National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shiloh
National Military Park
Long-Range Interpretive Plan













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Long-Range Interpretive Plan

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...That in order that the armies of the southwest which served in the Civil War... may have the history of one of their memorable battles preserved on the ground where they fought, the battlefield of Shiloh, in the State of Tennessee, is hereby declared to be a national military park...

—*28 Stat. 597. December 27, 1894

Introduction



....The challenge of the National Park Service (is) to provide Americans of various backgrounds and perspectives the opportunity to explore the story, meaning, and significance of the Civil War in a way that is relevant to them.

Holding the High Ground, May 2004

In anticipation of the 2011 – 2015 Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, NPS superintendents, park historians, chiefs of interpretation and eminent scholars knowledgeable in Civil War history met to discuss how to improve interpretation at Civil War battlefields and related historical sites as the nation approaches the War's 150th anniversary. Their efforts produced the May 2004 planning document. "Holding the High Ground: Interpreting the Civil War through the Sites of the National Park System." This document stresses the importance of "sustaining the Service's invaluable tradition of resource based interpretation," and outlines the need to approach Civil War interpretation from a diversity of cultural perspectives.

"Holding the High Ground" articulates the fundamental need to improve interpretation of Civil War history at the battlefields stewarded by the Service, indicating that while an awareness of the military tactics and combat events which transpired on these cultural landscapes remains critical to the understanding of a particular battle, the interpretation of military history is much broader and complex. The principal military events of the war unfolded within the larger context of evolving social dynamics and the turbulent politics of the period. Effective battlefield interpretation provides opportunities to explore the complexities of the war, allowing park visitors to make enduring connections with its causes,

consequences, and legacy for all Americans; and it embraces all of the participants – whether they were the enslaved seeking freedom, civilians on the home front, or soldiers in the field.

Long before this Servicewide initiative, the staff at Shiloh National Military Park recognized and embraced the need to broaden interpretation at the park. The staff has worked closely with their gateway communities in Savannah, TN, and Corinth, MS, to protect and interpret key historic sites and resources. This work has resulted in a variety of collaborative studies, planning endeavors and interpretive projects. Two other recent additions have enlarged the interpretive scope of the park: the designation of the Shiloh Indian Mounds as a National Historic Landmark in 1989, and the new legislation in September 2000 creating the Corinth Unit, to be administered as a part of Shiloh National Military Park.

Shiloh National Military Park requested and received Servicewide funding to support the development of a Long-Range Interpretive Plan by the National Park Service's Center for Media Services in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia in 2001. (Servicewide, the Center is commonly known as Harpers Ferry Center or HFC.) During initial planning discussions Superintendent Woody Harrell outlined the need for this plan.



On October 5, 1862, following the Battle of Corinth, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn confronted a Union relief column along the Hatchie River at Davis Bridge.

A note from Woody Harrell, Superintendent:

The park's current General Management Plan, (approved in 1981), is now badly outdated. In a time of great change, the park must use each new planning opportunity to pursue the overall park mission, at least until funding for a new General Management Plan is obtained. Right now the park is project driven. We have no current approved plan for interpretation and visitor services. We need a well-written plan broad enough to withstand the test of time and provide sufficient guidance to work with stakeholders. The plan needs to be developed in such a way it can serve as a placeholder charting the direction of the park's overall facility development and interpretation in light of new legislation, lands, partnership opportunities, and visitor experience needs.



Interpreted as "Grant's Last Line," the battle line successfully defended by Union forces at the close of Shiloh's first day of carnage, extended one and one-half miles west from Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee River, to Owl Creek.

Three planning workshops were held to support the development of this plan. National Park Service staff (including staff from the Denver Service Center, the Southeast Archeological Center, the Southeast Regional Office, and the park) met with stakeholders for a foundation workshop in August 2002. During this workshop participants developed park purpose and significance statements, interpretive themes, and visitor experience goals. Later, two recommendations workshops were held in March 2003 and February 2005. During the second set of workshops, park staff and HFC media specialists utilized the newly developed park purpose and significance statements, interpretive themes, and visitor experience goals to analyze existing conditions in the park's operation.

The Shiloh National Military Park Long-Range Interpretive Plan summarizes the results of these workshops and makes specific recommendations for facilities, interpretive services, media, and partnerships to support the delivery of the interpretive program. All recommendations support the park's vision for the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War: 2011 – 2015, the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, and the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Shiloh National Military Park in 2019.



The use of living history demonstrations to enhance visitor understanding of historic human events remains an important facet of interpretive services provided to the public at Shiloh National Military Park.

This document is compatible with all other park management documents and was written to serve the needs of a broad audience – the interested visitor, National Park Service staff, park friends and advocates, and future contractors who will assist in the implementation of the recommendations. Together Shiloh National Military Park staff, partners, stakeholders and NPS media specialists worked to develop this plan. The goal is to promote park resource values through specially planned visitor experiences and excellence in interpretation by (1) engaging people to make enduring connections with park resources; (2) making use of new technologies to support both personal and non-personal interpretive programming; (3) embracing interpretation and education partners to support the NPS education mission; (4) implementing agency professional standards for interpretive programs and staff performance (i.e., employees, volunteers, and partners) and; (5) creating a culture/program of evaluation to achieve accountability and program improvement.

A note from Stacy Allen, Chief Ranger and Park Historian:

The National Park Service is entrusted to protect and interpret national parks; at Shiloh National Military Park it is the Division of Interpretation and Resource Management that carries out this mission daily – an awesome and humbling responsibility. Why? Parks are complex environments. The historic scene gives visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves and discover what actually happened. However, sometimes the significance or meaning of a tangible park feature, historic figure or object is hidden, not commonly known or easily overlooked.

It is the work of interpretation to plan for the park visitor experience; specifically, what types of personal services or media will be provided "to convey the meanings and significance of the resource". It is important to note in the planning and delivery of the parkwide interpretive program that the art of interpretation recognizes that relevancy to a visitor is personal and unique to that visitor. Hence, interpretation at Shiloh NMP will explore topics highlighting multiple points of view from the participants of that era; reflect current scholarship; and, respect the rights of visitors to understand, experience and discover this park at their own pace, interest level and within the timeframe they have set aside.

People care for what they care about. We will accomplish our mission when visitors having come to this park leave with:

- *A greater understanding of the difficult moments our Nation and its residents - enslaved and free - endured;*

- *An appreciation or insight regarding how Civil War sites connect to 21st century citizenship and the ongoing quest to maintain and protect civil rights for all Americans; and*

- *A commitment to support the preservation of this park and the national park system.*

The Planning Process

The ultimate goal of the interpretive planning process is the development of a cost-effective, tightly focused, high quality park interpretive program that effectively addresses management goals and identifies the most important concepts to convey to park visitors.

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) recommends actions needed over the next decade to prepare Shiloh for both the Civil War sesquicentennial and the park's 125th anniversary in 2019. It identifies park themes, describes visitor experience goals, and recommends a wide array of interpretive services, media, programs, and outreach activities to communicate in the most efficient and effective way the park's purpose, significance, themes, and values. It will join a park-produced Annual Interpretive Plan and Interpretive Database to make up the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for Shiloh National Military Park.

Barring legislative changes or major new research, the planning foundation expressed in this LRIP – purpose, significance, themes, and visitor experience goals – will remain constant over the life of this plan. Specific recommendations about media and programs may need to be updated as staffing, funding, technology, or resource conditions change. Further design documents will need to be prepared to implement some of the goals and recommendations in this plan.

Executive Summary: Park Vision

Management Goals

By the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, and the Siege and Battle of Corinth (2012), and the 125th anniversary of the military park (2019), park visitors will:

- **Grasp the relevancy of the Civil War** as a critical historical event that transformed social and political institutions in the United States, and continues to affect all Americans to the present day. Specifically, that the cultural conflict and controversy reflected in the compelling stories of Shiloh, and Corinth illustrate the path towards universal liberty and equality under the law has been a tragically long and difficult process, even in American society.

- **Understand the historical relationship** between nationally significant Civil War military events transpiring at Shiloh and Corinth in 1862 (surviving battlefield resources at both sites now preserved as units of Shiloh National Military Park) and their role in the campaign for possession of the Mississippi Valley, and their relevance to other principal military events in the western theater of the American Civil War.

- **Support and work in partnership with the park** to preserve the lands, artifacts, archeological resources, and stories directly associated with Shiloh National Military Park (including the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL, the Shiloh Battlefield Unit, and the Corinth Unit).

Achieving this vision requires the following elements.





I. The park will have in place:

• Legislation that defines what additional sites will comprise the Corinth Unit, reflecting the March 2004 Corinth Civil War Boundary Adjustment Study and a base funding increase to support the expansion of Shiloh National Military Park to include the new Corinth Unit.

• Completed development concept plans to guide facility development for the new areas added to the park boundary in 2007 (see Appendix D for listing of proposed areas).

• A new General Management Plan guiding the long-term direction of all areas under the protection of Shiloh National Military Park including the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL, the Corinth Unit, and the Shiloh Battlefield Unit.

• An updated description for the 1991 Corinth National Historical Landmark designation. The update will reflect new historical information acquired during research for the 2004 Corinth Special Resource Study and Boundary Adjustment Environmental Assessment.

• A successful preservation program based on the park's current Land Protection Plan with sufficient donated funds set aside to purchase properties within the authorized boundary that may be made available by future willing sellers.

• Signed general agreements with the states of Tennessee and Mississippi to (1) provide signs for wayfinding along the road corridors between the Shiloh and Corinth Units, and (2) to ensure public access to the commemorative plaques (troop position markers) placed by the original Shiloh Park Commission and wayside pullouts at historic sites located along these corridors.

• A strong partnership with the communities of Savannah, TN and Corinth, MS. This partnership will support a successful heritage tourism program fostering regional economic prosperity by highlighting the area's rich multi-cultural history from the Tennessee Mound Builders to the varied historical, recreational, and cultural opportunities offered.

• A dynamic interpretive program delivered in modern park facilities with updated media – including new audiovisual programs, exhibits, waysides, publications, and website. Each product produced reflects the most recent scholarship, and is presented in such a way it provides something of interest for the beginner and the "historical buff." Thoroughly engaged visitors are piqued to go out into the park on their own to see the areas of the park that interest them.

II. Specific facility elements include:

• A new Shiloh Battlefield Visitor Center located on Route 22, just north of the current park entrance. This new facility would permit: (1) an orientation to the Shiloh Battlefield before entering the core battlefield, (2) expanded interpretive opportunities to fully address new park themes, and (3) will enable development of a more logical route for visitors to tour the battlefield. The parcel is located along the route many visitors travel from the gateway community in Savannah, TN.

The location of the existing 1935 visitor center at Pittsburg Landing on the battlefield's eastern boundary is not conducive to the overall visitor experience or general park operations. Visitors could be in the park for several hours before stopping in the Visitor Center. This is problematic for fee operations, night-time security, and interpretation.

• Convert the existing Visitor Center into an Education Center and "behind the scenes" interpretive staff office facility. The park requires a separate space to deliver a K-12 curriculum based education program. Each year 10,000 students come to Shiloh Battlefield; their arrival frequently coincides and conflicts with the general visitor. While the park makes every attempt to serve both audiences, it is impossible to plan and deliver age appropriate programs because the park has no separate indoor facilities available to stage programs. New educational program development is hampered by a lack of facilities for visitors and staff.

• Construct an orientation shelter and parking lot to provide an arrival/orientation experience for visitors to the Shiloh Indian Mounds. The covered pavilion will include models and exhibits to set the stage for a mile long walking tour through the prehistoric village site. Wayside exhibits placed along the trail will convey what recent archeological studies have revealed about this site and its inhabitants.

• Rehabilitate the one-way vehicle/pedestrian causway across Dill Branch restoring the roadway connection between Shiloh Indian Mounds and Pittsburg Landing and restore Pittsburg Landing to its pre-NPS historical configuration. This project is part of Shiloh's Tennessee River streambank erosion control effort.

• Pave Cavalry Road and Sherman Road to increase visitor access to Jones Field. These historic roads have been used for maintenance access and as designated hiking trails. Conversion of these gravel roads to pavement would expand interpretive opportunities. This change would enable the park to revise and enlarge the auto tour route to include the addition of an extended interpretive loop.

• Convert Shiloh battlefield pull-offs to a more formalized design. Site plans will include paved parking areas, bicycle racks, and provide a handicap accessible designated route to the interpretive wayside. These changes will lessen resource damage created by vehicles on turf and visitor social trails to waysides.

III. Specific personal services / programmatic elements include:

• An increase in staff funding to provide for the development and implementation of a parkwide comprehensive interpretive, education, and visitor services program.

• A selection of programs for the general public that reflect the diversity of the historic Shiloh/Corinth participant experience – topics will range from the civilian on the home front or the enslaved seeking freedom to the soldier in the field.

• Programs offered will be geared to four levels of users: (1) the first time visitor with limited time and knowledge of the Civil War, (2) the intermediate visitor who comes with some understanding of the Civil War but desires a broader experience, (3) the historical buff who desires an in-depth experience, and (4) school/youth groups.

New programs will include:

• A kindergarten through high school curriculum based education program.

• Programs on the Shiloh Indian Mounds and Mound Builders offered on a variety of topics geared for different ages and levels of interest.

• A year-round, park theme-specific, special events program. This program would be developed with gateway communities Savannah, Tennessee and Corinth, Mississippi, to support regional heritage tourism.

