



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Manassas National Battlefield Park
12521 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109**

In Reply Refer to:

1.A.2

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kristofer B. Butcher, Superintendent, Manassas National Battlefield Park

DATE: July 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Determination of Archeological Interest, Burial #3 and Comb

Manassas National Battlefield Park intends to transfer one partial set of human remains (Burial #3) and an associated personal effect (rubber pocket comb) originally buried with the remains to the Office of Army Cemeteries for planned interment in Arlington National Cemetery. The internment is scheduled to take place this fall. The remains and comb were excavated from the site of a Civil War field hospital.

A partial burial of a Union soldier was identified and recovered during Phase III data recovery excavations of a Civil War surgeon's limb pit at Manassas National Battlefield Park in March 2024. These excavations were pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NPS, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VADHR). The 2024 excavations yielded four new surgically amputated limbs and the unanticipated discovery of one nearly full-body burial of a Union soldier. Found in direct association with this soldier's interment was a rubber pocket comb. These objects have been determined to have no relation to "sites of religious or cultural importance" to Indian tribes as defined under 43 CFR § 7.33(d).

A professional archeological excavation was carried out and has documented the remains, comb, and the associated site. Memos, attached here, written by Dr. Joshua Torres, National Capital Region Archeologist, and Kristen Martine, Principal Bureau Archeologist, have determined that they "no longer possess the potential to yield further meaningful [archeological] data."

Pursuant to [43 CFR § 7.33\(d\)](#), this memo serves as my determination as Federal land manager that these "certain material remains are not or are no longer of archaeological interest, and therefore are not to be considered archaeological resources." This determination serves as public notice of the determination under 3 CFR § 7.33(e). The circumstances regarding the discovery of the remains and associated funerary object were unique and this process has been carried out to facilitate the intended transfer for honorable interment of the soldier's remains in a National Cemetery. This determination should not be considered to set a precedent regarding other determinations of archeological interest.

Sincerely,

Kristofer B. Butcher
Superintendent

Attachments:

Memo September 26, 2025: Kristen Martine to Superintendent Kristofer Butcher, "Recommendations for Determination of Archeological Interest, Burial #3"

Memo July 1, 2026: Kristen Martine to Superintendent Kristofer Butcher, "Archeological Interest Recommendation, Burial #3 Comb"

2024 Memorandum of Agreement