



Chapter 5

Interpretation, Education, and Tourism

As noted in *Chapter 1*, visiting historic sites is one of the most popular forms of recreation in Pennsylvania. One of the important aspects of historic resource-based recreation is “authenticity.” For example, there is only one Old Kennett Meetinghouse behind whose cemetery walls American troops took cover in 1777. The authenticity of these historic sites is what makes them attractive to tourists. In the past, one of the greatest threats to the Battlefield was that it was largely forgotten by everyone but history enthusiasts. By making the Battlefield available to tourists, local preservationists can gather more public support for preservation, which is essential in pursuing funding from public or private sources.

This chapter presents a preliminary plan for integrating historic interpretation, education, and tourism as parts of one effort. It inventories existing interpretation activities and presents a listing of 36 historic resources that are well suited for public interpretation. It also addresses education initiatives and the ways in which the Battlefield narrative could be used to promote tourism. Tourism can benefit the local economy, but should respect the fact that the Battlefield is a residential community whose residents value its quiet quality of life. Lastly, this chapter presents a plan for an Interpretation Network with four Heritage Centers and three Gateways.



The Friends of Brandywine Battlefield provide programming for children at the museum building in the state-owned Brandywine Battlefield Park.¹

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¹ Photo posted at www.bradywinebattlefield.org, 2013, used by permission of the Friends of Brandywine Battlefield.

PREVIOUS INTERPRETATION INITIATIVES

As described in *Chapter 3*, there have been a number of studies of the Battlefield dating back to 1961. However, it was not until 1998 that a comprehensive interpretation plan for the Battlefield was compiled by the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force (BBTF). This document, entitled the *Brandywine Battlefield National Long Range Interpretive Plan (1998 Interpretation Plan)* consisted of a 31-page memorandum with no mapping. Nonetheless, it laid the groundwork for an integrated region-wide plan. The following sections draw heavily from this plan, but they also provide a modernized update.

1998 Long Rang Interpretation Plan

The *1998 Interpretation Plan* identified the following Primary interpretation themes:

- The Battle was a significant part of the larger campaign of 1777.
- Why Washington and Howe chose to fight at Chadds Ford.
- What “actually happened” at the Chadds Ford areas during the Battle.
- The impact of the Battle on civilians, mostly Quaker farmers.
- The status of the Landmark as a Priority One Endangered Landmark



The Chadds Ford Historical Society presents displays highlighting colonial life, and was identified as a key interpretation site in the 1998 Interpretation Plan.

Secondary themes address the region’s “unique and colorful” heritage; the Battle as the last engagement between Washington and Howe; tactics and logistics; foreign officers; and the Brandywine School of Art. Objectives were established focusing on key information that visitors should be presented when visiting specific “orientation points” including Brandywine Battlefield Park, the Brandywine River Museum, and the Chadds Ford Historical Society. The *1998 Interpretation Plan* also inventoried the current interpretive programming at these sites. It recommended the development of travel guides, internet web

pages, brochures, other forms of media, signs, and visitors’ services such as an orientation centers, and kiosks.

- **Issues/Analysis:** Since 1998, new digital media has significantly expanded the use of technology for historic interpretation. These opportunities were not available in 1998 and so were not addressed in that plan. Furthermore, the *2010 ABPP Survey* presented more detailed revised mapping of Battlefield events, and determine that the Battlefield included more land than was studied in the *1998 Interpretation Plan*.

Friends of Brandywine Battlefield Park Interpretation Programming²

The Friends of Brandywine Battlefield (Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, Inc.) is a non-profit volunteer group founded in 1979. The goals of the Friends is, "To present educational programs, exhibits, tours, events and publications that broaden public understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Battle of Brandywine within the larger social, political, economic, technological and military context of the American Revolution period."

In the summer of 2009, budget cutbacks reduced the professional staff at the Park which is owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). Since 2009, the Friends have served as volunteer staff. As a result, the Friends are now the only entity providing interpretation at the Park. The Friends use private funding to maintain a small staff. There is a full-time interpretation coordinator, two part-time gift shop operators, and a part-time accountant. Currently the PHMC staffing is limited to grounds and building maintenance.

The Friends provide youth programming for preschool to 2nd grade, 3rd to 5th grade, junior high, and high school. Programs last 2 to 3 hours and include: a video on the Battle, a hands-on lesson in the education room, and a house tour. Topics covered include the importance of preserving old structures and historic landscapes; the soldier in the American Revolution and his contribution to our freedom; and why George Washington and Lafayette are honored as heroes. During mid-summer, 3-day long summer camps are held for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-7. They also have an internship program.



The park's Friends-of group uses space within the Park museum for youth interpretation, such as letting children try on colonial era clothing.

The Friends also host a series of events through the year, including lectures, historic craft demonstrations, historic scavenger hunts for children, and free historically themed movies on Sunday afternoons in the winter. They recently began holding leadership seminars with local businesses and corporations where they relate the leadership skills of the Battle's officers to the modern workplace. Regularly scheduled events include:

Living History Day in late May and **Encampment Day** in late September both features re-enactor depicting British and Continental soldiers, military camps, firing demonstrations, tactical demonstrations, and 18th century blacksmithing, carpentry, and cooking.

² Information presented in this section was gathered from the Friends of the Brandywine Battlefield Web Site, www.brandywinebattlefield.org, (accessed April 2013).

Patriot's Day is held on a weekend in November close to Thanksgiving. It includes a wide variety of activities and interactive programs such as interaction with re-enactors depicting George Washington and Ned Hectors, as African American veteran of the Battle.

Chadds Ford Historical Society Interpretation Efforts³

The Chadds Ford Historical Society (CFHS) is a private, non-profit, community based, volunteer organization that has restored, and maintains, three pre-Revolutionary buildings which are open to the public as House Museums. Their mission is to preserve the properties, records, and artifacts; to interpret the history; to educate the public concerning the way of life in the Chadds Ford area with emphasis on the eighteenth century. CFHS maintains the John Chads House and Barns-Brinton House. They also operate the CFHS Barn and engage in historical research and the collection of records and artifacts. In terms of historic interpretation, they educate members, the general public, and school groups in part through demonstrating past domestic skills and lifestyles. Their programming is consistent with state educational standards and includes the following activities:

Tours of Historic Buildings: CFHS school and adult programming includes tours of the 1714 Barns-Brinton House, and the John Chads House. Guides in colonial garb conduct tours of the houses and lead groups in interactive activities, such as demonstrations of open hearth cooking. These houses are open for walk-in visits on summer weekends.

Chadds Ford Days: This annual two-day outdoor festival takes place in early September on the CFHS grounds. It typically includes colonial demonstrators making their wares include pottery, gun smithing and chair caning. Children's activities include colonial dress-ups, hay rides, and demonstrations by the Junior Guides. In past years it included Revolutionary and Civil War Re-enactors, antique cars, live music, juried crafters, and a fine art show.

Candlelight Christmas House Tour: This tour in early December features private homes decorated for the holiday season within in a selected area or village, such as Marshallton.



Chadds Ford Days is one of the most popular and well attended community events in the Chadds Ford Area combining historic interpretation with a craft show.

- **Issues/Analysis:** Currently, the CFHS is the most active and well funded historic interpretation organization in the Battlefield, despite having to adjust to reduced funding resulting from the 2008 economic downturn.

³ Information presented in this section was gathered from the Chadds Ford Historical Society Battlefield Web Site, www.chaddsfordhistory.org (accessed April 2013).

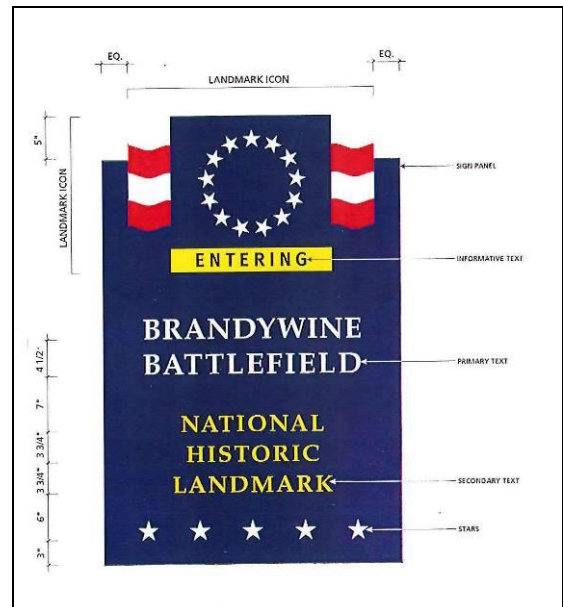
2010 Battlefield Animated Map

The animated mapping prepared for the *2010 ABPP Survey* was not developed to be an interpretive tool. However, it was presented and numerous public meeting and has subsequently become so popular that is now regarded as the centerpiece for modernizing historic interpretation of the Battle through the Battlefield. Images from the animated map are presented at the end of *Chapter 1*.

2000 Battlefield Sign Guidelines

One of the most successful and publicly visible historic interpretation initiatives implemented in the Battlefield was the installation of uniform signs. In 2000, the BBTF hired a graphic designer to develop the *Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Gateway Sign System Design Intent Documentation*.⁴ This document provided detailed sign design guideline including dimensions, material, and colors. It provided drawings of a range of signs, some of which are presented in *Figure 5.1*.

Since 2000, signs following these guidelines have been erected in the Landmark. These signs could easily be modify to be used throughout the Battlefield, thus saving the costs of producing an additional design guide. For example, the graphic to the right could be altered so that the lower yellow text reads “British Invasion Heritage Center.” The *Guidebook* could also be updated with examples of how the signs could be used for sites throughout the Battlefield.



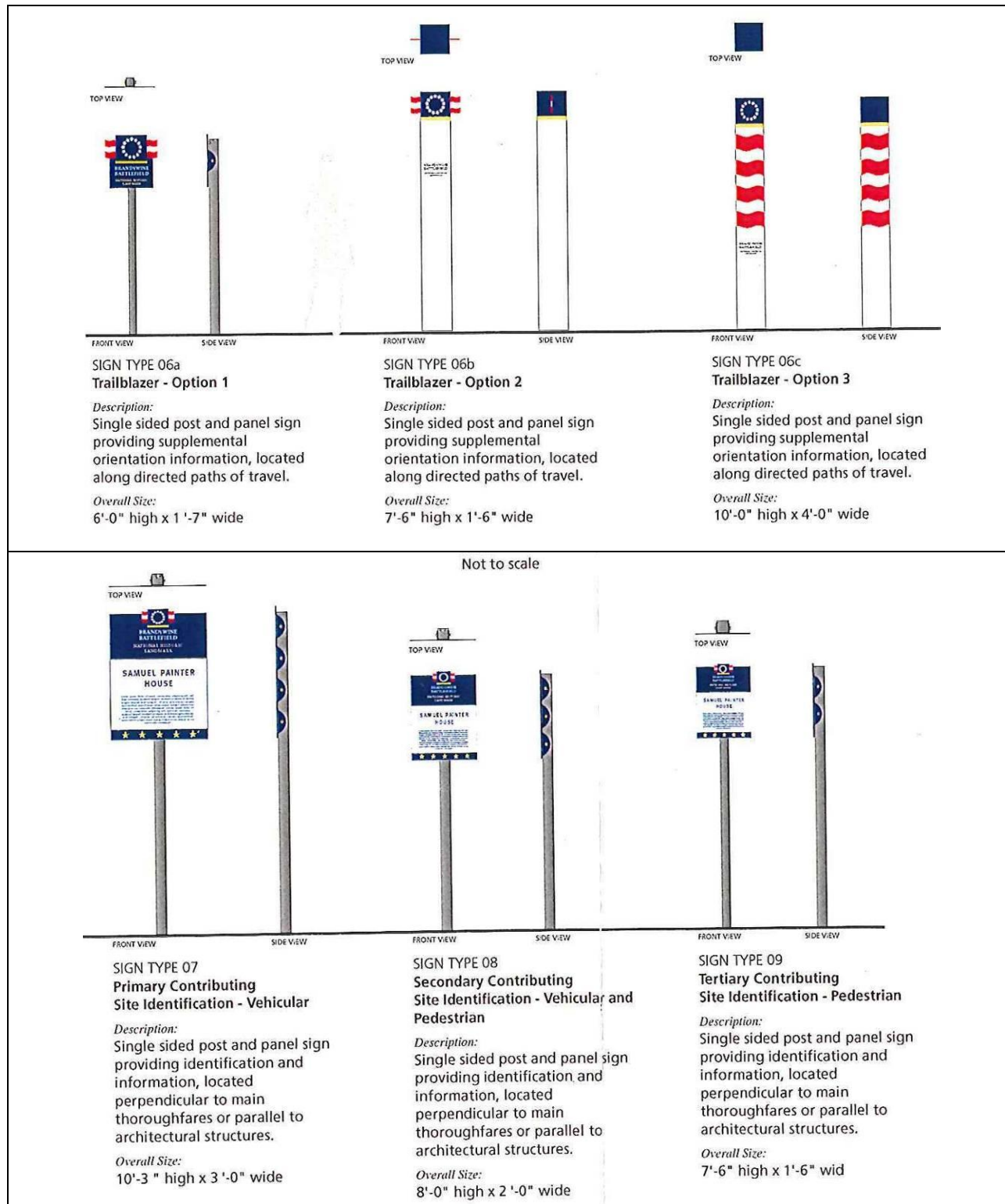
This illustration from the 2000 Battlefield Sign Guidebook presents the basic color scheme for all the signs. Many signs like this are already installed.

State Historical Markers and Plaques

The Historical Marker Program was established in 1946 by the PHMC, and is one of their most popular ongoing programs. The blue and gold markers highlight people, places, and events. PHMC owns and maintains the markers after they are installed. Markers are repaired and repainted every seven years. All of the markers inventoried below were dedicated in 1952 except for the Casimir Pulaski Roadside Marker which dates to 1975. Clearly there has been limited activity in recent decades. Markers that stand or once stood in the Chester County portion of the Battlefield are:

⁴ Brandywine Battlefield Task Force, *Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Gateway Sign System Design Intent Documentation*, (Exton, PA: Adelpia Graphic Systems, 2000). Delaware County Planning Department.

Figure 5.1: Sample Sign Options from the 2000 Sign Design Guide

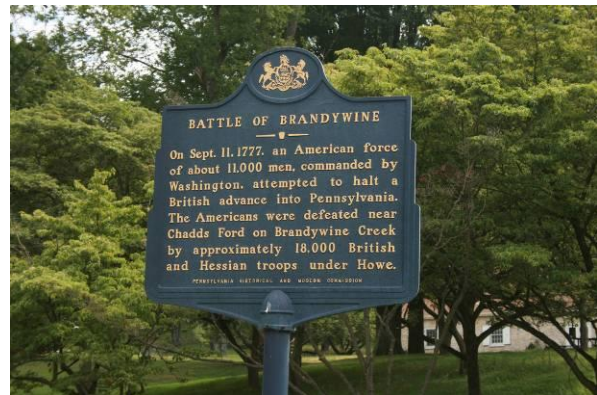


Source: Delaware County Planning Department, *Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Gateway Sign System Design Intent Documentation*, 2009.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker (Missing) along PA Route 842 at Birmingham Road south west of West Chester Borough. Text reads: After fording the branches of the Brandywine, British troops under Cornwallis turned SE here early in the afternoon to attack the rear of the American right wing under Sullivan, 3 miles downstream. Conflicting intelligence reports on this movement prevented formation of a proper defense by Sullivan.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker along US Route 1, one mile east of Kennett Square Borough. Text reads: Howe planned two separate attacks against the American line. In early morning, the British Army divided here, Knyphausen's troops went east to engage the center of the line at Chadds Ford, while a force under Cornwallis marched approximately 6 miles north, then 3 miles east, to outflank Washington's right wing and attack from the rear.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker along US Route 1, one mile east of Kennett Square Borough. Text: On Sept. 11, 1777, an American force of about 11,000 men, commanded by Washington, attempted to halt a British advance into Pennsylvania. The Americans were defeated near Chadds Ford on Brandywine Creek by approximately 18,000 British and Hessian troops under Howe.



This style of pole-mounted roadside marker is the most commonly found within the Battlefield, and is much more visible than the smaller plaques.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker along PA Route 926 at Birmingham Road. Text reads: The British attack on the American right wing began here late in the afternoon. After heavy fighting, the defense line which Sullivan formed hastily near Birmingham Meeting House was forced to retreat to Dilworthtown, 2 miles SE. Reinforcements from Chadds Ford delayed the British as Sullivan's men fell back.

Markers that stand or once stood in the Delaware County portion of the Battlefield are:

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker at the Brandywine Battlefield Park entrance off US Route 1. The text for this marker is identical to the above noted marker along US Route 1, one mile east of Kennett Square Borough.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker along US Route 202 just south of Brinton's Bridge/Dilworthtown Road. Text reads: The battle ended just southwest of here at nightfall. With Howe and his troops holding the field, Washington's force withdrew to Chester. Although he was wounded, Lafayette helped to reorganize the retreating troops, and Pulaski's cavalry protected them from attack.

Battle of Brandywine Roadside Marker at 1668 Baltimore Pike (US Route 1). Text reads: The center of the American line, Wayne commanding, was near Chadds Ford and faced west.



This marker within Brandywine Battlefield Park is too far from nearby US Route 1 to be read. Its location adds little to the interpretation of the Park.

In late afternoon as Cornwallis was making the main assault on the American right wing, 3 miles north, Knyphausen's division of British and Hessians crossed Brandywine Creek, attacked Wayne and forced him to retreat.

Casimir Pulaski Roadside Marker along US Route 1, east of Chadds Ford. Text reads: Polish volunteer, commanded cavalry detachment helping to cover Washington's retreat from Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777. As brigadier general, served Sept. 1777-March 1778 as first overall commander of the Continental Army's cavalry. He was mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah, Oct. 9, 1779.

- **Issues/Analysis:** Many of the existing roadside markers date to 1952 and were placed along roadways that are now high volume commuter routes. These markers, which are now almost historic structures themselves, still contain valuable information presented in an attractive format that is well known to the public. Consideration should be given to moving them to a place where they would better fulfill their original intention.

There are also a number of plaques within the Battlefield which available records indicate were all installed in 1915. These plaques are low to the ground and difficult to see. There is no reliable inventory of them, and some are missing. Within Delaware County the **John Chad's House Plaque** still exists in the lawn of homestead on Creek Rd. north of US 1, Chadds Ford. Its text reads: Proctor's American Artillery Occupied several Redoubts near This House at the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. Plaques that stand or once stood in Chester County include:

American Light Infantry Plaque (Missing) along the north side of US Route 1, one mile west of Chadds Ford. Its text reads: Near this place gloriously (?) resisted the advance of the British at the Battle of Brandywine Sept. 11, 1777.

Birmingham Friends Meeting House Plaque at the wall of Birmingham Meetinghouse at Birmingham Road. Text reads: Erected in 1783. Used as a hospital after the Battle of Brandywine September 11, 1777.

British Attack Plaque (Missing) along PA Route 926 at Birmingham Road. Text reads: Upon the American Right Wing under Sullivan at the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, began here.

Dilworthtown Plaque along Birmingham Road. near Brintons Bridge Rd. Text reads: The Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, ended a short distance southeast of this place.

Osborne's Hill Plaque along Birmingham Road near Country Club Rd. Text reads: From this ridge General Howe directed the movements of the British Army at the Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777.



Although this plaque at the top of Osbourne Hill is cared for by nearby residents, it is atop a steep slope near a busy roadway and is difficult to find or read.