• An expanded volunteer-in-parks program to assist with stewardship projects and the delivery of the park's interpretive and education program.

• A licensed-battlefield guide program in order to provide more in-depth interpretation for audiences seeking an in-depth park/battlefield experience.

IV. Specific media elements include:

• A parkwide wayside exhibit plan.

• An interpretive film for the Corinth Unit, highlighting the war's impact on civilians.

• A new orientation film to replace the outdated 1956 orientation film: "Shiloh: Portrait of a Battle."

• The addition of three small exhibits to the existing Visitor Center exhibit design and the addition of interior museum signage to provide wayfinding assistance within the building. The three exhibits include: (1) a "trip planning panel" to foster visitor independence (2) an exhibit on the Shiloh Indian Mounds and Mound Builders, and (3) an exhibit that introduces visitors to the socio/political issues of the war that led to the Battle of Shiloh.

• Development of a new parkwide Unigrid brochure to replace the Shiloh Battlefield self-guiding auto tour (the existing Unigrid brochure).

• A "start-up brochure" or site bulletin for the Shiloh Indian Mounds.

• Eastern National produced audio tours for the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL and sites associated with the siege, battle, and occupations of Corinth, MS.

• The park specific on-line "Monument Location Program" will be re-programmed in a software format compatible with NPS website standards.



Visitors explore the relevancy of American soldier experiences witnessed throughout the nation's history, from colonial times to modern wars, at the Memorial Day Weekend Living History Program on Shiloh battlefield.

V. The park will work with partners to:

• Develop new interpretive services, publications, and products.

• Continue partnership efforts with the Tennessee River Museum (TRM) through the provision of technical assistance for exhibit development, loan of park collections, and the Shiloh/TRM fee pass program.

• Work with the Savannah, TN and Corinth, MS tourism bureaus to promote regional heritage tourism.

• Reach out to the West Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts of America to provide technical assistance to review and update materials related to the Boy Scout trails at Shiloh. Infuse materials with information relevant to the diverse youth population that uses this facility. Contact the regional scout organization to explore future trail and program opportunities.

Planning Foundation

Legislation

The 1894 legislation establishing Shiloh National Military Park directs the park to "preserve the history" of the momentous Civil War battle of Shiloh "on the ground where it was fought." Since that time Congress has passed many additional pieces of legislation to guide park operations. It is critical for park planners and decision makers to have an in depth knowledge of these laws. Appendix D provides a detailed historical summary of all park specific legislation, at this writing.

The following list identifies key legislation that guides the ongoing administration and interpretation of Shiloh National Military Park:

• An Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries, February 22, 1867

• The 1896 Act proclaiming that "all national military parks and their approaches to be national fields for military maneuvers for the Regular Army of the United States."

Although use of Shiloh Battlefield for actual military training maneuvers and/or camps of instruction by Regular Army or the National Guard has been extremely limited throughout its history, recently the park has witnessed a significant increase in use by modern Regular, Reserve, and National Guard organizations conducting far less invasive professional field educational training activities known as "staff rides."

• 1933 Executive Order 6166, transferred all military parks, cemeteries and associated sites administered by the War Department to the National Park Service

• August 25, 1916, "Organic Act," established the National Park Service

• 1966 National Historic Preservation Act

• 1979 Archeological Resource Protection Act

• 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

• November 12, 1996 Public Law 104-33 authorized "the construction of an Interpretive Center in Corinth, Mississippi" as part of Shiloh National Military Park.

• November 2000 Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act established the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, and authorized a "Special Resource" (in this case, "boundary adjustment") Study to determine what other historical sites associated with the siege and battle for Corinth, Mississippi, would be appropriate to include in the Corinth Unit.

• The 2000 Department of the Interior Appropriations bill directing Civil War sites managed by the National Park Service to include in all "public displays and multimedia presentations the unique role that the institution of slavery played in causing the Civil War."

• In December 2007, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008" [H.R. 2764-279 Div. F, Title I, Sec. 127] expanded the boundary of the Corinth Unit to include approximately 950 acres.

This list of legislation is provided for purposes of brevity. Future readers of this document are encouraged to read Appendix D in order to understand the complexities facing park managers in the day to day administration and interpretation of the sites administered by Shiloh National Military Park including the Shiloh Battlefield Unit, the Corinth Unit, and the Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historical Landmark.

Park Purpose

Planning focuses first on why a park was established and what conditions should exist before delving into details about specific actions. Park purpose statements are based on park legislation and legislative history, other special designations, and National Park Service policies. Purpose statements provide the foundation for park management and use.

The purpose of Shiloh National Military Park is to:

• Protect, interpret, and make accessible the sites, and associated historic and natural resources, related to the 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee (known also as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing); along with associated events and historic sites in and around Corinth, Mississippi, as they relate to the Civil War – the reasons it occurred, particularly the impact the conflict and these specific battles had on the people and the land.

• Maintain and make accessible historical records, artifacts, and reference materials necessary to document and protect the associated prehistoric and historic sites, and convey their significance in the continuum of history.

• Commemorate and interpret the impact of cultural conflict and war on human populations (aboriginal Indians, soldiers, civilians, and Slaves) and inspire a commitment to preserve park resources for future generations.

• Protect and maintain prehistoric and Civil War era military burial sites in the Shiloh – Corinth corridor, and provide a setting for contemplation.

• Preserve, interpret, and make accessible the cultural landscape features and archaeological resources associated with the indigenous human prehistory of Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark.



Commemoration and preservation share the stage with nature, providing a peaceful environment for visitors to reflect upon the past while enjoying the tranquil beauty of Shiloh battlefield, evidenced here by the Minesota Monument highlighted by the brilliant colors of autumn.

Park Significance

Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements do not inventory resources; rather they describe the park's distinctiveness and help to place it within regional, national, and international contexts. They are the basis for the development of the primary interpretive themes and program.

• Shiloh National Military Park encompasses nationally significant historic sites relative to the Battle of Shiloh and the Siege and Battle of Corinth, and other important events critical to the early Civil War campaign for the control of the Mississippi River Valley.

• As a result of the awful carnage witnessed by the forces engaged at Shiloh, Southerners and Northerners alike realized for the first time the divided nation faced a long, desperate, and costly war.

• Shiloh's prehistoric cultural resources, the 1862 – 1864 war period cultural landscape, the 1894 – 1933 battlefield commemorative resources, and associated natural resources, retain a high level of integrity.

• Due to extended military encampments and the ferocity of the fighting, Shiloh National Military Park possesses a high concentration of Civil War archeological resources.

• Besides a large National Cemetery and five Confederate burial trenches, the Shiloh Battlefield Unit contains many unmarked battlefield graves from the Civil War, as well as prehistoric burials associated with indigenous aboriginal peoples inhabiting the Shiloh plateau and the Indian mounds.

• Shiloh was the most critical and violent event in an eight-month period struggle to determine control of the strategic railroad junction at Corinth; and, based on numbers and casualties, the most violent battle fought during the Mississippi Valley Campaign. Civil War in the Mississippi Valley affected all aspects of the human experience including civilian displacement, military occupation, overwhelming medical consequences, the African American experience, and the social fabric of the Nation.

• The Battle of Shiloh and the Siege and Battle for Corinth offer important insights into the minds and tactics of numerous military leaders.

• The Shiloh and Corinth battlefield sites and cemeteries fill an important commemorative role in society where park visitors can express reverence and respect for those people who helped form the society we know today.

• Civil War fortifications near Corinth, Mississippi, compose the finest surviving examples of earthworks from the early days of the western theater of the war.

• The Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark, which preserves Woodland to late Mississippian era prehistoric resources, remains one of the best preserved archeological sites in the lower Tennessee Valley. The site is especially significant because it has not been disturbed by the plow or other human developments, leaving it with a relatively intact prehistoric cultural context and valuable archaeological information.

• Shiloh National Military Park is located within the aboriginal homeland of the Chickasaw Nation. The surviving prehistoric mounds located within the park boundary along the Tennessee River offer an opportunity to examine the conflict between native Indian peoples and emigrating colonial European populations from the protohistoric period (1492 – 1750 A.D) through the mid-19th century. The same river that enabled native people to travel and trade was one of the routes used by the United States Government to forcibly move Indian populations from their Southeastern homeland to reservations in the West.

Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes are key ideas or concepts every visitor should understand about the park. They convey meanings and values of nationally significant park resources. Themes provide the foundation for interpretive programs and media at the park. The themes do not include everything we may wish to interpret at the park, but rather the ideas critical to visitor understanding of the park's significance. All interpretive efforts should relate to one or more of the themes and each theme should be addressed in the overall interpretive program. The themes are not listed in priority order; they are numbered for easy reference.

1. The Slavery Debate

The Slavery debate dominated the causes and coming of the Civil War. In 1860, Americans reached a critical point in their long-running national debate concerning whether the United States could continue with both free labor and slave labor systems. Like citizens throughout the country, residents of southwest Tennessee and northeast Mississippi struggled with personal decisions on the question of union. Inability to resolve the deeply divisive political and social issues of the day carried the Nation to the brink of secession. After Lincoln's election, events quickly escalated into a tragic American Civil War, forever changing the lives of individuals and the course of the Nation.

2. Shiloh an Epic Contest

The Battle of Shiloh was an epic contest between large untested armies; it dramatically changed public perception of the war. For many participants, even a notable like William T. Sherman, Shiloh would be the largest battle event they would ever experience.

Sub-themes:
a) The principal military operations and events associated with Shiloh and Corinth illustrate significant changes in strategy, tactics, technology, logistics, transportation, and military leadership.

b) Shiloh and Corinth offer examples of contributions made, and sufferings endured, by soldiers. Exploration of the battlefield provides insight into the effect of geography, terrain, tactics, leadership, and combat effectiveness on the outcome of the battle.

c) In 1862, Corinth, Mississippi, became the most important railroad transportation hub in the western Confederacy. The eight-month contest waged for the control of Corinth proved decisive for the Union cause. Events at Shiloh and Corinth influenced the sequence of Union offensive movements in the western theater, as Northern forces worked to sever the Confederacy by taking control of the Mississippi River.

d) The massive military maneuvers conducted in the Shiloh - Corinth corridor in early 1862 produced the most extensive use of rapid entrenchment (fortification under offensive conditions) yet witnessed in military history. The employment of such new tactics—tactical reliance on field fortifications while conducting a campaign of maneuver—ultimately gave Union forces victory at Corinth, and ushered in an evolution in standard battle practice and trench warfare seen more prominently during later Civil War battles.

e) An under-appreciated resource, Corinth's Civil War fortifications compose some of the finest surviving examples of earthworks erected during the early war in the west.

f) Thanks to the early detailed work of actual battle veterans in establishing a National Military Park, visitors today can retrace the footsteps of Shiloh combatants.

3. The Impact of War on Civilians

The surviving antebellum structures and the site of the contraband camp in Corinth, Mississippi, are tangible reminders of the extreme levels of human suffering during civil war; and reflect the changes that occurred in the social fabric of a community where African-Americans took their first steps from slavery to citizenship.

4. Unresolved Issues

The cost of the American Civil War was high and many issues remain to be resolved. The United States, as we know it today, began not with the revolution of 1776, but rather with the new nation emerging from the Civil War. Park battlefields provide opportunities to contemplate the cost and consequences of a war whose legacy includes an alteration of political power between the states and the Federal government, freedom for African-American slaves and the momentum towards expanded constitutional freedoms for all Americans.

Sub-theme:
The cultural conflict and controversy reflected in the compelling stories at Shiloh National Military Park—evidence of aboriginal warfare, the cultural conquest against and displacement of indigenous peoples by European colonization, the brutal enslavement of African people, and the applied violence and destruction experienced on a massive industrial scale during the Civil War—illustrate the path towards universal liberty and equality under the law—even in American society—has been a tragically long and difficult process.

5. Pre-historic Human History

A millennium ago, a culture of mound builders created an important settlement on the Shiloh bluffs. The numerous ancient ceremonial mounds, scores of prehistoric house sites, and the remains of a palisade erected to defend the village, provide important evidence that a substantial aboriginal population inhabited Shiloh Hill for several hundred years.

Sub-themes:
a) The same natural features that led to military use of Pittsburg Landing by Confederate and Union forces in 1862 earlier influenced prehistoric people to select this site as a place to live.

b) The settlement of America by Europeans brought open conflict with aboriginal populations. The resulting struggle for land ended with the almost complete removal of Indian peoples from their ancestral homelands east of the Mississippi to the Indian Territory in the West. Pain, deception, death, and destruction punctuate this story. However this story also conveys examples of human courage, perseverance, and cultural survival.

c) Shiloh Battlefield's eastern boundary, the Tennessee River, served as a major water route for the Trail of Tears

6. Shared Stewardship

Well over a century of private and public stewardship have preserved Shiloh's nationally significant resources. The vital importance of the natural environment (water, land, vegetation, and wildlife), and the continued protection of prehistoric/historic/sacred sites and resources, for the benefit and welfare of all species, is characterized by the continuum of private and public stewardship efforts to preserve the important diversity of natural and cultural resources comprising the park and neighboring communities.

Visitor Experience Goals

Visitor experience goals describe what physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to Shiloh National Military Park. These experiences will be available to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.



School children explore the significance of the Civil War and how it relates to their lives today, during a visit to the commemorative fountain exhibit at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.

