
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2002

Revised: 1/2026



Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

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:	Parker's Battery
Resource Classification:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	300100
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:	No

Landscape Description:

Parker's Battery is one of twelve units of Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP) in Virginia. The park preserves, protects, interprets, and commemorates Richmond Civil War battlefield landscapes, struggles for the capital of the Confederacy associated with the 1862 Seven Days' Battles, the 1864 Overland Campaign, and the 1864-1865 Richmond and Petersburg Campaigns, including the American military, social, and political history as exemplified by the New Market Heights Battlefield. A portion of the property was initially conserved in 1928 and was included in the establishment of the national park in 1936.

Parker's Battery was constructed as part of the 1864 Howlett Line, which stretched south from the James River to the Appomattox River, following the retreat of the Union army to Bermuda Hundred to the south. The artillery unit known as Parker's Battery had been fighting together since 1862 and engaged in battles at Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Knoxville, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. Thus in 1864 when the 120 officers and men were stationed to a fixed position along the Howlett Line, it came as welcome relief. The Howlett Line enabled the Confederates to hold the Federal Army at a stalemate on the Bermuda Hundred Peninsula from 1864-1865.

The 10-acre Parker's Battery property is located approximately 10 miles down the James River from Richmond, Virginia, between the river and Interstate Route 95. The site includes the earthen fieldwork remains of Parker's Battery and part of the Howlett Line, a memorial marker, a pedestrian interpretive trail with waysides, and visitor parking. Maintained lawns surround the parking area, while a major power line looms overhead. Woodlands dominate the majority of the site, including the earthwork remnants.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Parker's Battery, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District, possesses significance under National Register of Historic Placed Criteria A, C, and D. Parker's Battery is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its association with the 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign and the construction of the Howlett Line. The site is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Commemoration for its associations

with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement, including work by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The site is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for its remaining military fortifications. Lastly, the site is nationally significant under Criterion D in the area of Historic Archeology (Non-Aboriginal) for its surviving earthworks and the potential to investigate the evolution of nineteenth-century military engineering, design techniques, and technology over the course of the war. The overall period of significance is 1864 to 1944, beginning with the construction of the earthworks and ending when initial national park development of battlefield lands was completed by the NPS and the transfer of title of all the state park lands was finalized.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Parker’s Battery is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1864-1944, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023-2025. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The 10-acre property is comprised of a series enclosed earthworks designed to protect the gunmen. The battery has integrity as an earthen fortification, but most of the structures that supported the site’s use as an encampment during the war are now part of the archeological record. The property also has a short entry loop drive leading to a parking area and an interpretive pedestrian trail that directs the visitor to the battery.

Since 1944 some landscape characteristics and features at Parker’s Battery have changed. There is some erosion affecting the earthworks and they are maintained within a woodland of deciduous trees. The trees post-date the Civil War, but serve to protect the earthworks from further natural erosion. There are also some indications of damage to the earthworks from all-terrain vehicles and unauthorized pedestrian use. The area surrounding Parker’s Battery has become very industrialized. The view during the period of significance would have been of open farmland with a few wood lots, but the woodland helps buffer the visitor from the adjacent industrial landscape.

Condition:
The overall condition of the Parker’s Battery landscape is “Fair,” due to mature trees and erosion that threaten the earthworks, tall understory vegetation that affects views, and adjacent industrial land uses. Corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration on many of the landscape characteristics will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition. Preservation maintenance and/or use must be combined with corrective action to halt deterioration.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Parker’s Battery is a component landscape within the Richmond National Battlefield Landscape, which comprises the entire Richmond National Battlefield Park. In addition to Parker’s Battery, there are nine park units categorized as component landscapes: Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield, Chickahominy Bluff, Cold Harbor Battlefield, Drewry’s Bluff, Fort Harrison and vicinity, Gaines’ Mill Battlefield, Glendale Battlefield, Malvern Hill Battlefield, 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: Parker’s Battery Other Name Type: Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site plan, 1 of 1.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	02/20/2002

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The original CLI for Parker's Battery was approved by the Superintendent on February 20, 2002. Condition reassessments for Parker's Battery were approved by the superintendent on August 14, 2008. Level II field survey work was performed by Nancy J. Brown, Cheryl Sams and summer intern Tim Layton in July 2000. Sams completed the research and writing of the text, which was edited by Brown. Existing conditions maps were prepared by Layton and intern M. Witters. Sams entered the information into the CLAIMS database.

This update was completed by Meaghan Papeika, Architectural Historian, and Tim Layton, Historical Landscape Architect, and reviewed by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect, at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Field work was completed in February 2023 by Layton and Papeika. 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.

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2026

Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Parker's Battery CLI has been conducted at a Level B effort. The following edits have been made:

- The management category remains, "Must be Preserved and Maintained."
- The areas and period of significance are Military, Conservation, Commemoration, Engineering, and Historic Archeology (Non-Aboriginal) for 1864-1944. The areas and period align with the 2018 National Register documentation. The area of Politics/Government identified in the 2002 CLI has been deleted because it is not relevant to the site's significance.
- The Chronology and Physical History chapter documents changes in the landscape since the original CLI was completed in 2002.
- Inventoried features in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter are consistent with the findings of the 2018 National Register. A flag pole, identified as a noncontributing feature in the 2002 CLI, is no longer extant. The Archeological Sites section is revised to direct readers to the 2018 National Register documentation.
- The overall landscape condition was evaluated as "Fair" in 2002 and 2008. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2025 is "Fair."
- Updates to existing condition photographs and the site map.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Attachment File Path

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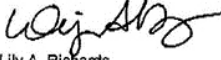
DEPT.HISTORIC RESOURCES

804 3672323 P.03/03

- Any archaeological sites from the period of significance that maintain integrity would be considered contributing elements. However, the Battery may also include sites that are eligible (i.e. prehistoric sites) but do not contribute to its significance.
- The CLI states in part 3a page 6 of 7 that "forest cover...is very beneficial in keeping the earthworks from further erosion by the elements." It is our understanding from working with other military parks in Virginia that this is actually a controversial topic and that there is currently no consensus among NPS cultural resource staff as to whether forest cover is a benefit or detriment to earthworks. For example, Petersburg is currently in the process of removing the tree cover from its earthworks, and has indicated that the trees cause severe damage when up-rooted. The DHR therefore recommends that Richmond National Battlefield Park consult with the NPS regional landscape architects before developing a treatment plan for the earthworks (as discussed in part 4 page 6 of 15).
- If, in the future, Richmond NBP develops a treatment plan for the Battery, the DHR will be more than happy to work with the park on a programmatic agreement for implementation of the plan.

Thank you again for consulting with us. If we can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 367-2323 ext. 140 or lrichards@dhr.state.va.us.

Sincerely,



Lily A. Richards
Archaeologist and Historian, Division of Resource Services and Review

C. Nancy Brown, NPS

TOTAL P.03

Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park

APR-01-2002 14:38

DEPT. HISTORIC RESOURCES

804 3672323 P.02/03



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.state.va.us

March 28, 2002

Ms. Cynthia McLeod
Superintendent
National Park Service
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
3215 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23223

Re: Parker's Battery Cultural Landscape Inventory
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Chesterfield County, Virginia
DHR File Number 2002-0336

Dear Ms. McLeod:

Thank you for your submission of the Parker's Battery Cultural Landscape Inventory for our review and comment. Overall, the DHR finds that the document provides a comprehensive inventory of the landscape features and structures at the Battery.

The DHR concurs with the National Park Service that the Battery is eligible under Criterion A, C, and D and that the period of significance is from 1864 to 1951. We further concur that the areas of significance are military (1864-1865) for its association with the Howlett Line and Siege of Richmond; Engineering (1862-1865) for associated earthworks with parapets, trenches, rifle pits and abatis; Archaeology (1864-1865) due to potentially buried resources; Conservation/Commemoration (1920-1951) due to its contribution to the conservation movement at the local level; Politics/Government (1933-1941) due to its association with the New Deal and CCC.

The DHR also agrees that the following elements contribute to the landscape of Parker's Battery:

- The Civil War Earthworks (Criteria C and D).
- 1920's-era United Daughters of the Confederacy monument (Criterion A).
- Intact Civil War-era archaeological sites, should they exist (Criterion D).

None of the other characteristics of the Battery contribute to its eligibility.

