NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

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HISTORIC Manassas National Battlefield Park

AND/OR COMMON

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Manassas National Battlefield Park occupies 4,522 acres in Prince William and Fairfax counties, Va. Included are lands presently held by the United States in fee as well as lands authorized by Congress for fee and scenic easement acquisition. On the east and north the authorized park boundary for the most part parallels Bull Run (the county line) 900' into Fairfax Co. The great majority of the park lies across the run in Prince William Co. The boundary extends southwesterly from Sudley Springs, the northernmost area of the park, to the western edge of the park along Va. Rt. 705. From where this road intersects U.S. Rt. 29/211, the boundary extends eastward along the latter to Groveton, thence south to Interstate 66, thence east along the north side of the interstate to the first road crossing east of Bull Run (which forms a portion of the park boundary in Fairfax Co. mentioned above). Excluded from the closed figure thus roughly described are Sudley Church near the north corner of the park, a private cemetery northwest of Groveton, a residential area south of Groveton, the Manassas Campus of the Northern Va. Community College, and tracts on both sides of the Va. 234 interchange with I-66.

The battlefield park is of gently rolling topography. Elevations range from a low of about 150' on Bull Run in the southeast corner of the park to 330' in the western sector. The steepest inclines are bluffs along the west bank of Bull Run. The remains of an earthen Confederate field fortification, Rodgers Battery, and rifle trenches are visible atop such bluffs midway between U.S. 29/211 and I-66. Some evidences of the five fords across Bull Run within the present park boundary are present. A particularly significant mammade topographical feature is the unfinished Manassas Gap Railroad line running through the park from near the north corner to the western boundary in a northeast-southwest direction. The cuts and fills of the railroad grade provided defensive cover for "Stonewall" Jackson's corps during Pope's attack at Second Manassas.

Nearly half the land of the battlefield park today is forested; the remainder is cultivated, grazed, or otherwise maintained open. At the time of the battles of Manassas (1861-62), the area was also largely cultivated and grazed farmland and was somewhat less forested overall than at present. Tree growth has in some cases obscured open vistas significant to the conduct of the battles. Historic and present vegetative patterns may be compared by reference to the accompanying maps entitled "Vegetation" (Plate 4) and "Historic Vegetation" (Plate 6).

The park is divided into quadrants by U.S. 29/211, running approximately east-west, and Va. 234, running approximately north-south. Although paved and widened, these two principal roads follow closely the alignments of the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike and the Manassas-Sudley Road present during the Civil War. Lesser battlefield roads following their Civil War alignments are Featherbed Lane, a narrow and still largely unpaved road from Groveton to Sudley Springs; the road from Va. 234 to the Chinn House remains, now a paved park tour road; and Rock Road, an unpaved lane crossing the southeast quadrant of the park from U.S. 29/211 to the service road paralleling I-66. Except for certain driveways to individual properties, most other roads within the park postdate the war.

Descriptions of other significant features follow, by quadrant.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES 1861, 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Manassas National Battlefield Park is significant as the site of two important battles of the American Civil War. Here on July 21, 1861, was fought the first major engagement of the war, a Confederate victory that prompted greater Federal preparedness and resolve; and here in late August 1862 a second Confederate victory paved the way for the first invasion of the North, which culminated in the battle of Antietam and the withdrawal of Lee's forces. Much of the battlefield is preserved as it was then. Those who fought here are commemorated by several monuments, including two and the remains of a third erected before the end of the war. The battlefield also contains some significant historic archeological resources, the most important being the remains of the colonial Carter plantation, Pittsylvania.

An account of the battles and their significance is provided in the National Park Service leaflet on Manassas National Battlefield Park, a copy of which accompanies this documentation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Francis F. Wilshin. Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Washington: National Park Service, 1953.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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Northeast Quadrant

Stone Bridge. This red sandstone bridge, just north of the present U.S. 29/211 highway bridge over Bull Run, carried the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike over the run atop two barrel vaults. Stone parapets flush with the outer walls rise above the arches and the gravel roadway and are topped with a flat stone coping. The bridge was originally built c. 1825 and was repaired in 1847. During the first battle of Manassas it served as the anchor of the Confederate left and the objective of the Federal diversion attack under Tyler. It was destroyed by the retreating Federals, rebuilt, then destroyed by the retreating Federals again after the second battle on August 30, 1862. The present bridge dates from an 1886 reconstruction, although portions of the abutments may survive from the wartime structure. It was closed to traffic in 1925. In recent decades it has undergone restoration and repair by the Park Service. It remains one of the major battlefield landmarks.

