

# PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

## Preservation and Interpretation Plan



### PREPARED FOR

The American Battlefield Trust

### FUNDED BY

The National Park Service  
American Battlefield Protection Program  
Grant: GA-2287-17-003

### PREPARED BY

History Associates Incorporated  
Rockville, Maryland

STACH pllc  
Asheville, North Carolina

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Grant Number: GA-2287-17-003

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*Cover images courtesy of Yale University Art Gallery, Princeton Battlefield Society, and Mount Vernon Ladies' Association;  
photographs by Rob Shenk and Buddy Secor.*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Building on the 2016 preservation milestone that saw the protection of “Maxwell’s Field,” this preservation and interpretation plan lays out a compelling vision for enhancing the visitor experience of Princeton Battlefield through restorative landscape treatment and innovative interpretive improvements. The present-day experience of the Princeton Battlefield State Park and surrounding publicly accessible lands is burdened by an uneven interpretive offering. On-site interpretation when the park is not staffed is sparse and does little to orient visitors to the peaceful, bucolic, eighteenth-century Quaker countryside, nor the pivotal January 3, 1777 battle that would influence the outcome of the American Revolution. Likewise, the battlefield’s cultural landscape remains fragmented, with key elements of the historic scene and spatial character absent or greatly compromised. This plan envisions the future experience of the Princeton Battlefield State Park and brings into the fold recently protected lands in a manner that respects and commemorates its landmark designation and storied past.

In the early morning of January 3, 1777, British and patriot forces clashed outside of the town of Princeton. The British veterans, bayonets drawn, pushed back the patriot forces, sowing chaos in the patriot lines. Arriving with reinforcements, General George Washington personally rallied his men and led a counterattack that scattered the British forces. The patriots pursued the British into the town, where many surrendered. The victory helped revive patriot morale and kept the cause of independence alive. The events that took place across this National Historic Landmark property bear witness to a pivotal moment of the American Revolution. The battlefield deserves a vision that embraces sound preservation treatment to restore period features, and engages visitors in more complete histories and experiences.



An artist's depiction of Washington rallying the soldiers at Princeton. Recent purchases have saved the land where the tide of battle turned. (New York Public Library)

Recent acquisitions of additional core battlefield land not already compromised by development have increased the size of Princeton Battlefield State Park. These acquisitions have helped safeguard the site where General George Washington led the counterattack that broke British resistance, secured victory for the patriots that day, and sustained the hopeful momentum of the

American Revolution. But the work of preserving and interpreting the battlefield is far from over. Much of the land where the battle occurred has already been lost to development, and key resources remain threatened. It is unlikely that the park will receive any additional substantial land donations in the coming years, so this interpretive plan places a priority on restorative and rehabilitative treatment acreage as the starting point for a more authentic and engaging visitor experience.



A sketch of soldiers in the Continental Army. New interpretive offerings will highlight the complex and compelling stories of the battle's participants and eyewitnesses. (Brown University)

The bold vision presented in this interpretive plan utilizes the battlefield landscape to tell more inclusive stories of the brave soldiers who experienced the fighting firsthand, as well those of patriot and loyalist civilians, local enslaved people, and the Stony Brook Quaker community. The Princeton Battlefield is also a valuable historic and economic resource for both Mercer County and Princeton, and targeted investment in both preservation and interpretation provide the chance to grow and strengthen both community engagement and increase the number of nonlocal visitors. This plan serves as a guide and

inspiration for site stewards and partners as they work to prepare for the 250th anniversary of the battle in January of 2027, just under five years away.

Organized to succinctly address challenges, identify opportunities, and present pathways for partnership and implementation, this report builds in specificity from analysis to partner-specific recommendations. Content outlines and draft text for select interpretive materials are located in the appendix.

# CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

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*“In a week’s time, Washington had spoiled the work of many months . . . Trenton and Princeton were supremely important, destroying the illusion of British invincibility, making patriots of potential loyalists and spoiling the Howes’ hopes for an end to the war.”*

Ira Gruber, historian<sup>1</sup>

Nearly 250 years ago, the cold morning silence in Princeton was shattered as British and patriot forces clashed on the frozen farmland just to the south of town. Neither side expected a battle here. Colonel Charles Mawhood’s British regiments were marching to join General Charles Cornwallis’ army in Trenton and believed the patriot forces were trapped along the banks of the Delaware River. General George Washington’s Continental Army, meanwhile, expected the British garrison to be sleeping in Princeton. Marching on two parallel roads, the armies spied each other and the fighting began.



The Princeton Battlefield in winter. (Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, photograph by Rob Shenk)

As the two sides drew up in line of battle, patriot bullets tore through the British ranks. Colonel Mawhood, his two pet spaniels yapping at his heels, ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge. The British veterans slammed into the Continental Army, sending many patriot soldiers fleeing. British soldiers unhorsed and then repeatedly bayoneted General Hugh Mercer as he attempted to rally his men. While panic gripped the American ranks, an artillery battery attempted to hold off the British advance.

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<sup>1</sup> David Hackett Fisher, *Washington's Crossing* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), 344–345.

Arriving on the battlefield with reinforcements, General Washington surveyed the situation and began to rally the troops. Ignoring the gunfire around him, he led his men in a dramatic charge across what would later become known as Maxwell's Field. This one charge turned the tide of the battle. Overwhelmed, the British fled and Washington led his soldiers into Princeton, where the remaining soldiers of the British garrison surrendered in Nassau Hall, the main building of what is today known as Princeton University. For the third time in ten days, Washington had surprised and humiliated the British, inspiring hope among patriots throughout the country.



The Continental Army counterattacks during the Battle of Princeton. (New York Public Library)

The Continental Army's victory was hard-won. When the fighting concluded, over 200 patriot and British soldiers lay on the battlefield wounded, dying, or dead. General Hugh Mercer lingered for nine days before passing away in the Thomas Clarke House. Civilian homes, farm buildings, and the local Quaker meeting house became hospitals. Winter and the British occupation had already depleted the resources of the Princeton community, which now had to pick up the pieces after this bloody engagement.

Eventually, the civilians buried the departed, repaired their homes, and attempted to resume their lives. As time passed, memories of the battle began to fade. Homes and businesses were built where the soldiers once fought. The construction of Mercer Road cut right through where the main fighting occurred. Commemorations and preservation efforts helped save some of the battlefield, but other parts were developed and altered beyond recognition.



The battlefield today.

Today, the Princeton Battlefield State Park preserves much of the land where the initial confrontation between the two armies occurred. Other sites lying beyond the park, from Cochrane's Hill to Nassau Hall, also survive in various states of historic integrity and protection. As the town of Princeton has grown, dedicated preservationists have worked to protect these sites and resources. Princeton enjoys a thriving tourism industry today largely due to their efforts.

Without critical planning, the Princeton Battlefield will remain vulnerable to challenges posed by the community's steady development. Sites of archeological importance where soldiers fought, and are possibly laid to rest, remain threatened. Self-guided interpretation at the Princeton Battlefield State Park is challenging at times when the site is not staffed. At other locations of the battlefield, lying beyond park-owned lands, interpretation is nonexistent.

The recent acquisition and preservation of the Maxwell's Field property, the portion of the Clarke farm where Washington led the patriot counterattack, represents an important victory. It also presents stakeholders with a chance to reassess how visitors to the battlefield learn about its history. Considered by many historians to be the turning point of the battle, Maxwell's Field's importance to the Princeton Battlefield is equivalent to Little Round Top at Gettysburg, Redoubt 9 and 10 at Yorktown, and Old North Bridge at Concord. It is a key part of the action that shaped the course of history. Now, visitors have the opportunity to literally follow in the footsteps of Washington and his soldiers as they turned the tide of battle.

Stewards of the battlefield cannot ignore this opportunity to better educate tourists and residents about this site and its role in American history. New interpretive options will better connect visitors to the battle's history and can spur increased visitation and greater interest in saving the battlefield, creating benefits for both preservationists and the local economy.

Funded by a grant (GA-2287-17-003) from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and administered by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT), this interpretive plan sets forth a framework to enhance the visitor experience at this storied site and increase attentiveness and sensitivity to preservation issues within the Princeton community.

## **Plan Goals & Objectives:**

This preservation and interpretation plan is intended as a guiding document for the preservation and interpretation of the Princeton Battlefield, laying out a series of key priorities that should be addressed in the near future. Chapters 1 and 2 provide a background on this planning process, outline key goals, and describe the grant that funded this project. Chapter 3 provides a narrative of the battle for Princeton and discusses past preservation efforts. Chapter 3 lays out preservation priorities and an action plan for preserving key features of the battlefield and returning the site to its 1777 appearance. Chapter 6 discusses new and expanded interpretation options for the site, from updated waysides to augmented reality experiences. The appendix features outlines for a new brochure and smartphone app tour, as well as updated wayside text and a bibliography.

The plan seeks to fulfill three major goals:

1. Recommend preservation treatments of protected lands
2. Add dynamic interpretive experiences to increase visitor engagement
3. Prepare the site for the Semiquincentennial of the American Revolution

## *Goal 1: Recommend Preservation Treatments for Protected Lands*

Princeton enjoys a long history of historic preservation, and the recent acquisition of Maxwell's Field represents a key victory in ensuring that the land where British and American forces clashed is saved for future generations. However, major preservation issues remain. The present-day landscape of the protected battlefield land today is very different in its spatial character and qualities when compared with its eighteenth-century appearance. Recently preserved parcels of land remain separated from the park by physical boundaries. Just as Washington's counterattack at Princeton did not signify the end of the American Revolution, neither does the purchase of Maxwell's Field signify the end of the preservation efforts in Princeton.



Past meets present. A visitor to the state park sits on the Memorial Colonnade. (Laura Nawrocik/Flickr)

The preservation treatment recommendations within this plan discuss options for restoring and rehabilitating character-defining landscape features. Combined with interpretive improvements, these recommendations also offer the opportunity for strategic partnerships with members of the community, including Princeton Battlefield Society, NJDEP State Parks, Crossroads of the American Revolution, regional historic sites, local schools, the Stony Brook Quaker community, and others. With proper implementation, returning the battlefield to its eighteenth-century appearance will enhance both its community and educational value.



An artist's rendering of the battle showing key historic elements.



Proposed new vision for the Princeton Battlefield State Park.

## *Goal 2: Add dynamic interpretive experiences to increase visitor engagement*

Public feedback suggests that Mercer County and its visitors appreciate the battlefield, but more could be done to provide educational opportunities for visitors to learn about the site. Respondents to a public survey conducted by HAI, as well as reviews on the website TripAdvisor, show that many visitors appreciate the site's expansive views, its serene natural beauty, and the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of history. However, many also express frustration that there are precious few actual learning opportunities if they visit while the site is not staffed. One respondent noted that for people unfamiliar with its history, the park is just an empty field with a few columns.



A current wayside at the battlefield.

Despite its importance to the American Revolution, Princeton Battlefield remains a windshield park—a place where many visitors briefly stop by on their way to other destinations, or simply drive by without realizing its significance or being aware of more immersive opportunities to engage with this National Historic Landmark. This plan recommends a dynamic, layered, interpretive strategy to remedy this situation in advance of the 250th anniversary of the battle. Updated waysides will provide valuable context for visitors. Augmented and virtual reality programs will offer visitors the chance to step back in time and see how the site would have looked during the American Revolution, while smartphone apps will allow users to understand different perspectives on the battle's events and the political and social context in which the fighting occurred. By targeting history enthusiasts, families, and even dog walkers, educational experiences can appeal to and attract a variety of different groups. The majority of these new interpretive offerings can be used by visitors when the state park is not staffed and allow visitors to learn about the park at their own pace.

Outside of the Princeton Battlefield State Park, new interpretive offerings, including waysides, augmented reality experiences, and smartphone tour apps will highlight the expansive nature of the battle and the need for continued preservation. They will also better connect the state park to other historical and natural resources in the Princeton area, fostering a stronger network of cultural heritage sites and making it easier for visitors to learn more about the area's dynamic and complex history.

These new interpretive experiences will engage visitors and residents with the site's history. They will encourage a greater appreciation for the battle, those who experienced it, and its impact on history. By making the history accessible and relevant, visitors will be encouraged to act as stewards of the site, and learn more about the American Revolution and the formation of the United States.

### *Goal 3: Prepare the site for the Semiquincentennial of the American Revolution*

The 250th anniversary of the battle provides an opportunity to coordinate preservation, interpretation, and investment to ensure New Jersey's Revolutionary War heritage sites are must-see experiences for visitors and vacationers. Securing funding and partnership strategies will be necessary to achieve this vision.

Building on the leadership planning already underway, the Princeton Battlefield holds excellent potential to serve as a destination-quality historic site. According to UNESCO, cultural and heritage tourism yields 40% of all tourism revenues worldwide.<sup>2</sup> Sustained investment and engagement in Revolutionary War-based heritage tourism just across the Delaware River in Southeast Pennsylvania yields \$1.5 billion in tourism dollars each year.<sup>3</sup> With proper investment, the Princeton Battlefield has the potential to become a highlight of Revolutionary War heritage tourism in New Jersey, drawing visitors for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle and beyond.

Improved interpretive opportunities will help encourage tourism in Mercer County. The battlefield's proximity to Philadelphia and Trenton places it along a key corridor for Revolutionary War-focused tourism. New and planned improvements at Washington's Crossing and Trenton Barracks should be coordinated with the plans for the Princeton Battlefield's rehabilitation to leverage greater connectivity between sites and encourage multisite visits. This sentiment is further aided by Crossroads of the American Revolution's planned multisite app linking Princeton to other regional historic destinations. With more to do at the battlefield, visitors will be more likely to eat, stay, and shop in the Princeton area, providing a boost to the local economy. As the last major battle in the 10 Crucial Days, Princeton represents an ideal endpoint for any visitor attempting to follow in the footsteps of Washington's troops as they saved the cause of American independence and shattered the illusion of British invincibility. By improving the visitation experience at Princeton Battlefield State Park, visitors will be further encouraged to stay in town and patronize local businesses.

The events of 2020 have also shown more than ever the importance of open spaces. During the COVID-19 pandemic, battlefields like Princeton provided a chance to exercise, relax, and get out of the house while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Even as the threat from the pandemic recedes, the desire to enjoy open spaces like Princeton is expected to continue.

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<sup>2</sup> UNESCO, "Cutting Edge: Bringing Cultural Tourism Back in the Game," UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/news/cutting-edge-bringing-cultural-tourism-back-game>.

<sup>3</sup> Mark Di Lonno, "N.J. Is Terrible at Honoring Its Revolutionary History. Will It Be Left Out of 250<sup>th</sup> Party?" *New Jersey.com*, May 14, 2019, [https://www.nj.com/news/2018/09/as\\_americas\\_250th\\_birthday\\_approaches\\_will\\_new\\_jer.html](https://www.nj.com/news/2018/09/as_americas_250th_birthday_approaches_will_new_jer.html).

Visitation at America's national parks has increased by 16% over the past decade.<sup>4</sup> Visitation at NPS battlefield sites increased by 21% between 1990 and 2018.<sup>5</sup> Some sites have reported even larger increases. At Richmond National Battlefield Park, increasing the amount of open space protected and interpreted by the park doubled visitation within the space of two decades.<sup>6</sup> As local economies throughout the United States work to recover from the pandemic, tourist dollars will become all the more valuable. Wide-open spaces that offer safe ways to learn about the past will be an appealing travel option for visitors anxious to travel but worried about health concerns. Investment in the Princeton Battlefield before the Semiquincentennial will help the community in both the short and the long term.



The battlefield's open spaces allow plenty of opportunities for safely learning about the site.

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<sup>4</sup> Palmer Jenkins, "National Parks Visitation," *US Department of the Interior: Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs*, August 8, 2019, <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/national-parks-visitation>.

<sup>5</sup> "Battlefield Tourism on the Rise," The American Battlefield Trust, 2020, <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/battlefield-visitation-trends>.

<sup>6</sup> "Battlefields Mean Business: Economic Benefits of Battlefield Presentation," The American Battlefield Trust, 2017, <https://www.battlefields.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Battlefields%20Mean%20Business%20-%20Brochure.pdf>, 12.

# CHAPTER II: METHODOLOGY

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*“Colonel Mawhood had two choices, either to retire back to Princeton, where . . . we might have defended the works about it, or push on to Maidenhead where the 2d Brigade lay.”*

Captain William Hale, Forty-fifth of Foot<sup>7</sup>

To develop both a preservation and interpretation plan, the project team employed two separate, but connected, strategies when drafting this report. All efforts followed the regulations and rules outlined by the American Battlefield Protection Program. Best practices and guidance from the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the National Association for Interpretation strongly influenced the methodology of this report.

## Planning Guidance/Design

As defined by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), interpretation “is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”<sup>8</sup> NAI defines interpretive planning as “the decision-making process that blends management needs and resource considerations with visitor desire and ability to pay to determine the most effective way to communicate the message to targeted markets.”<sup>9</sup> Any interpretive planning process should seek to understand the needs of both the public and the site’s stewards, and use those insights to make recommendations.

For this project, the project team of ABT and its consultants History Associates Inc. (HAI), and STACH pllc followed the best practices of the National Park Service. As laid out by the Division of Interpretive Planning at Harpers Ferry Center, interpretive planning includes preparation; determining the scope, themes and goals; collecting information; and making determinations on the best way to achieve these goals.<sup>10</sup> The project team conducted extensive discussions with the American Battlefield Trust; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), which manages the site; and the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) to understand the history and operating constraints of the battlefields. The team conducted a public survey using the platform SurveyMonkey™ and held several meetings with both the general

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<sup>7</sup> Fisher, *Washington’s Crossing*, 327.

<sup>8</sup> “Mission, Vision, and Core Values,” National Association of Interpretation, [https://www.interpnet.com/NAI/interp/About/About NAI/What We Believe/nai/ About/Mission Vision and Core Values.aspx?hkey=ef5896dc-53e4-4dbb-929e-96d45bdb1ccl](https://www.interpnet.com/NAI/interp/About/About%20NAI/What%20We%20Believe/nai/About/Mission%20Vision%20and%20Core%20Values.aspx?hkey=ef5896dc-53e4-4dbb-929e-96d45bdb1ccl)

<sup>9</sup> “Definitions Project,” National Association of Interpretation, 2020, [https://interpnet.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/definitions\\_project.pdf](https://interpnet.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/definitions_project.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Harpers Ferry Center, *Planning for Interpretation and Visitor Experience* (Harpers Ferry: National Park Service, 1998), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/upload/interp-visitor-exper.pdf>, 3.

public and key stakeholders. The team also made several visits to the site and reviewed previous studies and expert reports.

After collecting this information, the team assessed the current state of interpretation at the site. Insights from staff, stakeholders, and the public provided guidance on current gaps in programming and opportunities for new experiences that would take advantage of both new technologies and traditional methods. The team then coordinated with stakeholders and experts to determine paths of action to make these interpretive goals a reality. NJDEP, PBS, and the Crossroads of the American Revolution (Crossroads) were major partners in this effort and provided valuable insights that allowed the team to refine its recommendations

The project team's preservation recommendations were developed based on the federal preservation standards outlined in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques*. The project team also consulted NJDEP and local regulations and ordinances relevant to the battlefield. Responses from stakeholders and the public provided through meetings and the online survey also factored into the development process.

The project team recognizes that interpretive planning is a continuing process.<sup>11</sup> Throughout the project, the team has updated data, gathered new information, and changed recommendations as needed. The options presented in this plan are meant to guide future initiatives but are not set in stone. NJDEP, PBS, and their partners will adjust as necessary based on current needs and future opportunities.

## Public Engagement & Collaboration

Throughout the planning process, the project team worked with NJDEP, PBS, Crossroads, the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), and other stakeholders, including local officials, nearby property owners, and professionals at other nearby historic sites, to identify short and long-term threats, discuss preservation and interpretation priorities, and workshop creative solutions to overcome challenges facing the battlefield.

The project began with a site visit to the battlefield and an initial stakeholder meeting on June 13, 2018. After visiting the Princeton Battlefield State Park, HAI and ABT met with key stakeholders to discuss current management practices at the park, a history of preservation efforts at the battlefield, and current land use and interpretive conditions. Discussions also covered short- and long-term threats to the battlefield. After the meeting, HAI and ABT worked with PBS and NJDEP to collect relevant planning materials and historical documents.

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<sup>11</sup> Harpers Ferry Center, *Planning for Interpretation and Visitor Experience*, 4.

HAI and ABT held a public meeting on October 22, 2018. The goal of this meeting was to introduce the team to the community and solicit feedback on the current state of the battlefield. Attendees at the public meeting provided numerous insights relating to the current state of the park's infrastructure, interpretation, and safety. At the meeting, the team also distributed a link to an online public survey. The goal of the survey was to better understand attitudes toward preservation, solicit feedback on preservation and interpretive options, and determine interest in opportunities for public involvement in future preservation efforts.



HAI historian Matthew Goguen leads a meeting with key stakeholders about the plan.

A second stakeholder meeting with NJDEP was held on December 4, 2018. This meeting focused on the current fiscal and staff resources at the park, major threats, and interpretive priorities. HAI also provided an update on its public survey collection efforts and discussed plans for future meetings.

On October 21, 2019, the planning team held a third stakeholder meeting. This meeting included representatives from other nearby historic sites and cultural heritage organizations, including Crossroads of the American Revolution, the Institute for Advanced Study, Morven Museum & Garden, the Princeton Sons of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Historical Society of Princeton, Princeton Historic Preservation Commission, and Washington Crossing Historic Park. The meeting focused on specific preservation opportunities for the battlefield and solicited ideas on new interpretive offerings. Following this meeting, the team began writing the first draft of the plan, and also recirculated the public survey.

Before the final draft plan was submitted, the planning team held additional meetings with key stakeholders including the Princeton Friends, the Mayor of Princeton, Crossroads, NJDEP, and the Princeton Historical Society to finalize the preservation and interpretation priorities of the plan and discuss possibilities for implementation. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, revisions to the plan were made to highlight the importance of access to historic sites and open space to the public in times of uncertainty and change.

# CHAPTER III: HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

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*“A few days ago, they had given up the cause for lost. Their late successes have turned the scale and now they are all liberty mad again.”*

Nicholas Cresswell, loyalist<sup>12</sup>

Much work has previously been undertaken to document the Princeton Battlefield, including the development of archeological studies, cultural resource surveys, a military terrain analysis, and other reports. This section summarizes the key points and findings of previously completed work and identifies the site’s significance as a starting point for considering preservation treatment and visitor experience.

## Historical Significance

In the summer of 1776, as the Thirteen Colonies prepared to declare independence, the British Empire landed a force of 32,000 soldiers outside of New York City.<sup>13</sup> Their goal was to strike a crippling blow that would crush the American rebellion, and restore British authority throughout the colonies. General George Washington’s Continental Army, a force of military amateurs facing a superior number of well-trained and disciplined professional soldiers, suffered a series of devastating and humiliating defeats. After securing New York City, the British invaded New Jersey, and Washington’s army began to crumble as men deserted and enlistments expired.

The Continental Army began a retreat through the Garden State, pursued by the British. Their route took them through the town of Princeton, home to the College of New Jersey (today’s Princeton University) and abutting the Quaker community of Stony Brook. Despite being a small town, the area had produced several notable patriot leaders, including Declaration of Independence signers Richard Stockton and John Witherspoon.<sup>14</sup> Most of the college’s students and teachers were strong supporters of the patriot cause, although the surrounding area was home to both committed patriots and loyalists, while the Quakers attempted to remain neutral. Many enslaved individuals also lived in the area. Around 12% of the population in East Jersey was enslaved, and both loyalists and patriots, including Stockton and Witherspoon, were enslavers.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ron Chernow, *Washington: A Life* (New York City: Penguin Books, 2010), 283.

<sup>13</sup> Mary Stockwell, Ph.D, “Battle of Long Island,” *Mount Vernon: George Washington’s Digital Encyclopedia*, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-long-island/>.

<sup>14</sup> Richard Stockton, “New Jersey,” National Park Service, [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/declaration/bio46.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/declaration/bio46.htm).

<sup>15</sup> Martha A. Sandweiss and Craig Hollander, “Princeton and Slavery: Holding the Center,” *Princeton University: Princeton & Slavery*, accessed March 22, 2021 <https://slavery.princeton.edu/stories/princeton-and-slavery-holding-the-center#ref-9>.

When the main army left Princeton, Washington left a rearguard to slow the British advance.<sup>16</sup> During this time, patriot forces raided stores and took supplies from civilians.<sup>17</sup> When the British, who had briefly paused their chase in New Brunswick, continued their march, Washington ordered the rest of the troops to leave the city and rejoin the main force. Shortly afterward, the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.

After driving Washington's army out of New Jersey, the British set about fortifying their conquest. Garrisons were installed in settlements throughout the state, including 3,000 troops in Princeton, where soldiers looted the home of Richard Stockton.<sup>18</sup> Soldiers were garrisoned in private homes and the College of New Jersey. Despite orders from General Howe to respect civilian property, British soldiers took down fences for firewood and requisitioned crops and animals for food. The British also offered amnesty to all those who would sign an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Although many New Jersey residents took the oath, patriot militia units continued to operate in the state, harassing the British forces and providing intelligence to Washington.



The Battle of Trenton. (U.S. Army Center for Military History)

With morale among pro-independence Americans plummeting, Washington gambled on a daring counterattack. After an arduous nighttime crossing of the Delaware River in poor weather, Washington and his army surprised the Hessian troops occupying the town of Trenton on the morning of December 26, 1776. After taking the city, the Continental Army withdrew with prisoners and supplies back across the river. What might have been a mere delaying action instead became the beginning of the Ten Crucial Days: a string of unexpected victories that rescued the American cause from the brink of defeat.

“Merry Christmas to you notwithstanding all our disasters,” General William Howe wrote to a subordinate as he and his officers plotted their revenge.<sup>19</sup> The battle humiliated the British high command, and their response was swift. Howe dispatched General Charles Cornwallis and 8,000 men to reverse the recent setbacks and crush the patriot forces.<sup>20</sup> Recrossing the Delaware River back into New Jersey, Washington and the Continental Army defeated a British attack near

<sup>16</sup> Rick Atkinson, *The British Are Coming* (New York City: Henry Holt and Company, 2019), 491.

<sup>17</sup> Atkinson, *The British Are Coming*, 497

<sup>18</sup> “About Morven,” Morven Museum & Garden, <https://www.morven.org/about>; Atkinson, *The British Are Coming*, 495.

<sup>19</sup> Edward G. Lengel, *General George Washington: A Military Life* (New York City: Random House, 2005), 192.

<sup>20</sup> Joseph F. Stoltz, “Battle of Second Trenton,” *Washington Library Center for Digital History - George Washington Digital Encyclopedia*, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-second-trenton/>.

Trenton at Assunpink Creek on January 2, 1777. Despite suffering numerous casualties, Cornwallis was certain that another day of fighting would destroy the Continental Army once and for all. “We’ve got the old fox safe now,” he allegedly bragged to his officers, “we’ll go and bag him in the morning.”<sup>21</sup>



Sketch of the Battle of Assunpink Creek. (From *A History of Trenton, 1679-1929*, Trenton Historical Society)

With the British at his front and the Delaware River to his army’s rear, Washington’s options were limited. However, rather than retreating, he instead made a daring decision to slip away from the enemy.

By maneuvering his army around the British flank, he intended to outwit Cornwallis, march on and capture Princeton and then seize the British supply base at New Brunswick. To plan this attack, Washington had intelligence from Colonel Joseph Reed and a small detachment of troops that had previously scouted out the town, and he also had a map drawn by a spy noting British fortifications.

After escaping Trenton, the American forces moved along the Quaker Road before turning onto Saw Mill Road, south of the Quaker Meeting House. Meanwhile, British forces were traveling along the Trenton-Princeton Road (today’s Stockton Street), with some units having already crossed Stony Brook Creek. Seeing the British soldiers, Washington sent out General Hugh Mercer and his brigade to engage the enemy. British Colonel Charles Mawhood, observing the Americans from Cochran’s House Hill, also determined to give battle. He wheeled his troops back toward Princeton and the rebel forces. Neither side grasped the full extent of the other’s numbers, and a “meeting engagement” occurred.

Mercer’s forces engaged the 17th of Foot Regiment and 16th Dragoons on the grounds of the William Clarke farm. The British forces, despite enduring heavy American fire, mounted a bayonet charge that forced Mercer’s men back. In the confusion, Mercer was unhorsed and stabbed repeatedly by British soldiers when he refused to surrender.

As Mercer’s men retreated, they ran headlong into the General John Cadwalader’s brigade of Philadelphia Associators. Panic began to grip the ranks as the British continued their advance. Even though the patriots outnumbered the British, it seemed that the experience and discipline of the British soldiers might win the day. Meanwhile in Trenton, an empty camp and the sounds of gunfire in the distance alerted Cornwallis to Washington’s deception. Turning his men around he began to march back to Princeton. The longer the battle went on, and the more disorganized the Americans became, the more at risk they were from Cornwallis troops. As the Americans fell back, Captain Joseph Moulder and his artillery battery worked to slow the British advance and buy time for the patriot forces to reorganize.

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<sup>21</sup> “10 Facts About Washington and the Revolutionary War,” George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, 2020, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/ten-facts-about-the-revolutionary-war/>.

As the patriot forces retreated, Washington’s appearance on the battlefield helped to change the tide. Washington rallied his troops and personally led the charge across what is today referred to as Maxwell’s Field, which broke up the British attack. As the 17th foot and the 16th Dragons retreated, the 55th foot, stationed on Mercer Hill, also fell back. Meanwhile, General John Sullivan’s troops, further up the Saw Mill Road, pushed back the British 40th Regiment of Foot at Frog Hollow Ravine. Some British troops who retreated into Princeton fled into the nearby woods, while others attempted to take cover in Nassau Hall. The Americans surrounded the building and opened fire, compelling the British soldiers inside to surrender.



Print of Nassau Hall where the battle concluded. (Rare Book Division, The New York Public Library. (1764).)

Though tempted to continue to New Brunswick, Washington recognized the exhausted state of his men and decided to move the army out of danger before making his way to Morristown. With Cornwallis’s troops marching toward Princeton, Washington gave the order to destroy Stony Brook Bridge, while the main portion of the army escaped along the Kingston Road. His tired, ill-equipped army had won another victory and survived to fight another day.



George Washington at Princeton. (Courtesy of Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields)

The Ten Crucial Days (December 25, 1776–January 3, 1777) saw three American victories: one a successful surprise attack against the Hessians and two victories in the field against the British redcoats. These battles forced General Howe to withdraw his army from most of New Jersey and inspired new hope and enthusiasm among pro-independence Americans. Before the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, the patriot cause was on life support, with many believing it to be all but lost. The Continental Army’s victories convinced many not to give up and inspired a surge of patriot resistance to British forces.

In New Jersey, the Ten Crucial Days encouraged large numbers of militia to rally to the American cause and begin attacking British soldiers across the colony. This *petite guerre* (“little war”), as the British called it, drained British resources and manpower, and prompted Howe to withdraw further toward New York City, undoing many of the conquests achieved in 1776. After a series of disasters, Washington’s daring actions during the Ten Crucial Days cemented his reputation as commander in chief of the American War effort. It also impressed the leaders of the major European powers and helped set the stage for the eventual alliance between the French monarchy and the new United States.

The war would continue for another six years, and the patriots would experience many more setbacks, defeats, and near-disasters. Yet the cause endured, and in 1781, Washington’s army returned to Princeton, along with a large French force under the Comte de Rochambeau. Their

goal was to trap General Cornwallis's army in Yorktown, Virginia. After years of struggle, the "Old Fox" would bag the hunter, and Cornwallis would surrender his forces to the Franco-American army.

Two years later, in 1783, as the Continental Congress met at Nassau Hall in Princeton, news arrived from Europe. The Treaty of Paris had been signed, the Revolutionary War was over, and the United States was finally independent. In the years to come, Princeton would recover from the deprivations it endured during the conflict with Great Britain. It would also prove, as patriot Dr. Benjamin Rush put it, "The American war is over; but this is far from being the case with the American revolution."<sup>22</sup> Princeton residents, both lifelong and temporary, would leave their mark on the town and the country, impacting areas of science, philosophy, government, and civil rights. As the town evolved, preservationists worked to protect its history, including the battlefield where Washington's tired, cold, and underfed army had helped change the course of the Revolutionary War.

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<sup>22</sup> "A New Nation," The Museum of the American Revolution, <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/exhibits/new-nation>.

# CHAPTER IV: EXISTING RESOURCES & CONDITIONS

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*“Surely ye force you have now at Brunswick is full sufficient to drive Washington to ye devil, if you could get at him.”*

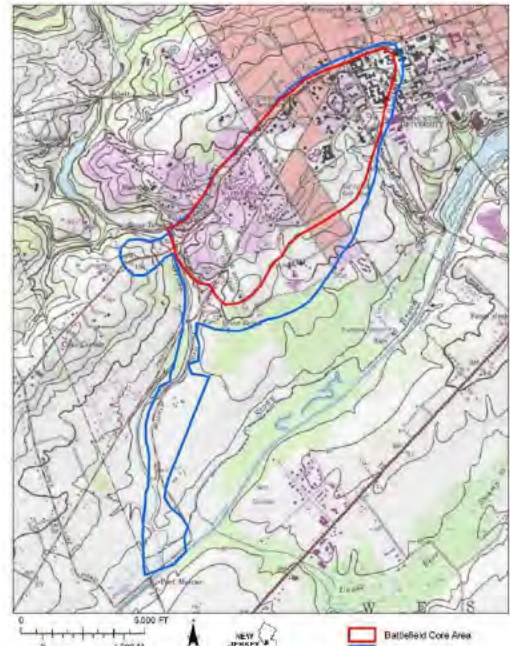
General William Howe to a subordinate after Princeton<sup>23</sup>

The project team studied the existing resources of the Princeton Battlefield both inside and outside the land, as currently protected by the state park. The findings are summarized and discussed below.

## Location and Geographical Area of the Battlefield

The Princeton Battlefield is located in Mercer County, New Jersey. The county was named in honor of General Hugh Mercer, who was fatally wounded during the Battle of Princeton.

The American Battlefield Protection Program conducted a study of the Princeton Battlefield. Their survey laid out a cultural landscape encompassing features from the battle, including the locations of key fighting and military approaches. The study area incorporates the Princeton Battlefield State Park, some of downtown Princeton, and portions of the Institute of Advanced Study and Princeton University campuses. The topography of the battlefield ranges from 90 to 200 feet above sea level.<sup>24</sup>



Map showing the location of the Princeton Battlefield Core and Study Areas as defined by the American Battlefield Protection Program. (Battle of Princeton Mapping Project © 2010, Princeton Battlefield Society, All Rights Reserved)

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<sup>23</sup> Atkinson, *The British Are Coming*, 551.