The DHR offers the following general comments on the inventory:

- The extant earthworks at the site should be considered eligible as topographic features, potential archaeological sites, and structures. The CLI examines them only as topographic elements and potential archaeological sites.

Administrative Svcs.
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1585
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Petersburg Office
19-B Bollingbrook Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1620
Fax: (804) 863-1627

Portsmouth Office
612 Court Street, 3rd Floor
Portsmouth, VA 23704
Tel: (757) 396-6709
Fax: (757) 396-6712

Roanoke Office
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Winchester Office
107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203
Winchester, VA 22601
Tel: (540) 722-3427
Fax: (540) 722-7535

SHPO concurrence letter, March 28, 2002 (2 pages).

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Level II
Richmond National Battlefield Park: Parker's Battery

Richmond National Battlefield Park concurs with the findings of the Level II inventory for Parker's Battery including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained (Category A)

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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 Level II Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Parker's Battery in Richmond National Battlefield Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Cynthia MacLure 2-20-02
Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park Date

Park concurrence form, February 20, 2002.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2008**

Richmond National Battlefield Park:
Drewry's Bluff
and
Parker's Battery

Richmond National Battlefield Park concurs with the condition reassessments for Drewry's Bluff and Parker's Battery, including:

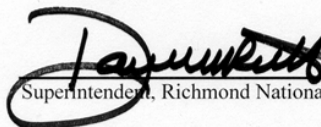
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Poor – Drewry's Bluff
 Fair – Parker's Battery

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 landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

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

The condition reassessments for Drewry's Bluff and Parker's Battery in Richmond National Battlefield Park are hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park

8/14/2008

Date

Condition reassessment form, August 14, 2008.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026**

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Chickahominy Bluff, Drewry's Bluff, Fort Harrison, Glendale Battlefield,
Malvern Hill Battlefield, Parkers' Battery

Richmond National Battlefield Park certifies the CLI updates for the following sites,
including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Chickahominy Bluff
 Poor – Drewry's Bluff
 Good – Fort Harrison
 Fair – Glendale Battlefield
 Good – Malvern Hill Battlefield
 Fair – Parkers' Battery

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 CLI updates for the sites listed above at Richmond National Battlefield Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JENIFER EGGLESTON

Digitally signed by JENIFER
EGGLESTON
Date: 2026.01.12 18:58:50 -05'00'

Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park

Date

Park concurrence form, January 12, 2026.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	08/14/2008	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	01/12/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Parker's Battery CLI has been conducted at a Level B effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State

Virginia

County

Chesterfield County

Size (Acres): 9.82

Land Tract Number(s)

Parker's Battery is comprised of two land tracts: 03-103 and 03-104.

Boundary Description:

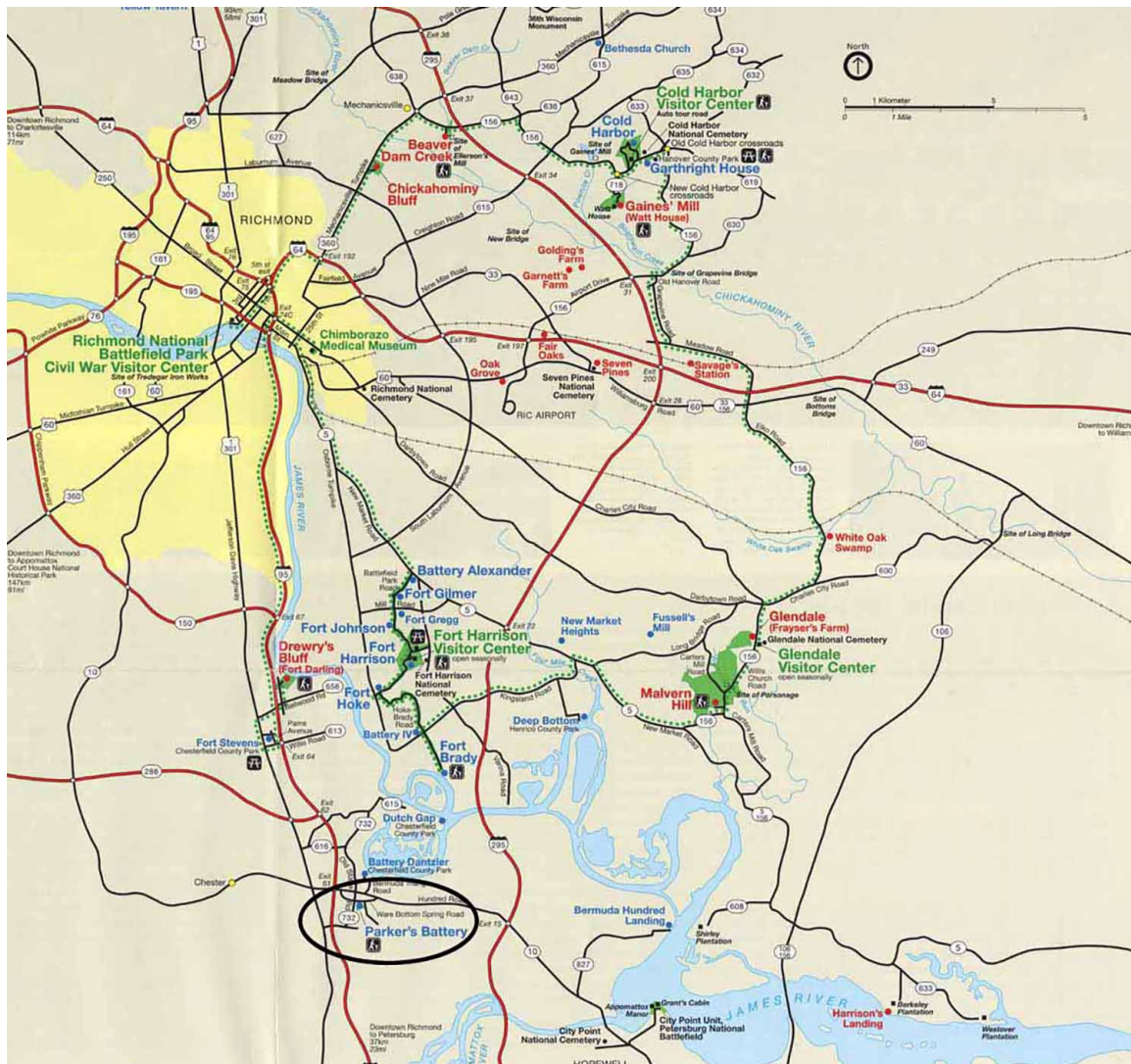
The CLI boundary for the Parker's Battery unit of Richmond NBP is coterminous with the tract boundary. Starting at the northwest corner, the boundary heads east for approximately 400 feet, then curves southeast along the railroad tracks for approximately 900 feet. At this point the southern border heads west for about 900 feet before turning north for another 900 feet to meet the starting point.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Area	37.350185	-77.395369	
	Area	37.348021	-77.392213	
	Area	37.347703	-77.39509	

Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park

Location Map:



This map shows the location of all component landscapes in Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP). Parker's Battery, indicated with a circle, is located south of Richmond. (Park brochure)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context concerns the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. The Parker's Battery unit is located in an industrialized area south of Richmond, Virginia. The park is bound by railroad tracks and a utility corridor.

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. Parker's Battery is located in the relatively flat lands of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Province, but just east of the fall line of the Piedmont Province. The topography east of the fall line includes large, relatively level terraces or plateaus bounded by steep embankments associated with the margins of the waterways, many of which are edged by swamps and other wetlands over much of their floodplains. The Parker's Battery unit is situated in the Virginia Tidewater, on an alluvial terrace built up by streams draining into the James River. The river is located northeast of the unit, and it flows in a meandering southeasterly direction. (OCULUS 1996, Vol. I 2:1)

The soils of the area are made up of Coastal Plain sediments, which are found deep beneath the park. These sediments are primarily Tertiary sands and gravels, and shallow clayey silts, overlying thicker Tertiary and Cretaceous clayey silts, quartz sands and interbedded limestones found at deeper points. The oldest and deepest Cretaceous sediment, the Patuxent Formation, is a source of potable water in the general eastern Richmond area. (GMP 1996: 113)

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). Parker's Battery is located in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The parcel of land lies east of Interstate 95 several miles south of the city of Richmond just below Virginia State Route 10.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 02/20/2002

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

As approved on February 20, 2002, Parker's Battery meets the "Must be Preserved and Maintained" management category because the property is related to the park's legislated significance and is nationally significant as defined by National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The 1936 enabling legislation for Richmond National Battlefield Park, amended in 1995, states, "In order to preserve the site of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign and the 1864-65 battle of Richmond, in the vicinity of Richmond, Virginia, as a national battlefield park for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, there is hereby established, subject to existing rights, the Richmond National Battlefield Park." Parker's Battery was part of the park's original acreage. In 2018 the property was identified as nationally significant under Criteria A, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places, as part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District. (Act of March 2, 1936, Chapter 113; 49 Stat. 1155; NR 2018, Sec.8: 41-43,92)

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: The Parker's Battery unit is comprised of two land tracts owned in fee simple by the National Park Service: 03-103 and 03-104.

