

interpretive prospectus

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RICHMOND

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK / VIRGINIA



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**Richmond National Battlefield Park
holds within its grasp one of the greatest
and most exciting interpretive
experiences of all times.**

— Hobart Guy Cawood

introduction and summary

America's changing attitude toward war as an instrument of National policy calls for a reexamination of the interpretation of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The passage of time has not diminished the importance of the several battlefields in relation to the War Between the States, but today we are less concerned with the massing of troops and strategic movements than with the implications of such an enormous struggle in human terms.

The battles around Richmond have not been explained in relation to the city. It was the struggle for possession of the city that caused the events which the park commemorates. A grasp of this cause and effect relationship is vital to an understanding of the two major Federal thrusts at Richmond.

Scant attention has been paid to the wealth of human interest stories in these battles. Such stories are excellent in helping the visitors to identify with the park story.

New media and ideas will be used to impart the philosophies and stories of these battles to the modern visitor whose interest in maneuvers, tactics, and such minutia, is minimal. The broad view of "why" and "how" seem more relevant to today's visitor.

Given the awkward situation of a ten-unit park scattered along a ninety-five mile route, Richmond is indeed a difficult area to interpret in traditional ways. The recent Master Plan team has conceived a more workable solution. Facilities and major interpretive effort will concentrate in three major areas: Fort Harrison, Malvern Hill, and the Hanover Group. This latter consists of Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill (The Watt House), Garthright House, and Beaver Dam Creek. The remaining units, except Chimborazo Park, will function as waysides. Chimborazo Park will be returned to the City with the completion of facilities at Fort Harrison.

This interpretive prospectus deals with the changing emphasis in treatment of Richmond and her battlefields. New ideas and media will be used in a major interpretive center at Fort Harrison and in field interpretation at Fort Johnson, Malvern Hill, Cold Harbor, and the Watt House.

the interpretive goals

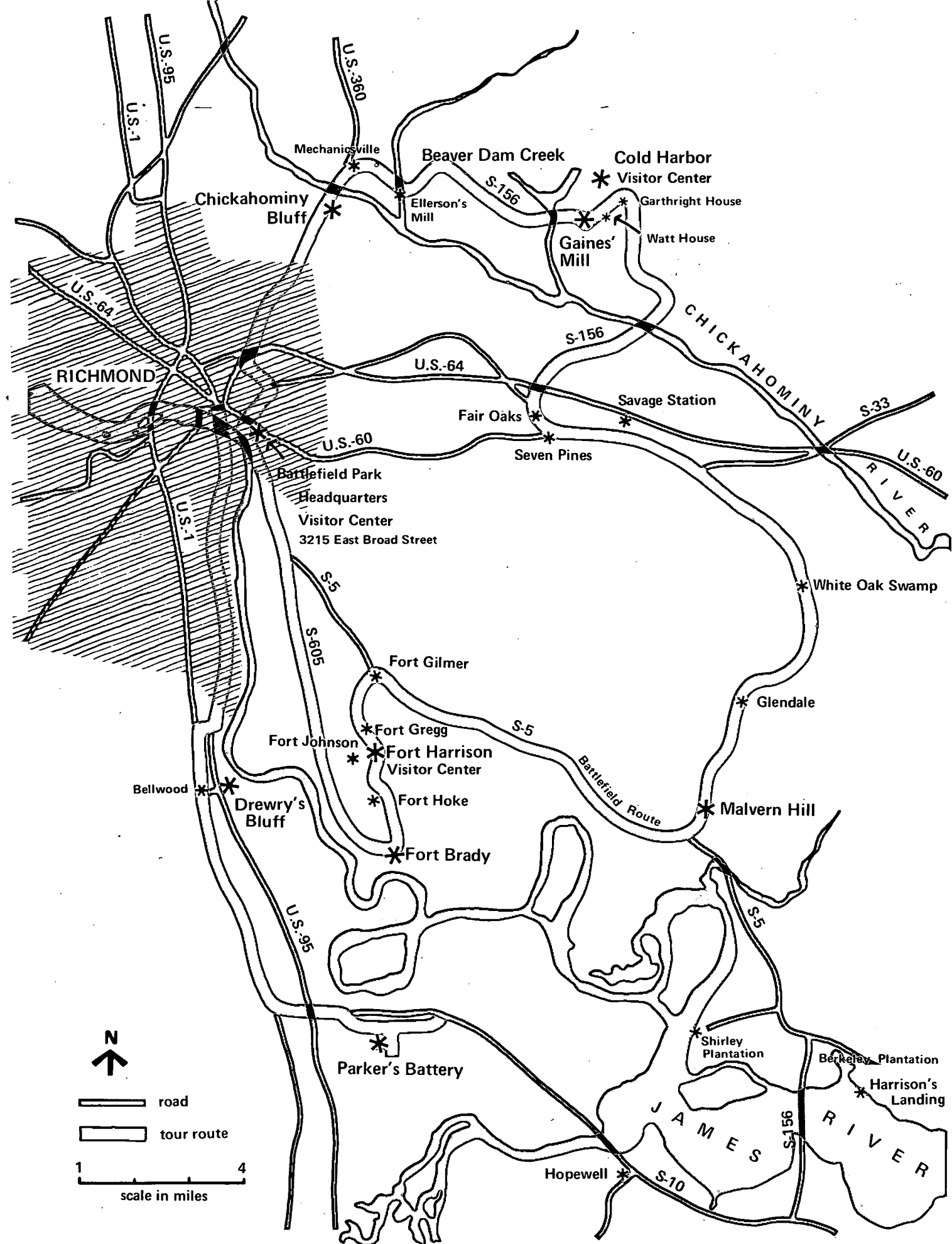
The primary goal in interpreting Richmond National Battlefield Park is to portray the role of the city in the Civil War. In addition to being the capital of the Confederacy and the symbol of Secession, Richmond functioned as the materiel center of the South. It was warehouse, factory, armory, hospital, prison, and transport center of the Confederacy.

