



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SURVEY FORM

File no. 76-271
Negative no(s). 4370, 4924

Historic name County/Town/City Prince William County Street address or route number vic. Sudley Road (S.R. 234), Manassas, VA 22110	Common name Manassas National Battlefield Park Information Center
USGS Quad Gainesville	Date or period c1940 and later (Jackson monument erected 1938)
Original owner U.S. Government	Architect/builder/craftsmen J.P. Polia (sculptor of Jackson monument)
Original use Visitor Center and Museum	Source of name
Present owner U.S. Government	Source of date Public record
Present owner address c/o Superintendent, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Box 350	Stories 1 1/2 stories, 1 story
Present use Visitor Center & Manassas 22110 Museum	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation, stone and stuccoed cinder block walls.
Acres included in park's c3,000 acres.	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Visitor Center and environs in good condition.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest Battles of 1st and 2nd Manassas (Bull Run) fought here.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___ Park is a national battlefield.

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

The Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center is a 1 1/2-story, Greek Revival style, cross-shaped building constructed of locally-quarried sandstone and stuccoed cinder blocks or concrete. There is a heavy, pedimented portico with full entablature projecting from the building's center. The portico is supported by thick, plain columns of the Tuscan Order. The portico, constructed of natural stone, contains the main entrance, a double door, which opens out, with a five-pane overhead light. The door is moulded and has three panels per door. Behind the wooden door is a double glass door. On either side of the main entrance there is a large 6/6 sliding sash window. The stone used in the foundation and at the entrance is roughly shaped blocks of red, pink, purple, and blue stone laid in rough courses and mortared with a sand-lime portland cement mixture.

The two flanking wings, long rectangular structures containing an auditorium on one side and exhibit space on the other side, are made of stuccoed cinder blocks or concrete and rest on a rustic-looking natural stone foundation. The wings have heavy moulded cornices, gable returns, and quoins at the outer corners. There are places on the long sides for window openings; but, either these window slots are illusory or the windows have been sealed. Each gable has a lunette. A flagstone patio runs around the outer edge of the north wing. Since the accompanying photographs of the Visitor Center were taken, access ramps for handicapped persons have been installed on the northeast side of the building.

The Visitor Center commands a high point on the battlefield park. From it, one can see the nearby Henry House, where much fighting occurred. The Visitor Center is the starting point for a walking tour around the area that is guided by audio units stationed at the various points of historical interest. Just north of the Visitor Center is the large bronze equestrian

Interior inspected? Yes.

(Continued)

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Quite a lot has been written about the Civil War battles that were fought in this part of Northern Virginia and about the Stone House, the Stone Bridge, and other historical places located on the c3,000-acre battlefield park. Little, however, has been published about the history of the establishment of the battlefield park as a national historic area. This park has existed since the late 1930's when there arose a movement to protect from any development approximately 10,000 acres in Prince William and Fairfax Counties over which two important Civil War battles were fought - The Battles of First Manassas (July 21-22, 1861) and Second Manassas (August 28-30, 1862), also known as the First and Second Battles of Bull Run. The core of the battlefield park is the Henry Farm where, on Henry Hill, heavy fighting occurred during both First and Second Manassas. In 1922, this farm was acquired by the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, a genealogical and patriotic military organization, from Arthur Lee Henry. The Sons of the Confederate Veterans operated a military museum at the rebuilt Henry House, until the late 1930's when this organization turned over the property to the Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service as the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Beside the Henry House is a red sandstone monument erected in 1865 in the form of a pyramid by Union soldiers to commemorate the lives of their colleagues who died during the battle fought on Henry Hill in July, 1861. This monument is one of the first to have been erected after the War, placed on territory which was at the time occupied by the Federal Government.

In 1911, on the 50th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas, a great "Peace Jubilee"

(Continued)

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK INFORMATION CENTER

statue of Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson (1824-1863), better known as "Stonewall Jackson." Inscribed on the polished granite base is part of the famous quote attributed to Gen. Bernard E. Bee, admonishing his retreating men to look to Jackson, who stood like a stone wall. The statue of the famous general astride a very muscular and stylized horse was commissioned in 1938 by the State of Virginia. Near the Jackson statue is a monument to Brig. Gen. Francis Stebbings Bartow, who was killed here during 1st Manassas. Though the first monument to Bartow has been replaced, that monument, erected in 1861 just after the battle, is said to have been the first of its kind erected at any battlefield after the Civil War and the first marker to have been placed on the 1st and 2nd Manassas battlefields.