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Parker's Battery is bounded by a high-tension power line corridor to the west, Ware Bottom Spring road to the north, and the CSX rail line to the east. An industrial complex occupies the adjacent parcel to the south of Parker's Battery. Thus, Parker's Battery is something of an oasis.

The active rail line severs a potential connection between the earthworks and the site of two historic features that played an important role in the history of Parker's Battery: Ware Bottom Church and Ware Bottom Spring. The church was burned by the Confederates of Parker's Battery because Federal forces stationed nearby were using the building as cover during sniping attacks. The spring is said to have been a site where the opposing forces who were stationed here met on neutral ground during late 1864 and early 1865.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Keeper - Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Parker's Battery is part of Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP), which encompasses a series of non-contiguous sites authorized on March 2, 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," and established on July 14, 1944. The Parker's Battery site belonged to the original state park established in 1932 and was transferred to the National Park Service.

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 Virginia 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 period of significance was identified as the nineteenth century, but no specific dates were given. 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 with which 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. Richmond NBP was identified under the battlefields, earthworks, military hospitals, and military headquarters property types under Criteria A, C, and D. The historic contexts were organized by the Civil War campaigns in Virginia, most of which were conducted along the principal transportation routes.

On March 28, 2002, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the findings of the Parker's Battery CLI. The CLI found that the Parker's Battery landscape was eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Military (1864-1865), Conservation (1920-1951), Politics/Government (1933-1941), Engineering (1864-1865), and Archeology (1864-1865) with an overall period of significance of 1864-1951, beginning with construction of the Howlett Line during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign and ending when conservation/commemoration activities ended (fifty years before initiation of CLI in 2001). Features that contributed to the historic period of significance were identified as Civil War Earthworks and Daughters of the Confederacy Monument. The findings of the CLI were confirmed in a letter to the Virginia SHPO on October 5, 2009, as part of an update to the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures).

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, and Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal). 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 period of significance was listed as c.1720-1864 for historic archeology. The documentation identified the entire site as a contributing resource, along with two other contributing features. 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 this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance, and evaluations of historic resources for Parker's Battery has been identified through consultations with the Virginia SHPO in 2002 and updated National Register documentation in 2018. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Parker's Battery is considered "Entered-Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible - Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 04/27/2018

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Richmond National Battlefield Park:

The Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District (the District) is significant at the national level under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, C, and D. The District is primarily significant under Criterion A in the area of Military 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. The District has additional significance under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Ethnic Heritage: Black for the valiant role played by United States Colored Troops in the September 29–30, 1864, Battle of Chaffin's Farm/New Market Heights. Under Criterion B in the area of Military, the District is significant for its associations with Union Major General George B. McClellan and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, each of whom devised the strategy and tactics that led to and determined the outcome of the battles fought around Richmond in 1862 and 1864–1865. (NR 2018: Sec.8: 43)

The early twentieth-century efforts to commemorate and preserve the Richmond battlefields are related to national trends in the veneration and protection of Civil War battlefields and lend the District significance under Criterion A in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation. The Richmond Weather Station at Chimborazo, as an example of a purpose-built observation station constructed during the early twentieth century by the United States Weather Bureau, has significance under Criterion A in the area of Science and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The well-preserved earthworks within the District are highly important examples of Civil War field fortifications that are significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering. The Garthright House, Watt House, and Shelton House are significant under Criterion C for

their representative eighteenth- and nineteenth-century architecture. Under Criterion D, the District possesses significance in the area of Archeology: Historic, Non-Aboriginal for the data it has yielded, and has the potential to yield, about the military and medical experiences of the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. The District also possesses significance for its demonstrated and potential ability to provide information about the evolution of the agrarian economy and landscape in antebellum Piedmont Virginia and the enslaved and free black people who lived on it. Lastly, the District's contributing commemorative monuments meet Criteria Consideration F because they possess significance engendered from their age, design, and symbolic values. (NR 2018: Sec.8: 43)

The period of significance for the District extends from ca. 1720, the earliest date associated with a standing historic resource within the District, to 1944, the end of the initial national park development period. The primary period of significance for the District corresponds to the years between the construction of the Richmond defensive fortifications in 1861 and the conclusion of the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign in 1865. The period of significance for commemorative activities associated with the District begins in 1866, almost immediately after the Civil War ended, and extends through 1944 to encompass the initial development of the battlefield lands as a national park under the NPS. After 1944, austerity measures throughout the National Park System curtailed development at the park for several decades, and the System-wide Mission 66 initiative of the 1950s and 1960s had little impact at Richmond. Additional land acquisition and resource rehabilitation has occurred only within the last two decades, i.e. the late-1990s to the present (2015). The period of significance for historic archeology under Criterion D is ca. 1725–1864. (NR 2018: Sec.8: 43)

Parker's Battery:

Parker's Battery, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park Historic District, possesses national significance under Criterion A in the areas of Military, Conservation, and Commemoration, Criterion C in the area of Engineering, and Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal). The Parker's Battery property also meets Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties, for its commemorative monuments. The period of significance is 1864-1944, beginning with the construction of the earthworks and ending when initial national park development of battlefield lands was completed by the NPS and the transfer of title of all the state park lands was finalized.

CRITERION A

Military:

Parker's Battery is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its association with the 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign and the construction of the Howlett Line. The last major action of this campaign occurred on May 20, 1864, when Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard decided to use the troops he had on hand to attack Union General Benjamin F. Butler's advance pickets near Ware Bottom Church. After driving the Federals back behind their main defensive line, Beauregard ordered the construction of the Howlett Line, a strong line of opposing fortifications across the neck of Bermuda Hundred stretched across the Bermuda from the James River to the Appomattox River. Among the defenses were Parker's Battery and Parker's Battery Earthworks. A frustrated Ulysses Grant later wrote in a report to the War Department that while Butler's force was safe behind a position of strength, it was "completely shut off from further operations against Richmond as if it had been in a bottle strongly corked." Subsequent operations by the Army of the James were done in combination with movements by the Army of the Potomac once it crossed the James River and invested Petersburg. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 65, citing CWSAC 2009 and Crenshaw 2013: 19-20)

Commemoration and Conservation:

Parker's Battery is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Commemoration for its associations with the Civil War battlefield memorialization and preservation movement. Veterans and their families erected few commemorative objects on the battlefield sites at Richmond, unlike the many erected at sites in Petersburg and Fredericksburg. However, one exception was a Veterans' Monument at Parker's Battery in 1886. Battery member Lieutenant J. Thompson Brown (1840–1921) purchased the site in the 1880s to preserve it from development, and the surviving members of Parker's Battery erected the small granite marker there. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 89)

The Civil War battlefield sites surrounding Richmond did not benefit initially from the federal battlefield

preservation efforts in the 1890s that resulted in the creation of the country's first four national military parks, all at other Civil War sites, under the management of the War Department. However, over the next few decades, numerous individuals and groups petitioned Congress for additional parks and memorials at other deserving American battlefields. To assist in prioritizing these requests, in 1926, Congress authorized a study of all the nation's battlefields. At about the same time, Richmond journalist and historian Douglas Southall Freeman led a group of interested residents in forming the Battlefield Markers Association (BMA) to raise money for the identification and erection of 59 commemorative markers at various battlefield sites in and around the city. In 1927 the BMA and others organized as the non-profit Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation (RBPC) "to preserve and make accessible the battlefields around Richmond." Within a year, the RBPC raised \$50,000 and purchased or received donations of land at Parker's Battery, Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, Drewry's Bluff, and Fort Harrison totaling approximately 550 acres. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 81,92-93, quoting RBA 2010)