Sconnelltown Plaque along Birmingham Road and Squires Drive, south of PA Route 842. Text reads: Cornwallis' Division of the British Army halted here September 11, 1777, on its march to the Battlefield of Brandywine.

Trimble's Ford Plaque at Camp Linden Road 0.2 miles east of Northbrook Rd. Text reads: September 11, 1777, while on the march to the Battlefield of Brandywine, the British Army under Howe and Cornwallis crossed the Brandywine at the ford just south of this point.

- **Issues/Analysis:** In 2015, all of the known roadside plaques will be over a century old. If, as it appears, they are made of valuable brass, they are easy targets for metal thieves. Consideration should be given to moving them to a place where they would more visible (such as raising them 3 or more feet off the ground) and securing them to a stone or concrete base to ensure they will not be stolen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND INTERPRETATION

An interpretive theme is the central concept or key idea of any interpretive experience, exhibit or presentation. The development of an interpretation theme provides the purpose and organizational structure for an exhibit, presentation, or program. It also provides a focus for marketing and the overall business planning process. Interpretation themes address the “big picture” and when successfully implemented can enable visitors to easily and succinctly summarize the purpose of an exhibit or activity. Ideally an interpretation theme should:

- Contain only one key large-scale concept;
- Reveal the key purpose of the experience, exhibit, presentation, program, or activity;
- Employ an interesting, compelling, and motivational narrative; and
- Be summarized in a short, simple, and concise manner.

There are various interpretive themes that relate to the Battle and could be used for historic interpretation. The three basic themes as presented in the Statement of Significance in *Chapter 3* are: the events of the Battle; the impact the Battle has on the Campaign of 1777 and efforts to secure military support from the French; and the impacts the Battle had on local civilians, specifically the Chester County Quakers. These are core themes, but others could be added to expand the historical interpretation, so as to appeal to a wider audience. A listing of additional themes that could be addressed is presented in *Appendix D*.

Unfortunately, there are currently a number of conflicting historic narratives about the Battle, and its impacts. As far back as the late 19th century, histories of the Battle have been written that present conflicting information. For example, a number of publications note that Brandywine was the largest battle in the Revolutionary War, when in fact it was only one of the largest Battles. As with many Revolutionary War battles, the actual number of troops who fought at Brandywine can only be estimated since detailed records were never recorded. This situation is understandable since Washington's army was too occupied with simply surviving to document their troop force.



There are a number of histories and maps of the Battle, such as this from 1850, which present inconsistent narratives and interpretations.⁵

The many conflicting historical narratives complicate effort to interpret the Battle. Therefore, there is a need to develop a unified historical narrative for the Battle – one agreed upon history – that can be used as the foundation for all of the historical interpretation through the Battlefield. Ideally this unified narrative should:

- Present the conventional history and questions about it;
- Present conditions and events before the Battle;
- Present events the day of the Battle as a timeline;
- Present events after the Battle, and the results of it; and
- Include “untold stories” as integral parts of all the above (rather than asides).

This approach leaves room for alternative interpretations and encourages the discussion of differing theories as to what happened. Such discussion makes for a more interesting an engaging visitor experience. However, the main goal is to ensure that all of the historic interpretation efforts tell a consistent story, which then can be questioned or commented upon.

- **Issues/Analysis:** There are conflicting reports about the Battle, and even contemporary accounts differ as to what happened. However, this “fog of war” confusion can itself become an interpretive theme exploring such questions as: Given the confused nature of the Battle, were Washington's reports an accurate depiction of what happened, or should historians trust the reports written by the British instead? A 2011 study by Delaware County Planning Department found that the public today wants historic experiences where they can “draw their own conclusions” and serve as their own “history detectives.” Such an approach would work especially well given the various interpretations of the Battle.⁶

⁵ Pub. dom. from Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1852), 377.

⁶ Delaware County Planning Department, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan*, (Media, PA: February 2011), 76.

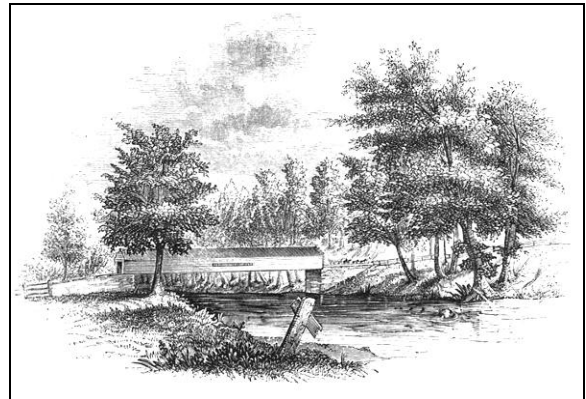
Interpretation Based on Existing Land Uses

Many parts of the Brandywine Battlefield are developed landscapes composed of residential and commercial land uses. In most areas, visitors cannot view the rural Quaker farmsteads that once dominated the region. The few undeveloped areas are often hard to access. For example, the existing ridges along the Brandywine Creek where cannons were positioned are now thickly wooded and only accessible via winding back roads. Similarly, visitors would have to hike far off the beaten track to visit the wet, muddy wetlands that troops called “the morass,” which was so hard to march through during the Battle.

The lack of undeveloped land eliminates many opportunities for tourists to experience the Battlefield as it was like “back then.” However, there are ample opportunities to explore what it would be like if the Battle were taking place in the Brandywine Valley **today**, with thousands of rebels, professional soldiers, poorly trained militiamen, and foreign mercenaries shooting at each other along roadways and firing cannons from ridge tops.

For example, a visitor driving on US Route 1, along which Knyhaupsen’s troops marched during the Battle, will see a busy highway surrounded by 21st century businesses and houses. The landscape is entirely modern, and yet in 1777, this same road was also surrounded by businesses (taverns, blacksmith shops, and mills) and residences. The interpretation of this corridor can therefore ask questions such as:

“How would you react if you saw thousands of troops marching down US Route 1 today? How is the current corridor different from when the British marched down it in 1777, and how is it the same? Do you know any veterans from World War II, Vietnam, Afghanistan, or Iraq who fought along roads or in areas with businesses and houses? What were their experiences, and were they similar to those of the soldiers who fought at the Battle of Brandywine?”



Existing landscapes can be used to compare past conditions (like the above 1850 drawing of Chadds Ford⁷) with modern conditions in the photo below.



⁷ Pub. dom. from Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1852) 379.

Expanding and Diversifying the Historic Narratives



A popular local Battle re-enactor is Noah Lewis who gives presentations as Ned Hector, an African-American who saw combat with the PA 3rd Artillery.

Most of the available histories dealing with the Battle of Brandywine focus primarily on the events that took place during the Battle with less emphasis on how it relates to the overall progress of the war. There tends to be minimal discussion of topics such as the impacts the war had on the local community, the role of Hessian deserters, the role of loyalist American troops including runaway slaves, or the role of camp followers some of whom were women. While these narratives may not address core issues of the Battle, they are nonetheless essential to understanding the larger context of the Battle.

Furthermore, these narratives demonstrate how the Battle relates to the existing communities in southeastern Pennsylvania including African-Americans and the ethnically German “Pennsylvania Dutch,” many of whom came from the Hessian region of Germany. A recent study by the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance found that today’s tourists want to make connections between historic events and their lives in the present.⁸

Expanding the Biographies of the Battle’s Commanders and Officers - The conventional popular histories dealing with the Battle tend to discuss the key military figures, such as Washington and Cornwallis, in terms of their military careers. However, many of them had interesting lives before and after the Battle. This approach would present these soldiers as people with successes and failures, making them more relatable to the general public. For example, during the years in which Maj. Gen. Greene was fighting the Revolutionary War, he was not able to maintain his family business, which ultimately failed. A brief biography of the Battle’s key commanders and officers is presented in *Appendix D*.

Addressing Questions about the Accuracy of the Conventional History of the Battle - There was much confusion during the Battle, and the hard-pressed American troops who fled from it were too busy or too embarrassed to record what happened in great detail. This is one of the reasons why information about the Battle has been so sparse. Conflicting reports could be examined side-by-side to investigate questions such as: Was Brandywine the biggest battle of the Revolution, or how many soldiers actually fought at Brandywine?

Expanding Discussion of Events and Conditions before the Battle - Interpretation for the Battlefield is often focused on the Battle itself, but could be broadened to cover the local conditions and events which influenced the Battle. Topics could include the British expectations

⁸ Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, *Research to Action: Pathways to New Opportunities*, (Philadelphia: 2009), 11.

of victory and American fear of loss due to their lack of training. The fact that the Brandywine Valley was a transportation hub with taverns and productive farmland could be used to explain why it was an ideal location for the British to acquire supplies while on the move.



An often overlooked aspect of the British army were the American-born loyalist soldiers (depicted here by re-enactors) who were known as "green coats."

Expanding Historic Interpretation of Howe's Army - The diverse demographics of the British army is another topic that could be used for interpretation. For example, the Hessian troops were lead by German officers, but the troops themselves were not always Hessian or even German. It was also common for Hessians to desert, and many of them became loyal American citizens after the war. Many of the Queen's Rangers who fought at the Battle resettled in Canada after the war, and so the Battle is also a part of Canadian history. Some of the runaway slaves who served the British in Black Pioneers Units later relocated to Nova Scotia and from there to Sierra Leone in the West Coast of Africa.

Scotia and from there to Sierra Leone in the West Coast of Africa.

Expanding Historic Interpretation of Washington's Army - Conventional interpretations of the Battle often focuses on the strategy of Washington and his officers, which is an essential topic. However, there are many other less well known stories which address issues that relate to the overall demographics of colonial era America. For example the American commanders were younger and less well trained than the British commanders. African American soldiers fought in the Battle, some of whom were free volunteers while others were slaves serving in a militia in place of their owners. The "Camp Followers" included women who served as support staff, washerwomen, and cooks. There were also idealistic foreign troops like Poland's Kasimir Pulaski and French volunteers in addition to Maj. Gen. Lafayette.

Expanding Civilian and Quaker Historic Interpretation - For the most part, previous interpretation efforts within the Battlefield have provided limited discussion of the role local Quakers played in the Battle. The exception is the narrative about a local resident, Squire Cheney, who tried to warn Washington about the British northern flank, but was initially discounted. A Quaker community still exists in the Battlefield and so the discussion of their loyalties and unwillingness or willingness to fight would be of interest to the local residents.



The role that civilians had in cooperating with, opposing, or just ignoring troops from either army, could be a rich source of historic interpretation.



The British who fought at Brandywine were highly trained and, while the Americans were not, which greatly influenced Washington's Battle strategy.

Expanding the Discussion of Events after the Battle and the Results of It - The Battle is often portrayed as a conflict involving two nations; the British and the Americans. However, the Battle was just one part of the year-long Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 which included battles and skirmishes at Malvern (the so-called "Battle of the Clouds"), at Paoli, and at Germantown. At Brandywine, the first of these battles, Washington made a number of mistakes, such as his poor gathering of intelligence, which he later took steps to correct as "lessons learned."

The Battle of Brandywine also initiated Washington's strategic use of retreating to maintain his troop strength and prolong the war. This unconventional strategy sufficiently impressed the French that the Americans might win through a war of attrition. As a result, they eventually became allies with the Americans against the British. Thus the Battle of Brandywine helped alter geopolitical alliances and cemented a bond between French and the United States that continues to this day.

ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF INTERPRETATION SITES

As documented in *Chapter 2*, there are ample historic resources within the Battlefield that could be the focus of historical interpretation. However, the Battlefield poses two major challenges to public interpretation. First, it is located in a living landscape where people still work and live. Furthermore, its resources are spread out over a large area. For example, the US Route 1 corridor includes a number of Battle sites and historic structures. However, it is a heavily traveled commuter route, and so would not be well suited for tourists who wish to take a leisurely drive.

The following section presents options for addressing these two challenges by proposing an "Interpretation Network" that would allow visitors to experience the historic landscapes and resources within the Battlefield while at the same time respecting the privacy of its residents. This network was based on information gathered for this document as well as discussions that took place at public meetings with stakeholders, residents, and local government officials. This network consists of the following four elements which are mapped on *Map 5.1*.

- **Public Interpretation Sites:** These are locations which are significant to the Battle and are not privately owned or have restricted public access. Some of these sites are village centers or museums that are open to the public during operating hours. Others are simply buildings, like Quaker Meetinghouses, that can be viewed from the outside, or from the inside with the permission from their owners.
- **Viewing Corridors:** These are lengths of roadways with low to moderate traffic volumes which provide views of landscapes, buildings, and water features that were important to the Battle and that give a sense of conditions in 1777.



The grounds surrounding the Brandywine River Museum are an ideal location for the interpretation of the Battle and the natural landscapes within it.



The Marshallton Village is well-suited to be a Heritage Center. It has hosted popular events relating to the Battle such as "History on Tap."

- **Heritage Areas:** These are villages or communities where smaller numbers of visitors could stop in for 15 to 30 minutes. There, they could learn about the Battle and get information about nearby resources.
- **Battlefield Gateways:** These are sites with ample parking and restroom facilities. They could host larger numbers of visitors who wish to get an experience of 30 to 90 minutes. These locations would be indoor facilities that would provide the same information as a Heritage Center but also include displays like in a museum.

Map 5.1 presents a concept for how each of these four elements could be established in a coordinated effort that will ensure that all aspects of the Battlefield history, as detailed in the Statement of Significance, can be addressed.

- **Issues/Analysis:** **Map 5.1** is only a concept presented as a starting point for further studies. Any proposal for an interpretation network would have to be evaluated in further detail through a public process before any activities like the installation of signs or kiosks could be implemented.

Public Interpretation Sites

Proposed “Public Interpretation Sites” are presented on *Map 5.1* and are numbered with the prefixes *A*, *B*, and *C*. The prefix *A* is used for all those sites associated with American defense of their position at Chadds Ford, beginning with Lt. Gen. Knyphausen’s early morning attack on Washington’s troops east of Kennett Square Borough. The prefix *B* is used for all those sites associated with the British mid-day invasion of the Brandywine Valley and Cornwallis’s march north from Kennett Square to Trimbles Ford and then west to Jefferis Ford. The prefix *C* is used for all those site associated with the core combat that occurred in the late afternoon and early evening, specifically Maj. Gen. Cornwallis’s attack on the Meetinghouse Road corridor. Each of these sites is described in detail in *Appendix B* where they are designated with a four digit number such as 63.07. The proposed public interpretation sites associated with Washington’s Defense of his position at Chadds Ford are:

A1: The Pierce House (61.06), circa 1730 - This house was within viewing distance of the many skirmishes along US Route 1. It has been restored along with a colonial garden as part of Longwood Gardens which owns the property. It can be accessed by the public as part of the ticket price to the gardens. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm’s way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.



The Pierce House is located within Longwood Gardens, and has become an integrated part of the garden displays that are open to the public.



The Webb House is located in a largely undeveloped landscape that is part of Longwood Gardens. It retains its original colonial era setting.

A2: William Webb House (64.28), circa 1740 - This farmhouse was within view of the Anvil Tavern skirmish. It can be accessed by the public as part of the ticket price to Longwood Gardens. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm’s way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.

A3: Welch's/Anvil Tavern (62.04), circa 1767 - This tavern, in the old village of Anvil, was the location of the 6:30 AM skirmish between Knyphausen's Troops and Maxwell's troops. This site is a ruin which can be seen from the roadway or by walking. Visitors to this site can learn about the role of taverns as community centers, about the initial phases of the Battle, and about the significant role of Maxwell's troops who included both militiamen and members of the Continental Army. They fought nearly non-stop through the day-long Battle. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in commercial areas, and in which professional and non-professional troops fight alongside each other.

A4: Old Kennett Meetinghouse (62.02), circa 1731 - This was the location of the 7:00 AM skirmish pitting Ferguson's Rifles and the Queen's Rangers against Maxwell's troops. During the Battle, Americans used the stone wall outside the meetinghouse as cover. At the same time the Quakers were inside worshipping at their regular Thursday Meeting.

There is limited parking open to the public for visiting the cemetery and visitors should respect that the property is still a house of worship. Local tradition holds that the cemetery includes an unmarked common grave including both British and American troops.



American troops took cover behind this wall at the Old Kennett Meetinghouse while shooting at Hessian troops advancing down nearby US Route 1.



Local tradition contends that this cemetery is the site of an unmarked common grave of soldiers killed at the skirmish just outside the Kennett Meetinghouse.

Visitors to this site can learn about the role of meetinghouses as community centers, about the initial phases of the Battle, and about the significant role of Maxwell's troops who included both militiamen and members of the Continental Army. They can also learn about the role of rangers as advance troops in the British army and the technically advanced rifles used by Ferguson's troops.

This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs around religious structures, and in which professional and non-professional troops fight alongside each other, sometimes with a mix of new and old style weaponry.

A5: Pennsbury Inn (64.15), circa 1714-1720 - This house (which became a tavern in the 19th century and is now a bed and breakfast) was the location from which the Hope family watched the nearby 7:15 to 7:30 AM skirmishes between Knyphausen's Troops and Maxwell's troops. This site is open to visitors who are customers of the Pennsbury Inn. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.



The Pennsbury Inn was a colonial era house that became a tavern in the 19th century and is now operated as a bed and breakfast.



The Barns-Brinton House is located quite close to US Route 1 (formerly the Great Nottingham Road) and is easily visible from commuters long the road.

A6: Barns-Brinton House/William Barns Tavern (64.22), circa 1714 - This house was along the roadway across which Knyphausen's Troops marched between 7:30 and 8:00 AM. During this period they were pushing back Maxwell's Troops. This site is owned by the CFHS who give tours on a regularly scheduled basis. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.

A7: Brinton-King House and Barn (64.26), circa 1775 - This farmstead was along the road over which Knyphausen's Troops marched between 7:45 and 8:15 AM. During this period they were dragging cannons up Brinton's Bridge Road to the ridge west of the Brandywine Creek north of Chadds Ford. This house is currently an antique shop and its barn is *The Gables Restaurant*, both of which can be accessed by their customers. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which the movement of heavy weaponry is a major logistical concern for troops.



The Gables Restaurant currently operates in the former barn of a farmstead that was passed by Hessian troops dragging cannons to the Battle.

A8: Brinton's Mill (65.19), circa 1720 - This existing mill complex (whose barn became the studio of Andrew Wyeth), was roughly the location where Sullivan's Troops were stationed from 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM with orders to guard Brintons Ford. From 12:30 to 12:45 PM, a regiment of Sullivan's Troops (3rd MD), crossed the ford and fought a skirmish with Ferguson's Rifles. American cannons were positioned on the ridge to the west of this site. From 5:00 to 6:00 PM, they fought a cannon duel with British cannons, so that cannon balls were flying over and perhaps into this mill complex.



The Brinton's Mill property occupies the floodplain below the ridge, in the distance, from which British cannons fought the Americans in a cannon duel.

This site can be accessed through tours operated by the Brandywine Conservancy. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic importance of Brinton's Ford, about the cannon duel, and about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses and businesses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which artillery shells sometimes land on civilian targets.

A9: John Chad's House and Springhouse, (04.06) circa 1725 - This site (now a house museum operated by the Chadds Ford Historical Society) was located in an area that underwent bombardment as part of a cannon duel, which was believed to have damaged one of its walls while Elizabeth Chad was taking cover in the house.



John Chads House is now a house museum that is located on the publicly accessible grounds of the Chadds Ford Historical Society.

Visitors can easily access this site since the surrounding grounds are open to the public during daylight hours. There is parking at a modest-sized lot across the street used by visitors to the Chadds Ford Historical Society offices and their small museum space. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic importance of Chadds Ford, about the cannon warfare, and about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which artillery shells aimed at military targets sometimes land on nearby civilian targets.

