill Battlefield boundaries, significant portions of the battlefield remain in private ownership north and south of the park unit, some of which remain undeveloped. (Shepard et.al. 2019: 104-106)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP), which encompasses a series of non-contiguous sites authorized in 1936, "for the purpose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the resources associated with the Civil War battles in and around the City of Richmond, Virginia." In 1944 the Commonwealth of Virginia transferred the Watt property to the United States Department of Interior for development and interpretation by the National Park Service. Additional parcels were added in later years.

Richmond NBP was administratively listed without documentation in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Initial documentation of resources occurred on January 16, 1973, when the park was listed on the Virginia Landmark Register under the name "Richmond National Battlefield Park." For this listing, a National Register form was prepared but was not approved by the Keeper of the National Register. The documentation accepted by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicated that the site was significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics and social/humanitarian, Criterion C in the area of architecture, and Criterion D for archeology (historic-aboriginal). The documentation identified the "nineteenth century" as the period of significance but included no specific dates. The documentation itemized resources under four headings: earthworks (11 areas), monuments (approximately 80), Watt House, and Garthright House.

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archeological Resources" was accepted by the Keeper. The MPDF identified property types and historic contexts to evaluate historic and archeological resources related to the Civil War. The six property types were battlefields, earthworks, campsites, military hospitals, military headquarters, and military prisons. The documentation categorized Richmond NHB under the battlefields, earthworks, military hospitals, and military headquarters property types under Criteria A, C, and D. The MPDF included the conflict at Gaines' Mill (June 27, 1862) as part of the Peninsula Campaign.

On October 5, 2009, the Virginia SHPO concurred with the National Park Service on the eligibility of numerous resources at the park as part of an update to the List of Classified Structures (now Historic Structures Inventory). Seven features at Gaines' Mill Battlefield were evaluated as contributing: Watt House, Watt House Road, Watt Farm Lane, Watt Farm Entrance Road Trace, Civil War Rifle Pit, , Freeman Marker #7 (Watt House), and Freeman Marker #8 (Whiting's Advance). One feature, Wilcox's Brigade Monument, was determined ineligible for listing but manages as a cultural resource.

On April 27, 2018 the Keeper accepted the first comprehensive park-wide National Register documentation for Richmond National Battlefield Park. According to the documentation, the park is primarily significant as the site of major Civil War battlefields and related properties associated with the Union's attempts to take the Confederate capital city of Richmond during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, the Overland Campaign of 1864, and the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign of 1864–1865. Significance for the 2,879.42-acre federally owned historic district was identified under criteria A, B, C, and D at the national level in the areas of Military, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Conservation, Other (Commemoration), Science, Engineering, Architecture, Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), and Archeology-Prehistoric. Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and Ulysses S. Grant were identified as significant persons. The district's contributing commemorative monuments were evaluated as meeting Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because they possess significance from their age, design, and symbolic values. The period of significance for the district was listed as c.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House and ending when the NPS officially accepted management of the park. For archeology, the periods of significance was listed as 1680-1865 for historic archeology and 8000 BCE-1600 CE for prehistoric

archeology. For Gaines' Mill Battlefield, the 2018 documentation identified the Gaines' Mill Battlefield and the Watt Farm Complex as contributing sites, as well as nine contributing buildings, structures, and objects: Civil War Rifle Pits, Confederate Earthworks at Gaines' Mill, Freeman Marker #7, Freeman Marker #8, Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway Bed, Watt Farm Entrance Road Trace, Watt Farm Lane, Watt House (Springfield Plantation), and Watt House Road. Non-contributing features included :Watt House Garage, Wilcox's Brigade Monument, 6296 Watt House Road, 6296 Watt House Road One-Car Garage, and 6296 Watt House Road Two-Car Garage.

An amendment to the National Register documentation is currently underway, which will address 635 acres of North Anna Battlefield (new park unit, acquired from ABT c. 2016/2017); a 50-acre tract at Cold Harbor, which includes Fort Fletcher; 380 acres at Malvern Hill; and 15 acres at Glendale.

According to research conducted for the CLI documentation and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance at Gaines's Mill Battlefield are adequately documented based on the park-wide 2018 National Register documentation. Contributing resources are adequately described in the documentation. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered "Entered-Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 04/27/2018

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Richmond National Battlefield Park:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is a contributing site of the Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District. The district contains six sites associated with the Peninsula Campaign, including Beaver Dam Creek, Chickahominy Bluff, Drewry's Bluff, Gaines' Mill, Glendale, and Malvern Hill. Major General George B. McClellan, who orchestrated the Peninsula Campaign, transported his Union Army of the Potomac by boat to the tip of Virginia's Southeast Peninsula in early April 1862. After winning a series of battles on the peninsula, McClellan reached the outskirts of Richmond in late May and began preparing to lay siege to the city. After the Battle of Seven Pines (May 31–June 1, 1862), Major General Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and began to improve the defenses around Richmond while making plans to take the offensive. Between June 26 and July 2, Lee carried out a series of attacks that have since become known as the Seven Days' Battles. Though the Seven Days' Battles began with a loss at Beaver Dam Creek, General Lee convinced the cautious McClellan to abandon his goal of capturing Richmond. As the Union army marched away from Richmond and toward the relative safety of the James River, Confederate forces attacked the Union forces at strategic locations in a week-long series of battles. Richmond National Battlefield Park's Cold Harbor, North Anna, and Totopotomoy Creek battlefields are the locations of the last battles of the Overland Campaign (May 4–June 15, 1864), during which Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant directed the operations of the Army of the Potomac against General Lee. Following a stalemate at Cold Harbor, Grant changed his war strategy to focus on the capture of Petersburg, a major transportation and supply hub 25 miles south of Richmond.

The district is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Military, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Conservation, Other (Commemoration), Engineering, Architecture, Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), and Archeology-Prehistoric. The district is nationally significant for its associations with Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, and Ulysses S. Grant. The district's contributing commemorative monuments are evaluated as meeting Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because they possess significance from their age, design, and symbolic values. The period of significance for the district is ca.1720-1944, beginning with the construction of the Garthright House (within the Cold Harbor unit) and ending with the year initial national park development was completed. The period of significance extends from 8000 BCE to 1600 CE in pre-contact archaeology and from 1680 to 1865 for historic archeology.

Gaines' Mill Battlefield:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the June 27, 1862, Battle of Gaines' Mill, part of the Seven Days' Battles in which Confederate General Robert E. Lee turned the Union Army of the Potomac, led by General George B. McClellan, away from Richmond and pushed it back to the James River. The site is also nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commemoration for its association with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, which led to the authorization of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1936 and establishment in 1944. Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the nineteenth century Watt House and in the area of Engineering for remnant fortifications that were part of the defenses around Richmond. Gaines' Mill Battlefield is significant under Criterion D in the areas of Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for both above-ground and subsurface resources that have the potential to yield information about the battle, as well as the antebellum and pre-contact use of the area. (CLR draft 2023: 80-81)

The overall period of significance for Gaines' Mill Battlefield extends from 1830 to 1944. This period includes the construction dates of the Watt House, c.1830-1832; the site's military associations and defenseworks from the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill to the end of the Civil War in 1865; and the following commemoration-related activities from 1915 to 1944: the 1915 construction of the Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway, the 1925 establishment of the Battlefield Markers Association, the 1930s when the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission erected marker PA-25 and the federal government funded conservation and commemorative works at the Gaines Mill site with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps program, and the 1944 transfer of the Watt property to the National Park Service.

CRITERION A

Military History:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Military History for its direct association with the Civil War. In the spring of 1862, Gen. George B. McClellan moved the Union Army of the Potomac to Fort Monroe at the tip of the Virginia Peninsula, planning to move from there to Richmond, capture the Confederate capital, and end the war. During the month of May, McClellan moved steadily up the peninsula to the very outskirts of Richmond, before being stopped at the Battle of Seven Pines (or Fair Oaks) on May 31. During the fighting at Seven Pines, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was wounded, and his command of the Army of Northern Virginia was taken over by Gen. Robert E. Lee. (CLR draft 2024: 99)

After the Battle of Seven Pines, fighting paused for several weeks. Lee ordered his troops back to their pre-battle lines and the Federals reoccupied their previous positions. While McClellan was making preparations to lay siege to Richmond, using the captured portion of the Richmond and York River Railroad to bring his big guns closer to the city, Lee improved his defensive position and began planning to take the offensive. Lee was convinced that a siege of the Confederate capital would be disastrous if the superior Federal manpower and armament were allowed to entrench around the city. To prevent this, Lee carried out a series of attacks on the Union army that would collectively be known as the Seven Days' Battles. (CLR draft 2024: 99)

The week of fighting was initiated on June 25, when McClellan attempted to improve his position for an attack on the Old Tavern crossroads, moving to take the wooded area known as Oak Grove and putting

his forces in position to attack the crossroads from the south. They were met by three brigades of Confederate defenders under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger's command. The two sides fought to a stalemate, with neither side gaining any advantage. Meanwhile, Lee moved four divisions against McClellan's right flank, consisting of Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps, which occupied defensive works behind Beaver Dam Creek on the north side of the Chickahominy River. Determined attacks by Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill backed by Maj. Gens. Longstreet and D.H. Hill were driven back with heavy casualties, but the show of force unnerved McClellan. Fearing that his supply lines would be cut off, he ordered that his supply base be moved from White House Landing on the York River to Harrison's Landing on the James River. McClellan pulled his right flank back that night into a stronger defensive position behind Boatswain Creek. (CLR draft 2024: 99-100)

The following day at Gaines' Mill, Lee pressed McClellan again, launching 57,000 men against the Union forces in the largest Confederate assault of the war to date. The focus of the attack was again the Union right flank, isolated from the rest of the force north of the Chickahominy River. Throughout the day, the Confederates mounted disjointed attacks, first with the division of Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill, then Maj. Gen. Richard S. Ewell. Initially, the strong Union position and lack of coordination of the Confederate attacks allowed the Federal army to withstand the assault, but as afternoon turned to evening, the Confederates began to make progress. At about 7:00 p.m., when Jackson's divisions finally joined the fight, the Union line collapsed and fell back across the Chickahominy River, burning the bridges behind them. (CLR draft 2024: 100)

The day's casualties exceeded any battle of the Civil War to that point except Shiloh. Porter lost a total of 6,837 men (894 killed, 3,114 wounded, and 2,829 captured). Among the latter number were two entire regiments that had been surrounded as the Union line collapsed. Confederate casualties were worse (1,483 killed, 6,402 wounded, and 108 missing or captured), but they controlled the field as the remainder of Porter's men crossed the Chickahominy. That night, McClellan called a meeting of his general staff and told them directly of his plans for moving the army to the James River. (CLR draft 2024: 100; NR 2018, Sec.8: 62-64)

Lee pursued McClellan as he moved south toward Harrison's Landing, harassing the rear of the retreating column at Savage's Station and White Oak Swamp. The Union Army made two final stands at Glendale crossroads and at Malvern Hill, successfully weathering the concerted Confederate attacks and securing a safe retreat to the James River. (CLR draft 2024: 100)

Commemoration:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Commemoration for its associations with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement. The Civil War battlefield sites surrounding Richmond did not benefit initially from federal battlefield preservation efforts in the 1890s that resulted in the creation of the country's first four national military parks, all at Civil War sites, under the management of the War Department. Over the next few decades, numerous individuals and groups petitioned Congress for additional parks and memorials at other deserving American battlefields. As a private enterprise, the Richmond and Rappahannock Railway, a small interurban trolley line, was established in 1915 to convey tourists to visit local battlefields on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. In the 1920s, Richmond journalist and historian Douglas Southall Freeman led a group of interested residents in forming the Battlefield Markers Association to raise money for the identification and erection of over sixty commemorative markers at various battlefield sites in and around the city. The collection of "Freeman Markers"—thirteen of which are located within Richmond NBP—is the earliest known series of non-governmental historical markers in the country. (CLR draft 2024: 100-101)

The Freeman Markers typically consist of a cast iron inscription tablet set at an angle on a concrete capstone with a granite base. The cast iron tablets have raised lettering describing the portion of the battle commemorated and a unique identifying number at the lower left corner. Two of these Freeman Markers, #7 and #8, are currently located within the boundary of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield cultural landscape. (CLR draft 2024: 100-101)

Following the success of the Freeman Markers, the Virginia Conservation and Economic Development Commission began erecting roadside signs in 1927 to commemorate events of the Civil War. These markers consisted of a cast iron sign mounted vertically on metal signposts and painted silver with raised

black lettering. The commission placed marker number PA-25 near the Watt House in 1932 to commemorate the Battle of Gaines' Mill. That same year the Richmond Battlefield Park Corporation conveyed the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia for inclusion in Richmond State Battlefield Park.

Beginning in 1933, federal Depression-era relief programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) became directed at the development and improvement of state park facilities nationwide. During the local operations of the CCC program the state began to transition the former Watt property from a neglected tenant farm to a historic site. Doing so involved making significant repairs to the historic dwelling, as well as pursuing the general clean-up of the farmyard and fields. Deteriorated and unrepairable outbuildings were removed, broken fencing was repaired and accumulated debris were removed. Notable removals included the dilapidated large shed or barn structure that had formerly lain directly east of the house. Other projects included improvements to Watt House Road and construction of a bridle trail intended as part of a larger bridle trail system connecting Gaines' Mill to Cold Harbor and other battlefield sites.