In 1932 the Commonwealth of Virginia took over ownership of the lands, establishing the Richmond Battlefield Park as its first state-managed public park. The following year, President Roosevelt's New Deal relief and funding programs—specifically, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) created by the Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933—enabled the state to begin maintenance and development work. Although the Richmond Battlefield Park did not belong to the national park system, the federal government established a CCC camp near Fort Harrison in 1933 to provide the state with a means to accomplish some interpretive and administrative improvements. Under NPS supervision, in 1935 the CCC cleared and rehabilitated the Parker's Battery site. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 81,94-95)

In 1933 the country's national military parks were transferred from the War Department to the NPS. At the same time, Virginia's government initiated the transfer of the Richmond Battlefield Park lands to the federal government. Congress passed legislation authorizing Richmond National Battlefield Park (NBP) on March 2, 1936. Following a lengthy legal process, the NPS accepted management responsibility for the park on July 14, 1944. From 1927 to 1944, the Commonwealth of Virginia, together with the CCC under the supervision of the NPS, developed the battlefield park according to the prevailing principles of battlefield preservation and commemoration. Austerity measures associated with World War II curtailed NPS development at Richmond, as at most national parks, after 1944. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 81)

CRITERION C

Engineering:

Parker's Battery is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering for its remaining military fortifications. The permanent earthworks that ringed the city were part of the most extensive network of fortifications constructed 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 on the battlefield units within the District. 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. In places like Cold Harbor where the armies faced one another for relatively long periods of time, the field fortifications evolved into elaborate systems. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 97)

The Howlett Line was constructed after the Battle of Ware Bottom Church on May 20, 1864, to "bottle up" Federal troops on the Bermuda Hundred. The entire line ran from Battery Dantzler on the James River to Fort Clifton on the Appomattox River. Parker's Battery on the south bank of the James River northeast of City Point, Virginia, is named for the Confederate unit that constructed and manned the battery in 1864. The Parker's Battery Earthworks initially consisted of only a pointed salient projecting from an infantry trench. The soldiers later added rifle pits, a thick abatis, and semi-permanent shelters that included log cabins and a log chapel. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 103-104)

CRITERION D

Archeology – Historic (Non-Aboriginal):

Parker's Battery is nationally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology – Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for its surviving earthworks and the potential to investigate the evolution of nineteenth-century military engineering, design techniques, and technology over the course of the war. The construction and elaboration of field fortifications is the most visible relic of the Civil War on the extant landscape, and perhaps one of the most important contributions that the war made to the field of military engineering. Championed by Confederate General James Longstreet and adopted by both armies as the war dragged on, these fortifications created a durable "defensive" military landscape. The earthworks at Parker's Battery, as well as Chickahominy Bluff, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, Drewry's Bluff, and Fort Harrison, provide particularly valuable resources for examining those issues as they were variably constructed at the beginning and near the end of the war. In many cases, the earthworks were captured by the opposing army, which then reconfigured them to meet specific offensive or defensive needs. (NR 2018, Sec. 7: 109)

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criterion D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

Consideration F -- A commemorative property

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

Time Period: CE 1864 - 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 1927 - CE 1944

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

Time Period: CE 1933 - CE 1941

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939	The Great Depression And The New Deal, 1929-1941	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

Area of Significance Category: Engineering

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: Richmond National Battlefield Park
NRIS ID: 66000836
Primary Certification Date: 04/27/2018
Other Certifications and Date: MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number: 043-0033
Name: Richmond National Battlefield Park
Listed Date: 01/16/1973

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 200 - 1697	Settled	Various Algonquin-speaking groups settle in the Richmond area.
CE 1607 - 1775	Colonized	English colonize the region.
CE 1607 - 1775	Farmed/Harvested	English settlers farm tobacco for shipment to England.
CE 1775 - 1800	Built	Both canals and roads are built to improve shipment of goods from region.
CE 1800 - 1860	Developed	Region becomes rich in industrial development, such as flourmills, sawmills and sugar refineries.
CE 1864	Built	June 1864; Parker's Battery is built. In July 1864 the parapet is thickened to make it stronger against attack.
CE 1864	Built	A log church is built jointly by Parker's Battery and the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment.
CE 1864	Built	In October/November artillerymen build huts for winter shelter.
CE 1865	Abandoned	On April 2 1865, Parker's Battery is abandoned, as line moves westward towards Appomattox where they surrender with the rest of Lee's army.
CE 1880 - 1889	Purchased/Sold	Battery member Lieutenant J. Thompson Brown purchases the site to preserve it from development.
CE 1886	Memorialized	In 1886 surviving members of the battery erect a small granite marker, now called the Veterans' Monument, at the east edge of the site.
CE 1927 - 1928	Land Transfer	Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation acquires battlefield lands, including Parker's Battery in 1928.
CE 1932	Land Transfer	State of Virginia acquires Richmond Battlefield Park's land and establishes the first state park of Virginia.
CE 1933	Established	Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) Colored Company 1375 established at Richmond Battlefield Park.
CE 1935	Rehabilitated	The CCC makes improvements at Parker's Battery.
CE 1936 - 1944	Established	President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs enabling legislation for National Park Service (NPS) to establish Richmond National Battlefield Park. The process to transfer state park lands to the NPS begins.
CE 1944	Land Transfer	On July 14, 1944, NPS officially accepts management responsibility for Richmond National Battlefield Park.
CE 1950 - 1996	Neglected	NPS allows public access to Parker's Battery but there are minimal improvements and no interpretation.
CE 1955	Purchased/Sold	The park receives an additional parcel of land at Parker's Battery to bring it to its current 10-acre size.
CE 1980 - 1996	Eroded	Damage to earthworks from all-terrain vehicles and pedestrian access to earthworks.
CE 1998	Altered	NPS builds paved parking area, improves trail, and erects fencing to bar access to earthworks by all-terrain vehicles.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2001	Altered	NPS replaces boardwalk over earthworks and repaves the interpretive trail.
CE 2000 - 2023	Maintained	Throughout the 2000 the park continually trims vegetation and removes hazard trees.
CE 2022 - 2023	Altered	Fencing around parking area and boundary fence parallel to the train tracks are repaired.

Physical History:

NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT/HABITATION, to 1607

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

ENGLISH COLONIZATION, 1607–1775

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

AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND AFTERMATH, 1775–1800

After the American Revolution, the area around Richmond, Virginia, began to bustle with manufacturing establishments to supply the new nation. The Colonies were now able to manufacture supplies locally instead of sending the raw materials to England, who in return, forced the colonies to purchase their finished goods. The area's vast growth resulted from a number of factors, including its navigable waterways, rich soils, and access to ores and other natural resources. The aftermath of the American Revolution also demonstrated a shift of some agricultural lands surrounding Richmond to produce grains instead of tobacco. Due to Parker's Battery's location near the James River and the fertile soil in the area, the CLI can infer that the agricultural lands near the Parker's Battery site were producing grains at this time.

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

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

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, 1800–1860

With the completion of the canal system, Richmond became a premier industrial city. Tobacco began to dominate commercial activities as manufacturers set up warehouses and factories to store and process it. Coal was shipped via the canal to Richmond to be used locally and to be shipped to other markets. Several of the other industries established in Richmond were flourmills, cotton-clothing manufacturers, sawmills, sugar refineries, and many others. Some industries were more successful than others were, but in general Richmond's industry thrived during the first half of the 19th century. Little is currently known about any industrial development of the Parker's Battery area, but Richmond's industrial development would have impacted the farmers around the city.

THE CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865

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

Parker's Battery was built during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign in 1864 (Figure 1). In May 1864, Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler saw that the Bermuda Hundred peninsula would be very advantageous in cutting Richmond's supply routes of the Richmond-Petersburg railroad and turnpike. He landed 30,000 troops of the Army of the James on the south bank of the James River on May 5. The troops' first step was to build a 3-mile-long defensive line of fortifications across the neck of the peninsula.

Butler started advancing towards Richmond, winning small clashes from May 6-10. However, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard was able to gather 18,000 troops to defend the Drewry's Bluff complex, which was located just five miles north of Bermuda Hundred. The second battle of Drewry's Bluff, fought on May 16, 1864, was a defeat for Butler's men. The Confederates attacked and forced the Federals back, with heavy losses, to their defensive line of fortifications across the neck of Bermuda Hundred.

