

*Agency Official 106 Effect Report*

*Replace and Repair Roofs on Seven Park Buildings*

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

## **Purpose**

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...and to mark and preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, gun emplacements, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies on the said battles...and together also with 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 park maintains numerous buildings that are used for offices and residences of park staff. Cyclic maintenance for these structures requires replacement of degrading roofing materials. Six park structures are currently slated to receive new roofs, meaning replacement of asphalt shingle roof coverings and underlying materials. The park also proposes to address air circulation, and heat and humidity concerns, with these buildings by adding ridge vents during the roof replacements. A seventh structure has a metal roof that needs to be scraped and painted.

## **Description**

The park proposes to replace the asphalt shingle roofs on six park structures. The six structures are:

Three (3) Mission 66 Residences at Chancellorsville Battlefield  
Chatham Caretaker's Cottage at Chatham  
War Department Maintenance Building at Fredericksburg Battlefield  
Natural Resource's Office at Fredericksburg Battlefield

For these six structures, the asphalt shingle roofing materials, along with the underlying materials, will be removed and replaced with in-kind materials of the same color. Additionally, the park proposes to install ridge vents on each of the six structures. These vents will raise the ridge approximately 1-2” and will also be covered with asphalt shingles.

The seventh structure is the War Department Log Garage, which currently serves as storage for the park’s curatorial/museum collection. The roof is a metal roof and the park proposes to simply

scrape the peeling paint and repaint the roof the same color. No replacement of materials is being proposed.

It is the park's belief that the addition of ridge vents will assist with ventilation and ultimately provide a more manageable environment that will assist with the prolonged preservation of the structures.

## **Property Description**

### **A. Major Physical Components**

1. Fredericksburg Battlefield – The War Department Maintenance Building and Log Garage sit in a fenced in compound along Lee Drive, the primary park tour road through the Fredericksburg Battlefield. The compound, and consequently the buildings, are not accessible to the public. The Natural Resources Office is located in a residential subdivision on the edge of the Fredericksburg Battlefield. The building is not in an area where visitors are directed and the building is not accessible to the public.
2. Chancellorsville Battlefield – The three Mission 66 residences are located along Ranger Lane, a park service road on the Chancellorsville Battlefield. Ranger Lane is not a park tour road and is not accessible to the public, and consequently neither are the residences.
3. Chatham – the Chatham Caretaker's Cottage is located on Chatham Lane, the entrance road to Chatham. The house is not accessible to the public.

### **B. Historical Significance**

1. Fredericksburg Battlefield – The areas where the two War Department structures and the Natural Resources Office are located were directly behind the Confederate front lines during the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. Neither of the locations witnessed any combat.
2. Chancellorsville Battlefield - The Ranger 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 was part of the Mission-66 program to develop and improve facilities on the Chancellorsville Battlefield.
3. Chatham - Chatham is a former plantation and farm that dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the Civil War, the Union army occupied Chatham beginning in the spring of 1862. President Abraham Lincoln visited his generals at Chatham during that period. In December 1862, Union generals again made Chatham headquarters and both during and after the Battle of Fredericksburg the house and grounds became a

hospital for wounded soldiers. From the front porch of the house, and from its grounds, Union generals observed and directed the Battle of Fredericksburg, as it took place across the river. The Chatham Caretaker's Cottage dates from the 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the property as a private residence and farm.

### C. Architectural Significance

1. War Department Maintenance Building - this structure, also known as the Park Ranger's Office (PRO) was constructed in the 1930s to serve maintenance staff on the Fredericksburg Battlefield. It was used as a maintenance facility for decades before being converted into offices for the park law enforcement rangers in the 1980s. It serves that function today .It is considered as contributing to the park's National Register listing.
2. War Department Log Garage - the War Department Log Garage was constructed in the 1930s to serve maintenance staff on the Fredericksburg Battlefield. While its exact date of construction is unknown, the garage did exist by 1939.It operated as a maintenance garage through the 1980s, at which time the building was turned over to the park's law enforcement division and the building continued to be used for storage. In 2015, the building was converted into curatorial storage for the park's museum collection. It is considered as contributing to the park's National Register listing.
3. Natural Resource's Office - the Natural Resource's Office was constructed in the 1955 as a single-family ranch style residence. The NPS acquired the building in 1975 and has used it as both a residence for staff and more recently as the Natural Resources Office. It is not considered as contributing to the park's National Register listing.
4. Mission 66 Residences at Chancellorsville - the three residences on the Chancellorsville Battlefield were built by the National Park Service in 1963, as part of the Mission 66-funded development of the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center area. The residences are a standard design and style utilized throughout the NPS at that time, known as the "Three Bedroom Standard Ranch." Today, the three structures are known as Quarters Nos. 4, 5, and 6. Quarters Nos. 4 and 6 are used as residences for summer seasonal employees, while Quarters No. 5 is used as offices for the park law enforcement rangers and also goes by the name the Western Rangers Office (WRO). All three structures are considered as contributing to the park's National Register listing.
5. Chatham Caretaker's Cottage - the park residence at Chatham was built ca.1925. Since its construction, it has served as a residence for property managers, gardeners and park staff. The building is currently used as a residence for park staff. It is considered as contributing to the park's National Register listing.

## **Description of Alternatives**

### **Alternative A – No Action**

Under this action, no replacement of the roofs will occur. This will lead to further degradation of the roofs and the overall structures.

### **Alternative B – Replacement of Roofs without Ridge Vents**

Under this action, the roofs of each building will be replaced but no ridge vents will be installed. This will replace the deteriorated roofing materials, but will not help provide circulation or assist with the prolonged preservation of the structures. The metal roof of the War Department will still be scraped and repainted.

### **Alternative C – Replacement of Roofs with Ridge Vents (Preferred Alternative)**

Under this action, the roofs of each building will be replaced and ridge vents will be installed. This will replace the deteriorated roofing materials and will help provide circulation and assist with the prolonged preservation of the structures. The metal roof of the War Department will be scraped and repainted.

## **Park Consultation**

The proposal is being circulated to the park's Section-106 advisor for historic architecture.

This proposal is going through a 30-day public comment and review period. During this time, the project is posted on the National Park Service Planning, Environmental, and Public Comment System (PEPC) website. The park has contacted, and solicited comments from, representatives of interested organizations such as the University of Mary Washington's Department of Historic Preservation, the Friends of the Fredericksburg Area Battlefields, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

The proposal will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (Virginia Department of Historic Resources) for a 30-day review.

The proposal is going through a review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## **Effect Analysis**

The park's opinion is that Alternative C does not affect historic fabric and the addition of ridge vents will have very minimal effect on the appearance of the structure and the action is reversible. It is the park's assessment that the action will have "no adverse effect" on historic architecture associated with the Fredericksburg Battlefield and the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

**Report Prepared By**

Eric J. Mink  
Section-106 Coordinator/Cultural Resources Manager