<sup>24</sup> Robert A Selig, Matthew Harris, and Wade P. Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project: Report of Military Terrain Analysis and Battle Narrative* (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 2010), 12.

# PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD State Park



Map showing the current boundaries of the Princeton Battlefield State Park. (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection)

This plan focuses on the Battle Study Area defined by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and amended by the 2010 John Milner Associates’ report, hereinafter referred to as the “Milner Report.” Located within the municipality of Princeton, the Princeton Battlefield State Park consists of 81 acres of land on either side of Mercer Road, not including the Maxwell’s Field purchase. The orchards, outbuildings, and fences of the William Clarke farm no longer exist, but the adjacent Thomas Clarke house has been preserved and maintained. The battle moved from the area encompassed by the state park northeast toward the town of Princeton and Nassau Hall, where the British troops that were unable to retreat made their last stand before surrendering.

Through a close reading of primary sources and the use of GIS technology, the Milner Report determined that while the main fighting occurred on state park land, significant parts of it occurred on the area directly to the east of the park on land currently owned by the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS). This tract of land is referred to as Maxwell’s Field. A series of archeological surveys conducted over the last two decades also found evidence of the battle—including musket shot, grapeshot, and other debris—in the area south of Mercer Road, east of the Mercer Oak enclosure, south of Stone House Drive, and west of Maxwell Lane.

The GIS study conducted as part of the Milner Report also indicated that archeological evidence of the William Clarke farm complex might be present to the north of the park property along Mercer Road. Based on these findings, the report suggested that the boundaries of the battlefield should be expanded east, to include the estimated location of more traces of Saw Mill Road, and north, to include the route traveled by the detachment of American troops under Colonel Nicholas Hausegger in their approach to Princeton—an often-overlooked element of the American army at Princeton.<sup>25</sup>

## Summary of Cultural and Natural Resources

The following summary of cultural and natural resources lying both within and beyond the boundaries of NJDEP State Park lands references the thorough analysis set forth by the Milner Report and appended by supplemental historic resources studies.

### *Battlefield Resources Lying Within Existing Park Boundaries*

The following resources are managed by NJDEP and lie within existing park boundaries, and or recently protected lands. The park itself encompasses 81 acres including the recently acquired D’Ambrisi and Gigliotti tracts.



The Thomas Clarke House.

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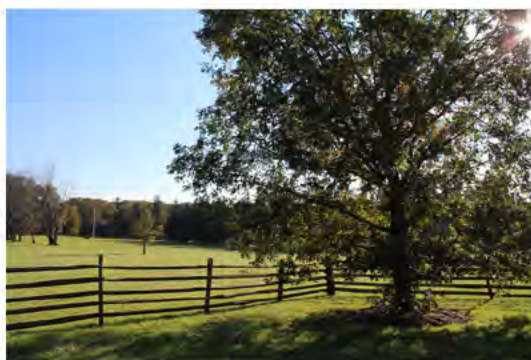
<sup>25</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 78–80.

### Thomas Clarke Farm Complex

The Thomas Clarke farm complex is the central historic feature of the Princeton Battlefield State Park. Located on a rise 120 feet above sea level, the farm provided an observation point for American forces, as well as cover and concealment for American light infantry formations.<sup>26</sup> Constructed in 1772, the white clapboard farmhouse was used as a hospital after the battle. General Mercer, who was mortally wounded during the fighting, died in the house nine days after the battle.<sup>27</sup> The house has been preserved and now contains exhibits on the Battle of Princeton as well as recreated eighteenth-century rooms.

### Mercer Oak Offspring

The Mercer Oak was named for General Mercer, who according to legend lay under the tree after he was mortally wounded, unwilling to abandon his troops. After the Mercer Oak was struck by lightning in 2000, a sapling, grown from an acorn from the original tree, was replanted in its place. The famous oak has become a symbol of both the battle and of Princeton at large.



The Mercer Oak Offspring.

### The Colonnade and Memorial Grove

While not present during the 1777 battle, the white Ionic colonnade on the north side of Mercer Road is today one of the most iconic features of the Princeton Battlefield. Designed by Thomas U. Walter, the architect of the U.S. Capitol, the colonnade comes from the portico of the



The Colonnade, as seen from the Memorial Grove.

mansion of Philadelphia merchant Matthew Newkirk. When the house was demolished, the colonnade was preserved and transported to Princeton. It was dedicated on the Princeton Battlefield in 1959 and declared a National Historic Monument around four years later.

The colonnade was placed at its current location as an entrance to the memorial grove beyond. Dedicated in 1918, this circular memorial marks the graves of 36 American and British soldiers.

<sup>26</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 29–31.

<sup>27</sup> David Bonk, *Trenton and Princeton 1776–77: Washington Crosses the Delaware* (Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2009), 90.

## William Clarke Farm Complex and Orchard

The Battle of Princeton began in the orchard of the William Clarke farm when British troops under Colonel Mawhood engaged American troops under General Mercer. A British bayonet attack drove the Americans out of the orchard and toward the Thomas Clarke House. Mercer was mortally wounded during the fighting. Neither the orchard nor the William Clarke house are extant.

## Hedges, Fences, Ditches

Numerous accounts of the battle mention the presence of fences and railings on the battlefield. The accounts often offer conflicting accounts of the fencing present in a certain area, so it is difficult to determine their exact nature and position. What is clear is that the fields of the Thomas and William Clarke farm complexes were divided by numerous rows of fencing. This fencing acted as an obstacle to the movement of the armies and was described in several accounts as being used for cover or concealment.<sup>28</sup> Future archeological work, as well as detailed research on sketches and written descriptions of the battlefield, might be able to better pinpoint where some of these features were located.

## Saw Mill Road

The Saw Mill Road was the back road to Princeton. Although it had probably fallen out of primary use by the time of the battle, it was still clear enough for the Continental Army to use as their route of advance on the town.<sup>29</sup> Saw Mill Road is no longer extant, but portions of the trace may still exist on lands recently purchased from the Institute for Advanced Study, and in the wooded area south of the park.<sup>30</sup> Research at the New Jersey State Archives did not locate the original metes-and-bonds written description of Saw Mill Road and no other record of the road's establishment has been found. The overall route of Saw Mill Road is largely a hypothesis based on GIS and historical accounts, and clear archeological evidence for the site has yet to be conclusively determined.<sup>31</sup> Several historians have reached different conclusions based on their personal reviews of the available evidence.

## *Resources Lying Beyond Existing Park Boundaries*

The following natural and cultural resources are attributed to the battle but lay beyond NJDEP park boundaries.

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<sup>28</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 31–32.

<sup>29</sup> Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc., “Cheer Up My Boys, The Day is Ours...”: Field Survey, Preparation of Maps, and Preparation of Local and National Landmark/National Register Historic District Applications for the D’Ambrisi Property, Princeton, New Jersey, December 2017, 108.

<sup>30</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 79.

<sup>31</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 23.

### Worth's Mill (Ruins)

Worth's Mill was established in the early 1710s (1712–1714) and was still present at the time of the battle. Cornwallis' column probably used the mill buildings to cover their advance from Trenton to Princeton.<sup>32</sup> The site currently consists of remnant foundations. There were plans to preserve and stabilize the site and add historic interpretation in the 1970s.<sup>33</sup> The site has been stabilized and preserved—including an effort that received an award from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in 2018.<sup>34</sup>

### Stony Brook Bridge

The original Stony Brook Bridge was erected around 1738. Some portions of Colonel Mawhood's force had already crossed the bridge on their way to Trenton when Mercer's forces were sighted; Mercer's failure to destroy the bridge allowed the British vanguard to re-cross the bridge and engage the Americans on the William Clark farm. The bridge was destroyed by the American rearguard after the battle, delaying Cornwallis' response and allowing Washington to move his army to safety. The bridge was rebuilt as a stone triple-arch in 1792 and then modified in the late 1890s (1895–1897), 1916, and 1923.<sup>35</sup>

### Princeton Friends Meeting House

Referred to on some maps as the Quaker Meeting House<sup>36</sup>, the Princeton Friends Meeting House was built in 1726 and rebuilt in 1760. The Meeting House was the only place of worship in the Princeton neighborhood. It is located south-southwest of the Clarke farm complex where the battle began.<sup>37</sup> After the battle, the Meeting House was used as a hospital. Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, is buried in an unmarked plot (“in Quaker fashion”) in the enclosed burial ground.<sup>38</sup>



The Princeton Friends Meeting House. (*Crossroads of the American Revolution*)

<sup>32</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 96.

<sup>33</sup> *Nomination Form – Princeton Battlefield* (Princeton: National Register of Historic Places Inventory, 1971), 4.

<sup>34</sup> New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, “2018 28<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Historic Preservation Awards,” [https://nj.gov/dep/hpo/4sustain/awds2018\\_b.htm#awd6](https://nj.gov/dep/hpo/4sustain/awds2018_b.htm#awd6).

<sup>35</sup> “Historic Route 206 Bridges over Stony Brook Rehabilitation Wins 2018 Project of the Year Award,” State of New Jersey Department of Transportation, April 27, 2018,

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/about/press/2018/042718.shtm#:~:text=NJDOT's%20Route%20206%20Bridges%20over,Professional%20Engineers%20Mercer%20County%20Chapter.&text=The%20bridge%20was%20constructed%20in.following%20a%20partial%20parapet%20collapse>; Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 45.

<sup>36</sup> Britton, Rick, “Battle of Princeton Phases I and II,” and “Battle of Princeton Phases III and IV,” *Mount Vernon Ladies Association*, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Seymour Williams, *Quaker Meeting House* (Rahway, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936), 10.

<sup>38</sup> Williams, *Quaker Meeting House*, 10.

### Princeton Friends Schoolmaster’s House

The Schoolmaster’s House was constructed by the Princeton Quakers in 1781 to attract older, more experienced teachers. Classes were held in the schoolmaster’s house for two decades until a dedicated schoolhouse was constructed. The schoolmaster’s house is still in use by the Princeton Friends School today—the only building of its kind still used by a school, and one of only two surviving schoolmaster’s houses in New Jersey.<sup>39</sup>

### Quaker Road

Quaker Road was also used as an avenue of approach by American forces on the day of battle. Previously, it was believed that General Mercer advanced along Quaker Road with Stony Brook Bridge as his objective before encountering Colonel Mawhood’s Regulars, but a re-examination of personal accounts of the battle indicate that the portion of the road between the Meetinghouse and Worth’s Mill was not used in the initial approach.<sup>40</sup> Quaker Road is still in use today and was connected to “the main Trenton-Princeton road” (Stockton Street / US Route 206) in 1764.<sup>41</sup>

### Trenton-Princeton Road

At the time of the battle, the main link between Princeton and Trenton was a stretch of the King’s Road, or Post Road, which connected New York and Philadelphia. This road followed the general course of modern US Route 206.<sup>42</sup> Mawhood’s British troops were traveling along the King’s Road to reinforce Cornwallis at Trenton when they encountered Mercer’s American column, and Cornwallis advanced from Trenton to Princeton along the same road when he was alerted to the battle.<sup>43</sup>

### Mercer Hill

Mercer Hill was likely the place where the British 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot formed its battle line in order to block Sullivan’s American column from moving into Princeton and cutting off the rest of Mawhood’s force engaged on the William Clarke farm.<sup>44</sup>

### Frog Hollow Ravine

Frog Hollow was a small tributary flowing through a ravine to Stony Brook. The British 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot occupied the ravine, which was an excellent defensive position, to stop Sullivan from cutting off Mawhood’s line of retreat into Princeton. The ravine is now located on

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<sup>39</sup> Princeton Friends School, “Preserving the Past: The Rebirth of the Schoolmaster’s House and Barn,” December 6, 2017, <https://www.princetonfriendsschool.org/page/news-detail?pk=854471>.

<sup>40</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 34.

<sup>41</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 27.

<sup>42</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 25.

<sup>43</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 36.

<sup>44</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 42.

a golf course north of the Princeton Battlefield State Park along Alexander Street and the Princeton Theological Seminary, but portions of the ravine are still visible.<sup>45</sup>

### Stony Brook

Stony Brook demarcates the western end of the battlefield. It was difficult to traverse; Cornwallis' advance from Trenton was delayed by the destruction of the Stony Brook Bridge and the need to move to a ford north of the bridge in order to cross.<sup>46</sup> This delay gave Washington sufficient time to evacuate Princeton and begin the march to Morristown.

### Princeton Battle Monument

Dedicated on June 9, 1922, the Princeton Battle Monument commemorates the battle and its veterans. Sculptor Frederick MacMonnies and architect Thomas Hasting designed the sculpture, which depicts Washington leading his men into battle. The limestone sculpture is around 50 feet tall and remains a key structure on Nassau Street near where the battle concluded.

## Current Conditions

“The overall integrity of Princeton Battlefield varies depending on where the viewer stands,” notes the Milner Report.<sup>47</sup> Portions of the battlefield have been well preserved by the state park, but the area closer to Princeton has been altered by ongoing development. In September 2010 the Milner Report concluded that the Princeton Battlefield State Park—where much of the core fighting occurred—retains considerable integrity from the time of the battle, although the landscape itself has changed considerably. While the park is open land today, contemporary accounts and depictions of the Princeton area suggest that the area was well-cultivated, with farms, orchards, and fields.<sup>48</sup> Although the William Clarke farm, fields, and fences are no longer extant, the Thomas Clarke House and outbuildings still stand. A row of trees currently separates the Maxwell's Field parcel from the rest of the site. Mercer Road cuts through the center of the state park, with heavy traffic often present.

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<sup>45</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 43.

<sup>46</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 45.

<sup>47</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 78.

<sup>48</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 13.

The integrity of the battlefield declines outside of the state park and toward downtown Princeton. Although some period houses remain along Stockton Street (the former Post Road), this section of the battlefield is mostly characterized by more recent residential development. The area around Nassau Hall—today surrounded by Princeton University—was less heavily built-up than it is today. The locations of several British batteries, located on what were the outskirts of Princeton in 1777, can be tentatively identified, but their surrounding environment has lost much of its integrity due to the development of the town.<sup>49</sup>



### *Preservation Efforts to Date*

Although development has taken over much of the core battlefield, efforts by dedicated preservationists over the decades have saved important parcels of land where British and American forces clashed. Before it was a state park, the Princeton Battlefield was marked by a small memorial—a pile of cannonballs—marking where the two sides clashed.<sup>50</sup> In 1946, Mrs. Agnes Pyne Hudson and Robert C. Maxwell deeded 50 acres of land to the State of New Jersey for the creation of a state park.<sup>51</sup> New Jersey Governor Walter E. Edge, who was instrumental in acquiring the land, dedicated the site on October 20, 1946.<sup>52</sup> During the dedication, Governor Edge said, “Without this generous co-operation our future generations might have been deprived of the opportunity to view and tread this sacred soil, in much the same condition today as it was early in January 1777, when Washington’s patriotic but ragged troops retrieved a losing cause.”<sup>53</sup>

The next addition to the battlefield’s landscape was the Ionic Greek colonnade, which had previously stood on land owned by the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). When the IAS decided it needed to remove the portico to make room for faculty housing, a campaign raised money to relocate it to the battlefield. The decision was controversial: opponents claimed: “It would be grotesque to put the four Ionic columns in a battlefield of the colonial period.”<sup>54</sup> Some proponents of the plan maintained that the colonnade would be not a battlefield memorial, but rather a tribute to Thomas U. Walter, the portico’s designer and founder of the American Institute of Architects.<sup>55</sup> The date chosen for the colonnade’s unveiling, however, suggested it was fully a battlefield memorial: it was dedicated on Veterans Day, 1959, and has since become a well-known icon of the battlefield.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts, *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 79.

<sup>50</sup> Sarah Comstock, “To Princeton Battlefield, A Fine Day’s Trip,” *The New York Times*, July 16, 1916.

<sup>51</sup> “Site of the Battle at Princeton to be Dedicated as Park,” *The New York Times*, October 13, 1946.

<sup>52</sup> “Site of the Battle at Princeton to be Dedicated as Park,” *The New York Times*, October 13, 1946.

<sup>53</sup> “Princeton Battlefield Memorial Dedicated as Jersey State Park,” *New York Herald Tribune*, October 21, 1946.

<sup>54</sup> “Princeton Argues Moving of Portico,” *New York Times*, July 27, 1958.

<sup>55</sup> “Princeton Argues Moving of Portico,” *New York Times*, July 27, 1958.

<sup>56</sup> “Portico Unveiled on Princeton Site,” *New York Times*, November 12, 1959.

The Institute for Advanced Study has been a recurring player in the history of the state park. In 1971, the IAS announced plans to erect 10 single-family homes on a tract of land between the Princeton Battlefield State Park and the Quaker Meetinghouse property, drawing concern from the recently founded Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society.<sup>57</sup> Two years later, thanks to a fundraising effort run by the Society and funding from the state and federal governments, the state purchased 33 acres of land from the Institute for over \$300,000 and added it to the state park.<sup>58</sup> At the time of the acquisition, the plan was to reconstruct the Thomas Clarke farm barn for use as a visitor center and museum and to restore other farm buildings to recreate an eighteenth-century New Jersey farmstead. Walkways were planned to lead visitors around the historic areas of the battlefield.<sup>59</sup> The IAS has also preserved 589 acres of land to the southeast of the Princeton Battlefield State Park as part of the Institute Woods.<sup>60</sup>

Efforts at preservation extended beyond adding land to the state park. In 1989, Calton Homes, Inc. agreed to a compromise deal to leave undeveloped more than 80 acres of land between Stony Brook and the state park. Among the land preserved is Breuer's Hill, where Washington first spotted British troops.<sup>61</sup>

In 2003, IAS proposed constructing additional faculty residences on land adjacent to the Princeton Battlefield State Park on the Maxwell's Field site.<sup>62</sup> At the time, it was unclear if the land was significant to the battlefield, and preservationists and the IAS began discussions about the site. Future studies and reports would eventually identify the Maxwell's Field site as a key piece of the battlefield.

In 2007, the National Park Service (NPS) released a report to Congress detailing the condition of the country's Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites. The report referred to the Princeton Battlefield as a Class B site, indicating "a military or military action with a significant objective or result that shaped the strategy, direction, or outcome of a campaign or other operation."<sup>63</sup> In part because of the threat to the Maxwell's Field property, the NPS classified the short-term threat to the Princeton Battlefield as "high," and the long-term threat as "medium."<sup>64</sup> The NPS report brought renewed attention to the preservation issues facing the battlefield.

In 2008 the Princeton Battlefield Society was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to fund the preparation of a preservation plan for the Thomas Clarke House.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Richard J. H. Johnson, "Princeton Battle Site Stirs Dispute," *New York Times*, January 25, 1971.

<sup>58</sup> John Sullivan, "Bayonets Fixed, Again, On Princeton Battlefield," *New York Times*, August 10, 2003.

<sup>59</sup> Donald Janson, "Princeton Battlefield Will Be Expanded," *New York Times*, February 18, 1973.

<sup>60</sup> "Campus and Lands," Institute for Advanced Study, <https://www.ias.edu/about/campus-lands>.

<sup>61</sup> Rachele Garbarine, "Use of Historic Princeton Tract Disputed," *New York Times*, November 19, 1989.

<sup>62</sup> Sullivan, "Bayonets Fixed, Again, On Princeton Battlefield."

<sup>63</sup> American Battlefield Protection Program, "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States," *The National Park Service*, September 2007, [https://www.nps.gov/crgis/proj\\_Rev1812\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/crgis/proj_Rev1812_Final_Report.pdf), page 24.

<sup>64</sup> American Battlefield Protection Program, "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States," *The National Park Service*, September 2007, [https://www.nps.gov/crgis/proj\\_Rev1812\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/crgis/proj_Rev1812_Final_Report.pdf), page 25.

<sup>65</sup> "Thomas Clarke House," *New Jersey Historic Trust*. [http://www.njht.org/dca/njht/funded/sitedetails/thomas\\_clarke\\_house.html](http://www.njht.org/dca/njht/funded/sitedetails/thomas_clarke_house.html).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation included Princeton on a 2012 list of the 11 most endangered battlefields in the United States.<sup>66</sup>

The Princeton Battlefield State Park has expanded several more times in recent history. In 2015, the state purchased 4.6 acres of land from the D’Ambrisi family with funds contributed by the state of New Jersey, Mercer County, and the Friends of Princeton Open Spaces.<sup>67</sup> The town of Princeton contributed money to finance the rehabilitation of the property.<sup>68</sup> The state has also recently purchased a second piece of property known as the Gigliotti Tract, which will also be added to the state park.<sup>69</sup> The purchase of these two tracts extends the park boundaries toward Route 206, offering the possibility of adding an access point to the park from that road.

In 2016, IAS agreed to sell two-thirds\* of the land that had been the site of the proposed residences—almost 15 acres of land—to the American Battlefield Trust (then the Civil War Trust) for \$4 million.<sup>70</sup> The ABT is in the process of conveying this land to the State of New Jersey as an addition to the Princeton Battlefield State Park.<sup>71</sup> The purchase of Maxwell’s Field represents a major victory for the preservation movement and the American Battlefield Trust’s Campaign1776 initiative.

### *Current Land Use and Land Ownership*

The Battle of Princeton ranged over the southern end of what is today the municipality of Princeton. While the state park preserves part of the core fighting area, much of the historic battlefield has been developed for residential and commercial use. Major landowners include Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study.

The northern edges of the state park are largely bordered by residential housing, although the natural topography and wooded surroundings lessen the impact of this development. The state owns some of the houses along Mercer Road, south of the park’s entrance. The Princeton Friends own and operate the property immediately west of the park, which includes the historic Stony Brook meeting house.

The Institute for Advanced Study owns the land immediately east of the state park, including some of the residences along Mercer Road. IAS also maintains the forested land south of the battlefield, known as the Institute Woods. In 1997, a coalition of nonprofit organizations worked to negotiate a conservation easement that preserves and provides public access to 589 acres of IAS land. Today, visitors can follow pathways through the Institute Woods and adjacent

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<sup>66</sup> Jill P Capuzzo, “A Battle Over Faculty Housing,” *New York Times*, June 24, 2012.

<sup>67</sup> “Battlefield Purchase Opens Opportunities for Exploring History of the Revolution,” *Town Topics*, September 23, 2015. <http://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2015/09/23/battlefield-purchase-opens-opportunities-for-exploring-history-of-the-revolution/>.

<sup>68</sup> Lindsay Rittenhouse, “Princeton Battlefield State Park ‘Officially’ Bigger,” *NJ Advance Media*, September 16, 2015.

<sup>69</sup> Anthony Bellano, “A Celebration of Princeton’s Revolutionary War Heritage Set for Sept. 11,” *Patch*, July 13, 2017, <https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/celebration-princetons-revolutionary-war-heritage-set-sept-11>.

<sup>70</sup> Times of Trenton Editorial Board, “In Princeton Field Battle, The Pen Was Indeed Mighty | Editorial,” *NJ Advance Media*, December 15, 2016.

<sup>71</sup> Samuel Garfinkle, “IAS, Civil War Trust Reach Agreement on Maxwell’s Field,” *The Daily Princetonian*, December 12, 2016.

farmlands, which connect with the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park’s historic towpath—part of a popular 70-mile recreational corridor across Central New Jersey.<sup>72</sup>

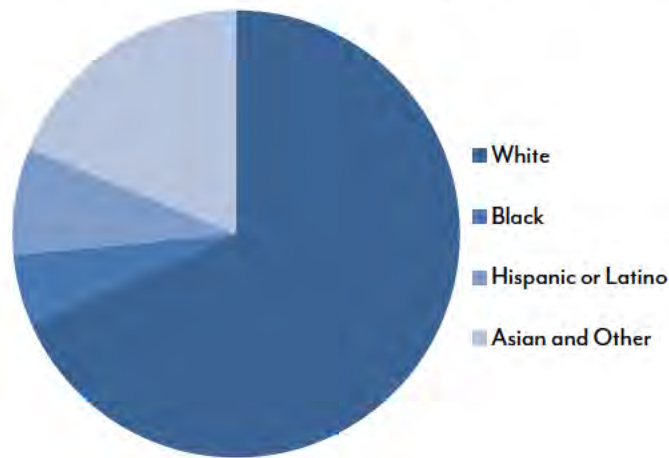
Other open space lands accessible to the public, owned by the town of Princeton, are located along Stony Brook, east of Quaker Road. Quaker Road itself also contains a large amount of open space, as well as a paved bike and walking trail that parallels the road. This land is administered by the D&R Greenway Trust, which works to safeguard the viewsheds and facilitate public access and enjoyment of these spaces.

### *Community Characteristics*

According to the 2010 census, the population of the municipality of Princeton numbers more than 28,500 residents. Princeton Borough and Princeton Township existed as separate communities before 2013, so obtaining statistics for a unified Princeton requires aggregating the two sets of data. The median age for the Borough in 2010 was recorded as 23, while the median age for the Township was 43.<sup>73</sup> Mercer County has a population of over 367,000 with a median age of 38, according to the 2010 census.<sup>74</sup>

Princeton is an affluent, highly educated community. The median household income for the Borough and Township was around \$105,000 in 2010.<sup>75</sup> Of those over 25 years of age, 80% hold a bachelor’s degree and 97% have a high school diploma. An estimated 95% of households in Princeton have a computer and 86% of households have a broadband internet connection.<sup>76</sup> Of the more than 5,000 undergraduate students enrolled in Princeton University, 98% of them live on campus.<sup>77</sup>

Princeton Municipality Demographics, 2010



<sup>72</sup> “The Institute Woods,” The New Jersey Trails Association, December 8, 2014, <https://njtrails.org/trail/institute-woods/>.

<sup>73</sup> “Princeton at a Glance,” Mercer County, New Jersey, <http://www.mercercounty.org/home/showdocument?id=1972>.

<sup>74</sup> “Mercer County at a Glance,” Mercer County, New Jersey <http://www.mercercounty.org/home/showdocument?id=1958>.

<sup>75</sup> “Princeton at a Glance,” <http://www.mercercounty.org/home/showdocument?id=1972>.

<sup>76</sup> “QuickFacts: Princeton, New Jersey,” United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/princetonnewjersey/PST045217>.

<sup>77</sup> “Facts and Figures,” Princeton University, <https://www.princeton.edu/meet-princeton/facts-figures>.

## *Historic Preservation and Open Space*

The local government has long supported historic preservation in the Princeton area. Princeton has an Office of Historic Preservation and a Historic Preservation Commission. The commission designates historic districts within the community.<sup>78</sup> Once a structure or piece of land becomes part of a historic district, the commission determines whether or not any change, such as tearing down a tree or altering a structure, is acceptable.<sup>79</sup> This robust structure helps ensure that historic buildings and landscapes are not destroyed until the community has had a chance to evaluate the situation.

The Princeton community has had a strong history of supporting historic preservation, with a number of non-governmental organizations complementing the efforts of the Princeton Office of Historic Preservation. These organizations have supported or spearheaded efforts to expand the state parklands and preserve the non-state property as well. The most prominent is the Princeton Battlefield Society, formerly the Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society, which has been an advocate for the preservation and interpretation of the Princeton Battlefield.

Since its founding in 1969, Friends of Princeton Open Space has raised more than \$4.5 million to fund the acquisition and preservation of land, including properties connected to the Battle of Princeton.<sup>80</sup> The Friends of Princeton Open Space helped fund the purchase of the D’Ambrisi property.

The investment and support for preservation have benefited Princeton, and places like it economically. Studies show that property values for homes near preserved battlefields are higher than those that are not.<sup>81</sup> Another study found that the presence of protected land encourages more “efficient development” and, by giving people access to open space, provides “physical and mental health benefits.”<sup>82</sup> By preserving open and historically significant land, the community has helped shore up the health of the economy and of those who live nearby.

## *Tourism*

An estimated 3.5 million visitors traveled to Mercer County in 2018, bringing in nearly \$1.4 billion of revenue.<sup>83</sup> Princeton is an easy driving distance from several major East Coast cities, located approximately 50 miles from New York City and 45 miles from Philadelphia. Princeton University—with its international name recognition—attracts many visitors, including prospective students and their families.

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<sup>78</sup> “Historic Preservation FAQs,” City of Princeton, <https://www.princetonnj.gov/resources/historic-preservation-faq>.

<sup>79</sup> “Historic Preservation FAQs,” City of Princeton, <https://www.princetonnj.gov/resources/historic-preservation-faq>.

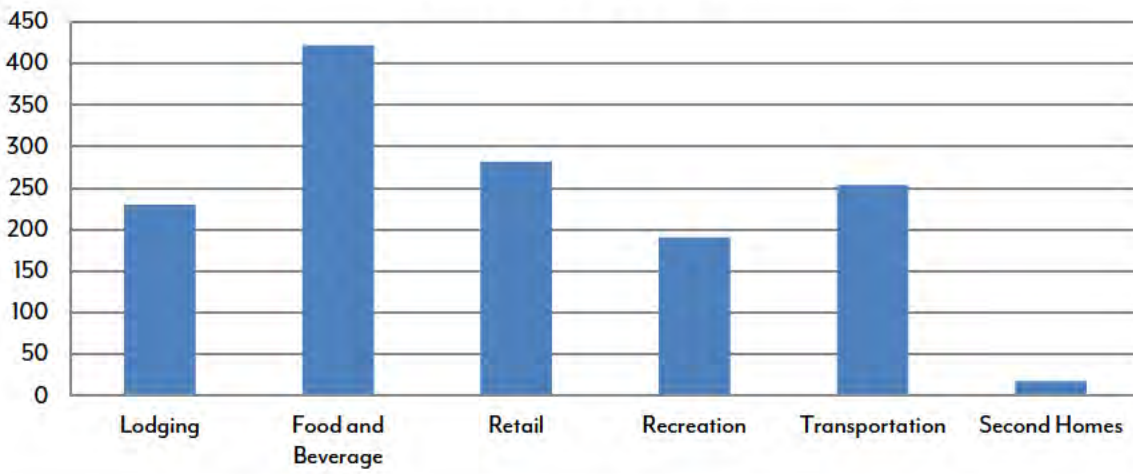
<sup>80</sup> “Our Mission,” Friends of Princeton Open Space, <https://www.fopos.org/mission-history/>.

<sup>81</sup> “The Economic Case for Preservation,” The American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/battlefields-mean-business>.

<sup>82</sup> “The Economic Case for Preservation,” The American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/battlefields-mean-business>.

<sup>83</sup> “Tourism Economics,” *Economic Impact of Tourism in New Jersey*, 2018, 48–49.

## Mercer County Tourism Direct Sales, 2018 (Millions of Dollars)<sup>84</sup>



The area's history is also a major draw, and its Revolutionary War connections are prominently displayed in materials put out by local tourism departments. The Museum of the American Revolution in nearby Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, discusses the Battle of Princeton. Washington's Crossing State Park offers visitors the chance to learn more about the beginning of the Ten Crucial Days, including a popular reenactment each year of Washington and his army crossing the Delaware River. The Old Barracks Museum in Trenton tells the story of the Battle of Trenton and is one of the most visited historic sites in New Jersey.<sup>85</sup>

Heritage tourism has numerous economic benefits, particularly if visitors stay the night. A study of 10 battlefields found that they collectively brought in \$569 million to local communities and \$15 million in tax revenues.<sup>86</sup> A visitor who spends a significant amount of time at a battlefield is more likely to patronize a local business and stay at a local hotel. Preservation and restoration of both the protected space of the Princeton Battlefield and expansion of the interpretive offerings offered there have the opportunity to grow the area's economy. In Virginia, the expansion of the Richmond Battlefield Park caused visitation to double.<sup>87</sup> The site went from being a "windshield park," as one park employee called it, to a destination with compelling locations and strong interpretive programming.<sup>88</sup> A sustained investment in preservation at the Princeton Battlefield, coupled with providing more interpretive opportunities for visitors, could yield similar results. New Jersey's planned 250th commemoration of the Revolutionary War promises to increase tourist visitation and spending across the state, particularly because heritage tourists tend to stay longer and spend more money than other domestic leisure travelers.<sup>89</sup>

<sup>84</sup> "Tourism Economics," *Economic Impact of Tourism in New Jersey, 2018*, 50.

<sup>85</sup> "About," The Old Barracks Museum, <https://www.barracks.org/about.html>.

<sup>86</sup> American Battlefield Trust, *Battlefields Mean Business* (American Battlefield Trust, 2017), 1.

<sup>87</sup> American Battlefield Trust, *Battlefields Mean Business*, 12.

<sup>88</sup> American Battlefield Trust, *Battlefields Mean Business*, 12.

<sup>89</sup> Julie Payne, "Heritage Tourism: Facts and Figures," *American Business Association*, December 30, 2018. <https://www.buses.org/news/article/insider-exclusive-heritage-tourism-facts-figures>.

# CHAPTER V: BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION TREATMENT

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*“This land is as central to the battle of Princeton as the field of Pickett’s Charge is to Gettysburg and as Omaha Beach is to D-Day”*

David Hackett Fisher, historian<sup>90</sup>

## A. Preservation Treatment - Overview

Building upon earlier eras of preservation action, eras of missed opportunity, and the 2016 landmark act that saved Maxwell’s Field from complete development, this plan assesses the preservation treatment opportunities available on preserved lands to envision a more compelling and immersive experience for visitors. While many battlefield preservation plans focus principally on the acquisition of new lands for development, this is not possible in Princeton. The overwhelming majority of core battlefield lying beyond what has already been protected is already compromised, and future opportunities for land acquisition are few. However, the areas encompassing the most significant fighting are now protected, and this plan’s emphasis marks a turning point. The directives outlined below leverage innovative interpretative methods—overlaid upon a revolutionary framework of landscape experiences, implemented through the application of modern Cultural Landscape preservation policy and practice.

The following narrative details the assessment of existing landscape experience; organizational frameworks for understanding historic and contemporary composition and features; and treatment recommendations, based on the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Guidelines)*. The resulting recommendations prescribe preservation treatment area-by-area, suitable for implementation through successive phases. Overlaid with the interpretive recommendations identified later in this report, the combined and resulting preservation framework affords a more immersive and historically authentic experience of Princeton Battlefield.

## B. Landscape Units & Features - Overview

Conventions for organizing cultural landscape analysis and treatment direct their delineation into discernable character areas or “units” and identify the character-defining features within each unit that date to the historic period. The following narrative breaks down the present-day

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<sup>90</sup>Jerald P. Hurwitz, “Misinformation on Battle on Princeton Addressed by Battlefield Mapping Study,” *Town Topics*, March 2, 2016, <http://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2016/03/02/misinformation-on-battle-of-princeton-addressed-by-battlefield-mapping-study/>.