The Confederates built the Howlett Line about 500 yards from the Federal line to block the Federal army and keep it from advancing towards Richmond, or severing the supply line from Petersburg to Richmond. The Howlett Line ran from Battery Dantzler on the James River to Fort Clifton on the Appomattox River. The artillery unit known as Parker's Battery had been fighting together since 1862, including battles at Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Knoxville, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. Thus in 1864 when the 120 officers and men were stationed to a fixed position along the Howlett Line, it came as welcome relief. The battery stood in the line from June 18, 1864 to April 2, 1865.

One of the first tasks for the men in the battery was to improve and strengthen the fieldworks, which were in a typical arrangement for artillery, a pointed salient projecting out from the infantry trench. This arrangement allowed the artillerymen to pour overlapping and enfilade fire from their bastion in combination with other batteries. However, when the battery was inspected by General Richard Anderson in July 1864, he felt that the parapets were not substantial enough to handle an attack, so he ordered them to be thickened and earthen traverses to be dug to shield gunners and infantry men. (Krick 1975: 263)

At first there was consistent gunfire between the army lines. Ware Bottom Church, which was located directly in front of the enemy earthworks, was a particular nuisance to the Confederates because it provided excellent cover for Federal snipers who were taking shots at them. Three men of Parker's Battery were successful in entering enemy territory to burn the church down to neutralize this threat. Throughout the autumn and winter of 1864, the Howlett Line was not involved in the active fighting of the war, allowing the men of Parker's Battery to settle down to a routine of maintaining the stalemate across the Hundred. (Krick 1975: 262)

There was an unwritten understanding between the two armies that nobody would be fired upon when traveling to Ware Bottom Springs, which was between the two lines, to gather water. The area soon became a place for the two armies to meet to trade rations, news, and wishes for peace. The only time that there was a break in this fraternization was when the Federal Army assigned a brigade of US Colored Troops to the line for a period of time in November. (Krick 1975: 275)

As winter approached, the men of Parker's Battery proceeded to construct log cabins for shelter in the proximity of the earthworks. There is also documentation that they built a log church that would accommodate more than one hundred worshippers. The lack of forage for the horses became a problem, and the stock began to weaken and die off. Therefore, they moved the remaining horses to

search for food. This was a concern for the men because the guns would not be mobile in an emergency. Fortunately, there was no action at this location throughout the winter and early spring before the horses were able to return. On April 1, 1865, the men of Parker's Battery heard heavy firing sounds coming from Petersburg, and on April 2 Federal soldiers charged the Confederate line. After the battery learned of the terrible Confederate defeat at Petersburg, it retreated to Appomattox Court House where they were present when General Robert E. Lee signed the surrender papers on April 9, 1865. (Krick 1975: 264,291)

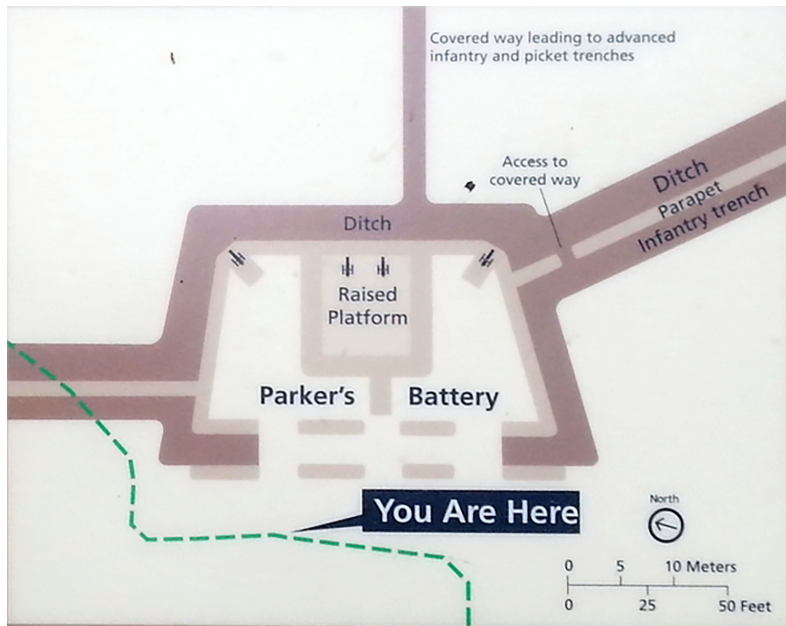


Figure 1. A wayside displays a schematic plan view of Parker's Battery, looking northeast. (NPS)

BATTLEFIELD COMMEMORATION, 1866–1944

While the United States saw a commemoration movement around the Civil War begin almost immediately after the war's end, the Richmond battlefields did not benefit from congressional preservation efforts beyond the establishment of National Cemeteries, such as Cold Harbor, Richmond, and Fort Harrison in 1866. However, one exception occurred in the 1880s at Parker's Battery when battery member Lieutenant J. Thompson Brown purchased the site to preserve it from development. In 1886 surviving members of the battery erected the small granite marker, now called the Veterans' Monument, at the east edge of the site. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 30, Sec.8: 89)

In 1914 the president of the C & O Railroad led one of the earliest attempts to memorialize the Richmond battlefields, proposing a road to link the significant battles of the Civil War fought near Richmond. Plans were postponed by the United States entering World War I, but the effort to commemorate the Civil War was resumed in 1925 with the placement of 59 "Freeman Markers" throughout the Richmond area. Douglas Southall Freeman, a Richmond journalist, began a group named The Battlefield Markers Association, whose mission was to memorialize important Civil War battles in the Richmond area through the placement of commemorative markers. While there is no Freeman Marker at Parker's Battery, there are in several of the other units in Richmond NBP. In 1927 the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation (RBPC) was formed to quietly purchase crucial battlefield land to avoid inflating real estate prices. The group purchased approximately 550 acres of battlefield lands around Richmond and developed a road system, later known as State Route 156, linking the parcels. This included 3.25 acres of the Parker's Battery site acquired in 1929.

Aware of their lack of resources to maintain and manage these lands, the RBPC successfully advocated for creation of a state park. Richmond Battlefield Park, therefore, became the first state park of Virginia on January 12, 1932, which was managed by the Virginia Conservation Commission. However, like the RBPC, an immediate problem for the commission was a lack of funds for the development or maintenance of the park. Thus, there was a push to transfer the park to the National Park Service (NPS), an effort that culminated on March 2, 1936, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the enabling legislation for Richmond National Battlefield Park. However, complexities in land transfers delayed official acceptance of the park to July 14, 1944.

Before the state park was officially transferred to the NPS, federal dollars were already being spent on its development through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a work program associated with Roosevelt's New Deal. In 1933 a CCC camp was established in the immediate vicinity of Fort Harrison.

"There was a dichotomy in camp management. Actual supervision of the camp was assigned to the US Army. By contrast, management of the work projects was assigned to the host agency. Thus, the NPS found it necessary to hire employees at CCC sites that were located in National Parks and elsewhere. Since there was some impetus to absorb Richmond Battlefield State Park into the national system, the NPS hired among others, Floyd B. Taylor, a young man with no prior experience in land management work as a Junior Historian and assigned him to Richmond." (Baril n.d.: 1)

In July 1933, CCC Junior Colored Company 1375, a group comprised of about two hundred young African American men, was assigned to the state park.

The CCC primarily focused on improvements to the Fort Harrison area in the first couple of years, but by 1935 their scope expanded to other park areas. At Parker's Battery projects included cleaned up the earthworks, selective cutting, landscaping, and trail construction. In 1935 the CCC also spent substantial time making maps of the properties, including Parker's Battery. With the closure of the CCC camps in 1941 and the US entry into World War II in 1942, most work at the park came to a halt, and much of the work performed by the CCC became overgrown again. (Baril n.d.: 12)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STEWARDSHIP, 1944–2025

The NPS assumed management of Richmond National Battlefield Park in 1944, but little work was accomplished until after World War II. The park was administered in conjunction with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park until 1951. After that, the park then had its own administrative staff. In 1955 the park received an additional parcel of land at Parker's Battery to bring it to its current 10-acre size.

By the mid-1950s, increasing park visitation had taken a toll on parks nationwide, many of which had been properly maintained since the CCC development period. Recognizing this shortfall, NPS Director Conrad Wirth initiated the Mission 66 program, in which Congress agreed to allocate a billion dollars over a ten-year period so that parks across the country could be developed and improved in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the system in 1966. To meet the goals of Mission 66, Richmond NBP prepared a master plan to guide its improvements. As part of the master plan, the park sought to acquire a large building in Richmond, the Weather Bureau building Chimborazo, to serve as park headquarters and visitor center.