Visitors to Shiloh National Military Park will have opportunities to:

• Visit and understand the meaning and relevance of each park site—Shiloh Battlefield, Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL, the non-contiguous sites of the Corinth Unit, and related partnership sites in Tennessee and Mississippi—to the whole, and individually.

• Learn about park themes in a variety of provocative ways—educational and recreational—appropriate to their age, ability, and experience.

• Develop a new/renewed appreciation for preserved prehistoric and historic sites, and become involved in the preservation of the park.

• Reflect upon and honor the contributions of American soldiers and sailors through contact with park monuments, plaques, features, and commemorative events.

• Make personal connections to Shiloh's complex and controversial stories by tracing the footsteps of an ancestor or participant who:

- lived within the prehistoric village;
- persevered through hardships and cultural oppression endured along the Trail of Tears;

- labored to support a family on an antebellum yeoman farm;
- struggled to cast off the social limitations of slavery and racial prejudice;
- marched forward into the carnage and chaos of a battlefield of the Civil War; or
- found a final resting-place in the Shiloh National Cemetery or in one of the park's many burial grounds.

• Explore the aboriginal mound building culture preserved at Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL free from modern intrusions.

• Contemplate, relax, and enjoy park resources without pressure.

• Have a safe visit.

• Have their comfort needs met.

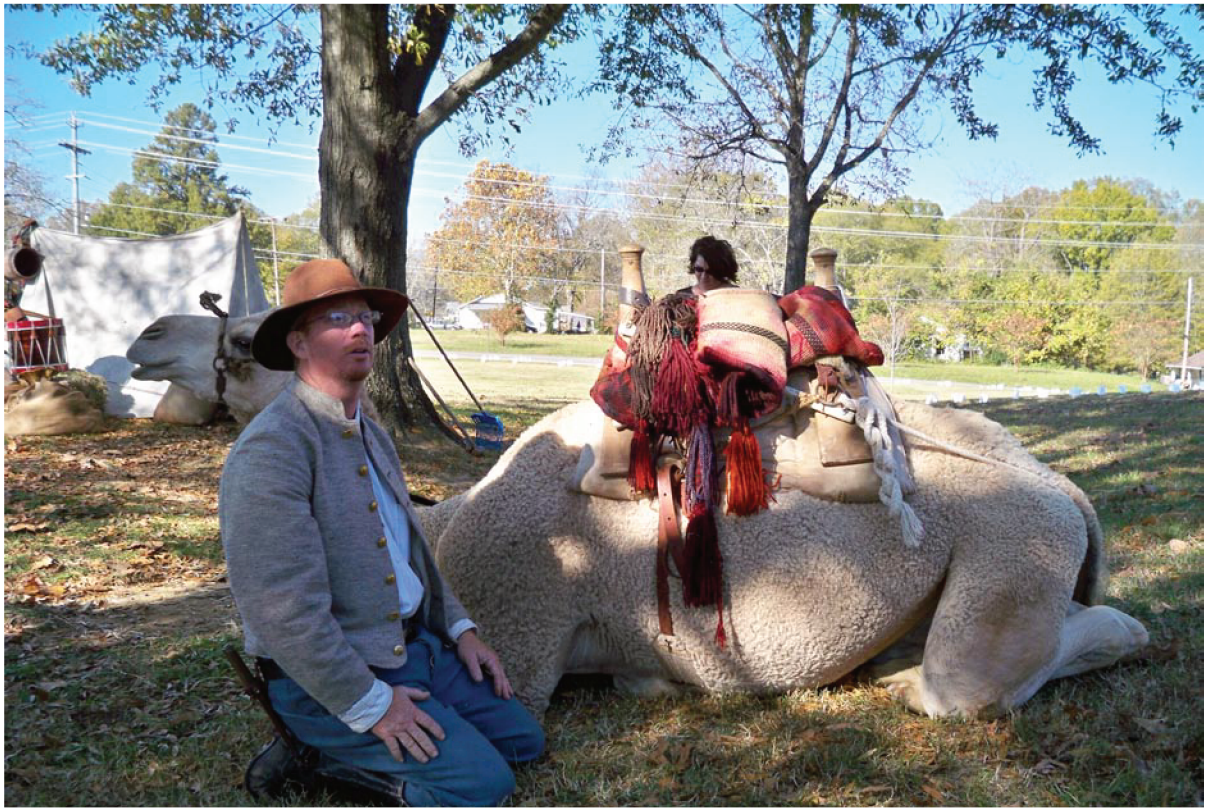
• Acquire information and material to help them learn about themes before and after their visit.

• Experience all park resources regardless of physical ability.

• Find their way around the park without needing to ask for assistance.

• Have the opportunity to interact with the park staff informally and formally.

• Learn the mission of the National Park Service



A living historian representing the 43rd Mississippi Infantry "the camel regiment" presents an interpretive program during the Historic Corinth Grand Illumination weekend activities.

Existing Conditions

Shiloh National Military Park is located in a rural area dominated by small towns and farms. The park is 60 miles from the nearest interstate highway, roughly 90 miles east of Memphis, Tennessee, and 140 miles southwest of Nashville, Tennessee. The park includes two separate units located 25 miles apart. Visitors follow state and county roads to visit the Shiloh Battlefield Unit in Hardin County, Tennessee, and the Corinth Unit in Alcorn County, Mississippi.

This part of the country is steeped in Civil War history, with surviving resources providing visitors many opportunities for discovery and enlightenment. Historic fortifications and trench lines rest upon a landscape recalling important Civil War military events and engagements. The history of Shiloh and the Siege and Battle of Corinth are inextricably intertwined. The units' resources, facilities, and nearby gateway communities provide uniquely different experiences. Visitors should be encouraged to visit each unit to gain full understanding of this piece of the American Civil War story.

The purpose of this section of the document is to provide a brief overview of the facilities comprising each unit.



Location of Shiloh in the region

The Shiloh Battlefield Unit

The Shiloh Battlefield is located in the unincorporated community of Shiloh, in Hardin County, Tennessee. This unit includes roughly 4,200 acres located along the western bank of the Tennessee River. There is one significant in-holding located within the Federal park boundary—Shiloh United Methodist Church and Cemetery. In addition to over 70% of the contested ground, the Shiloh unit contains the ten-acre National Cemetery, 157 monuments, 227 cannon, over 600 historic plaques, and the 47-acre prehistoric Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark. The Visitor Center offers an orientation film on the history of the battle, exhibits, rest room, and an information desk. The park bookstore is located in a separate facility. Primary outdoor facilities include a ten-mile auto-tour along key battlefield points of interest, with interpretive waysides at pull-offs, and a planned one-mile interpretive hiking trail through the pre-historic Indian village.

Tennessee Route 22 goes through the park and connects the park to Savannah, TN, via U.S. 64.

Route 22 was rerouted by the State in the 1960s in order to take traffic away from the core battlefield area while at the same time maintaining the highway route. The state has a 50-acre highway right-of-way. There is a tremendous litter problem along this corridor which the State Highway Department is unable to control. The park staff occasionally organizes litter pick-ups to maintain visual quality along this route.

In cooperation with the Civil War Preservation Trust, the park is negotiating to acquire a 22-acre tract of land within the authorized boundary immediately north of the main entrance to Shiloh Battlefield on Route 22. This site is located along the primary route taken by visitors who pass through the gateway community of Savannah, TN. Savannah is the closest large community to the Shiloh Battlefield Unit. Eleven miles distant, the town offers a variety of visitor services including restaurants, hotels, and shopping. This land acquisition, a high park priority, would permit the park to restore the historic character of this gateway corridor; as well as provide an alternative location for a new visitor center.

In the last two decades the park has made progress in obtaining additional land within the 1894 authorized boundary. In 2008, the Tennessee Historical Commission received a $1.5M enhancement grant to buy land at Shiloh and Fallen Timbers battlefields.



Park rangers and guides, supported by a host of volunteers, assist current generations bridge the expanding cultural gap of relevancy and understanding, which challenge the effective interpretation of the human past with modern experiences.

Historical Background on Savannah, Tennessee

Long before the Civil War put the small community of Savannah on the map, this area was frequented by pre-historic people known today as the Mississippian mound builders. Later this site witnessed events associated with the tragic "Trail of Tears" when Cherokee Indians were forcibly removed from their ancient homeland by the United States government. The first three detachments of Cherokees, about 2,800 persons, were moved west in the summer of 1838. They traveled by water from Ross's Landing (present-day Chattanooga) on the Tennessee River through Alabama and north through western Tennessee, passing by Savannah, Tennessee, on their 1,226 mile journey to the distant Indian Territory. The Cherokees who had signed the treaty of New Echota were moved in a separate detachment, of about 600-700 persons, conducted by John Bell and administered by U.S. Army Lt. Edward Deas. The Treaty Party Cherokees followed a route across southern Tennessee and central Arkansas. Their route took them from Calhoun in October 1838 toward Cleveland, Winchester, Pulaski, Savannah, Bolivar, and Memphis, where they crossed the Mississippi and continued west to Fort Smith and Indian Territory.

Citizens of Savannah, which served as county seat for Hardin County, as well as the vast majority of men in the county, voted against secession at the outbreak of the Civil War. In conducting their expedition up the Tennessee River in the spring of 1862, United States armed forces under the command of Ulysses S. Grant selected this community as an army depot and staging area for both its politics and strategic location on the river. The town provided a good staging point to mount operations aimed at severing western Confederate rail communications. Two of the South's major trunk railroads—the east-west Memphis & Charleston and the north-south Mobile & Ohio—formed the vitally important railroad hub at Corinth, Mississippi, located 28 miles southwest of Savannah. When he arrived on March 17, 1862, Grant established army headquarters in the William H. Cherry home (a national register property known today as the Cherry Mansion), a private residence located along the river overlooking the Savannah ferry landing.

Following the carnage at Shiloh, the small community was overwhelmed with wounded Union soldiers. After the occupation of Corinth, Mississippi, by Union forces on May 30, 1862, Savannah ceased to be an active army depot. For the remainder of the war, the community witnessed only occasional visits by the Union navy or scouting parties of Federal or partisan southern forces. A generation later, in 1894 when Shiloh National Military Park was established, the War Department battlefield commission hired a number of Savannah residents to assist with development of the park. The hardships of the late war slowly lessened as the community began to reap the economic benefits of the military park established nearby. Today, Savannah, the largest city in Hardin County, serves as a gateway community to the park for visitors traveling from the northeast or eastern United States while Adamsville and Selmer, Tennessee, located in nearby McNairy County, stand as gateway communities for visitors approaching the park from the north, northwest, and west.

For over a decade, park managers have worked cooperatively with the city of Savannah and Team Hardin County to promote heritage tourism to the community. The interpretation and preservation talents of the park staff have actively supported creation and development of museum exhibits at the Tennessee River Museum, completion of interpretive hiking trails and wayside exhibits in the city's historic district, and construction of a monument commemorating the army headquarters of Ulysses S. Grant being at Savannah from March 17 to April 6, 1862.

The Corinth Unit

Opened in July 2004, the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center sits on the first designated site within Shiloh National Military Park's Corinth Unit, as authorized by Congress in 2000. Historically, the 17 acre tract was the location of a Union earthen redoubt/lunette known as Battery Robinett. The Civil War Interpretive Center interprets the causes and coming of the Civil War, the Battle of Shiloh, and the battle, siege, and occupations of Corinth, 1862 – 1864. Legislation passed in 2007 expanded the Corinth Unit to about 950 acres in 13 discontiguous sites. Although a NPS Corinth Special Resource Study had initially recommended a much larger expansion (2000 acres in 18 sites in the B alternative), only land previously acquired by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission was brought into the park. In 2008, two other Siege and Battle of Corinth NHL sites included in the 2000 legislation (the Verandah House and Davis Bridge Battlefield) were offered to the park through donation.

Historical Background on Corinth, Mississippi

During the historic period and today, Corinth, Mississippi, sits at the junction of two railroad lines. The Mobile and Ohio railroad runs north/south linking the state of Kentucky to the Gulf of Mexico, while the Memphis and Charleston line runs east/west connecting the Mississippi Valley to the eastern seaboard. The community established at this railroad crossroads was initially named "Cross City". Renamed Corinth in 1856, perhaps as many as 1,200 people lived in the community at the beginning of the Civil War.

In 1861, Corinth was a thriving community providing a key trade outlet for farms of western Tennessee and northeast Mississippi. Ironically for citizens of Corinth, the pre-war commercial advantage of the railroad became a tremendous liability during the war. During the first two years of the Civil War, the focus of military events in the western theater of the war was control of the Mississippi River. In this respect, northern and southern forces vied for possession of Corinth – a gateway community to the valley. Possession of the vital junction permitted logistical advantage in use of the important railroads.



Visitors explore the park's newest facility, The Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, which opened in July 2004.

Corinth changed hands several times during the war. Located deep within the Confederate heartland, southern military forces held Corinth from the secession of Mississippi in January 1861, to the spring of 1862. The community witnessed fierce fighting between massive combatant armies. The most significant conflicts occurring within a six-month period, starting with the titanic clash at Shiloh in April 1862, and ending with an engagement west of Corinth at Hatchie Bridge on October 5, 1862. Abandoned by the Confederates in late May 1862, Corinth was occupied by Union forces until January 1864. Following the withdrawal of the Union garrison, the Confederates reoccupied Corinth, but confronted with incessant Union raids and great shortages in locomotives, rail cars, and suitable supplies of iron rails, southern forces were never able to reestablish and maintain a viable transportation hub.