This theme has received only passing notice in Richmond Battlefield's interpretation in the past. Nowhere else in Richmond is this story told, in other than passing references. If this primary goal is achieved, the visitor can gain a better understanding of the battles fought in defense of Richmond.

A support goal is the use of living interpretation, which allows for visual identification and personal involvement by the park visitor. Living History activities at Fort Johnson, Cold Harbor, and the Watt House will give that emphasis.

Secondary goals are recreational activity and environmental study areas. Recreation, a part of Richmond Battlefield's new two-fold purpose, can function in a compatible manner with historical usage. Activity areas are envisioned for Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and Malvern Hill. In expanding its purpose, Richmond Battlefield may better survive the pressure of urban expansion by serving the needs of this growing urban area. Recreational use is part of the overall goal of reestablishing the vital link between the battlefields and the city.

The present Environmental Study Area is adequate to today's usage. Space has been allocated at Fort Harrison for future use. Environmental education is not treated as a separate interpretive activity but is, rather, considered an integral part of the park story.



area specifics

FORT HARRISON GROUP

Major Visitor Center

A new interpretive center at Fort Harrison will shift the initial emphasis from Chimborazo Park, which is increasingly in the backwash of Richmond travel patterns. U.S. 60 became a secondary route with the opening of the two Interstate Highways. The new circumferential I-295 will place Fort Harrison as the more accessible location for the major interpretive center.

A cruciform structure is envisioned. One wing is the lobby-restroom unit, the exhibit area occupies another unit, the multipurpose auditorium is the third unit, and the office-storage-library wing completes the structure. A sketch plan for the proposed structure is appended.

"Richmond as the capital of the Confederacy" is the story line of the Visitor Center exhibits. Consisting of a series of spaces, each unit tells a facet of the story. Message repeaters, graphics, and museum objects combine in a brief sketch of such topics as social life, hospitals, casualties, prisons, manufacture of war materiel, economics, politics, and transportation. People will tell this story. A woman relates the

social atmosphere of a city propelled from a quiet State capital into the capital of a new nation. A prisoner and guard tell their versions of prison life. Factory workers and slaves deal with Tredegar Works and Richmond Laboratory manufacturing guns and ammunition. Doctors, patients, and burial parties deal with hospitals and cemeteries. Even the camp follower would have an opportunity to comment, from a perspective quite different from that of the society matron. The last cubicle sums up the story with an interview of a war correspondent who ties up the loose ends prior to the visitor's entry into the "Last Day" exhibit. References to the battles will permeate the scripts and graphics of all the cubicles to further tie in the park with the overall perspective.

These capsules relate all the mini-environments which made up Civil War Richmond. Character voices, utilizing the peculiar Richmond accent in the narration, would bring the city to life and emphasize the many changes Richmond underwent as the new national capital. The number of cubicles is flexible but there should be enough to immerse the visitor in the mood of Richmond. The culmination of the exhibits story is the "Last Day."

Here the visitor enters a room fitted out in a church-like appearance. Pews provide the seating. Organ music plays softly as the visitor enters. A minister's voice intones or a choir sings part of a hymn in the background. As this fades, a multi-image screen projects a soldier-courier walking rapidly down the aisle of a church. The scene narrows to one image of the soldier's hand clutching a note. The other screens come back to life showing the note handed to President Davis as he sits in St. Paul's Church on that bright April Sunday morning in 1865. Petersburg has fallen! Richmond is doomed. Evacuation frantically begins. Government records, treasury, equipment, and officials are hastily loaded on trains and wagons. The President and his cabinet depart and the last soldiers set fire to the Richmond Laboratory and the flour mills as they leave. The fire spreads, destroying most of the business district. The Capitol is saved only by the wide, open square which surrounds it. It remains for the incoming Federal troops to extinguish the fire and save the city from total destruction. Names of the battles will flash on the screen intermittently during the program.

This integration of the museum-audiovisual medium gives the visitor a vivid realization of the struggle for Richmond. An understanding of the city's importance as a target for the North and a rallying point for the South prepares the visitor for the story of the battle and miles of fortifications that are Richmond National Battlefield Park. A large orientation map in the exit lobby would assist the visitors in relating, and traveling to, the other units of the park.