There is no documentation of any work done at Parker's Battery as part of the Mission 66 program, and according to historic aerial photographs there was no formal public access to the site until 1998. During that period the earthworks were impacted by unauthorized uses. Several social trails were worn over the earthworks and there were indications that people were riding through the site on all-terrain vehicles. In 1998 the park added amenities for visitor access and to discourage further damage. Improvements included a paved entrance drive and parking area, an interpretive trail with waysides, a boardwalk to cross the earthworks, and a split rail fence to bar access to all-terrain vehicles.

Landscape Changes Since 2002:

Changes to the landscape since the original CLI was completed in 2002 include:

- Replacement of the boardwalk over the earthworks and repaving of the interpretive trail.
- Continued removal of hazard trees and vegetation management.
- Repair of fencing around the parking area and repair of boundary fence parallel to the train tracks.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)		Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)		Yes	Yes	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape		No	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation-Other	No	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

All units of Richmond NBP 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.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Authors of this CLI update consulted with David Goldstein, Ph.D., Tribal and Cultural Affairs Lead, NPS, DOI-Region 1. No ethnographic study of the Gaines' Mill Battlefield, nor the Richmond NBP, 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 Parker's Battery is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1864-1944, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2023-2025. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The Parker's Battery unit of Richmond NBP contains important Civil War resources, namely the earthworks that protected Parker's men while they provided cannon fire as part of defenses that comprised the Howlett Line. This line was instrumental in the defense of Richmond during the last year of the Civil War; the Confederates built it to keep the Federal Army "bottled up" on the Bermuda Hundred Peninsula and successfully held them to a stalemate for the last year of the war.

The 10-acre property is comprised of a series enclosed earthworks designed to protect the gunmen. The battery has integrity as an earthen fortification, but most of the structures that supported the site's use as an encampment during the war are now part of the archeological record. The property also has a short entry loop drive leading to a parking area and an interpretive pedestrian trail that directs the visitor to the battery.

Since 1944 some landscape characteristics and features at Parker's Battery have changed. There is some erosion affecting the earthworks and they are maintained within a woodland of deciduous trees. The trees post-date the Civil War, but serve to protect the earthworks from further natural erosion. There are also some indications of damage to the earthworks from all-terrain vehicles and unauthorized pedestrian use. The area surrounding Parker's Battery has become very industrialized. The view during the period of significance would have been of open farmland with a few wood lots, but the woodland helps buffer the visitor from the adjacent industrial landscape.

INTEGRITY

Overall, Parker's Battery retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. 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 1864-1944 period of significance for Parker's Battery.

The landscape retains the integrity aspects of location, design, and association, clearly exhibiting important spatial relationships between the natural systems and earthworks necessary to convey the site's significance. The aspects of materials and workmanship are exhibited in the historic earthworks. The aspects of feeling and setting are diminished by continued industrial development of adjacent lands.

Landscape Characteristics and Features:

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding 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 1864-1944, contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

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 Richmond NBP Historic District encompasses more than 2,800 acres spread across multiple units, all but two of which lie north and east of the James River. To date, only the Malvern Hill, Glendale, Gaines' Mill, and Totopotomoy Creek units have undergone systematic, unit-wide archeological review or survey. Smaller-scale, primarily compliance-related projects have been conducted at Drewry's Bluff, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, Beaver Dam, and Fort Harrison, most of which resulted in the identification of low-density pre- and post-contact artifact scatters without clear temporal or cultural affiliations. (NR 2018, Sec.8: 107; Review comment, L. Lowe, 28 July 2025)

The entire Parker's Battery site has been assigned CRIS-AR number RICH00004. For additional information on this site, see the 2018 National Register documentation. (NR 2018, Sec.7: 40)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic and Existing Conditions:

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. During the last two weeks of October 1864, a church was built jointly by Parker's Battery and the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment. The chapel was made of logs and had a seating capacity of several hundred. Prayer meetings were held twice daily throughout the next month. The building was referred to as the "bombproof church" because it was dug partially into the ground. The quiet that normally prevailed around the battery's position had become so well established that the men were able to build huts for the winter of 1864-1865 just behind their guns. Northern artillery could have easily destroyed the shelters and some of the men trustingly at rest inside them, but the primary fruits of such a course would have been reciprocal destruction. As a result, one of the battalion's artillerists could boast that his log hut was within twenty feet of his gun. Some huts were built from the ground up, while others were partly below ground. There was no order to the location of the cabins, nor rows or streets, just a random scattering behind the gun pits. One cabin was described as being twelve by eight feet, constructed from logs which were chinked and daubed then covered over with rough planks. It had a fireplace and a brick chimney and there were bunks built into the walls in tiers. One cannoneer boasted to his wife that his hut actually had glass windows. (Krick 1975: 272-273)

Today, none of these buildings exist on the site. Archeological research will determine if the locations of these huts and church can be found. The only extant structure on the site is the boardwalk that crosses the infantry earthworks at the north end of the interpretive trail (Figure 9). The boardwalk is constructed of recycled plastic timbers. The width of the boardwalk measures 4 feet, but because of the 4-foot-high guardrails with an angled top the clearance width is about 3.5 feet. The far end of the boardwalk exhibits a long step down. The NPS maintenance crew has since replaced this boardwalk with a wider, handicap accessible boardwalk with ramps on each end.

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
Boardwalk	94135	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 9. View of boardwalk facing west toward the parking area. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. The CLI uncovered little documentation about the circulation patterns during the Civil War at Parker's Battery. It is known that the soldiers moved along the lines through the infantry trenches and the covered way. The covered way headed east from the battery and was used for the men to get to lookout positions and to Ware Bottom Creek. More research will be necessary to discover if any other road traces were used during the period of significance.

The current circulation patterns at Parker's Battery accommodates both vehicular and pedestrian traffic (Figure 7). The park improved the circulation pattern in 1998. Automobiles access the site from the northwest corner of the property from Ware Bottom Springs Road, from which a short, paved access road leads to a loop with a turf-covered island in the center. The paved parking area has four regular spaces and one handicapped space. An earthen-surfaced access drive heads south from the edge of the parking loop to provide emergency and maintenance access to the meadow area and the utility lines. A thin rail barrier gate that can be opened by park staff or the utility company blocks this access road to visitors' vehicles.

The pedestrian circulation system at the site is primarily the pedestrian interpretive trail that leads the visitor from the parking lot, over the infantry earthwork, to the battery, past the memorial marker, out to the meadow and finally back to the parking lot (Figure 8). The trail from the parking lot through the lawn to the treeline is covered with three types of crushed and broken decorative stone: rose quartz, gneiss, and granite. The edge of this trail has not been defined and the grass has encroached on the trail in several spaces. After the trail enters the woods, the surface changes from crushed stone to wood chips. The remainder of the trail is 5 to 6-feet wide with mesh lining under a bed of wood chips. At the time of the field survey, the mesh lining was exposed in several places along the trail. Park maintenance staff has since changed the trail surface to address these issues. There are also several social trails throughout the site; they are narrower than the interpretive trail approximately 3 to 4-feet wide, and are merely worn dirt paths through the vegetation.

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
Entry Loop Drive	94136	Noncontributing					No
Interpretive Trail	94137	Noncontributing					No
Parking Area	94138	Noncontributing					No
Service Access Drive	94139	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 7. Entry loop drive and parking lot. (OCLP, 2023)



Figure 8. Earthworks of Parker's Battery adjacent to interpretive trail. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. During the Civil War, Parker's Battery was located in farmland, and part of the Howlett Line, named after the Howlett Farm upon which it was partially built. The battery was used for artillery defense of the infantry line that was placed to keep the Union army "bottled up" at Bermuda Hundred. Parker's Battery was located in this position so long, that it also built up a more permanent encampment with log huts and a chapel. In the 1880s battery member Lieutenant J. Thompson Brown (1840–1921) purchased the site to preserve it from development. At that time a marker was placed on the site to commemorate the acts of the soldiers encamped here.

Today Parker's Battery is used for passive recreation and commemoration. Parker's Battery is one of several park units that make up Richmond NBP that tell the story of the defense of the Confederate Capital during the Civil War. There is an interpretive trail system to lead the visitor through the park and waysides along the trail to demonstrate the purpose of the earthworks and what role they played during the war.