A10: Hoffman's Mill (04.19), circa 1864 - This mill complex (which is now the Brandywine River Museum), was the site of Francis Mill, circa 1703, during the Battle. This site was near the center of numerous troop movements, troop fording, and cannon fire from 9:30 AM to 6:45 PM.



The Brandywine River Museum houses many paintings of the Brandywine School including the iconic Pyle painting of the Battle of Brandywine.⁹

This site also relates to modern warfare in which troops must cross waterways during active combat, and in which artillery shells aimed at military targets sometimes land on nearby civilian targets. This also may have been one of the many streamside locations from which civilians were said to have buried dead soldiers. Local lore holds that dead soldiers had to be retrieved from the waters of the creek. This site also relates to modern warfare in which damaged combat zones are left to be restored by local civilians.



This circa 1952 photo shows the newly reconstructed Ring House which was built on the foundation of the original house that burned down in 1931.¹⁰

It was said that the creek in this location ran red with blood. Visitors can easily access this site since the landscaped museum grounds are usually open to the public during daylight hours. There is ample parking at the museum parking lot. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic importance of Chadds Ford, about the cannon warfare, and about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses and businesses were so close to active combat.



The Hoffman's Mill building is the center of the Brandywine River Museum. It is close to the ford through which the British attacked the Americans.

A11: Washington's Headquarters/ Benjamin Ring House, (part of 04.07) circa 1952 - This house museum within Brandywine Battlefield Park is a reconstruction of the original Ring House which burned in 1931. Washington used it as his headquarters during the Battle until about 5:00 PM when he was forced to retreat. British troops later camped nearby.

Visitors can easily access this site since the Park has ample parking. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic importance of the Great Nottingham Road (now US Route 1),

⁹ Inset of Howard Pyle, *The Nation Makers*, 1903. Courtesy of the Brandywine River Museum

¹⁰ Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission, *The Brandywine Story: 1777-1952*, (1952), plate after page 8.

about how Washington organized his officers. This site also relates to modern warfare in which headquarters are established on land acquired through purchase or seizure.

A12: The Gilpin House, (part of 04.07), circa 1745 - This house (now a house museum within Brandywine Battlefield Park) was a Quaker farmstead that was once thought to have been occupied by Lafayette but was actually visited by him many years after the Battle. It was the home a farmer whose food and materials were seized by American troops.



This widow from the Gilpin House gives visitors insights into the challenges of life in colonial time, when large panes of glass were expensive.

Visitors can easily access this site since the surrounding grounds are open to the public during daylight hours. There is parking directly adjacent to the house. Visitors to this site can learn about how supplies were seized from local farmsteads and about how open fields were occupied by troop encampments. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.

The proposed public interpretation sites associated with the British Invasion of the Brandywine Valley and their march to Osborne Hill are:



This photo shows the location of the former Unicorn Tavern at State and North Union Streets, which is still the main crossroads in Kennett Square Borough.

B1: Old Kennett Square Village (03.01, 03.02, 03.04) - British Troops camped at this site the night before the Battle. Key sites include the Hessian Camp site (03.01), the English camp site (03.04), and the site of the former Unicorn Tavern (03.02) which was Gen. Howe's headquarters.

These sites are now developed modern landscapes but are easily accessible via the extensive sidewalk grid in and around the downtown area. Visitors to this site can learn about the size and geographical extent of the

British encampment. This site also relates to modern warfare in which headquarters and camps are established at strategic points acquired through purchase or seizure.

B2: Marlborough Village - This Quaker crossroads village was established in 1771. Although it has no extant structures that relate to the Battle, Cornwallis's northern flank passed through it between 5:00 and 9:00 AM. It appears to have been the northernmost point where British troops were stationed at or before sunrise on the day of the Battle.

The central feature of the village is currently the Marlborough Quaker Meetinghouse which was built in 1801. This is a small village center with limited parking, and visitors should respect that it is private property.

Visitors to this site can learn about the layout of a rural crossroads village and about the British march along small rural roadways. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas and isolated farming communities.



Marlborough Village is one of the few existing 18th century crossroads settlements in the Battlefield that still retains much of its historic layout and character.



As this photo demonstrates, the Barnard Wickersham Farm is part of a scenic viewshed that shows one of the few undeveloped landscapes in the Battlefield.

B3: Barnard/Wickersham Farm (49.03), circa 1726 - This house was near the roadways over which Cornwallis's troops marched between 6:00 and 9:15 AM. It is private property and is a working farm, but it can be viewed from a distance from the central part of Marlborough Village.

This is one of the few parts of the Battlefield where the original Colonial era rural landscape is still largely intact. Visitors viewing this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.

B4: Bernard Huey Farm (49.01), circa 1755 - This house was nearby the roadways over which Cornwallis's troops marched between 6:00 and 9:15 AM. It is currently a landscaping business that can be accessed by its patrons, but it can also be viewed from the road. Records indicate that supplies were seized from this farmstead. Visitors viewing this site can learn about how supplies were seized from local farmsteads and about how open fields were occupied by troop encampments. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in rural areas.

B5: Myrick Environmental Center - This is a former farm bisected by Unionville-Wawaset Road through which Cornwallis's troops passed between 7:45 and 10:15 AM. The site includes no historic structures that relate to the Battle, but it does retain its original rural colonial character. Local legend has it that Hessian troops stole pies that were cooling at the springhouse. This site has parking and a network of trails open for public use, except during outdoor events at the center, which occur quite frequently. Visitors to this site can learn about the British march along small rural roadways. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in isolated farming communities.



Cornwallis's troops marched along this currently wooded roadway that passes through the Myrick Environmental Center's undeveloped grounds.



As this photo shows the Moses Marshall House which is private property but can be viewed by canoeists or kayakers boating in the Creek.

B6: Derbytown and the Moses Marshall House (50.02 and 63.13), circa 1707 - These two sites, both associated with the influential Marshall family, are in close proximity. Cornwallis's troops passed near them between 7:45 and 10:15 AM. Dr. Moses Marshall tended to the soldiers wounded in the Battle. These are private properties, but can be viewed from boats floating down the creek. Visitors viewing this site can learn about the Quakers who assisted in caring for wounded troops. This site also relates to modern warfare in which civilian doctors often care for battle-related casualties.

B7: James Trimble House (50.09) circa 1720 - This was the house of James Trimble who operated the ford crossed by Cornwallis's troops between 8:30 and 10:45 AM. The British seized barrels of flour from this site. This is private property but can be viewed from the road. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic significance of Trimbles Ford and about Quaker civilians whose property was seized by troops. This site also relates to modern warfare in which crossing waterways pose logistical obstacles and in which troop movements often occur in residential areas.



James Trimble who lived in this house at the time of the Battle was also the operator of Trimbles Ford across which Cornwallis's troops crossed.



This is the approximate location of the skirmish that took place when Ross's patrol fired on the back end of the column of British troops crossing Trimbles Ford.

B8: Trimbles Ford Skirmish and Staging Site (63.19) - Between 11:00 and 11:15 AM, this site was the location of a skirmish in which a small patrol of American troops led by Ross fired on the back end of the column of British troops who had just crossed Trimbles Ford. These British troops, led by Cornwallis, had already been crossing the ford for over two hours, starting at 8:45 AM. This private property can be viewed from the road. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic significance of Trimbles Ford and the skirmish that occurred there. This site also relates to modern warfare in which crossing waterways pose logistical obstacles.

B9: Bradford Friends Meetinghouse (50.05), circa 1764 - This was a key feature in Marshallton Village, which in 1777 was known to be a center for citizens who supported American independence. There is limited parking open to the public and visitors should respect that the property is still a house of worship. Visitors to this site can learn about the role of meetinghouses as community centers and the differing political viewpoint of Quakers. This site also relates to modern wars, in which fighting occurs around religious structures.



In 1777, Bradford Friends Meetinghouse was place of worship and general community center for the Village of Marshallton.



The ruins of Martin's Tavern have been restored and are a popular outdoor gathering place near two nearby restaurants located in historic buildings.

B10: Martin's Tavern (50.01), circa 1750 - This tavern was where local militia and civilians who supported American independence organized. Records place Squire Cheney and Col. Hannum at Martin's Tavern on September 10th and every indication is they rode out from the Tavern to look for the British the morning of the Battle. In 2004, the *Friends of Martin's Tavern*, a private non-profit organization, completed a stabilization and interpretation of the historic tavern ruins. There is ample parking nearby at two popular restaurants. Visitors to this site can learn about the role of taverns as community centers, about the political divisions within the Quaker community, and about the role of

civilians in providing military intelligence during the Battle. This site also relates to modern warfare in which troops interact with civilians who may or may not provide them with assistance or valid information.

B11: Marshallton Blacksmith Shop (50.12), circa 1748 - This was a blacksmith shop and wheelwright business that is one of the few extant examples of a business venture that was part of a colonial era crossroads village. This site can be accessed as part of the central village. Visitors to this site can learn about the economy of the crossroads village in the Battlefield. This site also relates to modern warfare in which Battles can impact local economic conditions.

B12: Emmor Jefferis Farm, also called the Sign of the Eel's Foot, Blue Rocks Farm (51.10), circa 1714 - This site was the farm of Emmor Jefferis who was the operator of Jefferis Ford. At some point, probably between 11:00 and 11:30 AM, British troops seized Jefferis at the entrance to his house and forced him at gunpoint to serve as their guide for their crossing of the ford and their march to Osborne Hill. This site is a private residence with no public access, but it is easily visible from the road. Visitors to this site can learn about the strategic significance of Jefferis Ford and about Quaker civilians who were forced to cooperate with troops. This site also relates to modern warfare in which crossing waterways pose logistical obstacles and in which troops used local civilians as guides or sources of intelligence.



This photo shows the farmhouse in front of which British troops seized its owner, Emmor Jefferis, and forced him at gunpoint to be their guide.

The proposed public interpretation sites associated with the British Attack which resulted in the core combat of the Battle, and Washington's orderly retreat are:



This photo shows the approach that the British took along Birmingham Road to Strode's Mill. The frame shop to the right was standing in 1777.

C1: Strodes Mill Village (51.15, 51.15, 51.18), circa 1721 to 1777 - This was the crossroads village where the British paused to regroup after their march and before they organized for battle on Osborne Hill not far to the south. Records show that the British seized goods from Richard Strode after whom the village was named. A frame shop with limited parking is located within the colonial era Entriken-Strodes Mill, which can be accessed by its patrons. Visitors to this site can learn about the layout of a rural crossroads village and about how the British prepared for active combat. This site also relates

to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential and commercial areas.

C2: Daniel Davis House (65.17), circa 1740 - During the Battle, this house was occupied by Widow Mary Davis. Hessian troops reportedly camped across Birmingham Road from the house after the Battle. This is a private residence that can be view from the roadway. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat and about how fields were used for troop encampments. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in residential areas.

C3: Historic Lafayette Cemetery (65.33), circa 1800 - This property was part of the core combat from 4:45 to 5:45 PM. It is also the location of monuments erected to honor Maj. Gen. Lafayette and Col. Joseph McClellan who served under Brig. Gen. Wayne. There is limited parking for this site at the adjacent meetinghouse and visitors should respect that the property is still house of worship. For the most part, this site does not relate to the events of the Battle but rather its aftermath. Thus visitors to this site can learn about how the Battle was commemorated by its veterans, and the first generation of United States citizens. This site also relates to modern warfare in which wars are remembered for their positive results such as in World War II or for their complicated legacy such as Vietnam.



The Historic Lafayette cemetery was the site of combat action but is mostly known for its memorial to Gen. Lafayette and also Col. McClellan.



The Birmingham Meetinghouse has a modest-sized parking lot that is used by its members during Sunday worship and other events.

C4: Birmingham Meetinghouse (65.34), circa 1763 - This property was part of the core combat from 4:45 to 5:45 PM. In the days before the Battle, the Americans used the meetinghouse as a hospital for treatment of the sick. During the Battle, American troops used the cemetery wall as breastworks against the flanking action of the British. After the Battle, the British took over the meetinghouse and used it as a hospital. Dead soldiers from both sides were buried in a common grave within the Meetinghouse cemetery, which is a separate facility from the Historic Lafayette Cemetery described above.

There is limited parking open to the public and visitors should respect that the property is still house of worship. Visitors to this site can learn about the role of meetinghouses as community centers, about the core combat phase of the Battle, and about the significant role that Quaker civilians played in voluntarily caring for the wounded by turning their meetinghouses into hospitals.

C5: Birmingham Hill (65.38) - This open land was the location of some of the most intense combat of the Battle and is now an open space preserve owned by the Brandywine Conservancy. There is a small parking lot and trail throughout the property. Visitors to this site can see the actual topography of the core combat area and learn about the way in which topography influenced the development of strategy and way in which the Battle was fought. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in rolling landscapes in which hills pose visual obstacles.



Much of Birmingham Hill is now protected by the Brandywine Conservancy. It included walking trails and interpretive signing as shown in this photo

C6: Davis/Darlington Farm Battle Feature (66.01), 1777 - This property was crossed by British troops attacking American cannon positions from 5:00 to 5:45 PM. Visitors can access the trail around this site by parking in the lot for Sandy Hollow Park and following the Park trails to the north. Visitors to this site can see the actual topography of the core combat area, and learn about the way in which topography influenced the development of strategy and way in which the Battle was fought. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in rolling landscapes in which hills pose visual obstacles.



This photo of Sandy Hollow Park is taken from the hill looking north in the direction that American cannons fired on attacking British troops.

C7: Sandy Hollow (65.35), 1777 - This municipal park property was the site of some of the heaviest core combat from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Visitors can access this site's parking lot and follow the Park trails that extend throughout it. Visitors to this site can see the actual topography of the core combat area and learn about the way in which topography influenced the development of strategy and the way in which the Battle was fought. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in rolling landscapes in which hills pose visual obstacles.

C8: "James" Dilworth House (65.37), 1785 - This site was part of the core combat from 6:30 to 8:15 PM. It was a gathering point for American troops retreating from Meetinghouse Road. Nearby parking is available for patrons of the Dilworthtown Inn restaurant which was built on a colonial era ruin. Visitors to this site can learn about the final phases of the Battle and about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern wars in which civilians are impacted by combat.



The Dilworthtown Inn and the Blue Pear Bistro are now the main features of the Dilworthtown Village through which many American troops retreated.



The lands around Brinton 1704 House were the location of core combat actions and some of the pivotal events of the final phase of the Battle.

C9: Brinton 1704 House, (04.14) - This property was part of the core combat from 6:17 to 7:00 PM and was a gathering place for British troops from 7:00 to 8:45 PM. Earlier in the day between 4:45 and 5:45 this site was used as the ad hoc headquarters for Washington after he retreated from Chadds Ford. It was during this time that Washington ordered Maj. Gen. Greene to organize a rearguard line of defense to stop the British advance so the bulk of the Americans could safely retreat to the east. At 6:15 PM, Greene's line began to form just to the west of this house. Materials were also seized from this

house.

The Brinton family, which still owns the property, gives tours by appointment. Visitors to this site can learn about the final phases of the Battle, about Washington's temporary headquarters, and about the Quaker civilians who were in harm's way simply because their houses were so close to active combat. This site also relates to modern warfare in which battle plans are quickly changed in the field and in which civilians are economically impacted by combat activities.

C10: Craig Farm (44.07), circa 1715 - This site is one of the few working farms on the eastern part of the Battlefield and was the location where Greene formed a rearguard line of defense from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. This action retarded the British advance and permitted the rest of Washington's army to form an orderly retreat. This farm is private property but it can be viewed from the parking lot of a restaurant located along US Route 202. Visitors to this site can learn about the final Phase of the Battle in which Washington changed his strategy and Greene successfully implemented it. This site also relates to modern warfare in which battle plans are quickly changed in the field and in which civilians are economically impacted by combat.

C11: Yellow House (44.05), circa 1750-55 - This site was along the route used by American troops retreating from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Some of these troops were wounded, and this house was used as a field hospital. Parking is available for patrons of nearby stores and the post office located in the Yellow House. Visitors to this site can learn about the final phases of the Battle, the American retreat, and the use of civilian buildings for hospitals. This site also relates to modern war in which retreats are hastily planned and civilian buildings are occupied.



This property locally known as the Yellow House was used as a field hospital that assisted American troops wounded during the core combat.



The night after the Battle, the Concord Friends Meetinghouse was converted into a field hospital to treat Washington's retreating troops.

C12: Concord Friends Meetinghouse (13.01), circa 1728-1788 - This property was along the route used by American troops retreating from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The meetinghouse was used as a field hospital. There is limited parking open to the public and visitors should respect that the property is still a house of worship. Visitors to this site can learn about Washington's organized retreat, and about the significant role that Quaker civilians played in voluntarily caring for the wounded. This site also relates to modern warfare in which retreats are hastily planned and civilian buildings are occupied.

Battlefield Viewing Corridors

The Brandywine Valley has long been celebrated for its scenic beauty as painted by the Brandywine School of landscapes painters. The concept of establishing scenic tours was raised at the first public meeting, but there were concerns that the winding back roads that cover most of the Battlefield were poorly-suited to be used as scenic routes. Local residents noted how visitors often get lost and there are few turnarounds. To address these concerns and provide access to scenic and historically significant landscapes, a number of "Viewing Corridors" are proposed for the Battlefield as presented in *Map 5.1*.

These corridors are generally straight lengths of roadways which can be driven in an automobile through landscapes that demonstrate the themes of the Battlefield. In general, each corridor leads to a Heritage Center and so is not a historical "road to nowhere." These corridors could become part of a self guided driving tour posted on the Internet or made available to mobile devices. They are:

The Quaker Landscapes Viewing Corridor -

This corridor passes through areas that were and are still rural. It includes farms which at the time of the Battle were the home to Quaker civilians. It extends north to the village of Marshallton which was a gathering place for local militia and civilians who supported American independence. It also relates to the British crossing at Trimbles Ford. Cornwallis's troops marched along the Red Lion Road part of this corridor from 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM.



The Red Lion Road section of the Quaker Landscapes Viewing Corridor is a typical Chester County rural road with trees and shrubs lining farmed fields.



The British Flanking Corridor include views of Lucky Hill Farm, circa 1730, that is owned by the same Quaker family who owned it in 1777.

The British Flank Viewing Corridor -

This corridor passes through an area that was and still is largely rural. It passes by a number of farmsteads which, at the time of the Battle, were the home to Quaker civilians. It extends east from the village of the Village of Marshallton to Jefferis Ford where the British completed their successful northern flank of Washington's troops stationed at Chadds Ford. Cornwallis's troops marched along the Lucky Hill Road part of this corridor between 10:00 AM and 1:45 PM.

The British Baggage Train Viewing Corridor -

This corridor passes through landscapes that were and are still largely rural. There are few historic structures in this area and it is largely separated from Chadds Ford by hills and streams. This isolation is the key to this site since it was where the British parked their wagon train of supplies during the Battle.



There is little modern development along the British Baggage Train corridor. It is one of the Battlefield's few landscapes that preserve its 18th century land use.

This was an area of strategic importance even though it was not a combat area. This area was likely occupied by the baggage train from late morning on the day of the Battle until the day after the Battle. That was when the wagons forded the creek at Chadds Ford.

