

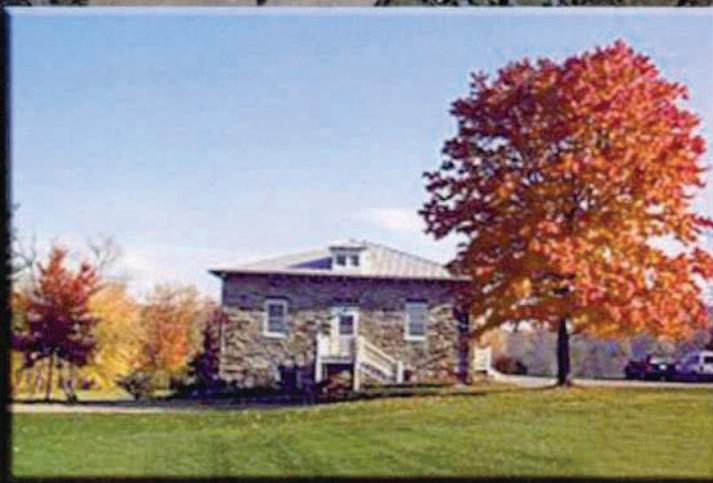


National Park Service

Environmental Assessment

August 2002

Relocation of the Visitor Center at
Monocacy National Battlefield
Frederick County, Maryland



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
RELOCATION OF THE VISITOR CENTER
MONOCACY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Summary

The National Park Service proposes to relocate the existing visitor center at the Monocacy National Battlefield. Currently, the visitor center and park offices are located in the Gambrill Mill. Use of this facility as the visitor center was intended to be temporary, thus, the building does not meet many life safety codes or have adequate facilities to support safe and efficient park operations. In addition, Gambrill Mill is located in the 100-year floodplain. In the past, flooding has forced the park staff to evacuate under adverse conditions and caused costly damage to the exhibits and offices. Another safety issue is the entrance to the Gambrill Mill off of Maryland State Route 355. Limited site distance makes it difficult for motorists to slow down and stop for visitors or staff turning into the park. Lastly, a new visitor center would enable the park to expand current partnership opportunities, which in turn, would attract additional visitors and enhance visitor use and experience.

This Environmental Assessment analyzes the impacts of three alternatives (a No-Action Alternative, and two action alternatives) on the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Preferred Alternative would either have no or negligible, adverse impacts on water resources; wildlife; rare, threatened, endangered, candidate species and species of special concern; soundscape management; Indian trust resources; ethnographic resources; socioeconomic environment including land use; community facilities and services; environmental justice; infrastructure; historic resources; and air quality. Minor, adverse impacts to aesthetics and visual resources; agriculture, prime and unique farmlands; soils, geology and topography; and transportation (traffic) may result from the Preferred Alternative. At present, the Preferred Alternative could have long-term, adverse impacts to archeological resources. However, additional subsurface investigation is needed to further ascertain the impact intensity. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would be expected to have moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts to park operations; health and safety; and visitor use and experience.

Note to Reviewers and Respondents

If you wish to comment on the Environmental Assessment, you may mail comments to the name and address below by _____. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please address all comments to:
Ms. Susan Trail
Monocacy National Battlefield
4801 Urbana Pike
Frederick, Maryland 21704

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PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The National Park Service is considering relocating the existing visitor orientation center at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick County, Maryland. The purpose of the action is to provide visitors and park staff with a visitor center at a more suitable location with modern facilities to enhance the visitor experience, provide safe conditions, and enhance the park's operational efficiency.

The action is needed for the following reasons:

The current visitor center is prone to flooding. The Gambrill Mill Visitor Center (see Figure 1) at the Monocacy National Battlefield is located in the 100-year floodplain of the Monocacy River. Since being relocated to this site in 1991, the visitor center has been flooded or been threatened by flooding repeatedly. As a result, the park staff has been forced to evacuate during adverse conditions. The flooding has caused costly damage to exhibits and offices and has resulted in closure of the facility for extended periods of time.



Figure 1 - Gambrill Mill Visitor Center

The entrance to the Gambrill Mill is unsafe for motorists entering the site. The entrance to the Gambrill Mill presents safety concerns for motorists accessing the visitor center. Motorists headed south on Urbana Pike (Maryland State Route 355) do not have adequate site distance to slow down and stop for vehicles turning into the entrance of the park. Over the past six years, park employees alone have been involved in three motor vehicle accidents.

The current facility has inadequate space and facilities to accommodate park operations and to provide a safe environment. The Gambrill Mill building, which is being used as the current visitor center as well as park offices, has inadequate space (600 square feet) and facilities to accomplish the Park's mission. Examples of inadequate facilities include the septic tank in the floodplain, poor water pressure, limited parking, and poor access for buses. Since the use of the Gambrill Mill location was intended to be temporary, the building does not comply with life safety codes. The building has only one entrance/exit and no fire detection/suppression system. The current conditions lessen visitor experience, reduce staff efficiency, and put visitors and staff at risk during a flood or fire.

A new visitor center would enable the park to expand on current partnership opportunities, which in turn, would attract additional visitors and enhance visitor experience. Monocacy National Battlefield has agreed to share space in the new visitor center with the Frederick County Tourism Council. The new visitor center would promote similar opportunities for partnerships with organizations such as the Civil War Discovery Trail, Maryland Civil War Heritage Area, and the Monocacy Scenic River Greenway trail (DNR, 2002).

This Environmental Assessment analyzes and compares the preferred alternative to the other alternatives and their impacts on the environment. This Environmental Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.0), and the National Park Service's Director's Order – 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making).

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK

The Monocacy National Battlefield is the site of the Battle of Monocacy also known as the "Battle That Saved Washington." On July 9, 1864, Confederate forces under General Jubal Early met Union forces lead by General Lew Wallace. One of the objectives of the campaign was to capture Washington, D.C. Although the Confederates won the battle, the Union was successful in delaying the Confederates march to the Federal capital. General Lew Wallace's defense along the Monocacy bought critical time to allow Washington to be reinforced.

The Monocacy National Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and is designated as a historic landmark. Over time, the park has acquired additional property and now encompasses 1,647 acres. In 2002, the National Park Service submitted an update to the National Register listing to include additional properties of historical significance. Some of the significant historic resources at the park include:

- **Gambrill Mill** - used as a hospital during the battle.
- **Gambrill House** - constructed by James Gambrill after the Civil War ca. 1872 and is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gambrill House is currently occupied by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center.
- **Best Farm** - sheltered troops from both sides throughout the Civil War.
- **Thomas Farm** - the scene of the heaviest fighting during the Battle of Monocacy.
- **Worthington House** - used by General Breckinridge to view the latter phase of the battle.

The park's mission is to protect the historic setting and offer educational opportunities about the Civil War and this battle. To learn more about the park, please visit the Monocacy National Battlefield website (<http://www.nps.gov/mono>).

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PLANNING

The Monocacy National Battlefield is located just south of the City of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland (See Figure 2). The park contains 1,647 acres of farmlands and woods. The Monocacy River, the old B&O Railroad, Interstate 270, and Maryland State Route 355 all transect the park property. Most of the land is farmed; used primarily for hay and grain production and for pasture. The park is a popular recreation destination attracting 18,000 visitors in 2001. The National Park Service has initiated the preparation of a General Management Plan for the Monocacy National Battlefield that will serve to provide comprehensive long-term

planning for the management of the battlefield. Based on the reasons described in the purpose and need, the National Park Service began programming for a new visitor center more than five years ago.

In 1996, the National Park Service staff identified the relocation of the visitor orientation center as a central component of the approved *Interpretive Prospectus for the Monocacy National Battlefield*. The use of Gambrill Mill as the visitor center was intended to be temporary. At that time, the rehabilitation of the dairy barn at the Best Farm was being considered as the preferred alternative. From on-going planning, the Site-Selection Value Analysis, and this environmental assessment, the park staff identified another site on the northeast park boundary that offered many of the same advantages while reducing impacts to the main area of the battlefield.



Figure 2 - Site Location Map: Monocacy National Battlefield

As part of the planning for this project, Monocacy National Battlefield has coordinated with the Frederick County Tourism Council. Monocacy National Battlefield has agreed to share space in the new visitor center with the Fredrick County Tourism Council. The partnership is expected to enhance visitor experience in the park and attract additional visitors that might not have

otherwise stopped at the battlefield. Preliminary estimates indicate that the park visitation would increase to approximately 40,000 visitors per year (more than doubling the 2001 visitation).

Monocacy National Battlefield is also a central point along the newly established Civil War Discovery Trail, and a key component of the Maryland Civil War Heritage Area. The park borders the Monocacy River and Frederick County has future plans to establish a greenway trail along the Monocacy River. The park and new visitor center would likely be an attraction along the greenway trail.

A Site-Selection Value Analysis was conducted pursuant to National Park Service guidelines in June 2002. As part of this analysis, the National Park Service staff developed and considered a range of alternatives. The majority of the alternatives were dismissed at this time because they failed to adequately address the purpose and need for the action. From the Site-Selection Value Analysis workshop, two alternatives plus the No-Action Alternative were retained for further evaluation.

The Environmental Screening Form was completed by the National Park Service staff on June 6, 2002 and further revised in August 2002. The Environmental Screening Form identifies potential issues and impact topics that require additional investigation to address the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and Director's Order - 12. The form is provided in Appendix B.

A site visit and project team meeting were conducted on June 27, 2002. The project team met to discuss the alternatives and impact topics to be further analyzed in the environmental assessment. The project team visited the location of each alternative as well as park resources which had a potential to be affected.

The National Park Service has also begun consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 compliance is a separate process which is often conducted concurrently with the National Environmental Policy Act analysis. As indicated in the Director's Order - 12 Handbook, the Section 106 process must be completed prior to a Finding of No Significant Impact if the preferred alternative affects a historic property.

ISSUES AND IMPACT TOPICS

An Environmental Screening Form was completed by the National Park Service staff that identifies potential issues and impact topics requiring additional investigation to address the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act and Director's Order - 12. The issues and impact topics identified on the form are explained below.

ISSUES

Issues and concerns affecting this proposal were identified from past National Park Service planning and programming efforts, the Site-Selection Value Analysis, and evaluation in this Environmental Assessment. The primary issue concerns the use of the Gambrill Mill, which was

intended to be temporary. The current facility is prone to flooding, has inadequate space and facilities, and an unsafe entrance for vehicles. These factors present safety concerns, restrict park expansion, reduce staff efficiency, and diminish the visitor experience.

Specific impact topics were developed for discussion focus to allow comparison of the environmental consequences of each alternative. These impact topics were identified based on federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders; 2001 National Park Service Management Policies; and National Park Service knowledge of limited or easily impacted resources. A brief rationale for the selection of each impact topic is given below, as well as the rationale for dismissing specific topics from further consideration.

IMPACT TOPICS INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Specialists in the National Park Service including the park manager, resource specialists, and other professional staff, identified potential issues that may result from the action. An impact topic is a resource of concern that could be affected either positively or adversely by the alternatives. As a means of evaluation, impact topics included in this document were analyzed in more detail to compare the environmental consequences of the No-Action Alternative and the other alternatives. Specific impact topics evaluated in more detail in this document include:

- Cultural resources (historic structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources);
- Aesthetics and visual resources;
- Air quality;
- Agriculture lands, prime and unique farmlands;
- Soils, geology, and topography;
- Transportation (traffic);
- Visitor use and experience;
- Health and safety; and
- Park operations.

IMPACT TOPICS DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

The non-controversial topics listed below would either not be affected or would be affected negligibly by the alternatives evaluated in this document. Therefore, these topics have been briefly discussed in this section of the Environmental Assessment and then dismissed from further consideration or evaluation. Negligible effects are effects that are localized and immeasurable at the lowest level of detection. A list of these topics is provided on the Environmental Screening Form in Appendix B.

WATER RESOURCES (WETLANDS, WATERWAYS, FLOODPLAINS)

From review of the available mapping and site visits, wetlands or surface waters were not identified in the project area. The locations of both alternatives are in upland areas. The closest waterway is the Monocacy River. The Monocacy River is approximately 200 feet to the east of the preferred alternative site and more than 1,000 feet to the south of the dairy barn location at the Best Farm.

The Monocacy River is designated as a state scenic river. The Maryland Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 calls for the protection of Maryland's river resources through an organized program of inventories and land use planning. The Monocacy River was added to the *Maryland Scenic and Wild River System* on April 30, 1974. In 1982, the National Park Service identified the Monocacy River as eligible for listing in the *National River Inventory*. Fifty-two miles of the Monocacy River from Bridgeport, Pennsylvania to the Potomac River are eligible for the National Scenic River designation (Frederick County Comprehensive Plan, 1998).

The Monocacy River possesses significant natural and recreational resources as well as outstanding Native American and Civil War archeological resources (Frederick County Comprehensive Plan, 1998). As a result, the Monocacy Scenic River Local Advisory Board was formed in 1976. The Board, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, completed a management plan for the Monocacy River in 1990. In addition to the river's listing as a Scenic River, the Monocacy River is also designated as a Resources Protection Area "Sensitive Area" pursuant to the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 (Frederick County Comprehensive Plan, 1998).

Based on the proposed anticipated building footprint, size, and location of the two alternatives, the new visitor center will not change any vista from the river nor would the new facility encroach on the river's riparian buffers. Although the Preferred Alternative would be relatively close to the river (less than 200 feet), the disturbed railroad corridor already exists between the river and Preferred Alternative site.

With the new facility, less than three acres of impervious surface would be added. The water from runoff will be collected and treated by a new on-site stormwater management facility or controlled by other best management practices. The amount of runoff from the new impervious area would be negligible and would not affect water quality in the river. Erosion and sediment control measures would be used during construction. In addition, a significant stream buffer plus the railroad roadbed exist between the project area and the Monocacy River to prevent erosion and runoff from directly entering the river.

Under the action alternatives, an increase of approximately three acres or less of impervious surface would occur. Infiltration capacity of the soils would not be significantly reduced. In addition, negligible impacts to groundwater resources would occur from the proposed action.

Based on a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate maps, the existing visitor center is in the 100-year floodplain. The alternatives being considered are not located within the 100-year floodplain. The Gambrell Mill building would continue as a park facility so no change to the topography or other site features would occur within the 100-year floodplain.

None of the alternatives considered in this document would affect water resources in the project area or in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, the impact topic, water resources, was dismissed.

WILDLIFE

The proposed project would have only a negligible disruption to wildlife. The project area is located within a maintained and human-dominated landscape (farmland) and adjacent to a commercial/light industrial area to the north. Therefore, wildlife was dismissed as an impact topic.

RARE, THREATENED, ENDANGERED, CANDIDATE SPECIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division, were contacted to determine whether any known critical habitats or listed rare, threatened or endangered species or species of concern have been documented on or adjacent to the project area. Both agencies did not identify any known protected species or habitats. Consultation letters received from the resource agencies are provided in Appendix A.

The on-site park staff at the Monocacy National Battlefield has reported seeing bald eagles flying over the park. Bald eagles are listed as threatened and are protected under the Migratory Bird Act, Bald Eagle Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act. No reports of nests have been recorded on the park. The preferred alternative is located close to the Monocacy River which may have suitable habitat for bald eagles. Based on the existing land use just north of the site and the active railroad, the likelihood that eagles would roost close to the proposed alternative sites is highly unlikely. Secondly, the proposed sites are located in a wide open agricultural field so construction and operation of the facility would not impact bald eagles or their nests.

Based on the current site conditions and consultation, no known critical habitats or listed rare, threatened or endangered species or species of concern exist in the project area. Thus, this impact topic was dismissed from further consideration.

SOUNDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the National Park Service *Management Policies* (2001) and Director's Order #47, *Sound Preservation and Noise Management*, an important objective of the National Park Service's mission, is the preservation of natural soundscapes associated with national park units. Natural soundscapes exist in the absence of human caused sound. The natural ambient soundscape is the aggregate of all the natural sounds that occur in park units, together with the physical capacity for transmitting natural sounds. Natural sounds occur within and beyond the range of sounds that humans can perceive and can be transmitted through air, water or solid materials. The frequencies, magnitudes, and duration of human caused sound considered acceptable varies among National Park Service units. Acceptance levels for each park unit are generally greater in developed areas and less in undeveloped areas.

The new visitor center operations would result in a negligible difference in noise frequencies, magnitudes, and duration. Typical noise associated with light industrial and commercial properties from the north is currently produced in the project area. In addition, several transportation noise sources exist such as vehicular traffic from Interstate-270 and Maryland State Route 355, and from trains on nearby railroad tracks. As a result of the nearby land uses and background levels of noise, the proposed action would have negligible, long-term, adverse impacts on sound preservation and noise management.

Furthermore, construction activities would be expected to contribute negligible, short-term, adverse noise impacts. With construction of the new visitor center, the contractor would be required to comply with local noise ordinances. Because the alternatives would result in negligible, short-term, adverse effects on noise levels during the construction, soundscape management was dismissed as an impact topic.

INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES

Secretarial Order 3175 requires that any anticipated impacts to Indian trust resources from a proposed action by Department of Interior agencies be explicitly addressed in environmental documents. The Federal Indian Trust responsibility is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and it represents a duty to carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indian and Alaskan native tribes.

Indian trust resources do not exist in the Monocacy National Battlefield. The lands are not held in trust by the Secretary of Interior for the benefit of Indians. Therefore, this impact topic was dismissed from further consideration.

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

The National Park Service defines ethnographic resources as any "site, structure, object, landscape or natural resource feature assigned traditional legendary, religious, subsistence or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it" (Director's Order's 28, Cultural Resources Management Guidelines, P. 181). Ethnographic resources are not known to exist in or near the project area. Therefore, ethnographic resources was dismissed as an impact topic.

SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The social economic environment consists of local and regional businesses and residences, the local and regional economy, concessions, and land use. The area surrounding the park is mostly agriculture, wooded, or river valley. The local economy and businesses include light industry and commercial development mostly existing to the north. A small business park and lumber yard are adjacent to the park property to the north. Five miles south of the park is the small town of Urbana.

The relocation, construction, and use of the new visitor center would result in an increase in visitors to the park. The joint use of the visitor center with the Frederick County Tourism Council would have a negligible, long-term, beneficial impact on the economy. As a result of increased patronage, additional staff will be required for the park, which will create job opportunities.

Land use will not change as a result of the new visitor center. The options being considered are on park property and are zoned for resource conservation (Frederick County Comprehensive Plan, 1998). The new visitor center will be constructed in approximately three acres of farmland

currently used to produce crops. The relocation of the visitor center to either the Best Farm or Wickes Site would displace farming operations in the project area and would have negligible, long-term, adverse impact. Based on land use maps, the area is currently not zoned for agriculture and significant acreage of land zoned for agriculture exists immediately to the south and east of the park. This impact will have negligible change on the farm economy. Socio-economics was dismissed as an impact topic from further consideration. Prime farmlands soils are discussed further in affected environment and environmental consequences.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Emergency Services – The Frederick County Emergency Services Division is comprised of the Departments of Fire/Rescue Services, Animal Control, Emergency Communications, and the Office of Emergency/Disaster Management. The Department of Emergency Communications is the Frederick County department responsible for receiving 911 calls (over 100,000 annually) from the citizens and visitors of Frederick County. The Department was created in 1967 to consolidate the communications and operations needs of approximately 20 independent fire departments throughout Frederick County. Throughout the years, the Department has added 911 capability, fire dispatch to ten additional County fire departments, as well as, police dispatch service to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and the Brunswick Police Department. A change in service activities from the present conditions will not occur as a result of the proposed action.

Fire and Rescue – The Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services is responsible for fire and rescue emergency situations in the area. The change in the location, construction and use of the new visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield will have no effect on existing fire and rescue operations. The new facility will be upgraded to include provisions for safety and fire protection. The new visitor center is expected to increase the number of patrons visiting the park. This change will not be significant enough to affect existing service levels of fire and rescue in the area.

Police - The relocation, construction, and use of a new visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield will have no effect on existing police services. The park has requested a budget increase for additional staff to operate the new facility. One of the personnel requested is in the area of law enforcement. The relocation of the visitor center will have no impact on police service in the area.