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
	94140	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:

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 the area near Parker's Battery during the war were instrumental in the decision to build the battery in this location. Located near Ware Bottom Spring southwest of the James River, the battery was part of the Howlett Line, which was constructed by the Confederate Army to keep the Federal military bottled up at Bermuda Hundred in 1864. The line stretched from the James River to the Appomattox River and Parker's Battery. A local spring played an important role in the time spent on the Howlett Line, because it was an unspoken truce that neither army would attack while the other army gathered fresh water at the spring. The location became an area where opposing armies traded supplies, information and wishes for peace.

The small size of the Parker's Battery unit does not lend itself to be affected by many natural systems or features today. The earthworks are located in a generally flat, wooded lot. There is a railroad track cutting the Parker's Battery site from Ware Bottom Spring, so that important link to the natural feature has been severed.

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
	94141	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Little is known about the small-scale features at Parker's Battery during the Civil War. Due to the fact that soldiers were encamped here for many months, it can be assumed that many of the features to assist them in their daily activities, such as fire pits and clotheslines, would have been present. However, no traces of these kinds of features are present today.

The only contributing small scale feature at Parker's Battery today is the Veteran's Monument, placed by surviving members of Parker's Battery in 1886 (Figure 10). The small granite marker commemorates the role that Parker's Battery played in holding the Howlett Line during the last days of the Civil War. It stands 44 inches high and 10 by 16 inches at the base. It has a dressed face with incised lettering and the other three sides have tooled edges and rough-cut faces. The monument shows signs of vandalism with chipped corners and a large chip in the text on its face.

The non-contributing small-scale features on the site consist of the NPS entry sign, directional signs for both pedestrians and automobiles, a counter box to track visitation, a phone box, and several waysides to interpret the historic features of the site (Figures 11 and 12). There are also several types of fencing, including a split-rail fence running along the south side of the parking area to limit vehicular access to the site. Pedestrians can access the interpretive trail via a cattle-catcher detail in the fence line. This lap-back gate feature consists of a 2-foot gap in the fence with a 3-foot overlap in the fence lines. The east side of the property is bound by chain link fencing.

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
Veteran's Monument (Parker's Battery Monument)	94147	Contributing	006762		Location	15702	Yes
Counter Box	94142	Noncontributing					No
Directional Signs	94143	Noncontributing					No
Entry Sign	94144	Noncontributing					No
Fencing	94145	Noncontributing					No
Phone Box	94148	Noncontributing					No
Waysides	94149	Noncontributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 10. The Veterans' Monument (Parker's Battery Marker) dates to 1886. (OCLP, 2023)



Figure 11. Detail of barrier fence at edge of parking lot. (OCLP, 2023)



Figure 12. National Park Service entry sign, gate, and directional signs. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. Parker's Battery's spatial organization in 1864 was much different than what is found there today. The earthworks were built in open farm fields with small woodlots in the area. The battery was built out from the Howlett Line to provide protection for the artillerymen covering the infantry line. After October 1864 the Confederates added a number of huts that were scattered randomly behind the gun pits rather than arranged in grids or streets. In fact one of the battalion's artilleryman's log hut was within twenty feet of his gun. There is also documentation of a church being built by the men, but its precise location in relationship to the battery is not known. (Krick 1975: 273)

Today the spatial organization of Parker's Battery is primarily defined by the circulation system. As the visitor approaches the park unit, the entry drive and parking loop are in the open and surrounded by turf grass. Beyond a fence to the east, is a long, linear meadow with a series of power lines providing vertical elements. All the earthworks are located within woodland to the north of the parking lot and meadow. The infantry earthworks are laid out in a linear pattern until they reach the battery, which is rectangular and lies to the north of the line. An interpretive trail runs along the Howlett Line and through the back of the battery before turning to head out to the meadow and back to the parking area. Any indications of the historic spatial organization of the winter cabins built by the Confederates are not evident and is now part of the archeological record.

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
	94150	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic and Existing Conditions:

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). Historically, three layers of defense protected the front of the battery. First attackers would come across the rifle pits where pickets lay at night to give early warning of an attack. The second layer of defense was thick abatis, sharpened tree limbs positioned with the points away from the battery, to delay the forward movement of the attack. The final line of defense in front of the battery was a ditch in front of the 8-foot wall of the battery. The engineers designed embrasures, openings in the parapets, to protect the artillerymen from fire while they were operating the field pieces. There was a covered way leading from the front of the battery to provide cover for soldiers who were heading to the rifle pits or Ware Bottom Spring.

Today, the overall topography of Parker's Battery is gently rolling to flat. However, there is a steep grade at the north end of the property where Ware Bottom Spring Road has been cut into the hill to pass under the railroad tracks. The primary topographic resources on the site are the remains of the Civil War earthworks (Figures 2, 3, and 4). The remnants located on the site include a segment of the infantry line and Parker's Battery. The rectangular battery measures approximately 80 x 90 feet. The parapet walls have been eroded, but the shape is still evident. However, the earthworks show some evidence of erosion from all-terrain vehicle and pedestrian use. The battery originally accommodated four guns, and today there is evidence of two collapsed bombproofs in the rear.

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
Parker's Battery Earthworks (Howlett Line)	94151	Contributing	006738		Location	15699	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 2. View looking east towards the front of Parker's Battery. (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP--2023)



Figure 3. View facing north of infantry line of the Howlett Line from the boardwalk. (OCLP, 2023)



Figure 4. View facing south of infantry line ditch directly in front of earthwork. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. At the time Parker's Battery was stationed along the Howlett Line, the earthworks were carved into open farmland where the artillerymen could see enemy approach and have an open avenue to return fire. There was some documentation of woodlots in the vicinity, but not the type of forest cover found there today. Robert K. Krick stated that there was not enough grass for the horses to eat in the area, so they ate bark from the trees in the woodlots before the horses were moved south during the winter for food. This would indicate that the landscape was very barren of vegetation during the war. (Krick 1975: n.p.)

The vegetation at Parker's Battery today consists primarily of deciduous hardwood forest cover, with some evergreen, turf grass, and meadow vegetation. The earthworks are maintained under a forest cover of primarily hickory (*Carya* sp.), maple (*Acer* sp.), oak (*Quercus* sp.), sassafras (*Sassafras* sp.), and dogwood (*Cornus* sp.). There are also scattered Loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) within the forest (Figure 5). There is some understory herbaceous growth, but the leaf litter from the trees has acted like mulch to keep much of the herbaceous growth under control. There are some problems with invasive plants at Parker's Battery as well. At the time of the field survey, there were many vines and lowbush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) within the forest cover. The forest cover is not the historic condition. Recent studies, however, show that a healthy forest cover provides excellent erosion-controlling protection for earthworks. For more information see "Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management" (NPS 1998) and "The Effect of Management on Erosion of Civil War Earthworks" (Azola 2001).

The entry vegetation consists primarily of an open lawn of turf (Figure 6). The grass surrounds the parking area and leads up to the treeline surrounding the earthworks. There is also a turf-covered island in the center of the parking loop that is flush with the paving. The open area south of the parking lot and west of the treeline has been maintained as open meadow under the power lines. There is a mown edge along the trail leading back to the parking lot from the battery, but otherwise the vegetation has been allowed to grow.

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
	94152	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 5. View facing south showing typical vegetation cover of earthworks. (OCLP, 2023)



Figure 6. View facing south of typical meadow vegetation along utility corridor. (OCLP, 2023)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic and Existing Conditions:

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. During the Civil War, the view from the battery was critical to keep on the offensive against possible Union attacks. The landscape was open farmland to assist with this ability. The soldiers could see northeast toward the James River across Ware Bottom Springs and the enemy line.

Today the battery is located within woodland and views away from the battery are not possible. While the trees make it difficult for the visitor to appreciate the conditions during the Civil War, they are very beneficial in protecting the earthworks from further erosion and to screen the adjacent industrial sites. There are open views along the utility corridor to the adjacent industrial landscapes.