The Cannon Duel Corridor - This corridor is mostly a floodplain with ridges on either side. The ridges are largely developed but are shielded by the tall trees that grow on the slopes. This site was the location of the cannon duel between the British, west of the Creek, and the Americans to the east. Driving this route provides an opportunity to see how high and far apart the ridges were, and appreciate the dangerous conditions in the lowlands into which cannonballs landed. The duel occurred between 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM with the greatest intensity between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.



The ridgelines along the Creek north of Chadds Ford can be easily seen from the valley below. Cannons on these ridgelines fought a duel during the Battle.



Although Birmingham Road has been developed into residential housing, it is still significant as the location where a five-hour battle was fought.

The Core Combat Viewing Corridor - This corridor is a roadway surrounded by residential development. However, it follows the two-mile long segment of roadway upon which British and American troops fought non-stop for five hours. Driving this route provides an opportunity for visitors to see how the British advanced down slope from Osborne Hill and then marched south, gaining territory by moving from one ridge to the next. Cornwallis's troops advanced south along this corridor between 1:30 and 6:15 PM.

Washington's Retreat Viewing Corridor - This corridor consists of two roadways that Washington's troops used for their organized retreat in the final phase of the Battle mostly after dark. Prior to that, they were scattered, having been pushed back by the British.

This corridor also includes two buildings that were used as field hospitals. The last brigade of Washington's main army to be engaged in combat, stopped firing at 6:30 PM. The overall retreat lasted from then until 9:00 PM when all the American troops had fled the Battlefield.



The landscapes along Dilworthtown, Westtown, and Thornton Roads are one of the few places in the eastern Battlefield with existing colonial era villages.

Greene's Defense Viewing Corridor - This corridor is a parking lot area along the east side of US Route 202. By itself, it is a nondescript suburban setting but it provides a remarkably panoramic view of the field where Greene formed a rearguard defense line, permitting Washington's main army to retreat. Had Greene failed to stop the British in this field, the war would likely have been lost. Greene's troops began to form their line of defense at 6:16 PM, engaged in heavy combat from 7:00 to 7:30 PM, and withdrew from 7:30 to 8:00 PM.



The Green's Defense Viewing Corridor is a simple parking lot along US Route 202, yet it provides an excellent view of this important Battle site.

Battlefield Heritage Centers

Because of the large size of the Battlefield, it is not practical for there to be just one central Heritage Center to direct visitors to historic interpretation sites. For this reason, four sites have been designated as future Heritage Centers. As shown on the aerial photos in *Map 5.2*, each of the Battlefield Heritage Centers are located in an area which has a cluster of historic resources that relate to the Battle. *Map 5.1* shows that each Heritage Center is also close to viewing corridors. The general concept is that each Heritage Center could be a location that visitors could stop for 15 to 30 minutes, and in the process learn some of the history of the Battle and also be directed to nearby Public Interpretation sites and Viewing Corridors. Each Heritage Center could include outdoor kiosks that could be viewed at all times, and possibly indoor facilities with limited hours. There would be little to no staffing at these Heritage Centers. There would have to be agreements as to who would maintain them. The model for these Heritage Centers would be the village of Marshallton, which already has outdoor interpretation.



This photo shows the interpretation signage that already exists in Marshallton, whose restaurants already promote the colonial history of the village.

The British Invasion Heritage Center could be located in the village of Marshallton. The interpretation themes presented at this center would focus on the invasion of the Brandywine Valley by the British Army and include the establishment of encampments in Kennett Square, as well as the march from Kennett Square north and then east to Strode's Mill from 5:00 AM to 3:30 PM on the day of the Battle. This center would direct visitors to Public Interpretation Sites B1 through B12 as well as the Trimbles Ford Skirmish and British Flank Viewing Corridors

One of the key narratives presented at this heritage center would be interaction and conflicts between the invading British army and the local Quakers across whose properties the army march. Another narrative would address the British strategy of flanking the American army's position at Chadds Ford, and the American's inability to gather reliable field intelligence on the location of the British flank. These two narratives are connected because it was local citizens, most famously Squire Cheney, who witnessed the British advances and tried unsuccessfully to warn Washington about it. Visitor amenities at this location include restaurants.

The Washington's Defense Heritage Center could be located in the village of Chadds Ford. The interpretation themes presented at this center would focus on the Washington's attempt to defend his position at Chadds Ford from 5:30 AM to 6:00 PM when the last of his troops engaged in active combat in that area. This center would direct visitors to Interpretation Sites A1 through A12 as well as the British Baggage Train and the Cannon Duel Viewing Corridor

One of the key narratives presented at this heritage center would be Washington's decision to establish his line of defense at Chadds Ford Village and the efforts that it took for him to organize an encampment there the day before the Battle. Other narratives would address the morning of the Battle in which a few American units were sent west to harass the oncoming British troops under Kynphausen and Washington's incorrect assumption that the entire British Army was organized to his east on the far side of Brandywine Creek.



Chadds Ford Village is already a local tourism destination featuring restaurants, craft shops, and antique shops near the Brandywine River Museum.

Other related narratives could address Washington's incorrect assumptions, the mid-day cannon duel north of Chadds Ford, and Washington's late afternoon retreat to the east after realizing he had been outflanked. Another key narrative is the tenacity of the light infantry troops and militiamen under the command of Maxwell. They engaged in firefights on and off for 12 hours. They were the first to fire on Knyphausen's troops at 6:00 AM, and they were the last to fire on them at 6:00 PM. Visitor amenities include nearby restaurants, antique and craft shops, and the Brandywine River Museum and its grounds and trails. This area also has access to the Brandywine Creek.

The British Attack Heritage Center could be located in the village of Strode's Mill. The interpretation themes presented at this center would focus on the British attack on Washington's northern flank which resulted in the core combat of the Battle and ultimately Washington's orderly retreat. All of this took place from 3:30 AM to 9:00 PM on the day of the Battle. This center would direct visitors to Public Interpretation Sites C1 through C12 as well as the Core Combat, Greene's Defense, and Washington's Retreat Viewing Corridors.



This photo shows a 19th century sausage factory in Strode's Mill Village that would be well suited to become rehabilitated as a Heritage Center.

One key narrative presented at this Heritage Center would be the American's failed attempt to form a line along the Meetinghouse Road corridor because Sullivan's troops either got lost, or were simply delayed in joining the line. Another theme could be the British strategy for attacking, and how it succeeded, up until the final stage of the Battle when Greene's rearguard line of defense retarded the British advance allowing the bulk of the American army to conduct an organized retreat.

American were capable of holding off, if not defeating the British army. The fact that the Americans did not surrender despite their losses suggested that they might be useful allies to the French, who also sought the end of British military domination in North America.

Another theme relates to how the reports of the Battle were used to convince the French that the

The Washington's Withdraw Heritage Center would be located in the village of Dilworthtown. The interpretation themes presented at this center would focus on Washington's orderly retreat, which took place from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in the evening, as well as the events later that night in which Washington organized his march east to the City of Chester. This center would direct visitors to Public Interpretation Sites C8 through C12 as well as the Core Combat, Greene's Defense, and Washington's Retreat Corridors.

One of the key narratives presented at this heritage center would be Washington's sudden shift of battle strategy. He dispensed with the conventional European warfare tactics of holding ones ground. Instead, he instructed Maj. Gen. Greene to form a rearguard line of defense to retard the British advance, and then retreat. Indeed, Washington failed to hold his ground, but he maintained his troop strength, foreshadowing what would become his ultimate strategy: a war of attrition.



Central Dilworthtown is well suited as a gathering site for visitors. It is close by the 1704 House which is one of the Battlefield's key historic resources.

This new strategy was also the early instance of Gen. Greene using unconventional tactics of sudden attack followed by quick withdrawal. This strategy would become his trademark in the south later in the war. Lastly, this Heritage Center could discuss the 1704 house, whose front yard was the site of Washington's temporary headquarters, whose back yard was the site of the northern flank of Greene's line, and whose interior became Howe's headquarters after the Battle was over.

Battlefield Gateways

The interpretation network for the Brandywine Battlefield, as depicted in *Map 5.1*, could also include a number of Battlefield Gateways which would include indoor displays and visitor information. These Gateways could be located in areas with ample parking and visitor amenities, most notably restrooms. They would provide 30 to 90 minute visitor experiences, and like the Heritage Centers, would direct visitors to other sites in the Battlefield. The central Gateway for the entire Battlefield would be located at Brandywine Battlefield Park. It would focus on all aspects of the Battlefield and the three interpretive themes set forth in the Statement of Significance. This location is especially well suited to be a Gateway because it already has the necessary infrastructure in place. However, it is located in the far eastern part of the Battlefield, and so two other future Gateways would also be warranted.

Kennett Square Borough would be an ideal location for a western Battlefield Gateway. It could provide information on the entire Battlefield, but have a greater focus on the British encampment in Kennett Square, their march to the north, and their interaction with local Quaker civilians. In the past, this important narrative has been overshadowed by the events that took place to the east in the core combat areas. Thus, this Gateway would fulfill a long overdue need. The Kennett Square region was also the location of Quaker involvement with the underground railroad during the years leading up to the Civil war. And so, this Gateway could show how Quakers reacted to both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

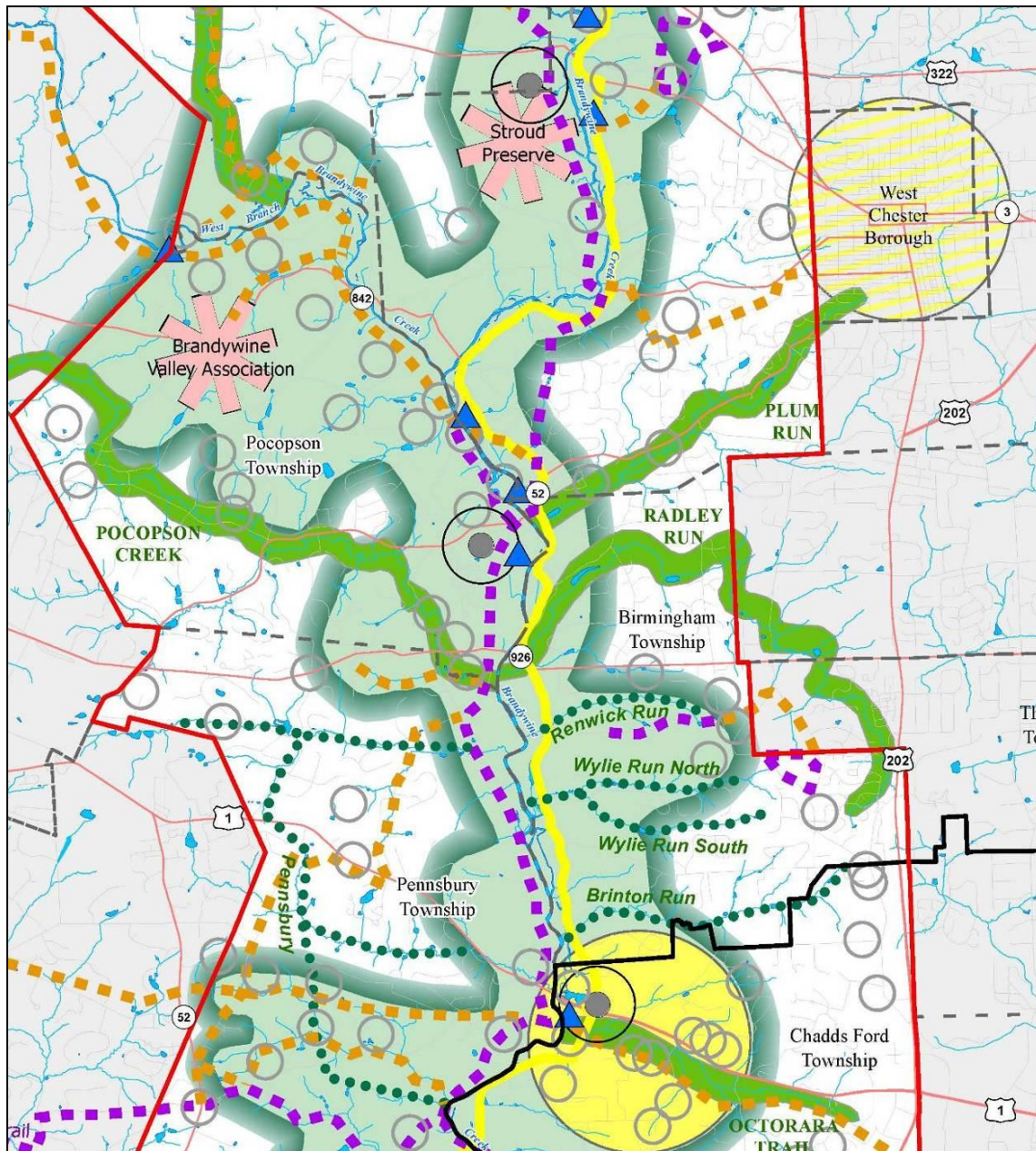


Kennett Square Borough has few standing Battlefield resources, but is a center of the Chester County Quaker community that was impacted by the Battle.

Lastly, there is a need for a Gateway to the north, but the only suitable location is West Chester Borough just outside the Battlefield. This site has the needed infrastructure, and was also the site of a skirmish between Knyphausen's troops and American militiamen. Thus West Chester links the Battle actions that took place to the south with those that took place to the north.

The Brandywine Conservancy has already recommended a series of "Greenway Gateways" for its "Brandywine Creek Greenway" initiative. The study area for this project includes much of the Battlefield and extends far to the north as well. The focus of this greenway study is the preservation and restoration of natural resources within the Brandywine Valley, especially those that impact the Creek and its water quality. *Figure 5.1* shows a close up of the Greenway Plan for the Battlefield area, and presents three Greenway Gateways indicated with a gray dot surrounded by a black circle. These Greenway Gateways are all locations that are close to Brandywine Creek and are well suited to help visitors gain access to it. These creek-side locations can be used to access the waterway or simply recreate along the riparian buffer.

Figure 5.1: “Greenway Gateways” within the Battlefield¹¹



Map 5.1 also shows these three Greenway Gateways. One of them is located near the proposed Washington’s Defense Heritage Center in Chadds Ford. Thus, there would be an opportunity to merge the historic interpretation of the Battle, in which the Creek was a key feature, with the environmental interpretation of the watershed. A similar opportunity might be possible at the Greenway Gateway located just south of Wistars Ford.

¹¹ The Brandywine Conservancy, *Brandywine Creek Greenway Web Page*, www.brandywineconservancy.org/greenway, accessed April 2013.

Battlefield Gateway Interpretation Opportunities

Battlefield Gateways could provide opportunities for traditional and new media interpretation. Interpretation aims to reveal meanings, ideally through the use of original objects and firsthand experience. Yet, interpretation goes beyond just displaying materials (like letters, photographs, texts, and objects) to telling the stories of the past so that they become meaningful to the public today. Historic sites throughout the country are finding that their traditional interpretation no longer engages visitors. This is seen in declining attendance, which has been on a slow decline nationwide since the 1980s.¹² Sites are learning that they need to rework their visitor experiences and educational programming in order to appeal to today's audience.

A recent study on public history in Delaware County found that sites overwhelmingly depend on guided tours for interpretation and educational presentation.¹³ While guided tours are useful for presenting information, today's visitors are surrounded by modern technology, and want more choices.¹⁴ A study by the Reach Museum Advisors found that simple guided tours are not appealing to new audiences. Instead, visitors want more engaging activities, including experiencing a museum at their own pace, hands-on activities, and participation.¹⁵ Philadelphia Cultural Alliance also found that visitors want relevant experience, including the ability to participate.¹⁶ Two issues to consider are the use of technology and "engaging visitors."

Technology Current public historic sites in the Battlefield could expand their interpretation techniques to include ideas that better engage new audiences. Future interpretation centers should incorporate new techniques into their plans. Developments in technology have created many new ideas that sites can rather easily incorporate to expand their storytelling abilities. The Battlefield can take advantage of using these online tools to reach a larger audience and to showcase those significant sites that are not easily accessible to the public.



Many parts of the Battlefield are now suburban-style developments with little space for interpretation, but they could host a small QR code sign.

Podcasts are downloadable audio or audio-video files played on a personal handheld device. These can provide great opportunities to create new tours that visitors can experience at their own pace. Podcasts makes it easier to incorporate maps, photos, and pictures of objects, which provide additional visual appeal to the

¹² Delaware County Planning Department, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan* (Media, PA: 2010), 66-67.

¹³ DCPD, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study*, 74.

¹⁴ *Research into Action: Pathways to New Opportunities*. (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, 2009), 22.

¹⁵ DCPD, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study*, 74.

¹⁶ *Research into Action: Pathways to New Opportunities*. Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, 28

audience.¹⁷ Because the historic resources within the Battlefield are scattered and many do not have set hours, this would allow different sites to connect to one another. This technology can provide interpretation at those sites that do not have a public building to serve as interpretive center, like cemeteries, meetinghouses, private properties, and viewing corridors.

Historic sites are also beginning to take advantage of QR Codes to reach new audiences.¹⁸ QR Codes are small and can easily fit onto signs and can even be printed on basic paper signs. They can provide visitors with information, like photos and audio recordings, in almost any location. New interpretive signs could use them to inform visitors. QR signs can provide supplemental information for small locations in the Battlefield or for areas not appropriate for signs, kiosks, or displays. They can also be used by visitors to sites that do not have regular hours.

As discussed previously, new mapping technology has opened up many possibilities to expand interpretation. For the Battlefield, the animated map that shows the path of the troops could be combined in a video with stories showing the human element. Together, this would present a more comprehensive history of all aspects of the Battle. This could be placed online for people to watch and at kiosks throughout the Battlefield in places without large, indoor interpretation areas. A virtual tour could be created of the entire Battlefield, combining the map of troop movement with callouts about significant sites, incorporating text and photos.



At the popular Goshenhoppen Festival in nearby Montgomery County, children wear period dress and practice weaving, sewing, and other crafts.

Engaging Visitors - Hands-on activities and allowing visitors to participate can be accomplished in a variety of manners. This can be as simple as passing out traditional linen fabric or more elaborate activities, like allowing visitors to put on period clothing and become a “character.” While many authentic objects are too fragile to be handled, sturdy modern replicas of historic objects can be passed around by adults or children.

Some sites in Chester and Delaware County have begun to incorporate more hands-on activities, which could be expanded. A recent exhibit on the Battlefield presented at the Chadds Ford Historic Society provided interactive “hands on” displays that would be well suited for Gateways. These are presented in **Figure 5.2**. Recent studies have found that today’s tourists prefer hands on interactive experiences.¹⁹

¹⁷ DCPD, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study*, 77-78.

¹⁸ “QR Codes: How Can We Use Them?”, National Park Service Web page, www.nps.gov/fova/history/culture/qrcodes4.htm, (accessed 2013)

¹⁹ DCPD, *Delaware County Public History Feasibility Study*, 76-77.

Chadds Ford Historical Society's Junior Guide program allows school children to learn how people in 18th century Chadds Ford lived, by sewing 18th century clothing, spinning, making candles, learning colonial dances, and assisting with cooking a meal on the open hearth. The Paper Mill House in Newtown Square allows visitors to chop wood, make paper, and play colonial games. The Morton House's children program incorporates an architectural scavenger hunt and encourages visitors to feel the materials of the house's construction.

Since there are relatively few actual artifacts that relate to the Battle, displays at Gateways could use modern materials for interpretation. If a farmer had eight barrels of corn and 20 wheels of cheese seized by the troops, facsimiles of those items could be stacked in the corner of a display room. Walls could be constructed using period techniques and actually shot through with flint-locks or cannonballs, and then displayed to show the damage. Backpacks loaded up to weigh the same as those carried by British troops during their eight-hour march could be made available for visitors to lift up and experience just how heavy they were. Thus the Gateways would be interactive rather than just a museum with artifacts kept behind glass.



