

Agency Official 106 Effect Report

*Establishing a Trail Connection with the 114th Pennsylvania Monument on the
Chancellorsville Battlefield
Spotsylvania County, Virginia*

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

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

Purpose

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park was authorized by an act of Congress on February 14, 1927 (44 Stat. 1091). The purpose of the park, as stated in the act, is “to commemorate the Civil War battles of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville, including Salem Church ... to survey, locate, and preserve the lines of the opposing armies in said battles, to open, construct, and repair such roads, highways, paths, and other approaches as may be necessary to make the historical points accessible to the public and to students of said battles ... and together also with such additional land as the Secretary of War may deem necessary for monuments, markers, tablets, roads, highways, paths, approaches, and to carry out the general purposes of this Act.” By Executive Order 6166 in 1933 the park was transferred to the Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service.

Established around 1935 and closed about 1950, the Captain Dimick Foot Trail connected several key sites on the Chancellorsville Battlefield. One of those sites was the monument to the 114th Pennsylvania Regiment, also known as the Collis Zouaves. Veterans dedicated the monument in 1899.

In the years since the 1950s, the trail fell out of use and has become overgrown. The only way for visitors, or park maintenance staff, to access the 114th Pennsylvania Monument has been from State Route 3. In addition, the clearing surrounding the monument has become difficult to maintain, with encroachment from surrounding woods.

Need

According to the park’s 1927 Enabling Legislation, “It shall be the duty of the commissioners, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to survey, locate, and preserve the lines of the opposing armies in said battles, to open, construct, and repair such roads, highways, paths, and other approaches as may be necessary to make the historical points accessible to the public and to student of said battles and for the purpose of the park . . .”

The park’s 2018 Cultural Landscape Report for the Chancellorsville Battlefield recommends “Provide for trails to commemorate works and battlefield sites that are not accessible by car, such as the 114th Pennsylvania and Slocum’s Log Works.”

Currently there is no safe visitor or staff access to the 114th Pennsylvania Monument. Access had been available from the side of State Route 3, but increase traffic volume on that public road has made pulling off and parking unsafe. It is also hazardous for park maintenance staff to reach the monument via State Route 3. The clearing in which the monument sits has become encroached upon by surrounding vegetation. The monument itself has become stained and dirty from lack of care. This project will provide safe access to the monument for both visitors and

maintenance staff, which will also allow for periodic mowing of the clearing and cleaning and care for the monument.

Property Description

A. Major Physical Components – The Chancellorsville Battlefield consists of large wooded areas with a few clearings. The monument is located just south of the eastbound lane of Virginia Route 3, in a small clearing with mowed grass. It is surrounded by hardwoods and underbrush. The project area is bounded on the north by Route 3, on the south by the Fairview clearing. Woods extend through the whole area, from Paxton Drive on the west to Fairview on the east.

B. Historical Significance – The period of significance for the Battlefield is from 1863 (Battle of Chancellorsville) through 1963 (completion of visitor center and battle centennial), with an overall period of significance for the entire park that extends from 1768 to 1965. The primary period of significance for Chancellorsville is 1863-64, encompassing the Civil War battles of Chancellorsville and Wilderness.

From May 1-6, 1863, Union and Confederate armies clashed here in the battle of Chancellorsville. Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker led the Union Army of the Potomac across the Rappahannock River in an effort to outflank his opponent. Confederate General Robert E. Lee, commanding the Army of the Northern Virginia, reacted to Hooker's moves with a flank attack of his own. The march and assault by Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson remains one of the most iconic events of the entire Civil War. Having driven Union forces back on May 2, Jackson was mortally wounded that evening. The following day, Confederate troops continued their attack, resulting in heavy fighting in the area occupied by the 114th Pennsylvania Monument. That unit saw action here on May 3, and veterans returned in 1899 to dedicate a monument commemorating their action.

C. Archaeological Significance – Chancellorsville Battlefield possess national significance in the area of Archaeology: Historic, Non-Aboriginal for the information it has yielded and has the potential to yield about the history of the Civil War. The district also possesses significance at the state and local levels for sites that have or may reveal information about the agrarian and industrial economy of antebellum Virginia.

D. Historic Landscape Significance – Chancellorsville Battlefield is significant under National Register Criterion for the designed landscape of the park that was initially planned and developed by the War Department between 1927 and 1933, completed by the National Park Service with assistance from federal work-relief programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1943, and updated during the MISSION 66 period ending in 1963. This significance is conveyed by the park drives, bridges, identification tablets, narrative markers, battlefield tour route signs, buildings, naturalistic plantings, and maintained open spaces.

E. Architectural Significance - The 114th Pennsylvania Monument is a contributing resource for the park's National Register nomination. The monument is an important feature from the commemorative period of the park, the late Nineteenth Century, when veterans returned for reunions and to mark their positions on the battlefield.

Proposed Action

The proposed trail would depart from the existing Fairview-Hazel Grove Trail and extend north, ending at the clearing with the 114th Pennsylvania Monument. It would be five feet wide, and entirely on the ground surface, involving no ground disturbance. The trail can be cut with hand and power tools. Two bridges across streams are needed. These would be five-foot wide wood bridges, each covering a span of approximately ten feet. The wood bridges would be set on the ground and would not require any footers or anchors. Total length of the trail is 1,350 feet. The trail will run through an area of open hardwoods, routed so as to avoid large trees and thick vegetation.

Two interpretive waysides will be installed along the trail at some future date, to aid in visitor understanding. Archaeological oversight will be conducted when digging the holes for the markers.

Additionally, this would be an ideal project for the annual Park Day cleanup event held each year in April. It would also be a project that could use other volunteers such as scout groups and reenactment groups. Thus it has tremendous potential for community outreach and strengthening relationships with stakeholders.

Description of Mitigation Measures

The park will engage an archaeologist to oversee the digging of the holes for the two wayside markers.

Effect Analysis

It is park's opinion that the preferred alternative will have "no adverse effect" on the historic properties of Chancellorsville.

Park Consultation

The proposal is being circulated to the park's Section-106 advisors for archaeology, cultural landscapes and historic architecture.

The proposal is going through a 30-day public comment and review period. During this time, the project will be placed on the NPS public website. The park will also contact representatives of interested local organizations, such as the University of Mary Washington's Department of Historic Preservation, the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Spotsylvania County, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

The project will go through a 30-day comment and review period with the Virginia SHPO.

Attached Supporting Documentation

- A. Park Map
- B. Photos

Conclusion

At important historic sites, the proposed undertaking would foster fulfillment of the park's General Management Plan directives to protect cultural resources. It is the park's opinion that this project will have "no adverse effect" upon historic resources.

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