State of the Parks®

November 2008

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

A Resource Assessment

National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations

State of the Parks®

Center for State of the Parks®

More than a century ago, Congress established Yellowstone as the world's first national park. That single act was the beginning of a remarkable and ongoing effort to protect this nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage.

Today, Americans are learning that national park designation alone cannot provide full resource protection. Many parks are compromised by development of adjacent lands, air and water pollution, invasive plants and animals, and rapid increases in motorized recreation. Park officials often lack adequate information on the status of and trends in conditions of critical resources.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks program in 2000 to assess the condition of natural and cultural resources in the parks, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks—its stewardship capacity. The goal is to provide information that will help policymakers, the public, and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks, celebrate successes as models for other parks, and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.

For more information about the methodology and research used in preparing this report and to learn more about the Center for State of the Parks, visit www.npca.org/stateoftheparks or contact: NPCA, Center for State of the Parks, P.O. Box 737, Fort Collins, CO 80522; phone: 970.493.2545; email: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. NPCA, its members, and partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come.

* More than 340,000 members
* 25 regional and field offices
* More than 120,000 activists

A special note of appreciation goes to those whose generous grants and donations made this report possible: Dorothy Canter, Ben and Ruth Hammett, and anonymous donors.

"We are all Americans."

—Lieutenant Colonel Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian chief, to General Robert E. Lee at the signing of the surrender at Appomattox Court House

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COVER PHOTO: The Park Service commissioned well-known artist Keith Rocco to produce a historically accurate depiction of the surrender at Appomattox Court House. By Keith Rocco, courtesy of National Park Service.

INTRODUCTION

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The modest town of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, was an unlikely place to host one of the most significant events in the history of the United States. With a population that barely numbered 100 when the Civil War began, Appomattox Court House was a quiet, bucolic stopover on a road connecting Lynchburg and Richmond. Despite its humble beginning, Appomattox Court House became the place where the long process of reunification of a war-torn country began, cementing its place in the annals of American history.

The United States Civil War began when Confederate forces fired upon Union forces at Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861. This conflict pitted neighbors against each other and often tore families apart as brothers disagreed and chose opposing sides. By the time the last rifle was laid down four long years later, an estimated

The Mariah Wright House, built around 1823 and pictured here, is one of the oldest structures in the village of Appomattox Court House.

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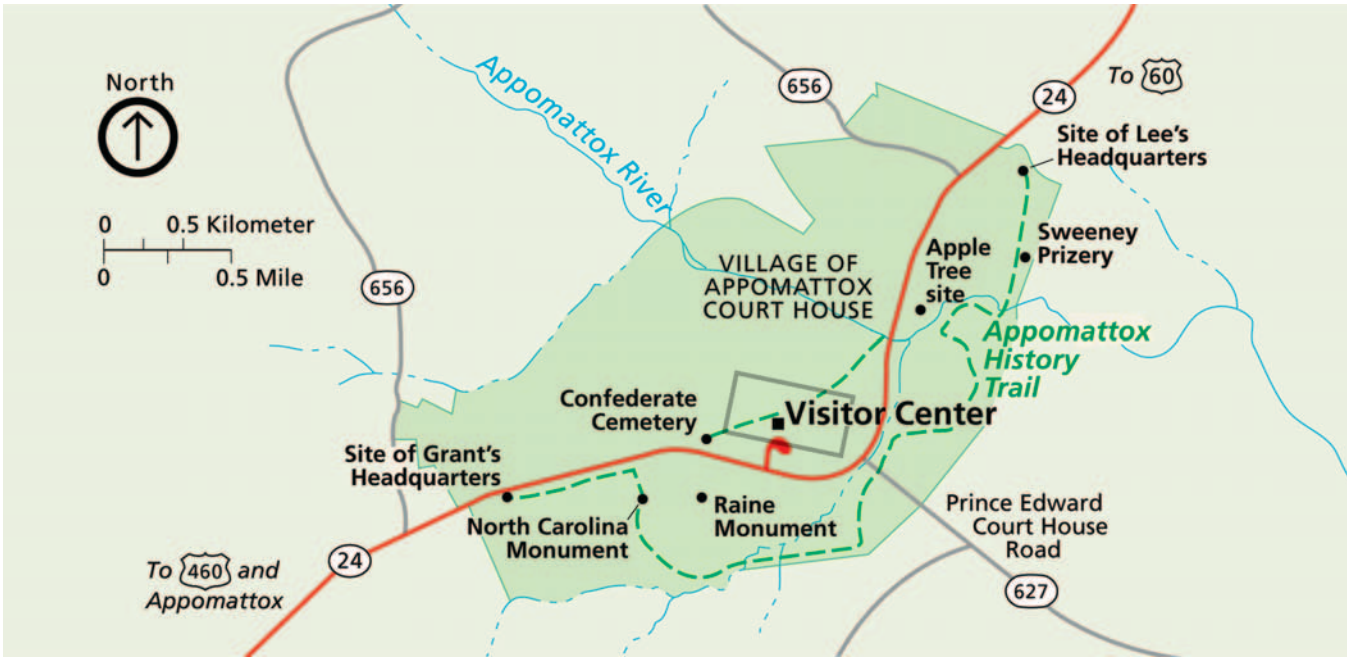

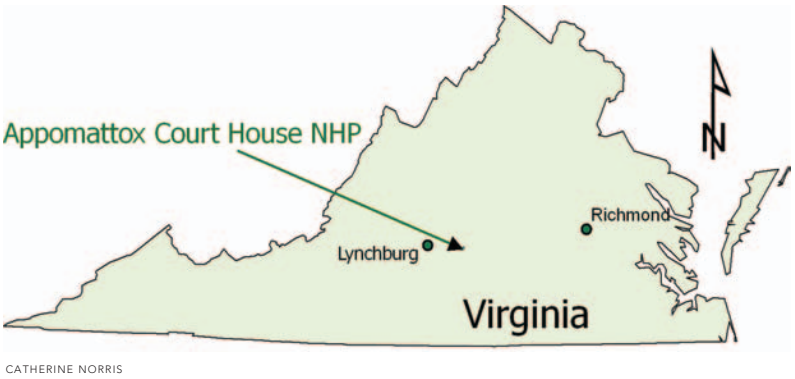

CATHERINE NORRIS

620,000 men had lost their lives. The Civil War continues to rank as the bloodiest conflict for American soldiers.

By 1865, the Civil War had taken a tremendous toll on both the Union and Confederate forces. In early April, following a ten-month siege, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Robert E. Lee, had been forced into abandoning the defenses of Petersburg and Richmond and retreating to Amelia Court House, about 55 miles to the east of Appomattox Court House. They had hoped to find supply trains waiting for them, but they found only ammunition, and the hungry soldiers were forced to scour the countryside for food. With his troops exhausted and with the opportunity for retreat farther south thwarted by advancing Union troops, Lee was running out of options. Holding out hopes that his troops could somehow overcome a more than two-to-one troop disadvantage, he did not accept Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's first call for surrender made on April 7, following the Battle of Sailor's Creek.