When actually artifacts are not available, modern made facilities. Constructed using colonial era techniques can be displayed.

Even if a site does not lend itself to hands-on activities, it can still create more engaging and relevant experience. Sites can accomplish this by not just simply displaying information and showing objects, but by presenting the information in a manner that allows visitors to draw their own conclusions and allows them to relate it to their personal experiences.²⁰ As mentioned above, the conflicting historical narratives surrounding the Brandywine Battle would be a great way to engage visitors by allowing discussion and analysis. Interpretation also needs to link the history to contemporary issues.

As described for each site in the Public Interpretation Sites section, the different themes of the Brandywine Battle can relate to current issues and experiences' of people today. Sites have accomplished this audience engagement in a variety of ways, including asking visitors to vote on their opinion, asking personal or speculative questions to engage visitors on the topic, and having visitors share their thoughts. Sites can have a story capture booth or media piece, or ask visitors to leave a note card or post their responses on the display, respond to other's comments, or allow a visitor to use their personal profile to direct their experience.²¹

²⁰ Kelli Cavenah, *Engaging Visitors in Historic Buildings: Dallas Heritage Village's Revitalization Project in the Citizen's Bank Building*, (Waco, TX: Master Thesis, Baylor University, 2012), 22-26.

²¹ Nina Simon, *The Participatory Museum: Chapter 4: Social Objects*, www.participatorymuseum.org, (accessed 2013).

Figure 5.2: Features of a Battlefield Gateway



The Chadds Ford Historical Society has combined traditional and high tech interpretation tools.



Interactive displays such as being able to lift a cannonball would be appropriate at a Gateway.



A Gateway could include displays on civilian life and how it was impacted by the Battle.



Cannons are a popular interpretation item since they are authentic, durable, and visually impressive.



The gift shop at the Brandywine Battlefield Park also serves as an information center staffed by volunteers.



Restrooms are an essential amenity of a Gateway which should not be overlooked in early planning.

Gateways could also be places that direct visitors to self guided tours or at the meeting place for van tours. The winding back roads of the Battlefield are not well suited for bus tours but van tours with a guide would be viable. Such tours could focus on specific themes such as:

- The Architecture of the Battlefield
- The Art and Landscapes of the Battlefield
- The Battle of Brandywine: Facts and Myths
- Black Pioneers and African American Militiamen
- The British Generals: Gentlemen Warriors
- Cannons and the Cannon Duel: The Machines of War
- The Ecology of the Battle: Streams, Forests, and Wetlands
- Hessians and Loyalists: Future Americans and Future Canadians
- Hospitals and Medicine: Quakers Care for the Wounded
- Inns and Taverns of the Battlefield
- The Quaker Farmstead: Impacts from an Invasion by Two Armies
- Quaker Meetings in a Time of War
- Strategic Battle Topography: Ridges and Fords
- Unsung Heroes: Maxwell and Greene
- Washington's Strategy: Successes and Failures
- Women Under Fire: Civilians and Camp Followers



Valley Forge National Historic Site has installed specially designed signs to direct visitors along their Encampment Tour.

Theme-oriented tours could also be made available to new media including cell phones, mobile devices and web-based technologies. This technique allows visitors to experience the Battlefield resources at their own pace. Such tours could be designed to guide motorists, hikers, bicyclists, and people boating on the Creek in canoes or kayaks. The model for such interpretation is the cell phone tour currently in place at Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP).

Valley Forge NHP has nine major tour stops that follow a 10-mile long "Encampment Tour Route" which lasts from 20 minutes to 2 hours depending on how often the visitor stops. The tour goes past scenic views of the Park and a number of historic monuments and sites. A 60-minute CD audio tour is available for purchase in the "Encampment Store" and online.²² Recently, the Valley

Forge NPS cell phone tour was expanded to include a half-dozen stops that relate to the Battle of Brandywine. Ultimately there could even be a unified tour that would relate to all of the Battles and events relating to the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

²² Valley Forge National Historic Site, www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm, accessed May 2013.

RE-IMAGINING BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK

Addressing Public Concerns about the Park

The future of the Brandywine Battlefield Park was a major issue raised at the public meetings. The Park is one of the few public open spaces in this heavily developed region. It is located in Delaware County but is also used by residents of nearby Chester County. However, the Park has never been a key regional historic destination, like Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP) or Philadelphia's Independence NHP to the east. In recent decades, Brandywine Battlefield Park has not had sufficient funding to modernize its facilities. During the past few years non-essential maintenance has also been deferred.



The first sign that visitors see upon entering the Park is this faded old marker and various combinations of ad hoc temporary signs.



This parking lot is the location of an unattractive dumpster. In the distance (and below) is a former restroom that has become overgrown by nearby trees.



For example, some ornamental shrubs have become overgrown and parts of the Park have been overgrown with invasive species. The paving and painted lines of some of the parking lots have begun to erode, and many of the wooden and metal fences, benches, and picnic tables are weathered. None of these issues make the Park unusable, but they give the visitor a perception of a Park in decline. Local stakeholders who attended the public meetings expressed a strong desire to see the Park improved and modernized.

During the first public meeting in which the future of the Park was discussed, a local resident who is also a landscape architect agreed to volunteer to conduct a preliminary assessment of the Park. Michael Lane, RLA, ASLA, field viewed and photographed the Park in the fall of 2012. He shared his findings for use in this plan. The following potential improvements were based largely on his evaluation.

The Establishment of the Park in the Mid 20th Century

There are few readily available local records regarding the establishment of the Park and so information was gathered from interviews with former park employees and local volunteers.²³ The Park property was acquired in 1949 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). It remained an undeveloped preserve until 1952 when the Ring House opened as a house museum. The original Ring House had burned down in 1931. It was rebuilt in 1949 using a colonial era design by G. Edwin Brumbaugh, who also restored the Gilpin House at that time.

The Gilpin house was in good condition and had been used as a farmhouse and later as a dormitory for young women who attended art school at the Pyle studios located in a former Gilpin family barn just south of US Route 1. This former barn is now a meeting room that is part of the Chadds Ford Township municipal building.



Washington's Headquarters at the Ring House within the Park has been commemorated with a bronze marker that is quite close to US Route 1.



Much of the brick walkway around the Ring House has become overgrown but could be restored. The overall appearance is of a property that is unused.

The current Park museum building and the outdoor restrooms near the Ring house were constructed during the 1970s. The museum displays were also installed at that time. They were updated in the early 1990s. In 2011, statewide budget cuts caused many of the displays to be removed, but by late 2012 they were restored. The Park is often cited as covering 52 acres, but 2009 tax records indicate it consists of five parcels covering 46.5 acres.

²³ Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission, *The Brandywine Story: 1777-1952*, (1952); Elizabeth Bertheaud, Site Director of the Ephrata Cloisters, former site director at Brandywine Battlefield Park, Personal Communication 2013; and Frank Mahoney, Volunteer Historian with Chadds Ford Historical Society, Personal Communication 2013.

Existing Conditions of the Park Grounds

The existing conditions within the Park, as presented on *Map 5.3*, indicates the property's overall rolling topography. On this map, the seven parking lots are labeled A through G, which is used for convenience but is not their official designation. Parking Lot E is the highest point in the Park and is located on a hill that separates the two sides of the Park. This hill serves as a visual buffer but also provides opportunities for vistas.

The central feature of the Park is the museum, a one story mid 20th century structure. The parking lot for the building is in good, but not new, condition, but it is located to the rear of the building. As a result, visitors must walk around the side of building to find the front entrance. This entrance is a small door that looks no different than the rear or side door, creating some confusion for visitors. There is also a flat open field just east of the museum, which catches the eye, but does not contain anything. Overall, the current presentation of the Park buildings and grounds are of a park which has been neglected for many years.



Visitors to the museum must park in the back of the building, then walk along the stone wall and pass a HVAC unit to reach the front entrance.



There is little in the way of interpretive signage at the Ring House, yet it still attracts visitors who often can be seen looking in the windows.

As *Map 5.3* indicates, much of the Park is wooded. However, many of these wooded areas are dominated by non-native trees. The wooded area south of Parking Lot E is dominated by mature locust trees with very little diversity in the understory, likely a result of overgrazing by deer. The forests to the north side of the Park, which are denser, are more diverse.

As *Map 5.3* shows, four of these wooded areas are recommended as tree planting areas in which the forest could be restored to a more natural state. This restoration would also create a visual buffer between the Park and nearby

modern residences, and give them more privacy from Park users. This reforestation would also benefit Park users by blocking out the modern architecture and giving the user a better feel for what the colonial era landscapes might have been like. The wooded area north of Parking Lot G already provides a good visual buffer.

There are a number of scattered tree stands along the southern border of the Park that appear to be former formal plantings that have become overgrown, and now serve as unneeded visual blocks. The best example are the trees south of Parking Lot B, which are planted evergreens that have now grown so large they block the views of the Ring House, making it hard for first time visitors to find this structure.



The Park entrance is marked by a modest sign. Special events are advertised in banners tied beneath the sign that are too small to be read from the road.

A similar situation exists south of Parking Lot G where planted evergreens block the Gilpin House. Ideally, these overgrown non-native trees should be removed. There are four stands of trees along US Route 1. They have become overgrown and now visually block the Park from US Route 1, which is a highly traveled commuter route. Thinning these trees, which could include removing non-natives and cutting low branches, would allow commuters to see the Park buildings, thus making them aware of the Park. Furthermore, the removal of trees would help with historical interpretation. The Ring House was an ideal location for Washington's Headquarters because it was on a hill near the road, which would permit his officers to see oncoming troops. Thus, improving the ability of Park users to see the road would demonstrate the strategic significance of that house.



The old colonial-style fence to the right was once visible to commuters along US Route 1, but has since been covered by scrub shrub growth.

The Park includes a number of features that are now in disuse. It appears that the Park previously used its road frontage to attract visitors. To the west of the entrance along US Route 1 is a colonial-style fence, that is now so overgrown with scrub bushes that it is no longer visible. North of Parking Lot A is a boarded up, free standing public restroom, around which trees are now growing.

Most of the parking lots are cracked with painted lines that are weathered and faded. Parking Lot F is often covered in leaves and natural debris. There is a flagpole south of

Parking Lot B which appears to be in disuse and is not clearly visible from any vantage point. The pair of flag poles in the front of the museum are also blocked from view by trees. A number of the parking lots contain steel dumpsters that present a negative visual to Park users. The Park is topographically well-suited for the installation of hiking trails as is indicated with the yellow dotted lined on *Map 5.3*. However, there are no designated trails currently in place.

Options for Improving the Park

As *Map 5.4* shows, the Park has a tremendous potential to be restored and improved into a valuable historic interpretation resource. Given the high cost of acquiring land in the Battlefield, the Park is one of the few open, undeveloped areas that could become an interpretative site for the Battlefield. The visioning concept presented in *Map 5.4* shows how a series of trails could be established to link a number of interpretation features. A jogger running the loop from the museum to the Gilpin house then west to the Ring House and back to the museum would cover approximately 1.5 miles. These trails could be simple packed earth.



River Park in East Bradford Township has gravel trail and mile posts, surrounded by high meadow grass. This could be done at the Battlefield Park.

Another option would be to let the meadow grass within the Park grow tall, cutting it only seasonally, with only the trails mowed on a regular basis. This is the approach now taken at Valley Forge NHP. It saves mowing costs while providing meadow habitat and improving groundwater recharge. Furthermore, the stream through the Park could be allowed to return to wetland. It could be used as an example of the wetland habitat, known in 1777 as “the Morass” which troops had to cross with difficulty, complicating their strategy.

Map 5.4 shows 13 potential interpretation areas all of which address elements of the Battlefield Statement of Significance which are: events during the Battle, events after the Battle, and impacts to the local civilians. These 13 interpretation opportunities are:

1. Washington’s Headquarters at the Ring House - The brick walkways around the building could be restored as well as the old garden site, which could be planted with plants popular in the colonial era. A few key rooms inside of the building could be filled with period furniture and used for tours. Also, cameras could be mounted inside the house, which Park users could access via mobile devices to see the inside even when tours are not given. These cameras could also show views out the window along US Route 1, thus demonstrating the strategic value of the house as a lookout.

Lastly, the empty rooms could periodically be used for art shows. The grounds around the Ring House could be set up with tents and other features which would have been erected a general’s headquarters. Also, a flagpole could be erected, or moved from another location, that would display the red and white 7th PA flag that was the American’s battle flag during the Battle of Brandywine.

2. British Lunette, 3. The “Morass,” and 4. American Lunette - A lunette, which was a temporary crescent-shaped fort made from fallen timbers, could be constructed on the hillside north of the entrance. This would catch the eye of visitors and could be made from trees cut down to clear woodlands elsewhere on the property. This outdoor space would need to be periodically rebuilt, but even this would be an educational opportunity.



This model of a lunette from a diorama in the Brandywine Battlefield Park museum shows its simple timber and earthwork construction.

In the valley to the east of this lunette, the wetlands could be restored along the creek, giving a sense for what the Brandywine Creek’s fringing wetlands were like during the Battle. On the hillside east of the stream a second “American lunette” could be built. Thus the small valley within the Park could become a model for the Brandywine Valley north of Chadds Ford Village where the British and Americans engaged in a cannon duel.



These flags, displayed during Chadds Ford Days show how effective flags would be at attracting commuters along US Route 1 to the Park.

5. Formal Entrance and Alee of Flags - The front entrance could be redesigned with modern attractive signage easily read from the roadway and a large flagpole with the current American Flag. Furthermore a series of eight flagpoles could be erected along US Route 1 flying the flags of the many current nations whose citizens or founders fought in the Battle.

Placing the flags along US Route 1 would highlight the international significance of the Battle, particularly the role in played in convincing the French to become allies with the

Americans. This display would also serve to attract the many international tourists who take buses along US Route 1 from Philadelphia to Longwood Garden. These poles could also be used to fly other flags such as the six American colonies (now states) who provided units that fought in the Battle under Washington’s Command.

6. Colonial Flower Garden, 7. Museum, and 8. Trailhead - The museum building is a unique feature in the region, because it has restrooms, parking, and is publicly-owned. This building is well-situated to become a trailhead. The lawns to the east of the building could be turned into a trailhead with maps and guides for trail users. If a trail link is created across US Route 1, as recommended in *Chapter 4*, the museum trail head would be a major regional feature. Also, the flat lawn west of the museum could be converted to a picnic site with a colonial flower garden.

The front entrance to the museum building could be architecturally enhanced as shown in *Figure 5.4*. The museum building itself could be redesigned with a different configuration of rooms that are more in line with modern museum spaces. Also, a second floor could be added, and the current brickwork could be stained darker so as to make the building look more like the Ring and Gilpin houses.

Figure 5.4: Opportunities to Upgrade the Park Museum Building



The museum building entrance is simply two, white panel doors. The stonework in the wall is uniform in color and lighter than local native stones.



This photo of the colonial era barn of the Gilpin House has walls of varying colored stones and traditional red paint indicative of local rural architecture.



This digitally altered photo shows that a red door with a carved lintel could highlight the entrance. Shutters and stained stone would match other park buildings.



This digitally altered photo shows how a second story could be added to the museum, thus greatly increasing display space while keeping a historic-style facade.

- **Issues/Analysis:** The cost of upgrading the museum building would likely be substantial, and it may be less expensive to simply raze the building and construct a new one. Although this would be a major effort, it would still be more practical than finding a new location for the main Battlefield Gateway. Land prices in the Brandywine Valley are high. Simply finding a multi-acre site in this developed area can be a challenge.

9. Park Facilities and Garage - These buildings could be improved in their current location. The restoration of the forest around them would help visually shield them from the rest of the Park.

10. Combat Damage and Cannonball Strike Area - This section of forest could be used to demonstrate the sort of environmental damage caused by cannonballs. Every few years, functioning colonial era type cannons could be fired into this hillside to create craters as part of an education event. Furthermore, a select tree could be blown in half at the trunk and left to fall in place. Such damage was documented to have occurred in the Battle. Stone walls could also be erected in this area, and then shot through with a cannonball.

11. Soldiers Campsite and Cannons Visible from US Route 1 - This flat section of ground could be used to erect the temporary field camp structures used by the troops and camp followers before and after the Battle. These could include the huts made of tree branches, called “wigwams” used by travelling British soldiers, as well as earthen cook ovens dug into the ground. The southern part of this area would be an ideal location to place cannons pointing out toward US Route 1. These cannons would be visible from the road and pointed in the direction of the oncoming British troops.



Structures like this earthwork oven could be created at the Park to demonstrate the simple but practical technologies used by camp followers.



Structures like this, based on those built by Revolutionary War re-enactors at a festival in Delaware, could be erected at the Park.

12. Soldiers’ Memorial - The parking lot at the top of the hill is also used as a bus turnaround loop. This flat area could continue to have that function but also be landscaped to become a memorial to soldiers of both sides who fought at the Battle. An oval-shaped, paved area could be installed that would be surrounded by stone monuments to each of the units that fought in the Battle with the British to the west and the American to the east.

Soldiers who died would be given a special marking. Empty space could remain at the bottom of each monument so that more names

could be added. This would likely be an expensive effort but funds could be raised by the ancestors of the soldiers. A special monument could also be included for those civilians and camp followers who were not soldiers, but played important roles.

13. Woodland Ranger Combat Tactic Area - This hilly, wooded section of the Park is currently not used, but it could become an interpretation area that focuses on those troops including the British Rangers and the German Jaegers, who were specifically trained to fight in hilly wilderness terrain. This area would demonstrate that not all troops were the conventional soldiers who formed well organized lines and fought as one coordinated force. It would show

how some of the Battle's soldiers used fighting techniques that are now quite common in military conflicts.

14. "Captured Hessian Springhead" - Many local residents have fond childhood memories of viewing a no-longer-existing display which showed a mannequin in a Hessian uniform locked behind the cage door of the springhouse by the Gilpin House. This display was removed because it has no historic accuracy. However, it could be reinstalled to show how legends about the Battle evolved over time.

15. Quaker Civilian Farmstead (Gilpin House)

- The Gilpin House could be used for tours, video interpretation and art shows. The focus of the Gilpin House would be interpreting a Quaker farmstead, which is what it was during the time of the Battle. The grounds around the building could be turned into vegetable gardens with colonial era plants. Fences could be erected. The barn could be used to display tools, or used to house a few live goats or domesticated fowl. Goats would also be useful in clearing the grounds of brush and poison ivy which they can digest.



A colonial garden, such as this as the Goshenhoppen Festival grounds in nearby Montgomery County, could be installed at the Gilpin House.



The presence of farm animals, even simple geese, could add an engaging historic interpretation element to the farmstead around the Gilpin House.

In the past, the Gilpin house was interpreted to have been Lafayette's headquarters but it is now accepted that Lafayette was in the field for most of the Battle. By his own reports, he had little time to sleep let alone set up an office. He did however visit the house years later in 1825 as part of his return visit to the Battlefield, which likely led to the belief that he stayed there during the Battle. Nonetheless, the Gilpin House is still valuable as an example of a Quaker farmstead which was raided for supplies by soldiers during the Battle.²⁴

- **Issues/Analysis:** A reuse study should be conducted for the Brandywine Battlefield Park. This study should consider management options and include an interpretation plan. The interpretation opportunities above are a starting place for a more detailed plan, which would expand on these ideas in more detail.