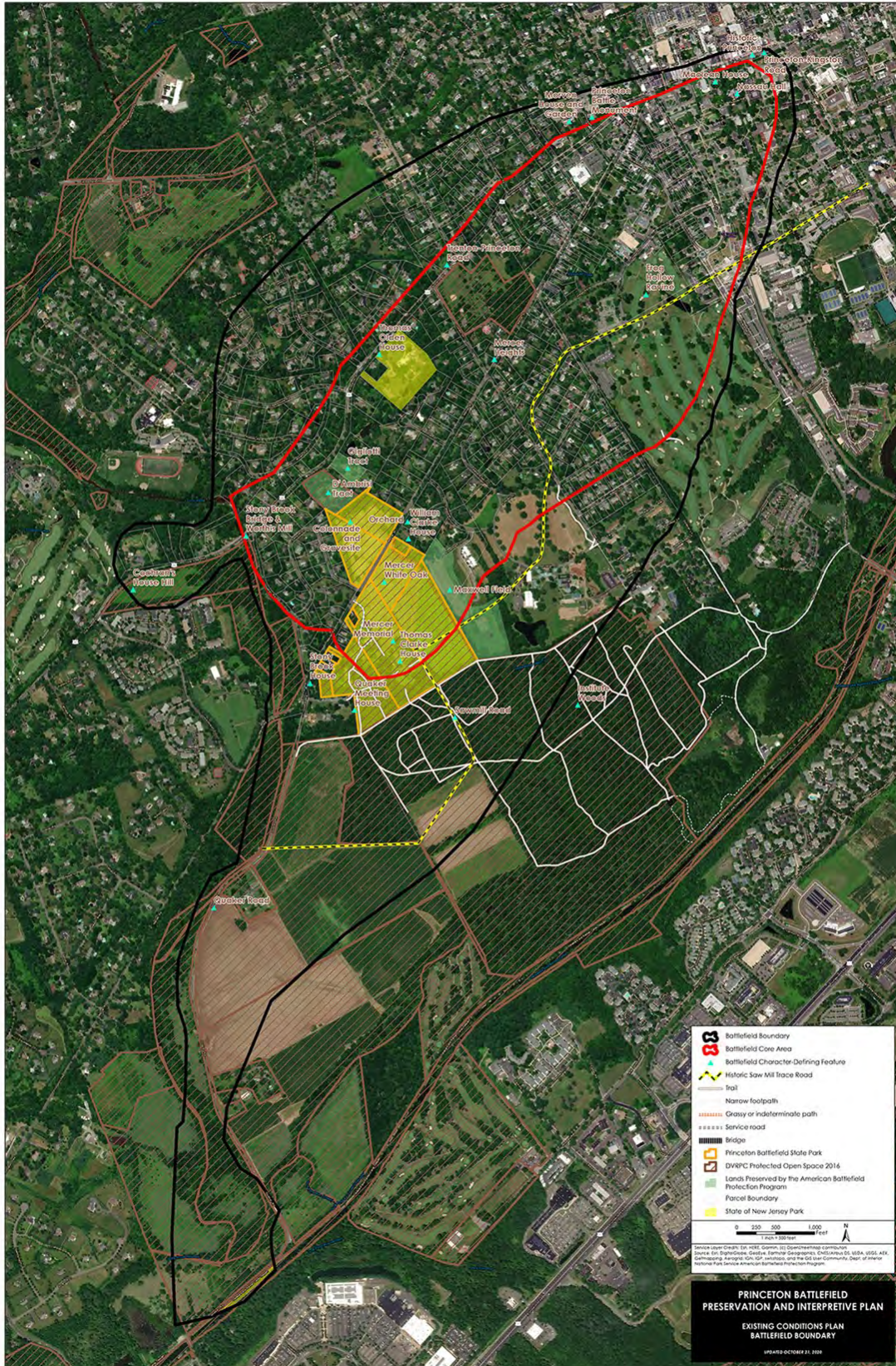
battlefield lands into discernable units for the purposes of assessing and determining preservation treatment opportunities.

### *B1. Battlefield Boundaries*

Contemporary practices in battlefield preservation apply standards and conventions espoused by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. Important conventions categorizing historic zones of a battlefield landscape not only infer what took place there but also heavily influence resulting treatment recommendations. The two general zones detailing battlefield lands include:

- Core Battlefield: Lands where the most intensive fighting occurred during the battle period.
- Battlefield Boundary: Lands supporting the broader engagement of military positions, occupation, support, and maneuvers, including avenues of approach and retreat.

At Princeton Battlefield, these zones are identified on the maps as a red boundary line, and a black boundary line respectively. The Princeton Battlefield State Park and associated lands lie at the lower southwest corner of both Core Battlefield and Battlefield Boundary respectively.



Contextual plan showing core battlefield in red, and battlefield boundaries in black.

## *B2. Landscape Units*

Cultural Landscape preservation practice organizes preservation treatment recommendations around contemporary and historic patterns of land use and cover. While historic patterns of property ownership greatly influenced this historic agrarian landscape, and therein the division of the battlefield into discernable landscape units, these patterns have been altered over time. Continued analysis of period ownership and patterns of historic management of the then largely open fields bisected by fence lines will yield important insight into the historic spatial character of the battlefield.

Today, the properties owned by and proposed for inclusion into the Princeton Battlefield State Park are segmented by more recent, non-contributing patterns of land management and contemporary use. For this study, analysis and treatment recommendations are organized into discernable landscape units that divide the once open and contiguous historic battlefield into distinct areas that reflect patterns of landscape organization. Within the natural, constructed, and legal boundaries of the Princeton Battlefield State Park and associated properties, the particular character of each landscape unit emerges based on land use, spatial organization, views, visual relationships, topography, vegetation, circulation, and structures. Boundaries of units may be loosely delineated by vegetation or slopes or clearly defined by physical features. Together the features and character of each landscape unit define the overall character and sense of place for the contemporary battlefield. The defined areas of the landscape, as experienced today, are shown on the accompanying plan and described in detail in this section:

- **Unit I: Mercer Oak & Fields** south of present-day Mercer Street. This area encompasses acreage that saw some of the most intense fighting during the battle and was historically associated with both the Thomas Clarke lands and William Clarke lands. Today this unit presents the most visibly accessible representation of the historic field of battle to committed visitors and passersby. Its boundaries are not historically defined and do not accurately depict the dimensions of the field of battle nor the historic property boundaries with which they are associated. The entirety of this present-day unit lies within the boundaries of the Princeton Battlefield State Park.
- **Unit I-a: Maxwell's Field** lies immediately adjacent to the park and represents acreage associated with the historic "Washington's Charge" sequence of the battle. It is believed these lands were historically held by both Clarke families during the historic period. These lands represent the entirety of lands saved from development and protected by the American Battlefield Trust in 2016, for intended inclusion into the park. The boundaries of this landscape unit are defined by contemporary physical boundaries and land uses.
- **Unit II: Northern Fields & Colonnade** encompasses acreage of battlefield land lying north of present-day Mercer Road. Encompassing lands partially associated with the historic William Clarke property, these lands were occupied by British defensive units during the war. The commemorative colonnade erected in 1959 stands at the northern edge of the field and is accompanied by markers identifying the burial sites north of the present-day fields. The boundaries of this unit, are not historically defined and are largely

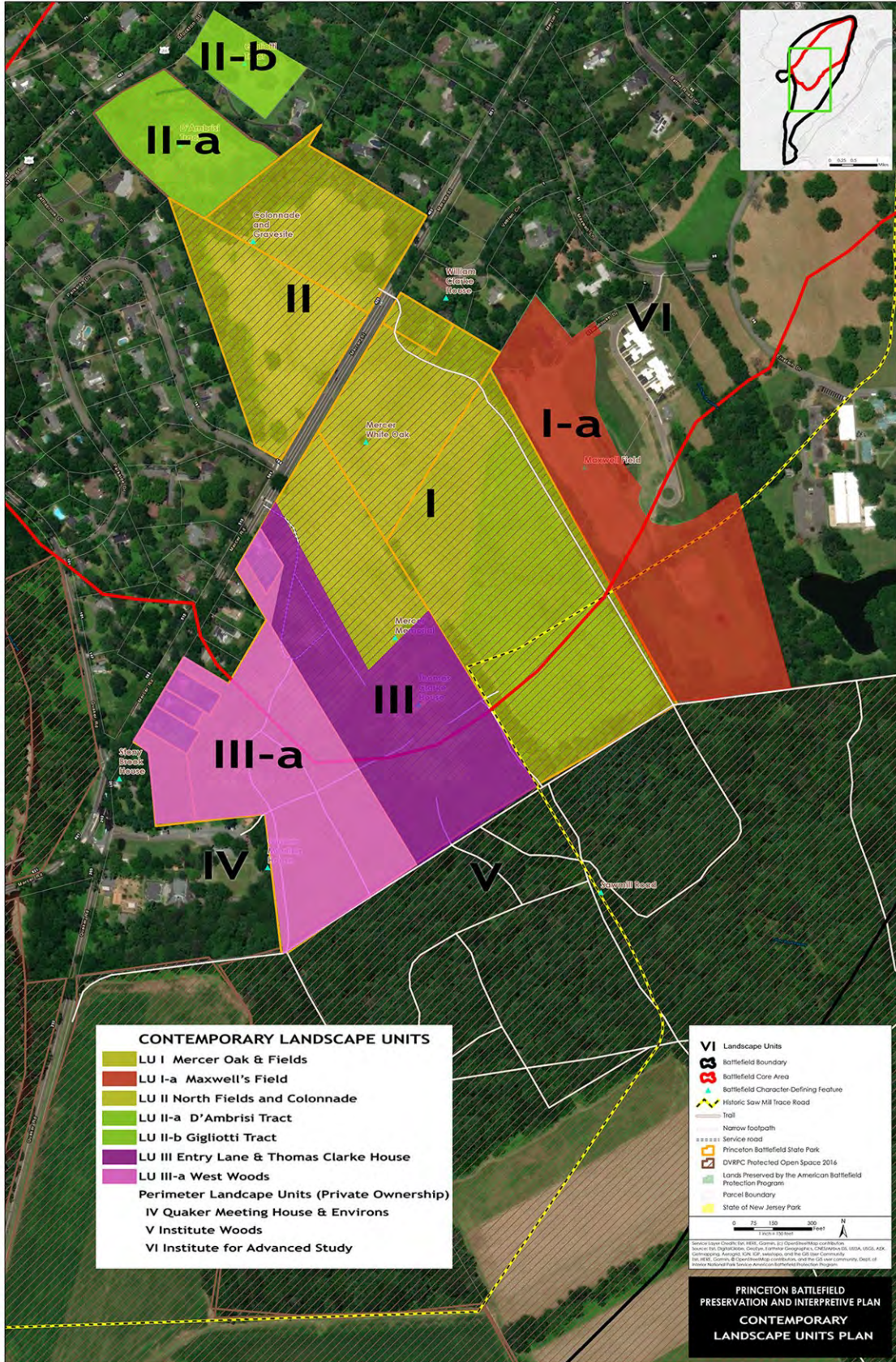
shaped by twentieth-century residential encroachment, now buffered by perimeter vegetation.

- **Units II-a & II-b: D’Ambrisi and Gigliotti tracts.** These two tracts represent acreage preserved by the American Battlefield Trust for incorporation into the state park. Both parcels represent once open lands occupied by British forces during the battle, and both were later associated with significant eras of nineteenth-century development associated with the Drumthwacket estate and twentieth-century residential development, respectively.
- **Unit III Entry Lane and Thomas Clarke House Environs.** Encompassing present-day access roads and parking, lying within the core battlefield area, these lands were associated with the historic Thomas Clarke property, and retain, to great effect the Thomas Clarke House, and numerous supporting structures. Visitors to the battlefield, and the trails of Institute Woods, use the entry road and parking area as a point of beginning for both educational and recreational experiences. The boundaries of this landscape unit are largely not historically defined and are shaped by modern-era landscape boundaries.
- **Unit III-a: West Woods.** The once open lands lying west of the entry drive and parking area, historically comprised lands owned by Thomas Clarke as it approached the center of the historic Quaker settlement of Stony Brook. Today these well-treed lands present walking trails extending from the parking area and into the Institute Woods trails beyond. Additionally, this area includes state-owned residential structures fronting Mercer Road.
- **Perimeter Landscape Units IV, V, and VI:** Several privately held perimeter properties fronting the Princeton Battlefield State Park represent important stakeholder entities and equally compelling contextual experiences for park-goers. These properties are well-stewarded by their existing organizations, and their mention herein is provided to continue to advance mutually beneficial landscape access and experience for park-goers. The perimeter landscape units include:
  - ***Perimeter Unit IV - Quaker Meeting House & Environs:*** The historical context of the Battle of Princeton rests within the very fabric of the historic Quaker community of Stony Brook, whose center, its 1760s-era Meeting House, lies at the edge of the present-day park. Continued partnerships should be maintained and strengthened to interpret both the peace-abiding perspective of this historic community and the impact the battle had on its historic and cultural fabric. Strengthened physical and interpretive themes and connections are explored in both treatment and interpretation as recommendations of this study.
  - ***Perimeter Unit V- Institute Woods:*** Abutting the south boundary of the Princeton Battlefield State Park is this 300+ acre woodland refuge. Boasting over 13 miles in trails, this naturalized landscape descends southward toward Stony Brook. The

historic Sawmill Trace, George Washington's avenue of approach on the morning of January 3, 1777, lies within the Institute Woods, and aligns with portions of existing trails entering the Princeton Battlefield State Park just southeast of the Thomas Clarke House.

- ***Perimeter Unit VI - Institute for Advanced Study Campus and Residences:*** Lands lying east of the Princeton Battlefield State Park are largely comprised of properties influenced by and associated with the development of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) beginning in 1939. Since the late 1930s, encroachment on the battlefield by successive eras of development has compromised the historic integrity of the battlefield. The purchase of Maxwell's Field (Unit I-a) by the American Battlefield Trust in 2016 stands as an important final boundary line of preservation action against future encroachment on battlefield lands.

These landscape units are used throughout this chapter as a means of discussing and organizing assessments and recommendations for the landscape treatment.



### *B3. Princeton Battlefield Character-Defining Features*

Landscape character at Princeton Battlefield State Park is derived from and defined by existing, historic features that align with categories specified by the *U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Guidelines)*. Furthermore, certain features hold relevance to the military significance of the battle period. Character-defining features are discussed as they pertain to each landscape unit of the campus:

- **Land Uses**—Organization, form, and shape of the landscape in respect to land use; practices that influence land use, patterns of division, building forms, and the use of materials. Much of the battlefield core lying outside of existing park-owned lands have been compromised by successive suburban and urban patterns of development, yet the battlefield retains its integrity of location and association to the events of 1777. Every acre of core battlefield protected, restored, or rehabilitated deserves clear direction, management, and programming befitting of this National Historic Landmark. Land uses appropriate within the core battlefield should be carefully assessed and considered.
- **Natural Systems**—Natural aspects that often influence the development and resultant form of a landscape. The larger ecological systems at play are well-stewarded by the park. Future considerations for land management practices and materials selection (including paths, etc.) should be considered within this heading.
- **Spatial Organization and Land Patterns**—Arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and shape spaces. The historic spatial character of the battlefield has been dramatically altered over the 244 years of subsequent development. Over the years, encroaching development and volunteer vegetative growth have changed the perception of the battlefield's boundaries within the park-owned and adjacent lands. Given the relatively small acreage of core battlefield protected, these lands should be assessed for sustainable management practices suitable to recapture historic spaces.
- **Views and Visual Relationships**—Features that shape the landscape as a series of visual spaces or directed views. Views and viewsheds were particularly relevant to military occupation and maneuvers on battlefield lands. Important sightlines and the general openness of battlefield lands should be prioritized for consideration.
- **Topography and Drainage**—Three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation. Topography often influenced “key terrain” designation of portions of battlefield lands. Where possible, the rolling bucolic character of the historic landscape should be protected and recaptured.
- **Vegetation**—Introduced, indigenous, and volunteer vegetation across the battlefield landscape and as evolved today. Vegetation often provided cover and concealment and shaped defensive and offensive military positions and actions. At Princeton Battlefield,

this includes the largely open field of battle, woodlots, orchards, and individual trees, including the Mercer Oak. Comprehensive treatment recommendations should be assessed to consider the phased recapture of—and in some cases, removal of—non-contributing vegetation, particularly when vegetation inhibits the experience of continuity of battlefield spaces, views, and key terrain.

- **Circulation**—Spaces, features, and materials that constitute systems of movement. For battlefields, this includes *Avenues of Approach* and *Withdrawal* during the battle period. Mercer Road’s bifurcation of the battlefield presents both a hindrance and opportunity to make the battlefield visually accessible to many “eyes on the park.” Historic patterns of circulation like the Sawmill Trace should be assessed for recapture, while contemporary patterns of circulation should be considered for relocation outside of the core battlefield.
- **Landscape Structures**—This category includes non-habitable landscape structures, including agrarian and domestic support structures, and retaining and free-standing walls, bridges, etc., which provided cover and concealment, as well as obstacles during the battle period. Continued research and investigation will inform future recapture of missing elements of this category.
- **Small-scale Features and Objects**—Elements that provide detail of the agrarian and domestic landscape, which often provided cover and concealment on battlefields. Missing today is the all-important presence of fencerows and field demarcations, which are important to experiencing the historic spatial character of the battlefield. Continued research and investigation will inform future recapture of missing elements of this category.
- **Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation**—Informational elements assisting in locating destinations and interpreting the history, evolution, and significance of this historic landscape. [Discussion of these features are covered in the following chapter.]
- **Archaeological Sites**—Known sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use. For battlefields, this includes not only sites revealing the nature and location of conflict, but also landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape, including fences, walls, and other features.

These systems and individual features combine to establish the defining character of this National Historic Landmark. To safeguard the historic features and plan for future programmatic additions to the Princeton Battlefield State Park, the following illustrated chapters present the current condition of features—both historic and contemporary—with recommendations for protection, preservation, and replacement of specific features, and for historically compatible new introductions.

## C. Preservation Methodology

### C1. Preservation Treatment Introduction

The proposed preservation treatment recommendations addressed below provide guidance drawn on several influencing factors: A) The history of both the battlefield as an important and pivotal moment in the American Revolutionary War and the history of the cultural fabric of the Quaker community at Stony Brook; B) The analysis of historic and existing landscape character and land use; C) Resource management practices; D) Existing and future user experience. Guidelines are developed based on these elements to direct the stewardship of the West Campus cultural landscape into the future.

In recognition of the National Historic Landmark designation of the battlefield, the treatment approach and guidelines need to address federal preservation standards. For cultural landscapes, the Secretary of the *Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Guidelines)* and *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* identify and define preservation treatments that can be applied to any historic property. This federal preservation guidance establishes four approaches to the preservation treatment of cultural landscapes: Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction. These treatments propose different levels of intensity of intervention and activity within a landscape.

- **PRESERVATION** is a low-impact approach that prioritizes stabilization, and repair, with minimal change to the property's current condition. Preservation treatment seeks to ensure that remnant historic features are stabilized and not permitted to degrade or decline due to neglect. This treatment is often prescribed as an interim treatment until more thorough analysis and planning are undertaken. As lands lying within and intended for inclusion within the Princeton Battlefield State Park are already protected by easement or ownership, for all intents and purposes, this Treatment is already secured. Preservation or stabilization is not the principal and final treatment recommended for the park.
- **RESTORATION** moves beyond Preservation treatment by seeking to authentically recapture in whole or in part, a landscape's historic condition. This treatment's viability rests on documentation of historic conditions and features in order to be accurately applied. Restoration treatment seeks to preserve remaining historic features and conditions, remove features not contributing to the period of significance, and authentically recapture missing historic features. Given the park's preeminent period of national historic significance associated with the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777, Restoration treatment is a key consideration for treatment. Restoration treatment may be applied and is recommended as the most appropriate treatment to recapture the overall spatial character, form, and continuity of the Princeton Battlefield State Park spaces.

- **REHABILITATION** emphasizes the modification of the historic property to accommodate new and compatible uses, executed in a manner sensitive to period landscape conditions. Rehabilitation is defined in the Guidelines as “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, or additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical values.” Rehabilitation is frequently the most appropriate treatment for public parks and designed landscapes as it blends the needs of historic preservation and interpretation with the recreational needs of contemporary park users. Rehabilitation should be applied when certain areas of a historic property cannot or should not be restored. Certain aspects, or spaces of the lands within and intended for inclusion within the Princeton Battlefield State Park should receive Rehabilitative treatment to accommodate compatible contemporary uses, like parking and visitors services in appropriate locations.
- **RECONSTRUCTION** is by far the most intensive of the four approaches, as it prescribes the comprehensive recapture and recreation of a missing historic landscape or feature. It is only implemented when a high level of primary source material supports the accurate reconstruction of an exact replica of missing features. Reconstruction is not an appropriate treatment for the entire battlefield and may only be recommended for the recapture of individual features as appropriate.

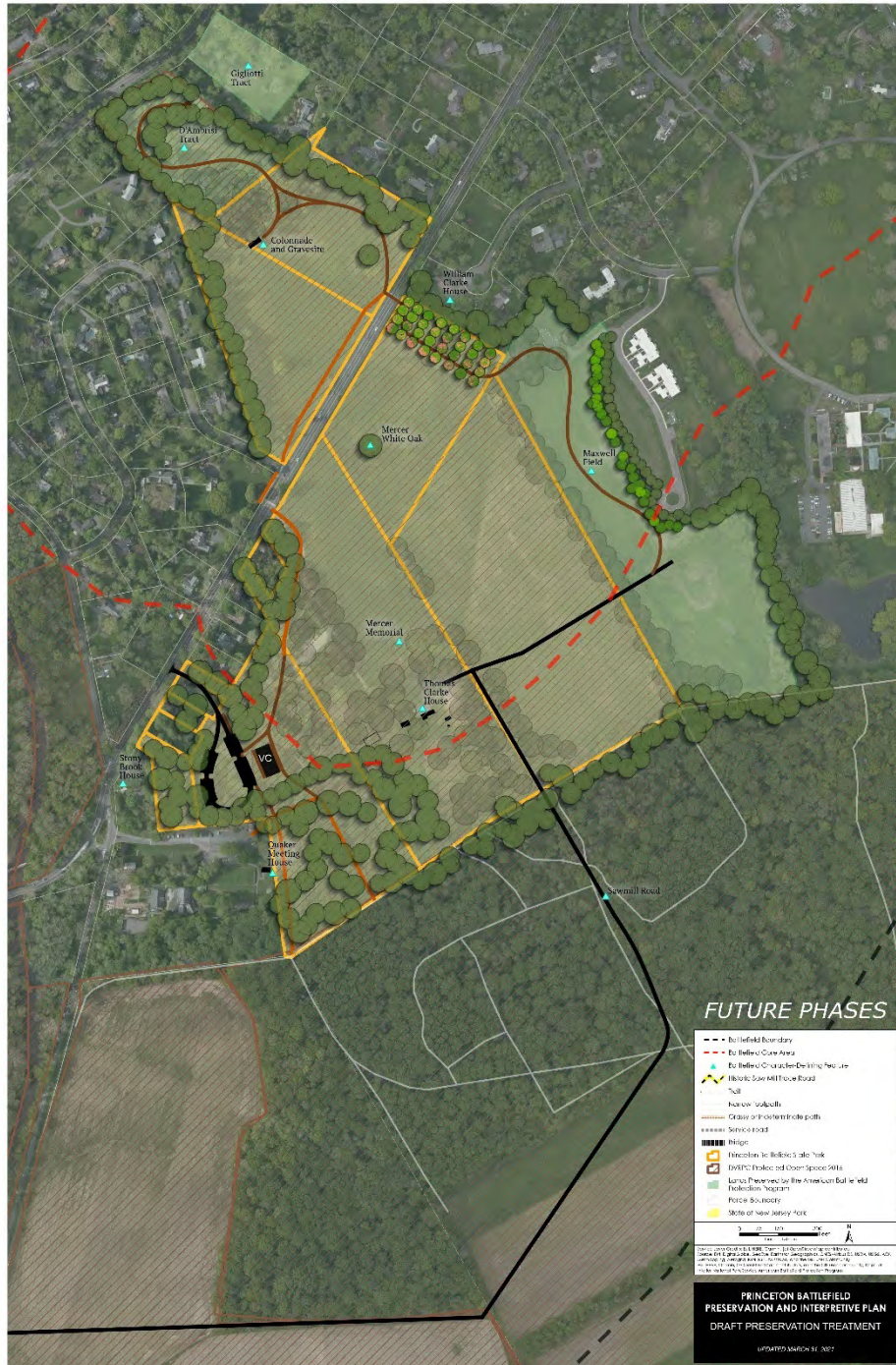
## *C2. Recommended Treatment – Restoration/Rehabilitation*

For lands lying within, and intended for inclusion within, the Princeton Battlefield State Park, a Restoration treatment with considerations for Rehabilitation is the most appropriate preservation approach. Basic interventions under a Restoration treatment include stabilization and repair that could address the deterioration of remaining character-defining landscape features and vegetation management of existing trees and woodlands, among other items. It would also include the recapture of important lost features and the overall spatial character of the battlefield. Because the park rests within the bustling context of Princeton Township, Preservation alone is deemed insufficient to accommodate the range of contextual uses and motivations of users, including frequent dogwalkers, and use by residents for walking trails. These treatments are often successfully employed on battlefields where current and future use raise considerations on prioritization of recapturing lost features, balanced with contemporary needs and expectations. Approaching landscape preservation and management with a focus on Restoration and Rehabilitation will best address future uses while recapturing the historic landscape character.

The overarching preservation treatment recommendations for each landscape unit listed below inform the character of the *Illustrative Plan*, are expanded upon in detail throughout the balance of this chapter, organized by landscape unit.

- Unit I: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Unit I-a: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Unit II: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Unit II-a: Restore/Rehabilitate

- Unit II-b: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Unit III: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Unit III-a: Restore/Rehabilitate
- Units IV, V, VI (Privately Held): Continue Partnerships for Stewardship and Interpretation



Illustrative Plan depicting future proposed Restoration/Rehabilitation treatment.

Units I, II, and III (Mercer Oak & Fields, North Fields & Colonnade, and Entry Lane and Thomas Clarke House) form the core of the present-day Princeton Battlefield State Park experience. The continued restoration and rehabilitation of these spaces are central to the battlefield experience. The more accurate articulation of historic spatial character, historic views and visual spaces, vegetation, and long-term relocation of visitor services outside of the historic core may collectively support a more immersive experience. The interpretation sequence and choreography covered in the Interpretation Chapter of this report, reinforced by the recapture of the historic Sawmill Trace, and pedestrian pathways will further enhance visitor comprehension and engagement with the historic and natural world.

A key objective of this report is to leverage and bring into the fold the properties already acquired and protected for inclusion into the battlefield state park. The addition of Landscape Units I-a (Maxwell's Field), II-a (D'Ambrisi Tract), and II-b (Gigliotti Tract) will greatly enhance the scale and scope of present-day experiences. The seamless integration of Maxwell's Field (IAS) lands into the park will add to the breadth and depth of experiencing the open field of battle present during the historic period. The fortification of additional boundary screening and the removal of immature and scrub vegetation along the property line between Unit I and Unit I-a will facilitate this important treatment objective.

In the same turn, the long-term management of vegetation between Unit II and the D'Ambrisi Tract (II-a) will extend views and landscape experience. Future treatment of the Gigliotti Tract may be considered in the future to further expand the interpretation and experience of this portion of the battlefield. The frontage of both properties along Stockton Street may also afford future opportunities to interpret the Washington-Rochambeau Trail (of which Stockton Street is aligned).

Lastly, the consideration to leveraging the western sections of Unit III-a, lying outside of the core battlefield, for consideration of future visitor services (including parking, and long-range visitor center) should be assessed. Co-locating these features nearer other points of community interest (like the Quaker Meeting House) may support greater community engagement, and engender a more immersive experience by removing non-contributing contemporary features outside of the core battlefield, and opening site lines to expand the historic agrarian landscape westward.

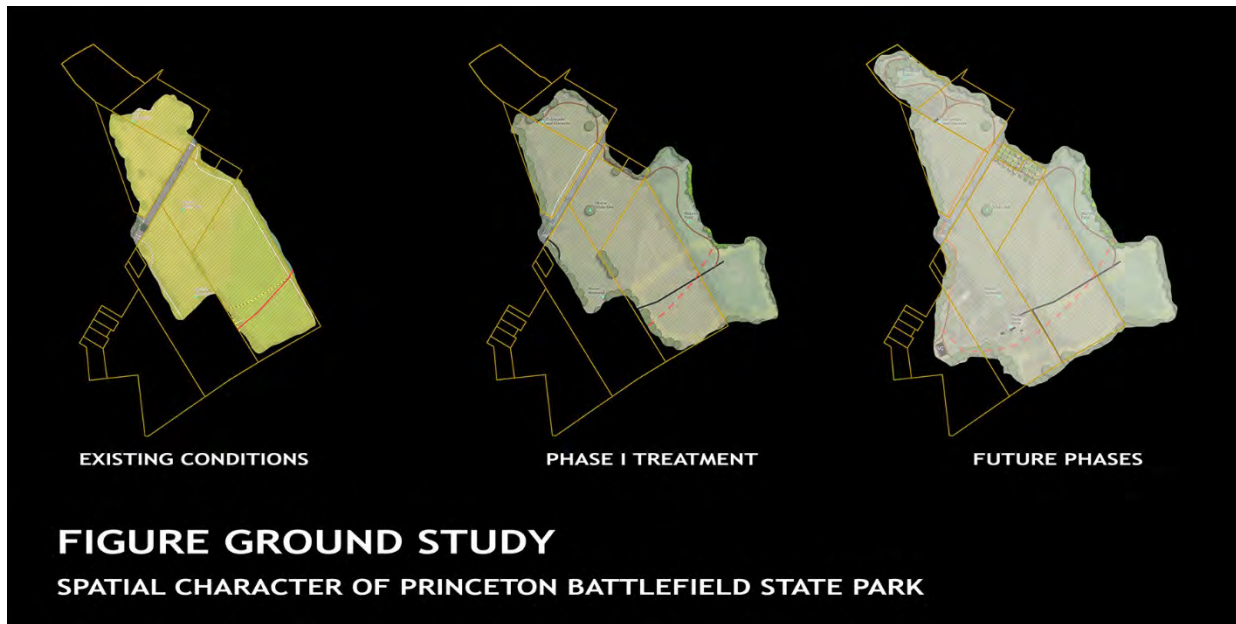


Diagram depicting the proposed change of existing battlefield spatial character over time.

It is important to state that the selection of a Restoration/Rehabilitation treatment for the Princeton Battlefield landscape—as a whole or by landscape unit—does not preclude the selected preservation, restoration, or reconstruction of lost or partially remaining individual features within or beyond the park boundaries, pending the support and partnership of willing property owners and stakeholders.

### *C3. Restoration/Rehabilitation of Character-Defining Features by Landscape Unit*

- **Unit I: Mercer Oak & Fields**

Comprising the historic environs of the Thomas Clarke lands and William Clarke lands, this unit presents the most visibly accessible representation of the historic field of battle to committed and casual visitors. In turn, its continued management and treatment by NJDEP is critical to conveying the historic landscape character important to an immersive experience at Princeton Battlefield State Park.

- Land Uses—The continued management and stewardship of these lands by NJDEP is critical to the preservation and experience objectives of this plan. No changes to land use are recommended by this plan.
- Natural Systems—Management of natural systems for this landscape unit include:
  - Continued stewardship of turf/meadowland cover in fields;
  - Continued management of the watershed and stormwater implications of land cover.

- Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships —Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape’s historic open spatial character include:
  - Remove non-native scrub and immature vegetation along the property line between this landscape unit and Maxwell’s Field;
  - Phased removal of mature vegetation along the property line between this landscape unit and Maxwell’s Field;
  - Remove vegetation in the northeast corner of this unit near Mercer Road, in the vicinity of the William Clarke house and environs;
  - Plant interpretive orchard in the vicinity of Mercer Road and William Clarke house and environs;
  - Remove vegetation separating this unit from the Thomas Clarke house and environs;
  - Continue protection and stewardship of Mercer Oak successional planting;
  - Continue sustainable management practices of open fields to expand authentic experiences of the 1777 agricultural landscape.
  
- Topography and Drainage—No alteration of topography or drainage are recommended for this landscape unit.
  
- Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
  - Recapture of the historic alignment and character of the Sawmill Trace as an important avenue of approach;
  - Removal of the remnant of the twentieth-century paved trail along the property line between this landscape unit and Maxwell’s Field.
  
- Landscape Structures—There are no structures within this landscape unit.
  
- Small-scale Features and Objects—The recapture of important period elements of the once-agrarian landscape include:
  - Recapture historic fence lines as an important interpretive, and experiential element of this landscape unit. Additional study should be undertaken to identify locations identified by historical accounts including:
    - Fence lines within the vicinity of the commemorative orchard near the William Clarke house;
    - Fence lines delineating both sides of the Sawmill Trace.
  
- Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Consideration of these features are covered in the chapter on Interpretation.]
  
- Archaeological Sites— Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:

- Potential sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use;
  - Relevant locations revealing the nature and location of conflict;
  - Landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape including fences, walls, and other features.
- **Unit I-a: Maxwell's Field**

The integration of lands saved from development and protected by the American Battlefield Trust for intended inclusion into the park is a key objective of this plan. Treatment recommendations for this landscape unit include:

  - Land Uses—The integration of these lands for management by NJDEP is a critical objective of this plan. Specific recommendations include:
    - Remove former mid-twentieth century structures;
    - Remove non-pervious, non-contributing features including roads, and driveways;
    - Restoration/rehabilitation of these lands in their entirety to support the interpretation and experience of the battle period.
  - Natural Systems—Management of natural systems, for this landscape unit include:
    - Restore/Rehabilitate landscape to reflect previous open landscape character;
    - Continue buffer vegetation plantings along the eastern edge of the IAS boundary.
  - Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships—Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape's historic open spatial character include:
    - Re-establish native turf/meadow character around north and east perimeter;
    - Remove non-native scrub and immature vegetation along the property line between this landscape unit and Mercer Oak & Fields;
    - Phased removal of mature vegetation along the property line between this landscape unit and Mercer Oak & Fields;
    - Remove vegetation in the northeast corner of this unit near Mercer Road, in the vicinity of the William Clarke house and environs;
    - Continue sustainable management practices of open fields to expand authentic experiences of the 1777 agricultural landscape;
    - Additional native tree buffer plantings along the eastern edge of Maxwell's field property to fortify existing screening of IAS development, and serve as mitigation for trees to be removed elsewhere on battlefield lands.