The orientation needs might be fulfilled more easily by means of a rear-screen console with a two to three minute slide program.

The information desk and sales counter are separate. Information and the attendant are available to the incoming visitor without the visual clutter of a book store surrounding this function. The sales counter is accessible to the visitor at the end of the interpretive exhibits and is easily serviced by the same attendant. A screen separates the lobby area into these two visitor-use areas. The screen is envisioned as a dark plastic divider with a sketch etched on the entrance side. The screen serves as background for sales display space on the exit side of the lobby. Restroom facilities are detached from the principal visitor-use area. This further removes the airline terminal feeling of the lobby and allows the atmosphere to begin setting the mood for the interpretive exhibits.

A multipurpose auditorium will form the third unit of the proposed cruciform building. A revised edition of the current sound-slide presentation is to be shown. An upgraded and tightened script is needed with an increased number of slides to speed the pacing. Audiovisual production specialists may prefer to produce an all new show that would better orient the visitor to the battlefields and tie in the story of the city told in the museum exhibits. The auditorium will serve as a theater for regular environmental and National Park Service film programs. The Sum-Fun Program can also expand into this room for films and rainy-day activities. The park staff should plan for expanded hours of operation for the summer to serve the extended leisure hours of the season. This would cater both to the urban area resident and the national visitor. The film programs could well extend into evening presentations. Public and service organizations could use such a facility for public programs.

The fourth wing of the building is for offices, storage, and library space. Space for a minimum of two persons in each division — management, protection, and interpretation, are provided. Multipurpose rooms will serve sales and study collection storage needs. The library will also serve as a conference room for staff activities.

A parking lot for 48 autos and two buses is adjacent to the interpretive center. Its intrusiveness is being effectively masked by berms which simulate earthworks.

The trail to Fort Harrison proper leads from the Visitor Center exit. Along this trail is the display of major hardware. The cannon-limber and caisson-limber units are displayed beside the trail. These original pieces will be restored and given preservation treatment. To prevent further weathering they must be sheltered somewhat; an open-sided

shelter would suffice. The roof should be plastic in a camouflage pattern or some similar design that will minimize the intrusiveness of the protective shelter. Another piece of hardware used in the campaigns around Richmond may be available: the railroad artillery gun used at Savage's Station has recently been re-discovered. Should this piece be obtainable, it must be added to the outdoor exhibits. The Savage's Station action was the first recorded use of railroad artillery in American military history.

Professor T. S. C. Lowe's balloon ascents which assisted McClellan's observations of Confederate troop movements in the Peninsular Campaign of 1862, are among the earliest application of lighter-than-air craft to military uses. A display illustrating this usage should be considered for inclusion in this exhibit area at a later date.

All of the interpretive markers and exhibits-in-place at Fort Harrison will be remounted. The aim is to lower all of them to a uniform height of 18 inches above ground. This will minimize their intrusion upon the historic scene. The park interpretive sign colors — red, white, and blue, will keep them from being overlooked or stumbled over.

The existing audio station will be re-designed to be less conspicuous. The message will be shortened, with one and a half minutes as the target length. This length applies to the other existing audio stations as well. Additional stations are not presently planned for the immediate Fort Harrison area.

Fort Johnson

There is an excellent example of Civil War earthen fortifications at Fort Johnson, the next fort north of Fort Harrison on the outer defense line. It is connected to Fort Harrison by an earthwork. Johnson originally had a twenty-seven-foot deep moat. Excavating back to that depth will provide the fill necessary to restore the bastions and curtains to their original appearance. Bombproofs and magazines can then be replaced. This restoration shall all be carried out as a living interpretation exhibit. A seasonal crew in appropriate Confederate engineer uniforms can do the actual work — interpreting it as they go. An audio station would serve the off-season visitor.

Eventually Fort Johnson would return to its Civil War appearance. The trees cut down, the shrubbery grubbed out, and the bare earth exposed; what a contrast this would make with Fort Harrison! Such an exhibit would not only give the visitor a vivid impression of the monumental task of constructing these defenses of Richmond but would show some of the scars that man and war inflict upon the earth. This contrast makes for a powerful and relevant environmental story.

Fort Brady

This fort was the terminus of the Union siege line extending from Fort Harrison to the James River. Interpretive markers presently tell its story briefly. No changes are envisioned for Fort Brady, save lowering the markers, unless appropriate siege artillery pieces are acquired. If a 30 or 100 pound Parrott gun becomes available it may then be desirable to restore a gun emplacement to appearance commensurate with a Civil War photograph currently on exhibit. A new overlook is programmed for F. Y. 1975.

Fort Hoke

During the 1930's Fort Hoke was restored as a CCC project. As a result it does not now resemble its original appearance. Such authenticity was not the aim. The "restoration" is a composite of various techniques and styles of earthen fortifications. An accurate restoration would be a costly project not easily justified since the other existing forts in the park are relatively accurate. There is not adequate space to screen the fort from the intrusions of a suburban residential area, thus the integrity of a restoration could not be maintained.