²⁴ Elizabeth Bertheaud, Site Director of the Ephrata Cloisters, former site director at Brandywine Battlefield Park, Personal Communications 2013.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Educational programming goes hand-in-hand with interpretive planning, and provides the “how-to” elements for interpretation. Battlefield educational opportunities can be geared to a variety of demographics, including youth and adults, and can be designed to target varying interests related to the Battle.

Educational Program Considerations

In developing an educational program, several key considerations need to be taken into account. Since the Battle took place in portions of 15 municipalities, working collaboratively and looking at the Battle from different vantage points are key for attracting public interest. Steps to creating an educational program include:

Identify the Significance of Interpretive Sites and Resources - It is important to evaluate why visitors should care about the Battle and spend their valuable free time learning about it. For effectiveness in education programming, there is a need to convey meaning that may not initially be obvious.



Education efforts in the Battlefield need to address that fact that visitors come from diverse backgrounds and may have much different perspectives.

Different people have differing backgrounds, life experiences, and perspectives. Conveying meanings behind historic resources can enable a wide range of people to identify with, and make a personal connection to, a resource or story. In this way people can “think for themselves” and have a “take-away experience” that is personalized. For example, the American troops’ impromptu use of civilian structures such as the Yellow House for military-related uses could be related to contemporary warfare in other parts of the world.

Develop Consistent Storylines - “Consistent” should not equate to tedious or one-sided. Rather, it refers to the need for capturing the basic essence of the story using the most reliable and coherent sources available. For example, the story of camp followers can be told from the perspective of a camp follower and from the perspective of an American soldier. Tangible items, such as military uniforms, can be linked to less tangible ideas, such as, “How does wearing uniforms psychologically affect soldiers prior to battle?” Allowing people to have an opportunity to feel that they have discovered something on their own provides a more powerful and memorable take-away experience for the visitor.



At the Chadds Ford Historical Society, visitors could lift a pack weighing as much as those carried by troops at the Battle.

Understand the Audience - Information for youth programs differ depending on target age group, be it kindergarten, tween, or teen. Content, timeframe, media, and the level of information geared for adults will differ from that for youths. The types of visitors (local residents, day trippers, vacationers, or business travelers), the season (summer break, fall college parent weekend, or winter holiday season), and level of expertise (novice, amateur, or experts) needs to be taken into consideration when developing educational programming.

Generally speaking, an experience of value needs to be readily offered to successfully attract and maintain heritage resources visitors. Natural features and landscapes are a key part of the experience in understanding the Battle. For example, the Battlefield Park could provide visitors with reproductions of packs of the same weight, size, and material that American or British soldiers would have carried. Visitors could then

carry these packs for a trail walk, and so receive a memorable experience.

Determine the Best Approach for Telling the Story of an Historic Resource - Methods for education could include a more formalized guided approach or a more free-form, self-discovery approach. The guided approach might involve a choreographed experience whereby a historic resource is introduced via a short film presentation. This film could be a narrated version of the Animated Map, followed by a guided walking tour of the Park.

The free-form approach could include various interpretive sites or heritage centers featuring different aspects related to the Battle and community at the time. For example, the site of the Anvil Tavern could contain a kiosk featuring village life in colonial times and the role of the nearby black smith shop. Old Kennett Meetinghouse could have an outdoor kiosk with information about Quakers and the Battle as well as the skirmish that occurred just outside while the Quakers were worshipping.

Choose which Tools are Most Appropriate Given the Approach, Audience, and Venue - When pursuing interpretation, it is important to consider the tools to be used, the budget, technologies readily available, and the availability of staff or volunteer. Furthermore, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility is also an important consideration. Tools to be considered include: kiosks, mobile devices, physical signage, printed materials, and web presence; audio-visual demonstrations, face-to-face demonstrations, participatory learning, and performances; lectures, festivals, period materials for sale and interpretive displays; and local school district curriculum and adult continuing education programs.

Regularly Reexamine and Revise Educational Programming - Over time, new techniques, and new research will likely yield new information about the Battlefield. Maintaining a fresh product can provide the continued interest and education of the public. Gathering feedback and quantitative information, such as number of visitors, should be done periodically to determine if the educational programming is capturing the student public.

Educational Approaches to Learning

Educational programming for the Battlefield should have a strong emphasis on life-long learning and appeal to the broadest range of people. The goal of this effort is to establish a rich learning environment that fosters meaningful and varied learning experiences. Various approaches should be considered when developing educational programming. They can employ verbal, visual, or auditory tools, and can include:

- **Lecture and storytelling learning** is a process of listening and soaking in information that others are presenting. It involves learning through the initial processing of information followed later by the actual application of the knowledge learned.
- **Constructive learning** involves building a person's knowledge through their interaction with their environment. This can include doing a tangible activity with an outcome, such as building a model of a colonial era farmstead.
- **Cooperative group learning** is a process where knowledge intake and outcome occurs through dialogue with peers or educators to produce a socially interactive learning environment.
- **Discovery learning** is an open learning process based on active discovery where learners have an opportunity to make choices, such as going through a maze or holding a scavenger hunt for Battle-related clues.
- **Reflective learning** takes into account the process of learning itself. It is a process through which a person reflects on information as it relates that person's own life experiences.
- **Problem solving learning** provides defined questions for a person to analyze and solve. A key to this approach is to use the existing knowledge base of the learner and providing information to assist in attaining logical conclusions.



Constructive learning provides children with "hands on" experiences to build, cook, sew or engage in other physical activities as part of historic interpretation.



By dressing in colonial era clothing, children can get a more personal understating of what life was like for children during the colonial era.

- **Personal learning** is learner-centric whereby for information, knowledge, and strategies become part of a learner's personal body of knowledge. The learners can personally identify with a story, person, or situation that is being conveyed.

Educational Tools

Interpretive educational media tools are key to presenting information and providing education about resources. These tools can be used at Public Interpretation Sites, Heritage Centers, along Viewing Corridors, or in Gateways. They can be used off-site at home through the internet or in school through school curriculum or an activity. They can also be used for recreation through a kiosk or for continuing education through an adult night school. Specific types of tools include:

- **Kiosks** that can have digital or still information.
- **Mobile Devices** that convey text, recorded verbal information, mapping, or augmented visual reality.
- **Physical Signage and Markers** can include informational markers of way finding signs to interpretive sites.
- **Printed Material** can include paper brochures for general information, or guides for driving, bicycling, canoeing, or walking experiences.
- **Internet Presence and Web-Based Interpretation** can reach people in preparation for visiting the Battlefield, or in place of their physical Battlefield experience. For example, the *2010 Animated Map* presentation has been uploaded to YouTube so is widely available to the public.
- **Audio-Visual Media** can include narrated films and videos about the Battle which can be used as introductions to the Battlefield. This media could be rented from a Gateway, loaned by a library, or presented through educational television on-demand.
- **Face-to-Face Interpretation and Storytelling** involves the traditional medium of tour guides who can be dressed in period clothes, and or playing a character role. For example there could be a tour through a colonial home by a Quaker family member.

- **Demonstrations** can be given during Battle reenactments including soldier and camp follower sites, or craft and material making demonstrations.
- **Lectures** should be largely geared to an adult audience and could include events, such as continuing to provide the Animated Map presentation around the region, or a lecture series such as History-on-Tap.

- **Festivals and Events** can feature colonial era themes events including *Chadds Ford Days* which takes place close to September 11th each year, and the *Colonial Day* event for school students run by Brandywine Battlefield Park.

- **Participatory programs** can include colonial dancing, soldier or Quaker civilian dress-up, lifting a cannonball and guessing its weight contest, or “what’s old is new,” a comparison of 18th century objects with 21st century objects.



Some of the mapping developed for the 2010 APBB Survey was displayed at a booth at the 2012 Chadds Ford Day festival.

- **Period Items for-sale** allow for an enduring memory to be physically taken-home with the public.

- **Interpretive Displays** can include display boards and original or reproduction objects for viewing.

- **Local School District Curriculum and Activities** can emphasize major events of the Battle of Brandywine and Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, as set forth in the Statement of Significance.

- **Adult Continuing Education Programs**, such as a colonial era cooking classes, could be offered through local night schools.



Some of the schools in the Battlefield have a direct connection to the Battle. Kennett High School is located in an area where British Troops camped.

Youth Education and School System Programming

Battlefield-related youth education entails more than gathering and providing historical facts about the Battle. It also important to providing young people with the understanding of conservation, thus teaching young people that they are part of an ongoing historical process. Since 2010, the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force (BBTF) has spearheaded efforts to also bring the Battle story into schools through presenting the Animated Map to students. Tredyffrin-Easttown School District (TESD) has instituted such a program based on the Animated Map that could be a model for other school districts. An outcome of this Plan could be that the BBTF actively coordinates with TESD to determine how to foster further emphasis on local history and Battle-related curriculum in school districts.

Making the Battle narrative a story that is fun, interesting, and interactive is key for attracting the youth. Colonial-themed youth camps, through the Boy and Girl Scouts or directly through the Park, is another concept to foster hands-on youth education. The Park offers interactive historic demonstrations and hand-on opportunities for visiting school groups as well as 3-day summer camps. Another approach for youth education is to use web-based educational resources. This way learning can seamlessly cross between the classroom and the home. This approach also provides opportunities to expose parents and family to the Battle story.



Youth activities involving the protection of the Battlefield's wetland "morass" could link history and natural resources.

Youth education can provide age-appropriate input and problem solving. For example, as discussed at public meetings, tourism can affect the conservation of historic sites and landscapes. As part of their education about the Battlefield, young people could also be challenged to consider thinking about new kinds of tourism that are ecologically and sustainability sound.

If young people are encouraged to participate in heritage conservation, and preservation, it could become a lasting part of their overall education and sense of community. Heritage and cultural resources education offers a good instrument to encourage fresh outlooks and participation in conservation.

With the internet and the growing use of social media, the current learning environment for young people is not constrained by physical delineated borders. To provide an enriching story, youth Battlefield education must mix observations of tangible historic sites with discussions of less tangible concepts, such as evaluating the opposing viewpoints held by Americans during the Revolutionary War. Today's young people must be able to relate and understand that Washington's scouts could not tweet or text to tell the

whereabouts of the British. Youth programming can focus on topics such as these, to relate history to the present.

Educational Programming

It is important for young people to know that historical figures were real people like themselves, who had families and friends, and who experience successes and failures.

Elementary School Student Education Programming - For elementary school children, learning about the past should be based on a mix of facts, concepts, and interactive activities such as games for younger children and projects-based for older children. This can include a general time line of events and getting a sense of the Brandywine Valley’s colonial era through its people and everyday occurrences. Children generally piece things together in a more concrete manner, so Battlefield education content should be made relevant to typical childhood experiences.

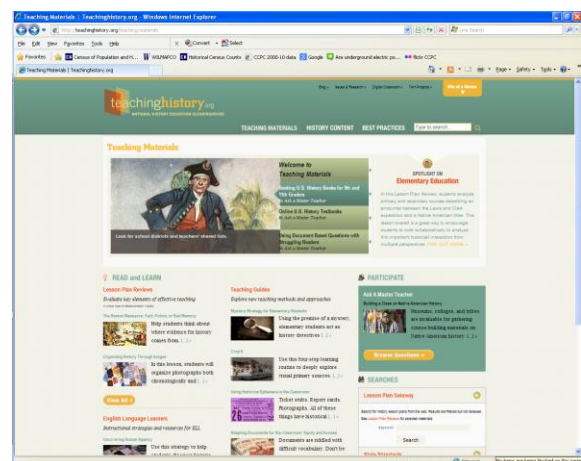
Elementary school children can be taught about history through a learning approach that starts with “discoveries in their own backyards.” The Gateways and Heritage Centers can be used as places for discovery. They can explore what aspects of Battlefield narrative stayed the same over time, and what aspects have changed.

Secondary School Student Education Programming - Secondary school education should involve more advance concepts such as the relationships between the American Revolution and other revolutions. It can address cultural and societal changes in the Brandywine Valley since 1777. Secondary school students can learn about the historic background that lead to and shaped today. Historical analysis and critical thinking is an important skill to learn in secondary education, since it aids in understanding and providing a context for the present.

School Education Programming Resources -

There are many web resources related to historic sites education, one of which is the *National History Education Clearinghouse*, www.teachinghistory.org. This website provides a wealth of diverse information for K-12 American history education, including history content, teaching methods and guides. It also gives references to lesson plans, best practices for teaching history and social studies, information about history and current research.

NPS’s heritage education services include the *Teaching with Historic Places* program, www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp, which provides



On-line school education Programming Resources such as www.teachinghistory.org, can be integrated into education efforts in the Battlefield.

teacher and student resources. Teacher resources include professional development materials for teachers, guides to combine classroom and community service learning, as well as *Preserve America* and other series of online lesson plans. Student resources include a children's corner and organized youth summits. *Teaching with Historic Places* lesson plans meet the National U. S. History Standards for Grades 5-12 and the Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. Thus schools districts in Chester and Delaware Counties can implement heritage education and incorporate them into their curriculums.



Period costumes and re-created tent encampments are engaging for children who might not have as much interest in attending a museum.

Opportunities to Expand Youth Education -

There needs to be a greater web presence on education about the Battle. Additional topic areas related to the Battle and the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 could be added to history education planning websites and information from this Plan could be utilized for such an endeavor. Another example is the Brandywine Battlefield Park which could greatly expand the telling of the Battle narrative. A permanent outdoor exhibit delineating a simplified map of the battle could be “drawn” on a grassy area so children are able to literally walk the course of the battle.

Period costumes could be available to wear as they walk the Battle's path. A stone wall, split rail fence, brick wall, and timber wall could be constructed and different types of armament could be used on these walls to yield a permanent display of their impacts. This could provide a discovery program, where kids guess which type of munitions were used for each impact site with the answers being under covered tags.

Adult/Continuing Educational Programming

There are a number of existing adult education opportunities that could be expanded to include learning about the Battle and the overall Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

Chester County Adult Night School offers enrichment and lifelong learning classes for adults that span topics from computers and personal finance to cooking, language, and local history. Classes about colonial era topics as well as activities located at Public Interpretation Sites could be offered through the Night School. For example, colonial era cooking or baking in a bake oven could be offered at Chadds Ford Historical Society's John Chad House.

Elderhostel programs relating to the Revolutionary War are already in place in Chester County. At historic Yellow Springs, topics such as colonial era medicine are taught to seniors. This type

of learning opportunity could be also offered at sites within the Battlefield that served as field hospitals.

History on Tap is an example of a successful program offered through a nonprofit-private partnership between the Chester County Historical Society, the “1893s” (which is the Chester County Historical Society Young Friends Association), and Susquehanna Bank. In 2012, the Revolutionary War was featured in an evening lecture at a colonial tavern, Marshalton Inn, followed by a walk around the Village of Marshallton. The walk ended at Martin’s Tavern where re-enactors in British uniforms told of the tavern role in the Battle and answering the public’s questions.

In 2013, another Revolutionary War site, the Dilworthtown Inn, hosted an exhibit called *History in the Making: A Contemporary Artists View of Chester County, 1750-1800*. The exhibits paintings explored the people of the colonial era, including surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon; botanist, astronomer, and farmer, Humphry Marshall; and Indian Hannah, considered the last of Lenni-Lenape in Chester County.

Expanding Adult Education Opportunities should address a range of topics relating to the Battlefield. For example, programs can delve into identification and relation of recent world wide protests, such as in Brazil and Turkey over desires for better life conditions. Interpretation could address recent revolutions, such as in Egypt and Libya, and compare them to the American Revolution. These are sensitive topics, but they bring to life the struggles, desires, and lives of the colonists, as common people whose conviction, and forever changed the course of events in what would become the United States.

Self-Guided Adult and Family Recreational “Routes of Education”

There are many opportunities for family oriented exploration and learning about the Battle which can provide fulfilling and educational experiences for both adults and young people. These interpretive tours or “Routes of Education” could include:

- **Walking Trails** could be established with educational signage, such as at the municipal park at Sandy Hollow, Meetinghouse Road corridor, or the Brandywine River Trail near Chadds Ford Historical Society.
- **Battle Bicycling Routes** could be established in coordination with municipal planers and local cycling clubs.



Recreational boating is popular of the Brandywine Creek. Thus there is a ready audience for an educational water tour of the Battle’s fords.

- **Water Routes** could include canoe excursions down the Brandywine Creek with signage along the way noting where fords were located in 1777. Signage could also indicate where Battle actions occurred, such as the cannon duel that took place on the ridge lines above the creek between Brintons Ford and Chadds Fords.
- **Recreational Drives**, such as the existing Friends of the *Battlefield Driving Tour Brochure*, could be expanded
- **Historic House Tours** could be expanded, such as Chadds Ford Christmas House Tour that often feature Battle related structures.



Modern kiosks are made of sturdy materials and often include graphics and mapping instead of simply presenting text as was often done in the past.

Educational kiosks or digital media stations such as found at the entrance to trails in many parks, could be placed at Northbrook Canoes for families to view prior to their canoe trip. This digital information included with mapping should also be made available online through a clearinghouse site for people to prepare in advance of walking, bicycling, or boating on a “Educational Route.”

An example of the use of digital technologies is the *Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series*, offered through NPS Heritage Education Services. This program provides travel itineraries for visiting historic destinations

online or in-person. Itineraries are self-guided, most of which involve historic resources listed in the National Register. Brandywine Battlefield could be added as an itinerary.

A critical aspect of providing family continuing education opportunities in the 21st century is to focus on providing augmented reality interfaces with mobile devices including smart phones, tablets, and new and emerging technologies. Using these technologies, a visitor could drive or bicycle along a marching route used by the British, such as along Camp Linden Road, be able to pull off to the side of the road, and then use a smart phone to learn about what happened at the location. At that location the visitors might hold up the screen to eye level to see the “augmented reality,” such as a digitally modified picture of a column of British troops marching down a modern photo of Camp Lined Road. Providing this sort of modern learning experiences is critical in teaching the story of the Battlefield in the modern era, when so many people are reliant on media devices as their primary source of information.

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Profile and Tourism Markets

The Battlefield is located near the I-95 corridor one half hour north of Wilmington DE, and one hour east of Philadelphia, PA. It is within approximately two hours of New York City, Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC. As such, it has the potential to attract large numbers of tourists. However, at the public meetings held for this project, local residents expressed the desire to maintain only that level of tourism that could benefit the local economy without damaging the Battlefield's high quality of life.

There was also a concern that too many tourists would ruin the few existing rural landscapes which still give visitors a feel for what the area was like in 1777. For these reasons, the goal of this section is to present a framework that can *optimize* rather than *maximize* tourism and marketing. As one resident who attended the public meeting put it, "We don't want busloads of tourists driving up and down our little back roads, but van tours would be okay."

Value-added Experience - Another concept that came out of the public meetings was the need to revitalize Brandywine Battlefield Park as a key historic destination that could attract visitors already visiting Longwood Gardens, which is the region's most popular tourist destination.



Longwood Garden attracts both domestic and international visitors to its outdoor flower displays from the spring through the early fall.

Thus, there would be two related marketing efforts for the region. One would have Longwood Gardens as the main "tourism" destination, with local shops and restaurants serving as secondary destinations. The other marketing effort would have Brandywine Battlefield Park as a Gateway that would be the main "historic tourism" destination. It would also have local shops and restaurants as secondary destinations.

This two tier approach is an example of a "value added experience," in which recreational tourists would become aware of historic destinations, and perhaps view them on their next visit to Longwood Gardens. To a lesser degree, historic tourists might find out about Longwood or the many shops and restaurants they support. Furthermore, at the local level, visitors to the Park who are interested in physical recreation such as bike riding would become aware of historic sites. Similarly, history buffs would find that there are hiking trails that link to the Park.