CRITERION C

Architecture:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Architecture for the domestic architecture in colonial Virginia as represented by the Watt House, constructed 1830–1832. The Watt House is the sole remaining built resource related to the Watt farm, known as Springfield Plantation. The three-bay side-hall house is a representative example of a two-thirds Georgian-style house, with its characteristic raised brick basement and decorative exterior end wall chimneys with a small chimney pent, common in the Richmond area. The two-thirds Georgian is a variation on the typical Georgian house, with the removal of the outer bay resulting in a side passage rather than the traditional center passage. This building type was particularly popular in the urban parts of Richmond, being well suited to the narrow, deep lots of the growing city. The Watt House is a rare example of its use in a more rural setting. The National Park Service restored the house in 1956 and rehabilitated it in 1987. For years has been used to house park employees. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 43,105,107; Review comments, L. Lowe, 5 August 2024)

During the battle, the Watt House served as a field hospital and the bloody work of the surgeons devastated the interior. As a visitor noted after the battle, the house received significant damage with its "walls and roof...torn with shot and shell, the weather-boarding honeycombed with minnie balls, and every pane of glass shattered." (NR 2018, Sec.8: 54, citing "Watt Family Farm" interpretive panel, Richmond NBP)

Engineering:

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is nationally significant in the area of Engineering for the remains of permanent and temporary fortifications that were part of an extensive network of fortifications ringing Richmond during the Civil War. The sophisticated systems of trenches and forts constructed by the Confederate and Union armies represent the state to which field fortification engineering advanced during the Civil War and are generally regarded as the forerunners of the static trench warfare methods used in Europe in World War I. In addition to the permanent fortifications, numerous examples of temporary field fortifications are located in the park. These field fortifications are representative of the military tactic of an active defense espoused most prominently by West Point engineering professor and military tactics author Dennis Hart Mahan (1802–1871). They were hastily established lines of defense scouted and selected by military engineers based on the natural advantages a position offered. The fortifications themselves were dug or otherwise constructed by the troops as they arrived at the select position. Together, the permanent and field fortifications at Richmond NBP convey the pivotal role that military engineering played in determining battlefield strategy and, ultimately, the outcome of the Seven Days' Battles and Grant's Overland Campaign. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 97)

Following the Federal retreat from Beaver Dam Creek, Brigadier General Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps, under McClellan's orders, hurriedly dug irregularly spaced rifle pits and hastily assembled abatis and breastworks on the Gaines' Mill Battlefield in anticipation of the Confederate advance. In this first instance where the Federal troops made use of hasty entrenchments, decisions about the fortifications were made at the brigade or regiment level, rather than at the corps level. The Confederate Earthworks at Gaines' Mill on the north side of Watt House Road, part of the 6-mile-long line of defensive earthworks that Lee's men

constructed to defend Richmond against the Federal advance from Fredericksburg during Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, consisted of three rows of east-facing trenches and parapets. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 103)

CRITERION D

Archeology – Historic (Non-Aboriginal):

Archeological investigations at Gaines' Mill Battlefield have yielded, and may be expected to continue to yield, important information about the use and features of the property present during the period of significance. To date, only the Malvern Hill, Glendale, and Gaines' Mill units have undergone systematic, unit-wide archeological review or survey. The identified archeological resources and surviving above-ground elements of the military landscape at Gaines' Mill illustrate the organization, operation, and experiences of the Union and Confederate armies that can be extrapolated to archeologically unexplored portions of the district. (CLR draft 2024: 102)

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION F: COMMEMORATIVE PROPERTIES

The contributing commemorative monuments at Gaines' Mill Battlefield meet Criteria Consideration F because they possess significance engendered from their age, design, and symbolic values. (CLR draft 2023: 83)

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
- C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
- D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

F -- A commemorative property

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1830 - CE 1832

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Vernacular Architecture	

Time Period: CE 1861 - CE 1865

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	
Expanding Science and Technology	Technology (Engineering and Invention)	Military (Fortifications, Weapons, And War Vehicles)	

Time Period: CE 1915 - CE 1944

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: Richmond National Battlefield Park

NRIS ID: 66000836

Primary Certification Date: 04/27/2018

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1600	Inhabited	By 1600 it is estimated that around 13,000 Algonquin-speaking Powhatans lived in 6,500 square miles of Tidewater Virginia, while another 15,000 Siouan-speaking Monacans and Manahoacs lived in the upland Piedmont.
CE 1607 - 1630	Settled	Interaction between English settlers and indigenous peoples begins in 1607 with the English arrival and settlement at Jamestown. Inland migration of the colonists begins in the late 1620s as settlers establish farms, and eventually settlements, further upstream along both the James and York Rivers.
CE 1805	Established	During the early nineteenth century, the land that includes the original 60-acre tract of the original Gaines' Mill Unit is known as Springfield, owned by Pitman and Mary Kidd, and daughter Sarah. They live on land adjacent to Springfield. The park unit tract may have contained agricultural buildings as well as cabins for enslaved workers who lived on the combined 871 acres Pitman Kidd owned by 1805.
CE 1809	Established	By 1809, Sarah Watt inherits Springfield, which consists of approximately 300 acres.
CE 1830 - 1832	Built	Hugh and Sarah Watt build the Watt House in 1830-1832. Enslaved quarters, smokehouse, well house, dairy, stable, barns, sheds, and one or more poultry houses are subsequently built.
CE 1862	Military Operation	June 27, Battle of Gaines' Mill.
CE 1863	Land Transfer	After the death of Sarah Watt in 1863, her son, George, inherits Springfield.
CE 1906	Purchased/Sold	George Watt's heirs sell Springfield to Arthur McGhee. It consists of 399.25 acres.
CE 1911	Purchased/Sold	McGhee sells Springfield to Dr. Frederick E. White.
CE 1917	Purchased/Sold	White sells Springfield to Minitree Fulton.
CE 1913 - 1917	Built	A portion of the sixteen-mile Richmond & Rappahannock River Railway (R&R) passes through Springfield, as well as the Powhite and Parsons farms. The line closes in 1917.
CE 1925	Memorialized	Two Freeman Markers are placed at Springfield; one on the north side of the Watt House and one northwest of the Watt House near the edge of the forested Boatswain Creek ravine.
CE 1928	Land Transfer	The Richmond Battlefield Park Corporation (RBPC) acquires a 60-acre parcel from the Fultons, which includes the Watt House and farmyard, and center point of the battle.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1932	Built	Commonwealth of Virginia places marker PA-25 in the lawn at the north side of the Watt House to commemorate the Battle of Gaines' Mill.
CE 1932	Land Transfer	RBPC conveys property to the Commonwealth of Virginia for inclusion in Richmond State Battlefield Park.
CE 1933 - 1941	Built	Civilian Conservation Corps projects at the 60-acre parcel include work on the house, grounds, entrance road. Several outbuildings are removed and a bridle trail is built.
CE 1936	Established	Congress authorizes Richmond National Battlefield Park.
CE 1944	Land Transfer	Commonwealth of Virginia conveys the property to the US Department of Interior for development and interpretation by the National Park Service (NPS) as part of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The transfer includes the 60.3-acre former Watt property, along with three other parcels.
CE 1956 - 1966	Rehabilitated	Mission 66 projects at the park focus on rehabilitation of the Watt House, enhancing the park entrance experience, and improving the landscape setting.
CE 1963	Built	One-story garage to house park maintenance equipment and private automobiles is built west of the Watt House.
CE 1970 - 1979	Built	In the 1970s a combined one-story barn, stable, and corral is built at the edge of the existing eastern woods near the park property line. A doghouse and woodshed are built west of the Watt House in the farmyard. All are removed in the late 1990s.
CE 1990 - 1999	Built	Two main interpretative trails are developed in the 1990s: the Federal Defense Trail and the Wilcox Trail.
CE 2013	Purchased/Sold	The park acquires tract 01-125 (1.8 acres).
CE 2014	Purchased/Sold	Acreage of the Gaines' Mill Unit increases more than five-fold (285 acres) with the conveyance of the McDougle tracts (tracts 01B-100, 01B-101, 0B-103) to NPS by the Civil War Trust (now called American Battlefield Trust).
CE 2016	Purchased/Sold	The park acquires tracts 01-149 (3.2 acres), 01-290 (10.9 acres), and tract 01-291 (3.6 acres).
CE 2017	Purchased/Sold	The park acquires tract 01-292 (8.4 acres).
CE 2017	Built	The Confederate Attack Trail is built around 2017.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. Information is derived directly from the 2024 draft, "Cultural Landscape Report for Gaines' Mill Battlefield, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Hanover County, Virginia," as well as the 2019 "Archaeological Overview and Assessment (AOA), Richmond National Battlefield Park" and the 2000 "Gaines' Mill, Cultural Landscape Report and Archeological Survey, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia."

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: Pre-1861

Human occupation of the coastal regions of Virginia is believed to date to the end of the Pleistocene epoch between 14,000 and 12,000 years ago. As rising temperatures and the retreat of the Laurentide ice sheet made the mid-Atlantic coast more habitable, Paleoindians began using the resources of coastal lands. Mobile populations established transient base camps near rivers and estuaries, where food was plentiful, or near areas that contained stone suitable for projectile points and other tools. Seasonal camps extended their range into the interior, where they hunted large game, gathered food and medicinal plants, and procured stone and minerals. Populations during the early periods of occupation likely fluctuated, with extended periods of very low population. Total population at the end of the Paleoindian period may have been as low as a few hundred individuals throughout what is now known as the State of Virginia. (CLR draft 2024: 9-10)

As temperatures continued to warm and sea levels rose, native peoples migrated inland along major river corridors into areas associated with the topographic fall line, an area of swift currents or "falls" in rivers, separating the Tidewater and Piedmont regions of Virginia. The annual cycle of movement for these early inhabitants would have occurred over a vast region. Utilizing base camps located near sources of stone during a portion of the year, smaller groups of families would have dispersed to satellite camps to procure seasonal resources located within upland terraces and resource-rich wetlands. (CLR draft 2024: 10)

Beginning around 3,200 years ago, the development of clay pottery and a greater reliance on cultivated crops such as beans, corn, and squash supported increasingly fixed settlement and the nucleation of societies. Populations during this time began to coalesce into stable villages located near rivers and floodplains having fertile soil, favorable terrain, and access to game, where communities would clear woodlands to cultivate crops. These settlements were supplemented by dispersed camps that continued to hunt and gather distant resources. (CLR draft 2024: 10)

Early Contact and European Settlement:

Local native tribes present at the arrival of European settlers were predominantly represented by Algonquian speaking groups located throughout the Maryland and Virginia Tidewater as far south as Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds in eastern North Carolina and as far north as the Potomac River. The Piedmont and Appalachian regions beyond the fall line were home to unrelated Siouan speaking Indians. Archeological evidence of Algonquin people in the Virginia coastal plain date to as early as 200 AD. By 1600 AD, it is estimated that around 13,000 Algonquin-speaking Powhatans lived in 6,500 square miles of Tidewater Virginia, while another 15,000 Siouan-speaking Monacans and Manahoacs lived in the upland Piedmont (Figure 1). (CLR draft 2024: 10)

Well documented interaction between English settlers and indigenous peoples began in 1607 with the English arrival and settlement at Jamestown. Initial interactions between the two groups primarily consisted of trade in English goods for food. As the population of settlers grew, tensions increased. Difficulties in the relationship were made worse by a severe drought that constrained supplies of food and water for the Virginia Indians and colonists alike, resulting in violence. Inland migration of the colonists began in the late 1620s as settlers established farms, and eventually settlements, further upstream along both the James and York Rivers. Although Williamsburg remained the only significant population center through the end of the seventeenth century, smaller settlements were found throughout the colonial Tidewater region. (CLR draft 2024: 10-11)

Key to the burgeoning economic success of the settlement at Jamestown was the development of a marketable tobacco variety by John Rolfe in 1612. This met with high demand in both England and mainland Europe, providing an economically viable product and generating renewed interest in the prospects for the development of the Virginia colony. As demand for tobacco increased, greater numbers of settlers voyaged to the New World searching for economic success. Many were the second and third sons of English landowners without hope for inheriting property; many were transported under the headright system as indentured servants to clear the land and grow tobacco. Landowners in the mid-Atlantic region remained dependent primarily on white indentured servitude throughout much of the seventeenth century, with immigration levels remaining relatively high. This

began to change starting about 1619 when the first West Africans began arriving in the young colony. (CLR draft 2024: 11)

Amidst the ongoing English Civil War, and with the economics supporting contracted servitude on the wane, by 1650 as many as three hundred Africans are estimated to have been present in Virginia. Enslavement followed as indentured or contracted, servitude continued to become an increasingly unreliable source of labor. Ensnaring both Native Americans and Africans, legislative support for slavery began in 1661. By 1670 Africans comprised five percent of the colony's population. Yet this was also a time when the colony's laboring classes, both enslaved and free, became provoked by unanswered Native American raids and rose to challenge the authority of their capitalist masters. Led by Nathaniel Bacon in 1676, the brief uprising was soon crushed by Crown forces loyal to Governor William Berkeley. Responding to the insurrection, Berkeley and the colonial legislature conspired to prevent future troubles, devising and enforcing legal differences between the free and enslaved laborers who had formerly banded together under Bacon. (CLR draft 2024: 11-12)