- Topography and Drainage—No alteration of topography or drainage are recommended for this landscape unit.
- Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
  - Recapture of the historic alignment and character of the Sawmill Trace as an important avenue of approach;
  - Introduce a new pedestrian path along the eastern edge and extend toward Mercer Road.
- Landscape Structures—There are no contributing structures within this landscape unit.
- Small-scale Features and Objects—The recapture of important period elements of the once-agrarian landscape include:
  - Recapture historic fence lines as an important interpretive and experiential element of this landscape unit. Additional study should be undertaken to identify locations identified by historical accounts including those referenced above in the Mercer Oak & Fields unit.
- Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Consideration of these features are covered in the chapter on Interpretation.]
- Archaeological Sites— Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:
  - Potential sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use;
  - Relevant locations revealing the nature and location of conflict;
  - Landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape including fences, walls, and other features.
- **Unit II: Northern Fields & Colonnade**  
 Expanding access and spatial character of this landscape unit is of critical importance to landscape experience. Treatment recommendations include:
  - Land Uses—The continued management and stewardship of these lands by NJDEP is critical to the preservation and experience objectives of this plan. No changes to land use are recommended by this plan.
  - Natural Systems—Management of natural systems for this landscape unit include:
    - Continued stewardship of turf/meadowland cover in fields;
    - Continued management of the watershed, and stormwater implications of land cover.

- Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships—Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape’s historic open spatial character include:
  - Remove non-native invasive vegetation along the property’s perimeter;
  - Phased removal of mature vegetation behind the colonnade;
  - Continue sustainable management practices balancing mown grass with perimeter open fields to expand authentic experiences of the 1777 agricultural landscape.
  
- Topography and Drainage—No alteration of topography or drainage are recommended for this landscape unit.
  
- Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
  - Establish new pedestrian circulation patterns crossing Mercer Road and extend into the property toward the colonnade and the D’Ambrisi property beyond;
  - Replace existing yellow “pedestrian crossing” signs at Mercer Road pedestrian crossings with more pedestrian-friendly improvements, including “rapid flashing beacon” pedestrian crossing signs. Visitors who wish to cross Mercer Road press a crosswalk button, which causes a pair of amber lights to begin flashing. Motorists must stop at these lights, allowing pedestrians to safely cross. Unlike traditional traffic lights, however, these lights only flash when activated by a pedestrian. This ensures that cars are not needlessly stopped during times of low visitation, such as rainy days or in the evening.
  
- Landscape Structures—The colonnade marks the visual and commemorative centerpiece of this landscape unit.
  - The continued stabilization and preservation treatment of the colonnade as an early commemorative feature marking preservation at the Princeton Battlefield should be maintained.
  - It should be noted that contemporary practices in preservation treatment include the recommended removal of structures bearing no historical significance to the battle period. However, this plan makes no recommendation for its removal at this time.
  - Long-term considerations should weigh costs and opportunities to consider if the colonnade should be restored/reconstructed when in the future, its structural integrity or decline requires more substantial fortification or replacement of failing features.



A flashing beacon pedestrian crossing sign will help ensure visitor safety.

- Small-scale Features and Objects—No small-scale features within this landscape are proposed for treatment.
- Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Discussion of these features are covered in the following chapter.]
- Archaeological Sites—Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:
  - Potential sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use;
  - Relevant locations revealing the nature and location of conflict;
  - Landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape including fences, walls, and other features.
- **Units II-a & II-b: D’Ambrisi and Gigliotti tracts.**

The integration of these lands saved from development and protected by the American Battlefield Trust for incorporation into the park is a key objective of this plan. Treatment recommendations for these landscape units include:

  - Land Uses—The continued management and stewardship of these lands by NJDEP is critical to the preservation and experience objectives of this plan.
  - Natural Systems—Management of natural systems for this landscape unit include:
    - These properties' current conditions reflect their evolution of several eras of landscape change, most notably in the existence of non-battlefield-related features attributed to their historic association with the Drumthwacket. The natural and cultural features attributed to that era, including pools and topographic manipulation from the Drumthwacket era should be maintained;
    - It is recommended that natural systems, including topographic manipulation of the properties from the twentieth-century residential development era be phased for removal;
    - The resulting treatment effect is Rehabilitation of these properties to transition from bucolic battlefield landscape aesthetic, and also include later era Drumthwacket features.
  - Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships—Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape’s historic open spatial character, and park-like setting attributed to the Drumthwacket era include:
    - Phased removal of vegetation along the property line and interior of the D’Ambrisi property is recommended to continue the open spatial character of the battlefield landscape;

- Perimeter vegetation and vegetation along the northern boundaries attributed to the Drumthwacket era should be maintained.
  - Topography and Drainage—The amelioration of the twentieth-century residential development grade manipulation is recommended for this landscape unit.
    - Previously disturbed areas lying within the footprint and immediate environs of twentieth-century residential structures and supporting non-historic infrastructure should be removed and transitioned seamlessly into the adjacent topography, following appropriate archaeological due diligence.
  - Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
    - Establish new pedestrian circulation patterns linking the D’Ambrisi property with the colonnade and points south;
    - No immediate linkage to the Gigliotti property is possible at this time. Future consideration for pedestrian connectivity to this property is a priority for its treatment.
  - Landscape Structures—There are no structures for treatment within this landscape unit.
  - Small-scale Features and Objects—There are no structures for treatment within this landscape unit.
  - Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Consideration of these features are covered in the chapter on Interpretation.]
  - Archaeological Sites—Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:
    - Potential sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use;
    - Relevant locations revealing the nature and location of conflict;
    - Landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape including fences, walls, and other features.
- **Unit III Entry Lane and Thomas Clarke House Environs.**

The Restoration of this landscape unit and relocation of visitor services outside of the core battlefield is a key recommendation to advance preservation treatment. Specific recommendations include:

  - Land Uses—The continued management and stewardship of these lands by NJDEP is critical to the preservation and experience objectives of this plan including:

- Continue principle use of this unit to interpret the battlefield and the environs of the Thomas Clarke House;
  - Relocate visitor services/parking outside of this landscape unit.
- Natural Systems—Management of natural systems, for this landscape unit include:
  - Continued stewardship of turf/meadowland cover in fields;
  - Continued management of the watershed, and stormwater implications of land cover.
- Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships—Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape’s historic open spatial character include:
  - Phased removal of non-historic vegetation within the center of this landscape unit will dramatically improve the immersive experience and interpretation of the more open, historic, spatial character of the battlefield;
  - Based on additional study, phased removal of non-historic vegetation surrounding the Thomas Clarke house will also improve stewardship of the structures therein, and improve interpretation of the bucolic war-time landscape setting;
  - Phased removal/consideration should also be applied to the long-term removal of the pine trees lining the existing non-historic drive.
- Topography and Drainage—No alteration of topography or drainage are recommended for this landscape unit.
- Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
  - Remove twentieth-century paved drives and parking;
  - Phased removal of service access along existing Mercer Road entrance, after new parking and service access, is relocated and established.
- Landscape Structures—The long-term care and stewardship of extant historic structures related to the Thomas Clarke House are important to this landscape unit.
  - Continued prioritization of Thomas Clarke house restoration;
  - Phased reconstruction of support Thomas Clarke Barn and support structures.
- Small-scale Features and Objects—The recapture of important period elements of the once-agrarian landscape include:
  - Recapture historic fence lines as an important interpretive, and experiential element of this landscape unit. Fence lines for recapture include:

- Snakerail fence lines along both sides of the Sawmill Trace;
    - Domestic fence lines around the Thomas Clarke House and environs.
  - Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Consideration of these features are covered in the chapter on Interpretation.]
  - Archaeological Sites—Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:
    - Potential sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic land use;
    - Relevant locations revealing the nature and location of conflict;
    - Landscape archaeology, suitable for identifying the location of long-missing features of the agrarian landscape including fences, walls, and other features.
- **Unit III-a: West Woods.**

The Rehabilitation of this landscape unit to recapture historic open spatial character and the relocation of visitor services to this unit are of critical importance. Specific treatment recommendations include:

  - Land Uses—The continued management and stewardship of these lands by NJDEP is critical to the preservation and experience objectives of this plan, including:
    - Relocate visitor services/parking to this landscape unit;
    - Maintain visual and spatial buffer between parking and visitor services from adjacent property lines;
    - Phased removal of state-owned residential houses along Mercer Road.
  - Natural Systems—Management of natural systems for this landscape unit include:
    - Continued stewardship of turf/meadowland cover in fields;
    - Continued management of the watershed and stormwater implications of land cover.
  - Spatial Organization; Vegetation; Views and Visual Relationships—Treatment recommendations supporting the management of this landscape’s historic open spatial character include:
    - Open views from Mercer Road southward, through the removal of non-contributing features properties owned by the state along Mercer Rd.;
    - Maintain generous visual buffers and setbacks from adjacent properties to the west and southwest.

- Topography and Drainage—Alteration of topography and drainage is recommended for this landscape unit in order to receive future parking in this vicinity.
  - Grading will be necessary to support rehabilitation of this area to receive a new park entry, drive, and parking area.
- Circulation—Recommendations influencing historic and contemporary patterns of circulation for this landscape unit include:
  - Remove and realign pedestrian walks within this unit to support circulation to the new parking area;
  - Add new park entry and associated entry drive off Mercer Rd. (one-way loop);
  - Add parking lot in this vicinity for less than 40 spaces.
- Landscape Structures—There are no landscape structures within this landscape unit.
- Small-scale Features and Objects—There are no period or restorative landscape features within this landscape unit.
- Site Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretation—[Consideration of these features are covered in the chapter on Interpretation.]
- Archaeological Sites—Continued archaeological investigation of this landscape unit is recommended for:
  - Advanced archaeological investigation is recommended before selective removals of existing features and the design and construction of a new entry drive and parking.
- **Perimeter Landscape Units IV, V, and VI:**

These perimeter landscape units are in private ownership; therefore, no preservation treatment recommendations are proposed. However, the continued partnership with each respective entity is important to continue shared goals and management objectives. Specific recommendations for the continued partnership include:

  - **Perimeter Unit IV - Quaker Meeting House & Environs:** Continued partnership between NJDEP and battlefield partners/stewards, and the stewards of the Quaker Meeting House and environs to the west of the park, is an important management objective. The inseparable and contributing history of Princeton Battlefield’s context, within the established eighteenth-century Stony Brook Quaker village, is a relationship important to local and national history. Every effort should be made to respect the Quaker community’s continued cultural practices, beliefs, and together develop shared management and interpretive goals that continue this historic relationship. Partnership opportunities include:

- Confirm/coordinate living history programs on the battlefield to ensure they do not conflict with Meeting House activities;
  - Maintain adequate visual buffer between these lands and any contemporary uses within the park;
  - Foster co-interpretive opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of the historic Stony Brook community, and the Quaker faith and cultural practices, and its influence on and across the historic landscape;
  - Do not encourage pedestrian traffic into Quaker Meeting House lands from the park, beyond those already existing at the time of this report, without the expressed interest and co-development of interpretive efforts with the Quaker community.
- **Perimeter Unit V- Lands Encompassing the Institute Woods:** Continued partnerships with Institute Woods (IAS and the Charles H. Rogers Wildlife Refuge) include:
- Continue shared management of access to the 300+ acre woodland refuge, and 13 miles of trails from NJDEP parklands;
  - Continued management/partnerships ensuring mutually beneficial land and resource management policies sustaining landscape health including:
    - Non-native invasive species control
    - Watershed protection
  - Recapture of the historic Sawmill Trace, George Washington’s avenue of approach on the morning of January 3, 1777 lies within the Woods, and aligns with portions of existing trails entering the Princeton Battlefield State Park just southeast of the Thomas Clarke House;
  - Advance partnership considerations to restore the entirety of the historic Sawmill Trace, from its entry at the southern edge of the Princeton Battlefield State Park, extending south and west to Quaker Rd.
- **Perimeter Unit VI – Lands Owned by The Institute for Advanced Study, Campus and Residences:** Continued partnerships to preserve the visual, natural, and cultural resources of lands owned and developed by the Institute for Advanced Study remain important management objectives for battlefield stewards and partner organizations. Recommendations include:
- Continued partnership/management of battlefield viewshed resources by ensuring the existing native planting buffer on IAS lands fronting Maxwell’s field is healthy and fortified, as a condition of the 2016 agreement between IAS and the American Battlefield Trust (then Civil War Trust);
  - Continued partnerships interpreting both IAS and battlefield cultural resources;
  - Continued considerations/discussions regarding future preservation objectives and opportunities to protect and preserve battlefield lands;
  - Continued management/partnerships ensuring mutually beneficial land and resource management policies sustaining landscape health including:

- Non-native invasive species control
- Watershed protection

## D. Phased Restoration/Rehabilitation

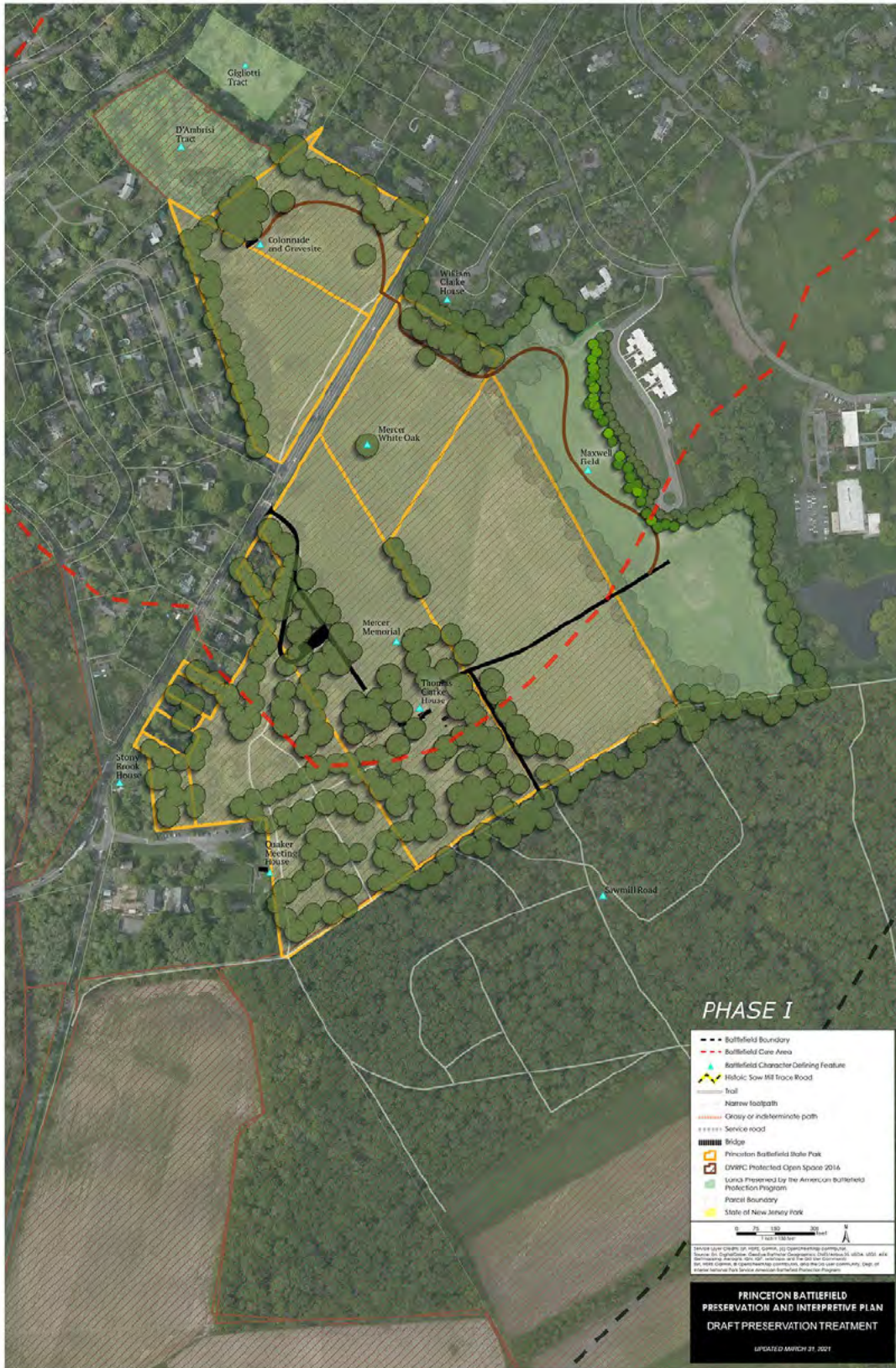
The Restoration/Rehabilitation of protected Princeton Battlefield lands will be achieved through partnerships and phased implementation. These lands retain the integrity of location, association, and feeling, and through the purposeful recapture of features and historic spatial character, hold the potential to recapture the spatial character and defining features of the battlefield landscape. The following narrative briefly addresses the priorities to be implemented with an emphasis placed on the recapture of each respective area. Interpretive improvements for each area are covered in the next chapter on Interpretation. Lastly, these priority recommendations are leveraged in the report's final chapter providing a roadmap for implementation.

### *Restoration Treatment By Landscape Unit:*

The following narrative addresses the phased priorities for Restoration/Rehabilitation treatment by landscape unit. The recapture of each unit, and their extant and restored features is an important objective that overcomes piecemeal restoration approaches that do little to impact the user experience of each space. Before restoration and rehabilitation, the proper considerations should be given to ensure the archeological record of each unit is safeguarded through the treatment phase.

### Phase I Restoration Treatment:

**Maxwell's Field Phase:** The highest priority for landscape restoration encompasses the integration of recently protected lands into the Princeton Battlefield State Park. The inclusion of Maxwell's field into the spatial boundaries of the existing park, and removal of non-contributing vegetation limiting their connectivity and spatial relationship are of the highest importance to realize the fruits of the landmark preservation action to save this land from development. Likewise, the recapture of the historic Sawmill Trace will add needed circulation to this space. See the detailed recommendations on the treat of Landscape Unit IA for consideration.



Illustrative Plan depicting Phase I treatment bringing Maxwell's Field into the Princeton Battlefield State Park.

## Future Phase Restoration Treatment:

**Mercer Oak & Fields:** The recapture of historic spatial character, missing and lost character-defining features, like fence lines, and circulation improvements are the second-highest priority for battlefield restoration/rehabilitation. See detailed treatment recommendations for Landscape Unit I, presented earlier in this chapter. The Landscape Preservation Treatment

**Entry Lane & West Woods:** The relocation of visitor services and parking outside of the core battlefield is an important preservation action that holds the potential to greatly improve the battlefield experience. See treatment recommendations for Landscape Unit III and III-A addressed earlier in this chapter.

**North Fields and Associated Tracts:** Bringing the D'Ambrisi and Gigliotti properties into the physical experience of the park, and providing visual permeation into these spaces from the north fields is an important long-term objective, as is the treatment of the commemorative colonnade. See treatment recommendations for Landscape Units II, and II-A, and B. addressed earlier in this chapter.

The implementation costs of each phase and partners for implementation are covered in Chapter VII of this report. The American Battlefield Trust will continue to coordinate with leadership at NJDEP on priority and phasing recommendations to ensure that the park's priorities for preservation treatment are accurately captured as the plan moves forward.

# CHAPTER VI: INTERPRETATION

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*What muse can sing the hardships thou endur'd; / Unarm'd, uncloth'd, undisciplin'd thy men; / In winter's cold unhospitable reign; / And press'd by numerous hosts of veteran troops, / All well-appointed for the hardy fight.*

Annis Boudinot Stockton, Princeton poet<sup>91</sup>

As the 250th anniversary of the battle approaches, new interpretive elements are critical to telling the story of those who fought, witnessed, and endured the Battle of Princeton. This chapter lays out an interpretive strategy for the battlefield and the reasoning behind each suggested element.

## A. Introduction

A short walk from the Princeton Battlefield State Park parking lot, visitors are greeted by an open vista. To their left is where British troops under Charles Mawhood—bayonets drawn—smashed into the American forces, sparking panic and retreat. In the distance and to the right is the parcel of land recently preserved by the ABT where General Washington rallied his men before leading them in a daring charge that broke the British line and opened the way to Princeton and victory. As the American Revolution hung in the balance, the soldiers' struggles and sacrifices determined the outcome of the battle. Preserving this land ensures that visitors can see where these soldiers fought and fell, but properly interpreting it ensures that future generations can comprehend the significance of what happened here, and how the battle's outcome has echoed through the ages.

With proper interpretation investments, the Princeton Battlefield can be a key learning resource for both the local community and visitors from around the globe. The preservation victory at Maxwell's Field site adds a new element to the state park that visitors can see and enjoy, one where they can literally follow the footsteps of the patriot forces during a key moment in the war. The battlefield should be a site that anyone can enjoy and learn from, whether they are a senior citizen stopping to read a wayside while walking their dog or a teenager touring the battlefield with a smartphone app. New opportunities will allow visitors to learn about the military tactics used, the political environment in 1777, the experiences of the average soldier, and the experiences of the average civilian.

This chapter covers the existing interpretive conditions at the site, current visitation profiles, general opportunities and parameters, major interpretive themes, interpretive options and recommendations, and timelines for implementation. These options were chosen after close coordination with key stakeholders and careful review of the public survey results.

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<sup>91</sup> Annis Boudinot Stockton, "Addressed to General Washington, in the Year 1777, after the Battles of Trenton and Princeton," *Poetry Nook*, <https://www.poetrynook.com/poem/addressed-general-washington-year-1777-after-battles-trenton-and-princeton>.

By adopting a variety of both physical and digital options, the plan lays out a vision for telling the complex and compelling story of the battle and its aftermath, offering layers of interpretive experiences to enhance this National Historic Landmark. These options immerse the visitor in the story of the battle, its context, significance, the military tactics used, and the experiences of ordinary soldiers and civilians. The options are organized in three phases, with phases one and two recommended for completion by the Semiquincentennial of the battle in 2027.

The vision presented here adopts a layered interpretation approach for expanding the educational opportunities at the Princeton Battlefield. This provides visitors with different options for exploring the site depending on their personal preferences, level of interest, and familiarity with technology. No two visitors are alike. Some will want to learn all about the military history of the site, while others will be more interested in exploring the civilian experience. Some visitors will read every single wayside, while others will be content to browse through a brochure. Providing numerous layers of interpretation that focus on different themes or aspects of the site offers visitors multiple pathways to engage with the battlefield, thereby increasing the chance that they will find value in their visit and come away with a positive reaction to the site.

Nothing in this chapter is intended to replace the in-person tours and interpretive programming offered by NJDEP staff and PBS volunteers at the Princeton Battlefield State Park. Comments on the public survey and a review of TripAdvisor comments show that the staff tours and PBS programs are very popular and valued. The options featured in the chapter are designed to complement the NJDEP's staff work, connect the park to other important sites related to the battlefield, or provide interpretation to visitors who arrive when the park is not staffed.

## **B. Existing Interpretive Conditions**

The visitor experience for other Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey and the Southeastern Pennsylvania area has improved significantly over the past few decades, while the interpretive offerings at Princeton when the site is not staffed remains dated and sparse. A visitor who begins their Revolutionary War journey in Philadelphia has the opportunity to see restored colonial homes, the expansive Independence Hall National Historic Site, and the high-tech exhibits of the Museum of the American Revolution. If they then travel to Washington's Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania, a visitor center, recently renovated in 2012, offers a dramatic orientation film about the site's history, along with artifacts and exhibits.<sup>92</sup> Outside the visitor center, historic buildings, informative interpretation, and examples of the boats the Continental Army used to cross the Delaware River are present. Washington Crossing State Park in New Jersey also features a visitor center and museum along with several well-marked trails, and a nature center. Plans are currently underway for the design and construction of a new visitor center for the site. In Trenton, the Old Barracks Museum provides guided tours of the original barracks and hospital, living history demonstrations, and compelling artifacts and exhibits.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> "Visitor's Center," Washington Crossing Historic Park, <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/park/visitors-center/>.

<sup>93</sup> "About," Old Barrack Museum, <https://www.barracks.org/>.

By contrast, a visitor who arrives at the Princeton Battlefield will see a field, a few scattered waysides, the Colonnade and gravesite, and the Clarke House, which may or may not be open depending on when the visitor arrives—a lackluster conclusion to their journey. There is no visitor center and no orientation beyond a simple map and a list of rules. Existing waysides are vague and provide little interpretation or orientation on the battle and its impacts. As one public survey respondent put it, “It’s just a field now. It’s not that interesting. I know that’s what a battlefield is, but the green space should be utilized better.” John Mills, a former park historian, noted that many of the tour groups that come to the battlefield simply look at the site from the bus and then drive away.<sup>94</sup> In its current form, the site is a “windshield” park—a park visitors drive by or briefly stop and look around, but not a place where they can stay and delve into its history.



Current signage at the Princeton Battlefield State Park parking lot.

Both the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) have worked to improve the interpretation at the site. Currently, an NJDEP staff member provides tours of the battlefield and the Clarke House. PBS hosts special events, tours, and programs. PBS also offers a brochure, a website, and a series of collectible playing cards featuring the stories of individuals who experienced the battle. These combined offerings have helped make the Princeton Battlefield a valued part of the community, but visitors who arrive when the site is not staffed still lack options to explore the battlefield and thoroughly delve into its history.

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<sup>94</sup> *Preservation Plan for the Thomas Clarke House Princeton Battlefield State Park* (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 2010), 12.



The Princeton Battlefield represents a compelling site currently burdened by underwhelming interpretive offerings. Written interpretation at the site is light and does little to orient visitors to the battle, the overall impact of the Ten Crucial Days on the outcome of the American Revolution. When visitors arrive, they are greeted by a row of signs in the parking lot that provide rules, regulations, and restrictions but, aside from a small map of the park, lack orientation and interpretation of the site's history. There is nothing there to encourage further exploration or point visitors in the direction of where they should head next. A few waysides are scattered throughout the park, but they do not present a unified story, and little is done to orient visitors to where they are relative to the phases of the battle and movement of the two armies. While the Princeton Battlefield Society offers a pamphlet with a detailed battlefield map, there is no distribution point at the park itself. Visitors who drive by on Mercer Road and decide to make an impromptu visit do not have access to this resource.

A survey of visitor responses on TripAdvisor showed that many guests appreciate and enjoy the work of the park staff and volunteers, but were disappointed by the lack of other interpretive offerings.<sup>95</sup> Respondents to the public survey distributed by HAI and the ABT expressed similar views. Survey respondents noted that while the site is beautiful, it is hard to comprehend what occurred there and its historic significance if they do not speak with a park employee or volunteer. Many expressed hope that more waysides and other educational tools, such as apps, could be employed to better tell the site's history. As one individual noted, "Visitors come from all over the world, yet there is relatively little signage." Another respondent requested, "Provide interpretive materials near the road so people realize it's not just a dog park with a ruined Greek temple."

New Jersey's Revolutionary War Sites: Site & Visitor Readiness Assessment, April 21, 2020 (hereafter referred to as the Crossroads report) prepared for Crossroads of the American Revolution by Clarke Caton Hintz, Hargrove International, and Hunter Research, describes the Princeton Battlefield and the Thomas Clark House as "tour while there" sites with "attraction potential," meaning that people tend to visit if they are in the area "and time permits."<sup>96</sup> The report concludes that with the right investments, these sites could provide a distinct experience that will attract visitors on their own. Given the site's importance to the American Revolution, improving the site's interpretive offerings should be a priority during the lead-up to the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2027.

Discussions with park staff indicate that for the foreseeable future there will only be one full-time staff member at the site, and currently the site has only one part-time employee at the site to conduct interpretive activities. The staffing situation continues to limit the ability of visitors to take a guided tour of the battlefield or explore the interior of the Thomas Clarke House. For that

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<sup>95</sup> "Reviews: Princeton Battlefield State Park," *Tripadvisor* (accessed on January 7, 2020), [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g46756-d2702381-Reviews-or15-Princeton\\_Battlefield\\_State\\_Park-Princeton\\_New\\_Jersey.html#REVIEWS](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g46756-d2702381-Reviews-or15-Princeton_Battlefield_State_Park-Princeton_New_Jersey.html#REVIEWS)

<sup>96</sup> *New Jersey's Revolutionary War Sites: Site & Visitor Readiness Assessment* (Trenton, NJ: Hunter Research, Inc, 2020).

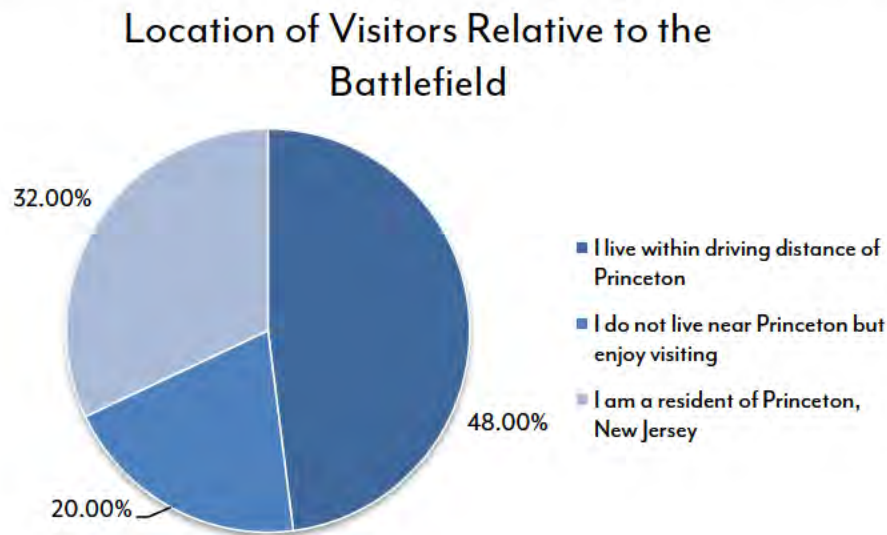
reason, it is vital that visitors who arrive at the Princeton Battlefield be empowered and encouraged to explore and learn about it on their own.

The Crossroads report finds that Princeton Battlefield State Park is considered “visitor ready,” something true of only 24% of Revolutionary Wars sites in New Jersey.<sup>97</sup> While the report recommends that sites deemed “visitor ready” should focus on hospitality training and programming, the needs of the Princeton Battlefield require a focus on interpretive offerings that can be enjoyed when a staff member is not present.

Beyond the boundaries of the state park, much of the Princeton Battlefield has been developed and there is no unified interpretation of the sites that are still present, such as the Stony Brook Meeting House or Nassau Hall. Investments in physical and no-footprint interpretive offerings at these sites could help visitors learn about the contours of the battle outside of the park, and promote awareness and appreciation of historic preservation.

### C. Visitation and Audience

Due to the limited hours of staff operation at Princeton Battlefield, comprehensive figures about how many people visit the battlefield and their locations of origin are not available. To remedy this issue, the public survey conducted by HAI and ABT included questions about the respondent’s location relative to the site. Based on the survey, around 32% of visitors were from Princeton itself, another 48% lived within easy driving distance, and 20% did not live in the area.

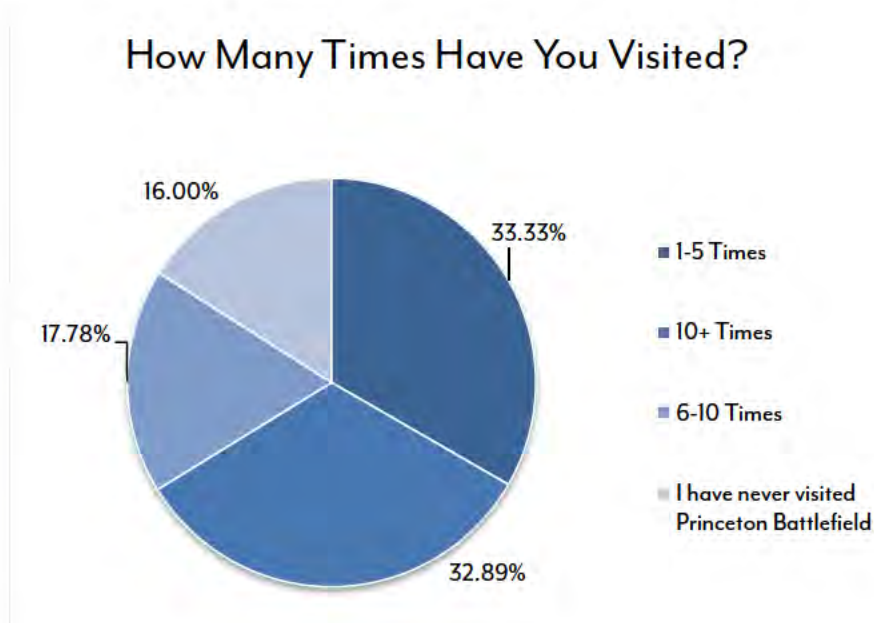


The data from the survey suggests that most visitors to Princeton Battlefield State Park live relatively close, which makes the park more likely to be part of a day trip or part of a multi-day

<sup>97</sup> *New Jersey’s Revolutionary War Sites: Site & Visitor Readiness Assessment* (Trenton, NJ: Hunter Research, Inc, 2020), 26.

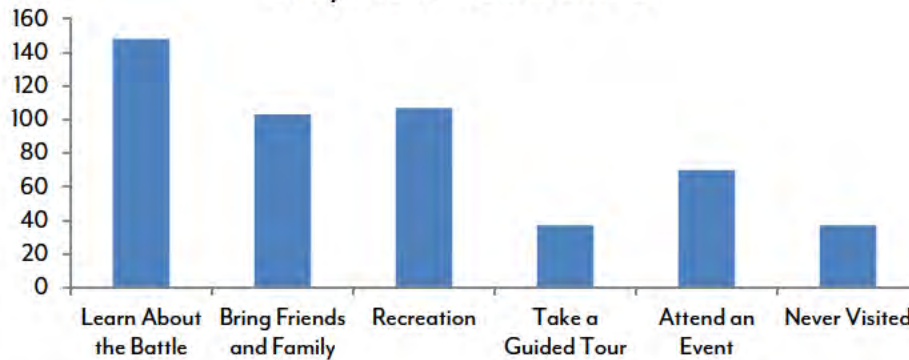
excursion rather than a destination in and of itself, which corresponds with the findings of the Crossroads report.

The survey also asked how many times respondents had visited the site. Thirty-three percent had only visited once, 18% had visited between six and ten times, and 33% had visited more than ten times. The fact that so many visitors have come back more than once suggests that the site is an important part of many visitors' lives—a place for them to come exercise, take in nature, or reflect on history. It is a valuable resource for the community, and providing more reasons to return could increase the rate of return even further.