By this time, the Confederate troops were outnumbered, exhausted, near starvation, and deserting their army in droves. Time finally ran out for them in the late afternoon on April 8, 1865, when Union cavalry captured Lee's supplies at Appomattox Station, about three miles south of Appomattox Court House, and cut off Lee's line of retreat. Lee and his officers decided to attack Union cavalry forces, to the west, the next morning, but agreed that if large numbers of Union infantry were in front of the army and the outcome looked hopeless, they would accept defeat and surrender. This outcome was soon realized with the appearance of Union infantry, and by 10 a.m. on April 9 the battlefield was quiet. Lee requested that Grant meet him in the village of Appomattox Court

House to accept the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Marshall, an aide to General Lee, traveled ahead to find a suitable place for the meeting. Upon reaching town, he met local resident Wilmer McLean, who after showing Marshall an empty building took him to see if his own house would be more appropriate. Marshall deemed the McLean home to be acceptable, and he sent word of the location for surrender to Grant and Lee. Lee arrived at the McLean house around 1 p.m.; Grant arrived a half hour later. The meeting, which took just 90 minutes, was the first time that these two men had met face-to-face since serving together during the Mexican-American War. President Abraham Lincoln had insisted that the former Confederate soldiers be treated with dignity and compassion, and he was firm that the terms of surrender should not include harsh or vindictive elements. With the stroke of a pen, the process of reunifying and rebuilding the war-torn nation began in earnest. After signing the formal documents, Lee mounted his horse, was saluted by his Union counterparts, and slowly rode back to his lines. While the events at Appomattox Court House did not officially end the Civil War, the largest threat to the United States had surrendered, and additional Confederate surrenders followed shortly.

The idea to recognize Appomattox Court House's importance got off the ground in 1893, when the War Department erected ten cast-iron tablets marking sites of special importance to the surrender. In 1930, Congress moved forward with plans to acquire one acre of land at Appomattox Court House onto which a monument would be built to commemorate the peace established with the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Opposition to this plan came mostly from Southerners who feared that the site would be marred with a large monument to the defeat of the Confederacy. The National Park Service assumed authority of the area on August 10, 1933, and Congress redesignated the site as a national historical monument in 1935. Due to local influence, the Park Service eventually decided against constructing a monument, settling on a plan to preserve Appomattox Court House's cultural landscape by restoring the village and the most important structures to their condition during the Civil War. The park was ultimately renamed Appomattox Court House National Historical Park in 1954. It has grown in size over the years and now protects 1,743 acres.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park preserves a monumental event in the history of the United States by interpreting the location where Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, accepted the terms of surrender from Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. In addition to interpreting historical events and preserving associated resources, the Park Service cares for the site's natural resources. Important aspects of the park's natural resource management include maintain-

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Historian Douglas Southall Freeman addresses the crowd at the dedication of the McLean House in 1950. The flag of the 61st Virginia Infantry, later given to the park by Freeman's family, adorns the platform.

Note: When interpreting the scores for resource conditions, recognize that critical information upon which the ratings are based is not always available. This limits data interpretation to some extent. For Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, 59 percent of the natural resources information was available, and 100 percent of the cultural resources information was available. Ethnography was not rated at this park because the subject is not readily applicable to cultural resource management at Appomattox Court House.

RESOURCE CATEGORY	CURRENT
CULTURAL RESOURCES	
Overall conditions	**68 FAIR**
Archaeology	67
Cultural Landscapes	69
Ethnography (Peoples and Cultures)	N/A
Historic Structures	64
History	82
Museum Collection and Archives	67
RATINGS SCALE	0–35 CRITICAL; 36–60 POOR; 61–80 FAIR; 81–90 GOOD; 91–100 EXCELLENT
NATURAL RESOURCES	
Overall conditions	**71 FAIR**
Environmental and Biotic Measures	70
Biotic Impacts and Stressors	69
Air	72
Water	73
Soils	67
Ecosystems Measures	71
Species Composition and Condition	67
Ecosystem Extent and Function	73
RATINGS SCALE	0–35 CRITICAL; 36–60 POOR; 61–80 FAIR; 81–90 GOOD; 91–100 EXCELLENT

The findings in this report do not necessarily reflect past or current park management. Many factors that affect resource conditions are a result of both human and natural influences over long periods of time, in many cases before a park was established. The intent of the Center for State of the Parks is not to evaluate Park Service staff performance, but to document the present status of park resources and determine which actions can be taken to protect them into the future.

ing certain landscape features as they appeared in 1865, preserving historic viewsheds, removing invasive plants, planting native species, protecting soil and water quality, and promoting floral and faunal diversity.

In recognition of the important historical events Appomattox Court House National Historical Park commemorates and interprets, the National Parks Conservation Association's Center for State of the Parks conducted an assessment of the condition of the park's cultural and natural resources.

RATINGS

Overall conditions of the park's known **cultural resources** rated a score of 68 out of 100, indicating "fair" conditions. The scores for cultural resources are based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* and other policies related to cultural and historical resources. Challenges to the park's cultural resources include a backlog of uncataloged museum collection items, an overall lack of cultural resource management documents, and insufficient staffing to perform some key park functions.

Current overall conditions of Appomattox Court House's **natural resources** rated a "fair" score of 71 out of 100. Ratings were assigned through an evaluation of park research and monitoring data using NPCA's Center for State of the Parks comprehensive assessment methodology (see "Appendix"). The park's natural resources program is young, so there is limited information available on natural resources at Appomattox Court House. Known issues include non-native plants, soil and water degradation from agricultural land uses, and resource degradation caused by adjacent development and certain agricultural practices.

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AT A GLANCE

- Appomattox Court House National Historical Park in Virginia commemorates a pivotal event in the history of the United States. The Park Service maintains several of the village's original and restored historic structures, as well as historic landscapes, and interprets the events that took place in and around Appomattox Court House in April 1865. In 2007, 149,255 people visited the park to tour the historic village, attend one of the park's many living history programs, view items from the park's extensive museum collection, or hike along the Appomattox History Trail. This four-mile trail the includes several interpretive markers.
- The most prominent cultural resources at the park are the historic structures, especially the McLean House and the town's courthouse. Wilmer McLean sold his house in 1867 and it was completely dismantled in 1893, so it could be sent to Washington, D.C., where it would be displayed as a private museum. However, funding for this plan never materialized and the dismantled building remained on the site for many years. The Park Service completed the reconstruction of the McLean House in 1949. The original Appomattox Courthouse was destroyed in a fire in 1892. The park rebuilt the historic courthouse in 1964—the exterior resembles the original, while the interior was redesigned to accommodate a modern visitor center.
- The park's museum collection and archives preserve a plethora of historic artifacts and documents, totaling nearly 139,000 items. One particularly interesting item is the "silent witness doll" originally owned by Wilmer McLean's daughter and left in the parlor while General Lee signed the surrender. A Union officer, Captain Thomas W.C. Moore, removed the doll from the house, and it remained with the Moore family for more than a century before it was given to the park. It is now displayed on the second floor of the park's visitor center.

KEY FINDINGS

- The park has lost nine seasonal and permanent staff positions since 2001 due to budget constraints and has found it difficult to secure funds for any new staff positions. Needed positions include, but are not necessarily limited to, an archivist, a museum technician, three permanent maintenance workers, a building trades professional, law enforcement rangers, interpretive rangers, and biological technicians.
- At current funding and staffing levels, the park is unable to fully execute certain natural and cultural resource projects, including invasive plant control, cultural landscape management, water quality monitoring, biological surveys, and management of the agricultural leasing program.
- To enable the park to expand interpretation to include the entire cultural landscape (currently only the historic town is interpreted), and to explore the roles of African Americans and women in the development of Appomattox Court House before, during, and after the Civil War, additional historic resource studies are needed. Expanding interpretive themes would provide a more comprehensive visitor experience and allow the park to tell a more complete version of the history of the village and life in a rural 19th-century Virginia community.
- The park has adequate storage space in its curatorial facility for current needs, but lacks room for future acquisitions. There is not enough space for exhibits, and some exhibit spaces lack the proper protection. To address this challenge, the most fragile and significant items are stored and exhibited in locations with the best protective environments. The park has one main curatorial facility with temperature and humidity controls, new light fixtures, and no windows to let in sunlight that could damage fragile items. A few of the park's exhibits have Plexiglas enclosures, which offer protection from dust, dirt, and insect damage. Items in other exhibit spaces would benefit from this level of protection. A lack of fire suppression throughout the storage and exhibit areas is also of serious concern.
- Poaching of historical artifacts is a concern at Appomattox Court House, and while Park Service staff are unable to quantify the scope of the poaching that occurs at the park, the occasional discovery of holes in outlying areas of the park is an indication of this illegal activity. Poaching of deer is also suspected, as stands used by hunters have also been found within the park.