Schools - Based on the review of a map titled Approved School Boundaries Effective for the 2003-2004 for Frederick County Schools, there are no public schools in close vicinity to the park and proposed new visitor center. The closest public school by road, South Frederick Elementary School, is more than five miles from the site. The relocation, construction, and use of a new visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield will have no effect on schools in the area.

Parks and Recreation – The new visitor center will not affect any adjacent parks or recreation facilities. No parks or recreational areas near the project area were identified based on the review of county mapping.

The relocation, construction and use of a new visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield is not anticipated to directly affect existing community facilities. The new visitor center would not impact the quality or quantity of existing emergency, medical, police, and fire and rescue services. Therefore, community facilities and services was dismissed as an impact topic.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations directs Federal Agencies to identify and address as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies and activities on minority or low-income populations.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census (2002) figures, the minority community in Frederick County is less than 11.9 percent. Also, the population over the age of 65 is approximately ten percent. The percentage of individuals considered to be living in poverty in Frederick County is 4.5 compared to the state average of 8.5 percent. Disproportionate amounts of minorities or low income populations do not exist in the study area. The new visitor center would not effect any environmental justice populations or communities. Therefore, environmental justice was dismissed as an impact topic.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Water and Sewer Service – Frederick County operates its own public water system and sewer treatment facility. The current water service category for the Best Farm location is W-5. This category means that the County does not plan to provide water services to this property for another 7 to 20 years. Typically, a category change from W-5 to W-1 would have to be issued by Frederick County in order to get water connection to the property. This process takes at least a year to study and submit to the county.

The other option is to drill a water well. To determine an appropriate well location, study and drilling are required. Based on the soil types and aquifers, a well is a feasible solution to provide water to the site if the County cannot provide a public water source. Using a well appears to be a more cost-effective and timely alternative to providing water to either site. However, the capacity of the water sources will have to be taken into consideration during design. Frederick County requires the new visitor center to provide 45 gallons of water per day per parking space. If under 5,000 gallons per day, the Frederick County Health Department would be involved in the approval process. Over 5,000 gallons per day, the Maryland Department of Environment has jurisdiction. Appropriate agency authorization will be necessary in either case.

The current category of the sewer services for the Best Farm is S-5. Like the water service, this means that Frederick County does not plan on servicing this piece of property for another 7 to 20 years. It would take as long as a year to assess the changes needed. Submission to the county does not guarantee that they will change the service. A second option would be to tie into the existing private on-site system for the Technology Park but this would depend on obtaining permission from the property owner. Neither of these options can be done without County approval or category change.

The third option is to use a septic system. There is no category change associated with installing a septic system. The existing topography and soils are appropriate for the installation of a septic system. The soils are Duffield and Frankstown association. These soils percolate well and are advantageous for septic installation. Based on cost consideration and schedule, the third option appears most feasible.

Currently, the septic field at the Gambrill Mill is located in a floodplain. The relocation of the visitor center would reduce the use of the septic field and would result in a beneficial, long-term impact, although minor, based on the low usage of the facility.

Electrical Power and Natural Gas – Frederick Gas has a gas line for the Technology Park to the north. The line would have to be extended down Maryland State Route 355 to provide service to either alternative. This supply would be routed along existing disturbed power easements and would result in negligible, short-term, adverse impacts. Currently, there is existing power at the dairy barn on the Best Farm and a power line would need to be run to the Preferred Alternative. In this case, the power supply would be routed in the area previously disturbed by the entrance road so no new disturbance is expected. Overall, the new visitor center would not affect service levels provided by the power and/or gas companies.

Communication – Verizon Communications offers the phone service and has overhead lines running along Maryland State Route 355. Phone service would not be affected in the area and installation generally follows the entrance road so as not to disturb any new area.

Waste Management – A negligible amount of waste would be generated by increased visitation but would not affect service levels in the area.

Infrastructure was dismissed from further consideration.

The impacts topics dismissed from further consideration in this document have no to negligible impacts. Because these impact topics would have no major adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

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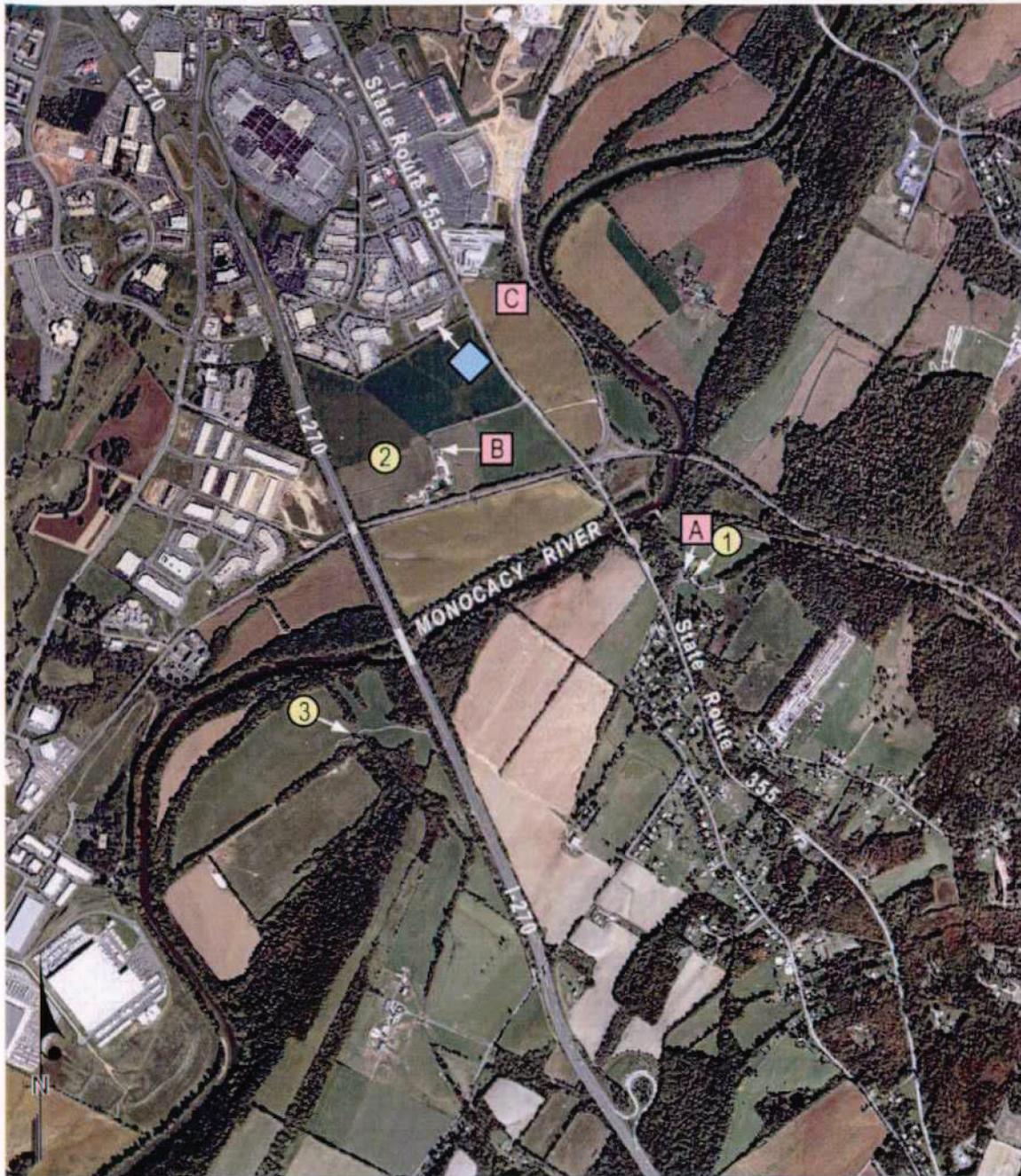
ALTERNATIVES

This section describes two alternatives and the No-Action Alternative for the relocation of the visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield. Alternatives for this project were developed to resolve flood and safety issues and improve inadequate user space and park facilities. The National Park Service defined a series of objectives for the location and characteristics of the new visitor center facility. A Site-Selection Value Analysis was conducted to help with this determination. The following factors were identified as objectives to guide in the evaluation of alternatives.

- Prevent loss of park resources, including potential impacts to historic structures, archeology, and other vistas of significance to park patrons.
- Maintain and improve condition of park resources by improving visitor experience through enhanced facilities, increased user space, and add educational opportunities and interpretive displays.
- Protect user health, safety and welfare, including compliance with American with Disabilities Act (ADA), improved site accessibility and added fire protection.
- Improve operational efficiency and sustainability, allow for future expansion, add parking, enhance building layout and modernize utilities.

As described in the previous section, the National Park Service staff considered a range of alternatives during the preliminary planning and Site-Selection Value Analysis workshop. Four alternatives were developed through the Site-Selection Value Analysis. One of these alternatives, the New Technology Park site, was dismissed from further analysis because the site did not adequately meet the project need. Therefore, only the No Action Alternative (Alternative A), the Dairy Barn at the Best Farm (Alternative B), and the Wickes Site (Alternative C) were evaluated in detail in this document.

Figure 3 shows the locations of the existing visitor center as well as the locations of the alternatives discussed in this Environmental Assessment.



Location of Alternatives and Other Park Resources

- A No Action Gambrill Mill
- B Alternative B - Dairy Barn
- C Alternative C - Wickes Site
- ◆ Alternative Dismissed - New Technology Park

Other Park Features

- 1 Gambrill House
- 2 Best Farm
- 3 Worthington House

Figure 3 – Location of Alternatives and Park Resources

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION

The No-Action Alternative describes the action of continuing the present management operation and conditions. No action does not imply or direct discontinuing the present action or removing existing uses, development, or facilities. The No-Action Alternative provides a basis for comparing the management direction and environmental consequences of the other alternatives. Under the No-Action Alternative, a new visitor center would not be constructed. The Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor orientation center and provide space for park offices. The existing building would remain prone to flooding. Safety issues would continue to exist. The visitor experience and park operational efficiency would continue to be negatively affected by inadequate space and facilities.

ALTERNATIVE B –DAIRY BARN ON THE BEST FARM

Under Alternative B, the National Park Service would renovate the existing 6,000 square feet, mid-20th century dairy barn on the Best Farm to accommodate park operations and the new visitor center. The site development program completed by the park staff identified the likely site characteristics to include:

- Parking for 20 vehicles including five spaces for staff;
- Parking for up to six buses;
- Bus circulation and drop off location;
- Area for Civil War kiosk;
- Outdoor lighting for parking and entry;
- Covered outdoor gathering space for a group of 20;
- Stormwater management facility; and
- Landscape treatment that retains the dairy barn character but is also consistent with the surrounding historic landscape.

A conceptual site development plan is provided as Figure 4. This alternative requires improvements to the existing farm road and utilities into the site. Also, the entrance to the site may require improvements to State Route 355 such as a turn lane and signage. The benefits of this alternative are it allows for park interpretation in the heart of the battlefield and provides scenic views to other significant parts of the park. The site allows for good pedestrian access to the battlefield as well as potential connections to other sites/trails within the park. The renovation of the existing barn would be a sustainable practice and would provide adequate room for park operations. The existing dimensions and elevations of the dairy barn are depicted on Figure 5. A photograph of the barn is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 4: Conceptual Site Plan
For Alternative B - Dairy Barn at the Best Farm

The renovation of the existing barn would be a sustainable practice and would provide adequate room for park operations. The existing dimensions and elevations of the dairy barn are depicted on Figure 5. A photograph of the barn is shown in Figure 6.

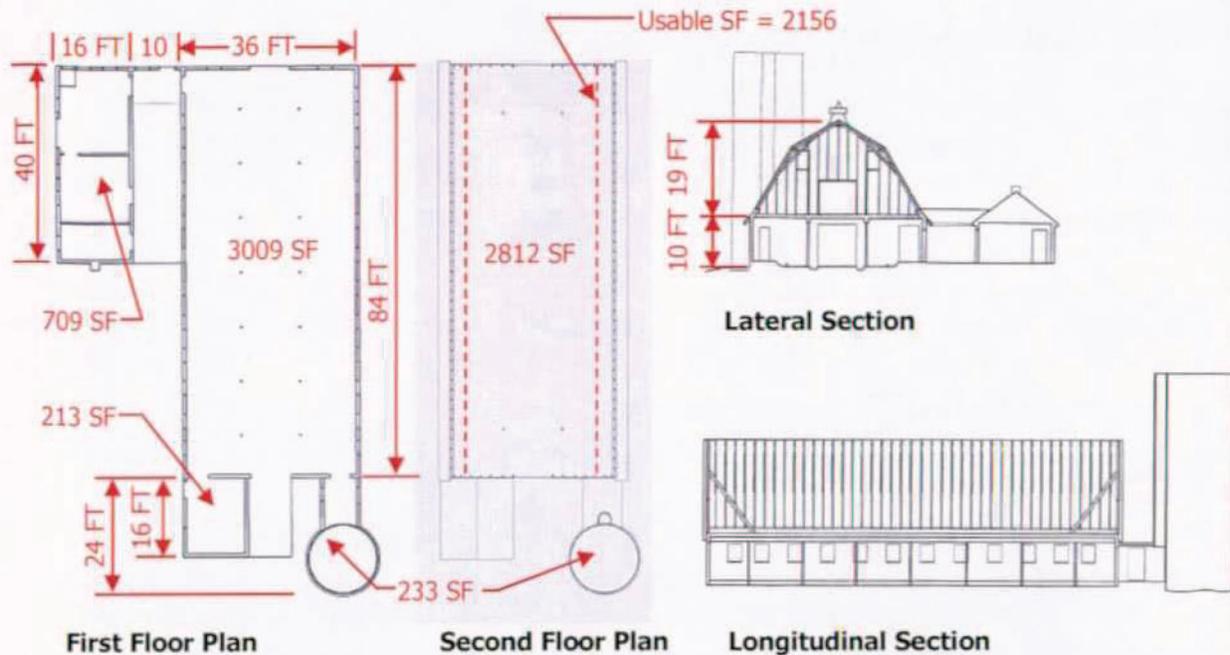


Figure 5 - Barn Dimensions and Existing Elevations

During the Site Selection Value Analysis, a number of design/planning issues were identified as undesirable attributes. These issues included:

- Potentially may require improvements to State Route 355 such as widening or a turn lane,
- Site not amendable to future facility expansion of park operations,
- Stormwater management onsite,
- Intrusions into battlefield,
- Upgrades to the farm road would be needed to support visitor traffic and the road transects the battlefield.
- Precludes the restoration of the Civil War Landscape, and
- Introduces additional modern elements to the site.



Figure 6 - Photo of Dairy Barn

Gambrill Mill would remain intact and maintained because of its historic significance. The mill would be used, although to a much lesser extent, for interpretive displays and other less significant park operations. The access to the site and parking would remain for visitors.

1.1 ALTERNATIVE C – WICKES SITE (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

The Preferred Alternative presents the National Park Service's proposed action and defines the rationale for the action in terms of resource protection and management, visitor and operational use, costs, and other applicable factors. Alternative C - Wickes Site, is located near the northeastern portion of the park boundaries. Figure 3 illustrates the location of the Wickes Site. The site is on park property just south of the Wickes Lumber yard. Two possible construction scenarios are being considered. The first scenario is to relocate the top (façade) of the dairy barn from the Best Farm to a new foundation on the Wickes Site. The existing silo and lower portion of the barn would be demolished. The second scenario is to construct a new building on the site. In both scenarios, a new foundation and footprint would need to be constructed, and the associated effects on the physical environment would be virtually the same. For the second scenario, the design and appearance of the new visitor center has not been determined except that the appearance needs to be consistent with the existing landscape and park mission, therefore not diminishing the views of the existing historic structures and landscape.

Alternative C would have similar site characteristics as Alternative B based on the preliminary program. The site would include:

- Parking for 20 vehicles including five spaces for staff;
- Parking for up to six buses;
- Bus circulation and drop off location,
- Area for Civil War kiosk;
- Outdoor lighting for parking and entry;
- Covered outdoor gathering space for a group of 20;
- A stormwater management facility or other best management practices; and
- Landscape treatment consistent with the surrounding historic landscape.



Figure 7: Conceptual Site Plan for Alternative C

A conceptual site development plan is provided as Figure 7. The Wickes Site is located at a higher elevation than most of the park. The higher elevation grants visitors views of the battlefield and other park features such as the Worthington House and historic structures at the Best Farm. Other considerations for this alternative include thinning the existing trees on State Route 355 and in the future, removing the overhead utilities. These site improvements would enhance the view to the battlefield and provide a more scenic landscape to park patrons looking towards the battlefield from the visitor center. These improvements are minor and would result in no impact or negligible adverse impacts and therefore, are not considered in great detail in this document. Vistas are an impact topic discussed in more detail later in this document.

The Wickes Site is owned by the National Park Service and the land is being leased for agriculture. At the time of the site inspection in July 2002, the site was a corn field. The proposed entrance would be located across from the New Technology Business Park. State Route 355 has been widened in this area near the new business park entrance.

Gambrill Mill would remain intact and maintained because of its historic significance. The mill would be used, although to a much lesser extent, for interpretive displays and other less significant park operations. The access to the site and parking would remain for visitors.

The benefits of this alternative are:

- Locating the visitor center at this site protects the park resources and allows for the preservation of the Civil War Landscape at the Best Farm;
- The entrance experience for the visitor can be designed to decompress from modern to historic;
- There are fewer site restrictions for parking and utilities and the public utilities would have a shorter run to the building site; and
- Site improvements would not require widening the road for acceleration and deceleration while providing a safe entrance and exit onto State Route 355.

After considerable planning and analysis through the Site-Selection Value Analysis and this environmental assessment, the Wickes Site was determined to be the preferred alternative. The two action alternatives are very similar and provide many benefits. The primary reason that the Wickes Site is preferred over the Dairy Barn on the Best Farm is that this site protects the park resources and allows for the preservation of the Civil War Landscape at the Best Farm. A summary table comparing the environmental consequences of each alternative is presented at the end of the alternatives section.

MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Mitigation measures are presented as part of the preferred alternative. These actions have been developed to lessen the adverse effects of the preferred alternative. The following mitigation measures are recommended for the preferred alternative:

- The National Park Service would continue the Section 106 process with the Maryland Historical Trust and archeological investigations would precede construction. If resources are discovered during the construction, all work would stop until properly recorded by a qualified archeologist. If the resources are determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, appropriate measures would be implemented to either avoid or mitigate their loss or disturbance (e.g., data recovery excavations or other means) in further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. In compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, the National Park Service would also consult concerned tribal representatives for the proper treatment of human remains, and funerary and sacred objects should these be discovered during the course of the project. No Native American graves are anticipated within the project area. An Archaeological Resources Protection Act permit will be prepared and approved prior to any excavations.
- The visitor center would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield and other historic structures. Vistas would be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding

park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Site improvements would be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to ensure development is compatible with the historic setting and harmonizes with historic structures and landscapes. The visitor center would also be constructed in such a fashion as not to create a false impression for the visitor that the relocated barn previously existed at the Wickes Site.

- Sediment and erosion control plans would be developed and adhered to during construction and until the site reaches acceptable stabilization to minimize the effects of runoff and sedimentation.
- If more than five acres of prime farmlands are disturbed, the National Park Service would submit form AD-1006 to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Upon return receipt of the Farmland Conservation Impact Rating form, the National Park Service would evaluate the Natural Resource Conservation District impact rating and potential effects to the prime farmlands and then resubmit the record of decision to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If the rating score is greater than 160, the National Park Service would evaluate ways to mitigate the impact.

SUSTAINABILITY

The National Park Service has adopted the concept of sustainable design as a guiding principle of facility planning and development. The objectives of sustainability are to design park facilities to minimize adverse effects on natural and cultural values, to reflect their environmental setting and to maintain and encourage biodiversity; to construct and retrofit facilities using energy-efficient materials and building techniques; to operate and maintain facilities to promote their sustainability; and to illustrate and promote conservation principles and practices through sustainable design and ecologically sensitive use. Essentially, sustainability is living within the environment with the least impact on the environment. The preferred alternative subscribes to and supports the practice of sustainable planning, design, and use of the new visitor center.