Indentured servant immigration levels continued to diminish through the end of the seventeenth century as tobacco prices fell and planters were unable to entice servants with the promise of future freedom and economic success. The increasing number of landowners throughout the colonies, paired with increasing acreages planted to tobacco in compensation for lower prices, created a scarcity of labor. This unmet demand for labor further accelerated Virginia's turn toward a slavery economy. (CLR draft 2024: 12)

By the turn of the eighteenth century, the depressed tobacco prices required landowners to produce ever increasing quantities of the crop in order to turn a profit. Intensive cultivation rapidly depleted soils, driving planters to seek yet more land. But as the eighteenth century progressed and settlement in the area increased, land also became scarce. Growers increasingly experimented with crop rotation and soil amendments to rehabilitate depleted soils, allowing fields to go fallow until soil fertility could recover. Despite these practices, continued pressure for fresh land, combined with an increasing population and a greater number of freedmen, provoked the westward expansion of the colonial frontier. Following major waterways such as the James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers, colonists slowly pushed into the interior of Virginia's Tidewater region (Figure 2). (CLR draft 2024: 12-13)

In response to the increased population in the area, Hanover County was established in 1720 from the western portion of New Kent County. The eastern portion of the county was on the edge of this frontier throughout the seventeenth early eighteenth century. Hanover town, originally known as Page's Warehouse, was established in 1676 on the Pamunkey River as the first major colonial settlement within county lines. (CLR draft 2024: 13)

Early Settlement and Antebellum Virginia:

By the time of the American Revolution, the banks of the James River were well settled with broad plantations, with stately houses overlooking the wide river channel that served as the main artery of commerce. Areas further from the river developed later, as families that had been in Virginia for generations divided their large tracts into smaller parcels for their children and grandchildren. New immigrants found a patchwork of smaller farms and plantations with little unclaimed land. The majority of the upland farms would have likely comprised a few hundred acres each of cultivated fields and woodlands, growing a mix of tobacco and grains and supported by the labor of enslaved workers. Much of the upland areas distant from navigable rivers would have remained unsettled forest and wetland, an inhospitable tangle of vegetation served by narrow, unreliable roads. (CLR draft 2024: 13)

Meanwhile, Richmond had grown to become a major center of industry and commerce. Products from the region's farms were processed either on-site or at local mills before being transported to Richmond for export. The city's importance as a shipping hub, along with the development of a more complete road system, meant that farms no longer required direct access to the riverfront to market their produce, spurring increased settlement and cultivation of outlying lands through the first half of the nineteenth century. Hamlets developed at crossroads communities where artisans plied their wares and services. Examples include Mechanicsville and Haw's Shop in Hanover County, as well

as New Market in Henrico County. (CLR draft 2024: 13)

The numerous small tributaries of the Chickahominy and Pamunkey Rivers provided sufficient hydropower to operate grist mills, sawmills, and other small industries. The personal tax records of Hanover County documented fifteen mills operating in the eastern half of the county in 1814. With mills dotting the countryside, there was easy access for local farmers to grind their corn and wheat without having to carry the bulky grain over rough roads for long distances. An 1820 survey of Hanover County produced by John Wood identifies numerous mills along these waterways, including Macon's Mill on Powhite Creek where Gaines' Mill would later be found, and Jones and Watts' Mill, which appears near the Elder Swamp where Barker's Mill would later be identified on maps of the period (Figure 3). (CLR draft 2024: 13)

Gaines' Mill Battlefield Farms:

During the early nineteenth century, the land encompassing the original tract of the Gaines' Mill Unit was known as Springfield (Rainville 2003:4). The earliest owner identified for Springfield is Pitman Kidd. Born in 1755, he married Mary Austin, probably at least by 1784 when their daughter, Sarah, was born (Haw 1930). The Kidds lived on land adjacent to Springfield, possibly on the property where the Watt/Kidd family cemetery lies approximately 400 yards to the southeast of the Watt House. The Kidd House may have been the building later labeled "Adams" on a 1867 Union Engineers' map (Taylor 2017). Even though the Kidds lived on land adjacent to the Springfield tract, the future park unit tract may have contained agricultural buildings as well as cabins for enslaved workers who lived on the combined 871 acres Pitman Kidd owned by 1805 (Rainville 2003:2). (AOA 2019: 266)

In 1802, Sarah Kidd married Hugh Watt, a Scots-Irish immigrant from County Antrim in what is now Northern Ireland who had come to Richmond in 1790 (Gilchrist 1956; Haw 1930). After Pitman Kidd's death in 1806, his wife Mary inherited a life interest in his property. By 1809, Sarah Watt inherited Springfield, which consisted of approximately 300 acres (Rainville 2003:4). In 1833, Hugh Watt appeared in tax records as a joint owner of the property with Sarah Watt. Between 1835 and 1836, the assessment for buildings on their Springfield farm rose abruptly from \$150 to \$928.90, indicating that they erected the house now known as the Watt House, which was built in 1830-1832. (Gilchrist 1956). (AOA 2019: 266)

The Watt House was a conspicuous landmark, found at the center of the open field near the plateau's high point (Figure 4). The dwelling was nearly square in plan, and one-and-a-half-stories tall, featuring two chimneys on the east gable. A cluster of supporting buildings was arrayed about the house, including a two-room cabin housing enslaved domestic workers located directly east. Other outbuildings would have included a smokehouse, well house, dairy, stable, barns, sheds, and one or more poultry houses. Outbuildings directly related to domestic uses were located in a tight cluster convenient to the house. The space between these structures would have formed the farm "yard" of bare compacted soil, where enslaved workers performed a large portion of their daily tasks. This domestic curtilage would have been enclosed with paling fences and shaded by large trees. (CLR draft 2024: 22-23)

The Watt farm was accessed by an entrance road entering the property from the east, from the main highway leading south from New Cold Harbor. This farm road wound onto the plateau and past an orchard before looping around the south side of the house. From there, the primary farm road continued westward toward the western end of the plateau before descending the slope toward the Chickahominy River. A secondary farm road branched off just west of the house and ran north toward Boatswain Creek. (CLR draft 2024: 23)

The 1850 census listed Hugh Watt (age 75) in the household of Sarah Watt (age 65), whose real estate was valued at \$7,000 (USBC 1850). The family had 20 enslaved workers on their property at the time of the 1850 census. By 1860, Hugh Watt had died, and Sarah was listed as a 75-year-old farmer with real estate valued at \$10,543. The \$20,763 estimate for her personal estate would include the value of 28 enslaved workers on her property (Hanover County Historical Society 1983:59-60). (AOA 2019: 266-267)

To the west of Springfield was Powhite plantation, owned by Dr. William F. Gaines. The core of the property was located on the west side of Powhite Creek, beyond the current park boundary. However, its fields at that time extended across the creek to include the future park area that lies between Powhite and Boatswain Creeks. North of Springfield, the Parsons farm contained at least a small dwelling house and one or more agricultural outbuildings, as well as an orchard. The roughly fifty acres of open fields owned by Reynolds Parsons was contiguous with the larger fields of Powhite to the southwest. (CLR draft 2024: 20,24-25)



Figure 1. Detail from "Virginia," a map by John Smith and William Hole, London, 1624. This image shows the approximate locations of Native American villages. The future location of Richmond is indicated by "The Fales." The approximate location of Gaines' Mill Battlefield is indicated with a red asterisk. (Library of Congress, <https://lccn.loc.gov/99446115>)



Figure 2. Detail of, "A map of the country between Albemarle sound and Lake Erie..." published by John Stockdale, London, 1787. Image shows the approximate location of Gaines' Mill Battlefield indicated with a red asterisk relative to local plantations and towns. (Library of Congress, <https://lccn.loc.gov/74691933>)

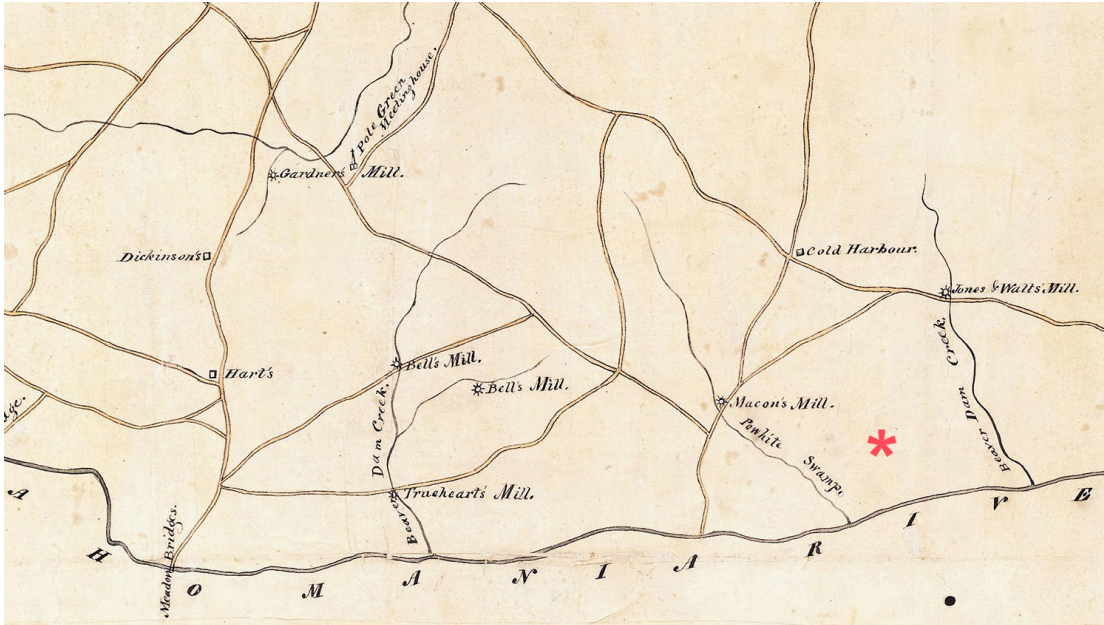


Figure 3. Detail of a map of Hanover County by John Wood, 1820, showing roads, waterways, and mills. The approximate location of Gaines' Mill Battlefield is indicated with a red asterisk. The location of Gaines' Mill on Powhite Creek is indicated as Macon's Mill. The indication for Jones and Watts' Mill on what is labeled Beaver Dam Creek appears to be on what is today Elder Creek and Barker Mill Pond east of the Watt house. (Library of Virginia digital collections)



Figure 4. Detail: "Map of the Battle-Fields of the Totopotomy, Bethesda Church, and Cold Harbor," (P.S. Michie, July 1865). This post-war manuscript map annotated by the authors (in blue) locates conjectural outbuildings suggested in a 2000 archeological survey of the property. (National Archives II, RG77, Map Z-412h; Battlefields and Campaign Areas, 146 items)

THE CIVIL WAR: 1861–1865

Gaines' Mill Battlefield is one of six sites in Richmond National Battlefield Park associated with the Peninsula Campaign (March–July 1862), along with Drewry's Bluff, Chickahominy Bluff, Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Glendale Battlefield, and Malvern Hill Battlefield. The Peninsula Campaign was orchestrated by Major General George McClellan, who transported his Union Army of the Potomac by boat to the tip of Virginia's Southeast Peninsula in early April and, after winning a series of battles on the peninsula, reached the outskirts of Richmond in late May, preparing to lay siege to the city. After the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, Major General Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and began to improve the defenses around the city and make plans for taking the offensive.

During the week between June 25 and July 1, 1862, Lee launched a series of attacks that have since become known as the Seven Days' Battles. Despite being significantly outnumbered, Lee was able to force the cautious McClellan into abandoning his campaign. Unnerved by the strength of Lee's attacks, McClellan opted to move his army southward to the James River and establish a new base there. As it fell back, the Federal army maneuvered through a series of defensive stands, utilizing terrain, rivers and creeks, and other features of the landscape to establish superior position, each time parrying the Confederate attack long enough to retreat again.

The Battle of Gaines' Mill on June 27 was the third of the Seven Days' Battles, following the Battles of Oak Grove and Beaver Dam Creek. With the bulk of the Union army south of the Chickahominy River, Gen. Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps established a line of defense behind the steep banks and swampy bottom of Boatswain Creek, a tributary on the north side of the Chickahominy. The location featured cleared, level uplands on both sides of the line, providing ample room for maneuvering and establishing infantry and artillery positions, while exposing opposing forces to devastating fire as they advanced. Boatswain Creek was steeply sloped on each bank, and along much of the line the creek was densely forested with trees and underbrush, making a formidable barrier to Confederate forces as they attacked.

Despite their numerical superiority, the Confederates once again had difficulty getting into their appointed positions on time. Maj. General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson took a wrong turn on his way to Old Cold Harbor that delayed him and his men. Maj. General D. H. Hill, who was supposed to support Jackson, reached Old Cold Harbor first and, after a brief skirmish with the forces on the Union right, held back to await Jackson. The result was that Maj. General A.P. Hill's division again initiated the general battle and bore the brunt of the casualties. Having found the Federals at Boatswain's Swamp rather than at Powhite Creek as Lee had supposed, Hill formed his six brigades in a convex line that stretched from the Union center to its far left and sent them forward at about 2:30 p.m. For approximately two hours, Hill's brigades launched a series of attacks that resulted in some of the fiercest fighting of the war, but they failed to pierce Federal lines (Figure 5).