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Appomattox Court House's museum collection contains artifacts integral to interpreting the events surrounding Lee's surrender, like this parole pass that was issued to a Confederate soldier.

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Historic items displayed at the park include Lula McLean's "silent witness doll" (bottom right) that was left behind in the family's parlor during the meeting between Generals Grant and Lee.

- Virginia State Route 24 is a high-speed, two-lane highway that bisects the park. This road essentially cuts off the southern side of the park to visitors and creates a treacherous and often deadly barrier for wildlife. Traffic noise disrupts interpretive programs and diminishes the quality and character of the mid-19th-century historical landscape the park is trying to preserve. Potential options to mitigate these problems include installing traffic-calming measures on the stretch of road that passes through the park and lowering the speed limit, to rerouting State Route 24 outside current park boundaries.
- Since the 1940s, the park has leased land to farmers for cattle grazing and hay production, in order to maintain the landscape's 1860s agricultural character. However, grazing has damaged native plants (particularly the vegetation along streams), increased the presence of non-native plant species, and degraded the water quality of the park's streams. Staff have taken measures to reduce the impact of cattle on park resources by decreasing the number of acres that are grazed, decreasing the number of cattle per acre, and constructing fences to keep cattle away from streams, which allows vegetation to regrow.
- An updated general management plan is nearing completion and should be in place by the end of 2008. After that time, staff can begin writing a comprehensive interpretive plan. This plan will help staff to think more broadly about the best ways to organize and present interpretive materials to park visitors.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The living history program at Appomattox Court House is excellent. Staff in full period costumes engage visitors with their portrayals of historical figures. To ensure the performances are as historically accurate as possible, interpreters master the speech, mannerisms, and lives of the people they portray. As a result of this dedication, the park's interpretive staff are widely recognized for their knowledge of and expertise in portraying figures related to the Civil War, the Appomattox Campaign, and the events associated with the surrender at Appomattox Court House in April 1865.
- Appomattox Court House National Historical Park created a natural resources program in 2000. Since then, staff have converted 70 acres of fields into native grasslands that provide improved habitat for native wildlife and reflect the landscape that soldiers saw during the final days of the Civil War. Staff have also treated invasive non-native plants, such as tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), on more than 700 additional acres and have succeeded in achieving significant reductions of these plants. Great strides have also been made in collecting natural resource baseline data through surveys of water quality, birds, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, and vegetation and plant communities.
- Appomattox Court House recently installed several new interpretive exhibits at the visitor center. One exhibit displays a collection of artifacts relating to the Battle of High Bridge, which was for control of the crucial river crossing near Farmville, Virginia. These artifacts now rest in a refurbished display case redesigned by the park's curator and illuminated by new fiber optic lighting that was designed and installed as a donation by Luxam, Inc., a museum lighting company. Another exhibit features artifacts related to Lieutenant A. Wellborn Moise. Originally a member of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, he was commended for bravery during the Gettysburg campaign and was serving as a lieutenant in the 26th Georgia Infantry at the surrender. This exhibit includes a large section cut from the unit battle flag at Appomattox Court House, original wartime photographs, Moise's parole pass, and many United Confederate Veterans medals, ribbons, and badges. The park also has an exhibit on the participation of African-American troops at Appomattox Court House and has plans to create new exhibits on slavery and emancipation.
- The park contracted the services of an outside professional to help process and organize some of the park's archives. This contractor organized archival materials, placed them in protective folders, labeled them, and created finding aids to assist staff and researchers in locating items.

Appomattox Court House's successful living history program is made possible by park staff and volunteers who don costumes to bring historical figures to life for visitors.

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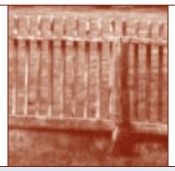


THE APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ASSESSMENT

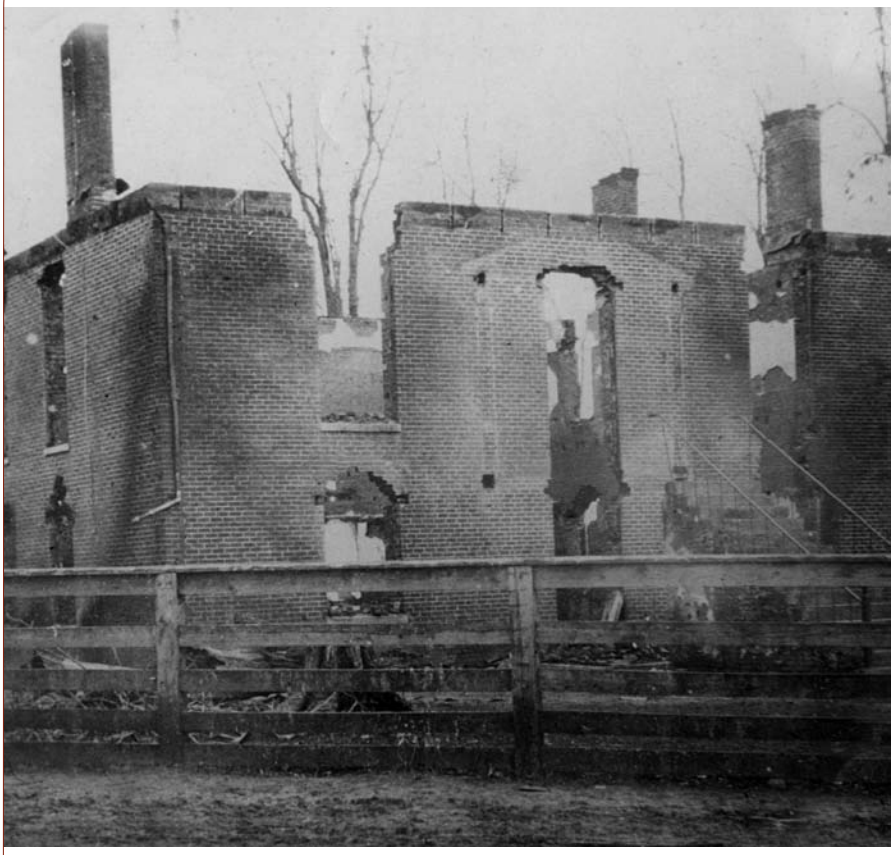
ALAN SPEARS

CULTURAL RESOURCES—RECONSTRUCTED VILLAGE KEEPS HISTORY ALIVE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park scored an overall 68 out of 100 for the condition of cultural resources that include history, historic structures, cultural landscapes, archaeology, and museum collection and archives. A score of 65 indicates that the park's cultural resources are in "fair" condition.

Challenges include a lack of planning documents, unfunded staff positions, and limited exhibit and storage space for historical artifacts. In addition, some historical items are not protected from heat, humidity, and direct sunlight, and they are also at risk of damage from fire.

Wilmer McLean's House, shown here, was the site of Confederate surrender in 1865. The home was later sold and dismantled. The Park Service completed reconstruction of the house in 1949, using more than 5,500 original bricks.