CONSTRUCTION COST AND SCHEDULE

The cost of the project is estimated to be \$3.3 million and construction is projected for 2004.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

Off-site and on-site alternatives were considered for this action. Most of the alternatives were developed prior to the Site-Selection Value Analysis but were subsequently dismissed from further analysis. One alternative, the New Technology Park, was evaluated in the Site-Selection Value Analysis and later dismissed. The New Technology Park site is shown on Figure 3. This alternative involved relocating the visitor center and park offices to an offsite location at the nearby office park. This alternative was dismissed from further evaluation in this document for the following reasons.

- The site was not on park property which presented property issues such as additional long-term costs and lease obligations.

- The existing building and facilities are not consistent with the park setting and would take away from the visitor experience.
- There are limited interpretative opportunities at the site.

IMPACT COMPARISION MATRIX

This table of impacts is for comparison purposes among the project alternatives, including no action. The matrix presents a concise summary of each alternative’s potential effects by impact topic.

TABLE 1: COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE NO-ACTION AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative A – No Action Alternative	Alternative B – Renovate Dairy Barn on Best Farm	Alternative C – Wickes Site Preferred Alternative
<p>The relocation of the visitor center would not occur. The Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor center and park offices. The building would still be prone to flooding. As visitation grows, inadequate space (600 sq ft) and facilities would continue to reduce the park operational efficiency and reduce the visitor’s experience. Partnership opportunities would be limited due to lack of available space and facilities. Health and safety issues would not be resolved and would need to be addressed in the future by the National Park Service.</p>	<p>The visitor center would be relocated to a renovated dairy barn on the Best Farm. Approximately 6,000 square feet of space could be used for the visitor center, interpretive displays, and park offices. The entrance farm road would be improved to support visitor traffic. State Route 355 would be widened to include a turn lane. Parking, stormwater facilities, utilities, and other amenities would be constructed.</p>	<p>The National Park Service would relocate the visitor center to a new facility at the Wickes Site (northeast boundary of the property). A new building foundation would be constructed. The National Park Service would either design a new facade or the top of the dairy barn would be rehabilitated, moved, and reused. Either way, both alternatives would result in similar impacts based on the understanding that the building appearance would be consistent with the existing park setting. Approximately 6,000 square feet of space could be used for the visitor center, interpretive displays, and park offices. A new entrance road, stormwater facilities, parking and other amenities would be constructed.</p>

**TABLE 2 COMPARATIVE SUMMARY
OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Impact Topic	Alternative A No Action Alternative	Alternative B Renovate Dairy Barn on Best Farm	Alternative C New Visitor Center on Wickes Site (Preferred Alternative)
Historic Structures/ Sites	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	Negligible, long-term adverse impacts are expected to occur as a result of rehabilitating and using the dairy barn. Associated improvements to the road and parking would have a minor, long-term, adverse impact on visual elements of the battlefield and historic structures at the Best Farm.	The new visitor center at the Wickes Site would result in negligible, long-term adverse impacts to historic structures as a result of the change in some vistas to the battlefield. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur. No physical impacts to historic structures would occur.
Cultural Landscape	No adverse impacts to cultural landscapes would occur.	Under Alternative B, minor, long-term, adverse impacts would occur as a result of the associated features of the new visitor center (e.g., parking, bus circulation) affecting the views of the landscape. Associated improvements to the road and parking would have a minor, long-term, adverse impact on visual elements of the battlefield.	Under Alternative C, negligible, long-term, adverse impacts would occur as a result of the associated features of the new visitor center (e.g., parking, bus circulation) affecting the views of the landscape. The location is less intrusive because it would help shield the Wickes Lumber storage area.
Archeological Resources	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	Relocating the visitor center to the renovated dairy barn would result in long-term adverse impacts to archeological resources. The widening of the farm road and installation of utilities would occur in the location of the battlefield. The site of the new visitor center and road improvements require additional archeological investigation and study. If during additional studies or construction, artifacts of significances are found, all work in the vicinity of the discovery would be halted until resources could be identified, documented, and an appropriate mitigation strategy and Memorandum of Agreement developed in consultation with the SHPO.	Additional investigation is needed to assure if significant resources are or are not present. Based on an archeological walkover survey, the likelihood of finding archeological resources is low; however, the new visitor center at the Wickes Site would have long-term, adverse impacts to archeological resources. If during additional study or construction significant artifacts are found, all work in the vicinity of the discovery would be halted until resources could be identified, documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the SHPO.

Impact Topic	Alternative A No Action Alternative	Alternative B Renovate Dairy Barn on Best Farm	Alternative C New Visitor Center on Wickes Site (Preferred Alternative)
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	No adverse impacts are expected to occur as a result of rehabilitating and using the dairy barn; however, the associated improvements to the road and parking would have a minor, long-term adverse impact on visual resources.	The new visitor center at the Wickes Site would have minor, long-term adverse impacts to vistas. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur. In some cases, the vistas would be improved in that the visitor center would shield the lumber yard from the battlefield view.
Air Quality	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	Relocating the visitor center to the renovated dairy barn would have negligible, long-term adverse impact to air quality as a result of the increased number of visitors and associated increase in emission from their vehicles. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur.	The new visitor center at the Wickes Site would result negligible, long-term adverse impacts to air quality as a result of the increased number of visitors and associated increase in emissions from their vehicles. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur.
Agriculture Lands, Prime and Unique Farmlands Soils	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	Relocating the visitor center to the renovated dairy barn would result in negligible, long-term adverse impact to prime farmland soils. Most of the project area is disturbed and not used as farmland.	The new visitor center at the Wickes Site would have minor, long-term adverse impacts to prime farmlands. Approximately three acres of prime farmland will be converted to non-agricultural use. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur.
Soils, Geology, and Topography	No adverse impacts are expected to occur.	Minor, long-term adverse impacts would occur from the construction of a new facility to the soils and topography. Approximately three acres of previously disturbed area would be affected.	Minor, long-term adverse impacts would occur from the construction of a new facility to the soils and topography. Approximately three acres of disturbance is anticipated.
Transportation (traffic)	Negligible, long-term, adverse impacts would occur from increased visitation and no road improvements.	Minor, short term and long-term impacts to transportation would occur as a result of improvements to the farmland and State Route 355 for vehicles entering the site. Also, traffic would be increased as result of more visitors.	Minor, long-term, adverse impacts would occur as a result of increased visitation resulting in more traffic. No impairment to the park resources or values would occur.

Impact Topic	Alternative A No Action Alternative	Alternative B Renovate Dairy Barn on Best Farm	Alternative C New Visitor Center on Wickes Site (Preferred Alternative)
Visitor use and Experience	As visitation continues to grow, the visitor experience will decrease due to limited space and facilities. Moderate, long-term, adverse impact would result on the visitor use and experience.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact to the visitor experience would occur. Visitor experience would be enhanced by improved facilities such as increased parking. Additional space would allow for increased interpretative displays and educational opportunities. A new visitor center would allow the park to entertain additional partnerships, such as the one with the Frederick County Tourism Council.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact to visitor experience would occur. Visitor experience would be enhanced by improved facilities such as increased parking. Additional space would allow for increased interpretative displays and educational opportunities. Also, a new visitor center would allow the park to entertain additional partnerships, such as the one with the Frederick County Tourism Council.
Health and Safety	Moderate, long-term adverse impacts to the health and safety of visitors and park staff would occur as a result of flooding, and inadequate facilities that do not meet life safety codes.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on health and safety would occur. The new facility would be designed and constructed to current health and safety standards. The new facility would not be prone to flooding, thus, the staff would not have to evacuate during adverse conditions.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on health and safety would occur. The new facility would be designed and constructed to modern health and safety standards. The new facility would not be prone to flooding, thus the staff would not have to evacuate during adverse conditions.
Park Operations	Moderate, long-term adverse impact to park operations would occur. Visitation will continue to grow without proper facilities to accommodate the park staff.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact to park operations would occur. The park staff would have adequate space and facilities to expand and handle increased visitation. Temporary closures due to flooding would not occur.	Beneficial, moderate, long-term impact to park operation would occur. The park staff would have adequate space and facilities to expand and handle increased visitation. Temporary closures due to flooding would not occur.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

In accordance with Directors Order - 12, the National Park Service is required to identify the "environmentally preferred alternative" in all environmental documents, including environmental assessments. The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying the criteria suggested in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which is guided by the Council on Environmental Quality. The Council on Environmental Quality provides direction that "[t]he environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of National Environmental Policy Act, which considers:

- Fulfilling the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- Assuring for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- Attaining the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- Preserving important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintaining, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- Achieving a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- Enhancing the quality of renewable resources and approaching the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources (National Environmental Policy Act, section 101)."

Generally, these criteria mean the environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (Federal Register, 1981).

Implementation of the No-Action alternative fails to meet many of the criteria listed above. Foremost, the No-Action Alternative does not assure safe and healthful surroundings for future generations. Safety issues would persist from the continued use of the Gambrill Mill. The Gambrill Mill is located in a 100-year floodplain and is prone to flooding, which in turn, puts visitors, park staff and park resources at greater risk during storm events. Also, limited site distances would remain at the entrance to the Gambrill Mill. Also, not relocating the visitor center to a new facility would not attain the widest range of beneficial uses. For instance, park operations and partnership opportunities with the local tourism council would continue to be adversely impacted by the lack of space and facilities.

Under Alternative B, the new visitor center would help assure a safe and healthful environment. Also, the reuse of the dairy barn would be consistent with the National Park Service

“Sustainability Initiative.” Overall, Alternative B offers many of the same attributes as the Preferred Alternative with one notable exception. The use of the Best Farm location could have greater irreversible impacts to cultural resources (archeological, historic, and cultural landscapes) when compared to the Preferred Alternative. The construction of the associated improvements such as the parking area and road improvements could result in adverse impacts to one of the most significant park resources (the Battlefield).

As evaluated in this document, the Preferred Alternative (relocation, construction and use of a new visitor center at the Wickes Site along the northeastern park boundary) is the environmentally preferred alternative. After review of the park resources and impact topics and development of mitigation measures, the preferred alternative best ensures the preservation of the park resources and values. The Preferred Alternative would also contribute to the park’s mission by offering visitors improved facilities which will enhance visitor experience at the park and provide park staff with a safer and more efficient work environment. The Preferred Alternative has a greater likelihood to not affect archeological or historic resources based on cursory walkover surveys and the distance away from the Battlefield and Best Farm historic structures; however, additional investigation is needed to determine if significant archeological resources are present in the project area.

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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A summary of the resources identified as impact topics associated with this project follows.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

For the purposes of this analysis, the potential effects to cultural resources are divided into historic structures, cultural landscapes and archeological resources.

“Historic properties,” as defined by the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800), are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. This term includes artifacts, records, and the remains that are related to and located within such properties, as well as traditional and culturally significant Native American sites and historic landscapes. The term “eligible for inclusion in the National Register” includes both properties formally determined eligible and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria.

The significance of historic properties is generally judged against a property's ability to meet the four criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60):

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Properties may be eligible for the National Register for contributions at the national, state, or local level. Ordinarily, properties achieving significance within the last 50 years are not considered eligible unless they are integral parts of historic districts or unless they are of exceptional importance; the most common types of properties less than 50 years old listed on the National Register are works of modern architecture or scientific facilities.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES/SITES

In order for a structure or building to be listed in the National Register, it must possess historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance, i.e., location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association (see National Register Bulletin #15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*).

A brief summary describing the Monocacy National Battlefield and significant historic resources listed or potentially listed in the National Register of Historic Places is provided below. Those resources within the Area of Potential Effect are included. The information was obtained from the eligibility determination update forms submitted by the National Park Service to the Maryland Historical Trust in 2002. These forms are provided in Appendix C.

The Area of Potential Affect for the project is the area containing historic structures with vista to and from the proposed project site. In the case of either action alternative, the Battlefield and the Best Farm structures are within the Area of Potential Affect. Other historic buildings exist on site but are shielded or have minimal views as a result of foresting areas.

The Battlefield. The Monocacy National Battlefield was listed in the National Register in 1973 and is a National Historical Landmark. As listed, the nomination includes two discontinuous parcels of private and federally owned lands in the vicinity of the State Route 355, and the U.S. 40 crossings of the Monocacy River. The Battlefield is significant in that it is the location of the "Battle that Saved Washington" during the Civil War. The Monocacy National Battlefield contains 1,647 acres of farmland and woods straddling the Monocacy River and State Route 355, just southeast of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland. Much of the land is farmed, used primarily for hay and grain production, and for pasture. There are five monuments placed as memorials to participants in the Battle of Monocacy.

The Best Farm. This farm, also known as the "Hermitage," is located at the northwest side of the battlefield. The farm is located between I-270 and State Route 355, known historically as the Washington Road or Georgetown Pike, west of the Monocacy River and the B&O Railroad. The buildings are accessed by a lane leading in a westerly direction from Route 355 and are situated about ¼ mile west of the highway. The property, now containing 273.69 acres, came to the National Park Service in 1993, from the family that had owned it since 1835. The buildings currently on the property include a multi-part stuccoed stone, brick and log house, the oldest intact part of which dates from the 1790s. There are five contributing buildings (house, secondary house, smoke house, wagon shed and stone barn) at the Best Farm and two non contributing buildings (the dairy barn and pole barn). The mid-twentieth century dairy barn proposed for reuse at the Best Farm is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. For more descriptions of the buildings and their geographic relationships to each other refer to the nomination forms in Appendix C. Photographs of the vistas of the Best Farm are provided in the Aesthetics and Visual Resources sections

Gambrill House and Mill. The Gambrill house and mill remnants are located on the east side of Route 355, east of the Monocacy River and south of Bush Creek. Most of the land associated with these buildings is low-lying, drained by a small run which once was the tail race for the mill. The Gambrill House was built in 1872 and is located on high ground to the south of the mill and faces north toward the mill and the Monocacy River. The National Park Service acquired the property containing 134.36 acres in 1981. The remaining portion of the Gambrill mill is now in use as the headquarters and visitor center for the Monocacy National Battlefield.

Worthington Farm. The Worthington Farm, also known as the Clifton, is located at the end of a long access lane, which parallels I-270 westward from Baker Valley Road, then turns to the southwest to reach the house.

Thomas Farm. The Thomas Farm containing approximately 240 acres is located on the southwest side of Maryland Route 355 and on the east side of the Monocacy River, opposite the Best Farm. The main buildings include a brick house, frame “Swisser” barn, corncrib and wagon shed and various domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The house faces northeast toward the road. The barn and outbuildings are located behind the house. An 1856 sale bill for the property also mentions a stone tenant house.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

In 2000, the National Park Service completed a Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Monocacy National Battlefield and surrounding parkland. As described by the National Park Service *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (DO-28, p.87), a cultural landscape is:

“...a reflection of human adaptation and use of natural resources and is often expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built. The character of cultural landscape is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, buildings, walls, and vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions.”

The Monocacy National Battlefield contains 1,647 acres of farmland and woods straddling the Monocacy River and Maryland Route 355, just southeast of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland. Flat river bottom land and steep bluffs dominate the landscape, along with old fencerows and road networks, some of which date back to the mid 18th century. Much of the land is farmed, used primarily for hay and grain production, and for pasture. Bush Creek passes through the Battlefield near its north edge, east of the river, and paralleling this creek is the B&O Railroad, which figured so prominently in the July 9, 1864 battle.

The original spatial organization of the agricultural landscape exhibit elements of vernacular and pragmatic design solutions used historically to transform the area into a thriving agricultural community both before and after the Civil War. The organization is based on patterns of functional use for grazing or farming crops, residential and support purposes, milling local grain, transporting farm related products to the market and the mill site (NPS, 2000).

The landscape within the boundaries of the park possess moderate to high levels of integrity in relation to its nineteenth- and early twentieth-century periods of significance. Areas of moderate integrity are those such as the railroad junction, rail side community, mill site and farm property, all of which have lost structures and outbuildings that contribute to the historic character of the setting (NPS 2000).

The battlefield landscape is largely pastoral. There are some non-contributing elements, mostly houses dating from the mid and later 20th century (not owned by the National Park Service). Interstate 270 bisects the battlefield, running southeast to northwest, forming both a visual and physical barrier to the continuity of the landscape. There are five monuments placed as memorials to participants in the Battle of Monocacy. These are construed as contributing elements to the nominated area. As part of the growing interest in memorialization in the early 20th century, the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Vermont as well as the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected monuments commemorating specific actions at

Monocacy. These commemorative efforts began in 1907 with the New Jersey monument. It is located on the Best Farm lands, along the south side of the railroad, west of the Georgetown Pike. No monuments are located at either of the projects sites being proposed in the alternatives.

On the borders of the battlefield, however there is significant development, commercial and residential sprawl extending from Frederick on the northwest, from the Buckeystown Pike on the southwest and from Urbana on the southeast. On the northwest, a shopping mall and an office park extend to the very boundary of the Battlefield.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Overall, the Monocacy National Battlefield is a site of significant archeological importance; therefore, as part of the site selection evaluation, sites were considered based on the principle that the new visitor center should not impact archeological resources. This environmental assessment only focuses on potential archeological resources associated with the two alternative project sites and potential effects of road and utilities improvements. The purpose of this section is not to describe the park archeological resources, but rather to describe the existing conditions of the two alternative sites being considered.

During the Battle of Monocacy in 1864, Kirkpatrick's Battery, a Confederate artillery battery, was set up in the field on the northeast portion of the park property.¹ As the boundaries of this field have not changed since the battle occurred, it is likely that evidence of this important resource still survive in the archeological record. Further, Kirkpatrick's Battery is most likely the only intact Confederate artillery battery within the current National Battlefield boundaries, so any compliance investigations in this field would have to take this resource into account.²

The archeological identification and evaluation study of the Best Farm is currently in its second field season, and Phase II investigations are underway³. Although the first phase of the identification and evaluation study included a component of intensive archeological testing in and around the cluster of historic structures at the Best Farm, no subsurface surveys or testing were conducted at either of the areas under consideration for the visitor center project. The field survey method used to assess these areas was a pedestrian walkover survey, which involves a systematic walkover of newly-plowed fields in order to examine exposed sections of soil for artifacts or archeological features.

Pedestrian field surveys are designed to delineate archeological properties and to identify their cultural affiliation and research potential, and are particularly useful in the assessment of large land tracts where subsurface testing is neither feasible nor cost-effective.

¹ See Jedediah Hotchkiss's 1864 map of the Battle of Monocacy

² Two other Confederate artillery batteries – Massie's and Carpenter's – were also engaged on the Best Farm during the Battle of Monocacy; however, evidence of these batteries has most likely been disturbed or destroyed due to construction of the industrial park on the Battlefield's northern boundary and the construction of Interstate 270

³ Phase II investigations usually involve a more complete excavation of areas or features identified through archeological testing methods to have a high potential for containing archeological resources, and generally serve to evaluate the significance of archeological resources and to mitigate adverse effects on these resources

The pedestrian walkover survey of the two potential visitor center sites did not yield any evidence of subsurface archeological features. However, to more confidently determine if subsurface archeological resources are present within the areas of potential project effects, the National Park Service would carry out archeological testing/surveys prior to any ground-disturbing construction activities. These surveys help provide reasonable confirmation that no buried archeological resources are present where none are visible on the surface. The environmental consequence section outlines a general strategy for the subsurface investigation of the two proposed visitor center sites.

AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

The project area is defined visually by the scenic battlefield landscape and the park historic structures described in earlier sections. During the Site-Selection Value Analysis and study for this environmental assessment certain vistas/viewsheds were determined to be important to the park's significance. From the Alternative B- Dairy Barn at the Best Farm, the important site vistas are shown in Figure 8. Corresponding photographs are depicted in Figure 10. For Alternative C- Wickes Site, the primary vistas considered to be of importance during the analysis are shown in Figure 9. Corresponding photographs are depicted in Figure 11.

