

---

# Analysis and Evaluation

## Introduction

This chapter is comprised of four sections: an evaluation of the significance of the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape in accordance with the guidance provided by the National Register of Historic Places, a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions, an identification of contributing and non-contributing resources, and an integrity assessment.

The significance evaluation identifies the park's important historical associations over time, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to discrete period(s) of time in which its important contributions were made and the historic contexts within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed.

Based on this identification and discussion of the park's significance, and the period during which historical associations occurred, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. The analysis conveys an understanding of change over time and suggests which resources today reflect their character and appearance during the period(s) when historical contributions were made, including the key terrain features associated with siege and battle tactics during the Civil War and commemorative efforts that followed the war.

One of the byproducts of the comparative analysis is an inventory of resources that survive from the identified period(s) of significance. These are referred to as contributing features. Resources that originated after the period of significance are assessed as non-contributing. The CLR also

identifies features that existed during the period(s) of significance but no longer survive, except perhaps in the archeological record.

The final section of the chapter is comprised of an integrity assessment that summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey conditions during the identified period of significance.

## Evaluation of Significance

In order for a property to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, it must possess significance under one of four criteria. The Criteria for Evaluation state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.<sup>199</sup>

Vicksburg National Military Park is a memorial to the soldiers and civilians who participated in the campaign, defense, and siege of Vicksburg. The park's purpose statement emphasizes the significance of the site and its resources:

[The purpose of Vicksburg National Military Park is] to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Vicksburg, and to preserve the history of the battles and operations of the siege and defense on the ground where they were fought and were carried on . . . [during the months of May, June, and July 1863].<sup>200</sup>

The park is marked by more than 1,340 monuments, markers, tablets, and plaques that illustrate the actual locations of troops and events during the siege. The park also contains nine historic fortifications; more than twenty miles of reconstructed trenches, approaches, and parallels; fifteen historic bridges; five historic buildings; historic cannon; and the USS *Cairo*. Vicksburg National Cemetery, adjacent to the park, contains more than 17,000 interments, the largest number of Union Civil War soldiers of any national cemetery in the United States.<sup>201</sup>

At the time that Vicksburg National Military Park was first listed in the National Register in 1966 as part of the Historic Preservation Act, a nomination form was not prepared for the property. In 1976, a nomination was prepared that identified the park as an historic district. The nomination focused primarily on the extensive commemorative statuary placed on the battlefield.<sup>202</sup> It indicates

that the property is significant in the subject areas of military history and sculpture. While the nomination was approved in 1977, it contains gaps in data regarding the areas, themes, and period(s) in the park's significance evaluation. The pages that follow expand on the significance evaluation afforded by the National Register nomination to support the decision-making process necessary to complete a treatment plan for the park, and should be considered if the existing nomination is updated or amended in the future.

Per Criterion A, the battlefield is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history: generally, the Civil War, the Vicksburg campaign (March 29–July 4, 1863), and the siege and associated fighting around the city that occurred between May 19 and July 4, 1863.

Per Criterion B, the battlefield is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, particularly Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton. Grant led the Union armies to ultimate victory in the war, contributing to his election as the nation's eighteenth president in 1868. Pemberton, a native of Pennsylvania, married a Virginia woman and joined the Confederate army when war began. The surrender at Vicksburg resulted in Pemberton's demotion, although he continued to serve in the Confederate army for the remainder of the war. There are many other persons who participated in the siege and achieved prominence later in life who merit consideration under this criterion, should an update to the nomination be prepared.

Per Criterion C, the commemorative sculpture in the park possesses high artistic values. The state memorials, monuments to individual Union and Confederate leaders, and other monuments and markers represent the work of renowned sculptors in a variety of materials and artistic styles.

---

199. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60. "The National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

200. <[www.nps.gov/vick/parkmgmt/missionstat.htm](http://www.nps.gov/vick/parkmgmt/missionstat.htm)>

201. NPS web site, Cultural Resource Preservation. Evaluation of the cemetery is beyond the scope of this report.

202. Nancy Aiken Miller, Interpretive Specialist, Vicksburg National Military Park. *National Register Nomination form, Vicksburg National Military Park*. The nomination form is dated as having been received at the National Park

---

Service on February 5, 1976, and approved on February 9, 1977.

Per Criterion D, archeological investigations may indicate that areas of the battlefield are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. Although the evaluation of archeological significance is not addressed by the National Register nomination, physical features of the park suggest that further research is warranted to understand the history of the site prior to, during, and after the siege. A park-wide archeological survey is needed before further determination can be made regarding Criterion D significance.

## Military History

Vicksburg National Military Park is nationally significant under Criterion A because it contains a large portion of the area where the siege of Vicksburg and associated fighting occurred. Over the course of forty-seven days, from May 18 to July 4, 1863, Confederate defenders resisted Union efforts to capture the city. The Confederate surrender not only affected the lives of those involved in the campaign, defense, and siege, and the immediate activities of both armies and civilians in the region, it also had implications for the final outcome of the war.

The campaign for Vicksburg was one of the most complex and protracted engagements of the war, and involved operations of the Army and Navy of the North and South, land and water troop movements, and diversion, siege, and defense efforts.<sup>203</sup> Vicksburg National Military Park is significant as the site of the siege of Vicksburg and the battle for the city, which had decisive results for the outcome of the Civil War. As a result of the Union victory, the Confederacy lost an army and the states of the Trans-Mississippi were separated from the eastern Confederacy. Union forces were able to concentrate on the one remaining Confederate army in the west—the Army of Tennessee—and move forward toward ultimate victory. The surrender of Vicksburg, coming one day after the defeat of Confederate forces at Gettysburg, had a significant psychological impact on morale in both the North and South. The

South's dream of independence was nearly shattered, while the North's hope for a reunited country was renewed with the success of its strategic objective: control of the Mississippi River, which again rolled "unvexed to the sea."<sup>204</sup>

The landscape of Vicksburg National Military Park is significant for its critical role in the activities and outcome of the siege and fighting that occurred at the site. Military strategists and commanders of Confederate and Union forces developed their strategy in response to the high bluffs, rugged terrain, and unique properties of the loess soil. The overlook from the bluffs to a hairpin curve in the Mississippi River influenced Confederate defense strategies and Union assaults, as well as the movement of troops and supplies for both armies. The swampy bayous that Union forces had to traverse in their attempts to approach the city gave advantage to whichever forces held the high ground. Finally, the location of the city adjacent to the river made the capture of Vicksburg the key to control of the Mississippi, and hence to victory in the war.

## Commemoration and Sculpture

Vicksburg National Military Park is one of the first five military parks created by Congress at the sites of Civil War battles. Establishment of a park at Vicksburg was the result of efforts by Union and Confederate veterans of the campaign and siege. Creation of the park was supported by the Vicksburg National Military Park Association, formed in 1895 with the goal of promoting congressional designation of a military park at Vicksburg.

The enabling legislation that created Vicksburg National Military Park was enacted on February 21, 1899. The legislation called for the restoration of the forts and lines of fortifications, and marking of the lines of battles and other points of interest with tablets; permitted any state that had troops engaged in the campaign, siege, or

---

203. "Vicksburg: A Silent Tribute," <[www.nps.gov/vick/forteachers/upload/Silent%20Tribute.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/vick/forteachers/upload/Silent%20Tribute.pdf)>

---

204. President Abraham Lincoln, letter to James C. Conkling, August 26, 1863, in *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* 6 (Piscataway, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press 1953, 1990), 409.

defense of the city to erect monuments and markers in memory of its soldiers; and established a commission to oversee the creation of the park. The 1,200-acre park as established in 1899 encompassed the entire area of the siege and defense lines around the city.

Commemoration continued through acquisition of property and placement of markers on the battlefield, as represented in part by the numerous sculptures added to the landscape of the battlefield beginning in 1903 by states whose troops had served in the Vicksburg campaign. Early monuments included those of the states of Massachusetts (1903); New Hampshire (1904); Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Illinois (1906); Minnesota and Virginia (1907); Rhode Island (1908); Mississippi (1909–1912); Wisconsin (1911); Michigan (1916); Missouri and New York (1917); and Louisiana (1920). A monument to the Federal Navy was constructed in 1911. Monuments continue to be designed and erected to the present day. The sculpture within the park includes a renowned collection of monuments, including work by Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson, represented by sixty-nine relief portraits or busts, and Henry Hudson Kitson, who created two statues and other busts and relief portraits. Other sculptors whose work is represented in the park include F. C. Hibbard and Adolph Weinman.<sup>205</sup> The Tiffany and Company foundry is known to have cast many of the bronze sculptures located within the park.

Another significant commemorative feature of the park is the Vicksburg National Cemetery, established in 1866 as part of the system of national cemeteries authorized by Congress on or near Civil War battlefields. The battlefield and cemetery were the sites of commemorative events and reunions over the next several decades.

---

205. The present park boundaries do not include approximately the southern one-third of the Confederate defense line. This portion of the park was quitclaimed with the City of Vicksburg in 1966. Some monuments and markers are thus now located on city property, although they are owned and maintained by Vicksburg National Military Park.

## Period of Significance

The 1977 National Register nomination defines the period of significance broadly as the nineteenth century. Research performed for this study suggests that the period of significance be refined to include a primary period of significance that encompasses the March 29–July 4, 1863, campaign for Vicksburg, and a secondary commemorative period of significance that extends from the earliest efforts in 1864 to mark and honor the events of the siege through the placement of the Surrender Interview Site Monument, through early park development and the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, to 1959. This closing date represents the fifty year age consideration for historic properties recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

The dates of importance associated with this revised primary period include the events of the campaign and siege of Vicksburg as they fall within the broader context of the Civil War (1861–1865). The campaign is considered to extend between March 29 to July 4, 1863, while the siege falls between May 19 and July 4, 1863. The dates of the campaign are also inclusive of the period of the siege. The fortifications that were started prior to the beginning of the campaign fall into the historic context period of the entire Civil War (1861–1865). These fortifications are not considered to be defining of the beginning date of the primary period of significance because they were proposed for construction as general defenses rather than in preparation for the specific events of the siege. However, the fortifications are contributing features to the primary period as well, since their significance comes not from their construction as general defenses but from their use as military features during the campaign and siege.

The secondary period of significance begins with the placement of the Surrender Interview Site Monument in 1864, and encompasses veterans' reunions and other commemorative activities leading up to and including park establishment in 1899. The period also encompasses the commemorative efforts conducted by veterans, park commissioners, and the War Department to develop and manage the park; the construction of



state monuments and other memorials; memorial celebrations and other events held at the site; as well as the efforts undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1941 to rehabilitate and restore battlefield features in threatened condition. The closing date of 1959 extends to the fifty year age consideration recognized by the National Register in order to encompass the ongoing process reflected through the placement of additional state monuments.

As more monuments and other resources reach fifty years of age, these structures should be considered in light of their contribution to the significance of the park. Future evaluation may also consider Mission 66 resources when they reach fifty years of age. While the Mission 66 period is beginning to gain recognition as a significant period in American history and its attendant resources evaluated for their potential to contribute to the significance of historic properties, the efforts conducted at Vicksburg National Military Park are at approximately ten years from reaching the fifty year age consideration of the National Register, and have not been evaluated in terms of significance as part of this study. The features at the park attributable to the Mission 66 period would need to meet Criterion Consideration G and present exceptional qualities to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Resources of the Mission 66 period should be evaluated again when they reach fifty years of age circa 2017–2020. As a result of these considerations, the closing date of the secondary period of significance may be extended in future.

Closely related to the establishment of period of significance is the question of historic site boundaries. The boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park do not fully reflect the extent of siege and assault lines during the primary period of significance. However, careful interpretation of historic resources that lie outside of the current park boundaries, and coordination with the City of Vicksburg to protect and preserve those resources, will permit outlying features to be appreciated as part of the historic setting. Similarly, the preservation and use of Pemberton's

Headquarters in conjunction with the park provides an important link to downtown Vicksburg and an opportunity to enhance interpretation of the historic city and its environs.

## **Comparative Analysis of Existing and Historic Conditions**

For the purposes of this study, two periods of significance— March 29 to July 4, 1863, and 1864 to 1959—have been utilized to compare historic and existing landscape conditions within the Vicksburg National Military Park CLR project area. As discussed previously, these periods of significance have been suggested as part of the development of this CLR and augments the period of significance previously documented in the 1977 National Register nomination for the park. Extension of the period of significance to include twentieth century commemorative and restorative efforts by the CCC and others is appropriate because the park as it is known today might otherwise have been lost without these efforts. It should be noted, however, that although commemorative activities and features may be National Register-eligible, their contribution to the significant history of the property is secondary to that of the features for which the park was established to commemorate and preserve.

The comparative analysis that follows focuses on four distinct moments in time: the landscape as it existed prior to the siege, the 1863 military siege, the park property during the commemorative period of significance, and the evolution of the site since 1959, for each of the landscape characteristics discussed in chapter three previously:

- Natural Systems and Features and Responses to Natural Resources
- Topography and Topographic Modifications
- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Land Uses and Activities
- Circulation Patterns and Features

- Cultural Vegetation
- Views and Vistas
- Buildings
- Structures
- Small-scale Features

For each characteristic, major events associated with each period are summarized, and the dates of origin of primary features are identified. A summary discussion of the evolution of features associated with each landscape characteristic identifies features established during each of the periods of significance—contributing resources—and those that post-date the periods of significance—non-contributing resources. Features that existed during the periods of significance but are no longer extant are discussed as missing from the historic landscape. Post-1959 alterations that have affected the integrity of the landscape to convey its character during the period of significance are also noted in the summaries. The information conveyed in each summary analysis is collected in a list of contributing, non-contributing, and missing resources at the end of the analysis section. Appendix A collects this information in a reference table.

Fig. 271 and Fig. 272 illustrates the features contributing to each period of significance. Also supporting the comparative analysis are pairs of historic and contemporary photographs taken from the same or a similar location that help illustrate change over time (see Fig. 184 through Fig. 269). Photographic pairs are cited to illustrate points made in the narrative.

## Comparative Analysis by Landscape Characteristics

Today, the Vicksburg National Military Park project area landscape most closely approximates the character of the site as it evolved during the secondary period of significance, although many changes have occurred since 1959 to alter the landscape. In particular, the vegetation that the CCC helped to establish as an erosion control measure has matured and woodland areas have expanded over time due to decreased maintenance budgets. In addition, park boundaries have been considerably altered since the end of the period of significance through transfer of some parcels to the city of Vicksburg and Warren County, and the acquisition of others.

Much of the physical evidence of the Civil War siege has been lost over time as well. Gone is all but the eroded earthen evidence of the siegeworks associated with both armies. All other features associated with the earthworks—gabions, fascines, headlogs, abatis, cheveaux-de-frise, bombproofs, magazines, soldier privies and latrines, huts and tent sites, and military access roads—have been lost to the ravages of time. Early War Department and park period signs, parking circles, picnic facilities, etc., have also been lost or replaced with features of a different character. Surviving are the larger-scale site organizing features, and the landform and topography as stabilized and repaired by the CCC, including Union and Confederate Avenues, the monuments, markers, and many of the tablets explaining the activities of the siege, and the earthworks and rifle pits.

## Natural Systems and Features and Responses to Natural Resources

**Summary Analysis.** The park's natural environment, featuring deep deposits of loess soil, a diverse landscape of ridges, valleys, and steep sideslopes, three water courses, and extensive deciduous hardwood forest, remains recognizable as compared with the period of significance, but has become increasingly forested to the detriment of visual accessibility and historic patterns of open space. The park's stream corridors and attendant

ravine landforms, also present during the Civil War, continue to link the park to historic periods and events.

However, when considered against conditions present during the Civil War siege, natural systems and features are dramatically different in the present-day landscape. Military operations led to the removal of nearby all woody plant material by the end of the siege. Wood and cane were used to construct and reinforce features of the fortifications and saps, for fuel, and to construct obstacles such as abatis and cheveaux-de-frise. Erosion of the loess soil as a result of tree removal during the siege was likely extensive, negatively affecting water resources. Potable water sources were likely overused and sullied. Today, water and soil resources are protected by park maintenance of vegetative stands over the soil, and riparian buffers in association with streams and bayous, and woody vegetation covers more than 70 percent of the site.

During the subsequent commemorative period, soil erosion caused by agricultural use of the land and exposure of cultivated soil to stormwater again affected the park's natural resources, leading to extensive sedimentation of the ravines and proliferation of extensive cane breaks in low-lying areas. Shrubby and scrubby woody growth colonized the side slopes, as the ridges remained open due to farming activities. Park establishment in 1899 included the retention of local land-owners on their properties as a way to diminish maintenance costs. By the time the last of their life-leases expired in the 1930s, many areas of the park were threatened by severe erosion problems. Filling and regrading efforts conducted by the CCC helped to correct and diminish the erosional problems, while also altering the character of the park's landscape by rehabilitating Civil War earthworks, planting scores of native tree saplings and seeding and sodding, and installing new stormwater management systems to limit exposure of soils to overland flow. The park's natural features and systems, and associated responses to natural resources today most closely approximate conditions shaped by commemorative-period activities.

## **Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site prior to 1861.**

- Loess bluffs formed east of the Mississippi River from wind-blown deposits after the retreat of the last glaciers. Over time, steep-sided valleys formed where streams cut into the soil. The erosive action of the stream corridors contributed to the formation of two major ridge networks that generally encircled a landing along the river. The ridge networks were connected by other east-west trending ridges that divided the watersheds of Glass Bayou, Mint Spring Bayou, and Durden Creek. The ridges define the watersheds composed of hundreds of ravines that drain the eastern boundary into Durden Creek, and the western boundary into Stout's, Glass, and Mint Spring Bayous. Moving eastward, the loess ridge descends gradually to the undulating and rolling farmland of the Pearl River Valley.
- Until about 300 years ago, much of the regional landscape was forested with mixed hardwoods and conifers. Many grew quite large. Nineteenth-century logging operations reported removing cypress, cottonwood, and sycamore logs measuring four feet across and weighing up to thirty-five tons from the swamp and lowland areas. These species, along with sweet gum, were the dominant trees in lowland areas. On the uplands, black walnut, hickory, oak, magnolia, and pecan were prevalent within a diverse forest community.
- In fact, the area north of the city was known as Walnut Hills prior to the Civil War for the abundance of walnut trees. Fort Nogales was the name given to the eighteenth century Spanish military fortification located near present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery. Nogales means walnut in Spanish.
- One of the native understory plants typical of lowland areas within the region is a local grass called giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), a relative of Asiatic bamboo. It grew in extensive thickets known as cane brakes that were

sometimes burned by Native American and early European settlers to facilitate passage.

- For Native American peoples, and later settlers of European descent, the bluffs afforded prospect. The loess soils proved fertile and suitable for cultivation, and level areas associated with ridgelines and bottomlands were used for agriculture; sloped areas were avoided due to the highly erodible nature of the soil. Rains continually wash away any surfaces not securely anchored by plants with good root systems. The soil becomes a thick liquid when wet and flows freely.
- Springs and seeps existed as a water source for Native Americans and later settlers; there were also numerous drainageways extending through the area including Mint Spring Bayou, Glass Bayou, Stout's Bayou, and Durden Creek. An antebellum description of the Shirley House suggested that the property included a spring—a never failing water source—and good, rich land.
- After European settlement began to occur within the region, the ridges were used to site road approaches to Vicksburg. By the Civil War, these included the Yazoo City Road, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, and Baldwin Ferry Road.
- The Mississippi River was an important component of local settlement. It served as a transportation corridor and means for commercial trade. To facilitate passage and commerce, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began clearing a channel through the Mississippi River in 1824.
- The town of Vicksburg was established in 1825 just below the confluence of the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers to take advantage of the commercial, trade, and transportation opportunities afforded by these river corridors.
- By 1862, the siege landscape was a patchwork of open fields, cleared areas, cultivated crops, orchards, and woodland cover that generally

followed drainageways and ravines, with the largest block of forest occurring to the northwest and northeast of Graveyard Road.