The original Appomattox Courthouse, built in 1846 when the town was chosen as the county seat, burned in 1892. After the fire, a new courthouse was built in the neighboring town of Appomattox Station, Virginia.

HISTORY—COMPLETION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS CRUCIAL

Thousands of years before the small village of Appomattox Court House was established, American Indians called this area of south-central Virginia home. These peoples included members of the Siouan and Iroquoian groups, although no archaeological sites have been discovered at the park to confirm their presence within current park boundaries.

English settlement in the area began in 1722 with the establishment of small homesteads and farms. Alterations to the landscape and surrounding environment immediately followed as settlers cleared forested areas and plowed land to grow crops. This clearing affected the area's forest structure and health. Clover Hill, the original name of the village that would become Appomattox Court House, gradually grew into a small settlement of cash-crop farmers. The establishment of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road in 1809 introduced a commercial component to the community of Clover Hill, and the village became a stop along the road.

Cash-crop agriculture (mainly tobacco) continued to be the primary activity in the area until Clover Hill was chosen as the county seat in 1845. A courthouse was built in the village the following year, and the town's name was changed to Appomattox Court House. The village became more populated as judges, lawyers, and clerks made their homes there, and commerce grew along with the population. The village continued to prosper during the 1850s and was the most populated village in the county, with about 100 people, at the outbreak of the Civil War. Appomattox Court House did not see much action until the final days of the war, when the village earned its fame for hosting the signing of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. The meeting took place in the home of local resident Wilmer McLean and lasted about 90 minutes. The surrender marked the beginning of the reunification of the war-torn nation.

After the Civil War, the village returned to its quiet routine, but circumstances were about to change. The courthouse burned in 1892 and the decision was made to build the new courthouse in the nearby town of Appomattox Station. The relocation of the courthouse took most of the retailers and craftsmen with it. With the village nearly abandoned, many structures fell into disrepair and would remain so until the park was established some 40 years later. The National Park Service assumed management responsibility for the village in 1935, choosing to preserve the remaining historic structures and restore the village to its appearance at the end of the Civil War. The Park Service began restoration of some structures in the 1940s, rebuilt several important buildings that were missing, and worked to preserve the natural and historic landscapes.

Before any restoration work began, research

was conducted as the park embarked on the monumental task of rebuilding an entire village with as much historical accuracy as possible. Researchers scoured historical tax and census records, and they conducted archaeological fieldwork to help guide architects and construction crews. This groundwork resulted in a research and implementation plan that guided the management of the park's cultural resources for three decades. As a result of this early research and restoration work, the park has a wealth of information related to the historical development of the village and the establishment of the park itself. More recent research includes a historic resources study that was completed in 2002.

Although much historical research has been completed, the park does not have many cultural resource management documents. Once an updated general management plan is in place, however, it will provide guidance for staff on resource protection issues. In addition, and with assistance from Park Service planning and interpretive specialists, staff plan to write a comprehensive interpretive plan to assist them in fully integrating the park's resources into the interpretive program and to guide the expansion of the program. The park does not have an administrative history, but staff have requested funding to complete one. The park also would like to conduct more research on individual soldiers who played a part in the surrender. Supplementary funding would allow staff to conduct investigations at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and at state archives. Staff also would like to explore the role of African Americans at Appomattox Court House, both free and enslaved persons, so that this information can be incorporated into the park's interpretive program.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park employs both a full-time historian and a curator who work under the direction of the superintendent to plan and oversee the management and interpretation of the park's cultural and historical resources and secure funding for cultural resource projects. In recent years the park has acquired funding to catalog thousands of archival documents, maps, and drawings crucial to the long-term management of the park, and to create several new exhibits. The park's historian has also played a central role in the development and implementation of the park's highly successful living history program.

ARCHAEOLOGY—RICH HISTORY REVEALED THROUGH EXCAVATIONS

Extensive archaeological explorations at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park have unearthed a wealth of information and artifacts. The entire landscape within the boundaries of the park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and all of the key archaeological sites within the park have been surveyed. The park has identified a total of 64 archaeological sites; 48 sites have been entered into the Park Service's Archeological Sites Management Information System database. The vast majority of these sites (42) are considered to be in "good" condition. The premier archaeological sites at the park include the McLean House, the Appomattox Courthouse building, and the Clover Hill Tavern.

The main challenge for the staff at Appomattox Court House is to make more dynamic use of the data that have been collected over the past six decades, and incorporate those findings into the park's interpretive exhibits, brochures, lectures, and living history program. Data on archaeological artifacts, and often the items themselves, are difficult to access. Although the park does not have its own archaeologist, staff began to address these problems by completing an archaeological overview and assessment in 2004. This report details past archaeological work and helps to guide future research on the park's archaeological resources. The park has received support from staff from the Park Service's Northeast Region and the Denver Service Center, as well as from a variety

of professionals from outside the Park Service. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation performed several archaeological excavations between 2000 and 2004 within the park boundaries, and the private company EnviroScan visited the park in 2001, conducting initial geophysical surveys of the areas suspected to be the locations of the Woodson Law Office and the Charles Duiguid blacksmith shop. Scans at the site of the Woodson Law Office revealed what appeared to be partial foundation piers for the structure, and work at the blacksmith shop found large quantities of slag and waste from ironworking.

The residents of 19th-century Appomattox Court House relied upon the skills of one another to satisfy their needs for services and commercial goods. The necessary skilled craftsmen included blacksmiths, carpenters, farriers (horseshoers), wheelwrights (wheel builders), and coopers (wooden barrel makers). Archaeologists have yet to fully explore the remains of most of these craftsmen's workshops. Gaining information on these sites would round out the story of how the town functioned prior to the historic surrender that ensured its place in history. This information could then be used to help visitors better understand the complete history of Appomattox Court House.

Some aspects of the park's history are at risk due to poaching. While the exact scope of poaching is unknown, the discovery of shallow holes within park boundaries indicates that illegal pothunting occurs. Appomattox Court House has not had law enforcement officers for well over a decade because those positions were eliminated and the park has been unable to secure funds to reinstate them. The local sheriff's office patrols the park but must incorporate this along with its other law enforcement responsibilities.

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Historic and reproduction furnishings, paintings, and architectural features fill many of the park's preserved structures. This picture shows a reproduction of the table (center of picture) that Generals Lee and Grant met over to sign the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES—BUILDINGS FORM THE BACKBONE OF THE PARK'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

Historic structures are the key elements of the cultural resources program at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The park preserves a total of 86 historic structures, 30 of which are buildings/dwellings. Seventeen of these structures are original. The Clover Hill Tavern was built in 1819 and is the oldest original structure in the park. The tavern later played a prominent role in the final days of the Civil War, when printing presses were set up there to print 28,231 parole passes for Lee's Confederate soldiers. These passes allowed them to travel home without the risk of being seized by Union forces or imprisoned as deserters by Confederates.

With the construction of the courthouse in 1846, the village of Appomattox Court House began to grow. Another tavern built there in 1848 later became a private residence and was purchased by Wilmer McLean in 1862. After the war, the house was sold several times to investors, who deliberated how the site would be memorialized. Captain Myron Dunlap organized a group of former Union soldiers into the Appomattox Land Company to purchase the home in 1891, with aspirations of sending the building to Chicago for the 1893 World's Fair. This plan never came to fruition, but the new owner decided to go ahead with dismantling the home. A new plan was in the works to relocate the house to a Civil War museum in Washington, D.C. As funding for the private museum dried up, however, this plan also stalled. Following the company's bankruptcy the house remained a pile of bricks for years, while rot and relic hunters completed the destruction of the historic structure. The Park Service inherited the home in this condition and completed reconstruction of it in 1949, using more than 5,500 of the structure's original bricks.