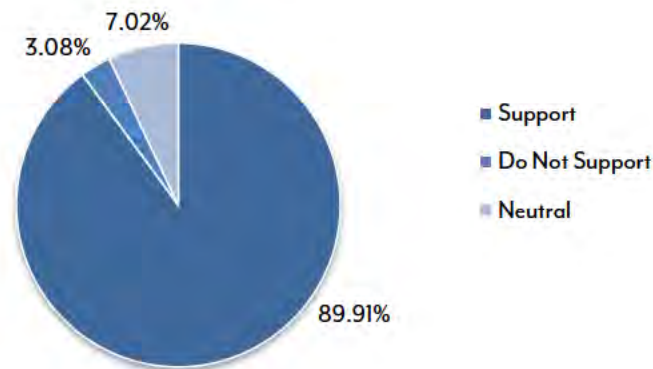
Finally, the survey asked why people came to the battlefield. Respondents were allowed to select all answers that applied. The results showed that many visitors come for recreation or to spend time with friends and family. The majority—66% of respondents—visited to learn more about the history of the site. For this reason alone, the battlefield must have robust interpretation options available to visitors. Anyone who arrives expecting to learn about the battle and is unable to do so will leave disappointed with little reason to return.

## Why Have You Visited?



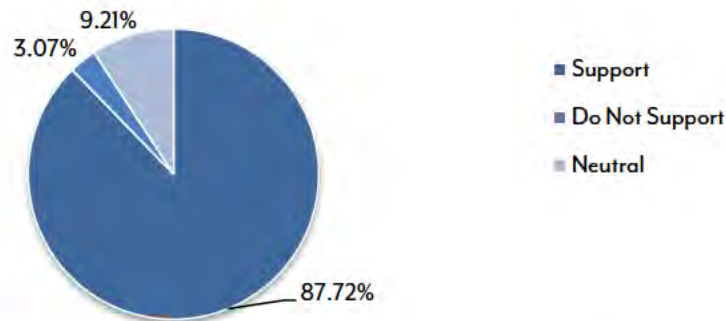
Respondents to the public survey were enthusiastic about options to add additional interpretation to the Princeton Battlefield. Over 89.91% of respondents expressed some level of support for adding new trails and interpretive signs at the battlefield. One respondent expressed a desire for “signage and visuals explaining what the fighting would look like.” Another wrote, “Provide more interpretive, educational signage.” Some did express concern about the impact on the viewshed, with one respondent saying, “Don’t mess it up by adding a bunch of stuff,” which was reflected in several other comments that advised the project team to use discretion in adding physical signage.

## Do You Support Adding Trails and Interpretive Signage at the Battlefield?



A similar number expressed support for other interpretive media for the battlefield, including new tours and smartphone apps. One respondent wrote, “I love the idea of apps! Simple one for kids and more detailed ones for adults, especially history buffs.” Another wrote that apps could be a great way to display maps and other relevant information about troop movements, while yet another noted that apps can feature short talks from historians and experts at the site.

## Do You Support Developing Other Interpretive Media for the Battlefield?



An informal thematic analysis of the responses confirms the desire for more interpretive options, both physical and no-footprint. The terms “sign” and “signage” appear 57 times in respondents’ comments, and “trail” appears 27 times. “App” or “apps” appear four times. “History” appears 42 times, and “nature” appears four times. The results of this analysis reinforce the results of the multiple-choice responses. Respondents overwhelmingly wanted to see new signage and trails on the battlefield at the site, and are open to other interpretive options like apps. While the natural features of the battlefield are appreciated by respondents, the site’s history is what gives it value and what attracts people to the site.

The results of the survey provide insights but come with limitations. The survey was strictly voluntary and does not represent a comprehensive visitor count. As previously stated, the park’s limited hours make it difficult to get accurate statistics about how many people visit and why. Furthermore, the survey did not ask any questions relating to respondents’ age, sex, gender, or ethnicity. Since evidence exists that minority groups are underrepresented in visitation to parks, historic sites, and museums, the park may wish to further study this issue with future surveys.<sup>98</sup>

Despite its limitations, the survey’s findings are reflected by other studies. A poll by Monmouth University found that around 84% of New Jerseyans view the preservation and promotion of the state’s Revolutionary War history as important or very important.<sup>99</sup> However, the survey also noted that more needs to be done to promote the history of the Revolution in the Garden State. Among the survey’s respondents, 43% had visited a Revolutionary War site within the past five years, 57% had not. Of those who visited a site, 15% visited Revolutionary Sites in both New Jersey and elsewhere, 13% had only visited Revolutionary Wars sites in New Jersey, and 15% had only visited sites outside of the state.<sup>100</sup> As the director of the institute who commissioned the poll noted, “There seems to be fairly widespread interest in American Revolution-related

<sup>98</sup> Jerry J. Vaske and Katie M. Lyon, *Linking the 2010 Census to National Park Visitors*, National Resource Technical Report, June 2014, <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/495294>.

<sup>99</sup> Patrick Murray, “New Jersey: State’s American Heritage Worth Preserving,” Monmouth University, January 7, 2020, [www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/documents/monmouthpoll\\_nj\\_010720.pdf/](http://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/documents/monmouthpoll_nj_010720.pdf/).

<sup>100</sup> Murray, “State’s American Revolution Heritage Worth Preserving.”

tourism. The key is building more of it in New Jersey and that starts with higher in-state visibility.”<sup>101</sup>

The report also asked respondents what location Washington planned to attack after crossing the Delaware River on December 25, 1776. Instead of Trenton, 15% named Princeton, 20% named Philadelphia, and 6% named New York.<sup>102</sup> For that reason, the site must work to engage these audiences and ensure that that understanding of the state’s Revolutionary War history matches the passion of the state’s citizens.

### *Interpretive Options Audience Targeting*

No interpretive option will appeal to every visitor, so employing a layered interpretation strategy featuring diverse engagement opportunities increases the chances of fostering public appreciation for the site. Based on the responses to the public survey and conversations with site facilitators and stakeholders, this plan groups visitors to the Princeton Battlefield into several types to best target the new interpretive options.

#### **Casual Visitors**

Casual visitors include those with only a minimal interest in history. They are often residents who come to the battlefield for exercise, relaxation, or to take in the natural environment. Alternatively, they might be visiting the site with friends or relatives, or as part of a tour group. While they are not opposed to receiving information about the site's history, they are less likely to take a tour, download an app, or pursue further research.

#### **History Enthusiasts**

These visitors come to the Princeton Battlefield for the main purpose of exploring the site and learning about its history. They include both locals and visitors from outside of the Princeton area. Oftentimes, they arrive at the battlefield with an understanding of the site’s historical context and are looking for additional details and insights. They might also want to “walk in the footsteps” of the people who lived through the battle. These visits are often a part of larger trips that can include other nearby sites, or for a specific event such as a reenactment or living history day. They are the most likely to take advantage of interpretive offerings, particularly those that go in-depth into the history of the site.

#### **Families**

Families often come to the site for educational and recreational activities. They are typically looking for interpretive offerings geared toward all ages, or ones that are specifically for children. Like the History Enthusiast group, families can be either residents or visitors from outside the Princeton area.

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<sup>101</sup> Murray, “State’s American Revolution Heritage Worth Preserving.”

<sup>102</sup> Murray, “State’s American Revolution Heritage Worth Preserving.”

## School Groups

The Princeton Battlefield hosts several school programs each year. These educational groups are likely to take a tour of the site, meet with park staff, or provide students the chance to explore the battlefield on their own, depending on the age of the students. Like the Families group, they are looking for interpretive offerings geared toward all ages or children.

## D. Opportunities and Parameters

The Princeton Battlefield's size, location, and story represent an excellent opportunity to connect visitors to the story of the American Revolution. The site is located near several other historic sites, including the Quaker Meeting House, the Princeton Historical Society, the Morven Museum & Garden, and the Old Barracks Museum. The battlefield is also a short drive from Philadelphia, making it an easy addition to any visitor's Revolutionary War itinerary.

Furthermore, its serene location and proximate location to the town of Princeton make it an enticing place for locals to come, walk around, run, bring their pets, or conduct painting or photography classes. While the site is small compared to other Mid-Atlantic battlefields like Monmouth, Brandywine, and Gettysburg, this allows planners an opportunity to create a dense and compelling experience that can be long or short, depending on the visitor's preferences.

The upcoming Semiquincentennial of both the Battle of Princeton and the American Revolution offers a major opportunity to both raise awareness and interest in the site and fundraise for some of the site's priorities. A grand commemoration of the 1777 clash between patriot rebels and British redcoats offers the perfect time to unveil new interpretive and educational offerings at the site and highlight ongoing preservation efforts. The interpretive recommendations include both low-cost and high-cost experiences that park staff and stakeholders can choose to pursue depending on available funds.

Given the current staffing realities at the site, this plan focuses on visitor-directed interpretive offerings that can be enjoyed when staff are not present. While some of the medium- and long-term recommendations do require a staff or volunteer presence, the project team worked to develop options that can be enjoyed by visitors at any time and do not place additional burdens on staff. Even once the new interpretive offerings at the site are implemented, site staff will still play a major role in providing in-person interpretation and tours at the Princeton Battlefield State Park, and will continue to work with guests face-to-face.

## E. Major Interpretive Themes

The history of Princeton as a geographical place and battlefield site is long, complex, and compelling. A researcher could theoretically begin a history of Princeton with the movements of continents during the prehistoric era, chart the arrival of indigenous groups before European contact, discuss the Revolutionary era, and then continue the story to today. The site represents an ideal location to discuss aspects of military, social, political, and natural history, and responses

to the public survey indicated that the site should, whenever possible, discuss other lesser-known aspects of the area's history.

This report recommends that all interpretive offerings be based around the following interpretive statement:

***The actions taken by the soldiers and civilians involved in the Battle of Princeton and the Ten Crucial Days helped shape the course of the American Revolution and the creation of the United States.***

Within this statement, several primary and secondary interpretive themes guide the content of each interpretive offering. This report has grouped its interpretive priorities into four major themes meant to help direct the content of each new interpretive option.

### *Primary Interpretive Themes*

#### **1. The Battle of Princeton and the Ten Crucial Days**

***Thematic Statement: The American victory at the Battle of Princeton marked the end of the Ten Crucial Days, which salvaged the fortunes of the revolutionary cause and ensured the continuation of the war.***

The Princeton Battlefield, both inside and outside of the state park, is the only place where people can walk in the footsteps of those who fought on January 3, 1777. The main focus of the interpretation will be the fighting at Princeton and how it ties into the Ten Crucial Days. This interpretation should not limit itself strictly to military maneuvers or tactical significance. It should also incorporate both the civilian and military perspectives of the battle, as well as the lead-up to and aftermath of the campaign.

The soldiers and civilians who endured the battle were a diverse group of men, women, pacifists, militia, veterans, farmers, shopkeepers, slaveholders, enslaved people, freedpeople, American Indians, and immigrants. These diverse perspectives not only create a more dynamic history but can also help create meaningful connections with visitors. The Battle of Princeton did not take place in a vacuum. Instead, it was a critical point during the American Revolution that helped revive the flagging fortunes of the rebellion and shocked the British high command. Discussions of these dynamics will help visitors better understand why Princeton is significant in American history and how the actions of civilians, ordinary soldiers, and officers in this place helped shape the course of the American Revolution.

#### **2. Revolutionary Era and the Eighteenth Century**

***Thematic Statement: The Battle of Princeton was a key clash in a larger conflict that set in motion or accelerated major social, economic, and political changes in the United States.***

The American Revolution neither began nor ended with the Battle of the Princeton. The area has many connections to the rest of the conflict and events during the broader eighteenth

century, including its location as a meeting place for the Continental Congress and its position on the route that the combined Anglo-French army took when marching from New York to Virginia during the Yorktown Campaign.

The area and its residents experienced wide swings of fortune during the war, with the Continental and British armies impacting civilians in different ways. The background of the Princeton and Stony Brook residents, their religion, social status, occupations, and whether they were free, enslaved, or indentured all impacted their situations during these uncertain times.

Discussing these dynamics where appropriate can enhance the presentation of the battle, and allow visitors to gain a better understanding of the country's formative years. It also offers the chance to delve into the broader political, economic, and social changes that were occurring in Princeton and the United States before, during, and after the Revolutionary War.

### *Secondary Interpretive Themes*

#### **1. Princeton History from Pre-Contact to Present**

***Thematic Statement: Before and after the Battle of Princeton, those who resided in the Princeton area helped shape this place, and, in many cases, the United States.***

People lived in Princeton long before the American Revolution and continue to live there today. From American Indian archeological sites to the remains of the nineteenth-century trolley route, evidence of history outside of the Revolutionary Era exists all around the town, including on state park land. While this history will not be the primary focus of the new interpretation being discussed, neither should it be ignored. When possible, the aspects of the area's history should be woven into the narrative to better connect to the broader story of the area's history.

#### **2. Historic Preservation and Memory**

***Thematic Statement: Visitors can enjoy the Princeton Battlefield today because of the actions of dedicated preservationists. What is protected and remembered yields powerful insights into how societies evolve.***

Just because a site is historically significant does not guarantee that it will be preserved for posterity. Princeton Battlefield State Park and other historic sites exist today because of the efforts of dedicated preservationists. Their efforts can better connect the story of the battlefield to modern times for visitors, and help inspire both an appreciation for preservation and an understanding of one's role and responsibilities as a steward of a site. The recent preservation victory at Maxwell's Field highlights how historic preservation is an ongoing process.

While preservation focuses on saving important land, structures, and artifacts, memory informs how historic events and people are remembered or forgotten. Monuments—both on and off the battlefield—reflect not just 1777, but the years in which these structures were erected and the motivations of those who built them. Many sites have begun to offer interpretive content relating

to the history of memorialization at a site, and the insights it provides. Similar interpretive context at Princeton could highlight how people have remembered the battle and memorialized it through sculpture, literature, and art—from those who witnessed the battle to modern residents and researchers today.

Ongoing conversations in Princeton about racial justice and historically marginalized narratives highlight the ongoing work of reviving and remembering under-told or repressed stories. Proper interpretation will highlight the ways that historians and ordinary people have helped expand historical interpretation at memorial sites.

## **F. Desired Visitor Experience**

Conversations with stakeholders and responses to the public survey provided insights into the ideal visitor experience at Princeton. Respondents strongly favored expanded interpretive offering to allow visitors to explore the history of the site in-depth, while also retaining the natural character and beauty of the park. Low-impact activities, including jogging, painting, and birdwatching should continue to be allowed, along with living history demonstrations provided by reenactment groups.

Moving forward, most visitors will continue to start their visit at the parking lot, although some will also enter from trails coming off Mercer Road or the Institute Woods. Visitors should have a variety of opportunities to explore the site, including physical, print, and digital interpretive materials that allow them to explore at their own pace. A trail will take visitors around the battlefield, allowing visitors to view the physical interpretive options structured around the battlefield as well as tour the Clarke House if it is open. Digital options will be available for visitors interested in exploring the area's history in-depth. The interpretive offerings will encourage visitors to explore the history of eighteenth-century Princeton and Stony Brook outside of the park's boundaries.

In future years, a new parking area and a trail leading off from Stockton Street and a new visitor center near the Stony Brook Meeting House will offer further opportunities for exploring the area's history, and new trails will help the site become more accessible for people with mobility challenges. Ultimately, the park will continue to be a space where people can explore, learn, and reflect at their own pace. The next section of this plan lays out the interpretive options for improving the site.

# Interpretive Recommendations

## Summary

Based on stakeholder feedback, this plan recommends several interpretive options to better educate visitors on the history of the Princeton Battlefield. Laid out in several phases of implementation, these options will help turn the Princeton Battlefield into a high-quality destination for visitors, even when the site is not staffed. The main scope will focus on the battle's role in the Ten Crucial Days that revived flagging hope in the American cause, and dramatically reversed British gains in New Jersey. Whenever possible, the interpretation should also connect the battlefield with other nearby sites of relevance, and provide opportunities to highlight other aspects of the site's history outside of the Revolutionary era.

Interpretive Recommendations			
Short-Term Interpretive Recommendations			
Recommendation	Number	Audience	Theme
<i>No Footprint Improvements</i>			
Smartphone Apps	1	History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Princeton History, Historic Preservation
AR Scenes	3	History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era
Brochure (Design and fabrication)	1	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Historic Preservation
Programs for Dog Walkers and Families	3	Casual Visitors, Families	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Princeton History, Historic Preservation
Online Updates (Website, Social Media)	N/A	All	All
<i>Marker Improvements</i>			
Revised Waysides	6	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Historic Preservation
New Waysides	5	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Historic Preservation
Battle Windows	2	Casual Visitors, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton
Tactile 3-D Topographic Map	1	History Enthusiasts, School Groups	Battle of Princeton
<i>Maxwell's Field Additions</i>			

Wayside Marker	1	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Historic Preservation
Battle Window	1	Casual Visitors, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton
<b>Medium-Term Improvements</b>			
<i>Battlefield Awareness Improvements</i>			
Interim Visitor Center	1	All	All
Princeton's Past Signs	7	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Princeton History, Historic Preservation
Vehicle Boundary Markers	4	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton
Pedestrian Boundary Markers	5	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era
<i>High-Tech Improvements</i>			
Augmented Reality (AR) Tour	1	History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era
Virtual Reality	2	History Enthusiasts, Families	Battle of Princeton
<b>Long-Term Improvements</b>			
<i>Stockton Street Expansion</i>			
New Wayside	1	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era, Historic Preservation
Pedestrian Boundary Marker	1	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era
AR Scene	1	Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts	Battle of Princeton, Revolutionary Era
Permanent Visitor Center	1	All	All

## Telling Many Stories

The interpretive options described below were developed with the goal of making Princeton a key asset for New Jersey's commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. With the goal of the American250 Foundation, which is coordinating the nationwide commemoration, to have the "largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our nation's history," these interpretive options are designed to tell a variety, of diverse stories.<sup>103</sup> Highlighting multiple perspectives demonstrates the vast scope of the Revolution, illustrates the challenges facing those who lived through this time of upheaval, and provides opportunities to foster empathy between past and present.

<sup>103</sup> America250 Report to the President, *US Semiquincentennial Commission*, December 31, 2019, 9, <https://www.america250.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6/637193402509570000>.

The documentary record reveals the story of Princeton and Stony Brook during the American Revolution is diverse, complex, and compelling. At Stony Brook, Quaker farmers attempting to practice pacifism suddenly found themselves taking cover as the two armies battled across their fields. Students and teachers at the College of New Jersey served in Congress or enlisted in the army. Enslaved people in Princeton and the surrounding area adopted a variety of strategies to resist enslavement, including taking advantage of the chaos of wartime to escape from slavery and build new lives elsewhere. British soldiers found themselves an ocean away from their families, attempting to occupy large areas of potentially hostile territory. Patriot soldiers—under-paid, under-fed, and under-trained—endured cold, nighttime marches only to fight battles the next morning. Highlighting these stories not only presents a more complete historical narrative, but helps foster empathy in visitors, revealing those who lived through the Battle of Princeton, not as abstract figures in a textbook, but as complex, individuals enduring change, challenges, and loss.



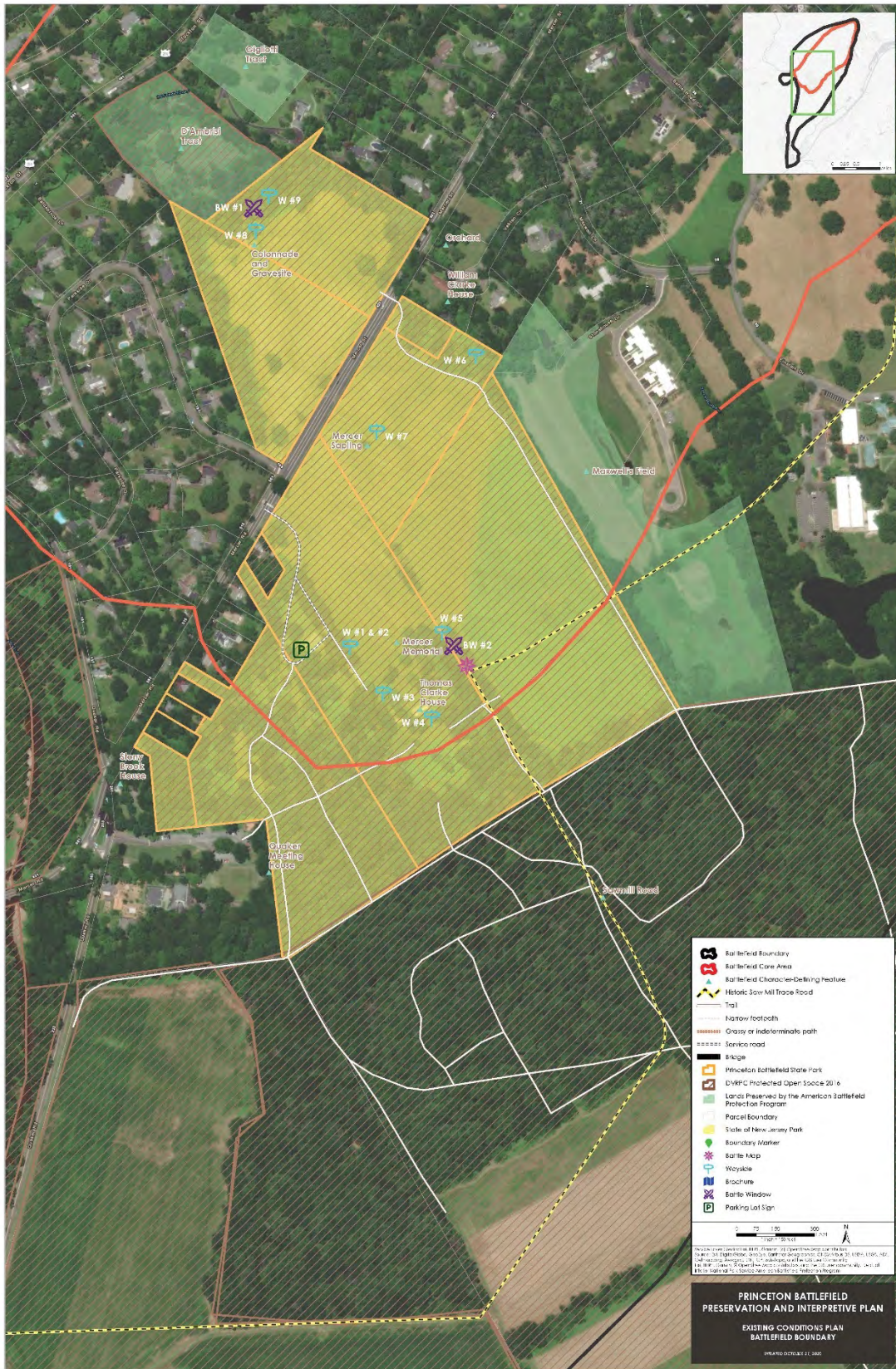
The interpretive options will highlight the stories of civilians, officers, and ordinary soldiers. (Photo by Al Pochek, Princeton Battlefield Society)

## Short-Term Improvements

The goal of this initial phase is to transform the interpretive experience at the Princeton Battlefield, when the site is not staffed, into a compelling battlefield park with offerings comparable to other nearby sites. The options are grouped into two categories: new or updated battlefield markers, and offerings that have no physical footprint on the landscape. These two categories are cost-efficient and targeted to reach the largest audience.

### *Physical Marker Improvements*

The options in this section are targeted improvements to the physical interpretation present at the Princeton Battlefield State Park. Since not every visitor will pick up a brochure or download an app, the park needs to have targeted educational interpretation present on the landscape with which visitors can engage. The planning team carefully considered the physical and historic terrain of the Princeton landscape to minimize disruptions.



Proposed new physical interpretation at the state park. It includes new interpretive offerings on the Maxwell's Field and Stockton Street expansions to the park discussed later in the plan.

## *New and Updated Waysides*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups

**Thematic Topics:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days, Revolutionary Era and Eighteenth Century, Historic Preservation and Memory

Revised waysides form a cornerstone of the new interpretive offerings at the site. Waysides offer an accessible way to tell stories to different groups of visitors. They require no downloads, preplanning, or transport by the visitor, and can easily catch the eye of the passing dogwalker, biker, or jogger. A well-designed wayside with striking graphics is a key part of any outdoor interpretive experience. However, the few waysides currently present at Princeton Battlefield State Park fail to orient visitors to how the fighting unfolded, follow a sustained narrative, or tell the story of the soldiers and civilians who experienced the battle and its aftermath. Updated waysides are crucial to transforming the interpretive experience at Princeton.



Current wayside at Princeton Battlefield State Park.

The placement of any new waysides needs to be balanced with preserving the historic viewshed of the site. Both stakeholder feedback and public survey comments emphasized the site's beauty and expressed concern that too many physical waysides could hamper the view and negatively impact the historical integrity of the site. Care was taken by the planning team to ensure that the proposed new wayside locations do not negatively impact the viewshed.

In addition to a few new waysides, this plan proposes updating the existing interpretation at each currently standing wayside to better tell the story of the battle. Unless otherwise noted, the updated waysides will continue to be low-profile.<sup>104</sup> An outline of the new waysides is listed below. Full text with suggested images and quotes for each wayside can be found in the appendix. The waysides follow a chronological sequence but, due to the numerous access points to the site, are written to be self-contained to promote accessibility.

### **Wayside Location 1 and 2: Along the Tree Line (Content Refresh)**

As the visitors head up the path to the Thomas Clarke House, they pass by two waysides on the left side of the road. Currently, these waysides provide a general context for the campaign but do little to inform visitors about what they are viewing. New interpretive waysides at this location will sketch out the battlefield, giving visitors an idea of where the two sides were advancing from, as well as important points of interest to visit, such as the Colonnade and Mercer Oak Sapling.

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<sup>104</sup> Harpers Ferry Center, *Wayside Exhibits: A Guide to Developing Outdoor Interpretive Exhibits*, October 2009, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/upload/Wayside-Guide-First-Edition.pdf>.

This would not only help orient visitors to where they stand in relation to the battle but also encourage them to explore the area more.

If plans for the new visitor center are implemented, the position and content of these waysides will need to be adjusted. Updated text is provided in the appendix of the complete plan.

### Wayside Location 3: Approaching the Thomas Clarke House (Content Refresh)

Further up the path, a wayside slightly south of the Thomas Clarke House currently provides information about the house itself and its role in the aftermath of the battle. A new wayside will highlight the home's location as a rallying point for patriot forces.

### Wayside Location 4: Inside the Thomas Clarke House (New Wayside-movable)

At the house itself, a movable wayside will provide information about the civilian occupants of the home, and its role in the battle's aftermath. During off-hours, the wayside could be held inside the house within view of the window to allow visitors to read. When the building is open, staff and volunteers will place the wayside outside of the building to create more space for visitors inside. Movable waysides have been employed at several historic sites including at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where they are used to present information to curious visitors when a particular building is not being staffed.



A movable wayside in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia.

### Wayside Location 5: Moulder's Battery (Content Refresh)

The wayside here tells the story of Captain Moulder and his battery's daring efforts to slow the British advance and give the American forces time to rally. The updated wayside text here will continue to tell the story of the battery but will feature additional details and updated imagery.

### Wayside Location 6: Selberg House/ Orchard (New Wayside)

This new wayside will discuss the British retreat in the aftermath of the American counterattack, highlighting the various escape routes taken by Mawhood and his soldiers to flee. The sign will also briefly discuss the William Clarke farm site and the Selberg House and its illustrious owner, Atle Selberg.

### Wayside Location 7: Mercer Oak (Content Refresh)

At the Mercer Oak, a wayside will cover Mercer's death and the immediate aftermath of the battle. It will also discuss the history of the Mercer Oak and sapling.

### Wayside Location 8: Colonnade and Gravesite (New Wayside)

This wayside will be placed behind the Colonnade, so as not to obscure the view. The wayside will cover the history of preserving and memorializing the site, and how the Colonnade arrived at its current location. Images would show how the landscape has changed since 1777.

### Wayside Location 9: Tree Line next to the Colonnade (New Wayside)

This wayside will discuss the British troop movements before, during, and after the battle, and sketch their approach as they marched to confront the Continental Army. The sign will also discuss average British soldiers, including their background, training, and experiences in the United States.

### *Parking Lot Interpretive Signage*

A new kiosk at the parking lot will help better orient visitors to the site and provide essential historical information. Currently, a row of signage covers rules and regulations at the park, but provides little interpretation. Much of this information could be consolidated, freeing up space for more interpretation. As the parking lot is the starting point for most visits, it is an ideal location to provide contextual information about the 1777 Campaign. By moving that information to the parking lot, the waysides by the tree line can be utilized to provide a more in-depth interpretation of the battle itself.

Currently, NJDEP and PBS are collaborating on a new, larger sign that will consolidate orientation information, and that can be utilized to provide key background information on the campaign. The new sign will “set the stage,” giving visitors a sense of the political, military, social, and economic situation in New Jersey in January 1777, and alerting them to the ways that they can learn more.

Furthermore, a 2' x 7' kiosk featuring Crossroads of the American Revolution branding will alert visitors to other nearby sites. Due to the parking lot's location, neither this sign nor the sign discussed in the previous paragraph will have an impact on the viewshed or the historic landscape.



The Crossroads of the American Revolution branding will help visually connect the site to other Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey. (*Crossroads of the American Revolution*)

## *Battle Windows*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts

**Thematic Topics:** Battle of Princeton, Eighteenth-Century and Revolutionary War

At key points along the battlefield, these unique signs will provide visitors with literal windows into the past. These double-sided signs include a clear screen with illustrated decals that place stylized depictions of the British and patriot battlelines on the battlefield itself. This low-tech option complements the AR technologies discussed later in the report, allowing visitors without a smartphone to be transported back in time. To minimize impacts on the historic viewshed, these signs will be located near the tree lines or near already existing waysides.



Battle windows will help visitors visualize how the action unfolded.

### **Battle Window Sign 1: Edge of Tree Line at Trail from Stockton Road**

This sign will show the position of British and American troops as they marched toward each other in the initial clash. Troop positions would be overlaid on the battlefield and Mercer Road. The interpretive text would discuss these movements and how the landscape has changed over time.

### **Battle Window Sign 2: Moulder's Battery**

This sign will depict the position of the two armies as the patriot position gave way and the British surged forward. The interpretive text would reinforce the importance of Moulder's battery in slowing the British advance, complementing the nearby wayside.

## *Battle Map*

**Intended Audience:** History Enthusiasts, School Groups

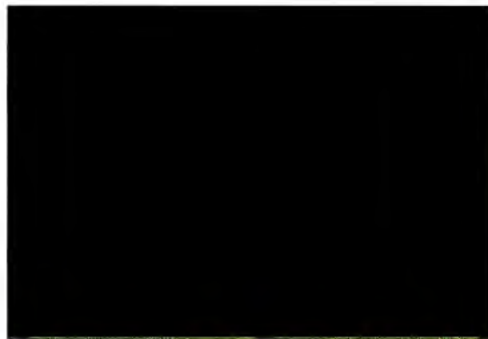
**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days

Stakeholder feedback recommends that the park battle map, currently held in storage, be replaced with an updated version. This older battle map is out of date and contains several inaccuracies. A new tactile topographic map would provide a dynamic view of the battlefield and assistance for low-vision visitors. Tactile maps are growing in popularity, and many sites use them for both orientation and interpretation.

The new battle map will be located at the bend of the restored Sawmill Road at the edge of the loop leading to Wayside #6 and Scene of Battle #2. The map's previous location was not near any trails, which made it difficult for visitors to locate. The sign's old display mount was also too low to comply with ADA regulations. Its new location will easily orient visitors to where they stand in relation to the two armies, and encourage them to explore more, while also being accessible to all visitors.



The battle map's former location.



A new battle map will help visitors understand how the battle progressed.

The map should include a “you are here” marker, and outlines of the general patriot and British positions. If colors are used on the map, blue would denote the patriot forces and red the British army. By way of comparison, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate has a detailed map showing the evolution of the battle.<sup>105</sup> This approach could be adapted for the Princeton Battlefield map, with overlays added to show modern locations (e.g., parking lot, trails), the park boundaries, and relevant locations on the battlefield (e.g., Colonnade, Mercer Oak, and Thomas Clarke House).

## No Footprint Improvements

The options presented below will help tell the story of the Battle of Princeton without directly impacting the physical terrain of the Princeton Battlefield. They include both physical and digital interpretive offerings and provide options to connect the state park with other areas relevant to the battle and the eighteenth century.

### *Battle Tour App*

**Intended Audience:** History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups

**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days, Revolutionary Era and Eighteenth Century, Princeton History, Historic Preservation and Memory

<sup>105</sup> “Map: The Battle of Princeton, Phases I & II,” George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, <https://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/maps/map-the-battle-of-princeton-phases-i-ii/>.

Smartphone applications represent a proven method for engaging audiences both on and off the battlefield. The battle apps produced by the American Battlefield Trust have been downloaded over 689,000 times.<sup>106</sup> The nature of smartphone apps allows them to contain more information than the typical wayside, while also offering opportunities for incorporating audio and video elements. Stakeholder and public feedback strongly supported creating a smartphone touring app to help visitors experience the battlefield and nearby sites of interest.

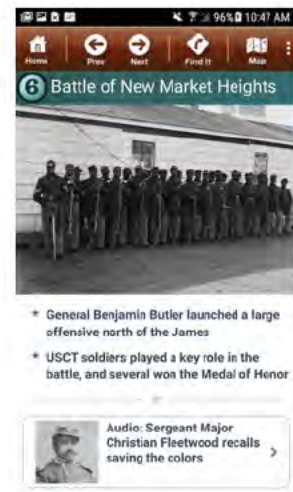


Smartphone app tour at Fredericksburg Battlefield.

The Princeton Battlefield smartphone app should mimic ABT's existing battle apps, which allow interested individuals to experience the history of a place whether they are at the battlefield or offsite. Each app's "virtual signs" include text, images, and audio or video. The apps also offer GPS location findings and written directions that can be used in areas with poor cell service. The ABT makes these tours available for free, but the infrastructure of the Google Play and Apple App stores allows for charging a small fee for downloads. While an app costs more to develop than a brochure or a wayside, grant opportunities may help defray some of the costs.

This plan recommends an app containing two separate frameworks to capture the experience of the battle. The first framework will be similar in style and structure to the apps produced by the ABT, with content geared toward adults and focused on military history. The second framework will be geared toward families and school groups and will feature a narrative structure that will allow visitors to follow the path of someone who experienced the battle. Tour outlines for each approach are included in the appendix of this report.

The first framework consists of two tours, written from a third-person perspective. Each "virtual sign" will include explanatory text, several images, and a two-bullet summary at the beginning of each sign. Each sign will also include an audio excerpt of a first-person account related to the stop or a short video. These videos can involve an expert, including park staff and local historians, providing a short description of the stop or short living history demonstrations such as a cannon being loaded and fired or troops executing maneuvers.