Fort Gregg and Fort Gilmer

Both of these forts are in the same situation as Fort Hoke. They cannot feasibly be screened with existing land. Interpretive treatment of Hoke, Gilmer, and Gregg will consist of minor revisions of existing wayside exhibits. All are links on the Battlefield Drive and so will be seen regularly by park visitors. Hiking and cycling trails passing these forts will require additional interpretation.

Recreation Activities

Activities in the Fort Harrison area will be limited to small organized groups and family units. Developed facilities are a campsite at Fort Johnson, a picnic area at Fort Harrison, and a rustic amphitheater. The campsite will be used extensively by the Sum-Fun Program during the summer season and be available to organized groups at other times of the year. The amphitheater will also be used in the Sum-Fun Program. Day-use and evening programs will center around this facility. A power source is necessary for audiovisual equipment operation. Small handcraft and nature-lore sessions will be the main activities. When not in use by the Sum-Fun children, the amphitheater will be available for public organizations functions.

ESA

The present Environmental Study Area at Fort Harrison is more than adequate for current needs. Shortage of transportation funds and

several controversies of a social nature have precluded area schools from taking full advantage of the ESA. At such time as use increases beyond the capacity of the present unit there is an area in the southwest corner of the Fort Harrison unit available for environmental study use. This marshy ground offers a substantially different biotic area for study requiring a minimal addition to existing facilities and literature.

Trails

Hiking and cycling trails are planned along the Battlefield Drive. Their primary function is recreational but any points of unusual natural or historic interest will be interpreted through wayside exhibits.

MALVERN HILL

This was the last of the Seven Days' Battles of the 1862 campaign to take Richmond. McClellan's abandonment of the campaign after this battle gave Richmond three years' grace as the Confederate capital. McClellan had decided prior to this battle to break off the campaign and was already at Harrison's Landing when the battle of Malvern Hill occurred.

The Federals fortified their center with artillery placed hub-to-hub. The Confederate attack was carried up Malvern Hill against that strong position. General D. H. Hill summarized this attack with the terse remark: "It was not war. It was murder!" The existing audio tape quotes another Southern officer: "Confederate infantry fighting side by side with Federal artillery need fear no foe on earth." That quote does not convey the real impact of that attack. It is Hill's remark that should now guide the mood of the interpretation. Emphasis will shift to underline the horror of the situation of the attacking Confederates. The terror of this unheralded parallel of Pickett's charge will now be revealed. The grand sweep of the battle strategy and tactics can be summed up briefly. To convey the mood intended, exhibit composition should devote more attention to the human interest stories. Detail of what men on both sides felt and suffered will predominate.

It will be necessary to revise and shorten the existing audio tape. The audio unit should be concealed; all signs and exhibits lowered; and several new exhibits constructed. The history interpretation area will be screened from the rest of the park.

Recreation

The Master Plan calls for major recreation use at Malvern Hill. The Crewe House will be acquired, providing an employee residence. A visitor contact station will be located in the existing barn on that

property. The Art Barn will also serve as the arts and crafts activities center. In early stages this center will serve the Sum-Fun Program primarily. As recreation use expands, activities will be planned for other groups.

Recreation activity will all be group oriented. Group campsites will be located below the hill which will screen them from the Class VI land. Use will be for the Sum-Fun groups at first. As the area's existence becomes better publicized, use of these sites will be expanded to other organized groups.

The small stream at the base of the hill will be dammed. This impoundment will provide a site for the Sum-Fun groups to fish. The pond will be stocked by the National Fish Hatchery at Charles City.

In the pentangular area east of Highway 156 will be located a small family picnic area. An adjacent field will remain in open grass to serve sports activities.

Hiking Trails

Trails will be developed for recreational use. No immediate needs for trailside exhibits are seen at present. Limited nature walks will be conducted for organized groups. The natural history of this area is not spectacular but ecology-related stories are evident at Malvern Hill.

THE HANOVER GROUP

This label is an artificial one contrived to identify a geographic grouping of park units. Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill (Watt House), Garthright House, and Beaver Dam Creek, which make up the group, are all located in Hanover County.

Cold Harbor

As the major unit, Cold Harbor preserves a portion of the 1864 battle which was a part of Grant's Rapidan to James Campaign. In Grant's side-stepping campaign to gain Richmond, Cold Harbor came closest to realizing that goal. Lee's forces got into position first, thus forcing Grant to engage them before Richmond could be captured.

The Union corps commanders failed to reconnoiter the Confederate position prior to the attack. The resulting tragedy was unparalleled in American military history. The Federal troops moved across open level ground, crossed through a ravine, and came up into the Confederate position at pointblank range to face a wall of flame and shell. In less

than 30 minutes the Federals suffered over 7,000 casualties. (More than the total casualties of the Normandy Landing in World War II.) The U.S. Troops fell back and entrenched under fire. Bayonets, canteens, spoons, and cups were frantically applied to the loose sandy soil. Within minutes the Federal position was defensible. For two weeks the two armies faced each other in the broiling heat of the Virginia summer. Sniping became a fine art in the long, weary days. Artillery barrages were loosed periodically to keep alertness honed. Then, on the evening of June 14, 1864, Grant withdrew his forces and side-stepped Lee heading for Petersburg. Richmond had survived her second direct threat of invasion and had ten more months of existence as the new nation's capital.