The tide of the battle began to turn late in the afternoon when Brigadier General Richard Ewell's division of Jackson's command advanced on the Union center from New Cold Harbor. At the same time, Lee ordered Lt. General James "Pete" Longstreet to come in on A.P. Hill's right and create a diversion that might force Porter to weaken his lines in front of Ewell. D.H. Hill moved to turn Sykes' right flank. With the entire Union line under assault and ammunition beginning to run low, Porter did what he could to maintain the integrity of his position by plugging holes with units from Brigadier General George A. McCall's reserve division (Figure 6). Finally, at about 7:00 p.m., Jackson's two remaining divisions under Brigadier Generals Charles S. Winder and W.H.C. Whiting reached the field (Figure 7). With their weight added to the general assault, the Union line was overrun. Only darkness prevented a total catastrophe for Porter's corps.

The day's casualties exceeded those of any battle of the Civil War to that point except Shiloh. Porter lost a total of 6,837 men, including 894 killed, 3,114 wounded, and 2,829 captured. Among the latter number were two entire regiments that were surrounded as the Union line collapsed. Confederate casualties were worse (1,483 killed, 6,402 wounded, and 108 missing or captured), but they controlled the field. During the night Porter's survivors crossed the Chickahominy and set fire to the

bridges behind them.

Much of the most intensive and decisive fighting of the Battle of Gaines' Mill was fought on the 528-acre Watt Farm, which encompassed the Union left and center lines, including the Boatswain Creek bottom and level plateau behind it. Just before the Federals arrived, family members and enslaved workers helped move the seventy-seven-year-old Sarah Watt to the safety of a neighbor's farm. The Watt House served as a field hospital during and after the battle, and the bloody work of the surgeons devastated the house's interior. As a visitor noted after the battle, the house received significant damage with its "walls and roof...torn with shot and shell, the weather-boarding honeycombed with minnie balls, and every pane of glass shattered." Sarah Watt died a year after the battle and was buried behind the Watt House. (Quote from National Park Civil War Series, The Battles for Richmond, 1862. https://www.npshistory.com/publications/civil_war_series/21/sec5.htm)

Gaines' Mill Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park

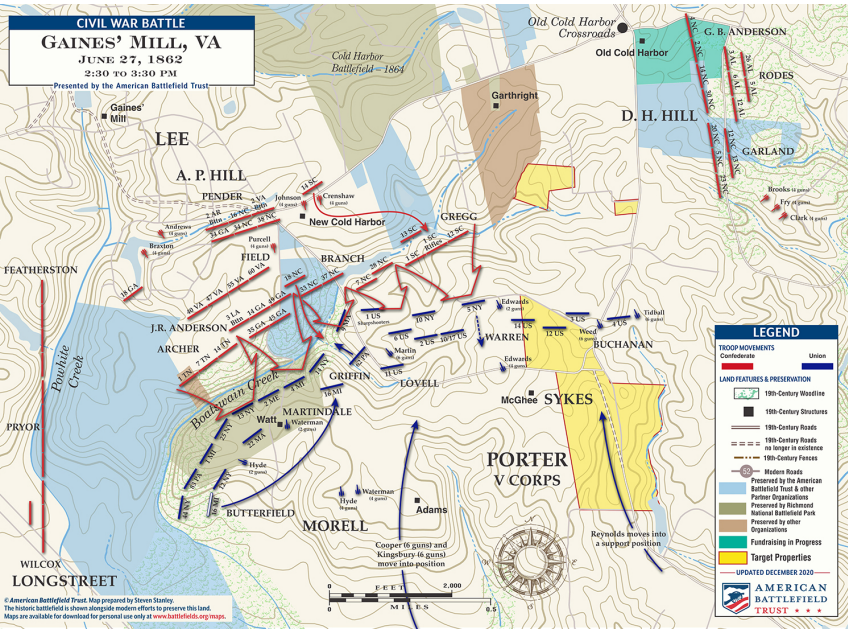


Figure 5. Diagram showing the position and movement of Confederate and Union forces during the early afternoon of the Battle of Gaines' Mill. (American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/>)

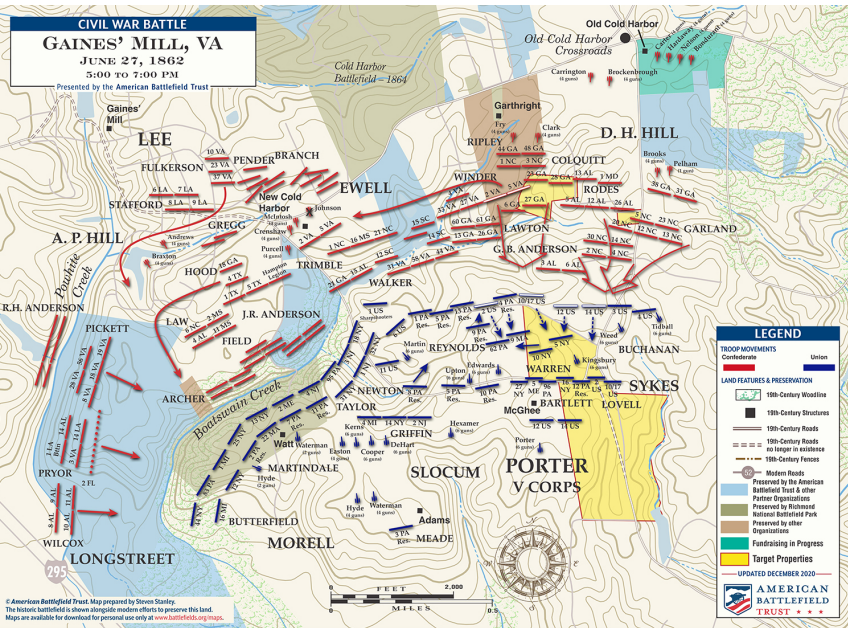


Figure 6. Diagram showing the position and movement of Confederate and Union forces during the early evening of the Battle of Gaines' Mill. (American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/>)

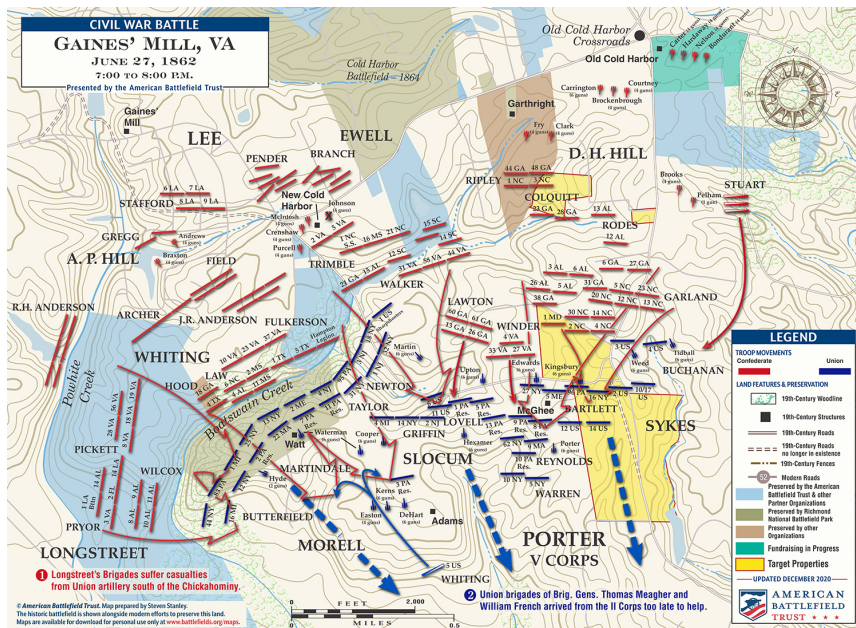


Figure 7. Diagram showing the position and movement of Confederate and Union forces during the late evening of the Battle of Gaines' Mill. (American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/>)

RECONSTRUCTION AND COMMEMORATION: 1865–1932

After the death of Sarah Watt in 1863, her son, George, inherited Springfield. Born in 1815, George Watt served as an apprentice to his brother-in-law, John Haw (after whom the community and Civil War battle Haw's Shop are named). Haw's businesses included house construction, blacksmithing, manufacture of various machines, and a foundry (The Southern Planter and Farmer 1875:474). By age 25, Watt was manufacturing plows in Alabama and in 1842 received his first of more than 20 patents for inventions and improvements to agricultural implements. He returned to Virginia in 1846 and established a business in Richmond manufacturing and selling agricultural implements (McCartney 2009:160, 251). He continued to live in Richmond and rented Springfield to tenants after inheriting the property (LCA 1992:34). (AOA 2019: 273)

After the death of George Watt, his heirs continued to operate Springfield as a tenant farm into the twentieth century (LCA 1992:34). In the late nineteenth century, Springfield was combined with Parsons, an adjacent 65-acre property to the north, as indicated by a label for a building on an 1867 Union Engineers' map. When the heirs sold Springfield to Arthur McGhee in 1906, it consisted of 399.25 acres. Subsequent owners included Dr. Frederick E. White of Canada (purchased in 1911) and then Minitree Fulton (1917) (Hanover County Historical Society 1983:60). One of the earliest photographs from this period shows the basic nineteenth-century configuration of the house, a post and rail fence separating the farmyard and a corn field, fruit trees and black locust trees (Figure 8). (AOA 2019: 273; CLR draft 2024: 58)

It is unclear whether Dr. William Gaines returned to spend appreciable time at his Powhite property between the end of the Civil War and his death in 1876, but by the 1870s, he appears to have begun divesting himself of his property. In 1871, Gaines placed 320 acres of land into a trust for his daughter Fannie. This land, spanning the upland area between Powhite and Boatswain Creeks, would eventually become part of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield Unit. In 1895, she sold the property to E.C. Gaulding, who established a dwelling and farm on the property and lived on the parcel for thirty years, marking the first time the property was developed as an independent self-sustaining farm, rather than as an acreage of the Powhite plantation. In 1925, Gaulding sold the farm to William Axsell, who operated a dairy there for the next two decades. (CLR draft 2024: 49-50)

Richmond & Rappahannock River Railway:

In the early twentieth century, the Richmond & Rappahannock River Railway (R&R) constructed a sixteen-mile light railroad running from the eastern edge of Richmond out toward the York River. The railway owners also envisioned the new line as a spur to industrial growth east of Richmond and a boon to truck farmers along the route who could send their produce more quickly to market in the city or for broader distribution through connection to the numerous railways radiating out to regional and national markets. The railroad traversed the Gaines' Mill Battlefield site, following the north bank of Boatswain Creek. (AOA 2019: 273; CLR draft 2024: 53)

To construct the railroad through the Gaines' Mill Battlefield area, in 1913, the railroad company acquired a 100-foot-wide right-of-way through the fields of E.C. Gaulding and along the creek bed of Boatswain Creek through the former Parsons farm, then owned by the Rappahannock Land and Development Corp. Construction of the engineered rail bed required significant grading along the steep slopes of the creek, including construction of a long raised berm and cut into the creek's steep embankments. After commencement of railroad operations in 1914, the company promoted its service in a brochure. Access to Civil War battlefield sites was one of the primary attractions mentioned in the brochure, and a promotional map was provided to riders showing the orientation of the battlefield and the locations of the opposing forces (Figure 9). The stations of Gaines' Mill and Boatswain Branch may have been located on the battlefield property, although no surface evidence of these railroad features remains visible. In 1917 the railroad closed, and while the tracks were later removed, the engineered embankment for the rail bed along Boatswain Creek remained. (CLR draft 2024: 53)

Freeman Markers:

In the early twentieth century, prominent southern Civil War historian, journalist, and Robert E. Lee and George Washington biographer Douglass Southall Freeman and architectural engineer J. Ambler Johnston together frequented Richmond area battlefields and fortifications. Both men were sons of Confederate veterans and over time worked to persuade the Richmond Rotary Club to adopt a plan to identify and mark important local Civil War sites. Freeman, Johnston and others formed the Battlefield Markers Association in 1921 to "identify points of interest on various battle fields of Virginia and to place thereon suitable markers." Each marker consisted of a cast iron plate set with bas-relief text on a concrete capstone atop a base made of mortared granite blocks. One of Freeman's waypoints was the Gaines' Mill battlefield for the Labor Day 1921 tour of the Richmond battlefields. In 1925, two markers were placed at the Gaines' Mill Battlefield. Freeman Marker #7 "The Watt House," was placed at the north side of the Watt House, at that time still held in private ownership, commemorating the house and battlefield generally. Freeman Marker #8, "Whiting's Advance," placed well northwest of the Watt House near the edge of the forested Boatswain Creek ravine, marked the approximate location where the Union line was breeched by Confederate troops during the battle. (CLR draft 2024: 54-55)

Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation:

In 1928 the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation, a Richmond citizens' group whose leadership included Douglass Southall Freeman, acquired 60 acres of the Fulton property through a donation from Frederick W. Scott (Figure 10). The parcel contained the former Watt dwelling house, farmyard, and center point of the Battle. The corporation, which had been formed to purchase and preserve Civil War forts and battlefields in the vicinity of Richmond, erected monument markers at key locations on the property, including the Watt House and the presumed location where Hood's attack broke the Union line. However, the corporation implemented little more of its ambitious preservation plan, which proposed converting the Watt House into a museum where a bas-relief map of the battlefield would be installed for exhibition. Photographs taken in 1931 shows the character of the Watt House yard and surrounding landscape, seemingly in better condition since the 1904 photograph (Figures 11 and 12). The following year, in 1932, the corporation conveyed the site and its other Richmond battlefield properties to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1932. (AOA 2019: 273; CLR 2000: 34; CLR draft 202: 58)