Tour stop in ABT's Richmond Battle App.

The Princeton Battlefield smartphone app will connect with and complement the content found in Crossroads of the American Revolution's new Ten Crucial Days tour, and provide additional information, insights, and stories for visitors following that route.

<sup>106</sup> American Battlefield Trust, *Battlefields Mean Business*, 4.

The app format also allows for a “learn more” section to be included on individual tour stops. This section can either provide a broader context for the information discussed at the stop (e.g., military training related to the British bayonet charge) or discuss another aspect of the site unrelated to the battle (e.g., the old trolley line). Not every stop will have a “learn more” section but, where appropriate, it will be an effective option to discuss other aspects of the battlefield and Princeton history.

### **Battle of Princeton Tour**

This first tour focuses on the battle itself, allowing military history enthusiasts the opportunity to gain a detailed understanding and is similar to the content present in other ABT battle apps.

#### **Potential Stops on this tour include:**

- Stony Brook Bridge
- Historic Overlook Park
- Quaker Road
- Thomas Clarke House
- Saw Mill Road
- Maxwell’s Field
- William Clarke House Site
- Mercer Hill
- Frog Hollow Ravine
- Princeton University Nassau Hall

### **Revolutionary Princeton and Stony Brook Tour**

The second tour will allow visitors to explore “Revolutionary Princeton and Stony Brook” by sites in the area connected to the eighteenth century. The tour will detail the civilian story at Princeton, highlighting everyday life before, during, and after the war, and will discuss the interactions between the Princeton and Stony Brook communities. The tour will also feature content relating to other significant events during the Revolutionary War, including the Franco-American march to Yorktown and the meeting of the Continental Congress in 1783.

#### **Potential Tour Stops:**

- Worth’s Mill
- Updike Farm/Princeton Historical Society
- Thomas Olden House
- Princeton Cemetery
- Stony Brook Meeting House
- Morven Museum and Gardens
- Bainbridge House
- Maclean House
- Rockingham Historic Site
- Stockton Street

The second framework consists of three tours that will allow visitors to “walk in the shoes” of individuals who experienced the battle. This option would include three tours: one focusing on the patriot experience, one on the British experience, and one on the civilian experience. Each tour would include between seven to ten stops. For stops that overlap, such as the Thomas Clarke House, the interpretive text will be tailored to each individual’s perspective.

### Patriot Tour

This tour focuses on Isaac Walker, an African American Marine from Philadelphia, and Colonel John Fitzgerald, an aide to Washington who fought in the battle. Beginning at the site of Assunpink Creek, visitors would use the tour to follow the American march along Quaker Road and onto the battlefield. Once within the state park, they would follow the American line past the Clarke House up to the Mercer Oak, before traveling over to Maxwell’s Field to learn about Washington’s counterattack. The tour would conclude at Princeton Cemetery.

#### Potential Tour Stops:

- Assunpink Creek Marker
- Quaker Road Obelisk
- Thomas Clarke House
- Mercer Oak
- Captain Moulder Battery Marker
- Maxwell’s Field
- William Clarke House Site
- Princeton University Nassau Hall
- Princeton Cemetery



The patriot tour will provide multiple perspectives of the battle. (American Revolution Institute, [www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org](http://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org))

### British Tour

This second tour focuses on George Inman, a loyalist in the British Army present during the battle, and Colonel Charles Mawhood, the British commander at Princeton. The tour would begin in Princeton at Nassau Hall and visitors would follow the path of the British advance along the Trenton–Princeton Road (present-day Stockton Street). At Stony Brook Bridge, the visitor will be directed to reverse course and head to the Princeton Battlefield State Park.

#### Potential Tour Stops:

- Princeton University
- Morven Hall
- Overlook Park
- Stony Brook Bridge / Worth’s Mill
- Possible Site of William Clarke Farm
- Mercer Oak
- Maxwell’s Field
- Mercer Hill

### Civilian Tour

The final tour will share the perspective of Sarah Clarke, the sister of Thomas Clarke, and Susannah, who the Clarke family enslaved. The tour will include sites in the park, like the Clarke House, and nearby locations such as the Quaker Meeting House. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the battle through the eyes of neutral noncombatants. The tour will also provide an opportunity to discuss slavery in the Princeton area.



The civilian tour will discuss both the experiences of battle and day to day life in the eighteenth century. (Mount Vernon Ladies' Association)

### Potential Tour Stops:

- Shed at Thomas Clarke Farm
- Saw Mill Road / Institute Woods
- Thomas Clarke House
- William Clarke Farm / Orchard Site
- Mercer Oak
- Gravesite
- Olden House
- Quaker Meeting House
- Quaker Road
- Nassau Hall

### *Augmented Reality (AR)*

**Intended Audience:** History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups

**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days

The use of Augmented Reality (AR) at museums, historic sites, and parks represents a new trend to better connect people to the past. Whether using dedicated equipment or an app that visitors can access on their smartphone, many historic sites have adopted the new technology to engage visitors and tell new stories. Some sites, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate or James Monroe's Highland, provide these experiences through dedicated headwear that visitors can borrow.<sup>107</sup> Others, like the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, use an app that visitors can



The White House Historical Association's 1600 App allows visitors to watch an AR version of Marine One land on the South Lawn of the Executive Mansion. (White House Historical Association)

<sup>107</sup> "Mount Vernon Launches Smartglasses Augmented Reality Tour," George Washington's Mount Vernon, November 20, 2018, <https://www.mountvernon.org/about/news/article/mount-vernon-launches-smartglasses-augmented-reality-tour/>.  
"W&M's Highland Launches Nation's First Wearable Augmented Reality Tour," *William & Mary News & Media*, February 1, 2018, <https://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2018/wms-highland-launches-nations-first-wearable-augmented-reality-tour.php>.

access on their smartphones. AR experiences range from simple text boxes and visuals that appear on the screen to full-on 3D characters that provide dialogue relating to a relevant topic.

Although AR experiences represent a new way to interpret the site's history and engage with guests, there are costs to consider. Creating an AR program will be expensive, particularly if the park wishes to build specific equipment for guests to use. A program designed for smartphone apps would need to be regularly reviewed to ensure that it works on the newer smartphone models and operating systems. An effective app will also need to be well-integrated into the overall interpretive environment, and complement other aspects of the site.<sup>108</sup>

Given these considerations, this plan recommends that any AR experience pursued by the park be based around a smartphone app. This would accommodate the limited staffing capabilities of the site, ensure that the greatest number of visitors will be able to enjoy the experience, and free Princeton Battlefield State Park from having to store or maintain expensive equipment. This plan provides four options for a potential AR experience based on stakeholder feedback. These options can either be incorporated into the existing smartphone tour app or be built around a separate app.

### Option 1: Static Panorama

In this option, visitors can use their smartphone to view how the battlefield would have looked in 1777. Stylized pictures would depict former sites like the William Clarke House and the Clarke Orchard, while Mercer Road and trees dividing Maxwell's Field from the park would be removed. Visitors would need to access the app at a specific site to view the panorama. This plan recommends that the viewing location be located at the waysides along the tree line near the parking lot. The static nature of this app makes it easier and cheaper to develop than the other options.

### Option 2: Dramatic Panorama

In this option, visitors can not only view a panorama of how the site would have looked but can also watch as stylized figures on-screen show the course of the battle. A short three to five minute presentation would show the movement of British and American forces during the battle. It would also give visitors an idea of how the battle's outcome hung in the balance until the American counterattack scattered

Mawhood's forces. This plan recommends that the viewing location for this experience be at Moulder's Battery wayside near the restored Sawmill Trace.



AR can easily add historical objects and artifacts to the landscape, showing visitors what it looked like long ago.

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<sup>108</sup> Ana Javornik, "What Marketers Need to Understand About Augmented Reality," *Harvard Business Review*, April 18, 2016, <https://hbr.org/2016/04/what-marketers-need-to-understand-about-augmented-reality>.



## *Programs for Locals, Children, and Dogwalkers*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, Families

**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and the Ten Crucial Days, Revolutionary Era and Eighteenth Century, Princeton History, Historic Preservation and Memory

While many visitors come to the Princeton Battlefield to explore Revolutionary War history, many utilize the park as a place to unwind, entertain their children, or walk their dogs. As members of the Princeton community, they are stewards of the Princeton Battlefield and can play a key role in preserving the site for future generations. Interpretive materials targeted to these groups should seek to engage them on the site's history while encouraging them to think of themselves as site stakeholders.

### **New Resident Welcome Materials**

The residents of the Princeton area live in the shadow of history, and many live on top of the land where Americans and British soldiers battled in 1777. Local residents should feel they have a stake in the battlefield and its preservation. One way to accomplish this is to create a welcome brochure for new residents on land adjacent to the battlefield. This brochure will feature a discussion of the battlefield, a description of the civilian experience, and the history of preservation efforts in the area. It will also discuss the numerous economic and health benefits brought about by open space historic preservation. The brochure will conclude with encouragement to visit the battlefield, information on the interpretive options available, and ways to get involved in preservation.

### **Junior Ranger Program**

Junior ranger programs are a popular way for kids, and sometimes older adults, to learn more about a site. Often taking the form of a scavenger hunt or activity book, these programs introduce important resources and themes to children in a way that is engaging and fun. A site typically offers some type of reward—often a badge—to those who complete all of the activities.



Junior ranger programs can help kids learn about the history, while also having fun. (*Herbert Hoover National Historic Site*)

A junior ranger program at the Princeton Battlefield could focus strictly on the battle itself or it could have a broader focus that encompasses the Ten Crucial Days as well as themes relating to the site's natural history. Activities could include such activities as a “connect the dots” activity showing the famous portrait of Washington at Princeton; drawing a new memorial to honor the fallen soldiers; looking for native birds at the site; and a “fill in the blanks” section related to events described on the park waysides.

During staffed hours, visitors could receive the activity book from an NJDEP employee. This plan also recommends that a container be set up near the parking lot where visitors could retrieve the activity book, enabling those who arrive when the site is not staffed to complete the program. The site should partner with another local organization with more regular hours like the Princeton Historical Society to allow visitors to bring in their activity books for a reward.

As an alternative to a traditional book, PBS or NJDEP could also create a smartphone app program for kids to complete their junior ranger activities. Many sites already offer special apps for kids to use with smartphone devices. At Independence National Park, would-be junior rangers use the app to “sign” the Declaration of Independence, “ring” the Liberty Bell, and use filters to take selfies of themselves “wearing” eighteenth-century clothing.<sup>109</sup> At Princeton Battlefield State Park, a junior ranger app could allow them to design a regimental flag, record themselves giving a speech to inspire the Continental Army, and take selfies of themselves “dressed” as George Washington. The app could also incorporate any AR done for the site.

### Princeton B.A.R.K. Ranger Program

The Princeton Battlefield is a popular site for people to bring their dogs for a walk or run. These visits represent a great way for the human to learn about the past and for their four-legged friend to get some exercise. However, the animals’ presence does present some risks to the site and the enjoyment of fellow visitors. The National Park Service’s B.A.R.K. Ranger program has successfully educated dog owners on the rules they need to follow while enjoying the park system. Many NPS sites have a short activity book that allows dog owners to learn about and understand the importance of keeping their pets on a leash, bagging waste, and respecting wildlife.<sup>110</sup> Once the activity book is completed, the dog is named a “BARK Ranger” and given a special tag.<sup>111</sup> The program represents a fun way to deliver vital rules and restrictions for the site, but in a manner that encourages visitors and their pets to see themselves as active stewards of the place.



A B.A.R.K. Ranger can help some visitors, and their two-legged friends learn about the site’s history. (Beth Wasson)

Princeton Battlefield State Park could create a similar program to help visitors understand the rules for bringing their dogs to the park. When the site is staffed, visitors could speak to the ranger and receive a pamphlet with short questions to complete. The pamphlet could also feature details about the role that dogs played during the American Revolution and on colonial-era farms. When the site is not staffed, visitors could pick up a pamphlet from a lockbox and could

<sup>109</sup> “Junior Ranger for iPhone and iPad,” The National Park Service, April 8, 2015.

<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/kidsyouth/digitaljuniorranger.htm>.

<sup>110</sup> “Be a Friendship Hill BARK Ranger,” The National Park Service, October 25, 2018, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/be-a-friendship-hill-bark-ranger.htm>.

<sup>111</sup> “Be a Friendship Hill BARK Ranger.”

submit it to a nearby cooperating organization such as the Historical Society of Princeton or Morven Museum & Garden. After the permanent visitor center is built, visitors will be able to submit their completed pamphlets there. A large sign in the parking lot could also inform visitors about the program and the importance of following rules in a fun and engaging manner. Similar to the junior ranger program, a digital version could also be available to save paper.

### *Online Resources*

**Intended Audience:** All

**Themes:** All

### **Website**

For many visitors, their first experience with the Princeton Battlefield comes from visiting its website, a trend that accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>112</sup> A well-designed website not only makes it easy to plan a trip but can spur interest from potential guests. Currently, the official webpage has a three-paragraph overview that briefly covers the battlefield and provides information on the wildlife found in the park. The site also includes basic information about hours and fees. While this information provides adequate orientation, there is not much to entice visitors to visit.

Other historic sites, even smaller ones, are increasingly emphasizing their online presence, and their sites feature engaging imagery, exciting historic event descriptions, and links to other multimedia. For example, Richmond National Battlefield Park's page on the Malvern Hill site includes historic imagery depicting the battle and a detailed breakdown that discusses the action of the site, and how it fits into the broader Seven Days Battles that blunted the Union Army's 1862 march on Richmond. The website for Monocacy Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland, also includes a detailed breakdown of the battle, as well as articles on topics like slavery and Native American presence at the site. The Brandywine Battlefield's website is bright and welcoming and includes detailed information about planning a visit, the history of the site, and how it connects to other nearby historic locations.

At a minimum the Princeton website should have the following features:

- Easy-to-locate information on hours, trails and amenities, and access and accessibility at the site.
- A detailed description of the site and its history, written to make visitors want to visit and learn more.
- Directions on how to reach the site from major origin points.
- A detailed and accessible map of the site with clearly marked trails, key locations, and amenities.
- Bright and engaging visuals of the park and its history.

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<sup>112</sup> Colleen Dilenschneider, "More People Really Are Engaging with Cultural Entities Online during the Pandemic," *Know Your Own Bone*, March 31, 2021, <https://www.colleendilen.com/2021/03/31/people-really-are-interacting-with-museums-online-during-the-pandemic-data/>.

Creating an engaging website is a time-consuming process; however, there is already a variety of content available from other non-profit sources. It may be possible for the implementation team to negotiate with these organizations to feature these resources on their webpage or provide hyperlinks that allow visitors to explore further. For example, both the ABT and Mount Vernon have maps depicting the battle, and the ABT website also features several articles and visuals related to the site. It might be possible to license some of this content for use on the Princeton Battlefield site. Institutions like the Library of Congress and National Archives include images and digitized documents that can be freely used, while many art museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, have digitized much of their collections and allow them to be freely used, with proper citation, under the Creative Commons license.

Potential visitors who use a search engine to try and plan their visit currently receive several options, including links to the NJDEP state park page, the Princeton Battlefield Society webpage, the Crossroads of the American Revolution page, and the webpage for the Princeton-Mercer Convention & Visitor's Bureau. These pages have differing information and can be confusing for visitors. For example, the Crossroads of the American Revolution page directs visitors to the Princeton Battlefield Society's web page instead of the official battlefield page. Moving forward, it would be prudent for one site, either the state's website or PBS, to host most of the content and the other sites to encourage visitors to click on the link to the "main" site.

## Social Media

Social Media can play a key role in promoting a site. A study by the research group IMPACTS Experience found that, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, cultural institutions have seen a 33% increase in social media followers at cultural institutions, with "likes" on institutions' posts increasing by 24%.<sup>113</sup> For many visitors, social media is how they learn about a site and how they stayed engaged with it when they are not visiting in-person. Currently, PBS uses platforms like Facebook and Instagram to share news about the site, promote events, and share short facts and quotes, but more could be done to highlight the site's history. Many historic sites, including the White House Historical Association, the National Park Service, the National Museum of African American History, and Mount Vernon, use social media to highlight fascinating, compelling, obscure stories related to their sites, designed to pique the reader's interest. These stories are typically between 200 to 400 words on Facebook and 100 to 200 words on Instagram. The stories can be told in a straightforward, scholarly manner as the National Museum of African American History does, or in a more casual, lighthearted tone as employed by the National Park Service.

These posts would help build further interest in the site's history, and encourage potential visitors. They also offer a great opportunity to highlight lesser-known aspects of the battlefield or historic elements of the battlefield that do not relate to the battle itself, such as the former trolley trail.

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<sup>113</sup> Dilenschneider, "More People Really Are Engaging with Cultural Entities."

### *Maxwell's Field Updates*

When ready, physical markers will be added to Maxwell's Field to both tell the story of the battle and integrate the tract of land into the rest of Princeton Battlefield State Park. The following interpretive features will be added along the new trail.

#### **Traditional Wayside**

This new wayside would engage visitors with the daring story of the American counterattack across Maxwell's Field, and how it turned the tide of the battle. Telling the story of Washington's effort to rally the troops and how he placed himself in the field of fire will emphasize the importance of this tract of land. The sign could also discuss the efforts to preserve this land for future generations.

#### **Battle Window**

This sign, located along the tree line at the edge of Maxwell's Field tract near the IAS property, will depict the patriot position as the soldiers charged forward and scattered the British. The interpretive text will be paired with primary source accounts of the patriot advance.

## Medium-Term Improvements

The interpretive improvements described in this section represent a chance to further expand the educational offerings relating to the Princeton area's history, both inside and outside of the Princeton Battlefield State Park. These options are more technologically demanding or involve a physical footprint in the Princeton community, but will further burnish Princeton's reputation as a unique location that stands out when compared with other nearby sites.

### *Vehicular Battle Signs*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts

**Thematic Topics:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days

The Princeton Battlefield stretches beyond the boundaries of the Princeton Battlefield State Park. Many residents and visitors to the town do not realize that they are driving through history. Large battlefield boundary signs, loosely based on those found at National Park Service sites, placed at key locations will communicate to motorists that they have entered the Princeton Battlefield. While the signs themselves will not include any interpretive content, they will be located near Princeton's Past signs that provide information.



Crossroads of the American Revolution sign.  
(*Crossroads of the American Revolution*)

This plan recommends that signs be placed at the following locations.

- Lawrenceville Road adjacent to Historical Overlook Park.
- Quaker Road, adjacent to Washington's March to Princeton marker near the D&R Canal.
- Alexander Street, adjacent to the golf course and the Princeton Train Station.
- Nassau Street, adjacent to the intersection at Washington Road.

The Nassau Street sign may need to have a different design due to its location in a heavily developed portion of Princeton. Stakeholders will need to acquire all necessary permits and permissions to install the signs. Even if the signs are not uniform in size, they should all maintain a similar style to provide cohesion and ensure that the battlefield's boundaries are properly noted.

### *Pedestrian Boundary Markers*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts

**Thematic Topics:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days, Revolutionary Era and Eighteenth Century

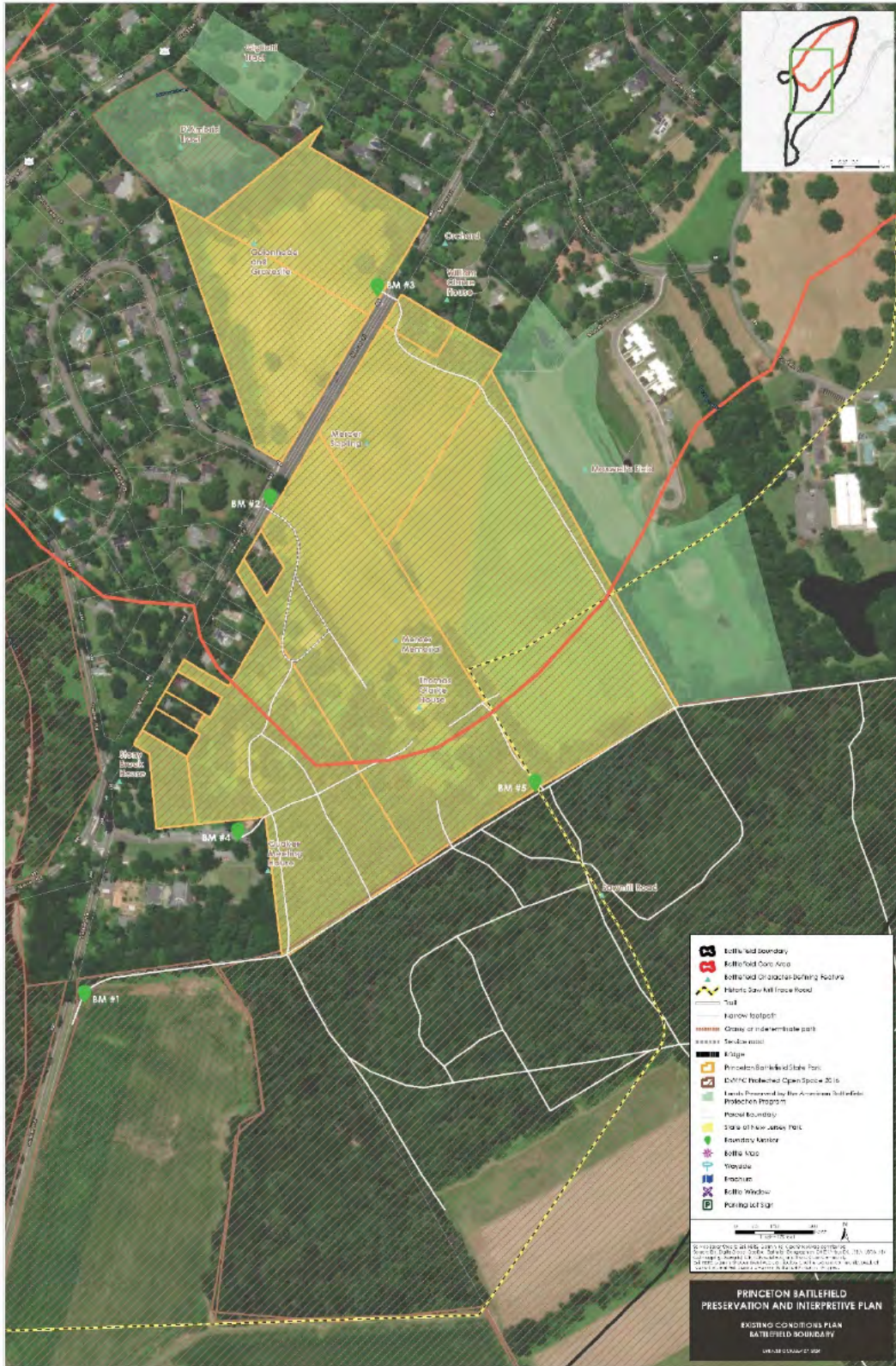
Many would-be visitors pass through the Princeton Battlefield without even realizing it due to a lack of signs. Many walking and biking trails pass through the battlefield, yet visitors might not be aware of the historic significance of the sites after arriving from the Institute Woods or the Quaker Road bicycle path. New boundary markers at key visitor access points will help resolve this issue. At pedestrian entrances along existing trails, four-sided, obelisk-shaped columns will provide orientation and basic interpretation of the battlefield. These columns will be designed to meet all relevant NJDEP regulations and guidelines for design and accessibility. The columns will be strategically placed and will be colored brown to better fit into the surrounding landscape and minimize any impact on the viewshed. One side of the column will include trail information along with a “you are here” icon and a historical overview; the other three sides will offer the perspectives of three war-time witnesses of the battle including continental soldiers, British regulars, and local civilians.

Locations for the pedestrian-entrance interpretive columns include:

- Quaker Road pedestrian path
- Pedestrian crossing at Mercer Road near the parking lot
- The parking lot at the Stony Brook Meeting House
- The trail from Institute Woods onto the park
- Mercer Road pedestrian crossing near William Clarke farm Site



The pillars will draw design inspiration from the historic obelisks that chart Washington’s march to Princeton. (Joe Shlabotnik/ Flickr)



Map of proposed pedestrian boundary markers, including on the Stockton Street Expansion described later in the plan.

## High-Tech Improvements

Proper utilization of emerging technologies like Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) has the potential to revolutionize the interpretation at the Princeton Battlefield. Together, they offer visitors windows into the past, illustrate important tactics and maneuvers, and place visitors in the center of the fighting. The deployment of these offerings will provide visitors with another reason to return to the site, and add to the park's educational mission.

### *AR Tour*

**Intended Audience:** History Enthusiasts, Families, School Groups

**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days

A full AR tour of the site offers the chance to create a high-tech experience that visitors can immerse themselves in using their smartphones. Under this option, visitors will travel to various key locations at the Princeton Battlefield, stopping at sites like the Thomas Clarke House, the Mercer Oak, and the Colonnade. At each stop, a stylized representation of someone connected to the site (e.g., General Hugh Mercer at the Mercer Oak) describes their stories to the visitor. The design of the representations should be similar to those found in the Mount Vernon and Highland AR tours.<sup>114</sup> The tour could also include demonstrations showing British and American troop movements throughout the battle.



An AR tour at James Monroe's Highland brings historical figures to life. (*James Monroe's Highland*)

### *Virtual Reality (VR)*

**Intended Audience:** History Enthusiasts, Families

**Themes:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days

VR represents an opportunity to place visitors in the center of the action at Princeton Battlefield, and get them as close as possible to feeling as though they were present on the battlefield in 1777. In the past, such immersive experiences required large, dedicated theater spaces with multiple rooms to achieve a 360° effect. Now, a simple headset can achieve the same effect while taking up significantly less space and requiring less maintenance.

This plan recommends two VR experiences, one focusing on the patriot perspective during the action at the Clark Farm and one from the British perspective. Each film should be around four to six minutes long. Narratively, inspiration should be taken from ABT's *Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience*, which features a clear beginning, middle, and end within the space of

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<sup>114</sup> "Mount Vernon Launches Smartglasses Augmented Reality Tour"; "W&M's Highland Launches Nation's First Wearable Augmented Reality Tour."

five minutes. The tone should more closely match that of the 360° film at the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre in Inverness, Scotland. The film here captures the chaos of the battlefield, giving visitors a sense of how the fighting developed with minimal narration. An appropriate content warning will be provided before the start of each experience.

The patriot scenario should take place from the viewpoint of an aide to General Hugh Mercer, who travels with him during the battle and takes the brunt of the initial British attack. In keeping with VR best practices, the scenario should be divided into a series of short scenes with minimal cuts to prevent viewer disorientation. Title cards will introduce each scenario and close out the scenario.

The storyline for the patriot scenario will play out as follows:

1. Mercer and the viewer arrive on Sawmill Road at the Clarke farm.
2. The British attack and the viewer are separated from Mercer.
3. The viewer sees Washington rally the troops and counterattack.
4. The viewer finds the wounded Mercer on the battlefield.

The British scenario should take place from the viewpoint of a soldier in the 40th Regiment of Foot. The action will take him from Frog Hollow Ravine to the surrender at Nassau Hall in the space of four scenes. This provides an opportunity to highlight a portion of the battle that took place on land now heavily developed and of which fewer visitors are aware. Like the American version, title cards will introduce and close out the scenario.



A scene from the American Battlefield Trust's *Civil War 1864* VR program.

The British scenario will play out as follows:

1. The viewer marches with the regiment.
2. American forces exchange fire with the British.
3. The viewer and the British fall back to the city.
4. The viewer runs into Nassau Hall. A cannon shot is heard, and then a shout of surrender.

This plan recommends that Princeton Battlefield State Park provide two VR headsets for guests to use to view the two scenarios. The headsets could be stored at either the Thomas Clarke House or at a future permanent visitor center. The Park could also make the VR scenarios available online for users around the world to view using their own VR equipment. The ABT's *Civil War 1864 Experience* provides a model. The experiences can be viewed on a web browser, on a cardboard smartphone viewer, or on a dedicated headset. This will maximize user engagement with the interpretive media, allowing interested individuals around the globe to place themselves at the center of the battle.



## *Interim Visitor Center*

**Intended Audience:** All

**Themes:** All

While it will take several years to build and design a permanent visitor center, stakeholders expressed a desire for some type of interim space that could provide information and orientation for visitors. There are numerous benefits to creating a temporary or mobile visitor center for the site. From an interpretive standpoint, a temporary structure provides space for changing exhibits that highlight important documents and artifacts relating to the battle. In turn, this will help raise awareness of both the value and need for a permanent structure, and can also serve as an opportunity for fundraising.

### **Mobile Visitor Center**

A mobile “food truck” style visitor center, either an Airstream™ trailer or Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Van, offers an exciting way to both interpret the site and potentially bring the battlefield to new locations. This economically versatile solution eliminates in the short-term the cost of a permanent visitor center and limits further threats to the historic resource. Furthermore, the transformative nature of a pop-up mobile visitor center holds the potential to expand the geographic reach and engagement of the public, raising awareness of the battlefield’s significance and its geographic boundaries.

Staff can drive converted food trucks to schools, parks, community events, monuments, and even to sites outside of the regional area. NJDEP or PBS can recruit sponsors and partners to fund the truck and then can sell products from the space, which will help offset costs.

Staff and stakeholders will need to decide who will manage and maintain the mobile visitor center and, will also need to determine various logistics, such as whether visitors can enter the truck, where to park it, and any other relevant safety measures.

However, after clearing these hurdles, this option presents great opportunities. Rotating exhibits could present interpretive themes in an easy-to-digest fashion. The mobile visitor center can build interest in the site and the mobility can raise awareness of the battle’s impact and history at schools, parks, and community locations outside of the state park boundaries. Potential stops for the visitor center include:

- Princeton University
- Frog Hollow Ravine / Princeton Theological Seminary
- Thomas Olden House
- Marquand Park



Mobile visitor center in Shenandoah National Park. (Shenandoah National Park Association)

- Morven Museum & Garden
- D&R Canal
- Community Park North
- Overlook Park

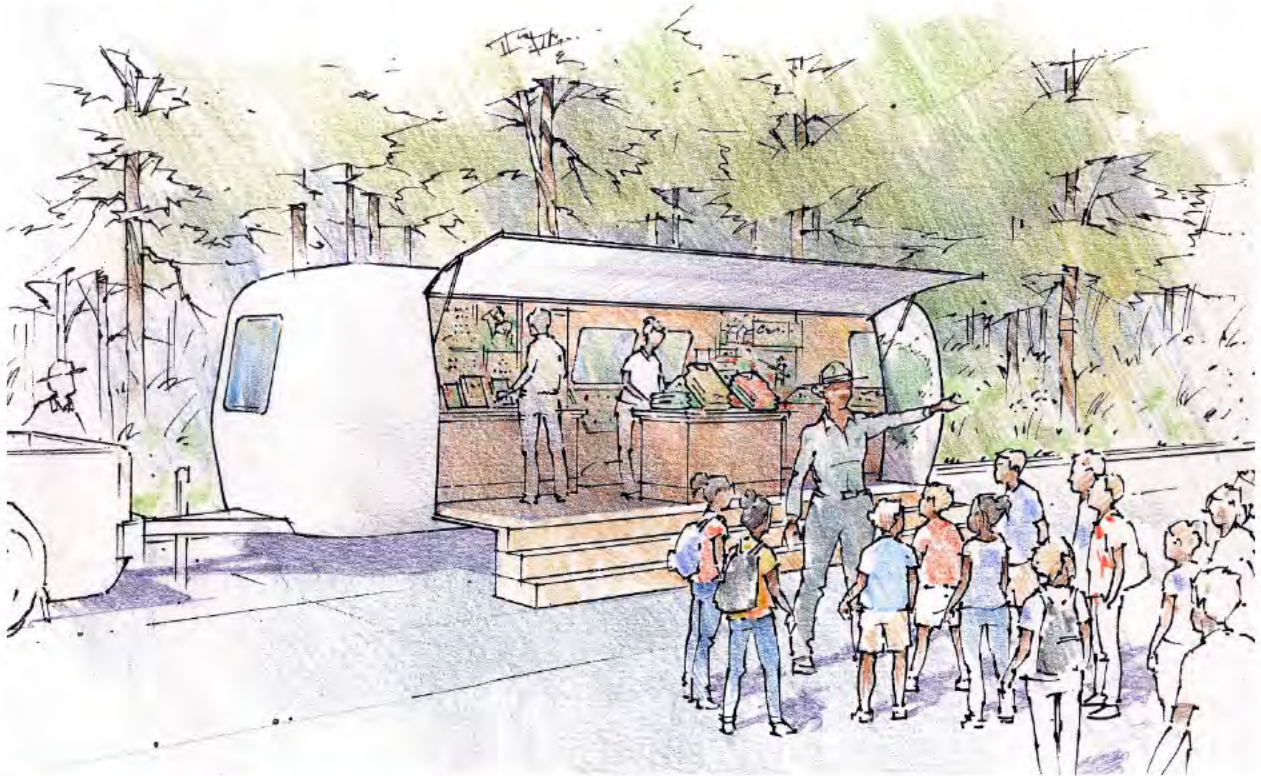


Illustration of the mobile visitor center on-site.

### Temporary Tent Visitor Center

Instead of a food truck-style visitor center, park stakeholders might prefer instead to use a tent set up as a cost-saving measure. A large tent could serve as a visitor center during special events when there are more staff and volunteers present. The tent, which could be set up in or near the parking lot, provides a low-impact location from which to educate visitors about the site and any specific event or activity that is occurring that day. The temporary exhibition space could be filled with artifacts and portable panels that tell the story of the battlefield and its importance to the 1777 Campaign. This tent could be staffed with a mixture of staff and volunteers. At the end of the event, the tent can be taken down and placed into storage with the artifacts and panels.



Rangers at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park use a tent to display exhibits and artifacts. (NPS/A. Cook)

Several sites already use this style of visitor center for special events. The tent chosen should be sturdy enough to handle strong gusts of wind and should offer easy access, with a more open design being preferable to one with walls. However, unlike the mobile visitor center, this option cannot be used to easily transport exhibits to locations outside of the park.

### *Princeton's Past Markers*

**Intended Audience:** Casual Visitors, History Enthusiasts

**Thematic Topics:** Battle of Princeton and Ten Crucial Days, Revolutionary Era and Eighteenth Century, Historic Preservation and Memory

The Princeton Battlefield stretches beyond the current boundaries of the state park. A series of large signs will mark key battlefield locations, prompting visitors to understand the geographic scale of the battlefield and learn more about the Princeton area's history. In contrast to traditional waysides, these signs will be more visually distinctive, helping give the Princeton Battlefield a unique identity. One side of the sign will feature a map of the entire battlefield with the state park boundaries noted, along with a "you are here" icon. The other sides will feature a description of the site and its relation to the battle and, if applicable, past preservation efforts.