Local, Regional and Multi-state Tourism Markets

The Battlefield is within a one hour drive from the City of Philadelphia and its surrounding suburban counties which are jointly called Greater Philadelphia. According to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) which is the official Metropolitan Planning Organization for this region, Greater Philadelphia has a median household income of \$60,525, a mean household income of \$79,395 and a per capita income of \$30,658. All of these figures are higher than corresponding total values for the United States which are: median household income of \$50,007, mean household income of \$67,799 and a per capita income of \$26,178. As *Figure 5.5* indicates, Greater Philadelphia exceeds the nation in terms of income, housing values and education. All these statistics suggest the Battlefield is well-situated to be a destination for well-educated visitors with disposable income who wish to take a day trip.

Figure 5.5: Economic and Educational Statistics for Greater Philadelphia

Households or Individuals	Greater Philadelphia	United States
Household and per capita income, 2007		
Less than \$10,000 to \$49,999	43%	50%
\$50,000 to \$99,000	31%	31%
\$100,000 or more	26%	19%
Housing value, Owner-occupied units, 2007		
Less than \$50,000 to \$199,999	35%	54%
\$200,000 to \$499,999	53%	33%
\$500,000 or more	12%	13%
Educational Attainment, 2007*		
Without High School Diploma	13%	17%
High School Graduate or Associates Degree	56%	57%
Bachelors, Graduate, or Professional Degree	32%	27%

Source: DVRPC, *Greater Philadelphia Economic Development Framework*, (Philadelphia: September 2009), 10-11. Note: Percents are rounded up and so total 101%. These are the most recent figures available.

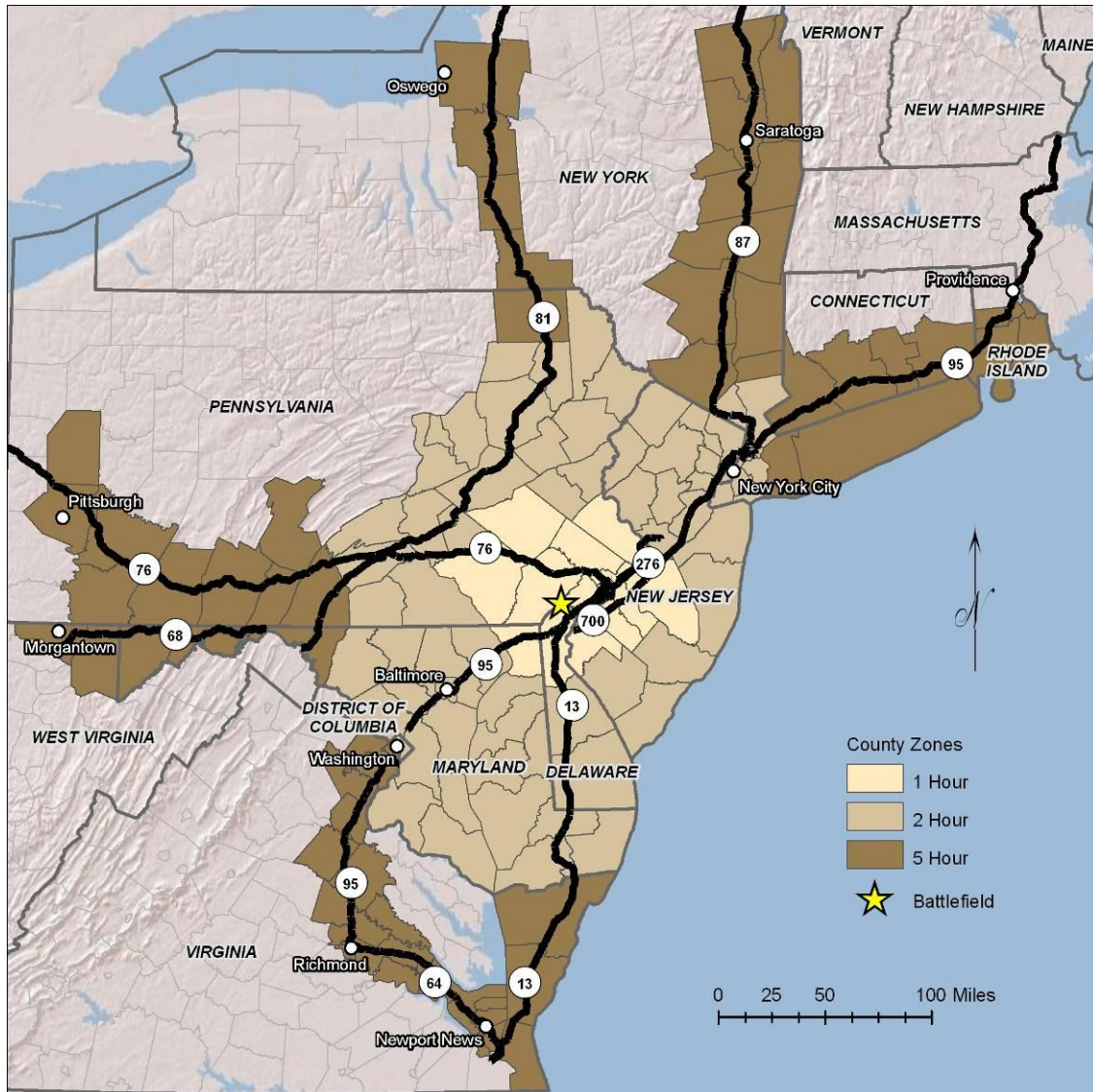
Figure 5.6 presents a map of all the states whose residents could reach the Battlefield within roughly five hours of travel by car. Counties within a one hour travel zone are shown in yellow, and their combined population is just under 6.9 million.²⁵ Counties within a 2 to 3 hour drive are shown in tan. They jointly have over 33.2 million people (10.8% of the total US population) and include the cities of New York, Baltimore, Washington, DC. Visitors from these areas might visit for the afternoon and then return home, or stay at a hotel.

The brown areas on the map are counties located along major interstates that can be used to access the Battlefield within approximately 5 to 6 hours. These include all of New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware as well as the cities of Newport News, VA, Richmond, VA Morgantown VW, Pittsburgh, PA, and Providence RI. This zone also includes Oswego and Saratoga NY, which are communities that may have an added interest in the Battle of

²⁵ 2010 US Census, (Washington, DC: US Department of Commerce, 2013).

Brandywine because the 1777 Battles of Saratoga are associated with these cities. All told, the 5 to 6-hour area has a joint population of almost 44.5 million or 15.7% of the United States.

Figure 5.6: Counties within a Day's Drive of the Battlefield²⁶



Clearly, the Battlefield is accessible to a large part of the nation's population. However, it can also be visited by international tourists. It is within a day's drive of Toronto whose population is over 5 million. Canadian visitors could be drawn to the history of the Queen's Rangers, American-born loyalists who fought at Brandywine, and after the war were stationed in Ontario where they eventually became the foundation for the Canadian Army. The Battlefield is also within a one to three hour drive of six of the nation's 25 most heavily traveled (total passage traffic) international airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport, Queens NY; Newark Liberty International Airport, Newark NJ; Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA:

²⁶ Chester County Planning Commission, 2013

LaGuardia Airport, Queens, NY; Washington/Dulles International Airport, Dulles, VA, and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Ann Arundel, MD.²⁷

Tourists and the Hospitality Industry

As part of this project, a coordination meeting was held with the executive director and communications director of the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, whose offices are within the Battlefield. They report there are over 7,000 hotel rooms in the County and that tourism provides over 11,800 jobs. The Chamber calculated that in 2010, the total spending on tourism in Chester County was \$646.7 million. Income was \$457.6 million with state and local taxes of \$76.1 million and federal taxes of \$84.2 million. The Lodging Sector generated 11.3 million with the Food and Beverage Sector at 148.7 million and the Retail Sector at 91.3 million. Recreation generated 71.6 million while transportation generated 221.8 million. Overall tourism in Chester County (and the Brandywine Valley in particular) is strong and is anticipated to maintain its viability for the foreseeable future.



Buses from Quebec, Canada are parked at Longwood Garden and testify to the strong international tourist market for the Brandywine Valley.

The region's major tourist attraction is Longwood Gardens which hosts over 1 million visitors each year. There are no statistics on how many of these visitors are from abroad, but the numbers of foreign visitors are significant enough that in 2013 the Chamber established a marketing campaign focusing on the United Kingdom. At the same time, the Chamber launched a new marketing campaign called "*Brandywine Valley: The South of France, just a little west of Philly.*" It emphasizes three of the key tourism draws to the area - gardens, wine, and art – all of which are commonly associated with France. This campaign could also tie into

the Battlefield's interpretive theme dealing with the role of French soldiers (most famously, Maj. Gen. Lafayette), as well as the impact the Battle had in convincing the French to join in a military alliance with the Americans.

Tourist Destinations and Programmed Cultural Events

The Brandywine Valley and its surrounding communities host a number of popular tourism destinations, many of which have some connection to local history. The term "Brandywine Valley" is often applied to areas both within the Brandywine Creek watershed and those nearby areas which were also settled in the early colonial era by William Penn's Quakers. The major tourist destinations within the Battlefield are summarized below.

²⁷ Airports Council International – North America, *2011 North American Airport Traffic Summary (Top 50 Airports-Passengers)*, <http://www.aci-na.org/content/airport-traffic-reports>, accessed May 2013.

Longwood Gardens - In the early 20th century, Pierre du Pont of the well known Delaware family of industrialists purchased a farm and arboretum that had been owned by the Pierce family since the colonial era. During the mid 20th century, this private estate evolved into a foundation that operated extensive formal gardens, greenhouses, and conducted horticultural educational programs.



Longwood Gardens also includes a series of fountains which are used throughout the years for a "Dancing Waters" show set to music much like fireworks.

Currently, more than 400 events are scheduled each year, from organ and carillon concerts to open air theatre productions. *Winter Fun Days* and summer *Ice Cream Concerts* are designed for children. The fireworks and fountain displays attract 5,000 spectators on summer evenings, and more than 200,000 visitors come to see 500,000 outdoor lights at Christmas.²⁸

Brandywine River Museum - The Brandywine Conservancy was founded in 1967 to protect open lands in the Chadds Ford Area. In 1971, the Conservancy opened the Brandywine River Museum within a former mill built in 1864. The museum is dedicated to American art with primary emphasis on the art of the Brandywine region. Among the hundreds of artists represented are Howard Pyle, whose many students influenced the course of American illustration. Landscape, still life, portrait, and genre painting includes works by Benjamin West, Gilbert Stuart, and Horace Pippin, also from Chester County. To date, nearly 300 special exhibitions have been shown in the museum along with installations of work from the collection. A variety of education programs are also offered throughout the year.²⁹

Downtown Kennett Square - The traditional sidewalk grid of Kennett Square Borough is used for a number of popular outdoor festivals. The Mushroom Festival Inc. is a non-profit corporation that organizes the annual Mushroom Festival, which celebrates the large contingent of mushroom growers in the area. In 2010, their festival attracted approximately 100,000 guests visiting almost 200 vendors. Historic Kennett Square, Inc. is another local non-profit and they manage the Kennett Square Farmers Market and the Kennett Brewfest in October. Since 2006, Cinco De Mayo has been celebrated in the downtown by Casa Guanajuato, whose members are Mexican immigrants, many of whom are employed by the mushroom industry. This organization receives support from the State of Guanajuato in Mexico.

The Battlefield also includes local tourism destinations that are generally visited by residents of Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania and New Castle County, Delaware.

²⁸ "The Story of Longwood," Longwood Gardens web page, www.longwoodgardens.org, (accessed May 2013).

²⁹ "History," Brandywine Conservancy web page, www.bandywineconservancy.org, (accessed May 2013).

Chadds Ford Village - During the mid 18th century, a village sprang up where the old Great Nottingham Road crossed the Brandywine Creek at a ford operated by John Chads (spelled with one “d”). In 1777 the village was the site of heavy combat during the Battle of Brandywine and survived through the 20th century. With the establishment of the nearby Brandywine River Museum and the Chadds Ford Historical Society, Chadds Ford became a tourist center with many restaurants and antique shops. It also retains its historical use as a town center with a post office and other local businesses.³⁰

Marshallton Village - In 1777, Marshallton village was a crossroads town on the main road between Philadelphia and Strasburg in Lancaster County. It was the home of Martin’s Tavern and the Bradford Quaker Meeting. It is now a historic village with most of its buildings dating to the 19th century. It is the location of two popular restaurants, the Marshallton Inn and the Four Dogs Tavern, both of which have historic themes.



Chaddsford Winery, located along US Route 1, is next to the Barnes-Brinton House identified as a Public Interpretation Site.

The “Route 1 Corridor” - The area along US Route 1 between Kennett Square and Chadds Ford has become a center of restaurants, wineries, antique shops, and retail stores dealing with landscaping and outdoor furniture and gardening. Much of this business relates to the key tourism draw of Longwood Gardens and the Brandywine River Museum.

Brandywine Valley Association, Myrick Environmental Center - In 1945 the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA) became one of the nation’s first “small watershed” associations. In 1948, Dr. Ruth Patrick of the Philadelphia

Academy of Natural Sciences conducted some of her pioneering stream studies with BVA. In 1981, they moved their offices to the 318-acre Myrick Conservation center which is now used for educational activities and community events.³¹

Chadds Ford Historical Society (CFHS) - The CFHS was founded in 1968 to preserve local historic sites and structures. They now manage the John Chads house and its surrounding property which is the site of the CFHS offices and a small museum space. They also manage the Barnes-Brinton House.³²

Sanderson Museum - Christian C. “Chris” Sanderson (1882-1928) was a Chadds Ford area history teacher, eccentric, and friend of the Wyeth family who compiled an extensive collection

³⁰ “Our Village History,” Chadds Ford Historical Society Web Page, www.chaddsfordhistory.org, (accessed May 2013.)

³¹ “History” Brandywine Valley Association web page <http://www.brandywinewatershed.org>, (accessed May 2013)

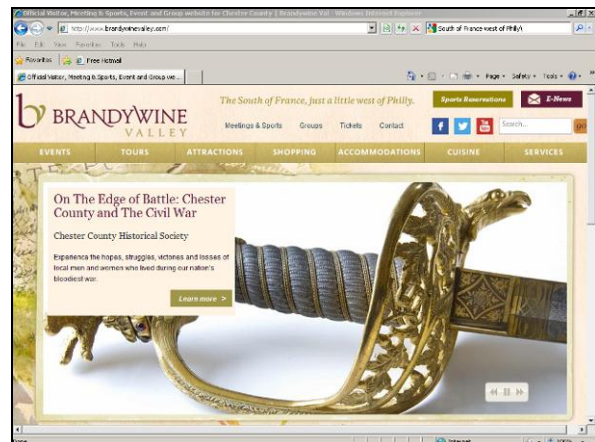
³² “About us,” Chadds Ford Historical Society Web Page, www.chaddsfordhistory.org, (accessed May 2013.)

of artifacts and ephemera ranging from a Brandywine Battle cannonball to sand from the digging of the Panama Canal. The museum was founded in 1967 with the assistance of the Wyeth family, and is owned by a foundation. It is located just south of the CFHS.

Jimmy John's, Hank's Place, and Other Local Landmarks - There are a number of independently owned restaurants in the Battlefield with a long tradition of serving local residents. Hank's Place across the street from the Brandywine River Museum, was a favorite eatery for the Wyeth family and others in the art community. Jimmy John's has been serving distinctive hotdogs at along US Route 202 since the 1950s. The walls are covered with decades old photos of long time customers. The seating area includes coin operated model trains.

The Brandywine Valley also hosts a variety of cultural events and festivals which could be used as opportunities to present historic interpretation of the Battlefield and Battle related themes. The cultural events that take place at the Brandywine Battlefield Park and the Chadds Ford Historical Society are noted above. Additional events include³⁴:

- **Brandywine River Museum** exhibits and events including traveling exhibits, the annual event such as the *Spring Antiques Show* and the *Summer Bonsai Show*.
- **Brandywine Valley Association** (Myrick Conservation Center) summer events include the *Brandywine Valley Food and Wine Festival* and the *Brandywine Valley Wine Trail*.
- **Longwood Gardens** events, including *Spring Blooms*, *Fireworks and Fountains* in the spring, the *Wine and Jazz Festival* in the summer.
- **Kennett Square Borough** events including the *Mushroom Festival* in the fall, and the *Kennett Run 5K and 10K* in the Spring.
- **Local Wineries** within the Battlefield also host events including the *Memorial Day Weekend Festival* at Chaddsford Winery and the *Spring Wine and Jazz Under the Stars* at Penn's Woods Winery, both in Pennsbury Township.



The web page for the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau highlights the Brandywine Valley and its museums and its history-related tourist events.³³

A number of cultural events take place in communities just north the Battlefield including the *Restaurant Festival* and the *Turks Head Music Festival* in West Chester. There are also the *Radnor Races* in Willistown Township and *Devon Horse Show* in Easttown Township. Popular events are held to the south in Delaware at Brandywine Creek State Park, the Hagley Museum and Library, the Mt. Cuba Center Gardens, and the Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library.

³³ Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, www.brandywinevalley.com, accessed May 2013.

³⁴ Information on events was gathered fro the webpage of the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau (<http://www.brandywinevalley.com/events-calendar>, accessed May 2013).

Coordination with Regional Tourism Planning



The western part of Chester County, less than 20 miles from the Battlefield, is part of the plain section that includes Lancaster County.

The marketing of the Battlefield as a tourism destination could be integrated into the regional tourism planning efforts already in place for southeast Pennsylvania. The Battlefield is located in between the City of Philadelphia and Lancaster County, both of which are successful tourism draws for historical and cultural attractions.

The market for these sites is generally the large population living along the I-95 corridor from Boston to Washington, D. C. The Battlefield could become a third destination visited by tourists who currently pass through Chester and

Delaware Counties on their way from Philadelphia (and its I-95 exits) on their way to Lancaster County and its attractions.

The Battlefield has the potential to become part of a larger regional planning effort that would focus on the events of the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777. As *Map 5.5* shows, there are a series of 1777 destinations that form an arc that extends west from Philadelphia and south through the Battlefield and into northern Delaware. These destinations could be visited over a series of days either consecutively or over the course of time. In a way, it would be like the Appalachian Trail, where visitors hike different sections on return visits.

The main historic draw for the region is Independence Mall and the Liberty Bell in Central Philadelphia. From there, visitors interested in the Revolutionary War could be directed north to Valley Forge National Historic Park (NHP) and on the way pass by the site of the Battle of Germantown. From Valley Forge NHP, visitors could be directed southeast to the Battle of the Clouds and Paoli Massacre sites, and from there through West Chester to the Brandywine Battlefield and all its attractions. Lastly, visitors could visit the newly designated First State National Landmark in Delaware.

This circuit, beginning in Philadelphia, generally traces the route that Gen. Howe's troops marched, although he started in the Brandywine Valley and ended in Philadelphia. This reverse direction may not be historically accurate, but from a tourist marketing perspective it could capture tourists visiting Philadelphia who might not know about other historic sites in the region. Those who want to trace the British invasion following Howe's historically accurate route can start at the Battlefield, pass through Chester and Montgomery Counties, and end up in Center City Philadelphia.

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

The following comments were gathered at the three public meetings held at the Brandywine Battlefield Park from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on October 6, 2011, July 7, 2011, and November 8, 2012. These meetings were all well attended and included a presentation by project staff and breakout session in which comments and input were gathered. Attendees included residents, landowners, other stakeholders and municipal and state officials. At the public meetings, the topics that generated the most comments and suggesting were interpretation, education and tourism.