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
View of Industrial Land Use	94153	Noncontributing					No
View of Utility Corridor	94154	Noncontributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 4

Next Assessment Due Date: 01/12/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 01/12/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The property is in "Fair" condition, due to mature trees and erosion that threaten the earthworks, tall understory vegetation that affects views, and adjacent industrial land uses. As published in the 2025 "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the definition of "Fair" is:

The property shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and that some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration on many of the landscape characteristics will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition. Preservation maintenance and/or use must be combined with corrective action to halt deterioration.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/17/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/14/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

This reassessment was made in consultation with the park superintendent. A "Fair" evaluation 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 landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 02/20/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

This condition assessment was completed in consultation with the park staff and superintendent.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1999

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
Other Impact:	
External or Internal:	External
Impact Narrative:	Industrial development in the area immediately surrounding Parker’s Battery has obscured historic views from the battery.
Date Identified:	01/12/2026
Type of Impact:	Erosion
Other Impact:	
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Narrative:	Erosion impacts from earlier all-terrain vehicle use and volunteer trails are still evident on site. While the park has addressed the issue of all-terrain vehicle damage by barring vehicular entry to the park unit near the utility corridor with a cattle-catcher detail in the split rail fence, an effort should be made to protect the exposed areas of the earthworks from further erosion.
Date Identified:	01/12/2026
Type of Impact:	Release To Succession
Other Impact:	
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Narrative:	An impact that is affecting the integrity of the site is the amount of understory vegetation that has built up under the canopy of the full trees. This thick, understory growth restricts the views within the site. There is the opportunity to open some of the limited views within the site by removing the tall understory vegetation. This action would create a more open character to the site, while leaving the protective canopy for the earthworks in place. However, a full treatment plan would need to be completed through the landscape report process before this procedure could be done.
Date Identified:	01/12/2026

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The earthworks and much of the site are covered with successional deciduous tree growth. While the trees help maintain the earthworks by slowing erosion, they need to be monitored to assess tree health and stability to ensure visitor safety and prevent damage to the resource. Trees that are dying need to be removed manually before they topple naturally or get knocked down by wind, where the root structure of the tree can do considerable damage to the earthworks.

There are some invasive species affecting the site as well. NPS maintenance staff could spray the invasive vegetation and then a team of seasonal help could follow up and remove the dead vegetation, and mulch the exposed areas

Date Identified: 01/12/2026

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1996-06-07

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The management objective outlined in the park’s 1996 General Management Plan (GMP) is, “to identify, evaluate, protect, restore, and preserve park cultural resources important to the understanding of the military actions during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign and the 1864 and 1865 battle actions that resulted in the final struggle for Richmond.” For the Parker’s Battery area, the GMP recommended construction of a loop trail and wayside exhibits, and development of a parking area. (GMP 1996: 24,41)

Parker’s Battery does not have a Cultural Landscape Report or Treatment Plan with in-depth information regarding landscape treatment philosophy, strategies, or tasks. The growing availability of digital geospatial data, including LIDAR point-cloud data and aerial photo data, has assisted in the documentation of the cultural landscape’s physical attributes in the past several years.

Additionally, Parker’s Battery is included in the park’s Earthworks Management Plan and Fire Management Plan. The plan, based on earthwork management guideline documents, plant ecology, and soil science, describes the park’s practices to preserve earthworks while showcasing key areas for visitors and minimizing maintenance costs. It outlines that full forest coverage is the best way to protect soil from erosion and to monitor for and remove hazard trees where applicable. (PEPC 115308; Review comment, K. Allen, 28 July 2025)

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
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Staff	Resource Management Plan, Richmond National Battlefield Park	1994	n/a			
Staff	General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement	1996	n/a			
Staff	Sketches on the Battlefields Around Richmond, Virginia	1937	n/a			
Sams, Cheryl and Nancy J. Brown	Parker's Battery, Cultural Landscapes Inventory, Richmond National Battlefield Park, National Park Service	2008	n/a			
Olausen, Stephen A., Laura J. Kline, Kristen Heitert, and Gretchen Pineo	National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Richmond National Battlefield Park	2018	Pawtucket, RI: Public Archeology Lab			
OCULUS et al.	Documenting Richmond's Civil War Battlefields	1996	n/a			
National Park Service	Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management	1998	n/a			

Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park

National Park Service	Final General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia	1996	n/a			
Krick, Robert K.	Parker's Virginia Battery C. S. A.	1975	n/a			
Iris Williams, Peter	Conserving Richmond's Battlefields	1990	n/a			
Baril, Peter E.	"They Found a Jungle and Made a Park" The Civilian Conservation Corps at Richmond National Battlefield Park, ND, PHSO Library.		n/a			
Azola, Anthony	The Effect of Management on Erosion of Civil War Battlefield Earthworks	2001	n/a			
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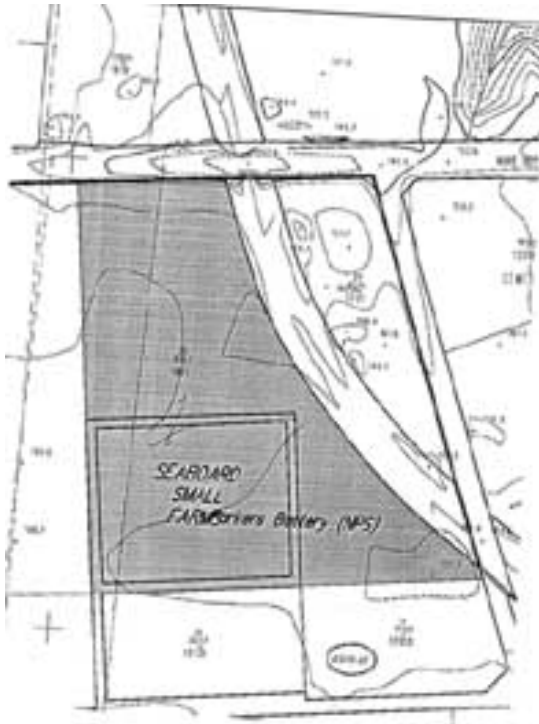
Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Bermuda Magisterial District Property Map

Supplemental Information Narrative:

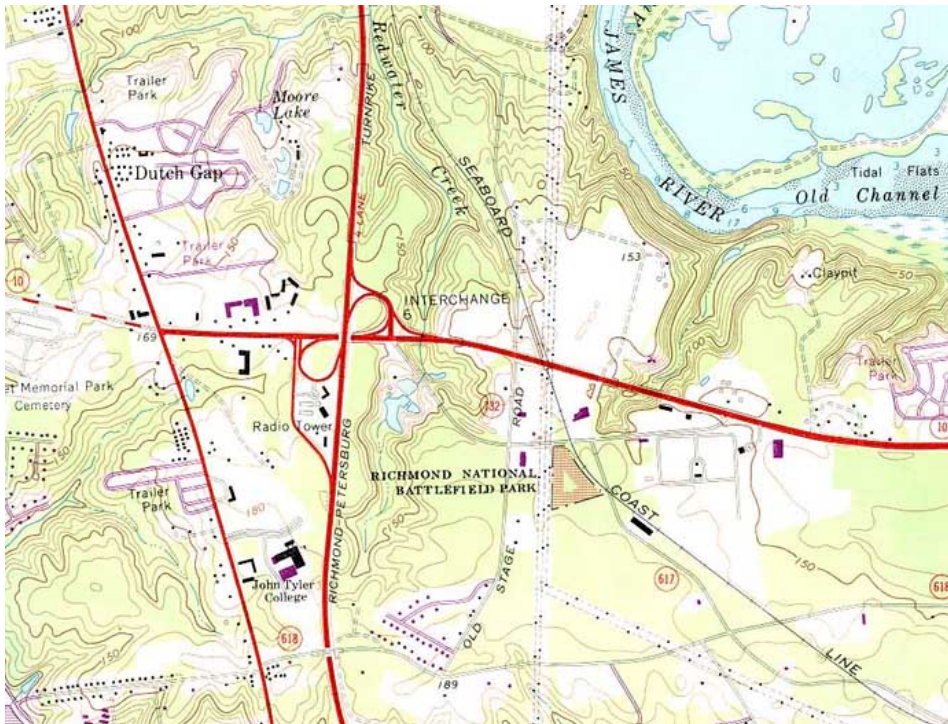
Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering, 2000

Supplemental Information File:



Map giving property lines and topography

Parker's Battery
Richmond National Battlefield Park



Parker's Battery unit on USGS map



Map giving locations of earthworks, gun emplacements, holes, and interpretive trails.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Chester Quad, USGS 1974

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: CIR USGS DOQQ

Supplemental Information Narrative:

GIS files from Richard Easterbrook, Petersburg GIS, 1993

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Parker's Battery Earthworks and Interpretive Trails

Supplemental Information Narrative:

David Lowe, Cultural Resources GIS, 1999