A sample sign design. (*Crossroads of the American Revolution*)

Key locations for the interpretive signs include:

#### **PM 1: Stony Brook Bridge**

The sign here will cover the history of the bridge and its use during the battle. The sign will also briefly touch on preservation and conservation work done at the site of the bridge.

#### **PM 2: Worth's Mill**

The sign here will cover the history of the mill, its decline, and how it ties into the area's Quaker history. The sign can also be used to discuss the preservation of the remaining walls, and what they teach historians and archeologists.

#### **PM 3: Nassau Hall**

The sign here will discuss the history of the College of New Jersey—today's Princeton University—and its role during the battle. The sign will also discuss the impact of slavery on Princeton, and how Princeton's enslaved community reacted to the occupation and fighting in the town.

#### **PM 4: Overlook Park / Cochrane's House Hill**

This sign will discuss the site's role during the battle and how the view in 1777 differs from the view today. The sign will also profile Colonel Mawhood and his career before and after Princeton.

**PM 5: Frog Hollow Ravine**

This sign will discuss the fighting at the site and highlight the remaining historic elements that survive into the present. The sign will also profile General John Sullivan, his role in the fighting, and his controversial career.

**PM 6: Kingston Road**

The sign here will discuss this road's use by the patriot forces as they departed Princeton and the ultimate conclusion of the Ten Crucial Days. Content would discuss the future for the Continental Army, both in the short- and long-term, and also include details of the British Pursuit along the nearby New Brunswick Road.

**PM 7: D&R Canal Trail at Washington Memorial Obelisk Location**

The sign here will discuss the Continental Army's march toward Princeton, and highlight the history of the Washington Memorial Obelisks, which were originally laid out by the Sons of the American Revolution in 1914. The sign's location will help orient hikers and bikers on the D&R Canal Trail to the location of the battlefield, and encourage visits.

**PM 8: Mercer Heights**

The sign here will discuss the location of the British position and highlight its role during the battle. Since this area has been heavily developed, the sign will serve as a reminder of this important part of the battlefield.

**PM 9: Thomas Olden House**

The sign at this location will discuss the history of the Olden Family and their experiences during and after the Battle of Princeton. It will highlight the civilian experience at Princeton and how they coped with the challenges of wartime occupation.

**PM 10: Morven Museum & Garden**

The sign at this location will highlight the story of the Stockton family and the enslaved people who labored in the house and on the grounds. The sign will be an opportunity to delve into the complexities and contradictions of the Revolutionary period. Annis Stockton's role as a poet, and Richard Stockton's political career and role as a signer of the Declaration of Independence will also be discussed.

**PM 11: Princeton Battle Monument**

The sign here will discuss the history of the monument and how the Battle of Princeton has been remembered and commemorated throughout the years. The sign will also briefly discuss some of the other nearby monuments to other aspects of Princeton's history and how they are commemorated.

**PM 12: Princeton Cemetery**

This sign will discuss the history of the cemetery, its connections to the battle, and some of the notable individuals laid to rest there. The sign will also discuss the land next to the cemetery that was established as a separate resting place by the African American community who were not allowed to use the segregated Princeton Cemetery.

The Princeton's Past signs offer the chance to further interpret the area's history. In the future, stakeholders may choose to add new signs, of a similar style, discussing other notable events and people. The signs will serve as both an educational opportunity for residents and visitors and a marketing opportunity for the town.

Before placing these signs, the park will need to secure support and permission from local landowners and comply with all relevant laws and zoning regulations. During the approval process, the implementation team might determine that there is not enough community and stakeholder support for the erection of the signs. Since consistency is a key part of this option, the team should move forward with an alternate design if the original is not feasible in all locations. Alternate options that are less visually distinctive include 24" x 24" NPS style waysides, NPS style trailside markers, and Virginia Historical Highway Marker style signs. The team should not write the text until all locations are approved. The design chosen will impact how much information can be included.



A NPS trailside marker.



A standard NPS wayside.



A Virginia Historical Highway marker.

## Future Interpretive Improvements

### *Permanent Visitor Center*

**Intended Audience:** All

**Themes:** All

A permanent visitor center at the Princeton Battlefield would serve as a cornerstone for the site, offering orientation for visitors, highlighting important artifacts and documents in the collections, and hosting permanent and temporary exhibits. Feedback from stakeholders expressed the desire for a facility to welcome visitors and provide a gateway to the area's history. A permanent visitor center would also provide a space for conducting programming during periods of inclement weather, a museum store to raise funds for the site, and restroom facilities. Given the investments and improvements at many other Revolutionary War sites in recent years, a visitor center is a key part of communicating to guests and visitors the importance of Princeton Battlefield and its role in the fight for independence from Great Britain. Building a visitor center is the most cost-intensive effort of all options presented, so planning should start as soon as possible—especially if the goal is to open by the Sesquicentennial.

Staff, stakeholders, and community members have long recognized the need for a permanent visitor center. In 1996, Princeton Battlefield State Park Historian John Mills created a plan for a new interpretive center. Under his design, an underground space would be built on the ruins of the Clarke House Barn, with a reproduction barn and stable placed on top.<sup>115</sup> Another option discussed by the project team and stakeholders considered moving the Selberg House, currently located in Maxwell's Field, over to the eastern side of the park beyond the Clarke House. After review and analysis, this plan incorporates elements from both of these proposals, but advocates for a brand new building located in the wooded area east of the Clarke House.

The overall design of the visitor center will take inspiration from the Monmouth Battlefield Visitor Center, another NJDEP Revolutionary War site. The building will be a one-story structure with large windows giving visitors a clear view of the battlefield and the surrounding area, helping to better integrate the building with the surrounding landscape. Like Monmouth, the visitor center should be constructed with environmental sustainability in mind, and aim for certification of at least LEED Silver or better. The visitor center will be smaller than the one at Monmouth with a footprint of around 6,000 to 9,000 square feet.



The Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center. (Jonathan Schilling/Wikimedia)

When it opens, this building should have areas dedicated to a permanent exhibit, temporary exhibits, a movie theater, a classroom/meeting space, a museum shop, and office and bathroom space. These spaces can be scaled up and down as necessary depending on the final design of the

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<sup>115</sup> *Preservation Plan for the Thomas Clarke House.*

center. Consolidating these activities in the visitor center will also free up space in the Thomas Clarke House for more interpretive programming.

Given the proximity of the new building to the Stony Brook Meeting House, the visitor center will encompass not only the story of the Battle of Princeton but also the Stony Brook and Princeton communities that experienced that clash of armies on January 3, 1777. The site offers an opportunity to delve into the lives and stories of both soldiers and civilians and highlight the dramatic and complex political and social environment of the area.

The permanent exhibition space in the visitor center tells the story of Princeton and Stony Brook before, during, and after the Battle of Princeton. Historic documents, artifacts, dramatic imagery, and a map of the fighting will help engage visitors and prepare them for touring the battlefield. The exhibit will feature prominent quotations highlighting the diverse soldier and civilian experiences during the battle, as well as profiles of prominent individuals involved. To maximize audience range, the text should score around an 8 to 10 on the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Scale.<sup>116</sup> The following elements should be featured in the permanent exhibit space:

- Princeton before the Revolution
  - Lenni-Lenape and other indigenous groups in the Princeton area.
  - The arrival of European settlers, Quakers, and other groups.
  - The Stony Brook community.
  - Slavery in Princeton.
  - Early opposition to British taxation-loyalties of the population.
- Background of the Battle
  - Continental Army defeats in 1776.
  - The patriot military forces' presence in Princeton before the retreat.
  - State of Washington's Army in December 1776.
  - Attack on Trenton.
  - British Response and Battle of Assunpink Creek.
- British Occupation of Princeton
  - The British offer a pardon.
  - British High Command orders to troops.
  - Divided loyalties in the Princeton area.
  - Impact of the British occupation on the enslaved population of Princeton.
  - Troop actions in Princeton and civilian response.
- Washington's decision to march to Princeton
  - Council of War.
  - Intelligence by General John Cadwalader and Colonel Joseph Reed.
  - Risks of the march.
  - Method of tricking the British (keep the campfires burning).
- Course of Battle
  - Beginning of the "meeting engagement."
  - Initial fighting between Mercer's men and British.
  - Mercer's wounding.

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<sup>116</sup> Harpers Ferry Center, *Wayside Exhibits*.

- American retreat.
- Washington rallies and the Americans counterattack.
- Patriot forces push into Princeton.
- Outcome
  - Overall casualties of the two armies.
  - Washington decides not to go to New Brunswick, orders Stony Brook Bridge destroyed.
  - Cornwallis arrives in Princeton too late.
  - Civilians tend to the dead and wounded.
- Princeton after the battle
  - Civilian rebuilding efforts.
  - The American-French army marches through on the way to Yorktown.
  - Continental Congress meets at Nassau Hall and hears news of the peace treaty.
- Significance
  - Domestic and international response to the battle
  - The outcome of the Revolution.
  - Social and political changes in Princeton, from 1777 to today.
- Princeton Profiles, a section featuring short bios of individuals connected to the battle with quotes if possible.
  - General Hugh Mercer, who was killed during the battle.
  - Colonel Charles Mawhood, an eccentric British commander who brought his spaniels into battle with him.
  - Thomas Clarke, a Quaker and owner of the Thomas Clarke farm site.
  - Susannah, who was enslaved by the Clark family during the time of the battle.
  - Annis Boudinot Stockton, a Princeton resident, poet, and wife of the Declaration of Independence signer Richard Stockton.

The exhibits will include a mixture of traditional text panels, artifacts, and images along with new digital offerings. An interactive touch map can help visitors understand the progression of the battle; a touchpad kiosk could provide Revolutionary War trivia in a game-show-style format, and video screens could show costumed actors reading firsthand accounts of what it was like to endure the Revolutionary War in the Garden State.



Exhibits at the Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center. (Katrina Rossos)

The exhibit creation process should be a cooperative one that connects key stakeholders with park staff, contractors, scholars, and other members of the Princeton community. A stakeholder group that reviews exhibit text will help ensure that the local community has a voice. Given the site's location near the Stony Brook Meeting House, representatives of the local Quaker community should be a part of this stakeholder group. Likewise, the exhibit development process offers the opportunity to leverage the expertise and skills of Princeton University scholars and students.

The temporary exhibition space allows the park to dive into specific aspects of the battle, as well as highlight other aspects of the site's history and make valuable connections with the community. Exhibits should focus on topics not covered or only briefly touched on in the permanent exhibit, such as:

- Quaker life in Revolutionary War New Jersey
- Slavery in Princeton during the American Revolution
- New Jersey units and soldiers in the American Revolution
- History of the nineteenth-century Princeton Trolley Line
- History of the Colonnade
- Memory and remembrance of the Battle of Princeton
- Efforts to preserve the Princeton Battlefield

The temporary exhibit space also offers the opportunity to partner with local organizations and build community engagement. The park could partner with local and high school students to curate specific exhibits related to the battlefield and local history. In recent years, many sites, including Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and the Alexandria Black History Museum, have used their temporary exhibit spaces to highlight the work of local artists which feature work they have created of these historic sites. Conversations with stakeholders have revealed that Princeton Battlefield State Park is a very popular space for artists to paint or hold classes, so it should be easy to curate such an exhibit. The painting could be paired with historical labels to connect the images to the history of the site.

A well-executed orientation film can help visitors understand the significance of the site and make them eager to learn more. Statements made at the first public meeting supported the addition of such a film to the visitor center. Park planners can either choose to commission an entirely new film or edit together existing source footage. The former option would provide greater control over the final product, but would also be more expensive and time-consuming. One potential option for the film would be Mount Vernon's *The Winter Patriots*, which covers the Ten Crucial Days. While the film itself is around 27 minutes long, the park could choose to focus on the sections discussing the Battle of Assunpink Creek and the Battle of Princeton. This section of the film, including a discussion of the battle's aftermath and significance, runs around 15 minutes. As Mount Vernon makes the film available for free on their YouTube channel, it may be possible to license it. The movie should be shown on a projection screen. Space should feature enough chairs to seat a group of between 50 to 75 people, depending on the ultimate size of the building.

The meeting space/classroom should be a multipurpose space that can be used by school groups, tour groups during inclement weather, or for talks and presentations. While the space will not feature artifacts and documents, it should feature historical artwork and quotations relating to the Battle of Princeton and its place in the American Revolution.

A museum store represents an excellent opportunity to both raise revenue for the site and encourage visitors to learn more. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase books relating to the battle, the American Revolution, and the history of Princeton. Several museums and historic sites have started to work interpretation into their gift shops to further the interpretive methods

of their sites. At Princeton, historic imagery and powerful quotations on the wall could be used to tie the museum store into the rest of the interpretation.

Before a permanent battlefield visitor center can be built, several actions need to be taken. The park must determine how to staff the visitor center and what its hours will be. The park will also need to determine where to best place the visitor center, while also ensuring that the building's construction will not damage or destroy any archeological resources. On top of these evaluations, the park will also need to consider costs. Building a new visitor center, even a small one, requires a significant investment and extensive fundraising efforts. Fundraising should begin as soon as possible to take advantage of the activity surrounding the Semiquincentennial.

### *Stockton Street Entrance and Trail*

Long-term plans call for a new entrance to the park from Stockton Street, featuring a trail leading to Colonnade. Targeted interpretive additions will leverage this addition and provide new ways for visitors to connect with the area's history.

### Wayside

#### **Location: Trail from Stockton Street (New Wayside)**

This wayside will greet visitors who park at the Stockton street entrance before they make their way down the trail to the battlefield. The wayside will provide general background about the battlefield, and will also discuss the Franco-American army's march along Stockton Street on their way to Yorktown in 1781.

### AR Experience

#### **Washington-Rochambeau March**

Four years after the Battle of Princeton in 1781, soldiers of the combined American-Franco army marched south along the Stockton Road on their way to trap Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. This experience will allow visitors to point their smartphones at the road and see American and French soldiers marching. Audio clips of orders being spoken in French and English would add to the immersion. The experience will tie the Princeton Battlefield into the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail.

### Boundary Marker

#### **Location: Future Stockton Street Parking Lot**

A new four-sided pedestrian boundary marker will be placed at the Stockton Street entrance. This marker will have an identical design to the other markers, and will still provide orientation. It will also profile one of the American soldiers who marched along Stockton Street in 1781 as the French and American forces advanced toward Yorktown.

# CHAPTER VII: IMPLEMENTATION

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*Bring up the troops. The day is our own!*

General George Washington<sup>117</sup>

Throughout the planning process, one constant throughout the stakeholder discussions, online survey responses, and public meetings was the passion that stakeholders and the general public have for the Princeton Battlefield and their support for a bold plan to both preserve it and provide ways to engage with its history. The victory at the Battle of Princeton was a watershed moment in the American Revolution that raised patriot spirits, kept the fight for independence alive and, in doing so, helped ensure the creation of the United States of America. Throughout the years, dedicated preservationists have worked to preserve the battlefield and share its story with the American people.

The recent protection of Maxwell's Field from imminent development and the collaborative completion of this *Princeton Battlefield Preservation and Interpretive Plan* presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to envision and secure a vibrant future for this National Historic Landmark.



With proper investments in preservation and interpretation, the battlefield will be able to welcome new visitors.



Artist's rendering depicting the recaptured spatial character and features of Princeton Battlefield.

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<sup>117</sup> Chernow, *Washington: A Life*, 282

## Partnerships

As America looks to commemorate the founding of our nation in 2026, there has never been a greater opportunity to garner national attention at Princeton Battlefield. The time to act is now, and through effective partnerships, ensuring a vibrant future for the battlefield and the community writ large is possible. Partners for implementation have been identified in part, but more participants and contributors are needed to implement the guidance provided by this plan. The following list of active stakeholders and their respective participation opportunities reflect ongoing discussions facilitated throughout this landmark study:

### Key Partners/Stakeholders

National Park Service – American Battlefield Protection Program  
 New Jersey Division of Environmental Protection – State Parks  
 Princeton Battlefield Society  
 Princeton Township  
 American Battlefield Trust  
 Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area  
 New Jersey Historical Commission  
 Stony Brook Quaker Meeting House  
 Institute for Advanced Study  
 Local Revolutionary Era Historic Sites

### Opportunity

Grants & Guidance  
 Restoration and Interpretation  
 Preservation, Interpretation, Advocacy  
 Local Assistance and Tourism  
 Preservation, Restoration, Interpretation  
 Regional Interpretation and Tourism  
 Grants & Guidance  
 Co-Interpretation  
 Preservation Partnerships  
 Co-Interpretation

## Preliminary Budget

As identified in both the Preservation Treatment and Interpretation chapters of this report, the implementation plan will be addressed through phased and focused efforts incorporating leadership by all entities currently engaged and enlisting others to make the bold vision a reality. At just over \$3 million, the projected cost for restoration and interpretation improvements are outlined on the following charts:

Princeton Battlefield Restoration/Rehabilitation Treatment		
Recommendation	Count	Cost
<b>Phase I</b>		<b>Total: \$1,985,000</b>
Sawmill Trace Restoration	1	\$200,000
New/Rehabilitated Interpretive Trails	1	\$175,000
Woodlot Restoration (Selective Removals Opening Historic Spatial Character)	1	\$150,000

Orchard Restoration and Battlefield Perimeter Plantings/Buffer	1	\$200,000
Historic Fence Line Reconstruction	1	\$150,000
Parking and Visitor Services Relocation outside of Core Battlefield	1	\$500,000
Thomas Clarke House Restoration (Source: CRoAR and NJDEP 2020)	1	\$610,000

### Princeton Battlefield Interpretive Recommendations – Phase I

Recommendation	Count	Cost
<b>Phase I</b>		<b>Total: \$187,000</b>
Smartphone App	1	\$80,000
Augmented Reality (AR) Experiences (Design and Fabrication)	1	\$35,000
Revised Waysides (Design and Fabrication)	6	\$6,000
New Waysides (Design and Fabrication)	4	\$8,000
Tactile 3-D Topographic Map (Design and Fabrication)	1	\$20,000
Battle Windows (Design and Fabrication)	2	\$24,000
Brochure (Design and Fabrication)	1	\$7,000 (+\$2,200 per 20,000 copies)
Programs for Dogwalkers and Families (Design and Fabrication)	3	\$7,000 (+\$2,200 per 20,000 copies)
Online Updates (Website, Social Media)	N/A	N/A

### Maxwell's Field Additions (Pending 106 Approval) Total: \$13,767

New Wayside	1	\$1,767
Battle Window (Design and Fabrication)	1	\$12,000

### Princeton Battlefield Interpretive – Future Phases

Recommendation	Count	Cost
<b>Future Phases</b>		<b>Total: \$958,500</b>
Stone Battlefield Boundary Markers	4	\$85,000

Pedestrian Boundary Markers (4-Sided Vertical Panel)	5	\$72,000
Associated Battlefield Site Markers (Throughout Princeton)	13	\$156,000
New Waysides (D'Ambrisi, Gigliotti)	3	\$5,500
Augmented Reality	1	\$100,000
Virtual Reality	2	\$240,000
Mobile Visitors Center	1	\$300,000

## Preliminary Schedule for Implementation

The American Battlefield Trust is coordinating with NJDEP and other partners to add to and refine priorities for implementation over the next five years. Through recent and productive collaborations with stakeholders and partners, this restoration and interpretive work has now begun! In the Spring of 2021, the American Battlefield Trust submitted a grant to support Phase I Interpretive improvements in collaboration with NJDEP and other key partners. Likewise, NJDEP has begun the early stages of reinterpreting and recapturing the segments of the historic Sawmill Trace.

Through partner conversations, national and state-level grant programs are under consideration and if adopted provide one of many influencing factors helpful to organize implementation. The following breakdown of Interpretive and Preservation Treatment objectives provides an early framework for delivering on the aspiration of this plan and those of our partners, year-to-year, and incorporating multiple streams for funding and support.

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### PHASE I Improvements – Implementation through 2022

#### PHASE I Interpretation – (ABPP Interpretation Grant Submitted Spring 2021)

##### *Refresh and New Waysides, Mobile Apps, Brochures, and Website Refresh*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP (with stakeholder involvement)
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust + NJDEP
Management	NJDEP, PBS (Website)

#### PHASE I Restoration – (Planned Submission for ABPP Restoration Grant 2021)

##### *Restoration of historic Sawmill Trace, Removal of Dilapidated Paths, Tree line Veg. Removal, Recapture Fence Lines*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP
Implementation	NJDEP
Management	NJDEP

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## PHASE II Improvements – Implementation through 2023

PHASE II Interpretation Coordination – (No Federal Funds Anticipated)

### *Maxwell's Signs (Including Donor Panel), \*Park Kiosk*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP (*CRAR Kiosk; NJDEP Entry Sign)
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust + NJDEP
Management	NJDEP
*PBS coordination on Kiosk	

PHASE II Restoration: Former IAS Lands – (Private Funding)

### *\*Selberg House Relocation, \*Selberg Site Restoration, Washington's Charge Trails, Sawmill Trace Extension, Removal of Tree Line (2021)*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust + NJDEP
Management	NJDEP
*Not included in budget	

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## PHASE III Improvements – Implementation through 2024

PHASE III Interpretation Coordination – (Planned Submission for ABPP Interpretive Grant 2022)

### *Mobile Visitors Center, Pedestrian Boundary Interpretive Markers*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust + PBS
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + PBS + NJDEP
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust + NJDEP + PBS
Management	PBS (NJDEP – Markers)

PHASE III Restoration/Rehabilitation: Parking Relocation – (Planned Submission for ABPP Restoration Grant 2022/2023)

### *Relocation of parking and public entrance outside of core battlefield, New Park Entry Sign*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP
Implementation	NJDEP
Management	NJDEP

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## PHASE IV Improvements – Implementation through 2025

PHASE IV Interpretation Coordination – (Planned Submission for ABPP Interpretive Grant 2024)

### *Battlefield Boundary Markers, Associated Battlefield Sites Markers, New Waysides (D'Ambrisi)*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust + Crossroads
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + American Battlefield Trust + Crossroads
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust + Crossroads
Management	Crossroads (NJDEP – Waysides)

PHASE IV Restoration/Rehabilitation: Landscape & Clarke Env. – (Planned Submission for ABPP Restoration Grant 2024)

*Selective Veg. Removals/Woodlot and Fields Restoration; Interpretive Orchard, Thomas Clarke House Restoration*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP + Crossroads
Implementation	NJDEP
Management	NJDEP

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**PHASE V Improvements – Implementation through 2026**

PHASE V Interpretation Coordination – (Planned Submission for ABPP Interpretive Grant 2025)

*Future-Phase Augmented and Virtual Reality Apps*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + American Battlefield Trust + NJDEP
Implementation	American Battlefield Trust
Management	American Battlefield Trust

PHASE V Restoration/Rehabilitation: Landscape – (Planned Submission for ABPP Restoration Grant 2025)

*Selective Veg. Removals/Woodlot and Fields Restoration; Plantings*

Fundraising	American Battlefield Trust
Content, Planning & Design	Consultant + NJDEP
Implementation	NJDEP
Management	NJDEP

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The phasing and component parts of each phase are still under study and will evolve through continued partnership discussions. We invite our partners to continue the collaborative visioning established by this plan.

While the soldiers and civilians who experienced the battle nearly 250 years ago have since departed into the pages of history, there is still time to ensure that their stories and sacrifices are never forgotten and that this important battlefield in the country’s struggle for independence is saved.

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# APPENDICES

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## Appendix A: Selected Draft Interpretive Elements

### *Waysides*

The draft wayside text below represents a starting point for the content development of these new interpretive elements on the Princeton Battlefield. The project team understands that the text might be altered based on consultations with staff, stakeholders, historians, and designers.

### WAYSIDE #1

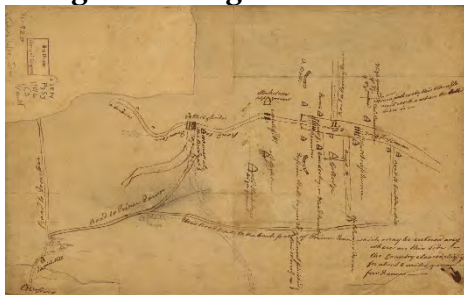
**Title:** An Accidental Encounter

**Main Text:** No one intended to fight a battle on the field in front of you. British Lieutenant Colonel Mawhood was marching his men from Princeton toward General Cornwallis's army in Trenton. Cornwallis believed he had finally trapped the Americans and called for reinforcements.

But the Americans were not trapped. Washington had snuck his men around the main British army and marched north. He planned to capture Princeton before attacking the British supply depot in New Brunswick. As Mawhood marched south along the Princeton-Trenton Road and the patriots made their way along Quaker Road, the two sides spied each other and the battle began.

**Quotation:** "We've got the old fox safe now. We'll go over and bag him in the morning" - General Cornwallis, January 2, 1777.<sup>118</sup>

### Background Image



**Caption:** An elaborate spy map, drawn by General John Cadwalader, gave Washington valuable intelligence about Princeton as he planned the march.

**Credit:** Library of Congress

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<sup>118</sup> "Ten Facts about George Washington and the Revolutionary War."

### Inset Image



**Caption:** This sketch from the 1700s depicts soldiers in the Continental Army. African American, white, and American Indian soldiers on the Princeton campaign endured cold weather, inadequate provisions, and long marches.

**Credit:** Brown University Library

### WAYSIDE #2

**Title:** A Dramatic Victory

**Main Text:** If you stood here on January 3, 1777, you would have seen two armies clashing in the bitter cold. To your left, advancing British soldiers, bayonets drawn, pushed back the American forces. The fleeing patriots collided with their own reinforcements as panic set in.

To your right, patriot artillery slowed the British and provided a rallying point. Soon, General Washington himself arrived and organized a counterattack. The patriots charged and drove the British off the field before pushing on to Princeton. The patriot cause was saved, the British were humiliated, but several hundred soldiers now lay dead and wounded on the frozen ground.

**Quotation:** “They could not possibly suppose it was our army, for that they took for granted was cooped up near Trenton...I believe they were as much astonished as if an army had dropped perpendicularly upon them.” – General Henry Knox<sup>119</sup>

### Background Image

**Featured Image** will be “Washington Rallying the American at the Battle of Princeton” by William T. Ranney.

**Caption:** Washington’s rallying the troops has been immortalized by many artists. While Washington did ride between the lines, there’s no evidence of him carrying any type of banner.

**Credit:** Princeton University Art Museum. Gift of Edward Wasserman in honor of his children, Jesse A., Renee H., and Edward Wasserman Jr.

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<sup>119</sup> Kidder, *Ten Crucial Days*, 299.

### **Inset Image**



**Caption:** British and American forces transformed Princeton into a bloody battlefield. The nearby Quaker meeting house became a field hospital as the battle raged.

**Credit:** Crossroads of the American Revolution

### **WAYSIDE #3**

**Title:** A Home in the Crosshairs

**Main Text:** The land around you was once farmed by one family, the Clarkes. Quaker siblings, Thomas, William, and Sarah called this land home and worshiped at the nearby meeting house. Susannah, a woman enslaved by the Clarkes, also lived here. While William Clarke's house no longer stands, Thomas and Sarah's home is directly in front of you.

On January 3, 1777, Thomas Clarke, Sarah Clarke, and Susannah may have taken shelter in the Clarke House as the two armies clashed. As the family hid, patriot reinforcements raced past the house to try and strengthen the faltering Continental line. The Clarkes believed in pacifism, but the war found them anyway.

### **Background Image**



**Caption:** As the Clarke family hid, patriot troops used the Clarke House as a staging area for attacks and as cover from British musket fire.

**Credit:** Swan Historical Foundation Inc

### Inset Image



**Caption:** No image exists of Susannah, but her tasks may have involved cooking for the Clarke family. Although many Quakers held anti-slavery views, the Clarke family did not free Susannah until 1779.

**Credit:** Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

### Inset Image



**Caption:** No visual depictions of Thomas Clarke survive. An artist created this rendering for Crossroads of the American Revolution.

**Credit:** Joe Barsin/Crossroads of the American Revolution

## WAYSIDE #4

**Title:** From Home to Hospital

**Main Text:** As the sounds of gunfire died down, the Clarke home became a hospital. Doctors and nurses treated soldiers from both sides here, attempting to save as many lives as possible. Among the wounded was General Hugh Mercer. Bayoneted several times by the British, he lingered for nine days before finally dying.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> "The Historic Thomas Clarke House: Its Preservation and Museum," Princeton Battlefield Society, <https://pbs1777.org/thomas-clarke-house/>

Originally built in 1772, the Clarke House would once have been surrounded by numerous outbuildings and 200 acres of farmland. Today, the building remains one of the largest physical “eyewitnesses” of the battle that remain.

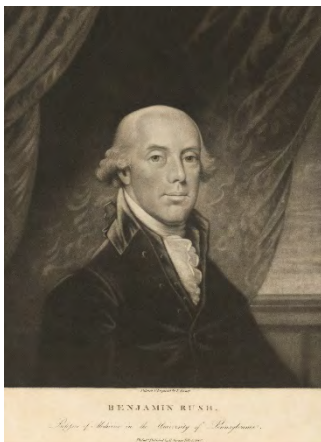
### Background Image



**Caption:** For wounded soldiers, the Clarke House’s rooms provided warmth and protection from the elements. The home’s beds would have provided some comfort to those who needed it.

**Credit:** Crossroads of the American Revolution

### Inset Image



**Caption:** Dr. Benjamin Rush was a noted physician who aided the wounded after the Battle of Princeton. He attempted, without success, to save General Hugh Mercer’s life.

**Credit:** National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

## WAYSIDE #5

**Title:** Holding the Line

**Main Text:** The battle was going poorly for the Americans. The disciplined British forces were pushing back the numerically superior, but less well-trained patriot soldiers. Panic started to grip the ranks. As Mercer and Cadwalader’s forces retreated, Captain Joseph Moulder’s company attempted to block the British advance. Using two four-pounder cannons, they fired grapeshot into the advancing redcoats.

The efforts of Moulder’s battery helped give the patriot forces time to reorganize. After the main battle concluded, Moulder and his men served as a rearguard to delay the British pursuit of the Continental Army. However, despite his efforts that day, after the battle, Moulder was nearly court-martialed for refusing to abandon his guns during a rearguard action.

### Background Image

#### Featured Image will be “The Battle of Princeton” by James Peale

**Caption:** Ensign James Peale survived the battle and later painted this image depicting the fighting. Moulder’s battery appears in the foreground. **(20 words)**

**Credit:** Princeton University, gift of Dean Mathey, Class of 1912, in 1951

### Inset Images



**Caption:** Artillery required a well-trained crew that could maneuver, aim, and fire these pieces while under fire from the enemy.

**Credit:** Khurt Williams

### WAYSIDE #6

**Title:** Fruitful Business

**Text:** The land around Princeton had been heavily cultivated for decades by the time of the battle. Orchards, like the one once located on the William Clarke farm, produced peaches, apples, and cherries.<sup>121</sup> William Clarke would have relied on his orchards to supplement the food and income provided by the grains he farmed.

During the battle, patriots and Redcoats clashed around the area near the orchard, but the real damage probably happened before and after the battle. Claims by Princeton civilians showed that the British seized large quantities of food and stripped fences and buildings for firewood. Patriot forces may also have helped themselves to foodstuffs during their brief occupation in the autumn of 1776. While the Battle of Princeton was fought in a day, the impacts of the battle and the British occupation would be felt for some time.

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<sup>121</sup> Selig, Harris, and Catts. *Battle of Princeton Mapping Project*, 12

### Background Image



**Caption:** British forces pushed the Americans back through the orchard as they forced them to flee. After the patriots counterattacked, the British fell back through the orchard.

**Credit:** Swan Historical Foundation Inc.

### Inset Image



**Caption:** British soldiers in uniform. The British raided many homes to gather food and supplies. This helped turn the local population against them.

**Credit:** Florida Center for Instructional Technology

### WAYSIDE #7

**Title:** Mercer's Last Battle

**Text:** At the start of the battle, George Washington dispatched General Hugh Mercer to deal with the British forces. While Mercer's force of riflemen achieved some initial success, British discipline and bayonets forced them back. As his men started to break, Mercer attempted to rally them. With his horse shot out from under him and surrounded, Mercer, drew his sword as the redcoats bayoneted him repeatedly. Left for dead by the British, Mercer was carried by the American forces to the Clark House where he succumbed to his wounds several days later.

Born in Scotland, Mercer had previously served as a medic for the Jacobite forces attempting to restore the Stuart monarchy in the United Kingdom. Immigrating to North America, he served in the French and Indian Wars and became friends with George Washington.<sup>122</sup>

### Background Image



**Caption:** British soldiers mortally wounded General Hugh Mercer (center, kneeling) while he attempted to rally his troops. Legend states that they mistook him for General Washington, and thought they were killing the commander in chief of the rebellion.

**Credit:** Yale University Art Gallery

### Inset Image



**Caption:** Legend holds that Mercer was found at the base of the tree at this spot. Dubbed the “Mercer Oak,” the tree stood on the battlefield until it died in 2000. Today, a sapling from the original tree, the “Mercer Sapling,” grows at the site.

**Credit:** New Jersey Department of Conservation and Economic Development

**Quotation:** “I am no rebel!” -General Hugh Mercer to his British attackers<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> Samuel K. Fore, “Hugh Mercer,” *Washington Library Center for Digital History - George Washington Digital Encyclopedia*, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/hugh-mercer/>

<sup>123</sup> Chernow, *Washington: A Life*, 281.

## WAYSIDE #8

**Title:** The Colonnade in front of you was originally designed by Thomas U. Walter to be the front of Philadelphia merchant Matthew Newkirk's mansion. Later it was moved to Princeton to be the entranceway of Mercer Manor, before being dedicated as a monument to the soldiers who fought at Princeton 1959, after Mercer Manor burned down.

Today, the Colonnade remains an entryway, but not a home. Just beyond it lies a presumed gravesite for soldiers who died during the battle. A 1918 memorial pays tribute to the British and patriot soldiers who fell. Archeological surveys have attempted to find the exact location of the graves but, as of 2021, these efforts have been inconclusive.

### Background Image



**Caption:** The fierce fighting at Princeton led to over 300 dead, wounded, or missing patriot and British soldiers. The colonnade stands as a monument to those who gave their lives here in 1777.

**Credit:** New York Public Library

### Inset Image



**Caption:** Matthew Newkirk's mansion, with the Colonnade as the front entrance.

**Credit:** The Library Company of Philadelphia

## WAYSIDE #9

**Title:** His Majesty's Forces

**Text:** Like their patriot opponents, the British soldiers never intended to fight at Princeton. The 17<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot along with the 16<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons had been marching south to link up with General Charles Cornwallis's forces outside Trenton. Still, when Colonel Mawhood saw the patriot forces, he quickly engaged his soldiers.