HISTORY (Cont.)

was held on the Bull Run Battlefield. President William Howard Taft attended the jubilee, as well as James Mann, the Governor of Virginia. About a thousand veterans of the Civil War, both Union and Confederate, met on the battlefield during a special ceremony and shook hands, signifying the friendliness between the two former enemies.

The building of the monument beside the Henry House and the erection of monuments elsewhere on the battlefield, together with private owners' early efforts to preserve those houses and other structures associated with the fighting that took place there established the precedent of setting aside and preserving as a memorial those places and objects as they may have looked at the time of the Civil War. In the 1930's, the Chinn House was acquired by the National Park Service, and in 1948, the Park Service acquired the Stone House from Mrs. George Ayres. The monument to General "Stonewall" Jackson was erected in 1938 by the State of Virginia. In about 1940, the first part of the visitor information center was constructed south of the Henry House. It consisted of a porticoed pavilion and one wing containing the auditorium. In 1958-60, the balancing wing, containing a museum, was constructed. The information center was recently renovated, and a new publication sales area has been installed.

In 1978, over a million persons visited the Manassas National Battlefield Park. This was a substantial increase over the previous year's total of approximately 761,000 visitors.

The National Park Service has conducted a management plan, a study for the future management of the park and a preliminary to the development of a master plan for the park. As a result of this study, recommendations for the future use of the park will be made. Recreational uses of the park and interpretation of the Civil War battles fought there will be important topics of study. New facilities for the use of the park may be proposed. In recent years, efforts have been made to expand the present size of the park. Two congressional bills have stipulated the addition of 800 acres and 1,500 acres, respectively, to 1) acquire significant areas where fighting occurred and 2) acquire buffer land to protect the park, its scenery, and its integrity from commercial or other intrusions.

PUBLISHED SOURCES

- W.P.A., Writers Program, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), p. 130.
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 111-124.
Hanson, Joseph Mills, Bull Run Remembers (1953).
Bushong, Gladys, "Stonewall Jackson, How a Famous Nickname Was Born," in Manassas Journal-Messenger, August 16, 1970.
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Manassas (c1973), pp. 20, 22.
National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, "Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia" brochure.
United States National Park Service, "Manassas (Bull Run) National Battlefield Park, Virginia" brochure, (1946).
Wilshin, Francis F., Manassas (Bull Run) National Battlefield Park, Virginia (1953).

Sources and bibliography
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

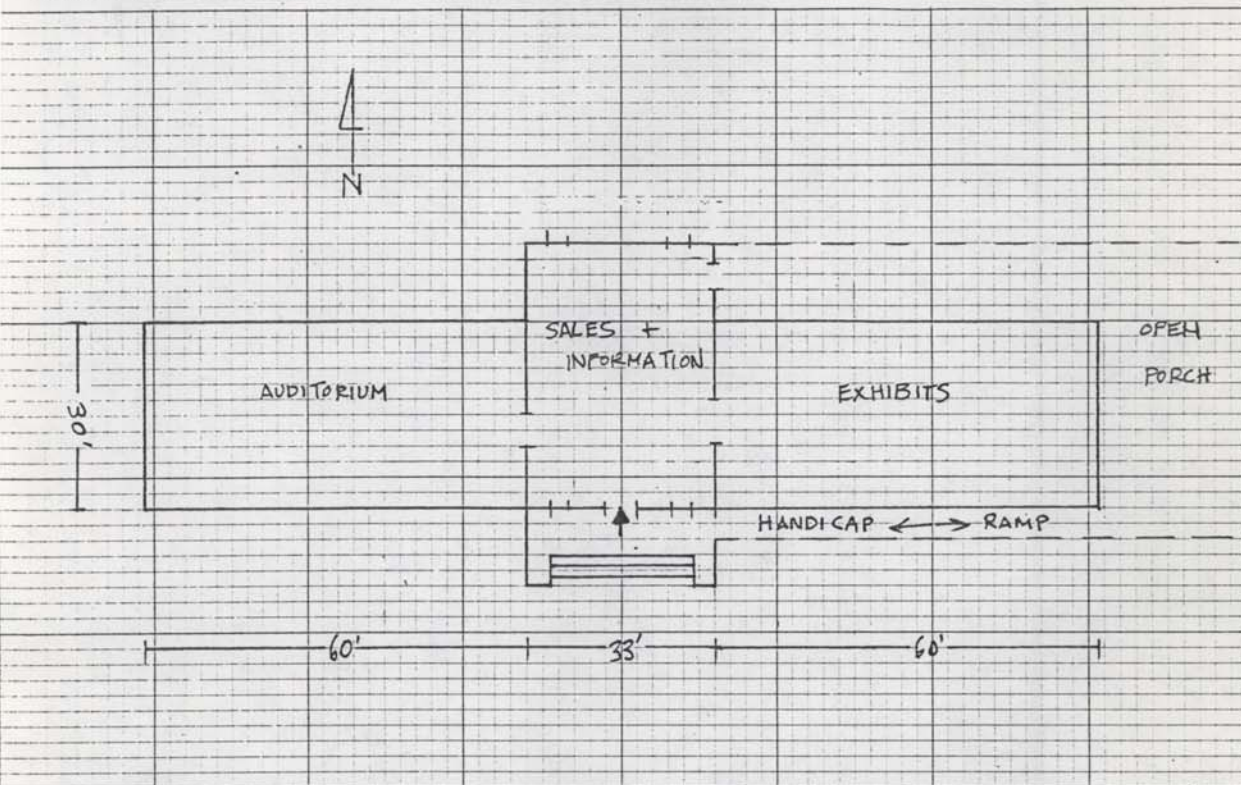
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Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