Conservative tabulations cite as many as 300,000 northern and southern troops and thousands of runaway slaves (officially known as "contrabands" of war by Union authorities) either lived or passed through this tiny railroad community during the war. When the Union army withdrew in early 1864, a number of the commercial buildings holding military value were burned, including the Corona College. Later, in January 1865, in advance of the arrival of the last Federal raiding party to take brief possession of the community, retreating Confederate forces torched all remaining structures possessing any military value. Mercifully, Corinth was spared further violence, and the devastating war ended five months later. In spite of this destruction, a number of the antebellum homes which served as the headquarters or residences of northern and southern generals survived.

Today Corinth is the southern gateway to Shiloh National Military Park. The city is inhabited by 14,000 people and the county population stands at 28,000. The community has a restored and attractive downtown area offering visitors a choice of restaurants and hotels. The Corinth Convention and Visitors Bureau actively promotes area heritage tourism.

Corinth Trail Head Park

This park is city owned. It is the terminus of a bike path and contiguous to the historic railroad crossroads. From this location visitors can see the famous railroad hub – "the crossover." The railroad depot at the junction now serves as the home of the Crossroads Museum. (The depot is not original to the historic period; it is the third structure built at this location.)

Corinth Historic Resources

Four Corinth antebellum structures survived the war: Oak Home, the Fish Pond House, Duncan House, and Verandah House. Each of these homes has a wayside exhibit panel visible from the sidewalk, and they are featured in a walking tour of Corinth publication. All but the Verandah House are in private ownership. The Verandah House has serious foundation and roof problems, and has been closed to the general public for several years. Sufficient funds to complete needed renovation are not available. The city has offered to donate the structure to the NPS, but while agreeing in principle, the NPS prefers to wait until an adequate funding source can be located.



During the Civil War, control of this railroad junction became a significant strategic objective for both the Confederate and Union armies.

Partnerships

Alcorn County, Mississippi and the City of Corinth, Mississippi

The park has partnered with the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, the Corinth Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Crossroads Museum, and the Alcorn County African American Historical Association to research and promote the history of Corinth and Alcorn County, Mississippi.

Chickasaw Nation

Prior to and during the archeological mitigation work at the Indian Mounds, the park consulted frequently with the Chickasaw Nation, and has hosted both individuals and groups from the tribe.

Eastern National

The Shiloh bookstore is operated by Eastern National, a NPS cooperating association. Revenues generated through sales are donated back to the park's interpretive program. Eastern National also manages a sales outlet at the Tennessee River Museum in Savannah, Tennessee, and operates the bookstore at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. The bookstore carries a large variety of thematic publications and related inventory dealing with Shiloh and the western campaign of 1862, the broad context of the Civil War, and the cultural and natural history of the southeastern United States. Interpretive publications cover information on individual battles and campaigns, famous personalities of the Civil War, personal soldier, civilian, and slave narratives, and regimental histories. The bookstore inventory also provides an in-depth Shiloh driving tour on audio cassette/CD, videos, and thematic material for children. The park visitor benefits greatly from the wealth of subject matter publications offered at the bookstore and the subject matter expertise of the sales staff.

Hardin County, Tennessee and the City of Savannah, Tennessee

For more than a decade, the park has partnered with Hardin County and the City of Savannah, Tennessee, providing technical assistance to develop and interpret Native American and Civil War exhibits at the Tennessee River Museum, the Grant Headquarters Monument, and historic markers to and along the riverfront. The next step is to use the successful Corinth/park partnership model to strengthen an important regional alliance between the City of Savannah, Tennessee, the City of Corinth, Mississippi, and Shiloh National Military Park.

National Park Service Partnerships

The park, in cooperation with Harpers Ferry Center and the Southeast Archaeological Center, has developed an expanded interpretive trail and wayside exhibit project for Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL. This effort will materially assist in bringing this important National Historic Landmark more into public focus, and provide opportunities for the visitor to more effectively interact with and learn about the significant prehistoric structures and fascinating culture associated with the aboriginal people who once lived at the site.

Shiloh Military Trails, Inc.

The park maintains a four-decade-old partnership with the Boy Scout based Shiloh Military Trails Inc., which operates a series of organized hiking trails on Shiloh Battlefield where participants can earn a number of patches. Participants obtain trail literature directly from the organization. This series of trails incorporates historic park roads into thematic trails. Trail users follow a prescribed route across the park, answering questions based on information provided from monuments, markers, museum exhibits, and the park orientation film. Since 1960, almost two million individuals have taken part in this program.

Tennessee River Museum

The Tennessee River Museum (TRM) in Savannah is operated by a board of directors under Team Hardin County, which functions as a local tourism and economic development association. The museum serves as the primary public space to interpret the history of the lower Tennessee River Valley, especially in Hardin County and Savannah, Tennessee. The park has a cooperative agreement with the museum. The park worked with the TRM board to plan and design the museum exhibits and has loaned several items from the park collection, as well as arranged for a loan of objects from the U.S.S. Cairo Gunboat collection, at Vicksburg National Military Park. Any visitor paying the entrance fee at Shiloh Battlefield may visit without paying the TRM required entrance fee. The park's cooperating association manages the bookstore sales outlet for the museum.

A majority of TRM visitors come to the museum after visiting the Shiloh Battlefield Unit, and sales receipts indicate that two-thirds of the museum's revenue comes from their "Shiloh pass" visitors. In 2008, the TRM began consturcting an additional wing dedicated to the area's prehistoric past.

Visitor Profiles

For future planning needs, during the February 2005 workshop the planning team defined four categories of visitors: the novice, the intermediate visitor, the "enthusiast/or Civil War Expert (here referred to as "the buff"), and students/ scouts. The team identified (1) what qualities and needs each group shares, and outlined (2) what is the "ideal" visitor experience the park should provide for each group discussed.

The "Novice" Visitor

Generally:

• Demonstrates an interest in the Civil War by their very presence in the park, but they may have limited knowledge of the subject.

• Has lots of questions and is unsure about many things related to Civil War period.

• May have limited time.

• May be interested in just a quick cruise through the park – "a passport stamper"

• Frequently comes in family groups during the summer season.

Ideal Experience: Novice Visitor

- Understand the basics:
  - Who fought
  - When they fought
  - Why they fought
  - Impacts of the battle

- Navigate through the park with ease and understand visitor options.

- See the highlights of Shiloh battlefield (Pittsburg Landing, Fraley Field, Hornet's Nest, Shiloh Church, Indian Mounds), as well as sites in and around Corinth.

- Develop a desire to learn more about the Civil War.

The "Intermediate" Visitor

The intermediate visitor is frequently:

• A repeat visitor.

• Comes as part of an organized group with some connection or understanding of the park.

• A summer visitor who planned the visit in advance, stays longer, and attends several ranger programs, if offered.

• Has an ancestor(s) who participated in the battle; they are seeking detailed information at the "buff level".

• Is a park neighbor with out of town guests.

• A local/regional resident attending park sponsored special events.

Ideal Experience: Intermediate Visitor

- Participate in programs that help build upon basic knowledge of the Civil War. For example provide an orientation program on the troop position markers; build in challenges that demonstrate to visitors how to use them in order to gain a broader understanding of a particular site on the battlefield. Or, more detailed programs that address participants – the common soldier experience, and the impact of the battle on civilians or Slaves.

- Participate in lengthier tour options and/or routes.

- Understand the use of the park research facilities located in the Corinth and Shiloh Visitor Centers, and know how to access the computer program "CW Soldiers and Sailors" or the park's monument location program.

- Utilize Shiloh Battlefield audio tour CD.

- Utilize a future tour guide service program when developed.

- Utilize site bulletins on a variety of park topics.

The Enthusiast (traditionally called a Civil War "Buff")

The "buff" generally:

• Is highly educated and knowledgeable about "the war."

• Can come as either an individual or in a group that shares an interest in the Civil War.

• Is economically secure.

• Often has military experience.

• Likely to have visited the park before.

• Has an expectation of how to experience park resources.

• Likely to be an unaccompanied male.

Ideal Experience: the Enthusiast

- An in-depth tour with a subject matter expert – can be an NPS employee, noted author/historian, or an academic. This service could be NPS provided or commercially provided.

- Provide access to detailed information in park archives.

School / Youth Groups

• Usually contact the park in advance in order to take advantage of the fee waiver program.

• Frequently request a ranger-led tour. (The park can only accommodate 1/3 of these requests.)

• Mostly from within a two hour radius of the park (primarily Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, a smaller number from Arkansas and Missouri)

• Primarily elementary grade students, with some high school students, and an increasing number of home schooled students.

• Spend four to five hours in the park and have lunch in the park's designated picnic area.

Ideal Experience: School / Youth Groups

- An expanded number of programs are offered to serve this much "underserved" audience.

- A mixture of staff/teacher led curriculum based education programs developed collaboratively with teachers to meet Tennessee/Mississippi State Learning Objectives. New programs tie specifically to the park's resources and primary themes.

- Specific programs are developed for elementary, middle, and high school groups. These programs excite students' curiosity about the resource, its ongoing protection, and the discovery of the "unknown" - what the park continues to learn about participants and the impact that the Civil War had on their lives.

- Teacher workshops are planned and developed in support of the program.

- Teachers receive certification for workshop program participation through a future park/university certification program.

- All materials developed are free and available for any group to use and are posted on the park website to encourage long-distance learning for teachers and students unable to come to the park.

- The park has a separate educational facility so that this major group can move through the park facilities without competing with the general visitor for space/staff resources.

General Assessment:

The park is fortunate to have a veteran staff able to provide significant anecdotal information on the visitors that come to Shiloh National Military Park. Prior to the August 2002 workshop, the staff developed a detailed description of the various user groups that come to the park. Many of the recommendations to improve visitor services come from this detailed profile – located in Appendix E-1. Appendix E-2 provides trip planning information useful for the development of future interpretive media.

• Any increase in programs and services will require additional money for interpretive staff.

• The park's current visitation is fairly "homogeneous"– mostly white, middle class visitors. However, school and scout groups bring a tremendous diversity of young visitors to the park. The park would like to work more closely with this group by providing more ranger led programs, and through these more personalized experiences, reach their extended families by encouraging return visits to the park following a successful field trip/educational experience.

• Much can be done through personal services to better serve the four general categories of visitors identified.

• During the peak visitor season, the park provides a range of programs and many free site bulletins. The park needs to do a better job of letting visitors know their range of choices. It would be best if this information was easily accessible and did not require a conversation at the visitor information desk, as many visitors do not come in the Visitor Center to pay the fee.

• Currently the interpretive media best able to meet the needs of the buff are the sales offerings at the bookstore (maps, books, audio tape tour, etc.)

• In regards to the information provided, all interpretive media should meet the needs of all four visitor categories.

Recommendations: Parkwide

Interpretive planning analyzes all needs and recommends a wide array of interpretive facilities, media, programs, services and partnerships to communicate in the most efficient and effective way a park's purpose, significance, and values. Recommendations are designed to realize the visions, objectives, themes, and visitor experiences previously outlined in the Planning Foundation section of the document. Recommendations should guide the development of personal services and facility and media design.

Common to All Interpretation

The following principles will apply to all interpretation at Shiloh National Military Park:

• All interpretation will address physical and programmatic accessibility.

• Where possible, interpretation will use objects and documented personal examples to bring the story alive for visitors.

• Where possible, the park will partner with neighboring institutions and tribal consultants to develop programs, media, share research, etc.

• The park will implement Servicewide sign program standards as signage and interpretive media are upgraded.

• Interpretation will include examples and perspectives from diverse points of view and incorporate the most current research.

• Where possible, "virtual visitors" will have opportunities to view key vistas and gain access to new research, studies, management plans, and historical information.

This section of the document will first address park wide recommendations that need to be addressed immediately. Specific media recommendations will be discussed within the context of each unit – the Shiloh Battlefield Unit and the Corinth Unit.

Personal Services: Operational Requirements

• Work with NPS Congressional Liaison Office to insure that the legislation for Corinth includes a base funding increase. Develop program requests through the NPS budgetary process to increase base funding for Shiloh National Military Park that reflects parkwide needs for resource protection, interpretation and visitor services, maintenance, and administrative requirements through the development of Operations Formulation System requests. In the interim continue to:

- Plan the parkwide Interpretive Program based on funded positions. Each unit to develop a work plan to support the delivery of the parkwide interpretive program. The plan should (1) Define what is the basic level of service and programs each unit will provide based on existing staffing constraints. (2) Identify any new programs or special events to be undertaken. (3) Explore opportunities to develop new parkwide collaborative programs to raise identity and foster regional tourism.

- Recognize that until a significant funding increase is received for interpretation and visitor services any significant expansion to the interpretive program is unlikely. In fact, the park may experience a significant reduction in the popular program offerings as the "buying power" of the current budget decreases. While this plan includes recommendations to develop a variety of new programs for each unit, the ability to carry out these new ideas is dependent on an infusion of new money for interpretive staffing.



Ranger Ashley celebrates the accomplishments of a new Junior Ranger, while another family member captures the moment.

Pre-visit and Arrival Experience

Information will continue to be made available by telephone, mail, and the internet. The staff will work with community leaders and park partners to market Shiloh National Military Park as a significant attraction in the region's developing heritage tourism program.

