

Agency Official 106 Effect Report

Installation of Security Lighting at the Stonewall Jackson Shrine, Caroline County, Virginia

**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park
120 Chatham Lane
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405**

Description and Purpose of Undertaking

Purpose

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park was authorized by an act of Congress on February 14, 1927 (44 Stat. 1091). The purpose of the park, as stated in the act, is “to commemorate the Civil War battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, including Salem Church ... to survey, locate, and preserve the lines of the opposing armies in said battles, to open, construct, and repair such roads, highways, paths, and other approaches as may be necessary to make the historical points accessible to the public and to students of said battles ... and together also with such additional land as the Secretary of War may deem necessary for monuments, markers, tablets, roads, highways, paths, approaches, and to carry out the general purposes of this Act.” By Executive Order 6166 in 1933 the park was transferred to the Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service.

Need

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park took possession of the Stonewall Jackson Shrine in 1937. The surviving structure on the property was the office for Fairfield Plantation. In this building, Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson died on May 10, 1863. Following the completion of a historic structure report, the Jackson Shrine underwent a full restoration in 1963. A historic furnishing plan brought numerous artifacts and antiques into the building, including the bed that Jackson died on, the blanket that covered him during his final days, and a clock that belonged to the plantation owners. The Shrine reopened in 1966 and has since been staffed by park interpreters on a seasonal basis.

The Stonewall Jackson Shrine is a rather isolated unit in the park. The property is located in Caroline County and approximately ten miles from any other site in the park. While the Shrine is staffed and open on a seasonal basis, the property is open from sunrise to sunset every day. A park residence sits about 100 yards from the historic building, but occupancy is rather infrequent. Due to its isolation and lack of consistent on-site staff presence, the Shrine has been targeted by vandals breaking into the building. This has occurred three times in the past six years. The building does have a functional and up-to-date alarm and fire suppression system, but break-ins continue to occur and the park desires to install additional security measures. These measures involve the installation of three motion activated floodlights.

Property Description

A. Major Physical Components – The Jackson Shrine sits on National Park Service land in Caroline County, Virginia. The property consists of 47.5 acres of mixed open fields and woodlots. It is bordered by County Route 607 to the west, County Route 606 to the south, a residential subdivision to the east and private property to the north. The Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad runs through the western third of the property. In addition to the Shrine building itself, there is a 1960s restroom facility on the property, a paved parking lot and entrance road, as well as a 1940s park residence.

B. Architectural Significance – The Stonewall Jackson Shrine is a small two-story frame building that served as the office building for the 19th century “Fairfield” plantation. The structure was built in 1828. The National Park Service restored the building to its current condition in 1963. In the most recent draft of the park’s National Register of Historic Places documentation update, the Stonewall Jackson Shrine (NR # JS0165c) is considered a contributing structure under the park’s primary theme: Civil War Military Action around Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House (1862-1865). The Stonewall Jackson Shrine is on the park’s List of Classified Structures – LCS #00426. The Stonewall Jackson Shrine restrooms were built in the early 1980s. In the most recent draft of the park’s National Register of Historic Places documentation update, the Stonewall Jackson Shrine Restrooms (NR # JS0165f) is considered a non-contributing structure.

C. Curatorial Significance – The Stonewall Jackson Shrine is furnished based upon a historic furnishings plan completed in the 1960s. The rooms in the building are filled with antiques and artifacts, most of which as part of the park’s curatorial collection. Some of the more significant artifacts include the bed in which Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson died, the blanket that covered him at the time of his death and a clock that sat upon the mantle in the room in which he died. In the most recent draft of the park’s National Register of Historic Places documentation update, the Stonewall Jackson Shrine collections (NR # JS0165d and #JS0165e) are considered a contributing structure under the park’s primary theme: Civil War Military Action around Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House (1862-1865).

Description of Alternatives

Alternative A – No Action

This alternative would hinder the park’s ability to install additional needed security measures at the Stonewall Jackson Shrine and ultimately hinder the park’s ability to protect the site and its resources.

Alternative B – Install Security Lighting to Illuminate the Stonewall Jackson Shrine

Under this alternative, the park would establish floodlights on the property that would come on at dusk and remain on until sunrise. These lights would illuminate the building and property and thus help to deter acts of vandalism and after-hours visitation to the site. This alternative would, however, introduce long-term artificial light into the park’s nightscape.

Alternative C – Preferred Alternative

Under this alternative, the park would install motion detector lights to illuminate the Stonewall Jackson Shrine. This would require the installation of two small solar-powered motion detector light units outside the Jackson Shrine building and one small motion detector unit outside the restrooms building.

The unit on the restrooms building would be mounted on the overhang over the restroom doors. This light would be positioned to come on when a person or vehicle entered the driveway and/or parking lot. This unit would be hardwired into the buildings existing electrical system.

The units for the Jackson Shrine would be positioned as follows:

1. The first unit would be placed inside the well house, so as to hide it as much as possible – the solar panel, would need to be mounted on the roof of the well house in order to generate power from the sun. The two lights would be angled to illuminate the eastern façade of the building and the front door.
2. The second unit would be placed at the base of one of the apple trees in the small orchard off the southern façade of the building. The solar panel would be mounted in the tree, The two lights would be angled to flood the southern and western façades of the building.

All three floodlight units would be made of black plastic, which would not be nearly as visible as the color white. The units would be motion activated, so they would not come on until triggered.

Park Consultation

The proposal is being addressed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposal is being circulated among the park's Section-106 Team of Advisors for historic landscapes, architecture, and with the park's curator.

The proposal is going through a 30-day public comment and review period. During that time, the project will be posted on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. The park will contact representatives of interested local organizations such as Mary Washington College's Department of Historic Preservation, the Friends of the Fredericksburg Area Battlefields, the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, and the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The project will undergo a 30-day comment and review period with the Virginia SHPO.

Description of Mitigation Measures

The motion detector lights would be solar-powered. This decision was made to reduce the need for excavation that might be necessary for hardwired light units.

All three floodlight units would be made of black plastic, which would not be nearly as visible as the color white. The units would be motion activated, so they would not come on until triggered.

Effect Analysis

It is the park's opinion that this undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic resources.

Attached Supporting Documentation

- A. Park Map
- B. Photos

Conclusion

It is the park's belief that the installation of motion detector floodlights would aid the park in protecting the Stonewall Jackson Shrine from future break-ins and vandalism. It is also the park's belief that the installation, as outlined above, would involve little impact to the park's cultural resources at the Stonewall Jackson Shrine.

Report Prepared By

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