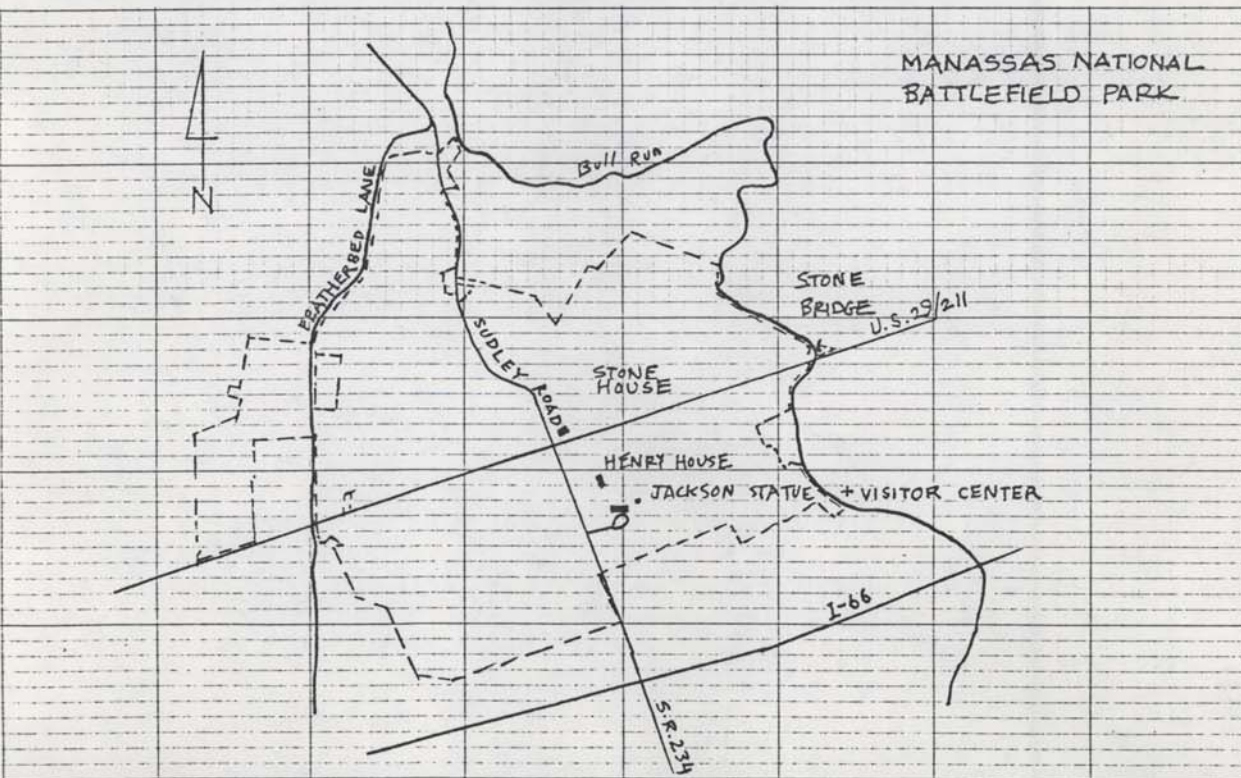
Information file on MNPB history located at Visitor Center (library).

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Don Varnado, MNPB Superintendent (1979); Stuart Vogt, MNPB Historian and Acting Superintendent (1980); Van Loan Naisawald, (former MNPB employee), 9108 Main Street, Manassas, VA

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date SEP 1980