• Provide consistent visitor trip planning information whether visitors call Corinth or Shiloh or check the park website.

• Treat Shiloh and Corinth resources as an interpretive whole. The stories are interrelated so their presentation to the public should be presented that way as well. Directional signage/wayfinding should be consistent with this philosophy.

• Stress the importance of visiting both units and provide historical orientation and overview at both locations. These are shared sites with shared visitors.

• Work with the National Park Service's Center for Media Services (HFC) to develop a parkwide publication which presents the three primary units to be interpreted at Shiloh National Military Park—the Shiloh Battlefield Unit, the multiple sites of Corinth Unit, and the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL– in a single unified publication (the Unigrid brochure).

• Develop unit specific and parkwide trip planning recommendations. Planning tips should be based on planned length of stay, the unique experiences each unit offers, and the time needed to complete any recommended experience. Trip planning recommendations may range from 2-hours to 2-days. Staff should field test each recommended experience so realistic time estimates are given. Future trip planning information can be included in staff/volunteer training and park media. (See Appendix E-2.)

Note: Although it may not be practical for all visitors, the ideal Shiloh National Military Park experience will begin at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, which interprets the park's entire Civil War history.

Most visitors begin their park visit at Shiloh Battlefield; and, it is expected that this trend will continue. There are compelling visitor and interpretive needs at the Shiloh Unit that warrant the expansion of interpretive facilities and new interpretive media, in addition to what is provided at Corinth.

Recommendations: Unit Specific – Shiloh

Shiloh Battlefield Unit

Arrival Experience

Help visitors find their way from the battlefield entrances to the Shiloh Visitor Center with well-placed directional signs. Incorporate sign needs into parkwide sign plan (both interpretive and wayfinding). A sign at the Pittsburg Landing Road & Highway 22 intersection should point the way to:

- Shiloh Battlefield Visitor Center
- Shiloh National Cemetery
- Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark

• Place a sign at the Visitor Center building indicating the building's purpose.

• Develop an outdoor kiosk/visitor information station to provide basic park information for visitors when the Visitor Center is closed. This outdoor exhibit should summarize the significance of the park, provide basic park information and outline trip planning alternatives with suggested time it takes to complete the experience.

For example (1) the driving tour of Shiloh Battlefield, (2) a visit to Shiloh Indian Mounds, (3) location of restrooms and park bookstore, (4) Other amenities, hours of operation, or other park specific trip destinations that are important to include such as the Shiloh National Cemetery or basic information about the Corinth Unit. Planning for this outdoor kiosk should be part of the future parkwide wayside exhibit plan.



Shiloh Visitor Center

Visitor Center

SHORT-TERM

• Improve the hands-on uniform exhibit/ children's area with the following additions:

- An image of properly dressed solder so visitors can put the clothes on correctly
- Labels and/or descriptions of items
- A photograph of the contents of the haversack.

• Redesign the park map panel opposite the information desk as a "trip planning panel" to foster visitor independence (This need is especially important during periods when there are long lines at the visitor center desk). The panel should outline park experiences offered and include the length of time it takes to complete each experience. Build in to the panel a changeable "programs today" section – so the staff can post seasonal programs and events, and the times they are offered.

• Develop an exhibit on the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL for the Visitor Center lobby area. It is important to raise visitor awareness of this National Landmark site that is protected, yet hidden within the battlefield. A separate exhibit will raise public awareness and promote the site as a destination.

LONG-TERM

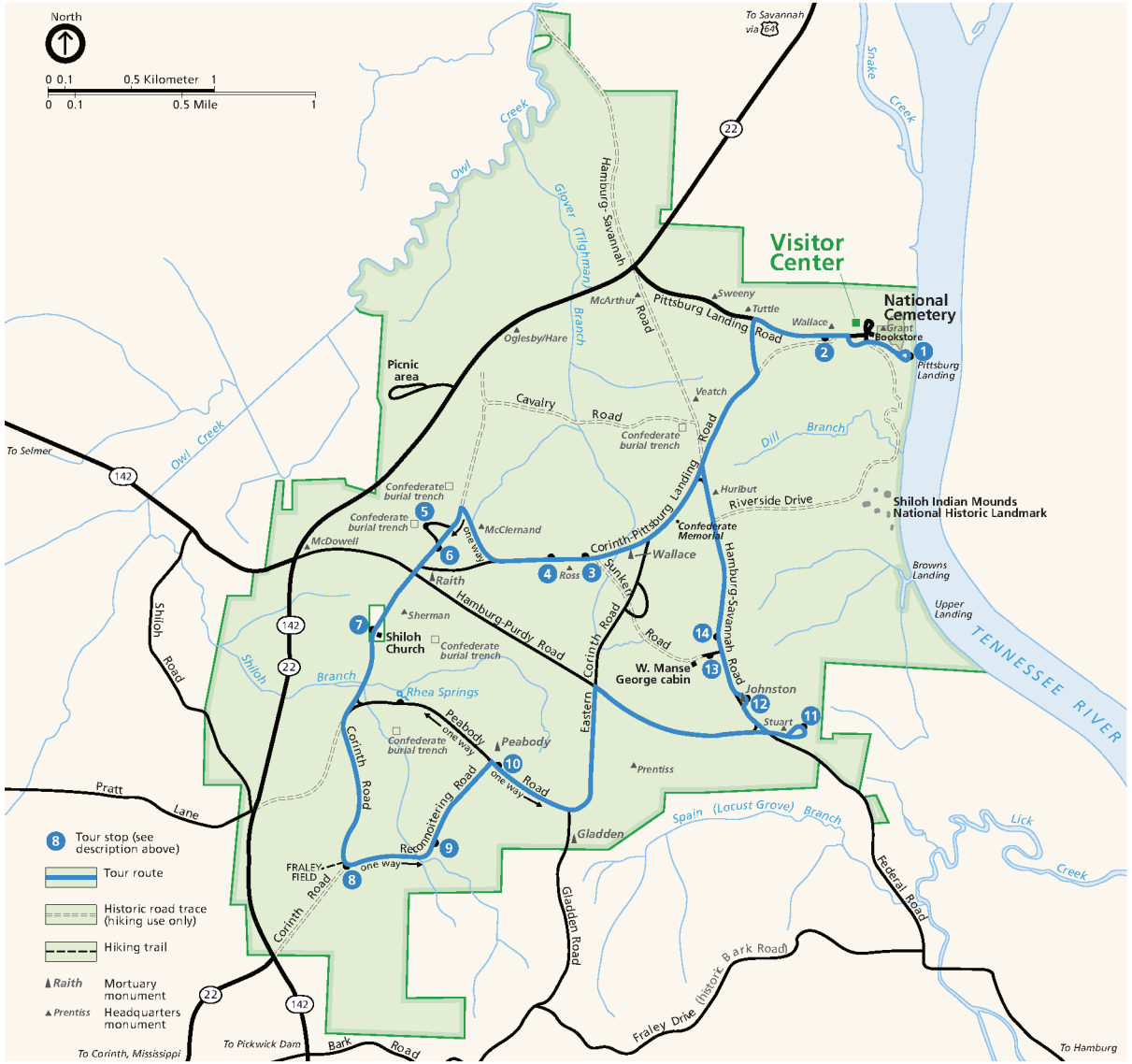
• Seek funding to support the planning, design and construction of a new Shiloh Battlefield Visitor Center auditorium. This improved facility would house a replacement for the park's 50-year old orientation film, "Shiloh: Portrait of a Battle" [aka, "the longest running film in the history of Tennessee]. (The present auditorium can then be utilized as an educational/ activity center, or a location for additional exhibits.)

Future exhibits need to address the expert and non-expert audience and provide a meaningful experience for both. A possible exhibit treatment is the use of an "object theater," a space that mixes sound, lights, objects, and dioramas to bring a story alive. Throughout the presentation, particular pieces of the scene are illuminated by a spotlight. The abstract ideas of the story are connected with the physical form of the artifacts. This type of exhibit would enhance the visitor's appreciation of the historic artifacts. This theatrical approach may help to also bring alive the personalities involved in the battle, while avoiding some of the prohibitive costs of working with reenactors.

The main feature that Shiloh has that the other locations and partners do not is the preserved landscape. The exhibits should focus on helping the visitor to understand the landscape, its features, the influence of the features on the history and the battle, and the efforts to preserve the battlefield and surrounding lands. There are currently battle tactical maps exhibited, a common inquiry is "Where are we on the map?" New exhibits should address this interest. Providing a topographic model of the landscape would also help the visitor to decide "What do I do first?"

• Convert the existing Visitor Center auditorium into an Education Center. The park requires a separate space to deliver a K-12 curriculum based education program. Each year 10,000 students come to Shiloh Battlefield. The arrival of school groups frequently coincides and conflicts with the arrival of the general visitor. While the park makes every attempt to serve both audiences, it is impossible to plan and deliver age appropriate programs because the park has no separate indoor facilities available to stage programs. New educational program development is hampered by a lack of facilities for visitors and staff. (Note: during building re-design widen doorways for wheelchair accessibility.)

• Eliminate the entrance fee to Shiloh Battlefield. Four separate entrances to the core battlefield make it impractical to collect an entrance fee at any location(s) other than the Visitor Center. The fee is a disincentive for visitors to enter the Visitor Center and avail themselves of available information and interpretation. Also, the NPS cannot charge a fee to commuters passing through the battlefield or to visitors to the National Cemetery.



Map of Shiloh Battlefield Driving Tour, showing 14 stops

Battlefield (Driving) Tour

Facility

Recent construction work by the Federal Highway Administration has altered traffic flow, while paving an additional mile and a half of historic roadway. Interpretive planning is needed to incorporate these new features into the Shiloh Battlefield driving tour route.

- Determine the best locations to add tour stops for the new visitor route to be added through the paving of Cavalry Road and the unpaved section of Sherman Road, starting at the Hamburg-Savannah Road north of the Michigan Monument, proceeding west across Tilghman Branch into Jones Field, then south to the paved section of Sherman Road near Water Oaks Pond.

- Develop a site plan for all pull-off areas. Formalize the pull-offs to lessen resource damage created by vehicles on turf and visitor social trails to waysides. Stripe pull-offs to organize parking area and provide bicycle racks. This change will promote several park objectives by (1) improving wheelchair accessibility for visitors that want to get out to the key vista and read the wayside panel; (2) reducing unnecessary resource damage; and (3) will promote the use of bicycles for battlefield site-seeing.

• Seek funding to construct paved parking pull-off areas with established visitor trail routes to improved waysides at each battlefield tour stop.

Visitor Experience

LONG-TERM:

• Provide interpretive media and personal services to reflect three levels of users: the novice, the intermediate, and the buff. When ready to implement changes, inform visitor of range of services. Here is an outline of the future planned visitor experience:

- The novice visitor will follow the Shiloh Battlefield tour using the signed/ designated parking pull-offs. Each site on the tour will have a path to the primary vista with an interpretive wayside panel to convey significant information.

- The intermediate visitor will be informed of the availability of the Shiloh Battlefield CD/cassette audio tour available for purchase in the park bookstore, guidebooks, and when it becomes available, GPS and cell phone based media programs.

- The buff will use, in addition to the above interpretive media options, the historical troop position plaques placed by the War Department.

• In addition to the aforementioned media options, the park will provide staff conducted programs geared for all three levels of users. Future more intense program offerings will be led by the Shiloh Battlefield Unit ranger staff or licensed guides.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

• Change the name of the "auto/driving tour" to "Battlefield Tour".

• Redesign auto-tour signs using a more visible color. The existing signs are very difficult to see during the fall/winter months because the current color choice causes the signs to blend in to the landscape.

• Eliminate the thumbnail descriptions for the Shiloh battlefield tour from Shiloh National Military Park brochure. Park visitors are already using the auto tour route signs and waysides independently. Elimination of this component in the park brochure will allow for more space to interpret both units, include a brief description of the Shiloh Indian Mounds, and provide needed space to include any broader historical context necessary to assist visitor understanding.

• Coordinate the tour name change with the changes made to the park brochure and wayside exhibits.

1) Explain in the park brochure a) along the historic roads within the battlefield there are designated parking areas to visit key battlefield sites, b) tour route signs indicate the suggested route to follow, and c) waysides at each location provide more in depth information about the site.

2) Include a graphic of the tour route sign so visitors know what to look for while driving.

3) Provide information about the availability of the audio tour for purchase.

4) Add a photograph and explanation of the historical battlefield plaques placed by the War Department's original Shiloh Park Commission.

Inclusion of the audio tour and historic plaques in the park brochure will inform visitors about other tools available to understand the site. This will help to facilitate visitor growth from novice to buff.

Recommendations: Unit Specific – Shiloh

Battlefield Tour Interpretive Media

SHORT-TERM:

• A team from HFC Publications will work with the park to completely redesign the park Unigrid folder in 2009. The brochure should include information on how to use web based resources such as the Shiloh Monument Location System.

• Plan new wayside exhibits for newly paved Cavalry and Sherman roads, and test their validity with temporary site bulletins before fabricating waysides.

• Update the Eastern National Battle of Shiloh audio tour to include the Cavalry-Sherman Road addition to the battlefield tour route.

LONG-TERM:

• Seek funding to plan and design new wayside exhibits for the Shiloh Battlefield tour. This project should be part of a larger parkwide wayside exhibit proposal.

• Remove outdated audio stations when new wayside exhibits are installed.