The third public meeting focused on public access. Attendees noted the need for to promote local businesses but opposed major tourist developments.

Many of the comments about interpretation, tourism, and education focused on the need to improve the Brandywine Battlefield Park as a main destination for visitors. There was general agreement that Longwood Gardens was the major tourism draw and that Battlefield tourism should be coordinated with that. Local resident raised concerns that they did not want large tourist bus traffic on the winding back roads of the Battlefield, but would prefer to small scale schedules van tours which already take place from time to time.

Comments about Interpretation, Education, and Tourism from the Public Meetings

It is good to start with the 2010 animated map. Make any new maps more like a movie showing the movements but also telling the story.

The 2010 ABPP animated map only shows military strategy. It is equally as important to include the human element. There could be callouts on the map telling other perspectives of Battles, like how did camp followers felt. The map should be like a movie telling a story.

Orienteering organizations could lead groups through the Battlefield and perhaps look for markers that would trace the route of the Battle.

Valley Forge Park has offered to dedicate 5 to 6 of the "sites" on its cell phone tour to the Brandywine Battlefield. Valley Forge is in the process of putting up signs for their cell tours.

The Battlefield should have a "Passport to History" that could get stamped. That is something students could do. Kiosks at sites could have a barcode that you scan to get information from your cell phone. There should be a GPS Battle map that hikers or bicyclists could use. Bicyclists already ride on low volume roads in East Marlborough, East Bradford, Pocopson, and Kennett Square.

Longwood Gardens has a radio station. Could it be used to tell people about the Battlefield?

There is a need to highlight different aspects of the Battle that are important to different people, like the social history and what women did in the Battle. We need to tap into diversity.

The Battlefield should have more "show and tell" with something tangible, not just plaques to read.

Delaware County already has the Colonial Plantation at Ridley Creek State Park. It should be linked to the Battlefield. The Battlefield facilities need to connect with other areas to survive. They need to be linked to Valley Forge Park as well as Philadelphia and Lancaster tourism.

Comments about Interpretation, Education, and Tourism from the Public Meetings (Continued)

The Battlefield has three related aspects: tourism centered on Longwood Gardens; the Battle history centered in the Park; and the numerous Quaker heritage resources like the Kennett Meeting House.

Each municipality should identify paths used by troops and designate them like scenic roads.

The historic, cultural, and artistic sites in area should be linked. The whole landscape matters, but it has never been interpreted.

The problem with auto tours in the area is that there are only a few pull-offs, and these should be improved in the short term, with others added in the long term.

Longwood Gardens is a nearby international tourist destination drawing visitors from Japan, Germany, France, and Canada. There should be a cell phone tour in their languages and special care for Japanese visitors who are more likely to not speak English. The role of Germans (Hessians), French (Lafayette) and Canadians (Loyalists who later went to Canada) should be emphasized.

Mobile apps should be used to provide tours and provide interpretation. Driving tours could be based on Howe's Route and the Hessians Route, in multiple languages.

An "audience analysis" for both existing and future visitors to the Battlefield would be useful. This sort of research has already been started by the Delaware County Visitors Bureau.

Longwood Gardens is located within the Battlefield. Longwood visitors have to pass through the Battlefield and could be made aware of it.

The Battlefield communities already have a demographic that likes history.

There should be options for visitors who want to visit the Battlefield area for half a day, a whole day, or two days. There should be multiple options like a foot tour, a bicycle tour, and a historic house tour.

The Park and the programming for the Battlefield should focus on educating children. The Delaware County Historic Society has already started this effort and the Park could build on it.

The British troops crossed parts of 15 municipalities, but many municipal officials do not know where the soldiers went. There needs to be more outreach to get local residents informed.

There needs to be more education for land owners about their historic properties.

The education component needs to "tell the story" and be more inclusive of other nationalities and other aspect of the Battle. It should not just be the soldiers' story.

There is a need for better education. Students are not educated on the Battle in schools or text books.

There should be better coordination with the business community. Chadds Ford Village has the Brandywine River Museum and Hank's Place, a beloved local diner. They should be used to draw people to the Park.

Jimmy Johns is a popular locally-owned hotdog stand dating back to the 1950s. It is located in front of the field where Gen. Green had his stand against the British.

There were so many comments about possible improvements to Brandywine Battlefield Park that they are presented separately in the listing below.

Comments about Possible Improvements To Brandywine Battlefield Park

No one really knows the demographics of the visitors to Park, but that is important to know. We should further appeal to Park visitors since they already know the property and are already interested in battle action, camp followers, and soldier's stories. The Park should also work in conjunction with the schools and the historic societies to make sure everyone is telling the same story.

The site administrator for the Park said that over 90 percent of its visitors come to picnic. So there is an audience for the Park, just mostly outdoors. We need to get them inside to hear the whole story.

Everyone agrees that about 90 percent of the Parks visitors are from DE, MD, NJ, and PA.

Comments about Possible Improvements To Brandywine Battlefield Park (Continued)

The demographic of Park users is dependent on time of year. Local people show up with visitors on Patriots Day after Thanksgiving, and bring friends and relatives. The Park also attracts people visiting the River Museum more than Longwood Gardens, but no one knows why. Staff at Longwood Gardens said that depending on weather in NY and NJ, they can tell how many visitors they will have.

The Park should be converted into a heritage center or tourist center, rather than only a museum.

The Park has over 50 acres that could be used interpretation. The grounds could be used for demonstrations, such as erecting the tents and “wigwams” that the soldiers slept in. Scouts could camp overnight on September 11 so they can experience what the troops did on that same date.

The Park should be a central gathering destination. It could host an animated map kiosk showing where the Battle took place in the existing municipalities. There should be a focus on educating local residents in Chester and Delaware County, not just tourists going to Longwood Gardens.

The Park should be a gateway to the Battlefield. People already know about the “Brandywine Valley,” but not the Battlefield. Start with Park and then reach out to other areas rather than trying to focus only on the Battlefield.

The Park needs to illustrate a connection to the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 to show that the Battle was part of a bigger effort. Existing roads used by colonial troops need to be better interpreted.

The Park should be a central location for historic programs run by the PHMC. There should be training and outreach emanating from the Park, like programs that go out into the schools.

The Park has acres of land which many historic sites do not. It has indoor dioramas, but could have a “life size diorama” outside. One of the flat lawns in the Park could be made into a garden laid out like a large scale battle map with markers showing who marched where and when. Then Park visitors could “march” through it without even having to go inside a building.

PHMC maintains other historic sites at which cannons or rifles have been fired to physically show damage to modern day people. That could be done at the Park. The sounds of battle and voices could also come through on a cell phone tour.

PHMC should change the Park’s name to be more appealing than a “park.” For example, a “Heritage Center” or “Welcome Center” would attract more people passing by on the road and be a more fitting description. There is a need to make sure the Park carries the “Brandywine” brand, but perhaps it could be called the “Battle of Brandywine,” which implies more action than just “the Battlefield.”

The Park is one of the first things visitors driving along US Route 1 from Philadelphia, NJ, and NY see when they arrive in the Brandywine Valley. The Park has public restrooms and parking which is a very important amenity that could attract these visitors to the Park. Given the high cost of nearby land, it would be nearly impossible to create a new location with parking and plumbing.

If the Park becomes gateway, and the information it gives out needs to be factual and consistent no matter where you go in the Battlefield area. There is quite a bit of local lore that does not always match with historical facts.

The Park already has an extensive outreach program through the Friends of Brandywine Battlefield that is well received. Teachers look forward to it every year.

There was a meeting at the Brandywine Conservancy a few years ago. There was an overwhelming sentiment that no one wanted to see PHMC sell the Park. Most local folks like the fact that the state had a facility in the area.

The Battle should be celebrated with festivals and events. There could be art shows in the Park buildings. There is already the *Revolutionary Times Festival* each September at the Park.

The Park and other interpretive sites need “bells and whistles.” People like “high tech” and would be attracted to computer generated graphics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations listed below are presented as possible work efforts that could be initiated in the short term, which for these purposes is approximately three years. Long term and ongoing recommendations are listed in *Appendix E*. The priorities and cost estimates for all these recommendations are presented in *Appendix C*.



In the past, historical interpretation focused in museum displays and signs, but now more interactive techniques have been found to be effective.

Over the last few decades, there have been a number of initiatives that focus in historic interpretation within the Brandywine Battlefield. Much of this effort has focused specific sites or aspects of the Battle. There has never been a single unified program or even one unified historic narrative. The following recommendations represent an effort to expand on the existing interpretation so that it can be presented through the Battlefield and address a wider range of Battle related topics as outlined in the Statement of Significance.

The recommendations call for the establishment of one narrative for the Battle to be used in interpretation efforts, as well as the creation of a Battlefield-wide Historic Interpretation Network linking existing and proposed historic resources and interpretation sites. Lastly, these recommendations address the need to re-imagine the Brandywine Battlefield Park as a central location for a new tourism strategy to improve the local economy while respecting the desires of local residents to protect the quite quality of life they now enjoy.

Recommendations for Unifying Interpretive Themes

The following recommendations address the need to establish a single unified historic narrative that can be used consistently throughout all parts of the Battlefield and with all the various initiatives involving education, outreach, and programming, including historic interpretation opportunities for tourists.

5.1: Develop a single historical narrative for the Battle and associated events that can be used in various settings. Such a narrative should be written at a 10th grade level so as to be understandable to a wide audience. This narrative should present the conventional history and questions about it along with “untold stories” as integral parts of story and not simply asides. It should focus on the three themes. This narrative should be used in school curriculum, cultural programs for adults and families, and tourism-related efforts, such as driving tours. It should also suit the needs of civic groups, business, and organizations that could be involved in outreach.

5.2: Pursue a project that will merge the Brandywine Battlefield Animated Map with the animated maps for Paoli Battlefield and the Battle of the Clouds to create a map and educational outreach tool covering the entire Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 in Chester and Delaware Counties. This digital animation would have to be presented in the form of a movie with zoom-in and zoom-out elements. Such an approach is needed because some of the movements in the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 covered large areas covering many municipalities, while some of the engagements took place on small properties covering a few dozen acres.



There are abundant opportunities to link the interpretation of the Brandywine Battlefield with programming in place at Valley Forge NHP.

5.3: Further develop interpretive themes so as to be consistent with those presented at Valley Forge National Historic Park, the planned American Revolution Center (ARC) in Philadelphia, and First State National Monument in northern New Castle County, Delaware. As interpretation initiatives are developed for the Battlefield, there should be coordination with the existing and proposed National Park Service elements in the region, since all of them, in some respects relate to the Revolutionary War era.

5.4: Coordinate interpretation of the Battlefield with interpretation efforts that focus on the Paoli battlefield and battle of the Clouds site. This effort would likely involve ongoing coordination between the BBTF and groups such as the Paoli battlefield Preservation Fund (PBPF), and Paoli Memorial Association (PMA). Coordination regarding the Paoli battlefield should also include consideration of the *Paoli Battlefield Master Plan* as presented in the *Malvern Borough Revitalization Plan*.

Recommendations for Establishing and Operating Battlefield Interpretation Network

The following recommendations address the need to establish a network of interpretation sites throughout the Battlefield rather than isolated sites each working independently.

5.5: As soon as is practicable, establish a Gateway at the Brandywine Battlefield Park. The Park is a key resource in terms of historic interpretation, tourism, and trails planning. The public also expressed a desire to improve the Park at the public meetings. As a result, the establishment of the Park as a gateway should be one of the first implementation actions taken as a result of this plan. Even partial improvements to the Park should be pursued with the goal of raising public awareness of the need to fully improve it into a gateway.

5.6: Establish the Brandywine Battlefield Park (future Gateway) as satellite of an interpretation network with its center at the American Revolution Center (ARC) in Center City Philadelphia. With the completion of ARC in Center City Philadelphia, the Delaware Valley Region will finally have a premier museum dedicated to the Revolutionary War. If the Park (as a future gateway) were to become a satellite to the ARC, the Park could be promoted at the ARC, and visitors to Philadelphia could be directed to the Park.

5.7: Establish the “British Invasion Heritage Center” in or near Marshallton Village. This Heritage Center would focus on the ford crossings executed by Cornwallis’ Troops during the first half of the day long battle. It would also focus on the role of local militias and patriot citizens in the Battle. A possible site could be one of the buildings in historic Marshalltown.



The many restaurants and shops in Chadds Ford Village provides visitor amenities which could support a Heritage Center located nearby.

5.8: Evaluate the establishment of the “Washington’s Defense Heritage Center” in or near Chadds Ford Village. This Heritage Center would focus on the American encampment in the hills surrounding Chadds Ford before the Battle and the positioning of troops at the beginning of the Battle. It would also focus on Washington’s efforts to defend his initial position by send troops, most notably Maxwell’s units, west toward Kennett Square.

Train site in the vicinity Hickory Hill and Hillendale Roads in Pennsbury Township. Lastly, it would focus on Knyphausen’s successful attack on Chadds Ford Village and the British encampment east of Chadds Ford after the Battle.

It would address combat and skirmish areas along US Route 1 from Greenwood Road west to Ring Road. It would also address the Baggage

5.9: Identify historic resource sites that could be interpreted using markers or kiosks employing the most modern information technologies. Some historically significant Battlefield landscapes, such as the crest of Osbourne Hill, are simply too small or densely developed to host any interpretation infrastructure other than a marker or a kiosk. However, interpretation infrastructure such markers and kiosks could be equipped with matrix barcode (such as a Quick Response or “QR” codes) or other graphic links that could be scanned by visitors in order to access electronic media dealing with historic interpretation of the site.

5.10: Establish unified signage to designated historic resources through the Battlefield based on the existing signage guidelines already developed for use within the National Landmark. Using the signage guidelines that have already been developed for the National Landmark will result in a consistent visual identity for the Battlefield without the cost and time of developing a new set of guidelines. The *Guidebook* should also be updated with examples of how the signage standards within it could be used for sites throughout the Battlefield, and other sites that relate to the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

Reimagining Brandywine Battlefield Park

The following recommendations specifically address the need to improve the grounds and buildings of the Brandywine Battlefield Park so that it can function as a gateway center. Such an inactive is one of the top priorities identified in this plan.

5.11: A detailed design and gateway reuse study should be conducted for the Park. Such a study should involve public input. It also should evaluate how the facility would be used for education and the possible expansion of the museum. It should focus on both the physical layout of the interior and exterior of the buildings along with the grounds and landscaping.



A simple and affordable first step in improving the Park would be to address overgrown trees, such as these blocking scenic views of the Gilpin House.

5.12: Short term efforts to improve the Park, such as the removal of overgrown trees and vegetation along US Route 1 and a redesign of the museum space should be implemented as soon as is practicable. Simple but publicly visible steps should be taken to initiate the reuse of the Park as a gateway. For example time and cost savings could be realized by the using logs and branches from thinned trees in the construction of outdoor interpretive structures such as log lunette forts and British soldiers “wigwams.”

Recommendations for Education, Outreach, and Programming

The following recommendations address the need to provide, in a coordinated fashion, educational opportunities, community outreach and programming initiatives. These initiatives should be consistent throughout the Battlefield, and also be consistent with regional historic interpretation programs, especially those dealing with the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

5.13: Municipal historic commissions should hold events that relate the Battle sites located within their respective municipality. Such events would widen the role of historic commission beyond simply inventorying and setting policy for historic resources.

5.14: Establish a program in which local businesses can participate to market the Battlefield and promote its interpretation. Such a program would include a list of volunteer activities for business. An example would be coupons given out at the Gateways and Heritage Centers which could then be redeemed at participating business.

5.15: In the short term, hold a day-long conference at the Brandywine Battlefield Park with historians, scholar, and educators to better understand the complete history of the Battle and gather information about new research. Such an event could be held annually in coordination with the Chadds Ford Historical Society and the Chester County Historical Society.

5.16: If the First State National Landmark (FSNL) in northern Delaware highlights Quaker Heritage as their theme, then a partnership should be pursued in which the Park's programming is coordinated with the Battlefield programming that relates to Quaker civilians. Coordination for this should be pursued in the short term. If such a partnership is possible, it would be best for it to occur while the FSNL is developing their interpretive programming.

5.17: In the short term, a prototype interpretive van tour of the Battlefield should be developed. Such a tour could be developed in the form of a guidebook or web page download, so that it could be used by various groups.

5.18: Update existing brochures addressing the Battle of Brandywine and Brandywine Battlefield Park. These should be distributed in paper form at Gateways, Heritage Centers, and other locations, as well as via the Internet and other electronic media forms. These brochures should incorporate updated historic interpretation including presenting the Battle in the context of the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

5.19: Update the *Brandywine Battlefield Park Guide* for distribution in paper form and through new media. The most recent guide dates to 2010 and should be updated to reflect the more currently understood historical information.



Brandywine Battlefield Park already has much of the infrastructure and organization needed to accommodate visitors and so could become a Gateway.

Tourism and Economic Development

The following recommendations address tourism as a means to implement educational programming for the Battlefield. One goal of these recommendations is to realize economic benefits that could be derived from a well-planned and unified marketing strategy for tourism.

5.20: Develop a tourism strategy for the Battlefield that focuses on attracting visitors who are visiting historic and cultural destinations in both Philadelphia and Lancaster Counties. The Battlefield is approximately one hour west of Philadelphia, PA, and one hour east of Lancaster, PA and its surrounding cultural heritage tourist destinations. As a result, the Battlefield could become a mid-way tourist destination for visitors travelling from Philadelphia to Lancaster County.

5.21: Establish a “Brandywine Battlefield Water Tour” that directs users through the use of conventional paper maps and interpretive signage attached to bridges. This tour would be used by visitor in kayaks, canoes, or inner tubes. During warm, low-water periods, it would also be used by people who simply walk along the stream. The use of electronic devices would not be viable for such visitors, so paper mapping and signs on the bridges would be required for interpretation.

5.22: Establish an “Art and Artists Tour” coordinated with local arts organizations, such as the Brandywine River Museum. The Brandywine School of artists was founded in the colonial era and through the Wyeth family still lives on today. A tour of the art and artists of the Battlefield would include including colonial era painters like Howard Pyle, who established an art community in the Brandywine Valley and later artists like Horace Pippin.

5.23: Establish a “Taste of the Battlefield Tour” which highlights local restaurants located in areas where significant battle events took place.

Perhaps the best example of such a restaurant is Jimmy John’s Hot Dogs, a 60-year old restaurant along US Route 202. The field where Maj. Gen. Greene formed his Rearguard Line of Defense can be seen from the parking lot of Jimmy John’s restaurant. Another example is Hank’s Place restaurant in Chadds Ford village, which could be a short walk from the site of the old Chadds Ford if there were a trail or sidewalk along the north side of US Route 1. Chadds Ford Winery, also along US Route 1, is adjacent to the historic Britons Bridge House and many of the restaurants in Kennett Square are within a few block of the site of the old Unicorn Tavern.



A logo, such as is shown above, that is based on the 7th PA Regiment flag could be a common marketing element used throughout the Battlefield.

5.24: Establish a common graphic logo for businesses and other stakeholders, such as a variation of the red 7th PA Regiment Flag, to indicate they are participants in battlefield interpretation. Such a logo could be displayed in windows for front desks to let visitors know that businesses are participant. Coupons for participating businesses could be provided at hotels or the gateway and orientation centers. Such coupons might give discounts, or perhaps a local restaurant might give a free colonial era desert like “stewed purple pears” with the purchase of a meal.