The story of this gruesome tragedy is told in barest detail by present interpretive devices. There is not even an audio station to enliven the story. The impact of the Cold Harbor story will strongly affect the park visitor without drawing comparisons with present-day actions in Viet Nam or during intervening wars. Such comparison is unnecessary and even smacks of poor taste. This story stands along as a unique chapter in American military history.

The Master Plan calls for removing the existing park drive which cuts through both Union and Confederate trenches. The road, thus shortened, will serve only the interpretive and recreational facilities on the southeast side of Bloody Run.

The primary battlefield facility is a contact and comfort station. A few orientation and introduction exhibits suffice to draw the visitor to the nearby trailhead. This may be the best location for the cast aluminum relief map of Cold Harbor currently in production at Sewah Studios. The existing secondary visitor center is inadequate in floor space and design. An addition is necessary to provide more exhibit space and office facilities for interpretive personnel.

Providing access to the battlefield proper by a walking trail only improves the possibilities of setting a mood. The trail leads into the historic area with low-profile exhibits to build the story. In the no-man's land between the lines, the major part of the story is told.

The interpretation between the lines consists of an audio program emanating from a concealed multi-speaker system. It starts with sound effects re-creating the din of battle in stereo and then, gradually fading as the narration begins. The essence of the story is related in a matter of two to three minutes. The trail then leads the visitor on to exhibits-in-place reconstructions of portions of both lines.

At these points living interpretation takes over. Men in proper US and CS uniforms tell of the attack, digging the trenches and crouching in the sweltering heat of the summer sun – not daring to rise for fear of becoming a sniper's target. Confederate supply and mortar wagons were slow in catching up with Lee's army. His men had to forage the countryside at its least productive season. To prevent scurvy, Lee ordered his men to dig sassafras root for tea. They improvised mortars by dismounting field artillery tubes and implanting them in the trenches at 45 degree angle. These are only a few of the Cold Harbor stories for the costumed interpreters to tell.

Proceeding from the trenches, a trail to the National Cemetery would be another possibility as an alternate return trail to the parking area. There are several graphics available illustrating the gruesome task of collecting the dead a year or more after the battle. Wayside exhibits tell that story. From the National Cemetery the visitor can continue to the Garthright House or return to the parking area.

Recreation

Two activities are planned for Cold Harbor. An existing primitive picnic area is to be relocated nearer the contact facility. This makes separate comfort facilities unnecessary. The Recreation Programs area will continue in use by the Sum-Fun Program. A small rustic amphitheater for personal services will be the only permanent interpretive need.

Beaver Dam Creek

The first battle of the Seven Days occurred here. Federal troops lined up behind the millrace of Ellerson's Mill. Confederate thrusts came down the hill from Mechanicsville and across the low, swampy land before the mill.

Virginia Route 156 now passes through the park. This road will be rerouted as part of the plan for circumferential I-295. The bridge is scheduled for removal. It will then be possible to return part of the present highway to an historic trace. The existing wayside plaza is an intrusion that will be removed. Parking facilities will be provided near the new entrance off of the realigned 156. Wayside exhibits of low-profile would be located there.

The highway relocation considers the water rights for the millrace. It is, therefore, feasible to restore the race to working condition. The mill may also be reconstructed for a living interpretation demonstration at a later date. Pedestrian access would require a footbridge across Beaver Dam Creek and a boardwalk over the swampy ground.

Recreation

No facilities are planned.

Gaines Mill

The second of the Seven Days' Battles was fought here. The Federals fell back some five miles under cover of darkness and took up this position.

Interpretation of this unit will be two-fold. One phase emphasizes the battle story and the other centers around a living farm operation. The existing road is to be severed on the north slope of Boatswain's Creek valley. From that point to the Watt House it will be returned to a farm road appearance. A parking facility will be constructed at that point. Exhibits orient the visitor to the two options. A loop walking trail leads to the point where Hood's Texas Brigade broke the Union line. Low-profile exhibits tell the battle story along the trail.

Another story is told by walking or riding in a period conveyance along the farm road to the Watt House. This name, Watt House, is a latter-day one. It will be dropped and the original, Springfield Plantation, will be restored. The Watt family referred to their home as Springfield Plantation. All existing exhibits will be removed.

Excellent records are available on the basis of which existing fields will be planted with contemporary crops and will be restocked. Tree clearing will not be necessary, as the existing fields are adequate to demonstration purposes even though they do not reflect the original outlines. A Research Study Proposal is needed to determine the proper barns, outbuildings, and fences. Archaeology is not considered necessary as the 1864 Michie map pinpoints building locations in relation to extant landmarks.