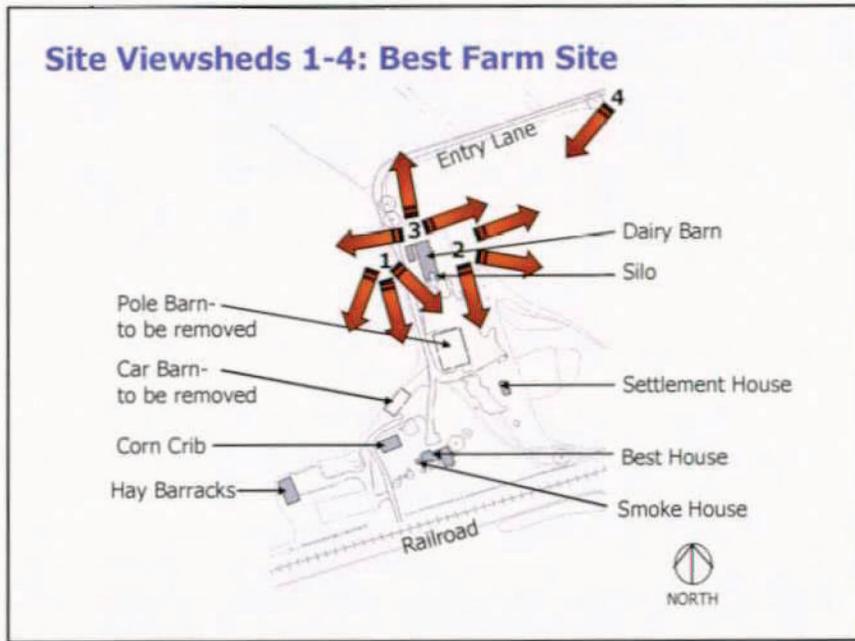


Figure 8 - Viewsheds from and to the Dairy Barn at the Best Farm

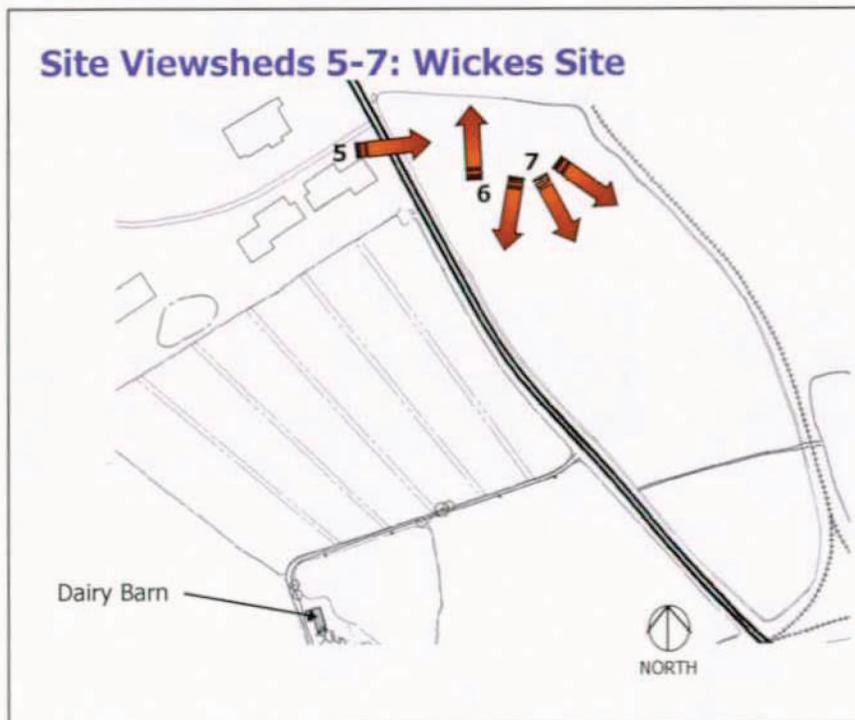


Figure 9 - Viewsheds from and to Wickes Site

Figure 10 - Dairy Barn at Best Farm Vistas 1 through 4



1 - Looking south towards Best House



2 - Looking east towards Route 355



3 - Looking south from Dairy Barn



4 - Looking towards Best Farm from Entry Lane

Figure 11- Wickes Site Vistas 5 through 7



5 - Looking towards the Wick's Site from Route 355



6 - Looking from the Wick's Site towards the lumber yard



7 - Looking from the Wick's Site towards the Battlefield

AIR QUALITY

Air quality became a national concern in the mid-1960s, leading to the passage of the Air Quality Act in 1967. The Act (now referred to as the Clean Air Act) and subsequent amendments have established procedures for improving conditions, including a set of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is directed to set levels for pollutants in order to protect the public health. The NAAQS have been adopted for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and lead. A system of monitoring stations has been established across the country to measure progress in meeting these goals. If an area is found to exceed the allowable concentrations, local officials are required to develop a plan for achieving air quality that meet the standards.

Frederick County is considered to be in compliance with the NAAQS. Therefore, the project is not subject to the conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act. Nevertheless, the potential effects on air quality are still considered in the decision-making process and potential environmental consequences of the project.

AGRICULTURE LANDS, PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Based on the review of the Frederick County Soil Survey reissued in 1960, the limit of disturbance of Alternative B is located within three soil types (USDA, 1960). The soil types are Duffield and Frankstown Silt Loam (DeB2), Huntington Silt Loam (HoA) and Linside Silt Loam (LmA). The soils are briefly described below.

- **Duffield and Frankstown Silt Loam (DeB2)** – The Duffield soils and the Frankstown soils are very similar in use suitability and in management need. The Frankstown soils are a little shallower than the Duffield soils and they contain more shale or cherty gravel. Duffield Soil Series consists of deep well-drained soils that develop from impure limestone. Permeability is moderate. These soils occur in the broad, shallow Frederick Valley, which is drained by the Monocacy River. They are fertile, highly productive, and easy to manage. They are both extensive and important in the county. Frankstown soils also develop from impure limestone and are well drained, fertile, highly productive and easy to manage. They are chiefly used for grain, hay, and pasture but are suitable for all crops in the county. Slopes for Duffield and Frankstown silt loam moderately eroded (DEB2) are generally 3 to 8 percent (USDA, 1960).
- **Huntington Silt Loam (HoA)** – The Huntington Series consists of deep, well-drained soils of floodplains and in upland depressions. Most of the soils have washed from areas of Duffield, Hagerstown, Frankstown and other soils of limestone. The soils are generally fertile, productive and easy to manage. Slopes for Huntington silt loam is generally 0 to 3 percent (USDA, 1960).
- **Linside Silt Loam (LmA)** - The Linside Series consists of deep, moderately well-drained soil on floodplains and in upland depressions. They form from recent alluvial material. Permeability is moderately slow or moderate. The soils are fairly fertile. Slopes for Linside silt loam local alluvium range from 0 to 3 percent (USDA, 1960).

According to a list of prime farmland soils provided in Table 4 of the soil survey, all three soils types are listed as Prime Farmlands in Frederick County (Personal Communication, 2002 and USDA, 1960).

Alternative C, the Wickes Site, is in or adjacent to two soil types: Duffield and Frankstown Silt Loam (DeB2) (see above) and Hagerstown Rocky Loam (HdB2). DeB2 is considered a prime farmland soil by the Soil Conservation District. The Hagerstown Rocky Loam has slopes 3 to 15 percent and moderately eroded. The Hagerstown series consists of deep, well-drained soils. They are formed in material weathered from rather hard pure limestone. Permeability is moderate. Hagerstown soils occur in the broad, shallow Frederick Valley. These soils are highly productive if well managed. Figure 12 shows the soils existing from the Frederick County Soils Survey at the Monocacy National Battlefield and project areas.

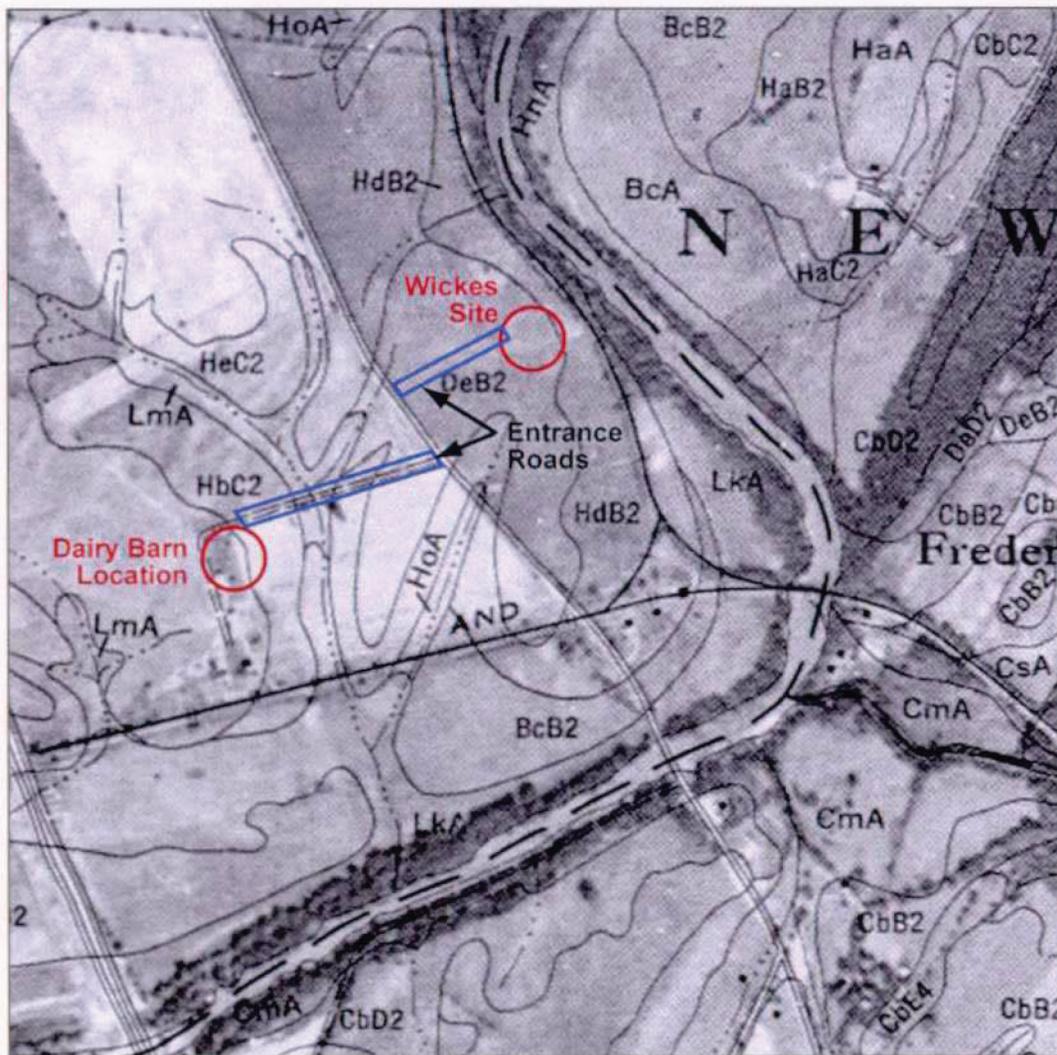


Figure 12 - Soils Map

SOILS, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

The project area is located in Frederick County, Maryland situated within the Lowland Section of the Piedmont Plateau Province (Maryland Geology Survey, 2002). The site elevations range from 260 to 300 feet above mean sea level (USGS, 1965). The soils are described above as part of the prime farmland section.

TRANSPORTATION (TRAFFIC)

The Monocacy National Battlefield is accessed off of State Route 355. Based on the review of the 2001 Frederick County Volume Map published March 7, 2002 prepared by the State Highway Administration, State Route 355 has an annual average daily traffic volume of 17,875 to the north of the park and 8,675 to the south of the park. State Route 355 through the area of the park by the Gambrill Mill entrance is a two lane road and has no designated turn lanes. To the north near the New Technology Park, the road has been widened to include available space for vehicles turning into the New Technology Park.

VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

In 2001, the park had 18,000 visitors. In 2002, visitation is up by 57 percent. The visitor center provides the focal point for new visitors who want to learn more about the park resources. The visitor experience includes access to many interpretive programs, trails, ranger programs, and an auto tour. The visitor center offers an electric map, orientation program, an interactive computer program, interpretive displays, and artifacts of the battle.

PARK OPERATIONS

Monocacy National Battlefield is part of the National Park System, encompassing 1,647 acres. The Gambrill Mill is the location of the visitor orientation center and park offices. The park's Fiscal Year 2002 budget was \$717,000, and the park employs nine full time staff. The current facility is approximately 600 square feet of space, currently inadequate for efficient park operations. Based on recent programming, the park operations require two additional full time and two part time employees to handle the increase in visitation.

The park is open daily April 1st through October 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. on weekends, Memorial Day - Labor Day). The park is open Wednesday through Sunday, November 1st through March 31st from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The park hosts a number of special events during the course of the year. Events include the annual Battle of Monocacy Commemoration.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the environmental consequences associated with each alternative to the proposed action. It is organized by impact topics, which refine the issues and concerns into distinct topics for discussion analysis. These topics focus on the presentation of environmental consequences and allow a standardized comparison between alternatives based on the most relevant topics. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires consideration of context, intensity and duration of impacts, indirect impacts, cumulative impacts, and measures to mitigate for impacts. National Park Service policy also requires that "impairment" of resources be evaluated in all environmental documents.

Methodology: Overall, the National Park Service staff based these impact analyses and conclusions on the review of existing literature and Monocacy National Battlefield studies, professional judgments, information provided by experts within Monocacy National Battlefield, and other agencies.

General Definitions: The following definitions were used to evaluate the context, intensity, duration, and cumulative nature of impacts associated with project alternatives.

Context is the setting within which an impact is analyzed, such as the affected region, society as a whole, the affected interests, and/or a locality. In this environmental assessment, the intensity of impacts are evaluated within a local (i.e., project area) context, while the intensity of the contribution of effects to cumulative impacts are evaluated in a regional context.

Impact Intensity

For this analysis, intensity or severity of the impact is defined for each impact topic in this section.

Duration

The duration of impacts in this analysis is defined as follows:

- *short-term*, when impacts occur only during construction or last less than one-year; or
- *long-term*, when impacts last one year or longer.

Direct versus Indirect Impacts

The following definitions of direct and indirect impacts were used in this evaluation:

- *Direct* – an effect that is caused by an action and occurs at the same time and place; and
- *Indirect* – an effect that is caused by an action but is later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable.

Cumulative Effects

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement the National Environmental Policy Act, require assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision-making process for federal projects. Cumulative impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts are considered for all alternatives and are presented at the end of each impact topic discussion analysis.

Cumulative impacts were determined by combining the impacts of the proposed action with other past, present and reasonable foreseeable future actions. Therefore, ongoing and future projects within the park and surrounding areas needed to be identified. In the park, the recent land acquisition and increase in visitors at the park were taken into consideration. The most significant project identified was improvements to the Interstate-270 corridor. Information on this project was obtained from the Multi-modal Corridor Study: Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation, dated May 2002, prepared by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Maryland State Highway Administration, and Maryland Transit Administration. The Interstate-270 Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Documentation also provide a listing of ongoing and future projects in Frederick County that was used to help predict potential cumulative effects and when applicable, are described in more detail in this chapter. No known significant future on-site park actions or projects were identified that could result in cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are described at the end of each impact topic when appropriate. Mitigation measures are designed to offset or minimize the effects of the proposed action. If no or negligible impacts are anticipated, mitigation measure may not be included for the alternative.

IMPAIRMENT OF PARK RESOURCES AND VALUES

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the preferred and other alternatives, the 2001 National Park Service *Management Policies* and Director's Order-12, *Conservation, Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*, require analysis of potential effects to determine if actions would impair park resources.

The fundamental purpose of the National Park System, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. Park managers must always seek ways to avoid or minimize to the greatest degree practicable adverse impacts on park resources and values. However, the laws do give the National Park Service management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the NPS management discretion to allow certain impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the National Park Service must leave park resources and values unimpaired, unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. The prohibited

impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgement of the responsible National Park Service manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. An impact to any park resource or value may constitute an impairment. However, an impact would more likely constitute an impairment to the extent it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park;
- key to the natural and cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or
- identified as a goal in the Park's General Management Plan or other relevant National Park Service planning documents.

Impairment may result from National Park Service activities in managing the park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. A determination of impairment is made for each impact topic within each "Conclusion" section of this chapter.

IMPACTS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES AND SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190), as amended, requires the federal government to coordinate and plan its actions to, among other goals, "preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage...." The Council of Environmental Quality implementing regulations require that federal impacts to historic and cultural resources be included as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

In this environmental assessment, impacts to cultural resources are described in terms of type, context, duration, and intensity, as described above, which is consistent with the regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality that implement the National Environmental Policy Act. These impact analyses are intended, however, to comply with the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties), impacts to archeological and historical resources were identified and evaluated by (1) determining the area of potential effects; (2) identifying cultural resources present in the area of potential effects that were either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places; (3) applying the criteria of adverse effect to affected cultural resources either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register; and (4) considering ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.

Under the Advisory Council's regulations a determination of either adverse effect or no adverse effect must also be made for affected National Register listed/eligible cultural resources. An adverse effect occurs whenever an impact alters, directly or indirectly, any characteristic of a

cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register, e.g. diminishing the integrity of the resource's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects also include reasonably foreseeable effects that would occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative (36 CFR Part 800.5, Assessment of Adverse Effects). A determination of no adverse effect means there is an effect, but the effect would not diminish in any way the characteristics of the cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register.

Examples of adverse effects "include, but are not limited to: (i) Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property; (ii) Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary's standards for the treatment of historic properties (36 CFR part 68) and applicable guidelines; (iii) Removal of the property from its historic location; (iv) Change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance; (v) Introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features; (vi) Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration, except where such neglect and deterioration are recognized qualities of a property of religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization; and (vii) Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance." (36 CFR 800.5)

IMPACTS ON HISTORIC STRUCTURES/SITES

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

In order for a structure or building to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it must meet one or more of the following criteria of significance: A) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; B) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; D) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. In addition, the structure or building must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association (*National Register Bulletin, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*). For purposes of analyzing potential impacts to historic structures/buildings, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

Negligible: Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection - barely perceptible and not measurable. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Minor: Adverse impact - impact would not affect the character defining features of a National Register of Historic Places eligible or listed structure or building. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact - stabilization/ preservation of character defining features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Moderate: Adverse impact - impact would alter a character defining feature(s) of the structure or building but would not diminish the integrity of the resource to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact – rehabilitation of a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Major: Adverse impact - impact would alter a character defining feature(s) of the structure or building, diminishing the integrity of the resource to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact – restoration of a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The Monocacy National Battlefield is considered historically significant with many of the park features being listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. The Monocacy National Battlefield was listed in the National Register in 1973 and updated in 2002.

Under the No-Action Alternative, the visitor center would not be relocated to a rehabilitated or new facility and Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor orientation center and park offices. The No-Action Alternative would have no impacts on historic resources.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur to historic resources in the project or surrounding area.

Conclusion. The Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the Monocacy National Battlefield visitor center and park offices. No impact to historic resources would occur under the No-Action Alternative.

Section 106 Summary. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the no-action alternative would result in a determination of *no historic properties affected*.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, the National Park Service would renovate and adaptively reuse a 1949 cinder block dairy barn on the Best Farm as the primary park visitor center. The dairy barn is located north of the historic building cluster at the bend in the farm lane. The barn itself is not considered historic or architecturally significant. However, the nearby Best Farm building cluster is listed in the National Register. Adaptive reuse of the dairy barn would be carried out in a manner that preserves the agrarian character of the historic Best Farm which would minimize the potential visual effects on Best Farm historic structures. The renovation of the dairy barn and associated improvements would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Best Farm and Monocacy National Battlefield. Negligible visual changes to the historic structures within the area of potential effect would take place from the reuse of the dairy barn.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the vistas of historic landscapes and structures. Improvements and widening of Interstate 270 is one potential example. The widening of Interstate 270 could have visual effects on the vista to and from some of the historic structures at the site. Alternative B would have negligible contribution to cumulative adverse effects on historic structures or resources in the area of potential effect. The impact would be negligible and long term as a result of the slight change in visual elements on the Best Farm.