Stone House. This red and yellow sandstone structure stands in the northeast corner of the intersection of U.S. 29/211 and the Manassas-Sudley Road. Circumstantial evidence suggests its construction by Thomas Otway Carter in 1828. The two-story building. 23'6" by 40', is four bays wide with the door offcenter in the second bay from the east end. The first floor sash are 9 over 6 lights, the second floor 6 over 6. Low windows above grade light the full basement, which is entered by a covered exterior stairway on the west end. The ends are otherwise unbroken except by a pair of small 6-light windows flanking the flush end chimneys and lighting the attic. Each floor has three rooms opening on the stair hall--presumably the original configuration, although for much of the house's existence the large rooms on the west were partitioned into two smaller rooms. There are no extant outbuildings other than a reconstructed well platform and windlass in the front yard. The building was owned by Henry P. Matthews between 1850 and 1865 and served as a tavern on the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike. It became a field hospital for the wounded of both sides during both Civil War battles. In the early 1960s the National Park Service removed a number of postwar additions and restored the structure to its wartime appearance as a tavern furnished as a field hospital. It stands today as the best preserved and most conspicuous original building on the battlefield.

<u>Sudley Post Office</u>. This 1-1/2-story frame structure stands in the northern corner of the park just east of Va. 234 and southwest of the confluence of Little Bull Run and Bull Run. The present building appears the result of two structures having been combined shortly after the Civil War. The west facade has two doors sheltered by individual gabled porches and two dormers on the roof. An enclosed lean-to addition extends from the south end, and on the east side a 10' shed roof runs from the lean-to

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half the length of the building. There is a central chimney with double fireplaces at the juncture of the combined structures. The post office functioned here from 1871 to 1910. The building is now vacant and in deteriorated condition.

The mansion of this name was built in about the 1760s by Landon Carter, Pittsylvania. Jr. (son of Landon Carter of Sabine Hall and grandson of Robert "King" Carter) as the seat of the family's Middle Bull Run tract. Situated on a knoll close to the center of the park's northeast quadrant, the mansion measured 30' by 50' and had two frame stories on a raised basement of native brown sandstone, central hallways, two interior brick chimneys, and a hip roof. Numerous outbuildings, gardens, and a bowling green were formally laid out around the house. By 1861 the mansion had deteriorated and most of the outbuildings were in ruins. The house was behind the extreme Confederate left at the beginning of First Manassas and became a hospital for wounded in that battle. It burned during or just after Second Manassas the following year. A modest two-story frame house was built c.1885 to replace it adjacent to the site; this "Pittsylvania II" was occupied until the 1930s. Nothing remains above grade of either dwelling, but ruins of the mansion wine cellar and brick fragments are visible on the surface, and the mansion foundations lie about 3" below grade. South of the mansion side lies the Pittsylvania cemetery. A fine dry-laid stone wall, 48' by 133', was built around the cemetery in 1885; the north wall and the north half of the east wall have been destroyed. A low earth berm 8' across rises within and around the perimeter. There are 29 visible graves but no inscribed tombstones; only one inscribed stone existed formerly. The burials include Dr. Isaac Henry (husband of Judith Carter Henry) and Landon Carter, Jr. The plantation slave cemetery lies some 1400' to the southwest, but there is little surface evidence of it.

<u>Van Pelt House Site</u>. The Van Pelt house, "Avon," was situated about one-quarter mile west of the Stone Bridge on a hill north of the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike. The frame house was built in two sections joined side by side, measuring a total of about 40' across the front. An interior chimney stood at the right end; an exterior chimney was at the left end. A barn and other outbuildings were nearby. On the hill around the house Nathan G. Evans' brigade formed the Confederate left flank and protected the Stone Bridge on the morning of First Manassas. The house burned in the early 1930s, and there are no standing structural remains.

<u>Maggie Lewis House Site</u>. The Maggie Lewis house was standing during the war approximately one-third mile west of the Van Pelt house. There are no visible remains.

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<u>Martin Matthews House Site</u>. The Martin Matthews house was located approximately onehalf mile west-southwest of Pittsylvania on Matthews Hill. It was a small one-story frame structure with a lateral extension and a single end chimney. It was in the path of the Federal advance from Sudley Ford on the morning of First Manassas, and Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell established Union headquarters on the hill. Only some surface chimney remains are now visible.