Virginia Roadside Markers:

The earlier effort by the Battlefield Markers Association was followed by a program of the Commonwealth of Virginia to place roadside historical markers to commemorate historic locations statewide. Several of these state markers were installed along U.S. Route 1 in 1927, and by 1930,

the program had grown to include 691 markers placed throughout Virginia. Initially administered by the Conservation and Economic Development Commission, the program was focused on military events and colonial sites. In 1932, the commission placed marker PA-25 in the lawn at the north side of the Watt House to commemorate the Battle of Gaines' Mill. (CLR draft 2024: 55-56)



Figure 8. Photograph of the Watt house ca. late 1904 looking southwest, showing the east facade of the house, as well as an unidentified structure to the east or northeast of the house. (RICH Archives. Original: "Richmond in By-Gone Days," accessed from the Library of Virginia)

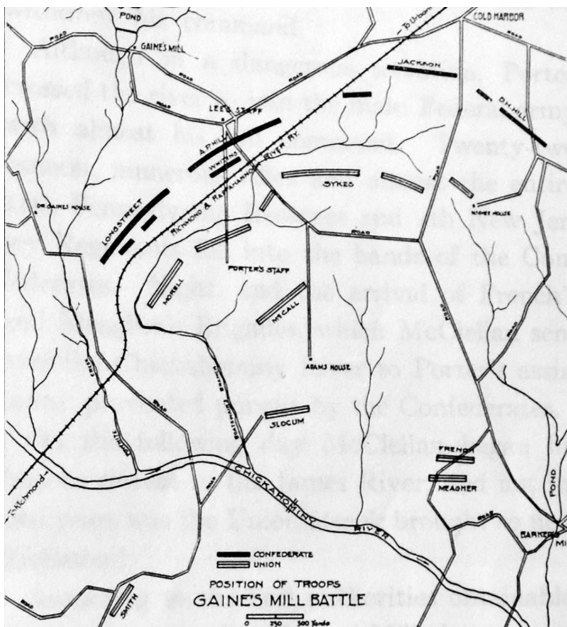


Figure 9. Map of the Richmond & Rappahannock River Railway track that traveled through the Gaines' Mill Unit, 1915.

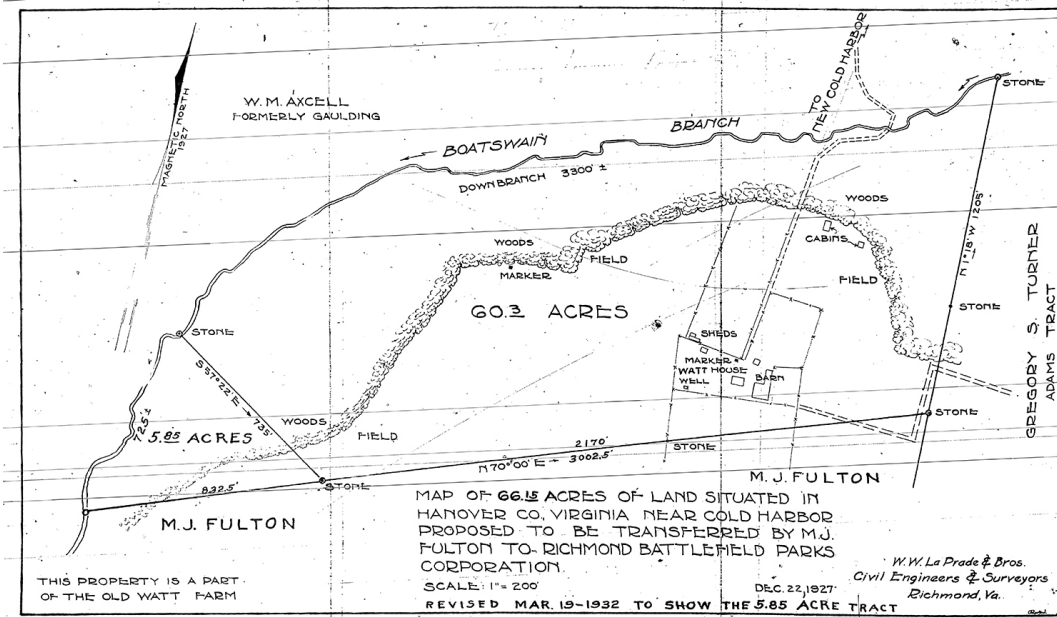


Figure 10. "Map of 66.15 Acres of Land Situated in Hanover County near Cold Harbor," survey by W.W. LaPrade & Bros., Dec. 1927. This drawing provides reliable documentation locating farm buildings, roads and the treeline during the early 20th century. (RICH Archives)



Figure 11. Watt House west elevation and front yard, ca.1931, looking east. Note the outbuildings on the lower left portion of the photograph. (RICH Archives)



Figure 12. Watt House yard, ca. 1931, looking northeast. Note the location of the Freeman marker at the center of the image. Also note the relatively small size of the Virginia redcedar. (RICH Archives)

RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK: 1932–2024

From 1932 to 1944, the former 60-acre Watt House tract was part of the multi-site Richmond State Battlefield Park. Following Franklin Delano Roosevelt's election and 1933 inauguration as the 37th President of the United States, resources of new federal Depression-era relief programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) became directed at the development and improvement of state park facilities nationwide. On September 29th of 1934, the Richmond News Leader reported that National Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer and Associate Director Conrad Wirth would join state conservation commissioner William Carson the following day at Fort Harrison to observe the anniversary of the two-day battle for Fort Harrison, but to also celebrate the successful effect of fourteen months of work by the CCC program upon the state's Richmond Battlefield Park. During the local operations of the CCC program the state began to transition the former Watt property from a neglected tenant farm to a historic site. Doing so involved making significant repairs to the historic dwelling, as well as pursuing the general clean-up of the farmyard and fields. Deteriorated and unrepairable outbuildings were removed, broken fencing was repaired, and accumulated debris were removed. Notable removals included the dilapidated large shed or barn structure directly east of the house. It is unknown whether any Civil War-era structures were removed in the process. Comparison of photographs taken in 1931 and 1934 reveal several alterations and repairs were also made to the house during the first years of state ownership (Figure 13). (CLR draft 2024: 63)

The CCC's work also included improvements to Watt House Road and construction of a new bridle trail that was intended as part of a larger bridle trail system connecting Gaines' Mill to Cold Harbor and other battlefield sites (Figure 14). The Gaines' Mill portion of the trail was a broadly elliptical loop roughly following the boundaries of the property. A notation on the plan legend, "where the trail crosses a line of earthworks, use has been made of an existing break in them," indicates a concern for protecting the site's earthworks. The trail was completed in 1939. (CLR draft 2024: 64-65, citing Drawing 367-106, "Submarginal Land Additions," 1 March 1935, eTIC)

During the mid-1930s when the National Park Service was busy with its role providing technical support to the CCC at work on the state park, the Federal Surplus Relief Administration made available \$25 million in funding for the federal acquisition of underutilized or unproductive land. Under the rubric of land-use economics, this program initially hoped to combat Depression-era

poverty by paying landowners to leave damaged or infertile “submarginal” lands that could not support subsistence agriculture. Twenty percent of these funds, \$5 million, however were set aside for acquisition of lands for recreational use. By early 1935 Associate Director Wirth had drafted plans for “submarginal” land acquisitions proposed as additions to the state park. Only a year later, on March 2, 1936, an act of Congress, fully supported locally by the Virginia House of Delegates, authorized the establishment of Richmond National Battlefield Park. Additional master planning for the future national battlefield park began soon thereafter. (CLR draft 2024: 63-64)

As National Park Service planning proceeded, tangible establishment of the Richmond National Battlefield Park would take time, requiring the legal transfer of existing state lands into federal ownership. As storm clouds of war gathered in Europe in 1939 and following the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, there became less focus on developing new parks as young men left the agency for military service and the administration of the national parks departed Washington, D.C. for Chicago. Owing to these events and inescapable wartime priorities, the deed conveying the 60.3-acre former Watt property to the United States of America, along with three other parcels was not signed by the Virginia Conservation Commission until December 6, 1943, seven years following authorization. These deeds were accepted by the federal government on July 14, 1944 as Allied forces then battled Germany for control of Normandy in western France. The persistent austerity of wartime budgets, continuing through the early 1950s given the implementation of the Marshall Plan to rebuild war torn Europe, and the onset of a new war on the Korean peninsula between 1950 and 1953 meant that funds would remain scarce for national park development until the late 1950s. (CLR draft 2024: 65-66)

In the 1950s, the National Park Service undertook several restoration and visitor facility projects intending to improve the site entrance and the landscape immediately adjacent to the Watt House. This work was funded through the MISSION 66 program, a service-wide program of investment in infrastructure intending to update services, improve conditions, preserve historic resources, and enhance visitor experience in national parks in time to mark the observance of the service’s fifty-year anniversary in 1966. The National Park Service MISSION 66 program also coincided with the centennial observance of the Civil War, a timeframe when increased visitation was anticipated for Civil War parks. Although the improvements at many parks included visitor centers, shelters, and comfort stations, efforts at Gaines’ Mill Battlefield during this period concentrated on rehabilitation of the Watt House, enhancing the park entrance experience, and improving the landscape setting. (CLR draft 2024: 66)

In November 1956, John T. Willett prepared a “Survey Report for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Historic Structures” for the Watt House. The bulk of Willett’s research and findings were centered on restoring the exterior of the Watt House to its Civil War appearance, serving as a battlefield landmark and outdoor exhibit marking the center of the Union line in 1862. The interior of the building was to house a park ranger/historian. Willett found that the Watt House interior and exterior had remained essentially unchanged since 1862. The only exceptions were the three entrances, which were recommended to be restored. Photographs from the 1950s document the exterior restoration work performed on the Watt House during this time, including painting the clapboards white (Figure 15). Beyond the building, the Willet report included details regarding the location of the orchard or orchards remembered both by Mary Jane Haw and in soldier accounts of the battle. (CLR draft 2024: 66-67)

Landscape Improvements:

Beginning in the late 1950s, the National Park Service began to develop plans for providing utilities, parking, and landscape improvements at the Watt House. An early planning drawing from 1957 indicated a straightforward entry approach using the existing Watt House Road as an entry road and an elongated elliptical loop around the house. A “Development Plan” in 1958 eliminated the elliptical loop and proposed a parking area north of the house, or a location immediately south of its current location (Figure 16). The adjacent edge of the east field was identified as stabilized turf to accommodate overflow and bus parking. The 1958 plan called for the construction of a trail leading to interpretive markers as well as the development of the Watt House interpretive wayside and other signage and markers to be located at the road near the Watt House, rather than at the parking lot. The plan proposed the construction of a “garage, shop, equipment and well building (on the site of

the old out-building)" east of the house. This dilapidated outbuilding had been removed by this time (see Figure 11). (CLR draft 2024: 68,70)

Vegetation issues addressed in the plan included planting crops in a section of the west fields, although this area has remained wooded, and the planting of trees in many locations throughout the site. A planting strip was proposed for the site west of the current parking, comprised of four peach and apple trees. The area farther west and north adjacent to the wooded area was to be planted in "crops." Individual trees are indicated on the landscaped island north of the house and in an area west of the house and identified as either proposed or existing. The proposed trees were never planted. (CLR draft 2024: 70-71)

Modern Structures at Gaines' Mill Battlefield:

Features implemented from a 1961 drawing, "Roads, Walks, and Parking Area," included the entry circle, or terminal driveway loop, the interpretive plaza, relocation of the Freeman marker from the house yard to the plaza, and the diagonal parking area (Figure 17). Actual construction differentiated from the plan in some areas—the one-story garage, to house park maintenance equipment and private automobiles, was built in 1963 west, and not east, of the house as called for in all of the early plans. The garage was designed to be visually compatible with the newly restored Watt House. In addition, the drawing included a brick walk to the house from the interpretive zone north of the house, but a handwritten notation commented that the "brick walk to house is not historically appropriate and is an invitation to the visitor to demand entrance to the house." The note also recommended to "Leave lawn as it is at present." The drawing also included a grape arbor north and east of the house to be used as a visual "screen." (CLR draft 2024: 71-73)

Apart from the garage, the other major modern structure built on the site was a combined one-story barn, stable, and corral, built in the 1970s at the edge of the existing eastern woods near the park property line (Figure 18). A doghouse and woodshed were built west of the Watt House in the farmyard. These modern outbuildings were used by National Park Service staff residing in the house who kept a dog and horse on site. Although the structures were rural in character and compatible in scale and function, they were not historic reconstructions, nor were they intended to be used for interpretation. The barn, doghouse, and woodshed were later removed. A few photographs taken around this time show the state of the vegetation growing around the Watt House. Well-kept hedges and a few small trees were planted in the front yard and along the structure's foundation (Figure 19). (CLR draft 2024: 73,76)

Battlefield Expansion:

Beginning with its inclusion as part of the Richmond Battlefield State Park in 1932, the sixty-acre Watt property stood as the representative portion of the much larger Gaines' Mill Battlefield area for more than sixty years, publicly preserved and interpreted, while large areas of the historic battlefield remained in private ownership. To the west, the large property that was once part of the Powhite plantation had remained largely intact since it was separated from the Gaines' estate late in the nineteenth century. Following William Axsell's death in 1946, the dairy farm, then comprising 314.52 acres, was sold to Harry W. Selden, and subsequently to J. Louis Reynolds nine years later. Reynolds, and afterward his son Glenn P. Reynolds, retained the property until 1996, when it was sold to R. Wayne and Sandra W. McDougle. Details of the land use during that time, such whether the subsequent owners continued the dairy operation following Axsell's death are not clear, yet the land remained in agricultural use. (CLR draft 2024: 77)