Conclusion. The renovation of the dairy barn at the Best Farm for use as the new visitor center would have negligible, long-term, adverse impacts on the vistas of the battlefield and historic structures at the Best Farm. The associated improvements (e. g., access road, parking lot) would have a minor, long-term adverse impact on visual elements of the battlefield and historic structures at the Best Farm.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative would have *no adverse effect* on historic buildings and structures.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The renovation of the dairy barn and associated improvements would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Vistas to and from historic structures and

landscapes would be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale, and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Landscaping would be used to screen the effects of the parking lot and bus circulation/drop off area. Site improvements would be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to ensure development is compatible with the historic setting and harmonizes with historic structures and landscapes.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center would be constructed on the east side of State Route 355 near the northern park property boundary. The construction of the new visitor center would have no physical effect on historic structures. The new visitor center may have visual effects to vistas of the historic structures. The closest historic structures are at the Best Farm located on the west side of State Route 355. The new visitor center and associated features at the Wickes Site would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. As a result, the Wickes Site would have a negligible, long-term, adverse impact on vistas from the Battlefield and historic structures at the Best Farm.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the vistas of historic structures. Improvements and widening of Interstate 270 is one example. The widening of Interstate 270 could have visual effects on the vista to and from some of the historic structures at the site. The Preferred Alternative would contribute no to negligible cumulative adverse effects on historic structures or resources in the Area of Potential Effect.

Conclusion. The relocation, construction and operation of a new visitor center at the Wickes site would have negligible, long-term adverse impacts on the vistas of the battlefield and historic structures at the Best Farm.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative would have *no adverse effect* on historic buildings and structures.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The new visitor center and associated features at the Wickes Site would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Whether a new facility or the reuse of the dairy barn façade is used, the effects would be similar. Vistas from and to historic structures and landscapes would be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention

away from the park's resources. Appropriate landscaping will be used to screen the parking lot and road to minimize their effect on historic structures and landscapes. Site improvements would be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to ensure development is compatible with the historic setting and harmonizes with historic structures and landscapes. The visitor center would also be constructed in such a fashion as not to create a false impression for the visitor that the relocated barn previously existed at the Wickes Site.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

DEFINITIONS OF INTENSITY LEVELS

In order for a cultural landscape to be listed in the National Register, it must meet one or more of the following criteria of significance: A) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; B) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; D) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (*National Register Bulletin, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*). The landscape must also have integrity of those patterns and features - spatial organization and land forms; topography; vegetation; circulation networks; water features; and structures/buildings, site furnishings or objects - necessary to convey its significance (*Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*). For purposes of analyzing potential impacts to cultural landscapes, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

Negligible: Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection - barely perceptible and not measurable. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Minor: Adverse impact - impact(s) would not affect the character defining patterns and features of a National Register of Historic Places eligible or listed cultural landscape. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact - preservation of character defining patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Moderate: Adverse impact - impact(s) would alter a character defining pattern(s) or feature(s) of the cultural landscape but would not diminish the integrity of the landscape to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact – rehabilitation of a landscape or its patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Major: Adverse impact - impact(s) would alter a character defining pattern(s) or feature(s) of the cultural landscape, diminishing the integrity of the landscape to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.

Beneficial impact – restoration of a landscape or its patterns and features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to operate as the visitor center and park offices. Since there would be no change to the existing landscape under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to the cultural landscape.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the cultural landscape. Improvements and widening of Interstate 270 is one example. The widening of Interstate 270 could have visual effects on the vista to and from some of the battlefield at the site. The No-Action Alternative would have no cumulative adverse effects on historic structures or resources.

Conclusion. Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to the cultural landscape in that there would not be a change to the present landscape.

Section 106 Summary. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the no-action alternative would result in a determination of *no historic properties affected*.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, a 1949 cinder block dairy barn on the Best Farm would be adaptively reused as the visitor center. The barn is located north of the historic building cluster at the bend in the farm lane. No impact to cultural landscapes would occur from the reuse of the dairy farm; however, the associated features such as parking, bus circulation/drop off area, and road

improvements would affect the cultural landscape. Alternative B would result in a minor, long-term, adverse impact to vistas of the cultural landscape.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the cultural landscapes. Improvements and widening of Interstate 270 is one example. The widening of Interstate 270 could have visual effects on the cultural landscape. The Preferred Alternative would contribute negligible cumulative adverse effects on cultural landscapes.

Conclusion. The adaptive reuse of the existing dairy barn at the Best Farm would be in keeping with the existing cultural landscape at the Monocacy National Battlefield. The associated improvements such as the parking, landscaping, and road improvements would have a minor, long-term, adverse impact.

Minor, short-term adverse impacts would occur during construction.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative would have *no adverse effect* on historic properties.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The renovation of the dairy barn and associated improvements would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Vistas to and from historic structures and landscapes would be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale, and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Landscaping would be used to screen the effects of the parking lot and bus circulation/drop off area. Site improvements would be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to ensure development is compatible with the historic setting and harmonizes with historic structures and landscapes.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Alternative would be to construct a new visitor center at the Wickes Site. The Wickes Site is located at a higher elevation on the east side of State Route 355 on the northeast portion of the park property. The new visitor center and associated features such as parking and bus circulation area would result in a negligible, long-term adverse impact to cultural landscape. Appropriate landscaping and sensitive context design would minimize the potential impact.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the aesthetics and visual resources. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 is one such example. The widening of Interstate 270 could have visual effects on

the cultural landscape. The Preferred Alternative would have negligible contribution to cumulative adverse effects on cultural landscapes.

Conclusion. The new visitor center and associated features such as park and bus circulation area would result in a negligible, long-term, adverse impact to cultural landscape. Appropriate landscaping and sensitive context design would minimize the potential impact.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative would have *no adverse effect* on cultural landscapes.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The new visitor center and associated features at the Wickes Site would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Whether a new facility or the reuse of the dairy barn façade is used, the effects would be similar. Vistas from and to historic structures and landscapes would be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Appropriate landscaping will be used to screen the parking lot and road to minimize their effect on historic structures and landscapes. Site improvements would be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to ensure development is compatible with the historic setting and harmonizes with historic structures and landscapes. The visitor center would also be constructed in such a fashion as not to create a false impression for the visitor that the relocated barn previously existed at the Wickes Site.

IMPACTS ON ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

DEFINITIONS OF INTENSITY LEVELS

In order for an archeological resource to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places it must meet one or more of the following criteria of significance: A) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; B) associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; D) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. In addition, the archeological resource must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association (*National Register Bulletin, Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties*). For purposes of analyzing impacts to archeological resources either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register, the thresholds of change for intensity of an impact are defined below:

- Negligible:** Impact is at the lowest levels of detection - barely measurable with no perceptible consequences, either adverse or beneficial, to archeological resources. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- Minor:** Adverse impact - disturbance of a site(s) results in little, if any, loss of significance or integrity and the National Register eligibility of the site(s) is unaffected. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- Beneficial impact – maintenance and preservation of a site(s). For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- Moderate:** Adverse impact - disturbance of a site(s) does not diminish the significance or integrity of the site(s) to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.
- Beneficial impact – stabilization of a site(s). For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- Major:** Adverse impact – disturbance of a site(s) diminishes the significance and integrity of the site(s) to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*.
- Beneficial impact – active intervention to preserve a site(s). For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to operate as the visitor center and park offices. Since there would be no ground disturbance under the no-action alternative, there would be no impacts to archeological resources.

Cumulative Impacts. The No-Action Alternative would not result in any cumulative impacts to archaeological resources. No land disturbance or archeological investigation would occur.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would not have any ground disturbance; therefore, the need for archeological investigations would not be necessary. No impacts to archeological resources would occur.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in a determination of *no historic properties affected* with regards to archeological resources.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or

(3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, a 1949 cinder block dairy barn on the Best Farm would be adaptively reused as the visitor center. The barn is located north of the historic building cluster at the bend in the farm lane. The majority of this area was not included in the subsurface shovel test pit survey of the Best Farm yard area that was conducted in 2001 and 2002.⁴ The decision to exclude the area around the dairy barn from the shovel test pit survey was primarily due to the fact that, like many areas on the Best Farm, the majority of the area to the south and east of the dairy barn was covered by concrete. Although over 1,400 tons of concrete were removed from the Best Farm prior to and during the identification and evaluation study, a large amount of concrete rubble, base apron, and asphalt remain around the dairy barn. Further, a great deal of modern ground disturbance likely occurred during the construction of the dairy barn around 1949 as well as the construction of the modern pole barn in the early 1990s. For these reasons, the decision was made to reserve subsurface survey of the area for compliance investigations.

Any archeological investigation of the area around the dairy barn would have to be preceded by removal of the remaining concrete and asphalt. The Best Farm is a multi-component site that contains archeological resources from the mid 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as the Civil War period through the present, which would require the application of a variety of different field recovery techniques. At a minimum, a shovel test pit survey on an interval of at least 25 feet would be necessary, followed by a metal detector survey that would be intended to isolate and recover evidence of Civil War-period military activities. Any archeological features located during the shovel test pit or metal detector surveys would have to be more fully investigated using excavation units.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the archeological resources in the area. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 is one example. The Interstate 270 improvements would potentially result in a minor, long-term, adverse impact to archeological resources near the project site from widening the road. Alternative B would have negligible contributions to cumulative adverse effects on archaeological resources.

Conclusion. Because the potential for long-term, adverse impacts to archeological resources exist, additional subsurface investigation would be needed to determine the impact intensity. Based on a pedestrian walkover survey, the likelihood of significant archeological resources in the project area is low. However, the road improvements as well as installation of other utilities to the dairy barn could result in adverse impacts since they would cross through the battlefield area. A full Phase II or data recovery excavation would be preformed if significant sites were

⁴ A shovel test pit (STP) is a hole about the width of a shovel blade excavated on an interval to whatever depth is necessary to reach a sterile or non-cultural layer. STPs often yield artifact concentrations, soil changes, stone or brick alignments, and other evidence of subsurface archeological resources, and can be used to establish the cultural context and research potential of a site. Thus far, over 800 STPs have been excavated during the archeological identification and evaluation study of the Best Farm.

identified that are eligible for listing in the National Register and these sites could not be avoided.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative could have an effect on archeological resources. Therefore, additional subsurface investigation would be needed to determine whether significant archeological resources exist in the project area.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. As with any archeological investigation, primary and secondary historic research, as well as consultation with the relevant National Park Service officials at the park and regional level, would be necessary prior to and during any archeological compliance investigation into either of the proposed visitor center sites. These investigations would precede any ground disturbance and the National Park Service would consult with the Maryland Historical Trust. A full Phase II investigation or data recovery excavation would be carried out if National Register eligible sites are identified that could not be avoided.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center would be constructed on the east side of State Route 355 near the northern park property boundary. This area is an agricultural field whose boundaries have not changed since at least 1864.⁵ Pedestrian walkover surveys of this field conducted in the spring of 2002 did not yield evidence of any significant archeological resources in this field; however, additional testing in the form of a shovel test pit survey like that described in the previous section would be necessary for compliance. Additionally, a metal detector survey would be necessary because this area likely contains evidence of Civil War-period resources.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the archeological resources in the area. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 is one example. The Interstate 270 improvements would potentially result in a minor, long-term, adverse impact to archeological resources near the project site from widening the road. The Preferred Alternative would have minor contribution to cumulative adverse effects on archaeological resources.

Conclusion. Because the potential for long-term, adverse impacts to archeological resources exist, additional archeological subsurface investigation is needed to determine the impact intensity. Based on a pedestrian walkover survey, the likelihood of significant archeological resources in the project area is low. If during additional field archeological investigation or during

⁵ See Jedediah Hotchkiss's 1864 map of the Battle of Monocacy

construction, significant artifacts are found to exist, a full Phase II or data recovery excavation would be preformed.

Section 106 Summary - In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, implementation of the alternative could have an effect on archeological resources. Therefore, additional subsurface investigation would be needed to determine whether significant archeological resources exist in the project area.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. As with any archeological investigation, primary and secondary historic research, as well as consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and relevant National Park Service officials at the park and regional level, would be necessary prior to and during any archeological compliance investigation into either of the proposed visitor center sites. These investigations would precede any ground disturbance and the National Park Service would consult with the Maryland Historical Trust. A full Phase II investigation or data recovery excavation would be carried out if National Register eligible sites are identified that could not be avoided.

IMPACTS ON AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCES

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity of aesthetic and visual resources were derived from the available information on the Monocacy National Battlefield and the professional judgment of the park staff. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on aesthetic and visual resources are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor center and park offices. No new construction would occur and there would be no change in park operations; therefore, no impacts to aesthetics or visual resources would occur. Current vistas would remain the same.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur from the No-Action Alternative.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would result in no impacts to aesthetics or visual resources.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, adaptive reuse of the dairy barn would preserve the agrarian character of the historic Best Farm. With the adaptive reuse of the dairy barn, only a negligible change to the existing setting or vistas would occur. The adaptive reuse would be consistent with the National Park Services guidance on sustainability.

No impact to visual resources would occur from the reuse of the dairy farm; however, the associated features such as parking, bus circulation/drop off area, and road improvements would affect visual resources. Alternative B would result in a minor, long-term, adverse impact to visual resources and vistas. The improvements in some cases such as the landscaping may be construed by some as beneficial but based on the location and increase in visitors using the parking lot and bus circulation, the impact would be considered adverse and minor.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions have affected and would continue to affect the aesthetics and visual resources. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 is one such example. The widening of Interstate 270 may effect the existing vegetation which acts as a visual barrier between the road and the battlefield. Alternative B would have negligible contributions to cumulative adverse effects on aesthetics or visual resources from the construction of the new visitor center and associated site improvements.

Conclusion. The adaptive reuse of the existing dairy barn at the Best Farm would be in keeping with the existing landscape at the Monocacy National Battlefield and consistent with the National Park Service concept for sustainable design and practice. The associated improvements such as the parking, landscaping, and road improvements would have a minor, long-term adverse impact.

Minor, short-term adverse impacts would occur during construction.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The renovation of the dairy barn and associated improvements would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic

setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Aesthetics and vistas will be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale, and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Landscaping would be used to screen the effects of the parking lot and bus circulation/drop off area.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Alternative would be to construct a new visitor center at the Wickes Site. The Wickes Site is located at a higher elevation on the east side of State Route 355 on the northeast portion of the park property. The Wickes Site offers visitors views of the battlefield and some of the other historic structures at the Best Farm. The new visitor center would either reuse the top façade of the dairy barn or a new building would be constructed. Under either of these scenarios, the appearance of the visitor center would be consistent with the existing historic or agricultural landscape. The Wickes Site is currently an agricultural field. The site is just south of the Wickes Lumber Yard which is present in many of the vistas from the battlefield or Best Farm historic structures. The new visitor center would shield/screen portions of the Wickes lumber storage area from the battlefield and Best Farm vistas. Also, the vistas offered from the site would be beneficial to the visitor's experience and interpretive opportunities. There would be a minor, long-term beneficial impact for some vistas.

The new visitor center and associated features such as park and bus circulation area would result in a minor, long-term, adverse impact to some other vistas from the battlefield and Best Farm locations. Appropriate landscaping and sensitive context design would minimize the potential impact.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions have and would continue to affect the aesthetics and visual resources. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 is one such example. The widening of Interstate 270 may effect the existing vegetation which acts as a visual barrier between the road and the battlefield. Alternative B would have negligible contribution to cumulative adverse effects on aesthetics or visual resources from the construction of the new visitor center and associated site improvements.

Conclusion. – The Preferred Alternative would have negligible, long-term adverse impacts to aesthetics and visual resources. Views from the battlefield to the Wickes Site would be negatively impacted. However, in some cases, views would be enhanced by screening views of the Wickes Lumber Yard. The higher elevations of the Wickes Site would offer scenic vistas of the battlefield and Best Farm historic structures which in turn may enhance the visitors experience and increase interpretative opportunities. Construction activities would have minor, short-term adverse impacts to aesthetics and visual resources.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The new visitor center and associated features at the Wickes Site would be constructed with a context sensitive design in keeping with the cultural landscape and historic setting of the Monocacy National Battlefield. Whether a new facility or the reuse of the dairy barn façade is used, the effects would be similar. Vistas will be taken into consideration with the site design. Massing, scale, and materials would be reflective of or consistent with the surrounding park resources as not to draw attention away from the park's resources. Appropriate landscaping will be used to screen the parking lot and road to minimize their effect on visual resources.

IMPACTS ON AIR QUALITY

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity levels resulting from each alternative on air quality were derived from the available information from the park and Frederick County government. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on air quality are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable; the impact would have no affect on the County's ability to comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; the impact could have an affect when added to other planned projects in the area on the County's ability to comply with NAAQS; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable; the impact would have an affect on the County's ability to comply with NAAQS.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor center and park offices. An increase in visitors as a result of improved and expanded facilities would not occur. Therefore, no impact to air quality would result from the No-Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur from the No-Action Alternative

Conclusion. Under the No-Action Alternative, no impacts to the existing air quality at the park or surrounding area would occur.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B AND ALTERNATIVE C

Under the current plans, the National Park Service would not add equipment that increases emissions at the new visitor center. The addition of the new visitor center is expected to raise the annual visitation to approximately 40,000 visitors. This would approximately double park patronage and result in a change of vehicle trips to and from the site. A negligible change in emissions (NO₂ levels) generated from additional car and bus trips would occur. In addition, there would be a minor, short-term increase in emissions and fugitive dust during construction. Best management practices would be employed to minimize effects of the construction. This impact associated with construction activities would be short-term, and negligible. Overall, Alternative B and C would have a negligible, long-term adverse impact on air quality as a result of traffic from increased visitation at the park.

Cumulative Impacts. A variety of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions have affected and would continue to affect air quality. Improvements and widening of the Interstate 270 and continued urban sprawl and growth in Frederick County are two such examples. Alternatives B and C would contribute negligibly to cumulative adverse impacts on air quality from increased visitation resulting in more vehicle trips to and from the site.

Conclusion. Both action alternatives would have negligible, long-term adverse impacts on air quality as a result of increased visitors driving vehicles to and from the park. The impact will not have any effect on the County's ability to comply with NAAQS.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing of legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE, PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity of project impacts on agriculture, prime and unique farmlands were derived from the available information at the Monocacy National Battlefield and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on this impact topic are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection; prime or unique farmland soils are present but not used for agriculture and less than five acres of disturbance would occur.
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable; prime or unique farmland soils are present and used for agriculture and less than five acres of disturbance would occur.

- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; prime farmland soils are present and more than five acres of disturbance would occur, rating from Natural Resources Conservation District on Form AD 1006 of less than 160; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable; prime or unique farmland soils are present and more than five acres of disturbance would occur, rating from Natural Resources Conservation District on Form AD 1006 greater than 160.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act is the primary responsibility of the Department of Agriculture which has delegated implementation to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Federal aid projects that require acquisition of right-of-way must comply with the provisions of this act. The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act is to "minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, and to assure the Federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with State, unit of local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland." (7 U.S.C. 4201(b)).