In addition to the McLean House, the Park Service has reconstructed or preserved a number of other very important historic structures over the past 60 years, including the Clover Hill Tavern, the Peers House (home of county clerk George Peers; Confederate artillery were stationed in the front yard and engaged Union forces approaching the village), the servants' quarters of the Clover Hill Tavern, and the courthouse. The Park Service reconstructed the courthouse in 1964 to resemble the original structure, though the building's interior was redesigned to accommodate the park's visitor center. Even with the extensive reconstruction and preservation work completed by the Park Service, about half of the buildings that were located in the village in 1865 are missing from the current landscape. It is neither practical nor feasible to reconstruct all of these buildings, so park staff must compensate for their absence when interpreting the rural 19th-century Virginia village to visitors. In addition to the buildings, the park contains several historic roads and lanes, the ruin of a cabin site, cemeteries and gravesites, and several commemorative markers that denote the locations of structures that are no longer standing.

Staff recognize the importance of the park's

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Clover Hill Tavern shown here was in serious disrepair when the Park Service assumed management of it in 1933. To see how the tavern looks today, turn to page 14.

ALAN SPEARS

The Park Service restored the Clover Hill Tavern in the 1950s. Today, it houses exhibits, living history programs, and interpretive demonstrations.

historic structures, perform cyclical maintenance and upkeep on them, and have made the historic structures a planning priority. As a result of these efforts, 62 of the park's structures are listed in either "good" or "fair" condition. An increase in both staff and funding would help the park maintain the condition of these structures.

Appomattox Court House does not have a historical architect or building preservation specialist on staff. Instead, the preservation duties are shared among park staff who receive assistance from Northeast Regional Park Service staff and private sector and academic professionals. However, the regional office is undergoing a reduction in staff, which will result in fewer visits to the park and a reduction or delay in the assistance that can be provided.

The park has identified the need to add a professional building trades position to its full-time staff. This professional would serve as the front line of defense against continual threats (mold, infestation, structural decay), identifying these issues before they become serious problems and recommending and implementing treatments. More than just a caretaker, a building trades staff person would have advanced training in historic preservation and assume responsibility for coordinating the preservation and maintenance of historic structures.

Housekeeping duties in historic structures and other areas are significant, but the park no longer has any staff devoted to this task. A recommendation prepared by the Northeast Museum Services Center states that the park needs two full-time permanent housekeepers to care for the pits furnished historic structures.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES—APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE VILLAGE AND BUILDINGS DRAW VISITORS

At Appomattox Court House, settlers altered the natural lay of the land in several ways. Farmers cleared forests and fields for agriculture, developed farms with outbuildings, and fenced their properties. Settlers built homes, started businesses, and constructed roads. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park recognizes two distinct cultural landscapes at the park: the historic village center and the outlying areas surrounding the village. The village center is better interpreted than outlying areas and is anchored by three dominant structures: the Clover Hill Tavern, the Appomattox Courthouse, and the McLean House. Each of these buildings has historical significance either relating to the formation of the town of Appomattox Court House, the events surrounding the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, or both. A 2006 park report indicates the village cultural landscape is in "good" condition, and so are the outlying areas.

The cultural landscape outside the village includes the Sweeney Prizery and the respective headquarters of Generals Lee and Grant. A prizery is a building where cured tobacco is bundled or "prized" and made ready for transport. The two headquarters are located at opposite ends of the park. The park's updated general management plan, expected to be adopted in 2008, will regard the two main landscapes of the headquarters as separate enti-

ties and will make planning and management recommendations accordingly. Currently, a 2007 cultural landscapes report guides the protection of these features.

One major threat to the park's landscapes is the high-speed vehicle traffic through the park on Virginia State Route 24. With traffic hurrying past the park at or above the posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour, crossing the road can be so risky that the park no longer directs visitors to cross Route 24 on foot from the village. Visitors are encouraged to drive and park at the North Carolina Monument and Lee's Headquarters parking lots in order to access the Appomattox History Trail. The Virginia Department of Transportation has not been receptive to reducing the speed limit, installing traffic-calming devices along this stretch of road, or rerouting the highway away from the park. In addition to personal safety issues, the highway also contributes to noise and air pollution, as well as large quantities of litter from vehicles, which park staff must collect regularly. The noise, pollution, and trash disrupt ranger-led interpretive programs and make it difficult for the park to portray and interpret the village as a mid-19th-century landscape.

The other major threat to the park's cultural resources is the increasing popularity of Appomattox County as a "bedroom community" for people who work in nearby Lynchburg. Residential development adjacent to the park would seriously detract from the 19th-century character of most of the park's historic viewshed. The park is partially protected from this threat by several forested areas along its boundary. One particularly important area, however, where the Confederate forces attempted to break Union lines in a last-ditch escape effort, is highly vulnerable to potential development that would mar its historic character. The park's superintendent works with town and county officials on planning activities to mitigate the effects of nearby development on the park's character.

MUSEUM COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES—MUSEUM TECHNICIAN NEEDED TO HELP CARE FOR EXTENSIVE COLLECTIONS

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park preserves an impressive collection of museum artifacts and archival materials. It contains nearly 139,000 military and civilian items that relate not only to the end of the Civil War, but also to life in rural 19th-century Virginia. The collection contains military objects, decorative arts, fine arts, and archaeological materials. Highlights include the pencil used by Robert E. Lee to edit the surrender documents, Lula McLean's "silent witness doll," and a battle flag of the 61st Virginia Infantry given to the park in 1953 by the family of noted historian Douglas Southall Freeman, whose father was paroled at Appomattox.

The park has one main curatorial facility with temperature and humidity controls, new light fixtures, and no windows to let in sunlight that could damage fragile items. More than 90 percent of the park's archival collection has been cataloged, and the history and archaeology collections are fully cataloged, thanks to the work of outside vendors and a term employee the park was able to hire for this project.

The park's two-story museum complex inside the Appomattox Courthouse building contains a theater, an electronic map, and several interpretive displays—including photographs and mini-biographies of several Union and Confederate soldiers who fought at Appomattox Court House or were present for the surrender. Among the remarkable photographs on display is that of Joseph L. Pierce, one of the very few soldiers of Chinese descent to fight in the Civil War.

In addition to the park's museum, several of Appomattox Court House's historic structures also are used to display museum artifacts. Items on display at the Meeks Store are representative of a typical mid-19th-century rural store. They are placed behind Plexiglas, which helps to

Protective display cases at the park's visitor center, located within the restored Appomattox Courthouse building, house items from the park's museum collection.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

protect them from dirt, dust, and insect damage. This level of protection is not provided in other park structures that house exhibits. To mitigate these circumstances, park staff have made a concerted effort to ensure the most delicate artifacts are stored and exhibited in the most protected areas.

Park staff estimate that just 5 percent of the collection is on display to the public due to a lack of suitable exhibit space with appropriate climate and light controls to guard against damage and decay. Also, many of the artifacts within the collection are archaeological fragments or archival documents, which do not lend themselves to exhibit. Exposure to direct light is particularly a problem for uniforms, leather goods, original photographs, and documents. To showcase items that can safely be exhibited, the park has plans to install additional display cases.

Another serious threat to historic buildings and the artifacts stored within them is the lack of fire suppression systems within the structures. Fire detection systems are being upgraded, but installation of suppression systems is not yet planned.