The total area of the battlefield available for preservation was reduced during the 1970s when Virginia and the federal government worked in partnership to construct Interstate 295, a circumferential bypass highway around Richmond that had been in planning since the early 1960s. The high-speed multilane highway was designed to run along the Chickahominy River's floodplain across the southwest corner of the battlefield landscape. The 1986 deed transferring the property from J. Louis Reynolds' estate to his son excluded 53.78 acres of the total 314 acres for the highway, citing a condemnation and conveyance date of 1976. A later deed from 1996 conveying the property from Reynolds to the McDougle's indicates four separate parcels reserved for the highway, totaling 74.05 acres. Today, the highway's right-of-way extends for about three thousand feet along the southwest edge of the property at a width of five hundred feet, making a total of about thirty-five

acres. (CLR draft 2024: 77)

Throughout this time, the former railroad right-of-way remained a separate parcel, comprising 7.75 acres gently bending its way through the property in an S-curve. Following the early 20th century failure of the railroad, its property was foreclosed and the right-of-way for the entire line was purchased by Joseph E. Willard in 1923. In 1955, portions of the right-of-way, including the strip traversing the former Powhite land, were purchased by George K. Roper. Roper, and after his death, his wife Marilyn, owned the right-of-way through 1996, when it was purchased and owned briefly by the Woodberry Forest School of Madison County, Virginia. The following year, the right-of-way was purchased by Wayne and Sandra McDougle, reuniting the slender parcel with the larger property under one ownership, with a total area of about 285 acres. (CLR draft 2024: 77-78)

North of the Watt property, beyond Boatswain Creek, the former Parsons farm began to be subdivided in the middle of the twentieth century. In 1947, the property was purchased by Howard and Thoris Stark, who held the property intact for eight years. In 1955, the Starks sold one of the original two parcels, the 37.5 acres of land on the east side of Watt House Road, to Lewis Gentry, and the following year, they sold the western parcel, then comprising 76.2 acres, to Fredrick McGhee. Between the timing of these two sales, in January 1956, the Starks purchased at least the western portion of the former railroad right-of-way from George Roper, making that parcel whole again. By that time, however, they no longer owned the eastern parcel, so it is unclear how and when the right-of-way that ran east of Watt House Road was subsumed into the surrounding property. Subsequent land transactions mention the former railroad right-of-way as a landmark, but don't appear to exclude it from the parcels. (CLR draft 2024: 78)

Lewis Gentry built a dwelling on his property (east of Watt House Road) in 1955, and in 1963 he sold the house and 3.5 acres of land around it to Walter and Rebecca Roberts, who sold it again in 1963 to Hans Brinker. In 1964, Gentry sold the balance of his property to Frederick and Jacqueline McGee and T. Ellis and Lois Kirby, who began to divide and sell it the following year. In 1965 they sold a 3.6-acre parcel along Boatswain Creek to Robert and Deanna Davis and a 7.8-acre parcel just north of that to Bruce Randolph. The smaller lot was purchased by Edward and Dorothy Mae Stephens in 1966 and then in 1980 by Edmund and Linda Goggin, who built a small house and garage on the property. Finally, in 1970, McGhee and the other owners sold an 11.25-acre lot to Frederick and Rosemary Ryan, who built a home there the following year. The remainder of the 37.5-acres, today outside of the park boundary, was also divided and developed with houses by this time. (CLR draft 2024: 78-79)

The 76.2-acre parcel north of Boatswains Creek on the west side of Watt House Road remained relatively intact, with the exception of a square 1.8-acre lot and house located near the center of the property and a 3.6-acre lot in the southwest corner of the property along Boatswain Creek. The latter was sold in 1960 to Willie and Bonnie Boyette, who built a home there. (CLR draft 2024: 79)

In the 2010s, the long-term goal for preserving a greater extent of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield began to materialize. Six purchases, five of these being smaller tracts within the former Parsons farmland were acquired through a series of purchases by partner organizations and subsequently transferred to federal ownership for inclusion in the park:

- Tract 01-125 northeast corner of the Watt tract, 1.81 acres transferred to NPS in 2013, included a house and two garages.
- Tracts 01B-100 north of the old railroad right-of-way, 01B-101 south of the right-of-way, and 01B-103, the right-of-way itself, 285.81 acres (Powhite property) transferred to NPS in 2014, no structures.
- Tract 01-149 north of Boatswains Creek, 3.21 acres transferred to NPS in 2016, no structures.
- Tract 01-290 north of Watt property, 10.94 acres transferred to NPS in 2016, included house and outbuilding.
- Tract 01-291 north of Watt property, 3.57 acres transferred to NPS in 2016, included two structures.
- Tract 01-292 north of Watt property, 8.44 acres transferred to NPS in 2017, no structures. (CLR draft 2024: 79)

Interpretive Trail System and Parking Improvements:

Two main interpretative trails have existed on the Watt tract since the 1990s: the Federal Defense Trail is half a mile long and situated in the middle of the original park tract, and the Wilcox Trail is half a mile long and located on the western half of the Watt tract. The newest trail, built around 2017, is the 1.5-mile long Confederate Attack Trail that begins on the northwestern border of the Watt tract, crosses the newly built puncheon boardwalk onto the Boyette tract (01-149), and continues onto the McDougle tract (01B-100). (CLR draft 2024: 80-82)

Early in 2018, a U-shaped gravel pull-through and parking lot was constructed in the front yard of the Ryan tract. Between the pull-through and Watt House Road, the park installed two new wayside exhibits—one to face west, the other south. The parking lot installation will provide visitor access and interpretation opportunity to this piece of the battlefield while the park develops plans for a more permanent parking solution. (CLR draft 2024: 82-83)



Figure 13. Watt House and Gaines' Mill state historical marker, 1941. (RICH Archives)



Figure 14. CCC crew working on the Watt House Road, 1937. (RICH Archives)



Figure 15. Watt House, 1958. (RICH Archives)

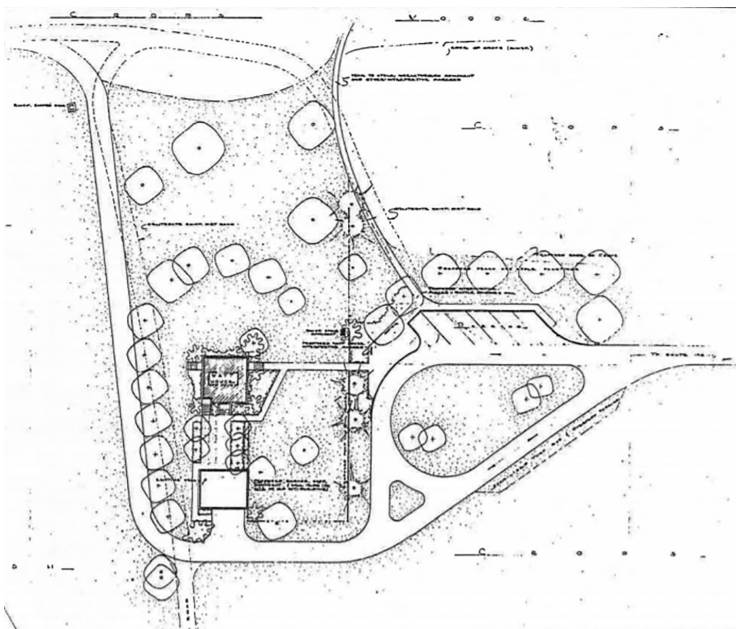


Figure 16. Development plan for the Watt house, 1958. This drawing shows a proposed garage on the location of an earlier outbuilding. Proposed plantings include peach and apple trees immediately west of the proposed diagonal parking. (RICH Archives, Drawing 367-2022)

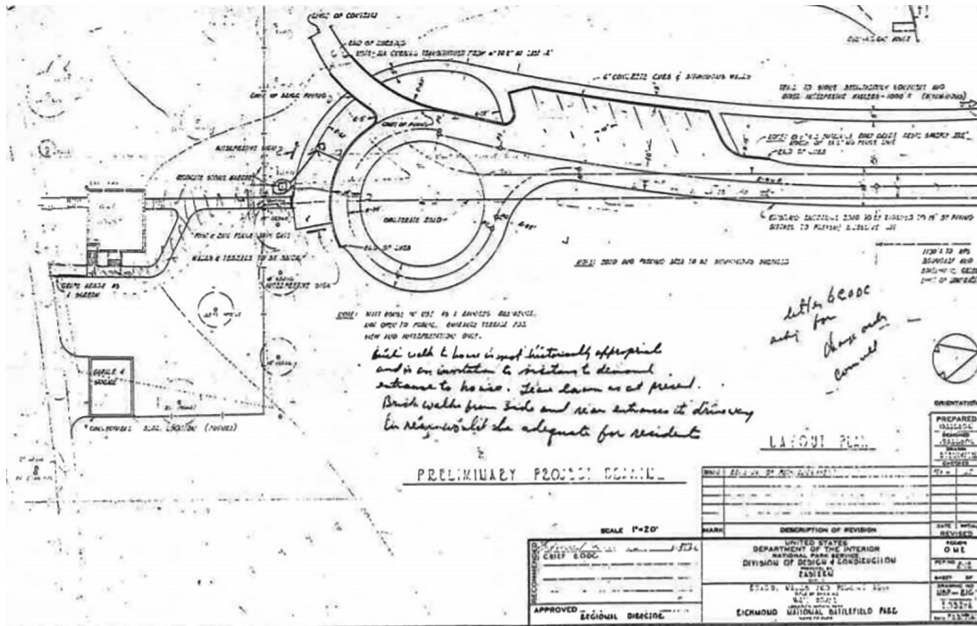


Figure 17. Proposed roads, walks and parking area, Watt House, 1961. Also showing existing layout of fences and locations of existing trees. (RICH Archives, Drawing 367-3032)



Figure 18. The barn, stable, and corral at the Gaines' Mill Battlefield, 1977, since removed. (RICH Archives).



Figure 19. Watt House, 1977, showing some of the plantings. (RICH Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Forest	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape	Interpretive Landscape	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	No	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Rail-Related	Station (Depot)	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Wetland	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

All units of Richmond National Battlefield Park are closed from sunset to sunrise daily and all day on Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1, but there are no gates, fences, or admission fees restricting public access to public roads, parking lots, and the trail system. The three trail loops at Gaines' Mill Battlefield are for pedestrians only (no bicycles).

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Authors of this CLI consulted with David Goldstein, Ph.D., Tribal and Cultural Affairs Lead, National Park Service, DOI-Region 1. No ethnographic study of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield, nor the Richmond National Battlefield Park, has been conducted. The park currently consults with following Federally Recognized tribes: Delaware Nation, Catawba, Chickahominy East, and Pamunkey.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of Gaines' Mill Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1830-1944, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023-2024. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The character of the area at the time of the battle was rural and agricultural, with wide open fields interrupted by bands of forest, disperse clusters of houses and outbuildings scattered throughout the open areas, and long lines of fences dividing the fields. Today, the landscape continues to exhibit a rural character, with few visual intrusions of modern development. The Watt House, which served as Gen. Porter's headquarters and as a field hospital, has been restored. The spatial relationships between the house, the level plateau, the Boatswain Creek ravine, and the field and forest cover help visitors understand these events and place them spatially within the landscape. Today the house is surrounded by turf grass and a small number of large shade and smaller ornamental trees, but is otherwise free of domestic vegetation. Some historic farm roads and lanes remain in use, while others have been reduced to traces.

Since 1944, some landscape characteristics and features at Gaines' Mill Battlefield have changed. The amount of open land is reduced from historic conditions, and buildings, structures, and equipment associated with agricultural uses are no longer present. Orchards, gardens, and fences are missing, as are flowers and gardens around the house. Nonhistoric trails track through the landscape but enhance visitor access to and understanding of the battle. However, the overall relationships of the landscape characteristics and features successfully convey important battle events and other historical associations.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1830-1944 period of significance for Gaines' Mill Battlefield.

Location:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The landscape represents the site of the primary fighting and most decisive events of the Battle of Gaines' Mill.

Design:

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The Watt House is substantially unchanged from the historic period. Although the house has been updated and modified since the battle to accommodate its residents, modifications were relatively minor, with no additions to the structure. The primary changes to the house since the historic period include its white paint (likely unpainted at the time of the battle), the loss of its front (south) porch, which extended across the southern façade of the house until the early twentieth century, and the switching of the practical front of the house from the south to the north. Most of the outbuildings are gone.

Setting:

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The landscape's setting remains rural, but much of its historic agricultural character has been lost, despite continuing agricultural use of some of the fields on the property and many of the surrounding properties. The loss of barns, sheds, fencing, and vegetation such as orchards and other domestic vegetation around the house has altered the setting.

Materials:

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. Historic materials include wood and brick at the Watt House, earthen and gravel circulation surfaces, and granite and metal markers. In addition to large shade trees, the house yard featured flowers, shrubs, hedges, and likely a kitchen garden. Today the house is surrounded by turf grass and a small number of large shade and smaller ornamental trees, but is otherwise free

of domestic vegetation.