The British army's training and discipline helped them initially push back the numerically superior patriot forces. Still, when the Americans counterattacked, the British had to flee.

### Background Image



**Caption:** British soldiers advance. British discipline and training helped them emerge victorious in many battles during the American Revolution.

**Credit:** Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, photograph by Buddy Secor

### Inset Image



**Caption:** Colonel Mawhood spied the Continental Army from nearby Cochrane's Hill. Not comprehending the full size of the forces facing him, he ordered all troops under his command to attack.

**Credit:** Swan Historical Foundation Inc.

## *Maxwell's Field Addition*

### WAYSIDE #10

**Title:** Parade With Us, My Brave Fellows!

**Text:** As the patriot forces attempted to regroup in the face of the British advance, Washington arrived on the battlefield. Assessing the situation, he personally reorganized and rallied the soldiers. As bullets flew around the commander, Colonel John Fitzgerald covered his eyes, worried that he would see Washington shot off of his horse. Despite the danger, Washington remained unharmed, and ordered the colonel, “bring up the troops, the day is our own.”<sup>124</sup>

On the ground in front of you, the American forces surged forward, pushing the British back. The British had fought bravely, but now, overwhelmed, they broke and retreated. The field belonged to the patriots, but at the cost of several hundred on both sides wounded, dead, or dying.

**Quotation:** “It’s a fine fox chase, my boys!” – George Washington<sup>125</sup>

#### Large Image



**Caption:** George Washington leads the counterattack against the British along what would later become Maxwell's Field.

**Credit:** Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

#### Inset Image



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<sup>124</sup> Chernow, *Washington: A Life*, 282.

<sup>125</sup> Chernow, *Washington: A Life*, 282.

**Caption:** Charles Wilson Peale, a veteran of the battle, painted this stylized depiction of Washington at Princeton. Nassau Hall can be seen in the background.

**Credit:** U.S. Senate Collection

### *Stockton Street Addition*

## WAYSIDE #11

**Title:** Two Armies, Different Dreams

**Text:** Stockton Street was part of two major campaigns during the American Revolution. In 1777, General Cornwallis' army traveled along the road to try and trap Washington in Trenton. Colonel Mawhood and his command traveled along the road before turning onto the Clarke farm to engage the Continental Army.

Four years later, the road was filled with French and American voices. A Franco-American army, commanded by Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau marched south along the same road once traveled by Cornwallis to trap his army in Yorktown, Virginia. With Cornwallis's surrender, the end of the war was in sight. Peace would return to Princeton.

### Large Image



**Caption:** In 1777, Cornwallis hoped to trap Washington at Trenton. In 1781, the Continental Army trapped him. In this painting, the British Army surrenders at Yorktown.

**Credit:** Architect of the Capitol

### Inset Image



**Caption:** Alexander Hamilton fought at the Battle of Princeton and allegedly fired some of the final shots of the battle. At Yorktown, he led one of the attacks that sealed Cornwallis's fate.

**Credit:** New York Public Library

## *Brochure*

The information below represents a general outline for a brochure discussing the Princeton Battlefield. We envision a 16” by 18” brochure when fully opened, similar to the current brochure issued by the Princeton Battlefield Society. This offers the opportunity for around seven panels of information and interpretation, not including the front and back covers. This brochure focuses on the Princeton Battlefield State Park, although a list of other nearby and relevant sites is also included.

### **Cover page**

The Princeton Battlefield

### **Cover Image**



**Credit:** Courtesy of Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

**Quotation:** “These are the times that try men’s souls...” – Thomas Paine

### **Inside Cover/ Panel 1**

**Park Information** *Placeholder*

**Hours:** 9 am to 7 pm

**Tours:** 1 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm

**Clarke House Hours:** 11 am to 4 pm

*The panel will also include general information about NJDEP and Princeton Battlefield Society*

## Panel 2

### *Background*

In 1776, the Thirteen Colonies declared independence and war came to New Jersey. After driving General George Washington and the Continental Army out of New York City, General William Howe and his British forces chased the patriots across the state. With Washington's battered army seemingly isolated on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, Howe established a series of garrisons throughout the state, including in the small town of Princeton. Anticipating the end of the war, Howe also offered an oath of amnesty for any patriots who swore allegiance to the British Crown.

But the patriots were far from defeated. Militia units continued to harass the British, while Washington prepared an audacious counterattack. On December 25, he led his tired, cold, and hungry army across the Delaware River to Trenton where they surprised and captured the garrison the next morning. The victory shocked the British high command, who dispatched General Charles Cornwallis and 8,000 men to deal with Washington once and for all. After a bloody standoff at Assunpink Creek, Cornwallis declared "[W]e've got the old fox safe now." Little did he know that Washington was already making plans to slip away that night, and attack the garrison and supply depot in Princeton...

## Panel 3

### *Life under Occupation*

For the Clarke family and other residents of Princeton, the war brought occupation, deprivation, and bloodshed. While General Howe ordered his men to treat the inhabitants of New Jersey with respect, civilians living near British outposts soon found their crops and animals stolen, and their fences stripped for firewood.

Princeton became nearly a ghost town under British occupation. The College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton University, was turned into a barracks for British soldiers and a jail for their prisoners.<sup>126</sup> The British helped themselves to the school's library and plundered most of the books.<sup>127</sup>

For the many Quakers in the nearby community at Stony Brook, the war would soon invade their homes and sacred spaces. Washington's daring counterattack against the British in 1777 turned the Quaker meeting house and many nearby homes into hospitals for the wounded and the dying. When the armies departed, those who resided in Princeton were left to bury the dead and rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

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<sup>126</sup> Hackett Fisher, *Washington's Crossing*, 163.

<sup>127</sup> Hackett Fisher, *Washington's Crossing*, 132

## Panel 4

### *Timeline*

**July 1776:** The Continental Congress declares independence from Britain.

August 1776: British forces attack New York City.<sup>128</sup>

November 16, 1776: Washington loses his last foothold in New York City.<sup>129</sup>

November 20, 1776: The British begin moving against patriot forces in New Jersey.

November 30, 1776: The British offer amnesty to all patriots in New Jersey willing to sign a loyalty oath to the British crown.

December 25–26, 1776: Washington and the Continental Army cross the Delaware River and attack the Hessian garrison in Trenton, New Jersey.<sup>130</sup>

January 2: Battle of Assunpink Creek. Washington halts the advance of General Cornwallis and his army, sent to avenge the British defeat at Trenton.

January 3: Washington and the Continental Army conduct a nighttime flanking march around Cornwallis's forces. That morning they attack the British garrison at Princeton.

## Panel 5 (Brochure Interior)

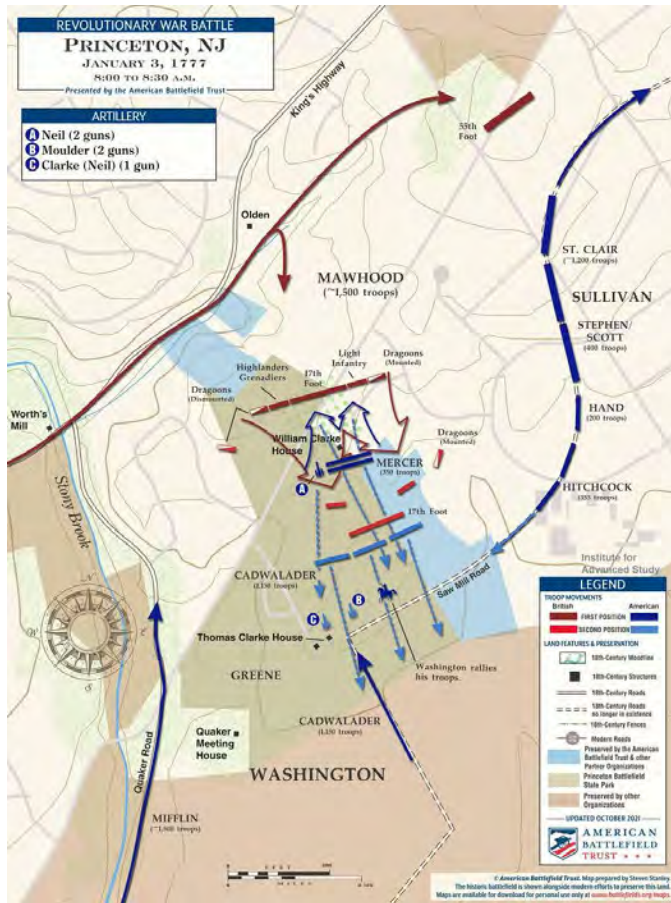
The interior will show a large map of the Princeton Battlefield, with eight major points of interest describing the battle for visitors. The map itself will be based on the map produced by the American Battlefield Trust.

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<sup>128</sup> “American Revolution Timeline: 1775–1784,” *American Battlefield Trust*, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-timeline>.

<sup>129</sup> “American Revolution Timeline.”

<sup>130</sup> “American Revolution Timeline.”



The American Battlefield Trust's Map

### Point 1

**Location:** The Saw Mill Road parallel to the Quaker Meeting House

**Text:** American troops under the command of General Hugh Mercer spot British forces advancing along the Trenton-Princeton Road (today's Stockton Street). Mercer decides to engage them and draws up his men into formation.

### Point 2

**Location:** Worth's Mill

**Text:** British Colonel Charles Mawhood turns his troops around and recrosses Stony Brook to engage the American forces. Mawhood had been marching south to join General Cornwallis in Trenton.

### Point 3

**Location:** Mercer Orchard, near the William House Clarke site (around present-day Mercer Road).

**Text:** Mercer's men and the British forces clash here. Despite absorbing several volleys of gunfire, the disciplined British troops use their bayonets to scatter the American forces, who collide with reinforcements as they attempt to retreat.

#### **Point 4**

**Location:** Mercer Oak

**Text:** British troops bayonet General Mercer repeatedly as he attempted to rally his men. According to legend, Mercer lay at this spot while awaiting rescue.

#### **Point 5**

**Location:** In front and to the right of the Thomas Clarke House, when facing the Mercer Oak.

**Text:** American artillery fire slows the British advance, giving the troops time to reorganize.

#### **Point 6**

**Location:** Border between the state park and Maxwell's Field along the trace of the Saw Mill Road.

**Text:** Arriving at the battlefield, Washington leads a counterattack against the British forces, scattering Mawhood's soldiers.

#### **Point 7**

**Location:** Edge of Map near the town of Princeton.

**Text:** Several British soldiers make a last stand within the walls of Nassau Hall before patriot artillery fire convinces them to surrender.

#### **Point 8**

**Location:** Colonnade

**Text:** These columns served as the entrance to two different mansions, the Matthew Newkirk mansion, and Mercer Manor, before being dedicated as a monument to the battle.<sup>131</sup> Today it serves as a memorial to the soldiers who fought and fell here in January 1777.

### **Panel 6**

#### **The 10 Crucial Days**

From December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777, the Continental Army embarked on a daring offensive that shocked the British high command and revived faith in the American cause. At the beginning of December, the British had driven Washington and his men out of New York City and New Jersey. As Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls," and many worried that the cause was all but lost. Plagued by defeat and desertion, even Washington admitted that if the situation did not improve, "I think the game is pretty near up."<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> "Colonnade and Memorial Grove," Princeton Battlefield Society, <https://pbs1777.org/colonnade/>.

<sup>132</sup> "From George Washington to Samuel Washington, 18 December 1776," Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-07-02-0299>. [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 7, 21 October 1776–5 January 1777, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997, pp. 369–372.]

Yet within a month, Continental Army's fortunes had changed. The daring attacks on Trenton and Princeton shocked and humiliated the British, and forced them to abandon much of New Jersey. Whereas British commanders had boasted of imminent victory in early December, by the end of the month, one British commander was glumly telling a colleague to have a Merry Christmas, "despite our many disasters." Over the space of the 10 crucial days between the army's crossing of the Delaware River on December 25 and the Battle of Princeton on January 3, the patriot cause was revived and energized, ensuring that the struggle for American independence would continue.

## **Panel 7**

### Other Revolutionary War Sites in the Area

Historical Society of Princeton  
354 Quaker Rd, Princeton, NJ 08540  
<https://princetonhistory.org/>

Washington Crossing State Park  
355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560-1517  
<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/washcros.html>

Morven Park  
55 Stockton St, Princeton, NJ 08540  
<https://www.morvenpark.org/>

Old Barracks Museum  
101 Barrack St, Trenton, NJ 08608  
<https://www.barracks.org/>

## **Back Cover**

### Credits

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The Princeton Battlefield Society

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

The American Battlefield Trust

## Smartphone App Tour Outlines

The following is a general outline of the tour stops and points of interest for five Princeton tours. The tours are grouped into two categories: Historian Tours and Eyewitness to History Tours.

### Historian Tours

#### *Battle of Princeton Tour*

##### GB 1: Stony Brook Bridge

- This virtual sign will discuss the background to the battle, starting at the beginning of the Ten Crucial Days and how Washington's attack at Trenton shocked the British.
- It will also discuss how the British used the bridge to cross Stony Brook, and briefly mention how the Americans later destroyed it to slow General Cornwallis's pursuit.

##### GB 2: Historic Overlook Park

- This virtual sign will discuss how the British campaign to discover the movements of Washington's army and their decision to engage the patriot forces.
- This sign will also provide information about Colonel Mawhood, his background, and the British units serving under him.

##### GB 3: Quaker Road

- This virtual sign will discuss how Washington outflanked the British in Trenton, and his plan of action to capture Trenton and New Brunswick.
- The sign will also discuss the American plan of attack and its route along the Quaker Road.
- **Learn More:** The Battle of Assunpink Creek.

##### GB 4: Thomas Clarke House / Saw Mill Road

- This virtual sign will discuss the initial actions of the battle, including the American initial attack and retreat.
- The sign will also briefly discuss the Clarke family and the role of the house as a hospital in the aftermath of the battle.
- **Learn More:** Quakers in Revolutionary War New Jersey

##### GB 5: Mercer Sapling

- This virtual sign will discuss the death of General Mercer, and the British reaction to his death.
- The sign will also discuss the history and folklore of the Mercer Oak.
- **Learn More:** The Life of General Hugh Mercer.

##### GB 6: Maxwell's Field

- This virtual sign will discuss Washington's efforts to rally the troops and the counterattack across Maxwell's Field.
- The sign will also briefly discuss the efforts to preserve the site of the counterattack.

GB 7: William Clarke House Site

- This virtual sign will discuss how the American forces pushed back the British forces, and where the British units retreated to during the battle.

GB 8: Colonnade / Gravesite

- This virtual sign will discuss the history of the Colonnade and the history of how the battle has been remembered.
- The sign will also discuss the possible gravesite and the history of efforts to determine the location of where these soldiers might be buried.

GB 9: Frog Hollow Ravine

- This virtual sign will discuss the other actions during the battle, and how the Americans pushed the British back toward Princeton.
- The sign will also discuss ongoing preservation threats facing the battlefield.

GB 10: Princeton University Nassau Hall

- This virtual sign will discuss the final stages of the battle, culminating in the surrender of the British at Nassau Hall.
- The sign will also talk about what happened next in the campaign, discussing the American withdrawal and Washington's decision not to move onto New Brunswick.

**Revolutionary Princeton and Stony Brook Tour**

Potential Tour Stops Include:

CD 1: Stony Brook Meeting House

- This virtual sign will discuss the history of the Stony Brook community and Quaker history in the area. It will also focus on how the community reacted to the events leading up to the American Revolution and how they were impacted by the British occupation.
- The sign will also discuss the present-day Quaker presence in the Princeton area and how the building's long history as a worship space for the community.

CD 2: Updike Farm

- This virtual sign will discuss agricultural life in Princeton at the time of the American Revolution.
- The sign will also highlight the strong historical continuity of Quaker Road around the farm and past preservation efforts.
- Learn More: The economy of eighteenth-century New Jersey.

CD 3: Worth's Mill

- This virtual sign will highlight the mill's importance to the Quaker community and the use of water power in the eighteenth century.
- The sign will also discuss the mill's connection to the Battle of Princeton and its use by the British.

CD 4: Thomas Olden House

- This virtual sign will discuss the Olden family and their lives in Princeton before, during, and after the battle.
- Learn more: The history of Drumthwacket.

CD 5: Morven Museum and Gardens

- This sign will discuss the British occupation in Princeton and its impacts on local civilians.
- It will also discuss the Stockton family, their experiences during the Revolution, and the lives of the people they enslaved at the site.
- Learn more: Slavery in Princeton

CD 6: Bainbridge House

- This virtual sign will discuss how it served as a lodging for some members of Congress when Congress met there in 1783. It will also discuss why they were there, and Princeton's role at the end of the Revolutionary War.
- The sign will also discuss the home's history as one of the oldest buildings in Princeton, and its current use today.

CD 7: Maclean House

- This virtual sign will discuss the tie between the College of New Jersey, today's Princeton University, and the American Revolution, as well as the Maclean House's role as the home of Princeton's president.
- It will also discuss slavery at the Maclean House and Princeton University more generally.

CD 8: Rockingham Historic Site

- This virtual sign will discuss the site's role as Washington's final wartime headquarters during the Revolution, and the end of the conflict between the patriots and Great Britain.
- It will also discuss the process by which soldiers returned home to the Princeton area at the end of the conflict, and the early postwar years in the area.
- Learn More: From Articles of Confederation to the Constitution.

CD 9: Stockton Street

- This virtual sign will discuss the road's use in peacetime and its use by the British, patriot, and French armies at various points during the conflict.

## Eyewitness to History Tours

### Patriot Tour (PT)

#### PT 1: Assunpink Creek Marker

- **Narrative:** Colonel John Fitzgerald, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, accompanies the commander in chief at Assunpink Creek.
- This virtual sign will discuss how, determined to avenge their defeat at Trenton, the British high command dispatched General Charles Cornwallis with 5,000 veteran soldiers to crush the rebellion.
- It will also cover how Washington's army successfully repelled the British assault at the battle of Assunpink Cree, but Washington knew he could not hold his position there forever.

#### PT 2: Quaker Road Obelisk

- **Narrative:** Isaac Walker, an African American Marine from Philadelphia serving with the Continental Army leaves camp early in the morning. As his fellow marines cross onto the Saw Mill Road, they hear shooting in front of them.
- This sign will discuss how Washington decided on an ambitious nighttime march around Cornwallis's flank to strike the British garrisons at Princeton and New Brunswick.
- App users will learn about how near this location, patriot forces turned onto Saw Mill Road shortly before the clash with the British began.
- **Learn More:** Marines in the American Revolution

#### PT 3: Thomas Clarke House

- **Narrative:** Walker and his fellow Marines pass by the Thomas Clarke House; in the distance, he can see the American line faltering.
- This sign will discuss how although neither side expected to fight a battle on the Clarke family farm; both British and American commanders reacted quickly and began the battle.
- It will also cover how American forces passed by the Thomas Clarke House on their way to confront the British. Later, the patriots used it for cover as they attempted to reorganize.

#### PT 4: Mercer Oak

- **Narrative:** Walker and his fellow Marines attempt to reinforce Mercer's men along with Cadwalader's Philadelphia Associators. As they move forwards the British, Mercer's men collide with them, making it difficult to advance.
- This sign will discuss how despite heavy American fire, British forces pushed the patriots back toward the Thomas Clarke House. As they fell back, the Americans collided with their own reinforcements, sowing chaos.
- The sign will also discuss General Hugh Mercer's attempt to rally his men only to be unhorsed and bayoneted repeatedly by the British.

PT 5: Captain Moulder's Battery Sign

- **Narrative:** While falling back, Walker spies Moulder's battery, and stops behind it as the officers try to reorganize their men.
- This sign will discuss how, as the American line faltered, Captain Joseph Moulder's artillery battery helped slow the British advance.
- **Learn more:** Eighteenth-century artillery.

PT 6: Maxwell's Field

- **Narrative:** Washington rallies his soldiers and prepares to counterattack. Fitzgerald turns his head because he thinks that Washington will be killed.
- This sign will discuss how, after arriving with reinforcements, Washington began to rally his troops.
- It will also discuss, how Washington personally led the counterattack that forced the British back.

PT 7: William Clarke Farm Site

- **Narrative:** Washington and Fitzgerald ride past the William Clarke farm. What once appeared to be a disaster for the Continental Army now appears to be another triumph.
- This sign will discuss how Washington's charge turned the tide of the battle. British forces were pushed back and began to break and run in the face of the American onslaught.

PT 8: Nassau Hall

- **Narrative:** Walker and Fitzgerald arrive at Nassau Hall where the remaining British soldiers have just surrendered. Washington orders the army to prepare to march, Cornwallis is on his way.
- This sign will discuss how elements of the British garrison sought shelter in Nassau Hall. Several shots from American canons convinced them to surrender.
- It will also discuss how the Americans were unable to rest on their laurels. Washington knew that Cornwallis and his army would be marching back to Princeton, and ordered his men to depart the town.
- **Learn More:** Alexander Hamilton at Princeton

PT 9: Princeton Cemetery

- **Narrative:** Many years after the battle, Walker returns to Princeton and walks by the segregated cemetery
- This sign will discuss how the Princeton cemetery was established in 1757 and is the final resting place of several Revolutionary War veterans, including Aaron Burr. The site is also the burial location of President Grover Cleveland.

## Points of Interest

### Old Barracks Museum

- Originally built during the French and Indian War, this building served as living quarters for some of the Hessians stationed in Trenton before the Battle of Trenton. In 1777, doctors used the barracks as a hospital while inoculating the Continental Army against smallpox.

### Alexander Douglass House

- Alexander Douglass was a quartermaster of the Continental Army. During the Battle of Assunpink Creek, General Washington used this house as his headquarters.

### Updike Farmstead

- The Updike Farmstead lies along the route taken by the Continental Army during the Battle of Princeton and is a late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century structure. Today, the Updike Farmstead is the home of the Princeton Historical Society and offers tours and exhibits.

### Bainbridge House

- Constructed in 1766, the house was used by the Bainbridge family in the years before the Revolution. Loyalists and slaveholders, the Bainbridge family fled to British-occupied New York.

### Princeton Battle Monument

- Designed by Frederick MacMonnies and Thomas Hastings, this monument to the American soldiers who fought in the Battle of Princeton was dedicated in 1922, despite being commissioned nearly 14 years earlier.

### Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

- This canal postdates the Revolution and was constructed in the 1840s to connect the Delaware River to the Raritan River and add in transportation and commerce. Today, the canal hosts a biking and walking trail.

### Remnants of the Trolley Tracks

- In the early twentieth century, a trolley line linked Princeton and Trenton. The remains of this line can still be seen on the Princeton Battlefield today.

## ***British Tour (BT)***

### BT 1: Morven Hall

- **Narrative:** Ensign George Inman, a loyalist in the British army, surveys Morven Hall. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, he is told that he will march with the garrison toward Trenton.
- This virtual sign will discuss the British occupation of Princeton, including the damage suffered at Morven Hall and the poor conditions that many of the British soldiers found themselves living in.

- The sign will also discuss the composition and makeup of the British armies in the United States, with a focus on the loyalists who joined the king's army.

#### BT 2: Overlook Park

- **Narrative:** Colonel Charles Mawhood travels to the top of Cochran's House Hill (today's Overlook Park). He spies the American forces and determines to engage the enemy.
- This virtual sign will discuss Mawhood's original orders for marching to Princeton and analyze why he decided to engage Washington's men.
- The sign will also discuss preservation at the hill, and how the viewshed today differs from what Mawhood would have seen.

#### BT 3: Stony Brook Bridge

- **Narrative:** The British troops recross Stony Brook Bridge. The sound of muskets is heard. Inman observes Mawhood observing an air of nonchalance as his spaniels bark at his feet. Mawhood orders in Inman to the front.
- This virtual sign will provide a brief biography of Colonel Mawhood, one of the British army's more eccentric commanders. It will also discuss his spaniels, who he often brought into battle with him.
- The sign will also discuss Stony Brook Bridge's history and current preservation efforts.

#### BT 4: Trenton-Princeton Road (Route 206)

- **Narrative:** The British army leaves the road and begins moving toward the American forces. Inman attempts to encourage his men to do their duty.
- This virtual sign will discuss eighteenth-century military organization and strategy to give users a sense of why both sides adopted the tactics they did.
- The sign will also provide a history of the Trenton-Princeton Road, how its route retains considerable integrity of its original eighteenth-century route and recent preservation efforts.

#### BT 5: William Clarke Farm

- **Narrative:** American fire tears through the British ranks. The British forces keep their discipline and fix bayonets. As Inman and his troops charge, the Americans retreat.
- This virtual sign will cover the initial action of the battle from the British perspective, with a focus on the regimental makeup of the troops involved.

#### BT 6: Mercer Oak

- **Narrative:** As the British surge forward, Inman sees several soldiers bayoneting an American general. He briefly wonders if they have finally cornered Washington. As the army advances, Inman is wounded by a piece of buckshot, although not severely.
- This virtual sign will continue the discussion of the battle from the British perspective, and how the British commanders sought to capitalize on their early successes.
- The sign will also discuss the wounding of General Mercer, how some thought they had cornered the American commander in chief, and the complex views that British soldiers had of General Washington.

#### BT 7: Maxwell's Field

- **Narrative:** Mawhood sees Washington and realizes his men are badly outnumbered. The Americans charge, and the British retreat.
- This virtual sign will discuss how the American charge stopped the British advance and forced the Crown troops back, turning the tide of the battle.

#### BT 8: Mercer Hill

- **Narrative:** Inman finds a horse and attempts to reach the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot on Mercer Hill. When he sees them also retreat, he makes his way back to Princeton.
- This virtual sign will discuss the 55<sup>th</sup> of Foot's actions during the Battle of Princeton, and why they decided to retreat.
- The sign will also discuss how development has altered the appearance of Mercer Hill.

#### BT 9: Nassau Hall

- **Narrative:** Inman reaches Nassau Hall and sees British troops attempting to fortify it. He decides to take his chances and flees the town. He escapes capture and rendezvous with the Mawhood and the British army.
- The virtual sign will discuss the British army's attempts to hold the college building, and their surrender to American forces. It will briefly discuss what happened to the British prisoners.
- The sign will also talk about the arrival of Cornwallis's forces in Princeton, and where they marched next.

### Points of Interest

#### Worth's Mill

- Located near Stony Brook Bridge, Worth's Mill was used by the Quaker community of Stony Brook. Today, only scattered walls remain.

#### Drumthwacket Foundation

- This historic home is now the official residence of the governor of New Jersey.

#### Remains of British artillery defenses

- The British placed batteries on the outskirts of Princeton and were identified in a recent GIS study.

#### Maclean House

- Today, the home of the president of Princeton, this building survived the Battle of Princeton, although it suffered damage from both American and British troops.

#### Beatty House

- This building was constructed in 1780 shortly before the end of the American Revolution. In the nineteenth century, the Marquis de Lafayette stayed here while touring the United States.

### First Presbyterian Church of Princeton

- During the Revolutionary War, both British and American forces occupied the church. Soldiers used the wooden pews and galleries as firewood. The current building dates to the nineteenth century.

### Princeton War Memorial

- This War Memorial honors the Princeton soldiers who have fallen in all of the country's wars.

### Washington-Rochambeau Camp

- In 1781, the combined Franco-American army of General George Washington and Le Comte de Rochambeau camped here as the two armies made their way south toward Yorktown.

### *Civilian Tour (CT)*

#### CT 1: Shed at Thomas Clarke Farm

- **Narrative:** Sarah Clarke wakes up and goes out to the shed to begin the daily chores at the farm. She's accompanied by Susannah, who is enslaved by the Clarke family.
- This virtual sign will discuss the Quaker community at Stony Brook, and the history of Quaker settlement in New Jersey.
- The sign will also discuss how farmers in New Jersey typically handled winters in the Mid-Atlantic and the role of women like Sarah Clarke in colonial-era farming and agriculture.

#### CT 2: Saw Mill Road

- **Narrative:** Susannah hears a noise and investigates along Saw Mill Road. She sees the lead elements of the Continental Army and decides to seek shelter.
- This virtual sign will discuss the historical uses of Saw Mill Road and briefly touch on the challenges involved in determining its precise location and trajectory.

#### CT 3: Thomas Clarke House

- **Narrative:** Sarah Clarke, her brother Thomas Clarke, and Susannah seek shelter in the basement of the house. Soon the sound of muskets and gunfire fills the air. The group hears soldiers shooting nearby.
- This virtual sign will discuss the civilian experience during the Battle of Princeton, and how civilians attempted to keep themselves safe during the fighting. It will also touch on the general civilian experience during the war.
- The sign will also briefly describe the use of the Clarke House by American soldiers for cover during the fighting and as a rallying point.

#### CT 4: William Clarke Farm / Orchard Site

- **Narrative:** After the battle ends, Sarah Clarke goes to visit her brother William at his farm. The farm is now covered with dead and wounded soldiers.

- This virtual sign will cover the British occupation in Princeton, and the experiences of the Clarke family, specifically.
- The sign will also discuss the William Clarke farm site, and ongoing archeological efforts to identify its precise layout and location.

#### CT 5: Mercer Oak

- **Narrative:** Susannah sees a wounded man lying against the tree. She directs the soldiers to take him into her home. She notes that he seems very badly injured.
- This virtual sign will provide a brief biography of Hugh Mercer, and his military service before the Battle of Princeton. It will also discuss his wounding at Princeton and his death in the Thomas Clarke House.
- The sign will also cover the Mercer Oak and the Mercer Oaks Sapling.

#### CT 6: Gravesite

- **Narrative:** Sarah Clarke observes civilians and soldiers attempting to bury the dead, and reflects on the Quaker philosophy of nonviolence.
- This virtual sign will discuss the burial of soldiers who fell during the Battle of Princeton and the history of memorialization efforts at the site, including the colonnade.
- The sign will also discuss ongoing archeological efforts to learn more about the burial site, including the precise burial location of the soldiers.

#### CT 7: Olden House

- **Narrative:** Sarah Clarke goes to visit friends in the Olden House. Like her, their home has been turned into a hospital.
- This sign will discuss the use of private homes as hospitals in the American Revolution, generally, and in Princeton, specifically.
- The sign will also feature a discussion of medicine and physicians during the American Revolution.

#### CT 8: Quaker Meeting House

- **Narrative:** The Stony Brook Quaker community gathers together at their meeting house, which has been turned into a hospital. Sarah Clarke and the others work to help the wounded soldiers, even as they remain steadfastly neutral in the struggle between the colonies and the Crown.
- This virtual sign will discuss the history of the Quaker Meeting House, and its use as a hospital during the American Revolution. It will also discuss how the Quaker community in Princeton reacted to the battle, and the death and destruction it brought.
- The sign can also discuss the cemetery.

#### CT 9: Quaker Road, just south of the meeting house

- **Narrative:** Needing a breath of fresh air- Sarah steps out of the meeting house and takes in the view of the farms along Quaker Road, reflecting on her community's history in the area.
- This sign will discuss the history of Quakers in New Jersey, and provide additional details about the Stony Brook community.

- The sign will also discuss how Princeton civilians, patriots, loyalists, and Quakers fared after the Battle of Princeton when New Jersey was under patriot control.

#### CT 10: Nassau Hall

- **Narrative:** Several years have passed, and Susannah travels to Nassau Hall where the Continental Congress is meeting. What had once been a British fortification is now the center of the American government. She hears that a peace treaty has been signed, finally ending the war.
- The sign will discuss the end of the Revolutionary War, and the use of Nassau Hall by the Continental Congress during the final days of the conflict.
- The sign will also cover the social and political changes underway at the end of the Revolutionary War, including the Quakers' evolving stance on slavery.

#### Points of Interest

##### Institute Woods

- The Institute Woods offers a variety of trails to enjoy and nature to observe and enjoy. The woods also help preserve the rural agricultural feel of the area around the Princeton Battlefield State Park.

##### Colonnade

- Originally part of a Philadelphia mansion, this Colonnade was moved to the site and is today a key part of the park's iconography.

##### Nassau Inn Sign

- The Nassau Inn that once occupied this spot survived the Battle of Princeton and witnessed a variety of well-known travels over its nearly 200-year existence.

##### Albert Einstein House

- The famous scientist lived in this house from 1935 to 1955, while he was working at the Institute for Advanced Study.

##### Hugh Mercer Marker

- This monument to the Revolutionary War general and namesake of Mercer County was erected by the Mercer Engine Company in 1897.

##### Rockingham

- One of George Washington's last military headquarters was located at this site. While here, he heard the news about the Treaty of Paris.

##### John Witherspoon Marker

- The Reverend John Witherspoon was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and was president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University).

### Betsy Stockton Marker

- Born enslaved in Princeton, Betsy Stockton later became a missionary and traveled to Hawaii before returning to New Jersey. She helped found the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church and served as a teacher for local African American children.

### Henry Hall

- This Princeton University dormitory, constructed in the early twentieth century, boasts several stone reliefs showing Washington's Crossing and the Battle of Princeton.

## Appendix B: Public Survey Questions

### Rating Scale Questions. Respondents picked from a scale of 1 to 7.

1. How familiar are you with the Battle of Princeton?
2. How significant do you consider this battle to our nation's history?
3. The Princeton Battlefield Preservation and Interpretation Plan will be a guiding document to enhance the visitor experience and encourage further preservation and interpretation at the site. Do you support the efforts of this plan?
4. Do you support acquiring additional, key battlefield land?
5. Do you support restoring the battlefield to its appearance at the time of the battle?
6. Do you support adding trails and interpretive signage?
7. Do you support developing other interpretive media (smartphone apps, walking tours, etc.)?
8. As Princeton's population grows, it will become harder to preserve historic sites like Princeton Battlefield. How important is the preservation of Princeton Battlefield for the community?

### Selected Response Questions

9. How many times have you visited Princeton Battlefield?
  - 1–5 times.
  - 6–10 times.
  - 10+ times.
  - I have never visited Princeton Battlefield.
10. Why have you visited Princeton Battlefield? (Please check all that apply.)
  - To learn more about the Battle of Princeton.
  - To bring friends and family.
  - For recreation (walking, running, dog walking, biking, etc.).
  - To take a guided tour.
  - To attend an event.
  - I have never visited Princeton Battlefield.
  - Other.

11. Please select from the below which best describes your proximity to Princeton Battlefield:

- I am a resident of Princeton, New Jersey.
- I live within driving distance of Princeton.
- I do not live near Princeton but enjoy visiting.

12. If applicable, how long have you been a resident of Princeton

- Less than five years.
- 5–10 Years.
- 10+ Years.
- I am not a resident of Princeton.

### **Free-Response Questions**

13. If you could improve the Princeton Battlefield visitor experience, what would you do?

14. Do you have any other comments about Princeton Battlefield or the Preservation and Interpretation Plan?