Protection of the park's museum collection and archives is hampered by a history of inconsistent record keeping. Some items donated to the park in the 1950s and '60s later were returned to their owners without proper documentation of the transactions.

Employing a museum technician would allow the park to clear up confusion stemming from past record-keeping inconsistencies. This staff member would also clean and conserve objects, prepare objects for storage and exhibit, oversee housekeeper schedules, and provide clerical support. The park has requested funds to support this position.

A collection condition survey was completed in summer 2008. Once written up into a final report, the findings will help park staff better understand the condition of the museum collection and plan how to best manage items in need of conservation treatment.

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After the signing of the surrender, a printing press like this reproduction was set up in the Clover Hill Tavern and produced 28,231 parole passes for Confederate soldiers.

ALAN SPEARS

NATURAL RESOURCES— YOUNG PROGRAM MAKING STRIDES WITH FEW RESOURCES

The assessment rated the overall condition of natural resources at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park a score of 71 out of 100, which ranks park resources in "fair" condition. Prominent factors influencing the ratings include damage caused by cattle grazing within the park and the entrenchment of invasive non-native plants in the park's forests and fields.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park was established to commemorate a monumental event in the history of the United States. As a result, the park's preeminent resources are historical and cultural. In fact, when the park was created, the natural resources of the area were not given much consideration. But it is the policy and responsibility of the National Park Service to protect all resources regardless of the impetus behind a park's establishment. The natural resource management program at the 1,743-acre park was initiated in 2000 and has one part-time staff person. While the park has made a good start analyzing its natural resource base and managing some aspects of it, much more remains to be done.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park preserves a host of natural habitats, including riparian and wetland areas that support numerous plant and animal species. Park staff are working to prevent non-native invasive plant species from invading these important habitats.

The park's two main habitats are woodlands and open agricultural fields/grasslands.

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PARK HABITATS—STAFF WORKING TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park's historic village comprises just 30 acres, while two main habitats prevail in the remaining 1,713 acres of the park—woodlands and open agricultural fields/grasslands. These lands provide opportunities to promote habitat diversity along with historic character. Leased to local farmers, nearly 400 acres are maintained as open agricultural lands to reflect the rural character of 1865. About half are planted in fescue for hay production, and the remaining are used as pastures for cattle grazing. The non-native, turf-type fescue grasses in these fields provide habitat for some grassland wildlife species, such as eastern meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) and cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*). Fescue was not grown in the 1860s, however, and the large expanses of grass do not accurately reflect the mosaic of small crop fields of the 1860s. To promote habitat diversity, the park has converted 70 acres of fields to native warm-season grasses to reflect the fallow fields that were used for pasture in 1860s farming practices. These native grass fields provide grassland habitat for other wildlife species, such as northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), which prefer bunch-type grasses. Additionally, the park has implemented varying haying and cutting schedules throughout the different field types. The result has been an increase in habitat, which has increased the number of grassland nesting birds such as grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), eastern meadowlark, and field sparrow. As funding becomes available, the park would like to increase the acreage of native warm-season grasses.

The park has targeted 19 non-native plant species for control to promote healthy forest and riparian plant communities. Since the program began in 2000, park staff and members of the Park Service's Mid-Atlantic

Exotic Plant Management Team have treated about 700 acres, following plans outlined in the park's *Strategic Plan for Managing Alien Invasive Vegetation*. The park has achieved significant reductions in the numbers of four priority targets—multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), privet (*Ligustrum cuneata*), and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

LAND USE—ACTIVITIES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE PARK THREATEN RESOURCES

As a way to maintain certain historic landscapes, the Park Service began leasing parkland for grazing in the 1940s, and by the late 1990s cattle were extensively used to maintain the fields. While leasing the land for grazing is a cost-effective way for the park to maintain this cultural landscape, overgrazed fields do not provide adequate habitat for native wildlife, and grazing encourages the growth of certain non-native plant species. Without any protective barriers, the cattle have direct access to certain streams where they trample sensitive vegetation, leading to decreased water quality as the vegetation that once filtered out sediment and slowed erosion dies. Fecal contamination from the cattle and sedimentation and soil erosion resulting from their use of the land threaten water quality and the land's value as wildlife habitat.

Between 1999 and 2001, the park removed cattle from 171 acres. There are currently 196 acres being leased for cattle grazing, while 187 acres are set aside for hay production. As a result of this reduction, staff have seen an improvement in the health of vegetation surrounding streams. In addition to limiting grazing leases, staff are reexamining the grazing program to ensure that water quality, habitat, and soil protection issues are fully considered. To further protect riparian vegetation buffers, the park plans to fence off all of the streams in areas where cattle graze.

ALAN SPEARS

Today the Park Service leases about 187 acres of park land to local farmers to produce hay, which helps to maintain the historic rural landscape.

Agriculture—particularly hay production and cattle grazing—dominates on the land surrounding the park, though change is coming to the area. Residential and commercial developments are encroaching on the park, especially along its southwestern boundary. One primary factor driving this development is the growing popularity of Appomattox County with commuters who work in Lynchburg, Virginia. The park is mitigating the threats from this adjacent development by maintaining forested areas along park boundaries and planting additional trees to maintain the park's viewshed. Development on neighboring lands jeopardizes water quality within the park's streams by increasing storm water runoff, sedimentation, and inorganic pollutants that wash into the streams. Development also increases the amount of automobile traffic traveling through the park.

Development within the park is also a potential concern. About 75 acres within the park's current authorized boundary are privately owned. The park would like to ensure that these lands are protected from development.

Roads that run through or adjacent to the park are the biggest threat to the area's wildlife. As mentioned in the "Cultural Landscapes" section, Virginia State Route 24 divides the park in two with high-speed traffic. Wildlife often find safe passage across Route 24 to be impossible. Vehicular accidents involving deer and small wildlife happen almost daily in the fall. Besides the dangers to wildlife and visitors, Route 24 is also a major source of litter and air and noise pollution.

WILDLIFE AND PLANT COMMUNITIES—BURGEONING NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM FOCUSING ON NATIVE SPECIES REINTRODUCTION

In general, Appomattox Court House staff have limited information on the park's wildlife and plant communities, although a number of

ALAN SPEARS

Virginia State Route 24 runs directly through Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, bringing vehicles (including heavy trucks) through the park at high speeds. This traffic detracts from the park's historical landscape and poses a threat to visitors and wildlife.

ALAN SPEARS

A recent herpetological survey documented 14 reptile species at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, including the black rat snake (shown here).

species inventories have been completed. The park does not host any known threatened or endangered species, but the list of park wildlife is by no means meager. For example, the park harbors at least 21 mammalian species, although staff speculate that the actual number is closer to 38 species, as surveys might not have covered all habitats or identified rare or elusive species.

The park provides habitat for about 100 species of birds, including 20 species of special concern as designated by Partners in Flight and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, such as field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) and wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Some of the park's most common avian species include red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Grassland bird species found at the park include the savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), eastern meadowlark, and grasshopper sparrow. As previously mentioned, the park has begun to enhance habitat for grassland birds by planting 70 acres of native grasses and postponing mowing in pastures until after the nesting season. This helps to ensure nests built on the ground are not damaged and park maintenance programs do not harm nestlings.

The Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring surveys counted 30 species of fish in park waters, including several introduced species. This number also includes American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), a native species that is considered to be in decline in the eastern United States. A recent herpetological survey counted 19 amphibian and 14 reptile species at Appomattox Court House. One amphibian, the mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*), is designated as a species of concern in Virginia due to its scarcity.