Workmanship:

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. This aspect is represented in the Watt House, which represents its nineteenth century construction despite several modifications to accommodate residential uses. Original workmanship of the original Freeman markers is also still evident.

Feeling:

Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. At the time of the battle, agricultural use involved a significant number of structures and features in the landscape, including barns, shed, and other outbuildings, wagons and other farming equipment, fences, orchards, a variety of crop fields, animals, and domestic vegetation. This would have given the landscape a relatively busy feeling, both visually and in terms of farming activity. Today, agricultural use is managed off -site, and no equipment or other infrastructure is stored within the landscape. This imparts a generally empty and quiet character most of the time.

Association:

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The land now encompassed by the park represents the heart of the Union defense during the Battle of Gaines' Mill, and was the site of the initial breach of the Federal line by the Confederates.

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1830-1944), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The Watt House remains in its historic location, and its spatial relationships to the natural features of the creek, ravine, and plateau remain intact. These spatial relationships are essential in conveying the historic associations of the farm with the events of the battle. The landscape as a whole, however, no longer reflects the spatial organization that once characterized its agricultural use during the historic period. (CLR draft 2024: 109)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Historic land uses at Gaines' Mill Battlefield include agriculture, domestic (residence), and commemoration, all of which remain today (Figure 22). Interpretive use of Gaines' Mill Battlefield, beyond the installation of commemorative markers, began when the Watt property was transferred to public ownership as a historical park. Interpretive land uses do not contribute. (CLR draft 2024: 110,133)

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Continued agricultural use of fields within the McDougle tract north and west of Boatswain Creek. (OCLP 2020)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Although the construction and character of Watt House Road is significantly altered from its historic condition, its alignment and its function as the primary entrance to the property are contributing characteristics. Also contributing are the portions of the gravel service loop that loosely corresponds to historic road alignments. A number of remnant road traces have been identified within the battlefield park; however, these are fragmentary and not conspicuous in the landscape. (CLR draft 2024: 134)

Evaluation of Circulation Features:

Watt House Entrance Road Trace.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

Built in 1840–1850, the trace runs southwest from the parking area through pastures to the southwestern property boundary. Originally entering the property at its northeast corner, the private farm road may have curved around various resources on the property before following its current path to the southwest until it intersected with a Union military road near the Chickahominy River. The narrow lane is covered in sod; faint ruts are visible near where it splits off from Watt House Road. (HSI; NR 2018, Sec.7: 15)

Watt Farm Lane/Service Loop Drive.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing (Watt Farm Lane)

The Watt Farm Lane/service loop drive is a one-lane gravel drive that encircles the Watt House, Watt House garage, and yard. Significant portions of the drive, including the entire southern and western sides, are believed to follow historic alignment of the original Watt farm entrance road. (CLR draft 2024: 134)

Watt House Road.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

Watt House Road (SR 718) extends from Cold Harbor Road (SR 156) to the Watt House, continuing through the property to the south as a dead-end access drive for adjoining properties. The alignment of the road dates to around 1864, when it was likely constructed or improved from an earlier route by the Union Army. Today, the road is a one-lane, two-way paved road with no traffic striping (Figures 23 and 24). (CLR draft 2024: 134)

Boatswain Creek Trail Bridge.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

A wood plank bridge constructed in 2017 that is flanked by thick vegetation. The bridge crosses Boatswain Creek, connecting the original park tract with the newly acquired 01-149 tract. The bridge marks the beginning of the Confederate Attack Trail. (CLR draft 2024: 135)

Farm Field Access Road.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Along the southern property line of the original park tract, there is an impression of an infrequently used access road that starts at Watt House Road and follows the boundary line west (Figure 25). (CLR draft 2024: 134)

Interpretive Trails.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Pedestrian access is accommodated by a system of interpretive trails that extend through the fields and forests of the battlefield. Organized into three connected trails, the system consists of the Federal Defense Trail, a short loop trail that begins and ends near the Watt House, the Wilcox Trail, which extends from the Federal Defense Trail providing access to the south side of the creek ravine, and the Confederate Attack Trail, a long loop trail the winds through the fields of the McDougale tract. (CLR draft 2024: 135)

McDougale Tract Farm Road.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

On the north side of Boatswain Creek, a farm drive that originates at the Watt House Road extends for nearly a mile through the McDougale tract (01B-100), providing access to the agricultural fields there. (CLR draft 2024: 135)

Parking Area and Terminal Driveway Loop.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

The visitor parking area and turnaround circle were constructed in the early 1960s and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 134)

6366 Watt House Road Parking Lot.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

This leveled parking lot covered with loose gravel is place on the northwestern corner of tract 01-290. The lot is outlined on its west boundary by Watt House Road. The parking lot is U-shaped and has two interpretative panels placed around it: "From Stalemate to Breakthrough" parts 1 and 2. The gravel is surrounded by mowed grass and there are drainage ditches along Watt House Road. (CLR draft 2024: 135)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Watt Farm Entrance Road Trace	204501	Contributing	661720		Asset	1737397	Yes
Watt Farm Lane / Service Drive Loop	204502	Contributing	81624		Asset	1737399	Yes
Watt House Road	204503	Contributing	6760		Location	15778	Yes
Boatswain Creek Trail Bridge	204504	Non contributing – compatible					No
Farm Field Access Road	204505	Non contributing – compatible					No
Interpretive Trails	204506	Non contributing – compatible					No
McDougale Tract Farm Road	204507	Non contributing – compatible					No
Parking Area and Terminal Driveway Loop	204508	Non contributing – compatible					No
6366 Watt House Road Parking Lot	204509	Non contributing – compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. Watt House Road as it exits the south boundary of the property, showing its two-track character. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 24. View looking south at Watt House Road where it abuts non-historic residences. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 25. View west at Farm Field Access Road. (OCLP 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). Contributing features include battle-era earthworks and rifle pits and a early twentieth century railroad bed.

Evaluation of Topography Features:

Confederate Earthworks at Gaines' Mill.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: none/Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

A set of three small earthworks run northwest–southeast immediately north of Boatswain Creek and south of the abandoned Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway Bed. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 15)

Civil War Rifle Pits.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: none/Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

A set of Civil War Rifle Pits is in the woods near the Wilcox Monument south of Boatswain Creek. Likely built by Union troops during the 1862 Gaines' Mill offensive, the earthworks are approximately 3 feet wide, 4 feet deep, and vary from 6 to 10 feet long. Confederate troops may have built or altered some of the rifle pits during the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 15)

East Boundary Ditch.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Undetermined

--NR evaluation: none

A ditch extends along a portion of the original park tract's eastern property line, likely developed during the Watt family ownership and prior to 1862. The ditch appears to have been present historically and it is a traditional boundary between Watt and Adams. Post-battle tree growth, including shrubs and vines, is observed along the ditch. The ditch lies within woodland but is evident when viewed along its length. (CLR draft 2024: 138)

Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway Bed.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing/Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

An earthen railbed constructed along the north bank of Boatswain Creek around 1914 for the Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway. Although the feature dates to the historic period, the railroad was in operation for about three years and was only nominally related to the historic theme of commemoration (through railroad promotional material). When the railroad disbanded in 1917, all other features related to it were removed, leaving only the constructed rail bed. The railway bed is a contributing topographic feature. (CLR draft 2024: 138)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Civil War Rifle Pits	204510	Contributing	6745		Asset	1737433	Yes
Confederate Earthworks at Gaines' Mill	204511	Contributing	1168714		Asset	1740763	Yes
Richmond and Rappahannock River Railway Bed	204512	Contributing	1168715		Asset	1740765	Yes
East Boundary Ditch	204513	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. The natural systems and features of Gaines' Mill Battlefield, including Boatswain Creek, the ravine through which it flows, the level Watt House plateau, and forest and wetland vegetation along the creek course, continue to convey the conditions similar to those at the time of the Battle of Gaines' Mill and their impact on the events and outcomes of the battle. (CLR draft 2024: 106)

Evaluation of Natural Systems and Features:

Watt House Plateau.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: none

During the Battle of Gaines' Mill, the Union Army deployed in a defensive line along the northern slopes and across the top of the Watt House plateau. This position provided the Federals with views of the surrounding fields and offered observation of the approaching Confederate forces as well as fields of fire for both artillery and infantry. The Watt House, situated at the highest point of the plateau and within an expansive open field, was a conspicuous landmark in the battlefield and provided a suitable headquarters for the Union command. Today, the terrain of the Watt House plateau remains essentially unchanged from the time of the battle (Figure 20). Encroaching woods from the creek ravine have extended further up the slope of the plateau than it did in 1862, significantly obscuring the visual form of the plateau and blocking views across the ravine toward the fields to the north. (CLR draft 2024: 132)

Boatswain Creek and Ravine.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: none

Boatswain Creek was the primary defining feature of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield and the tactical basis for the Union defense. The boggy waterway and its steep banks presented a significant obstacle for attacking Confederates and provided superior topographic position for the Federals. The creek's associated ravines and other topographic features offered a variety of natural defensive locations, viewpoints, and sheltered enclosed areas as well as avenues of assault. Today, the Boatswain Creek's alignment, channel geomorphology, and overall character are essentially unchanged from its historic condition (Figure 21). The creek continues to serve as the primary feature conveying the spatial associations of the battlefield and the significance of the battle events. (CLR draft 2024: 132)

Wooded Creek Bottom.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: none

The wooded band that lined the creek ravine bordering the north edge of the Watt House plateau was notable in a largely open landscape, making a conspicuous landmark for the opposing forces. The banks and the flat river channel were wooded, and in many places choked with dense underbrush. The densest woods and underbrush were northeast of the Watt House, between the two creek branches. Just west of the junction of the creek branches, the woods thinned, creating a small gap in the trees, where a small bridge crossed between the Watt and Parson properties. From there westward, the trees continued nearly uninterrupted along the creek channel to the far western end of the plateau, but the wooded band was more open in character with less underbrush than on its eastern reaches. Today, the band of woods is still present, although it is wider and denser than at the time of the battle. Despite the changes in the character of the woods, they still represent an important visual feature and help convey the battlefield's historic associations. (CLR draft 2024: 133)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Watt House Plateau	204498	Contributing					No
Boatswain Creek and Ravine	204499	Contributing					No
Wooded Creek Bottom	204500	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 20. The Watt House plateau. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 21. Image showing the character of Boatswain Creek. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report.

The Watt Farm Complex Site (ASMIS No. RICH00073) consists of approximately 60 acres comprising the ca.1830 Watt House; open agricultural fields to the east and west; and woodlands bordering Boatswain Creek to the north. A walkover survey of the site identified a range of battle-related features associated with the Battle of Gaines Mill including rifle pits, trenches, and breastworks. The site boundaries are based on the cultural landscape and archaeological survey report produced for the Gaines' Mill Unit (Land and Community Associates [LCA] 2000). (NR 2018, Sec.7: 16)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Watt Farm Complex Site	204539	Contributing		RICH00073			No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Two Freeman markers and a Commonwealth of Virginia marker are contributing resources. Other monuments, fencing, and cannons at Gaines' Mill are historically compatible and help interpret the battlefield, but are non-contributing resources. Note: the Commonwealth of Virginia Historical Marker, installed in 1932, was removed in May 2024 due to its deteriorated condition. (CLR draft 2024: 129; email, Lowe to Foulds, 18 June 2024)

Evaluation of Small-Scale Features:

Benches.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Benches and other site furnishings that provide amenities for visitors post-date the historic period and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Cannons.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

There is a set of two cannons in the grassy field northeast of the Watt House and another set placed west of the Watt House in the fields where the Federal Defense and Wilcox trails intersect. The cannons on site are symbolic of the 1862 battle action but have no historic associations with the site (Figure 34). (CLR draft 2024: 139)

Freeman Marker #7.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

Located just north of the Watt House, Freeman Marker #7 deviates from the standard Freeman Marker design, with a concrete base set directly into the ground, instead of on a granite base

(Figure 35). The tablet inscription reads: "The Watt House. Gaines' Mill Battlefield. Entrenched in three lines on this plateau, the right wing of McClellan's army, withdrawn from Beaver Dam Creek, resisted Confederate attacks on June 27, 1862 until driven back at nightfall by a general assault." (CLR draft 2024: 139)

Freeman Marker #8.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

Freeman Marker #8 is located near the edge of the woods on the Federal Defense Trail (Figure 36). The inscription reads: "Approximate line of Whiting's Advance. Near this point, between the brigades of Martindale and Butterfield, Confederate forces first penetrated the main Federal position in the Battle of Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862. The Fourth Texas Regiment led the charge." (CLR draft 2024: 139)

National Park Service Signage.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Gaines' Mill Battlefield contains a variety of NPS signs, including interpretive waysides, identity and informational signs, and traffic and road signs. These signs post-date the historic period and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Park Boundary Fence.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Property boundary fencing and gates post-date the historic period and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Post-and-Rail Fence.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Post and rail fence partially encloses the Watt House yard, starting on the west side of the two-car garage, extending along the north side of the yard, and terminating just east of the house. The south side of the yard along the loop service drive is open. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Texas Monument.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Erected in 2012 on the Confederate Attack Trail, this monument commemorates Brig. Gen. John B. Hood's assault with the 4th Texas and 18th Georgia regiments, which broke the Union line and forced their retreat (Figure 37). (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Utility Features.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Utility features within the landscape include utility poles, electrical meters, electrical transformers, post-historic wells, and HVAC units. These utility features post-date the historic period and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Wilcox's Brigade Monument.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing--Managed as a Cultural Resource