The 1860 appearance of the plantation is the goal of the interpretive program. An impediment to the realization of this goal is the fact that the plantation then consisted of some 530 acres. Approximately thirty acres can be utilized to re-create the living scene. The interior of the Watt House is not to be open. It will be an employee residence for the farmer/demonstrator.

The bulk of interpretation during the summer will be personal services. Sum-Fun children will be a major visiting group. The children will be active participants in the program with demonstrations geared to them. During the off-season, visitors will possibly be permitted to drive to the

plantation. At that time the facility will be self-guiding with audio stations at major points of interest. Should experience prove the year-round maintenance of livestock too expensive, the area might be closed entirely during the off-season. This would be a management decision.

Recreation

This activity is limited to hiking the trail, as space is not available for further recreational uses of this unit.

Garthright House

This early Virginia farmhouse was used as a hospital during the battle of Cold Harbor. It is presently undergoing restoration as an exterior exhibit following a fire of arsonous origin. It will serve as an employee residence.

The present driveway is to be closed off and a wayside parking area constructed. Two exhibits are planned to interpret the Garthright House. A small plot is to be acquired on the west boundary so the unit can be screened more effectively and access provided for the resident.

Recreation

No facilities are planned.

DREWRY'S BLUFF

Minor adjustments are needed in the existing interpretive exhibits. All signs are to be lowered, as well as the Sidney King painting. Framing on the painting will be replaced. The existing audio tape is much too long — nine minutes! It will be shortened and the equipment concealed under the overlook platform.

If another columbiad artillery tube becomes available it should be mounted in an embrasure. Either an eight-inch or ten-inch columbiad would be accurate.

Several wayside exhibits have been realigned as a result of the team's suggestions. Portions of the trail through the fort have also been relocated.

A river bank restoration and stabilization proposal is approved for F.Y. 1973. This is a most pressing need as portions of one redoubt and the curtain are in danger of eroding away as a result of the James River

undercutting the bluff. Soil scientists have recommended thinning the tree cover and planting periwinkle to stabilize the earthworks of other portions of the fort.

The existing temporary wooden overlook is slated for replacement with something more permanent in F.Y. 1974. The audio station changes are also included in that package.

A management decision is needed to clear up this unit's identity. The present situation complicates the interpretation. Richmond Battlefield uses the name Fort Darling while the historic and common name is Drewry's Bluff. Serious consideration should be given to restoring the proper name on all directional and interpretive signs and park in literature.

Recreation

A small family-type picnic area may be installed adjacent to the present access road. This proposal hinges on Chesterfield County's plans. At present County authorities are sympathetic to park plans for this land, which is currently used as a sanitary landfill. No interpretive facilities are foreseen in connection with this activity.

CHICKAHOMINY BLUFFS

This unit presently introduces the touring visitor to the Seven Days' Battles. It was on or near this spot that General Lee observed the opening battle of the campaign to drive McClellan back to Washington. The interpretive exhibits in place are primarily oriented to this story.

The exhibits are cluttered and need revision to enhance their legibility. The Sidney King painting of Lee and his staff is not properly placed. As with the other two King paintings in this park, the frame is distracting. A more modest frame is needed and the painting should be placed so as to be viewed from the overlook. It should be aligned with the scene it depicts. A new overlook is scheduled for construction in F.Y. 1975. The audio station will be relocated at that time.

At this unit an orientation exhibit is envisioned to assist the visitor in using the Seven Days' Tour Route. This is proper since it permits a chronological progression through the battle story.

Recreation

No facilities are planned.

THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES

The Master Plan recommends taking over management of two of the Cemeteries in the Richmond area. This action would provide additional employee residences and distribute the maintenance and protection personnel, thereby cutting down on travel time between park units. These are positive points in addition to the interpretive value of this proposal.

The interpretive value of the cemeteries is two-fold. It gives the visitors another touchstone with which they can relate. In these two cemeteries, surrounded by the park units, are buried the Union casualties of these battles. Wayside exhibits will suffice to tell the story at both places.

Fort Harrison National Cemetery is where the dead of the Fort Gilmer-Laurel Hill-Fort Harrison battles repose. The majority of these Union troops were Negroes. Of the thirty-three Congressional Medals of Honor awarded for heroism in this engagement, thirteen went to Negro soldiers. What more fitting place could be found to tell this facet of Black History? The final resting place of these men seems the most valid point at which to interpret their story.

National Cemeteries, their genesis and extension beyond Gettysburg, is a natural part of the Cold Harbor story. Accounts of the gruesome task of gathering the dead from widely separated temporary graves and re-interring them in this Cemetery gives yet another dimension to the Cold Harbor interpretation. This facet of war is a natural continuation of the battles in the minds of many people. Unfortunately, it is frequently avoided or glossed over so as not to disturb sensibilities.

To bring the Cold Harbor story up to the present, mention should be made of the frequent discovery of unmarked graves that continues to this day. Perhaps several such graves could be pointed out to the visitor.