To determine potential impacts to prime and unique farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service evaluates each Federal project using a scoring system. Form AD 1006 is used to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service to calculate a farmland conversion impact rating. A rating of over 160 is considered significant. There are certain prerequisite conditions that have been developed by state and federal guidelines that determine if the Form AD 1006 needs to be completed and submitted to the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. One of the parameters is if the proposed action requires disturbance of more than five acres of new right-of-way designated as prime farmland. If less than five acres, the proposed action by this system of ranking would not be a significant impact and submission of the Form AD 1006 and ranking would not be required.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to serve at the visitor center and park offices. Since there would be no ground disturbance under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to agriculture or prime and unique farmlands.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur from the No-Action Alternative.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would result in no impacts to agriculture, prime and unique farmlands.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, the dairy barn on the Best Farm would be renovated to serve as the visitor center and park offices. Less than three acres of land disturbance would occur. Soil surveys indicate that prime farmland soils are present in the project area. Based on the field review, the project area is highly disturbed from farming operations and is not used to grow crops. The dairy barn itself is not being used for farming operations. The rehabilitation of the dairy barn and construction of associated facilities such as parking, stormwater and landscape treatments would be completed within the existing disturbed area being used for farming operations. The road into the dairy barn would need to be widened as well as the utilities routed to the site which potentially could have a minor, long-term, direct adverse impact on prime farmland but the area of land disturbance as a result of Alternative B would be negligible. Based on the preliminary review of the existing conditions such as potential area of disturbance, adjacent land use, and distance to urban areas, professional judgment indicates that the Natural Resource Conservation Service would not rate the impact to prime farmlands significant.

Cumulative Impacts. Past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions in the area such as the widening of I-270, in addition to the proposed project, may lead to further reduction in prime farmland soils. Alternatives B would contribute to negligible, long-term cumulative adverse effects and lead to the reduction of prime farmlands from the earth disturbance related to the construction of the new visitor center and associated site improvements.

Conclusion. Under Alternative B, the reuse of the dairy barn at the Best Farm would have a negligible, long-term, adverse impact as a result of the entrance road widening. The rehabilitation of the dairy barn and construction of associated facility such as parking, stormwater and landscape treatments would be completed within the existing disturbed area being used for farming operations; thus, negligible, long term, adverse impacts to agriculture, prime or unique farmlands soils would occur.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. If during design, it is determined that the project will disturb more than five acres of prime farmland, the National Park Service would comply with the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act and submit a Form AD-1006 to the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Based on Natural Resources Conservation Service review and ranking, if the proposed action received a score of greater than 160 which is determined to be significant, the National Park Service would consider additional mitigation measures (avoidance) and reassess if this impact affects their decision to implement the preferred alternative.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center would be constructed at the Wickes Site on the east side of State Route 355 near the northern park property boundary. This area is in an agricultural field whose boundaries have not changed at least since 1864. The area of disturbance of the new visitor center and associated features is estimate to be three acres. Based

on the preliminary review of the existing conditions such as potential area of disturbance, adjacent land use, and distance to urban areas, professional judgment indicates that the Natural Resource Conservation Service would not rate the impact to prime farmlands significant.

Cumulative Impacts. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the area such as the widening of I-270, in addition to the proposed project, may lead to further reduction in prime farmland soils. Alternatives C would contribute to minor, long-term cumulative adverse effects on the reduction of prime farmlands. There would be a minor, long-term impact to farming operations as a result of the loss of available farmland soils.

Conclusion. Alternative C would have minor, long-term, adverse impacts as a result of the new visitor center relocation and construction. Approximately three acres of prime farmland would be converted to non-agricultural uses.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. If during design, it is determined that the project will disturb more than five acres of prime farmland, the National Park Service would comply with the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act and submit a Form AD-1006 to the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Based on NRCS review and ranking, if the proposed action received a score of greater than 160 which is determined to be significant, the National Park Service would consider additional mitigation measures (avoidance) and reassess if this impact affects their decision to move forward with the preferred alternative.

IMPACTS ON SOILS, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity of soils, geology, and topography were derived from the available literature on the Monocacy National Battlefield area. The impacts to soils are described in more detail in the previous section under prime farmlands. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on geology and topography are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to serve as the visitor center and park offices. There would be no ground disturbance activities; therefore no impacts to soils, geology and topography would occur.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur from the No-Action Alternative.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would not result in ground disturbance; therefore, no impacts to soils, geology or topography would occur. There would be no impairment of park resources or values.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

Soils - Impacts to soils are described in the previous section, Agriculture, Prime and Unique Farmland.

Geology – Under Alternative B, the renovation of the dairy barn at the Best Farm would not impact geology of the project area. The depth of excavations as result of construction should not reach underlying bedrock. Appropriate geotechnical testing would be performed for the building foundation.

Topography – Under Alternative B, the renovation of the dairy barn at the Best Farm would result in negligible, long-term, adverse impact as a result of proposed excavation and fill activities associated with the construction of a new parking lot, road improvements and other site improvements.

Cumulative Impacts. Under Alternative B, permanent changes to soils and topography would occur. The changes would be negligible. A variety of past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions have affected and would continue to affect the soils and topography in the area. The most notable project is the widening of Interstate-270. Alternative B would have a negligible, long-term adverse cumulative impact on soils and topography.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have a minor, long-term adverse impact to soil, geology, and topography as a result of the construction of the new visitor center and other facilities such as a parking lot.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. Alternative B would utilize methods to ensure that geology and soils are protected through sound design and construction practices. A sediment and erosion control plan would be implemented to minimize soils erosion during construction. Appropriate geotechnical testing would be performed for the building foundation.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Soils - For the Preferred Alternative, impacts to soils are described in the previous section, Agriculture, Prime and Unique Farmland.

Geology – The Preferred Alternative would not impact geology of the project area. The depth of excavations as result of construction should not reach underlying bedrock. Appropriate geotechnical testing would be performed for the building foundation.

Topography – The Preferred Alternative would result in minor, long-term, adverse impact as a result of proposed excavation and fill activities associated with the new parking lot, road improvements and site improvements.

Cumulative Impacts. Under the Preferred Alternative, permanent changes to soils and topography would occur. The changes to the topography are minor. A variety of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions have affected and would continue to affect the soils and topography in the area. The most notable project is the widening of Interstate-270. The Preferred Alternative will have a negligible, long-term, adverse cumulative impact on soils and topography.

Conclusion. The Preferred Alternative would have minor, long-term, adverse impacts on soils, geology, and topography from the construction of the new visitor center.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The Preferred Alternative would utilize methods to ensure that geology and soils are protected through sound design and construction practices. A sediment and erosion control plan would be implemented to minimize soils erosion during construction. Appropriate geotechnical evaluation and study would occur for the building and road foundations.

IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION (TRAFFIC)

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity of transportation (traffic) were derived from the available information at the Monocacy National Battlefield. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on transportation are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Gambrill Mill would continue to operate as the park's visitor center and offices. No increase in visitors would occur as a result of enhanced facilities and space of a new visitor center. Safety at the Gambrill Mill entrance is discussed under the Health and Safety topic.

Cumulative Impacts. Park visitation is up by 57 percent in 2002 and is not the result of a new visitor center. As park visitation increases, traffic would increase into the site. No other projects in the project area were identified that would significantly increase traffic along State Route 355; however, urban sprawl and growth in Frederick County is predicted to continue and add traffic.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would have a negligible, long-term, adverse impact on traffic as result of the increase visitation.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE B

A new visitor center is predicted to attract additional visitors to the park. In 2001, the park staff estimated that Monocacy National Battlefield had 18,000 visitors and in 2002, visitation is up by 57 percent. Preliminary estimates predict that park visitation will rise to 40,000 visitors as a result of the continued growth of the area, the new visitor center, and potential partnership opportunities. One effect of increased visitation would be increased vehicular traffic at the park.

The increase in visitors would be approximately 20,000. Assuming two visitors per car, an additional 10,000 vehicles would enter and exit the park per year. Assuming two vehicle trips per visit (one to and one from the park), the average annual traffic added to State Route 355 would be 20,000 trips. This equates to an average daily traffic volume increase of 55 trips per day. This would result in less than one percent increase to traffic headed north bound when compared to the 2002 traffic volumes developed by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Of course, not all the traffic would enter and exit the site from the north, so the increase in traffic from increased visitation would be even lower and thus considered negligible. For 2004 build conditions, the traffic would be predicted to increase slightly and the impact would still be minor and not affect existing service levels on State Route 355.

Cumulative Impacts. The increase in visitation would result in less than a one percent increase in the average daily traffic volume. However small, this is a measurable effect that in combination with other past, current or reasonably foreseeable projects could affect service levels on State Route 355. No projects were identified that would significantly add traffic to the stretch of State Route 355 by the park. Urban sprawl and county growth would be expected to add traffic to State Route 355 at an average rate of 3% per year. Alternative B would contribute to negligible, long-term cumulative adverse effects to traffic.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have minor, short-term and long-term adverse impacts to traffic on State Route 355. The location of the new entrance would have a beneficial long-term impact for the safety of motorists entering the site.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. The nature of the improvements to the farm lane and entrance off of State Route 355 would need further investigation.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

As stated in Alternative B, a new visitor center is predicted to attract additional visitors to the park. Preliminary estimates predict that park visitation will rise to 40,000 visitors as a result of the continued growth of the area, the new visitor center and potential partnership opportunities. One effect of increased visitation would be increased vehicular traffic at the park. The increase in visitors would be approximately 20,000. Assuming two visitors per car, 10,000 vehicles would be added coming in and out of the park per year. Assuming two vehicle trips per visit (one to and one from the park), the average annual traffic added to State Route 355 would be 20,000 trips. This equates to an average daily traffic volume increase of 55 trips per day. This would result in less than one percent increase to traffic headed north bound when compared to the 2002 traffic volumes developed by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Of course not all the traffic would enter and exit the site from the north, so the increase in traffic from increased visitation would be negligible.

The entrance to the preferred alternative appears already sufficiently wide to allow visitors appropriate distance to decelerate and accelerate from the park entrance. The entrance is across from the entrance to the New Technology Park on State Route 355. Since the peak travel periods for the park and business center are different, the existing conditions at the intersection should be adequate to handle the increased traffic. The entrance should not require significant improvements.

The increase in traffic over the course of a year is not significant and should not result in a change to the existing service levels of State Route 355. The preferred alternative would have a negligible, long-term, adverse impact on traffic as a result of increase vehicular traveling in and out of the park.

Cumulative Impacts. The increase in visitation would result in less than a one percent increase in the average daily traffic volume. However small, this is a measurable effect that in combination with other past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects could affect service levels. No projects were identified that would significantly add traffic to stretch of State Route 355 by the park. Urban sprawl and county growth would be expected to add traffic to State Route 355 at an average rate of 3% per year. Under the Preferred Alternative, negligible, long-term cumulative adverse impacts to traffic would occur.

Conclusion. The Preferred Alternative would have minor, long-term adverse impacts to traffic on State Route 355. The location of the new entrance would have a beneficial long-term impact for the safety of motorists entering the site as a result of increased site distances to allow motorists appropriate time to decelerate and stop for motorists turning into the park.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

Analyses of the potential intensity of visitor use and experience were derived from the available information at the Monocacy National Battlefield and the professional judgment of the park staff. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts for visitor use and experience are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Gambrill Mill would continue to be used as the visitor center and park offices. Space and facilities would not be improved and would remain inadequate. Therefore, the visitor experience would not change. Space for educational and interpretative displays would remain limited reducing the visitor experience. The park would not gain additional visitor use that is predicted to result from the relocation of the visitor center to a more adequate facility. The Gambrill Mill would continue to be prone to flooding and as in the past, the visitor center would close for indefinite periods during flooding and subsequent repairs to the facility.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts would occur from the No-Action Alternative

Conclusion. The visitor use and experience would not change and would be constrained by existing space limitations and inadequate facilities. The visitor center would continue to close for indefinite periods as a result of flooding. Moderate, long-term, adverse impacts would occur.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. Flood proofing measures to the Gambrill Mill should be investigated if the No-Action Alternative is chosen to reduce damage caused by flooding and to allow the visitor center to remain functional and open to the public.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, the dairy barn on the Best Farm would be renovated to serve as the visitor center and park offices. The location at the Best Farm allows for increased interpretive opportunities because the battlefield and historic Best Farm structures are visible from the grounds of this site. The renovated dairy farm would essentially be a new facility. The new visitor center would provide approximately 6,000 square feet of useable space which would give park staff ample room for educational opportunities and interpretive displays which in turn would enhance the visitor experience.

The new facility would provide increased parking, modern restroom and utilities, space to entertain larger group tours, designated library area, and a bus circulations/drop off area. All these features are expected to attract visitors and enhance the visitor experience.

In addition, the National Park Service has agreed to share space at the new facility with the Frederick County Tourism Council. The Fredrick County Tourism Council would provide local tourism information on the area that would attract visitors to the site. With the new visitor center, the park would have space to accommodate other potential partnership opportunities and interpretive displays for the Civil War Discovery Trail, Maryland Civil War Heritage Area, and Monocacy River Greenway Trail.

Cumulative Impacts. The new visitor center in combination with the tentative agreement with the Frederick County Tourism Council to operate a joint visitor center would result in a beneficial, minor, long-term cumulative impact to visitor use and experience. Increased visitation to the park would occur.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on visitor use and experience as a result of enhanced space and facilities.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or

(3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center would be constructed at the Wickes Site which is on the east side of State Route 355 near the northern park property boundary. The new facility would be programmed to meet the current and future needs of the park. The new facility would provide increased parking, modern restroom and utilities, space to entertain larger group tours, designated library area, and bus circulations/drop off area. The Wickes Site, situated at a higher elevation, offers scenic vistas of the battlefield and views to other parts of the park. All these features are expected to attract visitors and make and enhance the visitor experience.

In addition, the National Park Service has agreed to share the facility with the Frederick County Tourism Council. The Frederick County Tourism Council would provide local tourism information on the area that would attract visitors to the site. With the new visitor center, the park would have space to accommodate potential other partnership opportunities and interpretive displays for the Civil War Discovery Trail, Maryland Civil War Heritage Area, and Monocacy River Greenway Trail.

Cumulative Impacts. The new visitor center in combination with the tentative agreement with the Frederick County Tourism Council to operate a joint visitor center would result in a beneficial, minor, long-term cumulative impact to visitor use and experience. Increased visitation to the park would occur.

Conclusion. The Preferred Alternative would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on visitor use and experience as a result of enhanced space and facilities.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Analyses of the potential intensity of health and safety resources were derived from the available information at the Monocacy National Battlefield. The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts on health and safety are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, Gambrill Mill would continue to operate as the visitor center and park offices. The visitor center would continue to be prone to flooding and put the staff and visitors at risk during adverse weather conditions. The facilities would remain inadequate and present health issues such as the septic field in the floodplain. Since use of the Gambrill Mill was intended to be temporary, the building does not have adequate fire protection or suppression with only one entrance/exit.

At the Gambrill Mill entrance, safety would continue to be a concern. Motorists headed south on State Route 355 drive over a humped area just prior to the entrance to the Gambrill Mill. As a result of limited site distance, accidents have occurred when motorists cannot decelerate and stop for vehicles waiting to turn into the park. Three accidents involving park staff have occurred in the last year.

Cumulative Impacts. As visitation at the park increases, the risk of accidents at the intersection of State Route 355 and the entrance road to Gambrill Mill will increase. No projects were identified that would significantly add traffic or result in added safety concerns. Thus, no cumulative impacts were identified.

Conclusion. The No-Action Alternative would have a moderate, long-term adverse effect on health and safety as a result of the Gambrill Mill being located in a 100-year floodplain, inadequate facilities that do not meet life safety codes, and limited site distances for motorists turning in and out of the park onto State Route 355.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. Flood proofing measures to the Gambrill Mill should be investigated if the No-Action Alternative is chosen to improve safety conditions and reduce the damage caused during flooding.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, the dairy barn on the Best Farm would be renovated to serve as the visitor center and park offices. Modern facilities would improve safety conditions. The new facility would be designed to meet current code requirements for health and safety including accessibility for disabled individuals. The building would have multiple entrances/exits for evacuation during fires plus fire detection/suppression systems. The new entrance would have increased site distances to allow motorist time to stop for vehicles turning into the park. The new facility would not be in the floodplain; thus, the staff and visitors would be safe during adverse flood conditions caused by the Monocacy River.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative impacts on health and safety would result from Alternative B.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on health and safety at the park through enhanced facilities, safer park entrance, and the visitor center would not be located in a 100-year floodplain.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center would be constructed at the Wickes Site. The new facility would be designed to meet modern health and safety standards including accessibility for disabled individuals. The building would have multiple entrances/exits for evacuation during fires plus fire detection/suppression systems. The new entrance would have increased site distances to allow motorists time to stop for vehicles turning into the park. The new facility would not be in the floodplain. Thus, the staff and visitors would be safe during adverse flood conditions on the Monocacy River.

Cumulative Impacts. No cumulative adverse impacts on safety would result from Wickes Site Alternative.

Conclusion. The Preferred Alternative would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on health and safety at the park through enhanced facilities, safer park entrance, and the visitor center location would not be located in a 100-year floodplain.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

IMPACTS ON PARK OPERATIONS

DEFINITION OF INTENSITY LEVELS

The National Park Service staff's knowledge regarding operational efficiency, protection and preservation of important resources, and providing an effective visitor experience was used to determine intensity levels of potential impacts. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, when the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, when the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, when the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or

- *major*, when the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the National Park Service would retain the existing facilities and conditions at the Gambrill Mill. Relocation, construction or operation of a new facility would not occur. The park facilities would continue to have limited space which in turn would reduce the operational efficiency of the park staff. The National Park Service intended the existing facility to be temporary. As a result, the facility is inadequate to accommodate the current and future requirements for office and work space needed to maintain the park resources. Space for expansion is not available.

Cumulative Impacts. Visitation at the park continues to grow despite the existing inadequate facilities and space at the Gambrill Mill Visitor Center. Increased visitation would have a minor long-term adverse impact on park operations.

Conclusion. The on-site operations would continue at present but would remain constrained by inadequate facilities. The direct, adverse impacts on operations would be moderate and long-term since the proposed facility was intended to be temporary. The No-Action Alternative does not meet the National Park Service's goals and objectives.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

Mitigation Measures. In the future, the park staff would have to continue to explore other means to accommodate park growth and inadequate facilities and space.

ALTERNATIVE B

Under Alternative B, the dairy barn at the Best Farm would be renovated to serve as the visitor center and park offices. The facility would have adequate space (6,000 square feet) to accommodate current and projected park visitation. The visitor center is the focal point for all visitor functions. Alternative B would assist the park staff to meet established health, safety, and user standards through the relocation to a new facility. The new facility would allow staff space to develop additional interpretive displays and educational opportunities. Administrative office space would also be upgraded and operations would no longer be constrained by space limitations. The site program and design includes provisions for enhanced office space, dedicated library area, improved restroom facilities and other utilities, parking improvements and bus circulation/drop off area.

The new visitor center would result in increased visitation to the park. The increase in visitors requires additional park staff. The park has submitted a budget request for two full time staff and two part time staff to assist in park operations. Alternative B would have a beneficial moderate, long-term impact on park operations and would allow for increased visitation without sacrificing the visitor's experience.

Cumulative Impacts. The new visitor center in association with past land acquisition at the park would require additional staff to manage added resources and handle increased visitation. The adverse impact would be negligible and long-term.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on park operations. The increase in visitation and operation of the new facility would require additional staff to operate the facility.

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

ALTERNATIVE C – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative, a new visitor center at the Wickes Site would be constructed. The facility would have adequate space (6,000 square feet) to accommodate current and projected park visitation. The new facility would allow staff space to develop additional interpretive displays and educational opportunities. Park office space would also be upgraded and operations would no longer be constrained by space limitations. The site program and design includes provisions for new office space, dedicated library area, improved parking, and bus circulation/drop off area.

The new visitor center would result in increased visitation to the park. The increase in visitors requires additional park staff. The park has submitted a budget request for two full time staff and two part time staff to assist in park operations. The Preferred Alternative would have a beneficial moderate, long-term impact on park operations and would allow for increased visitation without sacrificing the visitor's experience.

Cumulative Impacts. The new visitor center in association with past land acquisition at the park would require additional staff to protect added resources and handle increased visitation. The adverse impact would be negligible and long-term.