### **Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- Situated on high bluffs that commanded a wide bend in the Mississippi River, Vicksburg was recognized as a strategically-important location during the early years of the Civil War. Confederate forces established batteries at Vicksburg and elsewhere along the river at the beginning of the war as a means for controlling this strategic transportation feature.
- Confederate military engineers began in September 1862 to establish a system of defensive earthen fortifications around the city of Vicksburg to protect against land-based attack. The system was anchored to the north and south along the Mississippi River, which ran nearly south alongside the city. Local streams generally entered the river east, and flow in a southwesterly direction. The defensive system was sited along the dividing ridges between streams entering the Mississippi above and below Vicksburg.
- The Confederate military engineers who designed defensive earthworks to protect the city employed the challenging conditions of the natural environment to their advantage. Elevated positions afforded prospect and thus power and knowledge. The earthworks were sited on high bluffs overlooking ravines and swamps made more impenetrable by the obstacles fashioned from downed timber referred to as abatis and cheveaux-de-frise, or thickets of brush and timber intertwined with cables. Trees were removed to open views of potential avenues of attack by enemy forces. This likely led to extensive erosion and deposition of sediments in stream corridors, springs and seeps, and ravines. The Union army is said to have poisoned potable water sources by dumping the bodies of dead pigs and sheep into streams and bayous.

- Perpendicular ridges associated with road approaches to Vicksburg were the most heavily fortified, and became the target of attack by the Federals as the most expedient way to breach the defenses and reach the city.
- During the fall of June and July 1862 and January through March of 1863, the Union army conducted two separate failed attempts under the commands of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, respectively, to reach Vicksburg by establishing a canal across the base of DeSoto Point, near a hairpin curve in the river, from the west bank. The channel was intended to gunboats to bypass the Confederate batteries stationed along the riverfront. It was abandoned due in part to fluctuations in the water level.
- After failed attempts to breach and control the Confederate fortifications in May 1863, the Union army initiated a siege. The Union positions occupied high points within view of the major Confederate fortifications from which they could maintain artillery pressure. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant established a lookout on nearby Mount Ararat, located south of the Jackson Road outside of the present-day park boundaries, where it is said he could view the majority of the Confederate line.
- Scrubby vegetation remained along Mint Spring Bayou, ravines around Graveyard Road, and north of Jackson Road.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subsequently constructed a canal, watered by the Yazoo River, within the former river channel to reestablish Vicksburg as a port. The abandoned bend was renamed Lake Centennial.
- After removal and disturbance of most vegetation cover during the siege, local soil began to erode due to the action of water and wind. Slopes became riddled with gullies and cave-ins. The ravines filled with silt that remained wet and boggy. Cane grew up in extensive thickets within the lowlands, and the slopes of the ridgelines were quickly covered with tangled scrub. Local farming continued on the upland ridges.
- The CCC conducted numerous soil erosion control efforts in the park during the 1930s, including regrading, filling, and placement of sod. The CCC also planted extensive numbers of native woodland tree species in a large-scale revegetation effort intended to control erosion.
- In 1939, approximately seventy-six acres of land were purchased between Fort Hill and Highway 61 for an expansion of the cemetery. The land was found to be unsuitable for burials due to underground springs.

#### **Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- In 1876, the Mississippi River formed a new channel west of the city during a flood. Prior to the event, the river had been eroding DeSoto Peninsula for years, causing concern among local residents. Citizens began to request action as early as 1870, but no stabilization work was performed. The river finally broke through during a high-water period in 1876. The cutoff happened quickly, within four days.

#### **Natural Resource Characteristics of the Site after 1959.**

- During the 1960s, the land to the north, east, and south of the park was described as primarily agricultural with considerable lumbering operations.
- A master plan prepared in the 1960s as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program identified natural resource management goals as preventing and correcting erosion, controlling exotic plants, and clearing vistas between battle lines to add authenticity to the historical scene.
- Invasive plant species have become an increasingly challenging problem for the park,

negatively impacting native plant communities, and altering their visual character. Soil disturbance is one of the factors that contribute to the proliferation of invasive species. Problematic species include privet, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu, Johnson grass, chinaberry, mimosa, paper mulberry, princess tree, and tree of heaven. Most, but not all, of these species were introduced after the Civil War.

## Topography and Topographic Modifications

**Summary Analysis.** Landform and topography are one of the critical character-defining features of the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape. The landform and topography known to, and topographic modifications undertaken by, the opposing armies during the Civil War are contributing resources of the park. The loess hills that encircle the city, comprised of two parallel ridges divided by deep ravines and connected by a series of transverse ridges, were used to advantage by Confederate military engineers in 1863 to establish a system of armed defensive earthworks. Although the local soil is highly prone to erosion from the overland movement of stormwater, and erosion has occurred over the years, the park's landform and topography appear to retain integrity to the 1863 Civil War siege. Evidence of the siege exists in the form of earthworks, including fortifications and battery positions, which generally followed two parallel sweeping arcs around the city to its north, east, and south, with the river located to the west. One of the topographic modifications associated with the siege that is no longer extant is the hillside of shebangs, a system of earthen dugouts established by Union soldiers (Fig. 184 through Fig. 186). These dugouts served as sleeping quarters protected from Confederate artillery fire by the sideslopes of the hill.

Much of the soil erosion that occurred after the Civil War was due to cultivation and a lack of vegetative cover to hold the soil. It was indicated in early Park Commission maps that eroded



**FIGURE 184.** Shirley House shebangs, looking northeast, 1863. During the Civil War siege of Vicksburg, artillery shelling was a constant fact of life. Union soldiers camped near the Third Louisiana Redan established tent sites by digging into the hillside near the Shirley House.



**FIGURE 185.** A similar view, 1935. Note the erosion control measures in place on the steep slope in the foreground.



**FIGURE 186.** The same view, 2007. The historic view in Fig. 184 was compared with similar later views, Fig. 185 and Fig. 186. The later views indicate that evidence of the shebangs does not survive, and that woody vegetation obscures the viewpoint of these features.



**FIGURE 187.** View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial of slope erosion, October 11, 1934.



**FIGURE 188.** View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial of filling operations, February 1935.



**FIGURE 189.** View looking northwest toward the Missouri State Memorial showing completed slope, November 7, 1935. These 1930s photographs illustrate the filling, grading, and sodding efforts conducted by the CCC. These images are an example of the many similar efforts conducted in numerous locations around the park at the time to correct erosional problems threatening roads and monuments. Agricultural activities had led to a lack of vegetative cover to protect against the loss of soil due to overland flow of stormwater. The CCC worked to protect the soil from further erosion through filling, grading, and sodding.

military features would be repaired and reconstructed. A circa 1902 survey of the park shows the gaps in earthworks, while a circa 1903 master plan indicates the reestablishment of missing features. Little is currently known about how much of this work was completed.

Better documented are the efforts conducted to control and correct erosion by CCC crews in the mid-1930s. Maps indicate the degree of erosion present in the park in the 1930s, and the locations of CCC efforts to correct these identified erosion problems (Fig. 187 through Fig. 189). Their work entailed filling, grading, sodding, and planting. The CCC are also known to have repaired and rehabilitated Civil War earthworks. Changes that have occurred to park landform and topography since the end of the period of significance include the removal of Indiana Circle and associated landforms to construct the Mission 66 visitor center in 1968–1970, establishment of the interpretive earthworks that are associated with this facility, realignment of Clay Street involving extensive fill sections as it passed through the park, and construction of the USS *Cairo* exhibit.

### **Topographic Characteristics of the Site prior to 1861.**

- The loess bluffs and dissected landforms established through the formation and action of stream corridors described above characterized the park landscape prior to the Civil War.

### **Topographic Characteristics of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- In September 1862, Confederate military engineers began to design and construct defensive earthworks to protect the city of Vicksburg as a means for maintaining control of the Mississippi River. The major earthen fortifications were placed on the military brow or upper reaches of the high ridges overlooking road and rail line approaches into the city. These works were connected by a continuous line of trenches and rifle pits. Artillery and rifle positions were placed so as

to be able to fire on approaching attackers in all directions.

- As noted above, the Army of the Tennessee under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams (1862) and Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant (1863) attempted to build a canal at De Soto Point to bypass the city rather than attack over land. The canal was to be sixty feet wide and of sufficient depth to admit any vessel. By late March, however, the final attempt by Grant was deemed unattainable, and work was abandoned.
- The Union army attacked the Confederate position twice in mid May 1863. Finding the Confederate fortifications difficult if not impossible to assail, the Union army changed tactics. Because of the combination of topography, obstacles, steeply sloped fortification walls, and number of rifles positioned to fire upon all potential avenues of approach, Grant determined to lay siege to the fortified position, and undertake a series of mining operations to reach the Confederate line.
- The Union army established artillery positions of its own on high points within range of the Confederate earthworks and maintained artillery pressure during a forty-seven siege. Union soldiers began work on numerous excavated trenches to approach the Confederate fortifications. These followed a zigzag form that would not allow for direct fire from the fortifications. The Union soldiers intended to place explosives in the mines once they reached the Confederate fortifications as a means for breaching the earthworks.
- Mines were exploded on June 25 and July 1, damaging the structure of the Third Louisiana Redan on the Jackson Road, contributing to Pemberton's decision to surrender on July 4, 1863.

### **Topographic Characteristics of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- After the Civil War, local residents returned to the Vicksburg landscape and began to cultivate crops and pasture livestock along the ridges and bottomlands. Erosion took its toll on many areas of the landscape, including the earthen fortifications and other evidence of the siege.
- When the park was established in 1899, local residents were permitted to remain on the land as a means for maintaining it. They were given life leases that remained in effect until the 1930s. Most continued to farm the land.
- During the 1930s, the CCC worked to rehabilitate the important earthworks located within the park and to correct other erosion problems in a variety of ways, including major earth moving, the addition of fill or borrow material, grading, seeding, and sodding.
- Erosion control measures were preceded by investigations by landscape architects and park historians reviewing the changes that had occurred to the land by comparing the circa 1902 topographic survey with existing conditions.
- Documentation of the efforts of the CCC is relatively extensive. Although there remain many more records of their work at the park that were not available at the time this report was prepared, notable locations of erosion control projects include:
  1. Along Pemberton Avenue: grading and widening of the road.
  2. At the intersection of Pemberton Avenue and Jackson Road: regrading.
  3. At/near the intersection of Confederate Avenue, Jackson Road, Louisiana Avenue (a former section of Confederate Avenue south of the intersection with Pemberton Avenue), and Pemberton Avenue: filling for widening of Pemberton and Louisiana



Avenues and reconstruction of the intersection.

4. At the intersection of Confederate Avenue and Jackson Road: a small hill was removed, gutters were placed and replaced, and telephone poles were relocated.
  5. North of the Wisconsin State Memorial: erosion was corrected, drainage appurtenances were added, and forest were removed to allow for reshaping of the ground.
  6. Along the road leading toward former Tower No. 1: underbrush was cleared to expose erosion; the ground was regraded, filled, and sodded.
  7. Behind the Illinois State Memorial: wood bracing was erected, filling and grading were conducted, and a temporary wooden flume was constructed. The ground was then sodded.
  8. North of Confederate Avenue approximately 200 yards west of a lunette along Graveyard Road defended by Shoup's brigade: repair included terracing, erosion control, filling, and fine grading.
  9. Fifty feet east of the 38th and 37th Mississippi trench line: work included clearing of undergrowth, filling, regrading, and fine grading.
- The process was described in a report prepared by the CCC in 1938 as follows:

Very few scattered trees were cut. The operations consisted for the most part in clearing the slopes of such brushy material as existed and in carefully grubbing the roots of this material and the existing sod so as to present a clean surface, free of vegetation, on which to place the new fill. . . . Final shaping and rounding of slopes and shoulders was done after paving operations were completed and just prior to sodding. . . .

Drainage operations consisted of the excavation for and installation of Reinforced Concrete Pipe culverts

underneath the roadway and Corrugated Metal Pipe outlets. The character of the soil is such that it is impossible to outlet culvert pipes on the slopes at any elevation above the ravine bottoms without immediate and serious erosion resulting. In addition, it was necessary to erect special aprons at the outlet ends of the pipes, equipped with baffles so arranged as to lessen the rate of flow of the water and reduce thereby its erosive force. The inlet ends of culverts were provided with brick drop inlets constructed on concrete bases and equipped with cast iron grating. Combination headwalls and receiving basins constructed at the outlet ends of the reinforced concrete pipes served as headwalls, collecting basins, and clean-out chambers.<sup>206</sup>

### **Topographic Characteristics of the site after 1959.**

- Construction of the visitor center in 1968–1970 was preceded by the removal of Indiana Circle and a nearby knoll. It was followed by removal of the earlier visitor center in 1976. The site plan for the visitor center and environs includes constructed earthen forms that recall and interpret the Civil War earthworks found within the park.
- Establishment of the USS *Cairo* exhibit included site work and grading to create a level viewing area, and construction of an adjacent museum set into the side of a hill to diminish its visual impact on the surrounding landscape.
- The park continues to correct erosion problems as they are detected. Regrading, the addition of fill and stone, and redirection of stormwater are measures that the park takes to repair erosion on a site by site basis.

---

206. North Confederate Avenue regrading, 1938, 8–10.

## Patterns of Spatial Organization

**Summary Analysis.** The park's primary patterns of spatial organization today are derived primarily from the relationship between mown and wooded areas. In many cases, mown areas are associated with the surviving evidence of the Civil War earthworks of the lines of the opposing forces, the roads constructed to interpret them, and associated monuments. These patterns of spatial organization are also tied to the topography of the loess bluffs and the ravines created by stream corridors, as it is the ridgelines that are mown, and sloped areas are often wooded.

Prior to the Civil War, the local uplands and ridgelines were the most viable locations for local settlement, which related primarily to agriculture. House sites prior to the war were generally located on the ridgelines, and farming occurred as possible on the most level areas. Ravines, naturally difficult to traverse, likely remained wooded due to the challenges they presented to travel and cultivation.

Patterns of open space associated with the Civil War have been altered profoundly by the expansion of woodland over time. In 1862, Confederate military engineers selected high points and ridgelines around the city of Vicksburg for the construction of a defensive earthwork system due to the military advantage it afforded. Woody vegetation was removed to clear fields of fire and create obstacles to approaching enemies during the war. Obstacles consisted of felled trees placed in the bottomlands and along the slopes below the Confederate line with their branches pointed toward the enemy. Downed timber was frequently interwoven with cable to further hinder forward movement across the ground fronting the siegeworks. By the end of the siege, the landscape between the lines was nearly denuded of woody vegetation. Today, only 30 percent of the park retains this open quality.

After the war, small farming operations again occupied the bluffs, and trees and cane breaks began to colonize the ravines and bottomlands. Establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park contributed new patterns of spatial organization involving roads and monuments that followed the

lines of the opposing armies, in part reinforcing the patterns associated with the siege, which in turn related directly to landform, topography, hydrology, and cultural settlement patterns. The War Department maintained the landscape in and around the earthworks under grass cover, while outlying areas remained open through agricultural use of the land by former land owners.

By the expiration of the last life leases in the early to mid-1930s, erosion problems were in evidence throughout the park. Erosion control measures implemented by the CCC followed the end of the life leases associated agriculture within the park. This period contributed additional new patterns of spatial organization associated with the planting of trees as an erosion control method. These trees, and the slow encroachment of additional woodland resulting from diminished maintenance beginning in the 1970s, have led to the patterns of spatial organization present within the park. Today, open space is currently confined to a narrow linear band that edges roads, and expands to encompass important monuments and earthworks.

### Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- At European contact, Native American villages were present within this region of Mississippi. During the eighteenth century, these coexisted with French and Spanish military fortifications such as Fort Nogales near the present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery, as well as outlying farmsteads and settlements.
- Early settlers cleared the forest and planted crops on the ridges and hilltops.
- In 1812, Reverend Newett Vick and his family settled on the bluffs just south of Walnut Hills.
- In 1825, Vicksburg incorporated as a town. The landscape around the city slowly evolved into a mosaic of small farms and cotton plantations that included fields, pastures, wooded ravines, and deeply cut springs. Houses and roads were also generally sited on the ridgelines.

- The area during the antebellum period was characterized by cotton plantations and small subsistence-level farmsteads.
- In 1836, Vicksburg incorporated as a city and became the seat of Warren County due to its prime location between the commercial ports of Memphis and New Orleans, along developing rail lines, and amidst an important cotton growing region.
- At this time, Vicksburg was described as located on “the shelving declivity of a cluster of precipitous hills, which rise abruptly from the river . . . The houses are scattered in picturesque groups on natural terraces along the river, the balcony of one often overhanging the roof of another.”<sup>207</sup>

### **Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- Between 1861 and 1862, the Confederates established batteries of heavy artillery along the river front. With the river defended and land approaches to the north and south guarded by densely wooded swamplands, Vicksburg defied large-scale land and river expeditions until late 1862.
- In September 1862, Confederate engineers began to construct fortifications around Vicksburg to further protect it from an attack by land. Most of the trees in the vicinity of the eight-mile defensive line were cut to clear fields of fire for artillery, establishing a relatively open landscape and exposed the dramatic terrain of the loess bluffs.
- During this time, the Confederate line was an extended line of rifle-pits occupied by infantry, punctuated by nine powerful fortifications occupied by artillery arranged to

command ravine and ridge approaches as well as the adjacent fortifications.

- Although Grant’s Union forces attempted a direct assault of three primary Confederate fortifications—Railroad Redoubt, Stockade Redan, and the Great Redoubt/Third Louisiana Redan—during the engagements of May 19 and 22, he found the Confederate defenses unassailable without large numbers of casualties. After May 22, Grant changed tactics and initiated a siege. Over time, the Union forces excavated approach trenches at numerous locations along the Confederate line to reach the fortifications below grade. Patterns of spatial organization that characterized this period included the semi-circular line of Confederate rifle pits and batteries punctuated by nine major fortifications, placed atop ridgelines and highpoints, particularly at junctures with roads leading to Vicksburg. The landscape was nearly denuded of trees. Military roads connected the positions. Facing the Confederate line across various ravines was a series of small batteries placed atop high points. The excavated trenches, covered with saps, formed zigzag cuts in the earth leading between the Union batteries and Confederate fortifications.

### **Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege.
- In 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park was established to encompass the Union and Confederate lines during the siege. New patterns of park boundaries, tour roads and circles, and monuments arose through park development. At the time of its establishment, the park extended over approximately 1,200 acres.
- In 1958, the park transferred two parcels to the city of Vicksburg and state of Mississippi. The

---

207. Ingraham, *The South-West: By a Yankee*, 2: 169–170, quoted in Reps, *Cities of the Mississippi*, 138.

first was a three-acre parcel used to build a school along South Confederate Avenue. The other was a one-and-one-third-acre parcel used to build a highway weighing station along Warrenton Road. The city and state transferred parcels of a similar size to the park.

### **Patterns of Spatial Organization Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

- In 1963, the park quitclaimed 154 acres of the park between Fort Garrott and Louisiana Circle to the city. In exchange, the city agreed to increase the authorized boundary of the park by 544 acres along its northern boundary.
- In 1964, the park transferred 24 acres associated with Sherman Avenue beyond Sherman Circle and the cemetery access road to Warren County.
- In 1988, a 2.5 acre parcel in Madison Parish, Louisiana, encompassing a segment of the canal that Grant's troops attempted to establish prior to the siege was proposed for acquisition as part of the park. A similar proposal was made to acquire an additional 2.82 acres of land adjacent to the entrance of the park for construction of a maintenance facility. Both of these parcels were acquired in 1990.
- In 2002, the park acquired the dwelling utilized by Confederate Lieutenant General Pemberton during the siege. The residence is located in downtown Vicksburg.

## **Land Uses and Activities**

**Summary Analysis.** The principal land uses associated with Vicksburg National Military Park today are commemoration, education/museum/interpretive, visitor services, recreation, administration, maintenance, and military training. All of these land uses survive from and are characteristic of the park's secondary period of significance. The Vicksburg National Cemetery is affiliated with burial uses; during the battles and siege, soldiers were buried on the battlefield. Many of the bodies were recovered later, and reinterred at the national cemetery and elsewhere. Land uses that were formerly associated with the site but no longer occur include residential—both during the military siege, and later by private residents, National Park Service personnel, and CCC camp residents—and agricultural.