--NR evaluation: none

Installed in 1999 along the Wilcox Spur Trail near Boatswain Creek, the granite slab monument commemorates Brig. Gen. Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox and his Alabama Brigade (Figure 38). (CLR draft 2024: 139)

Worm Fence.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

The Watt House plateau contains approximately 3,800 feet of split-rail fencing, extending along both sides of the Federal Defense Trail from the west side of the Watt Farm Lane/service loop drive to the southwestern end of the open field, as well as along the west side of the Watt Farm Lane/service drive from the loop to the southern property boundary. (CLR draft 2024: 140)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Freeman Marker #7	204528	Contributing	81623		Location	15791	Yes
Freeman Marker #8	204529	Contributing	81622		Location	15790	Yes
Wilcox's Brigade Monument	204530	Managed as cultural resource	654689				No
Benches	204531	Non contributing – compatible					No
Cannon	204532	Non contributing – compatible					No
Nation Park Service Sign	204533	Non contributing – compatible					No
Park Boundary Fencing	204534	Non contributing – compatible					No
Post-and-Rail Fence	204535	Non contributing – compatible					No
Texas Monument	204536	Non contributing – compatible					No
Utility Features	204537	Non contributing – compatible					No
Worm Fence	204538	Non contributing – compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 34. Two replica cannons northeast of the Watt House indicate the approximate location of Union artillery during the battle. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 35. Freeman Marker #7, commemorating the Watt house and its role in the Battle of Gaines' Mill, located on the north side of the house today. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 36. Freeman Marker #7. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 37. The Texas Monument. (OCLP 2020)

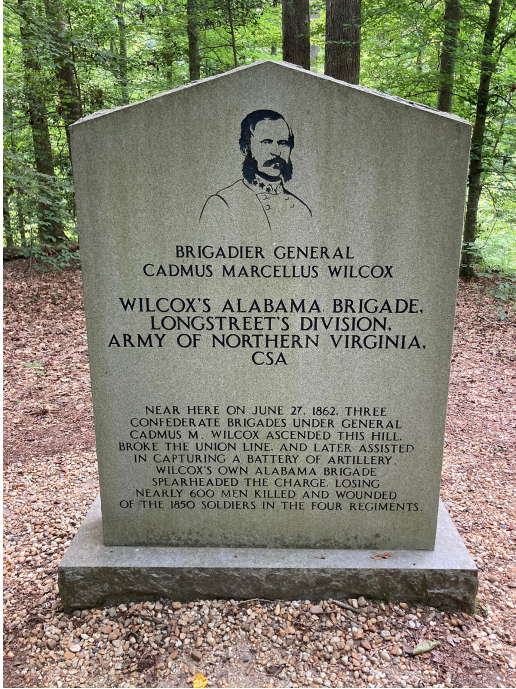


Figure 38. The Wilcox's Brigade Monument. (OCLP 2020)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Although views from the Watt House and other areas of the plateau are substantially reduced from the time of the battle, extant views provided by the fields around the house are essential to conveying the extents of the battlefield and other important spatial relationships that influenced the battle. These views also contribute to the agricultural character and historic feeling of the landscape. (CLR draft 2024: 129)

Evaluation of Views and Vistas:

Views within Watt Field.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: none

Important views from the Watt plateau northward across Boatswain Creek, south and southwestward toward the Chickahominy River, and southeastward toward the fields of the former Adams farm have all been obstructed by encroaching forest on all sides. Extant views within the plateau fields, including views from the Watt House out toward the battlefield, and views of the house from the landscape, remain essential to understanding the geography, terrain, and other associations related to the battle (Figures 32 and 33). (CLR draft 2024: 141)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views within Watt Field	204527	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 32. Views within Watt Field. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 33. Today, the longest views from the house are toward the west across the Watt House plateau. (OCLP 2020)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. The Watt House, the only building on the property dating from the historic period, is a contributing resource. All other buildings and structures are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 120)

Evaluation of Buildings and Structures:

Watt House.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Contributing

--NR evaluation: Contributing

Constructed c.1835 for Hugh and Sarah Watt; present during the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Used as a Union headquarters, and wounded soldiers were treated in and around the house during and after the battle. The one-story, wood-frame dwelling occupies a grass-covered plateau at the south end of the Watt House Road driveway loop facing north (Figure 27). The 864-sq. ft. house has a raised brick foundation with a side-hall plan and side-gable roof. Two stepped brick end chimneys are attached to the east elevation with a pent closet between the two chimneys and another north of the north chimney. NPS staff has used the building for housing since 1945. The structure was restored in 1956-1958 and rehabilitated in 1987. Some of its newer features include open wood stairs that lead to narrow uncovered porches at the north, south, and east entrances. The side entrance adjacent to the south chimney is sheltered by a pent roof and side wall, and a basement door is located beneath the central pent closet. (CLR draft 2024: 136)

Adams House (6342 Watt House Road).

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

This 1,392-sq. ft., ranch-style residence is placed at the western end of tract 01-291 and next to Watt House Road (Figure 28). The front yard is enclosed with a chain-link fence on its northern border and by white vinyl fencing on the western and southern borders. A metal tube gate is attached to the white fence on the western border. The house sits on a concrete slab foundation, is clad in vinyl siding, and has asphalt roof shingles. The structure is surrounded by obscuring vegetation. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Adams Gazebo.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Placed just north of the Adams House on tract 01-291 is a wooden gazebo with a rectangular plan that was built in 1998. The gazebo is painted and surrounded by a heavily wooded area. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Adams Sheds (3).

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

A group of three sheds in the yard south of the Adams House on tract 01-291. The sheds are obscured by vegetation but appear to be roughly all the same size and light beige color. The eastern shed is of wood and has a front-gable roof with an opening below it. Just south of the first shed is a slightly larger shed with vinyl siding and a gambrel roof with white double-doors on its front elevation. Behind this shed is another made of brick or possibly concrete blocks with a flat roof. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Goggin House (6296 Watt House Road).

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

The Goggin House, located on tract 01-125 on the north side of the park, is a one-story ranch

house built in 1980 (Figure 29). The house has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, vinyl siding, and a brick foundation. (CLR draft 2024: 136)

Goggin Two-Car Garage.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

On tract 01-125, there is a 672-sq. ft. garage that was built in 1980. The structure is located immediately adjacent to the northeast corner of the house and at the end of the driveway. The one-story, two-bay, end-gable frame building has an asphalt-shingle roof, vinyl siding, and a poured concrete foundation. (CLR draft 2024: 136)

Goggin One-Car Garage.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Located on the 01-125 tract is a single-bay, rectangular building set on a concrete foundation and situated directly west of the Goggin house. The garage is 192-sq. ft. and was built in 2007. It has an asphalt-shingled end-gable roof, vinyl siding, an overhead garage door on the north elevation, and a vinyl-clad entrance at the northern end of the east elevation. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Ryan House (6366 Watt House Road).

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

On tract 01-290, a paved asphalt driveway runs along the northern boundary and ends with a small loop in front of a residential structure (Figure 30). The one-story, brick ranch house is situated on the northeastern corner of the tract and has a front porch covered with a front gable roof. A two-car garage makes up the northern end of the structure. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Ryan Garage.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Tract 01-290 contains a detached, one-story, one-car garage with white vinyl siding and a front-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The garage door on the front elevation features a yellow smiley face painted in the center of it. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Ryan Loafing Shed.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

Located in the woods and south of the Ryan house on tract 01-290, is a loafing shed. The wood-frame structure has an inclined roof of corrugated metal, two enclosed and two open sides, and a dirt floor. (CLR draft 2024: 137)

Watt House Garage.

--CLR/CLI evaluation: Noncontributing

--NR evaluation: none

The Watt House garage was constructed ca.1963 and is located immediately west of the Watt House facing south (Figure 31). The one-story, wood-frame building has a wood-shingled end-gable roof, clapboard walls, and is seated on a brick foundation with a poured concrete floor. (CLR draft 2024: 136)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Watt House (Springfield Plantation)	204516	Contributing	1232		Location	15780	Yes
Adams House (6342 Watt House Road)	204517	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Adams Gazebo (6342 Watt House Road)	204518	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Adams Sheds (6342 Watt House Road)	204519	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Goggin House (6296 Watt House Road)	204520	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Goggin One-Car Garage (6296 Watt House Road)	204521	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Goggin Two-Car Garage (6296 Watt House Road)	204522	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Ryan House (6366 Watt House Road)	204523	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Ryan Garage (6366 Watt House Road)	204524	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Ryan Loafing Shed (6366 Watt House Road)	204525	Non contributing – incompatible					No
Watt House Garage	204526	Non contributing – compatible			Location	15781	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 27. Watt House, view looking south. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 28. Adams House at 6342 Watt House Road. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 29. Goggin House at 6296 Watt House Road. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 30. Ryan House at 6366 Watt Road. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 31. View looking southeast at the Watt House garage. (OCLP 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. No extant vegetation dating from the historic period has been identified at Gaines' Mill Battlefield. Although there are potentially extant historic vegetation located in the wooded areas, such as trees old enough to be witnesses to the battle or remnant fruit trees from historic orchards, these have yet to be identified or cataloged. Aside from its contribution to land use (agriculture) and its association with natural systems and features (wooded areas along Boatswain Creek), the vegetation at Gaines' Mill Battlefield is non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 125)

Evaluation of Vegetation Features:

Shade and Ornamental Trees at the Watt House.

Several large shade trees and smaller ornamental trees are located near the Watt house. The majority of these plants appeared after the creation of the park. The eastern red cedars north of the house, can be dated to post 1904 (Figure 26). (CLR draft 2024: 138)

Domestic Vegetation at 20th-Century Residences.

Vegetation around the 20th century residences on tracts north of the Watt House, including ornamental trees and shrubs, post-date the historic period and are non-contributing. (CLR draft 2024: 138)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Shade and Ornamental Trees at the Watt House	204514	Undetermined					No
Domestic Vegetation at 20th c. Residences	204515	Non contributing – compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. View looking southwest at shade and ornamental trees at the Watt House. (OCLP 2020)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6
Next Assessment Due Date: 09/09/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/09/2024

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall Gaines' Mill Battlefield landscape is in good condition, with established vegetation patterns maintained by mowing and/or agricultural use. The historic Watt House, roads, monuments, are well maintained, as are non-historic facilities. A condition assessment of "good" means that the overall cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate actions corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Areas of 20th century woodland encroachment upon formerly open fields may continue to impair representation of battlefield conditions.

Date Identified: 09/09/2024

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Careful forest mid-story thinning, combined with careful pruning of the lower limbs of tall trees will help to interpret the scope of the battlefield.

Date Identified: 09/09/2024

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report Parts 1 and 2

Document Date: 2000-01-12

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The 1996 "General Management Plan for Richmond National Battlefield Park" recommended a resource-based interpretation at the park that would explain the military action during the major campaigns, relate the military action to the significance of the Confederate capital to both sides, and place the battles for Richmond in the context of the rest of the Civil War. The GMP proposed an evaluation of the existing cultural landscape's significance and integrity be prepared through a research based cultural landscape assessment that would prescribe a program of cultural and natural landscape treatments according to the Secretary of Interior Standards. The Gaines' Mill landscape was highlighted as a battlefield requiring such study, affirming the National Park Service's commitment to battlefield resource protection.

The findings of the 2000 "Gaines' Mill Cultural Landscape Report and Archeological Survey" indicated that the most appropriate preservation treatment plan for the Gaines' Mill Unit would be based on a landscape rehabilitation approach intended to improve site circulation by modifying the existing entrance and parking and expanding interpretation by replacing documented features of the 1862 landscape.

"The rehabilitation concept takes advantage of the site's broad plateau to provide visitors with expanded interpretive opportunities. Major components of the rehabilitation depend upon future archeological investigations to inform both interpretation and the replacement of missing 1862 features as well as a professional topographic survey to facilitate accurate mapping of specific features. Continued research and archeology are necessary to determine the locations of and other specific information concerning cultural resources, particularly wartime features, including earthworks, buildings, and roads. The preservation treatment plan as a whole builds on previous NPS efforts to interpret the site and can be implemented incrementally to accommodate federal budget cycles and staff commitments." (CLR 2000: 3)

The park's 2017 "Foundation Document" reaffirmed that the Gaines' Mill Battlefield is a fundamental resource, as one of the park's 1862 Battlefield Landscapes and as one of the better-preserved areas within the park that enhances its solemnity and creates a desirable environment for visitors to best appreciate the battle and its meaning. The report also acknowledges commemorative efforts at Gaines Mill as another important resource and value. (FD 2017: 7-8)

The Foundation Document also recommended an update to the site's CLR to address new land acquisitions. An updated Cultural Landscape Report, Volume I (Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis and Evaluation) is currently in draft. Completion of an updated CLR, Volume II (Treatment), is proposed for FY 2026. (FD 2017: 37)

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Layton, Tim, et.al	Cultural Landscape Report for Gaines' Mill Battlefield, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Hanover County, Virginia, draft	2024	Boston, MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
National Park Service	Brochure, Gaines' Mill Confederate Attack Trail		Harpers Ferry, WV: NPS Harpers Ferry Center			
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Gaines' Mill Battlefield
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