Conclusion. The Preferred Alternative would have a beneficial, moderate, long-term impact on park operational efficiency as a result of enhanced facilities and space to accommodate current and future park visitation. The increase in visitation and operation of the new facility would require additional staff to operate the facility

Because there would be no major, adverse impacts to resources or values whose conservation are (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the Monocacy National Battlefield, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant National Park Service planning document, there would be no impairment of the park's resources or values.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Scoping is the effort to involve agencies and the general public in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the environmental document. Among other tasks scoping determines important issues and eliminates issues not important; allocates assignments among the interdisciplinary team members and/or other participating agencies; identifies related projects and associated documents; identifies other permits, surveys, consultations etc. required by other agencies; and creates a schedule which allows adequate time to prepare and distribute the environmental document for public review and comment before a final decision is made. Scoping includes any interested agency, or any agency with jurisdiction by law or expertise (including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and Indian Tribes) to obtain early input.

Based on the non-controversial nature of this project, the interdisciplinary team from the National Park Service determined a formal scoping period was not required for the environmental assessment. The National Park Service did consult with a number of agencies during this process. The National Park Service consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to request information pertaining to threatened and endangered species known to exist in or near the proposed project site. Letters and responses are provided as Appendix A. In addition, the park staff has initiated consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust. The environmental assessment will be distributed for public and agency review and comment for a period of at least 30 days. The National Park Service will consider comments prior to determining if a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted.

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

The following laws and associated regulations provided direction for the design or project alternatives, the analysis of impacts and the formulation of mitigation/avoidance measures:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Title 42 U.S. Code Sections 4321 to 4370 [42 USC 4321-470]). The purposes of National Environmental Policy Act include encouraging "harmony between [humans] and their environment and promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment...and stimulate the health and welfare of[humanity]." The purposes of National Environmental Policy Act are accomplished by evaluating the effects of federal actions. The results of these evaluations are presented to the public, federal agencies, and public officials in document format (e.g., environmental assessments and environmental impact statements) for consideration prior to taking official action or making official decisions. Implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act are contained in Part 1500 to 1515 of Title 40 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1515).

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531-1544). The purposes of the Endangered Species Act include providing "a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved." According to the Endangered Species Act, "all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered species and threatened species: and "[e]ach Federal agency shall...insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency...is not likely to jeopardize the continues existence of any endangered species or threatened species." The U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (non-marine species and the National Marine Fisheries Service (marine species, including anadromous fish and marine mammals) administer the Endangered Species Act. The effects of any agency action that may affect endangered, threatened, or proposed species must be evaluated in consultation with either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service, as appropriate. Implementing regulations which describe procedures for interagency cooperation to determine the effects of actions on endangered, threatened, or proposed species are contained in 50 CFR 402. The National Park Service has obtained concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the proposed action is not expected to impact federally listed endangered and threatened species or species of concern.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended' (16 USC 470 et sequentia). Congressional policy set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act includes preserving "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation" and preserving irreplaceable examples important to our national heritage to maintain "cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits." The National Historic Preservation Act also established the National Register of Historic Places composed of "districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture." Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effects of their actions on properties eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places and coordinate such actions with State Historic Preservation Office. National Historic Preservation Act also requires federal agencies, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, to locate, inventory, and nominate all properties that appear to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, including National Historic Landmarks. Further it requires federal agencies to document those properties in the case of an adverse effect and propose alternatives to those actions, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201). Federal aid project that require acquisition of right-of-way affecting prime or unique farmlands must comply with the provisions of this act. The act governs impacts to farmlands only. Farmland is defined as prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland that is of state or local importance. The Farmland Protection Policy Act is primary responsibility of the Department of Agriculture which has delegated implementation to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Natural Resources Conservation Service determines which soils are classified as prime or unique farmlands. The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act is to "minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, and to assure the Federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with State, unit of local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland."

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APPENDIX A
Agency Letters



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401



August 5, 2002

Mr. John Wiser
Senior Project Manager
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
9001 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

*RE: Construction of new visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield
Frederick County, MD*

Dear Mr. Wiser:

This responds to your letter, received on July 5, 2002, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened within the vicinity of the above reference project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Except for occasional transient individuals, no federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For information on the presence of other rare species, you should contact Lori Byrne of the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division at (410) 260-8573.

An additional concern of the Service is wetlands protection. Federal and state partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program have adopted an interim goal of no overall net loss of the Basin's remaining wetlands, and the long term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Basin's wetlands resource base. Because of this policy and the functions and values wetlands perform, the Service recommends avoiding wetland impacts. All wetlands within the project area should be identified, and if construction in wetlands is proposed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, should be contacted for permit requirements. They can be reached at (410) 962-3670.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interests in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Charisa Morris at 410-573-4550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ratnaswamy".

Mary J. Ratnaswamy, Ph.D.

Program Supervisor

Threatened and Endangered Species



Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

J. Charles Fox
Secretary

Karen M. White
Deputy Secretary

August 6, 2002

Mr. John Wisner
Senior Project Manager
Greenhome & O'Mara, Inc.
9001 Edmonston Rd.
Greenbelt MD 20770

**RE: Environmental Review for a new visitor center at Monocacy National
Battlefield in Frederick Co., MD.**

Dear Mr. Wisner:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has no records for Federal or State rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals within this project site. This statement should not be interpreted as meaning that no rare, threatened or endangered species are present. Such species could be present but have not been documented because an adequate survey has not been conducted or because survey results have not been reported to us.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Byrne,
Environmental Review Specialist,
Wildlife and Heritage Service

ER# 2002.1331.fr

APPENDIX B

Environmental Screening Form

**DO-12 APPENDIX 1
ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM
(REVISED 28 JANUARY 2002)**

This form must be attached to all documents sent to the regional director's office for signature. Sections A and B should be filled out by the project initiator (may be coupled with other park project initiation forms). Sections C, D, E, and G are to be completed by the interdisciplinary team members. While you may modify this form to fit your needs, you must ensure that the form includes information detailed below and must have your modifications reviewed and approved by the regional environmental coordinator.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name Monocacy National Battlefield
Project Number MONO 433 (PMIS 43048)
Project Type (Check): Cyclic Cultural Cyclic Repair/Rehab ONPS
 NRPP CRPP FLHP
 Line Item Rec Demo Concession Reimbursable
 Other (specify) _____

Project Location Fredrick, Maryland
Project Originator/Coordinator Susan Trail
Project Title Relocate Flood-Prone Visitor Center to Best Farm
Contract # _____
Contractor Name _____
Administrative Record Location Denver Service Center
Administrative Record Contact Patrick Macdonald

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION [To begin the statutory compliance file, attach to this form, maps, site visit notes, agency consultation, data, reports, categorical exclusion form (if relevant), or other relevant materials]

This project consists of relocating the present visitor center from the first floor of the Gambell Mill, located in the floodplain of the Monocacy River, to the Best Farm. It will be placed on the east side of Rt. 355, on the north edge of the park boundary, in a modern dairy barn that will be moved from its present location on the west side of Rt. 355. The project will involve construction of a small parking lot, entrance road and stormwater management, and installation of water, sewer and electrical services. The project will involve disturbance of 2-3 acres of agricultural land.

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes No
 Background info attached? Yes No
 Date form initiated Revised August 22, 2002
 Anticipated compliance completion date Spring 2003
 Projected advertisement/Day labor start Fall 2003
 Construction start Spring 2004

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER (Tailor the following to meet individual park/unit project needs.)

Are any measurable ¹ impacts possible on the following physical, natural or cultural resources?	Yes	No	Data Needed to Determine
1. Geological resources - soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X	
2. From geohazards		X	
3. Air quality		X	
4. Soundscapes		X	
5. Water quality or quantity		X	
6. Streamflow characteristics		X	
7. Marine or estuarine resources		X	
8. Floodplains or wetlands		X	
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use		X	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation - old growth timber, riparian, a.pine		X	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat			
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites		X	
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		X	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat		X	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X	
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X		
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X		
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	X	X	
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure		X	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.		X	
21. Energy resources		X	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies		X	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential		X	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.		X	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		X	
26. Other important environment resources (c.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?		X	

¹ Measurable impacts are those that the interdisciplinary team determines to be greater than negligible by the analysis process described in DO-12 §2.9 and §4.5(G)(4) to (G)(5).

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	Data Needed to Determine
A. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?		X	
B. Have adverse effects on such unique characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?			X
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects?		X	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	X		
F. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X	
G. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?			X
H. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X	
I. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X	
J. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X	
K. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?		X	
L. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?		X	
M. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?		X	
N. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?		X	
O. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?		X	
P. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?		X	
Q. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?		X	
R. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?		X	
S. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?		X	

E. OTHER INFORMATION *(Please answer the following questions/provide requested information.)*

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes No

Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes No *(If yes, attach meeting notes or additional pages noting when site visit took place, who attended, etc.)*

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying environmental document? Yes No

If so, plan name _____

Is the project still consistent with the approved plan? Yes No *(If no, prepare plan/EA or EIS.)*

Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? Yes No *(If no, prepare plan/EA or EIS.)* FONSI ROD *(Check)* Date approved _____

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes No

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? Yes No

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes No
(If so, attach additional pages detailing the consultation, including the name, the dates, and a summary of comments from other agencies or tribal contacts.)

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? Yes No
(If so, attach additional pages detailing the other actions.)

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

Complete the following tasks: conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is not described in DO-12 § 3.4 or if you checked yes or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in Section D (Mandatory Criteria), you must prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

If you checked no in all blocks in Section C (resource effects to consider) and checked no in all blocks in Section D (Mandatory Criteria) and if the action is described in DO-12 § 3.4, you may proceed to the categorical exclusion form. (Appendix 2 of DO-12 Handbook)

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORY *(All interdisciplinary team members must sign.)*

By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
Technical Specialists Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed

H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Telephone Number	Date

Approved:

Superintendent	Telephone Number	Date
<i>Susan Trail</i>	<i>301-662-6980</i>	<i>8/22/02</i>

APPENDIX C
Partial National Register Update
Nomination Forms

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Monocacy Battlefield (Additional Information)
other names _____

2. Location

street & number 4871 Urbana Pike not for publication
city or town Frederick vicinity
state MD code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21704

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Monocacy Battlefield
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	of Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ Total

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

Federally owned contributing resources: 44; non-contributing: 5

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(DESCRIBE THE HISTORIC AND CURRENT CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY ON ONE OR MORE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

Physical Description:

The Monocacy National Battlefield was listed in the National Register in 1973. As listed, the nomination includes two discontinuous parcels of combined privately owned and federally owned lands in the vicinity of the Maryland Route 355, and the US Route 40 crossings of the Monocacy River. This National Register update provides additional information pertaining to federally owned properties within the boundaries of the Monocacy National Battlefield, boundaries which are different from those listed in the National Register. This update also includes limited additional information about *Araby* a privately owned property in the heart of the Battlefield, and one which is essential to interpretation of the battle and of the cultural history and context of the Monocacy National Battlefield properties. The update describes and provides historical background on the cultural resources in the federally owned portions of the Monocacy National Battlefield. The discussion of the battle was included in the original nomination.

The Landscape. The Monocacy National Battlefield contains 1,647 acres of farmland and woods straddling the Monocacy River and Maryland Route 355, just southeast of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland. Flat river bottom land and steep bluffs dominate the landscape, along with old fencerows and road networks, some of which date back to the mid 18th century. Much of the land is farmed, used primarily for hay and grain production, and for pasture. Bush Creek passes through the Battlefield near its north edge, east of the river, and paralleling this creek is the B&O Railroad, which figured so prominently in the July 9, 1864 battle. Just west of the river, the railroad forks, the main branch heading south toward Harpers Ferry, and a spur extending west into Frederick. Since the 1830s this place was known as Frederick Junction or Monocacy Junction. On the segment of the Monocacy that flows through the battlefield are two fording places that were known as early as the 1730s. One was located just below the mouth of Ballenger Creek and the other a short distance downstream from the present Maryland Route 355 bridge. The Ballenger Creek area ford was used by Confederate forces during the Battle of Monocacy. The other ford is recorded on land plats and the trace of the old road leading to it is still evident on the landscape. Until the 1830s, when the B&O Railroad was constructed, there was ferry service at this upper ford. The battlefield landscape is largely pastoral. There are some non-contributing elements, mostly houses dating from the mid and later 20th century (not owned by the National Park Service). Interstate 270 bisects the battlefield, running southeast to northwest, forming both a visual and physical barrier to the continuity of the landscape. There are five monuments placed as memorials to participants in the Battle of Monocacy. These are construed as contributing elements to the nominated area. On the borders of the battlefield, however there is significant development, commercial and residential sprawl extending from Frederick on the northwest, from the Buckeystown Pike on the southwest and from Urbana on the southeast. On the northwest a shopping mall and an office park extend to the very boundary of the Battlefield.

The Hermitage. This farm, also known as the "Best Farm," is located at the northwest side of the battlefield. Although the Monocacy National Battlefield calls this place the Best Farm for occupants at the time of the battle (and generations before and after), it was named *L'Hermitage* by the French family that assembled the tract in the 1790s, and has throughout its subsequent history been known as the Hermitage. The farm is located on US Route 355, known historically as the Washington Road or Georgetown Pike, west of the Monocacy River and the B&O Railroad. The buildings are accessed by a lane leading in a westerly direction from Route 355

and are situated about ¼ mile west of the highway. The property, now containing 273.69 acres, came to the National Park Service in 1993, from the family that had owned it since 1835.

The buildings currently on the property include a multi-part stuccoed stone, brick and log house, the oldest intact part of which dates from the 1790s; a log and stone secondary dwelling dating from the 18th century; a mid 20th century dairy barn; a 19th century frame wagon shed; a log smoke house and various 20th century sheds and outbuildings. Set apart from this complex and to the west, is a hip roofed stone barn, dating from the late 18th century. The main house faces east, toward the Georgetown Pike. The stone lower story of the secondary dwelling was also oriented toward the east, however the log second story addition, constructed in the late 18th century, faces west toward the main house. To the west of the buildings is I-270. The interstate highway forms a visual and physical barrier for the property. However, the land that made up this farm historically extended beyond the interstate highway to the Buckeystown Pike (MD Route 85), and could be accessed from that road as well as the Georgetown Pike. Near the east edge of the property is the B&O Railroad and beyond that a flat area of flood plain along the west bank of the Monocacy River. The farm consists mostly of cropland on rich and fairly level bottomland nestled within a bend in the Monocacy River. Although most of the land lies west of Route 355, a portion is on the east side. Tree cover forms a band along the river, otherwise most of the land is open and used for hay and grain.

Main House: The main house of the Hermitage is a multi-part, L shaped stone, brick, log and frame building. The stone and brick portions are stuccoed and the log and frame sections are covered with various wood sidings, lapped or German. Stucco has been applied to the house at least since 1835, when the tax assessment of that year describes the house as roughcast. The current stuccoed surface dates from the mid 20th century. However, remnants of earlier stucco, smooth surfaced with regular struck lines to resemble cut block can be seen where later stucco is damaged.

The front or east elevation of the house has five bays with a central entrance. However, the southern three bays were built as a unit and are separate from the northern two bays. The northern two bays have windows set at a lower level, and the roof span is much broader, creating a break in the roofline particularly visible from the south and west. The house is constructed into a slight slope, which drops away to the south, causing the three southern bays to have a raised basement. There is also a prominent watertable at the top of the foundation of the south section. Windows in the south section have wide mortised and tenoned frames with pegged joints, ovalo trim and six over six-pane sash. The front door has six low relief panels and is hung beneath a four light transom. A gabled entrance porch, which appears to date from the mid 20th century, replaces the original entrance shelter. An unusual feature of the house is the chimney placement. For the south section, the chimney is centered in the west elevation, rising along the middle of the back wall. For the north portion, the chimney extends from the roof ridge, placed centrally in the width of the span. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal, applied in 1998. Exterior architectural evidence (also affirmed by interior investigation) shows that the south section was constructed in the 1790s; the north section appears to have been reconstructed in the 1820s from some earlier stone structure. The present gables of the 1790s section were created in brick, probably at the time of the 1820s renovations. Architectural evidence indicates that the gables were constructed to replace an original hipped roof over the 1790s section.

The west elevation reveals the way in which the house grew over time with various additions and extensions. In the 1790s south section there are three windows, one in a stair landing midway between stories, and a door exiting from the first floor stair hall. The 1820s or north section juts several feet to the west, extending beyond the back wall of the 1790s section. It has two south facing windows, one at each story. Both of these sections are of stone construction, fully covered with stucco.

Extending to the west from the back of the 1820s section are two wooden sections, the first a two story section of frame infill and the second, at the extreme west end, a one story log kitchen which was raised to two stories with frame construction. The frame infill section has a chimney extending up its south elevation, and the log part had an inside gable end chimney with an exposed brick back. Separated from the log section and to its west is a log smokehouse covered with vertical siding. This is a one-story gable roofed building. Clues from the interiors of these back sections suggest that the frame infill section dates from the 1860s, and the log kitchen from the 1790s. The upper part of the log section, the framed second story, probably dates from the late 19th century.

Secondary Dwelling: This building appears to have been constructed in two parts. First was a one-story two room stone dwelling following the English hall and parlor plan, and measuring approximately 18x36 feet. The house faced east and there was a cellar under the south room, the parlor. The two-room house was built of local limestone laid in neat flat courses. It has a stone chimney in its north gable end, along with a window, no openings on the west elevation, a single window on the south elevation and two doors, one into each room on the east elevation. A partition divides the stone part into two rooms. Later, a brick chimney was added at this partition, giving each room a fireplace. The original fireplace in the stone chimney system has an arched opening, generally indicative of pre-1790 construction in central Maryland. Sometime after the stone section was completed, but also in the 18th century, a log second story was added. This addition changed the orientation of the house from east-facing to west-facing. The east elevation of the log section has two windows placed close together near the center of the wall. The south gable elevation has one window and another within the gable. The west elevation has two windows opposing those in the east wall, plus a door into the south room. There was also a second door in the west wall into the north room, which gave the west elevation a symmetrical door, window, window, door fenestration pattern. The north door was covered over with lath and plaster on the interior and with the current early 20th century narrow gauge siding on the exterior. There must have been some sort of porch or stair system to provide access to the two west side entrances. At the time the log second story was added, the stone chimney was extended with brick to accommodate the higher elevation and the central chimney and additional fireplaces were constructed. The interior of the log section contains two rooms.

The Stone Barn: One of the most unusual features of this very extraordinary complex is the hipped roof stone barn set well behind the other buildings on the farm. It looks nothing like the barns that are common to the region, which typically had a ramp or bank at the back and a cantilevered forebay. These indigenous barns are generally assumed to be German in origin and are often referred to in contemporary records as "Swisser Barns." The *Hermitage* barn has no ramp and no forebay. It is a rectangular structure with its broad sides facing east and west. The front and rear stone walls are interrupted by broad openings that extend from the ground fully to the roof. These openings are centrally located in the east and west walls. The upper portions of these open areas are currently filled in with vertical board siding. The siding infill may have been constructed like this originally, or there may have been doors across these openings at one

or more levels. In the north end wall, there is a window, with a segmentally arched top. Seams in the stone work indicate that this north end opening was once a door and was partially enclosed. There are no windows or other openings in the south elevation. On the east elevation, there are two vertical vent slits. The walls are constructed of narrow flat courses of local stone. The current hipped roofing system may date from the mid 19th century, possibly replaced due to Civil War damage. The replaced roof system appears however, to have duplicated the original construction. The barn is set on a slightly raised flat area or terrace.

The barn until recently was used to shelter cattle. Its original use was more likely for crop storage. The overall form of the barn with the hipped roof and stone construction on leveled land is indicative of French traditions.

Frame Wagon Shed: Situated approximately halfway between the house and the stone barn is a frame wagon shed and corncrib with a shed extension to the north side. The wagon shed is of timber frame construction and rests on limestone foundation piers. Its gables are set east and west and are open at both ends allowing for an equipment drive-through. The shed is covered with vertical board siding with space between the boards to allow air circulation through the corncrib. The boards are more snugly placed at the gable ends and there are doors within the gable to allow access to the storage area within. This shed is typical of a once numerous outbuilding type on central Maryland farms and probably dates from the mid or late 19th century. The wagon shed is in deteriorated condition.