• Remove thumbnail description text of the self-guiding tour of Shiloh Battlefield from the park brochure when new waysides are in place. (This effort should coincide with a re-design of the park Unigrid brochure.)

• Create a site bulletin for the Shiloh Battlefield Tour. Have the new publication easily available for any visitor that will experience the battlefield from their car only (mobility impaired visitors).

• Redesign the "Shiloh Monument Location System" website to make it compatible with the NPS website and more user-friendly.

Battlefield Personal Services

• Continue providing location specific, theme related programs throughout the park as staffing levels permit.

• Weave into ranger-led programs information on how visitors may use the Shiloh National Military Park Commission's commemorative plaques (troop position markers) as an interpretive tool.

• Institute a licensed guide program managed by Shiloh National Military Park. Park staff would provide training with subject matter experts and operate the licensing program. The park would identify the types of programs offered (and level of difficulty) according to park themes and visitor needs, from novice to buff.



Other New Program Ideas to Interpret Shiloh Battlefield:

• Conduct programs at the William Manse George Cabin to interpret civilian aspects of the battle.

• Conduct an event featuring Savannah and Corinth as opposing headquarters sites. Through creative scheduling and staged interpretive programming opportunities encourage in visitors the need/desire to visit both areas to experience the entire program.



Grand Illumination partner event at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.

Interpretive Media

Orientation Film

SHORT-TERM:

Convert the best available film copy of Shiloh: Portrait of a Battle to DVD format, and play it on a large-screen monitor. Use a live introduction to put the 50-year old program into context. The film remains an important tool in presenting visitors the battle story in chronological order, something they need to understand before they tour the battlefield as the order of the self-guiding tour does not follow the sequence of the two-day battle. The tour path is very confusing for the first time visitor seeking to understand the layout of the park and the battle. Visitors should see the orientation movie first to get the big picture, and then go out into the park to understand what happened where.

• Seek funding to create a new orientation film for the Shiloh Battlefield Unit. The new film should focus on the Battle of Shiloh, as well as on the effects the battle had on both participants and local residents.

The poignant points that could be explored within the framework of a film are:

- Shiloh was one of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War.

- Because the Battle of Shiloh occurred early on, the carnage of this battle was a shock and realization that this war would not end quickly or without the loss of many lives.

- Strategically, the Union victory at Shiloh helped to define the outcome of the war, and certainly control of the western theater.

- The Battle of Shiloh was a determining factor in shaping Grant's future role in the Civil War.

Film production should be in high definition format and coincide with construction of a suitable auditorium. Development of a new Shiloh film in terms of both themes and production values must take into consideration existing AV programs at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. (This project is now underway, at this writing.)

Recommendations: Unit Specific – Shiloh

Publications: HFC Produced Unigrid Brochure

SHORT-TERM:

• In 2009 a HFC team will redesign and expand the Shiloh Battlefield Unit brochure to interpret parkwide resources and visitor experiences at Shiloh Battlefield, the Corinth Unit, and the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL.

- This exercise should look at the broader publications program (park produced site bulletins and partner free publications). Since together these publications comprise a family of brochures, look at what information is covered in which folders; and then, use these observations to help assess what is the role and function of the HFC brochure in the parkwide visitor experience.

- Future Unigrid brochure use: assess what is the most critical information visitors must have to enjoy both units independently – no matter at which unit they begin their visit.

- Incorporate critical trip planning information.

- Incorporate visitor and resource safety information.

- Request HFC Publications to develop a start-up publication for the Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL. (Example: use Cedar Creek/Belle Grove Unigrid brochure for design format.) The publication should: (1) summarize the current scholarship on the Indian Village site and its people, (2) provide information on the 1.2-mile interpretive walking tour through the Mounds site, and (3) inform visitors of related opportunities at the Tennessee River Museum.

LONG-TERM:

• Evaluate Shiloh Indian Mounds "start-up brochure" to see if the format is still appropriate; or should it be expanded to a full-fledged Unigrid brochure.

Publications: Park Produced Site Bulletins

SHORT-TERM:

• Update site bulletin on United States Colored Troops

LONG-TERM:

• Review, edit and redesign all site bulletins to reflect NPS graphic standards for publications and substantial new research undertaken at Shiloh Military Park. The in-house publications program has not kept up with these changes.

Signage

• Redesign auto-tour signs using a more visible color. The existing signs are very difficult to see during the fall/winter months because the current color choice causes the signs to blend in to the landscape.

LONG-TERM:

• Maintain the War Department era commemorative plaques (troop position markers). The plaques often suffer damage due to human activity or environmental conditions. The original markers are made of cast iron. They are located both on and off park property and require painting every three years.

• Maintain general agreements or memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the states of Tennessee and Mississippi to (1) provide signs for wayfinding along the road corridors between the Shiloh and Corinth Units, and (2) ensure public access to the War Department commemorative plaques (troop position markers) and wayside pullouts at historic sites located along these corridors.

• Develop a parkwide sign plan. There needs to be a complete renovation of informational, directional, and traffic control signage. This program includes the need to develop new entrance signs for both park units and associated sites.

Waysides

SHORT-TERM:

• Replace any damaged waysides through the HFC Minor Rehab Program.

• Develop a PMIS request to support the planning and production of a parkwide wayside exhibit program to replace waysides in the Shiloh Battlefield Unit and develop new waysides for the sites in the Corinth Unit.

• Evaluate the existing Shiloh Battlefield waysides to determine their effectiveness and the number of new waysides needed; this work should be accomplished in tandem with the submittal of the PMIS wayside project funding request to insure a more accurate cost estimate. Contact HFC for assistance with cost-estimating. Experienced interpreters should judge if each panel now in service still performs a relevant interpretive function. The evaluation includes:

- Consider the viewshed. Can one still easily see the view that the existing wayside was designed to interpret? Or has the view disappeared with the maturing of forests or a generation meadow plant succession?

- Evaluate text and graphics: if the story is still vital to good interpretation at that specific site, and there is a view still maintained, the next question to explore is: "are there now better graphics in existence available to tell that particular site-specific story than the originals?" Is the text as now seen adequate, or should it be adjusted? Are there new quotes available due to more recent research that could strengthen the impact of the wayside?

- Collect the most commonly asked questions from the park staff spending the most time face to face with visitors. Often this set of questions is a fertile jumping-off point for identifying potential new wayside exhibit storylines. Park staff will uncover gaps in the stories presented while wayside evaluation is underway. Once determined, discuss "where is the best location to interpret," and identify what graphics are needed to tell the story. Add these waysides to the inventory identifying the number of waysides to fund.

- Update PMIS cost estimate to reflect total number of waysides needed for Shiloh. (Note: the need to produce waysides for the Cavalry Tour Road addition may precede the funding for a parkwide wayside exhibit proposal and plan.)

Recommendations: Unit Specific – Shiloh

LONG-TERM:

• Install parkwide new waysides for Shiloh National Military Park. This project addresses two distinct needs: 1) to plan new waysides to interpret any new stories and sites, and 2) to replace the present waysides, bringing them up to national standard. This project will require new artwork.

- New standard frames should be purchased so that replacement panels can be easily slid into place.

- Work with park maintenance staff in design phase to consider installation needs during the planning cycle. This project will follow or coincide with a project to improve all battlefield pull-off parking areas.

- Obtain use rights to any new art/ graphics created during the project design process so that the NPS or other educational organizations will have no limitations on their future use. Any new art or electronic simulations of the encampments on a grand, panoramic scale should be created first with the need to be effective as waysides in mind. But there is ample opportunity to include the products in future publications, curricula, websites, or other visual venues.

Website

• Maintain website according to Servicewide standards. Keep information current. Add trip planning information, special programs and events and other important visitor information affecting visitor use. Provide links to key partner areas.

• Consult with HFC for cost-estimate to re-program the "Monument Program" in a software format compatible with NPS website standards.

Shiloh Indian Mounds

Some of the recommendations for interpretation of the Mounds are incorporated in to other sections of this document. For cohesiveness, this section identifies all recommendations that involve this important National Landmark site.

• Complete design of the final pavilion exhibits. The pavilion exhibits should establish the visitor understanding of the resource: setting the stage for the trail and serving as an alternative for those unable to take the walking tour. The exhibits could offer more than just text panels for the interpretation of the site. (See Zion example.) Tactile models can be incorporated into the exhibits to show possible items such as adornments and tools. Topographic models might be used to explain the layout of the site. The exhibit should point out important features of this landscape that led to the development of the community at this location to help visitors understand the long-term use of the area by many people. Design tactical models of mounds for display in orientation shelter. Seek input from Chickasaw Nation on how to interpret their history from the time of removal to the present.

• After scholarly analysis of the Mounds mitigation archeology is completed, a review of the wayside panels should be conducted.

• Create a new HFC start-up publication for the Shiloh Indian Mounds. (Example: Cedar Creek/Belle Grove Unigrid brochure for design format.) The publication should: (1) summarize the current scholarship on the Indian Village site and its people, (2) provide information on the 1.2-mile interpretive walking tour through the Mounds site, and (3) inform visitors of related opportunities at the Tennessee River Museum.

• Develop a marketing display on the Shiloh Indian Mounds and Mound Builders for the Shiloh Visitor Center. It is important to raise visitor awareness of this National Landmark site that is protected, yet hidden within the battlefield. A separate exhibit will raise public awareness and promote the site as a destination.



Artist Martin Pate depicts the aboriginal Mississippian village (Above) at Shiloh, based on evidence from recent archaeological investigations at Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark (Right).

• Include interpretation of Shiloh Indian Mounds in the revised Shiloh National Military Park parkwide brochure.

• Work with Eastern National and the Southeast Archeological Center to determine if there is enough information to develop an audio tour of the Mounds that broadens interpretation beyond the waysides. If so, consult with Chickasaw Nation during program development.

• Hold a subject matter/interpretive/educational planning session with members of the Shiloh staff, the Southeast Archeological Center, and the Chickasaw Nation to discuss development of an ongoing personal services and special events program to interpret the mounds. Seek ideas for how to integrate the site in to the future curriculum-based education program.



Recommendations: Unit Specific – Corinth

The Corinth Unit

Overall Unit Recommendations

• The experience of African-Americans in wartime Corinth is poorly documented. Since the people inhabiting the Corinth Contraband Camp moved to nearby Memphis, Tennessee, in early 1864, it is possible descendants of Contraband Camp and United States Colored Troops (USCT) participants may visit the park as part of a personal pilgrimage. The possibility of African-American descendants arriving with oral histories to share or related historical artifacts to show is very exciting. Provide training for the entire ranger staff on how to properly record and document oral histories about the descendants of the contraband camps and the United States Colored Troops. This will draw new audiences to the park that are interested and connected to that story.

• Invite the public to share any leads or knowledge of related historical materials that they have come across in other places or connected to their family history that is specific to Corinth. This approach suggests shared stewardship of a story to an audience that has frequently been overlooked and may produce interesting results for the park and the greater public at large. This approach also indicates that the park has a dynamic research program and is open to collaboration with other institutions that share this research interest and may provide future opportunities with scholars and academia.

• Include in the future parkwide wayside exhibit plan the thirteen non-contiguous sites making up the Corinth Unit.

• Provide technical assistance to the City of Corinth as they rehabilitate and repair the Verandah House, an integral component of the Civil War experience in Corinth. The City of Corinth has offered to donate the house to the National Park Service.



Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center

• Work with the Davis Bridge Foundation to develop strong partnerships interpreting the action at Hatchie River as the final phase of the October Battle of Corinth.

• Continue to work with the Corinth community to promote and host special events at the Interpretive Center.

• Develop an interpretive plan for the Corinth Contraband Camp site following the installation of the six bronze statues.

• Foster relationships with local stakeholders; Tourism, Main Street, Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth, Corinth and Alcorn County School Districts, etc.

• Work with the local business community to use the Corinth Grand Illumination as a tool in promoting Heritage Tourism in the area.

• Develop a wayside exhibit at Robinett with transparent window to superimpose 1862 Battery Robinett image on the present landscape.

Arrival Experience

• Place sign near parking lot entrance indicating there is a visitor drop-off area. This will allow visitors to drop off family members in inclement weather or if there are any mobility problems.

• Construct an outdoor kiosk/visitor information station that provides basic park information for visitors when the Interpretive Center is closed. This outdoor exhibit should summarize the significance of the park, provide basic park information and outline trip planning alternatives with suggested time it takes to complete the experience. Information on other sites in the Corinth Unit should be included in this outdoor exhibit. Planning for this outdoor kiosk should be part of the future parkwide wayside exhibit plan.

• Foster visitor independence in the Visitor Center. Develop a trip/experience planning area or panel away from the VC desk for visitors to get needed information.

• Implement site specific sign recommendations in to future parkwide sign plan. The planning team identified some signs to include in this plan:

- Hours of operation at the entrance sign.

Visitor Center

Public Research Room

• Place lettering on the glass panel entrance identifying the "Visitor Research Library."

• Create a sign indicating: the staff will provide orientation to the equipment or reference facilities to all who enter.

• Place one computer inside public research room available for public use.

Exhibits

• Make touch screen exhibits and listening stations ADA compliant.

Audiovisual Presentations

• Place directional speakers in mini-theaters to contain sound in theater area to reduce the extra noise in the exhibit area.

• Make improvements to the room where the audio visual presentation "Shiloh: Shattered Peace" is shown:

- Place an easily removable bench in center of theater for visitors unable to stand over 10 minutes

• Complete development of "Crossroads" AV presentation for the auditorium.