With a total of 498 individual species, the park supports a wide array of flora, though more than 100 are non-native species. The park does not currently have the staff needed to fully

eradicate invasive non-native plants in the park; for many invasive plants, park staffing levels are sufficient only for slowing their spread. Preventing infestations of non-native plants into intact native plant communities and sensitive habitats, such as wetlands and riparian corridors, is an important park goal.

In addition to non-native removal and replanting native vegetation, the park has developed a prescribed burn management plan to guide the use of fire within the park for the management of native grass fields. The use of fire as a management tool will help native plant species gain a foothold back into the ecosystem and improve the area for native wildlife.

The eastern meadowlark is one of about 100 species of birds found at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. This grassland bird benefits from park management strategies that include postponing mowing operations until after the nesting season.

AIR AND WATER QUALITY—LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park has numerous water resources within its boundaries, including portions of the Appomattox River, more than eight miles of streams, wetlands and riparian areas, and vernal pools. These resources are important parts of the park's habitats, supporting many wildlife species. The park does not have a permanent water quality monitoring station, however, and data on overall water quality are lacking. As mentioned previously, cattle grazing in the park, agricultural activities on adjacent lands, and upstream urbanization are noted as threats to park water quality. The results of limited sampling indicate that the park's streams currently meet federal and state standards under the Clean Water Act, but further water quality monitoring is needed so that any impairment can be detected.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park has been identified as a Class II air quality area. Class II areas are protected under the Clean Air Act, but they are not regulated as stringently as Class I areas. The Mid-Atlantic region of the United States has some of the worst air quality in the country. While a significant portion of the pollution can be traced back to the burning of coal and oil for electricity by power plants in the Ohio River Valley, local power plants and vehicles also have an impact. In addition, new power plants proposed in Virginia and North Carolina could affect park air quality. While there are no air quality monitoring stations within Appomattox Court House, there are five monitoring stations within 60 miles of the park. Data from these stations indicate that certain pollutant concentrations may be improving slightly; wet concentration and deposition of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium have all decreased since 1990. However, ozone poses a moderate risk to sensitive plants in the park and visibility in the area is impaired, primarily due to combustion by-products.

RYAN GRAHAM

The original Appomattox Courthouse burned down in 1892. The Park Service reconstructed the Appomattox Courthouse in 1964 to resemble the original structure, though the building's interior was redesigned to accommodate the park's visitor center.

STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

FUNDING AND STAFFING—SHORTAGES AFFECT PARK'S RESOURCES

Stewardship capacity explores how well the Park Service is equipped to protect the parks. The most significant factor affecting the park's ability to protect its resources is the limited funding it receives from Congress and the administration. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park's operational budget for 2007 was $1,275,000. While the park's budget has steadily increased since 1998, the park's actual buying power has decreased by about $50,000 when annual pay increases and other mandated increases that have been absorbed by the park are considered.

At this level of funding, the park is not able to fully execute certain natural and cultural resource projects, including invasive plant control, cultural landscape management, and biological research such as a mole salamander study and a grassland bird nesting survey. Additional unfunded projects include rehabilitation of the park's roads, chimney repair at the Clover Hill servants' quarters, and masonry restoration at the Clover Hill Tavern.

The park has lost nine seasonal and permanent staff positions since 2001 due to budget constraints and has found it difficult to secure

ALAN SPEARS

A park ranger explains one of Appomattox Court House's interpretive waysides to a visitor. The park needs three or four more interpretive rangers to serve visitors.

funds for any new staff positions. Needed positions in the museum services division include an archivist, a museum technician, and two housekeepers. The park needs its three permanent maintenance work positions restored, as well as a building trades professional to coordinate the preservation and maintenance of historic structures. To ensure resources are safe from poaching, the park needs to reestablish a law enforcement division. A recent park report identified the need for five full-time law enforcement rangers and one supervisory ranger. Three or four additional interpretive rangers are needed to bolster the park's interpretive program and increase the presence of Park Service personnel throughout the park.

The park employs just one part-time natural resource staff person, which has implications for the preservation of both natural and cultural resources. The absence of key staff to oversee the park's historic property agricultural leasing program makes it difficult to ensure that participants are meeting all requirements of the leases. Issues that can arise from this lack of oversight include the misapplication of fertilizers and herbicides, overgrazing of livestock, increased soil erosion, and loss of wildlife habitat.

Lack of staff also diminishes the effectiveness of the invasive plant control program, prevents implementation of regular water monitoring programs, and limits spatial data gathering for natural and cultural resources, as well as reduces the park's ability to monitor forest pests and health, carry out integrative pest management programs, carry out National Environmental Policy Act compliance programs, and conduct biological surveys to detect potentially important information such as bird population changes.

Staff also are not available for regular care

and maintenance of historic landscaping in the village. The trees in the historic village have suffered from a lack of preventative maintenance and limited replacement when trees are damaged or die. At least two biological technicians are needed to meet the natural resource goals for this park.

PARK PLANNING—STAFF AWAIT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FINALIZATION

The most important management plan for a national park is the general management plan, which staff rely on to guide their planning and decisionmaking. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park's last general management plan was written in 1977; staff are currently waiting for the final version of an updated general management plan to be approved by the director of the National Park Service and the Department of Interior. Once the new general management plan is approved, the park can seek funds to begin planning its resource stewardship strategy, which will replace its outdated resource management plan. The development of a comprehensive interpretive plan also will move forward after the general management plan is adopted. This plan is needed to help park staff think more broadly about the best ways in which to organize and present interpretive materials in a comprehensive fashion.

In addition to these management plans, the park has identified the need for several natural resource plans: field management plan (including a riparian buffer protection plan), historic village tree replacement plan, forest management plan, and a revised strategic plan for invasive plant management. Several resource studies are needed, including investigations of the ecology of mole salamanders within the park and a survey of nesting grassland bird species. The delay in writing and finalizing these plans and studies is attributed to a lack of funding and staff.

RESOURCE EDUCATION—PARK BOASTS TOP-NOTCH LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is renowned for its living history programs, which employ staff in full period costumes portraying historical figures related to the Civil War, the Appomattox Campaign, and the events associated with the surrender at Appomattox Court House. These living history programs introduce visitors to a Federal Provost Guard soldier, a paroled Confederate soldier, and a 19th-century Appomattox Court House resident. In order to master these living history roles, staff extensively research their "characters," and some learn regional dialects and patterns of speech. The park's living history programs are the core interpretive experience at Appomattox Court House, yet the park has been