### **Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.**

- The French claimed ownership of the region in 1675.
- In the early eighteenth century, as European settlers began to arrive in the area that is now western Mississippi, its inhabitants included the Natchez, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Houmas. Native Americans maintained villages and burial grounds within the Vicksburg area at Contact. Early trappers and traders used existing native trade routes such as the Natchez Trace for exploration and commerce, and initial contact between French settlers and trappers and the native inhabitants was generally friendly. The primary land uses during the eighteenth century were agriculture and military. French settlers, many accompanied by black slaves, were primarily farmers.
- As a result of the French and Indian War, Mississippi and all other French territory east of the Mississippi River passed into British control in 1761.
- In 1779, Mississippi came under the control of Spain when Bernardo Galvez, the governor of

Spanish Louisiana, captured Natchez. Following the end of the Revolutionary War in 1781, and under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, West Florida, which included the southern half of Mississippi, came under Spanish control, while the United States gained possession of Mississippi north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel.

- In the 1790s, the Spanish established Fort Nogales across Mint Spring Bayou from the present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery site on the bluffs overlooking the bend in the river. The fortification included Fort Sugar-loaf, sited on the mound in the present-day cemetery and Fort Mount Vigio at current-day Fort Hill.
- In 1803, the region was acquired by the U.S. government as part of the Louisiana Purchase and the Mississippi River was opened for commerce.
- Treaties signed by the U.S. Government and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians between 1805 and 1834 opened Indian lands in Mississippi to settlement.
- Reverend Newett Vick settled in the region in 1812. The town of Vicksburg incorporated in 1825 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established a channel in the river for shipping in 1824. The town slowly evolved into a port town and commercial center where local agricultural products could be shipped to larger markets due to its strategic located near the confluence of the Yazoo River and Mississippi River.
- The land around the town developed into an agricultural community characterized by small subsistence-level farms as periodic larger cotton plantations.

#### **Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- Military land uses and related activities predominated during the Civil War period. Residential and agricultural uses of the

landscape were interrupted by the military activities in 1863. Burial of soldier casualties occurred on the battlefield.

- The Anshe Chesed Cemetery was established near the Second Texas Lunette in 1864.

#### **Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- The Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege.
- Veterans conducted reunions after the war. In 1890, a reunion was held that featured a parade, fireworks, concerts, and visits to the battlefield and cemetery.
- In 1895, the Vicksburg National Military Park Association was formed.
- In 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park was established. The land uses associated with the park evolved to include military training, commemoration, education/museum/interpretive, maintenance, administration, recreation, and visitor services. Recreational uses included picnicking, walking, hiking, and horseback riding.
- Private property owners within proposed park boundaries were offered life leases and required to “cultivate their present holdings upon condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads and the present outlines of field and forest, and they will only cut trees or underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works. . . .”<sup>208</sup>
- In 1917, a National Memorial Reunion and Peace Jubilee was held at the park.

---

208. Ibid.

- During the 1930s, the private in-holdings associated with the life-estates within the park ended.
- Between 1934 and 1941, four CCC camps were established within the park. Men stationed in the camps undertook a wide range of physical improvements within the park.

### **Land Uses and Activities Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

- The NPS sought to eliminate some recreational uses of the park, including picnicking, camping, and horseback riding. While camping and horseback riding were eliminated in the 1960s, picnicking is still allowed. Although a picnic ground, including grills, was developed by the CCC, it was later altered to diminish the impact of this activity on the park.

## **Circulation Patterns and Features**

See Fig. 190 through Fig. 199.

**Summary Analysis.** Circulation within the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape that survives from the period of significance includes Union and Confederate Avenues, Connecting Avenue, Pemberton Avenue, Old Jackson Road, the Jackson Road trace, Graveyard Road, Grant Avenue, Grant Circle, Sherman Circle, Logan Circle, and Tilghman Circle North and South. Surviving circulation features associated with the siege and park located beyond park boundaries include the Kansas City Southern Railroad rail line, Washington Avenue, Fort Hill Drive, South Confederate Avenue, Halls Ferry Road, Indiana Avenue, Iowa Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue, and North Frontage Road. Many historic roads have been realignment, repaved, or resurfaced, diminishing their integrity. For example, paving of Union Avenue was not completed until 1970.

At the time of the siege, six primary roads afforded access to the city of Vicksburg. From north to south, these included the Yazoo City Road, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Baldwin Ferry Road, Halls Ferry Road, and Warrenton Road. All were heavily guarded by Confederate earthworks. Today, three of these have been at least partially altered in their alignments and names. The Yazoo City Road is now partially expressed as part of Fort Hill Drive; Baldwin Ferry Road exists to the west of the park, and a portion survives in the part tour road connecting the South Loop with the exit along Clay Street; and Warrenton Road is now part of Washington Avenue, also known as U.S. Business Route 61.

Confederate forces established military roads behind their earthworks to facilitate movement between artillery positions and fortifications along the line. This road system does not survive, but may be overlain in places by Confederate Avenue. The Union army established similar access routes to its fieldworks from existing road corridors, which also do not survive.

Roads present during the secondary period of significance that survive within current park

boundaries include Confederate and Union Avenues, Connecting Avenue, Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Pemberton Avenue, Grant Avenue, Sherman Avenue, Grant Circle, Sherman Circle. Lost are the circle drives around many state monuments. Former park roads that are no longer included within park boundaries include Sherman Avenue north of Sherman Circle, which was transferred to Warren County, and connections beyond park boundaries of Jackson Road, as well as South Confederate Avenue and the network of roads that arose from the corridor, which was



**FIGURE 190.** View looking northeast from the Third Louisiana Redan toward the Shirley House, circa 1899. This photograph predates construction of the Illinois State Memorial, which was dedicated in 1906. It indicates the existence of Jackson Road and the Shirley House at the time.



**FIGURE 192.** The contemporary view indicates the addition of cannon, tablets, and monuments marking the Civil War events that occurred in this area. A hard-packed earth road in the historic view, Jackson Road is paved in the 2007 view. Although partially visible due to tree cover, the Illinois State Memorial can be seen in the center of the historic photograph.

transferred to city ownership in 1963, and provided access to surviving earthworks and placed tablets and monuments. The city-owned roads and their associated rights-of-way are maintained in a park-like setting by the city; however, twentieth- and twenty-first-century developments beyond the park-like corridor visually encroach on the roads. Their integrity has been diminished by the various residential driveways and access roads that now lead to commercial and institutional developments from the roads.



**FIGURE 191.** A similar postcard view from the vicinity of the Third Louisiana Redan, 1908. This view shows the historic site after construction of the Illinois State Memorial and the placement of tablets and cannon.



**FIGURE 193.** Comparison with a similar view in 2007 indicates that a parking area has been added below the redan and tree cover is far more extensive in 2007 than it was historically.

Circulation features that post-date the period of significance include the entrance and parking area leading to the current visitor center that were established in the late 1960s, the connection between Confederate Avenue and the South Loop, and the reorientation of the Union and Confederate Avenue system into one-way loop road. Modern Jackson Road was established through a ravine crossing the park in 1970 that carried through traffic, but was not connected to the park. Although its impact is diminished by the grade separation, the road corridor is often used as an illegal dump site within the park boundary, especially along Glass Bayou. Similarly, Mission 66 Road was constructed to by-pass the park, and the majority of the twenty-one local roads that connected with the point were disconnected from park circulation. Until this time there had been four major entrances into the park. Two entrances, one major and one minor, were then developed, and the tour road was converted into a closed loop. Today, twelve public roads extend across park boundaries, but the park only remains accessible from Clay Street and Fort Hill Drive. These circulation changes from the 1960s through the 1980s have altered the visitor experience, patterns of spatial organization, and historic circulation, and constitute non-contributing resources.



**FIGURE 194.** View looking northeast along Jackson Road toward the Illinois State Memorial, circa 1912.

## **Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.**

- During the nineteenth century, the Mississippi River became a transportation artery that linked the West with ports on the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic seaboard. The region afforded access to the Mississippi River for transportation.
- Rail lines developed through the area during the early and mid-nineteenth century. The primary line was the Vicksburg & Meridian Railroad (also known as the Southern Railroad of Mississippi) that served as the only east/west line located between New Orleans and Memphis. The Vicksburg, Shreveport, & Texas Railroad line traversed De Soto Point in the bend of the Mississippi to a railhead at De Soto Landing.
- The De Soto ferry crossed the Mississippi River between Vicksburg and the railhead at De Soto Landing.



**FIGURE 195.** The same view, 2007. These two views indicate that the road corridor pavement has been altered, and the degree of the tree cover between the monument shown and the Shirley House in the background has increased.



- Six roads led into Vicksburg from the north, northeast, east, southeast, and south by 1861: Graveyard Road, Jackson Road, Baldwin Ferry Road, Halls Ferry Road, Yazoo City Road, and Warrenton Road. The roads were generally built along ridge spurs or followed stream channels. Most were surfaced with hard-packed earth. During rains, they turned to mud, making passage difficult.
- The Yazoo City Road was the northernmost of the roads leading into Vicksburg. It crossed Mint Spring Bayou via a ford.
- Jackson Road, which continued to the state capital, followed a ridgeline extending northeast from the city.
- Graveyard Road was so named because it passed the city cemetery.
- The Mississippi River was a key transportation route that also afforded access to the rich farmland of the Delta.
- The Shirley House existed prior to the Civil War. It was described as having a semi-circular driveway that passed the front door, a wide walk running between the front porch and the road, and steps leading to the porch.

#### **Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- Vicksburg was recognized by both Union and Confederate commanders as the key to controlling the Mississippi River.
- In During the fall of 1862 and winter of 1863, the Union army conducted failed attempts under the command of Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to approach the city by digging a canal across De Soto Point prior to the siege.
- A fleet of Federal gunboats ran the batteries at Vicksburg on the night of April 16, 1863.

- Grant led an expedition through Yazoo Pass to land troops downriver at Yazoo City between February 3 and April 14, 1863.
- Grant later marched his forces north-northeast toward the Big Black River, intending to flank the Southern Railroad that connected Jackson and Vicksburg.
- Baldwin Ferry Road was used as an artery of movement for the Federal XIII Corps in its advance on Vicksburg.
- Jackson Road was the artery of advance for the Federal XVII Corps.
- Graveyard Road was the main assault road for the Federal XV Corps.
- Federal troops also approached the Confederate siege lines through trenching and mining and movement of artillery across rough terrain.
- Thayer's Approach was the site of one of the more spectacular of a series of constructed avenues of approach made by the Union army to reach the Confederate lines. It involved excavation of zigzag trenches extending toward a Confederate battery overlooking Mint Spring Bayou.
- Hovey's Approach was comprised of a series of excavated trenches converging on Fort Garrott.
- After these approach efforts contributed to surrender by Confederate Lieutenant General Pemberton on July 4, 1863, General Grant's soldiers marched into Vicksburg along the Jackson Road.

#### **Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866. The first entrance to the cemetery occurred from the riverfront (Warrenton) road. A masonry arch marked the entrance.

- Under the direction of the three early park commissioners, a road system was laid out for Vicksburg National Military Park in 1902. The system was intended to incorporate existing roads such as Graveyard and Jackson Roads, while establishing new roads to meet the mission of the park. The new roads followed the lines occupied by the opposing armies, rendering the fortifications visually and physically accessible. Two main roads were planned. Confederate Avenue would follow the Southern works to their rear, while Union Avenue would edge the Federal lines. Additional roads planned for the park included Connecting Avenue that linked the two lines, and Pemberton Avenue that passed the Surrender Interview Site Monument and also linked the two lines. Completed by 1903, the roads were first surfaced with hard-packed earth. Later a layer of chert gravel was added. Confederate Avenue was constructed first. It was twenty feet wide, while Union Avenue was sixteen feet wide. The roads were intended to support horse and buggy use. Grading was required to create level roadbeds. Circle drives were designed to loop around the many monuments so that they could be seen from all sides.
- Bridges were built in association with the new roads to cross ravines and bayous. By 1903, nine Melan arch bridges and four steel bridges had been constructed. In 1908, the Maloney Circle Bridge was added. The Halls Ferry Road Bridge was completed later by the CCC in 1937.
- During the 1930s, Confederate Avenue was paved in concrete, with curbs, to accommodate the growing popularity of the automobile.
- The CCC conducted road improvement projects involving grading, paving, and stormwater management. Projects included paving of North Confederate Avenue from Fort Nogales to Graveyard Road, using reinforced concrete, and Pemberton Avenue from North Confederate Avenue to the site of

the Administration Building under construction, in 1935. Type H-1 asphalt concrete surfacing was used for some projects such as Pemberton Avenue. The concrete for the upper two inches of the slab consisted of the regular mix of aggregates to which emulsified carbon black was added.

- Beginning in 1940, many of the circle drives around monuments were removed. This effort continued until 1978. Of the original circle drives, only Pemberton Circle and Tennessee Circle survive today.

### **Circulation Patterns and Features Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

- Asphalt paving of Union Avenue began during the Mission 66 development program and was completed in the early 1970s. Many segments had super elevated paving edged by 3-inch mountable curbing.
- In the 1960s, to accommodate the proposed new visitor center structure, Indiana Circle was removed and an associated knoll was leveled.
- Traffic conflicts, particularly public use of park roads as thoroughfares, led to changes in park circulation, land ownership, and the construction of new public roads through and adjacent to the park and associated park bridge crossings. Prior to the Mission 66 era, local roads connected with park roads at twenty-one points, of which four were considered major park entrances. A major portion of the work performed during the Mission 66 era included roadwork outside the park boundaries to create a self-contained one-way park tour road, separated from local roads.
- Mission 66 Road and Modern Jackson Road were built in the late 1960s to establish new public roads that would accommodate some of the traffic that had previously traversed the park. Mission 66 Road was not completed until 1979.



**FIGURE 196.** View looking north along Confederate Avenue toward the Arkansas State Memorial, circa 1950s. This photograph of the road corridor after construction of the memorial in 1954 shows the historic concrete road surface and a view to the memorial.



**FIGURE 197.** A similar view photographed in 2007 indicates that the scene remains much the same, although once again the degree of tree cover behind the monument is greater in 2007 than in the historic photograph.



**FIGURE 198.** View west from the Surrender Interview site along Pemberton Avenue, circa 1910.



**FIGURE 199.** The same views, 2007. Comparison of the images indicates that regrading was conducted in this area after the 1910 image was taken. Images of the CCC efforts to correct erosion at the park show the work that was conducted along Pemberton Avenue to correct erosion at its intersection with Confederate Avenue. Comparison of these two images reveals that the Louisiana State Monument had not yet been constructed. A circle drive referred to as Louisiana Avenue is known to have afforded visitors the opportunity to view the monument from all sides between construction of the monument in 1920 and the CCC regrading effort that changed the intersection of the circle, Pemberton Avenue, and Confederate Avenue.

- As part of a Mission 66 Master Plan, the visitor center, entrance sequence, and Union and Confederate Avenue road network was reconfigured. The avenues were converted to a one-way closed circuit loop road. Grade separations were used to carry public thoroughfares above or below park roads at intersections, and access to the park was limited to two entrances, one major at U.S. Highway 80, and one minor at Fort Hill Drive.

In 1968–1969, the park roads in the vicinity of the new visitor center were reconfigured. At the west edge of the park near Anshe Chesed Cemetery, the connection of Grove Street to the park tour road was removed, and the southward extension of Confederate Avenue to U.S. Highway 80 (Clay Street) was removed. The historic Baldwin Ferry Road was realigned to serve as an east-west connection from Confederate Avenue to the visitor center site and Union Avenue. Similarly, the southward extension of Union Avenue to U.S. Highway 80 (Clay Street) was removed and reconfigured to connect to the visitor center parking lot. The Memorial Arch, which was considered a traffic hazard, was relocated in 1967 to Union Avenue at the beginning of the new tour route. Midway between Union and Confederate Avenues, a new north-south road was created, running south under a new overpass for U.S. Highway 80, and curving east to connect to the existing Union Avenue overpass over the railroad. In the vicinity of the Texas Monument, the former Confederate Avenue railroad overpass was disconnected from the park tour roads and retained to provide access to private residences on Melborn Place.

- In 1970, Old Jackson Road was removed in the vicinity of the Illinois Monument and Shirley House (Fig. 48). At the west end, the connection from the Hickenlooper Battery parking lot to Confederate Avenue was removed. At the east end, the connection from Union Avenue to other public roads was removed.

- In 1972, a new overpass was constructed at modern Jackson Road/Glass Bayou.
- The 1980 *General Management Plan* noted that an uncompleted Mission 66 road in Vicksburg presented an obstacle to planning vehicular traffic flow through the park. The city had constructed 1-1/2 miles of four-lane highway using federal funds south of East Main Street, but 1/2 mile of road north of East Main Street was left unfinished due to funding limitations. This limitation had required the park to maintain its two-way road system. In 1979 the road work was completed. The park tour road was converted to a one-way loop that began at the fee collection booth at Union Avenue beginning in 1980. At that time, the park access point at Sky Farm Avenue was also closed.



**FIGURE 200 and FIGURE 201.** Views west along Graveyard Road toward Stockade Redan, 1899 and circa 1908. These two historic views of Graveyard Road looking west toward Stockade Redan illustrate the landscape during the early park development period.



**FIGURE 202 and FIGURE 203.** A similar view, 1935 and 2007. The image at left shows this location during the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) period. The images illustrate the character of Graveyard Road as it evolved from a hard-packed earth road to a paved road corridor. These images indicate that severe erosion along the road margins was corrected by CCC filling and regrading efforts. Telephone poles visible in the 1908 view had been removed by the 1930s. Rustic wooden guard rails installed during the 1930s are also now gone, as are trees that once edged the road to its north. Woody vegetation in the background of the photographs is far more extensive in 2007, however.



**FIGURE 204 and FIGURE 205.** Left: View looking north along Union Avenue of the site of Battery De Golyer, circa 1902. The historic image illustrates the open character of the landscape, with exposed earth undergoing erosion in the foreground, Battery De Golyer and a few trees scattered in the middle ground, and the Shirley House and another unidentified building in the background. Right: The same view, 2007. In the contemporary view, a tree growing in the foreground has been replaced with the Michigan State Memorial, Union Avenue has been paved with asphalt, curbing occurs along the downhill sides of the road to conduct stormwater, and the earthen slopes are protected under turf grass. Battery De Golyer is still visible in the middle ground. Heavy tree cover has grown up in the background and to the east of the road corridor, obscuring the historic view of the Shirley House.

## Cultural Vegetation

**Summary Analysis.** Predominant among the cultural vegetation that contributes to the park's period of significance is the Bermuda-grass dominated turf that extends along the margins of Union and Confederate Avenues and around the monuments and fortifications viewed from the road. Turf grass is one of the land cover types that protect the local loess soil from erosion, and it is used in many areas of the park to maintain open areas that support visitor interpretation, education, and enjoyment. Bermuda grass has been used for turf in this area since the nineteenth century.

There is otherwise, there is little in the way of cultural vegetation present within the park, and no examples of specific plantings that survive from either period of significance. Pre Civil War descriptions of the Shirley House suggest residential plantings included quince, lilac, rose, violet, jonquils, hyacinth, crape myrtle, and rose of Sharon. None are present today. Review of historic documents has not revealed site designs for monuments and other commemorative features that include plantings of ornamental trees or shrubs.

Cultural vegetation that post-dates the periods of significance includes shrubs and trees associated with the Old Administration Building and the visitor center and park entrance road. Invasive plants with the ability to disrupt native plant populations and habitats have colonized many areas of the park. Among the invasive alien plant species present within the park, those of most concern are kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, privet, Johnson grass, tree of heaven, mimosa, and princess tree. Eradication programs are currently being conducted at the park to remove these invaders. Although some were introduced as early as the Civil War period, most of these plants have an exotic character that contrasts with the natural setting of the park.

## Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- During the nineteenth century, farms dotted the Warren County landscape. Most were small subsistence-level farms, although there were some larger cotton plantations present. Many farms produced a variety of grains, fruits, and vegetables, as well as cotton.
- The Shirley House landscape is described in mid-nineteenth century accounts as including a variety of fruit trees, and ornamental plantings of quinces, lilacs, roses, violets, jonquils [narcissus], hyacinths, crepe myrtle, and althea [Rose-of-Sharon] around the house. A rustic summer house composed of "green grape vines and roots with beds of flowers all around it,"<sup>209</sup> and a vegetable garden with peas, lettuce, and radishes were apparently also present prior to the Civil War.

## Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- Col. Isham W. Garrott commanding the Confederate troops in and around Fort Garrott was killed by a Federal sharpshooter who fired from a position within a nearby tree.
- Pemberton and Grant met under an oak tree located 200 feet from the Confederate trenches to discuss surrender terms on July 3, 1863.
- On July 4, 1864, a small stone obelisk was placed to mark the site of the Surrender Interview. The oak tree that had been located on the site of the surrender had already been lost to souvenir seekers.

---

209. *Fredonia N.Y. Censor*, May 30, 1900, cited in Wilshin, *The Shirley House*, 3.

### Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- After establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park in 1899, management of the site as a park led to a change in the character of the existing agricultural landscape as mown grass and trees began to replace crop fields and pastures.
- The CCC conducted exotic plant eradication efforts during the 1930s.
- The CCC sodded many areas with Bermuda grass where they had regraded and filled to correct erosional problems.



**FIGURE 206.** View looking north toward the Railroad Redoubt from the South Loop, Confederate Avenue, January 1934.

### Cultural Vegetation Characteristic of the Site after 1959.

- The Old Administration Building along Pemberton Avenue was formally planted with trees and shrubs around the parking area and building foundation.
- Ornamental and shade plantings of trees and shrubs are associated with the 1968–1970 visitor center.
- Battlefield restoration during the late twentieth and early twenty-first century has focused on removing woodland cover in association with important fieldworks and their fields of fire (Fig. 206 and Fig. 207).



**FIGURE 207.** The same view, 2007. The redoubt survives, continues to be associated with a series of tablets and monuments, and can be viewed across open ground from a nearby road corridor. Recently cleared of woody vegetative cover, the landcover fronting the redoubt appears to be in the process of stabilizing as turf grass becomes established over the area cleared of trees. Evidence of recent erosion is present in the photograph, however. Tree cover behind the earthwork is more extensive today than in the historic photograph.

## Views and Vistas

See Fig. 208 through Fig. 215.

**Summary Analysis.** Views were a critical component of both the Confederate military defensive system as well as the Union offensive positions during the siege. High points afforded long views of surrounding terrain providing a military advantage. Tree clearing contributed to the ability of Confederate defenders to see approaching troops, but also facilitated an understanding of the terrain by the Union infantry. To ensure early warning of attack and a clear field of fire, views from the high points occupied by military earthworks were maintained as open through the clearing of trees. Views were obscured from ravines and other low points.

During the early park development period, views were considered, at least minimally, in the placement of roads and monuments. Although road corridor design was primarily focused on providing safe access to important features, and following a reasonable gradient within the limited confines of the park boundaries, they also featured views of the important military landscape elements of the adjacent Federal and Confederate lines. Monuments were placed to mark key locations. Many monuments were designed as tall columns, obelisks, or other vertical forms that could be seen from a distance. These became visual reference points for key locations and terrain. When visible from the road, these monuments heighten the drama of the landscape.

Many historically important views are today partially to fully blocked by woodland vegetation. The sense of vast expansive open space and the ability of the visitor to take in the complex terrain is no longer present. Where there are openings in the woodland cover across the siege lines, it is possible to gain a sense of the dramatic terrain. Those earthworks and monuments that are maintained in open turf lawn continue to be visible along the road corridors. Some historic visual relationships have been reestablished since the 1990s by removal of woody vegetation.



**FIGURE 208.** View looking southwest from the Illinois State Monument toward the Third Louisiana Redan, circa 1900. The historic image predates construction of the Illinois State Monument. The landscape is almost entirely open in the photograph. Visible is the earthen corridor of the historic Jackson Road and terraced slopes that likely indicate agricultural use of the ridgeline.



**FIGURE 209.** The same view, 2007. The contemporary view indicates the numerous changes that have occurred within this area of the park, including the paving of Jackson Road, construction of the 1920 Louisiana Monument in the distance, establishment of numerous smaller monuments, markers, and tablets, and an increase in tree cover and turf grasses. The photograph was taken from the steps of the Illinois State Monument, which did not exist at the time the historic photograph was taken.



### **Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.**

- Little is known about views that were important to local residents prior to the Civil War, although it is assumed that French and Spanish fortifications were sited on high points to afford views of the surrounding terrain.

### **Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- Access to long views of the surrounding landscape were an important part of the military strategy of both forces during the siege.
- River batteries were sited to command unobstructed views of the river and approaching vessels.

### **Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- The park's tour road afforded visitors an opportunity to view the lines and fortifications of the opposing lines, punctuated in many cases by state monuments that provided a point of visual reference across long distances.
- Views were maintained through the use of Bermuda grass along road margins, around most state monuments, and earthworks, and other low growing ground cover throughout much of the battlefield.
- After trees were planted by the CCC in the 1930s, the ravines and many other areas of the park slowly became less visually accessible.

### **Views and Viewsheds Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

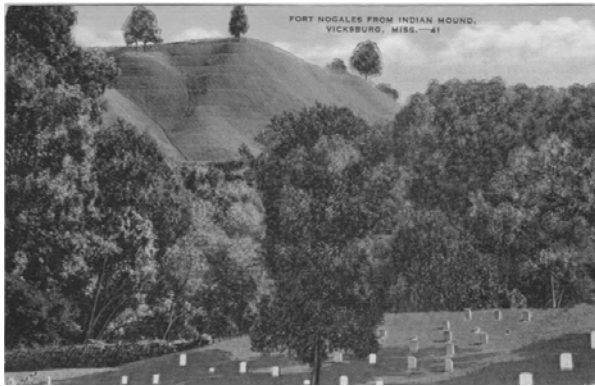
- Clearing of trees in 1998 opened important military views between Fort Garrott and Hovey's Approach
- Clearing of trees around Railroad Redoubt in 2005-06 reinstated important military views.



**FIGURE 210.** View looking north from Fort Hill toward Vicksburg National Cemetery and the Yazoo River Diversion Canal, first decade of twentieth century.



**FIGURE 211.** A similar view, 2007. Generally, the view continues to include a glimpse of the former river bed, and features of the national cemetery are visible from the elevated landform, but woody growth is far more extensive in 2007 and serves to obscure much of the view.



**FIGURE 212.** An undated postcard that illustrates the landscape of the national cemetery and view toward Fort Hill (referred to as Fort Nogales) during the early twentieth century.



**FIGURE 213.** A similar view, 2007. The primary change in the landscape since the early twentieth century is the degree of tree cover which obscures the view of the hillside from the mound. The cemetery also appears slightly less manicured and planted with ornamental specimens and flower beds in 2007.



**FIGURE 214.** View south along Union Avenue and a historic bridge crossing Glass Bayou toward the Shirley House on the ridgeline beyond, circa 1903.



**FIGURE 215.** The same view, 2007. A comparison of the two images is difficult due to the extent of woody vegetation blocking views of the bridge and Shirley House. The bridge shown in the early photograph was replaced with a contemporary bridge in the 1970s. The Shirley House survives, but is no longer visible from this vantage point.

## Buildings

See Fig. 216 through Fig. 219.

**Summary Analysis.** Three buildings within the park survive from the period of significance. These include the antebellum Shirley House, and the Old Administration Building and maintenance complex built circa 1936. Buildings that post-date the period of significance include the visitor center, garage additions to the maintenance complex, two fee collection booths, the USS *Cairo* Museum, and a garage, restoration shop, and storage/archives building located to its north.

Buildings present at the time of the siege that do not survive today include houses and outbuildings associated with subsistence farming that dotted the ridgelines prior to the siege. Many of these, such as the Riddle and Lynd Houses, were burned by the Confederates to establish clear fields-of-fire for their earthworks. Others survived the siege, but are no longer present today, such as the Rock House. Houses were later built after the Civil War that remained after the park was established with owners maintaining life-leases. Park-related buildings that are no longer extant include park personnel housing and the Mississippi River Commission Office that served as a visitor center between 1944 and 1970.

### Buildings Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- Limited settlement occurred within the area during French and Spanish occupation.
- The Willis House was constructed circa 1835–1836. This Greek Revival dwelling, located in downtown Vicksburg, was owned at one point by a descendant of Reverend Newett Vick, Vicksburg’s first settler.
- The Shirley House was built circa 1837–1838 along the Jackson Road by Nicholas Gray. It was known as “Wexford Lodge.” Judge James Shirley purchased the property in 1851, and renovated the dwelling.



**FIGURE 216.** The Shirley House, looking northeast, undated, circa 1930s. The historic photograph indicates that the house was formerly surrounded by a wooden picket fence painted white, which was edged by shade and ornamental trees. Turf lawn extended from the house precinct toward Jackson Road.



**FIGURE 217.** The same view, 2007. The fence and shade and ornamental trees are no longer extant, but the turf grass survives.



**FIGURE 218.** The Shirley House, looking northwest, from the intersection of historic Jackson Road and Union Avenue, circa 1910–1920.



**FIGURE 219.** The same view, 2007. The 2007 view indicates that removal of the tablets along the road, which occurred in 1942 as part of a World War II metal drive, the changes that have occurred to the road corridor including paving, curbing, and widening, and growth of trees along the right hand side of the road and behind the house since the historic photograph was taken

- The Riddle House was present by the Civil War. It was located on a ridge later occupied by Confederate earthworks. It served as a visual and physical landmark during one of the Federal attacks.
- Other dwellings present prior to the siege included the Edward House, Lynd House, Catnol House, Yoste House, Merritt House, Williamson property, and various un-named properties that generally were sited along road corridors.

### **Buildings Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- The Shirley House survived Confederate destruction of most farmhouses in the area as part of their effort to clear the field of fire in front of their defensive lines. The house served as an 1863 headquarters for an Illinois regiment and a smallpox hospital for Federal troops in 1864.
- The Willis House was appropriated for use by Pemberton as his headquarters.
- The Lynd House was set on fire by the Confederates to provide light so that their sharpshooters could see withdrawing Union troops after one of the May 1863 attacks.
- The Union army maintained a lookout and station for sharpshooters referred to as “Coonskin” tower. It was built under the direction of Lt. Henry C. Foster of the Twenty-third Indiana Infantry near the Third Louisiana Redan along the Jackson Road.

### **Buildings Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- The Shirley House was also known as the White House. It fell into disrepair after the war. Alice Shirley Eaton sold the house to the federal government in 1900, but retained burial rights for her parents. Incorporated into the park in 1902, the Shirley House was restored by the park commissioners. It later

served as a visitor center and residence for park employees.

- The Rock House burned in the early 1900s.
- During the early park development period, three observation towers were built within the park. Two of these were located within current park boundaries, while the third was placed within the land currently maintained by the city of Vicksburg. The towers were removed in the 1960s due to their poor and unsafe condition.
- The Shirley House was again restored in 1938.
- The park's visitor center between 1944 and 1970 was the adapted headquarters for the Mississippi River Commission, constructed behind Anshe Chesed Cemetery in 1929.
- The Vicksburg National Cemetery Superintendent's House at Vicksburg National Cemetery was constructed in 1927. The park and the cemetery were managed by separate superintendents until 1947.
- Between 1933 and 1941, four CCC camps existed at the park. The camps variously included tents, temporary wooden army barracks, and other facilities arranged in quadrangles around a parade ground and flagpole.
- The Old Administration Building was constructed in 1936 as park administrative offices. It was converted to the Superintendent's Residence in 1944 and continued in this role until 1978.
- In 1936, the park maintenance complex was constructed.
- Park employee housing was present within the park near the early visitor center by the 1930s.

## **Buildings Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

- The Shirley House was again restored in 1966, at which time its use as a residence for park employees was terminated. Exterior restoration work was conducted in 1983 and again in 2005.
- In the 1960s, the park employee housing was demolished, and three new garages were built in the maintenance complex.
- In 1968–1970 a new visitor center was constructed to replace use of the Mississippi River Commission Office. The building was reroofed in 1980. A new sloped roof was constructed in 1997.
- Construction of the *Cairo* museum, which is partially embedded in a hillside, was completed in 1980. The restored gunboat, placed under a protective tensile structure, opened to the public in 1985. The Cairo Restoration Shop was built in the 1980s as well.
- Fee collection booths were added at the two park entrances in 1987.
- The Operations Storage Facility was built in the late 1980s–early 1990s.
- The curatorial (archive) facility was built in 2000–2001.

## Structures

See Fig. 220 through Fig. 251.

**Summary Analysis.** Four types of structures are present within the park. These include the remnant earthworks associated with the siege, large monuments such as state memorials, engineered features such as bridges and culverts, and a tensile structure.

- *Earthworks.* The gun emplacements, artillery positions, and rifle pits associated with the Civil War siege of Vicksburg are key character-defining features of the park landscape and contributing resources. Physical evidence of these features survives. Efforts conducted by the War Department, and later the CCC, stabilized and rehabilitated many of these earthworks. The interpretive earthwork at the visitor center post-date 1959, and are non-contributing resources.
- *Large Monuments.* The majority of the large monuments located within the park, including most state monuments, the Memorial Arch, and the U.S. Naval Memorial, are contributing resources due to their age. State monuments erected after the period of significance are listed as non-contributing resources due to their age, but remain character-defining features of the park landscape.



**FIGURE 220.** Thayer's Approach Tunnel, undated photograph, early twentieth century.

- *Engineered Structures.* Numerous bridges were constructed during the early park establishment period as part of the road network that provided visitor access to the important resources of the park. Those that survive are contributing resources. A few of these bridges have been replaced with contemporary bridges and box culverts. These replacement structures are non-contributing. Three towers established during the early park development period were removed in the 1960s and constitute missing historic features. The concrete tunnel beneath Union Avenue at Thayer's Approach is visible in an early twentieth century photograph. The feature appears to date from the early park development period, although a tunnel existed in this location during the siege (Fig. 220 and Fig. 221).
- *Other Structures.* The tensile structure protecting the USS *Cairo* post-dates the period of significance and constitutes a non-contributing resource. Missing structures include the contact stations that existed at the park during the period of significance.



**FIGURE 221.** The same view, 2007. The tunnel and the road corridor that crosses it survive, but a large earthen mound to the right in the historic photograph appears to have been lost or removed, and there is far more woody vegetation.

### **Structures Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.**

- A battery was part of Fort Nogales during Spanish occupation. Fort Nogales was the name given to the eighteenth century Spanish military fortification located near present-day Vicksburg National Cemetery. The fortification included Fort Sugar-loaf, sited on the mound in the present-day cemetery and Fort Mount Vigio at current-day Fort Hill. This structure was renamed Fort McHenry after the United States gained control of this region in 1797.
- Antebellum accounts of the Shirley House landscape suggest that the property included a cistern, stable, and hen house.

### **Structures Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).**

- All traces of Fort McHenry had disappeared by the Civil War. The site was used to construct the Confederate fortifications known as Fort Hill. These fortifications were further adapted for use by the Union forces that occupied the region after the siege.
- Early on during the war, river batteries were established along the water's edge near Vicksburg. In September 1862, Confederate engineers began to construct a system of land defenses to further protect the position and river at Vicksburg. Nine major fortification structures anchored the system. These were composed primarily of earth, with log parapets reinforced with cylindrical baskets of native cane called gabions. Tightly-bound bundles of brush called fascines were used as a reinforcement for the unstable loess.
- The Water Battery was a Confederate battery position that controlled the bend in the Mississippi River above Vicksburg.
- Fort Hill was the anchor of the Confederate defensive line on the north and an observation point to monitor Union naval operations on the river.
- The Second Texas Lunette was a Confederate defensive strong point guarding Baldwin Ferry Road.
- The Great Redoubt was a Confederate stronghold guarding Jackson Road.
- The Stockade Redan was the central fort, flanked by the Twenty-seventh Louisiana Lunette to the west and Green's Redan to the east, key to the defenses guarding the Graveyard Road. Several bloody assaults were made on this position by Union forces, and General Green was killed at the site. The Twenty-seventh Louisiana Lunette was the object of the Fourth West Virginia Infantry attack.
- The Third Louisiana Redan guarded the Jackson Road, and was the scene of Union mining operations. Explosives were set beneath the parapet of the fort and ignited.
- Fort Garrott, which was also known as the Square Fort, was located south of Railroad Redoubt.
- Railroad Redoubt was the Confederate guardian of the Southern Railroad of Mississippi rail line that ran east from Vicksburg.
- The Union army conducted at least two mining operations to reach and destroy the parapet of the Third Louisiana Redan that guarded Jackson Road.
- The Salient Work, also referred to as the Horn Work, commanded the Halls Ferry Road into Vicksburg. It was called the salient work due to its forward position as related to the remainder of the line. It consisted of an irregular redan with a short northerly face and longer south face with an oblique angle at the end. Two artillery pieces were stationed within the work. It was the object of Federal sap operations.

- South Fort anchored the southern end of the Confederate line along the river, and also guarded the Warrenton Road.
- Battery Barnes was a secondary fort built prior to the siege to guard the river approach from the south. It reinforced South Fort. Today, Battery Barnes is protected as part of the Louisiana Circle unit of the park.
- On May 19, 1863, the Union army assaulted Stockade Redan along the Graveyard Road approach to the city. Confederate defenders rolled cannon balls down the parapet onto the attackers.
- On May 22, 1863, the Union army conducted a second attack on Stockade Redan. Federal troops also attacked the Third Louisiana Redan (known as Fort Hill by the Union army), the Great Redoubt, Railroad Redoubt, Second Texas Lunette, Fort Garrott, and South Fort. At first successful in attacking Railroad Redoubt, the Union forces were later repulsed. Based on these failed attempts to overrun the Confederate defenses, Grant shifted his approach to gaining Vicksburg, assuming that the defenders would not last a protracted siege.
- During the siege, Federal batteries were sited on ridgelines where their artillery could fire upon the Confederate strongholds.
- Battery Selfridge was a position manned by men and artillery drawn from Union gunboats in the Mississippi River and added to the Union siege.
- Battery DeGolyer amassed the largest concentration of Union artillery along the siege lines. It was composed of four batteries including the Second Illinois, Third Ohio, Eighth Michigan, and Yost's (independent) Ohio battery.
- Battery Benton was a Union anchor position on the south end of the siege line, commanded by naval personnel from the USS *Benton*.

- At least one lookout tower was built by the Union army. It was known as Coonskin tower, and used as a sharpshooter position for firing on the Third Louisiana Redan.

### **Structures Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.**

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege. The original entrance to the cemetery occurred from the riverfront road (Warrenton Road). A masonry arch marked the entrance after 1920.
- In 1887, the Louisiana Monument on Monroe Street was erected and dedicated.
- Vicksburg National Military Park enabling legislation directed park commissioners to commemorate the siege of Vicksburg. Commemoration, including the establishment of monuments and markers in memory of the soldiers stationed on the site, the restoration of the forts and lines of fortifications, and demarcation of the lines of battles and other points of interest with tablets.
- Three observation towers were constructed within the park in the early 1900s. These were located at Logan Circle southeast of intersection of Union Avenue and Old Jackson Road; on a high mound along Confederate Avenue to the east of Fort Hill; and near the southern end of the Confederate Avenue extension beyond current park boundaries.
- Nine Melan arch bridges were constructed in association with ravine and stream crossings of Union and Confederate Avenues in 1903. One of these, Bridge No. 5, was removed and replaced with a box culvert in 1997. Bridge No. 1 was a Melan arch bridge constructed across a branch of Durden Creek northeast of the current visitor center. Bridge No. 2 was a Melan arch bridge across a drainageway near the Battery De Golyer. Bridges No. 3, 4, and 5 were Melan arch bridges along North Union Avenue associated with branches of Mint Spring Bayou. Bridge No. 7 is a Melan arch



bridge along the South Loop near the Indiana Monument. Bridge No. 8 is a Melan arch bridge located just north of Bridge No. 7 near Hovey's Approach. Bridge No. 9 is a Melan arch bridge located farther north near tour stop 15. Bridge No. 10 is also a Melan arch bridge located south of the Iowa Monument along the South Loop.