Personal Services

In the four years of operation, the staff has endeavored to move beyond providing basic information and orientation. The park staff has:

• Developed interpretive programs, site bulletins, and a Junior Ranger Program;

• Assists visitors with research requests and additional information on Civil War sites in the area; and

• Created itineraries and programs for schools to assist with curriculum goals. Many schools in the area visit the Interpretive Center every year. Area schools are beginning to utilize the Center as an educational resource.



New park interpretive programs target area students.

Staff will continue to develop interpretive programs and enhance programs now in place. Here are the future programs they hope to research and provide (some of these programs are currently in their pilot phase). Program ideas:

• From Battery Robinett give a talk on the importance of the railroad to the Union and Confederate armies, the impact of the railroad on the Civil War, and "why Corinth". If possible, schedule these talks when train traffic is generally scheduled to pass by in order to take advantage of the dramatic sound reinforcement to the story.

• Continue to enhance the "Stream of American History Program." Interpret the evolution of freedom in this country using the water feature as a focal point. Use the Amendment blocks to discuss the relationship of the Civil War to the end of slavery.

• Using the reproduction earthwork located at the north end of the Interpretive Center:

- Conduct artillery demonstrations.

- Explain how earthworks were constructed. Use the reconstructed battery as an interpretive tool to get to the story of the change in tactics following the immense carnage at Shiloh and to explain why there are surviving earthworks to see. Provide information on visiting these sites.

• Use the "reconstructed Freedmen's Village schoolroom" to discuss the contraband camp story.

• Provide from the Interpretive Center short walking tours to Battery Robinett. This walk could have a variety of interpretive foci – a discussion of the various military engagements to control Corinth or to discuss the impact of the war on the community. This talk would also serve to promote visiting related sites in Corinth particularly "the railroad crossroad" now viewable from an adjacent city park.

• Create a children's activity in which students develop a story of how the items came to be scattered on the ground and what purpose they served. (Perhaps one element of a future Unit Junior Ranger program.)



The compelling stories of local African-Americans experiencing the beginning of freedom in a Union occupied community are interpreted through exhibits like the Contraband School at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.

Recommendations: Unit Specific – Corinth

To interpret civilian life:

• The park does a Christmas program. Take program and conduct during the summer as a way to get into talk about impact of war on local families. Make cornhusk dolls, apple butter. Draw on local crafters that participate in programs offered by the Natchez Trace Parkway. Kate Cummins, a woman from Mobile, Alabama, kept a diary while she was in Corinth nursing soldiers after the Battle of Shiloh. She provides considerable insight on daily life in the community. Integrate her story into this program.

• A number of civilian reenactment units know a lot about period clothes – partner with them to do something special. Similar to the programming already transpiring at Shiloh.

• It is documented that the women at Corona College made a flag for a local militia company before they departed the community to join the Confederate service. Might conduct a program that shows how women participated in the war – what they did. Use the women's program as a way to begin addressing the conflicting local politics. (First the local area voted against secession, then, only a short while later, many men volunteered to serve in locally raised regiments for the Confederacy. Meanwhile, other men from the community and surrounding area joined Union military organizations during the occupation.)

• Conduct a reenactment of a muster and demonstrate the recruitment of soldiers to the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Use the event as an opportunity to discuss all of the above – the military influence on the city, the arrival of runaway slaves, and the institution of the Contraband Camp and the later recruitment of freed slaves for the USCT.



The lasting benefit of staff-provided personal interpretive services is dramatically evident in park-sponsored activities like the Memorial Day Weekend Program.

Partnerships

• Encourage continued park/cooperating association collaborative efforts to develop new interpretive publications and products. Recognize the contributions made through their promotion in the Southeast Region and other appropriate venues such as the National Interpreters Association and the Association of Partners for Public Lands.

• Support ongoing partnership efforts with the Tennessee River Museum (TRM) through the provision of technical assistance for exhibit development, loan of park collections, and the Shiloh/TRM fee pass program.

• Support ongoing partnership efforts with the many partner groups associated with the Corinth Unit.

• Continue to work with both the Savannah (Hardin County), Tennessee, and Corinth, (Alcorn County) Mississippi, tourism bureaus to promote regional heritage tourism.

• Work with park cooperating association and tourism bureaus to sponsor intensive seminar series and/or special events that require a length of stay in the two communities and incorporates a visit to both units.

• Develop a Corinth/Shiloh seasonal or monthly site bulletin or newspaper that promotes and ties both areas.

• Contact West Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts of America to provide technical assistance to review and update materials related to the Boy Scout trail at Shiloh. Infuse materials with information that is relevant to the diverse ethnic population that uses this facility.

• Reach out to Yocona Boy Scout Council which oversees the Northeast Mississippi area. Explore the possibility of a companion scout trail in Corinth.

Appendices

Appendix A: Planning Team, Stakeholders, and Consultants

Shiloh, National Military Park Staff

Woody Harrell, Superintendent

Stacy D. Allen, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management

Brook Garner Allen, Park Ranger

Ashley Ball Berry, Park Ranger

Josh Clemons, Park Ranger

Joe Davis, Park Ranger

Jim Minor, Park Ranger

Tom Parson, Park Ranger

Tim Smith, Park Ranger

Charlie Spearman, Park Ranger

Plan designed by EDX-Edquist Davis Exhibits for Harpers Ferry Center

Park Partners

Mike Byrd, Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission

Kent Collier, Friends of Shiloh Battlefield

Christian Evans, Iuka Battlefield Commission

Ken Hansgen, Park Friend and Advocate

Jon Hill, Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission

Jerry Lessenbury, John B. Ingram Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Will Newsome, John B. Ingram Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Vickie Rumble, Southern Refuge Society

Don Todd, Eastern National

Ann Walker, Alcorn County African American History Association

Kristy White, Northeast Mississippi Museum Association

Emy Wilkinson, Corinth Area Tourism

Rosemary Williams, Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission

Jim Woodrick, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

National Park Service Staff

Don Wollenhaupt, Chief of Interpretation, Southeast Regional Office

Bill Koning, Denver Service Center, retired

John Cornelison, NPS, Southeast Archeological Center

Janet Ambrose, Shiloh, National Military Park Staff, Former Education Program Coordinator

Bob Clark, Servicewide Sign Program Manager, Harpers Ferry Center

Michele Hartley, Audiovisual Producer, Harpers Ferry Center (HFC)

Mark Johnson, Wayside Exhibit Planner, Harpers Ferry Center

Mary Mallen, Interpretive Planner-Park Ranger, Harpers Ferry Center

Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet, Wayside Exhibit Planner, Harpers Ferry Center

Polly Nordstrand, Former, Exhibit Curator and Designer, Harpers Ferry Center

Melinda Schmitt, Publications Specialist, Harpers Ferry Center

Sam W. Vaughn, Associate Manager, Interpretive Planning, HFC

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Planning for Interpretation and Visitor Experience, Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center, 1988.

Appendix C: Accessibility

Every attempt will be made to promote full access to interpretive media and programs to ensure that people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks. This is in compliance with the National Park Service policy:

> *" . . .To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the qualities of the park experience for everyone."*
>
> - NPS Special Directive 83-3, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

All interpretation will follow general standards for accessibility as described in the Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media.

Appendix D: Park Legislative History

This section outlines Shiloh's legislation in historical sequence; for easy reference each new piece of legislation is preceded by a number.

1. The first major piece of legislation to touch Shiloh battlefield developed in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War: "An Act to establish and to protect national cemeteries" was signed by President Andrew Johnson on February 22, 1867. Under this authority, the War Department developed the system of national cemeteries in the continental United States. Of these, eleven were on or near major battlefields of the Civil War, including Shiloh. In several instances, these national cemeteries became the nuclei for the later establishment of national military parks or battlefield sites.

As the Nation approached the twenty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Civil War, veterans—National (Union) and Confederate—worked together to protect the sites of major battles. Shiloh National Military Park was established in 1894 to preserve the scene of the first major battle in the Western Theater of the Civil War. The following excerpt from The Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea addresses the intent of this legislation.

The first four battlefields to be preserved . . .were not selected at random but constituted, almost from the beginning, a national battlefield park system. . . .these national parks were designed by Congress, both to preserve the major battlefields for historical and professional study and also to serve as lasting memorials to the great armies of the war on both sides. The field of Gettysburg memorialized the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia; the field of Chickamauga honored the Union Army of the Cumberland and the Confederate Army of the Tennessee; and the field of Shiloh served as a memorial to the Union Armies of the Tennessee and Ohio and to the Confederate Army of the Mississippi. Further consideration revealed, however, that a fitting memorial to the Union Army of the Tennessee needed the preservation of Vicksburg as well as Shiloh, for the campaign of Vicksburg was that army's most brilliant operation. Accordingly, Congress added Vicksburg in 1899 to complete the initial system of four major Civil War Battlefields.

2. Congress passed legislation in 1896 prescribing an additional role for Civil War battlefields. This measure: "declared all the national military parks and their approaches to be national fields for military maneuvers for the Regular Army of the United States and the National Guard of the States." Today these military maneuvers are field educational activities known as "Staff Rides." A staff ride focuses on the history of a battle, tactics, terrain, and leadership. The park historian and ranger staff help facilitate these programs for personnel (mainly commissioned and non-commissioned officers) serving in the United States armed forces.

3. President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166 transferring all military parks, cemeteries, and associated sites administered by the War Department to the Department of the Interior in June 1933. The National Park Service assumed administration of Shiloh National Military Park at that time. Management of Shiloh would now be guided by the Service's 1916 authorizing legislation known as the "Organic Act" and all agency management policies and regulations.

4. Although not mentioned in the 1894 legislation establishing Shiloh National Military Park, the prehistoric Indian mounds and village site located at Shiloh formed an integral component of the cultural landscape. The location of the prehistoric village south of Dill Branch ravine was included within the battlefield's authorized geographical boundary of the park. The site containing the aboriginal village along with its ceremonial mounds was acquired in the

initial land purchases made to develop the military park. Various laws and regulations passed to protect park resources provided protection for the ancient ceremonial mounds and houses from encroachment and development, but the pre-historic Indian mounds and village site lacked official recognition and acknowledgement of its inherent national significance until the 1970's.

Passage of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 opened the door for national recognition of numerous historic sites, buildings, and resources. The Shiloh Mounds was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979; then elevated to the important status of a National Historic Landmark in 1989. These legislative steps, along with antiquities protection laws like the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), NHPA Section 106, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), each afford additional levels of protection and recognition of this important site. The National Historic Landmark designation of Shiloh Indian Mounds gives the pristine prehistoric resources preserved within the National Military Park equal standing with the more prominently known story of the famous Civil War battle, preserved and commemorated on Shiloh battlefield.

Two pieces of legislation expanded the size and scope of Shiloh National Military Park:

5. On November 12, 1996 Public Law 104-33 authorized the construction of an interpretive center in Corinth, Mississippi, to "commemorate and interpret the 1862 Civil War Siege and Battle of Corinth." This law further authorized the park to develop interpretive plaques and markers for sites associated with the Siege and Battle of Corinth, if state or local governments preserve these areas.

6. Congress passed the "Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act" in November 2000. This legislation authorized the creation of the Corinth Unit, as part of Shiloh National Military Park, and provided detailed guidance on the development of the unit. The purpose of the Corinth Unit is to interpret the "Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi." The "Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act directed that both civilian and military themes be interpreted, including "(A) the role of the railroad in the Civil War; (B) the story of the Corinth contraband camp; and (C) the development of field fortifications as a tactic of war." The legislation defined a large partnership role with state, local, and private park partners in the planning, development and interpretation of the unit. The law also authorized a special resource study to identify and determine what other areas would be appropriate for inclusion in the unit.

Completed in August 2004, the "Corinth Special Resource Study and Boundary Adjustment Environment Assessment" identified eighteen sites for potential inclusion in to the boundary of the Corinth Unit and outlines four different land acquisition and management alternatives. The Study was delivered to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources by the Department of Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife in September 2004. The cover memorandum indicates that the National Park Service had selected Management Alternative B as the Preferred Alternative. Here is a quick summary of the alternatives:

Alternative A: the Corinth Unit would include the lands associated with Battery Robinett, the present site of the Civil War Interpretive Center in Corinth, Mississippi. This alternative keeps the unit to its present size reflecting the November 2000 enabling legislation.

Alternative B: recommends that in addition to the Battery Robinett tract, which included the site of the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, the Unit would include a significant

number of the battlefield sites, siege lines, and earthworks in and around Corinth, as well as the Corona College and the Contraband Camp sites. The 11 separate areas designated for inclusion, totaling 930 acres to be acquired either through donation or purchased from willing sellers, would constitute the Corinth Unit with boundaries defined for each area to include the minimum acreage necessary to adequately protect its core historic resource(s). More than 85% of the acreage associated with the 11 areas stipulated for inclusion through this alternative was available for donation by December 2007.