<u>Pringle House</u>. The Pringle house stands on the hill just north of the Maggie Lewis house site. Probably built near the end of the 19th century, it is a two-story frame L-shaped structure with a covered front porch in the angle of the ell. The house is in good condition and occupied as a park employee residence. It was not part of the historic scene at the time of the battles, however.

<u>Newman House</u>. The wartime house of this name stood east of the Manassas-Sudley Road about three-quarters of a mile north of the Martin Matthews house. The present twostory frame house on the site, dating from around the turn of the century, is a replacement of the original structure, which burned.

Other standing structures and features within the northeast quadrant do not contribute to the area's significance for the National Register.

Southeast Quadrant

<u>Henry Hill</u>. Covering an area of approximately 200 acres in the northwest corner of the quadrant, the top of this open plateau encompasses parts of the historic Henry and Robinson farms and figured importantly in both battles. Fierce Confederate resistance here overcame the Federal drive at First Manassas, and the stubborn Union defense here at Second Manassas permitted the orderly withdrawal of Pope's army over Bull Run. Significant features include the following:

<u>Henry House</u>. The present two-story frame house, built just after the war and subsequently enlarged, stands on the site of the smaller dwelling in which the widow Judith Carter Henry was killed by artillery crossfire during First Manassas. The original Henry house was largely destroyed in that battle, and evidence of its appearance is sketchy. The present house was a gathering point for returning veterans in later decades, and although it bears little resemblance to its historic wartime predecessor, it is valuable as a visual landmark on the site. It is in fair condition and used for storage.

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<u>Henry Cemetery</u>. About 10 yards west of the house is the grave of Judith Henry, probably the first civilian casualty of the Civil War. Her monument is a granite slab 2' wide and 4' high with a semicircular top. Lower stones marking the graves of a son and daughter flank her grave. The stones appear to be late 19th century. An iron railing encloses the burials.

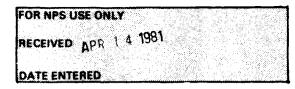
<u>Union Monument</u>. A native brown sandstone obelisk about 14' tall stands just east of the Henry house. An inscription on one face reads "In Memory of the Patriots who fell at Bull Run July 21st 1861." Artillery shells originally adorned the top of the shaft and stone piers at the four corners of the base but are now missing. One of the first Civil War monuments, it was erected by troops of William Gamble's Separate Cavalry Brigade stationed at Fairfax Court House in the winter and spring of 1865 and was dedicated on June 10 of that year. The deteriorated memorial was rebuilt in 1975 and is now in good condition.

Jackson Monument. A large bronze equestrian statue of Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson stands on a marble base about 200 yards southeast of and facing the Henry house. The site is probably somewhat in advance of the position held by Jackson and his men in withstanding the Federal onslaught at First Manassas, where the general earned his sobriquet. The statue, by sculptor Joseph Pollia, is 1-1/2 times life size, muscular, and somewhat stylized in the Art Deco manner. The only sculptural monument in the park, it was erected by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1940 and is a prominent symbol of the battlefield.

Bee and Bartow Monuments. An 8'-high white marble monument to Brig. Gen. Barnard E. Bee, measuring 1' by 3' at the base, stands about 100' south of the Jackson monument. It was placed in 1939 to mark the spot where the Confederate leader fell mortally wounded at First Manassas, soon after he gave Jackson his sobriquet by crying to his men "There stands Jackson like a stone wall--rally behind the Virginians!" About 180' north of the Jackson monument is a stone block bearing a bronze tablet commemorating Brig. Gen. Francis S. Bartow near the spot where he fell mortally wounded at First Manassas, "the first Confederate officer to give his life on the field." It was placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1936 close to the base of the original Bartow memorial, which was erected in the fall of 1861 and was perhaps the first Civil War monument. The base of the original monument, a granite octagon 5" above grade and one foot across, is still present.

<u>Visitor Center and Field Interpretive Features</u>. The <u>park visitor center</u> is located 700' south-southeast of the Henry house. Dating from 1942, it has a Greek

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Revival style portico with lateral wings. It and its associated entrance drive and parking area occupy historic battlefield terrain but do not contribute to the historical significance of the area. Several cannon tubes on reconstructed field carriages are placed to mark key troop positions on Henry Hill, and signs and other interpretive devices further explain the military action to the public. The cannon tubes are Civil War era but have no documented association with the battles here; the other features are recent.

