

Agency Official 106 Effect Report

*Installation of Security Fence Around Chancellorsville Battlefield Water Tower and
Treatment Building*

**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

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park (FRSP) 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 “mark and preserve historical points connected with the battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, including Salem Church ...” By Executive Order 6166 in 1933 the park was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service.

The 25,000 gallon Chancellorsville Battlefield Water Tower was constructed ca1961 to serve three park residences and the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center, all of which began construction at that time. The water tower continues to serve those buildings. These structures were all part of the Mission-66 development and upgrade of park facilities.

Need

New security mandates for public water and water treatment facilities require the park to have redundant security measures in place at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Water Tower. Currently, there is only a lock on the door of the small water treatment building (ca1990) at the base of the tower. The park is proposing to add a second measure of security by installing a chain-link fence around the tower and the treatment building.

Description

To meet the security mandates, the proposed installation will involve a chain-link fence that will be 6 feet in height. The fence will cover an area 75 feet by 110 feet (370 linear feet). On that side that faces Ranger Lane, two 8-foot wide chain-link gates will be installed to allow vehicle access to the interior of the fenced area. Every 8 feet along the perimeter of the fence a post will be installed, which will require the excavation of a post hole to the depth of 12 inches. On the side of the fence that faces Ranger Lane and Bullock Road, the park tour route, a dark brown diagonal security screen will be installed, which requires sliding dark brown slats through the chain-links.

Property Description

A. Major Physical Components

1. Ranger Lane – as part of the Mission-66 program of facility development on the Chancellorsville Battlefield, the National Park Service constructed Ranger Lane, along which were built three park residences in 1961. The Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center was built the following year and a few hundred yards to the south. A

25,000 gallon water tower was built ca1961 to serve both the residences and the visitor center. Additional structures include a 1990s water treatment building at the base of the tower, as well as a 1990s one-story garage used as a fire cache.

B. Historical Significance

1. Ranger Lane – The Range Lane development area is on the Chancellorsville Battlefield. In the morning of May 3, 1863, repeated Confederate attacks crossed and occupied this ground. The site was heavily fought over, which evidenced by nearby lines of trenches and other earthen defenses built by both armies. The development of the residences and water tower were part of the Mission-66 program to develop and improve facilities on the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

C. Archeological Resources

1. Ranger Lane – In advance of the proposed installation of a chain-link fence, archaeological testing occurred at the site. A series of shovel test pits and a metal detector sweep of the perimeter were employed. While artifacts associated with the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville were discovered, they represent the material is consistent with our overall understanding of the site's involvement in the battle. As the data potential of the area appears to have been met as a result of this investigation, no additional archaeological work is recommended for the project. The results of the investigation are embodied in the report entitled *Phase I Archaeological Survey Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, Chancellorsville, Virginia* (2016).

D. Historic Structures

1. Ranger Lane – The project does not involve potential impacts to any historic structures.

E. Cultural Landscape Resources

1. Ranger Lane – while the landscape has not been evaluated, the individual structures that make up the site's development, including three residences and the water tower, have been embraced as contributing structures under the draft update of the park's National Register documentation.

Description of Alternatives

Alternative A – No Action

Under this alternative, no additional security measures would be installed and the park would fail to meet the mandated requirements for safety of public water and treatment facilities.

Alternative B – Alarm System

Under this alternative, an intrusion alarm system would be installed in the water treatment building. While this would notify park staff and law enforcement rangers of any unauthorized intrusion to the building, it would not bar access to the water tower.

Alternative C – Gated Entrance to Ranger Lane

Under this alternative, a gated entrance would be installed where Ranger Lane intersects with Bullock Road. While this alternative might restrict vehicular access to the water tower, it would not bar pedestrian access to the tower and treatment building.

Alternative D – Installation of Security Fence Around Water Tower and Treatment Building (Preferred)

Under this alternative, the park would install a chain-link fence that will be 6 feet in height. The fence will cover an area 75 feet by 110 feet (370 linear feet). On that side that faces Ranger Lane, two 8-foot wide chain-link gates will be installed to allow vehicle access to the interior of the fenced area. Every 8 feet along the perimeter of the fence a post will be installed, which will require the excavation of a post hole to the depth of 12 inches. On the side of the fence that faces Ranger Lane and Bullock Road, the park tour route, a dark brown diagonal security screen will be installed, which requires sliding dark brown slats through the chain-links.

Park Consultation

The proposal is undergoing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

The proposal is being sent to the park's Section 106 advisors for archaeology and historic landscapes for their review and comments.

The proposal is going through a 30-day public review process. During that time, the proposal will be posted on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The park contacted, and solicited comments from, representatives of potentially interested organizations such as the University of Mary Washington's Department of Historic Preservation, the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, the Civil War Trust, Spotsylvania County, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

The proposal will be submitted for a 30-day comment and review period by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Description of Mitigation Measures

A. An archaeological survey was conducted across the area to be disturbed during construction. While artifacts associated with the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville were discovered, they represent the material is consistent with our overall understanding of the site's involvement in the battle. As the data potential of the area appears to have been met as a result of this investigation, no additional archaeological work is recommended for the project. The results of

the investigation are embodied in the report entitled *Phase I Archaeological Survey Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, Chancellorsville, Virginia* (2016).

B. A dark brown diagonal security screen will be installed on the side of the fenced area that faces Ranger Lane and Bullock Road, the park tour route. This will help to soften the visual intrusion and help to hide the treatment building.

Effect Analysis

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