- Four steel bridges were also constructed in 1903 in association with the park's tour road system, none of which survive. Steel bridges were formerly associated with the Union and Confederate Avenue crossings of the ravine where modern Jackson Road is currently located. Bridge No. 6 was the Confederate Avenue steel bridge crossing of modern Jackson Road that was replaced in the 1970s and removed in 2003. Another steel bridge was formerly located across Stout's Bayou and a rail line spur at the end of South Confederate Avenue. This was replaced with a steel, brick, and concrete bridge in 1938.
- The Maloney Circle Bridge was built in 1908 across the tracks of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad to provide access to Battery Maloney.
- The 1937 Halls Ferry Bridge was built by CCC labor to provide a separated grade crossing at the busy intersection of Halls Ferry Road and South Confederate Avenue. It is located on former park land currently maintained by the city.
- The Massachusetts State Monument was built in 1903 (Fig. 224 and Fig. 225).
- The New Hampshire State Monument was established in the park in 1904 (Fig. 226 through Fig. 229).
- The Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Illinois State Monuments were erected in 1906 (Fig. 230 through Fig. 234).
- The Minnesota and Virginia State Monuments were built 1907 (Fig. 235 through Fig. 237).



**FIGURE 222.** View north from behind the Illinois State Memorial toward the site of the Wisconsin State Monument, circa 1903, showing a bridge crossing Glass Bayou.



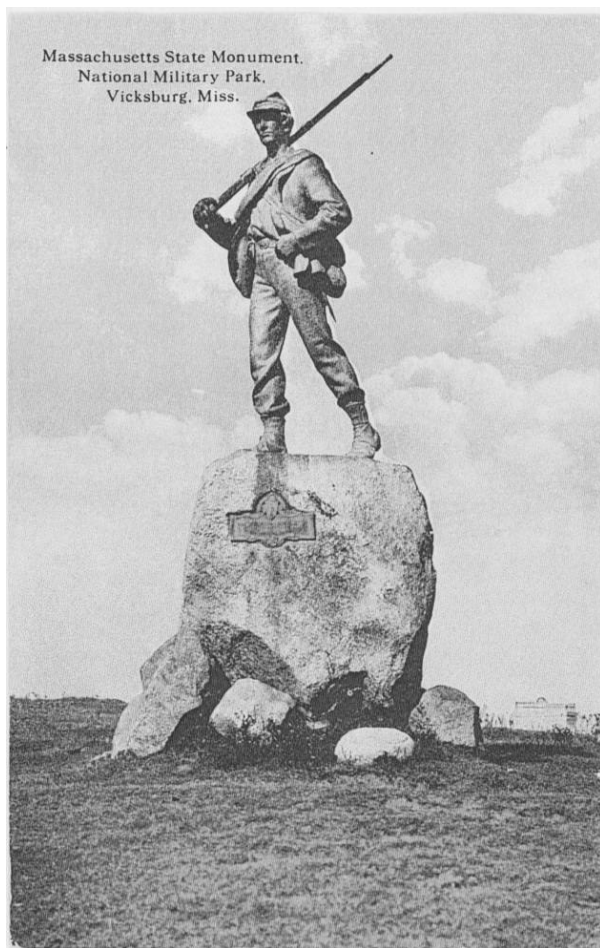
**FIGURE 223.** A similar view, 2007. Woody vegetation in the contemporary photograph obstructs views. The early bridge was removed and replaced circa 1970.

- The Rhode Island State Monument was completed in 1908 (Fig. 238 and Fig. 239).
- The Mississippi State Monument was established in the park in 1909–1912 (Fig. 240 and Fig. 241).
- The Wisconsin State Monument was erected in 1911 (Fig. 242 through Fig. 247).
- The Union Navy Memorial was built in 1911 (Fig. 248 and Fig. 249).
- The Michigan State Monument was completed in 1916.

- The Missouri and New York State Monuments were established within the park in 1917 (Fig. 250 and Fig. 251).
- The Louisiana State Monument was built in 1920.
- In 1920, a Memorial Arch was placed at the entrance to the park. The entrance was then located along Clay Street west of Confederate Avenue. The memorial was funded by monies remaining after the 1917 veterans' reunion. A second arch was placed at the entrance to the national cemetery along the riverfront road (Warrenton, Washington, or U.S. Business Route 61).
- During the 1930s, the CCC restored monuments, constructed bridges—including Halls Ferry Road bridge—and rehabilitated earthworks including the Water Battery, Fort Garrott, Great Redoubt, Railroad Redoubt, and Fort Hill. Some earthworks, such as the Second Texas Lunette located within the Hebrew Cemetery, were not rehabilitated.
- The Alabama State Monument was built in 1951.
- The Arkansas and Florida State Monuments were erected in 1954.
- The remaining three iron bridges constructed in the early 1900s were replaced in the 1970s.
- Two entrance booths were constructed in 1987 to collect park entrance fees at the Memorial Arch near the visitor center and along Fort Hill Drive.
- In 1996 the Tennessee State Monument was erected.
- In 1997, Melan Arch Bridge No. 3 was repaired and Bridge No. 5 was replaced by a box culvert.
- The Mississippi State Monument was rehabilitated 2001.
- The Kentucky Monument was erected and dedicated in 2001.
- The early 1900s steel arch bridge carrying Confederate Avenue over modern Jackson Road and Glass Bayou was demolished in 2003.
- In 2004 the Mississippi African American Monument was built.
- The Connecticut Monument was dedicated in 2008.

### **Structures Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

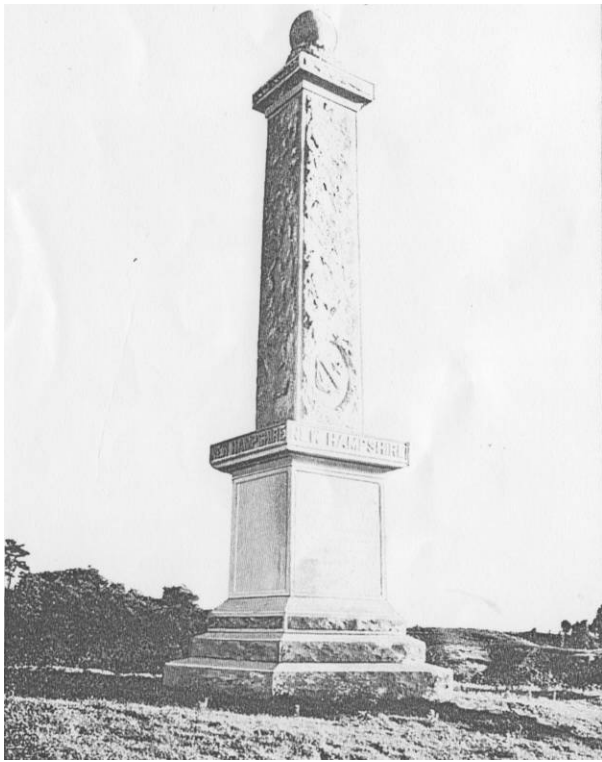
- The three park observation towers were demolished between 1963 and 1966.
- In 1964, the USS *Cairo* was raised from the Yazoo River bed. Construction of a protective structure and museum were completed by 1980. Restoration of the boat was completed by 1985.
- In 1969 the steel arch bridge along North Union Avenue, between the present-day Wisconsin and West Virginia Monuments, was demolished and replaced with a culvert.



**FIGURE 224.** The Massachusetts State Monument, looking north, circa 1908



**FIGURE 225.** The same view, 2007. The monument appears to survive in good condition, although some of the boulders at the base of the monument shown in the historic image appear to have been moved in the 2007 image. Otherwise the primary difference in the views is the dramatic increase in vegetation seen behind the monument.



**FIGURES 226 and 227.** The New Hampshire State Memorial, looking west, circa 1908; looking east, circa 1910–1920.



**FIGURES 228 and 229.** The New Hampshire State Memorial, similar views, 2007. Located with many other state monuments along Grant Circle, the New Hampshire State Memorial was the second state monument placed at the park. Both views indicate that the monument itself retains a high degree of integrity, and continues to be set on a knoll maintained in open turf lawn. Behind the monument both to the east and to the west, however, the setting has changed through the addition of extensive expanses of woodland. The woodland cover obscures views of the park to the west, and the rolling terrain to the east. In the contemporary view looking east, a transmission tower is visible in 2007 that was not present during the early twentieth century.



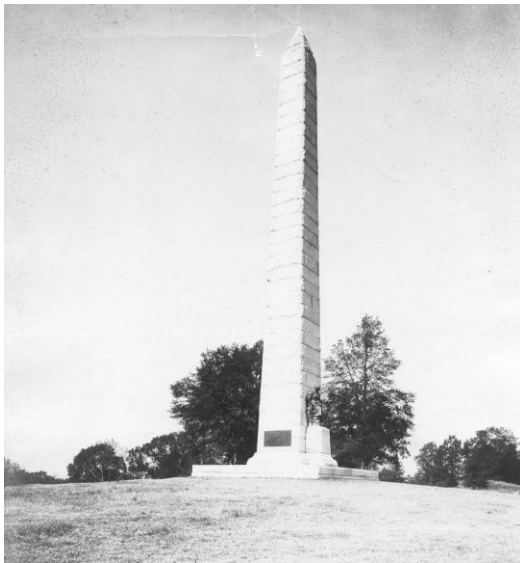
**FIGURE 230 and 231.** Left: The Pennsylvania State Memorial, looking east, 1907. Right: The same view, circa 1910–1920.



**FIGURE 232.** The same view, 2007. Dedicated in 1906, the Pennsylvania State Memorial is located along Grant's Circle. The memorial survives with a high degree of integrity. Changes to the landscape include the addition of dense woodland vegetation behind the monument, and a narrow concrete walk leading to the monument from the road nearby. Historic maps indicate that a circle drive was intended for this monument, which is no longer present.



**FIGURE 233 and 234.** Left: The Illinois State Memorial, looking east toward the Shirley House, circa 1910–1920. Right: The same view, 2007. Dedicated in 1906, the Illinois State Memorial is one of the largest and most ornate state monuments in the park. Changes that have occurred in association with the monument over time include the addition of a parking area in front of the monument, a shift in the alignment of Jackson Road fronting the monument, revegetation of an access route leading around the western side of the memorial with grass, loss of trees edging the Shirley House precinct beyond the monument, and the addition of a transmission tower in the far distant view. Cannon that once flanked the stairs leading to the memorial are no longer present. There are many more trees visible behind the monument in the 2007 photograph than in the historic image.



**FIGURE 235 and 236.** Left: The Minnesota State Monument, looking northwest, circa 1907. Right: looking south, no date.

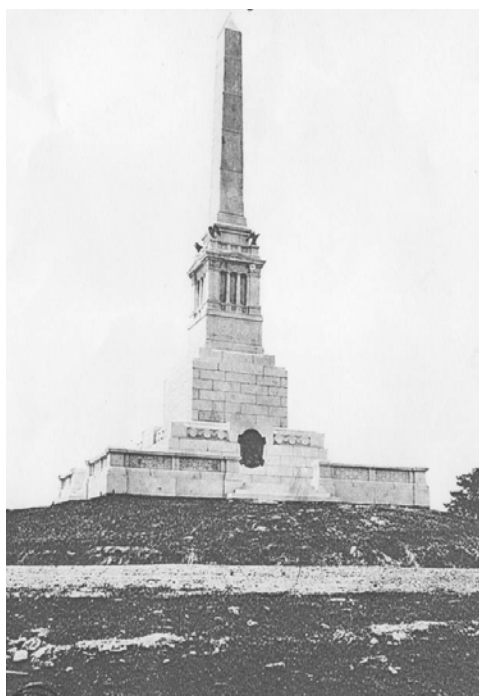


**FIGURE 237.** The Minnesota State Monument, looking south, 2007. Erected in 1907, the Minnesota State Monument was recently recognized for its centennial. Comparison of historic and contemporary views of the monument indicates the changes that have occurred to the structure and its setting over the past 100 years. The contemporary photograph includes temporary interpretive signage marking the centennial. The photographs suggest that the monument itself is little changed since its dedication. In addition, it continues to be sited on a broad, gently-sloping knoll maintained in turf grass that edges Union Avenue. Changes to its setting include the large increase in woodland behind the monument, loss of the circle drive that once afforded views of the monument from all sides, and the more open nature of the knoll that allowed for these views.





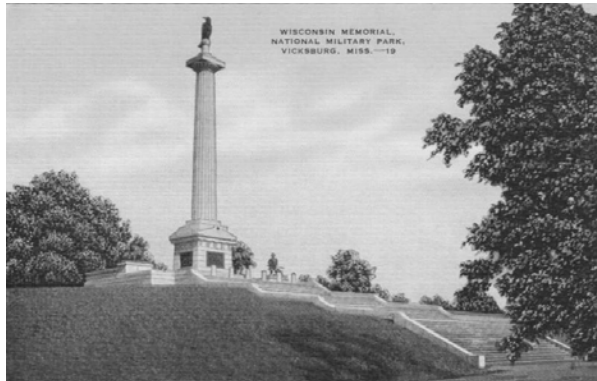
**FIGURE 238 and 239.** The Rhode Island State Memorial, looking east, 1908; and the same view, 2007. The Rhode Island State Memorial is located along Grant Avenue near Grant Circle. It was dedicated in 1908. Comparison of an early twentieth century view and a 2007 photograph from a similar perspective suggests that the monument survives in good condition. Once again, tree cover behind the monument is far more extensive, changing the character of the monument's setting.



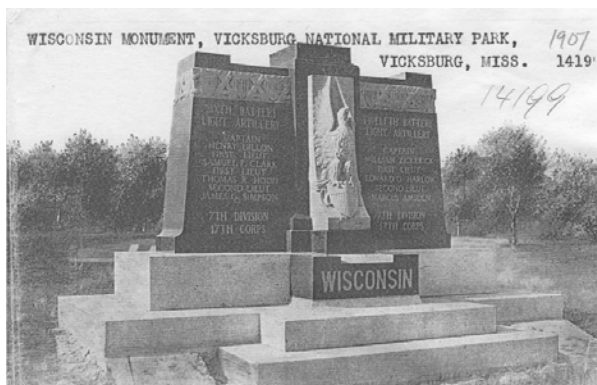
**FIGURE 240 and 241.** The Mississippi State Memorial, looking northwest, 1908; and the same view, 2007. Dedicated in 1909, this memorial is located along Confederate Avenue. A postcard dated 1908 illustrates the monument soon after its construction in 1907. Comparison of the postcard with a similar view suggests that the road may have been realigned away from the monument at some point. Once again, tree cover behind the monument is more extensive in the contemporary view than in the historic image. Bronze sculpture known to have been installed in 1912 is absent from the monument in the historic view.



**FIGURE 242 and 243.** Left: Wisconsin Infantry Monuments flanking Union Avenue, looking northeast, 1908. Right: The same view, 2007. Much of the landscape retains its historic character of 100 years ago. Union Avenue retains a similar character and alignment, although the road has since been surfaced with asphalt and curbing along the uphill side of the road in the historic view has been removed. The predominant land cover is turf grass in both images. However, the historic image suggests that meadow grasses and flowering bulbs formerly grew at the base of the monument. The postcard predates construction of the Wisconsin State Memorial, which appears in the 2007 photograph. The earlier view indicates the open nature of the knoll behind the monuments that is now wooded.



**FIGURE 244 and 245.** Left: The Wisconsin State Memorial, looking east, circa 1912. Right: The same view, 2007. The Wisconsin State Memorial was erected in 1911. The memorial remains remarkably consistent in appearance since its construction. Like many of the park's memorials, the setting around the monument continues to be maintained in turf lawn, but trees are seen to have encroached on the landscape behind the monument by 2007. The original circle drive that afforded views of the monument from all sides is no longer extant.



**FIGURE 246 and 247.** Left: The Wisconsin Twelfth Battery Monument, looking southwest, 1907. Right: The same view, 2007. Sited on a knoll overlooking Union Avenue, the monument marks the location of a Federal battery. Comparison of the views shows that the monument base was altered through the placement of a concrete apron to protect the monument from damage by mowers. The setting for this monument is changed by the growth of trees, although the 1907 view shows a grove of young trees near the monument.





**FIGURE 248 and 249.** Union Navy Memorial, looking west, 1911; and the same view, 2007. The Union Navy Memorial was constructed in 1911. The monument remains consistent in appearance from its original design and construction. The setting for the monument, however, has changed through the establishment of woodland on the slopes behind the monument.



**FIGURE 250 and 251.** Left: The Missouri State Memorial, looking southeast, circa 1916. Right: The same view, 2007. Dedicated in 1917, this monument is located along Confederate Avenue south of Stockade Redan. The monument survives with a good degree of integrity, although the monument's setting has changed due to the growth of woody vegetation behind it. Visitor appreciation of the monument has been affected by the reorientation of Confederate Avenue. Designed to be viewed from the south, the monument is now approached from the north, altering the intention of the designed view of the monument.

## Small-scale Features

See Fig. 252 through Fig. 255.

**Summary Analysis.** There are no small-scale features that survive from the Civil War period of the park's history. Small-scale features present during that time included abatis, cheveaux-de-frise, headlogs, sap rollers, and the stockade fence of the Stockade Redan.

Numerous small-scale features survive from the period of significance and contribute to the historic significance of the park landscape. Most of these are associated with the early park development period and include small monuments, busts, reliefs, tablets, identity and road signs, and cannon. Additional small-scale features survive from the 1930s and CCC activities such as signs and culverts and other drainage structures. Surviving small-scale features also include concrete retaining walls along segments of the Union and Confederate Avenue road corridors, and the Shirley gravestones.

Some of the features established by the CCC are no longer extant. These include rustic-style signs, guard rails, picnic benches, and stone grills. Fencing used by residents with life leases to maintain their agricultural crop fields and pastures that existed during the commemorative period into the 1930s is also no longer extant.

Non-contributing small-scale features include the site furnishings and exhibits associated with the visitor center.

### Small-scale Features Characteristic of the Site prior to 1861.

- It is not currently known what small-scale features existed within the Vicksburg National Military Park landscape prior to the Civil War. Likely present, however, were fences of various types.

### Small-scale Features Characteristic of the Site during the Civil War (1861–1865).

- There were many small-scale features associated with the earthworks and fortifications of the siege and the soldier camps. These included headlogs, abatis, cheveaux-de-frise, animal enclosures and tying posts, water collection and distribution features, and tents.
- Obstacles placed by Confederate troops as part of the defensive system included larger trees with branches sharpened into spikes called abatis, or laid horizontally with intersecting diagonal rows of sharpened spikes called cheveaux-de-frise. Other obstacles were created by cabling downed timber with vines and wires.
- Union soldiers dug a series of protected approach trenches toward the Confederate lines with the intent of planting mines beneath Confederate fortifications. They hid behind sap rollers.
- On July 4, 1864, a small stone obelisk was placed to mark the site of the Surrender Interview. A square base, surmounted by an ornamental ball of marble, was surrounded by masonry protected by Roman cement and an iron fence of simple but appropriate design.

### Small-scale Features Characteristic of the Site between 1865 and 1959.

- After the war, the Surrender Interview Site Monument was damaged by visitors who removed pieces of its shaft. It was moved in 1867 to the Cherry Street Railroad Station, in 1868 to the Indian Mound in Vicksburg National Cemetery, and later to the visitor center. In the late 1860s, an upright cannon tube engraved with a commemorative inscription was erected to again mark the site.



**FIGURE 252.** View south from the vicinity of the Surrender Interview Site Monument, circa 1900.



**FIGURE 253.** Attempt to photograph a similar view, 2007. This pair of images suggests a great degree of change has occurred in the landform and topography below the monument. Given the more steeply sloped landscape below the monument in the historic image, this photograph may have been taken from a different angle. However, the monument and its surrounding stone wall appear similar in the two images.



**FIGURE 254.** A 1908 postcard of the Lee Memorial, a statue of the Confederate leader, looking west.



**FIGURE 255.** A similar view, 2007, along the South Loop of Confederate Avenue. The statue appears to retain a high degree of integrity. Tree cover behind the monument is extensive in the contemporary view.

- Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 on land that was partially occupied by Union forces during the siege. Headstones and other burial markers are some of the small-scale features associated with the cemetery.
- Within the Vicksburg area, road building and maintenance was rendered challenging by the erodibility of the soil. Large culverts were used in association with local streets to convey stormwater and diminish the threat of erosion.
- After 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park began to mark the lines of battles and other points of interest with cast iron tablets.
- Iron gun carriages were acquired in 1903–1905 to mark artillery positions.
- A 10-inch Columbiad referred to as the Widow Blakely was acquired by the park through donation in 1935. This is the only artillery piece displayed at the park that was actually used during the siege. Arrangements were made to mount it in front of the Administration Building, but it was ultimately placed at Louisiana Circle.
- A picnic grounds was established by the CCC in 1936. Signage associated with the picnic grounds was fashioned in the Colonial Revival style. Rustic wood benches and grills or camp stoves composed of stacked stones arranged in a horseshoe shape were placed within the picnic grounds.
- Guard rails were used along many segments of road identified by the CCC as having a dangerous proximity to steep slopes. These were generally constructed in the “rustic” style and comprised of local cedar and locust.
- Some road and erosion control work required the CCC to move and reset historical markers and monuments.
- The CCC built concrete gutter in various places to convey stormwater.

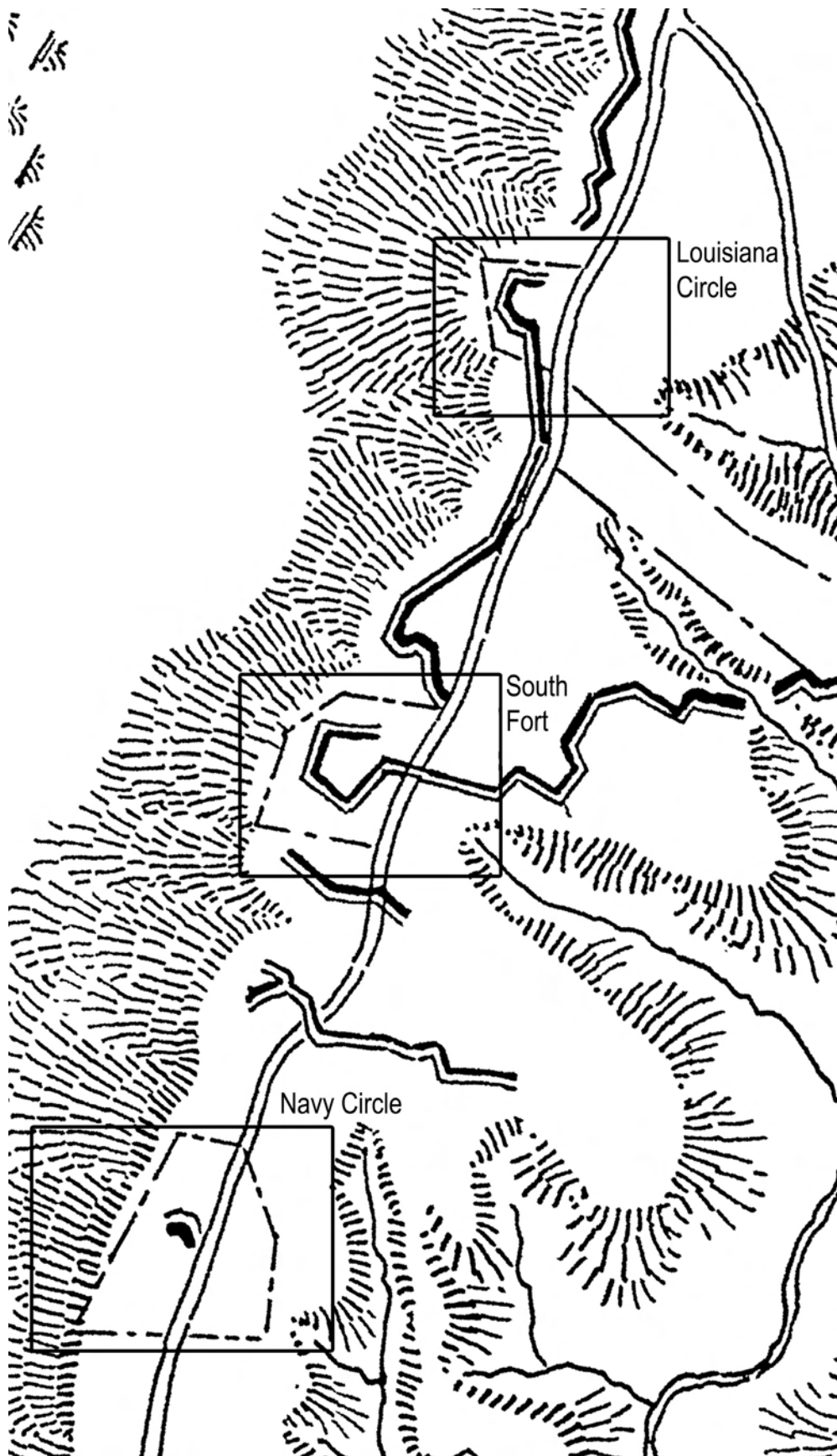
- In support of the World War II metal drive, numerous cast iron markers were removed from the park. Included were 143 of the largest tablets and markers.

#### **Small-scale Features Characteristic of the Site after 1959.**

- Twenty-two of the cast iron markers removed in support of the World War II metal drive have been replaced.
- The 1968–1969 Visitor Center and adjacent parking area, as well as the nearby living history demonstration area include various small-scale features.
- Interpretive waysides, directional, informational and wayfinding signs, and traffic signs have been added to the park since 1959.
- Small monuments, statues, busts, and portrait reliefs have been added to the park since 1959.
- Drainage and stormwater management features have been added to the park since 1959.

#### **Noncontiguous Parcels**

The following section provides a comparative analysis for the three noncontiguous park parcels included in the scope of this study: Louisiana Circle, South Fort, and Navy Circle. Fig. 256 through Fig. 260 provide overview maps and aerial photography for all three parcels.



**FIGURE 256.** Conditions after the siege, circa 1863 (from a 1938 drawing).

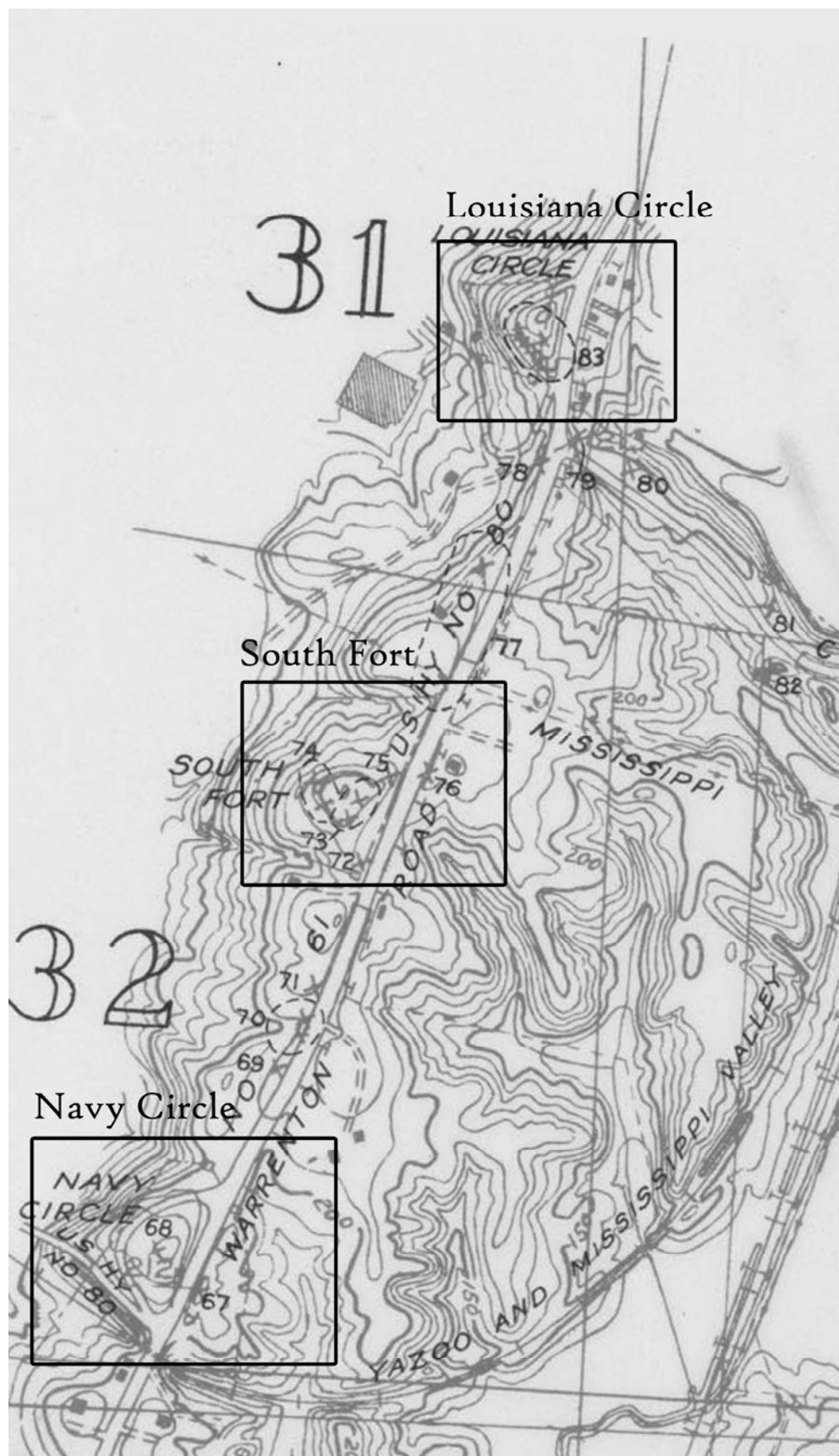






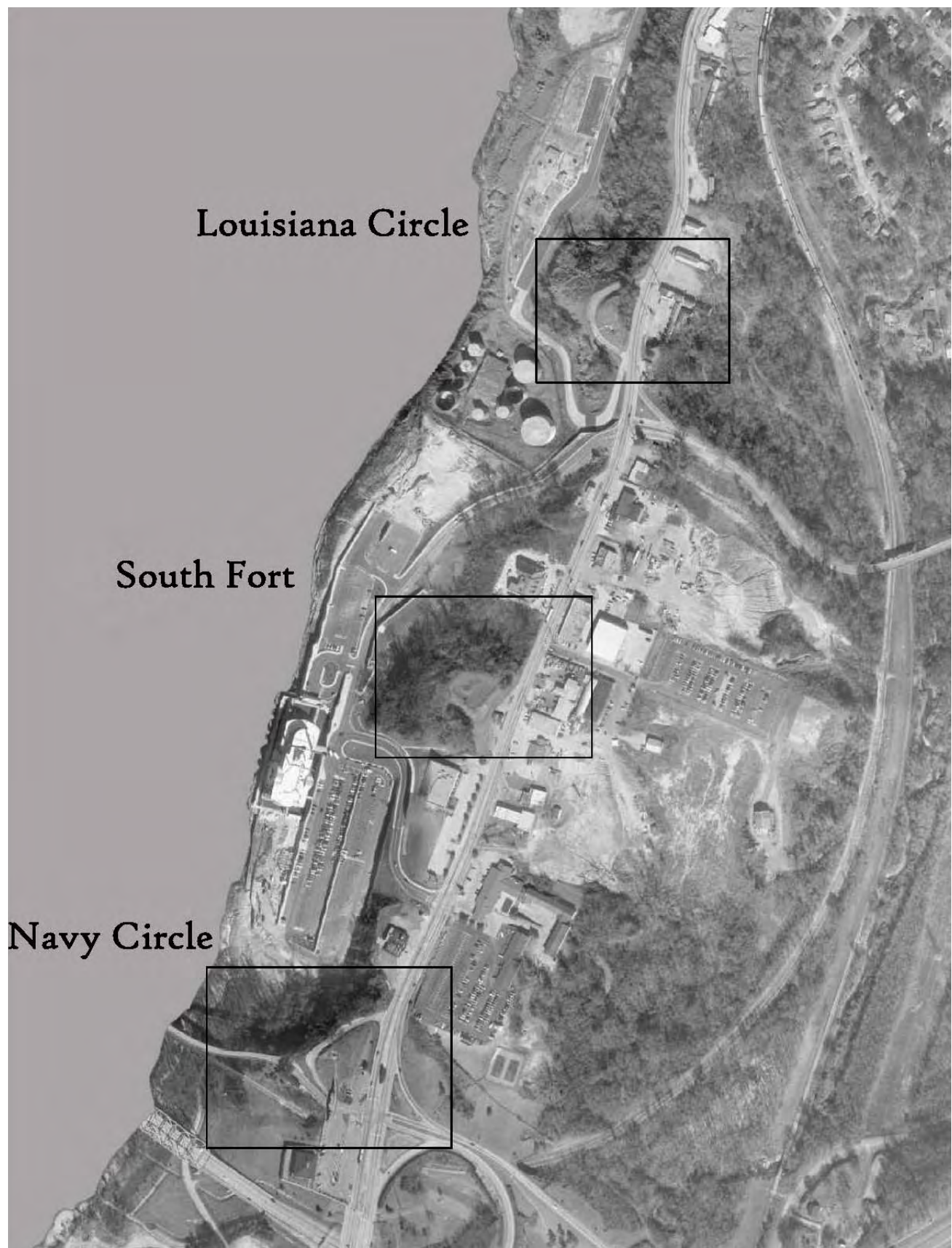
**FIGURE 258.** Detail of 1925 bird's eye view by Poole. The location labeled "South Fort" is actually the Louisiana Circle parcel.





**FIGURE 259.** USGS survey map, 1935.





**FIGURE 260.** Contemporary aerial photography, early 2000s.

**Louisiana Circle.** The fortification featured within the park's Louisiana Circle unit was part of the southern anchor of the Confederate line of defenses around the City of Vicksburg. Surviving historic evidence of the landscape of the fortification during the siege and the early part of the twentieth century includes various maps (Fig. 256 through Fig. 260) and photographs. A 1902–1903 topographic survey, prepared for the park commissioners, shows Louisiana Circle with many of its existing elements, including the access road, five granite monuments, and artillery piece, as built (Fig. 257). The survey shows the parcel boundary, as well as a rectangular form with a note indicating it as the approved site of the proposed Confederate Naval Memorial, apparently never built. The memorial was sited to the north of the artillery piece within the circular access road. Also shown on the survey is the exterior line of the Civil War entrenchment which followed the southern and western edge of the access road. A redan-like form is shown extending from the road to the west. A panoramic photograph taken at approximately the same time depicts the landscape soon after it became part of the park (Fig. 261).

The photograph indicates that by this time the landscape of the fort remained predominantly open, although a few deciduous trees had grown up around its perimeter. The photograph also shows that the existing circular access road, at least one of the existing granite monuments, and an emplaced artillery piece had been established. The surface of the circular access road during this early part of the twentieth century road was hard-packed earth, edged by curbing on the uphill side. The landscape to the center of the access road was maintained in mown grass. The landscape of the early twentieth century can be compared with the contemporary landscape through repeat photography (Fig. 262). Differences include the establishment of the guard rail, stairs, signage, and site furnishings. It is likely that the remaining four existing granite monuments and the cast-iron tablet were added relatively soon thereafter by the War Department. A 1925 bird's eye view shows "South Fort" encircled by a ring road arising from adjacent Warrenton Road (Fig. 258). It is likely that this map is mislabeled and the earthwork shown is actually Louisiana Circle. A postcard



**FIGURE 261.** Panorama of Louisiana Circle, early 1900s.



**FIGURE 262.** Contemporary panorama of Louisiana Circle, 2007.

that probably dates from the 1920s or 1930s shows the cannon and an associated cast-iron tablet (Fig. 263). Two of the five existing granite monuments are visible below the brow of the parapet. This postcard also depicts trees partially blocking the view toward the river. Comparison of the landscape through contemporary repeat photography (Fig. 264) indicates the similarity of the view today, with the exception of the addition of contemporary development along the river that has altered the view from the fortification.

The hard-packed earth road corridor encircling the knoll is known to have been paved with concrete in the 1930s. Some sections have required repair or replacement over the years. On a 1935 survey of the park (Fig. 259), the Louisiana Circle parcel is labeled, with topographic conditions and



**FIGURE 263.** Postcard view from Louisiana Circle. Although the postcard text says “South Fort,” this view is actually the Louisiana Circle parcel.



**FIGURE 264.** Contemporary view from Louisiana Circle, 2007.

the perimeter circular access road shown in a configuration consistent with that present today. The survey also indicates the presence of a building with a massive footprint adjacent to the parcel to its west that likely impacted views from the parcel toward the river. This building does not survive today.

The artillery piece visible in the early twentieth century photographs of the Louisiana Circle unit was replaced in 1959 with the present artillery piece. Known as the “Widow Blakely,” this 10-inch Columbiad navy rifle was employed by the Confederates at Vicksburg during the siege, but was emplaced further north along the line. The cannon was later removed from Vicksburg and taken to West Point after the war. In 1959, it was returned to Vicksburg and placed in its current location within the Louisiana Circle.

Other features that post-date the park’s periods of significance include the existing guard rail, the access stairs and walk, and the various small-scale features such as signs and site furnishings that support visitor use. One of the tablets associated with the landing at the Widow Blakely was added by the NPS rather than the War Department, and likely post-dates the park’s periods of significance.

Features that survive from the periods of significance include:

#### Natural Features and Systems

- Knoll landform

#### Cultural Vegetation

- Turf grass (predominantly Bermuda grass)

#### Topographic Modifications

- Civil War earthwork remnant atop the knoll

#### Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Elevated knoll landform encircled by an access road

- Expansive sense of open space from prominent knoll with views to the river to the west

#### Circulation

- Concrete access road with curbing, drains, and parking pull-off

#### Views and Vistas

- Expansive views to the Mississippi River

#### Small-scale Features

- Granite and bronze monuments (5)
- Cast iron tablet

**South Fort.** With Battery Barnes, South Fort provided the anchor to the Confederate defensive line's southern end. Surviving historic evidence of the landscape of the fortification during the siege and the early part of the twentieth century includes various maps (Fig. 256 through Fig. 260) and photographs. Two historic photographs of the parcel just prior to and after its acquisition by the Federal government indicate landscape conditions during the early park establishment period. Both views indicate that the site and its environs remained relatively free of woody growth around the turn of the twentieth century, allowing for expansive views of the surrounding landscape and river from the fortification. The form of the earthen parapet walls and ditch were, and continue to be, relatively intact. A circa 1899 photograph indicates that erosion was a problem in the vicinity of the earthwork (Fig. 265). This image can be compared with contemporary repeat photography to understand the extent of development that has occurred in the vicinity of the fortification, altering its setting (Fig. 266). A later panoramic photograph suggests that a good cover of Bermuda grass had been established on the earthwork, helping to stabilize the erosion problem (Fig. 267). The 1899 photograph also shows the character of the landscape surrounding the earthwork parcel. Warrenton Road appears as a winding corridor surfaced with hard-packed earth edged by fencing used to contain grazing



**FIGURE 265.** View of erosion at South Fort, circa 1899.



**FIGURE 266.** Contemporary view of South Fort, 2007.

livestock. A few trees dot the hilly terrain. The later photograph indicates the presence of at least one War Department tablet and two emplaced artillery pieces. The other tablets and the Iowa marker were likely placed on the site during the periods of significance, although the Iowa marker base appears to have been replaced more recently. The 1902–1903 survey (Fig. 257) provides relatively detailed information about the parcel soon after acquisition by the Federal government. The survey indicates the boundary of the parcel, the U-shaped form of the earthwork, and the Civil War-era positions of the artillery pieces known to have been emplaced within the fortification. No access route into the parcel is indicated, although the fortification remnants were located in close proximity to the former alignment of Warrenton Road.



**FIGURE 267.** Panorama of South Fort, early 1900s.

An early twentieth-century postcard view of the site also provides information about the landscape during the periods of significance (Fig. 268). The postcard shows two artillery pieces pointing across the parapet toward the road corridor and the river, and indicate the presence of at least one cast iron tablet. Trees are beginning to grow up in front of the cannon and block the view. Contemporary repeat photography shows the extent to which tree cover has grown up to obscure the key visual relationship between the fort and the approaches that it defended (Fig. 269).

