

VIII. HISTORIC RESOURCES



HISTORIC RESOURCES

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Frederick County has shifted in recent years from an agrarian community to one that has seen strong residential growth and an expanding business base. With the development and diversification experienced over the years, landscapes in Frederick County have changed dramatically. New residential communities have emerged in what were once rural areas, and architectural styles have become more uniform. However, the historic past (including sites, structures and landmarks) of Frederick County continues to play a role in the changing landscape.

The Rural Landmarks Survey of Frederick County, a survey of the majority of structures built prior to 1940 in Frederick County, was completed in 1992. It documented over 1800 properties, concluding that many are historically significant. Archaeological sites in the County have also been inventoried. Many of the historically significant properties are recognized on the local, state, and national levels.

In addition to the many structures in Frederick County, six Civil War battlefields of great national importance are located in the Frederick County and Winchester area. More than 12,000 acres of battlefield lands maintain high historic character and are enhanced by several fortifications and entrenchments. A partnership involving Winchester and Frederick County government, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the Kernstown Battlefield Association, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, the North-South Skirmish, and others is underway to protect local battlefield sites and create a battlefield park network.

Currently the County has four recognized historical districts and one National Historic Park: Newtown/Stephensburg, Opequon, Middletown, and Bartonsville, Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove National Historic Park.

The County has also identified Rural Community Centers throughout the County that have a strong historical character (See Rural Areas, Chapter 2).

FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

The next twenty years should see the remainder of unidentified historic sites and archeological resources discovered and recorded. Sites that qualify as historic will be added to an on-going inventory. Such an inventory will include archeological surveys of properties surrounding known battlefields, encampments, trenches, and cemeteries.

Heritage tourism will continue to be a strong component of Winchester-Frederick County's tourism program. Efforts to develop the battlefield park network will be underway in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation and other community stakeholders.

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The economic and cultural importance of historic resources should also be promoted. In combination with historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts, the County should partner with local agencies, organizations, and other appropriate groups to provide education sessions concerning preservation methods and programs. In addition, the Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB), a County appointed group, should continue to coordinate with these agencies when reviewing development applications.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The value of protecting our historical resources is immeasurable; once lost, historic structures and areas cannot be replaced. They provide a sense of who we are and where we have been. Our community benefits from a balance between preserved historic resources and new development.

A battlefield park network in Frederick County and Winchester will provide substantial economic and educational benefits and will create a much-desired avenue for heritage tourism. Battlefield parks act as a means of meeting the County's growing need for green space and parkland by providing the opportunity for recreational facilities within the Parks and Recreation Department. Preserving battlefields and historic sites provides open spaces and scenic vistas. Incorporating trails, such as the five miles linking Route 661 to the Regency Lakes Community and Millbrook High School at the Third Battle of Winchester, complements the pedestrian and bike component of our transportation planning.

Archeological sites are also important to the development of public education and heritage tourism programs as they provide a more detailed story of Frederick County's history.

GOALS/STRATEGIES

GOAL: IDENTIFY AND RECOGNIZE HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING EFFORTS OF THE COUNTY.

STRATEGIES:

- The Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB) will continue to assist the Department of Planning and Development by reviewing development proposals to determine their potential impact on historic sites and surrounding areas and make recommendations regarding the mitigation of any impacts.
- Development should include a comprehensive approach to historic preservation that will result in a system of coordinated sites that preserves key resources, attracts tourists, and supports education.
- The Rural Landmarks Survey shall continue to serve as a primary source for identifying historic properties and districts that qualify for official recognition.

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- Update and maintain the Rural Landmarks Survey regularly in order to keep current the inventory of structures older than fifty years.
- Develop, update, and maintain an inventory of archaeological sites and cemeteries in Frederick County.
- Archaeological surveys should be conducted prior to development, particularly any that involve battlefield areas, homesteads, Native American encampments, and waterways.

GOAL: INCREASE THE REHABILITATION, ADAPTIVE REUSE, OR RESTORATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES.

STRATEGIES:

- Study, develop, and adopt methods and criteria to identify historic resources in need of preservation.
- Support the reuse and rehabilitation of historic structures to maintain character of community, both residential and business.
- Promote incentives for private landowners to comply with Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

GOAL: INCORPORATE HISTORIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN HERITAGE TOURISM.

STRATEGIES:

- Developments should incorporate and/or convert historic properties into recreational elements, including but not limited to pedestrian trails, parks, and museums.
- Develop the Battlefield Park Network as a major heritage tourism component.
- Create dedicated pedestrian trails, sites, and routes of interest that will not adversely impact private property owners, as well as develop public scenic byways.