Other Buildings: The complex on the *Hermitage* also includes a collection of 20th century farm buildings of varying size and function. Among these is a concrete block dairy barn with a gambrel roof that dates from the 1930s or '40s, and numerous frame sheds, coops, and hog pens. A large pole barn is located on the foundation of a frame bank barn that was destroyed by a windstorm in the 1990s. That frame barn had apparently replaced one that was destroyed during the Monocacy battle. According to NPS information, the barn blew down after 1991 but before the Park service acquired the property in 1993. This barn may be the same structure that was listed as a "new barn" in Frederick County Tax Assessment Records in 1869 on the property for Charles E. Trail.

Resource Count:

5 contributing buildings—house, secondary house, smoke house, wagon shed, stone barn.

1 contributing site—Civil war associations, Confederate and Union encampments on property in September, 1862 and Confederate occupation and artillery location July 1864.

2 non-contributing buildings—dairy barn, pole barn

not counted— small sheds, roadways and traces, railroad

The Araby Community:

The Araby Community includes several distinctive resources which were historically associated with the 1,111 acre *Araby* tract surveyed for John McPherson in 1832. These include the Araby Mill, established by McPherson in 1830, the *Araby* plantation to which the McPherson Hill Farm was attached, and the Railside Properties which developed around the Frederick (Monocacy) Junction. Following the breakup of *Araby* in 1844 these parcels were established: Araby Farm,

Gambrill Mill, and The Hill Farm. The Railside properties were subdivided from the Gambrill Mill property.

Araby: *Araby* farm, also known as the "Thomas Farm," containing approximately 240 acres is located on the southwest side of Maryland Route 355 and on the east side of the Monocacy River, opposite the *Hermitage*. Since *Araby* is still in private ownership, there has been no opportunity to undertake an architectural survey and evaluation. The property has been observed only from the public right-of-way. The main buildings include a brick house, frame "Swisser" barn, corncrib and wagon shed and various domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Individuals who have been close to the house report that it has a brick water table, which is a clear indication of 18th century construction. A tree-lined driveway extends in a southwesterly direction from Araby Church Road (the old path of the Georgetown Pike, later Maryland Route 355) back to the house. The house faces northeast toward the road. The barn and outbuildings are located behind the house. An 1856 sale bill for the property also mentions a stone tenant house. This structure is located behind the main house and is just visible from the road.

Resource Count: (estimated, because of inaccessibility of property. Note that these resources are recorded on this form, although the property is not federally owned.)

5 contributing buildings—main house, barn, wagon shed, stone tenant house, smokehouse.

2 contributing sites—1. Civil War associations: action site, July, 1864, headquarters site/meeting site, August 1864, encampment and headquarters site, Union army, June 1863, encampment site, September, 1862. 2. Forging and ferry crossing site, 18th-19th centuries.

2 non-contributing structures—tennis court, swimming pool.

Not counted—historic road traces, small sheds.

McPherson's Hill Farm: The farmstead of the McPherson Hill Farm is situated on high ground with a west-facing, two part, sided log house, a southeast-facing frame closed forebay bank barn and a frame wagon shed and corncrib. Located a short distance east of the wagon shed is a frame springhouse constructed over a strong spring, which flows southwestward to and under Baker Valley Road. The house appears to date from the 1850s, while the barn and wagon shed are more typical of the 1870s or 1880s. The barn's original foundation was replaced with concrete block sometime in the mid-20th century.

House: The house is covered with plain lapped siding, with its more formal facade facing west toward Baker Valley Road. The house appears to have been constructed in two parts, although the two sections could have been built at the same time. The total facade width is five bays, with the three bays to the north having a window, door, and window arrangement. Slightly separated are the two southern bays. Windows have six over six panes. The roof is covered with sheet metal and there are chimneys inside the north gable and at the interior between the two sections of the house. At the west elevation, there was a small shed roofed entrance porch, which has

been removed; and at the east elevation a shed roofed porch extends the entire length of the house. The house is one room deep with three rooms at the first story level. The main staircase rises from just behind the front entrance. The front door has four panels. In the northernmost room is a fireplace with a mantelpiece having an architrave and a bracketed shelf. The brick firebox is plastered, as was typical. Some walls have narrow width wainscoting, generally a late 19th century feature. These architectural features suggest that the house dates from 1850s at the earliest and probably had some features added later, in the 1880s. The house may have been built during the ownership of Henry Layman (1849-1856), or by the following owner, C.K. Thomas, as a tenant house.

Barn and Outbuildings: The barn, wagon shed (which was damaged in a windstorm, summer, 2000) and springhouse are the other three remaining buildings on the property. Their detailing is consistent with construction in the 1880s. The barn, located southeast of the house, is a frame closed forebay bank barn sheathed with vertical board siding. The foundation walls, almost certainly originally stone, were replaced with concrete block, probably in the 1940s, and the interior of the barn was adapted for dairy. This alteration would coincide with the purchase of the farm by the Geisbert family, who continue to operate a dairy farm on the Baker Farm, across the road from this place. The walls of the barn are embellished with arched-top louvered ventilator openings, arranged in tiers, with a pair of them in the peak of the gable. These are a Victorian period decorative feature, indicating a ca. 1880s construction date. North of the barn is a frame wagon shed and corncrib with vertical siding on the gable walls and horizontal siding on the sides. A shed extension on the east side was added to shelter machinery. In the gable is an arched louvered ventilator opening similar to those in the barn, except this one had a pointed rather than rounded arch. The springhouse is of frame construction with vertical board siding. Since the outbuildings appear to be more recently constructed than the house, there may be below ground evidence of former outbuildings.

Resource Count:

4 contributing buildings—house, barn, wagon shed, springhouse.

Gambrill House and Mill: The Gambrill house and mill remnants are located on the east side of Route 355, east of the Monocacy River and south of Bush Creek. Most of the land associated with these buildings is low-lying, drained by a small run which once was the tail race for the mill. The Gambrill House is located on high ground to the south of the mill and faces north toward the mill and the Monocacy River. The National Park Service acquired the property containing 134.36 acres in 1981.

Gambrill House: Built in 1872 the Gambrill House, called Edgewood and later Boscobel, is a three-story Second Empire style brick mansion. Its main character-defining feature other than its large size is its mansard roof. The building is an imposing structure, L-shaped with five bays across the front elevation and seven bays deep along the length of the L. The mansard roof is slate covered with decorative imbrication or a pattern of cut slates. Paired brackets trim the eaves. The fascia is decorated with applied carvings. The brick walls are laid in common bond with a 7:1 stretcher-header ratio.

At the front (north) elevation, the dominant feature is a central projecting square tower. The brick walls are painted and a porch with square columns with brackets and collars and a balustrade at the top extends across the front. The front elevation is symmetrical with the main

entrance in the center bay, which is also the projecting surface of the central tower. The main entrance has double doors beneath a round-arched fanlight. A carved wooden surround trims the entrance. Another door in the central bay of the second story opens onto the balustraded deck of the front porch. At the third floor of the tower a smaller door with an elaborate arched surround opens onto a small deck supported by fancy carved brackets.

The first floor front windows are elongated with triple-hung sash, each with two panes. Second story windows have double-hung two over two pane sash and third story windows within the mansard roof are two over two pane with round arched upper sash. Window trim includes carved arched hoods above the window openings at the first and second stories. The north bays of the east and west end elevations have semi-octagonal projecting bays at the first story levels. Most windows at all elevations are outfitted with pairs of louvered shutters.

The east elevation is the long side of the L. It is nearly as formal in its arrangement as the front elevation. This façade is seven bays wide with a central entrance. While there is no fully developed tower on this elevation, there is a projecting roof bay with a dominant arched window. Windows on this elevation all have double hung sash, although some have six over six sash, some have two over two and some are single pane. A one bay wide entrance porch shelters the central entrance on the east elevation. Double square columns with collars and brackets support it. Above this at the second story level is another entrance which opens onto the roof deck of the porch. This upper doorway is trimmed with a gable-peaked hood supported by brackets.

The elevations which form the inside of the L are lined by a double porch along the south and west elevations of the building.

The exterior of the Gambrill mansion retains a high level of integrity with most original material remaining intact. The interior of the mansion had been altered for the most part in the 1960s when part of the building was used as a medical clinic. Although the 1967 renovations compromised the interior, important features remain from the original construction such as Italian marble mantelpieces and plaster ceiling medallions.

The Gambrill Mill: The remaining portion of the Gambrill mill is now in use as the headquarters for the Monocacy National Battlefield. The mill had previously been converted to a dwelling with the removal of the upper stories of the building and the conversion of the roof from a gabled structure to a hipped roof. These early 20th century alterations make the former mill building more like an American Foursquare style dwelling. The original mill was a three story stone building, 40'x45' built in 1830 by John McPherson. It was a merchant mill which produced flour for market. Also included in the mill complex was a sawmill on a stone foundation, a chopping and plaster mill housed in a two story stone building 50'x20.' There was also a dwelling house for the miller which was located across the entrance lane from the mill. It was a one and a half story stone house, 34' x20' with an attached one story stone kitchen. (This description of the buildings is from an 1844 inventory recorded in the HABS Documentation for the Gambrill House.) The property also included a crop barn, stable and a later servants' quarter behind the Gambrill house.

Resource Count:

2 contributing buildings—house and former mill

1 contributing site—Civil War associations: hospital and action site, July 9, 1864.

1 non-contributing building—metal service building and garage

not counted—landscape features, mill race, pond and road traces.

Railside Properties: On the east side of the Monocacy River along the B&O Railroad is a cluster of properties that were once part of the community known as Frederick Junction, Monocacy Junction, or Araby. These were the names given to a siding and junction area near the railroad bridge across the Monocacy River. The actual junction or split in the railroad was located west of the river, but the small community that developed in the vicinity was on the east side.

Although the area where the railroad crosses the Monocacy and splits with the main line turning southwest and the spur heading northwest into Frederick seems remote now, it once was an active place. There is now no easy access to the site of this settlement; one must either walk across the railroad bridge or ford Bush Creek. The area between the Araby Mill site and the junction is low and marshy, prone to flooding, while the north side of the tracks consists of rugged high ground. Yet, in the 19th century, the junction vicinity bustled and included the distillery, near the mouth of Bush Creek, a warehouse and several dwellings and their support buildings. These buildings were located on the east side of the river. A photograph of the community that developed just east of the junction and the Monocacy River is published in Williams' 1910 History of Frederick County, Maryland. Now all that remains are foundations of the buildings, which hugged the south side of the tracks, and faced onto them. Other buildings were set between Bush Creek and the railroad. Some of the foundations are of concrete, indicating 20th century construction, in addition to the remains of older buildings. The railroad at this point runs along the north side of Bush Creek. The two are tightly compressed just to the east, as they pass through a narrow ravine between two ridges.

The foundations of buildings and cellar depressions are all that is visible now. Obvious foundations remain from two buildings. One foundation located closest to the river and trestle bridge defines a two-room cellar with an L-extension to the rear. A concrete porch deck remains at the front of the site along the tracks. The other foundation, a short distance to the east is smaller and raised, with a full story exposed at the rear (south) side. The second foundation is much smaller than the first, and may have been for a small dwelling or support building. The brick warehouse may have been located further to the west from these foundations, in an area now covered with brush and rubble. The ca. 1910 photograph of the site, published in T.J.C. Williams' History of Frederick County, Maryland, shows the L-shaped frame building, probably the same one described in an 1897 sales advertisement quoted below. Although Williams states in the caption that this was the headquarters for Lew Wallace during the Battle of Monocacy, the building may date from after the war. Archaeological investigation of the foundation remnants and site contents should help to establish a range of construction dates for the house. The photo also shows two small buildings to the left (east) of the house. One of these probably sat upon the other remaining aboveground foundation. In the photo, the house has a shed roofed porch across the front, inside end brick chimneys and windows with louvered shutters, closed on the east end wall. A paling fence extends in front of the buildings separating them from the railroad. The photo may also show (slightly) a larger gabled building partially hidden by a tree immediately to the right of the house. Perhaps this was the brick distillery/warehouse.

In addition to the dwellings and their support buildings, and the warehouse, there were blockhouses erected on each side of the river to protect the crossing during the Civil War. On the north side of the tracks on the high ground above the river are Civil War fortifications, still evident today in the form of shallow ditches (trenches) paralleling the old road trace, and a rectangular cavity in the ground (likely a powder magazine).

Resource Count:

5 contributing structures—2 cellar foundations, trenches, road and powder magazine.

4 contributing sites—distillery site, Lew Wallace Headquarters site, 2 blockhouse sites.

not counted—railroad and trestle bridge.

The Baker Farm: The Baker farm containing about 220 acres is located on the west side of Baker Valley Road, immediately southwest of *Araby*. Today, the two farms are separated by I-270. The house, barns and outbuildings are arranged approximately on an axis and are set well back from Baker Valley Road against the rising slope of the east face of Brooks Hill. From Baker Valley Road, the landscape slopes downward to the west, then begins to rise, forming Brooks Hill. A small stream known as Harding Run is located at the lowest point. It flows northeastward and around Brooks Hill and into the Monocacy. From Baker Valley Road the vista is one of pasture and cropland, with a tree line forming about two thirds of the way up Brooks Hill.

The house on the Baker farm is located directly at the head of the lane leading to the buildings. It faces east. To its northeast is a frame forebay bank barn or “Swisser barn” with an unusual round brick silo, and a more conventional mid 20th century stave silo. Behind the house is a modern metal equipment shed, and to its south is a ca. 1920s gambrel roofed dairy barn and an accompanying milk house. There are two more silos near the dairy barn. There is also a wash house/summer kitchen and a springhouse. These outbuildings and the dairy barn are made of cast concrete block, prominently used in the 1910-1930 period.

House: The house is a frame, two story, American Foursquare style dwelling, which was built by Charles G. Geisbert after the Geisberts acquired the farm in 1914. The new house was, however, built directly upon the foundations of the older dwelling it replaced. The house has a four bay façade with a window, window, door, and window arrangement. The side elevations are two bays deep. A one-story porch extends across the front and partially along the north side of the house, and another crosses the rear elevation. The hipped roof is covered with standing seam sheet metal and shed dormers extending from its south, east and north slopes. Brick flues rise from inside the north and south elevations. Windows have either six over one or single pane sash. The foundations are stone, older than the rest of the house.

Barn: The frame barn appears to date from the mid or late 19th century. This assessment is based on exterior observation only of its overall form and proportions and the materials used. It is covered with vertical board siding and has a broad roof span with the ridge centered over the entire width of the building including the forebay. There is an attached wagon shed at the north end of the barn. The barn bank is located on the barn’s west side, providing access to the threshing floor inside. An unusual feature is the round brick silo located at the southwest corner

of the barn. The silo displays common bond brickwork and is parged with cement on the interior. It no longer has a top, and ferns and other vegetation are growing inside. It is a rare survival and could date from the original construction of the barn or perhaps earlier.

The buildings appear to be in excellent condition.

Resource Count:

6 contributing buildings—house, barn, block dairy barn, milk house, summer kitchen, springhouse.

1 contributing structure—brick silo

1 contributing site—Civil War associations: July 1864 troop movements.

1 non-contributing building—metal equipment shed

not counted—small sheds.

Clifton: Clifton, also known as the Worthington Farm, is located at the end of a long access lane, which parallels I-270 westward from Baker Valley Road, then turns to the southwest to reach the house. This method of reaching Clifton resulted from the construction of I-270. The original access was along the east side of the Monocacy River from Maryland Route 355. Clifton is located within a loop of the river with Brooks Hill forming its southeastern boundary. The only building remaining on the Clifton property is the house. It is a two-story, five bay brick dwelling with an L-extension to the rear. The house faces east, typical of Maryland farmhouses, and is designed with a Georgian-inspired window, window, door, window, window plan. However, the detailing exhibits strong influence from the Greek Revival and Italianate styles from the third quarter of the 19th century. The house may have been built in 1851, for Griffin Taylor to move into after he left the neighboring property, *Arcadia*, and, if so, was probably considered by him to be temporary, since he seems to have been considering, if not negotiating the purchase of the *Araby* mansion farm. Clifton was described as a “new” dwelling when it was advertised for sale in 1856, after Taylor’s death. The Clifton house is notably smaller than *Araby*, and appears more modestly appointed, except for the handsome painted decoration in the entrance hall and parlor, embellishments believed to have been added by later owners, Wheatley and Ball.

Writing in 1932, Glenn Worthington, recalled the Battle of Monocacy around his home and farmland, and mentioned slave quarters standing to the south of the house. A ca. 1930 drawing of the farmstead made by late Frederick County artist Helen Smith shows the house, barn, slave quarters and several other domestic and agricultural structures. Also shown is a combination of rail and paling fence around the yards. The slave quarters are shown to be wooden, with vertical board siding, one story in height with a central chimney. Allowing for some artistic license, the drawing probably depicts the farmstead fairly accurately, for it includes the type and arrangement of buildings typical of Frederick County farms. Archaeological investigation in the likely

location of the additional buildings may yield more information about the number, type and age of associated buildings for Clifton.

For the house, the most significant feature is the decorative painting in the entrance hall and parlor. The work, done by the hand of a master, is combined trompe l'oeil (fool the eye) and stenciling to give the illusion of paneled walls and molded plaster cornice work. The paint has deteriorated due to neglect of the house during the mid 20th century, but is certainly restorable. The work has been attributed to Constantine Brumidi, the Italian artist who created the frescoes in the US Capitol building.

While the main Clifton house has been extensively investigated, remnants of another dwelling complex on the farm were only discovered recently. This domestic site is located on the south side of an old fence line at the northwest base of Brooks Hill, south of the Clifton house. A pair of very large trees stands like gateposts on either side of what may have been a path or walkway to the house. All that remains of the dwelling is a stone foundation, a two-room cellar depression and a brick chimney which fell outward from what was most likely the north gable end of the house. There was also some scattered surface debris around the site, which is overgrown with saplings and small trees. The house does not appear on any historic maps of the property, nor is it shown on recent topographical maps. According to Monocacy National Battlefield personnel, surrounding property owners who were asked, had no knowledge of the place. Definitely this house site is worthy of further study and archaeological investigation.

Resource Count:

1 contributing building—Clifton House

3 contributing sites—second dwelling site, Ballenger Creek Ford site, Civil War river crossing and action site, July 9, 1864.

Monuments: As part of the growing interest in memorialization, in the early 20th century, the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Vermont as well as the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected monuments commemorating specific actions at Monocacy. These commemorative efforts began in 1907 with the New Jersey monument. It is located on the Best Farm lands (*Hermitage*), along the south side of the railroad, west of the Georgetown Pike. It is near the old (pre-1830s) route of the pike from the ferry crossing and commemorates the 14th New Jersey Regiment, part of the 6th U.S. Army Corps. The second memorial to be placed was the Pennsylvania Monument dedicated in November of 1908. It is located on a half-acre plot that formerly belonged to *Araby* near Araby Church, on the east side of the old Georgetown Pike (Araby Church Road). The monument commemorates the 67th, 87th and 138th regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers, part of the 6th U.S. Army Corps. The Vermont Monument was dedicated in 1915 at the intersection of Baker Valley Road and Araby Church Road to commemorate efforts of the 10th Vermont infantry, part of the 6th U.S. Army Corps. These three markers commemorate Union regiments who fought at Monocacy. There is also a monument to Confederate forces that was dedicated at the 50th anniversary of the battle on July 9, 1914. The United Daughters of the Confederacy placed this monument. It is located on the *Hermitage*, west of the Georgetown Pike at the north edge of the property. The last monument to be located at Monocacy was dedicated by the Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission on July 9, 1964. It is situated on the property of the United Daughters of the Confederacy monument. The New

Jersey and Vermont monuments still belong to their respective states, with agreements with the National Park Service for maintenance of the grounds and structures. The State of Pennsylvania and the United Daughters of the Confederacy have conveyed title to their properties to the National Park Service in 1994 and 1997 respectively.

Resource Count:

5 contributing structures—the five commemorative monuments with their component parts.