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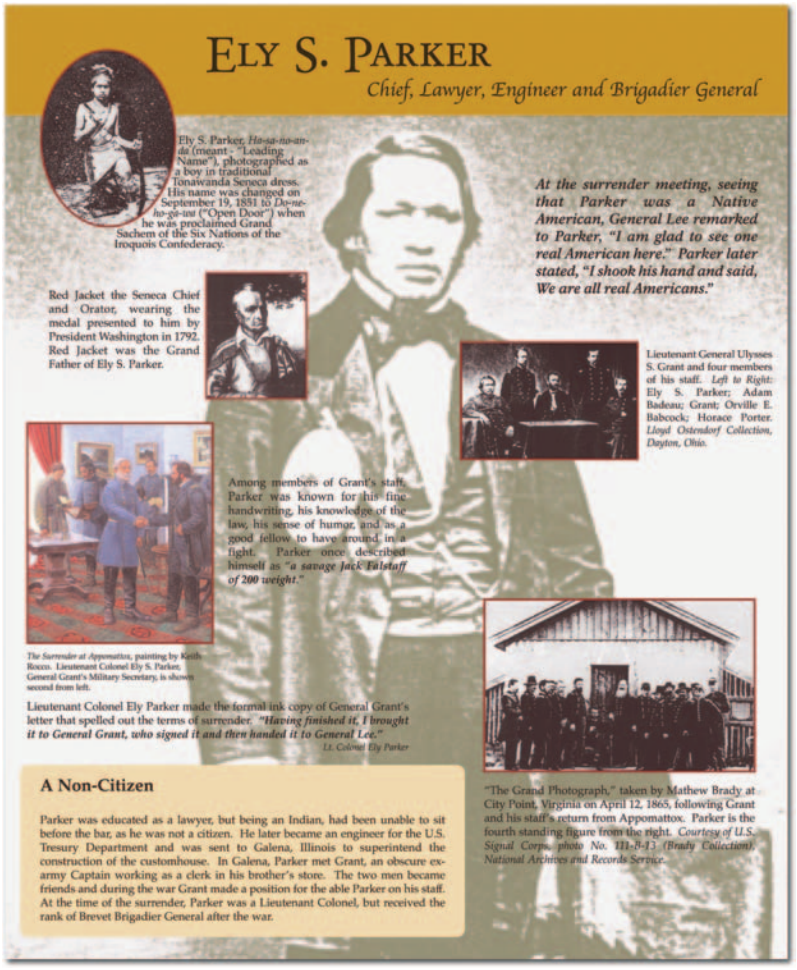
Staff dressed in full period costumes introduce historical figures to visitors at Appomattox Court House. These efforts are an integral part of the park's renowned living history program.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



This exhibit, housed in the park's visitor center, interprets the life of Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Indian chief who served on General Grant's staff and was present at the signing of General Lee's surrender. The visitor center is now filled with exhibits and does not have room for more; in addition, it gets crowded during peak visitation times. The park is exploring ideas for exhibits in other structures.

forced to fund these entirely by donations from Eastern National, its cooperating association, since 1988 because of a lack of funding from Congress and the administration.

In 2007, the park provided 821 living history programs, in addition to 15 off-site interpretive programs. At current staffing levels, the park is unable to expand its hours of operation during the summer to accommodate the increase in visitation, and no ranger programs are provided beyond basic staffing of the McLean House and the visitor center.

In addition to living history programs and ranger talks, visitors to Appomattox Court House can learn about the park's history through a wide variety of exhibits housed at the visitor center. The visitor center has reached maximum capacity to house exhibit displays and programs, however, and during peak visitation the facilities (i.e., rest rooms, theatre, information desk) become overcrowded and visitors experience delays. The visitor center is housed inside the restored historic village courthouse, so it will not be expanded to increase exhibit space and alleviate crowding. Instead, the park's draft general management plan includes strategies to create interpretive exhibits in other park structures.

In preparation for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (2011–2015), the National Park Service is organizing an effort to further improve interpretation. Information may be found on the Park Service's official Civil War website: http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/abcivwarSesqInit.htm.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT—VOLUNTEERS ASSIST STAFF

At current staffing levels, the park must rely on volunteers to provide certain services. In 2007, the park benefited from the contributions of 24 regular volunteers and 226 Boy Scouts, who collectively donated 3,100 hours of service to the park. Volunteers help with interpretive tours and living history programs, staff the visitor center, help visitors conduct research at the park's library, and help staff maintain the park by removing litter, repairing fences, and maintaining hiking trails.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park does not currently have a friends group. The park's primary partner is the Civil War Preservation Trust, the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated solely to the preservation of endangered Civil War battlefields. The trust assists the park with land acquisition and has purchased four properties within the park's viewshed, along the old LeGrand Road. The trust has also applied for a $1 million grant to preserve the Appomattox Station battlefield.

Eastern National, the park's cooperating association, operates the park's bookstore. As mentioned previously, donations from this

organization have supported the park's living history program for the past two decades.

The park also works with a number of local organizations and state agencies to protect and improve the park's resources. For example, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Department of Forestry provide the park with technical assistance in managing natural resources. The park partners with several area colleges in a program that enables students and interns to conduct archaeological research and water-quality studies. The Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical assistance and presents informative talks to park visitors. The park recognizes the importance of these partnerships and plans to continue them, as well as to seek increased participation from community organizations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- **Participate in park planning efforts.** The public is invited to provide input on all park plans and studies. Check www.nps.gov/apco for information on current planning work.
- **Support or become a member of a group helping to protect the park:** Civil War Preservation Trust (www.civilwar.org), Eastern National (www.easternnational.org), NPCA (www.npca.org/support_npca), and other regional organizations.
- **Volunteer.** Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities, contact Alyssa Holland, VIP coordinator, at 434.352.8987, ext. 34 or 26; email: Alyssa_Holland@nps.gov.
- **Become an NPCA activist** and learn about legislative initiatives and protection projects affecting parks. When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a monthly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting www.npca.org/takeaction.

ALAN SPEARS

Split-rail fences were easy for farmers to build because they didn't require running boards on a saw mill. Volunteers help maintain the reproduction fences at the park.

APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

To determine the condition of known natural and cultural resources at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and other national parks, the National Parks Conservation Association developed a resource assessment and ratings process. The assessment methodology can be found online at NPCA's Center for State of the Parks website: www.npca.org/stateoftheparks.

Researchers gather available information from a variety of sources in a number of critical categories. The natural resources rating reflects assessment of more than 120 discrete elements associated with environmental quality, biotic health, and ecosystem integrity. Environmental quality and biotic health measures address air, water, soils, and climatic change conditions as well as their influences and human-related influences on plants and animals. Ecosystems measures address the extent, species composition, and interrelationships of organisms with each other and the physical environment.

The scores for cultural resources are determined based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* and other Park Service resource management policies.

Stewardship capacity refers to the Park Service's ability to protect park resources, and includes discussion of funding and staffing levels, park planning documents, resource education, and external support.

For this report, researchers collected data and prepared a paper that summarized the results. The draft underwent peer review and was also reviewed by staff at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

NPCA's Center for State of the Parks represents the first time that such assessments have been undertaken for units of the National Park System. Comments on the program's methods are welcome.

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A park ranger leads visitors on a tour of historic structures at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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NPCA thanks the staff at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park who reviewed the factual accuracy of information used in this report. We also thank peer reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions.

OTHER REPORTS AVAILABLE

Adams National Historical Park (MA)
Andersonville National Historic Site (GA)
Andrew Johnson National Historic Site (TN)
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (WI)
Assateague Island National Seashore (MD, VA)
Big Bend National Park (TX)
Big Hole National Battlefield (MT)
Big Thicket National Preserve (TX)
Biscayne National Park (FL)
Bryce Canyon National Park (UT)
Cabrillo National Monument (CA)
Canyonlands National Park (UT)
Catoctin Mountain Park (MD)
Channel Islands National Park (CA)
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (DC/MD/WV)
Death Valley National Park (CA)
Denali National Park and Preserve (AK)
Fort Laramie National Historic Site (WY)
Fort Necessity National Battlefield (PA)
Fort Pulaski National Monument (GA)
Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (ND)
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (DC)
Gateway National Recreation Area (NY)
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (AK)
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (TN/NC)
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (PA)
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IN)
Isle Royale National Park (MI)
Joshua Tree National Park (CA)
Keweenaw National Historical Park (MI)
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site (ND)
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (OR)
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (various)
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (MT)
Longfellow National Historic Site (MA)
Missouri National Recreational River (NE)
Mojave National Preserve (CA)
Nez Perce National Historical Park (WA, ID, MT, OR)
Olympic National Park (WA)
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (MI)
Point Reyes National Seashore (CA)
Rocky Mountain National Park (CO)
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NH)
San Juan Island National Historical Park (WA)
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