Civil War Battlefields & Sites

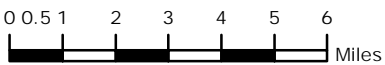
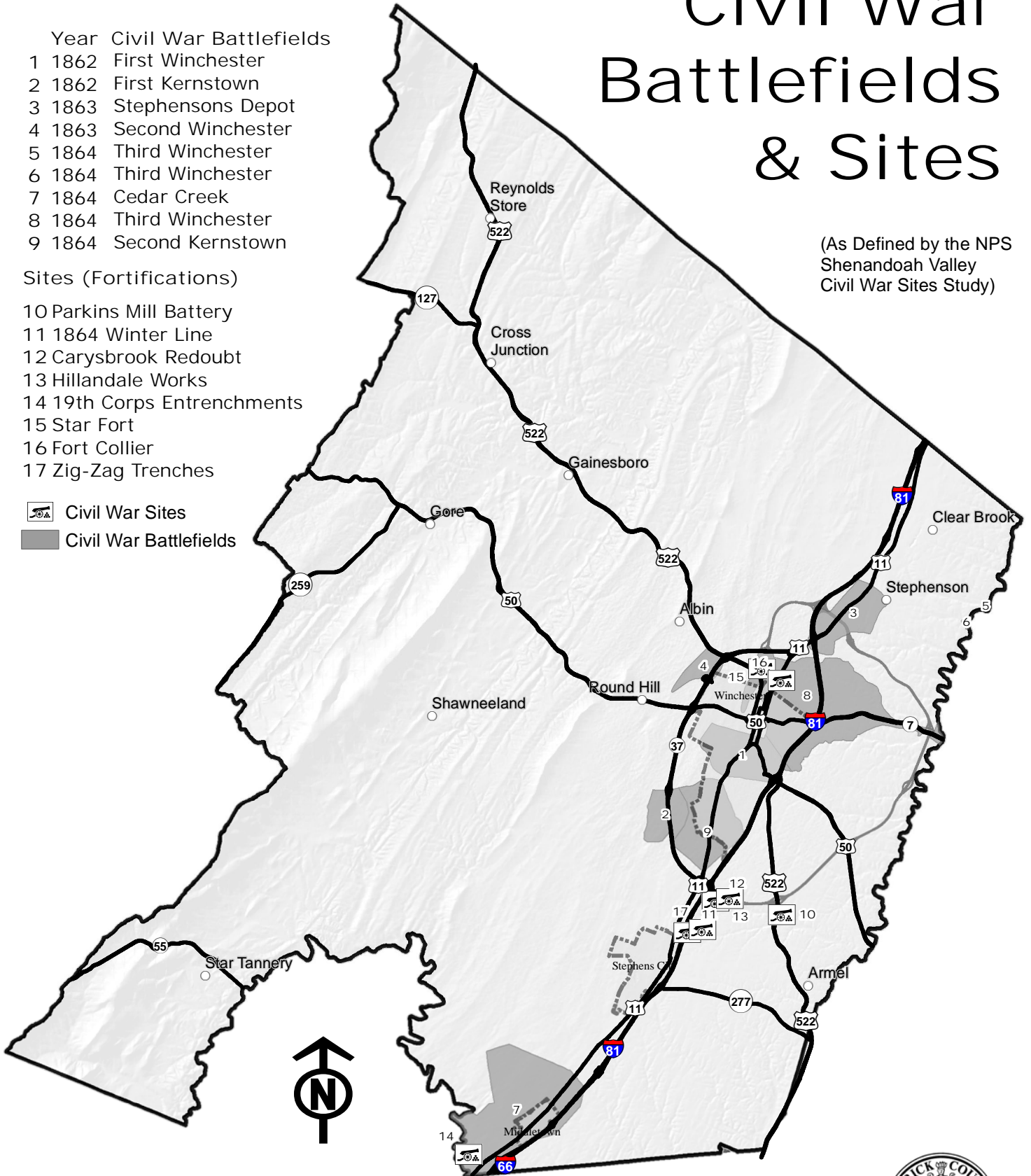
(As Defined by the NPS Shenandoah Valley Civil War Sites Study)

- | Year | Civil War Battlefields |
|------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1862 First Winchester |
| 2 | 1862 First Kernstown |
| 3 | 1863 Stephensons Depot |
| 4 | 1863 Second Winchester |
| 5 | 1864 Third Winchester |
| 6 | 1864 Third Winchester |
| 7 | 1864 Cedar Creek |
| 8 | 1864 Third Winchester |
| 9 | 1864 Second Kernstown |

Sites (Fortifications)

- 10 Parkins Mill Battery
- 11 1864 Winter Line
- 12 Carysbrook Redoubt
- 13 Hillandale Works
- 14 19th Corps Entrenchments
- 15 Star Fort
- 16 Fort Collier
- 17 Zig-Zag Trenches

-  Civil War Sites
-  Civil War Battlefields



Possible Historic Districts

- Name
- 1 Bartonsville
 - 2 Brucetown
 - 3 Cedar Creek Battlefield
 - 4 Gravel Springs
 - 5 Green Spring
 - 6 Kernstown Battlefield
 - 7 Kline's Mill
 - 8 Marlboro
 - 9 Middletown
 - 10 Opequon
 - 11 Star Tannery
 - 12 Stephens City (on Register)
 - 13 Third Winchester Battlefield
 - 14 White Hall

 Possible Historic Districts