<u>Robinson House</u>. The Robinson house, on the northeast edge of Henry Hill, is reached from a lane off U.S. 29/211. The present two-story frame house dates from the late 1880s and the 1920s. Like the present Henry house, it occupies the site of a wartime structure, a small one-story frame house with single end chimney and shed-roofed porch extending from the eave of the principal roof. The original house, owned and occupied by a free black, James Robinson, was little damaged in the first battle but was sacked in the second battle. It was demolished in 1926 to permit construction of the larger portion of the present structure. The latter has a brick chimney within the west end, a sandstone and brick chimney outside the east end, and a shed-roofed porch supported by four posts over the central door and two first floor windows on the north facade. Although it bears little resemblance to its historic wartime predecessor, the house is valuable as a visual landmark on the site. It is in fair condition and unoccupied.

<u>Portici</u>. On high ground in the southern portion of the southeast quadrant was located Portici, a large antebellum frame house associated with the Ball and Carter families but owned by the Lewises at the time of the war. It was five bays wide with a fullwidth front porch. Massive brick double end chimneys were joined by parapets rising above the gable peak. Outbuildings extended around the mansion. The house served as headquarters for Confederate Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston during First Manassas and immediately thereafter as a Confederate hospital. It burned during or just after Second Manassas in 1862, and only a few scattered brickbats mark its site on the surface. A thousand feet northwest of the site is the Ball family cemetery, containing four standing headstones and other smaller markers within a sandstone wall. The cemetery is in good condition. A house known as New Portici, built in the last third of the century, stands about 1000' east-southeast of the original house site. It is a stuccoed two-story dwelling with end chimneys and a rear ell, barns, and other outbuildings. It is unoccupied and in fair condition.

Fannie Lee Henry House. This house was built in the last third of the 19th century approximately midway between the Ball family cemetery and the Alexandria-Warrenton

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Turnpike (U.S. 29/211). It was a two-story frame dwelling with sandstone and brick end chimneys, a two-story lean-to addition on the east, a one-story lean-to kitchen addition on the north, and a full-width front porch with hip roof supported on four columns. The house and its outbuildings were demolished in the 1940s, leaving only subsurface archeological remains.

Other standing structures and features within the southeast quadrant do not contribute to the area's significance for the National Register.

Southwest Quadrant

CONTINUATION SHEET 6

<u>Chinn Ridge</u>. This ridge runs from near the northeast corner of the quadrant southwesterly to near the southern edge of the quadrant. It figured in Confederate flank attacks in both battles. Significant features of the area include the following:

<u>Chinn House Remains</u>. The Chinn house was a large five bay frame house on sandstone foundations with massive sandstone double end chimneys. Possibly built in the late 18th century, it and various outbuildings were owned by Benjamin T. Chinn during the Civil War. Its position atop and near the south end of the ridge placed it in the path of action in both battles, and it twice served as a field hospital. In 1950 its ruinous condition caused its removal, and only the foundations and chimney bases remain visible. The remortared foundations measure approximately 25' by 40' and stand about 2-1/2' above grade.

<u>Fletcher Webster Monument</u>. About 600 yards northeast of the Chinn house remains on the eastern crest of Chinn Ridge is a granite boulder with bronze plaque memorializing Col. Fletcher Webster's fall near the spot during Second Manassas. Webster was the son of Daniel Webster, and the boulder was brought from the family estate of Marshfield in Massachusetts. The memorial was erected by survivors of Webster's regiment, the 12th Massachusetts Volunteers, and the Grand Army of the Republic in 1914.

<u>Hooe Cemetery</u>. This small family cemetery, a short distance east of the Chinn house remains, was the burial place for the family who previously owned the Chinn property. The tombstones have been removed, and only a sandstone wall with an opening remains to mark the site.