Alternative C: would expand the Corinth Unit to include all 18 sites that provide historical context to the Siege and Battle for Corinth; and provide historic corridors between the Shiloh Battlefield and Corinth Units. These signed routes would link the units so that visitors could easily follow troop movements during the various engagements. Through the use of mostly existing roads, hiking, bicycling, and automotive routes, direct connections between the two units would be formalized. Along existing rights-of-way, the opportunity to provide all-purpose trails adjacent to area highways and various McNairy County (Tennessee) and Alcorn County (Mississippi) Roads would be explored with the current managing authorities. The trail alignments would then connect with the internal road networks of both Shiloh National Military Park and the community of Corinth to complete the loop. Wherever possible historic resources within the corridors would be preserved and interpreted. With the addition of the various road corridors linking Corinth and Shiloh the national military park could become as much a recreation destination as a historic resource dedicated to the preservation of Civil War resources. The hiking/bicycling opportunity would entail a round-trip loop of upwards of 50 miles.

Alternative D: is essentially alternative C with an incremental land adjustment expanding the boundary by a small acreage amount in order to create/ identify easily recognizable boundaries to simplify administrative, law enforcement, maintenance and resource management needs.

All alternatives include the understanding that the Corinth Unit would continue to work in partnership with the community of Corinth, the Corinth area Tourism Bureau, the Siege and Battle for Corinth Commission, and the owners of the ante-bellum historic houses (now private residences) to promote the visitor opportunities and experiences offered in this national landmark community.

7. The 2000 Department of Interior Appropriations bill provided specific direction to Civil War sites managed by the National Park Service. Congress encouraged "Civil War battle sites to recognize and include in all of their public displays and multimedia educational presentations the unique role that the institution of slavery played in causing the Civil War."

8. In December 2007, the 110th Congress amended the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 2000, expanding the boundary of the Corinth Unit by approximately 931 acres, a much small acreage than proposed under Alternative B of the Special Resource Study. The Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth immediately offered to donate 90% of this land to the NPS.

Today all aspects of Shiloh National Military Park – its resources, operations, planning, and interpretation – are guided by park legislation and legislative intent and the laws and policies specific to the National Park Service. This planning document is congruent with these laws.

Table 2.21 Additional land added to the Corinth Unit under the December 2007 legislation.

Site Name	*Acreage within expanded boundary*	*Acres Donated by Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth*	*Additional Acerage to be acquired by NPS*
Battery F	5	5	0
Contraband Camp	106	17	89
Corona College	3	3	0
Federal Lines 5/17	56	56	0
Federal Lines 5/19	155	155	0
Federal Lines 5/21	55	55	0
Federal Redan	19	19	0
October Battlefield East	34	34	0
October Battlefield West	156	156	0
Battery Robinett	180	54	126
Confederate Siege Works	255	255	0
Camp Davies	.21	.21	0
Total Acreage	**1024.21**	**809.21**	**215**

Table 2.2-2 Additional Sites not included within the Boundary under legislation.

Site	*Acres*
Box House Battery	10
Camp Glendale	56
Davis Bridge Battlefield	960
Fallen Timbers Battlefield	375
Engagement at Farmington	375
Russell House Battle Field	416
Total Acreage	**2,439**

Appendix E-1 Visitor Profiles – Staff Observations

Shiloh National Military Park does not track park-wide visitation at this time, recorded statistics reflect that 81,684 visitors stopped in the Visitor Center in 2001. Although specific visitor statistics for the developing Corinth Unit are not available, it seems likely that visitors to Corinth would share similar interests and concerns to visitors at Shiloh. The information for this section of the plan is largely anecdotal coming from staff observations at Shiloh National Military Park.

Many visitors arrive at the park with specific ideas concerning their visit. Routinely their trip has been planned well in advance because the park is located in a relatively rural area. The average visitor to Shiloh already possesses subject matter knowledge of the war, seeks more detailed information about the battle, and is often interested in following their ancestor's footsteps during a special pilgrimage trip. The vast majority of adult visitors possess a deep bond, or a passionate interest, in Civil War history. This interest is evident in the fact that 50% of visitors present on the park on days programs are offered participate in interpretive activities provided by the staff. Most visitors purchase items at the bookstore and, in numerous instances visit the store twice during a visit.

Park visitors represent all fifty states. From within the region, visitation is most numerous from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas. The park also receives heavy visitation from the states of Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The battlefield also receives visitors from all over the world, particularly Canada, England, Germany, and Japan.

March through October mark the peak visitation period. April is the busiest visitation month, followed by May and July. During the month of April the park experiences heavy visitation from school groups, visitors vacationing before the summer heat and crowds arrive, and those that attend the annual living history demonstrations held on the weekend closest to the April 6th & 7th Shiloh battle anniversary dates. In May most visitors are elementary grade students or visitors attending the annual Memorial Day program. Families taking traditional summer vacations come most frequently during the month of July. Other popular months for park visitors are June, August, and October.

The park staff works closely with the local Departments of Tourism. Park visitation reflects some well-documented regional trends including:

- More African American visitation
- More visitors seeking active (adventure) recreational opportunities
- Shorter family vacations, increase in day trips in Region
- Senior Citizen visitation growing
- More church group outings
- Visitors demand more in services
- Increase in bus tours, including passengers from riverboats
- Local marketing strategies are drawing in more special interest groups and special events groups
- Increase in International visitors to Region

The following categories reflect visitors to Shiloh Battlefield Unit by easily identifiable special interest groups:

Area Attractions: bring many visitors to Shiloh. Pickwick Landing State Park is located 15 miles from the park. The State Park hosts fishing tournaments, golf tournaments, conventions, and many guests from throughout the country staying at the State Park Inn. There is also a large BMW motorcycle rally held annually in the Pickwick area, with a number of these participants arriving from as far away as California. Many attending the rally also tour the battlefield. Other satellite attractions/ activities include the annual Buford Pusser Festival in Adamsville, local bike-a-thons or walk-a-thons, an annual antique car show, the Miss Bluegrass Pageant and local sporting events such as the annual NAIA football championship held in Savannah, TN. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau in Corinth actively promotes the ante-bellum attractions (homes and Civil War battlefield sites) in their community, the Northeast Mississippi Museum, festivals and special events; while the new Convention Arena in Corinth schedules performing artists and other activities that bring visitors into the region.

Local Residents: visit the park for a variety of reasons. Many function as tour guides when family or friends come to visit. Many also have ancestral ties to the site—either through an ancestor's participation at the Battle of Shiloh or their burial in Shiloh National Cemetery. These visitors take great civic pride in this special connection. Frequently, they come to visit a family member's gravesite, and some help to interpret or maintain the park through the Volunteer-In-Parks Program. Although many recreational facilities are available in the local area, this park provides an alternate recreational experience. Some local residents come to Shiloh to recreate – enjoying the roads and trails for hiking, biking, jogging, or nature observation. Many non-recreational visitors simply drive through the park daily on the state road that passes across the battlefield. Local visitors have a variety of expectations. They seek to know and experience the battlefield – what happened, where. In addition, they desire to learn about unique aspects of the story that connect to the past/present at Corinth and/or Shiloh. The park staff feels that they are only adequately meeting the needs of this important visitor group.

Military Groups: utilize the park for training exercises. Some units request interpretive personnel to facilitate professional staff rides on the battlefield, while other units choose to conduct their own staff rides without the involvement of park personnel. The staff rides led by park personnel range from four to eight hours; however, two-day (12-16 hours) activities are requested on occasion.

Nuclear Families: most frequently visit the park during the summer, holidays, and during special events. Most families consist of parents and children; however many couples also visit Shiloh. This group desires both pre-visit and post visit information. Most families spend time in the Visitor Center and watch the orientation film, and view the exhibits. Many family groups express interest in the artifacts displayed. This group desires a more personalized experience and wants individual attention. Many nuclear families attend a Ranger-led walk, talk, or demonstration. When visiting the battlefield, most follow the auto-tour. Generally this visitor group spends at least four hours in the park, and will picnic on the grounds, or request directions to a nearby restaurant. They expect to purchase a memento of their visit at the park bookstore. Minorities visiting as family groups have increased during the last 2-3 years. The park staff feels that they need to improve services and interpretive opportunities for families, particularly in the area of providing age appropriate and multi-sensory experiences.

School Groups: Each year almost 10,000 school age children come to Shiloh. The arrival of most student groups coincides with the spring/early summer increase in visitation and extensive site staff preparations for two special events: the April 6th & 7th battlefield anniversary and Memorial Day. The most active months for school group visits are March, April, May, and October. Most schools are from the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, although a smaller number of schools from Arkansas and Missouri also travel to the park. The average visit to the battlefield is one-half day (4-5 hours) and usually includes a lunch break at the designated picnic area in historic Sowell field. Most school-age visitors are elementary students. Staff conversations with local high school age students and educators reflect a current perception of "We did this in elementary school! Why visit Shiloh now?" The overwhelming majority of annual visits by minorities (ethnic origin is mostly African American with the remainder Hispanic) to the park is accounted for through the students represented in these school groups. Requests for information and materials by parents of home-schoolers are increasing. Current staffing levels and facilities are totally inadequate to address the needs of school groups.

Scouts: Shiloh receives visits from boy and girl scouting organizations normally in the spring, fall, and winter months. In the summer, scout visits beyond early June remain rare. Approximately 6,000 scouts visit the battlefield annually to hike the trails and earn various merit badges and patches. The park maintains a four-decade-old partnership with Shiloh Military Trails, Inc., with all corresponding trail literature being obtained from the Shiloh Military Trails, Inc. This particular program crosses all cultural backgrounds, and is the one park program that has a large participation of minority children that live in the area.

Seniors: have more time, and are more leisurely during a park visit. While their interests and physical abilities vary, most are not "hard core" military enthusiasts, but seek a general understanding of what happened here and why. Staff observations reflect a growing increase in this visitor group.

Subject Matter Enthusiasts: seek a deep emotional connection with park resources (both historic and prehistoric). They desire in-depth experiences whether through self-discovery or ranger provided services. The experiences they seek include: walking the battlefield, visiting Shiloh Indian Mounds NHL, attending new programs offered, conducting research utilizing park archives and reference materials, and purchasing souvenir and educational materials at the park bookstore. A significant number of Civil War enthusiasts make prolonged visits to the battlefield. These subject matter enthusiasts may spend from two to five days walking the battlefield. They are not representative of the average visitor to Shiloh, but there are enough of these visitors for them to be recognized as a visiting entity. The park staff works hard to satisfy the interests of all subject-matter enthusiasts, but feels there is a great deal more that could be accomplished.

Tour Groups: frequently visit in the spring and fall when the park is less crowded, and the weather cooler. Organized tour groups are comprised mostly of church groups or seniors. Most of the groups travel by bus to view the battlefield. The park also receives visitation via travel on the Tennessee River. Commercial tour companies, such as Delta Queen Steamboat Company, conduct boat tours on the Tennessee River. Most of these vessels stop at Savannah and bus the passengers to tour the battlefield. An occasional vessel will stop and disembark visitors ashore at historic Pittsburg Landing. These special groups normally have their own guides, and their visits are limited to 3-4 hours.

Virtual Visitors: now exceed the visitors that physically travel and visit the park. 100,972 virtual visitors viewed the park website in 2001; while 81, 684 physically visited Shiloh battlefield. This user group has a wide variety of interests and accesses the website either to plan a future visit, or in lieu of a physical visit to learn about the park history and its relationship to the Civil War. Important links, such as the one with the Southeast Archaeological Center to provide virtual access to the important story of the Indian Mounds and recent archaeological investigations, greatly assists the park in meeting the competitive demand for up-to-date interactive web interpretation. The park staff is aware of the tremendous potential and impact this visitor can have on the park in the future. Although new material has been developed for the website, the staff feels they are only moderately serving this visitor group.

Appendix E-2 Visitor Profiles – Trip Planning

During the February 2005 workshop, the staff worked to identify recommendations for park trip planning based on a visitor's arrival at the Corinth Unit, and their intended length of stay. Use of this information would be very useful for all future visitors planning to visit the park. Trip planning recommendations should be made available on the park website and at the Visitor Information Desk.

Due to time constraints, the team only discussed visitors arriving at the Corinth Unit. This exercise should be repeated for visitors that begin their park visit at Shiloh so that parkwide recommendation for planning are complete and can be incorporated in media and in personal services training.

2-hour visit

Tour the Civil War Interpretive Center and watch both films

Visit Battery Robinett site

In the future the site should:

• Provide programs in the auditorium, and outdoor talks interpreting the fountain; and

• In the long-run have an additional film that interprets the impact of the siege and battle for Corinth on the civilian population.

4-6 hour visit

In addition to visiting the Civil War Interpretive Center:

• Visit "the crossroads"

• Take walking tour of Corinth

• Visit future units around Corinth – the Contraband Camp site and the National Cemetery

• Conduct personal research using park research room – so they can follow in their ancestor's footsteps.

6 hours or more

Goal: Visit both Corinth and Shiloh. This is the minimum time needed to see both areas. It will take 45-minutes to drive from one unit to the other.

• Visit the Civil War Interpretive Center

• See related sites in Corinth

• Follow a byway route to trace Union/ Confederate troop movements

• Visit Shiloh. Visitors will need trip planning help to visit both sites in one day. At Shiloh: identify the most important sites to see (i.e., Pittsburg Landing, Fraley Field, Hornet's Nest, etc.).

Appendix F: Implementation Plan

The planning team discussed and identified important future programs and projects to undertake during the next 10-years. Some program expansion can occur within existing staff and funding levels; other recommendations require the addition of new interpretive positions and/or project funding. During the park's annual strategic planning process, the Chief Ranger will work with the Superintendent and other staff members to implement program goals and outcomes to achieve Long-Range Interpretive Plan recommendations.