A 1935 survey provides some detailed information about topography associated with South Fort (Fig. 259). The survey does not indicate the presence of a ring road around the fortification but shows South Fort as a large square along Warrenton Road and the associated topography.

The parcel began to undergo changes in the 1930s when Warrenton Road was straightened, altering the right-of-way and its relationship to the fortification. Once the road corridor shifted, a small parcel of land was left over between the road and the Federally-owned land. The former right-of-way was acquired by the landowner of the associated property, and the parcel was developed. A carwash operated on the parcel until 2005, limiting access to the fort site. The Ameristar Casino purchased the parcel and demolished the carwash in 2005. Today, invasive exotics and other woody vegetation are growing around the perimeter of the fortification to its south, west, and north. Other landscape features that post-date the



**FIGURE 268.** Postcard view of South Fort.



**FIGURE 269.** Similar contemporary view of South Fort, 2007.

periods of significance include USGS survey markers, a small concrete slab, and stormwater collection drop inlets.

Features that survive from the periods of significance include:

#### Natural Features and Systems

- Knoll landform



### Cultural Vegetation

- Turf grass (predominantly Bermuda grass)

### Topographic Modifications

- Civil War earthwork remnant, including parapet walls and a ditch, atop a prominent knoll

### Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Elevated knoll landform

### Small-scale Features

- Bronze Iowa brigade marker
- Cast iron tablets (five)
- Artillery pieces (two)

**Navy Circle.** Navy Circle contains the remains of Union Battery Benton, the southernmost position along the Union offensive siege line around Vicksburg.

Like Louisiana Circle, it was developed as part of park through construction of a ring road leading into the property from Washington Street. The road was paved with concrete in the 1930s. In 1959, a 1.32-acre parcel was transferred to the Mississippi State Highway Commission to establish a weigh station, and in the late 1970s, an additional acre or so was used by the Mississippi Department of Transportation to construct a parking lot for the State Welcome Center. The existing bridge that is founded in the knoll was built as part of Welcome Center development.

In addition to the bridge, most of the site features that support visitor access such as the walks, guard rails, site furnishings, and signs were established after the periods of significance.

Surviving historic evidence of the landscape of the fortification during the siege and the early part of the twentieth century includes various maps (Fig. 256 through Fig. 260). No ground photographs have been identified of the site during the periods of significance to use in comparing current and historic site conditions.

The circa 1902–1903 survey illustrates the site, showing the perimeter road, locations of the two guns emplaced within the fortification during the Civil War, an associated redan, topography, and parcel boundary (Fig. 257). The 1925 bird's eye view of the City of Vicksburg indicates the location of Navy Circle, and illustrates the existing roadway surrounding the former fortification (Fig. 258). The 1935 survey indicates the location of Navy Circle as a road encircling a knoll. The site is shown as adjacent to a Mississippi River bridge crossing (Fig. 259).

Features that survive from the periods of significance include:

### Natural Features and Systems

- Knoll landform

### Cultural Vegetation

- Turf grass (predominantly Bermuda grass)

### Topographic Modifications

- Civil War earthwork remnant atop knoll

### Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Elevated knoll landform encircled by access road
- Expansive sense of open space from western side of the parcel

### Circulation

- Concrete access road with curbing and parking pull-off

### Views and Vistas

- Expansive views to the Mississippi River

### Small-scale Features

- Cast iron tablet
- Artillery piece

## Resource Assessment

### Resources Contributing the Park's Primary Period of Significance (1863)

See Fig. 271.

#### Natural Resources.

- Loess bluffs characterized by highly erodible soils
- Mint Spring Bayou and associated ravine and bottomlands
- Glass Bayou and associated ravine
- Stouts Bayou and associated ravine
- Durden Creek (Big Bayou) and associated ravine
- Springs, seeps, wet meadows, vernal pools
- Mint Spring Bayou waterfalls
- Limestone geology and travertine formations
- Two major ridge networks encircling the city with east/west trending ridges
- Woody vegetation associated with bottomlands

#### Responses to Natural Resources.

- Siting of roads (Graveyard and Jackson within the park, and Baldwin Ferry Road outside the park) along the east/west trending ridges
- Siting of Shirley House on a ridgeline with access to a good spring
- Siting of Confederate earthworks and rifle pits on elevated terrain for military advantage, and fortified earthen defensive structures to defend likely avenues of approach (road, river, and railroad corridors)

- Union establishment of zigzag trenches and other avenues of approach through mining and use of sap rollers for concealment
- Use of high points by both armies for observation and lookout positions

#### Topography and Topographic Modifications.

- Loess Bluffs landform and topography formed after retreat of the last glaciation period
- Dissected landforms and ravines formed from overland flow of stormwater and groundwater-sourced springs and seeps
- Grading conducted during the Civil War by Confederate soldiers to establish fortifications, batteries, rifle pits, trenches, and glacis
- Grading conducted during the Civil War by Union soldiers to protect artillery positions and approach Confederate defensive positions

#### Patterns of Spatial Organization.

- System of batteries established by the Confederate army on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River to protect the city from attack by and maintain control over the river
- Beginning in September 1862, Confederate construction of the defensive system of earthworks, batteries, and rifle pits on the ridgelines to the north, east, and south of the city of Vicksburg
- Positioning of Union troops in a semicircle around the Confederate defensive system on elevated positions; avenues of approach created leading toward heavily defended fortifications stationed to protect against the best routes for entering the city by land. These avenues included zigzag trenches and other mining methods
- Federal attack focused on the fortifications protecting Jackson Road

- Park acquisition of Pemberton's Headquarters in downtown Vicksburg contributes to historic siege patterns

### **Land Uses.**

- Military land uses remain a part of the park landscape due to on-going military training in the form of staff rides
- The battlefield became a burial ground for casualties of the siege. Re-interment of Union soldiers occurred after the establishment of Vicksburg National Cemetery (adjacent to park) in 1866

### **Circulation Features**

- Vicksburg & Meridian Railroad line (now Kansas City Southern Railroad; outside current park boundaries)
- Old Jackson Road
- Old Graveyard Road
- Halls Ferry Road (outside current park boundaries)
- Warrenton Road (now Washington Avenue or U.S. Business 61; outside current park boundaries; with changes to its original alignment)
- Yazoo City Road (now part of Fort Hill Drive; outside of park boundaries; with changes to its original alignment)

### **Cultural Vegetation.**

- None identified

### **Views and Vistas.**

- Views between opposing lines afforded along Old Graveyard Road, Thayer's Approach, Third Louisiana Redan and Great Redoubt, Battery De Golyer, Railroad Redoubt, Fort Garrott and Hovey's Approach. Long views toward the river: Fort Hill and Louisiana Circle

### **Buildings.**

- Shirley House
- Willis House (Pemberton's Headquarters; located in downtown Vicksburg)

### **Structures.**

- Evidence of earthwork associated with eight of the nine major fortifications of the system: Fort Hill, Stockade Redan, Third Louisiana Redan, Great Redoubt, Second Texas Lunette, Railroad Redoubt, and Fort Garrott. In addition, evidence of Battery Barnes (Louisiana Circle), South Fort, and the Water Battery. Additional evidence along the former Confederate line of earthen forms of batteries and rifle pits
- Evidence of Union artillery positions and approach trenches including Battery Selfridge; Battery De Golyer; and Battery Benton (Navy Circle), and fortifications at Fort Hill manned during Union occupation of Vicksburg after the siege

### **Small-scale Features.**

- None identified

## **Secondary Period of Significance (circa 1864–1959)**

See Fig. 272.

### **Natural Resources.**

- Woodland derived from CCC-era revegetation efforts

### **Responses to Natural Resources.**

- Construction of bridges and culverts to cross ravines and wet areas in support of park development and construction of the tour road
- Establishment of culverts, drain structures, curbs, and paved channels to convey stormwater away from erodible soil



- Extensive soil erosion control efforts conducted by the CCC, including importation of soil, regrading, and sodding

### **Topography and Topographic Modifications.**

- Erosion control measures conducted by the CCC involving regrading and filling. Sites of erosion control activities include, among others, the margins and intersection of Pemberton Avenue; the intersection of Confederate Avenue, Jackson Road, Louisiana Avenue, and Pemberton Avenue; the intersection of Confederate Avenue and Jackson Road; slopes north of the Wisconsin State Memorial; the road margins leading to former Tower No. 1; the slopes behind the Illinois State Memorial; the margins of Graveyard Road; east of the 37th and 38th Mississippi trench line; and Fort Hill, Railroad Redoubt, Great Redoubt, and Fort Garrott

### **Patterns of Spatial Organization.**

- Vicksburg National Cemetery established over a portion of the Union line in 1866 (adjacent to park)
- Vicksburg National Military Park established over a large portion of the siege landscape in 1899

### **Land Uses.**

- Military land uses continued to be associated with the area, including Union occupation of Fort Hill after the siege, and use of the park for staff rides involved in military training
- Cemetery land uses included establishment of Vicksburg National Cemetery in 1866, which included re-interment of Union soldiers from the battlefield, the graves of the Shirleys behind the Shirley House, and the establishment of the Anshe Chesed Cemetery (adjacent to the park) in 1864 near the Second Texas Lunette
- Commemoration of the siege began with the placing of a monument to mark the surrender

interview site in 1864, continued with veterans reunions, and was formalized through establishment of the park in 1899

- Along with commemorating the siege, park establishment involved administrative, maintenance, visitor services, and interpretive/museum/educational land uses
- The park continues to be used by the public for passive recreation associated with use of the tour roads for walking and driving, and picnic grounds for picnicking

### **Circulation Features.**

- Union Avenue
- Confederate Avenue
- Old Jackson Road and Jackson Road trace
- Old Graveyard Road
- Sherman Circle
- Pemberton Avenue
- Grant Avenue
- Grant Circle
- Connecting Avenue
- Pemberton Circle
- Tennessee Circle
- Highway 80 (outside park boundaries; road underwent changes in the 1960s–1980s)
- City- and county-managed road corridors (integrity diminished by adjacent contemporary development; outside current park boundaries): South Confederate Avenue, Indiana Avenue; Wisconsin Avenue; Halls Ferry Road; Iowa Avenue; North Frontage Road; and Sherman Avenue

- Vicksburg National Cemetery entrance drive marked by a Memorial Arch (adjacent to park; not currently open to vehicular traffic)

### **Cultural Vegetation.**

- Bermuda grass along road margins and associated with earthworks and other areas of high visitor use
- CCC-generated forest

### **Views and Vistas.**

- View to the former Mississippi River channel, now the Yazoo River Diversion Canal

### **Buildings.**

- Shirley House
- Willis House (Pemberton's Headquarters; located in downtown Vicksburg)
- Maintenance buildings constructed in 1936
- Old Administration Building
- National Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge (adjacent to park)

### **Structures.**

- Grant-Pemberton Surrender Interview Site Monument
- State Monuments including: Massachusetts; New Hampshire; Pennsylvania; Iowa; Illinois; Minnesota; Virginia; Rhode Island; Mississippi; Wisconsin; Maryland; Michigan; Missouri; New York; Louisiana; West Virginia; North Carolina; Indiana; South Carolina; Alabama; Arkansas; and Florida
- U.S. Naval Memorial
- Memorial Arch (integrity diminished due to relocation)
- Other monuments predating 1959
- Melan arch bridges: Nos. 1 through 4, and 7 through 10, and Maloney Circle Bridge

- Tunnel beneath Union Avenue at Thayer's Approach
- Culverts and drainage structures pre-dating 1959
- Halls Ferry Road Bridge (outside current park boundaries)
- Memorial Arch located at the former entrance into Vicksburg National Cemetery from Washington Street and perimeter walls associated with the cemetery (adjacent to the park)

### **Small-scale Features.**

- Shirley grave marker
- Tablets and Position Markers
- Statues pre-dating 1959
- Busts and Reliefs pre-dating 1959
- Equestrian Statues pre-dating 1959
- War Department boundary markers
- USGS survey markers pre-dating 1959
- Retaining walls pre-dating 1959, including stone retaining wall around Surrender Interview Site Monument
- Culverts and drainage structures pre-dating 1959
- Emplaced cannon pre-dating 1959

## **Non-contributing Resources**

### **Natural Resources.**

- Successional forest derived from reduced maintenance beginning in the 1960s

### **Responses to Natural Resources.**

- Stabilization of park soils; establishment of additional curbing, drain structures, and paved channels after 1959

- Clearing of non-contributing woodland to open views of the earthworks
- Invasive plant control programs resulting in plant removal and management

### **Topography and Topographic Modifications.**

- Post 1959 slope stabilization projects around the park
- Regrading of landform near the former Indiana Circle to establish the current visitor center
- Construction of an earthwork exhibit near the visitor center as an interpretive aid
- Regrading, primarily using fill, to establish Clay Street through the park

### **Patterns of Spatial Organization.**

- Donation of two parcels of park land for construction of a new city school and highway weighing station
- Quitclaim transfer of park land along the southern portion of the Confederate line and to the north of Sherman Circle to the city of Vicksburg and Warren County, and addition of land along the park's northern boundary
- Acquisition of land associated with the Union attempt to construct a by-pass canal along the Mississippi River
- Acquisition of Pemberton's Headquarters within the city of Vicksburg

### **Land Uses.**

- None identified

### **Circulation Features.**

- Modern Jackson Road
- Mission 66 Road
- Current park entrance and parking lot and walks associated with the visitor center

- USS *Cairo* exhibit and museum parking and walks
- Access road and parking at the curatorial management facility, garage, and storage shed
- Mission 66-era walks at Fort Hill, Third Louisiana Redan, and Louisiana State Monument

### **Cultural Vegetation.**

- Ornamental vegetation associated with the Old Administration Building and the park entrance, parking lot, and visitor center

### **Views and Vistas.**

- Woodland that blocks views between artillery positions and opposing lines

### **Buildings.**

- Visitor center
- USS *Cairo* exhibit and museum
- Curatorial Management Facility
- Garage north of the USS *Cairo* exhibit
- Storage shed north of the USS *Cairo* exhibit
- Entrance booths (two)

### **Structures.**

- Replacement of Melan Arch Bridge No. 5 along Union Avenue with a box culvert
- Replacement of Confederate Avenue bridge across Mint Spring Bayou
- Replacement of bridge crossings of the ravine associated with Modern Jackson Road
- State monuments post-dating 1959: Texas; Kansas; Georgia; Tennessee; Kentucky; Connecticut
- Mississippi African-American Monument

### **Small-scale Features.**

- Culverts and drainage structures post-dating 1959
- Statues, busts, reliefs, and small markers and monuments post-dating 1959
- Emplaced cannon post-dating 1959
- Retaining walls post-dating 1959
- Park operations features and site furnishings, including at the visitor center, USS *Cairo* exhibit and museum, and at tour stops

### **Missing Features**

#### **Natural Resources.**

- Some springs and seeps
- Landform associated with the siege that has suffered from erosion

#### **Responses to Natural Resources.**

- Farmsteads sited along ridgelines with cultivated fields along relatively level slopes both prior to and after the siege
- Siting of roads along east/west trending ridgelines with bridges and culverts to cross ravines and wet areas both prior to and after the siege (portions missing)
- Siting of Confederate earthworks on elevated terrain for military advantage (portions missing)
- Confederate fortification system and defensive structures (portions missing)
- Confederate introduction of obstacles (abatis, cabled brush, and cheveaux-de-frise) to interfere with enemy movement along avenues of approach
- Union siting of earthworks and protected artillery positions on elevated terrain for military advantage (portions missing)

- Union establishment of zigzag trenches and other approach routes and the use of sap rollers for concealment (portions missing)
- Use of high points for observation, lookout, and sharpshooting positions, such as the tower documented on Fort Hill and Coonskin Tower (portions obscured by tree cover)
- Use of high points for signal towers, and later observation towers (portions missing and obscured by trees)
- Clearing of tree cover to facilitate fields of fire for artillery (portions obscured by tree cover)
- Establishment of drain structures, curbs, and paved channels to convey stormwater away from erodible soil (portions missing)

#### **Topography and Topographic Modifications.**

- Union establishment of zigzag trenches and other approach routes and mines
- Shebangs and caves for shelter and protection

#### **Patterns of Spatial Organization.**

- Indian village sites prior to Contact
- French and Spanish military fortification sites and settlements
- Antebellum farmsteads, with cultivation of relatively level terrain and pasturing of livestock
- System of batteries established by the Confederate army on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River to protect the city from attack (portions missing)
- Confederate defensive system of earthworks, batteries, and rifle pits on the ridgelines to the north, east, and south of the city. Including signal towers, soldiers' quarters, stockade fencing, headlogs, gun emplacements, abatis, cheveaux-de-frise (portions missing)

- Positioning of Union troops in a semicircle around the Confederate defensive system on elevated ground (portions missing)
- Federal attack concentrating on the approaches leading to the city: Graveyard and Jackson Roads and the rail line
- Vicksburg National Military Park as established in 1899 (boundaries have changed; land has been transferred to other owners)

#### **Land Uses.**

- Residential villages of the Natchez and Choctaw Indians
- Military posts of the French and Spanish
- Local land owners and farmers representing a residential land use
- CCC labor camps
- Military occupation of the site
- Residential use by NPS personnel
- Veterans reunions
- Horseback riding and camping recreational uses

#### **Circulation Features.**

- Yazoo City Road (portions incorporated into Fort Hill Drive)
- Old Baldwin Ferry Road
- Mint Spring Bayou ford
- Residential circulation, such as the Shirley House walk and drive
- Internal road network servicing the Confederate defensive line
- Union attack routes developed through trenching and mining

- Circle drives at various monuments including: Indiana; Alabama; Iowa; Maloney; Mississippi; Tilghman; Logan; Missouri; Arkansas; Ohio; Kansas; New York; Observation Tower No. 1; Illinois; Pennsylvania
- Sections of Confederate Avenue were referred to as Louisiana and Mississippi Avenues until the road was straightened in 1935. These segments extended, respectively, between the intersection of Pemberton and Confederate Avenues/Jackson Road and Tilghman Circle, and between Pemberton Circle and Clay Street.
- Sherman Avenue connection to Sherman Circle
- Circle termini associated with roads leading from South Confederate Avenue (such as Iowa Avenue, Illinois Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue) (located beyond current park boundaries)
- Kentucky Avenue
- Portions of South Confederate Avenue

#### **Cultural Vegetation.**

- Agricultural cultivation and pasturing of livestock
- Ornamental plantings associated with the Shirley House
- Surrender Interview Site Oak

#### **Views and Vistas.**

- Open landscape of fields of fire

#### **Buildings.**

- Residences pre-dating Civil War
- Residences present between 1864 and 1933
- Riddle House
- Edward House
- Lynd House

- Original visitor center in Mississippi River Commission headquarters building
- CCC camp buildings and structures
- Residences for park employees
- Guard rails along road corridors edged by steep slopes.