PARKER'S BATTERY

One final unit makes up Richmond Battlefield. Parker's Battery is a portion of the Howlet Line, an extension of Petersburg fortifications. Isolation of this unit from the normal tour precludes any further interpretation.

signing and the tour route

A tour of 95 miles is necessary to connect all nine park units. The Seven Days' Battles route is 57 miles, of which only 10 are park roads. Expansion of the Richmond urban area is rapidly filling in the once-rural gaps between the park units. There is no effective means of setting a mood for a typical in-park driving tour. Attention will center instead on concentrating the interpretive effort at major areas.

To guide the visitor over the old Seven Days' route, which may appeal to the leisure oriented or Civil War buff, the park has undertaken a cooperative sign study. This study is a joint effort of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, the Virginia Department of Highways, and Richmond Battlefield.

A tour symbol and color combination have been chosen. Funds are tentatively available for F.Y. 1973 to implement the route marking program. Richmond Battlefield is changing to the new colors on interpretive signs as routine repainting is carried out. The symbol is being used in the emblem for the Sum-Fun Program. A sign and wayside exhibit plan is planned after completion of this Prospectus.

research needs

Several research projects are needed to implement new phases of the interpretive program. Two Research Study Proposals are currently approved: Garthright House and Springfield Plantation. Park files contain references to several other RSPs of which the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation have no record. The histories should correct this situation by submissions of all needed proposals.

The Garthright House study is in progress. It is paralleling the reconstruction which is underway. Springfield Plantation study should follow immediately. The package construction proposal has been tentatively approved for F.Y. 1973.

New RSPs on Fort Johnson and Cold Harbor should be submitted soon. These studies must commence as soon as possible to support the projected plans for the interpretation of those sites.

A Historic Studies Management Plan is needed to fill out numerous aspects of the park story. Studies on the Peninsular Campaign, the Seven Days' Battles, Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill and Fort Harrison are needed. A request to initiate a plan will be submitted this fiscal year.

publications

All interpretive literature will require extensive revision. Such literature must reflect the change in interpretive emphasis, new and expanded visitor contact centers, and changing access routes to the units of the park.

The minifolder should contain information on the updated Seven Days' Tour Route. Additional route information is needed as well. A resume of recreation facilities at each unit would be helpful.

It has been recommended that the sales folder, *Richmond*, be discontinued. This publication serves no real need and shows a consistent record of poor sales.

The Historic Handbook (No. 33), *Richmond Battlefields*, is quite dated in format, appearance, and illustrative material. It has not been revised since its publication in 1961. The orientation map, dating from 1958, is a jumble of troop movements and present-day highways. The text does not reflect the interpretive emphasis of the park story as planned in this Prospectus. The story is told in terms of the various battle actions instead of their relation to the overall Richmond story, as in the proposal set forth in this document. A new handbook is therefore needed. The graphics, layout, and general appearance of several new titles in the handbook series seem to indicate that a finer handbook could be produced.

Publications on major battles and campaigns would add greatly to the role of publications in the interpretive program. There are no treatments of the Peninsular Campaign, the Seven Days' Battles, or Cold Harbor in print. Neither are there any reliable sources that could be reprinted. This prominent gap in the literature is one of the more notable in Civil War publications. It has evoked numerous comments by Civil War scholars, but to date no one has responded to the challenge.

It is possible that this gap can be filled by publishing much needed material called for in the Historic Studies Management Plan. Another alternative is to approach Eastern National Park and Monument Association with proposals for grants to a qualified writer or writers to undertake this project.

A coloring book devoted to Sum-Fun activities is also needed. It would be an added fillip to children participating in the program. Also it can serve to further inform and educate the metropolitan resident and the park visitor about this program.

collection statement

Richmond Battlefield's collections should support the park's interpretive program and exhibits. Material on display and in the study collection will support the needs of the battle stories except as noted in the area specifics.

The present study collection is a jumble of artifacts, catalogued and uncatalogued, which were recently drawn together from widely-scattered storage facilities throughout the park. The Operations Evaluation Team has suggested that technical assistance be secured from the NPS Springfield museum facility to assess the situation and suggest how to proceed.

Museum exhibit materials for the Fort Harrison Visitor Center are all available in Richmond. The Virginia State Library and Virginia Historical Society holdings contain exceptional Richmond material. The Valentine Museum (Richmond social and cultural history) has promised verbally to supply many needed artifacts and graphics from their extensive holdings.

interpretive staffing

Upon completion of the interpretive facilities and visitor/contact centers in the three core areas — Fort Harrison, Malvern Hill, and Hanover Group — additional interpretive personnel will be required.

Present staffing consists of a GS-9 park historian and a GS-4 park guide. These two men operate the interpretive program and man the information desk at Chimborazo Visitor Center seven days a week.

Staffing requirements approved for F.Y. 1973 call for the addition of a GS-4 technician who would round out the seven-day coverage of the information desk at Chimborazo and spend the remaining three duty days as clerk-typist. A seasonal farmer/demonstrator is programmed for the Springfield Plantation operation in F.Y. 1973. A full-time position is slated for this operation in F.Y. 1974. While this position is wage-board a portion of the duties are interpretive.