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<u>New York Avenue</u>. This area, near the northwestern corner of the quadrant, was the scene of determined resistance by New York units to Confederate attack at Second Manassas. At the entrance to New York Avenue, which runs south from U.S. 29/211, are ornamental iron gateposts and gates approximately 8' high bearing a plaque labeled 5th New York Volunteer Infantry. Because the avenue has been widened, the posts have been moved much further apart and the two halves of the gate no longer meet. Near the end of the avenue on the east side are two castellated granite and bronze monuments to the 5th New York Volunteer Infantry (Duryee Zouaves) and the 10th New York Volunteer Infantry (National Zouaves). Atop the hill west of the avenue is a 15' granite obelisk honoring the Brooklyn 14th Regiment. Each monument was dedicated in 1906 and is surrounded by an ornamental iron fence.

Other standing structures and features within the southwest quadrant, including the park maintenance complex off Va. 234, do not contribute to the area's significance for the National Register.

Northwest Quadrant

This quadrant includes features most prominently associated with Second Manassas. Most significant is the unfinished railroad grade mentioned above, running southwesterly from the northeast corner of the quadrant to the park's western boundary and most perceptible west of Featherbed Lane.

<u>Union Monument</u>. A 12' native brown sandstone obelisk similar to the one on Henry Hill stands by the "deep cut" of the railroad grade west of Featherbed Lane. The inscription reads "In Memory of the Patriots who fell at Groveton Aug 28th 29th & 30th 1862." The monument was originally surrounded by two tiers of artillery shells at the base and surmounted by a pyramid of cannon balls, all now missing. It was erected with the Henry Hill monument in 1865 and dedicated on the same day. The memorial was rebuilt in 1976 and is now in good condition.

Dogan House. This last surviving building of the village of Groveton is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Featherbed Lane and U.S. 2-/211. The original south portion of the small dwelling is of log construction, 13' by 19', containing one room and an attic and served by a stone chimney. In 1860 Rosefield, the home of Mrs. Lucinda Dogan about three-quarters of a mile east on the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike, burned. The family moved a 16' by 18' frame structure from elsewhere on the property to join on the north end of the log cabin and moved into the combined structure, both portions of which were clapboarded. The chimney, at the juncture of the sections, was made to serve both halves. The house witnessed the heavy Union assaults repulsed by the Confederates at Second

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Manassas. An 1881 two-room rear addition was removed in 1948, and the building was restored to its wartime appearance in 1960-61.

A new house was constructed on the site of Rosefield after the war. It is a characteristic two-story frame dwelling, three bays wide, with interior brick end chimneys, a rear ell, and a full-width front porch with hip roof supported on four posts. It is accupied as a park employee residence and is in good condition, although impaired by aluminum siding and false shutters.

Groveton Confederate Cemetery. Between the two houses described above, across U.S. 29/211 from the New York monuments, lies the Groveton Confederate Cemetery. It contains the remains of 266 Confederate casualties of Second Manassas, moved here after the war from temporary burial places. A central obelisk of white marble is surrounded by a circle of low stones naming the states contributing forces to the Confederacy. There are only two individual gravestones; the identity of most of the burials is unknown. The cemetery also contains a flagpole and is enclosed by an iron fence. It was owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy before its transfer to the United States.

Brawner Farm. The Brawner farm, at the western end of the battlefield park, was the scene of heavy fighting on the evening of Aug. 28, 1862. Jackson's forces descended from the unfinished railroad grade and here attacked the Federal brigades of Gibbon and Doubleday moving east along the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike. The Federals moved to the north edge of "Gibbon's Woods" southeast of the Brawner house. The firing ended with darkness. The forests and fields here are little changed, Gibbon's Woods allegedly remaining uncut because of the many shell fragments and bullets embedded in the trees. The house on the property, owned by W.H. Douglass and called Douglass Hall, was rented to the Brawner family at the time of the war. It is now a two-story L-shaped frame structure measuring 28' across the facade and 45' from the facade to the rear of the ell. The front portion appears pre-Civil War, the ell postwar. There are brick chimneys within each end of the front portion and a third at the midpoint of the ell. The house is now vacant and in deteriorated condition.

Mahala Dean Cabin. This structure was located on the Manassas-Sudley Road across from the Newman house. The small cabin was 15' by 20' with a 4' by 6' projection on the rear. Only archeological remains now exist.

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Archeological Resources

A park-wide survey to identify and evaluate archeological resources had not been conducted as of the date of this documentation. If and when eligible resources are located, they will be nominated or documented in an addendum to this submission.

Historic Objects

All objects in the park collection original to or historically associated with the battlefield or the other historic resources described herein are judged to contribute to the park's significance as a National Register property. Such objects are individually identified in the park's museum catalog.

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