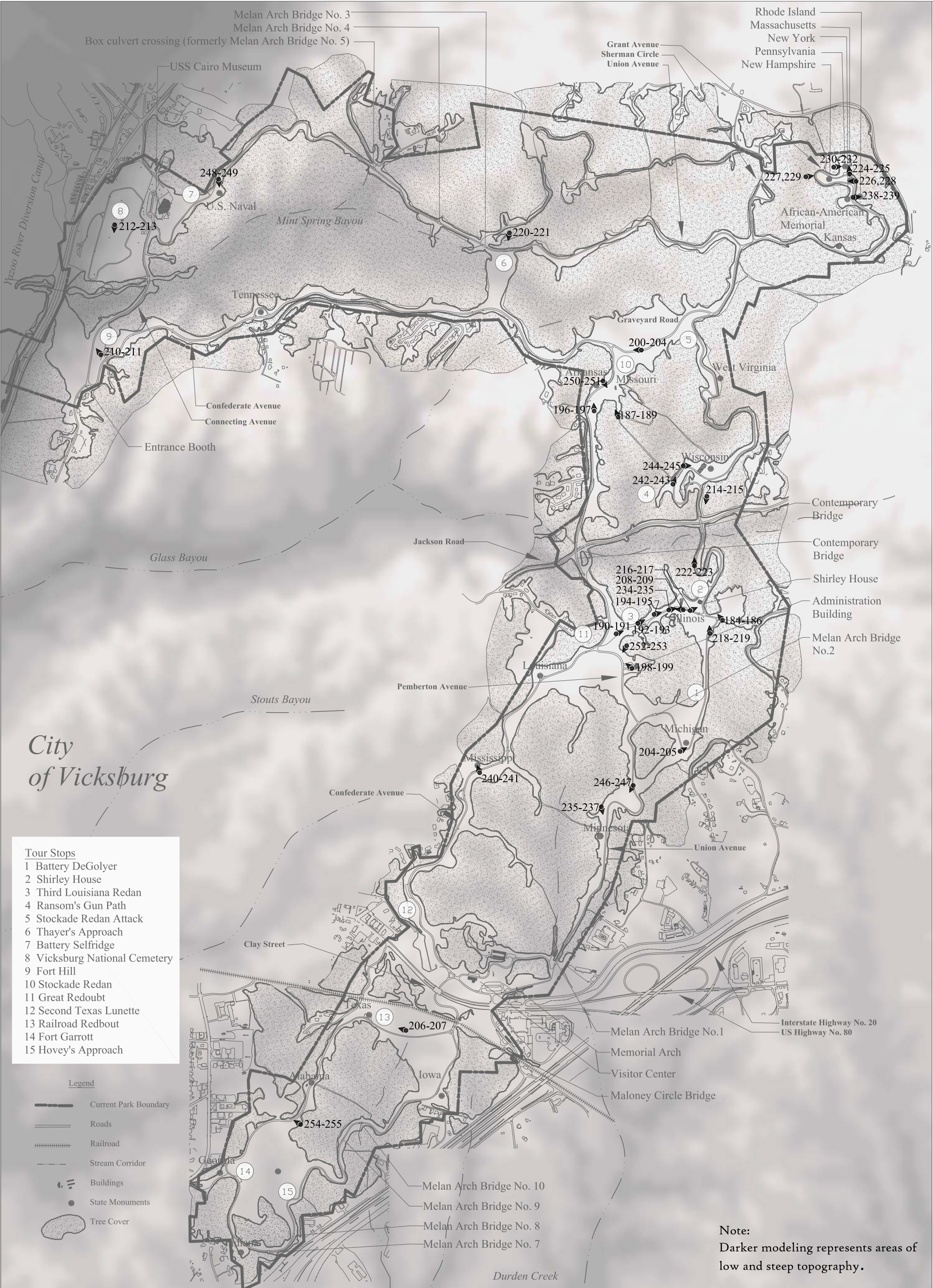
### **Structures.**

- Fort Mount Vigio on Fort Hill
- Fort McHenry which replaced Fort Mount Vigio on Fort Hill
- Fort Nogales battery
- Shirley House outbuildings (cistern, hen house, stable)
- Observation towers Nos. 1, 2, 3 (Tower No. 3 located outside of current park boundaries)
- Bridge No. 5
- Four steel bridges
- Union Avenue bridge across Mint Spring Bayou
- Confederate Avenue bridge across Jackson Road
- Stout's Bayou steel bridge (outside of current park boundaries)

### **Small-scale Features.**

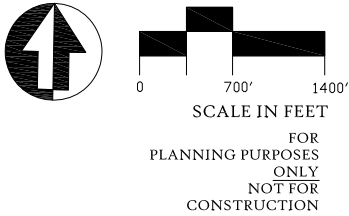
- Position tablets and markers collected for metal drive during World War II
- Replaced cannon carriages
- War Department boundary markers (some missing)
- Culverts and drainage structures placed by the CCC that have been removed or replaced
- Picnic grounds features such as grills or camp stoves, rustic benches, and Colonial Revival-style signage





Sources: Autocad Base Map  
USGS Topographic Survey  
National Park Service Map

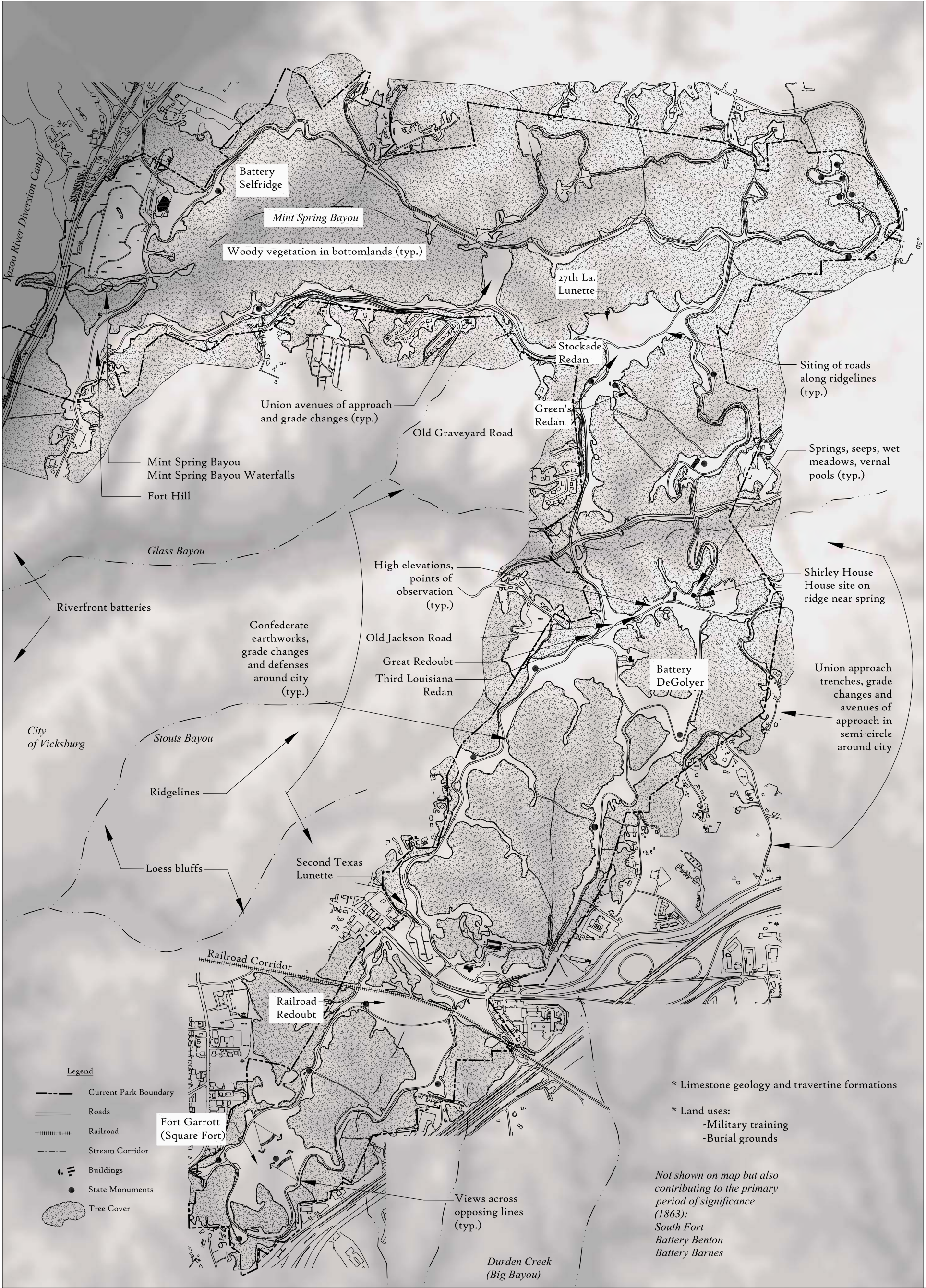
**JMA**  
John Milner Associates, Inc.  
103 West Main Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
22902  
t: 434 979 1617  
f: 434 979 3645  
johnmilnerassociates.com



**Notes:**  
Ohio State Monuments are in  
thirty-nine different locations and  
are not identified here.  
  
Darker modeling represents areas  
of low and steep topography.

Cultural Landscape Report  
**Vicksburg National  
Military Park**  
  
Photo Station Points  
Historic Comparisons  
Figure 270



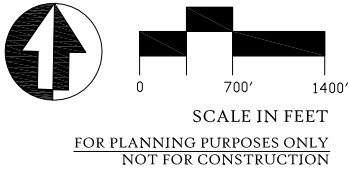


Sources: Autocad Base Map  
USGS Topographic Survey  
National Park Service Map

Notes:  
Darker modeling represents areas  
of low and steep topography.

Cultural Landscape Report  
Vicksburg National Military Park

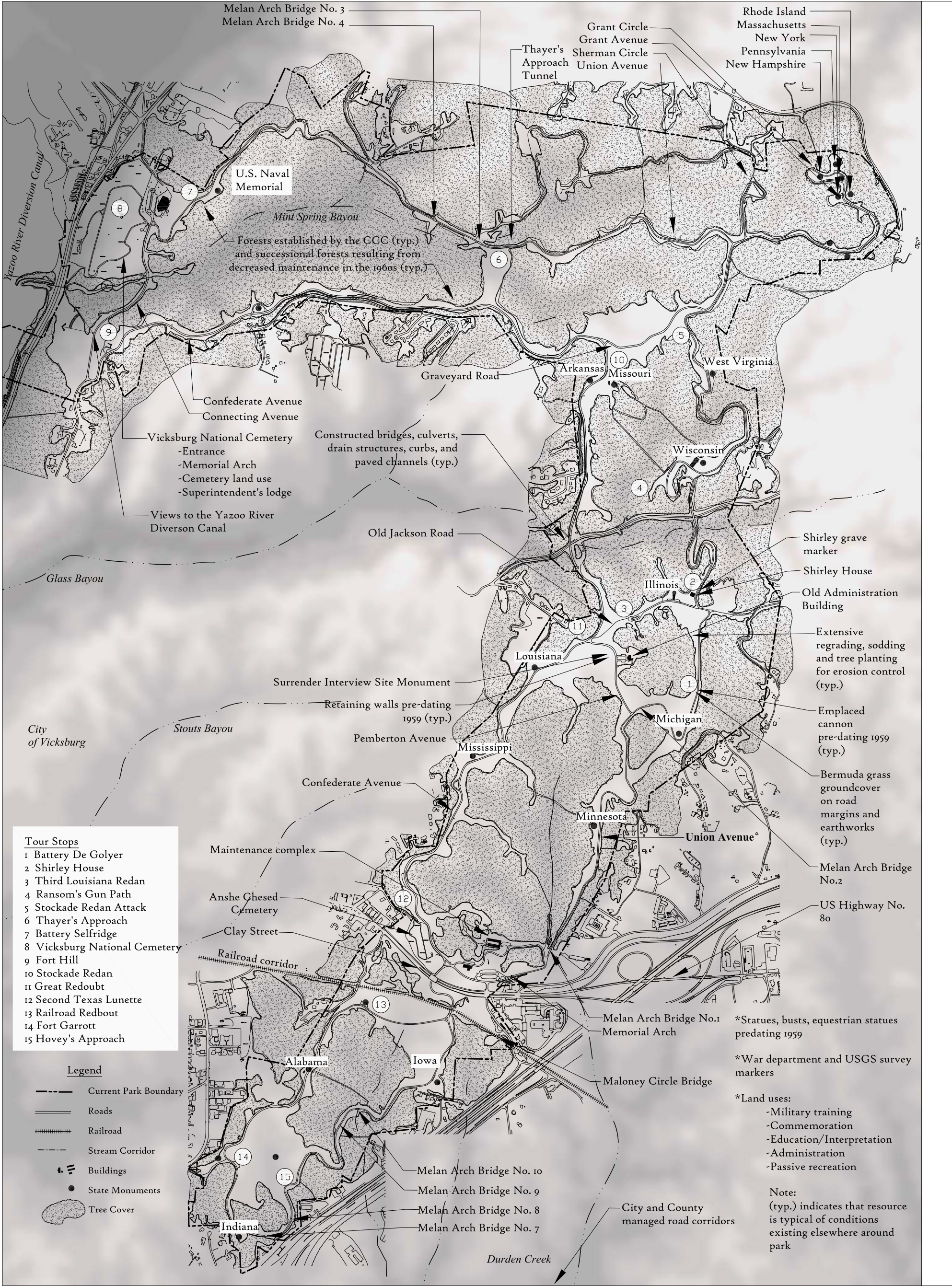
**JMA**  
John Milner Associates, Inc.  
300 West Main Street Suite 201  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
22903  
t: 434 979 1617  
f: 434 979 3645  
johnmilnerassociates.com



Park Resources Contributing to the  
Primary Period of Significance (1863)

Figure 271





Sources: Autocad Base Map  
USGS Topographic Survey  
National Park Service Map

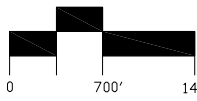
Notes:  
Ohio State Monuments are in thirty-nine different locations and are not identified here.

Cultural Landscape Report  
Vicksburg National Military Park

**JMA**  
John Milner Associates, Inc.

300 West Main Street Suite 201  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
22903

t: 434 979 1617  
f: 434 979 3645  
johnmilnerassociates.com



SCALE IN FEET  
FOR  
PLANNING PURPOSES  
ONLY  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

Darker modeling represents areas of low and steep topography.

Not shown on map but also contributing to the secondary period of significance:  
South Fort  
Louisiana Circle  
Navy Circle

Park Resources Contributing to the  
Secondary Period of Significance (1864-1959)

Figure 272



## Integrity Assessment

The primary objective of an integrity assessment is to determine to what degree a historic site retains its ability to convey conditions during an identified period of significance and continues to convey its historical associations with a significant event in American history. National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* states that

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. . . . Historic properties either retain integrity (that is convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining *which* of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.<sup>210</sup>

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As noted in Bulletin 15:

**Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred; **design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property; **setting** is the physical environment of a historic property; **materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular

pattern or configuration to form a historic property; **workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory; **feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and **association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.<sup>211</sup>

While integrity assessments are generally conducted by considering the seven aspects of integrity described above, National Register Bulletin 40: *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* suggests that "the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are location, setting, feeling, and association."<sup>212</sup> The bulletin discusses an approach to assessing overall integrity for battlefields that is relevant to this study, and has been taken into consideration as part of the development of the integrity assessment that follows:

Battlefields cannot be frozen in time. . . . Even where efforts to preserve the battlefield were initiated almost immediately, as at Gettysburg, it proved impossible to perpetuate the scene in the exact form and condition it presented during the battle. Instead, Gettysburg presents several layers of history, including its post-battle memorialization. The best-preserved battlefields appear much as they would have at the time of the battle, making it easy to understand how strategy and results were shaped by the terrain. All properties, however, change over time and nearly all battlefields will contain non-contributing properties. The impact of non-contributing properties on a battlefield as a whole depends not only on their number, but also on their nature and location and the size and topography of the battlefield. While this is a subjective judgment, there are some general principles for assessing integrity. If the type of non-contributing property reflects a continuing layer of development of

---

210. National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1995), 44.

211. *Ibid.*, 44–45.

212. Patrick W. Andrus, National Register Bulletin 40: *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1992), 11.

traditional land use, then the impact of these properties may not be as great as that of modern properties that do not reflect the historic use of the land. For example, in battlefields located in rural or agricultural areas, the presence of farm related buildings dating from outside the period of significance generally will not destroy the battlefield's integrity. It is important that the land retain its rural or agricultural identity in order for it to convey its period of significance. The impact of modern properties on the historic battlefield is also lessened if these properties are located in a dispersed pattern. If a battlefield is characterized by rolling topography, the impact of later non-contributing properties may also be lessened. The covering of former open fields with trees is a natural and reversible alteration to the landscape. If it can be demonstrated that, despite the forestation of an area, the battle took place in that particular spot, then the battlefield retains integrity of location.<sup>213</sup>

The integrity assessment that follows considers the landscape at two junctures: during the siege and during park development. Assessment of the siege landscape focuses on the four primary aspects of integrity most important to battlefield assessment: location, association, setting, and feeling. The integrity of park development is assessed for all seven aspects.

Based upon the comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions presented above, the Vicksburg National Military Park cultural landscape possesses sufficient integrity for both the primary and secondary periods of significance to convey its important historic associations to the visitor.

The park landscape retains the ability to convey the significant stories of both the Civil War siege as well as development of the park by veterans and others to commemorate the siege and through its existing physical features. Many cultural landscape features survive from each of the periods of significance. These include physical evidence of the 1863 siege of Vicksburg in the form of landform

and topography, patterns of spatial organization, natural resources, the Shirley House, and remnants of the earthen fortifications and batteries established by the opposing armies. Resources also survive from the commemorative period of significance. These include park roads, monuments, tablets, busts, reliefs, signage, rehabilitated earthworks, the Administration Building, and the maintenance complex. Throughout the site's history, there remains a strong connection between natural features and processes and cultural events, activities, and resource development. This connection remains clear and evident.

While the park retains a high degree of integrity, some actions have served to diminish this integrity, including alterations to the original tour road system, construction of the visitor center complex, land exchanges with the City of Vicksburg, and extensive growth of woody vegetation over formerly open areas.

The Vicksburg National Military Park landscape possesses integrity of **location** as the site of the siege, as well as the location where commemoration of the siege has been a focus since early park development. Integrity of location is diminished by the transfer of land to the south of the park's South Loop to the city of Vicksburg, and land to the north of the park to Warren County.

The park retains integrity of **association** due to the continued interpretation of the link between the existing landscape and the historical events of the Civil War siege. While it remains possible to experience and understand the placement of fortifications on high ground that allowed for a continuous defensive line against overland attacks on the city, the challenge posed by the steeply sloped ravines that faced by the Union soldiers when attempting to attack the well-fortified Confederate positions, this integrity is diminished by the degree of non-contributing woodland cover that blocks visual accessibility of much of Vicksburg's terrain. Nonetheless, visitors continue to be afforded the opportunity to understand the events of the siege as well as gain a sense of military tactics utilized during the period.

---

213. Ibid., 11–12.

The park retains a higher degree of integrity of association for the commemorative period. The tablet and marker system, the placement of commemorative monuments, as well as Union and Confederate Avenues continue to convey the influence of the veterans, and the guidance they offered in establishing physical connections to the ground where events had occurred. The careful work of the CCC in stabilizing threatened park features, and correcting soil erosion problems also remains evident in the configuration of road corridors, and associated shoulders, margins, and stormwater conveyance features, as well as gentler and more controlled slopes in many locations within the park. The integrity of association is diminished within the city-maintained parcels due to the visual clutter caused by adjacent development and the currently incongruent character of the monuments and their settings.

The Vicksburg National Military Park landscape retains partial integrity of feeling to both the siege period as well as the commemorative period due to the screening of views of adjacent areas outside of the park, and the care with which the land has been maintained. The integrity of feeling is diminished by the loss of dwellings and farmsteads that existed within the park landscape during the siege and at the time of park development. It is also diminished by the loss of agricultural land uses that characterized the park prior to both the siege and park development, and by the increase in woodland cover which stands in contrast to the very open landscape that existed by the end of the siege, and during the commemorative period.

The park landscape retains integrity of **setting** due to the large land area encompassed by the park and extensive screening that occurs along its boundaries. Later development is visible from some locations around the park, particularly at the entrance along U.S. Highway 80, from high points overlooking the former alignment of the Mississippi River near Fort Hill, and from the three noncontiguous parcels along the riverfront. For the most part, however, the park's integrity of setting remains particularly strong.

For the early park development and CCC commemorative periods, the park also retains

integrity of **design, materials, and workmanship** due to the numerous surviving monuments, markers, and tablets, and the tour road system along which many of these features are sited. Integrity of materials has been diminished in part by the resurfacing of some segments of the road system. Integrity of design has been diminished by conversion of Union and Confederate Avenues into a one-way loop road, the loss of circle roads around monuments, and removal of the observation towers. Transfer of the southern portion of the park to the City of Vicksburg in 1963 has also diminished the integrity of commemorative period park design. Site improvements conducted at the park after 1968 based on Mission 66 period plans, including the visitor center and associated parking area, revised park entrance and tour route, the USS *Cairo* exhibit and museum, and other parking and pedestrian path and plaza additions have also served to diminish the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship associated with the commemorative period through alteration of the original park design.