For full-time operation of the three core areas two additional permanent positions are needed. With the GS-4 guide and GS-4 technician shifted to Fort Harrison and Malvern Hill, respectively, two more technicians would be needed to provide full-time coverage.

A full-time technician will also be needed to direct the recreation program. If sufficiently qualified applicants are available this position can be established on the GS-7 level. Should applicants with recreation education or experience qualifications not be found at that level, a GS-9 position may need to be established.

The supervisory historian position would be upgraded to GS-11 to direct the five-man permanent interpretive staff. A seasonal staff of 14 would also be under his supervision.

Present seasonal staffing is five GS-4 ranger-general positions. Their major activities are in the Sum-Fun Program and providing weekend coverage of Cold Harbor and Fort Harrison demonstrations. These duties utilize 24 of the available 25-man days per week. The additional man-day is the only margin for unforeseen or emergency situations.

Eight man-days a week will be necessary to provide expanded hours coverage for weekend operations at the three core areas. Twenty additional man-days per week would be required to extend the operating hours of the four contact points beyond eight hours daily. Projected visitation increases may well justify sunrise to sunset operating hours during the travel season. Such an operations schedule would require seven additional seasonals.

Further expansion of the Sum-Fun Program will necessitate two more positions. Based on the response to the pilot program of the 1970 season, it is reasonable to expect participation to double each year for some time to come.

Therefore, when the interpretive program and Sum-Fun achieve full operational level a total of 6 permanent and 14 seasonal positions will be required in the interpretive division.

cost estimates

Division of Audiovisual Arts

1.	Fort Harrison Visitor Center "Last Day"	
	Score and Production	\$ 6,000.00
	Equipment and Installation	6,500.00
2.	Fort Harrison Visitor Center Orientation Slides	
	Editing and Production	6,500.00
	(Revision of Existing)	
	Equipment	2,000.00
3.	Fort Harrison Exhibit Capsules (7)	
	Production	4,000.00
	Equipment and Installation	3,000.00
4.	Fort Harrison Audio Station (Existing)	
	Revision	400.00
5.	Cold Harbor Stereo Audio Station (1)	
	Script and Production	700.00
	Equipment and Installation	3,000.00 *
6.	Malvern Hill Audio Station (Existing)	
	Revision	400.00
7.	Drewry's Bluff Audio Station (Existing)	
	Revision	400.00
8.	Chickahominy Bluffs Audio Station (Existing)	
	Revision	400.00
9.	Springfield Plantation Audio Stations (2)	
	Production and Script	800.00
	Equipment and Installation	1,000.00 *
10.	Fort Johnson Audio Station	
	Production and Script	400.00
	Equipment and Installation	600.00 *

*Excluding Housing

Division of Museums

1.	Fort Harrison Visitor Center Exhibit Capsules (7)	
	Planning	\$ 18,000.00
	Production	110,000.00
2.	Fort Harrison Visitor Center Lobby (2)	
	Planning	1,750.00
	Production	10,000.00
3.	Wayside Exhibits Revisions	
	Chickahominy Bluffs (2)	3,000.00
	Beaver Dam Creek (3)	4,500.00
	Gaines Mill (4)	6,000.00
	Malvern Hill (2)	3,000.00
	Fort Harrison (1)	1,500.00
	Fort Brady (1)	1,500.00
	Drewry's Bluff (3)	4,500.00
4.	Overlook Platform Replacements	
	Beaver Dam Creek	2,000.00
	Chickahominy Bluffs	2,000.00
	Drewry's Bluff	2,000.00
5.	Cold Harbor Visitor Center Exhibits (6)	
	Planning	2,500.00
	Production	18,000.00
6.	Cold Harbor Trail Exhibits (8)	
	Planning	1,600.00
	Production	12,000.00
7.	Malvern Hill Art Barn Exhibits (4)	
	Planning	1,400.00
	Production	10,000.00
8.	Springfield Plantation	
	Restoration of Barns, Outbuildings, Fences	—
9.	Garthright House Wayside Exhibits (2)	
	Planning	500.00
	Production	3,000.00

priorities

Priorities are defined for several projects discussed herein. To summarize, they involve interpretive facilities at Fort Brady, Drewry's Bluff, Chickahominy Bluffs, and Springfield Plantation.

The major visitor center package at Fort Harrison takes precedence over all other new development. Included are all wayside exhibits and signs for the trail and the fort proper.

Cold Harbor development should follow closely the work at Fort Harrison. Existing exhibits are inadequate to tell the story on more than an interim basis.

Fort Johnson restoration is another project of high priority. Should it not be possible to include Fort Johnson in the Fort Harrison package, its development follows Cold Harbor in priority.

Malvern Hill is last in current priorities. This unit of the park is the most isolated and least threatened areas of Richmond Battlefield. Its vicinity is the least developed part of Henrico County. If recreation programs reach the projected levels, Malvern Hill development will have to be completed to relieve the strain on these other units of the park.